

## President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Ghana

NAY PYI TAW, 6 March—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. John Dramani Mahama, President of the Republic of Ghana, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Ghana, which falls on 6 March 2015.—MNA

## Pyithu Hluttaw speaker meets former British Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March — Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by former British Prime Minister Mr. Tony Blair at the hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building, here, on Thursday. Also present at the call were Chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo and officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office.—MNA

## The Global New Light of Myanmar – Jason Pomeroy Interview

YANGON, 5 March—The following is the interview given by Professor Jason Pomeroy to the Global New Light of Myanmar. Professor Jason Pomeroy is an eco-architect, urban planner, and Founding Principal of Singapore-based eco-architecture firm, Pomeroy Studio.



**Question:** What is eco-architecture?

**Answer:** Eco-architecture, at the most basic level, pays respect to the natural environment. By harnessing the sun, wind and rain, energy consumption is reduced, lowering costs to the consumer, reducing the need for natural resources and preserving the environment. However, our own approach to eco-architecture goes beyond that, by drawing upon the essence of culture and tradition to create a built environment that is sensitive to a society's identity of where they came from; are pleasant places to live, work and play in, and positively impacts peoples' lives.

A key element of our work to create such built environments involves drawing lessons from our

ancestors, and reinterpreting them for the 21st century. One of my earlier projects was the Idea House in Malaysia. I studied in depth the ancient Malay *Kampong Houses*, and how they maximised natural ventilation and light, could expand and contract according to the size of the family and yet were extremely sensitive to the environment. I took lessons from this and applied them to the Idea House, incorporating the latest green ideas and technologies, resulting in Asia's first carbon neutral prototype home. The unique evidence-based approach to sustainable design that we apply to our projects means that the principles employed at the micro-scale of residences can be scalable to the macro scale of cities, and was

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Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann greets former British Prime Minister Mr. Tony Blair. MNA

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## 14 striking workers face riot charges following arrest

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 5 March—Fourteen striking workers face trial on rioting charges following their arrest during a crackdown by authorities midweek, Police Lt-Col Myint Lwin of Yangon North District Police said Thursday.

No one was injured during the crackdown, according to a police source.

The 14 workers — eight men and six women — face up to two years in prison and fines if convicted under Section 147 of the Punishing for Rioting act.

To disperse the protestors and to detain those who led the unlawful protest and instigated the riots, authorities used men without arms under Penal Code Section 128, while the police provided security to both protestors and the public, Police Lt-Col Myint Lwin told a press conference at Yangon Region Government.

About 90 workers took to the street on Wednesday morning without seeking permission in accordance

with the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law, shouting slogans along the No-4 Road in western part of Yangon.

Authorities decided to disperse the strikers after negotiations broke down in the evening.

Sixteen people were arrested at the scene, with two later confirmed as journalists and released, said Police Lt-Col Myint Htway

of Yangon East District Police Force.

The Wednesday protest paralyzed one fourth of the commodity flow into Yangon Region as it blocked the No. 4 Road, said U Zaw Aye Maung, Deputy Chairman of Yangon Region Labour Disputes Arbitration Committee.

Most of the workers facing trial are from two

garment factories which are in dispute with their workers for better payment, according to an official of the Labour, Factories and General Labour Law Inspection Department (FGLLID).

A majority of factory workers involved in the strike for better wages are returning to work, and out of 1,200 Costec Garment Factory workers, 927, or

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Garment workers make clothes at Ford Glory Garment Factory in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



## National planning bill comes under discussion at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw



**Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development**  
**Dr Kan Zaw.**—MNA



**Union Minister for Information**  
**U Ye Htut.**  
MNA



**Union Minister for Finance**  
**U Win Shein.**  
MNA

### Pyithu Hluttaw

## Pyithu Hluttaw discusses inflation



**Deputy Minister Dr Maung Maung Thein.**

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March — Members of the Pyithu Hluttaw questioned the government in Thursday's lower house session about how it plans to control inflation if a proposed pay rise for civil servants is instituted.

Central Bank of Myanmar

Deputy Governor Daw Khin Saw Oo told the session inflation will increase when salaries of government employees are raised to a decent level, with the central bank issuing more money to fulfill the increased government budget.

Higher incomes will also drive inflation by increasing consumption, with prices rising where demand exceeds supply, according to the vice governor.

Private sector pay rises will inevitably follow they government salary hike, with the resulting increase in production costs also driving up prices, she added.

Increased consumption of imports will also raise the budget deficit and depreciate the value of Myanmar's currency, further driving inflation.

However, she said the government is seeking to adjust the deficit under 5 percent of GDP for sustainable development.

Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Maung Maung Thein was of the view that decreasing government spending can keep inflation under control, with government spending to be reduced in capital expenditure. Another tool for fighting inflation is to increase tax collection. The ministry is taking appropriate measures in term of fiscal policy to prevent inflation, the deputy minister added. Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Daw Lei Lei Thein said her ministry is also taking appropriate measures in cooperation with other ministries concerned.—MNA

## Deputy Foreign Minister attends high level segments of UN human rights council session, disarmament conference

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March — A Myanmar delegation led by U Thant Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs is attending High-level Segment of the Twenty-eighth Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council commencing from 2 to 27 March and the High-level Segment

of the 2015 Session of the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Switzerland, from 2 to 6 March 2015.

The deputy minister delivered a statement which includes updates and developments in the field of human rights in Myanmar since 2011, reform

process and preparations for National Report for the second circle of the UPR.

In the statement delivered by the deputy minister on 3 March at the High-level Segment of the 2015 Session of the Conference on Disarmament, information such as Myanmar's stands with regard to international

workforce have returned to their jobs so far after the factory's owner and workers reached a 12-point agreement on 16 February, he added.

Meanwhile, Taiyi Factory saw 97 per cent of its total workforce on Thursday, U Zaw Aye

## 14 striking workers face . . .

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78 per cent of the factory's work force, showed up for work, while the number of workers on the Ford Glory Garment Factory's production line had risen to 420 or 69 per cent of the factory's

611 workers on Thursday, with negotiations between the workers and management underway, said U Zaw Aye Maung. Out of 916 Red Stone Garment Factory workers, 865 or 94 per cent of the factory's

### Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March — The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Thursday discussed the national planning bill of 2015-2016 fiscal year, with MPs at union level clarified the principle and projects covered in the bill.

Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, suggested an appointment of a permanent official who can represent and take charge of the whole functions of the ministry as part of bridging the information gap between

incoming and outgoing union ministers and deputy ministers, who are to serve a five-year tenure of office.

Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut said his ministry saw a net profit of over K6 billion in 2011-2012 FY, over K3 billion in 2013-14 FY, and over K6 billion in 2014-2015 FY, expecting a net revenue of over K4 billion this fiscal year. He went on to say that there is no loss from the state budgets in transforming the dailies to public-oriented ones.

Union Minister for Health Dr Than Aung pledged a 90% budget

spending on public health care and remaining 10% on developing human resources and research projects.

Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein recommended that education budgets should cover other ministries that have universities, colleges and high schools instead of the Ministry of Education alone. He described financial issues as so sensitive that tight control is essential for avoidance of unwanted consequences.

Other ministries and union-level offices explained their respective operations to the parliament.

MNA

### Amyotha Hluttaw

## Amyotha Hluttaw bill committee meets students from ACDEM



**Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee officials meet students from ACDEM.**—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March — Hearing for amendment bill of the national education law started at the Amyotha Hluttaw building on Thursday.

Present were Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill

Committee U Khin Maung

Yi and members, Amyotha Hluttaw Political, Economic and Legal Affairs Commission Chairman U Myint Thein and members, students from the Action Committee for Democracy Education Movement including Maung Chit Win Maung, fourth year (Civil) Magway Technological University, Maung Pyae Phyo Kyaw, third year (Chemistry) Pakokku University, Maung Thant Sin Tun, fourth year (Civil), Pyay Technological University, Maung Zeyar Lwin, third year, Yangon University of Economics, Maung Ye Zarni Tun, second year, Hmawby University of Computer Studies, Maung Nan Lin, second year (Physics) Dagon University, Maung Paing Ye Thu, third year (Maths) Dagon University, Maung Wai Moe Naing, fourth year (English), Monywa University, Maung Min Lwin Oo, B.E (Mechanical) and Maung Thein Htein, in-charge of documents for the

ACDEM.

At the meeting, the bill committee chairman explained that submitted bills have to be adopted in accordance with Hluttaw rules and regulations and students, political parties and civil society organizations can participate in the discussions which take place from 5 to 15 March.

The political, economic and legal affairs commission chairman said that his commission is contributing to the political, economic and legal affairs of the Hluttaw. Maung Zeyar Lwin of the ACDEM said that they came to the Hluttaw to inform that they could not attend the hearing due to current situation in Letpatan but he said that they would closely watch the hearing and were willing to attend the hearing at an opportune time.

Before the hearing, the chairmen of the committee and commission responded to questions raised by journalists.—MNA

GNLM



## Union ministers, foreign experts exchange views on peace process, economic development

Union ministers and foreign experts pose for documentary photo.  
MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 5 March—Union Ministers U Soe Thane, U Aung Min, U Tin Naing Thein, Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win, U Khin Yi, U Zeyar Aung, Dr Myint Aung, U Win Shein and Dr Kan Zaw and Deputy Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Set Aung exchanged views with Sir Paul Collier, Professor of Economics and Public Policy at the University of Oxford in England, former

minister of Indonesia Mr. Pak Kuntoro, former minister of Norway Mr. Erik Solheim, and former finance minister of Timor-Leste Ms. Emilia Pires at the President Office Ministry, here, on Thursday.

Professor Sir Paul Collier discussed specific points in peace making process, and economic development tasks in the peace-restored regions; former Indonesian minis-

ter Mr. Pak Kuntoro, peace building in Indonesia and endeavours in economic reforms; former Norwegian minister Mr. Erik Solheim, efficient spending the international aid on economic development tasks, prioritization of sectors and leadership of the government in implementing the project; and former finance minister of Timor-Leste Ms. Emilia Pires, experiences on reform process in

Timor-Leste.

Union Ministers U Soe Thane and U Tin Naing Thein elaborated on endeavours of the government to build a peace process with armed ethnic groups in Myanmar, plans of undertaking development of State economy, priority for tasks, formation of delivery units, enhancement of ICT sector and practising of good governance system.—MNA

## Union FM sends message of felicitations to Ghana

NAY PYI TAW, 6 March—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms. Hanna Tetteh, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration of the Republic of Ghana, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Ghana, which falls on 6 March 2015.—MNA

## Pa-O National Day marked in Taunggyi

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March—Safeguarding the national unity is inborn duty of national brethren, Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun told the ceremony to mark the 66<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pa-O National Day at the Denth-eebwe ground in Taunggyi on Wednesday.

In his speech, the union minister pointed out that all national brethren are to cooperate in overcoming challenges and in fulfilling the requirements of the region.

The Chief Minister of Shan State explained regional development tasks of the union and state governments.

Speaker of State Hluttaw U Sai Lon Hsai read out the message sent by Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U

Shwe Mann; Chairman of the Leading Body of Pa-O Self-Administered Zone U Khun San Lwin, the message by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint; Secretary of Pa-O Women's Organization Daw Nang Win Kyi, the message sent by Chairperson of National League for Democracy Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and State Minister for Finance U Khun Thein Maung, the message sent by the chief minister.

Officials presented cash awards to performers of Pa-O, Shan, Danu, Inn, Taungyoe and Lisu ethnics who presented entertainments at the ceremony.

After the ceremony, the union minister viewed offices and housings of Pa-O Self-Administered Zone Leading Body in Hopyong.—MNA

## Some student protestors taken back home by parents

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March—Some of the students on the ongoing sit-in strike at the power station junction in Letpatan were taken back by their parents recently.

As some of the student contacted their parents to say that they wanted to come back home, PAT Daw Aye Aye Mar

of BEHS (6) Bago, took back her son Maung Htet Wai Yan Paing, second year (Geology), Bago University, at 11.55 am this morning while U Kyi Myint and Daw Mar Mar Aye of Ward-19, South Dagon, brought back their son Maung Aung Phyo Win, second year, University of Culture, at 12.45 pm today.

The region minister for border and security affairs, the Bago Region Police Force deputy com-

mander and township administrator made required arrangements for their return.—MNA

## Prominent Sayadaws urge monks not to join student march on Yangon

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March—Senior Buddhist monk authorities have urged members not to join students planning to march on Yangon as part of a protest sparked by an education bill set to be discussed in parliament.

While asking the monks and students to refrain from protesting, the All Schools of Sangha Nayaka boards in Bago Region and Letpadan Township said they appreciated their zeal in the promotion of education that can lay a solid foundation for new generations.

However, they reminded the monks and students that parliament will soon discuss the education bill with political parties and interested groups including the National Network for Education Reform and the Leading Committee for Democracy Education Movement.

The boards urged monks to return to their respective monasteries to learn Buddhist treaties and practise meditation and students to return to their families and sit coming examinations instead of entering Yangon.—GNLM

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 5 March — Work is underway to monitor Yangon's air quality by setting up observation equipment at three permanent locations in addition to a single mobile unit, the Yangon City Development Committee said Thursday.

Three machines are planned to be positioned in front of Maha Bandoola Park, at Hledan Junction in Kamayut Township and at Htaukkyant intersection in Mingaladon Township, while the mobile device will be used in a variety of locations, said U Aung Myint Maw, deputy head of YCDC's pollution control and cleansing department on Thursday.

The US-made HAZ-Scanner EPAZ units are designed to measure carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, methane, nitrogen

## Monitoring devices will provide clearer picture of Yangon air quality

dioxide, sulfur dioxide and particulate matters PM 10, PM 5, POM 2.5 and PM 1.

Reduction measures will be considered if the results exceed guidelines, the department said.

Particulate matter exceeding the World Health Organization guideline lev-

el of 50 micrograms averaged over a 24-hour period is deemed to have adverse health consequences. WHO studies attributed some 3.2 million deaths worldwide in 2010 to air pollution.

In recent years, most parts of Yangon, Myanmar's famed commercial

hub with a population of more than 5 million, has seen a dramatic influx of vehicles, even on the streets of once-quiet wards. Emissions from vehicles, which have risen concurrently, are considered the leading cause of air pollution.

GNLM



An air quality monitoring device will be placed in the heart of Yangon near Mahabandoola Park.—PHOTO: YE MYINT



## Mandalay's religious monuments draw big crowds on Fullmoon Day



MANDALAY, 5 March — Pilgrims and other visitors converged on ancient religious monuments in Mandalay including the Maha Muni Buddha Image,

the Mandalay Hill pagoda, Phayani Pagoda, Shwekyemyin on Thursday for Taboung Fullmoon Day.

Buddhist people offered gold foils at pagodas and Buddha images. Members of associations recited verses at the religious edifices in the evening.

At 5 p.m., the board of trustees of Mandalay Hill held a ceremony to present rice and offertories to 46 venerable Buddhist monks.

Devotees and visitors donated lights, joss sticks, water and flowers to religious monuments dedicated to the Lord Buddha.

*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

## Shwesayan Pagoda festival brings Shan pilgrims to Patheingyi Township

PATHEINGYI, 5 March — The ancient religious edifice of Shwesayan Pagoda in Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region, began hosting its Buddha Pujaniya festival on Thursday for Taboung Fullmoon Day.

The pagoda was commissioned by Saw Mon Hla, a member of the Shan ethnic group who was queen to Myanmar's first emperor King Anawrahta during the Bagan era. The monument is therefore significant to the Shan people, many of whom travel from Shan State for the festival.

Various kinds of textiles, household goods, traditional medicines, traditional costumes, colour-



ful beads, necklace and various toys made of toddy leaves and traditional foods are available at the festival,

which runs until 12 March. According to the programmes of the pagoda's board of trustees, officials

will donate rice and alms to 108 members of the Sangha early on 13 March.

*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

## Rising tomato prices attract new growers



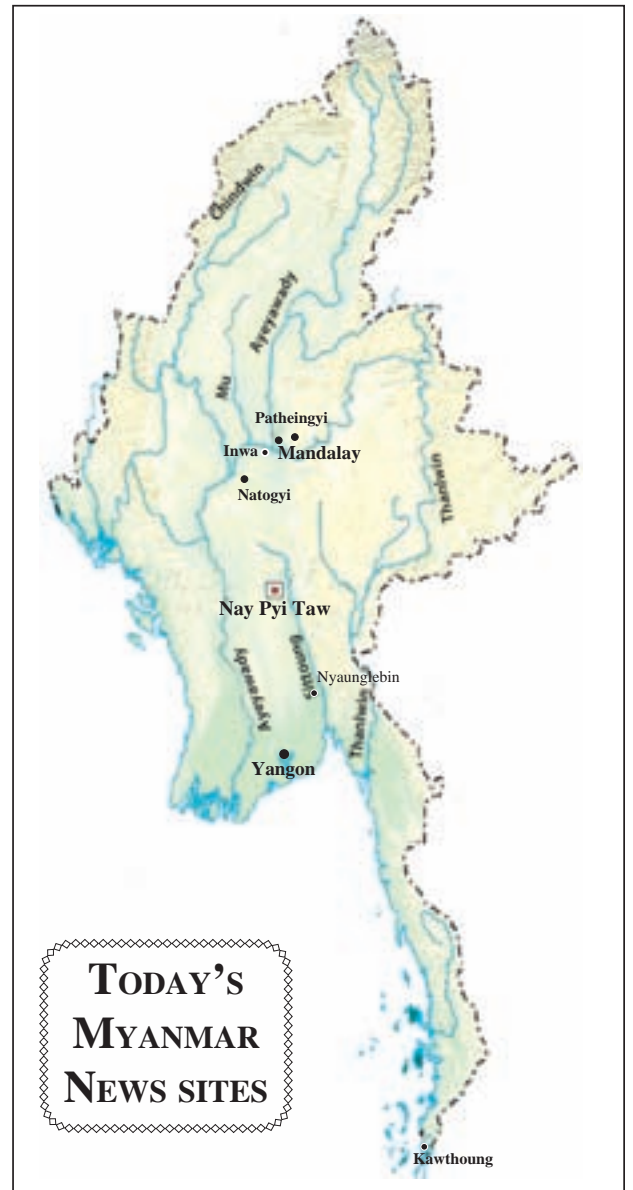
NATOGYI, 5 March — The number of farmers growing tomatoes is on the rise, spurred by a steady increase in prices at central Myanmar markets such as Natogyi, Myingyan, Taungtha, Singu and other town-

ships along the Ayeyawady and Chindwin rivers.

With production falling short of demand, tomatoes have been selling for K1,400 per 1.6 kilograms (one viss) at central Myanmar markets. Tomatoes sent to the markets from dry areas are sold alongside those produced in Shan State by ethnic growers.

Local growers use quality strains of tomato such as Bamar, Shan and Taiwan, applying a range of agricultural techniques to boost production.

*Htay Myint Maung*



## Myanmar falls to Vietnam at youth tourney in China

YANGON, 5 March — Myanmar's U-15 football team was left ruing missed chances after falling to Vietnam 2-1 at the inaugural China-ASEAN youth tournament hosted by China.

While it matched Vietnam in possession and scoring opportunities, an inability to convert proved critical in Dongxing, Guanxi Province.

In the first half, Myanmar threatened Vietnam's net through quick passing and clever interplay, but the opponents responded with

skilful counterattacks.

Vietnam opened the scoring in the fifth minute before Myanmar quickly struck back with an 11<sup>th</sup>-minute equaliser by Hein Htet Aung. Vietnam's No.23 player put his team back in front with a 43<sup>rd</sup>-minute strike that proved to be the match-winner. Capitalizing on lapses in Myanmar's play in the second half, Vietnam created a number of chances but was thwarted by last-ditch defending by Myanmar's keeper and backline.—MFF

*Vietnamese goalkeeper save the ball kicked by Myanmar striker.*  
MFF





LOCAL NEWS

## Senior monks consecrate Atula Munissara Pagoda in Myanaung



MYANAUNG, 5 March — The 28<sup>th</sup> consecration of Atula Munissara Pagoda was recently organized in the precinct of Magyisu Monastery in Ward 1,

Myanaung, Ayeyawady Region.

Venerable Buddhist monks of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee recited religious verses at the 1 March consecration.

After the consecration, local authorities together with a senior monk opened a library named “Dhamma Ray” at the monastery.

Well-wishers U Hla Myin and wife Daw Yu Yu Thwin of Dhamma Yaunggyi Foundation cut the ribbon to open the library.

*Win Bo*  
(Township IPRD)

## Vacant lots become vegetable patches under police programme

NATOGYI, 5 March — Police and their families are turning vacant lots into vegetable gardens in Natogyi Township, Mandalay Region, under a land-cultivation programme run by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Myanmar Police Force.

The police and their families will be able to

keep produce grown on the plots held by the ministry and the department.

The police led by Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Win Soe and officials have also carried out public welfare tasks in the township, including cleaning of the local hospital.

*Khin Zar Mon Myint*  
(Law)



## More than 90,000 students to sit matriculation exam in Mandalay Region

MANDALAY, 5 March — Students in the final year of high school across the nation will sit their matriculation examinations from 11 to 20 March, including more than 90,000 in the Mandalay Region.

Education authorities will open 161 examination centres in districts and townships of the region, as well as specific exam centres at Mandalay General Hospital for students who are patients.

In 2014 March, a total of 79,353 students sat the matriculation examination. Of them, 27,296 passed the exam in Mandalay Region, accounting for a 34.40 per cent pass rate.

*Min Htet Aung* (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

## Ancient architectural works of Bagaya monastery attract local and foreign visitors



INWA, 5 March — Religious monuments and historical architecture are the top attractions for the many domestic and international tourists visiting Mandalay who make the day trip to Amarapura, Inwa and Sagaing towns.

Inwa is an ancient imperial capital of successive Myanmar kingdoms from the 14<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. According to historical records, 31 Myanmar kings ruled Inwa in successive eras. The ancient capital was unfortunately destroyed by a series of major earthquakes in March 1839.

At the city dating back

more than 400 years, visitors can see architecture incorporating traditional Myanmar handicrafts. Among the ancient edifices, Bagaya monastery, built of large teak posts, is particularly popular among visitors.

The 188-foot-long and 103-foot-wide monastery was commissioned by King Bagyidaw (1813-1937 A.D.) and includes 267 teak posts, the largest of which is nine feet in diameter. The monastery was installed with five brick ladders which were decorated with magnificent Myanmar handicrafts and sculptures.—*Tein Taman*

## Hotel project in Kawthoung District aims to boost tourist arrivals

KAWTHOUNG, 5 March — Stakeholders in a forthcoming hotel project aimed at bringing more tourists to Bouldre Island in Kawthoung District recently received a briefing on an initial environmental examination at the

Garden Hotel in Kawthoung.

Managing Director U Aye Thiha of E Gurd Environmental Service Co., Ltd. outlined details of the study and answered questions.

The hotel will be built

on a 20-acre lot on Bouldre Island, northwest of Kawthoung. United Hotel and Resort Co., Ltd is completely funding the project and aims to create a resort that will be attractive to travellers, create local job opportunities

and promote environmental conservation.

According to the meeting, the project will commence in October 2015 and be completed within two years.

*Kyaw Soe*  
(Kawthoung)





## Thai constitution panel seeks two-year political ban for junta members

BANGKOK, 5 March — A panel appointed by Thailand's military government to draft a new constitution has proposed a two-year political ban for junta members to prevent them "hogging power", the chairman said on Thursday.

The army seized power on 22 May in a bid to restore order after months of street protests and political infighting in which nearly 30 people were killed.

The ban would take effect for members of the so-called National Council for Peace and Order



Thai Army chief General Prayuth Chan-ocha

(NCPO).

"We will recommend that they are not allowed to enter politics for two

years after the new constitution is endorsed because we are afraid about power hogging and conflicts of

interest," Jate Thonavanik, chairman of the panel, told reporters.

Some members of the junta-appointed interim parliament, or National Legislative Assembly, and National Reform Council (NRC) oppose the idea.

"Those drafting the constitution will need to have a good reason for the ban," said NRC member Somchai Sawaengkarn.

The 36-member charter committee began work on a new constitution in November after the previous one was torn up.

Some say the constitu-

tion is aimed at preventing ousted former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra and his allies, which have won every election since 2001, from returning to power.

The protests were the latest chapter in a decade of political tumult — much of it centred on Thaksin, whose policies endeared him to the rural and urban poor but made him unpopular with the Bangkok-based royalist and military establishment.

The junta has said a general election will take place in 2016.—Reuters

## S Korea, Japan, China senior officials to meet 11 March in Seoul

SEOUL, 5 March — South Korea, Japan and China are scheduled to hold senior officials' talks next Wednesday in Seoul, South Korea's Foreign Ministry said on Thursday.

"The talks will discuss ways related to preparing for the seventh foreign ministers' talks among South Korea, Japan and China, set to be held late this month," the ministry's spokesman Noh Kwang Il told reporters.

South Korean Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Lee Kyung Soo, Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister Shinsuke Sugiyama and Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin are scheduled to attend the meeting.

"Topics to be taken up include the current situation regarding relations among the three countries and other pending issues," he said. The upcoming talks come at a time of uncertainty as to whether the three countries could agree to hold a trilateral summit.

They have not held a summit since 2012, with Beijing and Seoul criticizing the administration of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe over its views on wartime history.

Kyodo News

## Decades after war, Vietnam and the US battle a legacy of bombs

TRIEU PHONG, (Vietnam), 5 March — Red skull-and-crossbones markers dot the horizon in a barren patch of land in Vietnam where missteps could be fatal.

The signs warn of landmines and bombs, the legacy of a war with the United States that claims casualties even today, four decades after hostilities ceased in 1975. Unexploded ordnance (UXO) has since killed 42,000 people and wounded 62,000 in Vietnam, according to official data. Three in every 10 casualties were children. Quang Tri Province, once the demilitarized zone between the commu-

nist North and the Washington-backed democratic South, remains one of the world's most dangerous places. Much of it is wasteland and like five nearby provinces, its vast swathes hide leftover explosives. Ten percent of the 15.4 million tons of ammunition used during the war never detonated.

After diplomatic relations with Vietnam were normalised in 1995, the United States has spent \$80 million in helping clear war-era bombs that leave survivors blind, deaf or missing limbs. "It's important to remember how important it is to get rid of the results of war as fast as we

can," US Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security Rose Gottemoeller told Reuters.

The goal is to reclaim 52 million square metres (62 million square yards) of Quang Tri farmland, unused for half a century in one of the world's top agriculture exporters.

Signs reading "Caution! UXO clearance in progress" are a fixture. Bamboo poles with red ribbons mark locations earmarked for clearance, hooked up to cables and readied for detonation.

This week, Gottemoeller pushed the button and four simultaneous



US bomb shells are seen at a mines and bombs museum in Vietnam's central Quang Tri Province on 2 March, 2015.—REUTERS

explosions sent plumes of debris into the air. But clearing efforts could take generations. Just 2.5 million square metres have

been reclaimed since Britain-based Mines Advisory Group (MAG) started working in Quang Tri 15 years ago.—Reuters

## Indonesia rejects Australian proposal of prisoner swap for death row pair

JAKARTA, 5 March — Indonesia rejected on Thursday an Australian proposal for a prisoner swap made in an 11<sup>th</sup> hour

effort to save the lives of two Australian drug smugglers expected to face a firing squad within days.

The planned execu-

tions of Myuran Sukumaran, 33, and Andrew Chan, 31, have ramped up diplomatic tension between Australia and Indo-

nesia after repeated pleas for mercy on their behalf. They are among a group of up to 11 convicts, mostly foreigners, due to be executed on the prison island of Nusakambangan.

Indonesia's foreign ministry said there was no legal basis for Indonesia to act on the proposal that had been made by Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop.

"Basically Indonesia does not have any regulation or legal framework regarding a prisoner swap," said Indonesian foreign ministry spokesman Armanatha Nasir. "This idea was put forward to our minister two days ago and we told them then."

A spokeswoman for Australia's Bishop said: "We have not had confirmation of that from our

end yet." Also facing execution are citizens of France, Brazil, the Philippines, Ghana and Nigeria, as well as Indonesia.

Australian politicians held a candlelight dawn vigil outside parliament house in support of the men early on Thursday, when Bishop said she had spoken to Indonesia's foreign minister earlier this week.

"I raised the fact that there were Indonesian prisoners in Australian jails and whether there was an opportunity for us to consider a prisoner swap, a prisoner transfer or a clemency plea in exchange for a return of prisoners," Bishop said.

"I just asked for a pause in their preparations for the execution of Mr Sukumaran and Mr Chan

so that we could have officials explore these ideas," she told Sky News Australia.

Australia does not have the death penalty and a recent survey by the Sydney-based Lowy Institute think tank showed nearly two-thirds of the public disapproved of the executions.

Sukumaran and Chan were transferred from Bali's Kerobokan Prison on Wednesday to Nusakambangan, which lies off Java.

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said he had asked to speak again with Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Thursday.

In an interview with Al Jazeera, Widodo said the men would be executed soon, but not this week.

Reuters



A policeman gestures as armoured police vehicles carrying two Australian prisoners wait to be loaded onto a ferry for the prison island of Nusa Kambangan, where upcoming executions are expected to take place, in Cilacap, Central Java on 4 March, 2015.—REUTERS



## US ambassador to S Korea injured by knife-wielding assailant



Blood stains from US ambassador to South Korea Mark Lippert are seen on a table, following Lippert's (not pictured) evacuation after being slashed in the face by an unidentified assailant at a public forum in central Seoul on 5 March, 2015.—REUTERS

SEOUL, 5 March — US Ambassador to South Korea Mark Lippert was attacked and injured by a knife-wielding man in downtown Seoul on Thursday morning, but the US State Department said his injuries are not life threatening.

The assailant, reportedly a pro-Pyongyang South Korean civic activist, assaulted Lippert with a 25-centimetre fruit knife at around 7:40 am shortly after the envoy had arrived at a lecture hall to give a speech, wounding him in the right cheek and left wrist, police said.

The suspect, identified as Kim Ki Jong, 55, was immediately arrested,

while Lippert, seen bleeding profusely in photos taken at the scene, was rushed to a nearby hospital.

“We strongly condemn this act of violence,” the US State Department said in a statement. “The ambassador is being treated at a local hospital. His injuries are not life threatening.”

While being put into a police car after the attack, Kim reportedly shouted his opposition to joint South Korea-US military drills that began earlier this week. North Korea has demanded the annual drills be canceled.

*Yonhap News Agency* reported that Kim, who heads a group that protests Japan's claims to a pair of

South Korean-controlled islets in the Sea of Japan, received a suspended two-year prison term in July 2010 for throwing a piece of concrete at the Japanese ambassador to South Korea at the time.

Citing South Korean intelligence sources, *Yonhap* said Kim is a pro-North Korea activist who visited the North six times between 2006 and 2007 and also tried to erect a memorial altar in late 2011 for the late North Korean leader Kim Jong Il in the heart of Seoul.

South Korean President Park Geun-hye also denounced the incident as “an intolerable attack not only on a US ambassador



US Ambassador to South Korea Mark Lippert leaves after he was slashed in the face by an unidentified assailant at a public forum in central Seoul on 5 March, 2015.

REUTERS

to South Korea, but on the bilateral alliance between South Korea and the US,” according to the South Korean presidential office.

Park, currently on a trip to the Middle East, said that “all necessary measures including a thorough investigation and increased security” are being taken.

As for the injuries, the 42-year-old Lippert had an 11 centimetre-long, 3 cm-deep cut on the right face and other wounds on his left arm and fingers, received about 80 stitches and needs to be hospitalized for three to four days, according to a hospital official.

South Korea's Foreign Ministry, in a statement issued after the attack, ex-

pressed “shock and deep regrets.”

The attack “should never be tolerated and we take it seriously as it happened to an ambassador of the US, which is our most important ally,” the ministry said.

In Tokyo, Japan's top government spokesman Yoshihide Suga condemned the attack, saying, “Such an act can never be forgiven.”

Suga, the chief Cabinet secretary, said the Japanese government “extends heartfelt sympathy to the US government and Ambassador Lippert” and that he believes South Korea will conduct a strict investigation.

In the wake of the attack, the South Korean government has ordered security measures to be tightened further for all foreign missions and facilities, the South Korean ministry said.

Lippert was about to make a speech at an event organized by the Korean Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation, a civic organization that promotes inter-Korean reconciliation and peaceful coexistence.

He took up the ambassadorial post last year as the youngest-ever US ambassador to South Korea. He is a former assistant secretary of defense for Asian and Pacific security affairs.

*Kyodo News*

### “Funassyi” mascot hoping to be positive symbol of Japan



“Funassyi,” the unofficial mascot of the Chiba Prefecture city of Funabashi, holds its first Press conference in front of foreign media at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan in Tokyo on 5 March, 2015. —KYODO NEWS

### N Korea reverses ban on foreigners' running annual marathon

BEIJING, 5 March — North Korea has reversed a ban on foreigners running in the streets of its capital in April for an annual marathon, days after its removal of months-long travel restrictions aimed at shielding itself from the deadly Ebola virus, tour firms said on Thursday.

North Korean authorities told companies organizing trips to the isolated country last month that no foreigners, both professionals and amateurs, would be allowed to take part in the 12 April marathon, due to fears over Ebola, although no cases of the virus have been confirmed in Asia.

The reversal was made after North Korea scrapped earlier this week its policy introduced in October of quarantining all foreigners arriving in the country for 21 days.

“Following the recent news of the reopening of the border to tourists, we have received official confirmation that foreigners will be allowed to run the Pyongyang marathon,” Koryo Tours in Beijing said on its website.

US-based Uri Tours also confirmed North Korea's reversal of the policy.

Last year, North Korea for the first time invited foreign tourists to run the marathon, which has been held every year in mid-April on the occasion of the birth anniversary of the country's founder Kim Il Sung.

Of about 1,000 people who competed in the race in 2014, more than 200 were foreign recreational runners, with many of them coming from the United States and Europe.

It is unknown why North Korea had kept the travel restrictions for so long. As of late February, the World Health Organization said about 9,800 people, mostly in West Africa, have been killed by the virus, which has an incubation period of 21 days.

North Korean media have indicated that the outbreak of the virus began as a biological weapon created by the United States.—*Kyodo News*

### Japan, UN University to hold event to mark 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UN

TOKYO, 5 March — Japan and the United Nations University in Tokyo will co-host a symposium on 16 March to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the United Nations, a senior government official said on Thursday.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe plans to speak at the event about Japan's contribution to the world body and reform of the UN Security Council, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a news conference.

“We think that Prime

Minister Abe's making a speech on such an occasion represents an important opportunity to show Japan's resolve to further strengthen cooperation with the United Nations,” the top government spokesman said. In cooperation with Brazil,

Germany and India, Japan has been calling for reforming the 15-member Security Council so it can adequately respond to the rapidly increasing and evolving challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Tokyo, which seeks to become a permanent mem-

ber of the council together with those three countries, calls for expanding the number of both permanent and nonpermanent members so it can better represent the realities of the current international community.—*Kyodo News*



## PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 6 March, 2015

## Are we moving forward, standing still or going backward?

By *Kyaw Thura*

**F**ranklin D Roosevelt once brilliantly stated that there are many ways of going forward, but only one way of standing still. With this in mind, we must be mature enough to recognise that some of the obstacles on the path forward play an important role in our progress. No matter what system a government prac-

tises, problems are unavoidable. Other people are ready to judge us no matter what we do in our daily routines, let alone national issues. It is, however, important to have a sense that not all problems are negative and created out of spite. Some difficulties help us move forward, as long as we find ways to tackle them. Trying to avoid inevitable hardship does not help us overcome it. In fact, doing nothing for fear of further obstacles can be worse than standing still, becoming akin to moving backward.

In choosing a path, it is important for one to eventually be able to look back in confidence at the road travelled, knowing that the right direction was taken. Avoiding hard choices is a sign that the person facing them lacks ambition or initiative.

No man is perfected without trials, in the same way that no gem glitters without friction. It

should be noted that great works are mostly the result of perseverance rather than strength. In addition, we must acknowledge the era of “one step back, two steps forward” is long over.

We have undergone a series of commotions and upheavals. We are in a situation in which we have to apply new remedies. Otherwise, we will be left with no choice but to expect new evils. The price of inaction is high.

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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 Global New Light of Myanmar – Jason Pomeroy...

(from page 1)

similarly able to see such ideas come to fruition in Vision Valley Malaysia—an 80,000 acre regional plan that took into account the southerly growth corridor of greater Kuala Lumpur.

**Q: What are the main urban challenges that developing nations – such as Myanmar – typically face?**

**A:** This is a very exciting time for Myanmar. After five decades of isolation, the country is showing massive potential with a youthful population, huge natural resources, massive investment opportunities and a strategic location between two of the regions emerging economic giants (India and China). Added to this, it has significant renewable energy potential, especially when it comes to hydro and solar power.

However, one characteristic of a rapidly emerging nation is urbanisation. As centres of wealth (i.e. cities) start to grow, they will attract more and more people from the surrounding countryside who are looking for jobs and opportunity. Beginning as a trickle, soon these cities will be receiving hundreds and thousands of migrants a year, all requiring accommodation, food, water and jobs. When a city’s infrastructure is planned well, this influx can be managed – and taken advantage of – resulting in a steady supply of jobs, pleasant, living and working envi-

ronments, places for recreation and social harmony. However, as has been the case in many developing nations, often cities (especially second and third tier metropolises) are unable to cope with such fast track growth, resulting in poverty, social unrest, pollution, congestion, strained infrastructure and environmental damage.

Myanmar is still in an early stage of growth, and is largely a rural society with low rates of urbanisation (0.8% according to the World Bank). Yet as the country grows richer, its cities will grow – and not just Mandalay and Yangon, but numerous second and third tier cities as well. If managed well, this urbanisation can have profoundly positive consequences for the future of this country, but if not then the effect on the environment, economy and society can be devastating.

**Q: What role can eco-architecture play in addressing these challenges?**

**A:** By learning lessons from the past, eco-architecture can help to alleviate many future problems in a number of ways. Firstly, it is more efficient and uses less material, therefore placing less strain on natural resources. I had the privilege of spending quite a few years with one of the leading Japanese construction companies to fully understand the benefits of fast-track, modular construction – and when we consider the impor-

tance of rapid urbanisation in growing economies, a modular approach can be of significant benefit. One technique that we employ is a reinterpretation of ancient Japanese architectural methods that considered the *tatami* (a 2:1 ratio modular component) as a useful construction and planning tool. This technique minimises wasteful cut-off material and increases the speed and ease of construction – thus reducing price and resources. Cities require huge amounts of natural resources – of which there is only a finite amount and are subject to price fluctuations, which can significantly affect poorer nations such as Myanmar. By reducing the need for such resources, urban development and growth can continue at lower economic and environmental cost.

Our ancestors built their dwellings before the advent of electricity resulting in structures that optimised natural light and ventilation, were culturally suited to its inhabitants and were sensitive to the natural environment. For instance, the Chinese *hutongs* incorporated courtyards and alleys that had both social and environmental benefits – maximising natural light and ventilation into the surrounding buildings. The same low energy, passive design concepts can be applied today, both at the micro-scale of a dwelling (such as the Idea House mentioned previously) and the macro-scale of an entire city. This would both reduce energy use through optimising light and ventilation (simply put, there



would be less use for air-conditioning and electric illumination) and improve the liveability of the building and city itself.

Additionally, eco-architecture makes more efficient use of water. Cities are thirsty, requiring huge amounts of water. It is estimated that by 2025, 270 billion cubic meters of water per year will be consumed by the world’s cities, with Southeast Asia making up half of this. Serving this demand will eat up increasing amount of municipal budgets in the year’s to come. While Myanmar has an abundance of water resources for now, with growing industrialisation there will inevitably come a strain that could put a brake on economic growth. Cities that make efficient use of water, through conservation and recycling, will end up being cheaper to run and place less pressure on national water levels.

**Q: Myanmar is still a very rural country. Why is it necessary to invest in eco-architecture now when there are other de-**

**velopmental priorities?**

**A:** Intelligent, sustainable planning of Myanmar’s cities is vital if the country is to avoid the pitfalls of development and urbanisation that many other nations have experienced. Myanmar is in a fortunate position as to be in the very early stages of growth, and so has the time and resources (intellectual and physical) to plan for the future. This has not been lost on the authorities. In December last year, the Chief Minister of Mandalay City, U Ye Myint, announced that they would be prioritising environmental conservation while pursuing urban growth, with the aim of building Mandalay City as a green city. This includes cultural preservation as well as water and energy conservation, with the predicted result of creating a healthy and pleasant environment for its inhabitants.

This forward thinking could result in significant future benefits economically and socially, at little cost. Building along sustainable lines need

not be more expensive than ‘traditional’ methods – rather there can be significant cost savings in the long-run. By simply orientating a building to take advantage of natural light and ventilation, or planting the right kind of vegetation, energy use can be reduced with the savings passed on to the user. One example of this is the B House, designed by Pomeroy Studio (due for completion Q4 2015), which is set to be Singapore’s first carbon-negative landed property, not only using zero energy from the grid, but actually producing electricity that can then be sold, creating income-generating opportunities for the inhabitant. Furthermore, this property costs the same as the average home in the same area.

While there are certainly many other priorities occupying the minds of the government and citizens of Myanmar, city planning along sustainable lines can create massive benefits for the future, at little to no extra cost.

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NATIONAL

## Thai naval vessel arrives at Thilawa, Yangon

YANGON, 5 March — HTMS Saiburi FF-458, a naval vessel of the Royal Thai Navy, moored at Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa-MITT, here, on Thursday.

The naval vessel consists of 64 officers and 158 other ranks under control of Chief of Staff RADM Somchai Nabangchang of Thai Naval Area Command. The vessel will anchor there up to 9 March.

Min Thit

Photo shows HTMS Saiburi FF-458, a naval vessel of the Royal Thai Navy.—MIN THIT



## Malaysia continues free surgical treatments for needy patients

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 5 March — A medical team from Malaysia is continuing a program this year to provide free surgical treatment to needy Myanmar patients with serious heart disease.

The National Heart Institute of Malaysia-IJN is now in discussion with the Ministry of Health to perform operations at hospitals under the ministry, especially Yankin Children's Hospital (YCH) and Yangon General Hospital, an IJN official said, with the project "expected to be implemented in the middle of the year."

The medical team performed life-saving heart surgery on 18 young patients at Yankin Children's

Hospital last year.

"We have a plan to perform surgical operations not only for children but for adults this year," said Dato' Dr K. Balachandran of IJN.

At a press conference last year, a surgeon from YCH said "Malaysian heart surgeons shared their experiences related to the

diagnosis and treatment of pediatric heart disease during the operations".

According to a survey, 0.8 per cent of all children worldwide are born with congenital heart diseases (CHD). It is the most common congenital disorder in newborns but CHD patients can live a long life after an operation, doctors said.—GNLM



## Military columns seize arms and ammunitions from Kokang insurgents in clashes

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March — A military column, while combing the region, met with some Kokang insurgents in a clash, east of Kywepa Village in Laukkai region, at 5.20 p.m. on Wednesday. Due to attacks of Tatmadaw column, the

insurgents withdrew to the eastern part.

At 7.40 p.m., some Kokang insurgents opened fire at a military column, southeast of Kywepa Village but they withdrew to the east under attacks of the military column.

In the incidents, two rocket launchers, six magazines, three equipment of sub-machine gun, five grenades, 278 bullets of sniper, 425 rounds of ammunition of M-22, one bullet box, four bullet proof coats, 15 uniforms with MNDA

badges, 14 empty knapsacks, eight TNT blocks and one fuse were seized from Kokang insurgents. One military serviceman sacrificed life for the State and one was wounded.

On 3 March afternoon, a Tatmadaw column and police, acting on tip-off, searched the house of U Htein Hsan in Tonchein Village in Laukkai Township and seized one .38 pistol, one magazine, 16 bullets, two camouflage uniforms, four green uniforms, K515,000 and yuan 540.—Myawady



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

## IDPs, departmental personnel arrive back home in Laukkai region

NAY PYI TAW, 5 March — As military columns clashed with Kokang insurgents in combing the areas in Laukkai region, local people moved to other regions.

At present, stability has been restored in Laukkai thanks to efforts of the Tatmadaw, local people went back home. On Wednesday, a total of 211 internally displaced persons and departmental personnel were transported from Kongyan and Nyankhwam to Laukkai by

Tatmadaw vehicle.

Likewise, officials welcomed back arrival of 366 IDPs from 150 households from border post No 125 to Laukkai and accommodated them.

Commander of Regional Control Command Col Saw Myint Oo and officials comforted the IDPs and provided foodstuffs and clothes to them.

So far, a total of 2,458 IDPs from 864 households have arrived back in Laukkai.

Myawady



An official welcomes back IDPs and departmental personnel to Laukkai. MYAWADY



## G-7 welcomes Ukraine's efforts to restore fiscal health

TOKYO, 5 March — Group of Seven finance ministers on Thursday welcomed efforts by crisis-hit Ukraine to restore its fiscal health amid persistent concerns over the country's tough economic situation.

The G-7 financial chiefs "welcome that the Ukrainian government has taken speedy and decisive action to bring to its parliament both a revised draft budget and a comprehensive package of economic reforms," they said in a

statement.

The move comes as Kiev is stepping up efforts to implement fiscal and economic reforms as it agreed with the International Monetary Fund last month on a bailout program worth about \$17.5 billion. A cease-fire also started between the Ukraine government and separatists in February.

The financial chiefs from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States

said they hope that the IMF's board will approve the financial support soon.

"The programme will provide front-loaded additional financing to swiftly help Ukraine with the ongoing ambitious economic reform process," it said.

The G-7 also welcomed the Ukrainian central bank's decision on Tuesday to raise its key refinancing rate to 30 percent from 19.5 percent to deal with a plunge in its currency.— *Kyodo News*

## Kerry briefs Iran's Gulf rivals on nuclear talks



US Secretary of State John Kerry walks with Saudi Arabia's Foreign Minister Saud bin Faisal bin Abdulaziz Al Saud (L) during a meeting of Gulf foreign ministers at Riyadh Air Base on 5 March, 2015. —REUTERS

RIYADH, 5 March — US Secretary of State John Kerry met Gulf Arab foreign ministers in Riyadh on Thursday to brief them on progress in the nuclear talks with Iran and offer reassurance that any deal would not damage their interests.

Kerry arrived in Riyadh late on Wednesday from Montreux, Switzerland, where he said he had

made progress in talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif that aim to conclude an atomic deal by the end of March. Gulf countries, like Israel and many Western states, fear that Iran is using its atomic programme to develop nuclear weapons capability, something Teheran denies.

Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu told the US Congress this week that the deal being negotiated by Washington and other world powers was a serious mistake. Although they did not publicly endorse his comments, Saudi Arabia and some other Gulf Arab states share his concern that the mooted accord would not be strong enough to stop Iran from gaining the bomb,

## Leaked documents show NZ spied extensively on Pacific neighbours

SYDNEY, 5 March — Documents leaked by American whistle-blower Edward Snowden and published by *The New Zealand Herald* on Thursday show that New Zealand spied extensively on its Pacific neighbours and sent the information to the US National Security Agency to plug holes in the NSA's global spying network.

The top secret documents, obtained by the newspaper and by The

Intercept, an online magazine co-led by investigative journalist Glenn Greenwald, show that island-nations such as Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and Tonga were targeted by New Zealand's Government Communications Security Bureau, which collected their entire email, phone and social media communications.

They shed light on New Zealand's role in the so-called Five Eyes surveillance alliance that also includes electronic eavesdropping agencies from the United States, Britain, Australia and Canada.

The published Snowden documents show that GCSB has been designated a geographic "area of responsibility" to

monitor communications in the Southwest Pacific as part of Five Eyes efforts to maintain global surveillance coverage.

In 2009, they show, GCSB upgraded its capabilities to collect and share not only communications from specific targets, but "full-take" surveillance sweeps, namely large-scale collection of both metadata and content of Internet and telephony communications.

The collected data is shared through XKEYSCORE, an NSA surveillance system used to analyze vast amounts of emails, Internet browsing sessions and online chats that are intercepted from some 150 different locations worldwide, according to the reports.

*Kyodo News*

## Russia starts large-scale military exercises in southern regions

MOSCOW, 5 March — Russia's Defence Ministry said on Thursday that large-scale anti-aircraft exercises had started in southern Russia, involving over 2,000 troops and 500 items of weaponry, *Interfax* reported.

The Defence Ministry added that the military exercises would last until 10 April and

take place in the Southern, and North Caucasus Federal Districts.

It said the exercises would also involve Russian military bases in Armenia, the Georgian separatist regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and Ukraine's Crimea region which Moscow annexed last year.

*Reuters*

## Ferguson policies targeted blacks, created toxic environment — US attorney general

WASHINGTON/KANSAS CITY, 5 March — A US probe found systemic racial bias targeted blacks and created a "toxic environment" in Ferguson, Missouri, but cleared a white officer in the fatal shooting of an unarmed black teenager there, Attorney General Eric Holder said on Wednesday.

The report said the St Louis suburb overwhelmingly arrested and issued traffic citations to blacks to boost city coffers through fines, used police as a collection agency and created a culture of distrust that exploded in August when Ferguson Officer Darren Wilson fatally

shot 18-year-old Michael Brown. "This investigation found a community that was deeply polarized; a community where deep distrust and hostility often characterized interactions between police and area residents," Holder told reporters.

Brown's killing touched off a national debate on race, led to months of street protests and amplified long-standing complaints in Ferguson and across the country of police harassment and mistreatment of minorities. It also prompted Justice Department probes.

"Of course, violence is never justified," Holder



US Attorney General Eric Holder addresses the Justice Department's findings in two investigations regarding the Ferguson, Missouri shooting of Michael Brown by Darren Wilson, during a news conference in Washington on 4 March, 2015. —REUTERS

said. "But seen in this context, amid a highly toxic environment, defined by mistrust and resentment,

stoked by years of bad feelings, and spurred by illegal and misguided practices, it is not difficult to imagine

how a single tragic incident set off the city of Ferguson like a powder keg."

Holder, who is stepping down soon as attorney general, called for wholesale and immediate change in the way Ferguson operates.

The Justice Department has said it will likely seek a court-appointed monitor to implement changes. The report said city employees made racially disparaging comments in emails, including one where an employee compared President Barack Obama to a chimpanzee.

Ferguson Mayor James Knowles said three

police department employees were responsible for the offensive emails. All were put on administrative leave pending a probe and one has since been fired. None of the employees was identified.

Knowles addressed few other specifics in the report but told a news conference, where he read a statement and did not take questions, that the city had launched reforms such as diversity training for police officers and reduced some of the fines levied at municipal court. "We must do better, not only as a city but as a state and a country," he said.

*Reuters*



## Dawn of man: Ethiopian jawbone fossil pushes back human origins

WASHINGTON, 5 March — A 2.8-million-year-old jawbone fossil with five intact teeth unearthed in an Ethiopian desert is pushing back the dawn of human-kind by about half a million years.

Scientists said on Wednesday the fossil represents the oldest known representative of the human genus *Homo* and appears to be a previously unknown species from the human lineage's earliest phases.

Our species, *Homo sapiens*, appeared only 200,000 years ago, following a procession of others in the same genus. Until now, the oldest known remains from the human genus were about 2.3 to 2.4 million years old and from the species *Homo habilis*.

"Although it is probably a new species, we are awaiting more material before definitively naming a new species," said University of Nevada, Las Vegas anthropologist Brian Villmoare, who helped lead the research published in the journal *Science*.

The jawbone was found in 2013 in northeastern Ethiopia's Afar region



Dr Chris Campisano (ASU) samples a tuff in the Ledi-Geraru project area with support from Sabudo Boraru in Afar Regional State, Ethiopia as pictured in this undated handout photo courtesy of Arizona State University/J Ramon Arrowsmith.—REUTERS

about 40 miles (64 km) from where the remains of "Lucy," one of the most famous fossils of a human ancestor, were discovered in 1974. Lucy's species, *Australopithecus afarensis*, immediately preceded the *Homo* genus.

The anatomy of the new fossil, encompassing the left side of the lower jaw, suggests a close relationship with later *Homo* species. It boasted features including tooth shape and jaw proportions that separate early *Homo* lineage species from the more ape-like *Australopithecus*. But its sloping chin still has hints of Lucy.

"At 2.8 million years ago, this places the evolution of our genus very close to 3.0 million years ago, which is when we last see Lucy's species," Villmoare said.

The *Homo* genus, especially after 2 million years ago, developed larger brains and tool use and began eating meat.

The landscape where the individual belonging to the jawbone lived probably had few trees except near water, like the modern Serengeti Plains in Tanzania, with abundant grazing animals, hippos and crocodiles, said Penn State University geoscientist Erin

DiMaggio.

"If *Homo* was eating meat, it could have eaten any of the animals, but we don't know much about that yet," added Arizona State University anthropologist Kaye Reed. "It was a dangerous place. Saber-toothed cats, hyenas and other large carnivores could have preyed upon *Homo*."

A separate study in the journal *Nature* provided a fresh analysis of a *Homo habilis* lower jaw from 1.8 million years ago, showing it was unexpectedly primitive and resembled the much older newly discovered jawbone.—Reuters

## Huawei, Intel expand tie-up amid China's rising scrutiny of US tech firms

BEIJING, 5 March — China's Huawei Technologies Co Ltd [HWT.UL] and Intel Corp are expanding an existing alliance to provide cloud computing to global telecoms carriers, as US tech firms vie for Chinese tie-ups to retain access to a tough mainland market.

The partnership, announced by Huawei in a statement, comes as US and other Western tech firms' scramble to burnish their bona fides with China, which has become increasingly wary of foreign technology. Joining hands with Chinese companies, including technology transfers and adopting Chinese partners' branding, can make these products more palatable to local buyers and authorities in the world's second-largest economy.

"How do you stay in this market and do the least damage to your core business — that's the puzzle everybody is focusing on now," said James McGregor, chairman for advisory firm APCO China.

China's government has been openly pushing for the use of more Chinese and less foreign-made

technology, both to grow its own tech sector and as a response to former US National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden's leaks about widespread US cyber surveillance.

These policies have become a source of considerable friction in foreign relations. Earlier this week, US President Barack Obama warned of a proposed anti-terrorism law's impact on technology firms and international business, and demanded amendments.

Other US enterprise tech firms adopting a partnership strategy include IBM Corp, Dell Inc [D.I.UL], Cisco Systems Inc, Hewlett-Packard Co and Juniper Networks Inc.

The cloud computing industry is a focus area for China, with Premier Li Ke-qiang saying in his government work report delivered to parliament on Thursday that the government would support its development.

Intel and Huawei have collaborated previously, including a server and cloud product team-up in 2012 and an agreement to cooperate on data storage last April.—Reuters

## Israel uses military expertise to join commercial space race

HAIFA, (Israel), 5 March — Israel is embarking on a five-year mission to stake its claim on a crowded new frontier, the \$250 billion a year commercial space market. Using the expertise of a defence industry that created technology such as the "Iron Dome" missile interceptor, Israel plans to move beyond its current focus on spy and military communications satellites into producing civilian devices, some small enough to fit in your hand. "The idea was that we have a well-developed space infrastructure for our defence needs, and without a big financial investment, we can use it to grab a few percentage points of the commercial market as well," said Issac Ben-Israel, chairman of the Israel Space Agency.

Ben-Israel hopes the country will capture at least a three percent market share, but it faces competition from global technology giants looking for new markets and industries. Some firms are already pushing the boundaries of technolo-

gy, such as Virgin Galactic founder Richard Branson's project to take tourists into space for \$250,000 a ticket.

China plans to build its own space station by 2022, and Google co-founder Larry Page is backing an asteroid mining company.

As with phones and computers, the space race is moving into making things smaller, lighter and more efficient — something Israel has excelled at over decades of designing satellites that keep an eye on unfriendly neighbours. One project, Adelis-SAMSON, is designing three miniature, or nano, satellites for the first controlled formation flight in space. On a low-friction tabletop at the Technion institute in the port city of Haifa, the navigation system is being tested in a cluster of round robots, the size of dinner plates, that weave in and out of formation like autonomous air hockey pucks.

The launch is scheduled next year. While in orbit, digital receivers developed by a co-creator of

the Iron Dome system will locate distress signals on earth, with the three satellites using triangulation to achieve pinpoint accuracy.

"We call it maximizing performance per kilo," said project head Pini Gurfil, holding one of the satellites, about the size of a shoe box. "The new propulsion system, the application for search and rescue on demand, the software and algorithms, they will be really significant for the commercial market."



A SpacePharma employee works on a miniature laboratory that will carry out experiments in space, in their offices in Herzliya near Tel Aviv on 24 Feb, 2015.

REUTERS

For decades Israel's space industry was driven by security needs. Since the 1980s, it has launched a series of spy and communications satellites and is considered one of the top 10 leading space-faring nations.

But its civilian programme lagged behind.

That changed three years ago when the government for the first time earmarked a modest sum of about 90 million shekels (\$22.5 million) to the ci-

vilian space agency, which then supported start-ups and projects such as SAMSON.

Industry sales have since doubled to over \$1 billion. And trends favour Israel's market strengths, like miniaturization, digitization and making lightweight systems, said Ben-Israel.

The global commercial space economy in 2013 was estimated by the OECD to be more than \$250 billion.

In the past decade, commercial space ventures received more than \$13 billion of non-government equity investment, said Amir Blachman, managing director of US-based Space Angels Network.

About 20 percent of that came from angel investors — wealthy individuals who fund start-ups in return for a stake — and venture capitalists. That number is rising and Blachman expects to see the same growth in Israel.

"Because it has a broad spectrum of proven expertise and knowledge, Israel is ripe to have a lot of start-ups and those start-ups will have

a lot of amazing technologies for export," he said.

One company, SpacePharma, developed a laboratory that fits in the palm of your hand and will orbit in a nano-satellite, allowing scientists to conduct experiments and watch them happen on their smart phones.

Drug companies, food makers and others spend about \$3 billion a year to access the microgravity of space, but only those with big enough budgets and political connections can send their research to astronauts on the International Space Station for testing, said SpacePharma CEO Yossi Yamin.

"We're expanding bandwidth that is very tight to allow more end users," he said. "This is an endless market."

Rather than paying millions of dollars for an experiment, it will cost a few hundred thousand dollars, he said. Their first satellite will launch in the third quarter of this year.

Reuters



# Persecuted Christians' belongings return to Nagasaki after 150 years



Members of the history committee of St Mary's Cathedral in Nagasaki, better known in Japan as the Urakami Cathedral, observe a collection of rosaries during a private viewing of an exhibition at the Nagasaki Museum of History and Culture in the southwestern Japanese city on 19 Feb, 2015. The rosaries, confiscated during Japan's persecution of Christians about 150 years ago, are among some 200 items on loan to the exhibition from the Tokyo National Museum.—KYODO NEWS



Photo taken on 19 Feb, 2015, at the Nagasaki Museum of History and Culture in Nagasaki, southwestern Japan, shows a statue of Jesus Christ that was confiscated from Christians of Urakami village, Nagasaki Prefecture, during Japan's persecution of Christians in the 1600s to 1800s and now in the possession of the Tokyo National Museum. The Tokyo museum has agreed to loan some 200 items to the Nagasaki museum for exhibition. KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 5 March — More than 500 items confiscated from Japanese Christians during their brutal persecution in the 19<sup>th</sup> century from the late Edo period to the early Meiji era have returned to Nagasaki, southwestern Japan, for the first time in about 150 years.

Some 550 items are on display in the special exhibition, "Miracles Protected by the Virgin Mary — Churches and Christian Sites in Nagasaki," which runs at the Nagasaki Museum of History and Culture from 19 February to 15 April. They include 212 important cultural properties lent by the Tokyo National Museum, which rarely loans so many important objects at one time.

"We made a special decision to loan them because this is a well-planned exhibition," said Toyonobu Tani chief curator of the Tokyo museum, which received an application for the Nagasaki prefectural government in June last year.

The exhibition is taking place because the Japanese government has recommended that churches

and other Christian locations in Nagasaki be listed as UNESCO World Cultural Heritage sites. It shows the history of Christianity in Japan from the introduction of the faith by Francis Xavier in 1549 to the birth of "Secret Christians" as a result of brutal crackdowns and to the confession of their beliefs to a foreign priest by a small group of Japanese in 1865.

Satoshi Ohori, head of the Nagasaki museum, said the availability of the national treasures makes the exhibition "epoch-making" as it shows the proud history of Christianity in Japan and the highly spiritual nature of Japanese people.

Crosses, rosaries and other items on display were confiscated from Christians in Urakami Village and never returned. A Tokyo museum official described them as "negative heritage" and there are calls in Nagasaki for their return.

The exhibition, which also includes a portrait of Xavier and of Pope Gregory XII, who met four young Japanese boys sent by Christian Lord Otomo Sorin in 1585 as part of the first Japanese embassy

to Europe, is thus seen as a step toward conciliation between descendants of persecuted Christians and the central government.

Members of a cultural committee formed by the descendants belonging to St Mary's Cathedral, better known as Urakami Cathedral, in the city of Nagasaki, were invited to a private viewing of the exhibition on 19 February.

"We saw proof of our ancestors' belief," said Katsutoshi Noguchi, one of the members. "I hope (the exhibition) will enable lots of people to share recognition that this sad history should not be repeated."

The confession of faith by a small group of "Secret Christians" was seen as a miracle overseas. But the Tokugawa Shogunate carried out a series of brutal crackdowns on Christians in Urakami.

The last and biggest of four crackdowns, triggered by the arrest of the whole village by the Nagasaki magistrate in 1867, expelled some 3,400 villagers to various parts of Japan. The crackdown also resulted in a death toll of more than 600 through torture,

execution and other methods use to force people to renounce their faith.

The last crackdown aroused fierce protests from European countries, prompting the Meiji government to lift its ban on Christianity in 1873.

As Christians expelled from Urakami were supported by people in their resettled locations, there are moves to find out more about them and conduct events in appreciation of the support they were shown.

Some critics say the exhibition should have taken the views of Christians into consideration to a larger extent. But Tani of the Tokyo museum said, "In many cases, exhibitions get better while in progress," as the displays are update by taking into account the views of exhibition goers.

Professor Kenji Yoshida at the National Museum of Ethnology praised the exhibition and the Tokyo museum's decision. The Tokyo museum and Christians should "carefully develop their new relationship through cultural properties and creatively inherit the past," he said.

Kyodo News

# Pee-powered "green" toilet to light up refugee camps

LONDON, 5 March — A toilet that uses urine to generate electricity and can charge a mobile phone will soon light up dark corners of refugee camps after being tested by students in Britain.

The pioneering toilet, the result of collaboration between global aid agency Oxfam and the University of the West of England in Bristol, uses live microbes which feed on urine and convert it into power.

"Living in a refugee camp is hard enough without the added threat of being assaulted in dark places at night. The potential of this is huge," Andy Bastable, head of water and sanitation at Oxfam, said in a statement.

The first toilet will be sent to a refugee camp within the next six months, and after testing will be rolled out more widely, initially in camps, but possibly also in other places without electricity, Oxfam said.

"This technology is about as green as it gets,

as we do not need to use fossil fuels and we are effectively using a waste product that will be in plentiful supply," said Ioannis Ieropoulos, director of the Bristol BioEnergy Centre and leader of the team that developed the toilet. Bastable and Ieropoulos say it is the sustainability of the technology — it just needs a plentiful supply of urine — that makes it practical for aid agencies to use the toilet in the field.

"One microbial fuel cell costs about 1 pound (\$2) to make, and we think that a small unit like the demo we have mocked up for this experiment could cost as little as 600 pounds to set up, which is a significant bonus as this technology is, in theory, everlasting," said Ieropoulos.

The prototype toilet, conveniently located near the University of the West of England's student union bar, was successfully tested by students who found it produced enough electricity to power a light bulb.

Reuters

# Sertic: 3,047 enterprises privatized, proceeds at EUR 3.7 bn



Minister of Economy Zeljko Sertic

KOPAONIK, 5 March — A total of 3,047 enterprises have been privatized in Serbia until 2015, the proceeds from them totalling EUR 3.7 billion, Minister of Economy Zeljko Sertic said on Wednesday.

Sertic said at the Kopaonik Business Forum that the privatization programme encompassed all eligible enterprises, the average proceeds standing at around EUR 1.2 million per enterprise, given that there was one major privat-

ization done by Telenor.

"Over 500 enterprises with serious problems remained," Sertic said, noting that 188 enterprises will go bankrupt, and that 76 of them do not have a single employee.

He said that the Smederevo Steelworks privatization lies ahead, adding that the call for offers is open until Saturday, and then the public will know how many companies voiced interest in running the steel mill.—Tanjug

# Narita airport website hacked, online service partly shut down

CHIBA, (Japan), 5 March — The operator of Narita airport said on Thursday that its websites have been hacked and people who accessed them earlier this week were redirected to another website

and are at risk of computer virus infection.

Narita International Airport Corp's corporate and airport service websites are now only providing flight information and showing a message saying the websites

are currently unavailable due to site maintenance.

The websites are likely to have been modified between around 0:20 am on Tuesday and around 1 am on Thursday, according to the operator. The operator

is asking people who accessed the sites using computers or mobile phones to check for virus infection.

There has been no report of personal information leak, the company said.—Kyodo News



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Consignees of cargo carried on MV SCI KAMAL VOY NO (009E/W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W 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.

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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.

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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.

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (048W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.3.2015 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  
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Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULTHARA VOY NO (02/15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(6) 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 THAI BINH BAY VOY NO (02/2015)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THAI BINH BAY VOY NO (02/2015) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T (2) 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 RK SHIPPING &  
TRADING PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301186

**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 <sub>3</sub> T <sub>2</sub> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> 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

**INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER (2/2015)  
[TENDER NO. MPPE/ JET A1 / T / 1  
(2014-2015)]**

- Open Tender is invited for the Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of JET A1 (282,000 bbl±10%)
- Tender Closing Date & Time - 16-3-2015, 12:00 Hrs
- Tender Opening Date & Time - 16-3-2015, 13:00 Hrs
- Delivery Time - 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2015
- Tender documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, the Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing 5-3-2015 on payment of Myanmar Kyat one Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.
- Only bid from tender who has purchased tender document officially from the Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director  
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise  
Ministry of Energy, No(6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw  
Contact Phone No. 067-411487 / 411486 / 411280

**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 6<sup>th</sup> March,**

**2015:** Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin and Chin States, weather will be partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing Region, Northern Shan and Rakhine States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**OUTLOOK FOR  
SUBSEQUENT TWO  
DAYS:** Likelihood of continuation of isolated light rain or thundershowers in the Northern Myanmar areas.

**Yangon Stock Exchange**

**ICT System**

**Invitation for Open Tender**

- 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.
- 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.
- For more information, contact to tentative office of the Yangon Stock Exchange Joint-Venture Company Limited, located at No. (21/25), 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Myanma Economic Bank Building. Ph-(01-1220836)

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## Rapper Big Sean beats Kid Rock to top of Billboard 200 chart



Big Sean and singer Ariana Grande arrive at the 57<sup>th</sup> annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California on 8 Feb, 2015.

REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 5 March — Rapper Big Sean topped the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday for the first time, beating out rocker Kid Rock.

Big Sean's "Dark Sky Paradise" sold 139,000 album copies, 218,000 songs and was streamed more than 17 million times, tallying 172,000 total units in its debut on the chart, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

Kid Rock's "First Kiss" entered at No 2 with 146,000 total album units, while the soundtrack to Universal Pictures' steamy hit film "Fifty Shades of Grey" remained steady at No 3 with 108,000 copies sold.

The only other new entry in the top ten of the Billboard 200 chart, which tallies album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album), was "Fan of a Fan: The Album," by rappers Chris Brown and Tyga at No 7, selling 67,000 units.

Last week's chart-toppers, alt-rockers Imagine Dragons' "Smoke + Mirrors," dropped to No 9 this week.

On the Digital Songs chart, which measures online song sales, Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars' upbeat "Uptown Funk!" held steady at No 1 with 240,000 downloads in the past week.

Reuters

## 'Guardians,' 'Fault' and 'Neighbours' lead MTV Movie Award nominees

LOS ANGELES, 5 March — Marvel's space caper, "Guardians of the Galaxy", will take on weepy teen romance, "The Fault in Our Stars", and raunchy bromance comedy, "Neighbours", at the MTV Movie Awards this year, as each garnered seven nominations in the irreverent annual youth-oriented awards ceremony.

"Guardians," one of 2014's top-grossing films, scored multiple nominations for leading man Chris Pratt in the categories of best male performance, best shirtless performance, best musical performance and best comedic performance.

"Fault," about two cancer-stricken teens falling in love, landed nominations for its leading duo Shailene Woodley and Ansel Elgort in the best female and male performance, best duo and best kiss categories.

"Neighbors," a raucous frat comedy, also landed nods for Dave Franco and Zac Efron in best duo, Efron and Seth Rogen in the categories of best fight and best musical moment.

This year's Oscar best picture contenders face off once again for MTV's top award of Movie of the Year, where "Boyhood," "Whiplash," "American Sniper" and "Selma" are up against "Guard-



Cast member Chris Pratt poses at the premiere of "Guardians of the Galaxy" in Hollywood, California on 21 July, 2014. The movie opens in the US on 1 August. —REUTERS

ians," "Fault," "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay -Part 1" and "Gone Girl."

The best picture Oscar-winner, dark showbiz satire "Birdman," was notably missing from the race, and only scored two nominations; Emma Stone, for best female performance, and Edward Norton, versus Michael Keaton, for best fight.

The MTV Movie Awards ushers in the summer blockbuster movie season, and is known for its



NEW YORK, 5 March — Actor Leonardo DiCaprio is the latest high-profile name to partner with Netflix Inc, as he and his production company Appian Way will produce a documentary and a series that will premiere exclusively on the digital streaming service, the company said on Wednesday.

DiCaprio, who worked with Netflix on the Oscar-nominated documentary "Virunga" about the Democratic Republic of Congo's rare mountain gorillas, will act as a producer or executive producer for the projects that will focus on the environment and conservation.

## Environmental campaigners thank James Bond for Rome clean-up

LONDON, 5 March — Italian environmental campaigners have thanked James Bond for forcing Rome's city officials to clean up its streets in preparation for shooting scenes for the upcoming movie 'Spectre'. The 24<sup>th</sup> Bond film is currently filming in Italian capital Rome and the degree of litter and graffiti has inspired a clean-up of

## Leonardo DiCaprio partners with Netflix for documentary projects

"This partnership is a natural extension of our incredible relationship with Leo on 'Virunga,'" Ted Sarandos, Netflix's chief content officer, said in a statement.

The deal with DiCaprio, 40, pushes Netflix, which produces the Emmy-winning political thriller "House of Cards" and the comedy-drama "Orange Is the New Black," further into original programming in an effort to gain a larger audience.

DiCaprio, a best actor Oscar nominee for "The Wolf of Wall Street," joins several stars who have entered deals with Netflix.

In October the company announced that comedian and actor

Adam Sandler will star in and produce four films that will be shown exclusively on the service, which has more than 57 million members in 50 countries.

The company also completed a two-season order for "Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt," a comedy by Tina Fey and Robert Carlock that is due to premiere on Netflix this month.

Brothers Mark and Jay Duplass, best known for "Jeff, Who Lives at Home," have also inked an agreement to make four films exclusively for the service. But they also have an option to show them in movie theatres first.

Reuters



Italian environmental campaigners have thanked James Bond for forcing Rome's city officials to clean up its streets in preparation for shooting scenes for the upcoming movie 'Spectre'. —PTI

## I'm grateful to have friend like Reese Witherspoon: Jennifer Garner

LOS ANGELES, 5 March — Actress Jennifer Garner says she is glad to have found a reliable friend in 'Wild' star Reese Witherspoon.

When in need of some life advice, Garner, 42, says she can always count Witherspoon, 38,

reported *People* magazine.

"If I run into Reese, she and I have so much to talk about. We'll be on the street corner and just be like, 'What do you do about this, and how did you handle this?' I'm so grateful for that very specific kind of friend." —PTI



Reese Witherspoon and Jennifer Garner



GENERAL

## McDonald's USA to phase out human antibiotics from chicken supply

LOS ANGELES/CHICAGO, 5 March — McDonald's Corp's (MCD.N) US restaurants will gradually stop buying chicken raised with antibiotics vital to fighting human infections, the most aggressive step by a major food company to change chicken producers' practices in the fight against dangerous 'superbugs.'

The world's biggest restaurant chain announced on Wednesday that within two years, McDonald's USA will only buy chickens raised without antibiotics that are important to human medicine. The concern is that the overuse of antibiotics for poultry may diminish their effectiveness in fighting disease in humans. McDonald's policy will begin at the hatchery, where chicks are sometimes inject-



Neon McDonald's Golden Arches are seen at the Times Square location in New York in this 29 Jan, 2015.

REUTERS

ed with antibiotics while still in the shell.

"We're listening to our customers," Marion Gross, senior vice president of McDonald's North American supply chain, told Reuters. She said the company is working with its domestic chicken suppliers, including

Tyson Foods Inc (TSN.N), to make the transition.

Veterinary use of antibiotics is legal. However, as the rate of human infections from antibiotic-resistant bacteria increases, consumer advocates and public health experts have become more critical of the practice

of routinely feeding antibiotics to chickens, cattle and pigs.

Scientists and public health experts say whenever an antibiotic is administered, it kills weaker bacteria and can enable the strongest to survive and multiply. Frequent use of low-dose antibiotics, a practice used by some meat producers, can intensify that effect. The risk, they say, is that so-called superbugs might develop cross-resistance to critical, medically important antibiotics.

Superbugs are linked to an estimated 23,000 human deaths and 2 million illnesses every year in the United States, and up to \$20 billion in direct healthcare costs, according to the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.—Reuters

## United v Arsenal promises another FA Cup blockbuster

LONDON, 5 March — Manchester United and Arsenal have served up some classic FA Cup encounters going back to their first 109 years ago and Monday's quarter-final under the Old Trafford floodlights promises another special occasion.

Fans of both sides can pick out plenty of memorable moments between the two most successful clubs in the competition with 11 wins apiece. Holders Arsenal beat United in the 1979 and 2005 finals but United have won their last two meetings in the competition since that defeat on penalties at the Millennium Stadium in Cardiff 10 years ago.

Alan Sunderland's last-minute winner for the Londoners in an epic 1979

final and Ryan Giggs's semi-final wonder goal for United 20 years later are just two stand-outs.

There was also Arsenal's 2-0 fifth-round win in 2003 that became infamous after David Beckham was struck above his eye by a boot that had been kicked in anger in the dressing room by United manager Alex Ferguson.

Go further back in time and the history books tell of Arsenal's 5-0 fourth-round demolition of United in 1937, a record home win against the Red Devils that still stands.

Just four days after securing three much-needed league points with a last-gasp 2-1 victory over their local rivals, Aston Villa host West Bromwich Albion again

on Saturday (1730) in the second all-Premier League quarter-final.

Christian Benteke's penalty handed Tim Sherwood his first win as Aston Villa manager and ended their worst run for 52 years.

Liverpool meet second-tier Blackburn Rovers at Anfield on Sunday (1600) on the back of a run of form which has seen Brendan Rodgers' side lose just once in their last 21 games in all competitions.

While Liverpool's main focus is securing a Champions league place for next season, they will be confident of reaching the semi-finals against a Rovers side anchored in mid-table in the Championship.

The last time the sides

met in April 2012 -- a 3-2 win for Liverpool at Ewood Park -- Rovers were heading out of the Premier League.

A lower league team is guaranteed a last-four place with third-tier Bradford City, who reached the League Cup final two years ago, hosting Championship side Reading at Valley Parade on Saturday (1245) in what is certain to be an emotional afternoon for Phil Parkinson. Bradford manager Parkinson ended his playing career at Reading where he was a fans' favourite, making over 400 appearances in the blue and white hoops. Giant-killing Bradford have the whiff of Wembley again after stunning Premier League leaders Chelsea and Sunderland in previous rounds.—Reuters

## Gutierrez makes emotional return to action after cancer



Newcastle's Jonas Gutierrez as he prepares to come on during their Barclays Premier League at St James' Park on 4 March, 2015—REUTERS

LONDON, 5 March — Newcastle United's Argentina midfielder Jonas Gutierrez said he would remember his return to action on Wednesday after treatment for testicular cancer for the rest of his life.

Gutierrez, 31, had surgery in Argentina in September to have his left testicle removed after a tumour was discovered and he since underwent a course of chemotherapy.

"I will remember for the rest of my life the reception.

I'm really happy with the reception and the sup-

port the fans gave me and the support through the illness," he told the BBC after being given a warm reception at St James Park when he came on in the second half in the 1-0 loss to Manchester United.

"The support I have had from clubs all around the world, they don't matter about the shirt, it has helped me keep fighting. For people having the trouble I have been through, you have to be positive."

"If you believe in the heart you can beat the problems, you can."

Reuters

### mitv Myanmar International

(6-3-2015 07:00 am~ 7-3-2015 07:00 am) MST

- \* News
- \* Lisu: Their Life and Customs (Part- I)
- \* Myanmar Weaving
- \* News
- \* A Short Trip With Wayne (Cambodia)
- \* Black Gold (Part-I)
- \* News
- \* Kachin Traditional Wedding Ceremony
- \* The Richly Blessed Gem Land
- \* News
- \* History And Mystery Behind The Caves
- \* Myanmar Railways City Circular Train
- \* News
- \* Pa O in the Union
- \* Today Myanmar "Fast-food Franchise: Lotteria"
- \* News
- \* MUUN (Episode-I)
- \* Lady Pilot
- \* News
- \* A Life In The Ring
- \* Marvelous Solo Cane Ball Playing
- \* News
- \* Ruili City With Mon Yee
- \* Shwe Settaw (Minbu)
- \* News
- \* Myanmar Mega Factory (EP-1)
- \* News
- \* The World's Largest Book
- \* Sagaing: Pe Kwel Kone Nat Festival

### MRTV Entertainment Channel

(6-3-2015, Friday)

- 6:00 am • Mono Classical Songs
- 6:20 am • TV Drama Series
- 6:45 am • TV Drama Series
- 7:10 am • Song Programme
- 7:25 am • Myanmar Series
- 7:55 am • TV Drama Series
- 8:45 am • TV Drama Series
- 9:25 am • Musical Programme
- 9:40 am • Pyi Thu Ni Ti
- 9:55 am • ASEAN China Cultural Show
- 10:15 am • Myanmar Video

### MRTV News Channel in Brief

(6-3-2015, Friday)

- 6:00 am • Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 6:30 am • Physical Exercise
- 7:00 am • News/ Weather Report
- 7:35 am • People's Talks
- 8:35 am • Current Affairs
- 9:35 am • Weekly Entertainment
- 10:35 am • MRTV's Youth Programme
- 11:30 am • Head Line News
- 12:00 noon • News / International News / Weather Report
- 12:35 pm • Hluttaw Image
- 1:20 pm • Talk on Old Film (Part-4)
- 2:00 pm • Myoemanyein Music
- Troupe (Part-6)
- 2:35 pm • Traditional Boxing
- 4:35 pm • 2015 University Entrance Examination (Chemistry)
- 5:00 pm • News
- 5:35 pm • Current Affairs
- 6:00 pm • News/ Weather Report
- 6:35 pm • Hyper Sports
- 7:00 pm • News
- 7:30 pm • Head Line News
- 7:35 pm • Documentary
- 8:00 pm • News / International News / Weather Report
- 9:00 pm • News
- Hluttaw Image
- Amazing World
- Teleplay



## Myanmar women ready to face challenges in Olympic qualifiers

MANDALAY, 5 March — Myanmar national women's team that will take part in the football qualifiers of the Olympic Games is taking training at Bahtoo Stadium from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. and at Mandalay Thiri Stadium from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The Olympic qual-

ifier matches will be held at Mandalay Thiri Stadium from 11 to 15 March.

Tickets for the matches are sold at K3,000 per head for the grand stand and K2,000 per spectator at the ordinary stand. The departments concerned will announce the programmes of sales on the tickets soon.

With regard to the match fixtures, Sri Lanka vs. Myanmar will take place at Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay at 4 p.m. on 11 March; India vs. Sri Lanka at 4 p.m. on 13 March and Myanmar vs. India at 4 p.m. on 15 March.

G.N.L.M.



Players of Myanmar national women's team taking training as preparations for participating in Olympic qualifiers at Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay.—MFF

## Serbian Avramovic assigned head coach of Myanmar National Team



MFF president U Zaw Zaw and head coach Serbian Avramovic seen at signing of new contract to handle Myanmar national team.—MFF

YANGON, 5 March — The signing of one and a half years-term contract on appointment of head coach took place at Sedona Hotel, here, on Thursday.

Myanmar Football Federation assigned duties of head coach to Serbian Rodjoko Avramovic and two assistance coaches.

Myanmar national football team will take part in the final stage of the AFC Challenge Cup in 2015 while Myanmar youth teams will participate in the AFC U-22 and

ASEAN Championship (Suzuki Cup), said President of MFF U Zaw Zaw.

He added that Myanmar is preparing to host the AFC U-19 Championships. At the same time, preparations are being made for Myanmar U-19 team to secure the best results.

On the occasion, head coach Avramovic expressed his pledge to cooperate with football clubs of Myanmar National League and those of football arena so as to raise Myanmar sports standard.—G.N.L.M.

## Chelsea get back to the day job as top teams all win

LONDON, 5 March — After a Champagne Sunday, leaders Chelsea got back to the bread and butter of churning out Premier League points with Eden Hazard's header sealing a 1-0 victory at London rivals West Ham United on Wednesday.

Champions Manchester City, 2-0 winners over bottom club Leicester City, would have hoped Chelsea suffered a hangover from their League Cup final triumph over Tottenham Hotspur, but Jose Mourinho's side are made of sterner stuff.

Hazard was left unmarked after 22 minutes to score the only goal of the game and steadfast Chelsea weathered a physical battering by the hosts to reach 63 points, five clear of City with a game in hand.

David Silva and James Milner scored to keep City in touch, although Manuel Pellegrini's side were unimpressive against a Leicester side who have now lost 16 of their last 22 league matches.

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho knows the value of grinding out victories as the season reaches the home straight and was effusive in his praise of his players.

"My team were brothers on the pitch and that is important if you are to win the most difficult league in the world," the Portuguese told reporters.

(West Ham) are the best at the way they play. It is not just to play football, the pressure, the tension and the emotion, my players were fantastic. These three points are massive for us."

Below the duel for the title, the teams chasing third and fourth spot all won.

Olivier Giroud and

Alexis Sanchez gave Arsenal a 2-1 win at Queens Park Rangers to keep them above Manchester United who beat Newcastle United 1-0 with an 89<sup>th</sup>-minute goal from Ashley Young after a terrible mistake by Newcastle keeper Tim Krul.

The Dutchman, who had made superb saves to keep out Marouane Fellaini and Young, kicked the ball straight to the former England winger who fired into an empty net.

"I don't think Jonny Evans is a spitter. Maybe

spitting on the floor but we are on the bench and you cannot see from there," United manager Louis van Gaal told BT Sport.

Arsenal have 54 points with United on 53 — two ahead of in-form Liverpool for whom Jordan Henderson and Daniel Sturridge clinched a 2-0 win over Burnley at Anfield.

Liverpool have picked up 26 points from the last 30. Seventh-placed Tottenham (47 with a game in hand) rebounded from their Wembley woe to



Ashley Young celebrates after scoring the first goal for Manchester United during their Barclays Premier League at St James' Park, England on 4 March, 2015. REUTERS

beat Swansea City 3-2 and stay in the hunt for a top-four finish, although the game was overshadowed by Swansea's Bafetimbi Gomis fainting in the first half. The French forward was carried off the pitch but remained conscious after medical treatment.

"Bafetimbi Gomis is fine. He went to hospital as a precaution but he is fine. That's the main thing," Swansea manager Garry Monk told the BBC.

Chelsea extended their dominance over West Ham to one defeat in 18 but it was a tense night in east London.

Diego Costa nearly added to Hazard's goal but they had to dig deep to keep West Ham out with goalie

Thibaut Courtois making fine saves from Diafra Sakho and Enner Valencia.

Manchester City returned to winning ways after damaging defeats by Barcelona in the Champions League and Liverpool in the league with Silva scoring his sixth goal in his last seven Premier League appearances at the Etihad.

The champions had started with skipper Vincent Kompany on the bench, dropped by Pellegrini.

"It was not a difficult decision — I felt we needed to refresh the team tonight," the Chilean said.

Everton's worrying league form continued in a 2-0 defeat at Stoke City.

Reuters



West Ham's Carl Jenkinson in action with Chelsea's Cesc Fabregas during their Barclays Premier League at Upton Park, England on 4 March, 2015.—REUTERS