

President and wife offer meals to title recipient Buddhist monks, nuns

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win attended a ceremony to offer meals to venerable Buddhist monks who will accept religious titles for 2015, at Sasana Maha Beikman building in the precinct of Uppatasanti Pagoda, here, Tuesday.

Chairman of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa administered the Nine Precepts. Members of the Sangha recited Metta Sutta.

The President and officials donated offertories to title recipient Sayadaws and nuns.

Vice Chairman abbot of Atulakari Hsinmin Monastery in Mandalay Agga Maha Pandita Bhaddanta

Obhasabhivamsa delivered a sermon, followed by sharing merits.

The President and officials offered meals to title recipient monks and nuns.

Also present at the ceremony were Vice Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun and wives, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife, the chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, the chairman of the Union Election Commission, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and wife, the deputy speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw and wife, union ministers, deputy ministers, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and departmental heads.

MNA



President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win offer provisions to a venerable Buddhist monk.—MNA

INSIDE

Myanmar, Laos to promote cooperation in tourism industry

PAGE-3

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets Ambassador of New Zealand

PAGE-3

Outgoing NZ ambassador calls on Myanmar commander-in-chief

PAGE-3

Joint Statement on Election Support from the Embassies of Australia, Denmark, the European Union, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America

The embassies of Australia, Denmark, the European Union, Norway, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America warmly welcome the political reforms that have occurred in Myanmar, particularly the Myanmar Government's announcement that a general election will be held in late 2015. The election will be an important milestone in Myanmar's transition to democracy and an opportunity to reaffirm to the world its commitment to political reform. As development partners, we are supporting Myanmar's efforts to prepare for the elections.

The 2015 elections is the responsibility of the Myanmar government

in partnership with its people, and its success will be measured by the integrity of the electoral process and an outcome that reflects the will of the people of this country. Credible, transparent, and inclusive electoral processes require long-term engagement with all stakeholders throughout the electoral cycle. We understand that building confidence in an election starts well before Election Day and includes confidence in the integrity of international election support.

Based on international best practice, Australia, Denmark, the European Union, Norway, Switzerland, the

(See page 9)

Application deadline for Yangon Stock Exchange service providers extended to 6 March

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 4 March—Companies vying to become service providers for the country's first stock exchange now have until 6 March to submit their applications, following an extension of the deadline by the Office of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar in Yangon.

The commission ex-

tended the time limit following the expiry of the original deadline on 27 February for companies seeking permission to operate four kinds of services — underwriting, trading, brokerage and consultancy — at the Yangon Stock Exchange, which is set to open in October, an official told The Global New Light of Myanmar on Tuesday.

“So far there have been more than 100 appli-

cations for the four types of licenses,” the official said, adding that the commission is likely to announce the successful applicants in mid-April, either before or after Thingyan, Myanmar's water festival that runs 13 to 17 April.

During a presentation on the Yangon Stock Exchange, Deputy Minister Dr Maung Maung Thein, who is also the commission

(See page 9)

Weather expert warns high temperature, UV index in some regions

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 3 March — Temperatures in parts of Myanmar may soar to above 38 degrees Celsius in the next week, the country's former top weather official warned on Tuesday.

The mercury could pass 38°C (100° Fahrenheit) in Kalewa, Magway, Mandalay, Monywa, Patheingyi, Taungtha and Yangon be-

tween 3 and 11 March, said U Tun Lwin, the retired former director-general of Myanmar's Meteorology and Hydrology Department, in a Facebook post.

Day temperatures on Tuesday were 3°C to 4°C above March averages in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway regions, as well as Kachin, southern Shan, Chin and Kayah states, and about March average tem-

peratures in the remaining regions and states, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

The highest day temperatures were 42°C each in Chauk and Bawlakhe, 41°C each in Nay Pyi Taw (Tatkon), Nay Pyi Taw (Yezin), Yamethin, Magway, Aungmye, Taungtha, Pyaw and Gyobingauk.

(See page 9)



Prospective service providers for the Yangon Stock Exchange submit their application paperwork at the Office of the Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar in Yangon on Tuesday.— PHOTO: YE MYINT

Tourists heading for Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park in open season

MONYWA, 3 March — The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism has laid down a plan to increase arrival of tourist numbers in the 2015-16 fiscal year.

In open season in 2015, various destinations across the nation have been reopened for visits of tourists. The ministry set plans to attract more and more tourists at the nation's great lakes — namely Indawgyi Lake in Mohnyin Township, Inlay Lake in Nyaungshwe Township and Moyungyi Lake in DaikU Township— where tourists can enjoy panoramic beauty and observe unique inhabitants, flora and fauna.

Up to now, the government has established nine national parks and 26 sanctuaries across the nation.



Photo shows enshrine of Alaungdaw Kathapa.—PHOTO: WWW.PANORAMIO.COM

Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park is one of the sanctuaries. It was named after a shrine to Kathapa located within the park. The shrine has a reclining figure called Kathapa and it is believed that his remains are kept under the shrine.

The Alaungdaw Kath-

apa National Park located in Mingin Township, Sagaing Region, includes the upper catchment basins of the Petpa, Patolon and Taungdwin rivers. It is the largest national park in Myanmar, at 160,500 hectares. The Petpa River is a tributary of the Patolon. The Patolon and Taungdwin rivers drain the eastern and western parts of the park, respectively.

Local travellers and tourists visit the park by riding elephants along the route of forests. Outside monsoon season, the park is one of the big tourist draw cards for the Sagaing Region. The elephant camps in the park and the hospitality of local people have contributed to the growth of the area's eco-tourism industry.—GNLM



Transport of visitors by elephant promote eco-tourism at Alaungdaw Kathapa National Park.—PHOTO: WWW.FLICKRIVER.COM

Volunteers impart disease safety message at poultry farms

MANDALAY, 3 March — A team of volunteers including matron Daw Cho Cho Myint, company commander U Tun Lin Aung of Township Red Cross Battalion and Red Cross members visited poultry farms in Amarahtani Ward 17 and Ward 18 in Aungmyethazan Township on Monday.

They gave educational talks on avian influenza to

farm owners, urging them to be vigilant of potential outbreaks in Sagaing and Mandalay regions and to spray inside and outside farms. Farm owners are required to contact to immediately contact veterinarians if they suspect an outbreak.

H7N9 avian influenza can spread from poultry to humans.—Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Rural teams battle for Ethnic Minister's Cup

PEKHON, 3 March — A nearly 6-week-long football tournament aimed at improving the standard of rural players recently culminated in Pekhon Township, southern Shan State, with 18 participating clubs whittled down to one victorious team. On 1 March, the "125" football club clinched the Shan State's Kayan Ethnic Minister's Cup with a 4-0 victory over Nawnglai

club in the final.

Pekhon Constituency MP of Shan State Hluttaw U Abra Han and officials presented K500,000 and the championship trophy to the victorious club, as well as a K300,000 prize to the runners up.

Clubs from wards and villages participated in the tournament that kicked off 21 January.

Ko Htwe (Pekhon)

Heroin, stimulant tablets seized in Mabein Tsp



NAY PYI TAW, 3 March — Police from Mabein Myoma station, acting on tip-off, searched the house of Daw Pyone in Bahe Village in Mabein Township on 1 March and found the house owner and her son Kyaw Zin Win.

They seized 0.01102 kilo of heroin and 2,000 stimulant tablets in soft drink bottle. Action was taken against them under Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Police Information

Officials, growers seek solutions on boosting onion production

MYINGYAN, 3 March — Onion growers and brokers recently met with local officials in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region, where they discussed strategies for boosting production, availability of agricultural loans, improvement of growing techniques, and the stability of the onion market.

The meeting at the brokers' association hall on Monday was attended by Mandalay Region Minister for Planning and Economy U Aung Zan, Head of Mandalay Region Trade Promotion Department U Myo Thu and Myingyan District's deputy commissioner U Myint Thin Aung.

Some growers sought information about the optimal time for onion cultivation. Officials and agriculturists explained good practices for growers and

plans for disbursing agricultural loans.—Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)



NATIONAL

Myanmar, Laos to promote cooperation in tourism industry

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—Vice President U Nyan Tun received a delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith of Lao People's Democratic Republic at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, Tuesday to hold talks with further strengthening bilateral relations.

They discussed cooperation in new sectors,

promotion of border trade sector, cooperation in economic sector and promotion of cooperation in tourism industry.

Also present at the call were Deputy Ministers U Tin Oo Lwin, U Kyaw Kyaw Win, U Ohn Than, Daw Lei Lei Thein and U Chan Maung. The Laotian delegation was accompanied by Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Lying Sayaxang.

MNA



Vice President U Nyan Tun poses for documentary photo with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr. Thongloun Sisoulith of Lao People's Democratic Republic.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets Ambassador of New Zealand



Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with Ambassador of New Zealand Mr Bruce Rata Shepherd.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U

Shwe Mann received Ambassador of New Zealand Mr Bruce Rata Shepherd at the hall of Pyithu Hluttaw

building, here, on Tuesday.

It was also attended by officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office.—MNA

Union ministers brief Yangon region education officers on peaceful learning

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—Union Ministers U Soe Thane and U Tin Naing Thein met education officers of districts and townships in Yangon region to discuss measures to improve the education system and promote peaceful learning.

U Soe Thane said education reform needs time, falling within the broader scope of social economic reform, and alongside human resource development. He also suggested education officers play a critical role in the reform.

U Tin Naing Thein said the country needs to nur-

ture intellectual and skilled workers, adding that educational reforms are being made based on people-centred projects requiring the cooperation of parents and teachers to ensure a peaceful learning environment.

Education officers discussed planned education programmes during summer holidays. The Union

Ministers proceeded to Yangon University and met with academics to enforce rules and disciplines at the university.—MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Mr Bruce Rata Shepherd, ambassador of New Zealand to Myanmar.—MYAWADY

Outgoing NZ ambassador calls on Myanmar commander-in-chief

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—The Myanmar commander-in-chief of Defence Services accepted a courtesy call from the outgoing New Zealand ambassador in the capital Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday, officials said.

Myanmar and New Zealand have maintained diplomatic relations for over 55 years on a foundation of cooperation between the two countries' armies, Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing told Mr Bruce Rata Shepherd, who has completed his tour of duty as ambassador of New Zealand to Myanmar.

He pledged greater cooperation with New Zealand in livestock breeding and technology and exchange of experience in management and administration in the military.

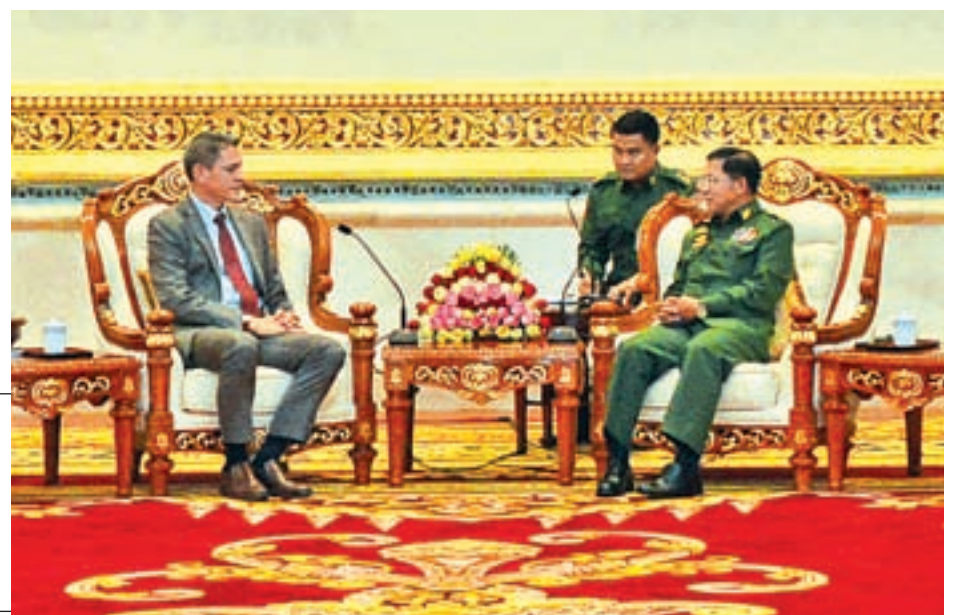
Discussing developments in the Kokang region, he emphasized the importance of humanitarian aid by government forces in cooperation with local administrative bodies and Red Cross organizations in restoring stability.

The New Zealand ambassador hinted at sending delegations to Myanmar to increase cooperation between the two countries' armies, describing the con-

flict in Laukkai as a serious challenge facing the Myanmar army. Myanmar established a diplomatic relationship with New Zealand on 15 November 1958. New Zealand opened its embassy in Yangon in September 2013, with Mr Bruce Rata Shepherd appointed as ambassador in October 2014.

In the afternoon, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing watched the final of the Commander-in-Chief's Cup soccer tournament at the military sport ground in Nay Pyi Taw, in which the Eastern Command beat the Yangon Command 2-1.

Myawady



184 service personnel sent abroad for scholarship courses in January 2015

YANGON, 3 March—According to the Scholarship Scrutiny Committee of the Union Civil Services Board, scholarship awards were shared to ministries and service organizations for capacity

enhancement of service personnel and raising their international experiences.

Ministries and service organizations sent 11 service personnel to doctorate, MA/MSc,

degrees and diploma courses and 173 to training courses, totalling 184 to 14 countries, especially in India, Japan and Thailand in January 2015.

GNLM

Electricity supply to improve living standard of rural people



MYINGYAN, 3 March — In honour of Peasants' Day, 24-hour electricity supply was launched for seven villages in Taungpohgyi Village-tract in Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State, on Monday.

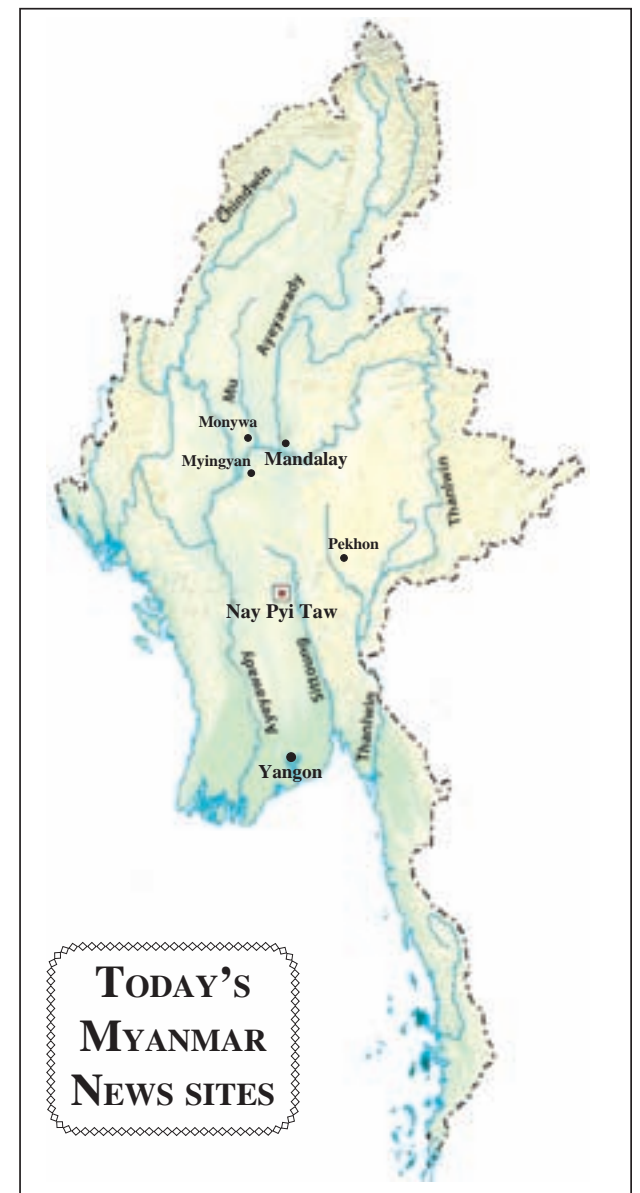
Shan State Minister for Electricity and Industry U Sai Tun Yin, Shan State Hluttaw MP Dr Tun Aung of Nyaungshwe Township and Township Administrator U Kyaw Zaw Hla cut a ribbon to mark the com-

mencement of round-the-clock electricity supply to the local area.

Department of Rural Development allotted K57.4 million in 2013-14 fiscal year, K43.55 million in 2014-15 FY and local

people K79.05 million for the implementation of the power supply project.

Thanks to the project, local people from 345 houses in seven villages can use electricity 24 hours a day.—*Nay Myo Thurein*



Breeders urged to prevent avian flu outbreaks in Mandalay Region

MANDALAY, 3 March—Mandalay Region Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department has urged district and township offices to take action to prevent avian influenza, including infection of humans, in Sagaing and Mandalay regions.

With the risk of avian flu highest at this time of year, the department implored veterinarians to educate poultry farmers on early prevention, warning and detection at wet poultry markets, spraying markets and farms, as well as teaching preventive techniques to farm workers to ensure

bio-security.

Owners are required to monitor their poultry farms in districts and townships and keep local authorities up to date on any developments.

Mandalay District Head of LVBD U Kyaw Swe said, "The government departments in the region will place PyinOoLwin and Madaya townships under surveillance. Arrangements are being made to check poultry at Sagaing Bridge and Yadana Theingga Bridge, which are entrances to Mandalay from Monywa. Till today, there

is no outbreak of avian influenza disease in Mandalay Region."

Some chickens and quails died at poultry farms in the chicken breeding zone in Monywa Township, Sagaing Region on 10 February. According to the investigation, the labs of Department of Livestock Breeding and Veterinary confirmed the outbreak of H5N1 avian flu there. On 27 February, the department announced the outbreak of avian influenza in Sagaing Region.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)



Myanmar celebrities, Thai actress accept cash donations for soldiers, IDPs in Laukkai



MANDALAY, 3 March — A group comprising Thai actress Karavi and Myanmar entertainers has collected cash donations from well-wishers for military servicemen and people who have been displaced in Laukkai region, northeast of Shan State.

Ma Thet Wai Lwin of "We are One Myanmar" youth philanthropic group

said, "We will accept cash donations at homes, Mandalay Zaygyo Market and public places on 2 and 3 March. Although we have planned for the performers to accept cash donations from well-wishers who donate more than K300,000, they will collect cash donations from all donors."

The 50-member group includes popular Myan-

mar performers Hein Wai Yan, Nay Min, Het Ket, Yon Lay, Nay Dway, Kaung Pyae, Hsan Toe Naing, Alin Yaung, Aung Lay, Aung Min Khant, Phyo Zaw Lin, May Kabyar, Moe Yu San, San Yati Moe Myint, Christina, Waso Moe Oo, Moe Set Waing, Suzie and Gon Shein Wint Hte.—*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

REGIONAL

Japan to make Laos silver coin for 60th anniv of diplomatic ties



This 3 March, 2015 photo shows the back of the silver coin which depicts a cherry blossom and plumeria, the Laotian national flower. The silver coins will be produced to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Laos and Japan.

KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 3 March — Japan will produce up to 10,000 silver coins for the Laotian central bank to commemorate the 60th anniversary this year of the establishment of diplomatic relations, the Finance Ministry and Japan Mint

said on Tuesday.

Laos will be the eighth country for which Japan has manufactured coins since World War II. The commemorative coin depicts Pha That Luang, a symbolic national temple in Vientiane, and has a face value of 50,000 kip or about \$6.

The back of the coin shows a cherry blossom and plumeria, the Laotian national flower.

“The order will contribute to further enhancing bilateral ties,” Finance Minister Taro Aso told a Press conference.

Most of the coins will be sold in Japan at 6,171 yen each, with online orders accepted from Wednesday through 3 April. The Finance Ministry and Japan Mint are making efforts to gain orders to mint foreign coins as demand for coins in Japan declines amid the spread of digital money.

Kyodo News

Cambodia to resume foreign adoption

PHNOM PENH, 3 March — Cambodia has moved a step closer to the resumption of inter-country adoptions after a four-year suspension due to concerns over child trafficking, according to a Social Affairs Ministry’s statement released to the media on Tuesday.

“The Central Authority for Inter-Country Adoptions of Cambodia begins to welcome agreements with countries that have intention to cooperate with Cambodia on inter-country adoptions,” said the statement.

It added that through bilateral agreements, adoption agencies in the partner countries of Cambodia will be able to submit their application forms to Cambodia for an inter-country adoption operating license.

Cambodia banned foreign adoptions in 2011 in order to better regulate the adoption process, according to the statement. The Southeast Asian country promulgated the law on Inter-Country Adoption on 3 December, 2009. The law makes clear that the government is cracking down on child trafficking, and it bans profit making in adoption, provides harsher penalties for lawbreakers. It said that adoptions can only be handled by authorized and trained officials. More than 3,000 Cambodian children have been adopted by mostly Americans, Italians, French and British, said Social Affairs Secretary of State Nim Thoth in 2013. Cambodia ratified the Hague Convention on Inter-Country Adoption in 2007.—*Xinhua*

India’s Nehru-Gandhi scion expected to become Congress chief next month

NEW DELHI, 3 March— India’s Nehru-Gandhi scion Rahul Gandhi may take over the reins of Congress in April, at a party conclave to be held in Jaipur of western India, according to local newspaper *Times of India* online on Tuesday. Congress is planning to call a national session between 28 March and 15 April, when Parliament will be in recess, to secure the party’s support to the generational transition of power of the country’s oldest political party, which was badly battered in last year’s general election, said the newspaper.

Congress Chief Sonia Gandhi has been asking her son to take over power as soon as possible.—*Xinhua*

Abe not aware of receipt of gov’t subsidies by 2 donors: Suga

TOKYO, 3 March — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has acknowledged that a Liberal Democratic Party local chapter he heads received donations from two companies that had been selected for government subsidies, but he was not aware of government decisions to subsidize them, a senior government official said on Tuesday.

“According to the prime minister, it is true that (the chapter) received donations, but (Abe) was not aware that the companies concerned received

subsidies,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a Press conference.

“(Abe) said he will check the facts. I believe that once he finishes checking, he will handle the issue appropriately,” Suga said.

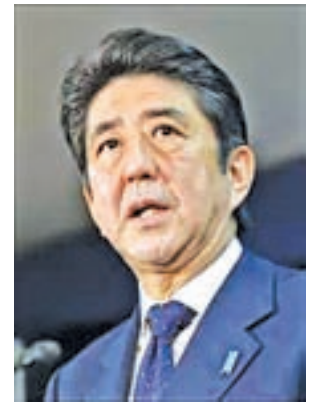
The political funds control law bans a company from making a political donation within a year of receiving a notification from the government of its decision to grant a subsidy.

But politicians will not be pressed with criminal charges unless they

receive funds knowing that the donors were to receive government subsidies.

According to political funds reports, the LDP chapter Abe heads in Yamaguchi Prefecture, western Japan, received 120,000 yen in September 2012 from Tohzai Chemical Industry Co, a separate chemical product company in Osaka, three months after the Small and Medium Enterprise Agency decided to grant about 1 million yen in subsidies to the company.

The chapter also re-



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

ceived 500,000 yen in December 2013 from Ube Industries Ltd in Tokyo, eight months after the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry decided to extend about 33 million yen in subsidies to the company.—*Kyodo News*

Philippines suspends gas, oil exploration in S China Sea

MANILA, 3 March — The Philippines has suspended indefinitely all offshore oil and natural gas drilling activities at the Reed Bank off Palawan island in the South China Sea, London-listed Forum Energy Plc said in a statement.

Forum Energy, an oil and gas exploration and production company with a focus on the Philippines, said in a statement dated on Monday that the Philippine Department of Energy “has granted a force

majeure on service contract 72 because this contract area falls within the territorial disputed area (of the South China Sea)”.

The area is the subject of a UN arbitration process between the Philippines and China.

“Under the terms of the force majeure,” the statement read, “all exploration work at SC 72 is immediately suspended (effective from 15 December 2014) until the Philippine Department of Energy notifies the Company that it

may commence drilling.”

“Further updates on SC 72 will be made as and when appropriate,” it said.

In March 2011, the Philippine military said two Chinese gunboats “harassed” a Philippine-commissioned oil exploration ship in Reed Bank about 85 nautical miles from the nearest coast of Palawan that energy officials believe holds 3.4 trillion cubic feet of gas and 440 million barrels of oil. The incident prompted the military to dispatch a

bomber and light aircraft to the area.

President Benigno Aquino has stressed that Reed Bank is not part of the disputed Spratly islands in the South China Sea being claimed entirely by China, Taipei and Vietnam and in part by Brunei, Malaysia and the Philippines.

But China, which claims almost the entire South China Sea, insists Reed Bank is within its sovereign territory.

Kyodo News



People visit Singapore’s Marina Bay on 3 March, 2015. Singapore remains the most expensive city in the world, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). —XINHUA

N Korea set to launch medium-range ballistic Nodong missile: Yonhap

SEOUL, 3 March — North Korea is set to launch a medium-range ballistic missile, Nodong, prompting the South Korean military to closely track the movements, *Yonhap News Agency* reported on Tuesday, citing a South Korean government source.

“It’s my understanding signs have been detected in a Nodong missile launch site in North Phyongan Province, which are the deployment of two transporter erector launchers (into the site) several days ago,” the source was quoted as saying.

“The (South Korean) military is closely watching the situation on the belief a missile could be launched,” the source said.

North Korea test-fired two medium-range ballistic missiles last year, which was the first launch of a Nodong missile since

2009 and was taken as a major step up from the short-range rockets Pyongyang has fired.

North Korea is believed to have deployed about 200 Nodong missiles with a range of 1,300 km, *Yonhap* said.

Meanwhile, North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles into the Sea of Japan on Monday just as South Korea and the United States began their annual joint military drills, prompting Seoul and Tokyo to accuse Pyongyang of violating UN Security Council resolutions.

The missiles, presumed to be Scud-C types with a range of some 490 kilometers, were launched from the western port city of Nampho between 6:32 a.m. and 6:41 am, according to the South Korean Defence Ministry.

Kyodo News

Cabinet OKs bill to achieve final stage of power sector reform



Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Yoichi Miyazawa attends a press conference at his ministry in Tokyo on 3 March, 2015, after the Cabinet approved a bill to implement the separation of electricity generation and transmission in April 2020 as the final stage of a three-stage shakeup of Japan’s power industry in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima crisis.

KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 3 March — The Cabinet on Tuesday approved a bill to implement the separation

of electricity generation and transmission in April 2020 as the final stage of a three-stage shakeup of

Japan’s power industry in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima crisis. The bill, which the government aims to enact during the ongoing ordinary Diet session, would oblige power companies to spin off their power transmission and distribution sections into separate units so power grids become more accessible to new entrants and power suppliers compete more fairly.

The government has been pushing the major power sector reform after the Fukushima nuclear crisis exposed the vulnerability of the nation’s power grid and pushed up electricity prices. As the first step, a law was enacted in 2013 under which an independent entity will be set up next month to coordinate cross-regional electricity supply.

As the second stage, Japan is set to liberalize

the country’s household electricity market, which has been dominated by regional monopolies over the past 60 years. From April 2016, households and other small-lot consumers will be free to choose suppliers at their own discretion.

The Cabinet also approved a bill that would enable full liberalization of the city gas retail market around 2017.

The bills include a plan to set up a committee to monitor and ensure fair competition in the electricity and gas sectors, so spun-off transmission and distribution companies will not favour electricity producers in the same group.

Currently, 10 regional utilities handle all aspects of electricity operations within specified regions, from generation to transmission and distribution.

Kyodo News

China to hold parade, invite leaders to mark World War Two anniversary



China’s President Xi Jinping

BEIJING, 3 March — China will hold a military parade this year to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of World War Two, and invite the leaders of major countries involved in the war to attend, the foreign ministry said, events probably aimed at Japan.

Sino-Japan relations have long been poisoned by what China sees as Japan’s failure to atone for its occupation of parts of the country before and during the war, and Beijing rarely misses an opportunity to remind its people and the world of this.

In the last two years ties have also deteriorated sharply because of a dispute over a chain of uninhabited islets in the East China Sea, though Chinese and Japanese leaders met last year in the capital, Beijing, to try and reset relations.

President Xi Jinping

will oversee events including the military parade, a reception and an evening gala, China’s Foreign Ministry said in a statement late on Monday.

Besides the leaders of major participants, China will also invite those of other countries in the region, the ministry said, but did not name the countries.

Guests will also include the heads of the United Nations and other international bodies, as well as people who helped China win the war.

“We hope these commemorative activities will help remind all kind-hearted people of the aspiration and pursuit for peace, make them work together to prevent a repetition of this historical tragedy and safeguard the outcomes of World War Two,” the ministry said.

The Chinese people “made a huge sacrifice” in the war, it added.

The military parade, likely to be held in September, will be Xi’s first since he took over as Communist Party and military chief in late 2012 and as state president in early 2013.

Troops are already drilling in secret on the outskirts of Beijing for the event, sources have told *Reuters*.

Reuters

Hillary Clinton may have broken federal record-keeping laws — NY Times

WASHINGTON, 3 March — Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton may have violated federal records laws by using a personal email account for all of her work messages, the *New York Times* reported on Monday.

The newspaper said the likely Democratic presidential candidate conducted all her official business during her four-year tenure at the State Department on a private email account.

It added that Clinton, who stepped down as secretary of state in 2013, recently handed over 55,000 pages of emails to the State Department in response to a department effort to comply with record-keeping practices.

Federal law says letters and emails written and received by federal officials are government records that must be retained, according to the paper. Regulations at the time Clinton served as secretary of state called for emails on personal ac-

counts to be preserved as well, the paper said.

The Times said most experts believed private email accounts should only be used for official government business in emergencies, according to *the Times*.

A spokesman for Clinton told the *Times* that Clinton was complying with the “letter and spirit of the rules” and had expected her emails would be retained. He declined to detail why she chose to conduct business from her personal account, *the Times* said.

Responding to the report, State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said the department last year asked former secretaries of state through their representatives to submit any records in their possession to improve record-keeping and management.

“In response to our request, Secretary Clinton provided the department with emails spanning her time at the department,” Harf said in a statement.

Clinton’s spokesman



Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

could not be immediately reached for comment.

Clinton is widely considered the front-runner for next year’s Democratic presidential nomination if she decides to enter the race.

Her inner circle is currently discussing accelerating the formation of a campaign organisation to April or May instead of waiting until the summer.

With no definite opponents to the democratic presidential nomination, Clinton has felt no rush to jump into the race, but having a campaign team in place would allow her to respond forcefully to various accusations fired her way.

It would also allow her to raise the millions of dollars needed for a campaign. —*Reuters*

Cuba signals readiness to fast-track US diplomatic ties



Cuba's former President Fidel Castro (C) sits with Gerardo Hernandez (L) and Rene Gonzalez, two of the "Cuban Five", in Havana in this picture taken on 28 Feb, 2015. —REUTERS

MIAMI/HAVANA, 3 March — Cuba is willing to restore diplomatic relations with the United States as soon as the Obama administration declares its intent to take the country off a list of state sponsors of terrorism, ac-

ording to a senior Cuban official.

That could take place before both sides are ready to open embassies, Josefina Vidal, the head of the United States division at the Cuban Foreign Ministry told state media.

It is the first time Cuba has said publicly it is willing to restore relations before it is removed from the list.

Delinking the opening of embassies could make it easier for diplomatic relations — broken 54 years ago — to be renewed prior to a regional heads of state summit in Panama on 10-11 April.

"In our view it's not necessary to put it all in one package because if, for example, in a few weeks we receive some satisfactory notification in regards to the matter of Cuba's removal from terrorist list, I think we will be ready to then begin talking about how to formalize the re-establishing of relations," Vidal said in an interview published on Sunday in Cubadebate.

Asked if he expect-

ed to have relations with Cuba restored before the summit, president Obama told *Reuters* in an exclusive interview on Monday: "My hope is that we will be able to open an embassy and that some of the initial groundwork will have been laid."

A state department representative said: "We believe re-establishment of diplomatic relations and opening of embassies should be done together. With will on both sides, we can get them done before the Summit."

The White House wants to restore relations before the Panama summit to strengthen Obama's hand with other Latin American countries who have been critical of the US policy for decades.

US and Cuban officials have held two rounds

of talks since the 17 December announcement they would work toward normalizing relations.

At talks on Friday, Cuba said removal from the list was a "priority" not a pre-condition for re-establishing relations. Cuba also raised a logistical issue — the lack of a bank willing to accept its account because of US sanctions on banks that do business with countries on the list.

The Obama administration is nearing completion of its review of Cuba's place on the list, which must be submitted to Congress before the country can be removed after a 45-day wait period, US officials say.

Friday's talks ended on a positive note. Although no date for the renewal of relations — or

the next round of talks — was announced, the head of the US delegation, Assistant Secretary of State Roberta Jacobson, said she was "optimistic" about the renewal of relations before the Panama summit.

Vidal told Cubadebate that, if Cuba got word the Obama administration was recommending the removal from the terrorism list, diplomatic ties could go forward without a prior resolution of the banking issue.

"We could say: 'OK, let's re-establish relations' and the opening of the embassies are deferred until a later time, when there are appropriate conditions," Vidal said.

Cuba was added to the terrorism sponsors list in 1982 when it backed insurgencies during the Cold War.—*Reuters*

Mourners pay respects to murdered Kremlin critic Nemtsov

MOSCOW, 3 March — Several hundred Russians, many carrying red carnations, queued on Tuesday to pay their respects to Boris Nemtsov, the Kremlin critic whose murder last week showed the hazards of speaking out against Russian President Vladimir Putin.

Putin's aides deny any involvement in killing Nemtsov, who was shot in the back four times on Friday within sight of the Kremlin walls, but Nemtsov's friends say he was the victim of an atmosphere of hatred whipped up against anyone who opposes the president.

In a gesture of conciliation from the Kremlin, Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich joined mourners filing into the hall where Nemtsov's open casket was on display. Dvorkovich, from the Kremlin's increasingly sidelined liberal camp, was carrying a bunch of red flowers. For the most part though, the mourners were die-hard liberals who feel deep alarm at Nemtsov's killing but who represent only a minority of the Russian population. Polls show most Russians support Putin, despite a plummeting rouble and international sanctions over the Ukraine crisis.

"He (Nemtsov) was our hope," said Tatyana, a pensioner queuing to pay her respects. "I feel like Putin killed me on the day he died. This last year has been full of suffering."

Photographs of Nemtsov hung on the walls, and somber music played. Former British Prime Minister John Major was among the mourners. Lev Ponomarev, a leading human rights campaigner, pointed the finger of blame at state media, which routinely describe Kremlin opponents as traitors. "If you look at what people say of the killing, the versions differ. Some blame Vladimir Putin, some don't. But they all agree that Russian state television created this atmosphere that leads to this." The killing of a leading opponent against the backdrop of the Kremlin, in an area closely watched by the security services, has been deeply awkward for Putin.

In an interview with *Reuters* in Washington, President Barack Obama said it was a sign of a worsening climate in Russia, where civil rights and media freedoms have been rolled back.

Russian investiga-

tors say they are actively working to track down Nemtsov's killers. The Investigative Committee, the body in charge of the investigation, said it had obtained closed-circuit television footage from the scene, and scheduled ballistic and medical tests. Nemtsov's girlfriend, Anna Duritskaya, who was with him at the moment he was shot, has returned to her native Ukraine, the committee said in a statement. It said she had already given evidence, and undertook to continue to cooperate with investigators.

The Committee said the shots fired at Nemtsov came from a Makarov pistol, and that six bullet casings were recovered. It said the killing was painstakingly planned and that the organizers knew in advance where Nemtsov would be.

It appealed to anyone with information about the killing to come forward, and offered a reward of 3 million rubles (\$43,000).—*Reuters*



People stand in a line to attend a memorial service before the funeral of Russian leading opposition figure Boris Nemtsov in Moscow on 3 March, 2015.—REUTERS

Obama, Israel's Netanyahu clash over Iran diplomacy

WASHINGTON, 3 March — President Barack Obama and Benjamin Netanyahu clashed over Iran nuclear diplomacy on Monday on the eve of the Israeli prime minister's hotly disputed address to Congress, underscoring the severity of US-Israeli strains over the issue.

Even as the two leaders professed their commitment to a strong partnership and sought to play down the diplomatic row, they delivered dueling messages — Netanyahu in a speech to pro-Israeli supporters and Obama in an interview with *Reuters* — that hammered home their differences on Iran's nuclear ambitions.

Neither gave any ground ahead of Netanyahu's speech to Congress on Tuesday when he plans to detail his objections to ongoing talks between Iran and world powers that he says will inevitably allow Teheran to become a nuclear-armed state.

Netanyahu opened his high-profile visit to Washington on Monday with a stark warning to the Obama administration that the deal being negotiated with Teheran could threaten Israel's survival, saying he had a "moral obligation" to sound the alarm about the dangers.

He insisted he meant no disrespect for Obama,

with whom he has a history of testy encounters, and appreciated US military and diplomatic support for Israel.

Just hours after Netanyahu's speech to AIPAC, the largest US pro-Israel lobby, Obama told *Reuters* that Iran should commit to a verifiable freeze of at least 10 years on its most sensitive nuclear activity for a landmark atomic deal to be reached. But with negotiators facing an end-of-March deadline for a framework accord, he said the odds were still against sealing a final agreement. The *Reuters* interview gave Obama a chance to try to preemptively blunt the impact of Netanyahu's closely watched address to Congress.

Previewing his coming appearance on Capitol Hill, Netanyahu told a cheering audience at the annual conference of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC): "As prime minister of Israel, I have a moral obligation to speak up in the face of these dangers while there's still time to avert them." At the same time, Netanyahu said the relationship between his country and the United States was "stronger than ever" and not in crisis. Obama also sought to lower the temperature by describing Netanyahu's planned speech to Con-

gress as a distraction that would not be "permanently destructive" to US-Israeli ties and by saying the rift was not personal.

Obama refused to meet Netanyahu during the visit, on the grounds that doing so could be seen as interference on the cusp of Israel's 17 March elections when the prime minister is seeking re-election against a tough centre-left challenger. On Monday, the president said he would be willing to meet Netanyahu if the Israeli leader wins re-election.

But he said Netanyahu's US visit gave the impression of "politicizing" the two countries' normally close partnership and of going outside the normal channels of US foreign policy in which the president holds greatest sway. Netanyahu's planned speech has driven a wedge between Israel and congressional Democrats. Forty two of them plan to boycott the address, according to *The Hill*, a political newspaper. Netanyahu, who was given rousing bipartisan welcomes in his two previous addresses to Congress, is expected to press US lawmakers to block a deal with Iran that he contends would endanger Israel's existence but which Obama's aides believe could be a signature foreign policy achievement.—*Reuters*

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 4 March, 2015

Traffic congestion concerns everyone

By Aung Khin

Yangon saw a reduction in traffic jams during a recent inspection campaign by police at major junctions and during rush hours. Many drivers and car owners received fines during the operation.

Traffic enforcement officers also conducted educative programmes for bus drivers and ticket-sellers to try to persuade them to observe traffic rules. However, this attempt did not have a noticeable impact. The prevailing mindset among bus operators continued, epitomised by overtaking in opposite lanes and stopping at bus

stops for minutes to wait for commuters, causing traffic blockages.

In the past, educative programmes were followed by punitive law enforcement. But it does not seem to have had an impact in every sector. While such education can provide a foundation, it takes time to effect change. On the other hand, while punitive programmes can be harsh for these transportation workers, they can have the useful result of reducing traffic jams in Yangon.

Punishment alone will not be useful in the long term, however. Traffic police cannot solve the congestion by themselves. Bus drivers, private car owners and road users also share the responsibility. Street vendors should be located systematically. Market stalls should not block roads. When street vendors block pavements, pedestrians are forced to walk on roadways. Law enforcement should not shoulder the entire burden, but instead, the public should also play a part.

Traffic experts have identified 22 factors contributing to congestion in Yangon, including lack of car parking, poor road quality, increasing

numbers of vehicles and competition between bus operators.

Myanmar has the lowest number of cars in ASEAN. With an increasing number of commuters and internal migration to Yangon, people in the business capital are largely reliant on buses. Some options to solve traffic congestion include construction of flyovers and useful inner-city rails. Circular trains should be regular and have sufficient carriages.

Good transportation will not only help solve traffic congestion, but also promote workplace productivity.

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.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

The noblest Religious Titles presented by the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the eminent Buddhist monks, nuns and laypersons at home and abroad for their utmost efforts for carrying out the purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana (the Teachings of the Omniscient Buddha) throughout the world

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

In order to carefully preserve the noblest task for purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana (the Teachings of the Omniscient Buddha) at home and abroad, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar always attaches great importance to the implementation of this noblest task.

In this regard, we all Buddhists throughout the country are very pleased and greatly honored to learn that the President Office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued the Notification No. 1/2015 regarding presenting religious titles on the Independence Day of the

Republic of the Union of Myanmar which falls on the 4th January 2015.

According to the Notification No.1/2015 of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the respective religious titles have been presented as follows to internal and international outstanding Buddhist monks, Buddhist nuns and laypersons who earnestly carried out this noblest task for purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana at home and abroad.

Religious titles for distinctively fulfilling two Dhuras (duties), Gantha Dhura (duty of learning and teaching of the Pitaka Scrip-

tures) and Vipassana Dhura (duty of engaging in meditation)

- Abhidhajamaharathaguru title to five eminent Mahatheras (Chief monks).
- Aggamahapandita title to fourteen eminent Mahatheras including two Mahatheras from abroad, one from Thailand.
- Mahadhammakatika Bahujanahitadhara title to one eminent Mahathera.
- Dhammakatika Bahujanahitadhara title to two eminent monks.
- Aggamahagantavacakapandita title to thirteen eminent monks including one from abroad, Britain

- and two eminent nuns.
- Mahagantavacakapandita title to nine eminent monks and one eminent nun.
- Ganthavacakapandita title to nineteen eminent monks and three eminent nuns.

Religious titles for excellent missionary works on Buddhism

Both internal and international outstanding Buddhist monks, nuns and laypersons who distinctively carried out this noblest task of the excellent missionary works on Buddhism at home and abroad have been presented these religious titles as follows.

- Abhidhaja-aggamahajotikadharma title to four eminent Mahather-

- (Chief monks)
- Aggamahasaddhammajotikadharma title to twenty-three eminent monks including five eminent monks from abroad, one from Thailand, one from Bangladesh, two from the United States of America, and one from the United Kingdom.
- Mahasaddhammajotikadharma title to twenty-one eminent chief monks including one eminent monk from abroad, the People's Republic of China and three eminent nuns.
- Sadhammajotikadharma title to thirty-two eminent monks including seven eminent monks from abroad, one from Cambodia, three from the People's Republic of China, one from Vietnam, one from Laos and one from Sri Lanka and four eminent nuns and one layperson.
- Aggamahakammathanacariya title to four eminent monks
- Mahakammathanacariya title to three eminent monks
- Kammathanacariya title to three eminent monks

Religious titles for excellent missionary works on Buddhism (only for laypersons)

The outstanding laypersons who generously donated and provided the four requisites for this noblest task of excellent works on Bud-

dham at home and abroad have been presented the respective religious titles as follows. It is learnt that these religious titles have been presented since 1990.

For male

- Aggamahasirisudhammamanijotadhara title to two laypersons
- Sirisudhammanijotadhara title to three laypersons
- Sihasadhammanijotadhara title to two laypersons
- Sudhammanijotadhara title to five laypersons

For female

- Aggamahasirisudhamma Theingi title to five laypersons
- Sirisudhamma Theingi title to three laypersons
- Sihasadhamma Theingi title to four laypersons
- Sudhamma Theingi title to sixteen laypersons

It is further learnt that the great grand religious titles presentation ceremony will be held at the precinct of the Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw, the capital of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the fullmoon day of Tabaung 1376 ME (on 4th March, 2015). The religious-title recipients at home and from abroad will be officially invited to attend the very auspicious ceremony to receive their religious titles which will be presented by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for the year of 2015.

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin and Laotian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Thongloun Sisoulith co-chaired the 11th Meeting of Myanmar-Lao Joint Commission for Bilateral Cooperation, here, on Tuesday.

The meeting discussed and exchanged views on issues of mutual interest including the management of Friendship Bridge between Myanmar and Laos, political and security cooperation, exchange of high-level visits, cooperation between the foreign ministries, cooperation in transnational

Myanmar, Laos delegates exchange views on political and security cooperation

crimes and drug control, trade, mining and tourism sectors. The meeting was conducted in an atmosphere of mutual understanding and cooperation.

The ministerial meeting was preceded by senior officials' meeting at Grand Amara Hotel.—MNA

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin greets Laotian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Dr Thongloun Sisoulith.—MNA



NATIONAL

Students hold sit-in protest in Letpadan, Bago Region

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March — Students protesting against National Education Law held sit-in protest in Letpadan, Bago Region on Tuesday.

The members of protest group called for security forces clearing the way while mixing the two sides.

Despite persuasion by the monks, district administrative officers and officials, the protest students defied the request.

Bago region's Security and Border Affairs Minister Colonel Thet Tun also persuaded three students including Maung Aung Hmine San.

The sit-in protest near Aung Myay Beikman included 50 male students, 19 female students, together with the so-called ordinary people group of 29 men, 16 women and 12 monks, totaling 126 persons.—MNA



Police persuade students in Letpadan, Bago Region.—MNA

A map shows clashes between Tatmadaw and Kokang insurgents in Laukkai region



Kokang insurgents under attack of government troops in Laukkai

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March — Government troops on patrol for security reason in Laukkai came under attack from Kokang insurgents in three separate areas on Tuesday, officials said.

retaliated against the attacks, forcing the insurgents into retreat suffering two deaths.

Two military personnel were wounded and are now receiving medical treatment in a military hospital.

The military columns

Myawady

Weather expert warns high . . .

(from page 1)

Meanwhile, some regions may register a high ultraviolet (UV) index, said U Tun Lwin. He forecast the UV index to reach over 11 in Yangon Region, Nay Pyi Taw Region, Magway Region, Bago Region, Ayayawady Region, Taninthayi

Region, Kayah State, Kayin State, Mon State, Rakhine State, as well as southern and eastern Shan State on 3 March.

UV indexes between 10 and 11 can be harmful and pose several health risks, authorities have warned.—GNLM

Information Ministry approves renewal of publishing licences

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March — The Ministry of Information has approved the renewal of printing and publishing licences, the application for publishing licences, and name and address changes, at a meeting held on 27 last month.

The ministry stated that 68 printing and publishing houses came up for renewal, with 20 others granted new licences. As of 10 October last year, the ministry has issued licences to 1,955 printing and publishing houses and news agencies.—MNA

Joint Statement on Election . . .

(from page 1)

United Kingdom, and the United States are coordinating our donor support to government and non-government organizations in this electoral process. As donors and partners, we also commit to adhere to the principles of transparency, inclusiveness and equity. Our assistance aims to support and institutionalize the democratic process, and does not support any specific party or candidate.

Critical Steps to an Inclusive, Credible and Transparent Election: While not every donor is involved in each of the following activities, donor assistance is coordinated to address the following elements in the electoral process--

* **Promote international standards:** We are providing the Union Election Commission (UEC) with technical support on international best practices as it relates to electoral administration, including an updated national voter list.

* **Establish a framework for election observation:** We are supporting training and deployment of both domestic and international election observers to enhance transparency and build voter confidence in the integrity of the election. International experience shows that election observation can increase accountability, reassure voters, and help deter fraud and intimidation.

* **Strengthen the capacity of election stake-holders to promote democratic political competition:** Our support

U Soe Nwe accredited as Ambassador to Cambodia

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March — The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Soe Nwe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Federal Republic of Germany, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Cambodia.—MNA

Daw Yin Yin Myint accredited as Ambassador to Germany

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March — The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Daw Yin Yin Myint, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Brunei Darussalam, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Federal Republic of Germany.—MNA

U Cho Tun Aung accredited as Ambassador to Brunei Darussalam

NAY PYI TAW, 4 March — The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Cho Tun Aung, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Cambodia, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Brunei Darussalam.—MNA

is focused on capacity building to give stake-holders, which for some donors includes political parties, the tools they need to take part in the electoral process, and build organizations that are responsive to the people. In compliance with Myanmar law, any support to political parties will continue to be offered to all parties equitably.

The European Union, Norway, Switzerland, and the United States are providing capacity-building assistance benefiting political parties.

* **Support civil society organizations and media organizations to improve voter education and participation in the elections:** We are assisting civil society organizations as they continue to promote voter registration and conduct voter education campaigns. We are also supporting media training to help ensure accurate, impartial, and reliable information about the elections is widely available to the public.

* **Increase dialogue between all stakeholders:** Our programming continues to encourage the UEC, civil society organizations, the media, and political parties to hold regular dialogues on the regulatory framework, organization, and management of the electoral process.

In addition to our targeted elections support, we will continue to promote a peaceful and inclusive election environment. Freedom of the media, freedom of expression, nondiscrimination, and protection of human and associated rights are central to a credible election process.

Application deadline for . . .

(from page 1)

chairman, revealed that an underwriter license covering all business areas requires a capital amount of K15 billion, while setting a K10 billion capital requirement for a dealer

license, K7 billion for a broker license and K30 million for a consultant license.

Since 19 January, submission of applications has been open to companies planning to operate

either independently or in joint ventures with foreign firms.

Following the enactment of the Securities and Exchange Law in 2013, Myanmar Economic Bank, owned by the Ministry of Finance and holding a controlling share of 51 per-

cent, signed a joint venture agreement last December with Daiwa Institute of Research, with a share of 30.25 percent, and Japan Exchange Group, with 18.75 percent, to set up the Yangon Stock Exchange Joint-Venture Company Limited.—GNLM

Bomb near top Cairo court house kills two; other blasts hit capital

CAIRO, 3 March — Two people were killed when a bomb exploded near a top court building in central Cairo, the health ministry said, the deadliest attack in three blasts to hit the Egyptian capital on Monday.

The repeated security incidents in Cairo have raised concern over the effectiveness of security forces who have pledged to end Islamist militant violence bedeviling government efforts to revive investment and foreign tourism crucial to the economy and stability of the Arab world's most popu-

lous country.

An Interior Ministry statement said the bomb exploded under a car near the courthouse, wounding police and civilians. Health ministry spokesman Dr Hossam Abdel Ghaffar later told *Reuters* that two civilians were killed and there were nine wounded.

Security sources said the public prosecutor, whose office is in the building, was inside at the time of the blast. They said he had since left to inspect the scene of the attack.

Crowds gathered in front of the court, where police had blocked off

nearby roads. There was some damage to two cars in the area and blood splattered on a nearby pavement.

Later on Monday, a homemade bomb exploded in the Heliopolis suburb of Cairo, an interior ministry security source told state news agency *MENA*, causing no casualties.

A third bomb, also homemade, exploded near a police station in the Cairo suburb of Maadi, damaging a few cars but causing no casualties, security sources said. The Interior Ministry said on its Facebook page the bomb went off near a fire station.

Monday's Cairo attacks followed a string of similar low-level bombings in the capital on Thursday that killed one person.

While most of the worst attacks in Egypt have hit the Sinai Peninsula, a remote but strategic region bordering Gaza that is a hotbed of Islamist militants, smaller blasts have become increasingly common in Cairo and other cities.

Egypt has been grappling with rising Islamist

militancy since then-army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi ousted freely elected Islamist President Mohamed Mursi in 2013 after mass protests against his rule.

Sisi, now president, has cracked down hard on Mursi's Muslim Brotherhood, which the government has declared a terrorist group. The Brotherhood renounced violence as a means of political change decades ago and denies any link with recent militant attacks.

Monday's attack was not the first to target court buildings in Cairo. In October, a homemade bomb exploded near the same area, wounding 12 people.

Sisi signed off on an anti-terrorism law last week giving authorities sweeping powers to ban groups on charges ranging from harming national unity to disrupting public order.

Cairo is hoping security concerns will not detract from a high-profile investment conference it is hosting later this month in the Sinai Red Sea resort town of Sharm al-Sheikh.

Reuters

Australia to send 300 more troops to Iraq on training mission

SYDNEY, 3 March — Australia will send an additional 300 soldiers to help train Iraqi forces fighting Islamic State militants, Prime Minister Tony Abbott said on Tuesday, following a request from the United States to contribute to an international training coalition.

Australia last year committed a 600-strong force comprising some 400 airforce personnel and 200 special forces soldiers to help fight Islamic State.

The new Australian troops will join around 140 New Zealand Defence Force members and be based at Taji, northwest of Baghdad, Abbott told reporters. "We are naturally reluctant as a peace-loving people to reach out to

far-away conflicts but, as we know, this conflict has been reaching out to us for months now," Abbott said.

Australia is on high alert for attacks by radicalized Muslims or home-grown militants returning from fighting in the Middle East. In December two hostages and a radical self-styled sheikh who had sought to align himself with Islamic State were killed in a Sydney hostage siege.

"The government's decision has the support of the prime minister of Iraq and it responds to a formal request from the United States to contribute specific Australian Defence Force capabilities to this international coalition," Abbott said.

Reuters

Libya's elected parliament agrees to resume UN talks

BENGAZI, 3 March — Libya's elected House of Representatives (HoR) on Monday agreed to go back to United Nations-brokered peace talks with a rival government, a week after they pulled out over a militant suicide bombing, a par-

liament spokesman said.

"The HoR voted today to resume the peace dialogue after we held a meeting with the UN envoy to Libya Bernardino Leon," the spokesman, Faraj Hashem, said.

Reuters

Refugees in Turkey unable to return to war-torn Syria

SURUC, (Turkey), 3 March — About 1,200 people from Syria are living in a small refugee camp in Suruc, southeastern Turkey, unable to return to their country devastated by civil war. "There is no hope here," said a 45-year-old Kurd, whose home in Ayn al-Arab, Syria, was destroyed in the fighting.

Fighting has continued in Syria between gov-

ernment troops and rebel forces, with the Islamic State militant group and Kurdish forces also involved in the clashes.

In Sanliurfa, southeastern Turkey, a 7-year-old Syrian boy sells bread on a street outside a market after school to earn a living. He has fled with his family from fighting in Aleppo, northern Syria.

Kyodo News

Lebanese soldier, militant killed in shootout in north

TRIPOLI, 3 March — A Lebanese soldier and a wanted militant were killed in an exchange of gunfire in northern Lebanon on Tuesday, security sources and a medic said.

The militant, identified as Abdulrahman

Tamar, was wanted in connection with deadly battles with the army last October in northern Lebanon.

Tuesday's exchange of fire occurred in the village of Bhanin, northeast of the city of Tripoli.

Reuters



Blood stains are seen on the ground as security officials inspect the scene of a car bomb blast in front of The High Court in downtown Cairo on 2 March, 2015.

REUTERS

Iraqi forces try to seal off Islamic State around Tikrit

BAGHDAD, 3 March — Thousands of Iraqi soldiers and Shi'ite militiamen sought to seal off Islamic State fighters in Tikrit and nearby towns on Tuesday, the second day of Iraq's biggest offensive yet against a stronghold of the radical Sunni Islamist militants.

Iranian military commander Qassem Soleimani, who has helped coordinate Baghdad's counter-attacks against Islamic State since it seized much of northern Iraq in June, was overseeing at least part of the operation, witnesses told *Reuters*.

His presence on the frontline highlights neighbouring Iran's influence over the Shi'ite fighters who have been key to containing the militants in Iraq.

In contrast the US-led air coalition which has been attacking Islamic State across Iraq and Syria has not yet played a role in Tikrit, the Pentagon said on Monday, perhaps in part because of the high-level Iranian presence.

Iraqi military officials said security forces backed by the Shi'ite militia known as Hashid Shaabi (Popular

Mobilisation) units were advancing gradually, their progress slowed by roadside bombs and snipers.

They have yet to enter Tikrit, best known as the hometown of executed former president Saddam Hussein, or the nearby Tigris river town of al-Dour, which officials describe as a major center for the Islamic State fighters. On the southern flank of the offensive, army and police officials said government forces moving north from the city of Samarra could launch an attack on al-Dour later on Tuesday.

Soleimani, head of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards Quds Force, was

directing operations on the eastern flank from a village about 55 km (35 miles) from Tikrit called Albu Rayash, captured from Islamic State two days ago.

With him were two Iraqi Shi'ite paramilitary leaders: the leader of the Hashid Shaabi, Abu Mahdi al-Mohandis, and Hadi al-Amiri who leads the Badr Organization, a powerful Shi'ite militia.

"(Soleimani) was standing on top of a hill pointing with his hands toward the areas where Islamic State are still operating," said a witness who was accompanying security forces near Albu Rayash.



Iraqi security forces and Shi'ite fighters reload a weapon during clashes with Islamic State militants in Salahuddin Province on 2 March, 2015.—REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Sharp expected to post 200 bil yen net



The headquarters of Japanese electronics maker Sharp Corp stands in the city of Osaka, western Japan, on 3 March, 2015. —KYODO NEWS

OSAKA, 3 March — Sharp Corp. is expected to incur about 200 billion yen (\$1.7 billion) in group net loss for the current fiscal year as it is considering additional restructuring steps, including the closure of four factories in Hiroshima Prefecture, sources close to the matter said on Tuesday. The struggling Japanese electronics maker at the same time aims to strengthen its financial condition by requesting aid from two main creditor

banks to increase its capital by around 175 billion yen through a debt-for-equity swap and other measures, the sources said.

The expected loss will be far bigger than the 30 billion yen loss that the company currently expects for the fiscal year that ends this month and will represent a plunge from a profit of 11.6 billion yen it posted in the last fiscal year that ended in March 2014.

In a bid to restore its battered operations, Sharp

is considering shutting down its Mihara plant, which mainly produces light-emitting diodes, and its Fukuyama No 1 to No 3 plants for sensor-related products such as touch panels, the sources said.

The Osaka-based company also plans to pull out of production and sales of its unprofitable solar panel business, as the yen's rapid depreciation has driven up import costs of components, they said. Sharp will seek financial support

of 75 billion yen each from Mizuho Bank and the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ through a debt-for-equity swap, while it is looking to raise 25 billion yen via a third-party allocation of shares with domestic and overseas companies, the sources said.

The electronics maker managed to return to profitability for the first time in three years in the last fiscal year, as it shifted its focus to small-to-medium display panels for smartphones and its efforts to revamp its flagging TV and liquid crystal display panel businesses also paid off.

But the Japanese company is now facing intensifying competition with Chinese and South Korean rivals that are attracting customers away from it with their lower-cost display panels.

Sharp posted a group net loss of 545.3 billion yen in the fiscal year ended March 2013 that followed a net loss of 376.1 billion yen in the previous year.

The company said later Tuesday in a statement that it is considering a variety of restructuring measures and will outline its new mid-term business plan in May.

Kyodo News

Asian shares lifted by Wall Street records; RBA stands pat



A man (L) looks at a stock quotation board as passers-by walk past, outside a brokerage in Tokyo February 27, 2015. — REUTERS

TOKYO, 3 March — Most Asian stock markets edged higher on Tuesday, bolstered by another record day on Wall Street, while a resurgent yen helped knock the US dollar index off an 11-year high.

The Australian dollar jumped after the Reserve Bank of Australia held policy steady, confounding investors who had bet it would deliver a back-to-back interest rate cut instead of holding off for a few months to gauge how the economy digested last month's cut.

"They're clearly signaling that if we continue to see low levels of confidence they will go again. We're still comfortable with our view that they'll cut again in the next couple of months," said NAB senior economist Spiros Papadopoulos.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan added about 0.1 percent, while Japan's Nikkei stock average erased early gains and slipped about 0.3 percent after the yen rebounded from a three-week low against the greenback touched earlier in the session. On Wall Street on Monday, the Dow Jones industrial average and the S&P 500 both posted fresh record closing highs, while the Nasdaq Composite broke 5,000 for the first time in 15 years.

The dollar index climbed as far as 95.516 earlier in the session, its highest since September 2003, but was last down about 0.2 percent on the day.

The dollar skidded about 0.4 percent against the yen to 119.69, after touching a fresh three-week high of 120.27 earlier on Tuesday. The yen's ascent came after an adviser to Japan's government reportedly said the yen's correction from its past excessive strength is likely complete. The euro gained about 0.1 percent on

the day to \$1.1190.

The dollar's rise overnight showed the extent to which some investors have begun positioning for the possibility of a near-term rate hike, as it came in spite of a batch of downbeat US data, including another fall in US consumer spending and slower factory activity.

"The market's relentless appetite for US dollars is impressive considering that the latest economic reports hardens our view that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates in September and not in June," Kathy Lien, managing director at BK Asset Management, said in a note to clients. The Aussie dollar was last up 0.8 percent at \$0.7824 after going as low as \$0.7751 earlier in the session amid expectations that the RBA would cut rates. The main data focus for the market this week will be Friday's US jobs report for February. Employers are expected to have added 240,000 jobs in the month, according to the median estimate of 100 economists polled by Reuters. A strong reading is likely to heighten expectations that the Fed will opt to hike interest rates by the middle of this year.

A sharp selloff in Brent crude overnight kept some investors cautious.

Brent was up 0.7 percent on the day at \$60.34 a barrel after plunging as much as 5 percent in the previous session, after Iran said a deal on its nuclear program could be reached this week if the West lifts sanctions. Such a move would likely boost the country's oil exports and increase global supply.

Gold dropped for a second day on growing expectations for a US rate hike. Spot gold edged down about 0.1 percent to \$1,207.18 after touching a session low of \$1,194.90 an ounce.

Reuters

Study finds gorilla origins in half of human AIDS virus lineages

WASHINGTON, 3 March —Revealing new details about the origins of AIDS, scientists said on Monday half the lineages of the main type of human immunodeficiency virus, HIV-1, originated in gorillas in Cameroon before infecting people, probably via bushmeat hunting.

HIV-1, which causes AIDS, is composed of four groups, each coming from a separate cross-species transmission of a simian version of the virus from apes to humans.

Previous research identified chimpanzees in

southern Cameroon as the source of HIV-1 group M, which has infected more than 40 million people worldwide and triggered the AIDS pandemic, as well as the geographically limited group N, identified in only about 20 people.

Until now, the source of the two other groups, known as O and P, had not been confirmed. The new research, published in the journal *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, showed those groups originated in western lowland gorillas in

southern Cameroon.

"Thus, both chimpanzees and gorillas harbor viruses that are capable of crossing the species barrier to humans and causing major disease outbreaks," said virologist Martine Peeters of the Institute for Research and Development and University of Montpellier in France.

The researchers examined fecal samples from different gorillas across central Africa, including western lowland gorillas, eastern lowland gorillas and mountain gorillas in Cameroon, Gabon, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda, for evidence of the gorilla version of HIV.

Genetic analyses implicated the western lowland gorillas as the source of HIV-1 groups O and P.

"The mode of transmission is most likely exposure to infected blood and/or tissues during hunting and butchering for bushmeat," Peeters said.

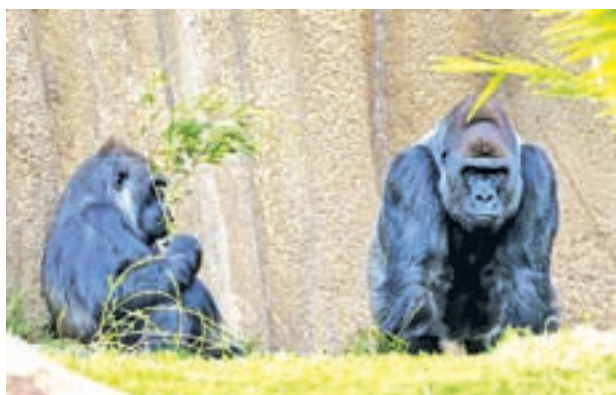
Group O viruses, the second most com-

mon HIV-1 lineage, have spread across Cameroon, Gabon, Nigeria and neighboring countries and have infected about 100,000 people. Group P viruses have been documented in just two Cameroonian patients.

The researchers said group O emerged at the beginning of the 20th century. Group P arose sometime later that century.

University of Pennsylvania microbiologist Beatrice Hahn, the study's other co-leader, said there does not appear to be any inherent viral property that prevented the group O lineage from becoming a pandemic-causing pathogen like group M. "Hence, on this occasion, humans got lucky," Hahn said. Another virus type, called HIV-2, is mainly restricted to West Africa, less easily transmitted than HIV-1 and has a slower progression to AIDS. It was transmitted from monkeys called sooty mangabeys to humans in West Africa.

Reuters



Two gorillas are pictured in their enclosure at the zoo in Los Angeles, California in this file photo taken on 28 Jan, 2015. — REUTERS

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV CHINDWIN STAR VOY NO (1004)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CHINDWIN STAR VOY NO (1004) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.3.2015 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 CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1029W)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1029W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (399N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (399N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.3.2015 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 EVERGREEN SHIPPING
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7J026R)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7J026R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (044N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (044N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.3.2015 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 WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV VEGA LUPUS VOY NO (1503)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VEGA LUPUS VOY NO (1503) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.3.2015 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 MCC TRANSPORT
(S'PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ASSAD ULLAN VOY NO (02/15)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASSAD ULLAN VOY NO (02/15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (1) 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 BAY LINE SHIPPING CO
LTD**

Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KULSAMUT VOY NO (03/15)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULSAMUT VOY NO (03/15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (7) 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 KULNATEE CO**

Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KANG MAN VOY NO (80)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KANG MAN VOY NO (80) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING
LTD.**

Phone No: 2301186

World heritage shrine in Kyoto to host condos to finance rebuilding

KYOTO, 3 March — Kyoto's Shimogamo Shrine has said it will lease part of its premises to a company planning to construct condominiums so that the shrine, designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, can finance the scheduled rebuilding of its main hall.

A 9,650-square-meter piece of land adjacent to

the World Heritage area will be leased for 80 million yen (\$670,000) annually for 50 years to cover the costs of the periodic rebuilding of the shrine, which takes place every 21 years and is scheduled for this year.

Of the about 3 billion yen cost, 800 million yen is subsidized by the government. The shrine had

planned to finance the balance through donations, but has so far raised only 1 billion yen.

Eight three-story up-scale condominiums totaling 107 housing units will be built from November, with work scheduled for completion in the spring of 2017.

The Kyoto city government said the site in

question is not within the heritage area but in a "buffer zone" where due consideration must be given to maintaining the scenery and environment.

The shrine, formally called Kamomioya Shrine, is included in the Historic Monuments of Ancient Kyoto, listed as culture heritage in 1994.

Kyodo News



Supplied photo shows an image of condominiums to be constructed on the premises of Kyoto's Shimogamo Shrine, designated as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The shrine will lease part of its premises to a company planning to build condominiums so that the shrine can finance the scheduled rebuilding of its main hall.—KYODO NEWS

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GLOVIS PASSION VOY NO (032)**

Consignees of cargo carried on GLOVIS PASSION VOY No (032) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ECL (S'PORE) PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301191/2301178

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV THAI BINH 68 VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THAI BINH 68 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.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 G LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301191/2301178

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV CALABERIA VOY NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on M/CALABERIA VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S F.H BERTLING
CHARTERING & SHIP MANAGEMENT PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV DALARNA VOY NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MVDALARNA VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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 F.H BERTLING
CHARTERING & SHIP MANAGEMENT PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGSAKAO VOY NO (29)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MVBANGSAKAO VOY NO (29) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.3.2015 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 WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO LTD.**
Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO (950N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO (950N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.3.2015 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES**
Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SHAHR E KORD VOY NO (ISC1003E)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHAHR E KORD VOY NO (ISC1003E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S LAND & SEA LOGICTICS**
Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MUNICH TRADER VOY NO
(RY-1503-02N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MUNICH TRADER VOY NO (RY-1503-02N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.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 TRANSOFFSHORE
LOGISTICS PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ELLENS VOY NO (001)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ELLENS VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**
Phone No: 2301185

**Firm exec admits to killing employee
in 2010 Manila murder case**

Kyoto, 3 March — An executive at an educational material sales company in Kyoto admitted on Tuesday to killing an employee of the company in Manila in 2010, in the opening session of his lay judge trial at the Kyoto District Court. Shogo Arai, 44, admitted to shooting dead Yuichiro Matsutani, 35, on a street in Manila on 24 November, 2010, in

conspiracy with his brother Shigeo and an unidentified third person to collect 100 million yen in death benefits. According to his lawyers, Arai remained silent during the police investigation but began confessing to the murder around July last year. The court will hand down its ruling on 18 March. The lay-judge trial of his 57-year-old brother has yet to begin. The

Arai brothers made a benefit claim to an insurance firm in December 2010 after they returned to Japan from the Philippines. After the insurer rejected the claim, they filed a suit with the Tokyo District Court. The Tokyo court ordered the insurer to pay 100 million yen, but the insurer appealed the decision.
Kyodo News

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WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is generally fair in the Central Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 4th March, 2015: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin and Chin States, weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon Region, Rakhine, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

**Yangon Stock Exchange
ICT System
Invitation for Open Tender**

1. Any interested Information and Telecommunication System Companies are invited for open tender of Yangon Stock Exchange that will be opened within 2015 to develop the business system and to manage its maintenance for the Stock Exchange's operation ICT system.
2. Application form with detail plan for ICT system and its requirement will be sold starting on (5-3-2015). Tender will be closed on (26-3-2015) at (16:00) pm.
3. For more information, contact to tentative office of the Yangon Stock Exchange Joint-Venture Company Limited, located at No. (21/25), 1st Floor, Myanma Economic Bank Building. Ph- (01-1220836).

Arnold Schwarzenegger receives Lifetime Achievement Honour



Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger reunited with his 'Twins' co-star Danny DeVito, onstage at the Golden Camera awards show in Hamburg, Germany.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 3 March — Actor Arnold Schwarzenegger reunited with his 'Twins' co-star Danny DeVito, onstage at the Golden Camera awards show in Hamburg, Germany.

The 'Terminator' ac-

tor, 67, was at the ceremony on 27 February, to receive the International Lifetime Achievement honour, which was presented to him by DeVito, 70.

The two close friends exchanged a warm handshake and hug, and the 'It's

Always Sunny in Philadelphia' star grinned at his old friend during his special moment, reported Us magazine.

In his speech, the star encouraged aspiring actors in the crowd, telling them not to give up hope.

Schwarzenegger then dedicated the honour to the countless dreamers trying to enter the film business, telling his fans, "Do not give up!"

His latest reunion with DeVito comes 27 years after the release of their beloved and wildly successful 1988 comedy, in which the two starred as fraternal twins. The surprise hit was directed by Ivan Reitman.

PTI

Lincoln hints at character Negan's entry on 'The Walking Dead'

LOS ANGELES, 3 March — Actor Andrew Lincoln says there would be many 'thrilling' characters making entry on the next season of 'The Walking Dead' and hints that a villain, Negan, is one of them.

The drama is based on Robert Kirkman's comic book of the same name.

Negan is a popular character in the story.

Negan is the leader of a group dubbed Savivors. They use violence to control other colonies including Alexandria where Rick, played by Lincoln, and his friends are about to enter, said The Hollywood Reporter.

"There are astonishingly brilliant and thrilling characters that I am convinced we would be idiots not to meet in our journey," the 41-year-old actor teased. "I would be very surprised if we don't see Negan on the horizon in the not-too-distant future. What struck me, that

I've always been excited about, is we're coming into the sixth season of this show ... and it's the medieval part of 'The Walking Dead' comic, where you realise that there are these isolated communities but don't really know other ones exist," Lincoln said.

PTI

Pictures of new dinosaurs of 'Jurassic World' released online

LOS ANGELES, 3 March — Universal Pictures has introduced pictures of seven more dinosaurs from its upcoming film 'Jurassic World'.

The Jurassic World viral site has been updated to include pictures of seven more creatures that visitors can meet when they visit the park, including Suchomimus, Baryonyx, Dimorphodon, Pteranodon, Edmontosaurus, Metriacanthosaurus and a pack of Microceratus, reported Ace Showbiz.

These beasts join previously-revealed species like Ankylosaurus, Gallimimus, Mosasaurus, Stegosaurus, Triceratops, Tyrannosaurus Rex and of course Indominus Rex. Images and details for Pachycephalosaurus, Parasaurolophus and the Velociraptors have yet to be unveiled.

A video has been uploaded to the Jurassic World site, giving fans glimpses at how baby dinosaurs are made. The clip sees a

number of scientists at the Hammond Creation Lab working hard to "extract, sequence and assemble the DNA necessary to bring dinosaurs back from extinction to Jurassic World."

'Jurassic World' will release on 12 June in the US. Directed by Colin Trevorrow, the film that is set 22 years after the events of the original 'Jurassic Park' stars Ty Simpkins, Bryce Dallas Howard, Nick Robinson, Chris Pratt and Irrfan Khan among others.

PTI



Universal Pictures has introduced pictures of seven more dinosaurs from its upcoming film 'Jurassic World'.—PTI

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(4/2015)**

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-166(14-15)	Maintenance / Requirement for Pipeline Centre (PLC) Daw Nyein	US\$
(2)	IFB-167(14-15)	Spares for National Torque Converter (21) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-168(14-15)	Electrical Spares (14)Items for D ₃ T ₂ Rigs	US\$
(4)	IFB-169(14-15)	5" Drill Pipe (1000) M	US\$
(5)	IFB-170(14-15)	Maintenance / Requirement for Ywama Gas Distribution Station (GDS)	US\$
(6)	DMP/L-042(14-15)	UPS with Stabilizer (Online System, 10KW) & Auto Start Electric Generator (20 KVA)	Ks
(7)	DMP/L-043(14-15)	Echosounder (1) Lot	Ks
(8)	DMP/L-044(14-15)	Spares for F 1600 Rig Pump (5) Items	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 31-3-2015, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 3rd March, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411097 /411206

Taylor Swift to become godmother to Jaime King's second child

LOS ANGELES, 3 March — Singer Taylor Swift will become a godmother to her best friend Jaime King's second child.

The 'Red' songstress and the 'Sin City: A Dame to Kill For' actress revealed the happy news on Instagram.

The "Blank Space" hit-maker shared a photo of her kneeling while touching King's baby bump along with caption, "Guess who just got named Godmother of this little one..... (ME) @jaime_king @kyle_new-



Singer Taylor Swift will become a godmother to her best friend Jaime King's second child. PTI

man."

In the photo, Swift wore a plaid sweater while

King wore a red-and-white star sweater and green hot-pants.—PTI

Pop icon Madonna announces dates for 'Rebel Heart' tour

NEW YORK, 3 March — Madonna will begin an international tour to promote her new album "Rebel Heart" with a concert at the American Airlines Arena in Miami in August, her promoters, Live Nation, said on Monday.

The 29 August show will kick-start the North American leg of the tour that will include appearances in New York, Boston, Chicago, Philadelphia, Vancouver and San Juan, Puerto Rico. The 56-year-old pop star will begin the European and British segment of the tour with a concert in Cologne, Germany on 4 November followed

by dates in London, Paris, Barcelona and other cities. Concerts in Australia and Asia will be announced at a later date, according to Madonna's website. Last week the Grammy-winning singer took a tumble on stage while singing "Living for Love," a single from the album, during a performance at the British music industry's annual Brit Awards.

She fell backward down a few stairs when a flowing cape that was part of her matador costume failed to loosen. The singer regained her composure and continued the performance.—Reuters



Madonna performs "Living for Love" at the 57th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California on 8 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

GENERAL

Environmental groups sue Port of Seattle over Shell oil fleet



The shipping docks of the deepwater harbor of the Port of Seattle is seen on this aerial view photograph taken from a helicopter in Seattle, on 21 Aug, 2012.

REUTERS

SEATTLE, 3 March — A coalition of environmental groups sued the Port of Seattle on Monday to stop the lease of a terminal to Royal Dutch Shell Plc's Arctic oil drilling fleet, arguing a proper environmental review was never conducted, court records showed.

Earthjustice, along with other groups including the Sierra Club, filed

the suit in a Washington state court, alleging the drilling operation was substantially different from the terminal's prior use, meaning an environmental review had to be done under state law.

The complaint against the port and Foss Maritime Co, which would work for Shell under the two-year lease, also alleged that officials reached the arrangement without public disclosure and

that the fleet could pollute the area's water.

"The Port shut out the public and subverted laws that are designed to foster an informed public assessment of controversial proposals like this one," Earthjustice Managing Attorney Patti Goldman said in a statement. Shell, Europe's largest energy firm, is intent on restarting its Arctic drilling campaign in Alaska's Chuk-

chi Sea this summer. It was suspended in early 2013 following the grounding of a drilling rig.

"We have received a shoreline substantial development permit exemption from the City of Seattle for this use," Port of Seattle spokesman Peter McGraw said in a statement, adding that officials had not yet reviewed the suit.

"The Port of Seattle believes it has complied with all necessary environmental requirements," McGraw said.

Foss did not immediately respond to request for comment but company spokesman Paul Queary told the Puget Sound Business Journal that activity at the terminal would actually decline under the plan.

Late last year, drilling contractor Noble Corp Plc paid \$12.2 million to settle felony charges by the US Department of Justice related to safety, environmental and record keeping violations on vessels in Arctic waters in 2012 while working as a contractor for Shell.

Reuters

Dutch government says sorry for gas field causing quakes

AMSTERDAM, 3 March — The Dutch government apologized on Monday for ignoring risks posed by earthquakes caused by production of natural gas in the northern province of Groningen.

The apology follows a 18 February report by the country's independent Safety Board that found that the government, together with Royal Shell and Exxon, had put profits before safety in exploiting the Groningen gas field, Europe's largest.

"I am very sorry that the safety interests of Groningers did not receive the attention they deserved," Economic Affairs Minister Henk Kamp said. "Safety will now come first".

Kamp added that he would take "the necessary measures" to address the problem, but did not specify what those measures will be.

In February Kamp ordered production at the Groningen field to be cut by 16 percent for the first half of 2015, sending prices in northwest Europe surging. He is due to make another decision on production at the field on 1 July.

Parliament has demanded a debate with

Kamp over the Safety Board's findings on Tuesday.

Earthquakes were definitively linked to production at Groningen in 1993, but they became more frequent and more intense after production was increased in 2008.

Increased gas revenues provided an important buffer as Prime Minister Mark Rutte's centrist Cabinet pursued unpopular austerity policies.

After a 3.6 magnitude earthquake in 2012 — greater than any Shell and Exxon had forecast — regulators warned the government that citizens'

safety was at risk and called for production to be cut as quickly as possible.

But the government did not order a reduction in production until last year, and did so modestly.

The Groningen field accounts for two thirds of Dutch gas production and the Netherlands supplies about 15 percent of Europe's total natural gas, providing an important alternative to Russian gas.

In the wake of the Safety Board report, Dutch political parties across the spectrum are calling for

Groningen never to return to former production levels, with left-leaning parties seeking further cuts in production. Provincial elections are scheduled March 18 in which Rutte's coalition stands to lose support in the Dutch senate, potentially undermining the Cabinet.

Shell and Exxon have so far set aside 1.2 billion euros (\$1.3 billion) in compensation after 30,000 buildings were damaged by recent earthquakes. No serious physical injuries have been reported as a result of the quakes.—Reuters



A view of a gas production plant is reflected in the roof of a car in 't Zand in Groningen on 24 Feb, 2015. — REUTERS

mitv Myanmar International

(4-3-2015 07:00 am~ 5-3-2015 07:00 am) MST

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| * News | * News |
| * The Mystique of Shwedagon Pagoda | * Pride of Myanmar - Bagan arts and handicrafts |
| * To The Blue Ridge Mountains of Rhododendrons | * Up Against The Tide |
| * News | * News |
| * A Short Trip With Steve (South Korea) | * Insight Myanmar "Library for Women & Children" |
| * News | * Family of Toys |
| * Sagaing: Youth Leader | * News |
| * The Wachuset Jivitadana Sanga Hospital | * Mesmerizing Scenes or Image of Japan Part (2) |
| * News | * News |
| * Those Who Never Give Up "Aung Thamar Di Gold Shop" | * Life In Night.....Art In Life (Ep-1) |
| * Shaping Life with Music | * News |
| * News | * Myanmar's Beauty and Nature "Beach" |
| * Taungyi Trip | * Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Family" |
| * Today Myanmar "Rattan Export" | |

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(4-3-2015, Wednesday)

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|------------------------|-------------------|
| 6:00 am | 7:25 am |
| • Mono Classical Songs | • Myanmar Series |
| 6:20 am | 8:10 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • TV Drama Series |
| 6:45 am | 8:55 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • TV Drama Series |
| 7:10 am | 9:40 am |
| • Fashion Show | • Myanmar Movie |

Toyota to sign up for top-ranked Olympic sponsorship

TOKYO, 3 March — Toyota Motor Corp will sign a contract later this month for the top-ranked Olympic sponsorship, becoming the first-ever automaker in the world to do so, sources close to the matter said on Monday.

Toyota President Akio Toyoda and International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach will attend the signing ceremony to be held on 13 March in Tokyo, they said.

Toyota will join 11 companies with exclusive worldwide marketing rights under The Olympic Partner,

or TOP, Programme, such as Coca-Cola Co and McDonald's Corp.

The automaker will be the third Japanese company to become the TOP sponsor after Panasonic Corp and Bridgestone Corp.

Its contract period is expected to cover the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games and the value of the deal could be in the vicinity of 100 billion yen (\$835 million).

The TOP programme, launched in 1985, accepts one company in a designated product or service category.—Kyodo News

Gov't OKs bill to ease late-night restrictions on dance clubs

TOKYO, 3 March — The Cabinet for the second time approved a bill on Tuesday to revise the adult entertainment business law to enable dance clubs to operate past midnight on condition that they meet interior lighting requirements. The government hopes to see the bill become law during the current regular Diet session. It had submitted a similar bill to parliament in October, but it was scrapped when the House of Representatives was dissolved in

November.

The bill was crafted after music industry figures and others criticized the classification of dance clubs in the same category as sex parlors.

The existing law defines a venue providing food and alcohol to customers and allowing them to dance as an adult entertainment establishment that requires a license to operate and in principle bans it from operating between midnight and sunrise.

Kyodo News

Van Praag wants full disclosure of World Cup report



Michael Van Praag, the president of the Dutch Football Association (KNVB), gestures during a news conference in Amsterdam on 28 Jan, 2015. —REUTERS

AMSTERDAM, 3 March — FIFA presidential candidate Michael van Praag said he would ensure full disclosure of Michael Garcia's report into the bidding process for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups if he is elected in May.

Soccer's governing body has been under pressure to publish former FIFA ethics investigator Garcia's report to help shed light on what happened during the turbulent process for the tournaments awarded to Russia and Qatar respectively.

Van Praag, the president of the Dutch football association (KNVB), wants to extend the size of the World Cup to 40 countries, open regional FIFA embassies to assist development and give more money to member associations.

The 67-year-old reiterated his previous promise that he would only serve four years if elected. He is one of three candidates taking on incumbent Sepp Blatter in the election at the FIFA Congress in Zurich at the end of May. Van Praag said his primary concern would be to leave foot-

ball in a better state for the next generation. "We must ensure that football continues to be for everyone," he said at the Dutch football headquarters on Monday as he presented his election manifesto in Zeist.

"We see that the stream of negative reports about our FIFA continues. We see reports that are quashed. We see films by and about FIFA which cost 20 million euros to produce. And we see continuing stories around the allocation of World Cup. "That's not my world football body, that's not the way the sport to which I owe so much, should be portrayed. Normalization, that's the key word. The organization must go back to being plain normal," Van Praag added.

He said he would insist on transparency as part of the 'normalisation' process and would make clear details of the Garcia report, FIFA finances and his own remuneration if elected on May 29. He also wants full details to be publicly disclosed after every major FIFA meeting.

Reuters

Tokyo's Olympic stadium to host 2019 World Cup final

TOKYO, 3 March — Japan's proposed new national stadium, which will form the centrepiece for the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo, has also been selected to host the final of the 2019 rugby World Cup.

At a news conference in Dublin on Monday, World Rugby officials revealed the 12 cities that had been selected to host matches at the first rugby World Cup in Asia, the sport's biggest emerging market. The 80,000-seat National Stadium in Tokyo, which is still to be constructed, will stage the opening match on 6 September, as well as the final on 20 October, in what will double as a dress rehearsal for the Olympics the following year.

"This is an important milestone for the tournament," rugby World Cup chairman Bernard La-

passet said.

"Now we know exactly where the matches will be staged in Japan and, more importantly, the people of those cities and fans around the world can start planning for the big event."

The International Stadium in Yokohama, which hosted the 2002 soccer World Cup final between Brazil and Germany, also made the shortlist.

The other 10 were: Sapporo Dome (Sapporo), Kamaishi Recovery Memorial Stadium (Kamaishi), Kumagaya Rugby Ground (Kumagaya), Ogasayama Sports Park Ecopa Stadium (Shizuoka Prefecture), Toyota Stadium (Aichi Prefecture), Hanazono Rugby Stadium (Osaka), Kobe City Misaki Park Stadium (Kobe), Hakatanomori Football Stadium (Fukuoka), Kumamoto

Prefectural Athletic Stadium (Kumamoto), Oita Stadium (Oita Prefecture). World Rugby officials said the venues had been chosen across the length and breadth of Japan to give as many locals as possible the chance to see matches live, with venues varying in size from 15,000 to 80,000.

The successful cities, chosen from 15 candidates, included Kamaishi, a small city on the Pacific coast that was badly damaged by the 2011 tsunami.

Residents from the city gathered at a hotel to watch Monday's live televised announcement with the tournament executive Akira Shimazu telling the NHK national broadcaster: "I hope this will be even a little useful in helping the people who have suffered this huge tragedy recover."

Reuters

Peru name Argentine Gareca as new national team manager

SAO PAULO, 3 March — Argentine Ricardo Gareca has been charged with guiding Peru through this year's Copa America and the qualifying campaign for the 2018 World Cup after he was named as the country's coach.

Gareca, who has won Peruvian and Argentine domestic titles with Universitario de Deportes and Velez Sarsfield respectively, was appointed until the end of the qualifiers for the 2018 World Cup in Russia, South American football confederation (CONMEBOL) said.

He returns to management after being out of the game for six months following an un-

successful stint with Brazilian club Palmeiras.

"I believe in the Peruvian players and that is what led me to make this decision," Gareca said in a statement.

"This is the most important challenge of my life. We have a hard and complicated task ahead of us but it is not impossible. Nothing is impossible when you are united."

His first game in charge will be a friendly against Venezuela in Miami on 31 March.

Peru are in Group C with Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela for the 11 June - 4 July Copa America.

Reuters



Ricardo Gareca, then head coach of Argentina's Velez Sarsfield, reacts during their Copa Sudamericana soccer match against Brazil's Ponte Preta in Campinas in this file photo taken on 31 Oct, 2013.

REUTERS

Harrington clears mental hurdle to return to winner's circle

PALM BEACH GARDENS, (Florida), 3 March— Pdraig Harrington's drop down the rankings ended with a playoff win over Daniel Berger at the Honda Classic on Monday, the Irishman keeping those barren days out of mind during a thrilling final round.

"I was not allowing my emotions to get away with me," said Harrington, who had not won on the PGA or European Tour for nearly seven years. "I never once considered how important this win is to me."

"I'm playing on invites, I got an invite this week."

"That changes everything for the (next) three years. I'm back at the Masters. There are lots of things this does, world ranking points, but I never considered that all day."

"I was very much in the moment."

That mental focus is some-

thing triple major championship winner Harrington says was missing for spells during his winless years.

"I think I got in contention three times since 2008," said Harrington. So I really have struggled, as a lot of people who win major tournaments do, to live up to them, play up to them.

"I just got very intolerant of my mental game, my focus. It was never swing related, all focus related and I just got frustrated with it and found it very hard to really separate from the bad shots." "There is no doubt there were low points in those years

because in 2008, 2009 I was very much in the penthouse. I wasn't quite down to the doghouse but I wasn't far away from it."

Harrington said a key positive thought for the day came from his wife regarding his putting. "I was talking to Caroline and she just said to me as I was heading out — "remember, if you had a putt, you wouldn't ask anyone else to hit it for you,"" said Harrington "To be honest I wouldn't."

"Maybe I would for a drive or two, but for a putt I wouldn't."

Reuters

