**NAY PYI TAW, 23 March —** On the occasion of the Pakistan Day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan which falls on 23 March 2015, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Mamnoon Hussain, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and His Excellency Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.—MNA

**President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Pakistan**

**NAY PYI TAW, 22 March —** Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham met doctors, nurses and staff at Lashio People’s Hospital in Shan State on Sunday during his inspection tour, according to officials. After taking briefings on ongoing construction works and cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Dr Sai Mauk Kham gave felicitations to Pakistan.—GNLM

**Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits Lashio People’s Hospital**

**NAY PYI TAW, 22 March —** Solar Impulse-2 is preparing to leave Mandalay on 27 March, according to a member of Solar Impulse Team. It landed in Mandalay International Airport, it will fly over Mandalay and Sagaing Hills. Maung Zaw (Kalay)

**Solar Impulse-2 prepares to leave Mandalay on 27 March**

**YANGON, 22 March —** Nationwide ceasefire talks adjourned Sunday following six days of negotiations between the government and ethnic armed groups, with discussion on unresolved parts of the prospective peace accord scheduled to continue from 30 March.

One major point and three subparagraphs of the pact remained pending at the end of Day 6 of the peace talks.

At a press conference, negotiators from the government’s Union Peace-making Work Committee (UPWC) and Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT), representing ethnic armed groups, affirmed their commitment to finalizing the negotiation on the nationwide ceasefire accord at the planned 30 March meeting, which may continue into a second day.

U Hla Maung Shwe, senior adviser at the Myanmar Peace Centre, said further negotiation is needed on specific wording and definition included in the unresolved major point and three subparagraphs.

As results of the sixth-day of the seventh round of nationwide ceasefire talks started on 17 March, only one major point and the wording of discussions on three subparagraphs are left to finalize the pact with seven chapters, 30 paragraphs and 81 subparagraphs, according to the peace negotiators.—GNLM

**Nationwide ceasefire talks in recess until 30 March following conclusion of Day 6**

**YANGON, 22 March —** The International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore (IIT-B) is collaborating with its counterpart in Mandalay, ancient capital of Myanmar, to build information technology institute in the Southeast Asian country, according to an Indian diplomat.

“We are setting up Mandalay Institute of Information Technology which is the centre of excellence for IT modelled on IIT-B and being implemented by IIT-B,” Indian ambassador to Myanmar Gautam Mukhopadhyay said on the sidelines of an event organized by CII.

IIT-B is in Electronics City, which is one of India’s largest industrial parks and which houses major electronics and IT corporations.

For next step, the entrepreneurship development institute in Yangon is also in the process of tying-up with Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow (IIM-Lucknow).

Myanmar was also sending its people for training at the Institute of Management Training, Bangalore.

Bangalore based-watchmaker HMT Limited has built two industrial training centres in Myanmar aimed to skill up that nation’s workforce. Mukhopadhyay also said, “We have set up an entrepreneurship development institute in Yangon which we are now trying to tie-up with IIM-Lucknow. We have also established two industrial training centres that have been set-up by HMT.”

India has provided support to English language department in Yangon University and a language laboratory for Ministry of Foreign Affairs to enable its officials to learn foreign languages.

Indian ambassador also said that Calcutta University has also tied-up with Dagon University, one of the largest universities in Myanmar which has two IT institutes, one each in Mandalay and Yangon and another one is coming up shortly.

Indian investments in Myanmar for capacity building have scaled up to the tune of US$250 million.”

**Myanmar, India to found IT institute**

**MNA to accept first airplane from Boeing Company in June**

**Before saying something**

**Safety in Travelling**

**INSIDE**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing comforts injured military personnel in PyinOoLwin

Photo shows International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore (IIT-B), India.
Mawady, 22 March — The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw allotted K100 million each to all constituencies for undertaking development tasks in 2014-15 fiscal year in all corners of the nation.

A rural dispensary built with K5 million from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw fund was commissioned into service in Baledo Village, Sukali, Myawady District in Kayin State, on 20 March.

District and township authorities cut the ribbon to open the dispensary, with local people in attendance.

The dispensary, 50 feet long and 30 feet wide, will give health care services to people from Baledo and its surrounding villages.

Myawady, 22 March — "Myo Gon Yaung Cineplex" was inaugurated at the corner of 31st and 83rd streets in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, on 21 March as the government is placing emphasis on modernizing the cinemas in the country for uplifting the Myanmar motion picture’s standard.

Mandalay Region Minister for Finance Dr. Myint Kyu, Vice Chairman of ACE Construction Group U San Ko Ko Tint Hsan and executive director Daw Moe Nway Oo of Mega Ace Cineplex formally opened the ceremony.

Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut and vice chairman U San Ko Ko Tint Hsan unveiled the signboard of the Cineplex. The union minister and party enjoyed the movie through digital cinema package system.

Four of five State-owned cinemas in Mandalay have been leased to private entrepreneurs for the long-term service. Of them, Myo Gon Yaung Cineplex is third of its kind in applying digital cinema package-DCP system.

Mandalay, 22 March — "TRAFFIC RULES TALKS GIVEN: Police Sg Aye Cho explains root causes of traffic accidents and traffic rules for drivers and road users at talks on traffic rules enforcement organized by Hinthada District Directorate of Road Administration, Ayeyawady Region, on 20 March. After the talks, officials issued driver licences to 176 applicants.

WIN BO (MYANAUNG IPRD)
Senior General
Min Aung Hlaing
comforts injured military
personnel in PyinOoLwin

Nay Pyi Taw, 22 March — Command-
er-in-Chief of Defence Ser-
vices Senior General Min Aung
Hlaing, accompanied by
Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Khun Aung
Myint, senior military off-
cers from the Office of
the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and Commander
of Central Command Maj-
Gen Soe Htut, comforted
Tatmadaw personnel who
were receiving treatments
at battlefields at the mili-
tary hospital in PyinOoL-
win station on Sunday.
The senior general
comforted the injured per-
sonnel and attended to their
needs before presenting
cash awards and food for
them.
Then, the senior gen-
eral met with families of
the injured personnel at the
hospital and fulfilled their
needs.
The senior general
also asked after the health
of two kidney transplant
patients at the hospital.

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk
Kham visits . . .

(from page 1)
suggestions on construc-
tion of high-rise buildings
to save space, explaining
the government’s efforts
to upgrade hospitals and
have ambulances in case
of emergency in all re-

dions and states.
The vice president
visited the Kaukkwe res-

cvoir in Lashio and heard
reports on annual rainfall,
water supplies and pipe-
work with the use of insu-
lated pipes.—MNA

MNA to accept first airplane from Boeing
Company in June

Nay Pyi Taw, 22 March — The Langkaw-
i International Maritime &
Aerospace Exhibition
(LIMA-2015) staged avi-
ation skills, products of
maritime and aviation com-
panies and information of airlines in Langkawi,
Malaysia, from 17 to 20

March.

Union Minister for
Transport U Nyan Tun
Aung visited the Boeing
aircrafts company’s booth.

Myanmar National Air-
lines (MNA) hires four
Boeing 737-800 MAXs
and six Boeing 737-800
NGs from GECAS Com-
pay. Of them, MNA will
accept first airplane in com-
ing June and the second in

October.

The union minister
visited Bell helicopter com-
pany of the US and Beech
airplane company.

The union minister
held a meeting with TAX-
ROL Company to buy two
Grand Caraval aircrafts
with financial assistance
from EXAM Bank of the
United States of America
this year.

He also visited the pi-
lot training school at Lang-
kawi international airport
on 17 March and discussed
officials to establish an in-
national level pilot train-
school in Myanmar and
viewed training aircrafts.

He attended the ASE-
AN Aviation Summit on
18 and 19 March and ex-
changed views on ASEAN
Open Sky 2015 and Single
Aviation Market.

At a meeting, the un-
ion minister and the Malay-
sian Transport Minister dis-
cussed aviation agreement
between the two countries,
matters related to the sank
Aung Tagun-3 ship in Ra-
khine State and training
aircrafts and crew.

During the second-day
session, the summit focused
on accidents of MH-370
and MH-17 and efforts of
Malaysia’s Department of
Aviation. The union min-
istarrived back in Myan-
mar on 20 March.—MNA

Appointment of
Ambassador agreed on

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 March — The Government of the
Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the
appointment of H.E. Mr. Benjamin Clement Eghan as
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of
the Republic of Ghana to the Republic of the the Union
of Myanmar with residence in Kuala Lumpur.

Born on 27 September 1948, Mr. Benjamin Clem-
ent Eghan holds B.A. (Hons.) majoring in Modern
Studies from University of Ghana, M.P.A. (Master
of Public Administration) and D.D.A. (Diploma in Devel-
opment Administration) from Institute of Social Stud-
ies of the Netherlands University Foundation for Inter-
national Cooperation. He was a Senior Lecturer at the
Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administra-
tion from 1977 to 1993. He then served as Chief Direc-
tor at various Ghanaian Government Ministries namely
the Ministry of Manpower Development and Employ-
ment, the Ministry of Transport and Communication,
the Ministry of Communication and the Ministry of En-
vironment, Science and Technology from 1993 to 2003.
He was also a consultant for various organizations and
agencies from 2003 to 2004 and was appointed Dean of
the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Admin-
istration from 2004 to 2008. He also served as Secretary
of the Cabinet of the Government of Ghana from 2009
to 2013. He was one of the contributors and experts for
the establishment and strengthening of organizations in
Ghana such as the Commonwealth Association for
Public Administration and Management (CAPAM),
the East Ghana Travel and Tours and Hospitality
Company Ltd (FEGTTH), the Ghana-China Friendship
Association (GHACHIFA), the China-Ghana Business
Association (GHICA), the Ghana-China Friendship
Association (GHICHFA), the China-Ghana Business
Development Promotion (CGBDP), the Apostolic Lu-
theran Church of Ghana (ALCG) and African Coun-
cil of Secretaries to the Cabinet (ACSC) since 2013 to
date. He speaks English and French.

H.E. Mr. Benjamin Clement Eghan will serve as
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of
the Republic of Ghana to the Republic of the Union of My-
anmar with residence in Kuala Lumpur. —MNA
**Former Singapore leader Lee Kuan Yew weakens further in ICU**

Lee Kuan Yew, Singapore's former Prime Minister, is in a critical condition after having a heart attack on Sunday. He was admitted to the hospital in Kuala Lumpur after suffering from pneumonia. His condition has been worsening since January 2015. Lee Kuan Yew is known for his contributions to the development of Singapore and his role in the creation of ASEAN. He is widely regarded as one of the most influential leaders in Southeast Asia.

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**ASEAN waiting for China to present “structure” of AIIB**

Thailand and Vietnam are waiting for China to present a detailed structure of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). Both countries have expressed their concern about the extent of Chinese influence in the bank. The two nations are also concerned about the potential loss of sovereignty if China gains too much control over the bank.

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**Nine people burnt ahead of Bangladesh opposition’s fresh strike**

At least nine people were injured in a petrol bomb attack in southwestern Bangladesh. The attack took place in Magura district, leaving nine people, including a driver and helper, injured. The attack is seen as a move to counter the opposition’s fresh strike, which is expected to last for three days. The opposition is demanding fresh elections and an end to corruption in the government.

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**Indonesia leader to start Japan tour for talks with Abe, defence pact**

Joko “Jokowi” Widodo will begin a four-day official visit to Japan on Sunday evening, a trip that will involve strategic partnership between the two major democracies and oceanic states in Asia. Jokowi is scheduled to meet with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in the evening after having an audience with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry. The two leaders will discuss cooperation on regional and global issues, including security, economic growth, and the fight against terrorism.

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**Dhaka, 22 March — At least nine people sustained burn injuries in a petrol bomb attack in southwestern Bangladesh before an opposition-called strike, police said on Sunday.**

A police officer, who declined to be named, said miscreants hurled petrol bombs at the truck in Magura district in southwestern Bangladesh on Saturday night. The driver and helper, who were both badly injured, will be sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, the officer said.
Japan-S Korea consultative group tackles sore points at 1st meeting

Tokyo, 22 March — A group of veteran political and economic leaders from Japan and South Korea tasked with finding ways to improve strained bilateral relations held its first meeting in Tokyo on Sunday. The nongovernmental consultative group gathering for the two-day meeting comprises 12 people including former Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda and former South Korean Prime Minister Lee Hong Koo. On the heels of a commitment to closer ties by the countries’ foreign ministers at a meeting in Seoul on Saturday, the group aims to bring talks between Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean President Park Geun Hye closer to reality.

The group’s charter stresses the need for “a comprehensive solution over outstanding issues in Japan-South Korea relations.” Bilateral relations have plunged to their lowest level in years due to a territorial dispute and differing perceptions of history. Noting that this year marks 50 years since the normalization of diplomatic relations between the countries, the charter said the anniversary should “provide justification for the leaders of both countries to go forward with future-oriented actions.” A follow-up meeting is set for May in Seoul, where the group will aim to compile a proposal to be issued to Abe and Park.

The group’s members representing Japan include former Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori and Yuzaburo Mogi, chairman of the Japanese delegation at the Korea-Japan Forum, while the South Korean side includes former Foreign Minister Gorg Ro Myung.—Kyodo News

DPRK warns of shelling at S Korean balloons carrying anti-Pyongyang leaflets

Pyongyang, 22 March — The Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) warned on Sunday that its military will blow up balloons carrying anti-Pyongyang leaflets which are reportedly to be flown by civic groups in South Korea, the state media KCNA reported.

South Korean civic groups announced a plan to float anti-DPRK leaflets across the inter-Korean border around 26 March, the fifth anniversary of South Korea’s Cheonan warship sinking.

“It is the height of hostility that the South Korean puppet forces still misuse the warship sinking case, which has long been branded as the unprecedented hideous conspiratorial farce, for escalating tension across the border by linking the case with it,” a statement issued by frontline units of the Korean People’s Army. “The statement said the reckless acts are aimed at deliberately escalating tension on the Korean Peninsula, where the situation has reached the brink of a war due to ‘Key Resolve’ and ‘Foal Eagle’ joint war rehearsals. The army threatens to launch attacks ‘without prior or warning’ on the balloons involved in the move, no matter whether ‘the scattering operations are conductedit in areas along the MDL (Military Demarcation Line) or in any point of sea or in the air, whether balloons or drones are used for those operations and whether openly or secretly.”

The statement also recommended South Korean inhabitants living close to the border to evacuate in advance for their own safety in case such leaflet drops take place. About 500,000 leaflets, denouncing the DPRK government, and some 10,000 copies of “The Interview,” a film featuring a fictional plot to assassinate top DPRK leader Kim Jong Un, will reportedly be sent via hot air balloons to the DPRK across the inter-Korean land border. South Korean Unification Ministry spokesperson Park Soo-jin told a Press briefing that civic groups’ scattering of anti-DPRK leaflets is “basically” a matter of freedom of expression that cannot be forcibly restrained because it has no legal grounds. But the government will take necessary measures if the anti-DPRK leaflets dispersion endangers the safety of residents living near the border, while considering the guarantee of basic rights of people and the protection of people’s safety in a balanced manner, Park said.—Xinhua

Japanese artist “draws” on world canvas with GPS technology

Kore, 22 March — In July 2008, company employee Yasushi Takahashi decided he wanted to ask his then-girlfriend of eight years to marry him and he was determined to make it “the greatest love in the world.” And as a bonus, Takahashi received his own surprise a few years later — the Guinness World Record for the largest GPS drawing by an individual.

When the couple went to London for their honeymoon in June 2010, Takahashi, who goes by the name Yassan for his artworks, looked up the map and trekked the shape of a gigantic heart in the British capital to dedicate to his bride. Among his more recent GPS drawing projects, Takahashi completed in 2014 a yearlong, 676-km journey on foot and by bicycle along the coastline of Chiba Prefecture, east of Tokyo, and its border with other prefectures to “draw” a full-scale “Chiba kun,” a mascot whose side-view figure is shaped like the prefecture. In picking the routes, priority is given to perfectly capturing the resulting appearance on the GPS drawing and thus, often times, Takahashi has to trek through mountain paths that are inaccessible by car. In some cases, he runs over 40 km a day. “I used to be the type who is more into academics and arts, but now I have turned into the sporting kind,” the Tokyo University of the Arts graduate quipped. He has travelled about 20,000 km in total for GPS drawing projects over the past six and-a-half years.

To maintain physical strength and stamina, Takahashi devotes himself to exercising every day.

In the fall of 2014, Takahashi was selected as one of three international models to appear in a promotion campaign for a major global brand for outdoor gear to illustrate how walking can lead to extraordinary experiences. Gained instant attention from the world’s media, contacted by TV stations from Spain to South Korea after the campaign’s video of his unique marriage proposal expedition was posted on the Internet. Takahashi aspires to become like Ino Tadataka (1745-1818), the Japanese surveyor and cartographer known for completing the first map covering the whole of Japan during the Edo period.

“The year 2018 will mark the 200th year after (Ino’s) death,” Takahashi said. “I want to walk the coastlines and map the Japanese archipelago, just like Tadataka did, and then compare it with the Ino Maps.” “I want to experience in person the magnitude of Tadataka’s greatness,” he said.—Kyodo News
France goes to polls with National Front in ascendency

**Paris, 22 March — Voting began on Sunday in the first round of French local elections where the anti-immigration National Front (FN) hopes to come top and consolidate leader Marine Le Pen’s bid for the presidency in 2017.**

Opinion polls suggest voters are unexcited about the election for councillors with limited powers in the “departments”, one stratum of France’s complex local administration which President Francois Hollande has in any case promised to overhaul.

But as a hangs over the fear of a Le Pen’s far-right party has struck among France’s political elite that Hollande, his ministers and their mainstream conservative rivals have all been touring the country with last-minute appeals to voters.

The FN, which wants a return to the French franc and a referendum on capital punishment, surged a wave of disenchantment with established politicians to emerge top in last year’s European Parliament elections and won control of a dozen city halls in a separate ballot. Surveys have put it and the opposition UMP neck-and-neck to win close to a third each of Sunday’s vote, with Hollande’s Socialists trailing. A Harris Interactive opinion poll for France’s parliamentary TV channel released on Friday put the FN on 29 percent, the UMP on 28, and the Socialists on 19.

The two-round nature of the ballot means the FN will win control in only a handful of departments in second-round run-offs due on 29 March, as many UMP and Socialist voters will switch allegiance to whatever party can keep it out of power.

About 53 percent of voters will not take part, according to an Ifop poll for Paris Match, Téléfoot and Radio That was published on Friday, only 3 points lower than the stay-away recorded at this electoral level the last time around in 2011.—Reuters

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**WASHINGTON, 22 March — In a fresh rebuke to Benjamin Netanyahu, President Barack Obama said the Israeli leader’s pre-election disavowal of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict makes it “hard to find a path” toward serious negotiations to resolve the issue.**

In an interview with the Huffington Post, Obama also said on Friday and published on Saturday, Obama described how he observed the Israeli leader was re-elected. “I did indicate to him that we continue to believe that a two-state solution is the only way for the long-term security of Israel, if it wants to stay both a Jewish state and democratic,” Obama said, in his first public comments on the issue.

“And I indicated to him that given his statements prior to the election, it is going to be hard to find a path where people are seriously believing that negotiations are possible.”

The worst crisis in decades in US-Israeli relations was worsened by Netanyahu’s declaration just before Tuesday’s election that there would be no Palestinian state on his watch. Netanyahu sought a path where people are seriously believing that negotiations are possible. “We are going to continue to insist that, from our point of view, the status quo is unsustainable. And that while taking into complete account Israel’s security, we can’t just in perpetuity maintain the status quo, expand settlements. That’s not a recipe for stability in the region,” Obama said, referring to the current state of affairs with the Palestinians.

The United States provides $3 billion in military aid annually. Netanyahu’s tense relations with Obama have made it difficult for US efforts to reach an international agreement with Iran to curb Teheran’s nuclear programme.

Ties worsened when Netanyahu accepted a Republican invitation to speak to the US Congress before the Israeli election to criticize Obama’s quest for such a deal. Democrats assailed the speech as an insult to the presidency and a breach of protocol.—Reuters

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**VIENNA, 22 March — Serbian Minister of Interior Affairs Nebojsa Stefanovic vowed that his government managed to reduce unemployment and its options on US-Israel relations and Middle East diplomacy.**

In an interview for the Vienna-based daily Die Presse, he underscored that the Austrian police are seriously working on the problem, adding that the two countries are exchanging information on individuals who could be a part of the organization. In this context, Stefanovic underscored the unemployment issue which constitutes, as he said, one of the biggest problems in the region. The Serbian government managed to reduce unemployment but a lot of work still remains to be done in the area, he said.—Times of India

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**US President Barack Obama speaks to the City Club of Cleveland about middle class economics in Ohio on 18 March, 2015. — Reuters**

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**Close cooperation with Austria on issue of extremists**

**Serbian Minister of Interior Affairs Nebojsa Stefanovic**

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**Obama says it is now ‘hard to find a path’ on Israeli-Palestinian peace**

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**West should consider all tools, including arms, for Ukraine — NATO general**

**BRUSSELS, 22 March — The West should consider using all its tools to help Ukraine, including sending defensive weapons, NATO’s top military commander said on Sunday.**

Asked whether he was in favour of sending defensive weapons, Ukraine, US Air Force General Philip Breedlove told a Brussels conference: “What we see is (diplomatic) tools being used, informational tools being used, military tools being used, economic tools being used against Ukraine.”

“And so we, I think, in the West should consider all of our tools in reply. Could it be destabilising? The answer is yes. Also, action could be destabilising,” he said.—Reuters

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**Israel’s defence firm awarded US Marines contract**

**JERUSALEM, 22 March — Israel’s largest publicly traded weapons and defence company, Elbit Systems Ltd, said on Sunday that the US Marine Corps awarded it a contract worth 73.4 million US dollars for laser-based range finders.**

The Haifa-headquartered company said it won the contract through its fully-owned subsidiary, Elbit Systems of America. The contract extends through March 2020, the company said in a statement, adding that Elbit Systems of America has to date received an initial order in the amount of 7.5 million dollars. Elbit’s Common Laser Range Finder Integrated Capability utilizes lasers to gauge distances and navigate. Raanan Horowitz, president and chief executive officer of Elbit Systems of America, said the system would enable Marines to find targets without breaking cover from their concealed fighting positions.—Xinhua

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**French Economy Minister Emmanuel Macron campaigns for Socialist Party candidates at a political rally in Fresnes, near Paris on 19 March, 2015.**

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**Paris on 19 March, 2015. — Reuters**

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Islamic State calls on backers to kill 100 US military personnel

WASHINGTON, 22 March — Islamic State has posted online what it says are the names, US addresses and photos of 100 American military service members, and called upon its “brothers residing in America” to kill them. The Pentagon said after the information was posted on the Internet that it was investigating the matter. “I can’t confirm the validity of the information, but we are looking into it,” a US defence official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said on Saturday.

“We always encourage our personnel to exercise appropriate OPSEC (operations security) and force protection procedures,” the official added.

In the posting, a group referring to itself as the “Islamic State Hacking Division” wrote in English that it had hacked several military servers, databases and emails and made public the information on 100 members of the US military so that “lone wolf” attackers can kill them.

The New York Times reported that it did not look like the information had been hacked from US government servers and quoted an unnamed Defence Department official as saying most of the information could be found in public records, residential address search sites and social media.

The Times quoted officials as saying the list appeared to have been drawn from personnel mentioned in news articles about air strikes on Islamic State. The group’s forces control parts of Syria and Iraq and have been targeted in US-led air strikes.

The posting, addressed to disbelievers, Christians and “crusaders” in America, included what the group said were the names, military service branch, photos and street addresses of the individuals. The posting includes the military rank of some but not all of those named.—Reuters

Nine British medical students believed to be in Syria

LONDON, 22 March — Nine British medical students have travelled to Syria, apparently to work in hospitals controlled by Islamic State, Britain’s Observer newspaper reported on Saturday.

The group of four women and five men crossed into Syria from Turkey last week, having travelled from Sudan where they had been studying, said the story, published on the website of the Observer’s sister paper, the Guardian.

It quoted Turkish opposition politician Mehmet Ali Eliboglu, who had met members of the students’ families who were trying to persuade the students to return.

Britain’s security services estimate that 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 beheading videos.

Islamic State attempts to create a theocratic Sunni Muslim “caliphate” by violent means has attracted thousands of recruits from Europe and elsewhere.

Three British schoolgirls are thought to have travelled through Turkey to Syria in February to join the militant group, in one of the most high-profile recent cases. Their families and British authorities have made repeated appeals for them to return home.

Britain’s Foreign Office was not immediately available for comment on Saturday.

The group of medical students are in their late teens and early 20s and all have Sudanese roots but were born and brought up in Britain, the story said.

Afghan intelligence agency says it foiled attempt to kill vice-president

KABUL, 22 March — Afghanistan’s intelligence agency said on Saturday it had foiled an attempt to assassinate Vice-President Abdul Rashid Dostum in the northerly Jawzjan Province.

The assassination was to have been carried out by a suicide bomber who had hadded a bomb on the back of his horse as he attended a game of buzkashi, a national sport.

The plan, to detonate a four-ton bomb made from a “buzkashi match,” the statement by the spy agency said.

The powerful Uzbek leader is known as a fan of the sport, in which players on horseback try to drag the carcass of a calf or goat into a goal. During last year’s election campaign, Dostum was photographed watching games from a throne-like sofa placed on the back of a pick-up truck, in a show of his wealth and influence.

This week, Dostum’s office issued a statement denying that he felt marginalised by other members of the national unity government, as the New York Times had reported. The newspaper said the former warlord had been close to tears after one particularly difficult meeting. The statement said this did not fit Dostum’s personality and nature.—Reuters

Anti-aircraft guns fire at plane over Aden — witnesses

Aden, 22 March — Yemeni anti-aircraft guns opened fire at an unidentified plane flying over President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi’s compound in the southern city of Aden on Sunday and appeared to force it away, witnesses said.

It was the third incident of its kind in the past four days, in which unidentified aircraft have flown over the compound, where Hadi is based, on one occasion dropping bombs without causing any casualties.

Hadi’s government has been waging a campaign of deadly drone strikes against al-Qaeda operatives in Yemen. US officials say the unmanned aircraft fly out of a base in neighbouring Saudi Arabia. Only last September US President Barack Obama touted the partnership with Yemen as a model in counter-terrorism.

But the subsequent collapse of Hadi’s government disrupted some US counterterrorism operations, and the closing of the US embassy in Sanaa last month took a further toll.

Despite that, Hadi sounded a defiant note from his base in the south on Saturday, threatening action against the Houthis’ northern stronghold.

“We shall deliver the country to safety and raise Yemen’s flag on Mount Marran in Saadah instead of the Iranian flag,” he said in a televised speech, his first since reaching Aden.

Iran is an ally of the Houthis, who belong to a Shi’ite Muslim sect.

The Houthis, in a statement from their Supreme Revolutionary Committee, did not directly respond to the speech but called for a “general mobilization” of the armed forces against a “dirty war” they said was being waged by militias loyal to Hadi.—Reuters

Yemeni president demands Houthis quit Sanaa; US evacuates remaining forces

Yemen’s President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi delivers a speech in the southern port city of Aden on 21 March, 2015. Reuters

Yemens President demands Houthis quit Sanaa; US evacuates remaining forces

Yemen’s President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi has accused the Iranian-aligned Houthi militia on Saturday of staging a coup against him and appealed to the United Nations for “urgent intervention”, even as the United States evacuated its remaining forces.

In a call to arms from the southern city of Aden, where he fled last month after escaping house arrest by the Houthis, Hadi called on them to pull their forces out of state ministries, return weapons seized from the army and quit the capital, Sanaa.

The UN Security Council was set to meet on Sunday to discuss Yemen after Hadi appealed to the 15-member body for assistance “in all available means to stop this aggression”,

Hadi has been hurtling toward civil war since last year when the Houthis seized Sanaa and advanced into Sunni Muslim areas, leading to clashes with local tribes and energizing a separatist movement.

US officials said Washington had evacuated its remaining personnel from Yemen, including about 100 special operations forces, because of deteriorating security, marking a further setback in US efforts against a powerful local al-Qaeda branch.

The last major US military contingent in Yemen had been stationed at the al-Annam air base in the south, according to national security sources. State Department spokesman Jeff Rathke said all remaining US staff had been “temporarily relocated” but insisted that Washington would “continue to actively monitor terrorist threats emanating from Yemen and... take action to disrupt continuing, imminent threats to the United States”.

Washington for years has been waging a campaign of deadly drone strikes against al-Qaeda operatives in Yemen. US officials say the unmanned aircraft fly out of a base in neighbouring Saudi Arabia.

Only last September US President Barack Obama touted the partnership with Yemen as a model in counter-terrorism.

But the subsequent collapse of Hadi’s government disrupted some US counterterrorism operations, and the closing of the US embassy in Sanaa last month took a further toll.

Despite that, Hadi sounded a defiant note from his base in the south on Saturday, threatening action against the Houthis’ northern stronghold.

“We shall deliver the country to safety and raise Yemen’s flag on Mount Marran in Saadah instead of the Iranian flag,” he said in a televised speech, his first since reaching Aden. Iran is an ally of the Houthis, who belong to a Shi’ite Muslim sect.

The Houthis, in a statement from their Supreme Revolutionary Committee, did not directly respond to the speech but called for a “general mobilization” of the armed forces against a “dirty war” they said was being waged by militias loyal to Hadi.—Reuters

The Yemeni president demands Houthis quit Sanaa...


Safety in Travelling

By San Shwe Aung

We learn from the past mistakes. True. But human tend to be lax in following regulations to properly prepare essential measures according to the check lists. Accidents are happening in many places in many countries around the world. There are many hazards in our life time. Natural disaster, wars, consequences due to climate change, global warming and greenhouse gases. Not a single day has passed without bad news about accidents, if one reads any daily newspaper. Hazards, such as fire, traffic & train accidents, ships crashing, buildings under construction collapse, dangerous poisonous gases leaks from chemical plants happen due to human negligence. Sometimes the calamity may happen accidently. Whatever the reasons the outcome will be catastrophic. Loss of human lives and properties are usual results of those incidents. We have to have safety as much as possible. Safety is protection from illness and accidents.

Decades ago people in a simple village are self sufficient in food, clothing and shelter. They were so satisfied with simple way of life. Travelling to far distances was rare. I was a volunteer teacher of 3R (Ah Thone Lone Pro-gram) in 1972 while I was a university student. I was assigned in a village about 16 miles from Mada-ya Town in Mandalay Region. I spent in that village of 30 households for one month teaching to the village elders and some youngsters basic writing, reading and calculation. I was provided a bed at the shelf of a cows’ shelter together with a young man of my age from the village. It really struck me the fact that most of the villagers from the village had never been to Mandalay. The farthest distance they travelled, of course by bullock carts, was Sa Gyi village which is about 4 mile from their village to watch Zat Pway and Ah Nyent during pagoda festivals couple of times a year. Few of course travelled often to Mada-ya Town for selling their farm products, which are mainly ground nuts and forest products. Thinking back, the villagers form that village were quite peaceful, satisfied and not vulnerable to any hazards for they hardly travelled far from their village.

However, we people in modern time have to travel to make living, for education, for recreation, for social and family matters. Information age has brought people form far and remote villages to travel to foreign countries for greener pastures for attaining better education. People living near the rivers and coastal region usually travel by steamers, express boats, ships to one place to another. Extension of highway and roads allow many citizens to travel from village to city, city to city by cars and buses. Railway is another facility people can travel and carry goods. Other people fly from city to city and from a country to another. Tourists from all countries in the world crisscross the continents. Myanmar tourists are now vacationing in Europe, US, Japan and Korea. Last year our country received more than 3 million tourists. It is good for more employment and income for the business connected to the tourism. Airports are packed with travelers. Bus terminals, railways stations and jetties are full of people travelling every day. People, regardless of foreign tourists or local citizens want and have to be safe with full security in travel-ling until they reach their destinations. The travelers have to use different types of transport vehicles, many are manmade. Any manmade machines need to function correctly. There are responsible people, managers, supervisors at all levels, operators, drivers, ship captains, aircraft pilots, to make manmade machines function satisfactorily and correctly. Safety regulations are there but following them strictly is very important. Any wrong should not be tolerated by law enforcing bodies. Organizations, publicly or privately, should be very cautious and aware of the risk as well as threats and vul-nerabilities. Disaster management experts have formulated the linkage between risk, threat and vulnerability as follow.

Risk Assessment

Because Risks are always out there in our world, the organizations need to make risk assessment for their public services. Risk in other words is likelihood of causing illness and encountering accidents. Risk = Threat (External) x Vulnerability (Internal). When Risks and Threats are given, only Vulnerability can be influenced. Risks are always there in certain degree and Threats, in transport sec-tor, could be translated into wide open sea with rough waves, fullly narrow and winding roads, flying in night time, poor visibility, bad weather etc. In above mathematical equation, if we can reduce Vulnerability, Risk can be minimized. What are the Vulnerabilities? In Vulnerability as-sessment there are 4 main areas to be scrutinized. (1) What components are most vulnerable? (2) Why are those components vulnera-ble? (3) Where are those vulnerable components? (4) When do those compo-nents become vulnerable? There may be hundreds of components which are vulnerable to many conditions but people can prioritize them. If all vulnerable components are safe and functioning well, the Risk of encountering accidents is minimum.

Design Loading

All vehicles used in the transport sector have maximum allowable load-ing according to the design of the vehicles. You cannot carry 200 people in an air-craft with 150 seats only. In our country received more than 50 people are supposed to be seated with potable chairs in between the seats! No operators or authorities will allow this to happen. The same applies to cars, buses and ships, steamers. Many local media reported that it was apparent that overloading with passengers and goods was one of the

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 wallace. tun@gmail.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.

Reference

1. The Mirror Daily newspapers by Ministry of Information
**Newly-opened asphalt road improves living standard of people**

_Nay Pyi Taw, 22 March_—A 4,500-foot-long and 18-foot-wide asphalt road identified Sein Pan Pyar Road was commissioned into service in Shwekyabin Ward, Zabuthiri Township, on 21 March.

_Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myo Nyunt, Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee member U Kyaw Myint and district’s deputy commissioner U Zaw Lwin Oo opened the road and strolled along it.

The newly-opened road will help improve education, health, social and economic affairs of the people.

In meeting with locals, the council member explained regional development tasks for uplifting their living standard.

The council member also donated stationery to students at the 8th cultural course at Maha Wizitayon Sasana Wunhsaung monastery in Aungzabu ward.  
_Shwe Kokko (Dawei)"

**New rural road gives transport service in Natogyi Tsp**

_Natogyi, 22 March_—Department of Rural Development in Natogyi Township, Mandalay Region has assigned duty to Htut Kaung Thukha Company to construct a four miles and seven furlongs (Dawei) in Tannthayi Region, as part of preserving cultural heritages of the country. On Saturday morning, well-wishers donated amber beads in Pyu period, votive tablets, long swords, a rice bowl made of lacquerware, picture of title and currency notes in Japanese era to the library committee U Tin Thein. Chairman of Dawei Township Writers Association explained the purpose of donating the cultural heritages to the museum.  
_Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)"

**Essay and painting contests mark International Day of Forests**

_Myawady, 22 March_—Students from basic education schools in Myawady participated in the essay and painting contests in commemoration of the International Day of Forests at Basic Education High School No 1 in Myawady, the town sharing border with Thailand, on 21 March.

Assistant Director U Khin Maung Oo, Staff Officer of Township Forest Information and Public Relations Department Daw Swe Swe Moe explained an important role of library in widening scope of knowledge of people. After opening the ceremony, well-wishers donated books and publications to the library through officials. The government allotted a fund for construction of the library which is 30 feet long and 26 feet wide.  
_Shwe Ye Yint (IPRD)"

**Development tasks narrow gap between urban and rural areas**

_Myawady, 22 March_—Myawady District’s deputy commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo and township authorities made an inspection tour of Sukali Town in the district in Kayin State on 20 March.

They inspected progress of school buildings, appointment of teachers, construction of roads and bridges, electrification and health care services in villages and urban area of Sukali Town.

While in Sukali town, the deputy commissioner gave a pledge to develop all sectors of the town and its villages as much as possible.—Hein Lin Aung

**Dawei Museum accepts cultural heritages**

_Dawei, 22 March_—Well-wishers donate artifacts to Cultural Museum in Dawei, as part of preserving cultural heritages of the country. On Saturday morning, well-wishers donated amber beads in Pyu period, votive tablets, long swords, a rice bowl made of lacquerware, picture of title and currency notes in Japanese era to the library committee U Tin Thein. Chairman of Dawei Township Writers Association explained the purpose of donating the cultural heritages to the museum.  
_Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)"

**Rural people receive new library building**

_Nay Pyi Taw, 22 March_—Local residents received a library named Pyinnya Bank in Lewun Village, Ot-tarathiri Township, on 19 March.

Staff Officer of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Swe Swe Moe explained an important role of library in widening scope of knowledge of people. After opening the ceremony, well-wishers donated books and publications to the library through officials. The government allotted a fund for construction of the library which is 30 feet long and 26 feet wide.  
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Assistant Director U Khin Maung Oo, Staff Officer of Township Forest Information and Public Relations Department U Soe Tint and officials supervised participation of students in the contests.  
_Hein Lin Aung (IPRD)"

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_Natogyi, 22 March_—Department of Rural Development in Natogyi Township, Mandalay Region has assigned duty to Htut Kaung Thukha Company to construct a four miles and seven furlongs long earthen road in the township so as to improve living standard of the people. The Thamaaye-Hngetpyaw-Nyaung-Natogyi road now benefits more than 4,800 people from six villages in the township.

The department allotted K65 million to the construction company for the road that started in October 2014 and completed on 12 February.

An old rural road in the township was included in the area of building the Natogyi-Mandalay railroad. Thanks to local authorities, a new rural road has come out in the township.—Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)
Currency hedging takes on new importance for global stock funds

NEW YORK, 22 March — As the dollar surged in the last 12 months, David Marcus, head of the Evermore Global Value fund (EVEBX.O), steadily increased his stake in Europe. He now has 60 percent of his portfolio invested in companies in the euro zone, the largest stake among any global fund tracked by Lipper.

The gains in those stocks wouldn’t matter if the fund wasn’t actively hedging against euro weakness, which it is, helping the fund rise 8.8 percent so far in 2015, putting it among the top-performing global stock funds this year.

“We’re stockpickers, and by hedging currencies we can be pure stockpickers without the currency risk,” said Marcus.

Concerns over currency have prompted a surge of assets to hedged equity funds, with investors moving $12.1 billion (8.09 billion pounds) to exchange-traded funds that hedge currencies over the year to date, according to Lipper data. One such fund, the WisdomTree Hedged European Equity Fund, is up 18.9 percent for the year so far.

Demand for a way to hedge currency exposure while investing in Europe helped the WisdomTree Europe Hedged Equity Fund (HEDJ.P) bring in $5.3 billion in new assets over the first two months of the year, the most of any equity fund, according to Lipper.

The fund’s top holdings are short German Bunds, invest in Nestle SA (NESN.VX), Novartis AG (NOVN.VX), and Roche Holding AG (ROG.VX).

The dollar’s rally looks to be eating into the returns of actively managed funds, fund analysts say. While major stock indexes in Japan, Germany, and France are up 11 percent or more in local currency for the year to date, the global fund is up just 2.6 percent in dollar terms over the same time, according to Lipper data.

Investors have few ways of knowing whether a global fund hedges its currency exposure. Lipper has no way of tracking it, said Jeff Tjemohed, head of Lipper Americas Research, a unit of Thomson Reuters.

Morningstar (MORN.O), another fund tracking service, does not track currency hedges either, according to a spokeswoman.

Fund returns this year suggest most global funds do not hedge against currency risk, even though most are allowed to do so. The difficulty of getting scrutiny right corrects managers from actively hedging.

“When you hedge a currency you have to be right twice. You have to be right about the market, and right about the currency. I’m not sure that’s something one can do on an ongoing basis,” said John Manley, chief equity strategist at Wells Fargo Funds (WPC).

The track record of the Evermore Fund shows the difficulty with timing on currencies: Over the last three years, the fund has posted an average annual return of 9.2 percent a year, trailing 75 percent of its peers, according to Morningstar data.

This year, the Evermore Global has benefited from significant gains in companies such as Belgian construction firm CFE SA (CIFE.BR), French conglomerate Bollore SA (BOLL.PA) and Italian engineering firm Maire Tecnimont SpA (MTCM.MI).

Marcus has been pulling back from investing in US companies that get a significant portion of their revenues in Europe. Lately, he has been adding positions in companies such as German materials company ThyssenKrupp AG (TKAG.DE), best known for making elevators. The cheaper euro will likely boost its exports, while lower energy costs will amount to “found money,” he said.

Researchers develop mini-heart on microchip

Researchers have engineered a mini-heart on a chip. This heart, which, according to Mathur, is hard- ly the width of a human hair, was created with human-induced pluripotent stem cells that can form many different types of tissues. These cells, once tricked into forming heart tissue, were grown around a special silicon microchip with cell and media channels that mimicked the heart’s blood vessels. Feeding this bionic heart a mix of nutrients to keep it alive, researchers then could make the heart beat and work for up to a month.

“We were able to run multiple tests during this period, so we proved that this can be a viable solution to replace animal models,” said Mathur. “It began beating only 24 hours after being developed at a normal rate of 50 to 80 beats per minute.”

Drug screening using this device could not only save lives, but also millions of dollars due to the high cost of calculating the approximate dose needed for patients with heart conditions.

“It takes about 5 billion US dollars on average to develop a drug, and 60 percent of that figure comes from upfront costs in the research and development phase,” said Hely in a press release. “Using a well-designed model of a human organ could significantly cut the cost and time of bringing a new drug to market.”

Researchers see the future of medicine as completely personalized thanks to this kind of organs-on-a-chip. All it takes will be a sample, the patient then will be able to have his or her heart modeled in a lab with all the tests done.

“Doctors will be able to predict how certain drugs react on specific patients, thus preventing many illnesses and loss of valuable time,” Mathur said, adding that “I see this happening in five years in most of the doctor’s offices.”

Toyota set to approve Mexico plant within weeks

KYOTO / MEXICO CITY, 22 March — Toyota Motor (7203.T) is finalizing plans for its first passenger car assembly plant in Mexico that could be approved by its board as early as next month, according to three people familiar with the matter.

Toyota last year asked planners scouting for a site in Mexico to hit ‘pause’ and remain in talks over a potential plot in Juato and remain in talks with officials over a potential plot in the central state of Guanajuato, two people familiar with the matter said.

Toyota has lured car makers and suppliers through its low capacity in Mexico, and in future, a source said.

Toyota’s largest single supplier is familiar with the matter.

The plant would make Toyota’s largest single factory.

Toyota is the last Japanese car maker to build a major manufacturing facility in Mexico.

The tiny heart, which, according to Mathur, is hardly the width of a human hair, was created with human-induced pluripotent stem cells that can form many different types of tissues. These cells, once tricked into forming heart tissue, were grown around a special silicon microchip with cell and media channels that mimicked the heart’s blood vessels. Feeding this bionic heart a mix of nutrients to keep it alive, researchers then could make the heart beat and work for up to a month.

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Members of the media are shown under a large Toyota logo during the first press preview day of the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Michigan, on 12 Jan, 2015.—Reuters

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Fish changes colour to fool its prey

SYDNEY, 22 March — A small fish that lives in the Australian Great Barrier Reef preys on smaller fish by changing colour and pretending to be an adult of their own species, according to a study released on Friday.

The dusky dottyback (Pseudochromis fuscus) is a small predatory fish that is found throughout the Indo-Pacific and has the ability to be able to change colour. Its ability to vary in colouration has baffled scientists until an international research team led by evolutionary biologists Dr Fabio Cortesi and Professor Walter Salzburger from the University of Basel have developed a theory.

The zoologists are now able to show that dottryback can quickly change their colour in order to mimic other fish species and chase their prey.

The dusky dottyback fish also helps protect it from its own predators.

“This strategy is very similar to the classic example of the wolf in sheep’s clothing. However, while the wolf may be found out eventually, dottrybacks are able to change again,” Cortesi said in the journal Xinhua.

Genetically engineered apples, potatoes “safe for consumption”

WASHINGTON, 22 March — The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said on Friday two varieties of genetically engineered apples are available in the Granny Smith and Innate Granny Smith varieties. These potatoes are altered to produce less of a substance called acrylamide, which can form in foods during high-temperature cooking, such as frying, and has been found to be carcinogenic in rodents.

The FDA regulates foods derived from genetically engineered plants through a voluntary consultation process with their developers.

As part of its consultation process, both Okanagan and Simplot submitted to the FDA a summary of their safety and nutritional assessments, identifying the nature of the molecular changes and the nutritional composition of the food compared to traditionally bred varieties.

The FDA said it has no further food safety questions at this time concerning food from these plant varieties.

Prior to the FDA approval, the US Department of Agriculture has also approved and put him on the enter of the wolf in sheep’s clothing. However, while the wolf may be found out eventually, dottrybacks are able to change again,” Cortesi said in the journal Xinhua.

Steve Jobs bio says Disney CEO kept Jobs’ condition a secret

NEW YORK, 23 March — Walt Disney Co CEO Bob Iger learned that Steve Jobs’ cancer had returned less than an hour before Disney announced it was buying Jobs’ Pixar studio in 2006, and Iger kept the Apple co-founder’s condition a secret for three years, according to a new biography of Jobs.

Iger told the authors of “Becoming Steve Jobs” he thought about the implications of keeping such a secret at a time when regulators were calling for more disclosure and holding executives more accountable for their fiduciary duties, Bloomberg reported.

The $7 billion deal to buy Pixar made Jobs Disney’s largest shareholder and put him on the enterainment company’s board. Iger decided that Disney was assessing the transaction on the value of Pixar, not Jobs, and his medical condition did not need to be disclosed, the biography said.

Iger said Jobs told him that the cancer had returned while they were on a private walk at Pixar’s Emeryville, California, campus about 30 minutes before the deal was to be announced.

“Frankly, they tell me I’ve got a 50-50 chance of living five years,” Iger quoted Jobs as saying.

A portrait of Apple co-founder and former CEO Steve Jobs is placed on the Federation Tower skyscraper in Moscow’s new business district on 19 Oct, 2011. — Reuters

US FAA plans new steps to speed up commercial drone use

WASHINGTON, 22 March — The US Federal Aviation Administration plans to unveil new rules as soon as Monday that would make it easier for companies to use drone aircraft for specific business operations, according to a summary people familiar with the matter.

The rule changes would also be a boost for companies that already have exemptions from the commercial drone ban, such as Chevron, Berkshire Hathaway’s BNSF Railway Co, State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co, and a number of film and media companies. Those companies could get more flexibility to use pilots for aircraft for rail and pipeline inspections, crop surveys and aerial photography for commercials or movies.

Companies awaiting exemptions from the overall ban could also benefit, including Amazon.com Inc and Yamaha Motor Co.

On Thursday, Amazon got FAA clearance to experiment with drones at an outdoor facility in Washington state under a different set of federal rules. Amazon hopes to develop drones capable of delivering packages to customer doorsteps.

Industry lobbyists have criticized the current process as too slow. Companies with approval to fly unmanned aircraft must obtain government permission each time they intend to use drones for a new project. They must fill out and get FAA approval for a two-page “certificate of authority” before each flight specifying where, when and how long the drone will fly.

The process of authorizing specific flights has boggled down, said Mark Dombrov, a partner in the drone practice of McKenna, Long and Aldridge. In one case, Dombrov said, applicants sought permission to fly over an area of land, but the FAA “wanted us to apply for every farm individually.”

FAA Administrator Michael Huerta told industry representatives at a recent meeting that his agency was moving to streamline the process, the sources added.

In February, the FAA proposed rules that would lift the current ban on most commercial drone use. But industry representatives say it could be years before the ban is lifted, leaving businesses to follow the cumbersome exemption process for now.—Reuters

A drone picks up a pair of shoes during a presentation by the Crosstread footwear company in Tokyo on 4 March, 2015.—Reuters
Japanese “rakugo” storyteller spins yarns in Thai

Bangkok, 22 March — Japanese “rakugo” comic storyteller Katsura Takekaru was reminded of his boyhood in Osaka in the 1960s when he visited Thailand for the first time in 2007.

Katsura, 57, was so intrigued by Thailand that he began learning the Thai language to become better acquainted with the South-east Asian nation. He soon became a repeat visitor, travelling there three or four times a year, and finally performed there last year.

It was during his latter days at university that Katsura embarked on a career as a rakugo storyteller, eventually joining the ranks of “hisen” or rakugo masters in 1993.

But as there are an estimated 800 or so rakugo storytellers, Katsura found it difficult to stand out. That’s when he decided to perform in Thailand, encouraged by the fact that rakugo circuses looked favourably on promoting the art overseas.

“If I can perform rakugo in Thai, I could be the only one,” he thought at the time.

A native of Kagoshima Prefecture in southwestern Japan, Katsura studied Thai intensively for two months and visited Bangkok last autumn to perform before university students studying Japanese at the elite Chulalongkorn University. He chose modern stories rather than classics to make it easier for foreign audiences to follow.

At one stage fright he experienced on his debut performance back home, knowing that he was still a novice at speaking Thai, but was re- lied and pleased when he heard the audience laughing.

For this year, Katsura has purchased seven round-trip air tickets for performances in Thailand. While introducing Japanese culture to Thais through rakugo, he is taking pains to help promote exchanges between the two countries in other fields.

Katsura is considering rakugo stories based on Thai culture. “As the official name of Bangkok is long, I wonder if I can do a take on one of the best-known rakugo stories involving the repetition of an absurdly long name,” he said.

Katsura’s performance was one of the best-known rakugo stories involving the repetition of an absurdly long name.

Kyodo News

Emperor, empress meet with survivors of Palau battle ahead of visit

Tokyo, 22 March — Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko met with two Japanese survivors of the fierce battle on Palau’s Peleliu Island during World War II at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on Sunday to hear about the men’s experiences ahead of the imperial couple’s visit to Palau early next month.

The Imperial Household Agency said.

Keiji Nagai, 93, and Kyokoza Tsuchida, 95, lived through the land battle with the US military that claimed an estimated 10,000 lives on the Japanese side.

The emperor and empress are scheduled to visit the battle site to commemorate the dead during their two-day visit from 8 April.

Emperor Hirohito, who suffered from fever and other cold symptoms, heard the first five minutes of the men’s discussions, while Empress Michiko listened to the men for 45 minutes, the agency said.

After the meeting, Nagai told reporters that the emperor had thanked him for his hard work over a long period of time.

Nagai said the emperor listened to his account of going into hand-to-hand combat with US soldiers coming ashore on the island’s coast and quietly commented, “You went through a lot.” Nagai added he is “extremely thankful” to the imperial couple for making the visit to Palau despite both being in their 90s.

The US Army Europe

Brooklyn house fire kills seven from Orthodox Jewish family

New York, 22 March — Seven children from an Orthodox Jewish family died early on Saturday when flames ripped through their Brooklyn home in one of New York City’s deadliest fires in years, officials said.

Their 45-year-old mother and a teenage sister survived after jumping from an upper floor. The two were taken to a local hospital and are in critical condition.

New York Fire Department spokesman Michael Parrella said.

The blaze erupted in the single-family dwelling around 12:30 am. It apparently was started accidentally by a hot plate, used by many Orthodox families to warm food on the Sabbath, said Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigrò.

It was the highest death toll in a fire in the city in seven years, Nigro said. “This is an unbelievable tragedy,” New York Mayor Bill de Blasio told reporters after seeing the devastation at the site of the blaze. “Every New Yorker is feeling this pain right now.”

De Blasio described the interior of the house, located in Brooklyn’s middle-class Midwood neighborhood, as completely charred. “You can literally see what was a home for a large and strong family and now it is wiped out, every room empty and burned,” he said.

De Blasio asked for the surrounding community to support the family’s grieving father, who was apparently away for a conference overnight. Responding to reports of flames inside the home, firefighters forced their way in and extinguished the fire, which had started in the kitchen, Nigro said.

They then found the children, aged 5 to 16, in their bedrooms near the back of the home, he said, after the mother and another daughter jumped.

“I heard the mother yelling, ‘My kids are in there! My kids are in there!’ Get them out! Get them out!” neighbour Nate We said.

“During this time we were in need, the United States have firmly stood by our side,” Sie monia said.

US Army Europe said earlier this week that the aim of the week-long exercise was to “reassure allies, demonstrate free dom of movement and deter regional aggression on the eastern flank of NATO.”

The Patriot missile system, which is manufactured by US firm Raytheon, arrived in Poland accompanied by 100 US soldiers and approximately 30 vehicles.

The ground-to-air missile defence system was deployed at a military base in Sochaczew, a city roughly 50 km (30 miles) from Warsaw.

Siemonia said it was natural for Poland to train with allies on defending the city.

“We are here to show our solidarity and that US security guarantees for Poland as part of NATO mean something more than only words on paper,” the US ambassador to Poland, Stephen Mull, said.

The deployment follows a testing of Russian media reports that Russia deployed Iskander ballistic missiles in its Kaliningrad exclave, neighbouring Poland as part of exercises earlier this week.

Poland plans to choose the supplier for its medium-range missile defence system within the next few weeks. Warsaw banned Raytheon and a consortium of France’s Thales and European group MBDA in the tender last year.

Reuters

Former senior China police chief detained on suspicion of murder

Beijing, 22 March — The former police chief of the northeastern Chinese region of Inner Mongolia has been detained on suspicion of murder, state news agency Xinhua said on Sunday, citing public security authorities.

Zhao Liping was in charge of the police in Inner Mongolia from 2005 until 2010 and had worked for almost three decades as a police officer, Xinhua said in a brief report.

He is suspected of involvement in a murder that happened in Inner Mongolia’s Chifeng city on Friday, Xinhua said.

The state-run Legal Evening News said the person who was murdered “was a lady with whom he had quite a close relationship.”

Neither report elaborated. It was not possible to reach Zhao for comment.

Inner Mongolia, which covers more than a 10th of China’s land mass and has the country’s largest coal reserves, is a strategic gateway part of the country on the borders of Russia and Mongolia.

It was rocked by protests in 2011 after an ethnic Mongol herder was killed by a truck after taking part in protests against pollution caused by a coal mine, and there has been periodic unrest there ever since. —Reuters
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Energy
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

Title: Request for Letter of Expression of Interest (LOEI) for Joint Venture Project of No.3 Fertilizer Factory (Kyaikwa)

1. The Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Ministry of Energy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar hereby announces an invitation to the experienced local and foreign companies in urea production, storage, distribution and marketing to submit the Letter of Expression of Interest (LOEI) for Joint Venture Project of No.3 Fertilizer Factory (Kyaikwa), Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE).

2. The required data for LOEI submission and information related to No.3 Fertilizer Factory are available in the Ministry of Energy website (http://www.energy.gov.mm/index.php/en/information/announcement) and (www.facebook.com/MinistryOfEnergyMyanmar) as well as the following address in person not later than 12:00 noon on the date of 4.5.2015.

Managing Director
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
Building No 44, Nay Pyi Taw
Email: mpeet@gmail.com

3. LOEI shall be submitted to following address in person not later than 12:00 noon on the date of 4.5.2015.

Director (Planning)
Fax: - 067 411124
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
Building No 44, Nay Pyi Taw
Email: mpecn@gmail.com

4. No submission of LOEI can be allowed by fax or email or express.

5. Only the qualified LOEI proposals will be invited to conduct the tender process.

Consultations on the Reform of the Myanmar Companies Act 1914

In order to modernise the Myanmar Companies Act 1914, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) is currently preparing a new Companies Law with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The draft Companies Law has been published on DICA’s website (www.dica.gov.mm) in English and will be published in Myanmar as it becomes available.

Interested parties are invited to provide any comments and feedback on the draft law by email at lawreform.dica.mm@gmail.com, by post or fax at the details set out below.

Yangon Office:
No. 1, Thitlar Road, Yankin Township, Yangon
Fax No.: 01-658135

Nay Pyi Taw Office:
Office No. 32, Nay Pyi Taw
Fax No.: 067-406306

Mandalay Office:
Corner of 26th and 84th Street, East ZayCho Market, 2nd floor, Chan Aye Thar Zan Township, Mandalay, Mandalay Region

Shan State Office:
No.15, Sun Tan Road, Zay Pine Yut, Taunggyi, Shan State

Mon State Office:
No. 401, Toe Chae Kan Nar Road, Mayangone Quarter, Mawlamyine Township, Mon State

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration

Announcement

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

Mummified Buddha shown in Hungarian stolen from China

Fuzhou, 22 March — Chinese relic experts have determined a 1,000-year-old Buddha statue containing a mummmified monk, which is now in possession of a Dutch private collector, is a relic stolen from an east China village in 1995.

The Cultural Relic Bureau in east China’s Fujian Province said on Sunday that judging from research and media reports, experts had concluded that the statue on show in the Hungarian Natural History Museum was a relic stolen from Yangtian Village in Fujian in 1995.

The bureau will continue the relic investigation in the village and search for more information while reporting to the national cultural authorities in order to identify and trace the stolen relic in compliance with normal procedures, said a bureau spokesman.

The statue was on a “Mummy World” exhibition at the Hungarian Natural History Museum that opened in October last year and was originally scheduled to be on display until 17 May, but was pulled from the exhibition on Friday as the museum said the Dutch owner withdrew the statue without giving any reason.”

Villagers in Yangtian burst into tears while other lit firework after seeing the statue via Chinese TV news earlier this month.

The bureau immediately dispatched experts to the village to investigate the issue. Through the research, experts found a large amount of photos, relics and historical records including a pedigree suggesting the mummy was a former ancestor (or Zushi in Chinese) of the local clan.

The statue, formerly housed in the village temple, was stolen in 1995. It wore a hat and clothes when sitting in the temple, and was worshiped as an ancestor.

According to Yangtian archives, the Buddha, named Zhonggang Zushi, was a local man who became a monk in his 20s and won fame for helping people treat disease and spread Buddhist belief. When he died at the age of 37, his body was mumified and local people made a statue with the mummy inside at around the time in China’s Song Dynasty (960-1279). The statue has been worshipped in the village temple ever since.

In the temple, local people still preserve the statue’s hat and clothes and other affiliated relics.

A Chinese Buddha statue with the mummmified body of a Buddhist monk inside is on display at the Hungarian Natural History Museum in Budapest, Hungary on 3 March, 2015. According to the Chinese characters written on the pillow of the statue, the body inside the statue belonged to Chinese Buddhist monk Zhang Lijuian who lived around AD 1100.—Xinhua

In a militant attack on a museum in Tunis earlier this week, gun massacre occurred as tourists were visiting "Mummy World" exhibits. A Chinese Buddha statue with the mummmified body of a Buddhist monk inside is on display. Three Japenese tourists were killed, injured and four other tourists were injured. The Tunisian government said the attack was a terrorist attack.

Tunisian government officials to discuss cooperation on security and other matters with Japanese Foreign Ministry. Gunmen stormed the Bardo National Museum on Wednesday, killing 18 foreign tourists, three Tunisians and injuring 44 others, the Tunisian government said.

A Chinese Buddha statue with the mummmified body of a Buddhist monk inside is on display at the Hungarian Natural History Museum in Budapest, Hungary on 3 March, 2015. According to the Chinese characters written on the pillow of the statue, the body inside the statue belonged to Chinese Buddhist monk Zhang Lijuian who lived around AD 1100. —Xinhua

Mummified Buddha shown in Hungarian stolen from China

Traditionally, when sitting in the temple, the statue wore a hat and clothes and was worshiped as an ancestor.

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Pakistani says 80 militants killed in heavy Khyber clashes

ISLAMABAD, 22 March — Pakistani troops killed 80 militants in heavy clashes in the lawless northwest, near the mountainous border with Afghanistan, a spokesman said on Sunday, while the Pakistani Taleban said at least six soldiers had been killed.

Fighter jets have pounded positions in the Tirah Valley in the Khyber region, west of the city of Peshawar, over the last few days.

A security official said those killed last week belonged to the outlawed militant group Tehrik-e-Taleban Pakistan and an allied group, Lashkar-e-Islam.

“In Khyber, terrorists being dislodged from bases, fleeing to border. So far 80 terrorists killed, approximately 100 injured in this phase,” the head of army’s media wing, Gen Asim Bajwa, said on his Twitter account.

“Operations will continue with full force till total terrorist elimination from these areas.”

Taleban spokesman Muhammed Khurassani said on Saturday there had been heavy fighting in the Tirah Valley for three days.

A mine “targeted” 12 soldiers and six were killed in a separate attack. Two intelligence sources said an army major was also killed and air strikes were also targeting the South Waziristan region, causing dozens to flee.

There was no way to confirm the casualties independently as the area is sealed to journalists.

The Pakistani Taleban are allied with the Afghan militants of the same name and share a similar jihadist ideology. But they operate as a separate entity, focused on toppling the Pakistani state and establishing strict Islamic rule in the nuclear-armed nation.

Security officials said last week there were strong indications the leader of the Pakistani Taleban, Maulana Fazlullah, was in the area at the time of the air strikes and there has been constant speculation about his fate on social media.

Military offensives in Khyber and South Waziristan began in 2009.

Reuters

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Reuters
Bobbi Kristina Brown moved to rehab facility

Los Angeles, 22 March — Singer Whitney Houston’s daughter Bobbi Kristina Brown has reportedly moved into a rehabilitation facility in Atlanta after being hospitalised for seven weeks at Emory University Hospital. According to TMZ, Bobbi, 22, was moved from the hospital on Thursday, 19 March and her condition remained the same.

Bobbi was moved to the facility after she did not respond when doctors at the hospital slowly removed her life support. Doctors reportedly said that Bobbi’s “in the same non-responsive state she’s been in for weeks.” Bobbi’s father Bobby Brown and aunt Pat Houston were spotted removing her belongings from the hospital.

Glastonbury festival defends Kanye West’s participation

Los Angeles, 22 March — Music festival Glastonbury has defended its decision to book rapper Kanye West for its upcoming edition following demand from fans to replace him.

The festival’s co-founder Emily Eavis is praised West, 37, in an open letter she wrote to The Guardian.

An online petition was recently launched on Change.org by a fan who wanted rock acts to replace West to play the festival traditionally known as a rock event. The petition has been signed by more than 100,000 supporters. Eavis first made it clear that those acts headlining the festival were never limited to rock.

“To say that our headliners should be ‘rock’ is, I think, a bit silly,” she said before pointing out that they had also made non-rock artists like Jay-Z and Beyonce headliners in the past.

While praising West, she said, “One of the world’s biggest superstars and a music legend The Eric Scheriffer-helmed turner, adapted by Heidi Thomas, also stars Corey Cott, Howard McGillin, Steffanie Leigh, Victoria Clark and Dee Hoty. Opening night is scheduled for 8 April at the Neil Simon Theatre, according to Broadway.com. Set during the turn of the 20th century, “Gigi” tells the story of a young girl living in Paris who is groomed (in the custom of her family) to serve as a companion to a bored, wealthy playboy until the pair realize they have fallen in love.

The show features the memorable tunes “Thank Heaven For Little Girls,” “I Remember It Well,” “The Night They Invented Champagne,” “It’s a Bore,” “Say a Prayer for Me Tonight” and more.

The cast also includes Cameron Adams, Kathryn Boswell, Max Clayton, Madeleine Doherty, Ashley Blair Fitzgerald, Hannah Florence, Alison Jantzie, Brian Ogilvie, James Patterson, Justin Prescott, Jeffrey C Sousa, Manny Stark, Tanairi Sade Vazquez, Richard White, Amos Wolf and Ashley Yeater.

Ryan Reynolds’ ‘Self/less’ release date moved up

Los Angeles, 22 March — Actor Ryan Reynolds’ science fiction thriller “Self/less” has been given a new release date.

“Self/less” had originally been scheduled to open against “Mission: Impossible 5” on 31 July, but Focus Features has pushed it up to 10 July, The Hollywood Reporter said.

The thriller from “Mirror Mirror” director Tarsem Singh explores the dangerous implications of technological advancement.

Ben Kingsley stars as an affluent aristocrat who seeks to stave off his death from cancer by having his consciousness implanted into a younger body (Reynolds). He soon discovers that the corporation who organized the procedure is seeking to cover up the frightening true origin of this new body.

Michelle Dockery and Victor Garber also appear in “Self/less”, while Matthew Goode plays a menacing member of the group behind the cover-up.

Vanessa Hudgens debuts at Broadway

New York, 22 March — “High School Musical” star Vanessa Hudgens has made her Broadway debut with romantic musical comedy “Gigi”.

The Eric Scheriffer-helmed tuner, adapted by Heidi Thomas, also stars Corey Cott, Howard McGillin, Steffanie Leigh, Victoria Clark and Dee Hoty. Opening night is scheduled for 8 April at the Neil Simon Theatre, according to Broadway.com.

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Singer Whitney Houston’s daughter Bobbi Kristina Brown has reportedly moved into a rehabilitation facility in Atlanta after being hospitalised for seven weeks at Emory University Hospital.—PTI

Actor Paul Walker’s estate has filed a lawsuit against a man’s estate, alleging it failed to return vehicles owned by the “Fast and Furious” Star.

PTI

Actor Paul Walker’s estate has filed a lawsuit against a man’s estate, alleging it failed to return vehicles owned by the “Fast and Furious” Star.

The suit is against the estate of Roger W Rodas, who was behind the wheel when he and Walker died in a car wreck in November 2013. The actor was 40.

Walker’s estate said Rodas was in possession of 17 cars, including a 1969 Ford Mustang and a 2010 Audi R8, owned by Walker that have not been returned to his estate, said The Hollywood Reporter.

Some photos showed Pat was also seen carrying a Whitney Houston tribute book.

A source said that Bobby was “devastated” that he’s going to make a decision about his daughter’s life support.

According to the source, Bobby was “praying that God will make the decision for him” because he didn’t want to be the one to make decision on his daughter’s life.—PTI

Rapper Kanye West humanity, but believe me, some of the vitriol being thrown around this week has made me question the dark underbelly of the web,” she said.

“I have such faith in
Bournemouth back on top in race to Premier League

LONDON, 22 March — Bournemouth are in pole position in the race to be promoted to the Premier League after a 3-0 victory over fellow contenders Middlesbrough on Saturday.

Having started the day behind Watford and Middlesbrough in the Championship, penalties from Yann Kermorgant and Brett Pitman with a Harry Arter stunner sandwiched in between sent the humble south coast club top with 73 points from 39 games.

Richard Chaplow’s stoppage-time winner gave Ipswich Town a 1-0 victory at Watford to move them into sixth spot, the final play-off position, above Brentford who finished 2-2 at home by relegation-threatened Millwall.

Watford remain in the second automatic promotion spot with 72 points, above Middlesbrough on goal difference. “Psychologically it gives us a boost knowing we’ve beaten one of the best sides in the division and it should serve us well hopefully in the remaining games,” Bournemouth manager Eddie Howe told the BBC.

There is precious little between all the frontrunners though in what is a wildly unpredictable division.

Norwich City, attempting to return to the top flight at the first attempt, are fourth with 70 points after a 3-1 victory over Nottingham Forest whose slim hopes of joining the scrap for a play-off spot now look to be over.

Derby County were beaten by Wolverhampton Wanderers on Friday and are fifth in 67 points, the same as Ipswich.

Djokovic crushes Murray, faces Federer in Indian Wells final

MIAMI (Reuters) - Novak Djokovic (SRB) during his semi final match against Andy Murray (GBR) during the BNP Paribas Open at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden, Indian Wells, CA, USA on 21 March, 2015. — Reuters

Indian Wells, (California), 22 March — World number one Novak Djokovic crushed Britain’s Andy Murray 6-2, 6-3 on Saturday to set up a mouthwatering final against number two Roger Federer in the BNP Paribas Open.

Federer defeated Canada’s Milos Raonic 7-5, 6-4 to reach his 40th ATP Masters 1000 final and earn a repeat of last year’s epic final where he lost to Djokovic in three sets.

Djokovic has now won six straight matches against the Scotsman since his defeat in the 2013 Wimbledon final and owns a 17-8 record in their career meetings.

“I went really well from the beginning,” said Djokovic. “I came out with the right intensity and Andy made a lot of unforced errors. I just played solid and I am happy with the performance,” Djokovic said after the one hour, 28 minute match.

“I was expecting a battle, it always is with Andy but today I guess he wasn’t as close as where he wanted to be on a high quality. I just hung in there and played tactically right.”

The defending champion broke Murray three times to win the opening set and never looked in danger of needing a third set to secure his place in the final.

Djokovic, who has won three times in Indian Wells, looked sharp right from the outset while Murray made just two first serves in six points in his opening service game. Murray made a series of unforced errors, and having fallen a set behind, he struggled to find a way to turn the momentum in his direction. In a tight first set, Federer broke to go 6-5 when Raonic, who beat Rafa Nadal in Friday’s quarter-finals, went long with a backhand.

Big serving Raonic produced nine aces but Federer kept firm control in the second set, saving the only break point he faced.

“I think I did very well in the first set, scrambled down a few balls and then I did well to get the early break in the second set,” said Federer. “After losing 7-6 to him (Djokovic) in the third last year, I couldn’t wait to face him on centre court again.”

Federer, who is on a 19-set unbeaten run, has won Indian Wells on four occasions.— Reuters

Kim leads by two strokes at LPGA Founders Cup

PHOENIX, (United States), 22 March — South Korean teenager Kim Hyo Joo reeled off three consecutive late birdies to earn a two-stroke lead over American Stacy Lewis after the third round at the JTBC Founders Cup in Arizona on Saturday.

Kim carded 66 on the Wildfire course in Phoenix to post a 16-under-par 200 total with one round left.

Lewis stayed in contention for her 12th LPGA victory with a 67 that included six birdies to take the first 11 holes, before she stalled down the stretch and allowed Kim to zoom to the front.

Kim bogeyed the 13th hole but stormed back immediately with a hat-trick of birdies.

She gained international prominence when she won the Evian Championship, an LPGA major, last year. A victory here would set the 19-year-old up nicely for a tilt at a second major title at the ANA Inspiration in the California desert in two weeks.

Lewis was happy with the quality of her game, if not thrilled by her score.

“Today I felt like I played a lot better than I scored,” she told Golf Channel.

“I had a bunch of putts right around the edge. I’m looking forward to tomorrow. I feel like I’ve put myself in contention a lot and should hopefully handle things pretty well tomorrow.”

Lewis’ New Zealand’s world number one Lydia Ko was within striking distance, four shots behind after a 69.

— Reuters

Novak Djokovic

News Channel in Brief

(23-3-2015, Monday)

6:00 am • Paritya by Hilly Region
6:30 am • Physical Exercises
7:00 am • News / Weather Report
7:35 am • Weekly Entertainment
8:00 am • News / International News
8:30 am • Documentary (Women in Myanma Society)
9:00 am • Documentary (ASEAN)
10:30 am • People’s Talks
11:35 am • MRTV’s Youth Programme
12:00 noon • News / International News / Weather Report
12:35 pm • Tasty Trip
1:10 pm • Gesagalee Phwintharohn

News / International News

(23-3-2015 to 24-3-2015 07:00 am) MST

* News
* Myanmar Traditional Toys
* Welcome to the southernmost part of Myanmar
* Modifying Natural Thanakha Bark into Ready-Made Skin Care Product
* News
* Myanmar Women Day
* Living Myanmar Glazed Ceramics
* Green Grocer
* News
* Kutawo, Myanmar Rattan Industry
* We’ll Leave After 12 Passengers are on Board
* News
* Youth Of The Future
* A Tea Business: Pankawan (Part-1)
* News
* A Day Out With Sarah (EP 7)
* Guiding Star of Song Birds

mtv Myanmar International

(23-3-2015, Monday)

8:00 am • Diaries of a Fisherman
8:45 am • Diary of a Fisherman
9:00 am • Unique Pattern of Myanmar... A Trend of Chin Traditional Dress
9:30 am • Myanmar Women Football Champions (Myanmar National Team)
10:30 am • Pagoda Forest in Pa-O Land
News
11:00 am • News Extra — Korea-Myanmar Bilateral Ties
11:30 am • Mosaic Painting (Precious Stones & Gems)

Entertainment Channel

(23-3-2015, Monday)

6:00 am • Mono Classical Songs
6:30 am • Military Show for Soldiers
7:00 am • Myanma Series
7:30 am • TV Drama Series
8:20 am • TV Drama Series
9:00 am • TV Drama Series
9:45 am • Musical Programme
10:15 am • Myanmar Video
Liverpool F.C goes into partnership with Myanmar energy drink firm

YANGON, 22 March — English football team Liverpool F.C announced on Sunday a new partnership with Myanmar energy drink company Cobra Energy Drink, according to the statement of the football club.

The deal has made the brand become the official energy drink of the club in Myanmar.

Billy Hogan, chief commercial officer at Liverpool, said: “Liverpool Football Club is one of the most popular football clubs in Myanmar, which is very much a nation of football fanatics. “We’re really excited to partner with Cobra Energy Drink to bring our fans in Myanmar closer to the club.”

Lyka C. Frontuna, senior country brand manager of Cobra Energy Drink at Cobra Energy Drinks, said: “We’re delighted to be the official energy drink of Liverpool F.C in Myanmar for the 2015-16 Barclays Premier League season”, adding that, “the partnership is a perfect match for us as we share the values of Liverpool F.C.”

“Liverpool FC is one of the largest global brands and this exclusive partnership demonstrates our commitment to help quench the thirst of football fans in Myanmar by providing new opportunities for fans to watch Barclays Premier League Games involving Liverpool, for example,” the manager added.

As part of this partnership, Cobra Energy Drink will create a new TV campaign featuring LFC players and, as well as running competitions for fans to win Liverpool merchandise and engage with the club they’ll also be able to purchase LFC-themed bottles of Cobra Energy Drink.—GNLM

Second football friendly ends at 1-1 draw

YANGON, 22 March — Second football friendly match between Myanmar U-22 football team and Malaysian opponent ended a 1-1 draw at Youth Training Centre in Thawwana, here, on Sunday.

Players of both teams showed excellent skills in the match. Malaysian players had more football possession than Myanmar players.

In the 21st minute, Nay Lin Tun, captain of Myanmar team, scored an opening goal but Shahrudil of Malaysia could equalize the match in the 32nd minute.

In the 63rd minute, Myanmar grasped an opportunity of penalty kick due to rough defending of Malaysian players in the box. However, captain Nay Lin Tun missed the chance to translate his kick to the winning goal due to fantastic save of the Malaysian goalkeeper.

In the 83rd minute, Myanmar shot a ball into the net but the Malaysian goalkeeper could show his skill in saving the kick. In the 90th minute, Phyo Ko Ko Thein of Myanmar and Adan Nor Azlin of Malaysia were sent out for their rough attacks while Myanmar strikers were trying to netting the ball through a corner kick.

Before the final whistle, Malaysia possessed a great chance to kick the ball into Myanmar’s net but they missed the chance by bouncing the ball from the ball of Myanmar defenders.

GNLM

Student youths ready to take part in U-15 Cup

YANGON, 22 March — The 16-day long Nippon Foundation U-15 Cup 2015, jointly organized by Ministry of Education and Myanmar Football Federation and sponsored by Nippon Foundation of Japan, will kick off at the artificial turf No 3 of Myanmar Football Federation, here, on 25 March, aiming at uplifting football skills of students and turning out new generation youth footballers.

“Student youths are ready to take part in U-15 Cup. Altogether 18 U-15 football teams from basic education schools in Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (East), Shan (South) states and Sagaing, Bago (East), Bago (West), Magway, Mandalay, Taninthayi, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area will take part in the tournament.” —The Myanmar Football Council office of the Myanmar Football Federation, Latha BEHS No 1 in Lannadaw, Latha BEHS No 1 and Botataung BEHS No 6 for taking training.

The group fixtures will be arranged at the office of the Myanmar Football Federation at 1 p.m. on 24 March and the pre-match press conference at 1.30 p.m.

MFF

Man City cruise past 10-man West Brom, Arsenal win

LONDON, 22 March — Manchester City retained their slim title hopes thanks to a 3-0 win against 10-man West Bromwich Albion but Arsenal are hot on their heels after a 2-1 victory against Newcastle United in the Premier League on Saturday. Much-maligned after their Champions League exit in Barcelona on Wednesday and a league defeat by Burnley last week, City were helped league defeat by Burnley on Wednesday and a League exit in Barcelona after their Champions League exit by As Monaco on Tuesday night.

Second-placed City will stay at top of the charts. —Reuters

Two-goal advantage but goals from Jamie Vardy and Wes Morgan drew the visitors level. Leicester striker David Nugent conceded a penalty that Kane converted to complete a first Premier League hat-trick and move him above Chelsea’s Diego Costa with 19 goals on top of the scoring charts.—Reuters

Nugent set up a nervy finish with a late consolation.

Sixth-placed Southampton stay above Spurs on goal difference after their 2-0 win at St Mary’s against struggling Burnley who remain in the bottom three. Dutchman Dick Advocaat’s first game as Sunderland manager ended in defeat as his side were beaten 1-0 at West Ham United, Dafta Saohi striking late for the Hammers.

Crystal Palace came from a goal down to beat Stoke City 2-1 at the Britannia Stadium, while Aston Villa’s recent resurgence came to end with a 1-0 home defeat against Swansea City.—Reuters