Mandalay General Hospital gets new ten-storey building

Mandalay, 28 March — Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attended the opening of a ten-storey building at the Mandalay General Hospital on Saturday, according to officials.

The vice president spoke about the government’s efforts to improve medical services in prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

He took a guided tour of the building, with officials explaining to him the background history of the hospital.

The hospital started life as a 250-bed facility in 1925 and expanded to 1,000 beds in 2012.

The building was constructed at a cost of some K3.5 billion contributed by the government and well-wishers. The new facility includes the nuclear medicine department, the renal medical department, the gastrointestinal department, teaching halls and intensive care units.

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham also met faculty members at Mandalay University of Medicine and urged them to turn medical students into qualified doctors. He pledged more teaching aids, calling for collective participation in bringing the medical university up to international standards.

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham comforts a patient at Mann Taungyiikkho new hospital building in Mandalay General Hospital.

Mandalay, 28 March — Solar Impulse-2 will leave Mandalay for Chongqing of China to continue its around-the-world trip at 4 a.m. on March 30.

The crew of Swiss long-range experimental solar-powered aircraft will hold a press conference at noon on March 29 about their trip.

Officials have announced media persons can get entry card for the aircraft.

Solar Impluse-2 to take off Mandalay on 30 March

By Ye Myint

Yangoon, 28 March — Journalists and media groups from around the world discussed strategies for tackling speech that could spread hatred and incite conflict on Saturday, the second day of the 65th International Press Institute World Congress in Yangon.

The panel discussion on challenging hate speech proposed combatting dangerous and harmful messages in the media by promoting alternative narratives.

Describing the media environment in her native Sri Lanka, panelist Manori Kalugampitiya said the press had been heavily controlled through “ownership” rather than “censorship” under the former regime in her country. Media ownership became more consolidated, with many private outlets bought by (See page 3)

Hate speech must be fought using alternative narratives, journalists’ panel says

Exhibition marks 30-year art career for Myanmar painter

By Khing Thanda Lwin

Yangon, 28 March — Yangon Gallery will host a solo exhibition of artist Soe Soe in April, to mark the 30th anniversary of the internationally successful painter’s debut, organizer Lynn What Hmone said Saturday.

“This is the first-ever solo show in Myanmar in celebration of my career as an artist,” Soe Soe told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

More than 20 works, including the artist’s signature three-dimensional acrylic paintings, will be exhibited at the gallery from 4 to 10 April.

The artist said, “Apart from one painting, all paintings on display at the gallery will be on sale, (See page 3)

Exhibition marks 30-year art career for Myanmar painter

Panel members discuss hate speech at the IPI 2015 World Congress, with speakers encouraging members of the media to promote alternative narratives to combat harmful messages.

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MNA

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The crew of Swiss long-range experimental solar-powered aircraft will hold a press conference at noon on March 29 about their trip.

Officials have announced media persons can get entry card for the air-port from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 29 at Mandalay Sub-Printing House in Pale Ngwe Yaung Ward, and ferry buses for the media will leave Mandalay Railway Station, gathering point, at 2 a.m. on March 30.

“We will have to consider the weather conditions of the route between Myanmar and China before we fly,” said a member of Solar Impluse Team, Min Min Zaw (Kalay).

HATE SPEECH MUST BE Fought USING ALTERNATIVE NARRATIVES, JOURNALISTS’ PANEL SAYS

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Panel members discuss hate speech at the IPI 2015 World Congress, with speakers encouraging members of the media to promote alternative narratives to combat harmful messages.

Photo: Ye Myint
YCDC to carry out its free rabies vaccination programme in northern Yangon next FY

Yangon, 28 March—Yangon City Development Committee plans to carry out free vaccination against rabies and birth control of stray dogs in the northern Yangon in early April, according to Dr Hla May Oo, one of assist heads from YCDC.

“The project aims to reduce people’s death rate caused by rabies and to create a rabies free city as well as to control the amount of strays on the streets,” the assistant head of Veterinary and Slaughter House Department said in an interview with the Global New Light of Myanmar on Friday.

Since mid-2014, the YCDC has launched its project at the four corners of the city. Over 300 stray dogs are vaccinated against rabies so far, most of them in South Dagon Township.

At the same time, the YCDC also carry out its former method of clearance of stray dogs with poison-laced meats in 33 townships in Yangon at night, Dr Hla May Oo said. Local dog lover’s groups are planning to submit their draft proposal to the YCDC, the city mayor, health department and veterinary science this year, Daw Thuzi Wai, leader of Animals Protect Organization, said. The draft proposal mainly includes replacing method of birth control in dogs to the old one, animal rights and the demands for lands to open dog shelters, she added. Currently there are three dog shelters in Yangon.

“People also prefer the birth control of dog population rather than the culling,” said Dr Hla May Oo.

Myanmar’s neighbours including Indonesia practice method of birth control in dogs.

More than 95 percent of rabies-related human deaths occur in Asia and Africa. According to the World Health Organization, a person dies every 15 minutes by rabies disease around world. Myanmar stands first in the death rate caused by rabies in ASEAN.

GGP scheme to provide cash assistance for construction of health centres, school

Yangon, 28 March—Mr Tateshi Higuchi, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar and Chairmen of the Committees from the State concerned, signed the grant contracts for six projects as listed below on 24 March. Under these contracts, Japan’s Grant Assistance for Gross-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme will provide a total of US$1,086,125.

The budget was shared US$157,636 for construction of rural health center in Mei Se Nan Village, Meise Township, Kayah State; US$193,453 for a rural health centre in Kaykaw village, Pruho Township, Kayah State; US$174,050 for a rural health centre in Mawchi village, Pasawng Township, Kayah State; US$82,397 for a rural health branch in Sin-taung village in Demoho Township, Kayah State; US$151,269 for two rural health branches in Tanai Township, Kachin State and US$327,320 for a school building at Basic Education High School Branch in Mindat, Chin State.

Yangon to host Miss Myanmar World 2015 in April

By Khang Thanda Lwin

Yangon, 28 March—The Miss Myanmar 2015 contest is set to launch next month, with the winner going on to represent the country on the global stage, the event’s organiser said Thursday.

Entertainment firm Forever BEC-TERO hopes to promote the role of women in Myanmar through the event in Yangon, the company’s national manager U Soe Thura said.

“We will select 20 candidates among the applicants to participate in the contest,” he said. “The winner will have an opportunity to compete in Miss World 2015 which will be held in September in South Africa.”

The organising body arranged to present K10 million to the winner of the contest, K5 million to the first runner-up and K3 million to the second runner-up, he said.

This year will be the second time the event has been staged in Myanmar. Nineteen-year-old Miss Myanmar World 2014 winner Wyne Lay was crowned Miss Myanmar World 2014, and was among the top 40 contestants at Miss World 2014, won by 22-year-old South African Miss Rolene Strauss. Women aged between 18 and 23 may apply to join the contest no later than 28 April. Further details can be found at the website www.foreverbectero/mmw2015.com.—GNLM
Minister urges staff to grow perennial and seasonal crops

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—During his visit to staff quarters in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 March, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw urges his staff to grow perennial and seasonal crops in a manageable scale to save income. He also advised them to clear the bushes and dredge the gutters around their quarters weekly to protect against the danger of insects. The Union Minister also warned the staff against the danger of electric short circuit.

MMA to host talk on drug-resistant TB

YANGON, 28 March—In commemoration of World Tuberculosis Day 2015, talks organized by the Myanmar Medical Association on drug-resistance TB will be held at the hall of Yangon University of Nursing in Lamdaw Township on 29 March. The event, which is open to the public, will include talks by Dr Tin Mi Mi Khang, Prof U Win Naing, Dean of the University’s Child Health Education Department.

Village-to-village asphalt road opened in Ayeyawady Region

KYAUNGON, (Ayeyawady Region), 28 March—As a gesture to honour the 70th anniversary Armed Forces Day, an asphalt road was opened on 25 March in Yaykhlat village, Kyangon Township in Ayeyawady Region.

Deputy Speaker of Region Hluttaw Dr Hein Win attended the opening ceremony for the road, which was built by the Larh Moh company using capital funds of Kyangon township Rural Area Development Department. The road linking Yaykhlat and Daungyi villages provides a shortcut to Kyangon-Emme Road and the Yangon-Pathein Highway in Ayeyawady Region.

David (Kyaunggon)

Hate speech must be fought using...

(from page 1)

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of expression that Myanmar has gained. Self-regulation should be preferred.”

In his presentation, the Myanmar journalist stressed the need to raise public awareness about online and offline hate speech and encouraged all media to denounce it.

Freelance journalist Daw Mon Mon Myat, who was in the audience at the conference, said she agreed with the panel’s call for social media users to be accountable and act responsibly. “Social media has influenced on the mainstream media,” she said.

The panel discussion was one of the sessions orga-

nized at the Inter-

national Press Institute’s 2015 World Congress that began on Friday at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon with the theme “On the Path to a Free Media.”—GNLM

Dhammacariya examination continued for third day

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March – Ministry of Reli-

igious Affairs organized Dhammacariya Examination for 2015. The third day of the examination continued at the 50 exam centres in the whole country. Accord-

MPC organizes “Youth and Peace” forum

KNPP Vice Chairman U Khu Oorei.

MNA

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Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane.—MNA

YANGON, 28 March—With the sponsorship of AEOX Co., Ltd and under the supervision of the Ministry of Education and UNICEF, a school building was built in Hlaingthaya Township. The opening and handing over ceremony of No. 42 Basic Education Primary School was held on 27 March. The school building built at a cost of US$ 76,637 is a three-unit one with the measurement of 72 feet long and 32 feet wide. The donation given talks on peace process and contemporary issues of the political, economic and social trends. According to organizers, the forum was aimed at arousing interest on young people to get involved in peace processes and cherish peace.

The forum drew officials from 33 ministries and young people of ethnic groups, and will continue up to 30 March. Similar forum also took place in Losi-

cayakh State with the attendance of Union Min-

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GNLM

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(from page 1)

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The artist said he de-

veloped his technique of using layers of acrylic paint to create landscapes with a three-dimensional appearance in 2004.

After entering the art world in 1985, Soe Soe travelled with his works, exhibiting in countries including Singapore, Malaysia, Belgium, the United States and England. He said Myanmar has skillful

A 3D painting created by Artist Soe Soe (Labutta) will be on display for sale at Yangon Gallery.—PHOTO: YANGON GALLERY

Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut converses with Nobel Laureate and Grameen Bank Bhaban Chairman Professor Mohammad Yunus at IPI World Congress.—MNA

Minister urges staff to grow perennial and seasonal crops

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—Minister of Information U Ye Htut, who was in the audience at the conference, said she called on journalists, publishers and civic organ-

izations to build necessary safeguards to reduce hate speech without compromising freedom of expression.

Discussing whether Myanmar needs more laws to fight hate speech, panelist U Thitha Saw said the coun-

ty’s media already faced enough legal restrictions, and that it would be better for those in the industry to take the initiative themselves and work together.

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anmar, at 145th place out of 180 countries on press freedom,” he said. “I don’t agree personally to see fur-

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Aung Thara

Village-to-village asphalt road opened in Ayeyawady Region

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David (Kyaunggon)
Abe refers to comfort women as “human trafficking” victims

WASHINGTON, 28 March — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe described women who were forced to work at wartime Japanese military brothels as victims of “human trafficking” in an interview with The Washington Post in its Friday edition.

The paper quoted one of Abe’s aides as saying it was the first time for the premier to use the word “trafficking” in reference to what Japan euphemistically calls “comfort women,” an issue that has strained bilateral ties between Japan and South Korea.

“[W]hen my thought goes to these people, who have been victimized by human trafficking and gone through immeasurable pain and suffering beyond description, my heart aches,” Abe was quoted as saying.

Abe indicated he had no intention of undoing the apologies over the comfort women issue made by two of his predecessors, Tomichi Murayama and Junichiro Koizumi, according to the report.

Exactly what Japanese words Abe used during the interview are not yet known.

Differences over the interpretation of comfort women history have soured Tokyo-Seoul ties as many of the women were from the Korean Peninsula, which was under Japan’s colonial rule before and during World War II.

Japanese ruling lawmaker meets China’s president

BOAO, (China), 28 March — A lawmaker from Japan’s ruling party on Saturday met with Chinese President Xi Jinping amid a slight easing of tensions between the two countries.

Toshihiro Nikai, a senior member of the Liberal Democratic Party, is in Beijing with Xi in a photo session at the Boao Forum for Asia, an annual gathering of political and business leaders in China’s Hainan Province.

Since Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held his first talks with Xi in November, Nikai, chairman of the LDP’s General Council, is the first Japanese political figure to have met with the Chinese president.

On Friday, Nikai, a 76-year-old seasoned lawmaker, told reporters he will “find ways (for the two countries) to cooperate and develop.” Former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, who was at the venue as chairman of the annual forum, was also present when Nikai met with Xi.

Among lawmakers of the LDP, Nikai is known for having one of the best relations with China and South Korea, which have repeatedly criticized Japan over its handling of territorial and wartime issues.

Nikai, who previously handled the transport and industry portfolios, plans to visit China in May with a delegation of around 3,000 people, including representatives of the tourism industry.

In mid-February, Nikai, who visited Seoul with a delegation of about 1,400 people, held talks with South Korean President Park Geun-hye and agreed with her on the need to harden for improved ties.

Park has yet to have a formal meeting with Abe since she took office in early 2013.

Crowds swell to bid farewell to Singapore’s founder Lee ahead of funeral

SINGAPORE, 28 March — Thousands of people gathered in Singapore on Saturday to bid farewell to former leader Lee Kuan Yew in an unprecedented wave of sympathy after authorities had to temporarily suspend queues overnight to manage surging crowds.

The waiting time to enter Singapore's Parliament House where Lee’s body was laying in state was as long as 6 hours just before midday Saturday, a rare sight in a city where public gatherings are tightly controlled.

Mourners walked by Lee’s coffin, draped with a Singaporean flag and flanked by five uniformed military officers, in silence. Many bowed. Some sobbed.

“In our lifetime this is a mark of respect, from everyone, so I think it’s something that we should do,” said Ho Shaw Ming as he waited in line.

Lee, Singapore’s first prime minister, died on Monday at the age of 91.

He is credited with transforming the city-state from a British colonial outpost into one of the world’s wealthiest nations, with a strong, pervasive role for the state and little patience for dissent.

Commercial activity in Singapore, known for its shopping and food, is expected to slow significantly on Sunday. Several shopping mall owners have closed big stores such as Tangs and Metro said they would close on the day of the funeral.

The casino at Genting Singapore’s Resorts World Sentosa will be closed on Sunday from 2 pm to 6 pm as a mark of respect, it said on its website.

Lee’s funeral procession will begin at about 12.30 pm (0430 GMT) on Sunday and cover 15.4 km to the National University of Singapore, where funeral services will be held.

Asia-Pacific leaders including Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Australian, Prime Minister Tony Abbott, New Zealand Prime Minister John Key, Indonesian President Joko Widodo and South Korean President Park Geun-hye will be among those attending the services.

The number of visitors to Parliament House has exceeded 300,000, or 5 percent of Singapore’s population, since the public viewing opened on Wednesday morning.

More than a million visitors have flocked to 18 designated community tributes, writing messages of condolence and leaving flowers.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and his ministers visited the queues near the parliament house and community centres where people were lining up.

“I am deeply moved by the overwhelming response of people wanting to visit my father’s Lying in State at Parliament House,” Lee said on his Facebook page.

With elections expected as early as later this year, it was unclear whether the wave of support for the country’s founder would generate more votes for Lee’s People’s Action Party (PAP), which has ruled Singapore since independence.

Income inequality, resentment over immigration and expensive housing were among the issues which knocked the PAP’s share of the vote down to 60 percent from 67 percent in elections four years ago.

“Don’t expect sympathy votes for the PAP on account of the late Mr Lee,” said Eugene Tan, associate professor of law at the Singapore Management University.

“The PAP instead has the untenable task of unequivocally showing that they are noble and worthy successors to the late Mr Lee and his founding generation of leaders.”

Some 570 Cambodians fall ill after eating contaminated snacks

PHNOM PENH, 28 March — Approximately 570 Cambodian people, mostly children, in northwestern Cambodia’s Takéo Province got sick after eating bread filled with meat and vegetables on Saturday afternoon, a provincial health chief confirmed.

The incident took place at Chi Keng district when NGO World Vision hosted an event for school children and distributed loaves of bread filled with meat and vegetables to each of participants, said Kros Sarath, chief of Siem Reap Provincial Health Department.

“About 570 people, most of them were children, got dizzy and vomited after eating the contaminated bread,” he told Xinhua over telephone. “According to a preliminary conclusion, it was suspected that the vegetables, especially cucumbers, which were put in the bread, were contaminated with insecticide as a result of failure to properly clean.

He said the financial staff arrived at the scene soon after the incident and provided on-site intravenous injections to those ill-fated people.

“No one is in serious condition, and about 30 percent of them have recovered and returned home,” he said. Checks on food supplies in Phnom Penh, where safety regulations are lax.

In January, about 25 school children in southern Cambodia’s Takeo Province got sick after eating fried rice at a food stall near the school, and in October last year, around 283 people, mostly children and females, suffered diarrhea and vomited after having traditional noodle soup at an engagement party in central Kampong Thom Province.—Xinhua

People pay their respects to the late first prime minister Lee Kuan Yew at a community tribute site in Singapore on 28 March, 2015.—Reuters

Visiting Indonesian President Joko Widodo offers a flower basket at the Monument to the People’s Heroes in Tian’anmen Square, in Beijing, capital of China, on 27 March, 2015.—Xinhua

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“The PAP instead has the untenable task of unequivocally showing that they are noble and worthy successors to the late Mr Lee and his founding generation of leaders.”

Reuters
WORLD

Shopping mall near Pentagon evacuated over bomb threat

WASHINGTON, 28 March — A shopping centre near the headquarters of the US Department of Defence in Arlington, Virginia, was evacuated on Friday afternoon after authorities received a bomb threat.

The Pentagon Centre shopping plaza and roads surrounding the area were closed after an anonymous bomb threat was made around 12:30 pm ET, the Arlington County Police Department said. Local media reported that bomb-sniffing dogs were searching the area. “It’s going to take a while to do a full sweep just because of sheer size of the centre,” Arlington County Police Department spokesman Dustin Sternbeck said.

The Arlington Area Transit Authority said the entrance to the Metrorail station near the shopping centre was closed due to police activity. —Xinhua

Pentagon official defends Marine base relocation plan in Okinawa

WASHINGTON, 28 March — A senior US defence official defended on Friday a plan to relocate a Marine Corps airfield within Japan’s Okinawa Prefecture despite local objections to the way the central government is pushing ahead with the project.

David Shear, assistant secretary of defence, described the plan to relocate the Futenma Air Station as the “best” from the viewpoint of military operations and in terms of benefit to people in Okinawa at an event in Washington.

Speaking at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies think tank, Shear said he was “heartened” by statements by Japanese leaders including Prime-Minister Shinzo Abe that the current plan is the only solution to replacing the Futenma base.

Shear commended Abe’s government for being committed to seeing the relocation facility “through.”

Shear made the remarks as the Okinawa prefectural government and the central government have been clashing over the construction of a facility in a seaside area to which functions of the Futenma base will be transferred from a congested area in the southern island prefecture. —Kyodo News

UN chief appeals to defence chiefs for “unity and backing” on peacekeeping

UNITED NATIONS, 28 March — The first-ever United Nations Chiefs of Defence Conference was held here on Friday with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appealing to senior military officials for more contributions and political will to boost peacekeeping operations.

“Peacekeeping is a shared global responsibility that advances the world’s common interests,” Ban said in his remarks at the conference, calling for “more diverse and more quickly available contributions” from member states.

“It also includes additional ‘boots on the ground’ from developed countries with more technologically advanced military,” he noted.

“We need unity and backing,” Ban said. “Effective performance demands broad consensus on why, where and how peacekeepers carry out their mandates.”

The historic event brings together chiefs of defence and senior military officials from more than 100 member states to discuss issues central to UN peacekeeping as part of a wider process of engagement by the UN with member states to expand the peacekeeping partnership and promote effective and efficient implementation of mandates.

The conference continues throughout today, with Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Herve Ladsous, and Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, also speaking.

Iran, powers close in on two-three page nuclear deal; success uncertain

US Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (C) addresses the first-ever UN Chiefs of Defence Conference at the UN headquarters in New York on 27 March, 2015. The first-ever United Nations Chiefs of Defence Conference was held here Friday with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appealing to senior military officials for more contributions and political will to boost peacekeeping operations.—Xinhua

Sun Jianguo, deputy chief of the General Staff of the People’s Liberation Army, also attended the event. Ban told the gathered soldiers that threats to peacekeepers are “growing,” with more deaths year on year now than ever before.

“Before 2000, there were four times when more than 100 peacekeepers lost their lives in a single year. Since then, we have suffered that tragic toll ten times. Consecutively, 10 times,” he said.

After a moment of silence was marked for fallen peacekeepers, Ban said the role of peacekeeping was first and foremost to protect civilians from violence.

“They also support stabilization and the extension of state authority. They strengthen the rule of law. They address gender inequality. They protect human rights,” he said.

There are some details that have been out in the open for months. An Iranian government website said in November that Washington could let Iran keep some 6,000 early-generation centrifuges, down from nearly 10,000 now in operation.

Along with lifting UN sanctions, officials say the biggest sticking point in the talks remains centrifuge research and development. They say Iran wants to conduct advanced centrifuge research at the underground Fordow site, but the Western powers dislike the idea of Iran operating centrifuges there.

The deal would call for US, European Union and United Nations Sanctions to be lifted gradually according to a specific schedule. Some sanctions could be lifted very quickly, the officials said.

Iran denies allegations by Western powers and their allies that it is seeking the capability to produce atomic weapons.—Reuters
Ukraine arrests Turkish cargo ship over Crimea port call

Kiev, 28 March — Ukrainian authorities have arrested a Turkish-owned cargo ship and detained its captain over a visit it made to a port in Crimea after Russian annexed the peninsula from Ukraine last year. Prosecutors said the Tuvalu-registered 5,095 deadweight tonne ship Kanton was being held in the Ukrainian port of Kherson. They said the crew could go to jail for up to three years and the ship could be seized.

The vessel’s Istanbul-based owner, Master Shipping Ltd, called the detention illegal.

Russia seized Crimea shortly after Ukrainian protesters toppled a pro-Moscow president in February 2014. Ukraine has said any visit to Crimean ports is illegal, and a ban came into effect in July last year.

Master Shipping told Indian government is preparing to carry out an evacuation from Yemen by sending two ships to the coast of the country to bring home Indians stranded there, officials said here Friday.

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs has already set up a 24-hour control room to monitor the situation and respond to queries, said the officials.

Since all the airports in Yemen are closed, the plan is to bring people to the neighbouring country Djibouti by ships and from there to India by aircraft, or bring Indians to Saudi Arabia by road before flying them home, a government release said.

Indians from the southern state Kerala residing in Yemen informed the government that the passports and certificates of those working in hospitals have been held back, which is creating problems for their return to home.

Some 3,000 Indians, mostly from Kerala, are staying in Yemen.

Saudi Arabia and some other Muslim countries have launched a military operation against rebel forces in Yemen. —Xinhua

India to evacuate nationals stranded in Yemen

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Saudi Arabia and some other Muslim countries have launched a military operation against rebel forces in Yemen. —Xinhua

JAPAN

Japan is set to extend sanctions on North Korea

Tokyo, 28 March — Japan will likely extend its sanctions against North Korea because of Pyongyang’s delay in reporting into its abductions of Japanese citizens decades ago, the Nikkei business daily reported on Saturday without citing sources.

The government is poised to decide next Tuesday on an extension to a trade embargo on North Korea, a ban on North Korean charter flights and a prohibition on North Korean ships entering Japanese ports, the Nikkei said.

Japanese government officials were unavailable for comment.


Five of those abductees and their families later returned to Japan.

North Korea said that the remaining eight were dead and that the issue was closed, but Japan has been pressing for more information.

Last July, Japan lifted some of sanctions against North Korea, such as easing travel curbs, in return for Pyongyang’s reopening of an investigation into the abductions.

Tokyo will leave the partial easing of some sanctions unchanged but wants to keep pressure on Pyongyang for not disclosing facts about the kidnappings and the launch of missiles early this month, the Nikkei report said.

North Korea was supposed to issue an initial report on a probe into the kidnappings last September but postponed it saying the investigation was at an early stage.

There were informal talks among officials between the two sides this month and Japan’s delegation threatened to impose tougher sanctions if the report on the abduction probe was delayed further, the Nikkei said. —Reuters

IATA airlines group calls for full civil probe of French crash

PARIS, 28 March — Airline industry body IATA on Friday called for a full civil accident investigation of this week’s crash of a Germanwings (LHAG, DL) aircraft in the French Alps.

“The interests of aviation safety are best served by considerations made in light of full and complete information and understanding of any accident, or issue concerning safety or security.” IATA said in a statement.

It added that thorough accident investigation is a pillar of the industry’s safety performance. —Reuters

US welcomes Israel release of withheld Palestinian tax revenue

WASHINGTON, 28 March — The United States said on Friday it welcomed Israel’s decision to release withheld tax revenue to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

“This is an important step that will benefit the Palestinian people and help stabilize the situation in the West Bank,” State Department spokesman Jeff Rathke said at a press briefing.

“We hope that both sides will be able to work on this and work together to lower tensions and find a constructive path forward,” Rathke said.

The move was made due to “humanitarian considerations and an overall view toward serving Israel’s interests at this juncture,” Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement.

In January, Israel halted the transfer of tax revenues it collected on behalf of the PNA as a punitive measure following the Palestinian bid to join the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

Since then, some 500 million US dollars have been frozen, plunging the Palestinian economy into a major financial crisis, with a dangerously exposed banking system and a 40-60 percent cut in the salaries of the PNA’s employees. —Xinhua

Photo taken with a mobile phone shows the crash site of a helicopter in Santa Maria Chilchota municipality, Oaxaca state, south of Mexico, on 27 March, 2015. According to local press, the helicopter crashed on Friday, leaving at least 3 people dead and another injured. —Xinhua

In this image, a mobile phone captures the crash site of a helicopter in Santa Maria Chilchota municipality, Oaxaca state, south of Mexico, on 27 March, 2015. According to local press, the helicopter crashed on Friday, leaving at least 3 people dead and another injured. —Xinhua

People clear up the blocked road after the landslides in Chosica district of Lima, Peru, on 27 March, 2015. At least nine people were killed and four others were missing in Peru after a massive landslide buried parts of a town amid heavy rains on the last hours, Operations Centre of National Emergency said on Tuesday. —Xinhua

Xinhua

Xinhua
Saudi-led air strikes target fresh Houthi advance on Aden - residents

ADEN, 28 March — Saudi-led air forces struck a convoy of Yemeni Houthi fighters advancing on Aden from the east on Saturday, residents said, and the Saudi navy evacuated sailing vessels from the southern port city. The Iranian-allied Shi’ite Muslim Houthi fighters, seeking to overthrow the Western-backed government in Sanaa, and Al-Qaeda-linked al Shabaab were fighting against the Saudi-led coalition launched air raids against them early on Thursday.

On Friday, the Houthis and al Shabaab gained their first foothold on Yemen’s Arabian Sea coast by seizing the port of Shaqra, 1,000km (60 miles) east of Aden, allowing them to open a new front to march on the south’s main city.

Residents said a Houthi convoy of armoured vehicles, tanks and military trucks heading along the coastal road to Aden from Shaqra was targeted by warplanes from the Saudi-led coalition before dawn on Saturday, and a number of vehicles were hit. There was no immediate comment from the Houthis, and no details on any casualties were available. Aden residents said the convoy had been stopped, but the Houthis were sending reinforcements to Shaqra and the advance along the main al-Mukalla-Aden road was expected to resume.

With the prospect looming that Hadi could lose his last refuge in Yemen, Saudi Arabia’s navy evacuated dozens of diplomats from the city, and the state television reported. It said the foreign envoys had been safely shipped to Saudi Arabia’s Red Sea port of Jeddah. — Reuters

Syrian army closes in on city near Lebanese border

BEIRUT, 28 March — The Syrian army, backed by Hezbollah fighters, closed in on the city of Zabadani near the border with Lebanon on Friday, a Lebanese security source said, and Syrian media said at least 20 insurgents had been killed in the battles to seize high ground.

Violence from Syria’s four-year war has regularly tipped over into Lebanon, and militiamen from the Iranian-backed Lebanese Shi’ite Muslim group Hezbollah have been fighting on the side of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Syrian state news agency SANA, citing a Syrian military source, said the army had gained control of at least ten “strategic areas” to the west of Zabadani. The military had “managed to kill and injure a large number of terrorists” and destroyed many of their bases, it said.

Those killed included a number of foreign fighters, it added.

The Lebanese television station Al-Manar, run by Hezbollah, broadcast footage of Syrian soldiers in a mountainous area using heavy weapons around Zabadani, and showed the bodies of at least one enemy combatant.

Syrian forces and pro-government fighters have regularly clashed with insurgents in the mountainous area north of the capital Damascus. The rebel groups in the area include al Qaeda’s Syrian wing, the Nusra Front. — Reuters

Death toll from Somalia hotel attack rises to 15, fighting continues

MOGADISHU, 28 March — The death toll from an attack by Islamist militants on a hotel in the Somali capital rose to at least 15, police said as fighting continued into early Saturday, with loud explosions heard overnight.

Al-Shabab fighters blasted and shot their way into the popular Hotel Maka Al Mukaram on Friday afternoon, trapping many government officials.

Security personnel, led by a unit from the elite US-trained special forces troops known as “Gaash-haam” (Shield) stormed the hotel on Friday evening and fought the attackers into Saturday. “At least 15 people died including Somalia’s ambassador to Geneva, and at least 20 others were injured,” said the security forces spokesman, said they had targeted only government officials.

“We killed those who belonged to the government and released the civilians,” he told Reuters by phone.

Journalists and paramedics were barred from entering the hotel grounds on Saturday and were only allowed to watch from its gate. A Reuters photographer said the siege seemed to have subsided, with security forces searching the rooms for fighters and body traps. Streets surrounding the hotel were sealed off by government and African Union peacekeeping troops.

Al-Qaeda-linked al Shabaab was pushed out of the capital by African peacekeeping forces in 2011, but has kept up guerrilla-style attacks, looking to overthrow the government and impose its strict version of Sharia, or Islamic law, on the country.

An offensive launched last year by African Union forces along with the Somali army has driven the group out of its strongholds in central and southern Somalia, while a series of US drone strikes have killed some of its top leaders. — Reuters

UN plan to begin push for UN Middle East action in ‘coming weeks’

UNITED NATIONS, 28 March — France plans to start discussions with partners in the “coming weeks” on a United Nations Security Council resolution to lay out parameters for ending the Middle East conflict, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said on Friday.

“I hope that the partners who were reluctant will not be reluctant anymore,” said Fabius, referring to the United States, which has traditionally shielded its ally Israel from any action at the UN.

The United States has said it would “reassess” its options on US — Israel relations and Middle East diplomacy after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s visit to the US in December. The United States said it would “reassess” its options on US — Israel relations and Middle East diplomacy after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s visit to the US in December.

In December the United States voted against a Palestinian draft resolution calling for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem and the establishment of a Palestinian state by late 2017.

In response to Fabius’ comments, a US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said: “We’re not going to get ahead of any decisions about what the United States would do with regard to potential action at the UN Security Council.”

He said Washington continues to engage with key stakeholders, including France, “to find a way forward that advances the interest we and others share in a two-state solution.”

France, along with Britain and Germany, had also drafted a Security Council resolution late last year to set parameters for ending the conflict, but the text was put on the back burner until after the Israeli elections, which took place last week.

“We have said that these parameters have to be defined and recognized by the Security Council and that obviously the two parties have to discuss, but the discussion will be accompanied by an international effort,” Fabius told reporters at the United Nations in New York.

Palestinians seek a state in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem, lands Israel captured in 1967.

Ahead of his re-election, Netanyahu said he would not permit a Palestinian state to be created under his watch and promised to go on building settlements on occupied lands.

Most countries view Israel’s settlement building on occupied land as illegal. UN Middle East envoy Robert Serry told the Security Council on Thursday that continued settlement building may have already killed a possible two-state solution.

“Today nothing has moved forward, still development of settlements, the Palestinians are in a more and more difficult situation and we cannot stay like that,” Fabius said.

Two Saudi pilots eject over Red Sea, rescued with US help: state news

CAIRO, 28 March — Two Saudi pilots ejected over the Red Sea on Friday after their fighter plane suffered a technical problem and were rescued with US assistance, state media said.

“A plane of the F-15SG type was stricken by a technical fault yesterday evening over the Red Sea and the two pilots were forced to use their rescue seats,” state news agency SPA quoted a defence ministry official saying.

“Praise be to God, the pilots were rescued in coordination with the American side, and the two pilots are in good health and high spirits,” the official said.

A US defence official said earlier on Friday that the US military rescued the two Saudi pilots in international waters by a helicopter from Djibouti after Saudi Arabia requested assistance.

Saudi Arabia is leading a coalition of Arab and Gulf countries in the second day of a bombing campaign against Iran-allied Houthi rebels in neighbouring Yemen, who are fighting against the Saudi-backed president Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

Residents evacuate an injured boy after Islamist group al Shabaab attacked Maka Al-Mukaram hotel in Mogadishu, on 27 March, 2015. — Reuters

Residents evacuate an injured boy after Islamist group al Shabaab attacked Maka Al-Mukaram hotel in Mogadishu, on 27 March, 2015. — Reuters
Learning to handle pain part of maturation

By Aung Khin

Experiencing pain and learning to respond to it appropriately is a crucial part of the maturation process not only for individuals, but entire societies. A society can only achieve maturity once the people within it themselves have some maturity.

Diversity, experimentation, stability and order are some of the requirements to obtain maturity for any society.

While maturation, physically, is a series of gradual changes the body undergoes from conception through to death, one’s attainment of physical maturity does not necessarily mean they have reached a mature state of mind. Maturity is also determined by our experience throughout life and the way we react to them.

To develop and nurture maturity in children, parents and teachers must help them gain self-confidence through positive reinforcement. Encouraging or reprimanding children will not foster self-confidence. Just as a fruit needs the right conditions to ripen, children also require appropriate surroundings if they are to develop, physically and mentally, to the point of their potential. They should know their rights, as well as their responsibilities, which change with age.

A child cannot expect all of the same rights as an adult. Parents and teachers should train them to know their rights in line with their ages. If children cannot evaluate their rights, and understand how these rights relate to their level of maturity, there may be some conflicts the children and their parents.

There are different levels of knowledge and education for children. Some of them will see limits and boundaries as unnecessary restrictions on their desires. They may well be excited to widen their horizons, but have a level of confidence that exceeds their experience and abilities.

Similarly, if an entrepreneur wants to expand his business into the international market, he first needs the knowledge and expertise to compete with global firms.

If a person’s experiences are too bitter at an early age they may not properly develop the ability to tolerate and respond appropriately to pain, giving them a negative outlook on life and hindering their ability to see things in perspective. Life is not always a bed of roses. It can be a mix of pain and struggle. But we can overcome the obstacles tactically and pragmatically and reach our goals, provided we have the maturity to do so.

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

The Conquering Spirit

By Kyi Mun

I

life is not a bed of roses, it is said. It is also said that life is not like going for a picnic, nor is it like embroidery. It is commonly assumed that life is a fight; life is a struggle; or life is a journey. Anyway, life is a long process of unity and struggle of opposites. So, life is made up of both good and bad things, profit and pleasure, gain and loss, joy and sorrow, likes and dislikes, etc.

Since life is impermanent and transient and very vulnerable, we have got to have fortitude, resilience, endurance and equanimity, and have the conquering spirit deep down in our being. Ever surrounded by the eight qualities of our life, we have got to have a very strong spirit, stamina, stay- ing power, serenity and selflessness. You must have the conquering spirit for being a teacher is to teach; and to be a teacher is to teach, and the reason for being a doctor is to heal and cure disease of some sort. So, the purpose of a man of conquering spirit is to secure victory in whatever is aimed at and executed.

* OBJECTIVE

Objective means : Something that you are trying to achieve. Synonym is goal. In considering: “How to get what you want,” “how to get is the strategy and what you want is the objective. So, we have got to unambiguously and definitely know what we want most in our life, in our job, and in our relationships. In going on a journey, you must have a definite destination. You must know where you are going and where you want to arrive at.

* NEWNESS OF MIND

To have a conquering spirit in our lives, we have got to be transformed by the renewal of our mind. We must dare to walk in newness of mind. We must be always strong-minded with fervor, determination and resolute steadfastness.

* QUALITY OF CHARACTER

Character is what you are. Your character will be determined by the qualities of your:
- Health & Strength
- Vision & Strategy
- Passion & Values
- Selflessness & Service
- Competence & Commitment

* UNIQUE SPIRIT

to have a conquering spirit, you have got to have a very strong spirit, stamina, staying power, serenity and selflessness. You must have the spirit of : “My head is bloody but unbowed; I’m the master of my fate, and I’m the captain of my soul.”

* ENDEAVOUR

It is said that : “Actions are ours ; consequences belong to heaven.” It is also said that “We reap what we sow”.

A Jewish proverb says : “The wisdom of life is to endure what must we do and change what we can.” The Prince Gautama Siddhattha had proclaimed:
- Let there be all skins,
- Let there be all bones,
- Let there be all sines,
- Let my life be forfeited, I’ll not rise until
- I’ve attained full enlightenment.

It is said that one of the implied meanings of effort or endeavor is courage.

Similarly, the ability to plan something and work successfully to achieve it. Synonym is mission, the meaning of which is:

* RESOURCEFULNESS

Man, mind, morale, money, material, method and machine are resources for building business, wealth and success. If we wisely use these resources most effectively, we’ll be able to be the movers and shakers for peace, progress, and prosperity.

* INSPIRATION

Inspiration, here, means : Encouragement or motivation that excites and enhances desire, enthusiasm, fervor, perseverance and indomitable spirit to have a sustainable conquering spirit. We have got to have good-on, mind-on, and heart-on inspiration, as the saying goes : “motivators must be motivated and trainers must be trained.”

* INTEGRITY

Integrity means:

1. The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles;

2. The state of being whole and not divided.

People with the conquering spirit cannot but seamlessly be integrated with personal uprightness, dignity, honor and self-respect.

* REVOLUTIONARY

Revolutionary means:

1. Involving a great or complete change : a revolutionary idea : a time of rapid and revolutionary change.

2. A person who starts or supports a revolution. In making a radical, revolutionary transformation of a person’s life or a nation’s destiny, the conquering spirit is indispensable. A revolutionary change must be effected with the spirit of : “Do or die”; and “Swim or sink.” A catalyst of radical change must have: The result determine and capability to turn heaven and earth upside down!

* INITIATIVE

Initiative means:

1. The ability to decide and act on your own without waiting for somebody to tell you what to do.

2. The power or opportunity to act and gain an advantage before other people do.

The conquering spirit flies with the two wings of resourcefulness and initiative.
Rice producers need to unite for export promotion of rice

Improving Myanmar people’s access to electricity and communication network to meet increasing demands

Mdy CCI signs MoU with Dalian business council for export and economic cooperation

Police seize heroin, stimulant tablets in Lashio Tsp

Artists aim to help children affected by war in Kachin State
Strawberry growers vying to be Japan’s top brand

KYODO NEWS

In the race for high quality, Amaou strawberries from Fukuoka Prefecture in southwestern Japan are a front-runner, boasting the highest average sales price per kilogram of about 1,200 yen in 2013 among major domestic producers. The brand name is a kind of acronym for the Japanese words “akai” (red), “marui” (round), “ookii” (big) and “umai” (delicious). At Mitsukoshi department store in Tokyo’s upscale Ginza shopping district, Amaou strawberries were prominently displayed with price tags ranging from 1,620 yen to 5,400 yen for a box of 10 to 12.

“The taste of Fukuoka’s Amaou is an amazing balance of sweet and acid, that’s why the variety attracts so many customers,” said 47-year-old Toyoharu Komine, head of a Sun Fruits Co shop in the department store. “To make strawberry parfaits at the Takano specialty retailer, they spent around 10 years to develop the Akai Shizuku (Red Drop) brand of strawberries, which have a slightly sour taste that appeals to grownup consumers.”

Shizuoka Prefecture in central Japan has developed the Kirapika (Glitter) strawberries as a successor to its Beni Hoppe Kirapika (Glitter) strawberries, which was first sold at Japanese department stores or fruit specialty retailers, providing strawberry lovers with a feast for the eyes and stomach.

KYODO NEWS

Health officials have warned the general population that even after Ebola patients are declared free of the disease, new cases are possible through sexual transmission.

Liberia’s sole remaining known Ebola patient dies

MONROVIA, 28 March — A woman who was Liberia’s sole remaining known Ebola patient died on Friday at a treatment center in the capital, said Francis Ketteh, acting head of the country’s Ebola response team.

The case was Liberia’s first in weeks and it set back efforts to halt a virus that has killed more than 10,000 people in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. Authorities say the woman may have contracted Ebola through sex with a survivor.

“We have been able to trace the people she came in contact with,” Ketteh said. “We call on everyone to follow the Ebola preventive measures.”

Eyeliner too close to the eye leads to contamination

TORONTO, 28 March — Eyeliner applied on the inside of the eyelid has a high risk of causing infection.

The makeup also moved more quickly into the eye when eyeliner was applied inside the lash line. A second round of video-taping two hours after applying the makeup showed there was little to no eyeliner remaining in the tear film.

The combination of a low eyelid margin and the risk of infection makes a tear film test a better way to assess how well potential new products prevent contamination, researchers said.

Honda corrects domestic auto production figures for February

TORONTO, 28 March — Honda Motor Co on Friday corrected its domestic auto production figures for February, saying output fell 3.7 percent from a year earlier to 368,925 units.

The company reported on Wednesday that its domestic auto production declined 32.6 percent to 57,197 units. Accordingly, the combined domestic production of Honda and seven other Japanese carmakers in February fell 50 percent from a year earlier to 778,341 units. Data released on Wednesday by the eight companies showed their domestic production had fallen 5.8 percent to 771,945 units.

Kyodo News
US-Russian crew reaches space station for year-long stay

CAPE CANAVERAL, 28 March — A Russian Soyuz rocket blasted off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Friday, sending a US-Russia crew to the International Space Station for a year-long flight, a NASA Television broadcast showed.

The capsule holding NASA astronaut Scott Kelly, 51, and cosmonauts Mikhail Kornienko, 54, and Gennady Padalka, 56, slipped into a docking port on the station’s Poisk module at 9:33 pm EDT/0133 GMT. The trio blasted off about six hours earlier. Kelly and Kornienko are slated to make the first year-long stay on the orbital outpost, double the current mission durations. Padalka, who is making his fifth flight, will return to Earth in September after racking up 878 days in space, setting a new record for the total amount of time anyone has spent in space.

Four Soviet-era cosmonauts lived on the now-defunct Mir space station for 736 days, but the missions, which concluded in 1999, did not have the sophisticated medical equipment that will be used during International Space Station investigations, NASA said.

Researchers are interested in seeing how the human body fares during longer stays in space, as the United States and other countries begin planning for multi-year missions to Mars.

In addition to more exposure to radiation, astronauts experience bone and muscle loss and changes in their cardiovascular, immune and other systems.

Kelly and Kornienko will participate in a battery of experiments before, during and after their flight to assess psychological and physiological changes from a year in microgravity for a year.

A third participant is Kelly’s identical twin brother, Mark Kelly, a former NASA astronaut who will serve as a ground-based subject for genetic and other studies.

“The classic question is ‘How much of our health and our behaviour is determined by our genes, and how much by our environment?’ — the nature versus nurture discussion,” Craig Kundrot, deputy chief scientist of NASA’s Human Research Programme, said in a NASA interview.

“In this case, we’ve got two genetically identical individuals and we can monitor what kind of changes occur in Mark in an ordinary lifestyle and compare that to the changes that we see in Scott in flight.”

While no definitive conclusions can be made from a study of a single set of twins, scientists hope the experiments may provide clues for follow-up investigations.

The station, a $100 billion project of 15 nations, is a research laboratory that flies about 260 miles (418 km) above Earth.

Reuters

Terminator-style transformable machine developed in China

BEIJING, 28 March — Chinese scientists have developed liquid metal machines that can change form like the shape-shifting T-1000 robot in the movie Terminator 2.

Researchers from the Technical Institute of Physics and Chemistry at the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the medical school of Tsinghua University found a liquid metal can “eat” substances and then propel itself like a self-fueled motor.

The finding, which may pave the way for the development of a liquid metal robot, was published in the Advanced Materials journal.

Scientists found that if the machines “ate” a small piece of aluminum a liquid metal ball formed with a diameter of 5 millimetres. This could move spontaneously in various solutions and structured channels for more than an hour at a speed of 5 centimetres per second.

“The biomimetic molusk is highly self-adaptive and closely conforms to the geometrical space it is in,” scientists wrote.

The power of the liquid metal motor comes from the endogenous electric field of liquid alloys and metal “food,” and the hydrogen generated by the electrochemical reactions.

Based on the theory, researchers have developed several liquid metal machines that can move in alkaline, acidic or neutral electrolytes.—Xinhua

Yahoo, Microsoft extend search partnership talks for 30 days

SAN FRANCISCO, 28 March — Yahoo Inc and Microsoft Corp agreed to extend by 30 days the deadline to re-negotiate a ten year search deal, as the two Internet companies attempt to revamp a thorny partnership crafted by former chief executives.

The search partnership, which took effect in 2010, allowed the companies to negotiate changes or to terminate the arrangement entirely after five years. Under the terms of the deal, the companies had 30 days to make changes following 23 February.

According to a filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission on Friday, Yahoo and Microsoft mutually agreed to extend that deadline to a 60-day period following 23 February. “We value our partnership with Microsoft and continue discussions about plans for the future. We have nothing further to announce at this time,” Yahoo said in a statement.

Microsoft declined to comment. It was not immediately clear if the extension signalled progress or lack of consensus between Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer and Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella. The announcement to extend the talks comes a few days after Nadella’s mother passed away in Hyderabad, India, according to a report in The Economic Times.

Yahoo and Microsoft began a 10-year search partnership in 2010, in a deal crafted by former Mi-

BlackBerry sees part of software growth coming from acquisitions

WATERLOO, (Ontario), 28 March — BlackBerry Ltd is likely to see a part of its targeted software revenue growth from the acquisition of companies that will allow it to sell more value-added services, Chief Executive John Chen said on Friday.

“Now that we have a cash generation capability, we are going to invest and some of the growth is going to be organic,” said Chen, who has hung his hat on the company making $600 million (403 million pounds) in software revenues in the current fiscal year. “We are looking to buy a company, acquisition is part of our strategy this year,” he said speaking with media after BlackBer-

ry posted a surprise fiscal fourth quarter profit and said its cash position rose to $3.27 billion.

He said any acquisitions are likely to be focused around the security and enterprise segment. BlackBerry made a couple of strategic acquisitions last year that have allowed it to sell such value-added services. In July, BlackBerry announced it was buying Secusmart, a privately held German firm that specializes in voice and data encryption, used by the German government and other customers.

In September, it acquired Movirtu, a UK-based tech start-up whose software allows users to have two phone numbers on the same device with a single SIM card.

The purchases have helped BlackBerry ramp up its portfolio of services that cater to the needs of its core base of clients, like corporations and government agencies. Chen said that while there remains the chance that revenue may weaken slightly from current levels, he is fairly confident that revenue is at, or near its nadir and is likely to stabilize at these levels, before beginning to rise in the future. He also said device shipments likely bottomed in the last quarter, and should tick higher from here. He noted US carriers only began to get shipments of the BlackBerry Classic a month ago.

Chen said roughly 90 percent of device shipments in the last quarter were new, higher-margin devices like the Classic and Passport.

"I feel comfortable in my winning chances, more so now than a year ago," said Chen. “Partly because of products, partly due to our sales force, partly because of partners, and also because many are staring to feel good about us being around. A year ago that was a problem - that’s why making money and generating cash is so important.”—Reuters
Eight security personnel, four militants killed in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 28 March — At least eight security personnel and four militants were killed and many others injured in separate incidents of bomb blasts and clashes in Pakistan on Friday, local media and officials said.

The worst attack took place in the country’s southern port city of Karachi in the morning where two policemen were killed and 15 others injured in a bomb explosion.

Senior Superintendent Police, Rao Anawar, said that some unknown militants blew up explosive materials fixed on a motorbike with a remote controlled device as soon as a police bus passed by it and fled the scene.

In a separate incident, four policemen were killed when some unknown militants ambushed their vehicle in Loralai area, a main district in the country’s southwest Balochistan province.

In another incident in Loralai, some unknown gunmen shot down a police officer when he was travelling to the country’s east Punjab province by a passenger van. Police said that the militants forced the officer to alight from the van and opened fire at him, leaving the body at the main highway.

Fourth attack happened in South Waziristan agency where two soldiers were killed and two others injured when their vehicle hit a landmine.

In another incident in Karachi, four militants of a banned outfit were killed in a gunbattle with police.

Officials said that the cops conducted a search operation on an intelligence tip-off of presence of the terrorists who were involved in activities of target killings, bomb blasts and extortion in the city.

No group claimed responsibility for any of the attacks yet.

Nigerians vote in first genuine contest since end of dictatorship

ABUJA, 28 March — Nigerians vote on Saturday in what looks set to be the first genuine electoral contest since the end of military rule in 1999, one in which an opposition aspirant has a fighting chance of unseating the incumbent President Goodluck Jonathan.

Jonathan, seeking a second elected term, faces former military ruler and main opposition candidate Muhammadu Buhari in a tense race with an electorate divided along ethnic, regional and in some cases sectarian lines.

The vote is also seen as a referendum on the former zoology professor’s record, the most blaz- ing issues being rampant corruption and insecurity.

Twelve other minor candidates are also running.

Polls open across 119,973 polling stations at 8 am (0700 GMT) for accreditation, then actual voting starts at 1.30 pm and continues until the last person has voted. That could drag well into the next day — 56.7 million voters are eligible.

A fair, credible and peaceful poll would be a new chapter in the often troubled history of Africa’s most populous nation, biggest economy and top oil producer, a past blighted by graft, secessionist movements, military coups and in the last six years an Islamist Boko Haram insurgency that has killed thousands.

The poisonous rhetoric emanating from both sides’ campaigns, and some scuffles and shootings ahead of the poll, have raised fears its knife-edge closeness could be a catalyst for violence.

When Buhari, a northern Muslim, lost to Jonathan, a southern Christian and son of a canoe carver in the oil producing Niger Delta, in 2011, it triggered rioting in the mostly Muslim north that killed 800 people and rendered 65,000 homeless.

Fearing a contested poll could spill even more blood this time, world powers, including US President Barack Obama, British Prime Minister David Cameron and the European Union are pressing both sides to chill the tempers of their supporters.

A tourist rides on a camel’s back at the Jomo Kenyatta public beach in Kenya’s coastal city of Mombasa on 24 March, 2013. — Reuters

British government tightens travel warning on Kenya

NAIROBI, 28 March — Britain toughened its warning to citizens travelling to Kenya, telling them on Friday to avoid most coastal resorts including the region’s main airport at Mombasa, another blow to the east African country’s battered tourist industry.

The previous advice told Britons to avoid a smaller portion of the coast, areas near the Somali border and parts of Nai- robi, citing threats including Somali Islamist group Al Shabaab, who were behind the deadly raid on Nairobi’s Westgate shopping mall in 2013.

The new warning, published on a British government website, indicated only a small area of the coast was now safe to visit.

The revision was issued just over a week after Kenyan officials urged visiting British Foreign Minister Philip Hammond to lift the advisory to help the struggling tourist industry, which has been hurt by a series of attacks.

Kenya’s government made no immediate comment on the new advice from Britain, one of its biggest source of tourists.

Australia warned its citizens on Friday that terrorists might be planning an attack in Nairobi. The new British warning did not mention any specific threats of an attack.

“We don’t let political or economic considerations deter- mine our travel advice,” said Stephen Burns, spokesman at the British High Commission in Nairobi.

“Our advice is driven solely by our objective assessment of the level of risk to British nationals in Kenya. It is kept under con- stant review,” he said.

Kenya’s government has criticized the warnings, saying its security forces are thwarting attacks.

In Nairobi last week, Ham- mond said more security coop- eration would be needed to help in any review of the British travel information. Diplomats have ac- cused Kenyan authorities of not doing enough to share security information.

Britain helps train and sup- port Kenya’s security forces. Other Western states, such as the United States which has also is- sued a travel advisory, offer sim- ilar support.

Kenya, which offers palm- fringed beaches and safaris, has long relied on tourist dollars as a valuable source of foreign ex- change. The downturn in visitors has put pressure on the shilling and forced some hotels out of business.

In 2013, the al Shabaab at- tack on Nairobi’s Westgate mall left 67 dead. The group has also carried out attacks since then on the coast and along the Somali border, killing scores.—Reuters

Japanese government asks peace-loving people to visit the coastal area

MUBAI / NEW DELHI, 28 March — The Japanese manufac- turer of US-2 amphibious aircraft operated by the Self-Defence Forces has entered talks with multiple Indian firms to set up a joint company in the event Tokyo and New Delhi reach an agreement on joint production of the plane, sources familiar with the matter said on Friday.

Japan and India have stepped up talks over potential US-2 ex- ports since Tokyo eased its rules on exports of defence equipment and technology last April. If bilateral talks go without a hitch, it would mark the first time for Japan to export finished defence equipment to a foreign country.

ShinMaywa Industries Ltd, a Kobe-based international manu- facturer, is in talks with multiple companies including Indian multin- ational conglomerate Mahindra Group, the sources said. ShinMay- wa is also considering building a factory in a coastal area in India for maintenance. Japanese Defence Minister Gen Nakatani and his Indian counterpart Manohar Parrikar are expected to discuss India’s potential purchase of US-2s when they meet in Tokyo on Monday.

The US-2, which costs roughly $1.2 billion (yen $100 million) can take off and land on water even in bad weather and be used in rescue operations. For a deal to be clinched, India has told Japan that it wants to buy two US-2s built in Japan, and then jointly produce around 10 more in India, according to the sources.—Kyodo News
China to help Africa strengthen post-Ebola health system

BEIJING, 28 March — China will help Africa with its public health system post-Ebola, said a Chinese official on Friday at a China-Africa health roundtable.

Lin Songtian, director of the Chinese Foreign Ministry’s African Affairs Department, made the remarks at the three-day Fifth International Roundtable on China-Africa Health Collaboration held in Beijing, which will end Saturday.

Lin said China was studying the support it could offer Africa, adding China will help the African Union build a disease prevention and control centre, which would link epidemic surveillance facilities in each member countries. In terms of capacity building, Lin suggested that more scholarships could be granted to African health professionals and students for them to study in China as well more training offered to Chinese health aid workers dispatched to the African continent.

A policy recommendation on China-Africa health cooperation was put forward at the roundtable, which included suggestions such as the two sides should boost cooperation in medicine and vaccine production, diagnosis, health financing instruments, and enhanced dialogues and knowledge exchange.

Ren Minghui, director of the department of international cooperation of the National Health and Family Planning Commission, said China had a unique role to play in supporting African health development as it was capable of producing high-quality and low-cost medicines and vaccines. China was among the first to deliver Ebola emergency aid to the region. Medical professionals, lab technicians and public health specialists soon followed.

In terms of capacity building, Lin suggested that more scholarships could be granted to African health professionals and students for them to study in China.

US Airways flight makes emergency landing at Houston airport

HOUSTON, 28 March — A US Airways plane was forced to make an emergency landing at Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston on Friday evening, airport officials said.

US Airways Flight 5568 was making its way from Charlotte, North Carolina to Austin, Texas with 83 people on board when it started having engine problems, airport officials told NBC-affiliated local TV KPRC.

The plane was then diverted to Bush airport where it landed safely with only one functional engine. No injuries were reported and all passengers were transferred to another jet to Austin.

Officials suspect there was an issue with oil pressure in one of the plane’s engines. The Federal Aviation Administration has been notified of the incident and will investigate.

China to import goods worth 10-trln-USD in 5 years

BOAO, (Hainan), 28 March — China will import more than 10 trillion US dollars of goods in the coming five years, marking continued opportunities brought to the world, Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Saturday. — XINHUA

China will import more than 10 trillion US dollars of goods in the coming five years, marking continued opportunities brought to the world, Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Saturday.

“Chinese economy will continue to bring more opportunities of trade, growth, investment and cooperation for other countries in Asia and beyond,” Xi said while delivering a keynote speech at the opening plenary of the annual conference of the 2015 Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) in Boao, south China’s Hainan Province.

In the coming five years, Chinese investment abroad will exceed 500 billion US dollars, and more than 500 million outbound visits will be made by Chinese tourists, according to the speech.

“China will stick to its basic state policy of opening up, improve its investment climate, and protect the lawful rights and interests of investors,” Xi said.

Xi noted that the people of Asian countries could drive this train of Asia’s development to take it to an even brighter future.

Under the theme of “Asia’s New Future: Towards a Community of Common Destiny”, the forum from Thursday to Sunday will span issues such as the China-proposed “Belt and Road” initiatives to Asia’s economic integration.

Technical failure blamed for major power failure in Netherlands

THE HAGUE, 28 March — A technical failure as a result of a particular set of circumstances have caused a major power outage in large parts of the Dutch provinces of North Holland and Flevoland on Friday, Dutch grid operator for electricity Ten
tenneti has announced.

The power failure started at around 9.37 am local time after a defect in a high-voltage substation in the town of Diemen, bordering Amsterdam.

Within an hour, Tennon managed to restore power in some parts of the provinces. Nevertheless, it took some time to restore the power supply in North Holland and Flevoland completely. At 3.30 pm local time, all affected households had electricity again.

“The last power outage of this size was in 1997. We do not know the exact cause yet. We will investigate that and will have an external party do an investigation as well,” Mel Kroon, CEO of Tennon, told Dutch news show Nieuwsuur on Friday.

Dutch Minister of Security and Justice Ard van der Steur will also investigate the power failure.

The power failure had a massive impact in the two provinces. A total of around 1 million households were affected by the failure, according to power supplier Liander.

Rail traffic was severely affected the whole day in North Holland and Flevoland and in the provinces of South Holland and Utrecht. Thousands of travelers were stranded at major train stations in Amsterdam and Utrecht.

Air traffic at Amsterdam’s Schiphol Airport was also severely disrupted on Friday.

Around 20 flights were cancelled and many were delayed. In addition, part of the public transport in Amsterdam was out of service, including some bus lines and the Media Park in Hilversum ran on emergency power.

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the South Bay and partly cloudy in the An
daman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 29th March, 2015: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Sagain, Mandalay, Yangon, Aye
darwady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan and Chin States, weather will be partly cloudy in the re
mainning Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Strong easterly winds with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong easterly wind may reach 35 (m)p.h. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.
**Sunday, 29 March, 2015**

**ENTERTAINMENT**

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**Revealed: ‘Spectre’ first teaser trailer**

**Los Angeles, 28 March** — After the release of its teaser poster earlier this month, the first official teaser trailer for ‘Spectre’ has been unveiled.

The less than two minutes clip kicks off with a scene where Daniel Craig’s James Bond receives a mysterious black box.

It then continues with him looking at a half-burned photograph, and travelling around several places to meet different people. There is also a scene that showcases the hunk holding what looks like an ancient ring.

‘Spectre’ is slated to hit US theatres on 6 November this year. The action-thriller is said to be following the story of James Bond after a cryptic message from his past sends him on a trail to uncover a sinister organisation.

While M battles political forces to keep the secret service alive, Bond peels back the layers of deceit to reveal the terrible truth behind Spectre.

Joining Craig on the cast ensemble among others are Lea Seydoux, Naomie Harris, Ralph Fiennes, and Monica Bellucci.—**PTI**

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**Rihanna tops iTunes charts with new single**

**London, 28 March** — R&B star Rihanna has jumped up iTunes charts across the globe with her new single.

The 27-year-old singing star released new cut ‘Better Have My Money’ on iTunes and has since seen the track climb up the Top Songs chart, reported Digital Spy.

It is currently number one on the US store, while sitting at number four in the UK.

‘Better Have My Money’ is also number one in Brazil, France and South Africa, and in the Top 10 in Canada, Germany, and Spain, among others.

The track is the latest to be lifted from Rihanna’s forthcoming eighth studio album, which is expected to be released later this year. It follows lead single ‘FourFiveSeconds’ which features Kanye West and Paul McCartney.—**PTI**

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**Italy recovers lost Picasso from retired frame maker**

**Rome, 28 March** — Italian police have recovered a painting by Spanish master Pablo Picasso that a retired frame maker in Rome said he had been given nearly 40 years ago.

The 1912 oil painting, titled “Violin and Bottle of Bass”, portrays a cubist image of a violin and a beer bottle and has an estimated value of 15 million euros ($16.2 million). Italy’s special Carabinieri police squad that tracks down stolen art took custody of the painting when a man from Rome, who was not named, sought official permission to export it to be sold at an auction.

Investigators have verified the painting’s authenticity, but they are still trying to determine whether the pensioner is its rightful owner. The man said he had been given the painting in 1978 by an elderly client as a gift, in exchange for having repaired a treasured picture frame of his client’s deceased wife for no charge.

Since the frame maker did not know it was a valuable Picasso, police said, he packed it away for 36 years “with particular care” until he discovered — by chance, as he said — that it was the work of the Spanish master.

In a separate case, police recovered an ancient Roman marble sculpture of a man poised to sacrifice a bull. The statue was being transported in a flower van.

It was later discovered that raiders of Etruscan tombs north of Rome had stolen the statue, which is thought to depict the god Mithra, and were trying to smuggle it to Switzerland to sell on the black market.

Blessed with a vast archaeological heritage, Italy has long been plagued by thieves who dig up ancient artefacts and smuggle them abroad to sell them to rich foreign collectors or even museums. Some American museums, including the J Paul Getty in Los Angeles and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, have returned stolen masterpieces to Italy.—**Reuters**

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**Grammy award nominee to perform in Namibia: organizer**

**Windhoek, 28 March** — Grammy award nominee and American R&B sensation Tremaine Aldon Neverson, better known as Trey Songz, will perform in a concert in celebration of Namibia’s 25th independence in May, said mobile telecommunication giant MTC.

South African senior gospel artist Rebecca Malope has also been invited to the largest music concert to have ever hit the capital Windhoek, according to Tim Ekondjo, Chief Human Capital and Corporate Affairs officer for MTC.

The grammy-nominated superstar is known for dozens of hits such as “Na Na” and “Slow Motion”, with more than 20 million albums and singles sold. Trey Songz is set to perform on 30 May, while Malope will grace the stage the next day. Songz performance will be complemented by best female and male artist winners of the Namibia Annual Music Awards 2014.—**Namibia**

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**Michael Keaton to host ‘Saturday Night Live’**

**New York, 28 March** — “Birdman” star Michael Keaton and Taraji P Henson will both host “Saturday Night Live” in April.

NBC announced that the 63-year-old Oscar-nominated actor will present the 4 April episode with musical guest Carly Rae Jepsen, reported New York Daily News.

Mumford & Sons are scheduled to perform on SNL for the second time when Empire star Henson hosts on 11 April.

This is Keaton’s third stint as a “Saturday Night Live” host and it comes 23 years after his last appearance on the NBC sketch comedy series. “Saturday Night Live” returns this weekend with Dwayne Johnson and George Ezra.—**PTI**

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**Matthew McConaughey to star in Sony’s ‘The Billionaire’s Vinega**

**Los Angeles, 28 March** — Oscar-winning actor Matthew McConaughey has come on-board for Sony’s new project “The Billionaire’s Vinegar”.


The film will tell the story of “the scandal that ensued when an auctioned cache of wine bottles purported to have been owned by Thomas Jefferson were called fakes”.

Michael Brandt and Derek Haas have been tapped to write the script, with Todd Black, James Lassiter, Jason Blumenthal, Steve Tisch, and Will Smith on hand serving as producers.

No official statement has been made by Sony on what character McConaughey will portray. Other cast members also haven’t been named. No production and release dates have been set yet.

McConaughey’s “Free States of Jones” will be hitting theaters on 11 March next year. The action-romance flick will see him starring as the main character Newton Knight, an American farmer who turned to be one of the best known rebel leaders in Civil War history.—**PTI**
_Figure 1: Map of Vietnam showing Chongli and Beijing._

**2008 Olympics legacy teaches Beijing how to cut back on 2022 cost**

**Beijing, 28 March** — Beijing has vowed to deliver an economical 2022 Winter Olympic Games should it win the bid. Wang Anshun, Beijing mayor and president of the Beijing 2022 Committee, said the Chinese capital will make a meticulous budget plan to lower cost on the condition that the Games can be staged successfully.

Based on the Agenda 2020 reforms of the IOC, Beijing presents three concepts in bid — running athletes-centred Games, crowded venues and postponing, proper arrangement of venues and activities on the condition that the Games can be delivered successfully,” said Wang.

The legacy from 2008 Games play an important role in hosting an economical Games.

“The legacy of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games is the biggest advantage for the 2022 bid,” said National People’s Congress member Yang Xiaochao.

Out of the 12 competition venues of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games and a series of international competitions will also help Beijing save time and money in holding another Olympic Games. Wang also stressed the importance of sustainable development, “To host an economical Games we must ensure sustainable development,” he said.

Beijing views the Olympic Winter Games not only as a significant international sports event, but also as a valuable opportunity to speed up the development of the host cities, the region around them and even the country.

Beijing 2022 has been included in the “National Strategy of Integrated and Coordinated Development” of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, and the long-term regional development plans. City development will provide strong backing for the hosting of the Winter Olympic Games.

Changes have already taken place in Chongli, a small county about 200 kilometres from Beijing.

Chongli, famous for modern ski resorts, has attracted more than three million people to go skiing last season, including visitors from Asia, Europe and America.

**Montenegro v Russia abandoned after crowd trouble, players clash**

**Podgorica, 28 March** — The Euro 2016 Group C qualifier between Montenegro and Russia was abandoned midway through the second half on Friday after crowd trouble and a scuffle between players.

The game was delayed by 35 minutes when Russian goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev was hit in the head by a flare soon after kickoff. Midway through the second half a scuffle ensued between players by the touchline, with Eastern Europe’s Sport Klub television saying a missile hurled from the terraces appeared to hit another Russian player.

The score was 0-0 at the time and German referee Deniz Aytekin ordered the players back into the dressing room for the second time moments after Montenegro keeper Vukasin Poleksic saved a Roman Shirokov penalty.

Postwar generations in communist-ruled Vietnam are proud of their heritage, schooled in the same ideology as their parents, and are increasingly seduced by the tokens of capitalism-smartphones, costume and flashy motorbikes.

Still, the wounds of war have not entirely healed and collector Lai Dung says it’s important that future generations don’t forget the war that killed several million Vietnamese.

The 32-year-old in communist-ruled Vietnam are proud of their heritage, schooled in the same ideology as their parents, and are increasingly seduced by the tokens of capitalism-smartphones, costume and flashy motorbikes.

Vietnam’s collectors keep war memories alive, with bullets, bombs and dogtags

_Hanoi, 28 March — Grubby satchels, helmets, rusty knives and chunky radios are strewn around Dinh Van Loc’s front room, transforming his house in Vietnam’s capital into an abandoned battlefield._

For Loc, these are treasures amassed over the years, rooted in a teenage fascination with the country’s devastating war with the United States that ended nearly four decades ago.

The 12-year-old’s obsession with combat zone memorabilia is a rare one in Vietnam, where the vast majority of its 90 million people were born long after the war. And those who do remember it chose to move on.

“These things help me feel the lives of the soldiers,” said Loc, the proud owner of more than 2,000 war souvenirs. “That’s what drove me to collecting.” He points to etchings on reused ration tins retrieved from the front line, some bearing the names of soldiers and their lovers or crude scratchings meant to resemble Hanoi landmarks.

“I can feel some of the atmosphere of those days,” Loc said. “I can see what they were thinking, their emotions, how they were missing their parents.”

Postwar generations in communist-ruled Vietnam are proud of their heritage, schooled in the same ideology as their parents, and are increasingly seduced by the tokens of capitalism-smartphones, costume and flashy motorbikes.

Still, the wounds of war have not entirely healed and collector Lai Dung says it’s important that future generations don’t forget the war that killed several million Vietnamese. The 32-year-old mattress maker occurs tongues at a makeshift Hanoi market each Sunday where Kalashnikov rifle parts, missile tails and boxes of ammunition vie for attention with uniforms worn by Vietcong fighters and sandals fashioned from car tires.—**Reuters**

**Members of the 2022 Evaluation Commission for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and representatives of Beijing’s 2022 Winter Olympics bid committee walk outside Beijing National Stadium, also known as the Bird’s Nest, in Beijing on 24 March, 2015.**

**Reuters**

**(29-3-2015 07:00 am~ 30-3-2015 07:00 am) MST**

* News
* Beach Food Delivery
* Shwe Maw Daw: The Glory of Bago City
* Kindhearted Pet Lovers
* Reflected Glory
* Goldsmith
* A Dream A Destination (Hpa An)
* News
* Singapore-Myanmar Bilateral Ties
* Porcelain and Glass
* Food Trip (Ep-8) (Part-II)
* News
* U Kyaw Thu: From Artist to Philanthropist
* Myanmar Masterclass “Min Wae Aung”
* News
* Amazing: Magician
* Pakokku
* The Eel Business (Fisherman the eel culture)
* Innovative Handiworks Based On The Art of Line Drawing
* News
* Flying Without Wings: My Great Limitless Adventure
* Amazing: Magician
* Pakokku

**News Channel in Brief**

**(29-3-2015, Sunday)**

6:00 am
• Paritta by Venerable Min Gun Sayawd
6:30 am
• Physical Exercises
7:35 am
• Business News
8:00 am
• News / International News
8:35 am
• Teleplay
9:35 am
• Weekly Entertainment
10:35 am
• Documentary
11:35 am
• Amazing World
12:00 noon
• News / International News / Weather Report
12:35 pm
• Round Up of The Week’s International News
12:50 pm
• Movie (Part-1)

**News**

**Minnesota International**

**(29-3-2015, Sunday)**

8:45 am
• Fashion Show (Music)
8:50 am
• Sing & Enjoy
9:45 am
• Myanmar Music
12:00 noon
• Close Down

**Antv Entertainment Channel**

**(29-3-2015, Sunday)**

6:00 am
• Alinka Wutyi Music Troupe
6:25 am
• Myanmar Video
8:25 am
• Pyi Thu Ni Ti

**News / Weather Report**

**Myanmar Today**

**(29-3-2015 07:00 am~ 30-3-2015 07:00 am) MST**

* News
* Great Shwedagon — The Historic Bells
* A Glance At A Naga Family Life
* News
* One Heritage…… One Festival
* Shan Novices To Be……
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Kane scores on debut as England thrash Lithuania


Nadal, Murray advance in Miami

Miami, 28 March — Rafa Nadal and Andy Murray got their Miami Open bids off to a solid start with straight sets victories at Key Biscayne on Friday.

Nadal defeated fellow Spaniard Nicolas Almagro 6-4, 6-2 in 89 minutes in windy conditions as he began his campaign to finally win the Miami tournament where he has lost in the final on three occasions.

“In general I thought I played a solid match. I played well, I had good movement,” said Nadal. “I had to put the balls in and play with no mistakes — that was the idea with very tough conditions. Almagros was not an easy opponent.”

Murray had little trouble dealing with American Donald Young in his opening match with a 6-4, 6-2 victory. Murray, a two-time winner at Key Biscayne, broke left-hander Young four times as he wrapped up the win in 82 minutes. The Scot will advance in the sixth minute to break the deadlock, having hit his shoulder and deflected in off Lithuania skipper Tadas Kijanskas before Raheem Sterling scored his first goal for England with a simple tap-in after 58 minutes.

One of the biggest cheers of the night, though, was heard when Kane was introduced from the bench and the applause was even louder when he scored with his third touch.

“It’s the start that I dreamed of,” Kane told ITV Sport. “To see it come true is just amazing. “It’s all a bit of a blur at the moment but I’m delighted for the lad and the most important thing to get the win.”

Rooney put England ahead in the sixth minute when he headed home his 47th international goal, taking him to within two of Bobby Charlton’s all-time record of 49.

Daniil Medvedev scored the second just before half-time when the ball hit his shoulder and deflected in off Lithuania skipper Tadas Kijanskas before Raheem Sterling scored his first goal for England with a simple tap-in after 58 minutes.

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Rooney almost put England ahead in the fourth minute of the first senior international between the two countries when he hit the woodwork after running on to a through ball from Fabian Delph but he did find the net two minutes later.

He headed his eighth goal in his last nine internationals, reacting quickly to a rebound from a Lithuania keeper Giedrius Arlauskas, but he was unlucky again in the 19th minute when his looping header struck the angle of bar and far post.

The hosts were dominant against the 94th-ranked team in the world whose defence was being run ragged by England’s high tempo attacking game, with Welbeck and Sterling continually switching wings and Michael Carrick creating opportunities from midfield.

Reuter

Morata goal fires off-colour Spain past Ukraine

Seville, (Spain), 28 March — Forward Alvaro Morata justified his selection for Spain by scoring his debut international goal in a laboured 1-0 home win for the holders against Ukraine in Euro 2016 qualifying Group C on Friday.

Morata galloped on to a Koke pass in the 28th minute at the Sanchez Pizjuan stadium in Seville and his shot took a slight deflection off a defender before looping over Ukraine goalkeeper Andriy Pyatov into the net.

The victory helped Spain maintain pressure on group leaders Slovakia, who won 3-0 at home to Luxembourg and have 15 points from five matches.

Spain, beaten 2-1 away to Slovakia in October, are second on 12 points, three ahead of Ukraine.

“It was a difficult game, they are very tough, very physical,” said Morata, who was playing in place of the injured Diego Costa, said in an interview with Spanish television.

“It wasn’t my best game but now I just need to keep working to get another chance in the team,” added the Juventus forward, who was making only his third appearance for La Roja.

Honda and Kagawa injected some life into their team, as did Eccheri against the 94th-ranked team in the world whose defence was being run ragged by England’s high tempo attacking game, with Welbeck and Sterling continually switching wings and Michael Carrick creating opportunities from midfield.

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Okazaki, Honda on target as Halilhodzic wins Japan coach debut

Oita, (Japan), 28 March — Japan coach Vahid Halilhodzic won his first game in charge as Shinji Okazaki and Keisuke Honda came off the bench to score in a 2-0 victory over Tunisia on Friday.

Shinji Kagawa featured in both games as Japan took their first step under the Bosnian, whose men will host Uzbekistan in Tokyo in another friendly on Tuesday.

Halilhodzic was pleased with both the result and performance from his new team, who have only been training since Monday.

“We scored twice but we could have had more,” the former Algeria coach said. “Victory was very important today. But the show goes on. We have another game to prepare for.”

“I will make changes again in the next game to give more opportunities to more players. The subs played very well and I am extremely happy with the performance,” Okazaki quickly turned his sights to the Uzbekistan game at Ajinomoto Stadium.

“We played well today but we need to move on right away,” the Mainz striker said. “Uzbekistan showed at the Asian Cup that they are a good side, and we’ve got to play with more determination. We’re still thinking too much as we play; we need to be more incisive.”

Just as he said he would the night before, Halilhodzic took the talk by giving Japan a vastly different line-up and midfielder Ruslan Rotan lashed an effort narrowly wide of the post.

Spain had the upper hand for most of the first half, with Andres Iniesta, David Silva and Isco at the heart of their foray forwards.

Although chasing the ball for long periods, Ukraine managed to stifle the reigning champions and midfielder Ruslan Rotan lashed an effort narrowly wide of the post. Morata, playing in place of the injured Diego Costa, said in an interview with Spanish television.

“It wasn’t my best game but now I just need to keep working to get another chance in the team,” added the Juventus forward, who was making only his third appearance for La Roja.

Spain lost control in the second half after Russia 2018. “I want to discover more quality in Japan.”

Against a Tunisian side close to full strength, Japan put on a reason- able first-half display considering all their inexperience, with Naoya Grampus’ Kengo Kamawata and Hiroki Fujihara of Gamba Osaka winning their first caps.

The hosts created several chances before the break, going the closest in the 22nd minute when Kamawata headed off the bar from a Hiroshi Kiyotake corner.

Halilhodzic turned to his bench on the hour, bringing in on home soil, with household names Honda and Kagawa forKensuke Nagai and Kiyotake, respectively, to the de

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"As I told you, I wanted to give some players an opportunity to show what they can do," the manager said. "Honda, Kagawa, (Atsuto) Uchida, I already know their qualities. I wanted to give the others a chance."

"We managed to breed competition within the squad. More players will get a chance in the next game. Watching them on video is not enough; I want to see them with my own eyes."

"We have to work for the competitive games in June," he said referring to World Cup qualifiers for Russia 2018. "I want to discover more quality in Japan."

Against a Tunisian side close to full strength, Japan put on a reasonable first-half display considering all their inexperience, with Naoya Grampus’ Kengo Kamawata and Hiroki Fujihara of Gamba Osaka winning their first caps.

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