President marks 3rd anniversary of the government with speech: Six-decade long civil war to end soon, but Armed Forces will continue to be included in negotiations to solve political issues

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw concludes ninth regular session, stressing great strides in pursuit of peace and prosperity, rule of law

Projects for Rakhine State discussed

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Union Parliament, on Wednesday. In his speech, the president expressed his delight with the country’s achievements of national consolidation to a satisfactory extent and a new political culture of partnership.

He also expressed gratitude to the international community for their support for the country’s economic reform and for helping Myanmar to get on the right track in a stable manner towards a democracy, society and development.

President U Thein Sein also expressed the government’s commitment to encouraging responsible investments, to ensure that investment related to extracting natural resources will not affect the environment and socio-economic situation.

Regarding the dispute on farmlands across the country, he urged MPs and responsible persons from the land utilization management offices to collaborate to find justifiable solutions as the government wants to make sure that ownership is true and authentic in accordance with existing laws.

Regarding a nationwide ceasefire agreement between the government and ethnic armed groups, the president said that agreements have been reached between the government and the leaders of the ethnic armed groups, and that a nationwide peace agreement will be signed soon.

“I believe that the conflicts that have lasted for over sixty years will soon come to an end,” said President U Thein Sein in his address at the parliament.

The people have been enjoying the annual GDP growth rate of 5%, showing the efficacy of the country’s reforms, he added.

Concerning the country’s democratic transition, President U Thein Sein said the Armed Forces will continue to play a role in the democratic transition. He said they need to continue to be included in the political negotiations to find solutions to the political issues in Myanmar.

“We will be able to steadily reduce the role of our Armed Forces as we mature in democracy, and make progress in our peace building efforts,” he said.—NLM

Sultan of Brunei concludes visit

Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu’izzaddin Waddaulah and party left here for Brunei by air on Wednesday morning.

They were seen off at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin, Deputy Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Myat and officials.—MNA

North Korea fires missiles as US, Japan, South Korea leaders meet

World leaders aim to reduce dangerous nuclear material stocks to minimum

Search for airliner debris resumes, but ‘not absolutely open-ended’

Thai acting premier vows to fight against undemocratic moves

Presentation on success of SEA Games to be held 28 March

To elaborate on how Myanmar successfully held the 27th SEA Games, including opening and closing ceremonies, officials will give a presentation in the Chatrium Hotel in Yangon from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on 28 March. There will also be a platform for discussion, with interested people invited to come and join the discussion. Due to a limited number of seats, those wishing to attend the presentation should register with Daw Khin Oo, Tel: 09422515100.—MNA
Japanese government grants US$ 1,502,515 for eight grass-roots projects

Yangon, 26 March—Mr Mikio Numata, Japanese Ambassador and Chairmen of the Committees from State and Region concerned signed the grant contracts for eight projects today, under its Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme, totaling US$ 1,502,515.

The five schools and one monastic school projects in Kawa, Hpa-an, Hinthada, Hopin, Myitkyina and Bilin Townships will benefit over 2,400 students, who are now studying under insufficient learning environment in old school buildings. The fund will be used for constructing new RC buildings with sufficient classrooms, toilets and purchasing of school furniture.

In Ayeyawady Region, Nyaungwine Village in Hinthada Township is in need of a permanent RC bridge since the thirty-six villages in the area are seeking the better access for their socio-economic activities. Under such circumstances, the fund will fulfill villagers’ needs to solve the difficulties of students, farmers, patients and community people by newly constructed 240 feet long bridge.

In Kachin State, pregnant women of Bhamo Township, who do not have access to appropriate facilities to deliver their babies, will benefit from the new obstetrics and gynecology ward to be constructed by the project. The fund will be used to construct new ward building and provide medical equipment for Bhamo General Hospital.

The Government of Japan has assisted 685 various grass-roots projects in Myanmar under this GGP scheme since 1993. Among them, 311 education projects, 31 transport projects and 175 health care projects are included. It is expected that these assistance will further strengthen existing friendly relations between Japan and Myanmar.

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries.—NLM

Union Parliament Deputy Speaker receives CEO of WAGGS

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 March—Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament) and Pyithu Hluttaw (People’s Parliament) U Nanda Kyaw Swa met Ms Mary Mc Phail, Chief Executive Officer of World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday. They discussed undertakings of WAGGS and its assistance for Myanmar Girl Scouts Association.—MNA

Mr Mikio Numata, Japanese Ambassador, and Mya Kan Tha Basic Education Post-Primary School in Hopin of Kachin State at signing ceremony for grant contracts for projects.—NLM

Union FM U Wunna Maung Lwin shakes hands with Mr. Peng Qinghua, CPC Secretary Committee of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of China.—MNA

Myanmar, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region to boost closer ties

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 March—At the invitation of Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Mr. Peng Qinghua, Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Committee of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of the People’s Republic of China, and party paid a goodwill visit to Myanmar for three days.

Mr Peng Qinghua held talks over promoting closer ties and cooperation between Myanmar and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region with Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin.

The People’s Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and the Union Miniter of Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin signed an agreement on promotion of friendly relations and co-operation between the two countries.

Agreement on development of water distribution system signed

Yangon, 26 March—Yangon City Development Committee and Mekorot Development & Enterprise Ltd of Israel signed an agreement on development of water distribution system at YCDC on Wednesday.

On the occasion, U Myint Oo, head of the committee’s Engineering Department, and Vice-President Mr. Zvi Pinzowski from Mekorot Development & Enterprise Ltd signed the agreement and exchanged the notes.—MNA

Hosted a luncheon to the visiting delegation at Myat Taw Win Hotel on Tuesday.—MNA

GOLD PRICE

Gold Price

Buying K 669,400 per tical: Selling K 670,000 per tical

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K 669,400 per tical: Selling K 670,000 per tical

Foreign Exchange Rate

USD Buying K 962: Selling K 966
SGD Buying K 752: Selling K 760
Euro Buying K 1315: Selling K 1335

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Eye patients being given free treatment at Okkan Station Hospital, Taikkyi Township, Yangon Region.—NLM

Mr Mikio Numata, Japanese Ambassador, and Mya Kan Tha Basic Education Post-Primary School in Hopin of Kachin State at signing ceremony for grant contracts for projects.—NLM

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw concludes ninth regular session, stressing great strides in pursuit of peace and prosperity, rule of law

Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint participating in discussions.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 March—In his speech at today’s session, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann highlighted the completed tasks of the current session in which Pyidaungsu Hluttaw passed 21 laws including National Planning Bill, Union Budget Bill and Union Taxation Bill. He continued that Parliament coordinated matters related to land grab issues, taxation and electricity bills with administrative machinery for the sake of the country and its people.

During the term of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, a total of 92 laws were promulgated to present, eight had been sent to the President to sign and 51 bills are under discussion, he added.

He assured that Parliament is ready to enact a National Education Law paving a way for ensuring achievements in human resource development projects. He suggested developing a link between basic and higher education and vocational education to the Union government, calling for necessary preparations and investments in it.

He stressed the need of a spirit of goodwill in making and passing fair and just laws that encourage national interest and could be truly adhered to by the citizens. He called on parliamentarians to follow and respect legislation.

During Q and A session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on its final day, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Maw Thu Htway replied that establishment of coal-fired power stations are carried out in accord with the standards of the World Bank and standardization on water quality and aquatic ecology will take place following the rules and regulations of the environmental conservation law.

Regarding a question about the government grant-land, Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint said that application for grant-lands are to be subjected to scrutiny according to rules and regulations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certificiations as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certifications as the issuance process of grant-land certificati

Use of Dome House introduced

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 March—Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint received a delegation led by Chairman Mr Lee Tasoon of FUJI TAKESAGO SAKE BREWERY of Japan and Managing Director Dr Tun Shin welcomed them at his office for translation 153 English-language laws into Myanmar version ones and said 89 laws enacted by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw have been translated into English version so far. He then elaborated on the process that will take about two years to finish.

In his speech regarding the tasks of the ninth regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw, Speaker U Khin Aung Myint gave an account of the Amyotha Hluttaw Library where a total of 8979 books have been kept to date.

He called on the representatives to strive for realization of people’s power as they were elected by the citizens. The next session of Amyotha Hluttaw is expected to resume at the end of this May, he added. —MNA

Workshop on gender equality opens in Pyapon

Pyapon, 26 March—Opening of Workshop on knowledge about Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and Gender, organized by Social Welfare Department under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement took place at the hall of district General Administration Department in Pyapon, Ayeyawady Region on Sunday, with officials attending.

Speaking at the workshop, Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Soe Win said that Myanmar has signed convention to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women in 1997 and Social Welfare Department has been striving for disseminating knowledge about gender equality and Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in the country as of 2010.

The government put emphasis on gender equality and improvement of women’s status to keep abreast with the world, he added.

Then, Deputy Director Daw Naw Thawal of Social Welfare Department (Head Office) extended greetings.
Linyaungchi Library installed Sky Net receiver

CHANGU, 26 March—Sagai Region government donated a set of Sky Net receiver to Linyaungchi Library in Kimontaw Village in Changou Township of Sagai Region on Monday.

The Sky Net receiver already installed at the library has got one year guarantee and received 86 channels.

The headmaster of Kimontaw Village BEMS (branch) expressed his thanks for installing Sky Net receiver at the library. In doing so, he said the local people know what is happening in the world and they can apply the knowledge TV programme in the practical fields.

—Township IPRD

Construction and Housing Development Bank (branch) put into service in Zabuthiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Construction and Housing Development Bank opened its branch in Zabuthiri Township, Dekkhina District, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on Wednesday.

Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint, Chairman of the bank U Min Hein and officials cut the ribbon to open the new branch. According to officials, Central Bank of Myanmar has given a licence to run Construction and Housing Development Bank with the capital K 100 billion in July 2013.

Rural people of Tiddim enjoys sufficient potable water

TIDDIM, 26 March—Hailing the 69th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a water tank was opened at Mulnum (D) Village in Dawlwin Village-tract of Tiddim Township in Chin State on Tuesday.

A village in-charge explained that the government built a 5000-gal-lon-capacity water tank and also installed 2-inch diameter water pipeline with the length of two miles for public consumption.

The water pipeline project of Mulnum (D) Village started during 2013-14 fiscal year spending 15.00 million kyats fund provided by Rural Development Department. The project was implemented by Royal City Men Co. Ltd and it completed on 15 March.

Nay Su (Chin Hill)

Japanese Embassy donates school building in Myingyan Tsp

MYINGYAN, 26 March—Japanese Embassy to Myanmar has donated a school building at Monastic Basic Education Post-Primary School at Sankya Monastery in the eastern part of Myingyan, Mandalay Region.

The training period will last from 24 to 28 March. It was attended by 100 trainees.

Head of board of trustees, the two-storey building is under construction to complete before the end of fiscal year spending 15.00 million kyats fund provided by Japan.

—NLM-001

Talks on rabies infection in humans given in Mohnya

MOHNYIN, 26 March—Talks on rabies infection in humans were given to 120 people from Kankawgon and Htantabin Villages due to outbreaks of rabies infection in Mohnya on 23 March.

The Mohnya District Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department gave lectures on use of vaccines and trade system, raising quality of fruits and crops and export process. The training period will last from 24 to 28 March. It was attended by 100 trainees. The training course was aimed at widening the scope of pesticide users.

—NLM-001

Systematic usage of pesticide disseminated

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—Agriculture Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation opened the pesticide user course No 2 at the hall of No 100 Basic Education Primary School in Tatpoe Ward of Pyinmana Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on Mon Day.

Officials of the department gave lectures on use of pesticides and trade system, raising quality of fruits and crops and export process. The training period will last from 24 to 28 March. It was attended by 100 trainees. The training course was aimed at widening the scope of pesticide users.

—NLM-001

Interfaith workshop held in Magway

MAGWAY, 26 March—An interfaith workshop on “unity and peaceful co-existence among the people of all faiths” took place at the Monastery on Pyitaw-tha Road in Magway Region on Monday.

It was organized by the Yadana Myay Social Development Association.

Leaders of four major religions extended greetings on the occasion.

Project Director Dr Hnin Aye Ko of Yadana Myay Social Development Association explained the purpose of the association and its plans. Similar workshops will be held in Chaik, Yenango and Pakokku soon.

Ko Aung Thuta (Minbu)
Change rate of electric meter bill clarified in Monywa

MONYWA, 26 March —
A ceremony to clarify rate of electric meter bills was held at the hall in Monywa of Sagaing Region on Sunday.
Chief Engineer U Aung Myint of Electric Supply Enterprise explained collection of meter bill with new rates. Power consumption is increasing 15 per cent yearly, so the Ministry of Electric Power is implementing the power plants in line with its plans as soon as possible. However, the financial matters become a barrier in implementing the projects. That is why the collection of meter bill rate was increased for cover the cost of generating the electricity to some extent. Indeed, the change of rate cannot affect the power consumption of basic strata and small-scale industries. Likewise, if the heavy industries consume larger amount of power, the bill rate will be decreased.
The Chief Engineer clarified that the money that came out from the collecting new charge rate will be spent on implementing the installation of power lines and power stations. In consequence, the consumers will use electricity at full capacity. Likewise, the industries will not face power shortage in their production. The government will create extension of power network in a short time, he added.
Only when the power networks can be extended, will the industries be operated in full swing for contributing to development of State economy.

Loipawng Pagoda under renovation for its magnificence

TACHILEIK, 26 March —
Loipawng Pagoda, called U Aung Zeya Pagoda dabbed by Myanmar people, is located in Loipawng Hill in Weinfankham Ward of Mae Sai, Chiang Rai District, northern Thailand.
The pagoda was damaged by the umbrella and some part of gold foils in weather on Taung earth quake of Shan State in 2011.

Akha nationals mark 90th anniversary of initiation into Buddhist order

KENGTUNG, 26 March —
Under the supervision of Akha Buddhist Care Association, a ceremony to mark the 90th anniversary of initiating the Akha nationals into Buddhist order took place at the Myoma sports ground in Ward 5 of Kengtung, Eastern Shan State, on Monday.
Shan State Akha Buddhist Care Organization Patron U Ah Zii, Chairman Saddhamma Jotikadhaja U Ah Zo and Commander of Triangle Region Command Maj-Gen Than Tun Oo cut the ribbon to open the ceremony.
The commander donated solar panels and other devices, two laptops and K1 million to the organisation through officials.
Akha nationals have been scattering in various areas of townships and sub-townships in Eastern Shan State since yore.
On 24 March 1924, the Akha nationals from Wamsan Village in Yangkha Village-tract of Kengtung Township launched the initiation of themselves into the Buddhist order.
The ceremony to mark the Buddhist initiation was held from 22 to 26 March with festivities at the sports ground.

Social association wins reliance of Pyapon dwellers

PYAPON, 26 March —
The Karunashin social service association (Pyapon) opened its office on Tuesday morning.
Chairman of the construction committee U Myo Myint Thein handed over documents related to chairman of the association U Thein Hlaing. Secretary of the association U Myo Myint read out the annual report.
The association formed with local people is located in the compound of Maha Bonsan monastery in Ward 14 of Pyapon in November 2011.
The association has given services to over 400 dead bodies. Members of the association contributed voluntary services to the funeral service regardless of citizen, religion, the rich and poor.

Basic vocational courses uplift status of women

MONYWA, 26 March —
With the aim of developing women’s status and turning out skillful women in domestic sciences, the Women’s Vocational Training School was established by Education and Training Department of Ministry of Border Affairs of Hkamti, Sagaing Region.
On 21 March, the training courses on basic domestic science course No 6, advanced tailoring course No 8, knitting course No 6, and traditional weaving course No 2 concluded at the school. The training courses lasted 14 weeks from 16 December to 21 March. Altogether 10 trainees attended the advanced course, 33 at basic domestic science course, two at knitting course and five at traditional weaving course, totaling 50.
One sewing machine each was awarded to outstanding trainees. In addition, sewing machines will be sold to the trainees in installment.
Departmental officials, Base Tactical Operations Commander Col Kyaw Kyaw Min and Region Parliament MP U Mya Maung awarded the outstanding trainees.
Thanks to the training courses, local national women will have self reliance, self confidence and high morale.—Region IPRD
Thai acting premier vows to fight against undemocratic moves

BANGKOK, 26 March — Thai acting Premier Yingluck Shinawatra said on Tuesday that her caretaker government will stick to democratic rule despite sustained anti-government protests.

Addressing a general caucus of the Phue Thai (for Thais) Party, core of the coalition government, Yingluck said the caretaker government will not give in to the street protests but will continue to run the country until a post-election government has been set up. She made comments in response to the protesters’ persistent calls for the making of a non-elected prime minister following the Constitutional Court’s recent ruling of the 2 Feb-

Kerry to visit Jordan to discuss Israeli-Palestinian talks

WASHINGTON, 26 March — US Secretary of State John Kerry will travel to Jordan on Wednesday in a bid to salvage the faltering peace talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians, the State Department said on Tuesday.

The top American envoy was breaking off his current trip to Europe with President Barack Obama, as the two sides were wrangling over the release of more Palestinian prisoners, an issue that is threatening to scuttle the talks scheduled to expire by this Saturday.

State Department spokeswoman Marie Harf said Kerry, now in Rome, will meet with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and speak to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the phone or videoconference in Amman, the capital of Jordan.

She told reporters at a daily news briefing that Kerry will try to “narrow the gaps” between the parties and work on a framework that will guide future negotiations by sketching the outlines of an accord, as Washington is seeking to extend the talks beyond the original deadline.

North Korea fires missiles as US, Japan, South Korea leaders meet

(From R) Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, US President Barack Obama and South Korean President Park Geun-hye and Japan's Prime Minister Fumio Kishida talk to the press at the start of their trilateral summit in The Hague, Netherlands on 25 March 2014. — Kyodo News

South Korean President Park Geun-hye and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe were sitting down with Obama in The Hague.

The firing off North Korea’s east coast toward Japan appeared to be a show of defiance by Pyongyang.

It followed a series of short-range rocket launches over the past two months, and could help improve cooperation between Tokyo and Seoul in the wake of the first meeting between Abe and Park since the Japanese premier took office 15 months ago.

Japan’s relations with South Korea, as well as between China, has been strained by what Seoul and Beijing say is Abe’s refusal to properly atone for Japan’s wartime past.

North Korea’s “provocations and threats” would be met by a united response, said Obama, who will visit Japan and South Korea in April.

“It is the first time that the three of us have an opportunity to meet together (on) some serious challenges that we all face,” Obama said after meeting both leaders on the sidelines of a nuclear security summit in The Hague.

South Korean Defence Ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok told reporters in Seoul that the launches were “a clear violation of UN Security Council resolutions and a grave provocation against South Korea and the international community.”

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida told parliament that Tokyo had protested against the launches through its embassy in Beijing, while Abe ordered his government to confirm the safety of airplanes and ships in the area.

Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera ordered the military to step up surveillance. US officials also condemned the latest launches.

But Japan’s plans to resume high-level talks next week with Pyongyang, suspended since December 2012, would not be affected, Japan’s Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said.—Reuters

World leaders aim to reduce dangerous nuclear material stocks to minimum

THE HAGUE, 26 March — World leaders agreed on Tuesday to reduce to a minimum stocks of nuclear materials that could be exploited by terrorists, in a move that can be seen as a major success for US President Barack Obama.

Obama said the talks were “a bid to salvage the faltering peace talks between the Israelis and the Palestinians” and that he had exchanged phone calls with Abbas the night before to work that will guide future negotiations by sketching the gaps” between the par-

The Hague, Netherlands, on 25 March, 2014. — Kyodo News

Leaders attend a photo session of the Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague, the Netherlands, on 25 March, 2014. — Kyodo News

“We encourage States to minimize their stocks of HEU (highly enriched uranium) and to keep their stockpile of separated plutonium to the minimum level, both as consistent with national requirements,” the leaders said in the Hague Communiqué adopted at the end of the two-day summit in the Dutch city.

The statement also called on countries to “establish appropriate security plans” for managing high-level radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel.

Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte said progress has been made under the current framework, but more work needs to be done to ensure nuclear security.—Kyodo News

Anti-government supporters march through streets in Bangkok, Thailand, on 26 March, 2014. People’s Democratic Reform Committee protesters marched in Bangkok for the third day to invite Bangkok people to join their mass rally on Saturday.—XINHUA

World leaders aim to reduce dangerous nuclear material stocks to minimum

Anti-government supporters march through streets in Bangkok, Thailand, on 26 March, 2014. People’s Democratic Reform Committee protesters marched in Bangkok for the third day to invite Bangkok people to join their mass rally on Saturday.—XINHUA

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Search for airliner debris resumes, but ‘not absolutely open-ended’

SYDNEY, 26 March — Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said on Wednesday authorities will continue searching for debris linked to missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 “until there is no hope of finding anything,” but, he added, the search effort is “not absolutely open-ended.” Speaking on Nine Network, Abbott said relatives and loved ones of those in the missing plane that experts concluded crashed into the southern Indian Ocean will be welcome to come to Australia. “It’s just an un speakably time for these people and if they want to come to Australia we’ll make them welcome and we’ll do everything we can to assist,” Abbott said.

When asked how long the search would continue he said, “We keep searching until there is absolutely no hope of finding anything.”

“There is quite a bit of debris in this part of the southern Indian Ocean,” he said, adding it had been photographed on a number of occasions but had not been recovered yet because of the difficulty of locating debris in a vast ocean. “But we are just going to keep on looking. We owe it to people to do everything we can to resolve this riddle,” he said, adding, “It’s not absolutely open-ended, but it’s not something that we will lightly abandon.”

The search for missing debris in a vast area of 2.500 kilometers southwest of the Western Australia capital Perth began again after being suspended Tuesday because of poor weather.

Seven military and five civil aircraft from Aus tralia, China, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and the United States will be involved in the search and recovery effort Wednesday in an area totaling 80,000 square kilometers.

Two vessels, Australian naval ship HMAS Success and Chinese polar supply ship Xue Long will also join in the search.

Earlier in the week, Malaysian authorities said satellite experts concluded the second microchip from Malay sia Airlines Flight MH370, “ended in the southern Indian Ocean.” The plane was bound for Beijing from Kuala Lumpur with 239 people on board when it vanished March 8 and crashed in the South China Sea.

It is suspected the plane made a U-turn to Mos cow and flew north to the Anda man Sea before radar contact was lost. Two signals later revealed the aircraft continued to fly for about five hours after it disappeared from radar. —Kyodo News

EU to press Obama at summit for aid in cutting Russian gas imports

BRUSSELS, 26 March — The European Union will press US President Barack Obama on Wednesday to help reduce Europe’s reliance on Russian energy by exporting US natural gas, at a time of chill in relations with Moscow over its intervention in Ukraine.

After a visit to a World War One battlefield, Obama will have just 75 minutes over lunch with the EU’s top officials to tackle issues ranging from energy to climate change, in a meeting that will be dominated by the Ukraine crisis.

Yet if there were any doubts about the EU-US relationship after last year’s revelations that Washington spied on its allies against political interference, casting doubt on a virus clouded by violence across the continent, due on 30 April.

The generals were de missioned late Monday and placed in the custody of the army courts. Maduro said, without identifying them.

“We captured three generals that we were investigating thanks to the strong moral of our rev olutionary armed force — three generals that planned to get the Air Force rise up against the legitimately constituted government. All of them have been placed in the hands of the military courts,” he said.

The death toll from the violent protests has now reached 35, said Maduro, blaming small violent gangs known here as “guarimbas.”

“Each case of fatality is the direct responsibility of the guarimbas,” he said, counteracting allegations by the opposition that the security forces are to blame for the deaths.

Maduro asked Unasur to support a Truth Commission created by the National Assembly to investigate the violent deaths.

The Unasur delegation, composed of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Vene zuela, was to meet with the political committee of the country’s ongoing National Peace Conference and with Venezuelan church leaders.

Venezuela arrests 3 generals linked to coup plot

CARACAS, 26 March — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said Tuesday his government has detained three Air Force generals linked to a coup plot by hardline right-wing opposition groups.

The generals were arrested after lower ranking officers notified security forces, Maduro said during a meeting of foreign ministers from the Union of South American Nations (Unasur) seeking to help mediate an end to violent anti-government protests that have rocked Venezuela since early February.

The generals were de tained late Monday and placed in the custody of the army courts. Maduro said, without identifying them.

“We captured three generals that we were investigating thanks to the strong moral of our rev olutionary armed force — three generals that planned to get the Air Force rise up against the legitimately constituted government. All of them have been placed in the hands of the military courts,” he said.

The death toll from the violent protests has now reached 35, said Madu ro, blaming small violent gangs known here as “guarimbas.”

“Each case of fatality is the direct responsibility of the guarimbas,” he said, counteracting allegations by the opposition that the security forces are to blame for the deaths.

Maduro asked Unasur to support a Truth Commission created by the National Assembly to investigate the violent deaths.

The Unasur delegation, composed of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guyana, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Uruguay and Vene zuela, was to meet with the political committee of the country’s ongoing National Peace Conference and with Venezuelan church leaders.

Iraq electoral commission resigns in masse weeks before vote

BAGHDAD, 26 March — The entire board of Iraq’s electoral commission tendered its resignation on Tuesday in protest against political interference, casting doubt on a nationwide vote scheduled for next month. The Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) said it had found itself caught between conflicting rulings from parliament and the judiciary regarding the exclusion of certain candidates from the election, due on 30 April.

IHEC’s sudden move further complicates the outlook for a vote already clouded by violence across the country where Sunni Islamists militants have regained momentum over the past year.

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Today English is playing an essential role in every field and everywhere of the world. Not to mention a man who knows English, even one who picks up the language can be said to have an access to such a rich & global knowledge. Here I do not mean wealth. Wealth does not necessarily attend success. As known by all, undeniably English also is more and more throughout the world, hence increasing need for us to know English as much as possible. So, let us do such so as to keep up with the ever-changing world. For saying so, someone may ask whether a nation cannot develop into a prosperous and modernized one if we lack that skill. If so, my stock reply will be, “yes”. Sources are versed and information we need are plentiful nowadays, most of which are books written in English. Yet, so as not to lag behind, we must work at our fastest pace. Our country, Myanmar, abounds with academicians, language experts and skilled teachers at the chalkface, who always deal with English & have responsibilities to make sure that their valuable skills are passed down to youth of today so that they can serve the country one day. There seems to be an element of hyperbole in such a claim that scholars with a special knowledge on the language failed to make concerted efforts for enthusiastic children to be able to acquire their longered-for language skills, if possible, before they proceed to learn at universities and colleges. In our country, English was a compulsory subject from kindergarten classes to matriculation. In such a period of time, some of both the passed and not passed their BEHs exams should have known English considerably. Have they had the required skills? In reality, its answer will be a negative one at the present time. Sadly those students were LEP ones, excluding a low percentage. Would that author's concerns had known the truth. Who was responsible for this? Now is not the time when we will have to blame each other. Knowingly that their children's teachers lacked qualifications, some parents who paid attention to their offspring's education failed to disclose the true situation. Headmasters and educational officers would never do such a thing. Most of the young teachers themselves did not get good education in their schooling days. Moreover, they could not give time for further improvement in teaching career, in pursuit of money. In fact they all were subjected to the bad education systems. Let bygones be bygones. Now it is time to solve this problem. “The road to hell is paved with good intentions”, as the saying is. We need to do actually. The days are gone when the requirements of the younger minds went uncared.

Launching A Systematic Approach To Learning English

Kin Mg Oo

English language is one of the important languages in the world. Learning English can help students to better their lives and future. It has become more and more important in the 21st century. English is a world language that is widely used for communication, education, business, and technology. Learning English can provide opportunities for students to access a wealth of knowledge, resources, and opportunities that are not available in their native languages. In addition, English is a highly valued language in the global economy, and proficiency in English can enhance career prospects and job opportunities. Therefore, it is crucial for students to develop a strong foundation in English language skills.

The New Light of Myanmar

Thursday, 27 March, 2014

When democratic transition comes together with technology

Myanmar is now passing through an exciting era when the nation’s democratic transition takes place simultaneously with the revolution of technology, especially the mobile technology. Only a few nations in the world may face such advantages to enter the new era. But the advantages would still be on paper if we simply give a blind eye to these advantages. We have yet to tap the technology for catalyzing the positive change.

We could amplify the mobile technology, taking layman’s advantage. We have a chance to build up the exiting IT infrastructure. Recently, the licensed international telecom service provider Ooredoo organized the first-ever Hackathon in Myanmar where the country’s mobile developers could also show how they could drive the change with mobile technology.

The government is developing e-government systems with the support of an Indian IT firm and other organizations. The government has been developing the e-government and e-governance for years, but it cannot still make an impact.

IT can cut red tape. IT can help increase government transparency. It can help raise public awareness. The information technology is many things positive in the new era of the democratic Myanmar. We should attach greater importance to the IT in bringing about positive change.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email us at info@skynewlight.org with your name and title.
Health Care Activities by Ministry of Health, Department of Health to continue the activities previously conducted by MSF-H (AZG) in Rakhine State

Ministry of Health, Department of Health provides comprehensive health care to Rakhine State, based on Rakhine State overall development plan, by cooperation with Rakhine State Government, Local NGOs and INGOs to continue the health care activities in Rakhine State. MSF (Holland) has been conducting the health care activities in Sittway, Myebon, Maungtaw, Rathedaung, Maungtaw and Rathedaung townships. Local community resistance to health activities in Rakhine State by MSF (Holland) lead to cessation of their activities in February 2014. Ministry of Health, responsible for health care for the whole country and community of Myanmar, substitutes the health activities, by involvement of all stakeholders, previously provided by MSF (Holland) in Rakhine State.

Activities provided on treatment of HIV/AIDS Patients which is previously taking care by MSF-H (AZG)

MSF (Holland) opened three clinics in Sittway, Rathedaung and Maungtaw townships to give ART and health care of over 750 HIV patients. Ministry of Health opens ART Center in Sittway General Hospital to take care of 350 patients in Sittway. In Rathedaung and Maungtaw Township Hospitals, treatment has been providing about 400 patients in respective townships which is previously treated by MSF-H (AZG).

Department of Health also procures CD4 machine for Maungtaw Hospital to assist the accurate diagnosis and prognosis of patients. Currently, there are 9 doctors and staff from National HIV/AIDS program; 18 physicians, doctors and staff from Sittway General Hospital; doctors and staff from township health departments are currently supervising the activities such as ART Treatment and other activities of these patients as seen in following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Township</th>
<th>People Living with HIV</th>
<th>Health Facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sittway</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>Mungan Health Unit (Sittway)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Rathedaung</td>
<td>34</td>
<td>Township Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Pauktaw</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>Township Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Kyauktaw</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Township Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>MaungU</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>Township Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Kyaukyu</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Township Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Ponnayun</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Township Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Minbya</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Township Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>An</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Township Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Paletwa</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Township Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Myebon</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Township Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Rathedaung</td>
<td>337</td>
<td>Township Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Maungtaw</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>Township Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Thetkaypyin (Sittway)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Darpang Temporary Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>757</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Activities done on treatment of Tuberculosis Patients who were previously taken care by MSF-H (AZG)

National Tuberculosis Program starts to provide the TB Drugs to tuberculosis patients who are treated by MSF-H (AZG). Therefore, all tuberculosis patients by MSF-H (AZG) have TB Drugs (Patient Kit) which is supplied by Rakhine State TB Teams. Currently all TB patients are assured to get treatments without interruptions by means of distributions of all drugs to following health facilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Township</th>
<th>TB Patients treated by MSF-Holland</th>
<th>Health facilities which are taking care of these patients</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thetkaypyin (Sittway)</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>Darpang Temporary Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pauktaw</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Township Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Maungtaw</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>District Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Rathedaung</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Township Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>MaungU</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>District Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Minbya</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Township Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Rathedaung</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Township Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Myebon</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Township Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>81</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Former Malaria Case Finding and Treatment Activities done by MSF-H has been managed by Ministry of Health, National Malaria Control Programme

MSF-H had been taking Malaria case finding and treatment activities in Minbya Township and Station Health units, Kyauktaw township, Sittway Hospital and Thet Kay Pyin and Ohn Daw Gyi Camps. In 2013, total Malaria patients of (1765) cases have been provided the treatment. Total (10394) Malaria suspected patients has been examined for Malaria parasite and (1229) of P.F patients, (479) P.V and Mixed infection (57) patients were treated.

National Malaria control programme will take care of the mentioned diagnosis and treatment activities previously managed by MSF-Holland. State Health Department has deployed the Government Base Health Staff, Voluntary health workers and Local NGOs staff to continue the malaria control and treatment activities. The fix and mobile medical team will take care diagnosis, prevention, distribution of long lasting insecticide nets, block spraying and health education to control malaria in the areas.
Spanish court says Catalonia sovereignty claim illegal

MADRID, 26 March — Spain’s Constitutional Court on Tuesday partially struck down a sovereignty claim approved by lawmakers last year in the northern region of Catalonia, a vital step toward a referendum on full independence, court papers showed.

In January 2013, Catalonia’s regional parliament unanimously adopted a declaration of self-determination saying the people had the right to vote on breaking away from the rest of Spain. The Madrid court declared “null and unconstitutional” the first point in the Catalan ruling which said the people of the region had the legal right to initiate the Spanish constitution.

Catalan President Artur Mas has promised to hold a referendum on secession from Spain on 9 November, saying Catalonia should be a separate state within the European Union and the euro zone. Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy says such a vote would be unconstitutional. Mas has been buoyed by a groundswell of public support for the referendum but with the European Union and Spanish government firmly opposed, full independence seems unlikely. The Catalan Parliament in Barcelona voted in January to send a petition to the national legislature seeking the power to call a popular vote on the region’s future. That initiative is still pending a vote in Madrid.

Imperial couple visit Ise Shrine with sacred treasures

Ise, (Japan), 26 March — Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko visited Ise Shrine in Mie Prefecture on Wednesday, following last October’s first ceremony in 20 years to transfer the shrine deity to a new building.

During their visit to the shrine dedicated to the ancestral deities of the imperial family, the imperial jewel and sword, two of the family’s three sacred treasures, were moved out of Tokyo’s Imperial Palace for the first time since they made a similar visit 20 years ago. The other treasure, a mirror, is always kept at the shrine in central Japan.

In the morning, the emperor and empress paid a visit to the shrine’s Geku compound, which is dedicated to Toyouke Omikami, the god responsible for food, clothing and shelter. The couple will move to the Naiku compound, 4 kilometres from Geku, which enshrines Amaterasu Omikami, worshipped as the ancestral deity of the imperial family, in the afternoon.

The visit to the shrine, regarded as a private one, is the first since November 2001 by the current imperial couple.

Before World War II, the emperors used to carry the sacred treasures when they stayed outside the Imperial Palace at least one night. But the custom ceased to be carried out after the war in light of the principle of separating government and religion in the Constitution as well as security concerns.

The emperor and empress are scheduled to return to Tokyo on Friday following a tour of a museum showing exhibits related to last year’s ceremony to reconstruct the shrine facilities on Thursday.

Abe, Obama agree to speed up bilateral talks on Pacific free trade

THE HAGUE, 26 March — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and US President Barack Obama agreed Tuesday to speed up bilateral talks toward signing a Pacific free trade pact, Abe said. Abe told reporters after a brief one-on-one meeting with Obama that they agreed to “accelerate negotiations toward concluding a Trans-Pacific Partnership pact and tell working-level officials in each government to work” to that end. An early signing of the TPP is expected to be a key topic in a planned full meeting between Abe and Obama when the US president visits Japan next month. Abe and Obama reached the agreement ahead of a fresh round of two-day bilateral negotiations on the TPP starting Thursday in Washington.

Russia’s Medvedev says sanctions will not hurt

MOSCOW, 26 March — Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev shrugged off sanctions over Moscow’s annexation of Crimea, saying even if the West imposes more punitive measures, companies that want to work in Russia will not be deterred.

‘‘A number of companies have already made it clear that they do not intend to leave Russia and are ready to invest,’’ Medvedev said on state television in Moscow. ‘‘This is not about some sanctions, this is not about some pressure. This is about real potential development of our economy and it is being created by Russian companies and Russian citizens.’’

Activities by Ministry of Health for the Patients at Stabilization Center in Thet Kye Pyin

The referral services have been provided to the patients at stabilization center at Thet Kye Pyin. The preparation has been arranged with coordination by senior consultant from Sittway General Hospitals. Darpang Emergency Hospital has been prepared to provide emergency health care services and referral.

Health Care Activities...

(from page 9)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Township</th>
<th>IDP Camp/Villages</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Total Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Rathedaung</td>
<td>A Nauk Pyin</td>
<td>Township Health Department</td>
<td>994</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Butidaung</td>
<td>Urban Area</td>
<td>Township Health Department</td>
<td>2500</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Readers enjoy “London book bridge” at the Ho Chi Minh City Book Fair 2014 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, on 24 March, 2014. The 8th Ho Chi Minh City Book Fair with the theme of “Books-Culture and Development” opened to public here on Monday, attracting more than 160 domestic and foreign publishers. — XINHUA
An employee sits behind a reception desk during a media tour in the Google data centre in Changhua Coastal Industrial Park, central Taiwan, on 11 Dec, 2013.

**Google slashes cloud computing prices in rivalry with Amazon**

SAN FRANCISCO, 26 March — Google Inc slashed its cloud computing service prices on Tues- day, seeking to wrest cus- tomers from Amazon.com Inc and Microsoft Corp in the fast-growing market of cloud computing.

Google’s Compute Engine services will cost 32 percent less across all sizes, regions and classes. “The cost of virtual- ized hardware should fall in line with the computing underly- ing real hardware,” Google Senior Vice Pres- ident Urs Holzle said in a post on Google’s official developers blog on Tues- day in conjunction with a cloud event that the compa- ny hosted in San Francisco.

Holzle noted that hard- ware costs have improved by 20 to 30 percent during the past five years but that “public cloud prices fell at just 8 percent per year.”

Cloud services are in- creasingly popular among tech startups and larger companies, which rely on computers owned and renting computers and data storage to companies. Price cuts range from 30 to 85 percent, Google’s Cloud Storage will cost 2.6 cents per gigabyte, about 68 percent lower for most customers.

**HTC debuts flagship smartphone in race against Samsung**

LONDON, 26 March — Taiwan’s HTC Corp unveiled a new flagship smartphone on Tuesday, an upgrade to the award-win- ning HTC One that it hopes will claw back some of the market share lost to Sam- sung.

The HTC One M8 has a 5-inch display, slightly larger than its predecessor, as well as improved camera technology, a faster proces- sor and updated software, the company said.

Chairwoman Cher Wang said at an event in London that the new de- vice, which has a premium metal body, was an evo- lution of last year’s HTC One. The HTC One was lauded by critics, she said, and it was still winning awards, including ‘Smart- phone of the year’ at the Mobile World Congress in February.

“The best smartphone in the world gets better in every way,” she said of the new model. But HTC One — the group’s biggest sell- ing model to date — was not enough to stop more than two years of sliding sales as Google’s, Amazon and Microsoft are aggressively cutting prices to attract more customers and gain market share.

Some analysts expect the market to expand by 20 to 30 percent during the coming years, with Google and Amazon’s prices likely to fall further in the next few years.

**Leaving politics behind, Russian-US crew blasts off for space**

The Soyuz TMA-12M spacecraft carrying the International Space Station (ISS) crew of US astronaut Steven Swanson, Russian cosmonauts Alexander Skvortsov and Oleg Artemyev blasts off from its launch pad at the Baikonur cosmodrome on 26 March 2014.— Reuters

The Soyuz capsule to skip two manning stations later on Tues- day.

“I don’t expect to receive any information about why the Soyuz crew failed to fire when the capsule flies over ground communica- tions stations later on Tues- day. ‘Initial information indicates the problem may have been the spacecraft communications station to a full six-member crew.”

The orbital outpost, a project of 15 nations, has been short-staffed since two cosmonauts and two astronauts were killed in a 2003 Russian rocket explosion.

**'Candy Crush' maker King scores $7.1 billion valuation in IPO**

NEW YORK, 26 March — Mobile game maker King Digital Entertainment Plc priced its initial public offer- ing on Tuesday at the mid- point of its expected range, valuing the “Candy Crush Saga” maker at about $7.1 billion despite questions about whether it can repli- cate the success of its smart- phone smash-hit. The offer- ing marks the largest United States IPO from a booming mobile gaming industry that has been keen to emerge from the shadow of Zynga Inc, the social gaming firm that has struggled to keep pace with the rapid growth of social networking and virtual worlds.

Amazon Web Services provide the underlying in- frastructure for key aspects of popular Web compa- nies such as online movie streaming service Netflix Inc and social network Pin- terest.

Amazon’s Web Ser- vices will hold an event in San Francisco to discuss its business on Wednesday. Amazon did not immedi- ately respond to a request for comment on whether it would respond to Google’s price cuts.— Reuters

Even if King, whose other games include “Bub- ble Witch Saga” and “Papa Pear Saga”, pulls off a strong debut, the real test will be the stock’s staying power in coming weeks and months. King hopes to avoid Zynga’s fate by virtue of a stronger focus on a mobile gaming market worth an estimated $17 billion.

“Candy Crush Saga” is a household name that was the most downloaded and top-grossing free app of 2013 on Apple Inc’s app store.— Reuters

HTC CEO Peter Chou shows the new HTC one (M8) phone during a launch event in New York, on 25 March, 2014.— Reuters

HTC has also been precipitous. Its latest sales figures, for February, were 36 per- cent lower than a year ago. It is fighting back with a new line of cheaper hand- sets, including a mid-tier handset unveiled in Barce- lona last month, as well as the HTC One M8.

King’s IPO price of $22.50 per share, with the stock to de- but on the New York Stock Exchange on Wednesday. Its offering of 22.2 million shares would raise about $500 million at that price. It’s far to say that if it is a very high-demand IPO, we would’ve seen the price at the upper end of the range,” Sterne Agee analyst Arvind Bhatia said.

“Candy Crush Saga” is a household name that was the most downloaded and top-grossing free app of 2013 on Apple Inc’s app store.— Reuters

The arrival of the Soyuz spacecraft carrying the International Space Station (ISS) crew of US astronaut Steven Swanson, Russian cosmonauts Alexander Skvortsov and Oleg Artemyev blasts off from its launch pad at the Baikonur cosmodrome on 26 March 2014.— Reuters

Microsoft game maker King Digital Entertainment Plc priced its initial public offer- ing on Tuesday at the mid- point of its expected range, valuing the “Candy Crush Saga” maker at about $7.1 billion despite questions about whether it can repli- cate the success of its smart- phone smash-hit. The offer- ing marks the largest United States IPO from a booming mobile gaming industry that has been keen to emerge from the shadow of Zynga Inc, the social gaming firm that has struggled to keep pace with the rapid growth of social networking and virtual worlds.

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“The company has learned lessons from the phone’s well-received but underperforming predeces- sor,” they said.

“HTC must capitalize on the phone’s distinctive design and premium mate- rials to re-establish itself in the market.”— Reuters
Japan’s ruling party approves bill to revise referendum law

TOkyo, 26 March—The ruling Liberal Democratic Party approved on Wednesday a bill to revise the country’s referendum law, paving the way for enactment during the current Diet session with an eye to future Constitutional reform.

The bill, endorsed at a joint meeting of LDP panels, is to lower the minimum voting age from 20 to 18. The LDP, headed by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, will likely submit the bill to the Diet with other parties in early April.

Amending the pacifist Constitution, which has never been reviewed since its promulgation in 1946, has drawn criticism from some opposition lawmakers. A proposal for constitutional revision can be initiated with the support of at least two-thirds of the lawmakers in both houses of parliament, and must be endorsed by a majority in a referendum.

The LDP and its coalition partner, the New Komeito party, have agreed with three opposition parties — the Democratic Party of Japan, Your Party, and People’s Life Party — to jointly submit the bill, raising the likelihood of Diet passage before the current session ends on 22 June.

But other opposition parties are not united in their response. The Japan Restoration Party has put off a decision on whether to support the bill, while the Japanese Communist Party and the Social Democratic Party are demanding the bill be scrapped.

The revised law would lower the voting age four years after it takes effect, and allow civil servants to take part in organizational efforts to rally support for or opposition to a proposed constitutional amendment.

Cambodia’s opposition party to rally on Sunday

PHNOM PENH, 26 March—Opposition Cambodian National Rescue Party (CNRP) is scheduled to hold a people’s congress on Sunday afternoon at the capital’s Freedom Park to discuss its supporters’ concerns. The party’s president Sam Rainsy announced on Wednesday.

“We will meet with about 3,000 supporters on Sunday afternoon, 30 March at the Freedom Park to hear people’s recommendations over the ongoing political dispute,” he said at a news briefing.

“The upcoming gathering is not a demonstration to topple [the government], so don’t use this pretext to ban our rally,” he said, adding that the party had already submitted a request to the City Hall this morning for the gathering.

Sam Rainsy also reiterated his call for a top-level meeting with Prime Minister Hun Sen to negotiate over the post-election dispute. Long Dimanche, spokesman for the Phnom Penh City Hall, confirmed that the City Hall has received the CNRP’s request for the Sunday’s rally, but said that no decision has been made yet.

“We will hold a meeting to consider the proposals,” he told Xinhua.

Taiwan’s
go to attend Boao Forum

BEIJING, 26 March—Taiwan politician Vincent Siew, honorary chairman of the Taiwan-based Cross-Straits Common Market Foundation, will attend the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2014, Ma Xiaoguang, spokesman with the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, told a press conference.

The Boao conference is expected to be held in south China’s Hainan Province between 8 and 11 April.

Siew attended the forum’s annual conference and met with Chinese President Xi Jinping last year.

Tokyo court grants Japanese citizenship to another Filipino-Japanese

MANILA, 26 March—Another Filipino of Japanese descent was officially recognized on Monday as a Japanese national by a Tokyo court.

The social bias against Japanese descendants at that time up to the 1960s also forced him to hide his Japanese roots, Kimura said in an interview last year. Named by his father as “Masao” and officially registered as a Japanese national by a Tokyo family court, a non-profit organization helping him said on Tuesday.

Kimura, the son of a native from Hiroshima who came to the Philippines in 1936 and got married to a Nueva Ecija woman three years later had been a “stateless citizen” since his father was repatriated to Japan after World War II.

The social bias against Japanese descendants at that time up to the 1960s also forced him to hide his Japanese roots, Kimura said in an interview last year. Named by his father as “Masao” and officially registered as a Japanese national, Kimura started tracing his father’s whereabouts only in 1986, leading him to his father’s family registry in 1998. By that time, his father had already been dead for three years.

Okinawa, Singapore airport to promote trade, eye direct flights

NAHA, 26 March—The Okinawa prefectural government and Singapore’s Changi Airport Group agreed on Tuesday to promote trade and seek to launch direct flights linking the southern Japan prefecture with the city state.

Including layover times, it currently takes over 10 hours to travel between Singapore and Okinawa, but direct flights would shorten the trip to five hours, according to the operator of Changi airport, a major Asian hub.

“We hope a closer traffic network with Asia will be established through direct flights between Singapore and Okinawa,” said Okinawa Gov. Hirokazu Nakaima at a signing ceremony at Naha airport for the partnership accord between the Japanese and the Changi groups.

The prefectural government is aiming to boost tourist numbers from Southeast Asian countries, Australia and India, in the run-up to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. —Kyodo News

Residents do morning exercises amid fog and smog in Changchun, capital of northeast China’s Jilin Province, on 26 March, 2014. The city was hit by smog on 26 March and suffered from heavy air pollution.—Xinhua

Okinawa Gov Hirokazu Nakai- ma (L) and Wong Woon Liong, senior advisor to Changi Airport Group in Singapore, sign an accord in Naha, Okinawa Prefecture, on 25 March, 2014, to promote trade and seek to launch direct flights linking the southern Japan prefecture with the city state.—Kyodo News
American sentenced to 16 years in New York City pipe bomb case

New York, 26 March — An American Muslim, Jose Pimentel, 27, is seen in Manhattan Criminal Court in New York on 20 Nov, 2011. — Reuters

Jose Pimentel, 27, is seen in Manhattan Criminal Court in New York on 20 Nov, 2011. —Reuters

New York, 26 March — New York state terrorism charge for attempting to make a pipe bomb was sentenced to 16 years in prison on Tuesday, the Manhattan District Attorney’s office said.

Jose Pimentel, a 29-year-old Dominican-born US citizen, was arrested in 2011 after a police informant secretly recorded meetings with him as he bought bomb materials and read online instructions on how to assemble them, according to court documents.

Pimentel was accused of plotting to attack police stations, post offices and military personnel in and around New York City.

In a statement on Tuesday, Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance said Pimentel had a personal website that advocated violence against US citizens and government agencies and that had links to bomb-making instructions.

The components seized by the New York police department were detailed in a step-by-step bomb-making guide published by al-Qaeda’s Inspire Magazine, Vance said.

Reuters

Albania, Mongolia to strengthen relations

TIRANA, 26 March — A memorandum of understanding was signed on Tuesday here between Albania and Mongolia to strengthen relations between the two countries, according to Albanian Telegraphic Agency (ATA).

Albanian Deputy Foreign Minister Sokol Dervishaj held a meeting with visiting Mongolian Foreign Minister Damba Gankhuyag on the occasion of the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Albania and Mongolia.

Dervishaj briefed Gankhuyag on Albania’s achievements, Albanian government’s priorities and the active role in the region, said ATA.

Gankhuyag confirmed his readiness to promote cooperation between the two countries by improving the legal framework of cooperation between Albania and Mongolia, according to ATA.

Xinhua

Claims Day Notice

MV SHAMIN VOY NO (35)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHAMIN VOY NO (35) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS LAND AND SEA SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Claims Day Notice

MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (0040)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (0040) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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AGENT FOR: MS HANJIN SHIPPING LINES
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Claims Day Notice

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV MALTE RABROW VOY NO (1412) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS MCO SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185

Claims Day Notice

MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (0040)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO (0040) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: MS OOCL SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185

Claims Day Notice

MV INLE STAR VOY NO (001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV INLE STAR VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Sharon Stone: You are the age you really are

LO S  ANGELES, 26 March — Actress Sharon Stone, says irrespective of what people tell you about how old you look, it is important to accept your actual age.

Stone, who will be seen in John Tururro’s forthcoming film Fading Gigo-lo, turne d 56 on 10 March.

“...people can say you look 30 or you can lie and say you’re 42. But in the end, you’re the age you really are,” Stone said in a statement. She recalled a moment that came when she turned 40. With a magnifying mirror and a bottle of wine, she went into her bathroom and had a good cry. “I cried and I accepted myself. It wasn’t just a sad cry. It was just that shedding and accepting that I wasn’t the thing I was before,” she said.—PTI

Russell Brand engaged to Jemima Khan?

LO N D ON, 26 March — Comedian Russell Brand and girlfriend Jemima Khan have fuelled rumours that they are engaged after she was spotted wearing a diamond ring. Jemima, 40, was seen wearing a diamond ring yesterday in east London and she apparently looked very happy, reported Daily Mirror.

“It looked like an engagement ring. It was very pretty and classy. She looked very happy,” the source said.

The 38-year-old funnyman, who fuelled dating rumours with Jemima last year, had earlier said that the journalist made him a “changed man”.

Jemima has two sons with former cricketer Imran Khan. She also dated actor Hugh Grant.

The Get Him To The Greek star has remained tight-lipped about his love life since splitting from Katy Perry in December 2011 after 14 months of marriage. —PTI

Christian Bale To Play Steve Jobs?

LO N D ON, 26 March — Fight Club director David Fincher reportedly wants Christian Bale to play the role of late Steve Jobs in the new film written by Aaron Sorkin.

David is likely to direct the film only if they manage to get the Oscar winning star of The Dark Knight trilogy to perform the role of the late Apple CEO, reported Contactmusic.

Reports suggest that with Christian having Steve Job-esque looks and great acting skills, he seems to be a sensible choice.

Previously, actor Ashton Kutcher played the character of Steve in 2013’s Jobs but not with much success.

Steve, who was diagnosed with cancer in 2003, eventually died after losing his battle to the disease in 2011.

Anushka Sharma to produce and star in thriller

M UMBAI, 26 March — Actress Anushka Sharma’s first production venture NH 10 will be co-produced by Eros International Media Limited (Eros International) and Phantom Films.

To be directed by Navdeep Singh, NH 10 is an action thriller about a road trip that goes wrong, and apart from producing it, Anushka will feature in it.

“The film is an exciting collaboration with Anushka and Phantom and we are happy to associate with this talented team. NH 10 promises to be an interesting journey and we are looking forward to supporting and nurturing such strong content driven films,” Sunil Lulla, managing director, Eros International Media Ltd, said in a statement.

Anushka, who made her acting debut in 2008 opposite Shah Rukh Khan in Rab Ne Bana Di Jodi, is thrilled about the film.

“I am doubly thrilled about NH 10, as it’s a superb role and it also kick-starts this new phase in my film journey,” said the actress, who features in Phantom Films’ Bombay Velvet.

Now, she is happy to collaborate with the banner for her production venture. “This is my second film after Bombay Velvet with Phantom, and it’s a blast working with them. It’s going to be super-exciting working together again on what promises to be an explosive film,” said the 25-year-old.

Russell was earlier married to singer Katy Perry for 14 months.

Justin Bieber gets a new tattoo on flight

LO S  ANGELES, 26 March — Pop star Justin Bieber got his new tattoo done while on a flight and tattoo artist Bang Bang says it’s “the most difficult tattoo I’ve ever done for sure”.

TMZ reports that Justin got fresh ink on a flight to Canada just five days after his infamous Miami Beach arrest.

New York-based Bang Bang, who has tattooed the likes of Rihanna, Selena Gomez, Katy Perry and many other big celebrities, inked the new tattoo on Bieber.

Bang Bang told TMZ the work was done at 40,000 feet and during terrible turbulence. He called it “the most difficult tattoo I’ve ever done for sure”.—PTI

A combination photo of singer Chris Martin of Coldplay performing during a concert as part of their “Viva La Vida” tour in Barcelona on 4 Sept, 2009 and actress Gwyneth Paltrow posing during the premiere of her film “Iron Man” in Berlin on 22 April, 2008.—REUTERS

Actress Gwyneth Paltrow and Coldplay’s Chris Martin separate

LOS ANGELES, 26 March — Actress Gwyneth Paltrow and husband Chris Martin, the lead singer of alt-rock band Coldplay, said on Tuesday they are separating after 10 years of marriage.

“It is with hearts full of sadness that we...” they wrote in a post entitled “Conscious Uncoupling.”

“We have come to the conclusion that while we love each other very much we will remain separate. We are, however, and always will be a family, and in many ways we are closer than we have ever been,” they added.—Reuters

justin has recently rekindled his romance with singer Selena Gomez.
Arsenal have to look over their shoulders, says Wenger

**LONDON**, 26 March — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger all but conceded that their title bid is over and warned that his side had to focus on finishing in the top four after a 2-3 home draw with Swansea City in the Premier League on Tuesday.

Wenger’s men started the week as title contenders but they have faltered in a 6-0 thrashing at league leaders Chelsea in his 1,000th game in charge on Saturday and a disappointing draw with Swansea after a last-minute Mathieu Flamini own goal.

Arsenal are now six points ahead of fifth-placed Everton, who won 3-0 at Newcastle United on Tuesday and have a game in hand, with a place in next season’s Champions League at stake.

“Winning the title isn’t the biggest worry we have at the moment,” Wenger told a news conference.

“We have to be realistic. We must look behind us. Everton won and, of course, now we have to focus and play the next game (at home to Manchester City). “Manchester City had a good result tonight (a 3-0 win at Manchester United). They look a bit unstoppable. Them and Chelsea are the favourites now for the title. We don’t have too much room to come back into it.”

Chelsea have 69 points from 31 games ahead of City on 66 from 29, with Liverpool in third on 69 from 30. Arsenal follow on 63 with 31 while Everton have 57 from 30.

Arsenal’s Champions League group stage spot looks all the more precarious with Manchester City coming to The Emirates on Saturday before Wenger’s side visit Everton on 6 April.

Wenger had hoped for an instant response to the miserable Chelsea result but Swansea took an unlikely lead after 11 minutes when Neil Taylor crossed from deep and Wilfred Bony out-jumped the defender to plant a header just inside the near post.

Arsenal dominated possession as the visitors protected their lead but the nerves from the crowd permeated into the players, and the home side failed to turn domination into chances. Lucas Podolski’s introduction after the break signalled a greater attacking intent by the hosts and in the 73rd minute he converted a Kiernan Gibbs pull back before setting up Olivier Giroud to score a minute later with a cross from the left.

But Wenger’s disastrous week was summed up when his defence allowed Leon Britton to surge into the box in the last minute.

Arsenal central defender Per Mertesacker stretched to stop the Swansea player but his tackle only deflected the ball away from diving goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny, with the rebound hitting Flamini and trickling over the line.

“The result is very disappointing,” said Wenger. “At 2-1 we were maybe too conservative because our confidence level had been affected by Saturday and we just wanted to win the game without pushing any more forward.”

“A mistake happened and it created the result we didn’t want tonight.”

Wenger’s miserable week could have been worse as Jonathan de Guzman ran clear on Arsenal’s goal in the fourth minute of added time only for the referee to blow his whistle to end the game.

Swansea manager Garry Monk was baffled by the decision and believed his side were unjustly denied a chance for a vital win as they fight to avoid getting dragged into a relegation battle.

“It was a poor decision,” Monk told reporters. “They told us it was going to be four minutes at the end of the game, we scored in that period so they added an extra minute on the clock. So it’s five minutes minimum, we’re clean through on goal and they blow up 30 seconds short.”

“It would have definitely been a shot on goal. It’s going to be a goalscoring opportunity for sure.”

“In all the games I’ve ever played I’ve never had the whistle blown in those circumstances.”

Swansea are 15th but only five points above the drop zone, having played three games more than Sunderland who are in 18th place and occupy the last relegation place.

They host fellow strugglers Norwich City on Saturday knowing a win is vital to help secure Premier League safety.

UN sees meeting of Russian, Ukrainian FMs as “a welcome sign of dialogue”

**UNITED NATIONS**, 26 March — A meeting between Russian and Ukrainian foreign ministers came in as “a welcome sign of dialogue” as UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon encourages direct talks between Moscow and Kiev, a UN spokesman said on Tuesday.

British Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Monday met with Ukraine’s acting Foreign Minister Andriy Deschlytsya in The Hague, the Netherlands, for crisis talks on the sidelines of a nuclear security summit that ran through Tuesday.

The meeting is the first of its kind since Moscow’s annexation of the Crimean peninsula.

“The Russian foreign minister and acting foreign minister of Ukraine had met with each other, in a welcome sign of dialogue,” Farhan Haq, the deputy UN spokesman, said in response to a question at a daily news briefing here.

“The secretary-general, in his own diplomatic efforts, has encouraged direct dialogue between Moscow and Kiev.” Since the outbreak of the Ukrainian crisis, the UN chief has made clear the need for all states to abide by the principles of the UN Charter, including those regarding the peaceful settlement of disputes and regarding sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. He has also been pressing all sides for a de-escalation of the situation. Also on Tuesday, UN under-secretary-general for political affairs, Jeffrey Feltman, returned to New York after several days of consultations in Ukraine.

**Bundesliga Standing Table**

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Bayern Munich clinched the Bundesliga title in record time by beating Hertha Berlin 3-1 on Tuesday thanks to goals from Toni Kroos, Mario Goetze and Franck Ribery with seven games left in the campaign.

Last season’s treble winners claimed their 23rd Bundesliga crown with a 10th straight away victory, stretching their winning streak to a staggering 19 consecutive league games and their unbeaten run to 52 league matches — all Bundesliga records.

“I am satisfied that we did it,” Spanish coach Pep Guardiola, in his first season in charge, told reporters. “A game earlier or later does not matter. Congratulations to everyone at the club.”

“Now we will go out to dinner and celebrate,” added Guardiola, who managed to avoid the traditional on-pitch beer shower from his players. “We will enjoy the free time we have here.”

The Spaniard, who won 14 out of 19 titles in four years at Barcelona, has added the Bundesliga crown to the European Super Cup and Club World Cup titles Bayern won earlier this season.

They have an unassailable 25-point lead over second-placed Borussia Dortmund, who were runners-up last term, with 21 points to play for in Guardiola’s first season in charge.

“First of all the praise belongs to the coach and the team,” Bayern sports director Matthias Sammer told reporters as Guardiola celebrated with his players on the pitch.

“After the success of last season we continued to be very focused and we managed to win the league even earlier than last year. We have a concentration and a momentum right now which is unusual.”

Among those not present in the stadium to celebrate Bayern’s triumph was Uli Hoeness, the club’s former player, long-time manager and president, who was found guilty of tax evasion and sentenced to prison earlier this month.

“Of course we are so consistent in their Ruhr valley derby at home to Schalke 04. Dortmund coach Jürgen Klopp was quick to congratulate arch-rivals Bayern.

“It is very impressive how Bayern did it,” he told reporters. “You have to take off your hat to them. They were so consistent in their strong performances and they were hungry.”

Bayern Munich players celebrate with mock-up German soccer championships trophy after their German first division Bundesliga soccer match against Hertha Berlin in Berlin on 25 March, 2014. —Reuters

Williams wins as Sony Open locked down by bomb scare

Miami, 26 March—Defending champion Serena Williams closed in on a seventh Sony Open title with a 6-2, 6-2 quarter-final demolition of German Angelique Kerber on Tuesday, a win that came as the Crandon Park tennis facility was locked down due to a bomb scare.

Williams’ win sets up a semi-final rematch of last year’s final against Maria Sharapova, a five-time runner-up on the Miami hard courts, who advanced with an equally impressive 7-5, 6-1 win over eighth-seeded Czech Petra Kvitova.

While Williams was shutting down fifth seed Kerber, Miami Dade police were locking down the sprawling tennis complex after a suspicious package was found at the main entrance.

Four lane traffic was halted in both directions in front of the complex while spectators were prevented from entering or leaving the facility.

“Yeah, there was a bomb threat and a lock down but that’s all I know about it. Scary,” said Williams.

Sharapova and Williams, who have both achieved a career grand slam and held the number one ranking, were expected to develop into one of the great rivalries in women’s tennis.

But it has not quite worked out that way with Williams dominating the series, winning 15-of-17 career meetings including the last 14. —Reuters

Nadal brushes off bomb scare to cruise through in Miami

Miami, 26 March—Unruffled by a bomb scare that locked down the Sony Open late on Tuesday, world number one Rafa Nadal brushed past Italy’s Fabio Fognini 6-2, 6-2 to join Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer and Andy Murray in the last eight.

Officials announced a suspicious package had been left near the main entrance to the sprawling tennis facility which was quickly locked down, keeping thousands of spectators from entering or leaving while Miami Dade police investigated.

The all clear was given just before Nadal stepped onto the Crandon Park center court to face Fognini in the final match of the night.

The Spaniard showed no signs of being alarmed by the bomb scare as he completed the win in 62 minutes.

“Everyday I have to try to find my rhythm, try to think about myself, what I have to do well, so I just try to be focused on what I really need to do to play well,” said Nadal.

Then the opponent is free to do whatever. Tonight was not an easy match for him, for the conditions that I told you before. So it was a little bit strange, but in general, I think I was very focused and solid with my serve.”

Nadal’s next opponent is Canadian Milos Raonic, who beat Benjamin Becker 6-3, 6-4.

“He’s a very dangerous opponent,” added the Spaniard. —Reuters