Chinese patrol ship Haixun 01 is in new search area

Chinese rescue ship Donghaijia 101 heads to the waters where Australia spotted floating objects that might be related to the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 in the south Indian Ocean, on 27 March, 2014. —Xinhua

1. An investigation commission has been formed with the following personnel to investigate and take action against those who destroyed the residences and garages hired by the Malteser International aid organization and the UN during riots on 26 and 27 March in Sitway, Rakhine State.

    (a) Maj-Gen Maung Maung Ohn Chairman Deputy Minister

    (b) U Hla Thein State Advocate-General 

    (c) Police Brig-Gen Nay Win Commander

    (d) U Sit Aye Leader

    (e) Dr Kyaw Yin Hlaing Secretary

2. Following are the duties of the investigation commission.

    (a) To expose those who led and were involved in the riots that broke out on 26 and 27 March.

How do you cope with the hot weather?

As the daytime temperature in Nay Pyi Taw has been stuck at 40 degrees in the last few days and experts have warned of a high UV Index, we have asked residents here how they protect themselves and cope with the heat. Continued on page 8.
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets with Professor of Stanford Graduate School of Business

**NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—**Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament) and Pyithu Hluttaw (People’s Parliament) Thura U Shwe Mann welcomed the MBA students led by Professor Mr. Edward Paul Lazear of Stanford Graduate School of Business in the US at the hall of the Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday morning.

Also present at the call were the chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Public Account Committee and members of the Pyithu Hluttaw Commission and officials from the Hluttaw Office.

**Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann receives Professor Mr. Edward Paul Lazear at the Graduate School of Business of Stanford University in the US.—MNA**

Union Ministers clarify Myanmar’s reform processes to students from Stanford Graduate School of Business

**NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—**Union Minister U Soe Thane and party held discussions on Myanmar’s political, economic and reform processes with the MBA students led by Professor Mr. Edward Paul Lazear of Stanford Graduate School of Business from the United States at the Ministry of President Office in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

Union Ministers U Soe Thane, Dr Daw Khin San Yi and Dr Kan Zaw, Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin, Deputy Minister U Ye Htut and Dr Daw Khaing Khaing Soe from Ministry of Immigration and Population replied to the queries on successes and challenges of Myanmar’s reform processes, nationalization and role of defence services, economic development potential, rule of law and impact on foreign investment, rural development, peace-making processes, prospects for cooperation in education sector and Myanmar’s international relations raised by the students.

**Union Minister U Soe Thane holds discussions with the MBA students of Stanford Graduate School of Business from the United States.—MNA**

NRC channel extends its programme schedule

**NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—**Myanmar Radio and Television broadcast Kayah, Sakaw Kayin, West Poe Kayin, East Poe Kayin, Chin (Laizao), Chin (Cho), Mon, Rakhine, Shan, Wa and Kachin languages through NRC channel from 6 am to 2 pm for the first round and from 2.30 pm to 11 pm for the second round from 1 February to 31 March.

With the extended programme schedule, NRC channel broadcasts Kayah language from 6 am to 8 pm, Sakaw Kayin from 8 am to 9 am, West Poe Kayin from 9 am to 10 am, East Poe Kayin from 10 am to 11 am, Chin (Laizao) from 11 am to 12 noon, Chin (Cho) from 12 noon to 1 pm, Mon from 1 pm to 3 pm, Rakhine from 3 pm to 5 pm, Shan from 5 pm to 7 pm, Wa from 7 pm to 9 pm and Kachin from 9 pm to 11 pm.—MNA

Myanmar prepares to host 24th ASEAN Summit, related meetings

**NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—**Accommodation and Reception Subcommittee held a work coordination meeting on 24th ASEAN Summit and related meetings at Ministry of Hotels and Tourism in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

Speaking at the meeting, Union Minister U Htay Aung called for making necessary preparations before 15 April for the heads of state/government of ASEAN countries. He continued that priority should be given for security measures, adding to install quality security equipments and cooperate with security personnel.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Kan Chan and officials from Protocol Department, ASEAN Affairs Department and Myanmar Police Force took part in the discussions.

**Work coordination meeting on 24th ASEAN Summit and related meetings in progress.—MNA**

Slight earthquake jolts inside Myanmar

**NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—**A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.1 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about 26 miles North of Khamti) about 300 miles North-Northwest of Mandalay seismological observatory was recorded at 9 hrs 39 min 53 sec M.S.T on Friday, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA

Myanmar-Thai Dawei SEZ Implementation Task Force continues 7th meeting

**NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—**Myanmar-Thai Dawei SEZ Implementation Task Force to implement Dawei special economic zone and related projects held the second day of its 7th meeting at the hall of the Ministry of Transport on Friday.

They discussed process of maintenance by Italian-Thai Co. Ltd and schedules for implementation of Dawei SEZ and its related projects.

The government signed the agreement with Italian-Thai Co. Ltd for implementation of the project.

**Myanmar-Thai Dawei SEZ Implementation Task Force Union Minister U Htay Aye Myint, Chairman of Dawei SEZ Management Committee Deputy Minister U Han Sein and officials attended the meeting.—MNA**
President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo together with MBA students led by Professor Mr. Edward Paul Lazear at Stanford Graduate School of Business in the US.—MNA

President U Thein Sein meets with Professor of Stanford Graduate School of Business

At the meeting, they discussed the plan of the British Council to be implemented for providing English proficiency course to teachers of English subject in Myanmar, further cooperation in culture and education sectors between Myanmar and Britain, and closer cooperation for development of Myanmar’s education sector.

Also present at the call were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein and Dr Daw Khin San Yi, and officials of the British Council.—MNA

British Council to train teachers of English subject

At 11 am on Friday, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received British Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. AndrewPatrick and party at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here.

Also present at the meeting were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein and Dr Daw Khin San Yi, and officials of the British Council.

British Council to train teachers of English subject

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Nay Pyi Taw, 28 March—President U Thein Sein welcomed the MBA students led by Professor Mr. Edward Paul Lazear at the Stanford Graduate School of Business in the US.—MNA

General Hla Htay Win inspection

General Hla Htay Win inspected the riot-affected areas in the Rakhine State, on Friday morning.

In the evening, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin, Rakhine State Hluttaw Speaker U Hein Lin, responsible persons from the political parties, the Head of the State Religious Affairs Department and town’s elders took advice on recent incidents from the monks led by the Maniyadana Monastery Sayadaw in Sittway Township at Rakhine State Parliament Hall.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Nay Pyi Taw Notification No. (10/2014) 13th Waning of Tabuang, 1375 ME (28th March, 2014)

Mon Democratic Party allowed to change as Mon National Party

Mon Democratic Party registered as a political party under the Article 9 of Political Parties Registration Law submitted its application to change its name as Mon National Party to the Union Election Commission.

It is hereby announced that UEC allowed Mon Democratic Party to change its name as Mon National Party in accord with the law as of 28 March.

By order,

(Dr Daw Myint Kyi)
Member
Union Election Commission

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Union Election Commission
**Workshop on public affairs accountability held**

Hinthada, 28 March—A workshop on public affairs accountability was held at Hon San Si Hall in Hinthada. Ayeyawady Region, on Wednesday.

A total of 200 representatives from social organizations and Ayeyawady Region Government were present at the workshop.

They submitted papers on solving farmlands problems, education matters, human rights issue, development of massive women, youth affairs and employers’ rights.

On the first day of the workshop, district/township administrators and departmental heads answered 60 various questions for development of six townships in the district.

The second day continued on Thursday. Thihu (Laymyethna)

**Elderly health care programme for older persons**

**NAY PYI TAW.** 28 March—The World TB Day was observed at Mingala Kandaw Hall in Pyinmana of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 26 March.

Head of Nay Pyi Taw Health Department Dr Tun Myint made a speech. Pyinmana General Hospital (200-bed) Medical Superintendent Dr Kyaw Myint read the message sent by the Union Minister for Health.

Chairperson of Nay Pyi Taw Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw Aye Aye San and officials viewed round documentary photos on combating TB disease.—Shwe Kokko

**Pyinmana holds World TB Day**

**Four human trafficked victims rescued**

Tachilek, 28 March—Police Lt-Col Sukanyaphumarin of Chiang Rai District Immigration Bureau of Thailand and party handed over four trafficked girls to the officials from Myanmar at Tachilek-Mae Sai friendship bridge No.1.

Thazi, 28 March—Association of Human Rights Defender and Promoters (HRDP) staged a workshop on human rights at Soe San Cinema in Ward 5 of Thazi, Mandalay Region.

**Illegal crude oil barrels seized in Kalay**

Kalay, 28 March—Authorities raided the house in Taungphila Ward of Kalay, Sagaing Region, on 23 March, and seized illegal crude oil, according to the Kalay Police Station.

Under the instruction of Kalay District Police Force Commander, township police officials together with witnesses searched the house of U Khin Ouk in Taungphila Ward of Kalay.

They found 76 barrels of crude oil worth K 16,780,800 in the residence. Kalay Police Station opened a file of lawsuit over the crude oil under section 23 of Oil Act.

**Human rights workshop held in Thazi**

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**Telenor explains future telephone services**

Meiktila, 28 March—U Thein Tun Hla, in-charge of Telenor Myanmar Co made a clarification at the hall of General Administration Department in Meiktila on 24 March.

He said that Telenor SIM cards will be sold at K 1500 per card as of October 2014 to satisfy the demand. Call bill will be reduced a half from original charge. Its SIM cards can be used at any handset.

The company will build eight towers in Meiktila not to be difficulty in telephone access.

The clarification was attended by administrators and local people from 14 wards of Meiktila.—NLM-018

**2332 acres of confiscated farmlands handed over to owners**

Mohnyin, 28 March—A ceremony to hand over the farmlands confiscated for 20 years to the owners was held at Seinle Yadana Hall in Mohnyin on 26 March.

After Deputy Commissioner U Aung Soe Moe of the district General Administration Department, Commander of No 904 Artillery Control Command Brig-Gen Thet Lwin handed over documents on 2332 acres of farmlands confiscated by eight regiments and units to the local farmers through Township Administrator U Kyaw Swa Aung.

**Nurses and health staff provide health care to older persons under Elderly Health Care Programme in Mohnyin.**

Mohnyin, 28 March—Mohnyin District People’s Hospital gives elderly health care free of charge to the aged of above 60 years every Wednesday as of 8 January.

“At first, we did not get any information about it. We thank the hospital officials for their arrangements and elderly health care to the aged free of charge,” said Daw Khin Nyunt of 83 years old.

“Most of the older persons cannot receive medical treatment themselves from the hospital. So their offspring take them to the hospital. But I am in good condition so I go to the hospital by bicycle. It is the best if the hospital can inform older persons from far distance about elderly health care,” said U Ba Shein of 80 years old from East Su Ward in Mohnyin.—NLM-001

**Human rights issue, development of massive women, youth affairs and employers’ rights.**

Workshop on public affairs accountability was held at Hon San Si Hall in Hinthada. Ayeyawady Region, on Wednesday.

A total of 200 representatives from social organizations and Ayeyawady Region Government were present at the workshop.

They submitted papers on solving farmlands problems, education matters, human rights issue, development of massive women, youth affairs and employers’ rights.

On the first day of the workshop, district/township administrators and departmental heads answered 60 various questions for development of six townships in the district.

The second day continued on Thursday. Thihu (Laymyethna)
Brazil’s President loses support but on track to win re-election

RIO DE JANEIRO, 28 March — Popular support for Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff has faltered ahead of the 5 October presidential election, a poll showed on Thursday, but the leftist leader remains favored to win a second term.

The drop in support, which led to a sharp rally in Brazilian stocks and boosted the country’s currency on Thursday, reflects the challenges that Rousseff must overcome to win re-election.

“It shows that 2014 is going to be a hard year for the government,” said Rafael Corzete, a political analyst with Tendencias, a consultancy in São Paulo. “All these negative issues are hurting her image as a candidate.”

Although Rousseff and her ruling Workers’ Party still enjoy widespread support because of economic gains made during the administration of former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, her mentor, and Rousseff is currently presiding over the fourth year of lackluster growth in Latin America’s largest economy.

Price increases and a lack of investment in the country’s public services led to mass nationwide demonstrations last year that have caused many voters to question the Workers’ Party’s 12-year grip on the presidency. Some voters are also critical of the billions of dollars worth of public funds that have been spent on 12 stadiums for the 2014 soccer World Cup, which kicks off in São Paulo 12 June.—Reuters

S Korea, Japan, US to hold defence talks in mid-April

SEOUL, 28 March — High-ranking military officials between South Korea, Japan and the United States will hold trilateral talks in Washington next month to discuss defence coordination against nuclear and missile threats from the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Army Col Wi Wong-seop, vice spokesman at the South Korean Defence Ministry, told a routine press briefing that the sixth round of the Defence Tri-lateral Talks among the three allies will be held for two days from 17 April in Washington DC. Wi said during the annual security cooperation dialogue, delegations from the three allies will discuss how to cooperate in the DPKR’s nuclear and missile threats as well as transnational nonmilitary threats such as humanitarian and disaster relief.

The defence dialogue was launched in 2008 to let deputy defence minister-level officials from the three nations talk about ways to coordinate in security issues. The sixth round came as a follow-up action to the trilateral summit between South Korean President Park Geun-hye and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe under the arbi- tration of US President Bar-ack Obama.

During the summit held on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit in the Netherlands earlier this week, the three heads of state agreed to hold tripar- tite talks among top nuclear envoys who represent the long-suspended six-party talks, stressing the need for the senior-level defence dia- logue.—Xinhua

Turkey calls Syria security leak ‘villainous,’ blocks YouTube

ISTANBUL, 28 March — Turkish Prime Min- ister Tayipp Erdogan on Thursday denounced as “villainous” the leaking of a recording of top security officials discussing possi- ble military action in Syria to the video-sharing site YouTube. Turkish authorities ordered the shutdown of the site.

Erdogan’s foreign minister Ahmet Davuto- glu called the posting a “declaration of war,” an apparent reference to an escalating power strug- gle between Erdogan and rivals. The anonymous posting was an audio file with photographs of the officials involved.

It followed similar re- leases on social media in recent weeks that Erdogan has cast as a plot by his po- litical enemies, particular- ly a Turkish Islamic cleric based in the United States, to unseat him ahead of 30 March elections.

The posting took the campaign to a higher level, impinging on a highly sen- sitive top-level meeting of security officials.

“They even leaked a national security meeting,” Erdogan said at a campaign rally. “This is villainous, this is dishonesty ... Who are you serving by doing audio surveillance of such an important meeting?”

Reuters could not verify the authenticity of the recording.

The account posted this is dishonesty ... Who are you serving by doing audio surveillance of such an important meeting?”

Reuters could not verify the authenticity of the recording.

The account posted the recording on social media in recent weeks, according to a source familiar with the matter. Erdogan has denied the leakage of such information.

The leaked recording was made at the headquarters of the National Intelligence Organization (MIT) in Ankara, Turkey, on 14 March, the same day Erdogan met with his counterparts from Saudi Arabia and Qatar.

Turkey is a key ally of the US and the European Union in the fight against the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq. Erdogan has repeatedly called for military action against the group in Syria, but has faced strong opposition from Western powers.

Erdogan is expected to announce the appointment of a new chief of staff on Friday, following the resignation of his previous chief, Hakan Fidan, who was criticized for his handling of military operations in Syria.

The release of the audio clip comes amid growing tensions between Turkey and the US over the latter’s support for Syrian rebels, including those fighting the Islamic State group.

A Turkish soldier takes up position near the border with Syria, in the Turkish border town of Ceylanpinar, Sanliurfa province, on 8 Dec, 2012.—Reuters

Turkish authorities said they had taken “imprudent and inappropriate mea- sures” to impose a block on YouTube, a week after they blocked access to mi- croblogging site Twitter. Erdogan has been the target of a stream of anonymous internet post- ings suggesting his in- volvement in corruption.

He denies the allegations and accuses a former ally, Islamic cleric Fethullah Gulen, of unleashing a campaign to undermine him before Sunday’s elec- tions.

Reuters
Team to re-enter New Mexico nuclear waste site after radiation leak

Santa Fe, 28 March — An investigative team plans to re-enter an underground nuclear waste site in New Mexico next week for the first time since an accidental release of unsafe levels of radiation there last month, a US Energy Department official said Thursday.

US authorities now say that 21 workers at the Carlsbad-area “waste isolation pilot project” (WIPP) were exposed to radiation after the accidental leak from the site, which stores waste from US nuclear labs and weapons production facilities. Eight workers will test air for contamination as they seek to make their way into an ancient salt formation half a mile below ground where radioactive waste is stored, Energy Department spokesman Bradley Bugger said in a statement.

The team will wear protective clothing and use self-contained breathing devices in a mission designed to determine the cause of the 14 February accident. Testing of surface air in and around the Energy Department complex has shown elevated levels of radiation since the mishap, but those have steadily decreased. None reached concentrations considered harmful to human health or the environment, Bugger said. He added that four additional employees at the facility in the Chihuahuan Desert have tested positive for contamination based on more stringent testing protocols. That brings to 21 the number of workers who inhaled or ingested particles emitted from the decay of radioisotopes like plutonium while working above ground on 14 February or the following day.

Fiji announces date for general election

Suva, 28 March — Fiji’s 2014 general election will be held on 17 Sept, the government announced on Friday.

The one-day election will be a paid public holiday, said Aiway Sayed-Khaiyum, the country’s attorney general and minister responsible for elections, at a press conference here.

Acting permanent secretary for justice Mohammed Sameen will resign on Monday to take up the role of secretary for elections, he added. Fijian Prime Minister Voreqe Bainimarama, who came to power after the 2006 coup, has resigned as commander of the country’s military forces and said he will form a political party to contest the upcoming general election.

Connecticut becomes first state to pass $10.10 minimum wage

Milford, (Connecticut) 28 March — Connecticut Governor Daniel Malloy on Thursday signed into law a measure that will phase in the highest minimum wage of any US state, in line with a push by Democrats nationwide to raise the entry-level wage.

The bill, which was approved by state legislators a day earlier, will raise the state’s minimum hourly rate to $10.10, a figure that matches what US President Barack Obama and three other New England governors: Deval Patrick of Massachusetts, Peter Shumlin of Vermont and Lincoln Chafee of Rhode Island. All are Democrats who have pushed to raise the minimum wage in their states.

New Britain, located in the centre of the state, has been hard hit by the economic downturn with the household median income at about $35,000, compared with the state-wide median of $66,000. “This is just a step in moving people in the right direction,” Malloy said in signing the bill. “We will be lifting people out of poverty in the state of Connecticut. Increasing the minimum wage is not just good for workers, it’s also good for business,” he added.

Connecticut’s Speaker of the House Brendan Sharkey, also a Democrat, said: “Raising the minimum wage helps people who need it most, is good for the economy and is the right thing to do.”

State House Republican spokesman Patrick O’Neil said his party opposed the measure because it does not believe the bill will help create jobs in a state with an unemployment rate of 7.2 percent, above the national average.

“This is just politics in an election year and isn’t going to lift anyone out of poverty,” O’Neil said.

Denmark to send F-16 fighters to patrol Baltic airspace

Copenhagen, 28 March — The Danish government has decided to send a group of F-16 fighters to patrol the airspace over the Baltic nations Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, according to Copenhagen Post on Thursday.

There would be six planes in the group, four of which would be active and two would remain ground-based in reserve, the local newspaper said. The Baltic countries reportedly feel threatened by Russia due to the crisis in Ukraine, and the Danish cabinet met on Thursday to discuss a plan to dispatch the fighters in May.

Belarus not to recall its ambassador from Ukraine

Minsk, 28 March — Belarus is not going to recall its ambassador from Ukraine, Belarusian Foreign Ministry spokesman Dmitry Mironchuk told local media here on Thursday.

Belarus will not recall its ambassador from Ukraine after Kiev recalled its ambassador from Belarus for consultations, Mironchuk said, adding “The Belarusian side does not see the need for similar steps.”

The official stressed that Minsk holds the view that “the ambassadorial level is the optimal level of interaction between the two neighbouring countries.”

On 24 March, Ukraine recalled its ambassador in Belarus and sent a diplomatic note to Belarus after a statement made by Belarussian President Alexander Lukashenko said Belarus had recognized de facto that Crimea was a part of Russia.

Hungary opposed to economic sanctions against Russia

Budapest, 28 March — Hungary is against the European Union imposing a round of economic sanctions on Russia over its intervention in Ukraine, Prime Minister Viktor Orban was quoted as saying in an interview published on Friday.

The central European country of 10 million people relies on Russia for about 80 percent of its natural gas needs and recently signed a 10 billion euro deal with Moscow for Rosatom to expand Hungary’s Paks nuclear plant, a major power generator.

Russia is also Hungry’s largest trading partner outside the European Union, with exports worth 2.55 billion euros in 2013. “Economic sanctions are in the third round and it would be fortunate to avoid these because it is not in the interests of either Europe, or much less Hungary,” Orban was quoted as saying by the business daily Vilagyleg az.

People pray for the passengers aboard the missing Malaysia Airlines MH370 in front of a mall in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 27 March, 2014. —Xinhua

Reuters
**GSK recalls weight-loss drug Alli in US on tampering concerns**

The GlaxoSmithKline logo is seen at the entrance of a building in Luxembourg, on 10 Sept, 2013.—Reuters

**London**, 28 March — GlaxoSmithKline is recalling all supplies of its non-prescription weight-loss drug Alli in the United States and Puerto Rico after customers reported finding other pills and tablets in some bottles. The news is a fresh blow for a product once touted as a potential blockbuster but which has had disappointing sales over the years —-aggrated, in part, by a separate supply problem two years ago. The British group said it believed that some US bottles of Alli might not contain authentic product, adding that it was working with the US Food and Drug Administration on the retailer-level recall.

News that bottles had been tampered with first emerged on Wednesday. GSK has received inquiries from consumers in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina and Texas about 20 bottles containing tablets and capsules that were not Alli.

The treatment is also sold in Europe but the company said no problems had been detected there and European sales were not affected by the US recall.

GSK said it was not immediately clear how the bottles had been tampered with or where in the supply chain the problem had occurred. “The investigation is ongoing. We’ve asked people to return bottles to us, so we can examine them very closely … we don’t have any theories at this point,” a company spokeswoman said.

Shoppers said they had found a range of tablets and capsules of various shapes and colours in purchased Alli containers. The authentic drug is a turquoise-blue capsule. Some bottles inside the outer carton were also missing labeling and had tamper-evident seals that were not genuine.

**As US momentum stocks take beating, some sectors benefit**

**New York**, 28 March — Investors in some of the past year’s hottest US stocks have been given a savage lesson in the risks of so-called “momentum trading.”

A group of 24 such companies compiled by Credit Suisse has lost $36 billion in market value, or almost 19 percent, so far in March. One of them, streaming video service Netflix (NFLX.O), has declined on 15 of the last 17 trading days, while another, online travel service Priceline (PCLN.O), is on pace to for its worst month in nearly two years, while Twitter (TWTR.N) sank below its November first-day closing price for the first time.

The sell off may well have further to go, investors warn. For one thing, the initial public offering market looks vulnerable after King Digital Entertainment (KING.N), maker of the popular Candy Crush online game, cratered on its debut, losing 15 percent in its first day of trade on Wednesday, and another 2.7 percent on Thursday. If such raisings get pulled or pared back it will likely hurt the banks’ underwrit- ings fees.

But while it all stands as a warning to those who joined crowded trades in richly priced stocks, it is good news for short sellers who are prepared to bet against what they see as over-valued stocks, and for investors who spend their time searching for unrecognized gems trading at bargain-basement levels.

It also indicates that the investing world may be returning to more normal rules, that includes sharper assessments of the risk in different sectors, now that the Federal Reserve’s bond-buying stimulus program is being reduced and there is less “easy money” sloshing around.

**China premier says policies ready to counter economic volatility**

**Beijing**, 28 March — China has the policy tools in store to support the economy this year and will roll out support measures, Premier Li Keqiang was quoted as saying, to address recent concerns over faltering growth.

The remarks came amid heightened concerns over the world’s second-largest economy after recent weak economic data and mounting financial risks.

In a speech to a meeting in China’s northeast made on Wednesday and reported by the Xinhua news agency early on Friday, Li also said the government would roll out targeted measures step by step to aid the economy.

“We have policies in store to counter economic volatility this year,” Li said.

The central government will also roll out targeted measures step by step to boost the economy, in line with market expecta- tions that Beijing would take actions to arrest the early signs of a slowing economy, whose perform- ance in the first quarter is set to be the weakest in five years.

“We will launch relevant and forceful measures according to what we have planned in our government work report,” he said.

China will also speed up construction of basic infrastructure, such as railways, highways and water conservation projects in the central and western prov- inces, Li said.—Reuters

**Flu vaccines significantly cut children’s risk of intensive care admission**

**Washington**, 28 March — Flu vaccines may help cut a child’s risk of flu-related intensive care hospitalization by 74 percent, revealed a study released Thursday by the US Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The study, published in the Journal of Infectious Diseases, is the first to es- timate vaccine effectiveness against flu admissions to pediatric intensive care units, the CDC said.

“These study results underscore the importance of an annual flu vaccina- tion, which can keep your child from ending up in the intensive care unit,” Alycia Fry, a medical officer in CDC’s Influenza Division, stated in a statement.

“It is extremely impor- tant that all children, espe- cially children at high risk of flu complications, are protected from what can be a life-threatening illness,” Fry said.

According to the CDC, children younger than five years and children of any age with certain chronic medical conditions like asthma, diabetes or de- velopmental delays, are at high risk of serious flu complications.

Fry’s team analyzed the medical records of 216 children aged six months through 17 years admitted to 27 pediatric intensive care units in the United States during the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 flu seasons.

They found that flu vaccination reduced a child’s risk of ending up in the pediatric intensive care unit for flu by an estimated 74 percent.—Xinhua

**Britain, Germany say EU reform must be fair to non-euro members**

**London**, 28 March — The finance ministers of Britain and Germany said on Thursday reform of the European Union needs to guarantee fairness for its countries that do not use the euro currency. In a jointly authored editorial in the Financial Times, Britain’s George Osborne and Germany’s Wolfgang Schae- ubel said it was important that EU countries outside the euro zone — like Britain — are not disadvan- taged by deeper integration of the currency union.

“Future EU reform and treaty change must include reform of the governance framework to put euro area integration on a sound legal basis, and guarantee fairness for those EU countries inside the single market but outside the single curren- cy,” they said. Germany’s support for Osborne comes as his Conservative Party tries to placate its eurosceptic factions and voters defecting to the anti-EU UK Independence Party.

British Prime Minister David Cameron has promised to negotiate sweeping reforms to the EU and, if re-elected next year, to hold a referendum by 2017 on whether Britain should stay in it. Britain joined the EU in 1973, but like Den- mark and Sweden, it kept its national currency and monetary policy when the euro launched in 1999. —Reuters

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (L) walks next to a deleg- ate as he meets participants of the China Development Forum inside the Great Hall of the People in Beijing on 24 March, 2014.—Reuters

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“It is extremely important that all children, especially children at high risk of flu complications, are protected from what can be a life-threatening illness,” Fry said.

According to the CDC, children younger than five years and children of any age with certain chronic medical conditions like asthma, diabetes or developmental delays, are at high risk of serious flu complications.

Fry’s team analyzed the medical records of 216 children aged six months through 17 years admitted to 27 pediatric intensive care units in the United States during the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 flu seasons.

They found that flu vaccination reduced a child’s risk of ending up in the pediatric intensive care unit for flu by an estimated 74 percent.—Xinhua
The importance of speaking English

By Thet Ko Ko

From kindergarten to college and even to graduate school, we have studied English, the global language, both reading and writing though we are not proficient in listening and speaking.

Normally, we begin to learn the ABC around three or four and then grammar and patterns in our curricular textbooks during the academic period of at least 12 years. But, are we really familiar with it?

Of course we need to value and cherish our mother tongues. It is unarguable that the extinction of a language is a great loss, with fewer people speaking their ancestors' language, but knowing foreign languages on the other hand broadens our horizons.

English, we have learnt for more than a decade at school, and so it is quite reasonable to leap to the conclusion that we are familiar with it to some extent. Unfortunately, when it comes to making use of the English language, the reverse is true for most of us. This is partly because of parrot fashion teaching and learning methods entrenched in our schools and even in colleges.

What's worse in Myanmar's education sector is even post-graduate and research students hire Myanmar-English translators, but do not use their own brains, to write up and submit their theses for master and doctorate degrees. Internationally, those doing post-graduate degrees are supposed to have a certain level of English proficiency and be able to write theses in English by themselves.

For most of us, we need not to master English because it is not the language we speak on a daily basis though it is widely considered as the second language here. Nonetheless with more and more foreign investors coming to our country, it has become important that we have a workable degree of English language proficiency.

Language training centres have been in Yangon and Mandalay ever since. But in Myanmar's education system, the core values lie in quantity and still not in quality. Today, degrees can be bought without having practical knowledge of a particular subject and the result is clear and obvious—a severe shortage of human resources.

Speaking English well has nothing to do with anti-nationalism or anti-patriotism, it is a medium, a tool to communicate.

How do you cope with the hot weather?

(from page 1)

Tin Maung Than, 59, Online Editor

I rarely go out in the daytime and I exercise in the evening so I can sleep better. Luckily I have air con. Last year around this time it was not so hot.

Hnin Ei Phyu, 22, Reporter

It is too hot for me and I find it difficult to fall asleep. I drink lots of coconut juice, and always wear Thanaka. And I use an umbrella when I go outside.

Aung Kyaw Kyaw, 27, Private School Teacher

I always carry a bottle of water, but I am still losing energy. My students cannot concentrate in this heat, they just fan themselves, so it is difficult to control my class.

Daw Khin Nwe, 49, Tailor

I take a shower until I feel better and also wear Thanaka. At night, I open all windows to cool down my room before I go to bed. I can sleep well because the temperature is down after 10 pm.

Calm returns to Sittway after two days of mob talks

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March — U Win Myaing, leader of information team of Rakhine State Government, assured that calm returned to Sittway on Friday.

He said that seven among foreigners who work for INGOs in Sittway flew back to Yangon on Thursday. Plane tickets to Yangon have been arranged for 37 foreigners who have been accommodated at Police Hall in Sittway and 17 in Sittway Hotel, 39 national servants at Police Hall and 47 at Sittway Hotel in order to leave Sittway on Friday.

Despite increased security measures following the incidents in which residences of foreigners who work for INGOs, offices and warehouses in Sittway, Rakhine State on Wednesday, mob attacks happened again the following day.

Rakhine State Emergency Management Committee and police members managed to break up the mobs who got involved in 25 acts of violence on Thursday, firing five warning shots. While taking warning shots, a shot hit Ma Nyo Thein May, 11, daughter of U Tin Maung of Yawgyitaung ward. She was pronounced dead at about 4:50 p.m. while receiving treatment at people's hospital in Sittway.

During the incident, Daw Win May Thein, 39, daughter of U Aung Hla Sen of the same ward sustained a minor gunshot wound.

During mob attacks, numbering 35, on Wednesday and Thursday, 29 houses, seven warehouses and two vehicles were destroyed.

Regarding the incidents that damaged public security and the rule of law in Sittway, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun said he will lead the Sittway-based emergency management committee that is tasked with restoring peace and stability of Rakhine State and the rule of law.

Security forces have been stationed, taking security measures at Sittway Hotel and in the neighborhood of offices of UNICEF, AZG and IRC and WFP warehouse and a Bangladeshi consulate in Sittway.
**LOCAL NEWS**

**Highway bus terminal to put into service in Meiktila**

Mandalay, 28 March—A highway bus terminal is being constructed near Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Aungzeyer Ward in Meiktila, Mandalay Region. The construction site is situated in the old place of Maha Beidin cemetery.

Officials invited tenders to construct the terminal in November 2013. Of three companies in line with the rules, Zeyer Shwe Toe Co. Ltd won tender with K 2,640 million.

Under the agreement, Zeyer Shwe Toe Co. Ltd must construct the designated buildings in the compound of the terminal within six months. The construction has met completion of 30% so far. The tender winner company has already sold two buildings for K 500 million each to two companies in the compound of the terminal. Meiktila dwellers are hoping to complete the construction of the terminal to have easy access to transportation.—NLM-018

**K 3 million of village fund handed over to two villages in Tatkon**

Tatkon, 28 March—Union Minister for Live-stock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Ohn Myint presented K 3 million to the village administrator at a ceremony to hand over cash assistance for the fund of Aungmyethazan Village, Tatkon Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 26 March.

The Union minister and CP Co Representative Mr. Carnate made opening speeches. The Union minister posed for a documentary photo with locals and distributed milk bottles to them.

Then, Director-General U Khin Maung Maung of Fisheries Department and Deputy Director-General Dr Khin Zaw of Live-stock, Fisheries and Rural Development presented K 3 million for the fund of Paytaw Village in Tatkon Township.—Tatkon Township IPRD

**Hualngo Chin ethnic to organize Kutpui festival on 8-9 April**

Kalay, 28 March—The Kutpui festival of Hualngo ethnic of Chin national will be held at the sports ground in Kalay Township, Sagaing Region, on 8 and 9 April. Not to fade out the culture of Hualngo Chin ethnic, the Hualngo Chin literature and culture committee will organize the festival on a grand scale.

The committee formed for 46 years has never organized any cultural festival.—NLM-003

**Talks on Publication of Trademark Notice at UMFCCI on 5 April**

Yangon, 28 March—Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) has been organizing monthly talks for development of human resources.

U Than Maung (Sit-tway) will give talks on Publication of Trademark Notice at the hall of UMFCCI Office Tower on Minye Kyawwaa Street in Lanmadaw Township in Yangon at 2 pm on 5 April (Saturday) and any enthusiast can attend the talks.

Aung Thura

**Teachers under training for Buddhology Test**

Tatkon, 28 March—Lectures on Buddhological knowledge were provided to students at MyoU Pariyatti Monastery in Myawady Ward of Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

The students will sit for the Buddhology Test 2014 from 8 am to noon on 23 March.

Five instructors are training 61 students at sixth, seventh and eighth standards. The training period lasts up to 10 April.

Tatkon Township IPRD

**Teachers participate in capability enhancement workshop**

Mandalay, 28 March—Only when the teachers have qualified, can they teach pupils to become good and able persons of the nation, said Chief Minister U Ye Myint of Mandalay Region at opening of the capability enhancement workshop for basic education teachers held at Mandalay Education College in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay on Wednesday.

In building a modern and developed nation, it needs highly-qualified citizens, and teachers play a key role in nurturing the basic education students, he added.

He stressed the need for teachers to participate in the workshop for uplifting their capabilities.

At the workshop, Aungmyethazan Township Education Officer U Nyan Win submitted a paper on enhancement of qualification of teachers, Chanayethazan Township Education Officer Dr Kyaw Lwin, promotion of teaching and learning capability and Chanmyathazi Township Education Officer U Tin Myint development of teachers’ status.

It was attended by Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing and officials including teachers totalling 397.

Tin Maung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)
BANGKOK, 28 March -- Grenades were thrown at the offices of Thailand’s anti-corruption agency, which has summoned the prime minister to answer charges of dereliction of duty next week, as protesters trying to oust her prepared for a big weekend rally.

Nobody was injured in the overnight attack, the second on the agency’s offices this week, police said on Friday. It was not clear who threw the grenades. Supporters of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra have been demonstrating at the building this week.

The National Anti-Corruption Commission is examining the alleged failure of Yingluck to stop corruption and stem huge losses in a government rice-buying programme.

It is widely expected to recommend her impeachment by the Senate. If the Senate takes up the case, Yingluck will have to step aside, with a deputy prime minister expected to take over. If she is found guilty by the Senate, she has to step down.

Her supporters, who have been restrained during five months of anti-government protests in the capital, are starting to mobilize and are planning their own big rally, or series of rallies, on 5 April.

Anti-government demonstrators resumed street protests on Monday after lying low for weeks. Their rally on Saturday is expected to draw up to 50,000 people Paradorn Pattanathabutr, a security adviser to the prime minister, told Reuters.

“We don’t expect any violence at the rally but provocateurs might try to stir trouble to discredit the government side,” Paradorn said.

The turmoil entered a fresh phase in November, when anti-government protesters took to the streets, with 23 people killed during the political violence over the following months. Reuters

US defence chief to host ASEAN ministerial meeting in Hawaii

WASHINGTON, 28 March -- US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel will convene the first US-hosted ministerial meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) next week, a Pentagon spokesman said on Thursday. Following the meeting, Hagel will travel to the Asia-Pacific region for visits with his counterparts in Japan, China and Mongolia, Defence Department Press Secretary John Kirby told reporters at a Pentagon press briefing.

The trip will be Hagel’s fourth official visit to the Asia-Pacific, a region of growing importance and importance, of US foreign policy and its defence strategy, the Press secretary said.—Xinhua

British govt orders probe into big energy companies

LONDON, 28 March -- Six British big energy suppliers will face a competition inquiry after the energy regulator Ofgem published its first competition assessment of energy market on Thursday.

The joint assessment, carried out by Ofgem, the Office of Fair Trading and the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA), identified weak competition between larger energy suppliers, “customer trust and engagement, and barriers to entry and expansion.”

Ofgem was proposing a reference to the CMA to investigate the energy market to ensure that there are no further barriers to effective competition.

“It’s right that there is a full investigation into whether the ‘Big Six’ are preventing effective competition in the UK energy market,” commented British Prime Minister David Cameron through his twitter account.—Xinhua

Syria refugee crisis poses major threat to Lebanese stability

GAZANFAR, 28 March — As Syrians flee the violence in their own country, the UN has warned of a potential crisis in Lebanon, where the country’s already fragile economy can ill-afford the influx of refugees.

The Syrian refugee crisis has now passed 1 million people, with close to half a million fleeing to Lebanon. The country has so far absorbed the largest proportion of Syrian refugees in proportion to its size as a country in the world today, at the fourth bloody year, Syrians are starting to secede and become a part of a new country, but the potential impact of further seceding from Ukraine, doesn’t bolster the Russian economy, the Press secretary said.

Several Western diplomats, however, have said Russia’s UN envoy led an aggressive lobbying campaign against the resolution in what they said showed how seriously Moscow took the UN vote condemning a referendum that led to the annexation of Crimea. —Reuters

Russia criticizes UN resolution condemning Crimea’s secession

WASHINGTON, 28 March — An influx of almost 1 million refugees from Syria into neighbouring Lebanon poses a serious threat to the already fragile country, but donor nations may not grasp the potential impact of further destabilization, a UN official said on Thursday.

“There is not a single country in the world today that is shouldering as much in proportion to its size as Lebanon,” said Ninette Kelley, regional representative for Lebanon for the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

“If this country is not bolstered, then the very real prospect of it collapsing and the conflict of Syria spreading full force to Lebanon becomes much more likely,” she said during a visit to Washington.

Last month, top UN officials said that as Syria’s grinding conflict enters its fourth bloody year, Syrians are set to replace Afghans as the world’s largest refugee population.

While hundreds of thousands of Syrians have also sought refuge in Jordan, Turkey and elsewhere, the largest concentration of Syrian refugees, closer to 1 million people, can now be found in Lebanon, increasing the population of the tiny country by about a quarter, the United Nations said.—Reuters

Refugees who fled the violence from the Syrian town of Flita, near Yabrud, stand outside their tents at the border town of Arsal, in the eastern Bekaa Valley on 20 March, 2014 file photo. — Reuters

Japan city hosts 1st int’l confab in Asia to promote “fair” trade

KUMAMOTO, 28 March — An international conference of “fair trade towns” opened with pre-events on Friday in the southwestern Japan city of Kumamoto — the first time the conference has taken place outside Europe — as campaigners look to spur the growth of ethical consumption movement in Asia. “This is an opportunity for us to discuss how to bridge the North-South divide, protect the environment, and how diverse the fair-trade movement has become recently,” said Shoko Akashi, who heads the steering committee in Kumamoto, at a Press conference.

Nearly 500 participants and volunteers from 20 countries are gathering for the annual International Fair Trade Towns Conference, which takes over the weekend after a series of related events on Friday, according to the local organizer.

Kumamoto became Asia’s first and only fair-trade town in 2011. To date, 1,444 towns in 24 countries have received the designation in the movement that began in Garstang, England, which was declared the first-ever fair trade town in 2000.

“The expectation is very high for Kumamoto to spread the movement in Asia,” Akashi said. “We hope everyone will get in touch with fair trade and take the chance to send a message of fair trade to the whole of Asia and indeed the nation of Japan and the world.”

Aside from the formal conference, producers from 12 developing countries are displaying their fair-trade products, managers of eco-friendly companies will hold their own conference and students will organize a forum, she added.

Kumamoto is “setting an example not only for Kumamoto people but for the nation of Japan and the whole of Asia and indeed for the whole of the world whose eyes are looking upon (the city),” said Bruce Crowther, founder of the International Fair Trade Towns Movement, from Garstang.—Kyodo News

A tank, believed to be Russian, drives outside a military base in Perevalnoye, near the Crimean city of Simferopol, on 27 March, 2014.—Reuters

Grenade attack on Thai anti-graft office ahead of PM hearing

BANGKOK, 28 March — Grenades were thrown at the offices of Thailand’s anti-corruption agency, which has summoned the prime minister to answer charges of dereliction of duty next week, as protesters trying to oust her prepared for a big weekend rally.

Nobody was injured in the overnight attack, the second on the agency’s offices this week, police said on Friday. It was not clear who threw the grenades. Supporters of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra have been demonstrating at the building this week.

The National Anti-Corruption Commission is examining the alleged failure of Yingluck to stop corruption and stem huge losses in a government rice-buying program.

It is widely expected to recommend her impeachment by the Senate. If the Senate takes up the case, Yingluck will have to step aside, with a deputy prime minister expected to take over. If she is found guilty by the Senate, she has to step down.

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The turmoil entered a fresh phase in November, when anti-government protesters took to the streets, with 23 people killed during the political violence over the following months. Reuters
**Swedish eye tracking technology firm Tobii plans IPO**

**STOCKHOLM, 28 March** — Swedish eye tracking technology firm Tobii, co-owned by chipmaker Inteli, is planning a stock market listing which could value the firm at around 2 billion crowns ($309 million), business daily Dagens Industri reported.

Tobii, which develops eye-controlled devices that can be used in computer interaction and in human behaviour analysis, was founded in 2001 and employs around 380, according to its website.

Among its owners it counts US chipmaker Intel and Investor AB, the investment company controlled by Sweden’s powerful Wallenberg family, as well as venture capital firm Northzone, which also owns a stake in music streaming service Spotify.

Citing sources, the paper said Tobii had been in touch with investment banks to appoint financial advisers ahead of a planned Stockholm listing during the second half of this year.

**Facebook to use satellites, drones to spread the Internet**

**SAN FRANCISCO, 28 March** — Facebook Inc is harnessing satellite, drone and other technology as part of an ambitious and costly effort to beam Internet connectivity to people in underdeveloped parts of the world.

The world’s No1 social network said on Thursday it had hired aerospace and communications experts from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Lab and its Ames Research Centre for the new “Connectivity Lab” project.

“Today, we’re sharing some details of the work Facebook’s Connectivity Lab is doing to build drones, satellites and lasers to deliver the internet to everyone,” Facebook Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg said in a post on Facebook. He gave few specifics and did not specify a time frame.

The move extends the social networking company’s Internet.org effort, aimed at connecting billions of people who do not currently have Internet access in places such as Africa and Asia. Facebook has been working with telecommunications carriers to make Internet access more available and affordable.

“We’re going to continue building these partnerships, but connecting the whole world will require inventing new technology too,” Zuckerberg said in his post. Facebook envisions fleets of solar-powered drones as well as low-earth orbit and geosynchronous satellites delivering Internet access to different regions of the world.—Reuters

**Chinese Baidu defeats US lawsuit over censored search results**

**NEW YORK, 28 March** — Chinese Internet company Baidu Inc on Thursday won the dismissal of a US lawsuit by pro-democracy activists who complained that Baidu illegally suppressed political speech on China’s most widely used Internet search engine.

There had been speculation that Twitter and other internet firms would try their hand at this sort of marketing, which has proven lucrative for Facebook.

Twitter expects the app-install advertisements to attract advertisers in the e-commerce and gaming industries, according to Bloomberg.

Twitter representatives were not immediately available to comment.—Reuters

**Russian-US crew makes belated arrival at space station**

**CAPE CANAVERAL (Florida), 28 March** — A Russian spacecraft carrying two Russian cosmonauts and a US astronaut made a belated arrival at the International Space Station on Thursday, returning the orbital outpost to full staff.

Russian cosmonauts Alexander Skvortsov and Oleg Artemyev and NASA astronaut Steven Swanson blasted off aboard a Russian Soyuz rocket two days ago from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan. They had expected to reach the station, a $100 billion research complex that flies about 250 miles above Earth, six hours later.

But about two hours after launch, the crew’s Soyuz capsule failed to fire its maneuvering engines as planned, forcing a delay to the next station docking opportunity on Thursday.

The cause of the skipped rocket firing remains under investigation, said NASA mission commentator Rob Navias.

Preliminary analysis shows the spacecraft was 1 degree out of alignment from its predicted orientation, triggering the Soyuz computers to automatically abort the engine burn, Navias said during a NASA Television broadcast of the docking. Since Tuesday’s mishap, the Soyuz successfully conducted the necessary engine firings to reach the station. “Better late than never,” said Navias as the Soyuz made its final approach to the outpost.

The crew’s prolonged journey ended at 7:53 pm EDT as the Soyuz slipped into a berthing port on the station’s Poisk module.

The arrival of Skvortsov, Artemyev and Swanson returns the station to a full six-member crew. The orbital outpost, a project that has run short-staffed since two other cosmonauts and a NASA astronaut returned to Earth on 11 March.

He also said there is a “strong argument” that the First Amendment immunizes search results from “most, if not all” kinds of civil liability and government regulation.

“Today, we’re sharing some details of the work Facebook’s Connectivity Lab is doing to build drones, satellites and lasers to deliver the internet to everyone,” Facebook Chief Executive Mark Zuckerberg said in a post on Facebook. He gave few specifics and did not specify a time frame.

The move extends the social networking company’s Internet.org effort, aimed at connecting billions of people who do not currently have Internet access in places such as Africa and Asia. Facebook has been working with telecommunications carriers to make Internet access more available and affordable.

“There’s no debate that the world will require inventing new technology too,” Zuckerberg said in his post. Facebook envisions fleets of solar-powered drones as well as low-earth orbit and geosynchronous satellites delivering Internet access to different regions of the world.—Reuters

**Twitter to launch mobile advertising product for apps**

**NEW YORK, 28 March** — Twitter Inc plans to release a mobile-advertising product in the next few weeks that will allow app-makers to encourage downloads of their software, Bloomberg reported citing people familiar with the matter. The format will lead users to the advertisers’ page in a mobile app store where they can download the software, Bloomberg said.

**People talk in front of a Baidu’s company logo at Baidu’s headquarters in Beijing on 16 Jan, 2014.**

**Russian-U.S. cosmonauts Alexander Skvortsov (L) and Oleg Artemyev (R) and U.S. astronaut Steven Swanson (C) wave as they board the Soyuz spacecraft before their launch at the Baikonur cosmodrome on 26 March, 2014.**

**Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg delivers remarks in an on-stage interview for the Atlantic Magazine in Washington, on 18 Sept, 2013.**
Thai legal expert urges constitutional compromise for effectual election

BANGKOK, 28 March — Thailand’s only way out of the prolonged political deadlock lies in a compromise reached by various sides to enable a valid general election, a Thai legal expert has told Xinhua.

Whatever the content of the compromise is, it must be under the framework of the constitution, legal advisor and political analyst Verapat Pariyawong insisted.

“If the compromise is for the caretaker government to resign and have a special unselected body of prime minister and cabinet, as anti-government protesters have pressed for, it will run counter to the constitution, Verapat said in an interview with Xinhua. He suggested a feasible compromise in which the Democrat Party, former major opposition that boycotted the 2 February election, agreed to contest the next election. Party to join any new election to be held.

The Democrats will “lose a lot of legitimacy” by boycotting an election for a second time, he added.

Following the Constitutional Court’s verdict last Friday which annulled the 2 February election, the Election Commission is obliged to organize a new election in all constituencies nationwide in a 60-day time in accordance with the constitution and electoral law.—Xinhua

Chinese doctors perform free cataract surgeries in Nepal’s rural communities

BAGMARSHI (Nepal), 28 March — A dedicated team of Chinese doctors from the China Chengdu Aidi Eye Hospital has been performing cataract operations free in Nepal’s rural areas with about 60 Nepalese already saved from becoming blind.

“I thought I would be blind for the rest of my life but thanks to the Chinese doctors, I can now see,” Durga Parsad Paudel, 80 years old, said with a smile as he proudly adjusted his new eyeglasses after his cataract was removed Thursday at the Keystore Hospital in Baharbesi, close to the Chinese border, 79 km north of Kathmandu.

Five years ago, Paudel could hardly see because of the cataract that was slowly enveloping his eyes. He was told that if the cataract is not removed, he will eventually become blind.

Paudel is just one of the estimated 60,000 Nepalese who might lose their sight due to cataract every year.

Many cases are actually preventable or treatable. Nearly half could be saved by a simple procedure that has become routine in many countries.—Xinhua

S Korea returns remains of 437 Chinese-Korean War soldiers

INCHEON, (South Korea), 28 March — South Korea on Friday handed over to China the remains of 437 Chinese volunteer soldiers killed in the 1950-53 Korean War.

A transfer ceremony was held on Friday morning at the Incheon International Airport, about 50 km west of the capital of Seoul, where remains and belongings of the fallen soldiers were handed over to a Chinese delegation.

Zou Ming, an official from the Chinese Civil Affairs Ministry, and Moon Sang-gyun, an official from the South Korean Defence Ministry, signed a transfer protocol.

The Chinese delegation paid homage to the flag-draped coffins before a Chinese honour guard escorted them to a plane bound for Shenyang, capital of northeast China’s Liaoning Province, where a solemn welcome ceremony will be held.

Zou said China and South Korea had jointly contributed to the handing over of the remains on the basis of a sincere, friendly, cooperative and humanitarian spirit.

China appreciated the cooperation and efforts made by the South Korean authorities, as well as the friendship and goodwill of the South Korean media and public showed toward the repatriation, he added.

The two countries agreed to establish a long-term cooperative mechanism to return the soldiers’ remains before the traditional Chinese Tomb-Sweeping Day every year.

The Chinese People’s Volunteers (CPV) fought side by side with the South Korean People’s Army’s of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea in the Korean War against the South Korean army and US-led UN forces. Tens of thousands of CPV soldiers died on the Korean Peninsula during the war, which ended in an armistice in 1953.

The Chinese soldiers were buried scatteredly to the south of the Military Demarcation Line on the peninsula. In recent years, their remains had been excavated, identified and reburied in South Korea’s border city of Paju.—Xinhua

S Korea home for “ex-comfort women” to invite PM Abe’s wife

SEOUL, 28 March — The head of a common home for elderly South Korean women forced into sexual service for the wartime Japanese military said on Friday he will invite Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s wife to meet the former “comfort women” living there.

Ahn Shin Kwon, head of Namunejip, or House of Sharing, built in 1995 on the outskirts of Seoul, is home to seven elderly Korean women who have testified that they were forced to work at Japanese military brothels during World War II. In Japan, these sex slaves for the former Japanese military are euphemistically called “comfort women.” “Akie is well known even in South Korea,” Ahn said, adding that a letter of invitation will be sent next week.

“If she visits Namunejip and talks with the elderly former comfort women, there are feelings they may share as women, and she may play a role on the issue of comfort women,” Ahn said. Yasushi Yamamoto, head of the Japanese Foreign Ministry division for regional policies, met Ahn on 17 March to brief him on the Japanese stand on the issue of former sex slaves and sound out what the former Korean “comfort women” want from the Japanese government.

According to the South Korean daily Hankuk Ilbo, Ahn asked the Japanese government to admit its legal responsibility for forced mobilization of the “comfort women” and wanted Abe to make an apology to the international community for it.—Kyodo News

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front, the Philippines’ largest Muslim rebel group, signed a comprehensive peace agreement with the central government at the Presidential Palace in Manila on 27 March, 2014, ending 17 years of negotiations and more than four decades of insurgency mainly in the southern island of Mindanao. MILF Chairman Al Haj Murad Ebrahim (far L, back), Philippine President Benigno Aquino (2nd from R, back), and Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak (3rd from R, back), who served as facilitator, and others witnessed the signing.—Kyodo News

The Chinese People’s Liberation Army carry coffins containing remains of soldiers of the Chinese People’s Volunteers (CPV) dead in the 1950-53 Korean War, during a handover ceremony at the Incheon International Airport of South Korea, on 28 March, 2014.—Xinhua

Chinese doctors conduct an eye operation during a free health camp in Barabari, Nepal, on 27 March, 2014. Xinhua

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The Chinese People’s Liberation Army carry coffins containing remains of soldiers of the Chinese People’s Volunteers (CPV) dead in the 1950-53 Korean War, during a handover ceremony at the Incheon International Airport of South Korea, on 28 March, 2014.—Xinhua
Colombia confirms US request to take in Guantanamo prisoners

BOGOTA, 28 March — Colombian Foreign Minister Maria Angela Holguin confirmed on Thursday that the US Government has asked Colombia to receive some detainees from Guantanamo Bay, Colombia’s El Tiempo daily network reported.

According to Holguin, Colombia has not yet given a response to the request because it has not analyzed the implications of such a decision. US President Barack Obama has pledged to close the detention centre, located in Cuba, and free the 154 remaining prisoners.

“We have heard carefully the request from the US, we have not advanced absolutely anything with them on this issue... we have not responded on this issue,” Minister Holguin said.

The official added that Colombia fully understands the need for Guantanamo Bay detainees to continue with their lives and welcomes the US approach.

Holguin’s statement was given shortly after Colombia’s Minister of Justice Alfonso Gomez Mendez said Colombia would not take in detainees given the overcrowding in the country’s prisons.

Speaking in response to an article by Uruguayan magazine Busqueda claiming Colombia and Brazil could agree to take in prisoners from the US military base, he said: “No, I do not know, I am not aware of this, and I know that in the Foreign Minister does not know about this issue."

The only country in the region to have so far confirmed the request from US President Barack Obama to take in Guantanamo Bay detainees is Uruguay. President Jose Mujica said the country would host five of them.

Guantanamo Bay has been used since 2002 to hold terrorist suspects captured after the 11 Sept, 2001 attacks on the United States, but drew criticism for holding many prisoners without trial or bringing charges against them.

Since taking office, Obama has taken steps such as resettling detainees to reduce the number of prisoners to 154.—Xinhua

Turkey sacks defence official involved in China missile talks

ANKARA, 28 March — Turkey has removed Murad Bayar, Defence Ministry undersecretary for the state-run defence industries, from his post with immediate effect, the official gazette showed on Thursday.

The ministry did not give a reason for the decision. Bayar had been influential in Turkey’s negotiations with China over the procurement of a missile defence system.

Turkey’s NATO allies voiced concern when it said in September it had chosen China’s FD-2000 missile defence system over rival offers from the Franco/Italian Eurosam SAMP/T and US-listed Raytheon Co. It said China had offered the most competitive terms and would allow co-production in Turkey. — Reuters

Students walk in rain with umbrellas in Changchun, capital of northeast China’s Jilin Province, on 28 March, 2014. Most parts of Jilin Province witnessed rainfall on Friday.—XINHUA

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ANKARA, 28 March — Turkey has removed Murad Bayar, Defence Ministry undersecretary for the state-run defence industries, from his post with immediate effect, the official gazette showed on Thursday.

The ministry did not give a reason for the decision. Bayar had been influential in Turkey’s negotiations with China over the procurement of a missile defence system.

Turkey’s NATO allies voiced concern when it said in September it had chosen China’s FD-2000 missile defence system over rival offers from the Franco/Italian Eurosam SAMP/T and US-listed Raytheon Co. It said China had offered the most competitive terms and would allow co-production in Turkey. — Reuters

Students walk in rain with umbrellas in Changchun, capital of northeast China’s Jilin Province, on 28 March, 2014. Most parts of Jilin Province witnessed rainfall on Friday.—XINHUA

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Friends worried about Lindsay Lohan’s sobriety

NEW YORK, 28 March — Troubled actress Lindsay Lohan’s friends are reportedly worried about her sobriety after finding that she is hanging around with the wrong crowd again.

The 27-year-old, who has been to rehab several times for drug and alcohol addiction, was clicked with her old friend, British socialist Lady Victoria Hervey on the streets of New York City, and this is causing panic in her inner circle, reports radaronline.com.

“This is terrible news and so bad for Lindsay’s sobriety,” said a source.

“It’s a really bad sign. Anyone in recovery knows when you hang around with the same old people that you used with before it will sidetrack your entire life,” added the source.

Another troublesome friendship she seems to have rekindled is with wealthy Spanish artist Domingo Zapata, whose car she was driving when she hit someone here in 2012 and was arrested for allegedly leaving the scene of the crime. “What’s more startling is why would Lindsay risk the opportunity she has to do the movie Inconceivable and working with Randall Emmitt to hang out with these people?” said the source.—PTI

Elvis Presley had genetic heart condition, DNA analysis shows

LONDON, 28 March — Elvis Presley had a genetic heart defect that may have contributed to his premature death, a British documentary series reported, citing a DNA analysis of a sample of the singer’s hair.

The producers of the documentary, airing on Wednesday on Britain’s Channel 4, said the sample of hair belonging to “The King of Rock and Roll” was purchased from a friend of his barber.

An analysis of Elvis’s DNA identified a gene mutation known to cause hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, which causes thickening and weakening of the heart muscle.

Elvis, who died on 8 August, 1977, at the age of 42, gorged on junk food and became addicted to drugs in the last years of his life. His death has long been blamed on a drug overdose, but the coroner’s report said he died from a heart attack.

Stephen Kingsmore, director of the Centre for Pediatric Genomic Medicine at Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, performed the DNA analysis and concluded that the results provide “obvious evidence”.

“We know that Elvis had a strong family history of heart failure, and we know that he died suddenly, and at autopsy his heart was indeed thickened, which is another word for cardiomyopathy of a particular type. So this was a very good fit with Elvis’s clinical picture,” Kingsmore told Channel 4’s Dead Famous DNA.—PTI

Actress Gayet wins privacy lawsuit versus tabloid in Hollande affair

PARIS, 28 March — A French court ordered Closer magazine on Thursday to pay actress Julie Gayet 15,000 euros ($20,700) for publishing photos that revealed an affair between her and President Francois Hollande, her lawyer told Reuters.

The 7-page photo spread published on 10 January showed the couple and goneis outside a Parisian apartment rented by Gayet. It included the night-time arrival and morning departure of Gayet and, separately, that of man wearing a black helmet and said to be Hollande.

Neither party has denied the affair, but Gayet filed a lawsuit alleging breach of privacy. Hollande chose not to sue.

Gayet’s lawyer Jean Emnouchi, who had been asking for a larger sum of 50,000 euros, said his client’s life had been “turned upside down” by the publication.

The disclosure by the magazine was followed by Hollande’s breakup with his partner of eight years, Valerie Trierweiler.

The scandal was an unwelcome distraction for Hollande, whose popularity ratings are at record lows, as he tries to stem rising unemployment and spur growth in the euro zone’s second-largest economy.

Gayet, a Socialist party supporter who has acted in French films including the 2013 comedy “Quai d’Orsay”, backed Hollande during the 2012 presidential race.—Reuters

Chris Martin buys break-up gift for Gwyneth Paltrow

LOS ANGELES, 28 March — Singer Chris Martin has reportedly bought a painting as a special parting gift for his wife of 11 years, Gwyneth Paltrow. The two have announced their split via an official statement. Gwyneth and Chris, who married in a secret ceremony in Mexico in December 2003, announced 25 March that they have decided to “consciously uncouple and co-parent”.

But if a source is to be believed, Chris, 37, bought a painting of a bird in flight by Mila Furstova for Gwyneth, with whom he has children Apple, nine and seven-year-old Moses, reports dailymail.co.uk.

Bradley Cooper, the new Indiana Jones: just a rumour?

LOS ANGELES, 28 March — Hollywood star Bradley Cooper is rumoured to be playing the lead in the next Indiana Jones film.

The Hangover star might replace actor Harrison Ford in the famous movie series, reported Huffington Post online.

However, sources close to the production have denied the reports saying that Cooper, 39, is not under consideration and there are no plans to reboot the franchise with another actor. The adventure series, which was created by director Steven Spielberg, starred Harrison Ford as the lead in all four films.

However, the next movie in the franchise has been a topic of conversation for many years since it was always assumed that Ford, 71, would be its star but due to his age, many are unsure whether the actor would be fit enough for the role.—PTI
World Cup referees told to focus on protecting players

ZURICH, 28 March — Protecting players from heavy tackles will be the priority for referees at this year’s World Cup if they want to avoid more than 600 bookings of rough play in the tournament, FIFA said during a training week for World Cup referees on Thursday that it wanted to keep it that way.

“There are always things we are asked to be vigilant on, pretty much always trying to protect the players, from heavy play, from foul play and violent play and also protecting the image of the game,” 2010 World Cup final referee Howard Webb told reporters.

FIFA’s head of refereeing Massimino Busaca said referees attending the World Cup, which starts on 12 June, would be instructed to nip any signs of rough play in the bud.

“The safety of the players is very important so the referees have to read the situation carefully at the beginning of the game,” he said.

Cambodian PM to attend 2nd Summit of Mekong River Commission

PHNOM PENH, 28 March — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen will attend the 2nd Summit of the Mekong River Commission (MRC) on 4-5 April in Vietnam’s Ho Chi Minh City, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced on Friday.

The summit will be accompanied by Minister of Water Resources Lim Kean Hor and Environment Minister Say Samal, the ministry said in a press statement.

The summit’s theme is “Water, Energy and Food Security in the Context of Climate Change for the Mekong River Basin”.

The summit will discuss a number of issues on the opportunities and challenges of the Mekong basin and role of the MRC for sustainable development and regional cooperation to promote sustainable use and development of the Mekong River in the context of growing demand for natural resources for development and of climate change.

According to the MRC, the forthcoming summit will be the most momentous event as the MRC summits have been made around simulation, they are quite compared to the vast number of decisions we have to make,” he added.

“Although it’s a small problem, it has a big impact when it happens, so of course it becomes quite serious,” Webb said.

Webb said the pace of the modern game made it almost unrecognisable from when he started 20 years ago and said the relationship between match officials and players was good.

“It’s almost a different sport form many years ago, we have to adapt that and be as quick as the players are in terms of the speed of their thought and speed of their play,” he said.

“In most cases, the experience I have with the players is positive, and that includes the famous players and the young players.”

“You are certainly aware of the increased scrutiny given when I started 20 years ago.”

“The attention on football increases all the time. It’s so important that many people in so many ways and we feel that.”

“We are aware of our responsibility and aware that if we do make a mistake, there will be a big reaction.”

“We care about what we do for sure, it’s not so easy for us either when we make a mistake.”

“The flip side is when we do a good job, and many games do go fantastically well for all of us, then it’s a fantastic high and a great thing to be involved in.” — Reuters
**Nay Pyi Taw FC secures eighth consecutive win at Myanmar National League 2014**

YANGON, 28 March—Nay Pyi Taw FC took easy three points at Friday’s Myanmar National League 2014 at Youth Training Centre in Thawanna in Yangon, winning over Southern Myanmar FC with 3-1.

In the first half, Nguyen In Tayza Win scored an opener at two minutes and Aung Kyaw Naing added second goal at 6th minutes for Nay Pyi Taw FC. Nay Pyi Taw FC influenced the second half of the match, scoring third goal by Nyein Tayza Win at 49th minutes and Zin Myo Win equalized one goal for Southern FC at 56th minute.

Since earlier lose to Kanbawza FC in Taunggyi, Nay Pyi Taw FC set eight consecutive win records at Myanmar National League 2014.

First, the players from both teams have a documentary photo taken under “Protect the Goal” programme and played the match wearing brooches for HIV patients.

Photo: Nyi Myat Thanwada

**Williams, Li set up enticing Miami showdown**

MIAMI, 28 March — Serena Williams and Li Na swept past familiar foes at the Sony Open on Thursday, setting up an exciting showdown for the Miami hardcourt crown between the world’s top ranked players.

World number one Williams continued her utter domination of Maria Sharapova with a 6-4, 6-3 win over the fourth-seeded Russian, while second-ranked Li won a rematch of her Australian Open final, beating Dominika Cibulkova 7-5, 2-6, 6-3 to maintain her perfect record against the Slovakian.

A six-time Miami champion, the American’s victory ran her winning streak against Sharapova to 15 matches, a stunning run that stretches back to 2004. Li’s mystery over Cibulkova may not span as many years but is no less complete, the Chinese veteran sweeping all seven of their meetings over a decade-long span.

Three of those wins have come this year, with Asia’s first grand slam singles champion defeating the Slovakian in straight sets at Melbourne Park, in three sets at Indian Wells two weeks ago and now at Miami. “Good challenge. The last time I played her (Wills) was in (WTA Tour) Championships so it has been four months and this time we really can see how I have improved,” Li told reporters as she looked ahead to the final.

“I am really happy I can play her again. Everyone will be confident if they come to the final. I think for sure it will be a tough match.”

The 10th-seeded Cibulkova had looked ready to deny tennis fans a marquee final between the best two players in the world when she stormed back to take the second set and opened the third with a break to forge a 3-1 lead. However, Li kept her composure and swept the next five games to cap an enthralling fightback and her spot in the final. 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 winning 16 of the 18 meetings between the pair. —Reuters

**United greats agree deal to buy lowly Salford City**

LONDON, 28 March—Manchester United’s Ryan Giggs and team mates from the famous ‘Class of 92’ have agreed a deal to buy Salford City who play in the muddy Northern Premier League.

Giggs, along with Paul Scholes, Gary Neville, Phil Neville and Nicky Butt, will complete the deal for the humble Northern Premier League Division One North club later in the year, according to a statement on the club’s Twitter page.

The former players, who were dubbed the ‘Class of 92’ after United won the FA youth Cup that year before going on to achieve unprecedented success, will buy Salford subject to Football Association and Northern Premier League approval.

“Everyone knows how important Salford is to me, so this is an exciting acquisition that is right at the heart of what we all believe in,” said Giggs, who is still playing for United’s first team at the age of 40.

“We want to engage the football community, use our football experience and knowledge to aspire and nurture young talent and being able to do that in Salford makes it even more exciting,” —Reuters

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