KIO holds talks with President, takes new step to achieving peace

NAV PYI TAW, 16 March — A nationwide ceasefire moved a step closer to reality Monday in Nay Pyi Taw as the Kachin Independence Organization held its first-ever meeting with President U Thein Sein and reaffirmed its commitment to the ongoing peace process.

In his opening remarks, President U Thein Sein stressed the important role of key players in the peacemaking process and called for ending the decades-long armed conflict through negotiation.

The eight-member KIO delegation met with the president one day before the 7th peace talks between the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team comprising 16 ethnic armed groups and the Union Peace-making Work Committee of the government in Yangon.

The 7th talks between the NCCT and UPWC will hear the viewpoints of all NCCT members, and both sides will negotiate the timeframe of the ongoing nationwide ceasefire process, said Maj-Gen Guan Maw of the Kachin Independence Army.

He also urged the population to be optimistic about the ongoing peacemaking process, pledging to work until it is successful.

During the meeting, on behalf of NCCT members, the KIO pledged that ethnic races would never splinter off from the country and they were also committed to gaining a nationwide ceasefire in order to bring an end to decades of armed conflicts, said U Aung Min, Vice Chairman of the UPWC, who also participated in the talks the day before meeting with the president.

At the meeting, the vice president said peace is within arm’s length, urging the KIO to continue (See page 3)

Global showcase to feature Myanmar’s traditional puppets

YANGON, 16 March — Traditional marionettes from Myanmar will be on display at the world’s largest folk art exhibition this July in the United States.

The 12th International Folk Art Market in Santa Fe will celebrate living folk art traditions and create economic opportunities for folk artists worldwide, according to U Khin Maung Htwe, art director of Htwe Oo Myanmar Puppetry Home.

“Global showcase to feature Myanmar’s traditional puppets

By Khaining Thanda Lwin

The aim of participation is not to make a profit but to showcase our traditional art of puppetry,” U Khin Maung said in an interview on Sunday with the Global New Light of Myanmar.

He sees the exhibition as an opportunity to bring the country’s puppetry back to life, as the tradition has almost faded away.

“About 200 string puppets will be on sale at this year’s event,” he said. “We do not fix higher prices for puppets. Last year, we did not break even.”

Recounting his experience from the past event, U Khin Maung Htwe said that other than people who had visited Myanmar, few people had seen the country’s traditional puppets.

But most foreigners show interest in the country’s traditions, he said. Some of them bought puppets and then learned puppetry techniques, with customers usually asking about the history of the art form, he added.

Myanmar has taken part in the market since (See page 2)
Ministry of Electric Power to electrify villages in Seikpyu Tsp, Paletwa Tsp depending on budgets

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

U Salai Khwe Yan of Chin State Constituency No.12.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 March — The Amyotha Hluttaw continued for the 27th session, here, on Monday.

U Thaw Zin Oo of Magway Region Constituency raised a question on a plan for installation of 11 KV power line along Seikpyu, Tegyi, Myaungyangaw, Gwaybin, Hteinang, Wyathyti and Kethsegan villages in Magway Region.

Deputy Minister U Aung Than Oo, MNA

Seikpyu Township. Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Aung Than Oo explained that electrification for 22 villages needs to install 11KV power lines in 23 miles of total length from Seikpyu power station to Lethe village and to Pinthe village in the township and 23 transformers. Governments of regions and states sought funds for construction of small sub-power stations, 11 KV power lines and 400 volt power lines in 2014-15 fiscal year. Magway region government plans to coordinate allotment of a fund for installation of 11 KV power line in coming fiscal years.

Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Monday.

More than 540,000 students sat Chemistry subject in matriculation exam

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 March — A total of 547,690 students sat Chemistry subject of matriculation examination for 2015 in regions, states and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Monday.

The number of student was 50.07% less than the amount on the test of Myanmar subject.—MNA
Internal conflicts cost lives of national brethren, says senior general

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 March — Command-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received delegation of Kachin Independence Organization led by Dr La Ja on Monday.

At the meeting the Kachin ethnic delegation discussed the military affairs of KIO and KIA.

The Senior General said there are some different ideologies and perspectives of relevant organizations in the efforts to establish a democratic state, while the defence services personnel are strenuously taking part in maintenance of peace and stability of the country.

He also remarked that those who lost lives in conflicts are Myanmar nationals, with saying that good intention and proper practices are important for the development of the state.

The Command-in-Chief of Defence Services also said the death of new generation is a great loss despite armed groups and government military can substitute the fallen soldiers with recruitment of new members.

Dr La Ja, general secretary of KIO also said peace, stability and development of the state are the expectations of all the nationals, adding that all the ethnic people should involve in the peace-making process.

KIA’s deputy Chief of Staff Su Guan Maw also said the Nationwide Cease-Fire Agreement should be aimed for prevention of more conflicts, and KIA has intended to cooperate in education, health and security affairs.

Union FM sends message of felicitations to Ireland

Nay Pyi Taw, 17 March — Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Charles Flanagan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland, on the occasion of the National Day of Ireland, which falls on 17 March 2015. — MNA

Tatmadaw launches attacks on Point 1468 hilltop seized by Kokang insurgents

Nay Pyi Taw, 16 March — Koakng insurgents launched an attack against a Tatmadaw column taking security duty on Point 1219 hilltop to the east of Laukkai on Sunday evening and the Tatmadaw column has to counter the attack.

While Tatmadaw columns were clearing the route from Parsinkyaw village to BP-137 on Monday morning, fighting broke out between the columns and Kokang insurgents from Point 1468 and Tatmadaw personnel were defeating the defence line of the insurgent on the hill.

During the fighting, two officers sacrificed their lives for the country and five other officers and four soldiers were wounded. - Myawady

KIO holds talks with President, . . .

(from page 1)

It is to its efforts with patience and far-sighted vision.

The current mission of the KIO delegation, comprising political and military representatives, is significant as it held face-to-face talks with the vice president Sunday and with the president Monday for the first time.

Dr La Ja, General Secretary of KIO, said in his opening remarks at the talks that the delegation will seek rapid progress in the peace process.

The UPWC and the NCCT are scheduled to hold talks in Yangon on Tuesday.— Aye Min Soe

Rakhine ferry sinking death toll rise to 59

Sittway, 16 March—Ferry boat capsized near Myebon Township, Rakhine State, was found at the river bed on Friday.

Rescue team including 10 divers found 23 bodies, including 14 women, from the hull of the sunken vessel on Monday evening, and death toll has risen to 59.

Double-decker ferry boat Aung Tagun-3 carried 225 passengers while it sank near Paython island and Myauk Kyuin island at 8 p.m. local time on March 8 p.m. local time on March 17, killing 14 people, including two monks. The rescue team is now working to pull the ferry boat off the seabed.

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Myawady
**Infrastructure upgrades under way in Kayah State**

Loikaw, 16 March — Kayah State Minister for Transport U Chit Hla and Senior Engineer U Than Zaw of Public Works inspected construction of a retaining wall to prevent bank erosion in rainy season near Dawphu Village on Dimawhso-Dawnyaykhu Road in Kayah State on 13 March. They also viewed progress of Dawnyaykhu-Bawlakhe gravel road and bridges being built with K465.34 million by Public Works.

The minister and party also looked into construction of Yaynipauk Bridge in Bawlakhe Township. Naing Min Company assigned duty by Public Works constructs Yaynipauk Bridge on Loikaw-Mawchi-Toungoo Road with allotment of K136.49 million in 2014-15 fiscal year. The 60-foot-long bridge will be made from reinforced concrete.

During the trip, the minister viewed upgrading of Loikaw-Pruhso road and construction of a 5,600-foot-long Ngwetaung Dam detour, in addition to a 120-foot-long RC bridge.

*Loikaw District IPRD*

**Tunzang, 16 March**—People and goods can more easily make the journey between Cikha and Kantsauk villages in Tunzang Township, Chin State, following the completion of a bridge spanning Cipilwi Creek in February.

Tunzang Township Department of Rural Development in Chin State provided K1.8 million for construction of the 40-foot-long bridge to ensure the smooth transportation of local residents and swift flow of commodities.

Chin State Minister for Electric Power and Industry U Cint Lien Pawng, Township Administrator U Kyaw Min Htwe and Head of Township Department of Rural Development U Hiwam Hsian cut the ribbon to open the wooden bridge in the first week of March.

*Zo Hay Hsae*

**Development project seeks to raise rural incomes**

Bokpyin, 16 March — The Department of Rural Development and the Asian Development Bank jointly staged a workshop on their programme to improve rural livelihoods and income at the hall of Bokpyin Township General Administration Department in Taninthayi Region on 12 March.

Both institutions will spend K1.2 million implementing the ongoing project until December 2017 in 96 village-tracts in Ayeyawady, Magway, Mandalay and Taninthayi regions, as well as Shan State. The project will cover 19 village-tracts in Bokpyin Township.

*Vice Chairman-2 U Thaung Su Nyin together with U Ye Myat Thu and U Ye Myint Naing of Myanmar Youth Entrepreneurs Association seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for Japan on 15 March to attend Asia Leaders Business Summit 2015 in Tokyo on 17 March.—MYEA*

**Buddha Pujaniya of Shwesaryan Pagoda draws crowds of pilgrims**

Pathingyi, 16 March — This year’s Buddha Pujaniya festival of Shwesaryan Pagoda located in Pathingyi Township of Mandalay District, attracted crowds from Mandalay and its surrounding townships, as well as Shan State, which has ties to the religious site.

This year, the festival was held from 4 to 13 March. The pagoda was built by Saw Mon Hla, an ethnic Shan queen of King Anawrahta during the Bagan period.

During the festival, domestic products, traditional foods, herbal plants and toys made of toddy palms were sold by vendors from Shan State. Shan youths played traditional drums as a tribute to Saw Mon Hla.

*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*
Japan, Laos to cooperate in anti-flood measures in Mekong River

**Tokyo, 16 March —** Japan and Laos agreed on Monday to step up cooperation in enhancing flood risk management and mitigation in the Mekong River basin covering the Southeast Asian country.

In a meeting with Lao Deputy Prime Minister Asang Laoly in Tokyo, Parliamentary Vice Foreign Minister Kazuyuki Nakane said Japan “will continue to implement anti-flood measures (for Laos) through the Mekong River Commission.

The Mekong River Commission is an inter-governamental agency that works with Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam on joint management of shared water resources and sustainable development of the Mekong River.

Japan is a “development partner” for the body. The meeting was open to journalists.

Citing inefficient early warning and flood forecasting systems for Mekong tributaries in Laos, Asang indirectly sought Japan’s assistance in developing advanced forecast and notification systems.

Nakane stressed the importance of being well-prepared for possible disasters, citing a UN study that a country’s economic loss would be reduced to about one-seventh if it employed measures against potential calamities. In an effort to stimulate bilateral exchanges in tourism and other forms of business, Nakane said Japan wants to cooperate with Laos in launching direct flights between the two countries soon in line with an aviation agreement the two governments signed in January.

Nakane also assured Laos of Japan’s cooperation when Laos chairs ASEAN in 2016.

Japan has been promoting ties with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which is lowering barriers to the flow of people, goods and money across the borders of its 10 member states to launch a more integrated ASEAN Economic Community at the end of this year.

Asang met Nakane after attending sessions of a UN meeting on disaster risk reduction that will run through Wednesday in the northeastern Japan city of Sendai. —Kyodo News

**ASEAN looks to African Union model for regional peacekeeping force**

**Kuala Lumpur** (Malaysia), 16 March — Defence ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations will study the African Union model in their quest to set up an integrated peacekeeping force of the 10-member regional grouping, Malaysian Defence Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said on Monday.

“African Union peacekeeping forces (go under the UN flag), so why not ASEAN? We just have to check how they do it,” Hishammuddin told reporters after chairing a one-day meeting of ASEAN defence ministers at the resort island of Langkawi off the northern Kelah state.

Malaysia, which took over the rotating ASEAN chair this year, revived the idea of an ASEAN peacekeeping force that was first mooted a decade ago among ASEAN member countries. While expressing optimism that the idea of an ASEAN peacekeeping force would materialize, Hishammuddin said it “requires time and a lot of negotiations on how to go forward.”

The concept of such a force failed to take off in the past as some member countries feared it would clash with ASEAN’s longstanding principle of non-interference in each other’s domestic affairs.

Defence of the African Union, formerly known as the Organization of African Unity, has deployed peacekeeping forces under the UN flag to conflict zones in Africa like Sudan and Somalia.

“If an ASEAN peacekeeping force were to materialize, it would likely be a land-based force, consisting of ground troops and personnel, rather than a force oriented to a naval configuration,” Graham Ong-Webb, a research fellow in Singapore’s Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, told Kyodo News.

“I think there is some strategic value in fielding an ASEAN peacekeeping force specifically to the international community that ASEAN is poised to manage hotspots and conflicts in its own backyard,” Ong-Webb said.

Arguing that the ASEAN Charter of 2007 provides the basis for the establishment of such a regional peacekeeping force, Ong-Webb said the idea “impinges on the Association’s traditional principle of non-interference.”

ASEAN’s member states are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. —Kyodo News

**Four Thai activists to face military court in ‘landmark case’**

**Bangkok** 16 March — Four Thai activists are to face military court on Monday on charges of violating junta orders banning public gatherings in what a rights group called a “landmark case” that could stir indignation at strict military rule.

The four men are members of a group called Resistant Citizen, which has held demonstrations around the Thai capital in defiance of the military government which came to power after a coup in May.

“It is a landmark case. Hundreds have been sent to military court since the coup but this case is an outright persecution of peaceful expression of dissent,” said Sunai Phasuk of Human Rights Watch.

The four are Arnon Nampa, 30, a rights lawyer, Sirawith Seritiwat, 24, a student, leaves a police station for the military court in Bangkok on 16 March, 2015. —Reuters

The four activists were detained with five others for a gathering at Thammasat University to oppose military courts.

Under martial law, which has been in place since May, gatherings of more than five people are banned. “All four of us will be sent to military court today and, if the military court accepts the case, then we will ask for bail,” Arnon told Reuters.

Dozens of supporters showed up at a Bangkok police station where the four activists were interrogated, according to a Reuters reporter. Some handed the men red roses.

**Philippine army arrests leader of Muslim rebel splinter group**

**Manila**, 16 March — Philippine security forces have arrested the leader of a small but violent Muslim rebel faction, an army spokesman said on Monday.

“The government of the largely Christian country has been battling Muslim rebels for decades and while a peace process with the biggest faction has led to a decrease in violence, clashes with smaller factions and bomb attacks are common,” the military said.

The military said Mohammad Ali Tambako, founder and leader of the Justice Islamic Movement, was detained with five associates in the southern city of General Santos late on Sunday.

“Tambako was fleeing when he was arrested,” said Lieutenant-Colonel Harold Cabunoc, head of the military public affairs office.

“They were on their way to a sea port in General Santos … armed with hand guns and grenades.” —Reuters
China official voices concern on US defence missile plans in S Korea

SEOUL, 16 March — A senior Chinese diplomat expressed concern to South Korean officials on Monday on the possible deployment of an advanced US missile-defence system in South Korea.

China’s assistant minister of foreign affairs Liu Jianchao spoke to reporters after what he described as “candid” talks with Lee Kyung Soo, the South Korean deputy foreign minister for political affairs.

“It would be appreciated if (South Korea) treats the Chinese side’s interest and concerns importantly,” Liu said.

Liu made the remarks when asked about China’s position on US plans to deploy a missile defence system, known as Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD), in South Korea.

THAAD is a land-based weapon system that can shoot down ballistic missiles.

“It is hoped the US and South Korea make a proper decision,” Liu said.

The US plan to deploy THAAD in South Korea has also sparked concerns among South Koreans that it would turn the country into a US frontline missile defence base, causing diplomatic friction with Beijing and forcing Seoul to bear the brunt of intensified China-US rivalry.

In February, Chinese Defence Minister Chang Wanquan said he was concerned over the matter during a visit to Seoul.

US officials maintain the system is purely defensive and its deployment in South Korea would be aimed at exclusively dealing with the threats posed by North Korea.

China argues that its deployment would undermine the region’s stability and strategic balance.

Iran, United States resume nuclear talks in Lausanne

LAUSANNE, 16 March — US Secretary of State John Kerry and his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif resumed nuclear talks on Monday in the Swiss city of Lausanne to try to narrow gaps before a 31 March deadline for a political agreement.

The meeting included US Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz and Iran’s nuclear chief Ali Akbar Salehi, who also met on Sunday to negotiate technical details on how to curb Iran’s nuclear programme.

Kerry has urged Iran to make concessions that would allow six world powers to reach a political framework agreement for a nuclear deal with Teheran that would lift sanctions in exchange for curbs on Teheran’s nuclear programme.

The parties have set a 30 June deadline to finalise an accord. Iran and major powers will meet this week in Lausanne but the date has not been announced yet.

Abe pushes for Japan’s permanent membership of UN Security Council

TOKYO, 16 March — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Monday called for immediate reform of the United Nations and expressed Japan’s aspiration to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

“We should no longer spend time discussing reform of the Security Council. It is time to produce specific results,” Abe told a symposium at the United Nations University in Tokyo.

To commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the world body, Japan “is ready to assume the role of a permanent member of the council. It has been so, and it will continue to be,” Abe said.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon was among participants at the symposium.

In collaboration with Brazil, Germany and India, Japan is calling for expanding the number of both permanent and non-permanent members of the 15-member Security Council so it can better represent the realities of the international community of the 21st century.

With this year marking the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, Abe said that based on deep remorse for the war, Japan has followed the path of peace since the Pacific War while respecting freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

“Japan has aimed for it to become a country that can contribute to peace, development and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region and the world,” he said.

Indonesia to expand visa-free scheme to 40 countries

JAKARTA, 16 March — The Indonesian government will raise the number of countries receiving free visa to 40 from the current 15 countries, a minister said here on Monday.

Tourism Minister Arief Yahya said that the expansion of the scheme was expected to increase the number of foreign tourist arrivals by 15 percent annually.

The number of foreign holiday makers coming into Indonesia last year reached 9.453 million, according to the national statistical bureau.

Among the countries to be included in the expansion are China, France, Germany, Norway, South Korea, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States, Minister Yahya said at the Coordinating Ministry for Economy.

The Indonesian government has doubled the target of foreign holiday makers coming into the vast archipelago country to 20 million within in 5 years, as there is a huge potential to boost the tourism industry in the country, Economic Chief Minister Sofyan Djalil has said.

Indonesia expects 10 million foreign tourist arrivals this year.

Indonesia’s tourism industry has recovered from the Asian financial crisis and terrorism attacks in recent years.
London, 16 March — Prime Minister David Cameron’s plan to get changes to European Union treaties as part of his renegotiation of Britain’s ties with the bloc is “mission impossible”, European Council President Donald Tusk told the Guardian newspaper.

Cameron has pledged to reform Britain’s EU relationship ahead of a membership referendum by the end of 2017 if he is re-elected in May, and has said he believes treaty change will be needed to adapt rules in areas such as immigration.

“My intuition is that treaty change is close to mission impossible today because it’s not only about rationality, about good argument,” Tusk told the Guardian.

“We need unanimity between 28 member states, in the European parliament, in 28 national parliaments in the process of ratification. To say that it is a Pandora’s Box is too little.”

Tusk said he wanted to help Cameron achieve reform but needed to know more details about what Britain wanted to assess whether treaty change was even needed. Other member states did not want discussion of treaty change, he said.

“We need … a good solution for Cameron and Great Britain under existing law,” he said.

“We need the United Kingdom in Europe … And I feel, but it’s not my role to decide about it, but I feel that the United Kingdom needs Europe.”

Top US Republican lawmaker to launch investigation of Clinton emails — ABC

WASHINGTON, 16 March — The top Republican in the US House of Representatives is expected to announce an investigation this week into Hillary Clinton’s use of an email server when she was the State Department, ABC News reported on Sunday.

ABC’s “This Week” said that top Republicans briefed the programme about Speaker John Boehner’s plan to investigate Clinton’s use of her personal email address when she was secretary of state from 2009 to 2013. However, the network did not state whether the probe would be separate from an ongoing House investigation and additional actions being considered by an oversight committee.

Clinton’s failure to use a government email address has sparked a storm of criticism even as she lays the groundwork for an expected 2016 presidential bid. At a news conference last Tuesday, she said her private email address was a “convenience” so she would not have to carry two mobile devices. Also on Tuesday, Clinton’s office released a detailed document about her email use and the steps she had taken to provide relevant official emails to the State Department.

Clinton sent and received 62,320 emails while at the State Department, and after a review process, 30,490 official emails were provided to the department and 31,830 were withheld as private and personal records, the document said.

Clinton’s attorneys used several search terms, such as official government account addresses and countries relevant to ongoing congressional probes, to identify official emails, according to the document. These search was conducted in addition to reading every single email, Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill confirmed on Sunday.

Crisis in Ukraine

MOSCOW, 16 March — President Vladimir Putin has ordered the Russian Navy’s Northern Fleet and para- trooper units to go on full alert as part of snap military exercises in the Arctic, RIA news agency quoted the defense minister as saying on Monday.

Defence Minister Sergiy Shoigu, who is overseeing an expensive modernisation of the armed forces, said Russia faced new threats to its security which obliged it to boost its military strength and capabilities.

“New challenges and threats to military security require the armed forces to further boost their military capabilities. Special attention must be paid to strategic formations in the North,” state-run RIA quoted Shoigu as saying.

Tensions between Russia and the West have reached their worst level since the Cold War over the crisis in Ukraine.

The West and Kiev accuse Russia of supplying arms and soldiers to support pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine who are fighting government troops. NATO made new allegations last week that Russia was arming the separatists in east Ukraine, where more than 6,000 people have been killed in nearly a year of fighting.

Moscow has boosted its ambitions in the resource-rich Arctic region, where it shares a border with NATO member Norway, and the military is looking to boost its capabilities in the region.

The tests were due to include nearly 40,000 servicemen, 41 warships and 15 submarines, RIA reported.
Avoid mistaking effect for cause

By Myint Win Thein

Every problem has a root cause which must be found before the problem can be solved. It is common among those seeking to solve a problem to mistakenly identify a mere symptom as the root of the problem. But treating the symptom will not lead to a solution. It can even create more complications, making the problem worse than at the outset.

For example, a doctor must properly diagnose the disease at the root of an illness in order to cure it. If he or she cannot provide a proper diagnosis, but gives only prescriptions for superficial symptoms, the condition of the patient may not improve, and further complications may lead to loss of life. In this instance, distinguishing between causes and symptoms is vital.

In daily life, people who mistake an effect for the main cause are often said to be naïve. They expend their efforts in vain, trying to prevent effects without ever getting to the heart of the matter. They cannot find a solution but spend their entire lives trying to solve the same problems again and again. Success will never come to them, even if they are given the greatest opportunities to achieve it.

Head and Heart

Head: The part of the body on top of the neck containing the eyes, ears, nose, mouth, and brain. It is the organ of consciousness, perception, cognition, intelligence, wits and wisdom.

Heart: (1) Part of Body: the organ in the chest that sends blood around the body, usually on the left in humans. (2) The outside part of the chest where the heart is. (3) Feelings/ Emotions/ Moods: The place in a person where the feelings, moods and emotions are thought to be, especially those connected with love. (4) Hearted: Having the type of character or personality mentioned: Cold-hearted, Kind-hearted.

Importrant Part: The most important part of something, the heart of the matter/ problem; the committee’s report went to the heart of the government’s dilemma; the distinction between right and wrong lies at the heart of all questions of morality.

Centre: The part that is in the centre of something: A quiet hotel in the very heart of the city.

Education: (1) A process of teaching, training and learning, especially in schools and colleges, to improve knowledge and develop skills; Primary/ Elementary Education; Secondary Education; Further/ Higher/ Post-secondary Education, College/ University Education. Education is, indeed, a process of eradicating ignorance and at the same time accumulating wisdom. It is said that: “Ignorance has no beginning, end; and education has a beginning but no end”. So, education is something everyone with a head must learn his or her whole life. Education can be inculcated from theory as well as from practice. Education must be used for positive, progressive purposes for PEOPLE, PLANET AND PEACE.

Achivement: (1) A thing that somebody has done successfully, especially using their own effort and skill. (2) The act or process of achieving something. Synonyms are Accomplishment, Attainment.

Duty: (1) Something that you feel you have to do because it is your moral or legal responsibility. (2) The work that is your job. (3) Duties: Tasks that are part of your job.

Empathy: It is the most practical function of the head to conceive, believe and achieve. In the sustainable achievement of success, service and social-responsibility, we should live and move and have our being. A superior person specializes in something for the splendid achievement of which, he or she devotes all their life, by going the extra mile with the can-do-spirit of tremendous calibar.

Trust: Trust means: (1) The belief that somebody or something is good, sincere, honest, etc. and will not harm or trick you. Her trust in him was unfounded; A partnership based on trust; It has taken years to earn their trust. If you put your trust in me, I’ll not let you down; She will never betray your trust; He was appointed to a position of trust.

Altruism: Altruism means: The fact of caring about the needs and happiness of other people more than your own. Altruism also means selflessness, sincerity, service and sense of brotherhood. Altruism is the opposite of hankering after Pride, Power, Position, Possession and Prestige. Altruistic people live and move and have their being in accordance with the Saccagrahva: “Love all, Serve all; Hurt never, Help every”.

Rapport: Rapport means: A friendly relationship in which people understand each other very well. They understand the importance of establishing a close rapport with clients. People with sense of rapport are people-persons. They are great communicators with other people. They appreciate the value of connectivity with people. They talk to people, they listen to people and establish win-win relationships. People with a sense of rapport know that the present day triple bottom lines are: PEOPLE, PLANET AND PEACE, (in business; it is PEOPLE, PLANET, PROFIT).

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.
Ancient monuments in Royal Mandalay City need preservation

Mandalay, 16 March — Domestic and foreign tourists have urged authorities in Royal Mandalay City to preserve historic monuments at risk of falling into disrepair in Royal Mandalay City, including a park containing the statues of nine former kings and the Union monument.

Opening in 1992 near Mya Nan San Kyaw Golden Palace, the park is home to statues of King Alaungpaya, King Kyansittha and King Bayintnaung.

The park is also located near tombs of King Mindon and his queen. Due to lack of maintenance, the Sabbath Hall of King Mindon, a coin factory and tombs of the king and queen have been left covered with bushes.

Travellers have criticised the state of the attraction, saying the bushes need to be trimmed from around the ancient monuments.

Mau Chng Py Th Shw Thaw (Mandalay)

Earthen road to create linkage among villages in Hinthada Tsp

Hinthada, 16 March — The Hinthada District Department of Rural Development in Ayeyawady Region allotted capital funds for construction of the Yonthalin-Kyachaung inter-village earthen road in Hinthada Township, Ayeyawady Region, in the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Sitha Shwe Thway Company, assigned duty by the Department of Rural Development, is building the three-mile-long road under supervision of district and township officials.

Upon completion, the road will provide access to over 8,900 local residents from 22 villages.

Win Bo (IPRD)

Organic fruits available at shops of Department of Agriculture

Mandalay, 16 March — The Myanmar Fruits and Vegetables Producers Association is selling organic, chemical-free produce, direct to consumers, at sales centres in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay cities.

The Department of Agriculture opened the first organic fruits shop at the junction of Mandalay-PyinOoLwin road and Hse-dawlay Road in Htonbo Village, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region, in early March.

Mau Chng Py Th Shw Thaw (Mandalay)

New upper class coaches improve comfort on Yangon-Mandalay route

Mandalay, 16 March — Myanma Railways has upgraded the upper-class coaches on 11 trains running the Yangon-Mandalay service, replacing the old 40-seat models with roomier 30-seat cars.

“Myanma Railways gives better services to passengers for comfortable trips,” senior engineer U Aye Cho of Division-3 of Myanma Railways told media.

The new upper class coaches were assembled at the Myintne Coaches and Wagon Shed and brought into service 15 March.

Myanma Railways plans to substitute old coaches with new ones on 30 trains running on the Yangon-Mandalay service.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Rice offering ceremony to mark 132nd anniversary of Aungdawmu Pagoda

Mandalay, 16 March — A Buddha Puja festival will be celebrated at Maha Lawka Yanh nein Aungdawmu Pagoda, built by King Thibaw, in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay.

A ceremony to offer rice to members of the Sangha for the 23rd time will take place at the precinct of the pagoda on 22 March.

In commemoration of the 132nd anniversary of the pagoda, the pagoda board of trustees plans to offer rice to 133 members of the Sangha from four corners of Mandalay City.

Min Maung (Mandalay)
Islamic State claims Tripoli attack, car bomb in Misrata

Tripoli, 16 March — Militants loyal to Islamic State claimed a bomb attack on a police checkpoint in the Libyan capital on Sunday, the latest in a series of attacks in Tripoli.

A car bomb also exploded in the western city of Misrata. No one claimed responsibility immediately but the bomb targeted a force tasked with fighting Islamic State militants.

Militants loyal to Islamic State, the group that controls much of Syria and Iraq, have been exploiting chaos in Libya where two governments allied to armed factions are vying for power four years after the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi.

A bag of explosives went off at a checkpoint next to a Janzour security building, a Tripoli suburb, wounding five policemen, said Essam Nas, a security spokesman.

Islamic State militants published on social media a picture of what they said was the site of the explosion.

In a suburb of Misrata, a car bomb exploded in front of a camp of a faction called 166 battalion, killing one person, said Mahmoud al-Shaoush, one of its members.

The force has been tasked with fighting Islamic State militants in Sirte, a central city. Clashes broke out between the two groups on Saturday east of Sirte.

Misrata, Libya’s third-largest city located to the east of Tripoli, is the power base of a faction called Libya Dawn which seized Tripoli in August, forcing the internationally recognized government to the east.

Misrata had been so far spared the violence gripping much of the major oil producer.

Groups of Islamist militants, who have declared loyalty to Islamic State over the past six months, have claimed responsibility for several high-profile attacks in what appears to be an intensifying campaign.

They claimed responsibility for an attack on the Corinthia luxury hotel in Tripoli in January, which killed five foreigner, as well as a group of Egyptian Copts in Sirte, triggering air strikes by Egypt.

The site of Sunday’s explosion in the Tripoli area is close to the Palm City compound, which used to be a favourite place of accommodation for ex-patriots until last summer when most left due to the deteriorating security situation.

The conflict has knocked down oil production as both governments fight over oil ports, while armed factions are vying for power four years after Iraq needed more airstrikes to dislodge IS in Tikrit.

Baghdad, 16 March — Iraq needs more airstrikes to dislodge Islamic State militiants from Tikrit, senior officials said on Monday, as the campaign to retake Saddam Hussein’s home city stalled for a fourth day due to homemade bombs and booby traps.

Iraqi security forces and mainly Shi’ite militiamen pushed into Tikrit last week but have struggled to advance against the militants who are holed up in a vast complex of palaces built when Saddam was in power.

Government forces are in control of the northeastern Qadisiya district as well as the southern and western outskirts of the city, trapping the militants in an area bounded by the river that runs through Tikrit.

“We need air support from any force that can work with us against IS,” Deputy Minister of Defence Ibrahim al-Ilami told Reuters, declining to say whether he meant from the US-led coalition or Iran.

Iraq is being held at a London police station, the statement said.

Their arrest comes after three London schoolgirls entered Turkey last month and are thought to have joined Islamic State in Syria.

Security services estimate some 600 Britons have gone to Syria or Iraq to join militant groups, including the man known as “Jihadi John” who has appeared in several Islamic State videos in the past.

Hundreds of other European have also joined the fight.

Their involvement has raised fears about the possibility of attacks at home if they return trained and further radicalised.

Turkey meanwhile has faced criticism for not better controlling its southern and eastern borders, and has accused European countries of failing to prevent would-be jihadists from travelling in the first place.

On Thursday, the Turkish foreign minister said the missing girls who had earlier travelled to Syria were helped to cross the border by a spy working for one of the countries in the US-led coalition against the militants.

Islamic State controls swathes of territory in Syria and Iraq where it has declared an Islamic caliphate.

Saudi prince says Iran deal risks nuclear proliferation

Riyadh, 16 March — Any terms that world powers powers grant Iran under a nuclear deal will be sought by Saudi Arabia and other countries, risking wider proliferation of atomic technology, a senior Saudi prince warned on Monday in a BBC interview.

“I’ve always said whatever comes out of these talks, we will want the same,” said Prince Turki al-Faisal, who has previously served as head of Saudi intelligence and Riyadh’s ambassador to Washington and London but is no longer a government official.

Saudi Arabia sees Iran as its main regional rival and fears that an atomic deal would leave the door open to Teheran gaining a nuclear weapon, or would ease political pressure on it, giving it more space to back Arab proxies opposed by Riyadh.

Iran and six world powers known as the P5+1 group are holding talks to reach a deal aimed at assuaging their fears that Teheran is using the fuel enrichment process of its atomic power programme to secretly develop a nuclear weapon.

Teheran denies that charge and wants to lift heavy international sanctions that have been put on its economy.

“If Iran has the ability to enrich uranium to whatever level, it’s not just Saudi Arabia that’s going to ask for that,” the prince was quoted as saying by the BBC.

Although Prince Turki is not a Saudi official, his comments are widely understood to reflect the thinking at senior levels of the Al Saud ruling family.

“The whole world will be an open door to go that route without any inhibition, and that’s my main objection to this P5+1 process,” said the prince, who is a brother of Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal.

Baghdad, 16 March — Iraq needs more airstrikes to dislodge Islamic State militant from Tikrit, senior officials said on Monday, as the campaign to retake Saddam Hussein’s home city stalled for a fourth day due to homemade bombs and booby traps.

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“We need air support from any force that can work with us against IS,” Deputy Minister of Defence Ibrahim al-Ilami told Reuters, declining to say whether he meant from the US-led coalition or Iran.

Iraqi security forces and mainly Shi’ite militia are taking part in the operation, which began two weeks ago, supported by a relatively small contingent of Sunni fighters from the area.

We have been saying we need more air support for all of our campaigns against IS,” Prime Minister’s spokesman Raid Jubbouri told Reuters.
Authorities closing in on hackers who stole JPMorgan data

NEW YORK, 16 March — Federal authorities investigating the data breach at JPMorgan Chase & Co are increasingly confident that a criminal case will be filed against the hackers in the coming months, The New York Times reported, citing people briefed on the investigation.

Last October, JPMorgan revealed that names, addresses, phone numbers and a range of other data of about 83 million customers were exposed when the bank’s computer systems were compromised by hackers, making it one of the biggest data breaches in history.

Law enforcement officials believe that several of the suspects are “gettable,” meaning that they live in a country with which the United States has an extradition treaty, the newspaper said.

The case is advancing quickly partly because the attack was not as sophisticated as initially believed, and law enforcement authorities were able to identify at least some suspects early on, the newspaper said.

The investigation is being handled at the highest levels of law enforcement, with the FBI in New York assigning several senior agents to the matter along with a top prosecutor with the computer crimes division at Manhattan US Attorney Preet Bharara’s office, the newspaper said.

Officials at JPMorgan, the FBI and Bharara’s office were not immediately available for comment outside regular US business hours.

Scientists to explore huge underwater volcano in Pacific Ocean

SYDNEY, 16 March — A team of international scientists are setting out to explore an underwater volcano that has been producing tonnes of stone which has washed up on beaches in Australia and New Zealand.

The volcano was discovered by an airline passenger, who reported seeing the lava flow from the air, and reported it to scientific authorities.

Vulcanologist Dr Rebecca Carey from the University of Tasmania in Australia, one of the researchers from the five-nation team, will travel to the Kermadec arc, which is about 1,000 kilometers north of New Zealand.

Cared told the Austral- ian Broadcasting Corpora- tion (ABC) on Monday the eruption has produced about a cubic kilometre of pumice.

She said the eruption of the undersea Havre Volcano was a one-in-10,000-year event and a rare chance for scientists to learn more about volcanoes.

Cultural centre offers 1st free Wi-Fi service in Cuba

HAVANA, 16 March — Cuban government has allowed the first free, public Wi-Fi service recently at a cultural centre in Havana, as it is loosening grip on Internet access in the country.

The cultural centre, located in western Havana, is run by a Cuban artist known as Kcho. The Wi-Fi comes from his personal Internet connection, and is permitted by the government.

Kcho, 45, pays the cost of the free Wi-Fi service, which allows 15 simultaneous connections. He did not say an exact amount but said “it is a bit expensive.”

“If we are able to share it, we will share it. That is the idea,” said Kcho, whose social action has tremendous recognition in the island. Kcho told Xinhua the project is part of a broad cultural community work.

As a famous painter in Cuba, Kcho is believed to have close ties with the government, as the retired Cuban leader Fidel Castro attended the opening of the cultural centre in January 2014.

Even though the service runs slow compared with that in many other places of the world, the hub is crowded by tech-savvy millennials who use their mobile phones, laptops and tablets to surf the web in a country where Internet access is difficult and expensive.

Jose Daniel Garcia, a medical student and regular visitor of the hub, said it is a great idea because “it is fantastic that anybody can come here and connect free and without restrictions.”

“You come here, you sit down and you can enjoy social networks or download some stuff to study,” he said.

The network’s password in Spanish is “aquinoserinadenadie,” which means “Nobody gives it up here,” an old revol- utionary slogan referring to the island’s resistance against the US embargo for over 50 years.

Tamara Lopez, 34, a hairdresser, said it is “a brilliant idea” to have this service.

Sitting in a bench under the shade of a large awning that covers the Caribbean burning sun, Lopez searched for the new hair-dressing trends on her laptop.

Antonio Hermes, who has a technical degree in Computer Science, said he goes to Kcho’s centre almost every day to stay connected with his friends.

Cuba’s state-owned Telecommunications Com- pany SC (Etecsa) is the only company with Internet service in the island at about 100 public centres. They charge 4.5 Cuban Convertible Pesos (CUC) per hour, equiv- alent to 4.5 US dollars, which is very expensive for common Cubans who earn only 20 dollars a month on average.—Xinhua

Cheap wind power? Just listen to turbines talk to each other, say researchers

NEW YORK, 16 March — The measurements taken inside a Vanderbilt Uni- versity wind tunnel could hold the key to making wind power a viable, cost effective energy source in the future, according to Professor Doug Adams and his team of engineers.

Inside a massive 20,000 square foot (1860 square metre) laboratory, Adams and his team fitted inertial sensors on two tur- bines as a 30mph (48km) wind blasts inside a tunnel. His goal is to “listen in as the turbines talk to each other.”

“They are like the sen- sors in your steering wheel but they are just a lot more sensitive than that. We use that sensor to track the mo- tion, to do motion tracking of the blade but monitor also what we call the dy- namic response,” said Ad-
UNDP chief calls for pre-emptive spending to reduce disaster risks

Sendai, 16 March — The international community needs to invest more in pre-emptive measures to reduce risks from natural disasters, rather than spending a lot after they happen, UN Development Programme Administrator Helen Clark says. “You could say it’s a no-brainer that needs more priority,” Clark told Kyodo News on Sunday.

The economic damage resulting from natural disasters between 2005 and 2014 totaled an estimated $1.4 trillion, of which some $9 billion was spent on Haiti alone after the Caribbean nation was hit hard by a massive earthquake in 2010 that claimed over 300,000 people, according to the United Nations. “I think there is now a higher degree of awareness that it is not enough to just be generous when disaster strikes,” Clark said. “Disaster risk reduction is like the dog that doesn’t bark. You don’t know how much you are saving until disaster strikes.”

Clark, who is in the northeastern Japanese city of Sendai for a UN conference on disaster risk reduction, also said countries around the world have made “huge strides” in lessening disaster risk, for example under the Hyogo Framework for Action, adopted at the last conference in 2005. A new framework covering the next 15 years will be adopted at the Sendai forum and is expected to include some numerical targets on disaster risk reduction for the first time, such as the percentage of countries having specific plans to that end.

Clark expressed hope it will further encourage national governments to take actions. But she also mentioned difficulty in agreeing to any binding numerical goals at international meetings. “If countries are making binding commitments, they are very careful about what they want to commit to,” Clark said, citing the long-standing efforts made by developed and developing countries to share targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the fight against global climate change.

Regarding the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami disaster that ravaged northeastern Japan, Clark said she has felt “the determination of the region to rebuild.” It is “important to see a community recovering from something as dramatic as that (the 2011 disaster),” she added. The five-day UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction will wrap up on Wednesday.

Kyodo News

Coastal areas evacuated as Cyclone Pam batters New Zealand

Wellington, 16 March — The New Zealand mainland started to count the cost of Tropical Cyclone Pam on Monday as the storm began moving southeastwards out to sea.

However, the Chatham Islands, a small group of islands about 750 km east of the South Island and home to about 600 people, is still under a state of emergency with Pam expected to hit about midday Tuesday.

Chatham Islands Mayor or Alfred Preece said in a statement from the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management that the reason for the declaration was the imminent arrival of Cyclone Pam combined with rural fires blazing on the islands.

The declaration was needed to protect public safety and coordinate the emergency response.

The Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management said in a statement the storm could yet intensify slightly and a warning was now in place for severe gales, heavy rain and heavy swells for the Chatham Islands.

The storm had caused only minor damage in the upper North Island mainland, but the eastern Gisborne and Hawkes Bay areas were forecast to see continued severe weather until Wednesday, it said.

More than 150 mm of rain had fallen in the worst-hit Gisborne district in the 24 hours to 2 pm on Monday, with one area recording more than 300 mm, and wind gusts were reaching up to 145 km per hour.

Schools in the Gisborne district were closed on Monday and power was out in many areas.

The New Zealand Army was evacuating people in at least two areas in Gisborne. More than 100 people had been evacuated as a precaution against inundation by the sea, flooding and slips, Gisborne Civil Defence Emergency Management controller Peter Higgins said in a statement.

Waves of up to 9 metres were expected in parts of the region because of the high winds and swells, but these were expected to reduce to about 3 to 4 metres by midday Tuesday.

Civil Defence staff were considering further evacuations from low-lying areas.

“We have reports coming in of horizontal rain and a fierce sea rising rapidly,” said Higgins. — Xinhua

Japanese golden eagles facing extinction with just 500 left in wild

Tokyo, 16 March — The endangered Japanese golden eagle population has fallen dramatically to just around 500 birds nationwide amid environmental changes, according to a research group. (Photo courtesy of the Society for Research of Golden Eagle Japan). — Kyodo News

UN Development Programme Administrator Helen Clark is interviewed by Kyodo News on 15 March, 2015 in Sendai, northeastern Japan, where a five-day UN world conference on disaster risk reduction is taking place. Clark said the international community needs to invest more in pre-emptive measures to reduce risks from natural disasters, rather than spending a lot after they happen. — Kyodo News

Chinese amphibian armoured vehicles take part in China-Russia joint military exercise in eastern China’s Shandong peninsula.— Reuters

Beijing, 16 March — China has surpassed Germany to become the world’s third largest arms exporter, a Stockholm-based think tank said in a report on Monday.

Exports of major arms from the world’s second largest economy grew 143 percent over the years 2010 to 2014, versus the previous five-year period, when China had ranked ninth globally, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said in a report.

“Asian countries continue to expand their military capabilities, with an emphasis on maritime assets,” Siemon Wezeman, senior researcher with the SIPRI Arms and Military Expenditure Programme, said in a news release.

More than 68 percent of Chinese exports went to Pakistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar. Beijing also sold major arms to 16 African states.

Analysts say Chinese-made equipment is comparable to US- or Russian-made fighting forces, though precise information about its performance is scarce. China’s neighbours have reacted with ambivalence over the country’s development of modern equipment, including a second aircraft carrier, drones and stealth fighter jets. — Reuters
Tuesday, 17 March, 2015

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO (951N)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO (951N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (TPN-623)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (TPN-623) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SHAMIM VOY NO (ISC1004E)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHAMIM VOY NO (ISC1004E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S LAND AND SEA SHIPping LINE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGSAOTONG VOY NO (169)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSAOTONG VOY NO (169) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (2) where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO., LTD
Phone No: 2301185

Weather Report

AV INERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL: Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagarin and Tamthiyai Regions, Kachin and Chin States, generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.
STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.
OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Generally fair in the whole country.

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Managing Director (B.I.A.D.C.)
NO.33, 6.1/2mile Pyay Road, Hlaing township, Yangon
Ph: 095016856, 01-654938 to 654948.

13 dead, 15 injured in Nepal bus accident
KATHMANDU, 16 March — Thirteen people died after a passenger bus skidded off a mountainous road made slippery by overnight rain in far-western Nepal on Monday morning, police said.
An additional 15 people were injured in the accident that happened in Jumla district, about 400 kilometres northwest of Kathmandu.
Among the deceased are the bus driver and his assistant. One passenger survived without injuries.
Police Inspector Indra Bahadur Saud told Kyodo News by phone from the district that the bus skidded off the fair-weather road and fell about 200 metres to the banks of Tila River.
The bus was taking passengers to neighbouring Lalitpur district when the accident happened at 9:30 am local time, Saud said.—Kyodo News
**Emma Watson scared of singing debut in ‘Beauty and Beast’**

LOS ANGELES, 16 March — “Harry Potter” star Emma Watson says she is “terrified” about singing for the first time onscreen in her upcoming film “Beauty and the Beast”.

Watson, 24, will play Belle, while Dan Stevens will portray The Beast and Luke Evans will be seen as Gaston in the Disney’s live-action film, reported E! Online.

“I sing, so that’s really unexpected. I’ve never had to do that for a film before, and I think people will be interested to see me do something very different like that. “It gives me a different challenge, really. That’s terrifying in and of itself!” she said.—Reuters

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**Sam Smith achieves UK music charts double**

LONDON, 16 March — British singer-songwriter Sam Smith secured a UK music charts double on Sunday, topping both the singles and album chart simultaneously, the Official Charts Company said.

Smith’s collaboration with John Legend, “Lay Me Down”, in aid of charity Comic Relief, debuted at number one in the singles chart, his fourth chart-top ping track in less than two years.

Meanwhile his debut album “In The Lonely Hour” returned to the top of the charts for an eighth week, making it the first album by a male solo artist in charts history to achieve six different spells at number one.

It finished more than 12,000 sales ahead of this week’s highest new entry, second-placed “Rebel Heart” by Madonna. Ed Sheeran’s “X” was a non-mover in third. In the singles chart, British electronica trio Years and Years slipped one spot to second place with “King”.

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**Tom Cruise to gain weight for ‘Mena’?**

LONDON, 16 March — Hollywood star Tom Cruise will reportedly pile on the pounds to play a spy in a gory thriller “Mena”.

The 52-year-old “Top Gun” actor will portray pilot Barry Seal, who trafficked drugs and guns for Colombian gangsters before becoming a CIA agent, reported Daily Star.

The real-life Seal, who was murdered by a Medellin cartel hit team, was almost twice Cruise’s weight.

Cruise wore a “fat suit” to play an obese movie mogul in the 2008 comedy “Tropic Thunder”. He has, however, been told he cannot do the same for Mena as it would not look realistic.

“He is determined to do whatever it takes to pull it off,” a source said.

Seal, known as “Fat Man” by his CIA handlers and his supposed cartel allies, was played by Dennis Hopper in the 1991 HBO TV drama “Double Crossed”.

A senior executive at Universal Pictures, which is producing the film, said, “He’s determined to become Barry Seal. Tom believes it’s the only way he can do justice to an incredible script and he has been meeting director Doug Liman to discuss how he intends to play him.”

Cruise’s friends are apparently worried that a sudden weight gain could have serious health repercussions.

“He isn’t concerned about the risks. Tom believes he has finally found a role that could win him the Oscar that has eluded him the Oscar that has eluded him so far,” a source said.

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**Steven Tyler plans to release country album**

LOS ANGELES, 16 March — Rockband Aerosmith frontman Steven Tyler is currently working on a country album that is planned to be released later this year or early 2016.

The 66-year-old star, who has relocated to Nashville to work on the album, will release it in November or early 2016 via the label that is representing the likes of Taylor Swift and Tim McGraw, reported Billboard.

Tyler, however, is yet to sign with the label. An insider said that deal could go down “anytime,” but is due to happen “before the summer.”

Representatives for both the vocalist and the label have declined to comment.—PTI

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**Disney’s “Cinderella” tops North American box office with 70.1M debut**

LOS ANGELES, 16 March — Disney proved its magic touch on princess movies this weekend, as the remake of “Cinderella” opened with a stronger-than-expected $70.1 million US dollars in estimated sales in the United States and Canada.

Directed by Kenneth Branagh, “Cinderella” brings back the 1950 animated classic fairy tale with “Downton Abbey” star Lily James as Cinderella, and “Game of Thrones” Richard Madden as Prince Charming.

“Cinderella” opened with 23 million dollars at 3,845 locations on Friday and got 70.1 million dollars in the three-day weekend franchise, according to studio estimates from Rentrak.

Without adjusting for ticket price inflation, “Cinderella” delivered the sixth largest debut ever for the month of March and became the third largest Disney opening for March. IMAX grosses represented 7 percent of the film’s overall gross. The film, which cost 95 million dollars to make, got a high reputation among the first-night moviegoers. It received a strong “A” grade from audience polling firm CinemaScore. The critics also gave the film a solid 83 percent positive rating on Rotten Tomatoes. The audience skewed heavily towards female moviegoers (66 percent of the audience was female) and towards younger moviegoers (55 percent of the audience was 25 years and younger).

Globally, “Cinderella” pulled in about 62.4 million dollars in more than 30 markets, bringing its total global gross to 132.5 million dollars.

Playing at 3,171 locations, Liam Neeson’s “Run All Night” opened in a distant second place with 11 million dollars.

As the fourth Nee son-led action thriller in just over a year, “Run All Night” opened a bit below expectations. It started with 3.9 million dollars on Friday.

The Warner Bros’ R-rated action saw Neeson as a hitman at the end of his career, battling with his old friend, played by Ed Harris.

The audience breakdown for the film skewed heavily towards moviegoers over the age of 25 (86 percent) and slightly towards female moviegoers (52 percent). “Run All Night” received an “A-” rating on CinemaScore and 59 percent approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

Fox’s “Kingsman: The Secret Service,” in its fifth week of exhibition, was in the third place with 6.2 million dollars and 107 million dollars gross.

Rounding out the 10 most-popular movies this week were “Focus” (5.8 million dollars), “Chappie” (5.8 million), “The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel” (5.7 million), “Spongebob Squarepants 2” (4.1 million), “McFarland USA” (3.7 million), “American Sniper” (2.9 million) and “The Duff” (2.9 million).—Xinhua

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**Rock band Aerosmith frontman Steven Tyler**

Los Angeles, 16 March — Steven Tyler is currently working on a country album that is planned to be released later this year or early 2016. The 66-year-old star, who has relocated to Nashville to work on the album, will release it in November or early 2016 via the label that is representing the likes of Taylor Swift and Tim McGraw, reported Billboard.

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**Emma Watson**

Emma Watson

Emma Watson

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**Sam Smith**

Sam Smith

Sam Smith

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**Sage the Gemini**

Sage the Gemini

Sage the Gemini

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**Flo Rida**

Flo Rida

Flo Rida

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**PTI**

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Federer and Nadal cruise, Wawrinka goes out

Indian Wells, California, 16 March — Roger Federer wasted little time easing into the third round of the BNP Paribas Open on Sunday but his fellow Swiss Stan Wawrinka became the first big name to be sent packing at the elite men’s event.

World number two Federer launched his bid for a record fifth title at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden with a clinical 6-4, 6-2 victory over Argentina’s Diego Schwartzman which lasted a little over an hour. Seventh-seeded Wawrinka, however, was knocked out of the ATP Masters 1000 event, losing 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 to Dutchman Robin Haase.

Spanish left-hander Rafael Nadal, a three-times champion at Indian Wells, also advanced in comfortable fashion as he demolished Dutchman Igor Sijsling 6-4, 6-2 in an evening match lasting just 72 minutes.

Serena breezes into fourth round at Indian Wells

Indian Wells, California, 16 March — Top seed Serena Williams made short work of Kazakhstan’s Zarina Diyas in the third round of the BNP Paribas Open on Sunday, obliterating her opponent 6-2, 6-0 in just 53 minutes.

Playing her second match at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden after deciding to end a 14-year boycott of the event where she had suffered alleged racist abuse, Williams broke an error-prone Diyas three times in seven sets to cruise into the last 16.

Britain’s Heather Watson claimed her first victory over a top-10 ranked player with a 6-4, 6-4 upset of world number eight Agnieszka Radwanska, while third-seeded Romanian Simona Halep battered past Australian Varvara Lepchenko 6-1, 3-6, 1-6.

“Things are going in the right direction,” Australian Open champion Williams said courtside after blasting five aces and an array of soaring groundstrokes past an outclassed opponent.

“I was able to feel more consistent today and that really worked in my favour. I’m really glad to still be here and in the tournament. I love the support. “I was able to relax to-day because I was able to do more of the right things and not make as many mistakes as I did in my last round.”

The world number one made a nervous start to her opening match in emotional circumstances on Friday before battling past Romania’s Monica Niculescu 7-5, 7-5, saying later she had been overwhelmed by the standing ovation she received from the crowd.

Williams had skipped the showpiece event after winning her second title here in 2001, beating Kim Clijsters in a final marred by some spectators who booed and heckled the American and her family.

Federer treated the stadium court crowd to his familiar array of blistering forehands, clean-hit backhands, power serving and delicate drop shots as he broke Schwartzman once in the opening set and twice in the second.

“I think I did very well.” Federer said courtside after ending the match with a crunching forehand winner down the line. “It was a bit breezy and you had to be careful at times but it’s good to get a first win.

“It was important to get off to a good start, I just tried to stay focused and stay aggressive on return, although that’s not always easy,” Federer, who is competing at Indian Wells for a 15th time, will next face Italy’s Andreas Seppi, who stunned him with a four-set defeat in the third round of the Australian Open in January.

“I’m happy to play him again,” Federer said of the 30th-ranked Seppi, who booked his place in the third round at Indian Wells with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Romanian Victor Hanescu.

“I was very disappointed with the performance I had in Australia. I hope this time around it’s going to go better for me. I will be prepared, there is no doubt about that.”

Wawrinka, who clinched his first grand slam singles title at last year’s Australian Open, was broken twice by Haase in the opening set and also in the third to be ousted after one hour and 48 minutes.

Haase, who had been beaten by the Swiss in all six of their previous meetings, will next play Czech Lukas Rosol, who battled past Slovakian Martin Klizan 4-6, 6-0, 6-3. In other matches, 11th-seeded Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov scraped past rising Austrian Nick Kyrgios 7-6 (2), 3-6, 7-6, taking the climactic third-set tiebreaker 7-4, and sixth seed Milos Raonic of Canada eased past Italian Simone Bolelli 6-3, 6-4.

Watson had taken a set off British’s Heather Watson, having lost in their three previous WTA meetings, most recently in the second round at Indian Wells last year.

“I knew I’d have to play extremely well today, be patient and pull the trigger at the right time,” said the 22-year-old Channel Islander, who is ranked 43rd. “I think I found that balance very well today.”

Eighth seed Ekaterina Makarova of Russia was ousted by Swiss Timea Babos 7-5, 7-5, 6-4 while 10th-seeded Czech Lucie Safarova was sent packing 7-6, 7-5 by Ukrainian Elina Svitolina.

Roger Federer of Switzerland celebrates after winning his final match against Novak Djokovic of Serbia at the ATP Championships tennis tournament in Dubai, on 18 Feb, 2015.— Reuters

Serena Williams (USA) during her match against Zarina Diyas (KAZ) at the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells Tennis Garden in Indian Wells, CA, USA on 15 March, 2015. Reuters
Chelsea held but Rooney is a knockout for United

LONDON, 16 March — Chelsea opened a six-point lead in the Premier League on Sunday following a 1-1 draw with Southampton as Manchester United enjoyed perhaps their finest performance yet under Louis van Gaal with a 3-0 trouncing of perhaps their finest performance yet under Louis van Gaal with a 3-0 trouncing of Tottenham Hotspur.

Tottenham's Nabil Bentaleb during their Barclays Premier League match vs Southampton at Stamford Bridge.

Chelsea increased their advantage over Manchester City despite Diego Costa's 11th minute close-range header being answered eight minutes later by Dusan Tadic's fortuitous penalty in an absorbing encounter at Stamford Bridge.

Yet United, so often criticised for being slow and directionless under Dutchman Van Gaal, produced the most electric performance of the day, pushing Spurs with first-half goals from Marouane Fellaini, Michael Carrick and Wayne Rooney.

A national newspaper ran a bizarre story on Sunday about Rooney being filmed getting knocked out by his friend, Stoke City player Phil Bardsley, in a boxing bout in Rooney's kitchen. Rooney's amused response after his goal was to celebrate by throwing a few shadow punches before falling theatrically on to his back amid delighted cheers from the United faithful.

Chelsea, on 64 points, still have a game in hand on Manchester City, who were beaten at Burnley on Saturday.

United, with 56 points, have climbed within a point of Arsenal and two of their cross-city rivals City as well as moving five points clear of fifth-placed Liverpool.

Their win also seriously dents the Champions League qualifying hopes of Spurs who, on 50 points, are now behind sixth-placed Southampton on goal difference and struggling to keep alive their hopes of a top-four finish.

At Stamford Bridge, a dramatic week for Chelsea, knocked out of the Champions League by Paris St Germain in the last 16 stage and heavily criticised for the on-pitch behaviour of their players, ended with a little more frustration.

Manager Jose Mourinho, though, made light of not picking up the three points. “It’s hard to believe that we lost,” said the Portuguese. “We have one point after three matches and we are not too far from the top four.”

Southampton caused problems in the opening period but Chelsea asserted their authority after the break with Costa clipping the post while captain John Terry was also denied in a frantic finish.

Mourinho was also unhappy that, after Costa capitalised on static defending from Southampton to head Bransilav Ivanovic’s cross, the visitors were awarded a penalty when Saadion Mane was adjudged to have been felled by Nemanja Matic.

Tadic converted from the spot, although his tame effort was fortunate to be kept out as the ball rebounded off Thibaut Courtois.

Bale answers critics with double for Real Madrid

MADRID, 16 March — Real Madrid winger Gareth Bale answered his critics in emphatic style when he ended a nine-game drought with a double for the European champions in a 2-0 La Liga victory against Levante at the Bernabeu on Sunday.

The world record signing, whistled by his own team’s fans during Real’s recent poor run, struck twice in the first half and came close to completing his hat-trick midway through the second period to leave a point behind leaders Barcelona.

They failed to add to their tally against the struggling Valencia-based side, however, and question marks remain over their form following a 4-3 reverse at home to Schalke 04 in their Champions League last 16, second leg in midweek.

Real, who still reached the quarter-finals on aggregate, head to Barca for next weekend’s ‘Clasico’ at the Nou Camp in second place behind their arch rivals, who won 2-0 at Eibar on Saturday and lead on 65 points with 11 games left.

Valencia climbed to third on 57 points thanks to Friday’s 2-0 win at home to Deportivo La Coruna, above champions Atletico Madrid, who were held 0-0 at Espanyol on Saturday and have 56.

Real coach Carlo Ancelotti made several changes to the team that lost to Schalke but squeezed into the last eight of Europe’s elite club competition 5-4 over the two legs.

The Italian left Germany with a hat-trick for the European champions in emphatic style when he ended a nine-game drought with a double for the European champions in a 2-0 La Liga victory against Levante at the Bernabeu on Sunday.

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