Myanmar celebrates International Women’s Day in capital city

By U Khin Maung Soe, according to a presentation on Sunday. Speaking at the celebration, Daw Khin Khin Win, President U Thein Sein’s wife and MWAF’s honourable patron, said new opportunities as well as challenges are facing today’s world, with an unprecedented growth of urbanization and industrialization sweeping in developing countries.

Women constitute nearly a half of the world’s population and their empowerment plays a vital role in the fast-changing world. She called on women engaged in national movements through the independence struggle historic figures, praising other female figures in literature, arts, law, medicine and other social spheres.

She described gender equality as fundamental in the drive to national reconciliation, calling for more women participation in political, economic and social settings.

Myanmar women have a longer life expectancy than their opposite, with males at 63.57 years and females at 68.46, she stated, citing that of over 60 senior citizens aged 100 and over who received the state’s honour, 70% were found to be women.

She urged women to follow the example of those women of successive eras who had contributed a lot to their society going hand in hand with men on all fronts.

President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win to pay State Visit to Malaysia

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Scientists rediscover ‘extinct’ bird in Myanmar

YANGON, 8 March — Scientists surprisingly rediscovered Myanmar Jerdon’s babbler alive after it has disappeared for many years and thought to be extinct.

Reports of these scientists last week said that a bird thought to have gone the way of the dodo decades ago has been rediscovered in Myanmar. The Jerdon’s babbler, a bird about the size of a house sparrow, was first discovered in 1862 by British naturalist T. C. Jerdon in grassy plains near Thayet Township, a city in central Myanmar. There have been no recorded sightings of the bird in 74 years.

A team led by the Wildlife Conservation Society unexpectedly discovered the bird while the group was studying other birds in a small grassland area near an abandoned agricultural research station.

The WCS found several more individuals of the bird which is one of the three subspecies of Jerdon’s babbler found throughout the river basins of South Asia. The birds used to be common in the grasslands, but agriculture and urbanization had driven it from its natural habitat. The WCS said in a statement. “The degradation of these vast grasslands had led many to consider this subspecies of Jerdon’s Babbler extinct,” Col. Poole, director of the WCS’ regional conservation hub in Singapore, said.

He said the discovery proves that the species — and its habitat — still exists. The rediscovery was described in the recently published issue of Birding Asia, the magazine of the Oriental Bird Club, according to the WCS.

This is not the first time scientists have rediscovered a species long thought extinct. In 2009, Worcester’s buttonquail, a bird thought extinct in the Philippines, was photographed for the first time, before being sold as food at a poultry market.

A handout picture made available by the Wildlife Conservation Society shows a bird believed to be a Jerdon’s babbler. According to the Oriental Bird Club, the bird, which is thought to have disappeared for 74 years, was rediscovered in Myanmar.

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Daw Nan Shwe Hmon attends ceremony to honour religious title recipient Sayadaws

Myanmar, China exchange views on maintenance of law and order in border area

Tatmadaw launches operations on point 0753 hill and nearby hilltops

Myanmar and Chinese officials focus on friendly relations, prevalence of law and order at border area

State-owned Myanmar language newspapers to reduce ad rates
Ahlone International Port Terminal 1 comes...

(from page 1) The wharf can offer better services to local and foreign shipping companies, thereby contributing to the development of the country’s maritime trade sector, an official said.

Funded by MEC, the construction project of the terminal started in early 2013, and is one of the six projects being implemented under the Yangon port terminals development project. —GNLM

Union minister meets with teachers from Kokang SAZ

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March — Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun, who also chairs the supporting committee for rehabilitation of Kokang Self-Administered Zone, went to Thirmingalar Mansu Shan Monastery in Lashio on 7 March and comforted the IDPs at the monastery, before making necessary arrangements to enable them to return to their homes.

Then, the union minister went to No. (1) BEHS and met with teachers who are taking refuge in Lashio due to fighting in Kokang.

Myanmar, China discuss restoring law and order in border area

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March — A meeting between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People’s Republic of China was held on Sunday in Muse, northern Shan State.

The Myanmar delegation was jointly led by U Tin Oo Lwin, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Commodore Aung Thaw, Deputy Minister for Defence and the Chinese delegation led by Mr Liu Zhenmin, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs. During the meeting, they discussed in friendly manner on cooperation based on existing friendly relations for maintaining peace and stability and restoring law and order in the border area, and for earliest and safe return of people who are temporarily taking shelters in China for security concern to their homes.

The Chinese delegation left for China in the afternoon. —MNA

Mandalay Region to house 1727 mobile communication stations next year

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March — Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology U Myat Hein inspected installation of Multi-service Access Node exchanges in Kume on 5 March and urged officials concerned to provide better services for the public.

Then, the union minister inspected Hammyintmo Mobile Communication Station and the auto-exchange station in Kyaukse. On 6 March, the union minister, together with Mandalay Region Communication and Transportation Minister U Kyaw San, inspected the Madaya auto-exchange station and gave instructions on upgrading and maintenance of the exchange facility.

Then, the union minister inspected Nyaungwon mobile communication station, Leipanhla exchange and mobile communication station, Kyiportaung mobile communication station of the Ooredoo Company in Singing.

Then, the union minister arrived at Daw Nan Kyi Taung microwave and mobile communication station and the mobile communication station of Telenor Company in Kyatpyin before inspecting communication stations in Mogok.

On 7 March, the union minister inspected the communication stations in Thabeikkyin.

Mandalay Region will witness a great stride of progress in the communication sector as there will be 1727 communication stations in the region including 318 new mobile communication stations of Myanmar Post and Telecommunications, 121 new stations of the Ooredoo Company and new 213 stations of Telenor Company and mobile communication stations, Kyiportaung mobile communication station of the Ooredoo Company in Singing.

Hearing for amendment bill for national education law goes on

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March — Hearing on amendment bill for the national education law continued at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall on Sunday, with representatives from political parties submitting their advice on the bill.

Present were the chairman of the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee and members, members of Amyotha Hluttaw Political, Economic and Legal Affairs Commission, Chairman of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party U Tun Naing, Secretary of Kayah Ethnic Democracy Party U Sai Naing Naing Htwe, Chairman of Rakhine National Force Party U Aye Kyaw, Vice Chairman of the Federation of Alliances for National Politics U Thein Kyi, Chairman of Democratic and Peace Party U Soe Maung, Chairman of Democratic Party (Myanmar) U Thu Wai, Chairman of Chin Democratic League U Ngai Serk, and Chairman of United Democratic Party U Hla Myint gave advice and their opinions on the bills. —MNA
Disciples hoist diamond orb, pennant-shape vane atop Sule replica pagoda

Dawei, 8 March — Consecration ceremony and hoisting of a pennant-shape vane and diamond orb were held at Sule replica pagoda in Myitta, Dawei District, Taninthayi Region, on 7 March. It was attended by Union Minister U Aung Min, Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi, Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko, Commander of Coastal Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Htay and officials.

The congregation led by Union Minister U Aung Min received the nine precepts from abbot of Zeyawady Monastery. Laypersons hoisted diamond orb and pennant-shape vane atop the pagoda after enshrining religious objects into the reliquary.—Region IPRD

Myanmar to take hockey training in Malaysia

Yangon, 8 March — A tentatively selected hockey team left Yangon International Airport on Saturday morning for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to take a one-month training at a hockey academy in Ipoh city, Malaysia, up to 6 April.

The team consists of manager U Kyaw Kyaw Oo, the chief coach and coaches together with 20 players. They were seen off at the airport by President of the federation U Htin Zaw Win and officials.

While in Malaysia, Myanmar team will play against the tentatively selected Malaysian teams, clubs, state champion teams and university selected teams. Myanmar hockey team had taken training at the same venue as part of preparations for the 27th SEA Games hosted in Nay Pyi Taw in 2013.

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Local farmers earn income from cultivation of tobacco

Myingyan, 8 March — Farmers in dry zone of Myanmar cultivate paddy, onion, beans and pulses and edible oil crops as well as tobacco plants.

They grow two species of tobacco cultivated on the croplands and alluvial land.

Farmers must grow tobacco on the croplands in monsoon while cultivate another one species on alluvial lands when the Ayeyawady River subsides in December and January.

“Farmers spend more than K480,000 per acre on cultivation of tobacco on cropland including costs for inputs and farming workers. Tobacco yields about 650 viss per acre. We can sell tobacco at K2,200 to K1,500 per viss at cheroot industries in Myingyan,” said a local grower from Patta village.

Some farmers tenant croplands at K200,000 per acre but they can fetch K700,000 per acre as net profit.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Police arrest suspect with 4,000 stimulant tablets

Nay Pyi Taw, 8 March — Members of No 26 Anti-Drug Squad, acting on tip-off, stopped and searched a motorcycle driven by Chit Maung near mile post 42 on Tonghon road in Pinlaung, Shan State, on 6 March.

They seized 4,000 stimulant tablets from the pulse of the biker.

Action was taken against Chit Maung under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Police Information
Abe calls for swift security legislation as LDP holds convention

**Tokyo, 8 March —** Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called on Sunday for swift enactment of legislation to enable Japan to better defend its security as his Liberal Democratic Party convened its annual convention.

“We have a responsibility to protect the lives and peace of the Japanese people... We will stand firm till the end in defense of Japanese territory, airspace and waters,” Abe said.

The prime minister, who heads Japan’s ruling party, also underscored his resolve to promote economic reforms, saying his administration plans to “advance a growth strategy by taking on the largest reforms in the postwar era.”

In its strategy for 2015 adopted at the event, Abe, who in December launched his second Cabinet since returning to power in 2012, also called for party unity in upcoming nationwide local elections in April. On the Constitution, the strategy says the LDP will “promote a campaign to increase supporters” of its move to rewrite the US-drafted supreme law.

“What we have to take into our hearts is pride as a conservative party that started off with amending the Constitution as the party line,”

As this year also marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, the party will “make efforts to improve relations with neighbouring countries,” the strategy says, while also calling for quick enactment of legislation to bolster national security.

Pinom Pchen, 8 March — Cambodia has seen remarkable progress in promoting women’s status in economy, society, politics and health.

“There are developments in areas of women’s empowerment, political stability, strong national economy, poverty reduction and the promotion of public services,” she said.

“The participation of women in the economy is increasing and remains very high when compared to other countries in the region,” she said.

“In education sector, gender equality has been fully achieved at primary level and at lower secondary education, while gaps remain at upper and tertiary education.”

The participation of women in decision-making and politics has also increased, she said. Between 1993 and 2013, the percentage of women parliamentarians increased from 5.8 percent to 20.3 percent, the number of female deputies, prime ministers increased from zero to 1, number of ministers and head of institutions increased from zero to 3, number of secretaries of state increased from zero to 38, and undersecretaries of state from 2 to 48.

According to the minister, in regard to women’s health, maternal mortality decreased 61 percent to 170 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2014 from 436 deaths in 2000, due to an increase in number of women accessing antenatal care and sexual health services.

“All these results were achieved thanks to the high commitment of the Cambodian government under the wise and strong leadership of Prime Minister Hun Sen for promoting gender equality in order to improve governance and democracy,” she said.

Even though Cambodia experienced rapid progresses in promoting gender equality and that “unless China and India are developed, there will be no Asian century.”

He called on the Chinese dragon and the Indian elephant to join in a duet, to work for the early revitalization of two oriental civilizations, the common prosperity of two emerging markets, and the amicable co-existence of two large neighbours.

Chinese President Xi Jinping made a historic visit to India last September. The picture of the two countries’ leaders riding on a spinning wheel in the home state of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi spread far and wide in China.

Modi is to visit China this year. Wang said that he is surely to be warmly welcomed by Chinese government and people.—Xinhua

**Kuala Lumpur, 8 March —** Prime Minister Najib Razak said on Sunday Malaysia remains committed to a search for the missing MH370 jetliner a year after it vanished without trace and he is hopeful it will be found.

A team led by Malaysia with investigators from various countries including the United States, Britain, China, France and Australia is due to release an interim statement on their inquiry into the cause of the disappearance on Sunday.

The Malaysian Airlines Boeing 777-200ER (BA.N) disappeared on a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 227 passengers and 12 crew on board. It has become one of the greatest mysteries in aviation history.

“The disappearance of MH370 is without precedent, and so too is the search — by far the most complex and technically challenging in aviation history,” Najib said in a statement.

“Together with our international partners, we have followed the little evidence that exists. Malaysia remains committed to the search, and hopeful that MH370 will be found,” he said.

Investigators believe the plane was flown thousands of miles off course before eventually crashing into the Indian Ocean.

Some of the relatives of those on board have been holding vigils this weekend to mark the anniversary.

In Beijing, police scuffled with some family members offering prayers at a temple as they tried to talk to foreign reporters.

“I can’t sleep at night, each night I’m only getting about two hours, but I’m certain that my daughter is still alive and I’m going to get her back,” said one mother, who did not give her name, before being escorted away.

“Some family members have previously described harassment by police, who are nervous about any threats to social stability,” the Chinese government, however, says it will provide whatever help it can to the relatives and it offered its sympathies on the anniversary.

China’s foreign minister said the search for the aircraft would not stop.

Australia’s deputy prime minister said recent the search could not go on forever, and discussions are underway to open up Malaysia, China and Malaysia as to whether to call off it off soon.

Malaysia declared the disappearance of the flight an accident in January, clearing the way for the airline to pay compensation to victims’ relatives, but insisted that the search for the jetliner would go on.

In a separate statement, Malaysia Airlines said it held a private gathering to remember the 13 employees lost when flight MH370 disappeared.

China, India should strengthen cooperation to facilitate boundary issue settlement, says FM

**Beijing, 8 March —** China and India should do more to strengthen mutual cooperation, so as to enable and facilitate settlement of the boundary issue, Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Sunday.

Wang made the remarks at a press conference on the sidelines of the annual session of the National People’s Congress, China’s top legislature.

The boundary dispute between China and India is a legacy of history, he said, adding that after many years of efforts, progress was made through negotiation and a joint statement was reached.

At the moment, the boundary negotiation is in the process of building up small and positive developments, Wang said. “The going is tough, and that is only because we are on the way up.”

Wang quoted the remarks of late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping as saying that “unless China and India are developed, there will be no Asian century.”

He called on the Chinese dragon and the Indian elephant to join in a duet, to work for the early revitalization of two oriental civilizations, the common prosperity of two emerging markets, and the amicable co-existence of two large neighbours.

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Modi is to visit China this year. Wang said that he is surely to be warmly welcomed by Chinese government and people.—Xinhua
China hints open to Japan PM attending WWII anniversary events

BEIJING, 8 March — China suggested on Sunday it is open to inviting Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to a military parade or other events this year to mark the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

“We will extend invitations to the leaders of all relevant countries and international organizations and will welcome any one who is sincere about coming,” Foreign Minister Wang Yi said during a press conference in Beijing, when asked whether China plans to invite Abe to the commemorations.

Wang urged Abe’s government to properly face Japan’s role and its defeat in the war.

“70 years ago Japan lost the war, 70 years afterward, Japan must not lose its conscience,” he said.

“Will it continue to carry the baggage of history? Will it make a clean break with the past aggression? Ultimately, the choice is Japan’s.”

China has been ratcheting up pressure on Abe over wartime historical issues and carefully watching what he will say this summer on the anniversary, which Beijing calls its victory in a war of resistance against Japanese aggression.

Although political tensions between the countries have receded somewhat following Abe’s long-sought first meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping last November, the issues, in the words of the foreign minister, “haunt the Sino-Japanese relationship.”

Wang, a former ambassador to Japan, said it is “perfectly normal” for China to stage the parade and that the main purpose is to “remember history, commemorate the martyrs, cherish peace and look to the future.”

He said Tokyo should be more conscious of its past militarism and improve bilateral relations.

The military parade is expected to take place around 3 September in Beijing. The date is regarded by China as “victory day” as Japan formally surrendered to the Allied Powers on 2 September, 1945, with a signing ceremony abord the US battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

It is unusual as until now all China’s major military parades were staged on National Day on 1 October. The last one was held in 2009 on the 60th anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China. Wang touched on China’s relations with many other countries on the side-lines of an annual meeting of the National People’s Congress, the country’s parliament, which will run through 15 March.

On North Korea, he said China’s traditional strong ties with it will “not be affected by temporary events.”—Kyodo News

US, France ‘on same page’ over Iran, want stronger deal

PARIS, 8 March — The United States and France sought on Saturday to play down any disagreements over nuclear talks with Iran, saying they both agreed the accord now under discussion needed to be strengthened.

“We are on the same page,” US Secretary of State John Kerry told reporters after talks with French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius in Paris. “If we didn’t think that there was further to go, as Laurent said, we’d have had an agreement already,” Kerry added.

“The reason we don’t have an agreement is, we believe there are gaps that have to be closed. There are things that have to be done to further strengthen this. We know this.”

The aim of the negotiations is to reach an understanding to restrain its nuclear programme in exchange for relief from sanctions that have crippled its economy. Iran’s chief nuclear negotiator, Mohamad Javad Zarif, has long held out for strict terms, linking any loosening of international sanctions on Iran’s oil-based economy to commitments by Tehran to demonstrate that its nuclear work is peaceful as it says.

The discovery in 2013 that the United States was holding secret talks with Iran was an opportunity for Paris, by saying ‘no’ to a deal, to assert itself internationally and to rebuke Washington for backing down on bombing Syria as punishment for using chemical arms.

It also helped France cement new commercial ties with Gulf Arab states hostile to Iran.

“It is a multilateral negotiation, but we want to make sure that our positions are aired,” said Fabius, who stressed several times the need for a “solid agreement”.

US officials privately believe at what they sometimes see as France’s effort to insert itself into the diplomatic on Iran and other issues. Some other diplomats close to the talks say Washington is rushing into a deal with Iran.

From the outside, it appears as if the negotiations are fundamentally a US-Iranian bilateral discussion, with the other nations braced and brought in periodically.

As well as the United States and France, the other world powers involved in the Iran negotiations are Britain, China, Germany and Russia.

Kerry this week held his longest talks with his Iranian counterpart, Mohammad Javad Zarif.

He plans to meet Zarif again on 15 March ahead of the talks aimed at scaling some form of understanding by the end of March before a final deal in June.

“The next couple of weeks are crucial,” said US policy chief Federica Mogherini. Reuters

Saudi surpasses India as world’s largest weapons importer

RIYADH, 8 March — Saudi Arabia surpassed India and became the top state in the world in military equipment imports in 2014, Elaf news portal reported on Sunday.

Saudi Arabia has become the world’s largest weapons importer with the purchase of military equipment worth 6.4 billion US dollars.

The oil-rich country surpassed India (5.5 billion dollars) to become the most important market to the United States, said the report, based on an HIS Jane’s report released on Sunday.

The report predicts that Saudi Arabia to remain on top with 9.8 billion dollars’ spending by the end of this year. Meanwhile the newspaper highlighted the rising demands to the uncertainty and disturbances in surrounding countries such as Syria, Iraq and Yemen.

The report also indicates that one of each seven dollars Saudi Arabia spends has been used to buy weapons.—Xinhua

Four killed in Southern Philippines clash

COTABATO CITY, (Philippines), 8 March — Government forces killed at least four members of Muslim rebels on Saturday as they intensified the all-out offensive in the southern Philippine island of Maguindanao, military said on Sunday.

Col. Willy Manalang, commander of Marine Battalion Landing Team-8, said that his men were figured out in a 15-minute fierce fighting during an operation against elements of Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in remote village of Shariff Saydona town around 10:00 pm on Saturday.

He said the fighting erupted as a small size patrol composed of the 63rd Force Recon Company led by Cpt Bernardo and the Special Operations Platoon 8 were dispatched to track down 20-man group of BIFF.

Since 25 February after the military ordered for an all-out offensive against BIFF, four camps of the rebels were already overrun by soldiers while at least 20 of them were killed.

The ongoing conflicts displaced over 75,000 people.—Xinhua

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On Selma anniversary, Obama says racial progress made but more needed

Selma, 8 March — With a nod to ongoing US racial tension and threats to voting rights, President Barack Obama declared the work of the Civil Rights Movement advanced but unfinished on Saturday during a visit to the Alabama bridge that spawned a landmark voting law.

Obama, the first black US president, said discrimination by law enforcement officers in Ferguson, Missouri, showed a lot of work needed to be done on race in America, but he warned it was wrong to suggest that progress had not been made.

“Fifty years from Bloody Sunday, our march is not yet finished, but we’re getting closer,” Obama said, standing near the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where police and state troopers beat and fired tear gas at peaceful marchers who were advocating against racial discrimination at the voting booth.

The event became known as “Bloody Sunday” and prompted a follow-up march led by civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr that spurred the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

“The Americans who crossed this bridge, they were not physically imposing, but they gave courage to millions. They held no elected office, but they led a nation,” Obama said.

“What they did here will reverberate through the ages … because they proved that nonviolent change is possible.” After his remarks, Obama and his wife Michelle, daughters Malia and Sasha, and mother-in-law Marian Robinson joined some of the original marchers along with former President George W Bush and his wife,Laura, to walk across the bridge.

The marchers sang songs including “We Shall Overcome” as a crowd of some 40,000 people looked on. The anniversary comes at a time of renewed focus on racial disparities in the United States, including discrimination from police against black citizens nationwide. Obama condemned the city of Ferguson on Friday for “oppressive and abusive” actions against black residents that were revealed in a US Justice Department report accusing police and court officials of racial bias.

On Saturday, he criticized efforts to limit voting rights that have sparked a clash between Republicans and Democrats across the country.

“Right now, in 2015, fifty years after Selma, there are laws across this country designed to make it harder for people to vote. As we speak, more of such laws are being proposed,” he said. “Meanwhile, the Voting Rights Act, the culmination of so much blood, so much sweat and tears, the product of so much sacrifice in the face of wanton violence … stands weakened.”

The two men detained on Saturday in connection with the killing, Anzor Gubashev and Zaur Dadayev, were expected to be brought before a judge at a Moscow court on Sunday to be formally arrested.

A Reuters reporter outside the Basmanny court said there were large numbers of police lining the street and guarding the entrances.

Dadayev served for around 10 years in the “Sever” battalion of Chechnya’s interior ministry, Russian state-controlled news agencies quoted Albert Barakayev, Security Council secretary in the neighbouring Ingushetia region, as saying.

On 27 February, 2015, Boris Nemtsov, an opposition figure in Russia, was killed in Moscow.

No sign Putin has changed strategy on Ukraine: UK foreign minister

London, 8 March — British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said on Sunday he had detected no change in Russian President Vladimir Putin’s strategic intentions towards Ukraine, despite a reduction in violence following the Minsk ceasefire agreement.

“There has been a reduction in violence since the new agreement was signed but I don’t detect that Mr Putin’s strategic intentions have changed,” he said in an interview on BBC television. “This is just a question now about what tools he uses to achieve those objectives.”

Colombian gov’t, FARC rebels reach agreement to remove landmines

Havana, 7 March — The Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels agreed on Saturday to remove landmines in the country’s rural areas affected by a half-century war between the two sides.

The accord on landmines marked the end of the 33rd round of peace talks between the Colombian government and the FARC rebels, after the two sides started talks in Havana in November 2012, with the support of Cuba and Norway, and the “accompaniment” of Chile and Venezuela.

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos said the agreement is a “new and decisive step in the de-escalation of the armed conflict,” according to a statement read out here by Humberto de la Calle, who led the Colombian government delegation at the peace talks in Havana.

“Our main target of these conversations is to put an end to the conflict, and to avoid future victims in our country. For that reason the proposal to clear landmines is first step, but a giant step toward peace,” the statement said. In previous talks, the two sides have reached agreements on issues of drugs, agrarian reform and the political participation of the rebels. Colombia is among countries with a large number of landmines planted in its territory, as a result of the five-decade civil war. Since 1990, around 11,000 people have been killed or injured by landmines in the country, including 1,101 children, according to figures released by the Colombian authorities. —Xinhua

One of Nemtsov killing suspects served in police

Moscow, 8 March — One of the men detained on suspicion of killing Russian opposition figure Boris Nemtsov served in a police unit in the Russian region of Chechnya, Russian news agencies quoted a law enforcement official as saying.

Nemtsov was shot dead on the night of 27 February within sight of the Kremlin walls, in the most high-profile killing of an opposition figure in the 15 years that President Vladimir Putin has been in office.

The two men detained on Saturday in connection with the killing, Anzor Gubashev and Zaur Dadayev, were expected to be brought before a judge at a Moscow court on Sunday to be formally arrested.

A Reuters reporter outside the Basmanny court said there were large numbers of police lining the street and guarding the entrances.

Dadayev served for around 10 years in the “Sever” battalion of Chechnya’s interior ministry, Russian state-controlled news agencies quoted Albert Barakayev, Security Council secretary in the neighbouring Ingushetia region, as saying.

Gubashev and Dadayev were detained on Saturday in Ingushetia, where some members of their families live, according to Barakayev. He said a relative of Gubashev was also detained, though this has not been confirmed by officials investigating Nemtsov’s killing.

It was not immediately clear if Dadayev was a serving member of the battalion, or has left. There was no confirmation from the authorities in Chechnya.

Chechnya is a mainly Muslim republic on Russia’s southern border. It has been the scene of violent separatist insurgencies over the past two decades. It is now firmly under the control of its leader, Ramzan Kadyrov, a former rebel who now pledges loyalty to Moscow and has considerable autonomy over the running of the region, including its security services.

Russia’s Interfax news agency, quoting a Chechen law enforcement source, said a man killed in a standoff with police in the Chechen capital on Saturday was wanted by police in connection with Nemtsov’s killing.

The agency said when police arrived at an apartment block, the man threw one grenadier at officers and then blew himself up with a second. —Reuters

Workers conduct ice blasting task at the base of the Rideau River in Ottawa, Canada on 7 March, 2015. Ice blasting is performed every year before the spring melt to allow for more efficient flow of water into the Ottawa River, which runs between the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. —Xinhua

No sign Putin has changed strategy on Ukraine: UK foreign minister

London, 8 March — British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said on Sunday he had detected no change in Russian President Vladimir Putin’s strategic intentions towards Ukraine, despite a reduction in violence following the Minsk ceasefire agreement.

“There has been a reduction in violence since the new agreement was signed but I don’t detect that Mr Putin’s strategic intentions have changed,” he said in an interview on BBC television. “This is just a question now about what tools he uses to achieve those objectives.”

Colombian gov’t, FARC rebels reach agreement to remove landmines

Havana, 7 March — The Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels agreed on Saturday to remove landmines in the country’s rural areas affected by a half-century war between the two sides.

The accord on landmines marked the end of the 33rd round of peace talks between the Colombian government and the FARC rebels, after the two sides started talks in Havana in November 2012, with the support of Cuba and Norway, and the “accompaniment” of Chile and Venezuela.

Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos said the agreement is a “new and decisive step in the de-escalation of the armed conflict,” according to a statement read out here by Humberto de la Calle, who led the Colombian government delegation at the peace talks in Havana.

“Our main target of these conversations is to put an end to the conflict, and to avoid future victims in our country. For that reason the proposal to clear landmines is a first step, but a giant step toward peace,” the statement said. In previous talks, the two sides have reached agreements on issues of drugs, agrarian reform and the political participation of the rebels. Colombia is among countries with a large number of landmines planted in its territory, as a result of the five-decade civil war. Since 1990, around 11,000 people have been killed or injured by landmines in the country, including 1,101 children, according to figures released by the Colombian authorities. —Xinhua

One of Nemtsov killing suspects served in police

Moscow, 8 March — One of the men detained on suspicion of killing Russian opposition figure Boris Nemtsov served in a police unit in the Russian region of Chechnya, Russian news agencies quoted a law enforcement official as saying.

Nemtsov was shot dead on the night of 27 February within sight of the Kremlin walls, in the most high-profile killing of an opposition figure in the 15 years that President Vladimir Putin has been in office.

The two men detained on Saturday in connection with the killing, Anzor Gubashev and Zaur Dadayev, were expected to be brought before a judge at a Moscow court on Sunday to be formally arrested.

A Reuters reporter outside the Basmanny court said there were large numbers of police lining the street and guarding the entrances.

Dadayev served for around 10 years in the “Sever” battalion of Chechnya’s interior ministry, Russian state-controlled news agencies quoted Albert Barakayev, Security Council secretary in the neighbouring Ingushetia region, as saying.

Gubashev and Dadayev were detained on Saturday in Ingushetia, where some members of their families live, according to Barakayev. He said a relative of Gubashev was also detained, though this has not been confirmed by officials investigating Nemtsov’s killing.

It was not immediately clear if Dadayev was a serving member of the battalion, or has left. There was no confirmation from the authorities in Chechnya.

Chechnya is a mainly Muslim republic on Russia’s southern border. It has been the scene of violent separatist insurgencies over the past two decades. It is now firmly under the control of its leader, Ramzan Kadyrov, a former rebel who now pledges loyalty to Moscow and has considerable autonomy over the running of the region, including its security services.

Russia’s Interfax news agency, quoting a Chechen law enforcement source, said a man killed in a standoff with police in the Chechen capital on Saturday was wanted by police in connection with Nemtsov’s killing.

The agency said when police arrived at an apartment block, the man threw one grenadier at officers and then blew himself up with a second. —Reuters

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Global New Light of Myanmar
A Glimpse into an Age-old Culture

Maung Phyo (WYU)

Migration for expectation of a better society

By Aung Khin

The number of global immigrants today is estimated to reach more than 215 million: if all of these migrants came together to form a country, it would be the fifth most populous on the planet. These immigrants left their native countries for many reasons, including a desire for economic prosperity, political insecurity, escaping conflict or natural disaster, or simply the wish to change one’s surroundings. The issue is a highly debated and controversial topic in today’s community.

In Southeast Asia alone, an estimated 54,000 people have undertaken sea crossings in 2014, most of them headed to Thailand, Malaysia, and Indonesia. In the Caribbean, about 50,000 people are known to have taken to boats last year. UNHCR received information of more than 4,000 reported deaths in the same year. It has also estimated that connectivity was losing its focus on saving lives amid confusion among coastal nations and regional blocks over how to respond to the growing number of people making risky sea journeys in search of asylum or migration.

Taking advantages from civil-conflicts, human trafficking networks are flourishing with impunity in areas of instability or conflict, and profiting from human desperation.

As migration have many impacts both on host s countries and original countries of immigrants, the UN Human Rights Office is promoting a human rights-based approach to migration, arguing that the framework provides practical and concrete solutions to the complex challenges of international migration.

Poverty and instability are mainly resulted from political or civil conflicts, while fleeing from natural disasters such as drought, flood and earthquakes needs cooperation of international community with protective measures for refugees not to fall into human trafficking rings.

A fundamental and common reason for immigration is that they feel insecure. However, stability of a state relies on both the governments and citizens. While the word authority should not represent or cruelty, people need strategic ways and proper means in facing challenges. Migration is not the only solution to create a better society for everybody.

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 tun@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.
Students study Buddhist culture on summer holidays

Mandalay, 8 March — Aungmyethazan Township Women’s Affairs Organization on 6 March kicked off the Buddhist culture course for enabling the students to spend their spare time in summer. At Yadanaponsan nunnery near the foot of Mandalay Hill, the course instructor gave lectures to 71 trainees. Chairperson of Mandalay Region WAO Daw Su Su Lwin and district and township officials presented stationery and snacks to the trainees. The township WAO chairperson also presented gifts to the trainees. The WAO runs the one-month long course as of 6 March.

Vets, chicken breeders and producers need cooperation in control of avian influenza

Mandalay, 8 March — Under the supervision of Mandalay Region Government and organized by Strong Flowers women’s association, an entertainment for honouring military servicemen in Laukkai region and their families was staged at Mingalar Mandalay car park in Chanmyathazi Township on Saturday evening.

Films actor Khin Hlaing and actress Khaing Thin Kyi announced the agenda of the entertainment. After that, artists led by film director Maung Thi together with audiences paid tribute to the servicemen fallen in Laukkai region by holding candle lights. Star vocalists presented songs to the audiences. Artists participated in a play directed by Maung Thi and Anyeint performance by D Star troupe. Well-wishers and companies donated cash to the servicemen and family members. The entertainment was attended by Deputy Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Aung Zaw, Mandalay Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Aung Kyaw Moe and Minister for Development Affairs U Aung Moun and audiences.

The WAO runs the one-month long course as of 6 March.

Veterinarian explains ways and means to control outbreak of avian influenza

Mandalay, 8 March — A meeting on cooperation in control of avian influenza took place at the hall of Mandalay Region Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in Pyigyidagun Township on Saturday.

Veterinarians explained outbreaks of avian influenza diseases, prevention of disease and the cooperation of livestock breeding entrepreneurs and egg and chicken producers in control of the disease.

After the talks, officials distributed pamphlets on control of bird flu to attendees.

It was also attended by departmental officials, the chairman of Mandalay Region veterinarians association, the chairman and executives of Mandalay Region Livestock Breeding Federation, officials of LBVD and entrepreneurs.

IP Zaw (Mandalay)

Artistes honour military servicemen, family members with entertainment

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IP Zaw (Mandalay)
Iraqi troops battle to advance in towns on edge of Tikrit

Baghdad, 8 March — Iraqi security forces and Shi‘ite militia fighters struggled to advance on Saturday into the two towns of al-Alam and al-Dour near Tikrit, their progress slowed by fierce defence from Islamic State militants.

“We are facing a strong resistance from terrorist groups and we are trying to surround Daesh inside al-Alam and al-Dour and cut all supply routes for them,” said al-Alam mayor Latif al-Jubouni, referring to the Islamic State fighters.

Army and militia fighters entered the southern and eastern parts of al-Dour on army units and tribes. An official at the time that the town had been completely recaptured, but officials said only parts of it had been re-captured. Army said one of its soldiers was killed in a friendly fire incident, the first fatality for the country during its current military mission in Iraq. Three other Canadian soldiers were wounded.

The soldiers were with Canada’s special operations forces and were mistakenly engaged by Iraqi Kurdish forces following their return to an observation post behind the front lines, the defence department said in a statement.

Elsewhere in Iraq suicide and car bomb attacks killed at least 19 people on Saturday, police and medical sources said.

The deadliest attack took place in the northern town of Tuz Khumarti, where a car bomb blast followed by a suicide attack killed eight people and wounded 32 in the town centre, police and medical sources said.

A bomb exploded near a local government and political party headquarters in the town, and after passers-by gathered a suicide attacker blew himself up among the crowd, one police officer said. In a separate incident, four mortars hit Baghdad’s southern neighbourhood of Arab Jbour, killing two people, police said. A bomb blast killed one person in the capital’s northern Shaab district. Three were killed and 11 wounded when a bomb struck a bus in the district of New Baghdad, police said. In the town of Khan Bani Saad, north of Baghdad, a parked car bomb exploded near a football match, killing two people.

In the western province of Anbar, a suicide bomber driving an army Humvee vehicle packed with explosives attacked a police post near the border crossing with Jordan, killing three policemen and wounding three, local security officials said. Gunmen in another Humvee opened fire. “It seems it was a suicide attack to control the post,” said one police officer.

—Reuters

Yemen’s defence minister escapes Houthi-controlled Sanaa

Aden, 8 March — Yemen’s defence minister has fled Houthi-controlled Sanaa for Aden, officials said on Sunday, in a move expected to boost President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi in his power struggle with the Shi‘ite Muslim group.

Yemen is caught in a stand-off between the Western-backed president and the Iran-backed Houthi clan, now the country’s de facto rulers. The group seized the presidential palace in Sanaa in January and confined the president to his private residence. Hadi managed to escape from the Houthi two weeks ago. Officials said the defence minister, General Mahmoud al-Sabahi, had escaped in a convoy on Saturday night, arriving in the southern port city of Aden early on Sunday.

They said the Houthi shot and killed four of Sabahi’s security guards in the western province of Hodeida where they attacked a convoy in their search for the minister.

Hadi, who resigned after the Houthis seized the presidential palace, has since re-claimed the presidency and is seeking to set up a rival power center in the south with loyalist army units and tribes. An impoverished country of 25 million, Yemen is part of a regional struggle for influence between rival powers Saudi Arabia and Iran. The Iran-backed Houthis control much of the northern half of the country while several Gulf state embassies have said they would operate from Aden in the south after Hadi’s escape.

—Reuters

Egyptian court adjourns trial of Al Jazeera journalists to 19 March

CAIRO, 8 March — An Egyptian court on Sunday adjourned until 19 March the trial of two Al Jazeera television journalists. The pair are charged with aiding a terrorist organization, a reference to the Muslim Brotherhood.

A court last month released Mohamed Fahmy, a naturalized Canadian who gave up his Egyptian citizenship, and Egyptian Baher Mohamed, on bail after over a year in detention.

A third Al Jazeera journalist, Australian Peter Greste, was deported earlier in February.

—Reuters

Nigeria’s Boko Haram pledges allegiance to Islamic State

LONDON, 8 March — Nigeria’s Islamist militant group Boko Haram pledged allegiance on Saturday to Islamic State, which rules a self-declared caliphate in parts of Iraq and Syria, according to an audio clip posted online. The symbolic move highlights increased coordination between jihadi movements across north Africa and the Middle East and prompted an appeal from Nigeria’s government for greater international help in tackling the Boko Haram insurgency.

The audio script identifies the Caliph as Ibrahim ibn Awad ibn Ibrahim al-Awd al-Qurashi, who is best known as Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, the leader of Islamic State and self-proclaimed caliph of the Muslim world.

The audio is confirming what we always thought. It’s sad, it’s bad,” said Nigérian government spokesman Mike Ozon.

“It’s why we were appealing to the international community ... Hopefully the world will wake up to the disaster unfolding here,” he told Reuters. On Saturday, four bomb blasts killed at least 50 people in the north-eastern Nigerian city of Maiduguri in the worst attacks there since Boko Haram militants tried to seize the town in two major assaults earlier this year.

—Reuters

Police confirms 54 killed in Nigeria’s multiple suicide bombings

Lagos, 8 March — Nigerian police have confirmed that 54 persons have been killed on Saturday and 146 others injured in five different bomb explosions detonated by suicide bombers, mostly females, in the northeast city of Maiduguri.

“We had multiple blasts today in Maiduguri and sadly about 54 persons were killed and many were injured,” Clement Adoda, police chief in charge of the restive Borno state told reporters in Maiduguri, capital of the state.

The suicide bombings occurred in four different spots in the city, while another took place at a military checkpoint at a town called Benisheik, 75 km away from Maiduguri.

At least three people killed in attack on Mali’s Kidal

BAMAKO, 8 March — At least three people were killed in an attack on the north Malian town of Kidal early on Sunday, including a UN peacekeeper, a witness and a security source said.

Dozens of rockets and shells were fired towards a UN base just outside the desert town, and at least one of them fell on a town centre, police and medical sources said.

— Reuters

Members of Iraqi security forces and Shi‘ite fighters sit on a vehicle in Al Hadidiya, south of Tikrit, on route to the Islamic State-controlled al-Alam town, where they are preparing to launch an offensive on 6 March, 2015. —Reuters

Iraqi security forces and Shi‘ite militia fighters struggled to advance on Saturday into the two towns of al-Alam and al-Dour near Tikrit, their progress slowed by fierce defence from Islamic State militants. We are facing a strong resistance from terrorist groups and we are trying to surround Daesh inside al-Alam and al-Dour and cut all supply routes for them, said al-Alam mayor Latif al-Jubouni, referring to the Islamic State fighters. Army and militia fighters entered the southern and eastern parts of al-Dour on army units and tribes. An official at the time that the town had been completely recaptured, but officials said only parts of it had been re-captured. Army said one of its soldiers was killed in a friendly fire incident, the first fatality for the country during its current military mission in Iraq. Three other Canadian soldiers were wounded.

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— Reuters
Microsoft warns Windows PCs also vulnerable to ‘Freak’ attacks

BOSTON, 8 March — Hundreds of millions of Windows PC users are vulnerable to attacks exploiting the recently uncovered “Freak” security vulnerability, which was initially found Tuesday by researchers with Google Inc’s Android browser vulnerable to cyber-attacks.

Microsoft released a security advisory on Thursday warning customers that their PCs were also vulnerable to the “Freak” vulnerability.

The weakness could allow attackers on PCs that connect with Web servers to use encryption technology intentionally weakened to comply with US government regulations banning exports of the strongest encryption.

If hackers are successful, they could spy on communications as well as infect PCs with malicious software, the researchers who uncovered the threat said on Tuesday.

The Washington Post on Tuesday reported that whitehouse.gov and fbi.gov were among the sites vulnerable to these attacks, but that the government had secured them.

Security experts said the vulnerability was relatively difficult to exploit because hackers would need to use hours of computer time to crack the encryption before launching an attack.

“I don’t think this is a terribly big issue, but only because you have to have many days in a row,” said Ivan Ristic, director of engineering for cybersecurity firm Qualys Inc.

That includes finding a vulnerable web server, breaking the key, finding a vulnerable PC or mobile device, then gaining access to that device.

Apple Inc’s iOS and Mac operating systems, along with Google Inc’s Android browser vulnerable to cyber-attacks.

China to launch Tianzhou-1 cargo ship in 2016 to rendezvous with space lab

BEIJING, 8 March — China will send a cargo ship into the space in 2016 to dock with a future space module scheduled to be launched earlier the same year, a leading Chinese space scientist said on Friday.

The Tianzhou-1, which literally means “heavenly vessel”, will carry propellants, living necessities for astronauts, research facility for China’s second orbiting space lab Tiangong-2, and Zhou Jianping, chief engineer of China’s manned space programme.

Cargo transportation system is a key technology China must master and make breakthroughs to build its own space station, said Zhou who is also a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference, the country’s top political advisory body.

China’s multi-billion-dollar space programme, a source of surging national pride in the country, aims to put a permanent manned space station into service around 2022. The country already launched its first space lab, Tiangong-1, in September 2011 and has conducted two dockings with the module in the following two years. In June 2013, three Chinese astronauts delivered a physics lesson onboard Tianlong-1.

According to Zhou, Tianzhou-1 will be blasted off on top of a next-generation Long March-7 rocket, possibly from a new launch site in the southern Hainan province.

Research on the Long March-5 carrier rocket – to be used to lift the huge space station Tiangong-2 into space – and Tiangong-2’s payload, and selection of astronauts for the mission are currently “progressing in an orderly manner”, Zhou said.

PayPal to buy Israeli cyber security firm CyActive

TEL AVIV, 8 March — Online payments company PayPal, a unit of eBay, will buy Israeli cyber security company CyActive for $60 million, Israeli media reported. The Globes financial newspaper said the deal is expected to close shortly. A spokeswoman for CyActive, which was founded in 2013, declined to comment on the reports.

CyActive, which says it can forecast future cyber attacks and offer companies such as utilities detection tools, received a strategic investment from the venture capital unit of Siemens in September. Financial details were not disclosed.

Siemens joined Jerusalem Venture Partners (JVP), an Israeli venture capital firm, in investing in CyActive. JVP was the main shareholder in another cyber security company, CyberArk Software, which went public on Nasdaq in September.

This would be PayPal’s second acquisition in Israel, after it bought FraudSciences, which monitors financial fraud, in 2008 for $169 million.

Wild cat spotted in SW China after 30 years

KUNMING, 8 March — Images of the rare marbled cat have been captured in a remote nature reserve in southwest China’s Yunnan Province, researchers said on Friday. This is the first time researchers with Gaoligong Nature Reserve, which was founded in 1983, have managed to obtain photographic evidence of the endangered animal. The discovery was jointly announced by Kadoorie Conservation China (KCC) and Gaoligong Nature Reserve.

Images were captured on 7 October, 2014 and 11 November, 2014 by infrared cameras installed at the Datang station of the nature reserve, according to researchers. Wang Yingxiang, researcher with Kunming Institute of Zoology of Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Doctor Will Duckworth with the World Conservation Union confirmed it was the rare marbled cat.

According to Wang, the first records of the marbled cat in Yunnan were a few specimens found in 1976. The animal was last seen in 1984. “The images captured this time give us proof that the marbled cat is still alive in Yunnan,” Wang said. Marbled cats, whose scientific name is pardofelis marmorata, has been listed as vulnerable by IUCU. It is mostly distributed in southeast Asia along the Himalayan foothills and on the island of Borneo.

Biggest Mobile World Congress in history closes doors

BARCELONA, Spain, 8 March — The Mobile World Congress (MWC) closed its doors on Thursday, being the biggest in the event’s history according to its organizers.

GSMA, an organization that represents the interests of more than 800 mobile operators and more than 250 companies in the mobile ecosystem, expects the number of visitors exceeds the estimated 90,000 figure, surpassing the figure of the previous edition, 56,000 attendees.

During these four days leading mobile companies presented their new products, company representatives met in the event and reached key agreements to the development of technologies, connectivity and mobility.

They also discuss key issues of the future of connectivity, such as 5G technology. But this event was not only a technological one, its economic impact on the city of Barcelona and its surroundings in terms of business profits and job creation was also very important.

The Mobile World Congress is at the moment the most important technological event in the world. So, the fact that Barcelona and Catalonia host this event, it is a great opportunity for us and businesses of this country, because during these days, we are in the spotlight in the field of technology, mobile and smart technologies,” Puiguen said.—Xinhua

PayPal is seen at an office building in San Jose, California on 28 May, 2014.—REUTERS

46,000 Twitter accounts used to promote IS: Brooking study

BEIJING, 8 March — A small group of “hyperactive” users are manipulating most of at least 46,000 Twitter accounts to promote the Islamic State (IS), a recent study said.

Between 500 and 2,000 “hyperactive” users tweet 545 to 2,000 posts each day, and most of the accounts tweet in Arabic, with only about one in five using English, according to a study entitled “The ISIS Twitter Census” published by the Washington DC-based Brookings Institute.

Most IS supporters were located within the territories where the IS operates, as well as Saudia Arabia, and they created their accounts in 2014. Al-Jazeera quoted the study as saying on its website on Friday.

The study questioned the effectiveness of suspending IS-related accounts, saying it does not have concrete effects in limiting the reach and scope of the IS activities on social media.

A shadow of a man using his mobile phone is cast near Microsoft logo at the 2014 Computex exhibition in Taipei on 4 June, 2014.—REUTERS

Microsoft
Bill Clinton defends his charity’s foreign government donors

Former US President Bill Clinton attends the Clinton Global Initiative’s 2015 Winter Meeting in New York on 10 Feb, 2015. REUTERS

MIAMI, 8 March — Former US president Bill Clinton on Saturday defended donations his family’s charity receives from foreign governments after renewed criticism that they would create conflicts of interest should his wife, Hillary Clinton, run for president.

Clinton said it was possible to work with foreign governments even if one disagrees with some things they do, and that it was acceptable for them to donate to the Clinton Foundation if the donations are publicly disclosed.

“I think it’s a good thing,” he said onstage at a youth conference organized by the foundation at the University of Miami during an interview with Larry Wilmore, a television talk-show host.

“The UAE gave us money. Do we agree with everything they do? No. But they help us fight ISIS,” he added, using an acronym for the Islamist militant group Islamic State. The United Arab Emirates donated between $1 million and $5 million to the foundation in 2014, according to a list of donors published on the foundation’s website.

It was one of several new foreign governments, including Canada and Saudi Arabia, that have begun giving to the foundation since Hillary Clinton, who is on the cusp of announcing a run for the presidency as a Democrat in 2016, stepped down as US secretary of state two years ago.

Before she took office in 2009, the Clintons and the Department of State agreed that foreign governments that already supported the foundation, such as Oman, Australia and Qatar, could not increase their contributions, and that new foreign governments could begin contributing.

Exceptions to this would have to be approved by State Department ethicists and lawyers, who would check for possible conflicts of interest.

The Clintons also agreed to annually disclose the names of all new donors to the foundation, which does charitable and development work in dozens of countries.

Hillary Clinton’s political opponents say the donations would create at least an appearance of owed favors that could cloud US government foreign policy.

“My theory is: disclose everything and let people make their judgments,” Bill Clinton said in the onstage interview.

Hillary Clinton spoke onstage about women’s rights before her husband arrived. She has faced a week of intense criticism from political opponents, transparency advocacy groups and some journalists for exclusively using a private email service during her time as secretary of state. She addressed neither that nor the criticism about donors in her remarks.

Reuters

Local gov’ts cautious in setting goals for women managers

TOKYO, 8 March — Local governments have been cautious in setting goals for appointing women to managerial posts, a Kyodo News survey has found.

Kyodo News sent questionnaires to a total of 1,788 heads of the nation’s 47 prefectures, 790 cities, 745 towns, 183 villages and Tokyo’s 23 wards in mid-January, with 1,776 replying by mid-February.

Only 18.8 percent of the respondents said they have set goals. A further 12.2 percent said they intend to set them but 57.6 percent — mainly small municipal bodies of towns and villages — said they have no such plans.

The central government has set the goal of raising the proportion of women in management posts to 30 percent in 2020.

The municipal government of Nanjo in Japan’s southernmost prefecture of Okinawa said there is no need to have a goal as it is a small municipality.

The municipal government of Okazaki in Aichi Prefecture on the island of Kyushu said it is difficult to set a goal amid a decline in the town office workforce due to administrative reforms.

The city government of Nankoku in Kochi Prefecture on the island of Shikoku said the promotion of personnel to management posts should be based on abilities regardless of sex.

The city government of Tahara in central Japan’s Aichi Prefecture said the matter should be left to the discretion of each municipality.

The town government of Aikawa in Kanagawa Prefecture to the south of Tokyo noted that some female officials refuse to accept promotion offers, citing family circumstances.

Meanwhile, the municipal government of Kasaoka in western Japan’s Okayama Prefecture said it is aiming to raise the proportion of female senior officials to 20 percent in fiscal 2017, which starts on 1 April that year.

The city government of Niigata on the Sea of Japan coast said it is planning to increase the number of female department directors. A senior official at the central government’s Cabinet Office, who is in charge of promoting the appointment of women to management posts, said it is desirable that local governments set realistic goals.

Kyodo News

Indian president emphasizes more steps for protection of women

NEW DELHI, 8 March — Indian President Pranab Mukherjee has emphasized that more steps would be taken by the government to protect women through enactment of relevant laws, on the occasion of International Women’s Day.

The president’s message on the day also appealed for a “fundamental re-setting of mental and moral make-up as well as social conduct” for a more protective environment for women in the country.

“The International Women’s Day is an opportunity for us to renew our commitment to the security and welfare of women. Despite numerous legislations enacted to safeguard women, there is much that still remains to be done. Legislation alone cannot emancipate our women,” he said.

“Let us ensure that honor and respect is accorded to women at all times,” he added.

He quoted Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore: “Woman is the builder and moulder of a nation’s destiny. She is the supreme inspiration for man’s onward march.” Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi too had appealed for a change in the people’s mindset as he recently launched various government economic and social projects aimed at empowerment of women.

Xinhua

Two detained after grenade explodes outside Bangkok court

BANGKOK, 8 March — Thai police detained two people for questioning on Saturday after a grenade exploded outside a criminal court in Bangkok.

The explosion caused no deaths or injuries, the police said. It took place in the early evening when the court was not in session.

“We are not certain about the motive of the bombing. Officials are investigating,” Police Lieutenant General Prawut Thawon, a spokesman for the Royal Thai Police told Reuters.

Thailand has been under martial law since the military seized power on 22 May last year to end months of sometimes deadly street protests.

In early February, twin explosions outside a luxury shopping mall killed Bangkok. After those blasts, the first in the Thai capital since the coup, Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said he would tighten security to prevent any further similar incidents. — Reuters

Full-scale dinosaur statue installed in Fukui

Photo taken on 7 March, 2015, shows a full-scale model of a dinosaur, Fukuititan, installed in front of JR Fukui Station in the city of Fukui. The six-metre-high, 10-metre-long statue is expected to be a big hit with tourists.

Kyodo News
Yangon Stock Exchange ICT System Invitation for Open Tender

1. Any interested Information and Telecommunication System Companies are invited for open tender of Yangon Stock Exchange that will be opened within 2015 to develop the business system and to manage its maintenance for the Stock Exchange’s operation ICT system.

2. Application form with detail plan for ICT system and its requirement will be sold starting on (5-3-2015). Tender will be closed on (26-3-2015) at (16:00) pm.

3. For more information, contact to tentative office of the Yangon Stock Exchange Joint-venture Company Limited, located at No. (21/25), 1 Floor, Myanmar Economic Bank Building. Ph-(01-1220836)

PRESS CONFERENCE
On 21 March 2015 (Saturday) @ UMFFCCI
for
MITA MYANMAR MEDICAL HEALTHCARE CONFERENCE & EXHIBITIONS
To be held @ Tatmadaw Hall, Yangon
Durung 29-30 August 2015

The first time in Myanmar, at the same venue
Myanmar Medical Exhibition, Pharmaceutical Expo,
Myanmar Cosmetic Beauty Spa Exhibition,
Myanmar Sports & Fitness Equipment Exhibition,
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China says search for missing Malaysian plane will not stop

BEIJING, 8 March — China’s foreign minister said on Sunday the search for a Malaysian Airlines flight which vanished one year ago will not stop, adding that the government will keep providing whatever help it can to relatives of those on board.

“The search for MH370 will continue,” Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on the sidelines of an annual meeting of China’s parliament.

“Today must be a tough day for the family members of those on board,” Wang added. “Our hearts are with you.”

No trace has been found of the Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 aircraft, which disappeared a year ago on Sunday carrying 239 passengers and crew, in what has become one of the greatest mysteries in aviation history. Most of those on board were from China. Flight MH370 vanished from radar screens shortly after taking off from Kuala Lumpur, bound for Beijing. Investigators believe it was flown thousands of miles off course before eventually crashing into the Indian Ocean.

Australia’s deputy prime minister said recently the search for the plane could not go on forever, and discussions were already under way between Australia, China and Malaysia as to whether to call off the hunt within weeks.

Wang said that Malaysian Airlines has started compensation work for family members. “We will provide all necessary assistance and services to each family of those onboard the plane,” he said. “We will help you uphold legitimate interests and lawful rights.”


1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of JET A1 (+95) (01) 8604532

2. Tender Closing Date & Time
- 16-3-2015, 12:00 Hrs
- 16-3-2015, 13:00 Hrs
- 1-4-2015 to 31st August 2015

3. Tender documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, the Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing 5.3-2015 on payment of Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.

4. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from the Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

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

A message left on a board of remembrance by Kelly Santos, 29, whose passenger aboard MH370, is seen at a vigil ahead of the one-year anniversary of the disappearance in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 6 March, 2015.—Reuters

Nationalwide organization to promote “ninja” to be launched in September

The organization will gather and provide information on its website about ninja — fighters trained in Japanese martial arts — and about tourism destinations, organizers said on Sunday.

It will also respond to inquiries from home and abroad, and is scheduled to boost the popularity of ninja. Ninja often appear in Japanese films and anime.

The launch comes amid growing calls from abroad for creating such a unified body, as various groups have been working separately to promote ninja culture, the organizers said.

Japan’s five prefectures historically famous for ninja — Kanagawa, Nagano, Mie, Shiga and Saga — are part of the initiative, which is also supported by Japanese kabuki actor Ichikawa Ebizo. “We want to make ninja something that people can enjoy regardless of nationality or age,” Mie Gov Eikei Suzuki told a press conference in Tokyo.

Kanagawa Gov Yuji Kurumaya said he hopes to “introduce Fuma ninja in Odawara city to the world.”

Kyodo News
Judi Dench says her worst audition was when she was told by a director that she didn’t have the “face” for movies.

The ‘Skyfall’ actress is well known for her acting credits in a host of top films but recalled a time where she was told she did not have the right look to be a movie star.

“I went and met (the director) and I was at the Old Vic at the time and he asked me some questions and in those days, you weren’t filmed and he said to me, ‘Well it’s been very nice meeting you but I’m sorry this film and probably not any film as you have every single thing wrong with your face,’ she said at The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon.’

“Well I got to do a few films after that so I’m very pleased he was wrong,” she said.

Despite proving the director wrong, the 80-year-old actress has insisted she will not reveal the name of the man who turned her down.

“I can’t because I’ve never, in all of time, since it happened — it was a long time ago — have I said the name of the director but it was for a big film,” she said. —PTI
Omae doubles up as Shimizu start season with win over Kashima

SHIZUOKA, (Japan), 8 March — Genki Omae struck in the 89th minute as Shizuoka S-Pulse defeated Kashima Antlers 3-1 to open their J-League season with victory on Sunday. Captain and former Antler Takuya Honda netted the decisive second for Katsumi Omori’s side, who barely survived relegation last season after sacking coach Aishin Gohshi at the halfway point.

Substitute Yasushi Endo scored in the second half for Kashima, who have dropped all three competitive games in 2015 counting the two losses in the Asian Champions League.

“I’m absolutely thrilled,” Omae said. “It doesn’t get any better than this. I thought we played really well. 3-1 is a terrific result.” “Last season was difficult for us but we start from zero again this year. This is a great way to start the new season.”

Controversy marred the league for the second straight day when with S-Pulse up 2-1 in the 81st minute, defender Tomoya Inukai appeared to clear Mu Kanazaki’s shot off the line with his arm but no call was made. On Saturday, Gamba Osaka scored their first in a 2-2 home draw with FC Tokyo but only after Takashi Usami looked to have run over the by-line. When asked about Inukai’s play that may have cost his team points, Kashima manager Tomonzo Cerezo unloaded on the referee. Antlers plan to formally take up the issue with the league office.

“Well, what I saw from the bench was that the ball didn’t go off his head, chest, thigh or shin so what other part of the body could it have gone off of?” Cerezo said. “Even when something like this happens in a game, no one says anything and nothing gets debated. Everyone who was here today — from the fans, the teams on the field, the media — saw what happened. It’s why you guys are asking me this specific question.”

“But let me be clear that I’m saying what I’m saying because I’m being asked about it. Because if I’m the one who raises the issue, I’m the one who gets fined, punished or called into (the Japan Football Association) for questioning.”

“They want to pretend like nothing ever happened. They want to sweep any inconvenience under a rug in this country.”

Shimizu opened the season at home for the first time in seven years and with a sellout crowd behind them, gave a depleted and tired Kashima team a game at Nihondaira.

Antlers were not only coming off a midweek defeat at FC Seoul in the ACL, but also missing several from the first team due to injury or rest — midfielder Moturo Ogawara, defender Gen Shojo, goalkeeper Hi- toshi Sogahata and forward Davi. The visitors still had enough chances to win the contest, starting with a clever chip in the 21st minute by Takahide Umebachishi, when he hit the post before Endo went over to make it 1-1. But Shimizu regained the advantage five minutes later as Honda volleyed in the second from point-blank range after a right-wing cross by Kazuya Murata, just the fourth career goal in 123 league appearances by the former Japanese international.

After Kanazaki’s penalty goal during Antlers’ push to restore parity for a second time, Omae doubled up in the 91st minute to put the game beyond doubt with a screamer from outside the penalty area.

Maeda makes strong bid for worlds in Nagoya Women’s Marathon

NAGOYA, 8 March — Sari Maeda likely sealed a spot on Japan’s team for this year’s world athletics championships with a strong third-place finish at Sunday’s Nagoya Women’s Marathon, won by Asian Games champion Eunice Kirwa of Bahrain.

Kirwa won in race-record time of 2 hours, 22 minutes, 8 seconds. She picked up speed after the 30-kilometer mark to pass Maeda and defending champion Mariya Kononava, who finished second. Maeda, who fell on the 15-km water tables, finished in 2:22:48, the eighth-fastest time by a Japanese woman. “I’m surprised (about the time),” said Maeda, who fell when she came into contact with another runner, hurting her left wrist. “It hurts quite a bit. “I was aspiring to win the championship, so I can’t be satisfied with this.”

Maeda is now the driver’s seat to race in the IAAF World Championships in Beijing, with Nagoya being the last of three qualifying races. Compatriot Mai Ito finished fourth in 2:24:42, a time that might be fast enough to send her to Beijing as well.

The race was the final qualifying event for Japan’s team for the world championships. The fastest times posted so far in the other qualifying marathons, in Yokohama and Osaka, were Tomomi Tanaka’s 2:26:57 in Yokohama, and Eunice Kirwa of Bahrain crosses the finish line at Nagoya Dome in Nagoya, central Japan, on 8 March, 2015 to win the Nagoya Women’s Marathon. Kirwa won in a race-record time of 2 hours, 22 minutes, 8 seconds.

Kyodo News

Djokovic takes Troicki’s place in doubles v Croatia

KEKLENJE, (Serbia) 8 March — World number one Novak Djokovic has replaced his partner Vukasin Troicki in the Davis Cup world group first-round tie between Serbia and the International Tennis Fed eration said.

Serbia, the 2010 winners, are 2-0 up after Djokovic enjoyed a straight-sets win over Mate Delic in Friday’s opening singles before Troicki fought back from two sets down to out 18-year-old Borna Coric.

Although Troicki was initially named to play alongside Zimonjic and said he was fit after a grueling clash with Coric, Serbia coach Bogdan Obadrovic opted for Djokovic who blew away Delic in just 89 minutes.—Reuters

Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns the ball to Tomas Berdych of Czech Republic during their semi-final match at the ATP Championships tennis tournament in Dubai, on 27 Feb, 2015. — Reuters

Five dead, twelve injured in China road accident

ZHENGZHOU, 8 March — Five people died and 12 others were injured after a coach bus crashed into a pond in central China’s Henan province early Sunday, local authorities said.

The accident happened on an expressway in Qushui County, around 6:20 am when the bus carrying 55 passengers crashed through the guardrail and fell into a pool nearby. Five people were killed and 12 were injured, according to the county government.

The bus carrying 55 passengers was travelling from Shangcheng County in Henan to Xianushan District of Hangzhou City in east China’s Zhejiang province.

The injured have been sent to hospital. The cause of the accident in under investigation.—Xinhua

Monday, 9 March, 2015

General News
Villa could face FA wrath after Cup crowd chaos

LONDON, 8 March — Aston Villa will be braced for a Football Association investigation after their FA Cup triumph over West Bromwich Albion ended in alarming crowd scenes on Saturday.

Albion fans threw objects on to the pitch and celebrating Villa fans caused a short interruption in play by invading the playing surface in the dying minutes. They were described as “mindless idiots” by Pulis.

At the final whistle, a full-scale pitch invasion saw the players of both teams engulfed by fans in what Villa scorer and captain, Fabian Delph, described as “very, very scary” scenes. He even said that, bizarrely, he had been bitten during the chaos.

The scenes, reminiscent of some of the uncontrollable old days of English football in the 1980s, seem bound to prompt the wrath of the FA. Pulis pointed a finger at Villa, saying the club should before the game have recognised potential problems which could endanger the players.

“It’s disgraceful. We don’t want to see those scenes. They’ve beaten us and, for that to happen, that’s just mindless idiots,” he said.

Aston Villa fans celebrate on the pitch after the match in FA Cup Quarter Final at Villa Park on 7 March, 2015.—Reuters

PSG thump Lens 4-1 to take top spot, Monaco win

Paris, 8 March — Paris St Germain thrashed RC Lens 4-1 to move top of Ligue 1 on Saturday as the French Champions geared up for their Champions League clash at Chelsea next week.

David Luiz, Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Blaise Matuidi and Javier Pastore scored the goals that put PSG on 56 points from 28 games, two ahead of Olympique Lyonnaise who can reclaim the lead if they beat Montpellier away on Sunday (8.00 pm BST).

Marseille are a further point back in third on 53 after thrashing Toulouse 6-1 away on Friday. Monaco are fourth on 47 after beating Evian Thonon Gaillard 3-1 away on Saturday.

PSG warmed up for their visit to Stamford Bridge for their last 16 return leg with Chelsea on Wednesday, having drawn 1-1 at the Parc des Princes, with a comfortable win over Lens.

The visitors, who reduced the arrears to 2-1 through Yoann Touzghar after 68 minutes, stayed second-bottom on 22 points having lost seven of their last 10 league games and won none.

The hosts dominated but Lens keeper Rudy Riou kept their attack at bay. Ibrahimovic converted a penalty after Gregory van der Wiel was brought down by Bastia Guillaume.

Touzghar narrowed the deficit from close range but Lens’s hopes were dashed when Kassim Abdallah to double Monaco’s lead. Almamy Toure made it 3-0 on the hour before former Monaco player Pape Amoudou Sougou reduced the arrears for Evian, who are in 16th place three points above the relegation zone.

Kane strikes twice as Spurs sink struggling QPR

LONDON, 8 March — Harry Kane struck twice as Tottenham Hotspur beat Queens Park Rangers 2-1 on Saturday to boost their hopes of a top-four finish and leave their London rivals facing an uphill battle to avoid relegation.

QPR enjoyed the better of the early exchanges at Loftus Road but in-form Kane continued his impressive run of scoring in his last five London Premier League derbies to put Spurs ahead.

Kane added his second just before the break in front of English manager Roy Hodgson before former Tottenham midfielder Sandro pulled a goal back for QPR.

Chardy snatched a late onslaught to hold on to the victory which moved them up to sixth on 30 points — three behind fourth-placed Manchester United.

QPR remained in 18th place on 22 points, three behind Aston Villa.

“It’s a massive win, we always seem to be winning 2-1,” Kane told the BBC. “I’m loving my football, being out there with my team mates and my mates.

“I feel good and confident, it’s important for a striker to have that. The second goal was a nice composed finish.

“There are a lot of top teams up there (competing for the top four) and whoever can put a run together will be right up there.” Both goalkeepers were called into action early on as Hugo Lloris forced Bobby Zamora’s header over the bar.

“I produced a smart save to deny Kane. Charlie Austin fired a shot against the underside of the crossbar as QPR piled on the pressure but Spurs snatched the lead when Kane headed in Andros Townsend’s free kick. QPR had appeals for a penalty turned down at the end of the first half when Lloris appeared to clip Mauricio Isla in the box. But Kane scored with his 16th Premier League goal of the season to double Spurs’ advantage in the 68th minute when he latched on to Ryan Mason’s pass and slotted the ball home. Sandro’s neat finish gave QPR a lifeline and the home side were denied another possible penalty in the dying minutes when Steven Caulker’s header appeared to strike the hand of Nabil Bentaleb.—Reuters

Team manager encourages Myanmar women footballers

MANDALAY, 8 March — Myanmar national women’s team is under training as preparations to take part in the Olympic qualifiers. It takes two training sessions in Mandalay daily—the first session from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. at Balhoo Stadium and one more session at Mandalay Thir Stadium from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

On Sunday morning, team manager Daw Myat Myat Oo met players of the team.

An opponent team from Sri Lanka will arrive in Yangon through Malaysian airlines at 11 a.m. on 9 March and proceed to Mandalay. The Indian women’s team will directly come to Mandalay through Thai airlines the same day.

The Sri Lankan team will leave Myanmar on 14 March and the Indians on 16 March.—MFF

Paris St Germain players celebrate after Javier Pastore (L) scored the fourth goal for the team during their French Ligue 1 soccer match against RC Lens at Parc des Princes stadium in Paris, on 7 March, 2015. Reuters