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Nay Pyi Taw's hot spot cools down visitors as temperatures continue to rise

By: *Aye Min Soe*

Men making a splash at Nay Pyi Taw's Water Fountain Garden.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

As temperatures have reached over forty degrees this week in Nay Pyi Taw, residents and holiday-makers could not wait for the weekend to cool down in the capital's Water Fountain Garden, which attracts 3,000 people per day on Saturdays and Sundays. "I didn't expect to see this giant waterfall. It's wonderful," said 21-year chemistry student Ma Hnin Ei Khaing from Mawlamyine, who is visiting the Water Fountain Garden for the first time. An elderly lady from Meiktila having a picnic at the lake, said it is great to watch the kids having so much fun, "but I would never go in there, I think the water is too dirty."

Among the attractions of the park are a swinging bridge, several waterfalls, swimming pools, water fountains with musical entertainment, an amusement park and outdoor café.

Many visitors to the park are only in Nay Pyi Taw for business and vacation trip, but word of the green oasis has gone round fast. Aung Moe Win, an 18-year old man from Pwintbyu from an arid region in central Myanmar, was surprised to see such a big recreation park. He came to Nay Pyi Taw along with a 180-member delegation of the ruling Union Solidarity and Development Party to visit the parliament.

"I had not heard about this water fountain garden in Nay Pyi Taw. So, it's very interesting for me to see big waterfalls and a recreation park," he said before disappearing under two water falls into a cave.

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The giant waterfall is the main attraction in Water Fountain Garden.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

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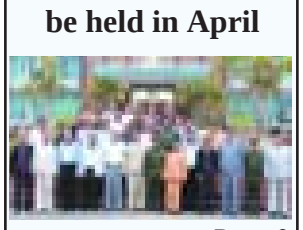

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Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker attends merit-sharing ceremony for new religious buildings in Yamathin Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 23 March—Amyotha Hluttaw (National Parliament) Speaker U Khin Aung Myint attended the merit-sharing ceremony for completion of religious buildings in the precinct of North Shwepyitha Monastery on Sunday morning.

The monastery is located in Central Warto Ward, Yamethin Township in Mandalay Region in central Myanmar.

At the ceremony, the Speaker and devotees shared merits gained for the completion of the religious buildings, tube-well, water tank and toilets and gold foil donation at the pagoda in the precinct of the monastery.

The congregation led by the Speaker made several donations including meal offering to the monks.

MNA

***Amyotha Hluttaw (National Parliament) Speaker U Khin Aung Myint donates offertories to members of Sangha.*—MNA**

Myanmar delegation discusses fisheries sector development with Japanese, Vietnamese officials

NAY PYI TAW, 23 March—Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Khin Maung Aye attended Seminar on Promoting Activity for Collaboration in Fisheries Science within Vietnam, Myanmar and Japan at Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology (TUMSAT) in Tokyo, Japan from 18 to 20 March.

The deputy minister held a meeting on cooperation in fisheries research works between Fisheries Department under the ministry and TUMSAT with faculty members from TUMSAT and signed letter of agreement on 17 March.

On 18 March, he discussed with professors from TUMSAT and Can Tho University of Vietnam on fisheries sector development and investment opportunities in Myanmar and cooperation in research works. He visited Tokyo Metropolitan Wholesale Market and discussed with JETRO officials on making investment in fisheries sector in Myanmar by Japanese companies and promotion of bilateral trade on 19 March.

He then discussed matters on cooperation in rural electrification, availability of drinking water in rural area and construction of inter-village roads/bridges with JICA officials.—*MNA*

***Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Aye poses for documentary photo with attendees at the seminar.*—MNA**

Engineers meet to discuss future plan

YANGON, 23 March—The Myanmar Engineering Council held its first quarter plenary meeting at the council's meeting hall on Bogyoke Aung San Street in Botahtaung Township, in Yangon on Sunday, with an address by Chairman of MEC Dr Win Myint.

At the meeting, the Chairman explained activities of the council three months after its establishment, and heard the reports presented by the Vice-Chairmen, joint-secretary, treasurer and other work committees' chairmen on current running processes including drafting the rules of the council and future plans.

MNA

21 injured in car crash on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway

NAY PYI TAW, 23 March—21 people were injured when a car collided with a light truck on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway on 21 March, officials said.

The small vehicle was driven by a man identified as U Kyaw Thu who had three Brunei nationals as passengers in his car as he drove from Nay Pyi Taw to Yangon, when he lost control over his car and hit a light truck carrying senior military nurses. The light truck overturned, with members of the Myanmar Expressway Police Force rushing to the scene and giving first aid. The injured are being treated in Pyu Hospital, officials said.—*MNA*

Japan to offer 8 bil. yen in fresh grant aid to Myanmar

YANGON, 23 March—Japan will announce Monday it will provide about 8 billion yen in fresh grant aid to Myanmar to help the Southeast Asian nation build a train operation monitoring system and introduce advanced medical equipment to hospitals, sources close to the two countries' governments said Sunday.

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, who arrived in Yangon on Sunday, will unveil the new financial support Monday during talks with his Myanmar counterpart U Wunna Maung Lwin and President U Thein Sein in the country's administrative capital Naypyitaw, the sources said.

Since the government of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was launched in December 2012, Japan has pledged assistance totaling 160 billion yen to Myanmar, in a bid to strengthen bilateral ties and support Japanese companies' foray into the Myanmar market, where businesses from Europe, the United States and China also operate.

During the talks with Myanmar's president and foreign minister, Kishida is also expected to seek support from the country, which has diplomatic relations with North Korea, to resolve the issue of the North's past abductions of Japanese nationals.

The two countries will also likely reaffirm their cooperation in a study on the remains of Japanese soldiers who died in Myanmar during World War II, the sources said.—*Kyodo News*

Union Ministers meet ASEAN Youth delegation

YANGON, 23 March—Union Ministers U Aung Min and U Than Htay met with ASEAN Youth Delegations which attended the ASEAN Youth Forum at Myanmar Peace Center in Yangon on Saturday.

The Union Ministers replied to queries raised by members of the youth delegation. Officials from Myanmar Peace Center made clarification on current peace-making process.

ASEAN Youth Forum was held at Yangon University's Diamond Jubilee Hall from 17 to 19 March. —*Kyaw Ye*

NATIONAL

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham on inspection tour of YGH, North Okkalapa General Hospital, Mental Health Hospital

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham gives words of encouragement to patient.—MNA

YANGON, 23 March— Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visited Yangon General Hospital in Latha Township on Sunday morning, inspecting construction of extended five-storey building, emergency operation room, training center, medical store, operation theaters and radiology department.

The Vice-President together with Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay and officials held a meeting with medical superintendent, physicians and staff at training center of the hospital.

Speaking at the meeting, the Vice-President revealed that his tour is aimed at reviewing progressive and retrogressive of the hospital, adding century-old 1500-bed Yangon General Hospital is listed on the Yangon City Heritage List. Social organizations, political institutions and international organizations are interested in how to preserve the hospital by the government, he said. He expressed words of praise to medical staff who are serving

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Meetings for signing of nationwide ceasefire for permanent peace expected to be held in April

NAY PYI TAW, 23 March — Meetings for signing of nationwide ceasefire for permanent peace are expected to be held in April, said U Thein Zaw, Vice-Chairman of Union Peace-making Work Committee, in meeting with representatives of Mongla Special Region (4) in Mongla, Shan State on Sunday.

On the work committee's tour of Mongla for extending peace invitation to the region, he expressed the committee's willingness to create a win-win situation through collaboration and cooperation between the two sides for the sake of the country and the region.

He also invited all parties who had reached State level and Union level ceasefire agreements with the government to participate in the signing of nationwide ceasefire agreement that contains firm political guarantees.

U Sai Lin, Chairman of Mongla Special Region (4), vowed to strive for socio-economic development of people in the region while taking part in peace-making process. Non-disintegration

(See page 9)

Vice-Chairman of Union Peace-making Work Committee U Thein Zaw poses for documentary photo with representatives of Mongla Special Region (4) in Mongla, Shan State.—MNA

Biography of His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam

His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah

His Majesty is the Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, and Minister of Finance.

As the Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam, His Majesty is the Supreme Executive Authority in Brunei Darussalam. In performing his duties, His Majesty is assisted by the following Councils: the Privy Council, the Council of Succession, the Religious Council, the Council of Ministers and the Legislative Council.

His Majesty was born on 15th July 1946 in Brunei Town (now Bandar Seri Begawan).

His Majesty undertook his early education in Brunei Darussalam and then went on to Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to further his studies. His Majesty trained as an Officer at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst (United Kingdom) in 1966-67.

His Majesty was installed as The Crown Prince in 1961 at the age of 15. Following the voluntary abdication of his late father, Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien, His Majesty was proclaimed as the Sultan of Brunei Darussalam on 5th October 1967.

His Majesty was crowned as the 29th Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam on 1st August 1968.

In 1978, His Majesty led a Mission to London for discussions with Her Britannic Majesty's Government on the change of status of Brunei Darussalam to that of a sovereign, independent state. The outcome was the Treaty of Friendship and Co-operation between Brunei Darussalam and Great Britain under which the British Government relinquished its responsibilities for the conduct of Brunei Darussalam's Foreign Affairs and Defence on 1st January 1984.

His Majesty is married to Her Majesty the Duli Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Hajah Saleha. His Majesty has five sons and seven daughters.

His Majesty plays polo, squash and badminton. He is also a qualified pilot of both aeroplanes and helicopters.

His Majesty holds the Sovereign and Chief of the Family Order of the Crown of Brunei (Darjah Kerabat Mahkota Brunei-DKMB) as well as other orders of Brunei Darussalam. In addition, His Majesty has also received foreign orders and decorations.

Over 40,000 Set Top Boxes distributed in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 23 March—The Ministry of Information has a plan to distribute over 300,000 Set Top Boxes all over the country. Of them, 41,129 Set Top Boxes were distributed free of charge in Mandalay Region on Sunday.

Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway presented Set Top Boxes to low-income households in Mandalay Region through the Mandalay Region Finance Minister. It is aimed at enabling the people to clearly enjoy latest programmes through various TV channels.—*MNA*

Three newly-opened streets stretching in Dawei

Dawei, 23 March— Opening ceremony of three new self-reliant concrete streets — Thazin Street, Thiri Street and Lanthit Street — took place at Kyatsarpyin Ward of Dawei Township in Taninthayi Region, with an attendance of Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko.

These streets were constructed at a cost of K 7.7283 million contributed by the locals.

Also present on the occasions were the Deputy Speaker of Taninthayi Region Hluttaw, region ministers, officials and locals.

Kyaw Kyaw Latt

Matters on increased electricity price clarified in Shwepyitha Township

Shwepyitha, 23 March — A ceremony to discuss matters on increased electricity price of the Ministry of Electric Power took place at Kanaung Hall in Shwepyitha Township in Yangon on 21 March.

Chairman of Yangon City Electricity Supply Board U Aung Khaing explained the purpose of raising electricity price, amended new price and benefit of surplus electricity to the chairmen from six industrial zones and entrepreneurs.—*Myanma Alinn 166*

Myanmar mountaineers to climb up Hava Mountain in China

Yangon, 23 March—A seven-member team of Universities Hiking and Mountaineering Team left here by air for Kunming of the People's Republic of China on Saturday to climb up Hava snow-capped mountain in Yunna Province of China.

As part of preparations for scaling up 19196 feet high Mount Khakaborazi in mid-2014, the mountaineering team members will take exercise to climb up 17703 feet high Hava Hill.

The Myanmar mountaineers had climbed up 15000 feet high snow-capped mountains in the past. Therefore, they will scale up Mt Khakaborazi, the highest mountain in Myanmar, after taking mountaineering exercises at other snow-capped hills.

Myanmar team members will arrive at the base camp at the foot of Hava Hill on 27 March. After taking one day practice, they plan climb up Hava Mountain on 29 March. They estimated that the team will reach the apex of the hill on 30 March.

The mountaineering team comprised Tun Hla Aung, Aung Myint Myat, Han Lin Tun, Zaw Zin Khaing, Wai Yan Min Thu, Myo Nyunt Than and Ma Nang Moh Moh Oo.

The team was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Patron of the association Dr Daw Khin May Ohn (retired rector of University of Nursing) and Chairman U Myo Thant (retired associate professor, Myanmar Department).

Aung Thura

Dekkhina District IPRD opens public service media course

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 March—The Information and Public Relations Department of Dekkhina District, one of two districts in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, will conduct a public service media course at its hall on Monday morning.

The course will cover democratic reforms and public services media, functions of public relations, using social media, effective media relations, people-centered public service media, services of Internet media, sending information to FTP Web Portal, methods of taking photos and video, editing, writing press release, public relations and newspaper, holding press conferences, print and online media, news, article and speech writing and making interview, nature of public relations and arena of newspaper.

A total of 20 staff of Pyinmana, Lewe and Zabuthiri Township IPRDs will take the 5 day PSM course up to 28 March.

Shwe Kokko

Counts should be solved without bias: Mandalay Region Chief Justice

PyinOoLwin, 23 March — Chief Justice of Mandalay Region High Court U Soe Thein met with judges from PyinOoLwin District Court and township courts to discuss means and ways to do quickly judicial affairs for serving the interest of the nation at PyinOoLwin District Court on Friday.

In his speech, the region Chief Justice urged the officials to solve counts as quickly as possible without taking bribery and do the best their tasks to be dutiful and reliable ones for people.

He called for drawing security plans for the courts.

Myanma Alinn-032

Villages enjoy better transport along concrete road in Hmawby Tsp

Yangon, 23 March—A ceremony to inaugurate the concrete road took place in Bodawnagon Village of Hmawby Township, the northern part of Yangon Region, on Sunday.

The 2105 feet long and 14 feet wide road was constructed at a cost of over K 33 million contributed by local people and donors.

The township level authorities cut the ribbon to open the new road.

Thanks to the newly-opened road, the local people from Bodawnagon and Shangon villages can enjoy better transport and get access to Yangon-Pyay Highway at any time.

Local people faced poor transport along the earthen village road in the rainy season.

Ngwe Thein (Hmawby)

Specialists provide free medical treatment in Ayeyawady Region

Yangon, 23 March— Women's Chapter of Yangon Region Myanmar Medical Association provided free medical treatment at Farmers' Hospital on their field trip to Hsamalauk Village, Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Region, on Saturday.

A total of 45 physicians and specialists of Myanmar Medical Association gave health care services to 400 patients from 15 villages nearby Hsamalauk Village.

Farmer Hospital Medical Superintendent Dr U Kyaw Zaw, health staff, local authorities, and Health Care Group led by Dr Yin Tun gave necessary assistance to activities of health care services.

Women's Chapter of Myanmar Medical Association and wellwisher U Tun Thein donated cost of having blood test, taking X-Ray and ECG and medicines for patients.

Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)

ARRIVAL OF GLOBETROTTERS INCREASES: ***Globetrotters from various countries wishing to enjoy natural beauty of Myanmar arrive in the nation daily. Photo shows a flock of tourists who visited Tachilek of Myanmar from Mae Sai of Thailand through Myanmar-Thai Friendship Bridge No 1 on Saturday morning.*—MAUNG YIN KYAY**

Third TV re-transmission station under construction in Kawkareik Tsp

KYONDOE, 23 March—A TV re-transmission station is being built on Byuha Hillock in Kyondoe of Kawkareik Township, Kayin State.

Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development allotted K 50.5 million for construction of the TV re-transmission station.

Although the station has not been completed yet, Deputy Commissioner U Than Shwe of Kawkareik District, Head of Information and Public Relations Department Daw Khin Lay Nwe and officials distributed 40 set top boxes free of charge to the low-income families of Kyondoe and Kanni villages on Thursday. As such, the local people can enjoy the TV programmes on economic, social and health sectors through the re-transmission station when the test-running period starts at the station.

Before building the re-transmission in Kyondoe, two stations have been constructed in Kawkareik and Nabu villages.

Kawkareik Township in Kayin State is sharing border with Thailand.

Naing Naing Tun (Kyondoe)

Knowledge about disaster risk reduction shared

THANTLANG, 23 March—The talks on disaster risk reduction was given at the town hall in Thantlang on Friday afternoon.

The talk was aimed at broadening horizon of the local people in prevention against natural disasters.

Chin State Head of Relief and Resettlement Department U Lin Htut explained duty and functions of the department and prevention against natural disasters. Chin State Head of Hydrology and Meteorology Department U Tin Maung Nwe disseminated knowledge about landslide in Chin State and strong winds.

The talk was attended by members of Township Natural Disasters Preparedness Committees, local authorities, members of Women's Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association, war veterans and townselders.

Township IPRD

Mobile medical team gives health care to locals in Yaksawk

YAKSAWK, 23 March—As a gesture of hailing the 69th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, No 6 mobile medical team based in Bahtoo gave health care services to local people on Thursday.

At the hall of Basic Education High School in Kaungboh Village of Yaksawk Township, the military doctors performed medical checkups at the patients. The health care service was supervised by Commander of Bahtoo Station Brig-Gen Tin Maung Swe and senior military officers, local authorities and responsible persons of social organizations.

Final part I students of Mandalay University of Medicine who made field trips to the grassroots level observed the medical health care services.

Township IPRD

Training school gives tailoring courses to local women

MYAWADY, 23 March—With the aim of developing the life of women, raising livelihoods of local people and creating job opportunities for local youths, Women's Vocational Training School in Myawady of Kayin State opens vocational training courses one after another.

On Friday, the basic domestic science course No 50 and the advanced tailoring course No 36 concluded at the training school.

Myawady District Deputy Commissioner U Tint Wai Thon invited the trainees of both courses to rejoin the training school to attend the advanced courses.

The school gave training to the local women with tailoring of women's wears, uniforms, coats and making handicraft.

The training school was set up on 28 April 1997. So far, the school has turned out 1644 trainees in 50 basic courses and 36 advanced courses.

Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

Rural Development Dept funds construction of rural earthen road

LAYMYETHNA, 23 March—Laymyethna-Pandawgyi earthen road is under construction in Laymyethna Township of Ayeyawady Region.

Rural Development Department spent K 82.67 million of development fund on construction of the road. Hsan Myat Tun Construction Co is building the seven miles long road.

On completion, the road will benefit 9414 people from 97 villages of 15 village-tracts from the township.

Head of Township Rural Development Department U Than Zaw Soe and officials supervise construction of the earthen road for ensuring timely completion of construction tasks.

Tin Shwe (IPRD)

Thai "red shirts" take up fight to defend PM facing impeachment

BANGKOK, 23 March — Supporters of Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra say they will take to the streets as moves to impeach her gather pace, raising the specter of confrontation with protesters who helped scupper a February election she had been expected to win.

The Constitutional Court annulled the election on Friday and the chairman of the Election Commission said it would be months before a new vote could be held, leaving Yingluck at the head of an enfeebled caretaker government with limited powers.

After months of restraint, Thaksin's "red shirts" supporters are making militant noises under hardline new leaders. "On 5 April, red brothers and sisters, pack your belongings and be ready for a major assembly. The destination may be Bangkok or other places, it will be announced later," Jatuporn Prompan, chairman of the "red-shirts" United Front for Democracy Against Dictatorship, told supporters late on Saturday.

Jatuporn helped organize a "red-shirts" uprising against a previous government that ended in a bloody military crackdown in May 2010. More than 90 people were killed during the protests in central Bangkok. Jatuporn still faces terrorism charges related to the violence in 2010.

In the latest political crisis, 23 people have died and more than 700 have been wounded since November.—*Reuters*

Thai "Red Shirt" leader Jatuporn Prompan waves at cheering supporters as he arrives at a criminal court in Bangkok on 22 August, 2012.—REUTERS

Abe to seek 'future-oriented' Japan-SKorea ties at summit

TOKYO, 23 March — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Sunday the upcoming trilateral summit involving Japan, South Korea and the United States would be a step toward "future-oriented" ties with Seoul, indicating a desire to improve the strained diplomatic relationship between regional neighbours.

"I expect (the trilateral summit) to become the first step to establish future-oriented Japan-South Korea relations," Abe told reporters before departing for The Hague, the Netherlands, where he is scheduled to meet with US President Barack Obama and South Korean President Park Geun Hye, possibly on Tuesday.

It will be the first face-to-face meeting between Abe and Park since the Japanese and South Korean leaders took office in December 2012 and February 2013, respectively, as the bilateral relations have soured due to a territorial dispute and conflicting stances on wartime history.

During the meeting to be held on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit, the three are expected to confirm their cooperative stance in addressing North Korea's nuclear and missile issues, with Abe saying, "I hope I can engage in a frank exchange of views over security in East Asia."

Kyodo News

French satellite image also shows possible plane debris, Malaysia says

Two Chinese Air Force Ilyushin Il-76 aircraft which are expected to join the search for Malaysian Airlines flight MH370 are pictured at the RAAF base Pearce in Bullsbrook, near Perth, on 23 March, 2014.—REUTERS

KUALA LUMPUR/PERTH, 23 March — New French satellite images show possible debris from a missing Malaysian airliner deep in the southern Indian Ocean, Malaysia said on Sunday, adding to growing signs that the plane may have gone down in remote seas off Australia.

The latest lead comes as the international search for Malaysian Airlines Flight MH370 entered its third week, with still no confirmed trace of the *Boeing 777* that vanished with 239 people on board.

"This morning, Malaysia received new satellite images from the French authorities showing potential objects in the vicinity of the southern corridor," the Malaysian Transport Ministry said in a statement. "Malaysia immediately relayed these images to the Australian rescue co-ordination center."

The statement gave no details as to whether the objects were in the same vicinity as the other possible finds in a vast swathe of some of the most inhospitable sea territory on Earth.

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said there was "increasing hope" of a breakthrough in the hunt for the plane on the strength of Chinese and Australian satellite images of possible large debris from the plane in the southern search area.

Flight MH370 vanished from civilian radar screens early on March 8, less than an hour after taking off from Kuala Lumpur on a scheduled flight to Beijing.

Reuters

Many gather to mark anniversary of start of Battle of Imphal

MUMBAI, 23 March — Many people gathered in the northeastern Indian city of Imphal on Sunday to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the start of the Battle of Imphal, which is remembered as one of the bloodiest battles in the history of the British empire.

The battle between the Imperial Japanese Army and Allied forces at Imphal, the capital of the state of Manipur, lasted from March to July 1944.

Sunday's event was organized by the 2nd World War Imphal Campaign Foundation, according to its co-founder, Arambam Anagma Singh.

"We want to preserve this rich deep history that our ancestors witnessed. The true value of peace can only be understood by people who have suffered the wrath of war," he said.

During the battle, the Indian Army was allied with the British as India was under British rule, while the Japanese forces were supported by the Indian National Army led by freedom fighter Subash Chandra Bose. During the fighting, tribal people of nearby villagers suffered greatly as they had no alliances with either the British or the Japanese.

Ya Shishak, an 83-year-old veteran of the battle, recalled how the school he was studying at was shut down when the announcement of the Japanese invasion was made.

"I worked both for the British army as a messenger, after that I was captured by the INA and I worked with Maj. Fujiwara as his personal interpreter," he said.

"Even though the British paid me more money than the Japanese, still I remember how nicely I was treated by Maj Fujiwara," said Shishak, who helped the Japanese army escape to Myanmar during their retreat.

On the eve of the anniversary, the people of Manipur were getting together to commemorate the people who lost their lives in the battle.—*Kyodo News*

Pakistani gov't, Taleban to hold direct talks soon

ISLAMABAD, 23 March — Pakistani Taleban and the government will begin face-to-face peace talks in a few days, head of the Taleban dialogue committee Maulana Sami-ul-Haq said on Saturday.

The Taleban and government's committee have also agreed on a venue for direct talks, Sami-ul-Haq told reporters in Islamabad after the meeting.

But he did not disclose the name of the venue and said the it would not be shared with the media unless the talks are to be started.

"Both sides had different suggestions for the direct talks' venue but they agreed in the two-hour meeting," he said.

Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, who will monitor direct talks on behalf of the prime minister, also attended the meeting. "Agreement on the venue is an achievement and I am hopeful that there would be progress in the talks," the Taleban negotiator said. Sources had earlier hinted at Waziristan tribal region or an airport at Bannu, a main city in northwestern Khyber PakhtunKhwa Province, could be a possible venue for the direct talks.

Negotiators said the Taleban had opposed talks at any government's building. A government negotiation team started peace talks with the Taleban intermediaries last month, which resulted in a month-long unilateral cease-fire by the Taleban.

In a positive response to Taleban's ceasefire on 1 March, the security forces also suspended airstrikes on the Taleban hideouts in Waziristan tribal region.

The government has now formed another high-level committee comprised of top government officials for direct talks with the Taleban, as decisions will be taken in the next round of negotiations.

Xinhua

WORLD

Anti-austerity protest turns violent in Spanish capital

MADRID, 23 March — Hundreds of thousands of Spaniards rallied in Madrid on Saturday against poverty and EU-imposed austerity in a largely peaceful protest later marred by violent clashes in which police fired rubber bullets.

Some protesters started to throw stones and bottles at the large numbers of riot police present and attacked cashpoints and hoardings. The police fired rubber bullets to disperse them, according to video footage seen by *Reuters*. Central government representative Cristina Cifuentes said 19 protesters had been arrested and 50 police officers had been injured, one of them very badly, in the clashes.

The so-called "Dignity Marches" brought hundreds of thousands to the capital, according to estimates of *Reuters* witnesses. Travelling from all over Spain, they were protesting in support of more than 160 different causes, including jobs, housing, health, education and an end to poverty.

Banners urged the conservative government not to pay its international debts and to tackle Spain's chronically high unemployment of 26 percent. "Bread, jobs and housing for everyone", read one banner, "Corruption and robbery, Spain's trademark," said another. The OECD says the economic crisis has hit Spain's poor harder than in any other country in the group. "I'm here to fight for my children's future," said Michael Nadeau, a 44-year-old entrepreneur.

"For those who are in power we're just numbers. They value money more than they value people," he said, shouting to be heard above the din of chanting, whistling and drumming. A housing bubble burst more than five years ago, forcing a 41-billion euro ($56 billion) bailout of Spain's banks, squeezing homeowners and throwing millions out of work.

The government introduced public sector austerity to whittle down the deficit, provoking widespread anger amongst middle- and low-income families as dozens of cases of corruption in the ruling class are investigated by judges.

***Riot police confront protesters after disturbances broke out at the end of a demonstration which organizers have labelled the "Marches of Dignity'' in Madrid, on 22 March, 2014.* —REUTERS**

"(I'm here because) I'm sick of this system they call democracy," said Jose Luis Arteaga, a 58-year-old teacher whose wage has been cut 20 percent. "I want things to change."

Reuters

Residents of evacuation zone in Kawauchi to stay home overnight

TOKYO, 23 March — The Japanese government is considering allowing residents of an evacuation zone located within a 20-kilometer radius of the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant to stay at their homes overnight for three months from 26 April, government sources said on Sunday. As of the end of December, 330 residents of 152 households in the zone of Kawauchi village, Fukushima Prefecture, were still in evacuation housing after the nuclear plant was severely damaged by the huge earthquake and tsunami on 11 March, 2011. They are currently allowed to stay in the evacuation zone only in the daytime.

The latest plan has become more likely as decontamination works in the living spaces within the evacuation zone are almost complete, according to the sources.

The government will soon propose it to the municipal authority and the residents while examining the possibility of lifting the evacuation order for the area, although cautious voices still remain that the radiation level may still be high.

As for an area of the city of Tamura, adjacent to Kawauchi, the government has allowed its residents since last August to stay there day or night and, as of 1 April, will make it the first area within the 20-km radius to have its evacuation order lifted.—*Kyodo News*

US forces hand over seized oil tanker to Libya

***A North Korean-flagged tanker is docked at the Es Sider export terminal in Ras Lanuf on 8 March, 2014.* REUTERS**

ZAWIYA PORT, (Libya), 23 March — The US Navy handed over to Libyan authorities on Saturday an oil tanker carrying crude that had been loaded at a port controlled by armed rebels in defiance of Tripoli's government. *The Morning Glory* tanker was due to arrive later on Saturday at a government-controlled port after being seized by US commandos and escorted back through international waters by the US Navy, Libyan officials said.

Hours before the handover, at least 16 people were wounded when Libyan rebels occupying three eastern oil ports clashed with troops and attacked an army base, where pro-government forces had been preparing to break the rebel blockade.

Anti-aircraft gunfire and explosions were heard overnight and after dawn on Saturday in Ajdabiya, the hometown of rebel leader Ibrahim Jathran, whose fighters seized the ports last summer to demand a greater share in Libya's oil resources.

The struggle for control of Libya's vital petroleum resources is one of the key challenges facing the weak central government, which has still failed to secure the North African country three years after the fall of Muammar Gaddafi. Brigades of former anti-Gaddafi rebels and militias refuse to disarm and often use armed force or control of oil facilities to make demands on a state whose army is still in training.

US special forces boarded and seized the Morning Glory tanker last Sunday off Cyprus, days after it left Libya with a cargo of crude from one port, Es Sider, occupied by Jathran's men who had vowed to export oil themselves to resist Tripoli.

"The handover took place in international waters off the coast of Libya, and the Government of Libya and its security forces are now in control of the vessel," the US Embassy said in a statement.

Reuters

***Customer Tomoko Shimbo touches an owl as she visits owl cafe "Fukuro no Mise" in the Hakata area of Fukuoka, southwestern Japan, in February 2014.* KYODO NEWS**

Israeli settlement impedes peace talks

RAMALLAH, 23 March — Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said on Saturday that the Israeli policies of settlement expansion and the killing of Palestinians put the peace talks in a negative atmosphere, *Wafa news agency* reported.

"The policies of the Israeli government cause a failure of the international efforts aiming at achieving peace in the Middle East, " Abbas said during a meeting with Luxembourg Foreign Minister Jean Asselborn on Saturday night.

He reiterated that the Palestinian side is committed to achieving just and everlasting peace based on the implementation of the international resolutions until the establishment of the Palestinian state with east Jerusalem as its capital.

The direct US-sponsored peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians which is set to run from July to April haven't achieved any tangible progress, according to previous statements of Israeli and Palestinian officials.

Meanwhile, Asselborn stressed his country's support for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state within 1967 borders with east Jerusalem as its capital and the complete halt of all settlement activities.

"Israel has to completely cease the settlement policy as the settlements are illegal according to the international law as well as give a genuine opportunity for the peace process in order to achieve a genuine two-state solution,"

Asselborn said at a Press conference held with Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Malki in Ramallah.

He called for Israel to lift the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip and reopen border crossings given the dire humanitarian conditions in the coastal enclave. —*Xinhua*

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 24 March, 2014

Combat the spread of tuberculosis

Today marks World Tuberculosis Day to increase public awareness in combating this curable disease.

According to the World Health Organization about nine million global citizens were suffering from TB in 2013. Alarmingly, the disease is killing about 1.5 million people every year. About three million TB sufferers or the "missed" three million in the world are living without proper health care or no health care at all.

This fact highlights the importance of the public awareness of the anti-TB campaign. It is our belief that the TB combat campaign in our country should cover every TB patient regardless of the place he or she lives. We in Myanmar must make continuous efforts in searching, curing and comforting people infected with TB at every part while all partners should work in cooperation towards zero TB deaths, infections and suffering.

To reach this end, first we must concentrate more on fundamental research projects and then on normal research and development functions for acquiring new apparatus involving diagnostics, drugs and vaccines so that we may reach people more rapidly, treat them more effectively and eventually prevent them from TB infection.

TB is chiefly an airborne disease. When a TB sufferer coughs, sneezes, speaks, sings, laughs or spits, he drives out infectious tiny microscopic droplets. A single sneeze can release up to 40,000 droplets. But fortunately, only people with active TB can spread the disease to others.

Malnutrition, ill health or weakness, excessive drinking or smoking invites TB while older people and children have greater infection risk.

As a member of the global community, Myanmar is working closely with all related organizations and other countries to stem the spread of tuberculosis.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

Insight

Insight is the ability to see and understand the truth about people or situations. It is also an understanding of what something is like.

The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary

Insight is the ability to understand and realize what people or situations are really like. It is also a sudden clear understanding of something, especially something complicated.

The Longman's Dictionary

Personally, I prefer the following meaning of INSIGHT:

Insight means seeing through:

- Cause and effect
- Means and end
- Seed and fruit
- Light and shade
- Right and wrong
- Good and Evil
- Becoming and Passing Away
- Self and No-self
- Me and Thee
- Yin and Yang, etc.

I also like the following meaning of INSIGHT from Bhagavad Gita:

"Mind is the key to life.
You can elevate your life with your mind, and
You can degrade your life with your mind."

The following are some of the meanings of INSIGHT:

- Foresight is the ability to imagine what is likely to happen and to consider this when planning for the future.
- The clarity of seeing the core or the content by penetrating the form or the colour.
- The clear realization of the truth that you reap what you sow.
- The wisdom of being stainless, letting go and seeing through.
- Seeing the objective reality beyond the apparent perception.
- Concrete analysis of concrete situation.
- Seeing the whole while doing the parts.
- Seeing the big picture.
- Seeing far into the future.
- Insight is the resultant product of :
  - The faculty of Faith
  - The faculty of Energy
  - The faculty of Mindfulness
  - The faculty of Concentration
  - The faculty of Wisdom

In my opinion, the mind, the will, the discriminating will and concentration are the means; whereas the INSIGHT, in company with Vision, Knowledge, Wisdom and Light, is the end result.

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING GROUP CO., LTD.

Freedom of Religion in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

It is known that there has been freedom of religion in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar since a thousand years ago. Altogether 135 national races have been living harmoniously and peacefully in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar since the dawn of ancient history. There have been also different religious faiths such as Buddhism, Christianity, Islamism, Hinduism, Animism and others since then. About 85 percent of the present population of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar believes in Buddhism, and about ten percent in Christianity, about four percent in Islam and the remaining four in Hinduism, with one percent worshipping Animism and others. The Myanmar national races live harmoniously and peacefully and always pay respect and loving-kindness to each other in spite of their different religious faith, and any problems, difficulties and conflicts never arise among them relating to their belief in different religions. They have lived harmoniously in peace leading to stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of Law and Order since Myanmar has regained her Independence in 1948. During the period of the British Colonial Government, the Myanmar national races were oppressed under their rules of separation. However, the Myanmar national races were united to fight for Independence and protect their own culture and religions.

After having regained Independence, the people and Government of the Union of Myanmar confirmed and adopted a clause on "the freedom of religion" in the constitution of the State, and all Myanmar national races shall share equal rights and responsibilities for the freedom of religions from generation to generation.

Many Buddhist monasteries, Christian churches, Islamic mosques, Hindu temples and other religious buildings stand side by side throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and it is a significant symbol of freedom of religion.

And also, financial grants and other necessary materials for the communities of religions are supported and provided by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in order to promote and flourish their religions. The Ministry of Religious Affairs, on behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, now and then makes necessary arrangements for the religious leaders to go abroad for attending their religious meetings, conferences and seminars which will be held and organized in respective nations.

A large number of books, periodicals, journals, magazines and others on religions are freely published and distributed in accordance with the constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Talks and messages of their holidays are allowed to be broadcast every year, and travelling free pass is also issued to the religious leaders of the religious organizations in order to visit their respective communities throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at any time. Haj pilgrims of Islamic community in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar are yearly sent to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for Haj pilgrimage there.

Similarly, the Buddhist people throughout the nation are allowed to visit the four sacred places of the inspiring Awareness and Apprehension of the Omniscient Buddha in India and Nepal every year.

All these noble functions of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar fully guarantee freedom of religion for all national races in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

According to the 1997 statistics, there are altogether 51,322 Buddhist monasteries, 5,200 Christian churches, 3,215 Islamic mosques, 1,010 Hindu temples and other religious buildings throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

A Division of staff for other religions is established under the Department of Religious Affairs of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in order to carry out various affairs relating to other religions effectively. For the time being, all Myanmar national races are sharing equal rights and justices of cultural, economic, social and religious affairs and striving in unity to build a new modern developed democratic nation under the effective, wise and prudent guidance and leadership of the new Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Myanmar warns against higher ultraviolet index in coming summer

YANGON, 23 March— Myanmar meteorologists are warning against the threat of higher ultraviolet (UV) index in coming summer, saying that daily temperatures are estimated to reach its peak in April, the hottest month in the country.

The index for last year's summer in Yangon saw a rise to nearly 13. UV indexes between 10 and 11 can be harmful to human skin, the New Light of Myanmar reported Sunday.

"People living in the country's commercial cities have become trapped in the scorching heat and have been warned of skin cancer and permanent blindness," it said. U Tun Lwin, a well-known retired Myanmar meteorologist, warned people in Yangon, Mandalay and other dwellers in the six big cities against the dangerous level of UV as it is expected to reach its highest level. Maximum outdoor UV index at noon over the last few days reached 13.8 in Kawthoung, 12.8 in Dawei, 12.6 in Yangon, 12.4 in Mawlamyine, 12.3 in Nay Pyi Taw and 11.5 in Mandalay. According to local media, nearly 60 percent of patients at skin- related clinics in Yangon have been given special treatment to chronic skin diseases triggered by dangerous UV rays.

Xinhua

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham ...

(from page 3)

dutifully day in and day out for the interest of the people.

The building of Yangon General Hospital was constructed with teak in 1872 on the land plot opposite to University of Dental Medicine at the corner of Bogyoke Aung San Street and Shwedagon Pagoda Road and put into service in 1873.

The cornerstones were laid down for the main building of Yangon General Hospital on 6 May 1905 and construction tasks were completed on 1911. The four-storey building had 342 beds and it cost 4 million rupees. After the Second World War, it was upgraded to 546 beds capacity hospital and 1500-bed one in 1962.

At North Okkalapa General Hospital in North Okkalapa Township, the Vice-President viewed the medical wards and comforted the patients.

In meeting with hospital officials, the Vice-President heard reports on duty and functions of the hospital by Medical Superintendent Dr Mya Thaung. Deputy Minister Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay explained plans for extension of the hospital.

The Vice-President said that requirements will be fulfilled as much as possible and called for carrying out sanitation at its compound.

The Vice-President inspected Mental Health Hospital in Dagon Myothit (East) Township and met officials.

At the meeting, the Vice-President pledged to provide necessary assistance for the hospital.

Mental Health Hospital was opened in Dagon Myothit (East) Township of Yangon as of 1 March 2002.—*MNA*

***Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham poses for documentary photo together with doctors at Yangon General Hospital.*—MNA**

Meetings for signing of nationwide ...

(from page 3)

of the Union and perpetuation of sovereignty is the top priority of the region, he added.

Lt-Gen Myint Soe of Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office said that Defence Services has a same will to stand united with the government and Parliament and cooperation with national race organizations is being made in the process of achieving a lasting peace. Without peace, socio-economic development of the entire people cannot be realized, he added.

He cited the active participation of Defence Services in the peace process as the reason for the true willingness of Defence Services to make peace. Only increased connectivity between the two sides could realize trust-building and mutual understanding, thereby contributing towards more friendship and amity, he added.

Next, U Kham Maung of Special Region (4) clarified regional development undertakings and U Sai Lin made a supplementary report. The meeting continued with the Union ministers and the deputy minister discussing matters related to cooperation.

Before the end of the meeting, the Vice-Chairman presented a peace talks invitation to the chairman of the Special Region (4), and a joint-statement was issued.

The following is the translation of the full-text of the joint-statement issued by Union Peace-making Work Committee and Mongla Special Region (4).

1. Both sides will adhere to the agreements that had been reached in Union and State level meetings.
2. Agreement has been reached to step up cooperation in realization of peace and stability and development between the government and Mongla Special Region (4) during the ceasefire period.
3. Both sides agreed to acknowledge the outcomes of series of negotiations and coordination between Union Peace-making Work Committees of the Union Peace-making Central Committee and respective national race armed organizations that led parties concerned to reduce fighting nationwide.
4. It is believed that a nationwide ceasefire is necessary to hold political dialogues for ensuring firm agreements so that eternal peace can truly be achieved.
5. Short after the nationwide ceasefire, it is required to improve socio-economic life of the Union brethren who have been experiencing various kinds of social distress as the country lagged behind in development in a variety of sectors due to decade-long armed conflicts. Cooperation in implementation of such tasks will be carried out with the support of the government, national race leaders, national race organizations and local and foreign individuals and organization.
6. While works are ongoing, political dialogues will be continued to reach a permanent peace by establishing mutual understanding and trust between the two sides.
7. Both sides recognized the need to hold political dialogue that can pave the way for ensuring long-term peace and stability and sustainable development and revitalization of national unity.

MNA

***U Sai Lin.*—MNA**

Nay Pyi Taw's hot spot ...

(from page 1)

Daw Nyunt Nyunt came from a village about 30 miles north east of Nay Pyi Taw to see the giant waterfalls at least once in her lifetime.

She visited pagodas in Mandalay and Monywa with her relatives and grandchildren last year, to relax after the crops harvest.

"This year, I chose to visit Nay Pyi Taw, to show my grandchildren a few attractions such as Uppatasanti Pagoda, the Zoo, Safari, Bodh Gaya, and the water fountain garden," she said.

The number of visitors will reach its peak during the 4-day new year water festival, with around 20,000 people per day expected, according to an official. The entrance fee to the park is 500 kyats per person, with the water slides costing an extra 200 kyats.

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A girl cools down herself under waterfall at Water Fountain Garden in Nay Pyi Taw.
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Visitors relax under giant waterfall at Water Fountain Garden in Nay Pyi Taw.
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Gov't to simplify reporting steps for Japanese travellers overseas

TOKYO, 23 March—The Foreign Ministry plans to simplify for short-term Japanese travelers overseas the process of reporting their presence to local diplomatic missions in a bid to speedily track them down in times of emergencies, ministry sources said on Saturday.

The move comes as the ministry has often had trouble tracking down those staying abroad for less than three months in times of emergencies because few of them have bothered to report their presence to diplomatic establishments.

The ministry hopes to launch the new reporting system by the start of the summer holiday season this year, according to the sources.

By law, Japanese nationals residing abroad for three months or longer are required to report their residency to diplomatic missions. Those staying overseas less than three months can, but are not required to, report their presence.

Kyodo News

Three elephants escape Missouri circus, damage two vehicles

NEW YORK, 23 March—Three elephants escaped from a circus in suburban St. Louis on Saturday, damaging two vehicles but causing no injuries before they were captured, a circus spokesman said.

The pachyderms busted out the back entrance of Family Arena in St. Charles, Missouri, at about 5:30 pm local time (2230 GMT) between performances of the Moolah Shrine Circus, said event spokesman Dennis Burkholder.

They were in a private holding area and escaped into an employee parking lot, Burkholder said. It is unclear how they got out, he said.

Trainers discovered the elephants missing and had them back in captivity after about 20 minutes, Burkholder said. The animals suffered no apparent injuries, he said.

Reuters

Pakistani people attend a rally to mark World Water Day in eastern Pakistan's Lahore on 22 March, 2014. According to UNICEF and WHO, Pakistan is one of the ten countries which are home to almost two-thirds of the global population without access to improved drinking water sources.—XINHUA

Syria vows to alleviate suffering of displaced people

DAMASCUS, 23 March—As a result of the large displacement rate the Syrian crisis has inflicted, the government, while focusing on recapturing towns and areas it had lost in battles with the rebels, has also focused on enhancing the displacement shelters to alleviate some of the suffering of those displaced. After the recent militant groups attack against the Industrial Adra area in the countryside of Damascus, hundreds of families were allowed to flee the area after being trapped in underground shelters for over 20 days.

The Syrian government, in a bid to alleviate the displaced people's suffering, has opened the Dweir displacement shelter in another part of Adra.

The centre was used before as a camping compound for students and has now become a home for 1,100 people, filling around 150 rooms.

According to the center's supervisor Jasem Mahmoud, each room is equipped with the necessary equipments and the center has also a clinic that offers basic medical care 24 hours a day with an ambulance on standby in case of an emergency.— *Xinhua*

Tunisian diplomat kidnapped in Libyan capital

TUNIS, 23 March—A Tunisian diplomat has been kidnapped by a group of unknown gunmen in the Libyan capital of Tripoli, the Tunisian Foreign Ministry said on Saturday.

The ministry said in a statement that it received information from Libyan authorities about the kidnapping of a Tunisian diplomat on Friday.

The ministry and Tunisian presidency have held talks with Libyan authorities, urging Libyan officials to take necessary efforts to release the kidnapped diplomat. They also expressed concerns over safety of the Tunisian diplomatic mission in Libya.

Three years after Libya's Muammar Gaddafi was toppled, the North African country is struggling to restore security despite militants refute the central government's authority.

Foreigners are frequently kidnapped in the country since the beginning of this year, though most of them were freed unharmed.

Xinhua

Girl spells 'frippery' to take home Japan spelling bee crown

TOKYO, 23 March—Fourteen-year-old Michaella Bostrom correctly spelled "frippery" to emerge victorious at a national spelling bee Saturday in Tokyo.

Michaella beat 37 other contestants aged 8 to 14 years old in the 5th Japan Times Bee to win a ticket to the annual Scripps National Spelling Bee to be held in May in National Harbor, Maryland.

A mixture of surprise and relief seemed to come over her as she was named the winner. "I knew there was a possibility (of winning), but I didn't really expect it to happen," she said.

"She's still in shock," her mother Cheryl said.

Contestants in the event won bees at their respective schools before gathering for the Japan Times Bee. Most attend international schools or schools on US military bases.

Michaella, the ninth of 13 siblings, is a student at Kakegawa International Christian School Junior High, run by her family in Shizuoka Prefecture.

Competing in her third Bee, Michaella said "It was so much easier this time because I knew what was going to happen." She was eliminated her first time at the event in the first round because she was nervous, her mother said.

Runner-up Ganesh Gautham Elango, a 13-year-old attending K. International School Tokyo, gave it a good run but got caught on the word "snippet."

The event was organized by *the Japan Times* and supported by the US Embassy, the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan and *the International New York Times*.

Kyodo News

Michaella Bostrom, 14, receives the winner's trophy for the 5th Japan Times Bee spelling contest from Takeharu Tsutsumi, president of The Japan Times Ltd. in Tokyo on 22 March, 2014. The win qualifies her to compete in the Scripps National Spelling Bee to be held in May 2014 in National Harbor, Maryland.
KYODO NEWS

Chinese Ambassador to Germany Shi Mingde speaks during an experience sharing session in Berlin, Germany, on 21 March, 2014. Chinese embassy to Germany held an experience sharing session for German students studying in China on Friday. German students studying in China with scholarship and former German students in China attended the meeting. According to the introduction, about 6,300 German students study in China at present.—XINHUA

Bomb blast in Medellin kills four, injuries 14

BOGOTA, 23 March—Colombia's police director Rodolfo Palomino confirmed on Saturday that a bomb blast killed four people, and injured other 14, outside a homeless shelter and drug rehabilitation center of the country's northeastern Medellin city.

Palomino condemned the attack, where six policemen are among the inured, and offered a reward of 20 million Colombian pesos (10, 000 US dollars) to anyone who provides information leading to the capture of those held responsible for the attack, Colombia's Caracol Radio network reported.

Deputy Mayor of Medellin, Luis Fernando Suarez, reported that a homeless man was carrying the explosives in a bag that was activated by phone.

"It exploded at the door and he died in that place, other three died in hospitals in Medellin and it also left six policemen injured and others wounded," Suarez said.

Suarez said that the attack was directed against the actions carried out by the Mayor's office and the Metropolitan Police of Medellin to crack down on the use of drugs among homeless people.—*Xinhua*

Tanzania, Malawi fail to reach agreement on border dispute

Maputo, 23 March — Tanzania and Malawi on Friday ended negotiations over a border dispute on Lake Malawi (Lake Niassa in Mozambique) without reaching any agreement.

According to the chief mediator of the dispute, former Mozambican president Joaquim Chissano, Malawi and Tanzania differ on how to start solving the dispute with Tanzania insisting on the delimitation of the border line while Malawi more on mineral.

The team of mediators under Chissano also includes the second post-apartheid president of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki, and former president of Botswana Festus Mogae.

The delegations from the two countries met in the Mozambican capital Maputo again after the first negotiation failed in Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi, at the end of last year.

Xinhua

Lebanon cracks down on weapons smuggling network

Beirut, 23 March — Lebanon's state security forces detained on Saturday four people involved in a network specialized with trafficking and smuggling weapons to armed groups in Syria. According to the *National News Agency (NNA)*, the state security forces in south Lebanon's town of Nabatiyeh thwarted an attempt by the network to smuggle arms to gunmen in Syria, following a surveillance operations.

It added that a large quantity of arms was seized in the possession of the four people who are all Lebanese nationals and they were referred to the judiciary.

Since the rebellion against the regime of Syrian President Bashar Assad in March 2011, weapons smuggling operations from Lebanon increased particularly from the Wadi Khaled north region. Lebanon and Syria share 330 kilometres length of borders.

Xinhua

A Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force member (L) takes photos of a vessel from a P-3C patrol plane during an antipiracy operation off the Gulf of Aden, Somalia, on on 22 March, 2014. —Kyodo News

China to start new economic journey

Beijing, 23 March — China is about to embark on the next phase of a remarkable economic journey, aiming for higher quality and more sustainable growth, the IMF chief said on Sunday.

"The journey has propelled it to the top tier of the global economy and lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty in a remarkably short period of time," Christine Lagarde, managing director of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) told the China Development Forum that kicked off in Beijing on Saturday.

"This new transformation will come with three key dimensions — a firm destination, a clear roadmap and a deep sense of global responsibility," Lagarde said.

After showing great economic leadership, especially during the recent global financial crisis, China has its eyes fixed firmly on its next destination — aiming for "higher quality, more inclusive, and more sustainable" growth, said the IMF chief.

Reform plans that came out of the Third Plenum of the Communist Party of China's 18th Central Committee plot a course to this destination.

"These reforms are ambitious. They will require hard decisions and tradeoffs, but I am confident that China will rise to the challenge -- as it has always done," Lagarde said.

"As China's share in the global economy continues to rise, so will its responsibility in supporting the global common good — global financial stability, environmental sustainability, and the global rules of the game.

The IMF will be a key forum for this kind of global cooperation, and I welcome a strengthened partnership with China," she added.

Initiated in 2000, the forum is a platform for business and academic leaders to interact with China's top decision makers and economic planners.—*Xinhua*

24 killed, 53 wounded in separate violent attacks in Iraq

Baghdad, 23 March — Twenty-four people were killed and 53 others wounded in separate violent attacks in central Iraq on Saturday, police said.

In Iraq's northern central province of Salahudin, a roadside bomb went off at a thoroughfare in the provincial capital city of Tikrit, and minutes later a car bomb explosion struck a police force which arrived at the site of the first blast, a provincial police source said. The two blasts killed a total of five people and wounded 22 others, the source said, adding that three policemen were among the killed and several others were among the wounded.

The attackers apparently followed the old tactic which depends on creating an initial explosion to attract security forces and people, then they set off another blast to get heavier casualties, he said.

Also in Tikrit, a police officer and his son were killed when a sticky bomb attached to their car detonated in the northern part of the city, which located some 170 km north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, the source added.

In Baghdad, Mohammed Bdiewi, a journalist heading Free Iraq Radio station, was shot dead in Baghdad's central district of Karrada after he had a dispute with an officer and soldiers guarding a presidential site belonging to Iraq's Kurdish President Jalal Talabani, a police source said.

Bdiewi, also a teacher of the media college at Baghdad's Mustansriyah University, was heading to his office when the incident occurred, the source said.

Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki ordered to arrest the officer who believed to shoot Bdiewi dead, local media reported.

In a statement, the Iraqi Journalists' Syndicate condemned the incident and said "this disgraceful act which was perpetrated against an Iraqi journalist by the checkpoint indicates lack of respect toward journalists as well as for all citizens."

Earlier, Muaiyad al-Lami, head of the Iraqi Journalists Syndicate, said that more than 390 journalists have been killed in Iraq since 2003, and up to 17 were killed in 2013, the highest toll since 2008.

In a separate incident, an army force clashed with militants believed to be linked to al-Qaida organization in Abu Ghraib area, some 25 km west of Baghdad, and killed seven of them at their safe house in the area, a local police source said.—*Xinhua*

Landslide kills three, injures others in Washington state

Washington, 23 March — Three people died and at least eight others were injured on Saturday in a landslide that destroyed six or more homes along a state highway in northwest Washington state, officials said.

Mud, possibly produced by recent heavy rain, slid across part of State Route 530 near Oso, Washington, north of Seattle, Washington state trooper Mark Francis said.

The three deaths were confirmed by the Snohomish County Sheriff's Office. Eight people were rescued and were being treated at area hospitals and at least six houses were destroyed, the sheriff's office said in a statement. Francis said the slide was in the foothills of the Cascade Mountains where rains have been heavy lately.

Officials and cars line the highway at the site of a large mudslide in this handout photo provided by the Washington State Police near Oso, Washington on 22 March, 2014. —Reuters

The mudslide caused blockage of the Stillaguamish River, adding flooding to the mud problem, Francis said. The highway was closed in both directions.

Reuters

Voting begins in Osaka mayoral race, Hashimoto aims re-election

Osaka, 23 March — Voting began Sunday in an election to choose the next mayor of the western Japan city of Osaka, with Toru Hashimoto seeking re-election to secure a fresh mandate for his signature policy of reforming local administration.

Major political parties have shunned being involved in the race, saying they see no need to hold an election in the middle of Hashimoto's f

incumbent is the most recognizable face among the four candidates, the odds are tipped in favor of him, political watchers say.—*Kyodo News*

Japan to give 100 million yen in aid to vocational school in Vietnam

TOKYO, 23 March — Japan will provide 100 million yen in official development assistance to a vocational training school run by a Japanese firm in northern Vietnam, officials of a government-backed aid agency said on Saturday.

The school was established in 2012 by medium-sized Tokyo-based builder Mukai Corp to provide training to workers so that they can come to Japan to help reduce the labor shortage at construction sites, according to Japan International Cooperation Agency officials.

The government is considering welcoming many foreign construction workers under measures to be compiled by the end of March to meet growing labor demand associated with reconstruction work in earthquake-hit northeastern Japan and the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

About 240 people are trained at the school annually, with 80 enrolled in each four-month programme.

Students learn to read and write enough Japanese to be able to communicate at construction sites, in classes taught by experienced Japanese instructors.

At present, each trainee is allowed to work in Japan at construction sites run by Mukai and its corporate partners for a maximum three years. The training programme that includes a work stint in Japan is aimed at producing workers qualified to play a leadership role at construction sites by the time they return to Vietnam.

"This programme is believed to enable both the transfer of construction technology to Vietnam and the alleviation of the labour shortage in Japan," a JICA official said.—*Kyodo News*

Two rams tussle in a ram fight at a temple fair in Haoshantou Township of Lianshan County, east China's Shandong Province, on 22 March, 2014. More than 120 rams were taken to fight in the competition.—XINHUA

A tourist takes pictures of the snow-covered Tianchi Lake on the Changbai Mountain in northeast China's Jilin Province, on 22 March, 2014. The beautiful scenery of Changbai Mountain in early spring attracted many tourists.—XINHUA

Philippine leftist rebel group demands release of top leaders

MANILA, 23 March — The leftist National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP) condemned on Sunday in the strongest terms the arrest of two leftist rebel leaders and demanded for their quick and unconditional release. Philippine authorities arrested on Saturday afternoon Benito Tiamzon, head of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and its armed wing, the New People's Army (NPA), and his wife Wilma Austria, who is also a top-ranked central committee member and the CPP finance officer, in central Province of Cebu.

NDFP peace panel chair Luis Jalandoni said that Tiamzon and Austria are NDFP consultants who "have fulfilled and are fulfilling highly significant tasks in the peace negotiations between the government and the National Democratic Front of the Philippines (NDFP)."

He said Tiamzon and Austria are both covered by the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (JASIG) of the NDFP and the Philippine government and of the Letter of Acknowledgment signed by then GRP negotiating panel chairman Silvestre H Bello III.

Austria is holder of NDFP Document of Identification ND978226 under her real name, while Tiamzon is the holder of NDFP Document of Identification ND 978227 under the assumed name"Crising Banaag". "The NDFP vigorously demands that Benito Tiamzon and Wilma Austria be immediately and unconditionally released," Jalandoni said.

He said that the latest flagrant violation of the JASIG by the Aquino government, in addition to so many other gross violations of the JASIG, "most seriously prejudices the GPH-NDFP peace negotiations."

Peace talks between the government and the NDFP, the political wing of the CPP-NPA, bogged down in February last year. The leftist rebel group has been waging war against the government for over four decades.—*Xinhua*

China to reform college entrance exam system

BEIJING, 23 March — China is soon to unveil a reform plan on the college entrance examination, considering two separate test modes for technical and academic students, an educational official revealed Saturday.

The first mode, targeting the technically inclined students such as those who want to be engineers, senior mechanic and high-quality laborers, will assess the candidates' technical skills and textbook knowledge as a combination, deputy education minister Lu Xin said at a forum.

The second mode, the current practice throughout the country, test only textbook knowledge. The mode applies to the academically inclined students, according to Lu.

She didn't reveal exactly when the plan will be enacted.

Potential college-goers can only choose their majors after they passed a uniformed national entrance exam, or gaokao, under the current system, which may thwart the higher education chance of those who are specially talented in certain technique but not good at taking exams.

"At an age of 16, the students can decide their future development modes when they are even in the high schools," Lu explained the reform.

Xinhua

Chinese leaders urge better lives for the disabled

BEIJING, 23 March — Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday sent respects to the nation's disabled people and called for greater efforts to improve their lives. Xi made the remarks in a letter sent for congratulating the China Foundation for Disabled Persons on the 30th anniversary of its founding.

Letting the vast disabled population be worry-free, living and working happily is part of the Party's tenet of "serving the people," Xi said in the letter.

He urged the foundation to make greater efforts to let the disabled share China's development fruits and help them realize their dreams along with nation's rejuvenation.

China has about 85 million disable persons, accounting for nearly 6.3 percent of the total population.

A ceremony was held in the Great Hall of the People to commemorate the anniversary, which was attended by top political advisor Yu Zhengsheng.

Development of the disabled cause has always been a highlight at Communist Party of China (CPC)'s key meetings, according to Yu, a Standing Committee member of the CPC Central Committee Political Bureau.

Authorities must work to ensure the rights and interests of disabled people and create for them a sound social environment of respect and care, Yu said at the ceremony.—*Xinhua*

Japanese foreign minister meets Bangladeshi counterpart

DHAKA, 23 March — Visiting Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and his Bangladeshi counterpart AH Mahmood Ali agreed in talks here Saturday to strengthen existing economic and trade relations and face the challenges of climate change.

In the talks, Kishida announced that Japan will provide 120 billion yen (about $1.16 billion) in yen loans to finance infrastructure projects.

Kishida said that it is important to improve the country's investment environment such as by ensuring a stable supply of energy, to which Ali replied that his government hopes to do so to the extent possible.

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (L) and Bangladeshi Foreign Minister Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali (R) hold talks in Dhaka on 22 March, 2014.
KYODO NEWS

The two ministers touched on a wide range of bilateral issues, including official development assistance, Foreign Ministry sources said.

Bangladesh's economy has been growing 5 to 6 percent per year on the back of foreign investment centered on its garment industry. The number of Japanese companies operating in Bangladesh nearly tripled to 176 in 2013 from 61 in 2007, reflecting the so-called "China Plus One" strategy under which many Japanese buyers are searching for new suppliers outside of China.

The meeting is expected to lend further momentum to the existing bilateral relations between Bangladesh and Japan, which is the single largest bilateral development partner of Bangladesh, said a ministry official.—*Kyodo News*

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Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com
Dated: 24-3-2014

Lebanon president warns against attacks targeting army

BEIRUT, 23 March — Lebanon's President Michel Suleiman warned on Saturday of the consequences of the "continuous assaults against the army, its officers and soldiers deployed in the tensed areas."

In a statement issued by the presidential media office, Suleiman stressed that "the army is carrying out its role in protecting the nation and the Lebanese" and he called on the military to strike with an iron fist.

He said "instructions were given to target any member who carries out an assault against the army," adding "we should express our solidarity with the army and support it in its national missions inside the country and across the border."

Suleiman pointed out that attacking the army is "an attack at a national symbol."

During the clashes in the northern port city of Tripoli between the rival neighbourhoods Sunni Bab el-Tebbaneh and Alawite Jabal Mohsen, army posts and patrols were targeted which led to the death of one soldier and the injury of 26 others.—*Xinhua*

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Tender invitation for the transfer of the activities related to waste collection and transportation of the collected waste to final disposal site currently performed by Yangon City Development Committee to private company

1. Within 33 townships of the area of Yangon City Development Committee, there are 4 districts of East, West, South and North and the activities for waste management have been established. In order to do so, there are 3 sectors: collection, transportation of the collected waste and disposing of the waste at final disposal site. Among them, the Committee has implemented Waste to Energy Project in relation to the final sector. It is now planning to transfer the following sectors to private company:
   (a) Collection of the waste
   (b) Transportation of the collected waste
2. Local companies, the joint ventures of local and foreign companies and foreign countries which are willing to operate the above mentioned schemes will have to submit tender proposals to Pollution Control and Cleansing Department at No. 267, 9 Storey Building, 3rd Floor, Seikkan Thar Street (Upper Block), Kyauktada Township by 30.4.2014, fully mentioned the following facts:
   (a) Require companies' letterheads in tender proposals.
   (b) Describe the proposed area such as the whole area of YCDC (or) one district (or) two districts. (not permit only for township)
   (c) Describe the address of company in details
   (d) Submit the tender proposal in both English and Myanmar
3. The basic facts for tender proposal are as follows:
   (a) The period for the transfer of the activities to private company is 10 years.
   (b) No need tipping fees for disposal of the waste at specified final disposal site.
   (c) Not consider the proposals submitted after the due date of 30.4.2014.
   (d) Pollution Control and Cleansing Department will invite the proposed companies within 2nd week of May, 2014 in order to explain detailed facts and give necessary facts for final full proposal. The companies will have to do feasibility study from 2nd week of May, 2014 to 30th Septem ber 2014. Then they will have to submit final full proposal by 3.10.2014.
   (e) The period for the transfer of the project is 1.4.2015.
   (f) Detailed information regarding to the tender are available at Pollution Control and Cleansing Department before the due date of 30-4-2014.
   (g) The companies will have to input 50 lakh of Insurance Premium for ten der to the Yangon City Development Bank by 30.4.2014 and the company which fails to submit final full proposal by 3.10.2014 will not be able to take out the Insurance Premium.
   (h) Contact and query to the following phone numbers of PCCD, YCDC for detailed information before the due date of 30.4.2014.
   01-246570, 01-246571, 01-384824

Pollution Control and Cleansing Department
Yangon City Development Committee

INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER

(TENDER NO. 1 (T) MPE/CONDENSATE(1)/2014-2015)

1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the Conveyance of Yetagun Condensate 1.75 Mbbls(±5%) from Yetagun Marine Terminal Offshore to No.(1) Refinery (Thanlyin).
2. Tender Closing Date : 8.4.2014 at (12:00) noon.
3. Tender Opening Date : 8-4-2014 at (13:00) hrs.
4. Delivery Time : 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015
5. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing 20-3-2014 on payment of the Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.
6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

"B'wood is accommodative of non-Indian talent"

NEW DELHI, 23 March — Mikey McCleary, who recently composed a song in Farhan Akhtar-Vidya Balan starrer 'Shaadi Ke Side-Effects', feels the Hindi film industry accommodates talent from outside.

Mikey's first composed a Hindi song was for Bejoy Nambiar's movie 'Shaitan' titled 'Khoya Khoya Chand'. *PTI*

Dakota Johnson to play Johnny Depp's love interest

MUMBAI, 23 March — Fifty Shades of Grey actress Dakota Johnson is in talks to play Johnny Depp's love interest in a film based on notorious gangster, Whitey Bulger.

The 24-year-old actress will play the mother of Whitey Bulger's baby in Scott Cooper-directed Black Mass reported Deadline. Whitey Bulger became an FBI informant in taking down a Mafia family who invaded his turf. However, he was later outed as a criminal himself and went into hiding when the Feds closed in on their targets. He became a fugitive for years before being arrested in 2011.

The infamous Boston crime kingpin has a couple of women in his life, but Johnson is circling a role of Lindsey, the mother of his son Douglas. Barry Levinson was originally attached to direct the movie, but now it has Scott Cooper at the helm.

Dakota is famous for playing Anastasia in Fifty Shades of Grey series.

Joel Edgerton will play FBI agent John Connolly, who is Whitey Bulger's childhood friend. John Connolly himself ends up in prison for tipping Whitey Bulger when the Feds closed in on their targets. Guy Pearce will play Whitey's brother, Bill, who was president of the Massachusetts Senate and a big power broker in town.—*PTI*

Shakira unveils second official World Cup song

Shakira's son Milan also features on the new track

MUMBAI, 23 March — Colombian pop star Shakira has recorded her second official World Cup song after the superhit Waka Waka back in 2010. The 37-year-old singer, who has been in a relationship with Spanish footballer Gerard Pique since 2010, has penned La La La - a reworked version of her new song Dare, for this summer's Brazil event, reported *Daily Star*.

"It is an upbeat, Brazilian track. The lyrics are personal and I have actually recorded a version for the World Cup," Shakira said.

Even the singer's son Milan features on the track. "I was in the studio and Milan came in to hang out in the afternoon. I had him on my lap and he was listening and then when it came to the end of the song, he just went 'myah'," she said.

After a five-year break, Shakira is back with a new, self-titled album. She says getting Rihanna for her lead single Can't Remember To Forget You was easy.

"Rihanna is very sweet, very humble, very warm. She is not a diva at all. She was a treat, I feel humbled and very honoured to work with her," she said. —*PTI*

When Kate Winslet received another sketch of Rose

Kate Winslet

MUMBAI, 23 March — Actress Kate Winslet was presented with an intricate nude drawing by an enthusiastic Titanic fan at Divergent premiere.

While signing autographs for fans, the Oscar-winning star was given an exact replica of the nude drawing that Leonardo DiCaprio's character, Jack Dawson, created of her character Rose DeWitt Bukater on the night of the Titanic ship's sinking, reports dailymail.co.uk.

The 38-year-old was posing on the red carpet at the Regency Village Theatre in Westwood, California, when she was presented with the gift by the fan. *PTI*

In Memoriam
U Kyaw Zaw Naing (Legal Expert)
(1950-2013)

"Greatness is always built on this foundation: the ability to appear, speak and act as the most common man."

This sums up the man named U Kyaw Zaw Naing (Desmond). We pause and celebrate his life on an annual of his passing.

Friends from the Phillippines

RAM PRATHAP DHIR-SAYA U RAMA AGED (91), Monywa

Saya U Rama a social worker of Kado North Quarter son of U Nand Lal, elder brother of Ram Prakash Dhir (a) U Sein Tin of Buddha Exhibition Committee & Birsein Dhir (Taungyi) expired on 17th, March at Delhi (India). May His soul rest on peace.

Dhir Family

Tibet records rising temperatures and extreme weather

LHASA, 23 March—Global warming has reached the snow-capped Himalayas in south China's Tibet, with rising temperatures and more extreme weather, according to an official climate report.

The report on climate change and environmental monitoring in Tibet was published by Tibet Climate Center this week. The report is based on analysis of climate data collected between 1961 and 2013, showing that the average temperature in Tibet has been rising by 0.31 degrees Celsius every decade. Tibet is the highest region in the mid-latitude regions, and seen as a barometer of global warming. Du Jun, deputy director of the center, said on Saturday that rising temperatures have been accompanied by increased precipitation, up by 6.6 millimeters every 10 years for the past five decades. There is also a trend of more severe extreme weather. Both the record low temperature of -36.7 degrees Celsius and the record high temperature of 32.3 degrees Celsius were logged in Tibet last year.—*Xinhua*

Maldives ruling coalition wins two thirds majority in parliament polls

MALE, 23 March—The Maldives ruling coalition won the battle for the parliament in an unexpectedly smooth election that was caught in controversy when the elections chief was removed and handed a prison sentence earlier this month.

The Maldivian parliamentary election, which was held amidst the controversial removal of the head and deputy of the country's Elections Commission concluded largely peacefully on Sunday. Vote counting gave the Opposition Maldivian Democratic Party (MDP) led by former President Mohammad Nasheed who was controversially ousted from power in 2012 a slim lead initially but was soon overtaken by Yameen's Progressive Party of Maldives (PPM).

Of the 85 constituencies, 34 seats were won by PPM while their coalition parties Jumhoory Party (JP) bagged 15 seats and Maldives Development Alliance (MDA) five seats. The MDP by contrast lost their majority in parliament managing only 24 seats. "A total of 75 complaints were submitted to the Elections Commission. These include three complaints about the voters' name not being on the list; five about anti-campaigning and four complaints regarding bribery,"Elections Commission member Mohammad Manik told reporters.

Yet this was lower than the number of complaints received during the presidential elections last year, Manik assured. He added that voter numbers were higher in the outlying islands than in urban areas including capital Male where interest appeared modest.

At least six people were detained by police for showing their marked ballot cards as well as other minor misdemeanors such as attempting to offer bribes and obstructing the police.

President Yameen told reporters while out to vote that he expected his party to get as many as 65 seats but ultimately the count stood at about 55. It is now speculated that he will form a coalition government with PPM, JP, MDA and ideologically leaning Adahalath Party that also won one seat.

There are also five independent seats up for grabs. Yameen was elected after a prolonged and contentious presidential election spanning nearly three months from 7 Oct, 2013. Half-brother of Maldives long time ruler Abdul Gayoom joined forces with Jumhoory Party leader and Maldives richest man Gasim Ibrahim to win the polls. "Our coalition is not going to fall apart after this election," he told reporters assuring that majority in parliament will be used to "prioritize bills on economic development and the amendment of the penal code."

The election, which came only five months after Yameen was elected, was seen as the biggest test so far for the president.

A total of 302 candidates, including 23 women contested for the 85 seats in the parliament. Capital Male' holds the largest number of constituencies at 13, with 7 in Addu City and the remaining 65 constituencies scattered across the Maldives.

The run up to the elections have been steeped in controversy after the Maldives Supreme Court earlier this month handed down suspended prison sentences to the elections commissioner and his second in command.

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(23-3-2014, Sunday)

6:00 am
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:25 am
2. Physical Exercises

7:00 am
3. News/Weather Report

7:20 am
4. People Talks

8:30 am
5. Documentary

9:00 am
6. News/International News

10:20 am
7. Weekly Entertainment

11:00 am
8. Songs in honour of (69th) Anniversary Armed Forces Day

12:00 pm
9. News/International News/Weather Report

12:25 pm
10. Myanmar Movies

2:20 pm
11. Early TV Melovies

3:00 pm
12. News

3:15 pm
13. Documentary

4:00 pm
14. News

4:25 pm
15. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Third Year (Maths)

5:00 pm
16. News

5:30 pm
17. India Drama Series

6:00 pm
18. News

6:25 pm
19. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
20. News/International News/Weather Report

8:35 pm
21. People Talks

9:00 pm
22. News
23. Teleplay

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(24-3-14 07:00am~ 25-3-14 07:00am) MST

* Local News
* An Aficionado of Alluring Antiques
* World News
* Myanmar Street Foods
* Local News
* Food Trip (Ep-3) (Part-2)
* World News
* Myanmar Masterclass: Impressionism
* Local News
* Journey To Unimaginable Spots (Ep-8)
* World News
* The Pride of Myanmar "Traditional Handicraft"
* Local News
* Chanmyay Yeiktha Meditation Centre-Chaw Dwin Gone
* World News
* Hip-Hop & Design
* Local News
* Sittway, Evergreen Seaside Town
* World News
* Art Students: Sculpture
* Local News
* Pride of Myanmar - Bagan Arts and Handicrafts
* World News
* Inspiration
* Local News
* Me N My Travel (Min Gun)
* World News
* Distinguished Myanmar Lady "Kyin Po"
* Local News
* The Stories of The Great Souls (U Pyae Son)
* World News
* Entrepreneur "Kalayar Pyi Wai Shan"

Disney's 'Aladdin' unleashes a genie on Broadway

NEW YORK, 23 March—It has a flying carpet, a cave full of treasures and show-stopping songs, but critics said on Friday the Broadway debut of Disney's "Aladdin" lacks the magic of the original Oscar-winning animated film.

The tale of the street urchin Aladdin, who wins the heart of Princess Jasmine, unleashes the Genie from the lamp and battles the evil Jafar, was the top-grossing film of 1992, and picked up Academy Awards for best original score and song for "A Whole New World."

The musical that opened on Thursday night is the latest Disney film to be adapted for the stage, following the long-running and hugely successful "Lion King," "Beauty and the Beast," "The Little Mermaid" and others.

Although "Aladdin" includes new songs, elaborate costumes and sets, dance numbers and a magical carpet that mysteriously floats, it left some critics wishing for more.

"This super-costly extravaganza doesn't do justice to the movie, or to the spirit of the late Howard Ashman," trade magazine Variety said, referring to the lyricist who had the original inspiration for the film.

The Hollywood Reporter described the show as "sweet, silly fun," while the New York Daily News found the extravagant production lacking compared to the film.

"Most moving thing in 'Aladdin' is the flying carpet," it said in a headline, adding that the musical was "entertaining but an emotionally sparse adaptation" of the film.

"While burning through wishes, you should ask for a musical with a lot more heart," it said.

But *the New York Times*' Charles Isherwood, who admitted he was not enthusiastic about the prospect of yet another Disney show on Broadway, said the show defied his dour expectations.

A part of the signage at the main gate of The Walt Disney Co is pictured in Burbank, California, on 7 May, 2012.—REUTERS

"Aladdin' has an infectious and only mildly syrupy spirit," he wrote. "Not to mention enough baubles, bangles and beading to keep a whole season of 'RuPaul's Drag Race' contestants in gear."

Reuters

9th Waning of Tabaung 1375 ME

The New Light of Myanmar

Monday, 24 March, 2014

Yadanabon sails into top of chart with 20 points

*Ni Maung Aung Aung of Nay Pyi Taw defends attacks of Edison Fonseca of Yadanabon.—*Soe Nyunt

In the eighth fixture of the Myanmar National League 2014 held on Sunday, league leaders Yadanabon FC played a goalless draw with Nay Pyi Taw FC. Strikers of both clubs missed early opportunites to take the lead. Both clubs fielded four foreign players each in today's match and the game was free flowing with attacks at both ends

In the 32nd minute, Nay Pyi Taw keeper Vanla Harwe saved a powerful header from Yan Paing, captain of Yadanabon. Defenders of Nay Pyi Taw held off forward Edison Fonseca of Yadanabon. Likewise, striker Michele Di Piedi of Nay Pyi Taw could not break through the well organised defence of Yadanabon. Before the final whistle, Edison Fonseca of Yadanabon and Michele Di Piedi of Nay Pyi Taw failed to score with some good opportunities.

In another match, Yangon United FC trounced Southern FC with a 5-1 win at home. The winning goals came through two each from Kyaw Ko Ko and Emerson and one from Pyae Phyo Aung.

At Aung San Stadium, Magway FC beat GFA 1-0 in the MNL Cup. At the Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna, two goals from Easley and Kambu saw 3 points for Manawmyay FC, and Matuna of Chin United FC scored a consolation for his club.

After the 8th fixture, Yadanabon is top of the table with 20 points, Nay Pyi Taw, 19 points, Magway, 15 points, Yangon, 14 points and Zeyar Shwe Myay, 13 points.

By Nyi Myat Thawda

Williams battles on at Sony Open in front of empty seats

Miami, 23 March— World number one Serena Williams battled her way into the fourth round of the Sony Open with a 6-4, 4-6, 6-4 win over Frenchwoman Caroline Garcia on Saturday but the six-time champion hardly looked at home on the Miami hardcourts calling her effort unprofessional.

Fourth seed Maria Sharapova, a five-time runner-up in Miami including last year to Williams, was more upbeat about her performance coming out on top in a tough three-hour, three set battle with 26th seeded Czech Lucie Safarova 6-4, 6-7 (7), 6-2.

The game's dominant player, Williams, who lives a short drive away from the Crandon Park complex, has yet to put her stamp on her home tournament, advancing with a pair of laboured wins over Yaroslava Shvedova and Garcia.

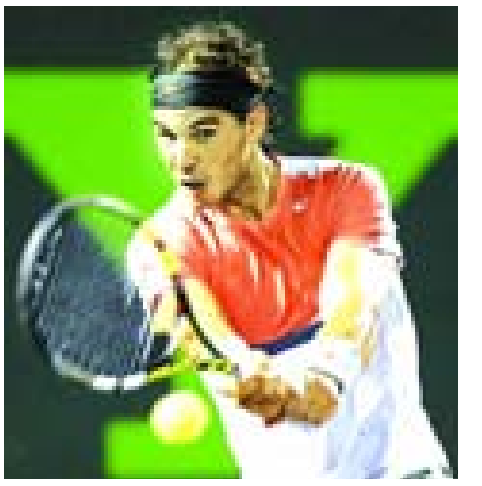
The hard-hitting Frenchwoman showed no fear, slugging it out with the 17-time grand slam winner for more than two and a half hours before Williams ended the fight with a blistering forehand winner. "I really gave myself a tremendous amount of trouble out there," Williams told reporters. "Granted she played great but I made so many errors. I hit so short.

Reuters

Serena Williams

Nadal takes aim at elusive title, Wawrinka struggles through

Miami, 23 March— World number one Rafa Nadal launched his bid for one of the few titles to elude him by crushing Australian Lleyton Hewitt 6-1, 6-3 on Saturday to reach the third round of the Sony Open.



Rafael Nadal

The Spaniard has won 62 titles, including 13 grand slams and 25 Masters series events, but a victory on the Miami hardcourts is not among them.

Three times Nadal has made it to the Miami final and the Spaniard served noticed that he plans to be back there again after disposing of Hewitt in just over an hour. World number two Novak Djokovic, a three-time winner in Miami, did not play on Saturday but became the first player through to the fourth round when his scheduled opponent Florian Mayer pulled out with a groin injury.

Australian Open champion Stan Wawrinka survived a rollercoaster start to his Sony Open campaign, advancing with a bumpy 6-0, 3-6, 6-3 win over Spain's Daniel Gimeno-Traver. Nadal was happy with his performance against Hewitt. "I think I played a solid match without many mistakes," he told reporters. "I tried all the time to play the logical shot.

Reuters

Title champagne on ice as Bayern forced to wait

Berlin, 23 March— Bayern Munich put their Bundesliga title celebrations on hold despite beating gutsy Mainz 05 2-0 on Saturday, as Borussia Dortmund won 3-0 at Hanover 96 to delay the official crowning.

Bayern, who face Manchester United in the Champions League quarter-finals next month, struggled at times with Mainz's quick counter attacks. They broke the deadlock with a Bastian Schweinsteiger header eight minutes from time.

Substitute Mario Goetze added another in the 87th minute after Franck Ribery rounded the Mainz keeper as they notched a league record 18th consecutive win.

The Bavarian club can still break the record for the quickest title triumph on Tuesday at Hertha Berlin with seven games left in the campaign. "That would be wonderful," said Berlin-born defender Jerome Boateng. "To win the title in my home city would be great. We did the groundwork for that today."

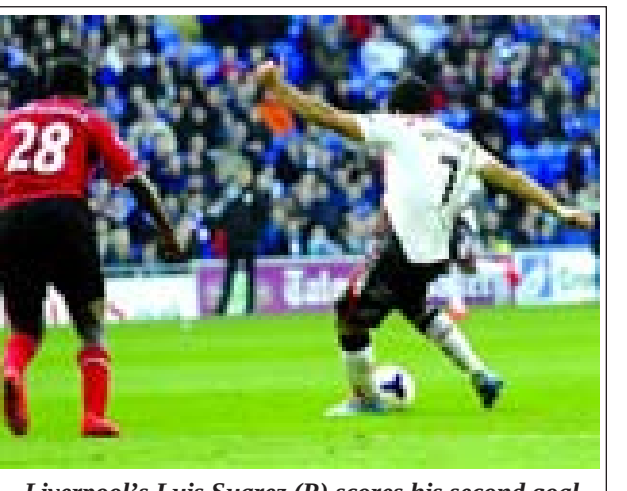
Mainz confirmed their good recent form from the start with a flowing game that put the visitors under pressure. They missed their biggest chance with Cameroon international Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting, who had scored four goals in the last five games, shaking off Philipp Lahm and thundering his shot on to the crossbar shortly after the restart.

Bayern responded with a chance of their own in the 55th minute, as Mario Mandzukic's powerful point-blank header was saved by 20-year-old keeper Loris Karius.

Reuters

*Trysten Deveau (L) of Canada competes with compatriot Gurkamel Gill during the 2014 Karate North American Cup championship in Richmond, Canada, on 22 March, 2014. The event features best athletes from Canada, United States and Mexico. Karate North American Cup is held in Canada once in three years.—*Xinhua

*Arsenal's Kieran Gibbs (front L) is shown a red card by referee Andre Marriner (front R) on 22 March, 2014. Arsenal were trailing 2-0 to early goals from Samuel Eto'o and Andre Schuerrle when Mariner gave a penalty and a red card to Kieran Gibbs after team mate Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain handled a shot from Eden Hazard on the goalline.—*Reuters



Liverpool's Luis Suarez (R) scores his second goal against Cardiff City during their English Premier League soccer match at Cardiff City Stadium in Cardiff, Wales, on 22 March, 2014.

Reuters

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