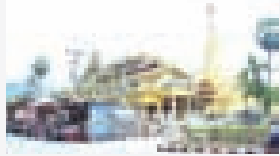


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Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits Mawlamyine, Mon State



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham comforting a patient at Mawlamyine General Hospital.—MNA

MAWLAMYINE, 9 March—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham made an inspection tour to Mawlamyine Township of Mon State on Sunday. The Vice-President and party met with the

faculty members of Mawlamyine University, Mawlamyine Technological University and Mawlamyine Education College at the hall of Mawlamyine University.

In his speech on the occasion, the Vice-President said that children are our future and after completing their education they will shape the future of their nations. Teachers have a big responsibility as they have to ensure that the students will turn into

good citizens.

The Vice-President pointed out the weaknesses of basic and tertiary education, saying that the standard of education cannot be improved in Myanmar as long as the education departments concerned are working under the old system.

Although workshops on education reforms have been organized since the previous year, quick results are impossible, but that (See page 8)

HIV-positive man cycles across Myanmar to raise AIDS awareness

MAGWAY, 9 March—An HIV-positive man from Mandalay has launched an awareness campaign to fight against AIDS by riding his bicycle around Myanmar to give talks.

Speaking to locals in Magway on Saturday, Ko Srako said “I was diagnosed with HIV in 2005 and given ART treatment one year later. I would like to give support to other HIV positive people,

and suggest ways of living a bearable life and taking drugs.”

He stopped at 70 places before reaching Magway after cycling a 2,665-mile long campaign route. Following his talks in Magway, he headed to Ahtat Minhla township in the same region to continue raising awareness.

“I would like to tell their parents, relatives and friends that their supports

benefits HIV-positive people and that they should not be isolated from the community. My solo campaign is aimed at sharing my experiences through roundtable discussions or talks in the towns and villages”, the 35-year-old said. He began his campaign on 1 December, 2013 in Yangon and said he would continue for another year.—Thura Tun (Magway)



INSIDE

Malaysia says four passengers on missing jet used fake passports



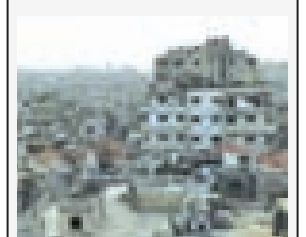
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Suicide bomber kills 32 in Iraqi city of Hilla



PAGE-3

Syria government forces take village near Lebanese border



PAGE-4

Rules for Printing & Publishing Law to be completed within 60 days

YANGON, 9 March — The Ministry of Information is set to complete the rules and regulations for the Printing and Publishing law within 60 days, according to U Aung Kyaw Oo, Director of the Information and Public Relations Department.

Speaking at a press conference on Sunday, he said the Ministry of Information is cooperating with the temporary Myanmar Press Council and other industry bodies to meet the deadline.

Meanwhile, the rules of the Media Law will be written by the Myanmar Press Council in coordination with the Ministry

of Information, U Aung Kyaw Oo said.

The Ministry of Information will submit the rules to the Union Government for approval.

About half of the Public Service Media Bill which was put forward to the parliament's Bill Committee in May, 2013, has been discussed with the Bill Committee, an official of the ministry said at the press conference.

Regarding the transformation of the analogue system to the DVBT-2 digital system, U Win Kyi, Director of Myanmar Radio and Television, said the ministry would transform its entire analog system

to the DVBT-2 system by 2020.

The ministry has three new channels using DVBT-2 digital system in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay.

The Ministry of Information has already arranged for delivering 304,944 Set Top Boxes to local citizens which will be in the digital broadcasting system free of charge, U Win Kyi said.

So far, the ministry has already handed out 32,237 Set Top Boxes to people free of charge and is planning to deliver 108,105 Set Top Boxes free of charge to the areas in March, he added.—MNA

Nationwide census-taking process explained in Rakhine

THANDWE, 9 March—The country's first census in three decades was top on the agenda at a meeting in Thandwe, Rakhine State on 5 March, with Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Win Myint urging the population not to be "anxious" as the process would not involve any forms of "discrimination." The deputy minister stressed that the process includes all races and religions and that it will only be successful if the public

cooperates.

The national census will be taken for 12 days from 30th March through 10th April, with preliminary results expected in early 2015.

*Thandwe District
IPRD*

**Deputy Minister
U Win Myint makes
a speech at the
meeting with officials
and townsenders in
Thandwe Township in
Rakhine State.**

KYAUKSE, 9 March—U Tin Maung and Daw Tin Shwe of Zarmani family contributed 10 million kyat for providing treatment to patients with eye complaint. From 11 to 28 February this year, eye specialists for Mandalay, Singaing and Kyaukse made a checkup on patients and from 3 to 5 the same year, they gave treatment to patients. During the three days, 612 patients were given treatment and the remaining patients would be treated on 10 March. Altogether 887 patients would be cured.

*Tun Tun Naing
(Kyaukse)*



Farmers in Yinmabin Township stage protest over grabbed land

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March—Two people, including one police official, were injured on 7 March, when villagers in Yinmabin Township in Sagaing Region staged a protest over grabbed land. As bulldozers near Pathein-Monywa Motor Road in Ohntonbin Village continued their construction work on the planned town of Aungzeya Myothit, around 30 villagers attacked police and security personnel. Clashes between the two sides erupted, with police

detaining the leader identified as 40-year old Kyaw Min, and four other protesters including a monk.

According to local authorities, houses will be built on around 295 land plots on 142.78 acres of farmland, with remaining land plots used for police battalions.

More than a dozen villagers had complained to local authorities about their land having been confiscated and demanded for the issue to be settled. According to the deputy

commissioner of Yinmabin District, the villagers were compensated with land plots and cash on 12 February 2014.

Locals have however said that they did not receive adequate compensation.

Under the supervision of Sagaing Region government, local officials returned 284 land plots out of 295 acres of farmland to the villagers through a lucky draw on 2 March 2014.

MNA



**SOE ELECTRIC DONATES
TRANSFORMER TO PY-
INMANA SANGHA HOSPITAL**
*A newly built 6-storey
Sangha Hospital in Min-
galar Ward, Pyinmana,
got 500-HVA transformer
donated by Soe Electric
and Machinery Co., Ltd.
on 8 March. The con-
struction of the hospital is
nearing completion.*

KO GYI KYAW

People with eye complaint get new Light



Second Regional Asian Elephant Veterinary Workshop

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March—The second Regional Asian Elephant Veterinary Workshop organized by Asian Elephant Support and US Fish and Wildlife was opened on 7 March at Nay Pyi Taw Veterinary University.

The first of its kind took place in Arche of Indonesia in 2012. The workshop will be held from 7 to 11 March.

After the workshop on 11 March, a field trip is arranged to observe Taunggyi Timber Extraction Area in Shan State.

NLM



Purified water supply arranged for Meiktila



Photo shows water treatment plant under construction in Meiktila.

MEIKTILA, 9 March—ATT Co. will in future supply Meiktila residents with clean water, following the announcement the company won a bid to purify water from Meiktila Lake through a water treatment system costing of K 923 million.

The company has started construction of a water treatment plant in

Linzin Ward in Meiktila. The plant will distribute 1.2 million gallons of water to the dwellers on a daily basis.

Another water treatment plant will be constructed in Paukchaung Ward and is expected to supply 600,000 gallons of water per day.

Linzin and Paukchaung water treatment

plants will supply the residents of Tanar Manaung, Aungzayar, Zeashaepyin, Myomalay, Yanmyoauing, Thirimingala, Paukchaung, Nandawgon and Aungsan Wards using water tanks.

The construction of the water treatment plants is expected to be completed by late June.

NLM-018

N Korea holds parliamentary election, 1st time under current leader

PYONGYANG/BEIJING, 9 March — North Korea on Sunday held a nationwide election for its rubber-stamp parliament, the first since leader Kim Jong Un inherited power from his father about two years ago. The election is merely ceremonial, with complete support for the single candidate running in each constituency most likely to be seen again. As of 2 p.m., voter turnout had already reached 90.91 percent, according to North Korea's state media.

Italian experts highlight China's effort for more balanced growth

ROME, 9 March — China's growth target of 7.5 percent for 2014 that was written in the government's work report delivered at the parliament's annual session this week was seen by Italian economists as an indicator of China's effort to pursue a high-quality and more balanced growth.

China doesn't want over high growth rates from an "old development model" that "does not suit the country anymore," Giuliano Noci, a marketing professor and China expert at Politecnico di Milano, told *Xinhua*, while commenting on the new target figure.

The Chinese economy, which is both an extraordinary target market and an important workshop for the international community, needs to expand at a reasonable but more high-quality pace, Noci explained. Noci said that in the current times of economic globalization, China faces important challenges and complex problems in pushing forward economic and social development.

"If China is able to enact the reforms, especially focusing on the policies of investment liberalization and innovation processes, the impact on the international community will be positive," he went on.

Noci also found China's plan to overhaul the current system for local governments to contain the mounting debt problem "very positive". Another important aspect, he said, is development of mixed-ownership economy and measures to cut overcapacity, a major drag on the Chinese economy.

Xinhua

Still, the election for the 13th Supreme People's Assembly will be closely watched by outside observers as its outcome may provide a rare glimpse of any shift in North Korea's very closed elite structure.

Following the election, North Korea is expected to partly reshuffle its top officials.

North Korean citizens over 17 years old are entitled to participate in the election and they are given the choice of whether to approve or disapprove the

single candidate in their areas.

Voting, which started at 9 a.m., was held in a festival atmosphere, with many women putting on colorful traditional clothes and citizens holding dancing events. The election is likely to help Kim further consolidate his rule.

The focus is on how many current members of the assembly will be replaced with new and possibly younger deputies after Kim, presumed to be 31 years old, purged and

executed his once-powerful uncle Jang Song Thaek in December on treason charges.

"The current election is an important work for consolidating the supreme power organ," the official Rodong Sinmun said in its editorial on Sunday.

It said all the candidates in the election are "true revolutionaries and ardent patriots who have devotedly worked for the country" and are "loyal" to the leadership of Kim.

The election results

are likely to be announced Monday.

New parliamentarians are expected to get together for the first time in April and before that there may be a meeting of the Central Committee of the ruling Workers' Party to decide on its new executive lineup and important national policies.

Kim also ran in the election from the No. 111 constituency in the area of Mt. Paektu, an active volcano near the border with China described by North

Korea as the birthplace of his father, who died in December 2011.

North Korea holds a parliamentary election every five years. Last time in March 2009, all deputies registered in each of the 687 constituencies were elected to the assembly, with official voter turnout at 99.98 percent.

The country's top legislature basically gives a rubber stamp to decisions made by the ruling party headed by Kim.

Kyodo News

Malaysia says four passengers on missing jet used fake passports



A spokesman (C) of Malaysia Airlines is surrounded by journalists as he gives a briefing about Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, at a hotel in Beijing on 8 March, 2014.—REUTERS

SEPANG, (Malaysia), 9 March — As an international air-and-sea search

for a missing Malaysian Airlines jet with 239 people onboard continued for

the second day on Sunday, Malaysian authorities said four passengers used sto-

len passports to board the flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.

Malaysia's acting Transport Minister Hishammuddin Hussein told reporters on Sunday that four passengers used stolen European passports to board the *Boeing 777* flight, including an Austrian and an Italian passport that were stolen in Thailand.

Hishammuddin said international intelligence agencies, including the US Federal Bureau of Investigation, are helping Malaysian authorities to look into the matter. Apart from the four passengers using stolen passports, Hishammuddin said Malaysian intelligence authorities are screening the entire passenger list.

"We are looking at all possibilities," he said.

Hishammuddin also said there was no telltale debris in the vicinity of an oil slick Vietnamese aircraft spotted Saturday in waters near the area where Flight MH370 was last detected on the radar.

"We have not been able to locate or see anything," Malaysia's Civil Aviation chief Azaharuddin Abdul Rahman told reporters earlier Sunday.

For the second day, aircraft and vessels from Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, China, the United States and the Philippines are scouring the South China Sea for signs of the *Boeing 777-200* aircraft after it was last heard from at 1:30 am.

Kyodo News

Italian PM Renzi to come out swinging with reform-minded agenda

ROME, 9 March — The Matteo Renzi era in Italian politics is set to get started next week, when the reform-minded former Florence mayor who on 22 February became Italy's youngest prime minister ever gets started on his much-heralded reform agenda.

The 39-year-old Renzi said this week he would present a series of what he called "very important reforms" starting the week of 10 March, aimed at sparking economic growth, creating jobs, reforming a bloated public administration, improving outdated schools, and making housing more affordable.

"On Wednesday (12 March) we will introduce an affordable housing plan," Renzi said at a summit of Italian mayors in

Sicily. "We also hope for measures to be taken on a jobs bill."

Renzi noted that the government would spend at least 1.7 billion euros (2.359 billion US dollars) to help combat youth unemployment, now standing at above 40 percent of the country's entire work force under the age of 30. Another 2 billion euros would be spent to update crumbling school infrastructure.

Analysts differ on how effective Renzi is likely to be in his first major effort to push an agenda through Italy's notoriously difficult parliament. But they are almost unanimous that he is making a serious attempt to confront some of the country's most endemic problems right out of the gate.

Xinhua

Suicide bomber kills 32 in Iraqi city of Hilla

HILLA, (Iraq), 9 March — A suicide bomber driving a minibus packed with explosives killed at least 32 people and wounded 147 on Sunday in the southern Iraqi city of Hilla, police and medical sources said.

The attacker approached a main checkpoint at a northern entrance to the largely Shi'ite Muslim city and detonated the minibus, a police officer said on condition of anonymity.

At least 50 cars were set ablaze with passengers trapped inside and part of the checkpoint complex was destroyed, the officer said.

It was not immediately clear who was behind the attack, but suicide bombings are a trademark of al Qaeda-affiliated groups.

"I was sitting inside my kiosk when suddenly a horrible blast threw me

outside and hurled my groceries up in the air. I saw cars set ablaze with people burning inside," said Abu Nawar, owner of a make-shift kiosk made of palm tree leaves near the checkpoint.

Police were using cutting equipment to break inside the burnt vehicles and lift out charred bodies, the police officer said, adding

the death toll was expected to rise.

"When a policeman suspected the minibus, he asked the driver to pull over for a check, but the vehicle exploded," the police officer said.

Bombings and other attacks killed almost 8,000 civilians in 2013, the worst period for the country since 2008.—Reuters



People gather at the site of a car bomb attack in the neighbourhood of al-Qahera in northern Baghdad, on 9 March, 2014.—REUTERS

Israel brings arms ship to dock, hopes to shame Iran

EILAT, 9 March — A ship seized by the Israeli Navy on suspicion of smuggling arms from Iran to the Gaza Strip docked on Saturday in Israel, which planned to put the cargo on display in hope of denting Teheran's rapprochement with the West.

The *Klos C* was taken without resistance in the Red Sea on Wednesday. Israel said it found dozens of advanced Syrian-made rockets hidden on board in

Iran and destined for the ship's next port in Sudan, from where they would have been trucked through Egypt to Gaza.

Iran and Gaza's Islamist Hamas rulers, both hostile to the Jewish state, rejected the Israeli findings as fabrications.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who has been dismayed at world powers' nuclear diplomacy with Iran since Teheran installed the relatively

pragmatic Hassan Rouhani as president last year, voiced hope they would now rethink the outreach.

"This ship will get to Eilat and the truth will become fully known," Netanyahu told Israel's Channel 10 TV on Friday. "This is the real face of Iran."

The Israeli military said it would take around two days to find and bring out for public viewing the contraband from the some 150 cargo

containers aboard the Panamanian-flagged *Klos C*.

The ship would then be free to leave, as would its 17 crew members, who include Turks, Indians, Georgians and Azeris.

"They are on the ship. They will remain with the ship. Given that they have no hand in the arms smuggling, they will continue on their way," Israeli Admiral Oded Gur-Lavi told Reuters.

Reuters



An Israeli Navy boat escorts the Panamanian-flagged cargo vessel *Klos C* into the Israeli port of Eilat on Saturday 8 March, 2014 after seizing it in the Red Sea on Wednesday.—REUTERS

Assad says reconstruction a greater challenge in post-crisis era

DAMASCUS, 9 March—Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said on Saturday that post-crisis challenges, with reconstruction topping its agenda, are more serious than the current challenges, according to the official SANA news agency.

Noting that the current challenges of the Syrian crisis are mainly radicalism and the presence of traitors, al-Assad said that finding suitable mechanisms of dialogue, fighting corruption and reconstruction are needed for the upcoming stage.

The reconstruction process is the most challenging factor for the next stage, he said, however, adding that the process will offer a great opportunity to reorganize the areas that have been damaged during the crisis, which would give the owners of the damaged properties a chance to improve their financial situation in addition to stimulating investment and creating job opportunities, according to SANA.—Xinhua

Libya threatens to bomb N-Korean tanker if it ships oil from rebel port

TRIPOLI, 9 March — Libya threatened on Saturday to bomb a North Korean-flagged tanker if it tried to ship oil from a rebel-controlled port, in a major escalation of a standoff over the country's petroleum wealth.

The rebels, who have seized three major Libyan ports since August to press their demands for more autonomy, warned Tripoli against staging an attack to halt the oil sale after the tanker docked at Es Sider terminal, one of the country's biggest. The vessel started loading crude late at night, oil officials said.

Reuters



Photo taken on 8 March, 2014 shows the scene where a PA-44 trainer plane crashed in a farmland in Haiyun Village of Chongyi Township in Dujiangyan, southwest China's Sichuan Province. The trainer plane, which crashed here at around 3:25 pm on Saturday, was supposed to belong to the Civil Aviation Flight University of China. The accident killed two crew members aboard the plane while they were in a flight training. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

XINHUA

Syria government forces take village near Lebanese border

BEIRUT, 9 March—Syrian government forces seized a village in the central Homs Province on Saturday, state media and a monitoring group said, as part of a push for control of areas along the Lebanese border.

The village of al-Zara, west of the city of Homs, fell after "heavy clashes" between government and rebel forces, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said, although the number of casualties was not immediately clear.

Al-Zara is inhabited mostly by Sunni Muslims from the ethnic Turkmen minority, it added.

In a statement on state news agency SANA, Syria's armed forces said they had established complete control over the village and killed and captured a "large number of terrorists", using state media's customary term for rebels fighting to overthrow President Bashar al-Assad.

The victory gave

government forces control over a route connecting central Syria to the Mediterranean coast and which had been used as "a primary route for terrorist groups coming from Lebanese territory to neighboring areas to carry out criminal operations", it said.

Syria's civil war has killed over 140,000 people since it started three years ago as a peaceful protest movement against four decades of Assad family rule. The conflict has become increasingly tangled as rebel groups — including many hardline Islamist factions — have turned on one another, leading to clashes that have killed thousands of people this year alone. Separately, a video was published online by activists purportedly showing members of the al-Qaeda splinter group the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) executing eight prisoners.

In the video, fighters in fatigues line up the prisoners inside a building

and force them to kneel before shooting them from behind.

Some of the men in the video speak Russian with marked Caucasian accents and speech patterns. Toward the end, one speaker is heard to say "kill them, brothers". Many foreign Islamists have joined the fight against Assad, large-

ly from Arab countries but also from Russia's North Caucasus region as well as Europe, North America and Asia. It is not clear when the video was taken or where. Syrian state media also broadcast the footage, which it was not possible to verify independently. Activists said the fighters belonged to ISIL, but that

was also impossible to verify.

ISIL is a rebranding of al-Qaeda's affiliate in neighboring Iraq but al-Qaeda's central leadership formally announced a split with the group in February after disputes over its refusal to limit itself to fighting in Iraq rather than Syria.

Reuters



A general view of damaged buildings are seen in the besieged area of Homs on 3 March, 2014.—REUTERS

WORLD

Obama calls six world leaders on Ukraine crisis

WASHINGTON, 9 March — US President Barack Obama called six world leaders on Saturday to discuss the ongoing crisis in Ukraine, the White House said.

Obama spoke separately with British Prime Minister David Cameron, French President Francois Hollande and Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi about Ukraine, according to a readout from the White House.

Obama welcomed the “strong, unified” stance of the United States and the European Union on Russian actions in Ukraine, including the conclusions of the European Council.

The European Union on Thursday decided to conduct targeted measures against Russia as a result of the Ukraine crisis, calling for solution to the crisis through negotiations between Ukraine and Russia.

Obama, who is on a weekend vacation with his family in Florida, also held a conference call with the presidents of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia. He reaffirmed the United States’ “unwavering commitment” to its collec-

tive defence commitments under the North Atlantic Treaty and “enduring support for the security and democracy” of the Baltic countries.

It was the first time Obama has spoken with the leaders of the three Baltic states about the crisis. The three countries are NATO members with strong economic ties to Russia.

US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel said on Wednesday that the US plans to expand military cooperation with Poland and Baltic states to show “support” for its allies amid crisis in Ukraine.

The US has accused Russia of “violating” Ukraine’s sovereignty and territorial integrity as well the international law by its military intervention in Crimea, while calling for withdrawing its troops and starting talks with Ukrainian interim government to find a diplomatic solution. Washington has also imposed visa bans and financial sanctions on a number of Ukrainians and Russians it claims responsible for the crisis.—Xinhua



European Energy Commissioner Guenther Oettinger addresses a news conference on the security of energy supply and international cooperation at the EU Commission headquarters, in Brussels on 7 Sept, 2011.

REUTERS

Russia won't switch off gas supply to Europe

BERLIN, 9 March — European Energy Commissioner Guenther Oettinger does not expect Russia to switch off gas supplies to Europe over the Ukraine crisis, he told German magazine *Wirtschaftswoche* in an interview published on Saturday.

“I don’t believe it would be in Russia’s interests,” Oettinger was quoted as saying.

Russian gas export giant Gazprom issued a thinly veiled warning on Friday that it could stop shipping gas to Ukraine over unpaid bills. Ukraine is a major gas transit nation for supplies from Russia to the European Union, which relies on Russia for about a quarter of its gas. But Oettinger said a cut-off would not be beneficial for the company: “Gazprom has an interest in its daily sales revenues so that investment is worthwhile and turnover is generated.”

Oettinger said if no more gas flowed through Ukraine, it would affect 14 percent of European gas consumption.

In early 2009 Gazprom cut off gas to Ukraine over unpaid bills, leading to reductions in European supplies during a cold winter.

But Oettinger said Europe was better placed to deal with such a scenario given that the winter had been mild, gas storage sites were fuller than a year ago and European Union countries were now obliged to ensure they had 30 days’ worth of supplies. “We’re in a better position than we were five years ago,” he said.—Reuters

Gov't partially accepts local request on radioactive waste plan

TOKYO, 9 March—In response to a request from the governor of Fukushima, the government has agreed to exclude one of three towns from its plan for building sites to store radioactive waste resulting from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant disaster, sources close to the matter said on Saturday.

Disagreement between the central government and the municipalities in Fukushima Prefecture over the waste facilities has been blamed for obstructing progress in decontaminating areas around the nuclear plant crippled by the March 2011 quake and tsunami.

On a visit on Saturday to Fukushima, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said the government will accelerate efforts to construct storage facilities which are “extremely important to promote decontamination.”

Abe did not elaborate about the plan to build storage facilities which the government aims to start operating in January 2015.

But according to the sources, the government told local officials that it accepts the request made by Fukushima Gov Yohei Sato in mid-February to exclude one of three towns near the disaster-struck power plant picked as sites for the storage facilities.

The Fukushima governor asked the government to exclude Naraha from the plan which also included the towns of Okuma and Futaba as sites for the radioactive waste storage facilities.

Kyodo News



Five members of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) give a Press conference on culture, education, employment, social security, healthcare and environment protection during the second session of the 12th CPPCC National Committee in Beijing, capital of China, on 9 March, 2014.—XINHUA

Ex-guerrilla favourite to win El Salvador's presidential election

SAN SALVADOR, 9 March — A former Marxist guerrilla leader is expected to win El Salvador's presidency on Sunday after promising to expand social programmes for the poor and fending off his opponent's claims that he will impose radical policies.

Recent polls showed Salvador Sanchez Ceren of the leftist Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), the rebel group in the country's 1980-92 civil war, with about 55 percent support heading into the second round run-off vote on Sunday.

One of the wartime

leaders of the FMLN, Sanchez Ceren faces conservative rival Norman Quijano, the former mayor of the capital, San Salvador, who trailed in polls with about 45 percent.

A victory for Sanchez Ceren would give the FMLN a second consecutive term and the affable, media-shy 69-year-old has vowed to build on its social programmes, which include a glass of milk a day for children and free school uniforms, shoes and supplies.

Quijano has tried to paint Sanchez Ceren as a communist radical with

blood on his hands but in a country where one-third of people live in poverty and many rely on money



Salvador Sanchez Ceren, presidential candidate for the Farabundo Marti Front for National Liberation (FMLN), speaks to his supporters after the official results in San Salvador on 3 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

sent home from relatives living in the United States, the FMLN's social programmes are popular.

“No other government has done these things,” said Beatriz Herrera, a 43-year-old fruit seller in Santa Ana, El Salvador's second-biggest city, around 40 miles northwest of the capital. “The FMLN really got to work to help those of us who are poor,” she said in the shade of a gnarled tree beside a spring-fed public swimming pool where youths swam and played.

Santa Ana, founded by coffee barons who built a brilliant white cathedral in the city centre, had long been a power center of the country's powerful right-wing.—Reuters

Greece, Europe to emerge stronger from crisis

ATHENS, 9 March — Greece and Europe will emerge stronger from the current economic crisis, a confident European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso said on Saturday.

The EU leader was addressing 800 participants at the 6th European Summit

of Regions and Cities hosted in Athens with focus on “European recovery and local solutions.”

Members of the EU Committee of the regions, and of national, regional and local parliaments and councils, stakeholders from the Greek civil society, representatives of

associations and experts from the EU institutions took part in the two-day event which closed on Saturday noon.

The aim was to take stock of the efforts made at all levels to deliver recovery and to debate the EU's growth and jobs strategy, the challenges the EU faces

and its future ahead of the elections for the European Parliament in May, as well as the key role of regional authorities in this course. “I am confident that Europe can emerge from the crisis not only stronger, but also more united and open,” Barroso stressed in his keynote speech.

Referring to the host country Greece, he said “I am confident about the future of Greece,” adding that the EU will “stay to support Greece, provided of course that Greeks are able to stay the course of pursuing more competitiveness and make the reforms to have sustainable growth.”—Xinhua

AT&T cuts wireless data charges for individual customers



An At&T logo is seen atop a store in Beverly Hills, California on 31 Aug, 2011.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 9 March — AT&T Inc said on Saturday it is cutting wireless data charges for individual customers who have no annual service contract, as the

No 2 US mobile operator attempts to better compete with rival T-Mobile US Inc. Customers having one smartphone with no annual service contract will now

pay \$65 per month instead of \$80 for a plan that includes 2GB LTE wireless data, unlimited talk and text messaging, unlimited international messaging

and 50 GB cloud storage. Customers with two smartphones will now pay \$90.

The latest plan follows price cuts AT&T announced last month for families and customers who share large data plans, as well as its offer of a \$200 credit to customers who switch to its network. AT&T has been fiercely competing with smaller rival T-Mobile US after T-Mobile spent several quarters directly marketing to AT&T customers. T-Mobile, a long-time industry straggler, was able to report three full quarters of customer growth after four years of losses.

Separately on Friday,

T-Mobile said it was doubling to 1GB the amount of LTE wireless data it was providing with its flagship Simple Choice plan, which costs \$50 a month, and also includes unlimited talk and domestic and international text messaging. AT&T previously said that T-Mobile's efforts only concerned the most cost-conscious customers, who are not its or market leader Verizon Communications Inc's primary targets.

All four US wireless providers, including Sprint Corp, have made price adjustments as they attempt to sustain growth in a mature market built on stealing growth from competitors. —Reuters

Japan to cut bluefin tuna catch in Northern Pacific by half

TOKYO, 9 March — Japan plans to slash by half the amount of juvenile bluefin tuna taken from the Northern Pacific starting in 2015, compared to the 2002-2004 average, a Fisheries Agency source said on Saturday.

The sharp cut may lead to a rise in prices of sashimi at food stores, but the agency placed a high priority on protecting bluefin tuna amid concern about declining stocks.

The move is also aimed at encouraging other nations to adopt massive cuts. Last December an international conference involving Japan agreed to cut each nation's quota for juvenile bluefin tuna, or fish aged 3 or younger, in 2014 by more than 15 percent from the 2002-2004 average.

But Japanese researchers concluded that Japan's goal of raising bluefin tuna stocks to about 50,000 tons will not be achieved even if each country reduces its catch quota by 15 to 25 percent. Stocks of bluefin tuna aged 4 or older in the Northern Pacific are estimated at 26,000 tons, according to the agency.

The agency will explain the plan at a meeting of the government's wide area fisheries coordinating committee on Monday.

Kyodo News

JP Morgan Chase's sale of private equity arm stalls

NEW YORK, 9 March — The auction of JP Morgan Chase's private equity business, One Equity Partners, in the market since at least November, has hit an impasse, according to three people with knowledge of the situation.

Two people close to potential buyers said the bank "pulled" the business off the market. Another source, active in the secondary market but not directly involved with the process, described the auction as stalled after the bank increased its asking price.

"The bid/ask spread has widened dramatically," the secondary professional said. "It's hard to imagine someone stretching to that level. There's a lot of disappointed buyers." Sources said the bank could revive an auction of One Equity at any time.

"The question is, do they try and come back six months from now, or never?" one source said. A spokesperson for JP Morgan Chase declined to comment.

The bank announced last July it was spinning off One Equity, its last remaining private equity operation, because the unit was

not core. JP Morgan Chase was not under regulatory pressure to sell: One Equity would not be affected by the Dodd-Frank financial reform law, which restricts the ability of bank holding companies to own and operate private equity groups, sister news service Reuters reported last year. Potential buyers were bidding for a portfolio of buyout and growth equity investments valued at more than \$4 billion, according to sources.

The winning bidder was also expected to contribute to a new fund the team would raise as an independent firm. As part of the deal, One Equity, which has been investing off the bank's balance sheet, wanted \$1.5 billion to \$2 billion in funding for new deals, Dow Jones reported in November.

Without a deal in place, One Equity team would likely have to move forward without any new capital from the bank. One Equity is drawing from "outstanding capital commitments" from the bank until starting its next fund, which would be raised from external investors, according to One Equity's website.—Reuters



A sign outside the headquarters of JP Morgan Chase & Co in New York, on 19 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

Shanghai Exchange gets approval for trading platform in free-trade zone

BEIJING, 9 March — The Shanghai Stock Exchange has secured approvals from regulators to set up an international trading centre in the free-trade zone, the chairman of the bourse said on Saturday. The move could pave the way for more foreign investors to tap the world's fourth-largest stock market by capitalization and also for foreign companies to issue shares in the world's second-largest economy.

Gui Minjie, chairman of the Shanghai Stock Exchange, said significant progress has been made in recent years allowing Chinese firms to list on overseas markets. However, no foreign companies are allowed to issue shares on Chinese bourses. Speaking



Brokers work next to their computers at the Shanghai Stock Exchange on 18 Aug, 2009. — REUTERS

to reporters at the sidelines of the parliament session in Beijing, Gui said the exchange was preparing a team to study ways to develop the trading platform.

China opened the Shanghai free-trade zone in late September to fuel development of the coun-

try's financial-services sector. Beijing has said that it would allow a trial of a fully convertible yuan capital account in the free-trade zone, sparking hopes for an easing of controls that bar foreign companies from raising capital through IPOs.—Reuters

Ranbaxy recalls some batches of generic Lipitor in latest quality blow

MUMBAI, 9 March — Indian drugmaker Ranbaxy Laboratories Ltd, reeling under a flurry of regulatory rebukes due to manufacturing quality concerns, has recalled more than 64,000 bottles of the generic version of a cholesterol-lowering drug in the United States after dosage mix-up was detected. Ranbaxy recalled tablets of atorvastatin calcium, the generic version of Pfizer Inc's cholesterol fighter Lipitor, after a pharmacist found a 20-milligram tablet in a sealed bottle marked for 10-milligram tablets, the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said on its website.

Ranbaxy, India's biggest drugmaker by revenue

and majority owned by Japan's Daiichi Sankyo Co Ltd, confirmed the recall of select batches of the drug, but said the company had not received any product complaints. "Ranbaxy is proactively recalling the lots out of an abundance of caution, keeping the safety of its patients in mind and with the full knowledge of the US FDA," the company said in a statement issued to Reuters on Saturday.

The recall is the latest in a series of problems to hit Ranbaxy, which has had all its India factories stopped from sending drugs and ingredients to the United States, its biggest market. Ranbaxy-owned Ohm Laboratories Inc in New Jersey is now the company's only



permitted maker of drugs for US sale. Worries about quality control in India's \$14 billion drug industry have come to the fore in the past year as plants run by Ranbaxy and local rival Wockhardt Ltd have been banned after falling short of the FDA's "good manufacturing practices".

India's drugmakers have come under closer scrutiny as the FDA, the guardian of the world's most important pharmaceuticals market, has increased its presence in the country, reflecting India's growing importance as a supplier to the United States.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

China's Tencent may take 16 percent stake in JD.com

SHANGHAI, 9 March — China's largest Internet company Tencent Holdings Ltd may soon announce a deal to take about a 16 percent stake in online retailer JD.com and merge their online shopping platforms, local media reported on Saturday.

JD.com, China's second-largest e-commerce company, has a nearly 13 percent market share. Any deal between two of China's largest online companies would help narrow the huge gap between e-retailers and Alibaba Group Holding Ltd, which dominates China's booming online commerce market.

Under the deal, both companies will combine their e-commerce business, with Tencent transferring its less popular e-commerce sites, including yixun.com, to JD.com, China's major business paper Caixin reported, citing unidentified company sources. Tencent and JD.com were not immediately available for comment. The firms may announce the deal as early as Monday, the paper said, adding that the 16 percent stake was the minimum level being discussed and Tencent could raise the shareholding in JD.com to more than 20 percent.

China's business-

to-consumer e-commerce sales may surpass \$180 billion this year due to rising internet usage, expanding middle-class incomes and a better distribution network, according to New York-based market research firm eMarketer. Tencent, Alibaba and search engine giant Baidu Inc are competing to cash in on the rising popularity of mobile internet in China.

Tencent gets the majority of its revenue from computer games, but its mobile games are also hugely popular, according to figures from domestic app stores. Tencent's WeChat social messaging



Tencent headquarters is seen at Nanshan Hi-Tech Industrial Park in the southern Chinese city of Shenzhen on 9 June, 2011.—REUTERS

app is also used by more than half of all Chinese smartphone users. Alibaba's Tmall marketplace

controls at least half of all online retail sales and its e-Bay like Taobao controls around 80 percent of con-

sumer-to-consumer online sales, according to data from Euromonitor.

Reuters

UK court ruling may prompt more scrutiny of Amazon tax plans



A zoomed illustration image of a man looking at a computer monitor showing the logo of Amazon is seen in Vienna on 26 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

LONDON, 9 March — Amazon's tax affairs could come under more scrutiny in Britain, tax experts said, after a judge questioned whether it really was organized in the tax efficient way it said it was.

The ruling comes as big technology groups, including Amazon, face increasing scrutiny in Britain over their tax practices.

A UK judge ruled earlier this month that Amazon had infringed the

trademark of soap maker Lush by posting advertisements on Google mentioning "Lush soap" and by offering customers who searched for "Lush soap" on its own website a list of options.

Since Lush products were not available on Amazon's UK website — on the manufacturer's insistence — the judge ruled customers could be confused.

Amazon did not respond to requests for comment. Lush said it welcomed the ruling. In addition to denying infringement, Amazon said only its main European operating subsidiary, Luxembourg-based Amazon EU Sarl., and not the group's UK subsidiary, Amazon.

co.uk Ltd, should be a defendant. Amazon argued Amazon.co.uk Ltd had no case to answer because Amazon EU Sarl ran the UK business from Luxembourg, and that the British subsidiary simply provided services such as warehousing to the Amazon group.

This structure is also the basis of Amazon's claim that its retail business doesn't have a tax residence in Britain — and that therefore, all revenues and profits should be declared in low-tax Luxembourg. But the judge said Amazon's depiction of the role of the UK unit was "wholly unreal and divorced from the commercial reality of the situation".

Reuters

Energy industry projects bullish future

HOUSTON, 9 March — Industry executives attending the IHS CERAWeek energy conference in the US city of Houston predicted a bullish future as the week-long summit came to a close on Friday.

They believe energy remains one of the driving engines of the world economy and still has boundless potential to tap. Energy sources will become more diversified in the next few decades with the development of renewables, but fossil fuels would remain central to the energy mix.

Energy demand is not expected to dwindle in the least, instead growing at a substantial rate over the

next 20 years. Developing countries, particularly those in Asia, will be the major contributors to that growth. A louder call was voiced at the summit, one of the world's most influential gatherings of industry leaders, for the US government to ease the ban on crude oil export, as a recent shale boom is rapidly lifting the country from a net importer to a net exporter. Executives argue an open market can only benefit the already oil-sufficient nation economically, politically and diplomatically. But there is no sign yet that Washington will loosen its grip on its strategic assets anytime soon.—Xinhua

MasterCard, Visa form group to enhance payment security

NEW YORK, 9 March — Visa Inc and MasterCard Inc, the world's two largest payment networks, have formed a new cross-industry group to improve payment system security following a number of high-profile data breaches.

The new group, which will include banks, credit unions, retailers and industry trade groups, will initially focus on the adoption of the safer 'EMV' chip technology in the United States, MasterCard and Visa said on Friday.

EMV chip technology, already used in Europe and Asia, stores information on computer chips rather than on traditional magnetic strips. EMV stands for

Europay, MasterCard and Visa, the companies that launched the technology. The move follows several data breaches at US retailers, including one at Target Corp late last year involving the theft of about 40 million credit and debit card records.

"We remain insistent

that US retailers' customers be given the same protections as consumers in more than 80 countries who have both a chip and a PIN securing their credit and debit cards," National Retail Federation General Counsel Mallory Duncan said in a statement.

Reuters



US extends Terremark contract as HealthCare.gov host

WASHINGTON, 9 March — The Obama administration said on Friday Verizon Communications Inc's Terremark unit will remain under contract as host of the federal website HealthCare.gov to better ensure a smooth end to Obamacare's open enrollment period on 31 March. Terremark's contract with the Department of Health and Human Services was due to expire on 30 March, the day before the end of open enrollment for 2014, a time when high daily volumes are expected as consumers from 36 states rush to use to website to sign up for subsidized private health insurance. It would be extended for up to seven months, according to federal documents.

Hewlett-Packard Co



A man looks over the Affordable Care Act (commonly known as Obamacare) signup page on the HealthCare.gov website in New York in this 2 Oct, 2013 photo illustration.—REUTERS

has been named to replace Terremark as website host and operator of the department's federal data centre as part of Obama's Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. "We extended Terremark's contract term

in order to ensure a successful transition between the two contractors," said a statement issued by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the Obamacare agency at HHS.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 10 March, 2014

Proposed law on “balancing” population raises questions*By Kerstin Winter*

The government is planning a law to “balance the increasing population.” According to officials the step has been recommended by monks, with the proposal already submitted by President U Thein Sein to the Union Parliament. On March 7, the government released a notification saying that in order to draft the bill a commission has been formed, including officials from the Ministry of Immigration and Population and the Ministry of Religious Affairs. The planned

law would “strengthen national unity” and take into consideration the existence of the country’s “diverse beliefs and religions.” In that context, what does “balancing the increasing population” mean and where would the new law be applied?

While several foreign organizations have documented an enforced two-child policy in Rakhine state concerning some communities, the government has dismissed the reports as baseless. One local journalist, however, said the planned bill might reflect some policies of Myanmar’s giant neighbour. “It will be just like in China with the one-child policy,” he said. Indeed, the notification from March 7 stated that the bill would be drafted after “studying the laws of foreign countries and analyzing the points acceptable in Myanmar society.”

The one-child policy in China, however, applies to everyone in the country—at least in theory—and not just to one undesirable group. Forcing one section of society to limit its offspring

would cause an outcry in the West, it would be unthinkable, yet Westerners here turn a blind eye to social issues for the sake of profit. Details of what the newly founded commission will focus on in order to draft the bill, and what the bill is really about have not been revealed. The notification only states that the commission will take into consideration “suggestions from monks, citizens and experts.” Linking religious affairs experts with “balancing the increasing population” seems to point in the direction of west Myanmar.

We’ll know more “no later than 30 June, 2014...(when) the commission has to present its final draft to President U Thein Sein.” And the law will come as “the commission’s task is completed when the draft is enacted a law.”

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.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits Mawlamyine...*(from page 1)*

changes are happening and the reforms carried out now will see much improvement in about 10 to 15 years,

He continued that economic success in Myanmar could be achieved in a short period of time if Myanmar is able to produce graduates



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents cash donation to pagoda board of trustees of Kyaikhami Santawshin Pagoda in

Mawlamyine.—MNA

he added.

The aim of opening technological universities in each region and state is to enable local youth to have access to tertiary education. He said out-of-town universities with no accommodation facilities are an issue that needs to be resolved, highlighting the importance of building dorms.

He stressed the need for an increase of salaries for teachers as one of the main points. Adequate salaries are of vital importance in fighting against corruption, he said.

who are proficient in their respective subjects.

At the meeting with the local people at the State hall, the Vice-President said that locals that as part of the country’s reforms they are allowed to set up unions and stage protests.

He said that the reforms have also led to the release of prisoners of conscience and that exiled Myanmar citizens can return home.

Regarding the reforms of the economic sector, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham stressed that some state-owned sectors would



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham offers gold foils to Kyaikhami Santawshin Pagoda in Mawlamyine.—MNA

be privatized and that education and health facilities would be improved.

Highlighting the ongoing problems with rampant corruption, Dr Sai Mauk Kham called on the people to report cases of corruption.

On a lighter note, he said there are plans to sell mobile phones at affordable prices.

The chairmen of Township Development Supportive Committee and locals of Mawlamyine, Beline, Kyaikmaraw, Thanbyuzayat, Kyaikto, Chaungzon and Ye townships reported on regional requirements to the Vice-President and the Mon State Chief Minister made clarifications.

In the afternoon, the Vice-President met with the medical superintendent, specialists, doctors, nurses and staff of Mawlamyine General Hospital and

pledged to fulfill the needs of the hospital. Then, the Vice-President and party looked round the wards of the hospital.

The Vice-President attended the opening of CT Scan building of Mawlamyine General Hospital. The 40 ft long, 35 ft wide RC Type CT Scan building

was built with the fund contributed by the Ministry of Health.

In the evening, the Vice-President paid homage to the Kyaikhami Santawshin Pagoda and donated flowers, water, light and gold foils to the Buddha image and signed the visitors’ book.

Next, he attended the cash donation ceremony of Myanmar Lighting (IPP) Co to Kyonekatat Basic Education High School in Thanbyuzayat Township.

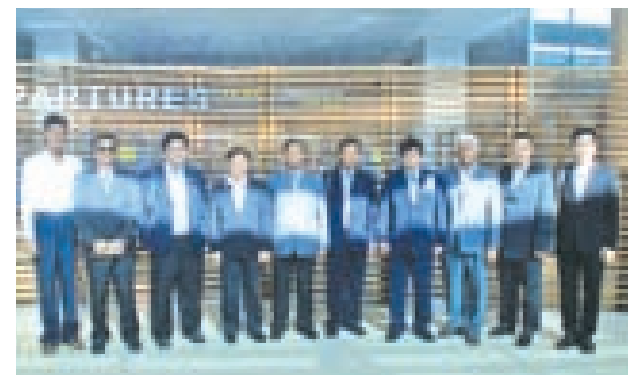
Later, the Vice-President and party viewed round the development of tourism industry in Setse beach.—MNA

Myanmar SMEs’ entrepreneurs leave for Japan

YANGON, 9 March—Altogether 30 Myanmar SMEs’ entrepreneurs members of UMFCI left Yangon for Japan on 3 March to attend the SME’s Competitive Business Strategy (ENBS) Japan, Training Program at HIDA Tokyo Kenshu Center in Tokyo of Japan from 5 to 11 March.

They were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Vice-President

Dr U Myo Thet of Union and Industry-UMFCI of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and officials.

MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Lawkamarazein Pagoda, 28 Buddha images consecration ceremony held in Pyinmana Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March—A ceremony to consecrate the Lawkamarazein Pagoda and 28 Buddha images took place on 8 March at the precinct of the Pagoda.

The pagoda is situated in Pyinmana Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Seventh Sayadaws from the monasteries of Pyinmana Township consecrated the pagoda and Buddha images.

At the ceremony, the State Ovadaçariya Sayadaw Abbot of Zekone Monastery of Pyinmana Township delivered a sermon, and the congregations shared merits gained.

The 141st festival of the Pagoda is being held from 8 to 15 March at there and the merit makers will donate rice to 180 monks at 2 p.m. on 15 March.

Ko Gyi Kyaw (Pyinmana)

About 3000 eye patients get free medical treatment in Myingyan Tsp

MYINGYAN, 9 March—The first free eye care services to mark the 46 anniversary of the Myingyan Sayadaw were provided at 8 a.m. on Saturday at the clinic of Myingyan Township in Mandalay Region.

At the ceremony, the disciples took the Eight Precepts from the Sayadaw. The Sayadaws recited Parittas and the merit makers donated offertories to the Sayadaw and monks.

Wellwishers donated K 43 million for free eye donation through Mandalay Region Minister for Transport U Kyaw San.

The eye specialists from Yangon and Myingyan provided health care services to 3000 eye patients from Myingyan and Taungtha townships.

Of them, over 500 patients were performed operation free of charge made by the eye specialists.—Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)



CENSUS TAKING SENSE CULTIVATED FOR THANLYIN DWELLERS: As the day to take census is drawing near, Immigration officers of Thanlyin Township in Yangon Region supervise tasks of disseminating knowledge on census taking process. Photo shows stickers depicting census process are put on cars for public knowledge on 7 March.

TIN MAUNG NGWE (THANLYIN)

Myawady Tsp FSD carries out drill

MYAWADY, 9 March — Myawady Township Fire Services Department carried out fire drill at Bayintnaung Market in Myawady on Sunday. Before the drill, officials from the fire services department gave talks on preventive measures against fire. Township Administration U Thein Zaw Kan delivered an opening speech and Chairman of Township Development Committee U Than Shwe and officials explained the purpose of the drill. The ceremony was attended by town's elders and departmental officials.

Tun Tun Oo

Farmers in Natogyi Tsp earn higher income from Aster flower

NATOGYI, 9 March — Local farmers in Aungtha Village, Natogyi Township, has earned increasing income from cultivation of aster flowers.

The florists sell K 300 for a bunch of colourful flowers. The farmers grow aster flower in November and pluck flowers in February. Aungtha aster flowers are also shipped to markets in Natogyi, Myingyan and Taungtha.—Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)

Poverty alleviation drives in Mohnyin



MOHNYIN, 9 March — According to Mohnyin District Deputy Commissioner U Aung Soe Moe, 17 tasks have been carried out for poverty alleviation and rural development spending 176.85 million Kyat in Mohnyin District in Kachin State. Among these 17 tasks, building of bridges and laying pipelines have been completed. Officials of Township Development Affairs Committees are now in close supervision on the remaining tasks in Mohnyin, Mogaung and Phakant Townships.

Kyaw Soe Lay (K Hsai Naw-Phakant)

Shwe Saryan Pagoda Festival on 8-16 March



THATON, 9 March—Shwe Saryan Pagoda Festival is being held on 8 to 16 March at the Pagoda in Thaton Township of Mon State.

“We placed 106 shops with fare prices near the pagoda. Swan Zarni Myanmar traditional performing arts troupe will entertain on 13 to 16 March. So, the pagoda festival is crowded with the devotees,” said a member of Pagoda Board of Trustees.

The Pagoda will be consecrated by the Sayadaws and the merit makers will donate rice and offertories to 108 monks on 15 March (the Fullmoon Day of Tabaung).

Thet Oo (Thaton)

Chin brethren enjoy IPRD's BOOK CORNERS in Falam, Chin State

FALAM, 9 March—Centering on the people, staff of Information and Public Relations Department in Falam, Chin State, are serving the locals by establishing Book Corners and Mini Book Corners in public places. A Book Corner opened at Shwe Chin-thae (Golden Lion) Bus Stop in PharHtauk Ward in the town is one of the examples broadening the horizons of people.



Various kinds of books with numerous categories are kept at the book corner. A local expressed his opinion that book corners should be established in every bus stop as they

disseminate knowledge to people. Staff of IPRD, for their part, provide new arrival of books and periodicals for the people every month.—Min Sein

East African nations woo European tourists with single visa

NAIROBI, 9 March — Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda are jointly wooing European tourists with their newly introduced single visa which took effect in January.

The three countries which are part of the five-member East Africa Community (EAC) bloc presented their joint single tourist visa to the world during the ongoing International Tourism Bourse (ITB) in Berlin, Germany on Friday.

Heads of delegations from the three EAC nations that are part of a tripartite agreement praised the move on the visa, launched three weeks ago by Presidents Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya, Paul Kagame of Rwanda and Yoweri Museveni of Uganda as a bold move that will boost regional integration and ease the movement of tourists across the region.

Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for East Africa Affairs, Commerce and Tourism Phyllis Kandie

said whereas in the past tourists visiting the three countries had to seek separate visas in a cumbersome and costly process, all they needed now was to acquire one visa at 100 US dollars and visit the three states as many times as they wished for three months.

"This will harmonize immigration procedures, help curb cross-border insecurity, enable tourists have a one-stop border check point and generally open the region for more visitors," she said in a statement received in Nairobi on Saturday.

The lack of a regional common visa has been a major drawback towards marketing East Africa as a single tourist destination.

Foreign tour operators have complained of cumbersome immigration procedures at border entry points for those who wish to cover various circuits in East Africa.

In particular, the requirement for tourists to disembark from Kenya

tour vehicles to board the Tanzanian vehicles while crossing into Tanzania has been a major point of complaint by the international and local tour operators.

Kenya allows tour vehicles from the East Africa Community (EAC) to operate in the country. Industry watchers say the common visa will ease travel arrangements for those intending to tour East African attractions.

Previously, foreign tourists visiting EAC countries are required to stamp their passports in each EAC country visited. The EAC is also in the final stages of implementing a single visa for the five member states.

The single tourist visa resulted from a joint initiative and decision made by the Heads of State of the respective countries.

Before the establishment of the single entry visa for Kenya was 50 dollars, for Uganda was 50 dollars and Rwanda was 30 dollars.

Xinhua

Roadside bomb targets lawmaker's car in E Afghanistan, wounds three

JALALABAD, (Afghanistan), 9 March — A roadside bomb struck the vehicle of a parliamentarian in the eastern Jalalabad city on Saturday, injuring three people including the lawmaker, a local official said.

"A bomb planted by militants on a road in Behsoud District outside

Nangarhar's provincial capital Jalalabad struck the vehicle of member of parliament Abdul Ghafar, injuring him along with two of his bodyguards," the official told Xinhua but declined to be named.

Meanwhile, an official with the press department of the provincial

government in talks with Xinhua confirmed the incident but did not give more details.

This is the second bomb blast in Jalalabad since Saturday morning. In the previous blast one person was killed and five others injured.

Xinhua

Thousands of women stage protests against gov't, domestic violence in Istanbul

ISTANBUL, 9 March — More than 2,000 Turkish women staged anti-government protests on the International Women's Day in Istanbul on Saturday evening. The demonstrators, mostly women, gathered in Istanbul's busiest Istiklal street to protest the ruling Justice and Development Party's (AKP) policies and any violence against women.

Around 50 members of an association against the women murder gathered on at Gezi Park's entry facing Taksim Square, carrying banners denouncing domestic violence. Riot police backed up with water cannons blocked all the way out to Taksim square cordoning

off the square. The police used their shields to disperse the crowd.

The demonstrators shouted slogans against police brutality and against the government. The female protesters chanted "Police go home, the streets are ours," "Tayyip (Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan) run away the women are coming." The protest ended with minor quarrels between the two sides. According to a survey conducted by the Turkish Health Union, more than 79 percent of respondents believe there is gender inequality in Turkey that has caused poverty and disadvantages among women.—Xinhua



Sam Rainsy (L, upper), leader of the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party, and his deputy Kem Sokha (R, upper) appear at a rally near the Freedom Park in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 8 March, 2014. Hundreds of opposition-aligned trade union activists and workers illegally rallied on a street near the capital's Freedom Park on Saturday morning, calling for higher wages and release of 21 detained protesters.—XINHUA

Radical rebels execute 10 civilians in southern Syria

DAMASCUS, 9 March — A radical rebel group executed about 10 civilians in Syria's southern province of Daraa, the official SANA news agency reported on Saturday.

The report cited online video footage which showed that several armed masked men forced a group of civilians to kneel on the ground for execution. Ten people, including an elderly man and a 10-year-old kid, were killed in a fusillade of bullets fired at close range.

The elderly man begged for his life, while his executioner showed no pity to him but urged another masked militant

to execute the 10-year-old boy. SANA said the massacre took place in Daraa, while activist reports said it was in a town in the northern province of Aleppo and blamed the jihadist Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) for committed the killing.

The ISIL, imposing a radical Islamic rule in the areas under their control, have recently been engaged in fights against other radical groups across Syria.

The Syrian government has for long accused regional countries of supporting such radical groups, which try to establish an Islamic state in Syria.—Xinhua

Kidnapped Syrian nuns expected to be freed soon

DAMASCUS, 9 March — Twelve Syrians nuns kidnapped by Syria's radical rebels earlier could possibly be released as soon as on Sunday, local TV reported.

The pan-Arab al-Mayadeen TV said it has "information about a deal for today's release of the kidnapped nuns of Maloula amid preparations for official reception of them in Damascus."

Radical jihadist militants earlier kidnapped the 12 nuns from their convent in the Christian town of Maloula, north of Damascus. The rebels took the nuns to the nearby town of Yabroud in December last year, where they have been fighting hard with the government troops recently.

Syrian forces have unleashed a wide-scale offensive over the past three weeks to recapture the key town, where more than 10,000 rebel fighters are believed to hide out.

As clashes are flaring up in the surrounding of Yabroud, media reports said communication with the kidnapped nuns had been cut off.

The rebels initially demanded the release of tens of their men in Syrian prisons, but the recent military showdown has apparently forced them into accepting an undisclosed deal to release the 12 nuns, whose kidnapping has unleashed a barrage of international condemnation.

Xinhua



A man participates in an ox race known as "Kalavayal" at Kakkoor in Ernakulam District of India's southern state Kerala, on 8 March, 2014.

XINHUA

REGIONAL

Indian airline Airbus catches fire after landing in Kathmandu

KATHMANDU, 9 March — An Airbus 320 operated by an Indian airline with 182 people onboard caught fire after landing at Kathmandu airport on Saturday, but no passengers or crew were injured, a top airport official said.

A rear landing gear of the IndiGo Air aircraft burst into flames after the plane taxied off the runway on Saturday afternoon, the airport's general manager Rishikesh Sharma said in a statement.

Passengers were

evacuated from the plane's emergency exit and airport personnel doused the fire with extinguishers. One passenger sustained minor injuries.

The cause of the fire was not immediately known.—Kyodo News

An IndiGo Airlines Airbus A320 aircraft is pictured parked at a gate at Mumbai's Chhatrapathi Shivaji International Airport on 3 Feb, 2013.

REUTERS



Pakistan military says Afghan police fires 25 mortars

ISLAMABAD, 9 March — Pakistan's military said that Afghan security forces fired over two dozens mortars into its territory on Saturday, but no one was hurt. The latest incident occurred at a time when the execution of 23 Pakistani security personnel by the Pakistani Taliban and the killing of 21 Afghan soldiers in Kunar Province increased diplomatic tensions between the uneasy neighbours.

Pakistan says that the Pakistani Taliban had executed the security men on the Afghan side of the border last month. Afghan officials said the Afghan Taliban who had attacked a border post and killed 21 Afghan National Army troops had arrived from Pakistan. "Today morning between 0930-1125 hours, Afghan Border Police from Tarkhobi camp fired 25 mortars into Pakistan," military sources said. Tarkhobi camp is located in Afghanistan's eastern Khost Province, which borders Pakistan's North Waziristan.—Xinhua

Four died in vehicle smashup in Philippines

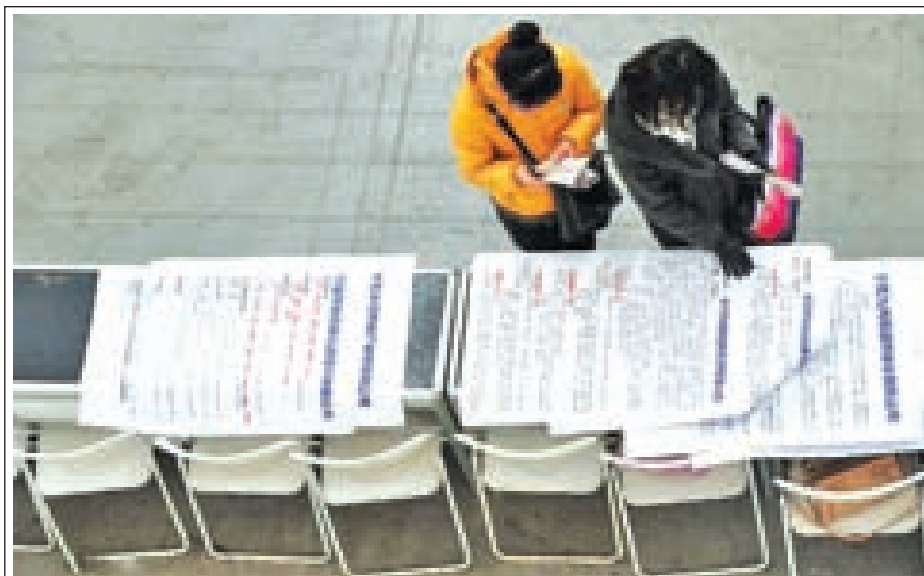
DAVAO CITY, (Philippines), 9 March — At least four people were killed in a multiple-vehicle smashup along a road intersection in Southern Philippine city of Davao on Saturday afternoon, local police said on Sunday.

Chief Inspector Jed Clamor, spokesperson for Southern Mindanao regional police, told Xinhua by text message that according to initial investigation, the accident occurred around 3:15 pm on Saturday when dozens of vehicles were stuck at the traffic snarl at an intersection of the Davao-Cotabato road and the Ulas Division Road in Davao.

"A wayward cement mixer plowed into other vehicles during a traffic jam," said Clamor, adding that the cement mixer then went out of control and hit two other vehicles, including a ten-wheel truck and a motorbike.

Clamor said massive impact killed three people—the drivers of the cement mixer and the motorcar as well as a male motorcycle passenger—instantly.

Xinhua



Job seekers search for information during a job fair in Yinchuan, capital of northwest China's Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on 8 March, 2014. During a job fair held here on Saturday, which marks the 104th International Women's Day, more than 7,000 out of nearly 10,000 positions are open specially for women.—XINHUA

One killed, two injured in accident at site of under-construction nuclear submarine in S India

MUMBAI, 9 March — One worker was killed and two others injured in an accident on Saturday night at a site of an under-construction nuclear submarine at Eastern Naval Command in Visakhapatnam of South India, news channel CNN-IBN reported. The incident took place when the pressure of the hydraulic tank of the Arihant class submarine was being tested and the tank's lid fell on the workers of the shipbuilding center, local media said.

Police sources said

24-year-old Amar was killed on the spot while Amzad Khan and Vishnu were seriously injured and admitted to a private hospital in the city.

The under-construction nuclear submarine was a follow-up of the Navy's warship *INS Arihant*. Indian Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO) chief Avinash Chander has ordered an inquiry into the accident, according to local media.

This accident comes just a day after a gas leak

on an under-construction destroyer in Mumbai killed one Navy officer.

Two officers were killed on Wednesday last week when submarine *INS Sindhuratna* caught fire when being tested at sea.

Navy chief Admiral DK Joshi resigned last week due to a spate of navy accidents in the last few months, including the blast that sank another submarine, *INS Sindhurakshak*, in August last year, killing all 18 sailors and officers on board.

Xinhua

Revive Silk Road to contribute to greater regional connectivity: Chinese ambassador

KABUL, 9 March — The revival of the historic Silk Road is very essential for greater connectivity between China and other countries in the region, Chinese ambassador to Afghanistan, Deng Xijun, said in an article published in an Afghan newspaper on Saturday.

In the article titled the Silk Road — From Past to the Future, published by the English newspaper *Daily Outlook Afghanistan*, Deng said the call of Chinese President Xi Jinping for the joint development of an "Economic Belt along the Silk Road" is the continuation and development of the spirit of the ancient Silk Road.

"The initiative, by linking Central Asia, South Asia and West Asia, will contribute to greater connectivity and complementarity across the sub-regions, bringing Pan-Asian and Euroasian regional cooperation to a new level," Deng said.

The Silk Road has become all the more important

and precious as a symbol of peace, cooperation, openness, inclusiveness, mutual learning and resilience, he stressed.

The ambassador pointed out, "the Belt initiative comes as a highlight in China's diplomacy in the new era, especially its neighborhood diplomacy occupies the primary position in China's overall diplomacy."

"We hope to participate more actively in international affairs including those in the neighborhood through the 'Belt' initiative, highlighting the concept of amity, sincerity, mutual benefit and inclusiveness, providing more public goods and playing a more effective role as a responsible major country," Deng said.

"Let us pool our wisdom and resources, work together to write a new chapter of the Silk Road and build a happy life for all of us," the ambassador concludes.

Xinhua

Campaign begins for Osaka mayoral race, Hashimoto seeks re-election

OSAKA, 9 March — Official campaigning began Sunday for an election to choose the next mayor of Osaka City, with Toru Hashimoto seeking reelection and a fresh mandate for his signature policy of overhauling local administration, while major political parties have distanced themselves from the election.

Hashimoto, 44, surprised voters last month when he announced his resignation as Osaka mayor in the middle of his four-year term so that he can prove he has public support for his goal of creating an Osaka metropolitan government.

Hashimoto, co-head of the opposition Japan Restoration Party, will be running in the race as a candidate of the local chapter of his party.

Other candidates running for the 23 March election are Mac Akasaka, a 65-year-old businessman and head of a political group, Toshihisa Fujishima, the 51-year-old head of another political group and Shigeo Ninomiya, a 37-year-old former temporary staff worker.

Major political parties, — the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner the New Komeito party, the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan, and the Japanese Communist Party have forgone fielding candidates in the election which they say lacks importance.

These parties are critical of Hashimoto's move to hold an election again, calling it wasteful spending of taxpayers' money.

Echoing such a view, a majority of voters in the western Japanese city questioned Hashimoto's bid to seek re-election. According to a *Kyodo News* survey conducted in mid-February, 64.2 percent of 1,014 respondents voiced doubts about his move, while 27.3 percent welcomed it.

The lawyer-turned-politician aims to create an Osaka metropolitan area by merging the Osaka prefectural and municipal governments in April 2015 but his initiative has hit a snag due to opposition from other political groups in the city.

Kyodo News

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

Invitation for Prequalification (For Procurement of Cargo Handling Equipment)

1. The Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a Loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency toward the cost of the Sub-Project for Expansion of Yangon Port in Thilawa Area (Phase-I) under Infrastructure Development in Thilawa Area (Phase-I). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this Loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract resulting from the bidding for which this prequalification is conducted.
2. The Myanmar Port Authority intends to prequalify contractors and/or firms for procurement of the following plants:
 - STS (Ship-to-Shore) Gantry Crane: 2 units
 - RTG (Rubber Tyre Gantry): 6 units
 - Reach Stacker: 3 units
 - Tractor & Chassis: 6 units
 - Forklift (3.5ton-lift): 2 units
3. It is expected that Invitation for Bids will be made in May.
4. Prequalification will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Applicants from eligible source countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement.
5. Interested eligible Applicants may obtain further information from and inspect the Prequalification Documents at the office of Myanmar Port Authority, No.10, Pansodan St. Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar from on March 10-13, 2014 during Office Hour from 9:30 to 16:30.
6. A complete set of the Prequalification Documents may be purchased by interested Applicant(s) on the submission of a written Application to the address above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of USD 500.00.
7. Applications for prequalification should be submitted in sealed envelopes, delivered to the address above by April 23, 2014 and be clearly marked "Application to Prequalify for the Package 2: Procurement of Cargo Handling Equipment, Sub-Project for Expansion of Yangon Port in Thilawa Area (Phase-I) under Infrastructure Development in Thilawa Area (Phase-1)".

U Kyaw Myint

Managing Director, Myanmar Port Authority
No, 10. Pansodan St. Kyauktada Township,
Yangon, Myanmar
Facsimile number: 95-1-246781. 391355

Uncontrolled groups kill, injure civilians in Sudan's Darfur

KHARTOUM, 9 March — Tens of civilians were killed and injured when "uncontrolled groups" attacked the Saraf Omra area in Sudan's North Darfur State, local media said on Sunday.

"The situations at the western and eastern parts of the State are very critical and necessitate the intervention of the central government to provide urgent assistance to people affected by the fighting," media quoted Osman Yousif Kibir, North Darfur State Governor, as saying. He added that "uncontrolled groups" have kept working

to disturb security and stability at western localities of the state. A few days ago they targeted the Central Reserve Forces, and then attacked Saraf Omra.

But the governor refuted a potential threat against El Fasher, the capital city of North Darfur State.

He also criticized the silence of the international community toward rebels' crimes. "The international community is standing a side and looking at crimes of the rebels," Kibir said, reiterating his government's ability to bring matters back to normal track.

Xinhua

INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER (16th Term Supply Tender)

1. Open Tenders are invited for the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of High Speed Diesel 1.645 M bbls ±10% and Jet A1 0.752 M bbls ±10%.
2. Tender Closing Date : 2-4-2014 at (12:00) noon.
3. Tender Opening Date : 2-4-2014 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, Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing 13-3-2014 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 Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise

China's 2011-2015 green investment to hit 5 trillion yuan

BEIJING, 9 March — China is expected to invest more than 5 trillion yuan (817 billion US dollars) in environmental protection during the 12th Five-year Plan period (2011-2015), an environmental protection official said on Saturday.

The investment comes from the government, financial institutions and enterprises and also includes social capital, said Wu Xiaoping, vice minister of environmental protection, on the sidelines of the ongoing annual session of the National People's

Congress, China's top legislature.

China has been increasing its spending on environmental protection steadily, with an investment of 602.6 billion yuan in 2011, 825.3 billion yuan in 2012 and an estimated sum of 1 trillion yuan in

2013, he said.

The government's investment in this area will increase substantially in 2014 with the introduction of a water pollution prevention and control action plan this year, according to Wu.

Xinhua

Iran receives 2nd tranche of payment under interim nuclear deal

TEHRAN, 9 March — Iran received the second installment of previously frozen oil assets under an interim nuclear deal with world powers, local media reported on Saturday.

The new funds, amounting to 4.5 million US dollars, was transferred to the account of Iran's Central Bank on Monday, reports said.

Under the nuclear deal reached in Geneva in late November last year, Iran is urged to freeze and scale back part of its nuclear programme for a six-month period in exchange for a western sanction relief, including a gradual release of Iran's oil assets up to 4.2 billion US dollars.

Under the agreement, the funds are scheduled to be paid out in eight transfers which started with a 550-million-dollar payment by Japan on 1 February. The International Atomic Energy Agency has been tasked with monitoring Iran's nuclear developments. Its head, Yukiya Amano, confirmed on Monday that Iran had made sufficient progress in implementing its commitments in line with the schedule.

Xinhua



A worker of the Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE, for its Spanish acronym) of El Salvador, placed ballot boxes at the National Institute "General Francisco Menéndez", ahead of the second round of the presidential election, in San Salvador, capital of El Salvador, on 8 March, 2014.—XINHUA

20 years of traditional Chinese medicine in Malta

VALLETTA, 9 March —With its 20 year anniversary next month, Malta's centre for traditional Chinese medicine is enjoying increasing popularity, as an alternative medicine in Europe.

The Mediterranean Regional Centre for Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) in Paola treats up to 10,000 Maltese patients per year using the ancient treatment techniques of acupuncture, massage, and sometimes physical therapy, the clinic's director Wang Xiaolan told Xinhua.

The natural treatments, part of a holistic, functional

approach to medical therapy, are effective on more than 50 types of complaints relating to aches and pains, internal organ disorders, like hyperthyroidism, skin problems and also weight gain, according to the clinic fact sheet. The Maltese know the clinic by word of mouth, Wang said, because it's been here for 20 years.

"They know our centre, they know TCM. The results are important — as long as the patients have good results, they will keep coming here. Now we are getting more and more patients," she explained.

"It was marvelous.

They're amazing," said John Felix, a 78-year-old patient suffering aches and pains, testifying to the success of the treatments. Long popular in East Asia, the strictly therapeutic TCM treatments, which unlike painkillers, have no side effects, are increasingly in demand in the West recently, as an alternative to pill popping. In Malta's neighbour Italy, some one in seven of the population of some 58 million have recently used some form of natural, alternative medicine, according to a European research network, CAMbrella.—Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Bollywood's top 10 women-oriented films in the past decade

MUMBAI, 9 March — Considered to be a male-dominated industry, Bollywood sometimes celebrates woman power with aplomb. In the past decade, several such movies with power-packed female characters have come to the fore.

On the occasion of International Women's Day on Saturday, here's a look at ten such movies:

Murder (2004): During the year when Dhoom defined the Hindi film heroine as the air-headed eye-candy, Mallika Sherawat came to the forefront as a horny wife cheating on her husband. The last time that a screen wife had an affair under her husband's nose was when Mala Sinha took a shine to adultery in Gumrah. This was different. This was a lot more physical. Mallika didn't mind taking off her clothes during sexual intercourse. Women's inner-wear became as important as their inner thoughts.

Black (2005): Rani Mukerji's proudest moment. As a deaf and mute girl who climbs over every mountain to reach her goal, Rani's performance in this Sanjay Leela Bhansali film was brave



Vidya Balan in a still from Kahaani.

and inspirational. She swept the awards and made her name as an actress who can be relied on to excel in an author-backed role. Her personal association with the Yash Raj Films banner has cost Rani plum roles in outside productions. After a disastrous heroine-oriented turn in Aiyya, she will again be seen in an author-backed role in Mardaani.

Water (2005): Deepa Mehta named her incandescent heroine Kalyani after the timeless Nutan in Bandini. And Lisa Ray

as the new-age Kalyani in this tale of forbidden love between a widow and a social reformer did not let her namesake down.

The Namesake (2007): Aushima Ganguly stranded in the US after her husband's death shakes and weeps uncontrollably, that one sequence defined Tabu's impressive ability to shoulder films with the aplomb that her aunt Shabana Azmi showed throughout the 1970s and 1980s. Tabu had the makings of another Shabana. She ruined it with her smug

laid back attitude. Her histrionics today seem outdated when pitched against Parineeti Chopra and Alia Bhatt's zest for excellence.

Fashion (2008): Madhur Bhandarkar's hard-hitting saga of a small town girl's rise as a supermodel and then the tripping over drugs and the fall. This was Priyanka Chopra's career-best performance matched only by her brilliance in Barfi. She lives out the model's dreams, nightmares and ambitions with

a conviction that scoffs at the artifice that defines the glamour world. Chopra was so hot in the film that she made her co-star Arjan Bajwa look like a lost kid in her presence.

That Girl In Yellow Boots (2011): Kalki Koechlin's made-to-order role as a foreigner trying to eke out a decent living in Mumbai through underhand means in a massage parlour was a portrait of peril under pressure. She seemed to not act at all. And boy, that is quite something.

Kahaani (2012): Now the kahaani can be told. Vidya Balan pretended to be pregnant all through this film. Her final denudation of the artificial baby bump at the end signified how far the heroine's image had come in our film. In Kahaani, Vidya and Kolkata were the heroes. Bengali star Parambrata Chatterjee joked he was the heroine of Kahaani. Some years ago, Shilpa Shetty had played the 'hero' of Phir Milenge while Abhishek Bachchan and Salman Khan sportingly stepped in to be cast opposite her. Times, they are a-changing. Sujoy Ghosh wrote Kahaani specially for Vidya and even named the protagonist after the actress.

English Vinglish (2012): Sridevi's comeback film, released during the same year as Vidya Balan's Kahaani, featured the 50-year-old actress as a housewife on a journey of self-realization. Debutant director Gauri Shinde was obviously a crazy Sri fan. That helped. Sadly, no other film since then has found place for Sridevi's indomitable talent.

Heroine (2012): This film did not set the box office on fire as it was expected to, but Kareena Kapoor's descent into a cocaine-sniffing nervous wreck of a movie star was stark, raw and moving. Too bad, director Bhandarkar seemed to be making "Fashion" all over again. Kareena, though, still has a lot to give to the camera.

Queen (2014): Rani gets jilted at the altar and decides to alter her life irreversibly. Kangana Ranaut's interpretation of a girl's journey through darkness into the light is so bouncy, bubbly and burnished that you want to stand up and applaud this film about a small-town Indian girl's journey of self-realisation.

Yes, girl power lives on in our movies.

PTI

Why Vidya Balan thinks she could soon win an Oscar

MUMBAI, 9 March — Actress Vidya Balan said that she hopes to win an Oscar award.

"I have never thought of winning an Oscar. Rather I never thought I would get the Padma Shri. I think God has been kind to me. I think getting Oscar award is not too far away," Vidya, who is the Ambassador of the Indian Film Festival of Melbourne Awards, said at a Press conference, where she also announced nominations for the award function, scheduled to take place from 1 May to 11

May.

Vidya said she is happy with the response her recently released film Shaadi Ke Side Effects received.

"People enjoyed the film and it feels good. I hope the film makes a mark. Life has been kind to me. I am happy with the love and appreciation that I have been getting throughout my career. I feel blessed. I try to do diverse and different roles," she said.

When asked if she plans to join politics, Vidya says she had no such plans.

PTI



Vidya also said that she has no plans to join politics.



Nicholas and Jennifer have been dating since 2011.

Jennifer Lawrence unchanged by fame, says Nicholas Hoult

LOS ANGELES, 9 March — Actor Nicholas Hoult feels fame has not changed his Oscar-winning partner Jennifer Lawrence.

The British star first, who started dating the American Hustle actress in 2011, said despite all the accolades she's still the same person, reported *Us* magazine. "The privacy thing obviously changes but the rest pretty much stays the same. It's like that thing whereby you don't believe your own hype. Enjoy the good times, but don't get swept away with it. And I think that's something she's capable of doing and that's what makes her special, but yeah, it is very odd, and I am just kind of a bystander in many ways. It is well-deserved for her. I haven't really seen any change in her," he said.

Nicholas Hoult, 24, first met Jennifer Lawrence on the sets of *X-Men: First Class* in 2011 and after a break in early 2013 they got back together when they were filming forthcoming sequel *X-Men: Days of Future Past*, which he says was a great experience because it meant they were able to spend plenty of quality time together.—PTI

Leonardo DiCaprio drops out of The Deep Blue Good-By

NEW DELHI, 9 March — The *Wolf of Wall Street* star Leonardo DiCaprio has dropped out of *The Deep Blue Good-By*.

The 39-year-old actor was due to star in the movie adaptation, but will now no longer take the leading role, reported *Digital Spy*.

The Deep Blue Good-By is based on the book by John D MacDonald. The story centres on Travis McGee, a beach person who gets into misadventures during his salvage consultant jobs.

The reason behind Leonardo not starring in the film has not been disclosed yet.

Leonardo again missed out on a Best Actor prize at the Oscars, losing to Matthew McConaughey and causing Twitter to trend "Poor Leo".—PTI



The reason behind Leonardo not starring in the film has not been disclosed yet.—PTI

Li, Federer win in Indian Wells, Nadal survives scare

Cary, (NC), 9 March — Top seed Rafa Nadal survived a scare from Radek Stepanek before winning his BNP Paribas Open second round match in three tight sets at Indian Wells on Saturday. The Spaniard, in his first match

as defending champion, was stretched to the limit before prevailing 2-6, 6-4, 7-5 in night match that lasted two hours, 24 minutes in the California desert.

Nadal served eight double faults and was broken three times, but he

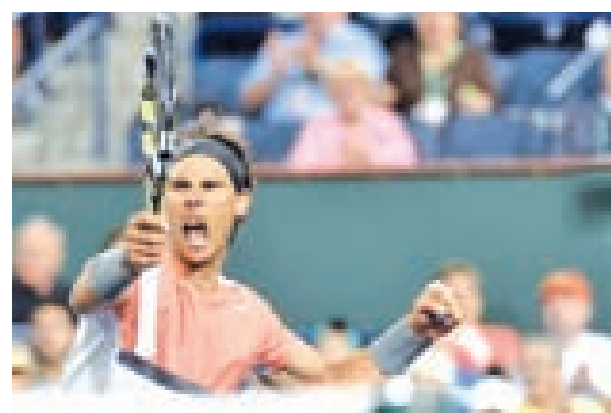
also broke his Czech opponent three times, including twice in the final set. The pivotal moment came in the sixth game of the third set, when Nadal fended off three break points to hold serve. Earlier, Briton Andy Murray recorded his 300th hardcourt victory when he beat Stepanek's compatriot Lukas Rosol in three sets.

Fifth seed Murray recovered from a slow start to beat his Czech opponent 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 as the top seeds took to the courts for the first time after receiving first round byes. "I got broken three times in a row the end of the first set, beginning of the second," Murray told reporters. "I just kind of kept going and found a way to win, which is always the most important thing."

Only five active players have won more tour-level hardcourt matches, headed by Roger Federer (575). Seventh seed Federer dominated the first set but was taken to a tie-break in the second before prevailing 6-2, 7-6(5) against French qualifier Paul-Henri Mathieu, while Swiss compatriot and Australian Open champion Stanislas Wawrinka clinched a 6-3, 7-5 win over Croatia's Ivo Karlovic. Australian Lleyton Hewitt failed to notch his 600th career win when he was beaten by South African Kevin Anderson 7-6(5), 6-4.

The veteran Hewitt saved 10 of 11 break points but was unable to break the tall 17th seed's powerful serve in the match.

There was high drama



Rafael Nadal (ESP) reacts after winning his 2nd round match against Radek Stepanek (CZE) during the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells Tennis Garden. Nadal won 2-6, 6-4, 7-5.—REUTERS

in another match as Colombian Alejandro Falla saved a match point at 5-2 down in the third set to beat Polish 18th seed Jerzy Janowicz 6-3, 2-6, 7-6(5). On the women's side, top seed Li Na beat Chinese compatriot Zheng Jie 6-1, 7-5. Aus-

tralian Open champion Li notched six breaks as Zheng struggled on serve. Defending champion Maria Sharapova made short work of her first match, beating German Julia Goerges 6-1, 6-4 in barely an hour.—Reuters



Andy Murray (GBR) during his match against Lukas Rosol (CZE) during the BNP Paribas Open at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden.—REUTERS

Reed in Cadillac driver's seat, Woods in hot pursuit

DORAL, (Florida), 9 March — American Patrick Reed will take a two shot lead into the final round of the WGC-Cadillac Championship while Tiger Woods stormed into contention with the lowest round of the tournament on Saturday. With the punishing winds that created havoc on Friday giving way to calm conditions, the Blue Monster course lost much of its bite allowing emboldened golfers to attack the pins.

Reed, who had a share of the four-way overnight lead, fired a three-under 69 to secure a two-shot advantage over compatriots Jason Dufner (68) and Hunter Mahan (71) into Sunday. The 23-year-old, however, might be looking a little further down the leaderboard where Woods is one shot further back after a sizzling 66 left the world number one well-placed to make

a run at an unprecedented eighth WGC-Cadillac title. "That's fine. I've seen Tiger a lot on the driving range," said Reed, when asked how he would feel see Woods in his Sunday red shirt in front of him. "Never had the opportunity to play with him and I still haven't been able to play with him."

"But you know, whenever he's close to the lead,

he's a guy you have to watch out for." "At the same time, I have to go and just play my own game." After a grueling second round described as a survival test, smiling players basked in nearly ideal conditions on Saturday under a brilliant south Florida sun. While no golfer produced a round in the 60s on Friday, nine did on Saturday

with 27 breaking par compared to three a day earlier. Woods was six behind the leaders when play began on Saturday before he mixed eight birdies with two bogeys to get to one-under for the tournament.

"It was nice to get back in the tournament again," smiled Woods. "I held it together yesterday, a long day, a long, tough day and that gave me a chance today. 'I figured, hey, I'm only six back, that's definitely do-able, especially with the conditions and how difficult this golf course is playing. 'If I just get back to even par for the tournament, I'll be right there and I did one better.'" The 14-time major winner carded birdies at the first and third and while he made bogey at the fourth, the world number one continued to claw his way up the board with two more birdies at five and nine.—Reuters



Patrick Reed tees off from the 5th hole during the third round of the WGC — Cadillac Championship golf tournament at TPC Blue Monster at Trump National Doral.—REUTERS



Richard Kilty of Britain celebrates victory next to Jamaicans Nesta Carter and Kimmari Roach in the men's 60 metres final at the world indoor athletics championships at the ERGO Arena in Sopot on 8 March, 2014.

REUTERS

Briton Kilty steals 60 metres show in closest final

LONDON, 9 March — Briton Richard Kilty shocked the favourites to win the tightest ever 60 meters sprint final at the World Indoor Athletics Championships on Saturday. "I told my dad four years ago that I'd be a world champion and to think I've come out and done that, I feel like crying," the 24-year-old Kilty told reporters.

Kilty took the gold medal in a personal best time of 6.49 seconds overcoming American favorite Marvin Bracy and third-placed Qatari Femi Ogundode. The eight finalists were separated by a mere 0.09 seconds in the race at the Ergo Arena in Sopot, Poland.

Veteran fellow Briton Dwain Chambers and Jamaican Nesta Carter, re-

spectively bronze and silver medalists at the championships in Istanbul two years ago, were sixth and seventh. There was also a surprise winner in the women's 60 meters hurdles with American Nia Ali beating Australian defending champion Sally Pearson to the line in a personal best 7.80 seconds. Britain's Tiffany Porter was third.

"It wasn't my night, but it was Nia's and I have to congratulate her on a great performance," Olympic 100 meters hurdles champion Pearson said. "She was the best athlete out there and I have said all along that it isn't about times, but instead about the athlete that can run the best race at the time and she did that."

Reuters

Atletico leapfrog Barca and Real Madrid to temporarily go top of Primera Liga

MADRID, 9 March — Two goals from David Villa lifted Atletico Madrid to the top of the BBVA Primera Liga on Saturday night. Villa scored in the 62nd and 64th minute to give Atletico a 2-0 win away to Celta Vigo and lift them above Real Madrid, who play at home to Levante on Sunday afternoon, on head to head goal difference. The game looked to be heading for a draw between two well-matched sides, before Villa took advantage of a dreadful error from Celta left

back Jony to open the scoring with a low finish.

Celta were still reeling two minutes later when Villa again found space on the edge of the Celta area to score his second of the night and make a case to go to this summer's World Cup after being left out of the Spain squad for Wednesday's 1-0 win at home to Italy. Atletico took advantage of Barcelona's disastrous 1-0 defeat to struggling Valladolid earlier in the day to cause what is probably the biggest upset

of the season to date in the Primera Liga.

Despite fielding his strongest possible side, Tata Martino was left frustrated as his side were never in the game against a rival who seemed to want to win more than the reigning champions. Fausto Rossi's 17th minute goal decided the game and although

Leo Messi and Neymar both had chances for Barca, the truth is Barca were second best and the result means the destiny of the league title is not now in their hands even if they win in Madrid in two weeks. Getafe

coach Luis Garcia is looking odds on to lose his job after his side were beaten 2-0 away to bottom of the table Betis. Xinhua



GENERAL

Anti-nuclear protests held in Taiwan ahead of Fukushima anniversary

TAIPEI, 9 March — Defying rain and wintry chills, anti-nuclear activists in Taiwan staged island-wide protests on Saturday ahead of the third anniversary of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant disaster in Japan following a monster earthquake and tsunami on 11 March, 2011. Protesters staged marches in northern, central, southern and eastern Taiwan, demanding that the government immediately stop the construction of a fourth nuclear power plant located in the densely populated north of the island.

Organizers said more



Anti-nuclear protesters march in Taipei on 8 March, 2014, ahead of the third anniversary of the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant disaster in Japan following a monster earthquake and tsunami on 11 March, 2011.—KYODO NEWS

than 120,000 people took part in the island-wide protests, 70,000 in Taipei alone. Police estimated the turnout in the capital at 22,000.—Kyodo News

Algeria, Mali to strengthen border security

ALGIERS, 9 March — Visiting Malian defence minister said on Saturday that his country hopes to strengthen the security cooperation with Algeria along their borders, which the latter closed earlier last year due to tensions in north Mali.

“We will revive our security cooperation in border areas which had been suspended by necessity because Mali could no longer control these regions,” Malian Defence Minister Soumeylou Boubeye Maiga said after meeting with Algerian Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamra.

Maiga has requested Algeria to start exploratory talks in relation to the crisis in north Mali. He and his Algerian counterpart signed a minute on military cooperation between the countries.

But Lamamra evoked the issue of the abduction of Algerian diplomats in north Mali in April 2012. He said that the case was a matter of “constantly agenda” in Algerian-Malian discussions.—Xinhua

Liverpool police hunting down robbers targeting Chinese

LONDON, 9 March — British police on Saturday said they are investigating a series of robberies of homes of Chinese living in Liverpool that occurred during the past few weeks.

The Liverpool-based Merseyside Police force’s Serious and Organized Crime Investigation Unit has been drafted in to investigate the raids in the city, home of Europe’s oldest Chinatown.

The police say they are working closely with the Chinese community to bring the culprits to justice.

So far the police are linking seven separate cash and jewellery raids that have taken place over the past few weeks.

Although none of the targets have been injured, gang members have threatened Chinese residents using iron bars and golf clubs as weapons.

The raids have all taken place

at the homes of Chinese business people, mostly in various up-market suburbs of Liverpool.

Police Superintendent Mark Wiggins of Merseyside Police said while no-one was physically attacked the culprits turned up brandishing golf clubs and iron bars to threaten homeowners.

“Being subjected to such an offence must be very frightening for the victims,” he said. “The force is taking a coordinated approach to investigating these incidents and we are determined to trace those responsible.”

Police said a leaflet, with crime prevention advice, will also be made available to the Chinese community.

Each of the police force’s Area Commanders have been told about the robberies so patrols and high-visibility policing can be increased where necessary.

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(10-3-2014, Monday)

- 6:00 am**
1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:30 am**
2. Physical Exercise
- 7:00 am**
3. News/Weather Report
- 8:30 am**
4. Documentary (ASEAN)
- 9:30 am**
5. Cartoon Series
- 10:00 am**
6. News
- 11:15 am**
7. Weekly Entertainment
- 12:00 pm**
8. News/International News/Weather Report
- 2:35 pm**
9. Documentary
- 3:00 pm**
10. News
- 3:15 pm**
11. Cute Little Dancer
- 4:15 pm**
12. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Second Year (Chemistry)
- 5:00 pm**
13. News
- 5:15 pm**
14. Songs of Yester Years
- 6:00 pm**
15. News/Weather Reoprt
- 6:20 pm**
16. Documentary
- 7:00 pm**
17. News
- 7:25 pm**
18. TV Drama Series
- 8:35 pm**
19. People Talks
- 8:45 pm**
20. Hit Songs of Stars
- 9:00 pm**
21. News
- 22. Documentary**

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(10-3-14 07:00am~ 11-3-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Tapestry; A Genuine Myanmar Handicraft
- * World News
- * Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting
- * Local News
- * Food Trip (Ep-3) (Part-1)
- * World News
- * In The Studio : L CO
- * Local News
- * Journey To Unimaginable Spots (Ep-6)
- * World News
- * Modifying Natural Thanakha Bark into Ready-Made Skin Care Product
- * Local News
- * Home Grown Treasure
- * World News
- * Making of Nawarat Rings
- * Local News
- * A Trip to Mon State “Mawlamyine”
- * World News
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Bayern Munich march on, Leverkusen drop points in German Bundesliga

BERLIN, 9 March — Bayern continue their relentless run with a goal festival in the closing period at Wolfsburg meanwhile third placed Leverkusen share the spoils with Hannover at the 24th round of Bundesliga on Saturday. Bayern Munich carry on their title-march in the Bundesliga as they came from behind to crush resilient Wolfsburg 6-1. The “Bavarians” underline their title-defence ambitions after their 16th consecutive win and a 23-point lead atop the standings.

The “Wolves” staged an auspicious start as Naldo headed home the opener at the far post following Kevin de Bruyne’s pin

point cross at the 17th minute. The deficit for Bayern seemed to be a wakening call for Pep Guardiola’s men when Xherdan Shaqiri cancelled out the stunning opener by Wolfsburg nine minutes later. Bayern completed their comeback at the hour mark as Thomas Mueller made use of Thiago Alcantara’s through ball beating onrushing custodian Diego Benaglio for the 2-1 lead.

Wolfsburg seemed dazed, as Bayern were able to extend their lead with four goals within 17 minutes. Mario Mandzukic made it 3-1 on the scoreboards with his volley shot from 13 meters into the bottom right at the 66th

minute. Frenchmen Franck Ribery added the fourth goal before Mueller and Mandzukic wrapped up their braces to inflict Wolfsburg the ninth loss of the season. Bayer Leverkusen stopped their losing streak of five matches although they wait for their first win since six games. However, the “Werkself” gave away a neat lead to share the spoils with Hannover following a 1-1 draw.

Hannover nearly grabbed a perfect start but Leverkusen’s goalkeeper Bernd Leno denied Szabolcs Huszti’s foul play penalty at the 5th minute. Leno already denied five penalties this season. Leverkusen took the lead



at the half-hour mark when Gonzalo Castro’s deflected effort overcame Hannover’s goalie Ron Robert Zieler. Nonetheless Leverkusen were unable to put the result beyond doubt as Hannover responded minutes later through Artjoms Rudnevs, whose hammer beat Leno into the top left corner. Both sides remain on their positions, Leverkusen stay on third place with 44 points while Hannover

occupy 11th place with 26 points.

Schalke recover from two heavy defeats as Klaas Jan Huntelaar helped his side with a hat rick to beat Hoffenheim 4-0. The Dutchman ensured a bright start for the “Royal Blues” when he broke the deadlock with just six minutes into the game. Huntelaar made it two following a successful fast break at the 28th minute, beating Hoffenheim’s goalkeeper Koen Casteels from 16 meters into the bottom right. Huntelaar took the liberty to squander one penalty when he tried to beat Casteels, who denied the Dutchman with a save four minutes later. Hoffenheim pressed to reduce the

arrear but instead Schalke got their third when Chinedu Obasi exploited a square pass by Kevin Prince Boateng ten minutes into the second half.

The third goal took the wind out of Hoffenheim’s sails, as Huntelaar was not done with the scoring when he completed his hat trick and the 4-0 win at the 79th minute. Elsewhere, Monchengladbach still wait for their first win in 2014 as Lucien Favre’s men lost 2-1 to Augsburg that maintain in the hunt of a berth in Europe. Stuttgart stopped their eight-game losing streak as the “VfB” shared points with bottom side Braunschweig following a two all draw.—Xinhua

Ducheeyadan Alal village fire started deliberately: eye witnesses

YANGON, 9 March— Fires were reported in Ducheeyadan Alal village in Maungtaw this morning, there were no casualties. According to eye witnesses, some villagers burnt their own houses.

The fire at about 10 am which turned a small religious building and 12 houses into ashes was put out on 11.45 am. According to eye witnesses from the same village Daw Halal Mahadu, aged 60, and Ma Hamida, aged 30, the fire was started by Sawdi Mullah, aged 42, son of U Maitha, who set fire to his own house.

Local police led by

Police Major Min Oo and Maungtaw District Police Force led by Police Inspector Thaung Tun rushed to the scene as the fire was reported.

The commanders of local police battalions, the deputy commissioner, the district police force commander, the township administrator, the district law officer, the township police force commander, Hluttaw Representative U Aung Myo Min, President of Chamber of Commerce and Industry U Aung Myint Thein, the Ducheeyadan village-tract administrator, officials and the towns elders visited the scene

at 2 pm. The grain silo of the accused was found to have been evacuated to a safe place before the fire broke out and his family members made no attempt to put out the fire.

Ducheeyadan Alal village has a population of 450 villagers. Some men hid during the day and returned to their homes at night. In this case, we have witnesses who claimed the man named Sawdi Mullah sprinkled his home with bottled gasoline and started the fire. The questioning of witnesses was done in the presence of village-tract administrator U Aung Zan Phyu

and village clerk U Than Tun Oo and Oli served as the interpreter. Sawdi Mullah is wanted by

the police in connection with the Police Sergeant Aung Kyaw Thein case. The fire caused the esti-

mated loss of more than K 640,000," an official said.

MNA



Local authorities inspect the scene of fire in the Village of Ducheeyadan Alal in Maungtaw Township.—MNA



Several houses in the Village of Ducheeyadan Alal in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State, were completely destroyed by fire on 9 March, 2014.—MNA



Government welcomes int'l, private sector cooperation to raise education standards

At the Education Reform Forum held from 5- 6 March in Nay Pyi Taw, U Zaw Htay, Director-General of the Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) spoke out about the challenges faced to reform the education sector and foreign interest in investing. In an interview with Kyemon newspaper he said aspects focusing on national security and a comprehensive economic development should be taken into consideration for the reform process.

Kyemon: What steps will be taken to reform higher education?

U Zaw Htay: Necessary measures will be taken to promote the national education standard. Curriculum modification, academic and financial assistance for all-round development of infrastructure is planned.

Kyemon: We heard privatization will be allowed in higher education. Please elaborate.

U Zaw Htay: It is true that privatization will be allowed at university level. Green light will be given to Myanmar businessmen to establish universities, but only through cooperation with the government. Local businessmen can do joint ventures with foreign investors.

Q: What are the rules and regulations for the establishment of foreign universities in Myanmar?

A: Foreign investors have to make investments first. They then have to follow the investment law and education-related rules and regulations.

Kyemon: What are the arrangements for private schools?

U Zaw Htay: Private schools will be allowed and encouraged. We welcome cooperation with the private sector in the education sector. Promotion of education cannot be achieved by the government alone. Works being carried out by civil society organizations

and private sector will be acknowledged after the formulation of laws and policies. We recognize private sector cooperation.

Q: How do you see the monastic schools?

A: They are important and necessary. The Myanmar education system is thought to have originated in these schools. Monastic schools play a key role in providing education to the children in remote areas. We have to discuss ways to assist those schools.

Q: When will we see success with the education reform?

A: The education standard first has to reach ASEAN level, then we can

discuss meeting international levels. I hope ASEAN level higher education will be achieved in Myanmar within two or three years. I believe our Myanmar students have a sense of creativity. They have fighting spirit.

Most things are changing now. Reforms will range from pre-primary to tertiary education. Graduates will have access to jobs. Autonomy will be given to universities.

Q: Is there any international interest in Myanmar's education sector?

A: Numerous countries have shown interest in the sector. Discussions with ASEAN members are

Kyaw Thura (Nay Pyi Taw)



U Zaw Htay, Director-General of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar)

underway. France, Germany and Japan said they will set up training programs for Myanmar people to be able to work in their enterprises here.

Trs: YM