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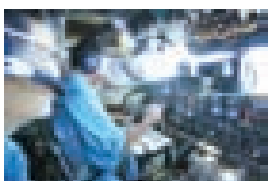

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President confers title on monks as Myanmar marks Fullmoon Day of Tabaung

President U Thein Sein confers title on a monk at Nay Pyi Taw's Uppatasanti Pagoda.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March — As part of one of the country's most important Buddhist events —the Fullmoon Day of Tabaung—President U Thein Sein visited the compound of Nay Pyi Taw's Uppatasanti Pagoda on Saturday to confer titles on monks, nuns and laypeople.

108 Members of the Sangha from Myanmar and 15 from foreign countries received the honour, with the titles conferred on those who have shown outstanding performance in promoting Buddhism.

The ritual dates back to the Bagan era and is traditionally performed during the Full Moon Day of Tabaung.

The day also marks the annual Buddhist pagoda consecrations across the country, with Saturday's ceremony at Uppatasanti Pagoda attended by high-ranking monks and top government officials.

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Myanmar hopes ancient city of Inwa will become UNESCO World Heritage

NAY PYI TAW, March 15 — Myanmar is hoping the ancient pagodas and buildings of Inwa will be included on the UNESCO World Heritage list, with officials saying they have fulfilled the requirements for a nomination.

Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu said on Friday that they have pledged to protect the cultural heritage of Myanmar. He stressed the Inwa Cultural Heritage Zone near Mandalay must be preserved, urging officials to expand and construct roads and erect communication towers in the zone following the rules and regulations of the ministry and the UNESCO.

At a meeting with departmental officials and local people in Inwa, the Union minister stressed the need for conservation of the ancient buildings and pagodas, adding the original architecture must not be altered.

Inwa was an imperial capital of successive Myanmar kingdoms from the 14th to 19th centuries, and was abandoned after it was completely destroyed by a series of major earthquakes in March 1839. It is a popular day-trip tourist destination from Mandalay.

MNA

New jetty at Dala Bank in Yangon to be built

By: Maung Maung Myint Swe
Photo: Tin Soe (Myanma Alinn)

A new jetty at Dala Bank on the Yangon River will replace the current jetty which does not meet safety standards, with the groundbreaking ceremony held on 12 March, officials said.

The Dala Bank jetty was damaged by Cyclone Nargis in 2008, with the Japanese government offering to build a new facility supported by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency.

"The construction of the jetty will help to further strengthen and promote the friendship between Myanmar and Japan," said Masahiko Kanaka, Representative of JICA.

The Japanese government will also provide three ferries which will operate between the Dala and Pansodan jetties.

The three new ferries will be delivered once the new jetty is ready to start operations, with the jetty expected to be completed in October, according to an official of the Myanmar Inland Water Transport.

The new facility will include two bridges for arrival and departure, a quay and a recreation lounge.

Trs: AMS

Myanma Alinn: 13-3-2014

Images carved into Ingyin Hill in Yinmabin Township invite tourists

MONYWA, 15 March — "Images carved into the *Ingyin Hill* in Yinmabin Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Region in upper Myanmar are contemporary with those in *Pohwin Hill* of the same region, but till now few people *visit Ingyin Hill* which is located to the northeast of *Pohwin Hill*." said an abbot monks residing at the area.

Artifacts and images found in *Phowin Hill* area are stretching from one place to another but caves, religious edifices and artifacts in *Ingyin Hill* area can be found collectively in one place.

According to the historians, images in *Phowin Hill* date back to *Nyaungyan* Dynasty from 1549 A.D. to 1750 A.D, and to British colonial period. So also in *Ingyin Hill* area adjacent to *Phowin Hill*, artifacts of *Nyaungyan* Dynasty can be found.

As access to *Ingyin Hill* area is now improved on four furlongs long road, pilgrims, historians, students and those who wish to dig into the history can reach the area easily.

Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

***Photo shows images carved into the Ingyin Hill in Yinmabin Township, Monywa District, Sagaing Region.*— MYO WIN TUN (MONYWA)**

"Soul Bird" in Monywa

MONYWA, 15 March— Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hagay Moshe Behar donated books to libraries in Sagaing Region at a ceremony held at the Information and Public Relations Department in Monywa on 13 March.

The ambassador explained the purpose of the donation before he handed over the books including *"Soul Bird"* to officials. Region Women's Affairs Committee also donated books to the libraries.

Before the donation ceremony the ambassador discussed matters on greening of Sagaing Region and development of libraries in the region with Region Chief Minister U Tha Aye.

During his tour, the ambassador also visited *Minywa Zeya Mingalar Pitakat* library in the town and again made book donations. On the occasion, the Sagaing Region Government donated a set of SkyNet Receiver to the library.

Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

New hospitals built for brethren in Pekhon in Shan State

PEKHON, 15 March— With the 210 million kyat contribution of Japanese government under its Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Project (GGP) Scheme, Township Supporting Committee and Dear Myanmar Group build wards in Pekhon Hospital in southern Shan State.

The hospital was built in 1964 as a 16-bed hospital and was upgraded into 25-bed hospital in 2009.

Due to increase in the number of patients, the hospital cannot afford accommodation. Ways have been sought to solve the problems and thanks to the donors the construction of male ward at a cost of 133 million kyat can be started on 26-11-2013 and completed by 30 percent. The Children's ward is also under construction at the hospital.

Ko Htwe (IPRD)

NEW ROAD IN MOGAUNG OF JADE LAND: *Myintzutha Construction Company builds nearly one mile long road in Mogaung Township in Kachin State. Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Area Development allotted over 60 million kyat to build the road. Upon completion, the road will benefit about 15000 people in the region.*—TUN HLA AUNG

Taungkhayan Dam to supply water to summer paddy field

GANGAW, 15 March— Last year, water flowing into Taungkhayan Dam in Gangaw Township in Magway Region of Central Myanmar, was lower than the average that summer paddy could not be cultivated except 85 acres.

This year the water storage capacity of the dam increased and farmers are preparing for summer paddy cultivation.

It is planned to put 700 acres under summer paddy starting from 15 March said an official of Agriculture Department.

Sein Kyaw (Wabohchaung)

Handsome prize for winners of Myawady Golf Tourney

MYAWADY, 15 March —As a gesture of hailing 69th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a golf tourney organized by Myawady Golf Club will be held at Mya Sandi Golf Course in Myawady on 23 March. Place contact U Tun Tun (phone-09 255 723 675) to participate in the tourney. Handsome prizes will be awarded to winners.—*Tun Tun Oo (Myawady Border Town)*

West prepares sanctions as Russia presses on with Crimea takeover

*A Ukrainian tank takes part in the military exercise near Kharkiv on 14 March, 2014. —*Reuters

Sevastopol / Donetsk, 15 March —Dozens of Russians linked to Russia's gradual takeover of Crimea could face US and EU travel bans and asset freezes on Monday, after six hours of crisis talks between Washington and Moscow ended with both sides still far apart.

Moscow shipped more troops and armour into Crimea on Friday and repeated its threat to invade other parts of Ukraine in response to violence in Donetsk on Thursday night despite Western demands to pull back.

EU diplomats will choose from a long list of 120-130 possible Russian targets for sanctions on Sunday, as pro-Moscow authorities who have taken power in Crimea hold a vote to join Russia in the worst East-West confrontation since the Cold War.

Several diplomats dismissed a German newspaper report that said the list would include the heads of Russia's two biggest companies, energy giants Gazprom and Rosneft.

US Secretary of State John Kerry said Russia would be guilty of a backdoor annexation of Crimea if its parliament ratified the Crimea referendum, which is taking place after an armed takeover of Crimea and gives voters no chance to say "no".

He has warned Moscow that US and EU sanctions could be imposed as soon as Monday, although US officials said after Kerry's marathon meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in London on Friday the door was still open for more talks. Lavrov played down his own ministry's threats, saying Moscow had no plans to invade Russian-speaking eastern Ukraine, where pro-Moscow groups have occupied some government buildings.

Reuters

Philippine gov't, rebels set to sign peace pact on 27 March

Manila, 15 March — The Philippine government and the country's largest rebel group will sign their final peace agreement on 27 March, aimed at ending four decades of insurgency that stunted economic development in the southern island of Mindanao, an official said on Friday.

Presidential peace adviser Teresita Deles, in a statement, said the signing of the Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front "is expected to benefit not only the Bangsamoro but the entire country, and will radiate beyond our borders to the regional community, and perhaps the whole world."—*Kyodo News*

Vietnam to cooperate with Japan over maritime security

Hanoi, 15 March — Amid tensions over territorial disputes in regional waters, Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang said on Friday his country seeks to maintain maritime and aviation safety, as well as peace and security, through cooperation with partners such as Japan and the ASEAN countries.

Sang, who is effectively the No 2 official in Vietnam's Communist Party, is set to visit Japan from Sunday."We follow with deep attention" the situation over the East China Sea, where Japan and China are involved in a territorial dispute, Sang also said in a written interview with *Kyodo News.*

Vietnam hopes countries will "adequately handle existing differences" through peaceful dialogue and on the basis of "compliance with the international law," he added.

In a face-to-face interview with *Kyodo* and some other Japanese media outlets Friday, Sang suggested that care must be taken toward the needs of developing countries if the ongoing Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade talks are to reach a deal early.All 12 countries involved, including both Japan and Vietnam, agreed on the need to end the talks "on the basis of balancing the interests of all member states," he said. —*Kyodo News*

US prosecutors again indict Indian diplomat Khobragade

New York, 15 March — A grand jury in New York has returned a new indictment against Indian diplomat Devyani Khobragade for visa fraud, two days after a US judge dismissed a similar indictment because she had diplomatic immunity.

Khobragade's arrest in December and a subsequent strip search drew outrage in India, causing a major diplomatic rift between the United States and India. The United States granted her immunity and then essentially had her expelled from the country in a flurry of diplomatic maneuvers on 9 January, the same day she was indicted for the first time. "Unfortunately, I can have no comment at this stage," Khobragade's lawyer, Daniel Arshack, said in an email. "The government of India will respond in due course."

The new indictment effectively returns the case to where it was before Wednesday's dismissal. US District Judge Shira Scheindlin ruled on Wednesday that Khobragade, who was India's deputy consul-general in New York, had diplomatic immunity when she sought on 9 January to dismiss the indictment, and thus could not be prosecuted for alleged underpayment of her nanny.

A spokesman for Preet Bharara, the US Attorney in Manhattan, said at the time that the ruling did not bar prosecutors from seeking a new indictment based on the same charges, now that she has left the country.

*Indian diplomat Devyani Khobragade (C) leaves with her father Uttam Khobragade (L) from the Maharashtra Sadan state guesthouse to meet India's Foreign Minister Salman Khurshid in New Delhi on 11 Jan, 2014. —*Reuters

In Friday's move, the grand jury indicted Khobragade for visa fraud and making false statements. Prosecutors have accused her of forcing Sangeeta Richard, her housekeeper and nanny, to work 100-hour weeks at a salary of just over $1 an hour, far below the US legal minimum wage of $7.25 an hour.—*Reuters*

Syrian troops storm rebel stronghold

Damascus, 15 March — Syrian troops have started to storm the rebels' key town of Yabroud, north of the capital Damascus, with "heavy and focused" shelling, local media reported on Friday night.

"The Syrian army is entering the town of Yabroud from all directions and advancing on all hubs of the town," the report said, adding that the troops have recaptured all of building blocks at the entrance of the town and its surrounding.

Xinhua

Malaysian PM says Lost passenger jet was diverted deliberately

*Senior Lieutenant and flight captain Vu Duc Long (R) looks at a map of a search area on iPad while flying a Vietnam Air Force AN-26 aircraft, during a mission to find the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, off Con Dao island, on 14 March, 2014. —*Reuters

Kuala Lumpur, 15 March — Investigators believe someone aboard a missing Malaysian airliner deliberately shut off its communications and tracking systems, turned the plane around and flew for nearly seven hours after it vanished, Prime Minister Najib Razak said on Saturday. Shortly after the prime minister finished speaking police arrived at the home of the missing aircraft's pilot to search for evidence, a senior police official told *Reuters*.

As the unprecedented search for Flight MH370 and its 239 passengers and crew entered its second week, Najib told a news conference that the hunt for wreckage around the scheduled flight path to the east of Malaysia was being called off.

"Despite media reports the plane was hijacked, I wish to be very clear, we are still investigating all possibilities as to what caused MH370 to deviate," Najib said.

The fate the of the Malaysian Airlines *Boeing 777-200ER* has been shrouded in mystery since it disappeared off Malaysia's east coast less than an hour into a March 8 scheduled flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing.

But investigators have increasing focused on the possibility that it was flown off-course by the pilot or co-pilot, or someone else on board with detailed knowledge of how to fly and navigate a large commercial aircraft.

Police officers arrived at the home of the captain, 53-year-old Zaharie Ahmad Shah, on Saturday afternoon. A senior Malaysian police official told *Reuters* they had gone to take evidence that could help with the investigation.

Najib said new data showed the last communication between the missing plane and satellites at 8:11 am Malaysian Time.

That is almost seven hours after it dropped off civilian air traffic control screens at 1:22 am last Saturday, less than an hour after take-off. It was flying across the mouth of the Gulf of Thailand on the eastern side of Malaysia towards Vietnam.—*Reuters*

Photo taken on 13 March, 2014, shows traffic jam in central Damascus, Syria.—KYODO NEWS

Japanese man found dead in northern India

MUMBAI, 15 March — A 23-year-old Japanese man was found dead Friday morning in the northern Indian city of Varanash, according to the online edition of *The Times of India* and other media outlets.

Local people noticed the body of the man near a religious center along the Ganges River in one of India's Hindu holy cities, the newspaper said quoting police.

Authorities are suspecting foul play or suicide, according to the media. A rope was found around the neck, and there were no signs of struggle and no signs of his belongings having been stolen.

The Japanese Embassy in India has not disclosed the identity of the man apparently taking into account the wish of the man's family.

The man reportedly arrived in Varanash Thursday afternoon after entering India via New Delhi.

Kyodo News

Somali president pays visit to Hiroshima memorial park

HIROSHIMA, 15 March — Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud on Saturday paid a visit to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park dedicated to the victims of the 1945 US atomic bombing of the western Japan city. After meeting with Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui, Mohamud laid flowers at the memorial for victims of the attack and toured the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

According to Hiroshima city officials, it is the first visit by a Somali president to the city.

Mohamud arrived in Japan on Tuesday for a five-day visit. He met with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Thursday and agreed to continue bilateral cooperation in fighting piracy in waters off the Horn of Africa country.

Kyodo News

Woman makes jams to bring smiles to people's faces

NARA, (Japan), 15 March — When simmering seasonal fruits and vegetables, Akiko Okuda always imagines the face of each person who eats her jam.

"I wish one spoon of my jam will bring a smile to everyone's face," the 42-year-old said. Under the brand name "confiture cotocoto," Okuda has produced more than 60 different kinds of jams using fresh fruits and vegetables such as strawberries, apples, peaches, lemons, kiwis, grapes and tomatoes. Sometimes, she even uses rice.

Okuda had little knowledge of farming until she married a man whose parents were strawberry farmers.

She was impressed with the taste of fruit pollinated only with the help of bees and grown without pesticides. To be of some help to the family business, Okuda launched a shop selling handmade jams in the backyard of her home in Nara, western Japan, in 2012. She had studied jam-making techniques over the years and her jams do not contain any artificial ingredients.

Her jams are now so popular that they soon sell out at shops across Nara Prefecture.

Okuda said she always thinks about the feelings of those who eat her jams, wondering what the best combination will be, for instance, for a man who wants to give a jam to his girlfriend's parents or for a mother who wants to reward herself with a jam.

"A jar of her jam is packed full of her tenderness," one of her friends said, The idea for a new kind of jam seems to form when Okuda thinks about someone.

A year ago, a friend told Okuda that her mother was exhausted from caring for her sick husband.

Okuda made a jam with ginger and fruit of the matrimony vine, which she claims can "relax both the mind and body."

The friend later told her that the jam tasted great when mixed with milk and helped her mother to sleep well at night.

The jam's reputation has spread by word of mouth and Okuda now produces several hundred jars a season.

Not only does Okuda take trouble over ingredients and techniques, she also cares about the color.

Among her jams for the spring season is one made from apple juice and tinged with strawberries. She also adds pink cherry blossom petals.

"I want to hear people say, 'Wow, how beautiful!' I want to make something that can visually entertain them," Okuda said.—*Kyodo News*

Pakistani Taleban agree on direct talks with gov't

ISLAMABAD, 15 March — Pakistani Taleban have agreed to hold face-to-face talks with the government, a senior member of the Taliban dialogue committee, Prof Mohammad Ibrahim, said on Friday.

Ibrahim, who wrapped up his two-day talks with the Taleban leaders in Waziristan tribal region, told a news conference on return that his talks are constructive, and said the Taleban leaders will now hold direct talks with a government negotiation team.

The Taleban intermediary traveled to Waziristan tribal region on Thursday for talks with members of the Taleban political council to decide venue and agenda for the proposed direct talks with the government.

"The Taleban have proposed a venue for the coming talks that will be shared with the government team," leader of the Taleban intermediaries, Maulana Sami-ul-Haq, told a news conference at his religious school in the northwestern town of Akora Khattak. Ibrahim briefed Maulana Sami-ul-Haq about his talks with the Taleban leaders before the mediators discussed strategy for the next meeting with the government team, expected on Saturday or Sunday.—*Xinhua*

Anti-military protestors take part in a demonstration in Nasr City neighbourhood in Cairo, Egypt, on 14 March, 2014. Anti-military protestors held rallies across the country to demand the return of the ousted President Mohamed Morsi.—XINHUA

US offers rewards for information on al-Shabaab members

WASHINGTON, 15 March — The US State Department on Friday announced rewards of up to 3 million dollars each for information on three members of al-Shabaab, a Washington - designated terrorist organization based in Somalia.

The agency is seeking the arrest of Abdikadir Mohamed Abdikadir, better known as Ikrima, for his role in recruiting Kenyan youth into al-Shabaab and as a commander of a force of the group's Kenyan fighters in Somalia. Jafar, a.k.a. Amar, is wanted for being Abdikadir's deputy, while Yasin Kilwe is described as al-Shabaab's emir for Puntland in northern Somalia.

In a statement, the department noted that al-Shabaab has killed thousands of civilians, aid workers and peacekeepers in Somalia, Uganda and Kenya since 2006.—*Xinhua*

Traditional Sports

The following is the reproduction of the Myanmar Hotel and Tourism Guide 2013. Please visit www.tourismguide.com.mm for further information. — Ed

Chinlon

This is a sport played with a woven cane ball, and the players standing in a ring try to keep the ball aloft without touching it with their hands. They use their head, shoulders, chins, arms, knees and feet to flip the ball to each other or keep it airborne. It is a sport of unity and harmony and is the only sport in the world with no winning or losing sides. In Chinlon competitions, marks are given for the team that keeps the ball aloft the longest and plays with the most graceful moves.

Traditional boxing

Traditional boxing is the second most popular sport in the country after soccer. Traditional boxing is similar to Thai kickboxing, but the contestants do not wear gloves. The Myanmar Traditional Sports Federation regularly holds tournaments in July, while private organizers arrange occasional bouts throughout the country.

Myanmar Traditional Martial Arts competitions and performances

Myanmar has its own traditional martial arts, the techniques of which have been handed down through the generations. Traditional martial arts are often demonstrated at the opening or closing ceremonies of national or regional events. The Myanmar Thaing (traditional martial arts) Federation organizes shows and competitions in August and December.

Entertainment

Classical dance

There are a number of traditional performing arts shows in major destinations including Yangon, Mandalay and Bagan. Some hotels and restaurants also have cultural shows, such as classical Myanmar dance, music and marionette performances. Traditional performing arts of the highest quality can also be seen at the annual Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions, held in the capital, Nay Pyi Taw. Pre-selected competitors from each state and region compete for gold medals. The competition is held in October or November.

After Dark

For nightlife entertainment, Yangon offers clubs, pubs, karaoke and bars with more or less the same atmosphere as elsewhere in Asia but without any sex shows. Most hotels have bars. Restaurants include Le Planteur, 50th Street Bar and Grill, Monsoon, Ginki Kids, Inya One, The Street Bar, Bar One, Nooch Bar, Friendship, Sport Bar, Escape, SS at Sayar San Street, and Ko San at 19th Street, China Town.

Iran president discusses nuclear issue with Putin on phone

TEHERAN, 15 March — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin discussed Iran's nuclear issue as the West aims to curb sensitive part of Iran's nuclear programme, Press TV reported on Friday.

"Iran and world powers are at an important stage for reaching final negotiations," Rouhani said in a telephone conversation with Putin on Thursday.

Rouhani expressed hopes that the other party in the nuclear negotiations would help resolve the issue faster "through constructive interaction and fulfilment of their commitments," according to the report. "We do our best so that Iran's nuclear issue could reach the final result," Putin was quoted as saying.

Iran and the P5+1 group, including five permanent members of the United Nations plus Germany, signed an interim nuclear accord in Geneva last November, which came into effect on 20 January. Both sides are scheduled to meet in the Austrian capital of Vienna on 17 March to discuss a final deal on Iran's nuclear issue.

Xinhua

Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) soldiers patrol next to the Israeli-Lebanese border in Har Dov, on 14 March, 2014. The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) fired shells into southern Lebanon after an explosive device was detonated near a military vehicle patrolling along the border on Friday, an IDF spokesperson said. Reports said that the Israeli military fired at least 15 heavy artillery shells and five flare shells from a position near the northern town of Metulah. No injury was reported. Earlier Friday, an explosive device was detonated near an Israeli military vehicle near Har Dov along the Israeli-Lebanese border. —XINHUA

As hope withers, Palestinian president heads to Washington

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas speaks during a meeting with Israeli students in the West Bank city of Ramallah on 16 Feb, 2014.
REUTERS

JERUSALEM, 15 March — With pessimism growing by the day over the future of Middle East peace talks, US President Barack Obama will meet Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Washington on Monday to try to break the stalemate.

The deadline for the negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians, aimed at ending their entrenched conflict, expires next month and Washington is eager to persuade the two sides to prolong their discussions within a new framework.

But expectations of imminent progress are minimal.After eight months of initial talks, and at least 10 trips to the region, US Secretary of State John Kerry sounded unusually gloomy during a Congressional hearing on 12 March, indicating that little progress had been made so far. "The level of mistrust is as large as any level of mistrust I've ever seen," said Kerry, a veteran of Middle East diplomacy. "Neither (side) believes the other is really serious. Neither believes that ... the other is prepared to make some of the big choices that have to be made here."

However, he said it was still possible to extend the talks. Obama's direct involvement is aimed at providing much needed additional impetus: he saw Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu earlier this month, and is now meeting Abbas. Israelis and Palestinians have been holding on-off negotiations for more than 20 years with the stated aim of sharing the Holy Land and creating an independent Palestine.

Reuters

Japanese lawmaker to meet with Australian trade minister over FTA

TOKYO, 15 March — A Japanese ruling party lawmaker said on Friday he will meet with the Australian trade minister next week in Canberra to accelerate bilateral free trade talks.

Tokyo and Canberra are expected to conclude FTA talks in April, when Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott is slated to visit Tokyo. The two countries held working-level talks earlier this week.

Koya Nishikawa, a House of Representatives member of the Liberal Democratic Party, said he is hoping for an honest exchange of views with Australian Trade and Investment Minister Andrew Robb on Monday over sticking points such as how to deal with tariffs on beef and automobiles, issues that are seen as key to the successful conclusion of the nearly seven-year negotiations.

"I'm sure that Australia really wants to strike a deal with Japan," Nishikawa told reporters prior to his departure for Australia at the behest of the LDP.

Australia has called on Japan to reduce tariffs on beef, which is one of its main export items, while Japan wants Australia to scrap its 5 percent auto tariff at an early date.

Kyodo News

Severe punishment for terrorism

BEIJING, 15 March — Zhou Qiang, head of the Supreme People's Court, has urged courts across the country to hand down severe sentences for terrorists to maintain safety and stability.

Speaking at a Friday's meeting, Zhou told courts at all levels to serve their justice function to the utmost and strengthen the fight against terrorism.

According to the Zhou, those responsible for crimes of violent terrorism, such as the Kunming railway station attack on 1 March that left 29 civilians dead, and destruction of military facilities must be dealt with "heavily and quickly" in accordance with the law.

Xinhua

US to seek extradition of Ukrainian industrialist

WASHINGTON / VIENNA, 15 March — The US government will ask Austria to extradite Ukrainian industrialist Dmytro Firtash to face charges filed in a Chicago court arising from an investigation into international corruption, US prosecutors said on Friday.

One of Ukraine's most influential oligarchs, Firtash, 48, was arrested in Vienna on Wednesday. On Friday, a court there ordered him held and set bail at $174 million (125 million euros).

"The charges result from an investigation, which the FBI has conducted for several years, of an alleged international corruption conspiracy," US prosecutors said in a statement.

"Firtash's arrest is not related to recent events in Ukraine," they said in a reference to the political crisis between Ukraine and Russia. Documents describing the charges are sealed.

Reuters

Dmytro Firtash, one of Ukraine's richest men, is seen in Kiev on 18 May, 2010. —REUTERS

Kansai Electric seeks to avoid planned outages even without reactors

TOKYO, 15 March — Kansai Electric Power Co is seeking to avoid resorting to planned outages in its service area even if it cannot rely on nuclear reactors to meet electricity demand in the summer, the utility's President Makoto Yagi said on Friday.

"We are considering taking measures so that we will not have to implement planned outages," Yagi told a Press conference in Tokyo, referring to an emergency measure taken by Tokyo Electric Power Co. after the massive earthquake and tsunami in northeastern Japan in March 2011 crippled its power generation plants and raised fears of a power crunch.

Yagi made the remarks as nuclear regulators decided Thursday to prioritize the safety review process of two reactors owned by Kyushu Electric Power Co, suggesting ongoing safety checks of Kansai Electric's reactors may fall behind. Reactors need to clear the safety checks before utilities are allowed to reactivate them.

It will be the first time since the 2011 disaster that people in Osaka and surrounding prefectures will spend the summer without any of the regional utility's reactors online.—*Kyodo News*

Breastfeeding past two years linked to infant tooth decay

New York, 15 March —Breastfeeding is credited with a long list of benefits, but one downside of extended and intensive breastfeeding may be a higher risk of cavities in baby's first teeth, according to a new study.

The more frequently a mother breastfed her child beyond the age of 24 months during the day, the greater the child's risk of severe early tooth decay, researchers found. "The No 1 priority for the breastfeeding mother is to make sure that her child is getting optimal nutrition," lead author Benjamin Chaffee of the University of California, San Francisco told *Reuters Health*. Chaffee completed the study as a doctoral student at the University of California at Berkeley. He and his team looked at a possible link between longer-term breastfeeding and the risk of tooth decay and cavities in a survey of 458 babies in low-income families in the city of Porto Alegre, Brazil.

Because the study lasted more than one year, most babies were eating various kinds of solid food and liquids in addition to breast milk. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends that babies are fed breast milk exclusively for the first six months of their lives, with solid foods added to the diet at that point.

However, the WHO also recommends continued breastfeeding up to age two and beyond, the authors note.For the study, the researchers checked in on babies when they were about 6, 12 and 38 months old. At six months, the study team gathered data on the number of breast milk bottles the baby drank the day before and any other liquids, like juice.At the 12-month mark, parents reported whether they fed their babies any of 29 specific foods, including fruits, vegetables, beans, organ meat, candy chips, chocolate milk, cookies, honey, soft drinks or sweet biscuits.Two trained dentists examined all of the babies at each of the visits.

Nearly half of the children had consumed a prepared infant formula drink by age 6 months, the researchers write in the Annals of Epidemiology, but very few still drank formula by age 1.

The researchers found that about 40 percent of children breastfed between ages 6 and 24 months had some tooth decay by the end of the study. For babies breastfed for longer than two years and frequently, that number rose to 48 percent. "Our study does not suggest that breastfeeding causes caries," Chaffee said.It is possible that breast milk in conjunction with excess refined sugar in modern foods may be contributing to the greater tooth decay seen in babies breastfed the longest and most often, the authors speculate in their report.

More research is needed to determine what's going on, but the findings are in keeping with professional dental guidelines that suggest avoiding on-demand breastfeeding after tooth eruption, they write."There are two aspects of breastfeeding — the actual human milk, which has some, but very little, ability to promote tooth decay," said William Bowen, professor emeritus in the Center for Oral Biology at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York. "The second is the physical aspect of breastfeeding, or even bottle-feeding, and that's where the problem arrives," he said. Bowen was not involved in the new study. When a baby sucks on a mother's breast or from a bottle, the baby's teeth are sealed off from saliva in the mouth.

This physical barrier prevents the saliva from breaking down bacteria, and increases the chances of tooth decay, Bowen said. Even though participants in the study came from poor backgrounds, "bad habits can form at any socioeconomic level," Bowen told *Reuters Health.*

About 16 percent of babies in the US were still exclusively breastfed at age 6 months last year, according to the National Centre for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. The good news, Bowen said, is that it's very easy to clean an infant's teeth.

A simple wipe in the mouth with a water-dampened cloth or Q-tip can effectively remove food before the baby's first teeth, he said, adding: "It's important to get the excess food out of the mouth."One not-so-good habit is allowing infants to stay on a mother's nipple throughout the night, Bowen said. This usually means very little saliva circulates in the baby's mouth, which can increase the risk of decay. The primary caregiver of the baby should also maintain good dental health because the bacteria that cause tooth decay in a baby usually come from the primary caregiver, Bowen explained.—*Reuters*

A "Maiko" apprentice geisha examines a Leica camera at the German camera maker's store in Kyoto, its seventh directly managed shop in Japan, on 14 March, 2014, ahead of the store's official opening the following day. The Leica Kyoto shop is a two-story "machiya" traditional house, originally built some 100 years ago.—Kyodo News

IBM says it has not given client data to the US government

New York, 15 March — International Business Machines Corp has not relinquished its customers' data to the US government and would challenge any orders to do so, the company said in a blog post on Friday.

The post by the world's largest technology service provider is the latest backlash by a tech company against US electronic surveillance practices, after published reports on Wednesday that alleged the government used websites to break into computers.

"IBM has not provided client data to the NSA or any other government agency under any surveillance programme involving the bulk collection of content or metadata," Robert Weber, IBM's senior vice president of legal and regulatory affairs, wrote in the blog post. "If the US government were to serve a national security order on IBM to obtain data from an enterprise client and impose a gag order that prohibits IBM from notifying that client, IBM will take appropriate steps to challenge the gag order through judicial action or other means," Weber said.

He added that the New York-based company would challenge national security orders to obtain data stored outside the United States and that efforts to access that data should go through recognized legal channels like treaties.The NSA has "co-opted" more than 140,000 computers since August 2007 to inject them with spying software, according to a slide leaked by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden and published by The Intercept news website on Wednesday.

In a statement, the NSA said the reports were "inaccurate" and said it does not target users of global Internet services without appropriate legal authority." Reports of indiscriminate computer exploitation operations are simply false," the agency said.

IBM is one of several US tech companies hit by the growing government spying scandal. Its sales to China fell by 20 percent in the second half of last year as Beijing encouraged state- owned companies to buy China-branded products on fears of US government spying.

In the post, Weber also called for greater transparency and a robust debate about government surveillance." Data is the next great natural resource, with the potential to improve lives and transform institutions for the better. However, establishing and maintaining the public's trust in new technologies is essential," he wrote.

Reuters

Orix to buy US insurer Hartford's Japan unit

Tokyo, 15 March — Orix Corp is in the final stages of talks to buy the Japan subsidiary of major US insurance firm Hartford Financial Services Group Inc for roughly 90 billion yen, sources close to the move said on Saturday.

The two parties are looking to reach a final agreement on the purchase in April and complete the deal by June, the sources said.

Orix is considering merging the acquisition with its current life insurance unit with the aim of expanding operations. Hartford Life Insurance KK, which started operations in Japan in 2000, had roughly 375,000 plans in force as of late 2013.

The move is the latest in a string of pullouts from the Japanese market by foreign insurance companies following the 2008 financial crisis.

British insurance firm Prudential Financial Inc is selling its Japan unit to SBI Holdings Inc and German insurer Allianz stopped new sales in 2012.

Kyodo News

Smithfield halts hog kill at North Carolina plant due to hog virus

New York, 15 March —Smithfield Foods Inc, the world's largest pork processor, suspended hog slaughter at its Tar Heel, North Carolina, plant on Friday because the spread of the Porcine Epidemic Diarrhea virus (PEDv) has tightened hog supplies, industry sources said.

The Tar Heel plant, the company's largest pork processing facility, reduced its slaughter schedule this week to four days from five days, said sources who requested anonymity due to the sensitivity of the issue. While it is not slaughtering hogs on Friday, the plant is processing meat from this week's kill, the sources said.PEDv does not affect humans and is not a food safety risk. Smithfield, acquired last year by China's Shuanghui International, says it does not comment on daily operations, minor disruptions, and openings or closings of processing plants. Industry sources say the plant processes roughly 30,000 hogs a day.

Reuters

GoDaddy eyes initial public offering

TORONTO, 15 March — Web hosting company The GoDaddy Group Inc is preparing for a second run at an initial public offering, according to two people familiar with the matter, as the 2014 tech IPO pipeline continues to grow. GoDaddy, the Internet domain registrar and web host known for its racy ads, would join a number of high-profile technames expected to go public this year in the wake of Twitter Inc's successful debut. They include "Candy Crush" developer King Digital and cloud services providers Box and Dropbox.

The company is in the process of selecting underwriters for its IPO, one of the two sources said on condition of anonymity. GoDaddy was not immediately available for comment. GoDaddy had filed to go public in 2006 but was told at the time that it would be required to take a 50 percent haircut — a percentage that is subtracted from the par value of assets that are being used as collateral — on its initial public offering.

The company instead decided to pull its filing, citing unfavorable market conditions. The company, founded in 1997, was eventually acquired by a private equity consortium led by KKR & Co and Silver Lake in 2011 for $2.25 billion. Silver Lake declined to comment while KKR did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Other private equity buyers included Technology Crossover Ventures. GoDaddy, which provides website domain names, is famous for airing bawdy commercials with scantily clad women for the past decade during the Super Bowl. *The Wall Street Journal* first reported on the plans.—*Reuters*

Team Godaddy.com driver James Hinchcliffe of Canada races during the practice session at the Honda Indy in Toronto on 6 July, 2012. — REUTERS

Experts say British farmers should start to plant GMCs

LONDON, 15 March — Farmers should start to grow genetically modified crops (GMCs), which could be more nutritious than natural produce, British government's top science adviser said in an official report on GMCs published on Friday.

In the first official report on this subject in five years, Sir Mark Walport, the government's Chief Scientific Adviser, together with senior scientists, recommended "safe and sustainable" roll-out of GMCs in Britain.

The scientists also concluded that there is no compelling evidence to suggest that GMCs are any more dangerous to humans, animals or the environment than conventionally farmed food.

These experts advised the prime minister that GMCs should be allowed to grow by farmers in Britain, given the many benefits GMCs could bring in terms of sustainable food production.

The scientists also pointed out in their report that the time has come for Europe to be stripped of its obstructive control of the technology.

The report suggested that Britain should regulate commercial genetically modified varieties of wheat and potatoes based on their individual benefits and risks.

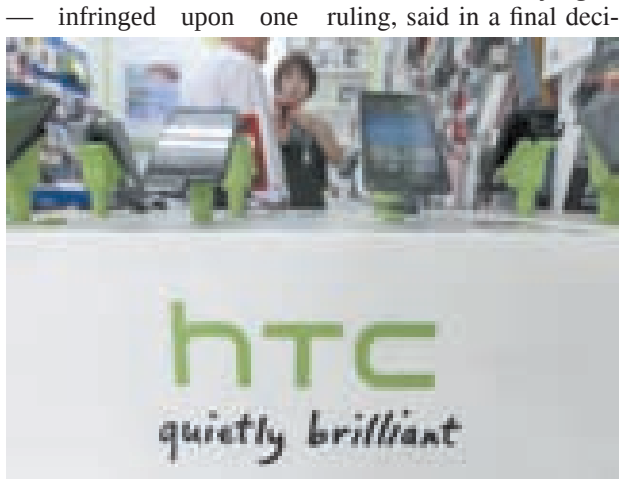
It recommended that GMCs should be assessed individually, taking potential benefits into account.

Currently, there are only two GMC varieties allowed for commercial harvest in Europe, none of which are in Britain. However, 12 percent of the world's arable land is cultivating GMCs.— *Xinhua*

HTC, Huawei, ZTE did not violate FlashPoint patents

WASHINGTON, 15 March — HTC Corp and others did not violate digital camera patents owned by Apple Inc spinoff FlashPoint Technology to make their smartphones, the US International Trade Commission said on Friday. FlashPoint Technology, which filed the complaint in 2012, had originally accused Taiwan-based HTC, China's Huawei Technologies Co Ltd and ZTE Corp of infringing four patents for smartphone cameras. One of the patents was dropped as the case proceeded.

An administrative law judge found in a preliminary decision on 30 September, 2013, that two HTC smartphones — the HTC Vivid and HTC Droid Incredible 4G LTE — infringed upon one FlashPoint patent, while Huawei and ZTE were cleared. The commission, which reviewed the judge's ruling, said in a final decision on Friday that none of the accused companies infringed the patents and it terminated the investigation.



Customers look at HTC smartphones in a mobile phone shop in Taipei on 30 July , 2013.—REUTERS

If the companies had been found guilty of violating the patents, the smartphones could have been banned from the United States market. The ITC is a popular venue for patent lawsuits because it can ban infringing products from the United States more easily than district courts. The ITC will rule that a patent has been violated if the accused company infringes the patent and if the patent owner uses the patent in the United States.—*Reuters*

US government aims to shed control of Internet addresses

WASHINGTON, 15 March — The US government announced on Friday it will give up its most direct means of control over the Internet's infrastructure, but said it will insist that the job be taken on by a group that includes the private sector and other interested parties, not just multiple governments. The Commerce Department maintains the master database for such top-level domain names as .com and .net, as well as the corresponding numeric addresses, but has contracted out that work to the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers.

Assistant Secretary of Commerce Lawrence Strickling said he asked ICANN to convene a process for a formal transition, which he said must "support and enhance the multistakeholder model" and "maintain the openness of the Internet." ICANN Chief Executive Fadi Chehadé said the process would be completed before ICANN's management contract with the Commerce Department expires in September 2015. The United States, which gave birth to the Internet, has long said it wants to hand over stewardship and has taken many steps toward that. But it has been vague about how and when it will cut the final tie.

Pressure from other governments to hasten that day has been building as tensions over Internet espionage and censorship increase.

Reuters

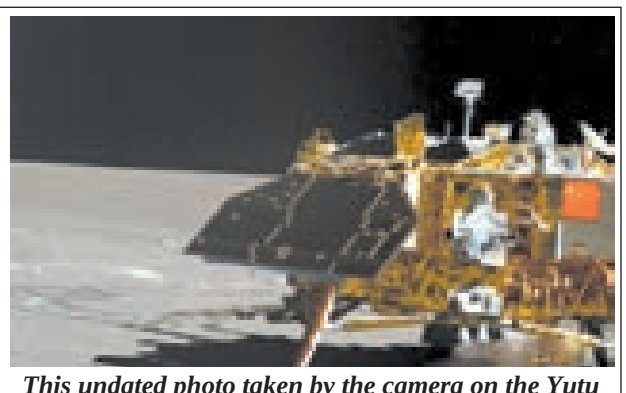
China's lunar rover awake but ailing

BEIJING, 15 March — China's moon rover Yutu woke up again at 6:42 am on Friday, after its third dormancy, but even after a long rest, mechanical problems have not been resolved. Yutu and the lander, which woke up earlier on Wednesday, have restarted their operations and are exploring as scheduled, according to the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence (SASTIND).

The control issues that have troubled Yutu since January remain, but its panorama camera, radar and other equipment are functioning normally, SASTIND said.

The cause of the problems is a mystery. The lander functioned normally during its first three lunar days, according to the SASTIND. A lunar day is equivalent to about two weeks on Earth.

The lander's optical telescope, extreme ultraviolet camera and lunar dust measurement device completed scheduled tasks and obtained a large amount of data. Yutu, named after the pet rabbit of the lunar goddess Chang'e in Chinese mythology, touched down on the moon's surface on 15 December, some hours after lunar probe Chang'e-3 landed. It has now survived its design life of three months.—*Xinhua*



This undated photo taken by the camera on the Yutu moon rover shows the Chang'e-3 moon lander and the moon surface. — XINHUA

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 16 March, 2014

Build a green city

With rapid development, industrialization and modernization, many developing nations have to learn how to deal with the negative impact of such fast-paced changed, particularly environmental destruction and pollution.

The destruction of the environmental leaves scars for our future generations and it is vital to gain know-how on sustainability. Rapid urbanization causes pollution, and the exploitation of resources and their careless waste cause other major problems. People need to be taught and need to be aware of the fact that wasting water and energy will lead to serious shortages in some areas. Myanmar is already plagued by droughts and power cuts in many areas.

We need to set up Green Cities that make life for people bearable and ensure that our future generations can enjoy a safe life too.

Sustainable development of urban areas is of great importance. As a vast majority of the world's population is living in urban areas, urban development programmes have become a priority for every government. With the increasing number of people, urbanization of developed and developing countries has grown rapidly. To build green cities, basic infrastructures such as public transportation, energy-saving buildings, and litter disposal systems are needed. The establishment of green cities also includes the construction of new cities and the transformation of current cities into environmental-friendly ones.

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.

Digging up the past for Myanmar lost technology

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

Myanmar Ceramics Symposium (2014) was held on 3-4 March 2014 at the Arts Hall, University of Yangon. Organized jointly by Myanmar Academy of Arts and Sciences (MAAS) Institute of South East Asia Studies (ISEAS), Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre (NSC) Archaeology Unit (ISEAS) Archaeology Department of University of Yangon (ADYU) and Myanmar Ceramics Society (M.C.S) the Symposium was a second great event of its kind which tried to dig up the past to recover Myanmar's long lost technology of ceramics.

Photo shows ancient Myanmar earthenware and glaze ceramics.

This Symposium was the continuation of the "Conference on Glazed Ceramics of South East Asia — their history, technology and Traditions" held in ancient capital Bagan on 20-23 September 1999. Since that date 2 span of 15 years has clapsed, during which many new data have been discovered and collected, and reparts and research papers have been compiled by both national and international researchers and scholars. Therefore it deems necessary to bring all of them to gather and present their new findings and views for enhancing further understanding and knowledge of the ceramics tradition and culture of Myanmar. Scholars and researchers would provide the general forum of cultural tradition and technology of Myanmar ceramics.

In the two day events of the Symposium eminent scholars and researchers in the field of Myanmar ceramics from at home and abroad gathered together to present their research papers based upon their new findings with power points and photographic illustrations and the participants on floor included teaching staffs, researchers and students of departments of many related disciplines such as geology, geography, anthropology, archaeology, history and science and technology.

The following is the list of research papers and the names of their presenters.

1. Don Hein "The Kilns of Myinkaba—historic glass bead manufacture in Myanmar."
2. Dawn Rooney, "Perspectives on Aesthetics of Myanmar Glazed Ceramics."
3. U San Shwe, "The Art of Ceramics in Pyu Period"
4. Minbu Aung Kyaing, "Decorated Glazed Ceramics on Bagan monuments."
5. Myo Thant Tyn, "Development of Low Temperature Ash Glaze Flux for lead-free Glaze from ancient tradition."
6. Aung Bo, "Glazed Ceramics of MraukU in Rakhine State."
7. Nyein Lwin, "Ancient Ceramics excavated from Danyawady."
8. San Win and Nan Kyi Kyi Hlaing, "Research on the ceramics with special reference to lower Myanmar."
9. Phone Tint Kyaw, "The Inscriptions on the ceramics found in some Districts of Myanmar."
10. Daw Baby, "Some Aspects on Kangyigone Kiln Site Excavation."
11. Myo Min Kyaw, "Myaungmya Kiln Site Excavation."
12. Aye Aye Thin, "Lagunbyee Kiln Site Excavation."
13. Khin Cho Htwe, "The Pagodas with Peculiar Glazed Decorations in old Bagan."
14. Pyiet Phyo Kyaw, "Ceramic Beads found in the Evirons of Myinkaba village, Bagan."
15. Zaw Phyo, "Some Types of Datable Pottery in Myanmar Archaeology context."
16. Saw Tun Lin, "Glazed Decorated objects in Bagan"
17. Thu Ya Aung, "The history of Terracotta Buddhist Jataka."

Photo shows a lead-free low temperature ash-borax glaze.

To support their presentations, an exhibition of ancient Myanmar earthenware and glaze ceramics [decorated earthenware, ash glaze celadon, lead-tin green and white glaze, etc..) as well as research samples of lead-free low temperature ash-borax glaze (celabon) were on display for two days at the enhance of the Arts Hall during the Symposium.

During the period of 15 years between the first conference of 1999 and present symposium of 2014, Myanmar ceramics society had collected ancient ceramics from various regions of Myanmar and deposited them at Tradi-Style Ceramics Centre (TSC) in Twante. Two ancient Kiln sites were already excavated in Twante township where beautiful celadon (ash glaze) wares of about 15th century AD. were recovered.

Therefore the presenters and interested guests were taken on tour to T.S.C in twante, on the morning of 5 March to eyewitness and on-spot study of one of the excavated Kiln Sites at Phayagi and other interesting places such as Twante canal beach where various ancient ceramic shards are washed ashore everyday by ebb tides and also famous pottery village Oebosu. At the hall of T.S.C a brief power point introduction to the potter mark of ancient Pyu inscription found on the celadon shard recently collected from the Twante canal beach was given by Dr. Myo Than Tint.

The consensus tentatively reached at the conclusion of the symposium was that Myanmar was the original home of ceramics industry and its technology was quite advanced Glazed jars were quite well known as Martaban jars which were exported at the then famous seaport of Martaban. They were used for sterring drinking water and wine and ever for human trafficking – beautiful Myanmar fairer genders were kept in the jars to smuggle out of the country. The Dutch and Portuguese accounts have many mentions of Myanmar glazed products as "Martaban Jars" and some museums across the world have Martaban glazed jars on display. To-day producers of glazed wares at Twante enjoy fairly good export market, let alone their counter parts of Nwenyein at Kyaukmyaung near Shwebo. Dr. U Myo Thant Tint painstakingly but earnestly explained the rediscovered technology of manufacturing lead-free low temperature ash-borax glaze (celabon) Myanmar manufactures had used hundreds of years ago.

Myanmar embassy in Bangkok discusses anti-human trafficking

BANGKOK, 15 March—Officials from the Myanmar Embassy in Thailand held talks on the plight of Myanmar migrant workers in Bangkok on 13 March, according to the Myanmar Association in Thailand.

"Myanmar migrant workers who enter Thailand by illegal means have been smuggled as slave laborers aboard fishing boats. Some workers have not received wages for many years and they do not have legal documents," said Myanmar Labor Attaché U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin.

He expressed his gratitude to Thai officials from the Department of Special Investigation (DSI) for co-operating in an anti-human trafficking campaign.

Soe Win (SP)

Flowers decoration course ends in Dagon Township

YANGON, 15 March—A flowers decoration course at the office of Myanmar Women's Affairs Organization in Yangon ended on Friday, with trainees receiving certificates.

The course was jointly organized by the Myanmar Women's Affairs Organization and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association of Yangon Region. At the occasion, Patron of Myanmar Women's Affairs Organization of Yangon Region Daw Khin Thet Htay delivered an opening address and presented gifts to the trainers.

Patron of Myanmar Women's Affairs Organization Daw Khin Aye Nwe awarded prizes to outstanding trainees. Chairman of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association Daw Thaung Mya presented certificates to the trainees.

The course ended with officials viewing the flower arrangements.

Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindine)

Fire engulfs 16 houses, leaves 89 homeless Insein Township

YANGON, 15 March—A fire broke out at a house in Fokkan Ward, Insein Township, Yangon Region at 5:15 pm on 12 March, destroying more than a dozen other houses and leaving 89 people homeless, among them five students who are sitting exams. There have been no reports of casualties.

The cause of the fire is believed to be a cigarette, according to the officials of General Administration Department.

A temporary relief camp was opened for the victims at a monastery in Insein Township with the arrangement of the township administrator. Relief supplies were provided on 14 March by the Relief and Resettlement Department and the Yangon Region Red Cross Society, and received by officials including members of the township women's affairs association.

Myint Oo (Insein)

Connecting road opened in Kyaukse

KYAUKSE, 15 March—To mark the 69th Anniversary of Myanmar Armed Forces Day, a road linking several villages was opened in Kyaukse Township in Mandalay Region on Friday.

The 2 miles long, 12 ft wide and 8 ft high Minsu-Sabaedaw road was constructed by Kinetic Co. It was built at a cost of K 112.9 million and funded by the Union government.

At the ceremony, the Kinetic Co manager elaborated on the construction of the road.

The Kyaukse District Deputy Commissioner and the Kinetic Co manager cut the ribbon at the ceremony and presented gifts to performers who were entertaining the attendees with Myanmar Traditional dances and songs.

Kyaukse Township Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Thaung, department officials and villagers from Minsu and Sabaedaw villages attended the ceremony.

Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)

Importance of census taking explained in Lewe Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March—Officials gave talks on the upcoming census in Lewe Township of Dekkhina District on 13 March, conveying to locals the importance of the country's first census in more than three decades.

Officials from the Information and Public Relations Department said public cooperation was vital in order for the process to be successful, stressing the move would help improve the livelihoods of people as the data would help to speed up development. Locals from the villages of Shwepyayaye, Shwe Ohnbin, Thasi and Kyatthonkhin attended the talks.

The national census will be taken from 30 March through 10 April, officials said.—*Zaw Myo Naing*

Tachilek drug dealers taken into custody

TACHILEK, 15 March—Two drug dealers were arrested in Ponehtun Ward in Tachilek, Shan State (East) on 14 March.

While patrolling in the township at 7:15 pm that day, a team led by Police Captain Kyaw Than of Tachilek Myoma Police Station seized WY brand 100 stimulant tablets, around 10 grams from the bag of the female suspect, identified as 32-year old Khin Pyone (a) Pauksima. She was arrested along with her young husband, 19-year old Phyo Wai Zin, with officials saying the both were residing in Ponehtun Ward in Tachilek.

Legal action is being taken against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Myintmo (Tachilek)

China Foundation donates buses to Alinyaung Foundation

YANGON, 15 March—The China Foundation for Peace and Development donated two ambulances to the Alinyaung Foundation (Myanmar) at the International Eye Care Center of the Alinyaung Foundation in Mayangon Township in Yangon on March 13.

At the ceremony, Mr Li Jin Jun, Vice-Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee of the People's Republic of China presented relevant documents to the Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe.

Daw May Soe Wai, a nurse from the Alinyaung Foundation expressed her gratitude after speaking to officials of the two foundations.—*015*

Security push at Boston Marathon bomb anniversary, but risks remain

A digital clock on an athletic store front near the finish of the Boston Marathon, counts down the time to the 118th running of the Boston Marathon on 14 March, 2014. —Reuters

Boston, 15 March — Even as police prepare for a massive presence at Boston's first marathon since the 2013 bombing attack that killed three people and injured 264, officials acknowledge the sheer scale of the event poses inevitable security risks.

More than 3,500 officers will be stationed along the 26.2 mile course starting in suburban Hopkinton, Massachusetts, and ending among throngs of spectators at the bars and restaurants of Boylston Street, where two homemade pressure-cooker bombs ripped through the crowd last year.

While officials said they are not aware of any specific threat to the 118th Boston Marathon, one of the world's most prestigious races, they face a challenge of increasing security without taking a stance that is so aggressive it drives spectators away, security experts said.

"The police have to walk a delicate line between trying to convey to people that they are safe and not sending the message that, because of the militarized presence, they have something to fear," said Tom Nolan, a former Boston Police Department official who now serves as chairman of the criminal justice department at the State University of New York at Plattsburgh.

"The public may not necessarily be reassured about their safety when they see police officers with machine guns and military uniforms and dogs," Nolan said.

The race, on 21 April this year, is held on the state holiday of Patriots' Day, when schools as well as some businesses are closed, and tens of thousands of spectators typically clog the finish line area. It was there that ethnic Chechen brothers Dzhokhar and Tamerlan Tsarnaev placed the bombs they carried in black backpacks last year, prosecutors say. Tamerlan Tsarnaev died after a gun battle with police days after the attack and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev is awaiting trial on charges that carry the threat of execution, if he is convicted.—*Reuters*

Poland seeks enhancing cooperation with Africa

Warsaw, 15 March — Poland has justified ambitions in the African continent as far as economic and political cooperation is concerned, said Prime Minister Donald Tusk after talks with South African Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe.

Both politicians emphasized the role of economic cooperation.

Tusk said that significant increase in bilateral trade and shared understanding of international issues were only "the beginning of the road" in developing mutual relations.

"I am glad that Poland's main partner in Africa is a state that is so important for the entire continent," he added.

Cooperation with South Africa is the foundation of the entire "Go Africa" programme, aimed at promoting ties with African states, which was initiated by Poland in 2013, Tusk continued.

South African businessmen accompanying Motlanthe during the visit were particularly interested in the agro-food sector and maritime economy, Tusk revealed. Also discussed were possibilities of Polish capital investments in South Africa in transport and cooperation in science.

Motlanthe voiced readiness to further develop relations with Poland.

"We are fully committed to ... strengthen bilateral relations which are complementary and mutually beneficial," he said.

On Friday, Montlanthe also met President Bronislaw Komorowski, discussing development of political contacts and economic cooperation.

South African-Polish trade accounts for a quarter of Poland's trade with Africa and is worth some 800 million US dollars annually.

Xinhua

Polls open for SA, Tasmania state elections

Canberra, 15 March — Voters in Australian states of Tasmania and South Australia went to the polls on Saturday to decide which party will govern their states for the next four years.

More than 360,000 Tasmanians will vote in 305 polling places and about one million are set to cast their votes in South Australia.

Voters in Tasmania will elect a 25-seat House of Assembly, with five members from each of the island state's five electorates. They will form the state's 48th parliament.

There are 126 candidates from seven parties in the contest.

In South Australia, Premier Jay Weatherill is seeking a fourth term for his Labour administration while Liberal leader Steven Marshall is trying to end 12 years of Labour rule.

The Liberals currently hold 18 seats in the 47-seat House of Assembly with Labor on 26 and three held by independents.

Xinhua

Marines participate in an actual-troop confrontation training with a brigade under the Beijing Military Area Command at a training base in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on 14 March, 2014. Xinhua

US rests its case against bin Laden son-in-law

New York, 15 March — Prosecutors in New York on Friday rested their case in the trial of Suleiman Abu Ghaith, a son-in-law of Osama bin Laden who is accused of conspiring to kill Americans when he acted as a spokesman for al Qaeda after the 11 Sept, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Centre and Pentagon.

Abu Ghaith's lawyers are expected to present their case next week. But they will ask presiding US District Judge Lewis Kaplan over the weekend for an order permitting them to introduce evidence from Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, which would require a slight delay, according to Stanley Cohen, one of the lawyers.

The judge previously said he was "deeply skeptical" the lawyers have a right to access Mohammed, the alleged mastermind of the 11 September, 2001 attacks, who is being held at the US military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Cohen said Mohammad has responded to written questions that could help his client. "I think the case has proven exactly what we predicted it would be at the opening," Cohen said. "There's some ugly words and bad associations and no evidence of a knowing conspiracy to murder Americans."

The US government contends that Abu Ghaith, 48, became a leader in al-Qaeda after 9/11 as a recruiter of fighters, and that he knew of planned attacks against the United States.

Abu Ghaith is also charged with providing material support and resources to terrorists and conspiring to provide material support and resources to terrorists.

Federal prosecutors showed jurors videos in which Abu Ghaith, on at least one occasion in the company of bin Laden and other al-Qaeda leaders, praised the attacks of 9/11, called on other Muslims to join the fight and warned of more attacks.

In a video from October 2001, Abu Ghaith claimed: "There are thousands of young Muslims who look forward to die for the sake of Allah," and that "The storm of airplanes will not stop."—*Reuters*

France calls on Algeria to respect freedoms ahead of presidential elections

Paris, 15 March — France on Friday asked Algerian authorities to respect basic freedoms and rights to peaceful marches and expression after they prevented an opposition protest ahead of presidential elections.

"We would like freedom of the press and expression to be respected in Algeria," said French Foreign Ministry spokesperson Romain Nadalm, who added that peaceful demonstration "is part of the fundamental freedoms."

On Wednesday, Algerian police banned an opposition's demonstration calling to boycott presidential election scheduled for 17 April in which current President Abdelaziz Bouteflika is running for a fourth mandate despite uncertainty about his ability to rule the North African oil producing country after suffering a stroke last year.

Algeria is France's largest trading partner in Africa.

Xinhua

Algeria's former prime minister Abdelmalek Sellal attends a press conference in Algiers, Algeria, on 14 March, 2014. Abdelmalek Sellal was tasked to manage presidential campaign of the incumbent President Abdelaziz Bouteflika. —Xinhua

Japanese firms look to teenage girls for product development ideas

TOKYO, 15 March — Teenage girls in Japan, often regarded as trend-setters with a strong word-of-mouth network, are increasingly becoming a reliable source of ideas for companies in the process of product development and business marketing.

From building bicycles to designing stationery, more and more firms are turning to junior high and high school girls for their opinions in hopes of creating hit products. In fact, some schools are co-operating with corporations on this, seeing the collaboration as useful hands-on work experience for their students.

Bridgestone Cycle Co, for example, joined hands with popular teenage girls' magazine "Seventeen" to have nine female students ranging from eighth to 12th grades — so-called reader models who appear regularly in the magazine as trend markers — take part in developing a limited edition of its new motor-assisted bicycle "Step Cruz e."

The special model, featuring a pastel green frame matched with a light brown saddle, is designed both to look good and be practical based on the students' suggestions, such as making sure it is easy to ride even when wearing a skirt.

Despite a decline in overall demand for bicycles in general in the Japanese market due to a shrinking population, motor-assisted models have continued to enjoy growing sales. But their popularity has been concentrated mainly among housewives and the elderly, prompting Bridgestone to reach out to the teenage girls for ideas on how to win younger customers.

Although only a limited number of the bicycles has been built, Mao Ushiroku, a Bridgestone official in charge of product development, expressed confidence that it will prove popular with its intended target because it incorporates the actual opinions of junior high and high school students.

Similarly, stationery maker Zebra Co. worked together with teenage girls' magazine "Pichi Lemon" in the making of a special limited edition of its popular "Sarasa Clip" gel ink pen series.

Kyodo News

Undated supplied photo shows students at Takagi Gakuen Girls' High School in Yokohama making ice cream while receiving advice from a Morinaga Milk Industry Co official in charge of product research. — KYODO NEWS

Indonesia deploys military planes to stop smoke haze

JAKARTA, 15 March — Indonesia will deploy military planes to Riau Province in Sumatra to extinguish bushfire by rain-making, official said here on Friday.

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono told a coordinating meeting to ramp up effort to stop the land clearing by burn method which sparked choking haze, said Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman of national disaster agency.

On Friday, a *Hercules C-130* plane laden with 5 tons of material for rain-making headed to Riau province, he said. Yudhoyono called for all-out effort in carrying out a three- week integrated operation and would visit fire affected areas on Saturday, said Sutopo, Thick haze in Riau Province led to a 3-day closure of the main airport in the province on Thursday, said Bambang Ervan, spokesman of transport ministry. The haze has also worsened air quality, bringing the number of people suffering from respiratory trouble to 42,000 in the province, according to Sutopo.—*Xinhua*

Singapore PM conveys concerns over missing MH370

SINGAPORE, 15 March — Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien loong has written to Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak to convey the city-state's concern over the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, the foreign ministry said on Saturday.

In his letter to Premier Li, Lee said that among over 150 Chinese nationals on board the flight MH370, several are reported to have been working or studying in Singapore. He expressed "deep concern for the passengers and their families" on behalf the Singapore government and people.

"Singapore is assisting Malaysia to locate the missing aircraft. We will continue to support the ongoing efforts by Malaysia and other countries, including China, to find the aircraft as soon as possible," he added.

In his letter to Najib Razak, Lee also express Singapore's deep concern for the safety of the crew and passengers, and solidarity with their families.

Singapore has deployed aircraft and ships to join in the search for the missing aircraft. Lee said they "stand ready to provide any further support that will help in this effort."

Singapore deployed one more aircraft on Friday. The Singapore Air Force's Fokker-50 Maritime Patrol Aircraft took off from Changi Airbase West and headed for the Strait of Malacca with six officers on board.

Singapore has previously deployed six types of military units, including helicopters, planes and vessels.

Xinhua

Macao court sentences 2 HK businessmen to prison in epic graft case

HONG KONG, 15 March — A Macao court sentenced in absentia two Hong Kong businessmen to prison for having bribed a former high-ranking official who is serving a 29-year prison term for corruption, Hong Kong media reported on Friday.

Both property developer Joseph Lau and investor Steven Lo were sentenced to five years and three months in prison for paying HK$20 million (US$2.6 million) in bribe money to Macao's former Transport and Public Works Secretary Ao Manlong to secure a land sale for a real estate development project in 2005.

Lo has previously appeared in trials, but Lau has not set foot in Macao since he was indicted, citing ill health.

Lawyers for both defendants said they will appeal the ruling, Cable TV said.

Ao was jailed in May 2012 after convictions on some 80 counts of bribe-taking, money laundering and abuse of authority through his control of land sales in the former Portuguese enclave.

Kyodo News

Man creates puzzle boxes to entertain people

HAKONE, (Japan), 15 March — As he enjoys nothing more than surprising and entertaining people, Akio Kamei did not hesitate to leave one of Japan's most prestigious universities and became a creator of wooden puzzle boxes called "karakuri-bako." The 65-year-old craftsman runs a puzzle box production company based in the hot spring resort of Hakone in Kanagawa Prefecture. The town is known for traditional marquetry handicrafts and secret boxes.

Puzzle fans from all over Japan as well as from overseas come to Hakone to purchase his unique woodcrafts as souvenirs or to add them to their collections.

A puzzle box requires flexible thinking and imagination as it needs to be manipulated in certain ways — such as by sliding a surface panel or rolling the box itself — to find the solution to opening it. For instance, one of his popular puzzle boxes called "Bad Radio" requires a strong tap on the top to open it — just as you might start an old radio that no longer works by hitting it. A box in the shape of a die can be opened if rotated in order of the numbers on its six sides.

"When I was a kid, I liked making plastic models and doing some weird things to surprise my friends," Kamei, who hails from Toyonaka, Osaka Prefecture, said.

He learned that craftsmen in Hakone made marquetry toys in different shapes, such as a cars and castles, when he was studying engineering at Kyoto University. Deciding to become a craftsman himself, Kamei left university and joined a toy manufacturer in Hakone in 1972.

About a decade later, he started feeling a strong desire to create new kinds of toys that are totally different from marquetry, and quit the toy maker.

Kamei then invented a puzzle box using not only wooden materials, but also springs, magnets and other parts. He has since gone on to design some 200 different kinds of puzzle boxes.

"There are currently more than 10 people working on new puzzle boxes at my company," he said.

Kyodo News

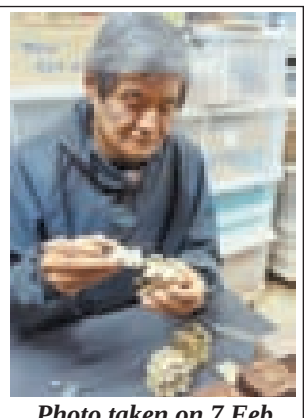


Photo taken on 7 Feb, 2014 shows Akio Kamei, who creates wooden puzzle boxes called "karakuri-bako." KYODO NEWS

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(6/2014)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-197(13-14)	Maintenance/Retest Service for CNG Cascade Jumbo Tube	US$
(2)	IFB-198(13-14)	Spares for AB 100 Well Servicing Truck	US$
(3)	IFB-199(13-14)	Spares for KB 150 Well Servicing Truck	US$
(4)	IFB-200(13-14)	Electrical Spares (4)Items for ZJ70LSR-I Rig	US$
(5)	IFB-201(13-14)	Spares for SAFE Compressor	US$
(6)	IFB-202(13-14)	Spares for Komatsu Dozer	US$
(7)	IFB-203(13-14)	Spares for CAT D3512B Engine	US$
(8)	IFB-204(13-14)	Spares for CAT D3306 DI Engine	US$
(9)	IFB-205(13-14)	40 Ton Hydraulic Crawler Crane	US$
(10)	IFB-206(13-14)	4 1/4" & 3 1/2" Square Kelly with Drive Bushing	US$
(11)	DMP/L-066(13-14)	Spares for F-1000 Rig Pump Ex D3 T2 SR I & II Rig	Ks
(12)	DMP/L-067(13-14)	Reinforcement Hose Pipes	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 9-4-2014,16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 13th March, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411097 / 411206

Ministry of Energy
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Invitation for Opened Tender (1/2014)

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars (CIF Yangon).

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Qty	Remark
(1)	MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/4 (2013-2014)	New 7000 Imperial Gallons Capacity Rigid or Semi-Trailor Aircraft Refueller	2 Nos.	US$
(2)	MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/5 (2013-2014)	Two-Stage Vertical Filter/Water Separator	4 Nos	US$
(3)	MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/6 (2013-2014)	400 IGPM Fuel Transfer Centrifugal Pump (Motor Driven) and 300/GPM Fuel Transfer Centrifugal Pump (Engine Driven)	2 Items (each 2 nos)	US$
(4)	MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/7 (2013-2014)	Fire Fighting Angus Engine Driven Pump With Trailer Inductor	2 Sets	US$
(5)	MPPE/MCY/T/2 (2013-2014)	Aviation Fuelling Equipment Spare Parts	75 Items	US$

2. Tender Closing Date & Time - 8-4-2014,12:00 Hrs
3. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 14-3-2014 during office hours and for further detail please contact Phone: 067-411487.

Planning Department
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Ministry of Energy, No(6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw

France asks European allies to respect military commitment in CAR

Paris, 15 March — France urged its European partners to do more to back its military intervention in the Central African Republic (CAR) and "to assume its responsibilities on international security," French officials said on Friday.

In a joint communique, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius and Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said "if additional troops are not deployed very quickly, it will not be possible to launch this important operation as planned."

"France calls vigorously its partners to provide the means (to stabilize the CAR)," French ministers stressed.

On January, the single-currency bloc proposed to send up to 1,000 soldiers to help restore stability in the violence-torn African country after Paris urged its European allies to do more to back its 2,000 soldiers already deployed in its former colony.

By the end of 2013, France has intervened alone in the Central African Republic with UN support to protect civilians, following an escalation of the violence in which hundreds of people were killed in the capital Bangui.

Xinhua

Photo taken on 14 March, 2014 shows a tent-shaped restaurant in the field of rape flowers in Chongzhou, southwest China's Sichuan Province. The restaurant is part of the local ecotourism project, making tourists feel close to nature.
Xinhua

Albania celebrates Summer Day Festival

Tirana, 15 March — The people of Albania celebrated the Summer Day on Friday to celebrate the end of winter, the rebirth of nature and a rejuvenation of spirit.

The Summer Day's origin is at the Cermenika Fairy Sanctuary, built in Shkumbin (Elbasan). She was the goddess of hunting, forests and all nature.

According to the story, this fairy came out the sanctuary only on 14 March.

This popular celebration was a tradition that today identifies the city of Elbasan, known for special cultural traditions.

Elbasan had dozens of thousands visitors on the Summer Day, who gathered to watch concerts and carnivals organized in the city.

The flowers, the symbol of this celebration, were the center of this day, followed with the traditional "ballakume" of Elbasan.

A novelty for the Summer Day was the fair with Albanian goods, which has joined businesses of all Albanian lands, accompanied by the city's ensemble.

"Summer day, the most beautiful traditional holiday for all Albanians and across our state borders, is a celebration of the optimism and hopes coming with the revival of nature," Albanian President Bujar Nishani congratulated to the Albanian people.

Prime Minister Edi Rama visited Friday in Elbasan the Summer Day Fair, encouraging Albanian citizens to look more to their talent and skills, to start a small business or engage in private sector.

"Our fight against unemployment is focused on providing new spaces for the private sector, creating jobs through private enterprises, on providing support, new policies, ideas and energies," Rama was quoted as saying by local media.

Xinhua

UN agency steps up aid to CAR refugees in Cameroon

United Nations, 15 March — The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) said that in eastern Cameroon, an increasing number of people fleeing violence in the Central African Republic (CAR) are arriving ill, due to hunger and exhaustion during their flight, a UN spokesman told reporters here Friday.

"Some 80 percent of the latest arrivals suffer ailments such as malaria, diarrhoea and respiratory infections," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said at a daily news briefing here. "More than 20 percent of the children are severely malnourished."

"UNHCR has stepped up assistance in border areas and deployed emergency staff, including nutrition specialists and site planners, " Dujarric said.—*Xinhua*

WEATHER OUTLOOK

Likelihood of isolated light rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas.

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'Rocky' musical packs punch on Broadway with rousing finale

NEW YORK, 15 March —With its full-size boxing ring, giant video screens and techno wizardry, "Rocky" the musical thrilled audiences on Broadway with its rousing finale, but critics said overall it wasn't a knockout.

The musical, which opened on Thursday night, is based on the 1976 film starring Sylvester Stallone that won a best picture Oscar about a struggling boxer in south Philadelphia who falls for a shy, local girl and gets his once-in-a-lifetime chance to fight the reigning champion.

Broadway veteran Andy Karl, who starred in "Jersey Boys" and "Wicked," fills Stallone's shoes as Rocky Balboa and Margo Seibert, in her Broadway debut, is the mousey pet shop employee Adrian who wins his heart.

"Thanks to these fine actors, you root for Rocky, the romantic lug with pet turtles, and Adrian, the girl he coaxes out of her shell," said the *New York Daily News.*

The Hollywood Reporter said Karl sticks close to the Stallone model as Rocky but injects a fresh vitality and humor into the role.

"The delicate chemistry between Karl and Seibert breathes warmth into their outsider romance, and Adrian's solos, the melancholy "Raining" and "I'm Done," in which she finally asserts herself ... are among the better numbers," it said.

But the real crowd pleaser is the finale, the fight sequence that pits Rocky against reigning champion Apollo Creed, played with gusto by Terence Archie ("Ragtime"), who originated the role in the musical's first run in Hamburg, Germany, in 2012.

In the finale, audience members in the first few rows are ushered onto bleachers set up on the stage as the boxing ring is moved further into theater for the big fight and cheering fans greet the fighters as they march down the aisles to the ring.

The Chicago Tribune praised it as an eye-popping finale.

"It's hard to overstate the achievements of this concluding fight, which is the reason 'Rocky' has the aroma of a long-term Broadway survivour," it said.

Cast members thank attendees during the curtain call at the preview performance of Rocky on Broadway in Manhattan, New York on 13 Feb, 2014. —REUTERS

The New York Post was equally impressed.

"Director Alex Timbers ('Bloody Andrew Jackson') earns his keep right there. If you could win a Tony based on just 20-minutes, 'Rocky' would be a shoo-in," it said.

"Problem is, that finale is preceded by an hour and a half of less thrilling moments," it added.

Reuters

Captain America 3 to collide with Batman-Superman at box office?

MUMBAI, 15 March — Two of the biggest superhero films are set for a showdown at the box office with Marvel and Warner Bros releasing Captain America 3 and Batman-Superman on the same day in May 2016.

Marvel Studios and parent company Disney first declared that they would be releasing a big film on 6 May, 2016 as they have been releasing one on every first weekend of summer for the past decade.

However, Warner Bros announced in January that it would open Batman-Superman on May 6, 2016 as well. The film stars Ben Affleck as Batman and Henry Cavill reprising his role as Superman.

The film was originally slated to release in summer 2015 but the date got pushed by a year.

Marvel Studios president Kevin Feige recently said he had no plans to shift the release date of one of his superhero films on May 6 to avoid a clash.

While Feige declined to give the name of the film, the Hollywood Reporter said it will be Captain America 3.—*PTI*

'The Americans' dresses TV family drama in KGB disguise

LOS ANGELES, 15 March — As a former CIA agent in training, Joe Weisberg knows a moral dilemma when he sees it.

But instead of pressing on the weaknesses of would-be informants, Weisberg now writes them into the characters of his Cold War spy drama "The Americans," which is currently in its second season on US cable network FX.

Like many of today's cable dramas, the series takes its shape from anti-heroes with serious flaws. But "The Americans" poses a unique reversal of US television convention as Soviet KGB agents take a turn as the protagonists trying to get a leg up on their Cold War adversaries.

Cast members Keri Russell (L), Matthew Rhys and Noah Emmerich (R) of drama series "The Americans'' participate in a panel during FX Networks' part of the Television Critics Association (TCA) Winter 2014 presentations in Pasadena, California, on 14 Jan, 2014. REUTERS

Although the fictional series is set in the 1980s, the recent spate of feuds between the United States and Russia gives it a current-day relevance. The political upheaval in Ukraine, Russian asylum for NSA contractor turned leaker Edward Snowden and recent conflicts in the Middle East have all brought back a bilateral diplomatic chill reminiscent of the Cold War era.

But at its heart, "The Americans" is less about cloak and dagger tales and politics than a domestic drama that uses lies, spooks and love to face down moral quandaries.

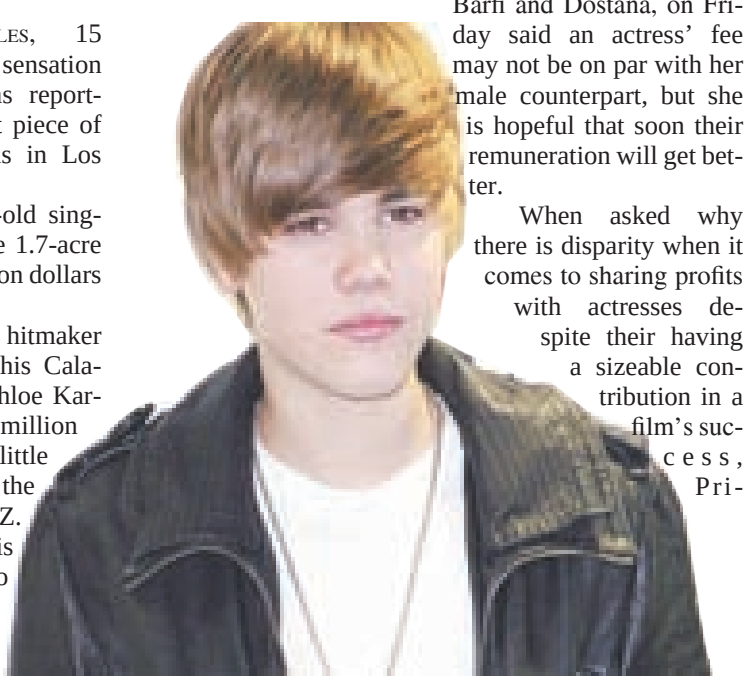
"The show is conceptually about what it is to be an enemy and have an enemy, and how to think about enemies," Weisberg said alongside fellow executive producer and writer Joel Fields, who added that they wanted "The Americans" to focus on the characters' interior lives.—*Reuters*

Justin Bieber sells his house in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES, 15 March — Pop sensation Justin Bieber has reportedly sold the last piece of property he owns in Los Angeles.

The 20-year-old singer had bought the 1.7-acre plot for 2.35 million dollars in 2012.

The Baby hitmaker had earlier sold his Calabasas home to Khloe Kardashian for 7.2 million dollars, making a little over a million on the sale, reported TMZ. Justin Bieber is now planning to make a permanent move to the Atlanta.—*PTI*



Priyanka Chopra on inequality in Bollywood salaries

MUMBAI, 15 March — Successful actress Priyanka Chopra, who has been part of hits like Fashion, Barfi and Dostana, on Friday said an actress' fee may not be on par with her male counterpart, but she is hopeful that soon their remuneration will get better.

When asked why there is disparity when it comes to sharing profits with actresses despite their having a sizeable contribution in a film's success, Priyanka told IANS on the sidelines of FICCI Frames 2014, "I don't think the contribution is as much. I think you have to give credit to the boys also.

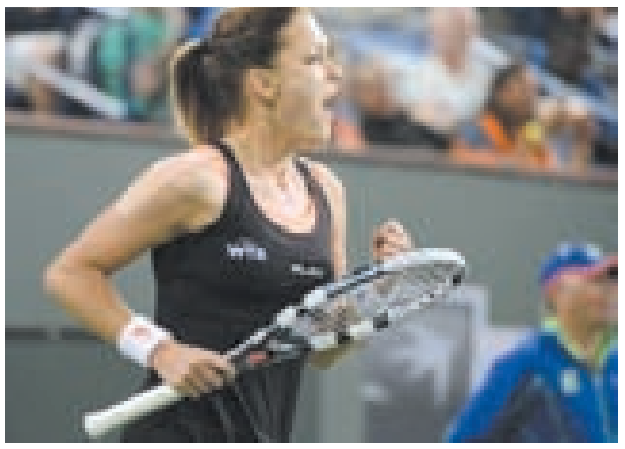
"The films make about Rs 200 or Rs 300 crore and it has a lot to do with the boys. We (actresses) haven't made that dent into the box office as the boys have, and I am very hopeful that will happen because we have the kind of audience which is ready to watch women-oriented films.

"Yes, there is a huge disparity in terms of remuneration, but there is also a big disparity in the kind of money that has been brought back by female actors so far. I am hoping we will soon be able to break that and may be remunerations will get better."

No One Killed Jessica, Kahaani, The Dirty Picture and Queen are some of the recent women-centric films that have done brisk business at the box office.

The actress, who attended the 15th edition of FICCI Frames 2014, was in conversation with Nidhi Razdan on women-centric films being made in showbiz.

PTI



Radwanska

Pennetta to face Radwanska in Indian Wells final

Indian Wells, 15 March — Italian veteran Flavia Pennetta upset China's Australian Open champion Li Na on Friday to join Poland's Agnieszka Radwanska in the women's final of the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells.

The 32-year-old Pennetta qualified for the biggest singles final of her career after a 7-6(5), 6-3 drubbing of an out-of-sorts Li.

Pennetta will face Radwanska in Sunday's final after the Pole avenged her loss to Romania's Simona Halep in Qatar last month with a 6-3, 6-4 win on the Californian desert hardcourts.

Radwanska, ranked third in the world, sealed the first set with an ace after she broke Halep's opening service game but found herself trailing the second when the Romanian broke.

But the 25-year-old Pole regained control, getting back on level terms then getting a second break and serving out her victory to reach her first final at Indian Wells.

"What I was trying to do was play aggressively from the beginning of the match and just try to go for my shots," said Radwanska.

"I was lucky. I think I was serving better than other days, so that helped today as well. I think it was a pretty good match." Halep took some consolation from her defeat as she will rise to fifth place in the world when the new rankings are released on Monday.

"It was a tough match," said Halep. "She played really well. "She deserved to win today. Every ball was in for her, and I had to run a lot. I think I started the match a bit too soft. I was not ready to play.—*Reuters*

Commonwealth organizers welcome Fiji return for Glasgow

Melbourne, 15 March — Commonwealth Games organizers have welcomed Fiji's return to the multi-sport event this year after the nation's suspension from the organization of mostly former British colonies was eased on Friday.

Fiji was fully suspended in 2009 but a decision by the military government to hold national elections in September brought about loosening of the sanction at a meeting of Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group in London.

That clears the way for Fiji to send a team to Glasgow for the 23 July-3 August Games, having missed the previous version in Delhi in 2010.

"I am delighted to welcome Fiji back into the Commonwealth Games family, and very pleased that they will be able to participate in Glasgow," Commonwealth Games Federation president Prince Tunku Imran said in a news release.

"The Games will be an incredible festival of sport, and the celebrations will be all the more complete with our Fijian friends and colleagues taking part." Fiji has suffered four coups and a bloody military mutiny since 1987, mainly as a result of tension between the majority indigenous Fijian population and an economically powerful, ethnic Indian minority.—*Reuters*

The team from Fiji arrives at the Melbourne Cricket Ground stadium during the Commonwealth Games opening ceremony in Melbourne on 15 March, 2006.
Reuters

Djokovic, Isner ease into Indian Wells semis

Indian Wells, 15 March — Serbia's Novak Djokovic and American John Isner cruised into the last four of the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells on Friday with straight-sets wins in the quarter-finals.

Djokovic hardly raised a sweat in the Californian desert as he eased to a 6-1, 6-3 victory over Frenchman Julien Benneteau, before the towering Isner rode his booming serve to a 7-6(4), 7-6(3) win over Latvia's Ernests Gulbis.

Novak Djokovic (SRB), left, shakes hands with Julien Benneteau (FRA)

Djokovic was not at his absolute best but was never in any real danger against the 32-year-old Benneteau, who beat him at Indian Wells eight years ago when the Serb was still a teenager.

Djokovic, 26, raced through the opening set in less than half an hour with two service breaks and four aces despite the windy conditions and an approaching sand storm.

The first six games of the second set all went with serve before Djokovic reeled off the last three in a row to seal a comfortable victory in less than 70 minutes. He broke Benneteau for a 4-3 lead when the Frenchman double faulted, then again to wrap up the win when his opponent hit a forehand long and wide.

"I felt like I was very focused on the court from the start, and it's what I was looking for. It's never too easy," said Djokovic, who won the Indian Wells title in 2008 and 2011.

Reuters

Moyes concedes Liverpool are favourites in 'biggest game'

London, 15 March — Manchester United manager David Moyes conceded that Liverpool probably start as favourites to win what he described as "the biggest club game in England" when they meet at Old Trafford on Sunday.

Liverpool are second in the Premier League, seven points behind leaders Chelsea with a game in hand, but 11 points clear of United, who are sixth with no realistic chance of retaining their title.

Former Liverpool striker Ian Rush said earlier on Friday that Liverpool go into the match as the clear favourites and Moyes did not disagree.

"Their league position suggests they are ahead of us and they possibly do come here as favourites. Liverpool are having a very good season and we will have to do everything we possibly can to beat them."

Liverpool, who have won their last four league matches, have not finished above United since 2002 and although they look like doing so this season, Moyes told reporters at his prematch news conference that United still had plenty to play for.

"It would be a big boost for us to win on Sunday," he said. "I think everyone knows the importance of Manchester United v Liverpool games.

"I think it is the biggest game in the country. There is great history between the two clubs going back years and I think this is the biggest club game in the Premier League."

Liverpool (18) and United (20) have won 38 league titles between them.

United, who finished champions five times and runners-up three times in Alex Ferguson's last eight seasons in charge at Old Trafford, have not finished outside the top three since 1991, but they will almost certainly do so this season.

Moyes, who has had a difficult introduction since succeeding Ferguson at the start of the season, said there was plenty of positives to take from their recent form, having kept clean sheets in their last three league matches.

"We are not in as strong a position as we'd like, but we are normally very good coming into the final furlong and we have big games coming up this month. Our motivation is to make sure we keep progressing," he said.

Their only defeat in the last six weeks was a 2-0 reverse at Olympiakos in a Champions League last 16 first leg last month.

Moyes added: "With the exception of Olympiakos we have been progressing and improving. I see signs of it in training, the players are looking well and sharp and I am looking forward to it."

Striker Robin van Persie appeared on Thursday to allay fears that he was looking to move away from Manchester United by saying he wanted to stay beyond the end of his current contract and that he had learnt a lot from Moyes' training sessions.

"It's nice of Robin. Robin is happy here and we are very pleased about that," a naturally delighted Moyes said.

"He has a couple of years left on his contract and I am sure that's something the board will look at. I have always said we have two outstanding forwards in Wayne Rooney and Robin. "Both of them are capable of winning games on their own and both are pivotal international players for Holland and England and are the sort of players any side in Europe or the world would want in their team.

"I am delighted to have them here and that both of them want to be Manchester United players is even better." Winger Nani has returned to the United squad ahead of Sunday's match at Old Trafford, while Rafael, Javier Hernandez and Jonny Evans all have a chance of being involved, Moyes said.

Reuters

Manchester United manager David Moyes reacts during their English Premier League soccer match against West Bromwich Albion at The Hawthorns in West Bromwich, central England on 8 March, 2014. —Reuters

El Salvador election runner-up appeals to top court for recount

San Salvador, 15 March — The runner-up in El Salvador's presidential election said he had requested the Supreme Court on Friday to order a recount of the weekend's tight contest. Norman Quijano, a former mayor of San Salvador and candidate of the right-wing Nationalist Republican Alliance (Arena) party, finished fewer than 7,000 votes behind Salvador Sanchez Ceren of the ruling leftist Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front.

Quijano, 67, told reporters he filed a request for an injunction with the constitutional chamber of the Supreme Court. He had already filed a claim with the electoral tribunal to annul the election because of fraud. Political analysts say his challenge is not expected to succeed. The electoral tribunal has said it could take until early next week to work through Quijano's legal challenge to the election and settle any remaining doubts.—*Reuters*

Norman Quijano, presidential candidate of the conservative Nationalist Republican Alliance party (ARENA) speaks to Reuters journalists about his demand for the annulment of the election, at the international airport in San Salvador on 11 March, 2014.—Reuters

Gunmen kill five army police officers in attack near Cairo

Cairo, 15 March — Unidentified gunmen opened fire on an army police checkpoint on the outskirts of Cairo on Saturday, killing five officers, Egypt's state TV and state news agency reported.

There have been several attacks on security forces since the army ousted Islamist President Mohamed Mursi last July and about 300 security officers have been killed.

Reuters

Motorist charged with murder in crash near Texas festival

Austin (Texas), 15 March — A drunken motorist suspected in a high-speed chase during which two people were killed and nearly two dozen injured near Texas' South by Southwest festival, told police he fled because of outstanding warrants and feared prison, court documents showed on Friday.

Rashad Charjuan Owens, 21, from Killeen, Texas, was charged with one count of capital murder and is being held on $3 million bond, the Austin Police Department said on its website. Police have said additional charges could be added later, such as numerous counts of aggravated assault with a vehicle.

He was subdued by an officer using a stun gun after the incident near SXSW in Austin.

SXSW, running from 7 to 16 March, began as a music event in 1987. It features technology conferences, a film festival and music shows that draw tens of thousands of people to the Texas capital annually.

Many roads in downtown Austin are closed to traffic each night of the event as thousands take to restaurants, bars, clubs and movie theaters. Police set up numerous checkpoints in the area to look for people suspected of driving under the influence.

A victim who was struck by a vehicle on Red River Street during the SXSW festival is assisted by paramedics and bystanders in downtown Austin,Texas on 13 March, 2014.—Reuters

Owens was asked to pull over at a sobriety check point and instead sped away from a police car. He smashed through a police barricade and then plowed down people, some of them lined up outside a nightclub, over a span of city blocks.—*Reuters*

MYANMAR TV

(16-3-2014, Sunday)

6:00 am
1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:30 am
2. Physical Exercise

7:00 am
3. News/Weather Report

8:30 am
4. Amazing World

9:00 am
5. News

9:30 am
6. (38) Phyar Mingalars

10:00 am
7. News

11:00 am
8. Gitadagale Phwintbarohn

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

12:25 pm
10. Round Up of The Week's International News

3:00 pm
11. News

3:20 pm
12. Alinka Wat Yi Music Troupe

4:15 pm
13. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Second Year (History)

5:00 pm
14. News

5:15 pm
15. Sing & Enjoy

6:00 pm
16. News/Weather Reoprt

6:20 pm
17. Cartoon Series

7:00 pm
18. News

8:35 pm
19. Documentary

8:50 pm
20. Hit Songs of Stars

9:00 pm
21. News
22. Tamyethnar Takwetsar

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(16-3-14 07:00am~ 17-3-14 07:00am) MST

* Local News
* Come and Visit, no matter the distance (Pathein)
* World News
* Cosplayer
* Local News
* A Visit to Kyauk Kyi
* World News
* Crocodile Keeper
* Local News
* Strolling Along A Memory Link - U Pein Bridge
* World News
* Manaw Festival
* Local News
* The Stories of The Great Souls (Mar Mar Aye)
* World News
* Myanmar Masterclass: Art Teacher
* Local News
* Myanmar's Traditions and Culture "The Mystique of Shwedagon Pagoda"
* World News
* Distinguished Myanmar Ladies "Kalayar Moe"
* Local News
* Shwesaryan Pagoda Festival
* World News
* Orphanage
* Local News
* "Flying Without Wings" My Great Limitless Adventure (Mandalay & Sagaing)
* World News
* My Life & My Art
* Local News
* Sitagu International Buddhist Academy (Part-1)
* World News
* Kyaikhteeyoe: Mountain Drivers

Race for MVP award to highlight wild finish to season

New York, 15 March — The NBA playoff picture will take shape over the next month but many observers are more intrigued by the battle for the Most Valuable Player award, which is shaping up to be one of the tightest races in recent memory. LeBron James of the Miami Heat and Kevin Durant of the Oklahoma City Thunder have been locked in a dazzling display of one-upmanship all season, with a standout performance from one seemingly motivating the other to similar heights.

Debate over which player should receive the sport's highest individual honor has dominated sports talk shows all season and the only thing you will get pundits to agree on is that the verdict is still too close to call.

James has won four of the past five MVP trophies, including the last two, and his play on the court has clearly indicated that he is not ready to concede the award anytime soon. The 29-year-old Heat forward dazzled fans with a career-high and franchise-record 61-point game earlier this month and, with under five weeks left in the regular season, is shooting over 57 percent from the field, the highest of his career.

Not to be outdone, Durant followed James's 61-point effort with a gem of his own a day later, scoring 42 points on 70 percent shooting. Another MVP award would put James alongside Hall of Famers Bill Russell and Michael Jordan at five. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar is the all-time leader with six. But joining Russell and Jordan is not what motivates James, who has said all along that winning NBA titles is what drives him. His fellow players also say James is all about the team. "Who wouldn't want to get five? Who wouldn't want to put themselves in that category that not many have reached?" Heat guard Dwyane Wade said.

"He knows he has the game to do it. He knows he's a walking MVP every time he takes the floor for multiple years but I don't think he would sacrifice his team success for it." Ballots for the MVP race are due on 17 April, a day after the regular season concludes, and all indications suggest it will be the tightest vote since Steve Nash narrowly beat Shaquille O'Neal in 2005.—*Reuters*

The New Light of Myanmar

Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw consecrated as Myanmar marks major Buddhist event

(from page 1)

The chairman of the leading committee of monks, the presiding Sayadaw of Bhamo Monastery in Mandalay, led the ceremony with union ministers U Thein Nyunt and U Hsan Hsint, among other officials, making offerings and listening to the nine Buddhist precepts. Representing the Defence Ministry, Nay Pyi Taw Commander Maj-Gen Maung Maung Aye was among the people to light candles at the pagoda in the evening along with members of the board of trustees of the Pagoda and local people. As part of the ceremony, the monks offered Shwekyar robes to four Jade Buddha Images at the cave of the Pagoda, with the ritual culminating in the consecrating of the Pagoda by the committeehead monk.

While Uppatasanti Pagoda was packed with visitors, other pagodas in the Nay Pyi Taw area also saw an influx of worshippers, including Lawka Marazein Pagoda, Phayakoesu Pagoda and Koe Khangyi Pagoda in Pyinmana. Very popular was the Datuzaya Datpaungsu Pagoda in Zabuthiri Township, which contains the Maha Muni Buddha Image.

Tabaung is the month of Pagoda festivals in Myanmar and is celebrated on the fullmoon day in March. Many people also mark the day by building sand stupas.

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***Union Ministers U Thein Nyunt and U Hsan Hsint laying down Shwekyar robe on a Jade Buddha Image.*—MNA**

Buddhist devotees celebrate Tabaung Festival at Shwedagon Pagoda

***Buddhist devotees seen on the platform of Shwedagon Pagoda on Fullmoon Day of Tabaung.*—MNA**

YANGON, 15 March— Buddhist devotees in Yangon celebrated the annual pagoda festival Fullmoon Day of Tabaung at the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon on Saturday.

The visitors were given the nine Buddhist precepts from head monk Abhidhaja Maha Rahtaguru Bhaddanta Kasara of Maha Aung Myay monastery and later presented offertories to the monks at the Pagoda.

Followers of Buddhism gathered at other famous pagodas in Yangon to mark the day, including Shwe Phone Pwint Pagoda in Pazundaung Township, Thiri Mingala Kaba-Aye Pagoda and Kyaik Waing Pagoda in Mayangon Township and Maelamu Pagoda in North Okkalapa Township.

The Tabaung festival is celebrated each year in the month of March during full moon.

MNA

Turkish NGO, Myanmar company donate cash to Day Care Center in Hmawby

YANGON, 15 March— Kimse Yok Mu Organization from Turkey and Shwe Myanmar Moe Naing Co Ltd donated US$ 90,000 and K 5 million to a Day Care Center in Hmawby Township, Yangon Region on 14 March. Speaking at the donation ceremony held at Yangon Region Government Office, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe said that the donation will be used to improve the interior.

Director of Public Relations Mr. Shahriyor Turgunov from Horizontal International School and Managing Director U Kyaw Mon Naing of Shwe Myanmar Moe Naing Co Ltd attended the ceremony.

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Taxpayers urged to settle tax debts by March 31

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March—The Internal Revenue Department has urged taxpayers to settle their tax debts no later than 31 March. Those who fail to meet the deadline have been warned that they would be dealt with in accordance with the law.

The department has recently issued public notifications calling on taxpayers to pay cooperation tax, income tax and commercial tax through IRDs in townships. — *MNA*

TV to widen people's horizon: deputy minister

NAY PYI TAW, 15 March —During a visit to relay stations of Myanmar Radio and Television in Mawlamyine and Hpa-an, Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway highlighted their importance saying high-quality resolution would make people want to watch TV which in turn would "broaden their horizons." He urged for the quick dissemination of information on relay stations, leaving leaflets with service number in libraries and book corners.

***Photo shows construction site of Mawlamyine sub-printing house.*—MNA**

Inspecting MRTV's relay stations and IPRD Offices Mon and Kayin States on Thursday and Friday, he said the "information industry" must improve and good servicesmust be provided to ensure customer satisfaction.

He also visited the Mawlamyine sub-printing house and news bureau which are under construction, calling on workers to meet the deadline for completion.

Construction of the Mawlamyine sub-printing house and news bureau started in November 2013, with about 20 per cent of the work completed. The bureau is expected to provide real-time coverage of events across the country, particularly news from Mon and Kayin States.

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