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Japan pledges to provide 24 billion yen in fresh loans to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March — Japan has pledged to provide 24 billion yen in fresh loans to Myanmar to finance a power plant and electricity networks, according to Japanese officials.

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida made the pledge during a meeting with President U Thein Sein at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday morning.

Kishida also held a meeting with his Myanmar counterpart U Wunna

Maung Lwin, signing a memorandum of understanding on six “Grant Aid” projects worth 7.7 billion yen. Three of the projects are aimed at settling ethnic minority issues and promoting national reconciliation in Myanmar. They include emergency food assistance to displaced persons in Rakhine, Kachin and Northern Shan States and support of ethnic minorities.

The food assistance project will be conducted in cooperation with the

World Food Program with a maximum grant amount of 1 billion yen, according to a press release. UNICEF will partner with Japan in the Programme for Emergency Assistance to Displaced Children in Kachin and Rakhine States, with a maximum grant amount of 300 million yen.

Other projects include the improvement of a hospital in Loikaw and the installation of a control center system and safety equipment for main railway lines.

The foreign ministers also discussed territorial and maritime disputes that should be addressed during upcoming ASEAN meetings chaired by Myanmar, officials said.

“We have seen some intense issues in the South China Sea and East China Sea which are not acceptable and we believe those issues will be discussed among ASEAN members,” a Japanese Foreign Ministry official told NLM.

NLM

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More dentists needed: Vice President



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Union Parliament Speaker receives Japanese FM, Deputy Chair of The Elders

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Dhaka Tribune

A referendum in Rakhine State?



Photo shows the article “A referendum in Rakhine State?” in 20 March issue of the Dhaka Tribune. —MNA

Myanmar sends Aide-Memoire to Bangladesh over article calling for a referendum in Rakhine

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March —The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has sent an Aide-Memoire to the Foreign Affairs Ministry of Bangladesh, in reaction to an article that was published in the 20 March issue of the Dhaka Tribune, titled “A referendum in Rakhine State?”

According to the article written by journalist

Zeeshan Khan, people in Sittway and Maungdaw should be able to hold a referendum on independence from Myanmar.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned the Bangladeshi ambassador to object to the article and handed over the Aide-Memoire to Maj. Gen Anup Kumar Chakma, Ambassador of Bangladesh

to Myanmar, on Monday.

The Aide-Memoire has been received by U Myo Myint Than, Myanmar Ambassador to Bangladesh in Dhaka, and passed on to Mr Md Abul-Jafar, the Director-General of the South-East Asia Affairs Department of Foreign Affairs Ministry of Bangladesh.

NLM

YANGON, 24 March—The M.V. Silver Whisper luxury cruise ship arrived at Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa (MITT) in Thanlyin Township in Yangon on Monday.

The cruise ship carrying 277 globetrotters and 292 sailors departed from Los Angeles in the United States on 6 January.

The ship travelled to New Zealand, Australia, Papua New Guinea, China, Vietnam, Thailand and Singapore before laying anchor at Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa.

The tourists will visit Thanlyin, Bago, Mandalay and Bagan for three days.

The ship will depart from the MITT at 12 pm on 27 March and end its visit in Spain via India, Oman, Israel, Greece, Turkey and Italy on 30 April.

It is operated by Silver-sea Cruises Company.

Khin Cho Win

M.V Silver Whisper cruise ship arrives at Myanmar International Terminal Thilawa



M.V. Silver Whisper luxury cruise ship

Halliburton CEO in Myanmar to discuss “energy sector development”



Vice-President U Nyan Tun holds talks with President and Chief Executive Officer of Halliburton Co from the United States Dave Lesar.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March—Vice-President U Nyan Tun held a meeting with President and Chief Executive Officer of Halliburton Co from the United States Dave Lesar in Nay

Pyi Taw on Monday, discussing the energy sector development in Myanmar.

The meeting focused on “technical cooperation” for the development of the oil and gas sector in Myanmar, deployment of modern

equipment and advanced technology in energy use machinery which is necessary to explore on-shore and offshore oil and gas blocks, officials said.

MNA

Union Minister at President Office discusses climate change with EU commissioners

YANGON, 24 March — Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane held talks with European Union commissioners over climate change issues and renewal energy problems during his visit to Europe from 17 to 23 March.

He also discussed issues related to aid from the European Union to Myanmar, development and humanitarian issues, progress of reforms in Myanmar, regional issues in Rakhine State and health care services provided by Médecins Sans Frontières also known as Doctors Without Borders-MSF’s activities in Myanmar.

During his visit to Paris, France, and Brussels, Belgium, the Union Minister held the talks with officials including Mrs Catherine Ashton, Mr Guenther Oettinger, EU Commissioner for Energy, Mrs Kristalina Georgieva, EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response, and Mr Andris Piebalgs, European Commissioner for Development.

Union Minister U Soe Thane also participated in a forum conducted by the Assistance Technique France (Adetef) along with ministers and civil leaders from Africa, Europe and middle-east region.

MNA

Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane poses for photo with Mrs Catherine Ashton.—MNA



Union Industry Minister on inspection tour of No. 35 heavy industry, hydrogen peroxide chemical plant in Chauk

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March— Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint visited No. (35) Heavy Industry (Chauk) on Sunday. The Union minister instructed the in-charges of the industry and the hydrogen peroxide chemical plant to produce high quality products and to meet the demand not only in local market but also foreign market.

He looked round production of insulators at No. (35) heavy industry.

The construction of heavy industry started on 18 April, 2006 and it was

put into service on 3 September, 2010. The industry is generating 11 KV Pin Insulator, 33 KV Pin Insulator, 70 KN Disc Insulator, 90 KN Disc Insulator and 120 KN Disc Insulator.

He proceeded to the hydrogen peroxide chemical plant (Chauk), the first

of its kind in Myanmar. The construction of the plant started on 12 February, 2005 and it was commissioned into service on 23 April, 2006.

At present, the work process was suspended as its main unit caught fire on 2 August, 2012.—MNA

Union Parliament Speaker receives Japanese FM, Deputy Chair of The Elders

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament) and Pyithu Hluttaw (People’s Parliament) Thura U Shwe Mann separately met with Dr Gro Harlem, Former Prime Minister of Norway, Director General of WHO and Deputy Chair of Lon-

don-based The Elders, and Mr Fumio KISHIDA, Japanese Foreign Minister at the same venue here on Monday.

The Speaker held talks over strengthening relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Japan with Mr Fumio Kishida.

MNA



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with Japanese Foreign Minister Mr Fumio KISHIDA.—MNA

Japan, Myanmar to boost good relations

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March—At the invitation of Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Mr Fumio KISHIDA, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, and party paid a working visit to Myanmar on 23-24 March.

During his visit, Mr Fumio KISHIDA discussed further deepening bilateral relations and regional affairs with Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin on Monday morning.

Japanese Ambassador

to Myanmar Mr Mikio NUMTA signed a Memorandum of Understanding on bilateral grant project with Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Daw Lei Lei Thein and an MoU on grant project via international organizations with representatives from WFP, UNHCR and UNICEF in the presence of the two Foreign Ministers.

Next, Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin hosted a luncheon to Japanese delegation.—MNA

Union FM felicitates Hellenic counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Evangelos Venizelos, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Hellenic Republic, on the occasion of the National Day of the Hellenic Republic, which falls on 25 March 2014.—MNA

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein felicitates Hellenic counterpart, PM

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Karolos Papoulias, President of the Hellenic Republic and His Excellency Mr. Antonis Samaras, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic, on the occasion of the National Day of the Hellenic Republic, which falls on 25 March 2014.

MNA

President U Thein Sein discusses peace process with Nobel Laureate and implementation of controversial Economic Zone with Japanese FM

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March — The progress on peace with ethnic groups, stability and democratization were top on the agenda during President U Thein Sein's talks with officials of The Elders—a group of world leaders who work for human rights and peace—and former Finnish President and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Martti Ahtisaari, among other foreign dignitaries, at the Presidential Palace on Monday.

Discussed were the provision of assistance and advice by The Elders, systematic utilization of

natural resources, and the challenges of the upcoming census. The promotion of health and the development of the health sector were at the heart of the discussion with Dr. Gro Harlem, former Director-General of the World Health Organization and former Prime Minister of Norway, who now serves as the Deputy-Chairwoman of The Elders.

Following the talks about human rights protection and other humanitarian issues, was a business discussion with Japan's Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida on the implementation of

the controversial Thilawa Special Economic Zone in cooperation with Japanese companies.

The Thilawa Special Economic Zone has come under scrutiny for the frequent reports on land grabs, with the U.N Special Rapporteur for Human Rights, Tomas Ojea Quintana, saying during a visit to Myanmar in February the rule of law must be obeyed and that local residents should be fairly compensated if relocated.

Aside from their strong interest in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, the

Japanese are looking into a wide range of other investment projects, and have pledged financial assistance for education, and the health sector, among other areas.—NLM

**President
U Thein Sein receives
Dr. Gro Harlem,
former Director-
General of the World
Health Organization
and former Prime
Minister of Norway,
who now serves as the
Deputy-Chairwoman
of The Elders.—MNA**



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Japan's Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida.—MNA



Myanmar Civil Aviation Development Conference-2014 at Traders Hotel

YANGON, 24 March—Myanmar Civil Aviation Development Conference-2014 was launched at the Traders Hotel in Yangon on Monday.

Chairman of Sphere Exhibits Mr. Chua Wee

Phong delivered an address on the occasion.

Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung invited those present to make more investments saying that as parts of reforms of Myanmar's aviation industry, not only local entrepreneurs but also foreign entrepreneurs have been allowed to make investment in the aviation industry for the sake of development of the aviation

industry.

He also expressed hopes to exchange views and experiences of international aviation businessmen at today's conference.

Sphere Exhibits Chairman Mr. Chua Wee Phong and Myanmar Airways International Chairman U Khin Maung Latt opened the conference.

The conference lasts till 25 March.

MNA

**Opening of Myanmar
Civil Aviation
Development
Conference-2014 in
progress.—MNA**



Thingyan Atar pots in high demand

THABEIKKYIN, 24 March — Atar Pots (Thingyan Pots of Water Festival) are entering markets as Thingyan Festival is drawing near.

The Atar pots are

transported by sea to Thabeikkyin in Mandalay Region.

Earthen pot makers fetch more money from sales of pots especially in Tabodwe, Tabaung and

Tagu (February, March and April).

Dwellers in Thabeikkyin earn daily income from selling earthen pots in these days.—*Soe Naing Win (Thabeikkyin)*

Myeik District raises cultivation and production of rubber

MYEIK, 24 March—A meeting between Myanmar Rubber Growers Association (Central) and Myeik District Rubber Association took place at the hall of Myeik District General Administration Department in Myeik, Taninthayi Region, on Saturday.

Joint-Secretary-2 of the Myeik District association explained formation

of district and township rubber growers associations. General Secretary of the association (central) U Khaing Myint approved their formations.

U Zarni Zaw, technical officer of the central association discussed techno-

logical matters for development of rubber cultivation and production and replied to queries raised by those present.

Myeik District focuses on cultivation of rubber plantations in its area and tries to develop rubber production so as to export products.—*Khaing Htoo (Myeik District IPRD)*

Census taking process course concludes in Pyinmana Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March—The administrator of Pyinmana Township presented certificates of duty assignment to basic education teachers on Saturday.

The teachers attended

the population and census taking process course at Myoma Post-Primary School in Pyinmana Township, Dekkhina District, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 22 March.—*Ko Gyi Kyaw*



Briquettes production process demonstrated in Kyaukse Tsp

KYAUKSE, 24 March—To be able to reduce the environmental deterioration impacts, officials from Mandalay Region Dry Zone Greening Department demonstrated production of firewood substitute briquettes at the compound of Kyaukse District DZGD on Sunday.

During the demonstra-

tion, the entrepreneurs from five townships in Kyaukse District displayed their products such as stoves, paddy husk-fired stoves, Mercy Corps and briquettes produced by EREDA.

The locals viewed briquette making processes with the use of green wastes and other organic materials.

Thet Maung



War veterans meet in Salingyi

SALINGYI, 24 March—Hailing 69th Anniversary Armed Forces Day which falls on 27 March 2014, a ceremony to hold war veterans was held at Ngwetha Hall in Salingyi Township, Yinmabin District in Sagaing Region on 23 March.

First, the chairman of township management committee made an opening speech and member of Township War Veterans Organization U Khin Hsaung clarified matters on security, economic and staff welfare. Then, members of township war veterans organization were provided with K 5000 each and one of the members spoke words of thanks.

U Nge (Salingyi)



Sports trainings given in Sagaing Region

SAGAING, 24 March—For emerging new sports generation in the country, officials from Sagaing District Sports and Physical Education Department and staff from the Educa-

tion Department are giving sports training to the students in the summer holidays.

Five trainers are training to 238 students in football, tennis, aerobics

and Karatedo events at the district sports ground and gymnasium as of 20 March.

The courses will run up to 8 April.—*Htway Myint Naing (Sagaing)*



Myanma Economic Bank (branch) put into service in Mahlaing Tsp

MAHLAING, 24 March —Myanma Economic Bank opened its branch in Mahlaing Township in Mandalay Region on Saturday.

Financial Minister of Mandalay Region Dr Myint Kyu and General Manager of Myanma Economic Bank U Hla Myint Aung cut the ribbon to open the new branch.

The newly-opened branch is of reinforced concrete type. The construction work started in November 2013, officials said.

The bank branch is facilitated with two buildings of staff quarters.

It is aimed at enabling the local people to enjoy banking services and loans.

Aung Htay (Mahlaing)

LOCAL NEWS

Skill demonstration of Shinji Kung Fu squad wins public attractions



YANGON, 24 March—Trainees of Shinji Kung Fu Squad performed skill demonstrations with Silat works called hand postures and with using Nanchaku and swords at Maha Bando Park which is a relaxation area for the public

at downtown Yangon.

The squad shows off their skills weekly.

In the early morning of 23 March, the trainees led by trainer U Myat Shin of Shinji Kung Fu training school of Yangon demonstrated their skills for rais-

ing sports spirit of the people young and old. "We have demonstrated skills of Shinji sports weekly. As of this week, we will show off Kung Fu sports of China. We replied to questions of some foreigners that we are now playing My-

anmar Kung Fu sport. We explain Myanmar Kung Fu sport comprises Myanmar martial arts events such as Bando, Banshe, Shangyi, Shan-Tayoke, Emong, Bhamo, etc events with hand postures and long sticks. As of this week, we play

Hospital equipment, medicines provided to hospitals in Pantanaw Tsp



PANTANAW, 24 March—People's Hospital in Pantanaw and station hospital in Inma, Mintasu and Chaungale village-tracts, located in deltaic area of Ayeyawady Region, are giving health

care services to the local people.

Recently, U Aung Tun-Dr San San Yi and family of 27th Street in Yangon donated medical equipment worth K 7 million to Panta-

naw People's Hospital and station hospitals to Inma, Mintasu and Chaungale village-tracts in memory of late U Shwe Dinga-Daw Kyin Ti.

The MP of National Parliament and MP of Ayeyawady Region Parliament attended the donation ceremony where officials handed over medical equipment to the head of Township Health Department and station doctors.

Aungthabye Co of the wellwisher had donated cash and medical equipment worth K 47.8 million to the fund of the hospitals in Pantanaw Township.

Kyemon-166

People wish sanitation along road in Meiktila Industrial Zone

MEIKTILA, 24 March—The Union government has established Meiktila Industrial Zone near the entrance to Meiktila.

The industrial zone is a location for small and medium scale industries.

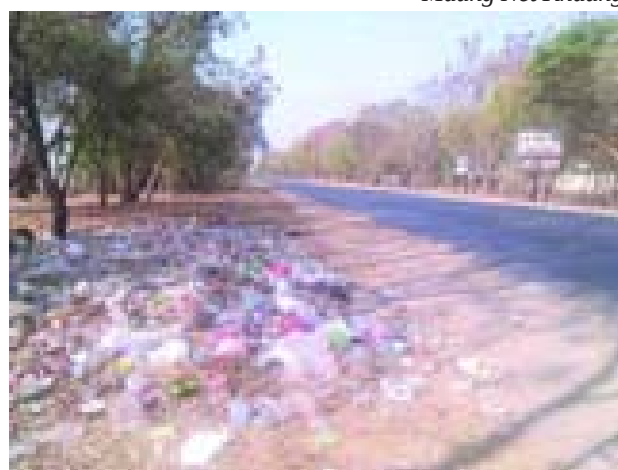
In recent years, Meiktila Institute of Economics was established in the east of the industrial zone. After that, boarding houses, restaurants, tea stops and salons are mushrooming near the industrial zone, and the industrial zone

becomes busy place. Although Meiktila and its industrial zone are bustling and hustling with business institutions, the people do not abide by public ethics. Along the road to the town is filled with plastic bags and garbage, and small piles of garbage are home to dogs.

The inappropriate scenes in Meiktila cannot win the heart of the visitors and locals.

That is why the local people wish to receive super-

vision of the authorities for cleaning the garbage piles



the martial arts with the use of Nanchaku and swords. My trainees play the arts with double Nanchaku. It is improved with plastic pipes not to cause injuries themselves in the demonstration. Their swords are made in China. We set an aim to show off the skills for public observation.

The swords are made of four parts iron sheets and it becomes swords when the player use. We have a plan to play the Silat event will be demonstrated weekly," said trainer U Myat Shin. Myanmar Kung Fu martial arts will be demonstrated at the venue from 6 am to 7 am on Sundays before the rainy season falls. Anyone may receive training at the part.

In recent months, the martial arts group chose the strand area of Botahtaung and Kandawkyi Tower Island. Later, they finally chose the Maha Bando Park for public access, according to Shinji group.

Soe Win (MLA)

Pre-primary students enjoy contests

PATHEIN, 24 March—Pathein District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee of Ayeyawady Region organized the skills contest of pre-primary students at the hall of No 1 Basic Education High School in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region, on 22 March.

In the contest, students at two levels representing townships participated in the various kinds of contests.

After the contest, pre-primary students of Pathein Township entertained dances and sings to the guests. The Chairperson of District WAO and officials presented prizes to winners and gave gifts to all participant students.

District IPRD

Futsal tournament attracts youths of Tatkon Tsp



TATKON, 24 March—With the aim of developing Futsal sport among the local youth, the first

and taking action against those who throw garbage on the road without disciplines to be able to keep the town pleasant and clean.

Maung Net Khaung

Township Administrator's Cup Futsal Tournament was kicked off at the township sports ground on Saturday.

In the debut, Yuzana Team edged out Ahman Team with a wide margin

win 602. Before the match, departmental officials greeted the players and urged them to play fairly.

The final match and prize presentation will be held on 5 April.

Kyemon-092

Hlinethaya Tsp's repaved street put into service

YANGON, 24 March—As a gesture of hailing the 69th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, repaved Minye Kyawswa 2nd Street was commissioned into service on Sunday in Ward 3/B of Hlinethaya Township, a new town established in the time of the previous government, in Yangon Region.

The street was re-

paved on a self-reliant basis.

People's Parliament MP of the township and officials cut the ribbon to open the repaved street.

U Khin Maung Zaw and family together with local people contributed to repaving the street which is 515 feet long, spending K 7.5 million fund.

MHP (Hlinethaya)

Pakistani PM says direct talks with Taliban in one or two days

ISLAMABAD, 24 March — Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said on Sunday that the government's direct talks with the Taliban would be held in a day or two.

The prime minister's remarks came a day after the government and Taliban committees agreed on a venue for the direct talks. Both sides have not disclosed the location for the talks over security reasons. *Xinhua*



Dutch Police check the ID of a man at the area of Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague, the Netherlands, on 22 March, 2014. The third Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) will be held in The Hague on 24-25 March. —XINHUA

G7 leaders to hold crisis talks on Ukraine during nuclear summit

THE HAGUE, 24 March — Leaders of the G7 nations are to hold talks on the sidelines of a nuclear security summit in The Hague on Monday to consider their response to Russia annexing Crimea, amid doubts that sanctions can constrain President Vladimir Putin.

Since the emergency 1-hour meeting was announced last Tuesday, Putin has signed laws completing Russia's annexation of the peninsula on the Black Sea and his troops seized a Ukrainian airbase there. In what has become the biggest confrontation

between the East and West since the Cold War, the United States and the European Union have imposed sanctions targeting some of his closest political and business allies, but it was unclear whether they went far enough to influence Moscow.

At The Hague, the G7 will probably discuss how to exert further pressure and at what potential cost.

"It will be an opportunity for us to explain to each other what we are doing and where we are going, to coordinate our actions," a senior EU official said. —Reuters

Despite UN resolution, Syria's war foes hinder aid access

UNITED NATIONS, 24 March — The United Nations accused Syria's government and rebels of hindering aid access, suggesting both sides could be violating UN Security Council demands that emergency relief reach civilians caught in the crossfire of the three-year civil war. A month after the 15-member council achieved rare unity to unanimously approve a resolution demanding rapid, safe and unhindered aid access, including across borders, UN chief Ban Ki-moon said the situation "remains extremely challenging."

In Ban's first report to the council on the implementation of the February 22 resolution — obtained by Reuters on Sunday — he said 175,000 people remain besieged by government forces

and 45,000 people trapped by opposition groups in several areas. No new ceasefires were brokered to gain access to these areas and there were breaches of existing ceasefires, Ban said.

Some 9.3 million people in Syria need humanitarian assistance, Ban said, while another 2.6 million have fled the three-year civil war, sparked in March 2011 by a revolt against President Bashar al-Assad.

"Humanitarian access in Syria remains extremely challenging for humanitarian organizations," Ban said. "Delivering life-saving items, in particular, medicines, remains difficult. And the assistance reaching people continues to fall far short of what is required to cover even their basic needs." —Reuters

Australian ship homes in on possible debris from Malaysia plane

SYDNEY/PERTH, 24 March — An Australian navy ship was close to finding possible debris from a missing Malaysia Airlines jetliner on Monday as a

mounting number of sightings of floating objects raised hopes wreckage of the plane may soon be found. The HMAS Success should reach two objects

spotted by Australian military aircraft by Tuesday morning at the latest, Malaysia's government said, offering the first chance of picking up suspected debris from the plane.

So far, ships in the international search effort have been unable to locate several "suspicious" objects spotted by satellites in grainy images or by fast-flying aircraft over a vast search area in the remote southern Indian Ocean.

"HMAS Success is on scene and is attempting to locate and recover these objects," Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott, who called his Malaysia counterpart Najib Razak to inform him of the sight-

ing, said in a statement to parliament. The objects, described as a "grey or green circular object" and an "orange rectangular object", were spotted about 2,500 km west of Perth on Monday afternoon, said Abbott, adding that three planes were also en route to the area. Neither Malaysia nor Australia gave details on the objects' size.

"We're not sure if Success will be able to find them tonight," John Young, general manager of the emergency response division of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, said in a video statement. "She may need the assistance of another search aircraft on the scene tomorrow to do that." —Reuters



Journalists look at the monitor of a television camera crew who shot footage onboard a P-3 Orion aircraft of objects in the southern Indian Ocean, during a search of the missing Malaysian Airlines Flight MH370, after returning to RAAF Base Pearce in Bullsbrook, near Perth on 24 March, 2014. —REUTERS

Thai protesters return to streets as pro-govt forces up the ante

BANGKOK, 24 March — Anti-government demonstrators in Thailand resumed street protests on Monday after lying low for weeks, piling pressure on increasingly beleaguered Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, who is expected to face impeachment within days. Her opponents were emboldened by a Constitutional Court decision on Friday to nullify last month's election, delaying the formation of a new administration and leaving Yingluck in charge of a caretaker government with limited powers.

Yingluck's opponents first took to the streets in late November. Twenty-three people were killed and hundreds wounded in the political violence before the protests began to

subside earlier this month. But the court ruling appears to have given a second wind to the agitation.

The protests are the latest installment of an eight-year political battle broadly pitting the Bangkok middle class and royalist establishment against the mostly rural supporters of Yingluck and her billionaire brother, former premier Thaksin Shinawatra, who was ousted in a 2006 coup.

There are growing fears that Thailand could be heading towards serious civil unrest. After months of restraint, Thaksin's "red shirt" supporters have begun making militant noises under hardline new leaders.

They plan a big rally on 5 April, possibly in Bangkok, and the political atmosphere is expected to

become even more highly charged in coming days.

Yingluck has until 31 March to defend herself before the National Anti-Corruption Commission for dereliction of duty over a ruinous rice-buying scheme that has run up huge losses. If the commission recommends her impeachment, she could be removed from office by the upper house Senate, which is likely to have an anti-Thaksin majority after an election for half its members on 30 March.

The Constitutional Court annulment of the election could offer a way out of the political stalemate if the main opposition Democrat Party, which boycotted the 2 February poll, decides to run in a fresh vote. So



Protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban (C) poses for a photo with supporters during a rally in central of Bangkok on 24 March, 2014. —REUTERS

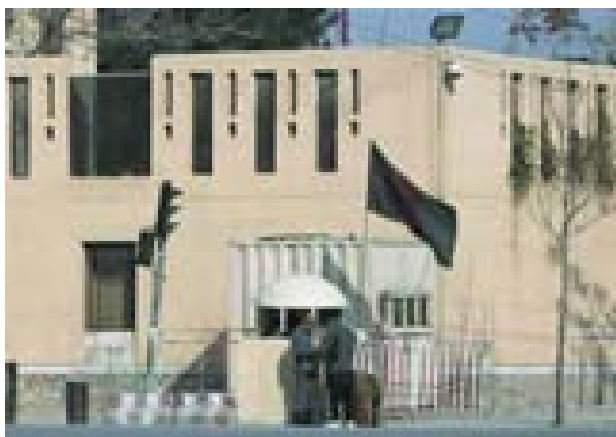
far, however, the Democrat Party has given no clear indication on what it plans to do. The Election

Commission, which is in charge of organizing the new poll, met on Monday to decide how to proceed. Its

chairman said on Friday it would take at least three months to organize a new vote. —Reuters

WORLD

Election observers pull foreign staff out of Afghanistan after hotel attack



A general view of the Serena Hotel in Kabul on 21 March, 2014, a day after it was attacked by gunmen.

REUTERS

KABUL, 24 March—Two major foreign election observer and support missions have pulled staff out of Afghanistan after a Taliban attack on a Kabul hotel, observers said on Sunday, in a move which could undermine confidence in the outcome of the crucial vote.

The 5 April vote is

less than two weeks away and could mark the country's first democratic transfer of power. Many fear a repeat of the widespread fraud that discredited the poll in 2009 when about 20 percent of votes were thrown out.

"It's really bad news," said Jandad Spingar, director at the Free and Fair Election Foundation of Afghanistan, the largest Afghan monitoring group.

"Having international observers in the election is really, really important... (to) give legitimacy to the process."

The National Democratic Institute (NDI) said it had pulled its observers from the country, while a

senior European diplomat said observers from the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) had been pulled out to Turkey.

The European Union's international monitoring mission will be the only major one to remain in Afghanistan after the Taliban on Thursday attacked the heavily fortified Serena Hotel in central Kabul, where most foreign observers were staying.

"We have withdrawn our staff that were staying at the Serena, and we are assessing our election monitoring activities," said Kathy Gest, public affairs director at NDI.

NDI observer Luis

Maria Duarte was among the nine people killed and many of his colleagues were in the building when four gunmen with pistols sprayed diners at the hotel's restaurant with bullets.

Officially, the OSCE said it had yet to make a final call on whether it would cancel its international election support mission, despite sources saying foreign staff had already left for Turkey.

"Our security experts are currently assessing the security situation in Kabul for our team, who were at the Serena the night of the attack," spokesman Thomas Rymer said.

While violence and

insecurity across Afghanistan was always going to confine foreign observers mostly to compounds in major cities, their presence and expertise was to serve as a vital form of reassurance to their Afghan colleagues.

The Serena Hotel had been attacked before, but has since been increasingly fortified and considered safe enough to accommodate foreign observers during the election.

It was also one of few places foreign officials were still permitted to go after the Taliban attacked a popular Lebanese restaurant killing 21 people in January.

Reuters

France's National Front sees town halls in its grasp

PARIS, 24 March—France's anti-immigrant National Front (FN) has surged to power in one former Socialist town-hall bastion and expects more victories in local elections where voters punished President Francois Hollande for failing to tackle unemployment.

In what leader Marine Le Pen called a breakthrough for her protectionist anti-EU party, the FN won power in the northern former coal-mining town Henin-Beaumont in a first-round vote on Sunday, and leads in at least six other towns before run-offs scheduled for next week.

With turnout levels close to record lows after a series of political scandals that have hit mainstream French politicians of both left and right, Hollande's Socialists and their allies won just 43 percent of the national vote, behind 48 percent for opposition conservatives, exit polls showed.

The FN won 7 percent of the national vote — a proportionately high amount, given that it fielded candidates in just 600 of the some 36,000 constituencies across France.

Reuters

66 killed in attacks across Iraq

BAGHDAD, 24 March —A total of 66 people were killed in violent attacks and battles between insurgents and Iraqi security forces in the provinces of Anbar and Diyala, security sources said.

In Iraq's western province of Anbar, an Iraqi commando force fought fierce clash with gunmen in al-Sijar area in the northern part of the militant-seized city of Fallujah, some 50 km west of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, leaving 33 militants killed, a provincial police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The army's artillery pounded the industrial district in Fallujah, killing three militants and injuring two others, the source said.

Separately, gunmen shot dead a member of a government-backed Sahwa paramilitary group in Abu Ghraib area, some 25 km west of Baghdad, the source added. Anbar Province has been the scene of fierce clashes that flared up after Iraqi police dismantled an anti-government protest site outside Ramadi in late December last year.

In the country's eastern province of Diyala, anti-government militant groups, suspected to be linked to al-Qaeda organization, took control of three districts in the town of Buhruz near the provincial capital city of Baquba, some 65 km northeast of Baghdad, after fierce clashes since late on Saturday night with Iraqi security forces, the source said. The clashes resulted in the killing of 14 militants and three policemen, wounding three policemen, the source said, adding that reinforcement troops are surrounding the districts, while dozens of families left their homes to safer areas in the town of nearby Baquba city for fear of the continuing clashes.

Xinhua



The overturned petrol tanker is seen at Charoti Naka in Dahanu district of Maharashtra, India, on 22 March, 2014. Seven people died and nine sustained burn injuries as a petrol tanker exploded on Mumbai-Ahmedabad national highway on Saturday afternoon, local media reported.—XINHUA

Venezuela prosecutor sees police 'excesses' in protest crackdown

CARACAS, 24 March—Venezuela's top state prosecutor on Sunday said security forces had committed "excesses" in breaking up nearly two months of opposition protests against the government of President Nicolas Maduro that have left at least 34 dead.

Maduro's adversaries have accused the National Guard of brutally repressing the demonstrations, while the president says security forces have in fact been restrained in face of violent disruptions of public order.

"With regards to the violation of human rights, yes, there have been excesses by police, but state prosecutors are investigating this," said Luisa

Ortega, the top state prosecutor, during an interview broadcast on Sunday.

Since the start of the demonstrations, state prosecutors have opened 60 investigations into alleged human rights violations and imprisoned 15 officials in connection with those incidents, she said.

Three people have died from gunshot wounds in shootouts linked to the protests, witnesses and local media said on Saturday.

Demonstrators have been clashing nearly every day with riot police since the demonstrations began, with security forces firing tear gas and buckshot and the demonstrators responding with rocks and Molotov cocktails.

Opposition activists have shown videos of troops and police beating student demonstrators as evidence of excessive force. Maduro's sympathizers have shown videos

of hooded assailants attacking government offices and say improvised barricades have restricted free transit and caused deaths by preventing the ill from receiving treatment.—Xinhua



Anti-government protesters stand in front of a National Guard armoured vehicle during a protest against Nicolas Maduro's government in San Cristobal on 22 March, 2014.—REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 25 March, 2014

The development of RFS

By Tin Maung Than, Chief Editor of
News and Periodicals Enterprise

Serving the people with utmost intellectual and professional ability and knowledge of newsroom staff is the main purpose of the State-run daily newspapers.

They are informing, entertaining and enriching the readers daily while seriously taking into account the RFS in addition to the people's centered policy the country has adopted.

“R” or the first letter of the acronym “RFS”

is “reaching” meaning all the information, entertainments and enrichments must reach every corner of the country. As a step towards this goal, we have been extending sub-printing houses in some major towns of Regions and States and enlarging our distribution network till reaching the remote areas where our brethren live.

In this regard, we are in the process of changing our two Myanmar language dailies into PSM or public service media that always gives priority to the voices, concerns and needs of the grassroots everywhere around the country as well as the minorities of the far away areas. After reaching every corner of the Union the work of “feeding” or “F” follows. The first important thing in feeding is that our news reports and information on knowledge and entertainment must be accurate, interesting and beneficial without having any words or pictures in connection with hate speech or hate action. More-

over they must be totally free from substances that encourage obscenity or conflicts in any way.

The final part is “S” or “seeding”. As daily newspapers are included in one of the most effective means of knowledge enrichment of the people of all walks of life, they must cover harm-free, non-bias, reader-friendly and correct information for all readers.

Here, newsroom staff on their part must also enhance their professional skills, competency and knowledge through experience, life-long learning and in-housing training for sustainable development of RFS.

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.

Hailing the 69th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

All the time I love Tatmadaw

Hailing 69th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

The Armed Forces Day has come around once again, This time as 69th Anniversary, but annually as the same, Whenever it comes, comes as auspicious day, So makes the people nearer and dearer to our beloved Tatmadaw with out delay, Thousands of soldiers marched with the military songs, Towards the Parade Ground, with patriotic songs, voices like a thunder storm, It recollects the days back to our marching songs, Never forgotten, though the days were gone, Because, we fought and drove the imperialist with the people along, Soldiers are garlanded by the people all along the marching path, This tentamounts a symbol gifts from the People's Hearts, Soldiers are cheered and encouraged by the crowds in their marching walks, Until they came to the designation resort, The songs of the soldiers came to a halt at the parade ground, A waiting to salute and listen to C-in-C's address all around, People enjoyed the night of Armed Forces Day, They love to see the flourishing illuminable Fire Works in the sky in happy way, Tatmadaw is loved by our citizens for ever, For, Tatmadaw is the only one saving the people lives in time of danger, Nobody can deny this fact across the nationwide, From the cradle, even a newly-born child will speak truth with all the pride, We the people love the soldiers whole hearty, Because, their kindness, deeds, and the helping hands towards the people always in generosity, But, decades of Insurgency that stunted economic development in our country, Due to lack of peace, stability, tranquility Myanmar turned into poverty, When our neighbours have gone high sky prosperity, Myanmar came into determination yearly in the nation wealth, Because, of the insurgency against the STATE should be said, Since, seven decades ago, various efforts were made by our government Tatmadaw, With all the ethnic armed groups, reconciliation and reciprocal ceasefire for, To meet on the round table, to solve the arms conflict through dialogue, Some came, some reluctant, some asked due privileges,

thus made the dialogue failed records, Yet our Tatmadaw, with perseverance, tolerance, opened a warmly welcome door, all the time for any negotiation, As a symbol of love, peace, kindness, and unity, infavour of people's aspiration, Long lost, a life long, years have wasted and dwindled away, No stability, no tranquility, gun-firing were heard every where in sorrowful way, Thus, our national brethren were forced as homeless Vagabons to remote areas for safety, Some are ruined and dwelling, in immense devastation for precautionary, Fighting each other of our own national brethren blood were the main culprit and cause in every where, Thus, were the reasons compelling our national brethren to live in poverty manner, So, now is the essential time, my dear national brethren, To spell and end our nasty long last conflict as bitter lessons, Our beloved Union President and honourable Commander-in-Chief have no doubt love and fraternal affection upon the national brethren in vast purity, Come forward so my dear national brethren, for a peaceful round table political dialogue in as trustworthy, For the interest and benefit of the entire people across the nationwide, Stopping the ceasefire even SKIRMISH, sooner the better as a national pride, Let the International Community witness our UNITY and Honesty, As to how we love each other for the development of our country, So hands in hands and hearts to hearts, let us strike, For the economic development future bright, So that every conner of the nation would not be there any poverty, Obviously, by its self it would annihilate poverty alleviation automatically, By Nature and by GOD gifts, Myanmar possesses immense natural resources in all sectors, On the mountain, on the land, in the creeks, the rivers, in the SEA and else where, So my dear national brethren why not we lend our helping hands? Towards the State and solve the political dilemmas to meet an END, Come forward and meet higher authorities in a bodily manner, To eradicate and poverty allevition in our country for ever, To develop our nation into prosperity,

Utilizing the abovementioned natural resources together in reliability, Keep aside all the differences and march forward to enter dialogue, For ever lasting peaceful precious records. Had no multi armed forces in our land since independence regained as an opportunity, Myanmar would have been now to a certain level rich in the regional community, But, lack of stability, security, destabilization, etc., Myanmar lacked behind in all fields, When compare some times with other countries behind still, As of the contents, the President stressed the defence forces in cooperation with the ethnic armed forces, Will Join hands to help to reform the peace process, The State will enjoy peaceful developed multi-party democratic nation in reality, From the bottom of his heart, we believe the President said in sincerity, Building democratic nation is on prevailing sound foundation he said also, We all national races keep this costly expression in our hearts therefore. Young and old of all ages, to keep the President remarks in custody, For the next generation to learn this as history, Once again, my dear brethren, let us stay together under one Union Flag in harmony, Stoppage of bellicose is MUST on our motherland, Get rid of all political differences and get together on Myanmar sand, Democratic nation is easily seen if we walk along with Tatmadaw peacefully, Especially, for all of us to stay long lives in tranquility, Being mortal, MEN may come and MEN may go, But, the existence of beloved Tatmadaw will ever stay tall as before, Bold and brave our Tatmadaw upholds the Three Main National Causes, To save guard the people and the nation in time of unforeseen consequences, Our Tatmadaw is born with the Patriotic Spirit, There they are, for the entire nation overwhelming all the forth-coming dangers in excellance quick, In conclusion, our honourable and respected Tatmadaw as I said, will remain high sky tall as many years ago, Never down to the Earth, Will always like the SKY UP, As taller as Mount Everest, Till all the lives in the Universe laid in for final rest. Long live my beloved Tatmadaw.

Kyaw Zan Hla

Member of Myanmar Writers Association (0040)

ARTICLE

Water — the Elixir of Life

(To commemorate World Water Day 23rd March 3014)

Water is the source of life, whether of bird, beast or man. An old adage in Myanmar says wisely “One can survive 7 days without food, but just one day without.” Very few trees and plants grow well or survive without water although there are a few hardy shrubs and thorn trees that grow in deserts and dry lands. Water slakes thirst and also cleanses the body and purifies the mind. Yet we humans have exploited nature to such an extent that this precious and priceless resource, especially pure water for drinking has become scarce. This is because the snow and ice that provide us with drinking water have melted away into the sea. Twenty per cent of the world’s fresh water comes from Greenland ice, but it is melting and flowing into the sea. The snows and glaciers of the Himalayas which feed the Ayeyawady and other rivers as well as our underground aquifers are also disappearing; not melting seasonally as is usual but disappearing altogether. The after effects of melting snow and ice could become a threat to life on Earth. It is said by some environmentalists that five thousand people die daily from drinking unclean water and 1 billion of the world’s population have no access to safe drinking water.

Myanmar has had a long and fascinating tradition which places great value on water. It is partly a Buddhist tradition but it may also be because Myanmar is a tropical country with some areas known as the dry belt where water is scarce; drinking water especially. This combined with the Buddhist morality of ‘*dhāna*’ or fulfilling the needs of others with good will and generosity

gave rise to the practice of providing water for the parched and thirsty, human or otherwise.

I first became aware of this tradition when I reached the age of five or so when one begins to ask the ‘why?’ of almost everything, and I questioned my grandmother about the two pots of water on a sheltered stand outside our gate — the “*Ye-chaan-sin*”, that is a “stand of cool water”. The pots were placed on clean sand with green tufts of paddy seedlings growing around them to keep the water in the pots cool. There were also two mugs made from half coconut shells pierced on opposite sides, to slide through a slender wooden or bamboo stick for a handle. It was like a ladle with a cup at the end. One could hold the handle and dip the cup into the pot to get clear, cool water to quench thirst without contaminating the water that had been carefully filtered. I wanted to know why they had been placed there and why some member of the household had to clean them and refill them with water that had been properly strained every day. My grandmother then explained that people such as hawkers and others who had to go about their business on foot under the hot tropical sun were often thirsty and that it was a good deed to provide cool, clean water for them. She went on to explain that though it cost next to nothing to provide drinking water, it automatically earned a lot of merit for the donor or donors. She also explained to me that according to Myanmar Theravada Buddhist tradition if one provides water for those in need one gets ten blessings without supplication. The ten blessings are:

1. Power and influence

2. Worldly wealth
3. Retinue of attendants
4. Grace and sensitivity
5. Freedom from danger and disaster
6. Prestige
7. Courage and integrity
8. Pleasing physical appearance
9. Enduring wealth
10. Excellent physical and mental health

Whatever the rewards, the Myanmar is always ready to give drinking water to whoever asks. You can stop at any house to quench your thirst. There is no such thing as the caste system in Myanmar to refuse a stranger a cup or glass or mug of water. And there is always someone like my grandmother who has built a roadside “*Ye-chaan-sin*” for all and sundry. Nowadays you can still see large plastic cannisters of purified water on iron stands or placed on a rough wooden stand of planks nailed to a huge tree trunk at roadsides. Needless to say the cups are also plastic and they are attached with small metal chains to the jar; the chain is another sign of the times.

Myanmar is usually regarded as a country rich in natural resources and water as a resource seems inexhaustible, especially to those who live in areas where the monsoon rains are regular and there are brooks and streams and creeks and rivers at almost every turn. In every village in these regions there is at least one huge well. The men fetch water for household use with two buckets slung on a pole which he shoulders and the women come to gossip while washing their family clothes a fair distance away from the well. People, mostly men take baths at the well again some distance away not to contaminate the water in the well. Lissome

young women fetch drinking water from these wells just before dusk made up with ‘*thanakha*’¹ and hair adorned with jasmine. This is where the young maidens meet and gossip and rendezvous with young swains after which they sway home gracefully with the water pot balanced on the head. There are also wells in cities and towns. Mandalay

Taung Pagoda. But in places like Myingyan especially in isolated villages, water is so scarce that wells are rare. Most people are obliged to walk long distances under the scorching sun to fetch water for household use. They often have to dig small shallow pits with their hands in dry creek beds for clear, cool drinking water. So, in many of

ter which we took so much for granted could become a big problem (it has already reached the level of crises in other parts of the world) if pollution of the air, seas and soil and damage to the environment continues unchecked and unabated.

Water is precious and priceless for it means life.

The life support system of all living beings on Earth includes clean air, fresh water as well as good soil. Life cannot be sustained without water or air and without water the soil will not yield food.

The United Nations Global Outlook-4 report says that, “close to 2 billion people are likely to suffer absolute water scarcity by 2025.”² It is hoped that the world community will do something positive and effective so that the gloom and doom of the UN Global Outlook-4 will not come to pass.

In the meanwhile, we in Myanmar should continue to maintain our water tradition to lessen the pollution of the vast network of rivers and creeks and to prevent our underground aquifers from drying up. We fervently hope that with care there will still be the “*Ye-chaan sin*”, and wells and tanks of cool clear water in every city, town and village for the thirsty, in the days to come.

¹A fragrant paste from the bark of the “*Thanakha*” tree (*Limonia acidissima*)

²The Myanmar times 5-11 November 2007, p18/p4

By Kyi Kyi Hla

used to have several huge wells at cross roads and in places like Mawlamyine, Dawei and Myeik the wells are huge and deep. They hardly ever used to dry up. The wells are usually donated by charitable persons. Monasteries also have wells and concrete cisterns for the monks, donated by devotees. Since ancient times there have been donors of wells and tanks for humans and animals alike. Donating water is one of the most meritorious deeds after building a pagoda or monastery. So, wells and tanks abound wherever water is plentiful.

In the hot dry belt of central Myanmar however, water is scarce and is often full of silt and salt. In a place like Shwebo several miles north of Mandalay, one had to buy two kinds of water — one for cleaning and washing and another for drinking known respectively as ‘*ye-ngan*’ and ‘*ye-cho*’, that is salt water and sweet water. As a result water is considered more precious than anything else and since ancient times, kings, courtiers and the wealthy have built wells and artificial ponds wherever possible, to earn merit for the hereafter. One of the most ancient of such ponds was the once famous ‘*Mya Kan*’ in Bagan; it is now a dried up field that can be seen from atop the *Tuyin*

these places people have to be careful not to waste such a scant item vital for life. But the donation of water is still a continued practice and these days tube wells are donated rather than surface wells.

Yet there are signs that fresh drinking water is getting scarce. We, who live in large cities like Yangon, are obliged to buy purified water for drinking which was unheard of in days gone by.

In these days of global warming pure drinking water is in very short supply across the world and even Myanmar with its bountiful water resources could face shortage of pure health-giving drinking water. Climate change is a stark reality which has not left Myanmar untouched. Weather patterns have changed; there is either too much or too little water in certain parts of the country. Pure drinking wa-

Daw Kyi Kyi Hla was a university teacher of philosophy in both Yangon and Mandalay universities from 1954 till she retired as professor and head of the Philosophy Department of the Arts and Science University of Yangon in 1982. She holds a BA (Honours) degree and MA degree in philosophy from the University of Rangoon.

She was also a member of the board of Editors of the English magazine “The Myanmar Perspective” for the ten years of its publication and circulation. She has several published books and articles to her credit on philosophy which include the Ethics of Environmental Conservation from the Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Perspective.

She was awarded the Teacher of the Year title on World Teachers Day 2010.

USD 1 equivalent to

SGD	1.2711(-0.0029)
Baht	32.4600(+0.0800)
Ringgit	3.3053(-0.0032)
Yuan	6.2157(-0.0106)
Rupee	60.7550(-0.1750)
Taka	77.6500(-0.1300)
Won	1077.9600(-2.0150)
TWD	30.5570 (-0.0480)
Yen	102.5500(+0.3230)
EURO	0.7249(-0.0003)
AUD	1.0996 (+0.0004)
Pound	0.6064(-0.0003)

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (24-3-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K 674,800 per tical: Selling K 675,800 per tical

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K 675,000 per tical: Selling K 675,800 per tical

Foreign Exchange Rate

USD Buying	K 961:	Selling	K 966
SGD Buying	K 752:	Selling	K 761
Euro Buying	K 1315:	Selling	K 1330

Premium Diesel (1L)	Ks 990
Diesel (1L)	Ks 950
Octane (95) (1L)	Ks 1100
Octane (92) (1L)	Ks 930
Petrol (1L)	Ks 814

More dentists needed: Vice-President



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham poses for documentary photo with faculty members of University of Dental Medicine (Yangon).—MNA

YANGON, 24 March—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham during a tour of Yangon Region met with faculty members of the University of Dental

Medicine (Yangon) on Monday morning.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-President said that more dentists are needed as only a small

number of students graduate from the university.

He also went to the University of Medicine-2 (Yangon) in North Okkalapa Township, where he

said in a speech that the university has been turning out a large number of outstanding medical practitioners so far.

MNA

Kachin ethnic groups to be counted as Kachin national race in upcoming census: Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March — The 27th day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Union Parliament, continued in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday, with parliamentarians submitting proposals of amendments and holding discussions on the National Planning Bill for the 2014-2015 FY and the 2014 Union Budget Bill.

Among those participating in the discussions on the two bills was Daw Khin Hmway Lwin of Mingin Constituency, who called for a review of the expenditures of the President Office and two Hluttaw Offices. She stressed the need to release lists of the number of government employees and their salaries in every fiscal year.

In his suggestion on the Union Budget Bill, U Thurein Zaw of Kawkaik Constituency said the Union government's assistance of K 1715.430 billion to regional and state governments and K 33 billion for the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Development Fund should be put under separate headings. He expressed his support for the National Planning Bill, saying that priorities of the Bill have been given on electrification and drinking water supply programmes.

During today's Q and A session of the Pyithu Hluttaw, Deputy Minister for

Rail Transportation U Myint Thein cited human error and mechanical faults as the causes of rail derailment. He said due to financial and manpower constraints, training courses for train drivers, maintenance and monitoring programs are being undertaken only section by section.

Responding to a question about the census-taking process, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Win Myint said that despite the variety of Kachin ethnic groups, they will all be counted as the Kachin national race.

During today's Q and A session of Amyotha Hluttaw, Deputy Minister for

Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw responded to a question about whether construction of the left channel of North Yama Dam in Pale Township of Sagaing Region will continue.

He said that the decision will be made after a work coordination meeting between the ministry and Sagaing Region Government.

He proposed that the plan should be implemented as irrigation will ensure crop output growth.

Regarding the Bill on amending the Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law, U Aung Myint Thein, member of Amyotha

Hluttaw Bill Committee, gave an account of the Bill that suggests amendments ensuring relaxation of restrictions on the application process and reduction of jail terms by a half.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the Union Parliament, passed Peaceful Assembly and Peaceful Procession Law on 2 December, 2011 in accord with the Section 354 (b) of the Constitution for enabling the citizens to enjoy rights of a peaceful assembly and peaceful procession.

At today's Amyotha Hluttaw session, the Association Registration Bill and Standardization Bill were approved. —MNA

Health Ministry celebrates World TB Day-2014



Brunei Sultan arrives Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March—At the invitation of President U Thein Sein, Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolki-ah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, His Majesty King of Brunei and party arrived in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

They were welcomed by Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin, Deputy

Minister Dr Aung Kyaw Myat and officials at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.

The Guard of Honour saluted the Sultan of Brunei, and students waved miniature flags of the two nations along both sides of the road near the entrance to the airport.—MNA



Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah being welcomed by Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin at the airport.—MNA

Union Minister for Culture inspects ancient Tagaung city

NAY PYI TAW, 24 March—Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu met with township and ward administrators and town's elders in ancient Tagaung city of Thabeikkyin Township in Pyin Oo Lwin District on Sunday.

The Union Minister inspected being dig pots believed to be cultural herit-

ages of Pyu period in the compound of Tagaung Basic Education High School, construction of retaining walls to prevent the city wall and areas from river erosion, Tagaung Archaeological Museum, maintenance of city wall of the southern part of Tagaung and construction for displaying foundries under the shelters.—MNA

YANGON, 24 March—World Tuberculosis Day-2014 was celebrated at the Ministry of Health in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin delivered an address citing that World Tuberculosis Day, falling on 24th March each year, is designated to build public awareness that tuberculosis today remains an epidemic in much of the world.

He continued that it commemorates the day in 1882 when Dr Robert Koch astounded the scientists by announcing that he had discovered the cause of tuberculosis, the TB bacillus.

World TB Day has been celebrated in the world countries including Myanmar for 19 years. At present, many lives can be saved with the use of BCG vaccine.

He called for cooperating in taking measures for TB-HIV collaborative activities in the country.

The slogan of World TB Day-2014 is "TB, Reach the three million, Find, Treat, Cure TB".

Medical Officer Dr. Erwin Cooreman of World Health Organization (WHO) read out the message sent by the director of WHO regional office for South-East Asia.—MNA

WORLD

Boat accident death toll in western Uganda rises to 107

KAMPALA, 24 March — One hundred and seven people have died after a boat capsized in a lake along the border of Uganda and the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ugandan police said on Monday after recovering more bodies. The boat carrying mostly Congolese refugees tipped

over early on Saturday in Lake Albert. Police say the boat was overloaded, a common factor in similar tragedies in the east African country.

The Albertine Rift region of Uganda is home to thousands of Congolese refugees who have fled strife at home over the years, particularly in Democratic

Republic of Congo's eastern region, which has been plagued by violence involving various rebel groups.

Police said that they estimate about 150 people were on the boat and that they expect no more survivors.

"Since the rescue operations began on Saturday we have recovered a total of 107 bodies and we think we have roughly accounted for every one although we can't rule out more bodies being found since our working number of those on board was an estimate," Charles Sebambulidde, the Albertine regional police commander told Reuters by phone.

"At this time our search is for bodies because we don't think any more survivors are still out there." Lake Albert is about 160 km (100 miles) long and 30 km

wide and is the northernmost of a chain of lakes in the Albertine Rift, the western branch of the Rift Valley.

The boat began its journey at the northern end of the lake and was heading south to a landing site on the Ugandan shoreline when it ran into trouble at around mid-morning.

Popular with local traders and fishermen, boats — often flimsy and overloaded — criss-cross the lake linking the towns and villages that dot the shoreline.

Accidents are relatively common on Uganda's lakes, which include Lake Victoria and Lake Edward, due to overloading, lack of maintenance and lax enforcement of safety standards.

Reuters



Relatives and friends wait during the second day of rescue operations after a boat carrying mostly Congolese refugees capsized in Lake Albert along the Uganda-Democratic Republic of Congo border, on 23 March, 2014.
Reuters

US sending more forces, aircraft to seek Uganda warlord Kony

WASHINGTON, 24 March—The Obama administration is sending about 150 Special Operations troops along with military aircraft to Uganda to help in the search for warlord Joseph Kony, the Pentagon said on Sunday.

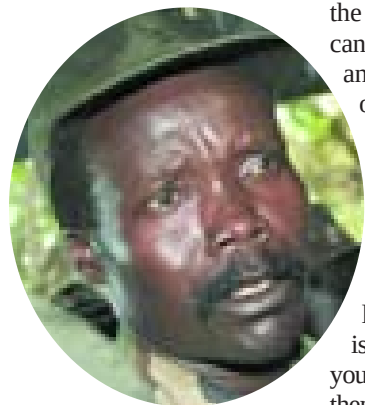
The deployments started on Sunday night after the administration began to notify Congress. The decision was first reported by *The Washington Post*, and later confirmed by the Defence Department. In the first deployment of US military aircraft to Uganda to help locate Kony, at least four CV-22 Osprey aircraft will arrive in the country by midweek, together with refuelling planes and Special Operations forces airmen to fly and maintain them, the Pentagon said.

US personnel were authorized to "provide information, advice and assistance" to an African Union force tracking Kony and his Lord's Resistance Army, the *Post* reported. "While combat-equipped, they are prohibited from engaging LRA forces unless in self-defence," it said.

The Ospreys, which can take off and land vertically, are capable of ferrying 24 troops and their gear. They are expected to help African Union forces respond more quickly to tips on Kony's whereabouts, the Pentagon said.

A 5,000-strong AU Regional Task Force, supported by about 100 US Special Forces, has been hunting Kony and his fighters. Most of them are thought to be hiding in jungles straddling the borders of Central African Republic, South Sudan and Democratic Republic of Congo.

LRA fighters, who emerged in northern Uganda in the late 1980s, are known for using extreme violence, including chopping off limbs as a form of punishment, as well as raping young girls and abducting them for use as sex slaves. The *Post* quoted administration officials as saying the deployment did not signal the White House was weakening its criticism of new anti-gay legislation in Uganda that imposes harsh penalties for homosexuality.—Reuters



Leader of the Lord's Resistance Army Joseph Kony speaks to journalists after a meeting with UN humanitarian chief Jan Egeland at Ri-Kwamba in southern Sudan on 12 Nov, 2006.—REUTERS



Kenyan police men walk past members of the public standing behind the cordoned off area outside the church where gunmen attacked worshippers attending a church service at the Coast coastal town of Mombasa, on 23 March, 2014.

REUTERS

Gunmen kill six in attack on Kenyan church

MOMBASA, 24 March — Gunmen shouting in a foreign language killed six worshippers in a church near the coastal city of Mombasa on Sunday, an attack of the kind that Islamist militants have been carrying out in retaliation for Kenya's intervention in neighbouring Somalia.

Witnesses said the attackers burst in through the church's back door before shouting out and opening fire on the congregation.

"Both carried big guns and began shooting all over the place. I fell to the ground and could hear screams," said Lilian Omondi, who was leading a prayer meeting at the time.

Blood-spattered Bibles and overturned plastic chairs

and bullet casings lay strewn across the floor.

The attackers tried to raid a second church nearby but fled when armed police on patrol in the area appeared. A top Interior Ministry official later said they had escaped, and there was no immediate claim of responsibility.

The Somali Islamist militant group al Shabaab and its local sympathizers have carried out similar attacks in Kenya, some of them on churches, in revenge for the Kenyan army's intervention against al Shabaab in Somalia.

The Kenyan coast's large Muslim minority, many of whom feel marginalized by the predominantly Christian government, have

been a fertile recruitment ground for Islamist militant networks.

Breaking up those networks has become a priority for the Nairobi government, but moderate clerics say its heavy-handed tactics have fuelled resentment among Muslim youths.

Kenyans are increasingly alarmed at the relative ease with which militants appear to move around East Africa's biggest economy - a recipient of US counter-terrorism funding.

Parliament called for better coordination between the security and intelligence agencies after 67 people were killed in an al Shabaab attack on a shopping mall in Nairobi in September.

Reuters

Access to safe drinking water eludes Kenya's urban poor

NAIROBI, 24 March — Kenya's Jane Kimani was downcast on Saturday morning as she waited for a call from a water vendor who had earlier promised to deliver the precious liquid on time but later backtracked.

Kimani was in a group of elderly women whiling away at an open ground in KCC village, a densely populated Nairobi slum, as they waited patiently for a water trucker to deliver the commodity. The mother of five in her late 50s had a herculean task of balancing morning chores and waiting in the sun for the elusive water vendor.

Talking to *Xinhua* at the edge of KCC village on Saturday morning, Kimani revealed that she had endured four days without running water in her tiny shack. "It became unbearable when my grandchildren visited and the taps were dry. I spent two dollars every day to buy ten jerry cans of water from vendors," Kimani told *Xinhua*.

Her neighbours too were thrown off balance when the taps run dry and a reprieve was not forthcoming after presenting their grievances to Nairobi water utility.—Xinhua

Surviving victims of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki visit the Singapore National Museum in Singapore, on 23 March, 2014.
XINHUA



19 wounded as bus overturned in N Philippine expressway

MANILA, 24 March — Nineteen passengers were wounded when the bus they were travelling overturned along the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) in northern Philippine province of Laguna on Monday, local media reported.

The bus coming from Lipa City in northern province of Batangas lost one of its tires in Laguna province at 6:20 am on Monday and turned on one side, Inquirer quoted Chito Sibol, spokesman of SLEX, as saying.

Nine passengers were taken to Binan Doctors Hospital, another nine to San Jose Hospital and Trauma Centre and one was taken to Fernando Airbase Hospital.

The accident caused heavy traffic along SLEX Investigation on the accident is underway.—Xinhua

China premier says environment protection will spur growth

BEIJING, 24 March — Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said on Sunday that efforts to improve the country's environment would create new business opportunities, state news agency Xinhua reported. "Environmental work and economic expansion shall be coordinated,

because reducing production capacity creates huge business potential for new, green industries," Xinhua cited Li as telling a meeting.

China will control total energy consumption with higher efficiency, while optimizing industrial infrastructure with smart

power grids and clean energy like wind power, nuclear power, hydropower and solar power generation, he added.

Li stressed developing the service industry, which "consumes less energy but provides job opportunities, by lowering the threshold of market access with more policy incentives", Xinhua said.

The State Council, China's Cabinet, will carry out both open and secret probes into energy saving and emission cuts this year, to ensure the environment is being properly protected, Li added.

Despite repeated pledges to clean up China's seriously polluted environment, especially in the highly industrialized east, little apparent progress appears to have been achieved.—Xinhua



China's Premier Li Keqiang gestures as he speaks during a news conference, after the closing ceremony of the Chinese National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People, in Beijing, on 13 March, 2014.—REUTERS

Japanese, Chinese planes join search for missing airliner

SYDNEY, 24 March — Japanese and Chinese planes on Monday joined the search for debris in the southern Indian Ocean that may be linked to a missing Malaysia Airlines jetliner.

The search in the so-called southern corridor, one of the two vast areas identified by authorities as being possible flight paths of Flight MH370, resumed in the morning with a total of 10 aircraft involved. Two Japanese P-3 Orion planes and two Chinese Ilyushin IL-76 aircraft are joining two Australian P-3 Orion and

three civilian aircraft and one US Navy P-8 Poseidon.

A number of vessels are also assisting in the search including the Australian naval vessel HMAS Success already in the area. An unspecified number of Chinese vessels are en route to the search area.

Weather conditions continue to play a role in the search effort, with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority saying in a statement on Monday, "The weather forecast in the search area is expected to deteriorate with rain likely."

Authorities have again used satellite imagery and all information available to form Monday's search area. According to the AMSA, the search will be split into two areas covering 68,500 square kilometres in total.

The two Chinese aircraft departed early in the morning for the search area, located approximately 2,500 km southwest of the western Australian city of Perth, while the two Japanese P-3 Orion aircraft are scheduled to depart in the afternoon.

Kyodo News

S Korea denies report on MoU with US, Japan

SEOUL, 24 March — The South Korean government on Monday denied a news report that it is seeking a military intelligence deal with the United States and Japan. "Intelligence-sharing among South Korea, the US and Japan had been considered as an idea at the working-level stage, but nothing has been pushed ahead with ever since," Defence Ministry spokesman Kim Min Seok said during a press briefing.

Kim said the idea had been floated in light of the need to jointly cope with threats from North Korea such as its nuclear tests and missile launches.

As for a military deal with Japan, Kim said, "An atmosphere is very important between South Korea and Japan, and it's our judgment such an atmosphere has not yet been established." Relations between South Korea and Japan remain strained due to

a differing perception over history and a dispute over a pair of islets controlled by South Korea but claimed by Japan.

Kim's remarks were made in response to a report by the *Chosun Ilbo* newspaper on Monday, which said South Korea aims to conclude a memorandum of understanding with Washington and Tokyo to protect military intelligence.

The agreement is seen as a more viable alternative to a military intelligence-sharing deal with Japan that the government had to drop in 2012 after fierce opposition at home, the report said.

"We can no longer neglect the issue of trilateral security cooperation among Seoul, Washington and Tokyo as North Korea's nuclear and missile threats increase," a South Korean government source was quoted as saying.

Kyodo News

Malaysia Airlines flight to Nepal hit by birds, passengers safe

KATHMANDU, 24 March — A flock of birds shattered the windshields of a Malaysia Airlines jet as it landed in the Nepali capital, Kathmandu, but all 180 passengers and crew were safe, an airport official said on Sunday.

The birds hit the Boeing 737 late on Friday, Ratish Chandra Lal Suman, chief of the Civil Aviation Authority Nepal, said.

Birds hitting aircraft are a common problem at

Kathmandu international airport, ringed by forested hills.

Suman said the aircraft returned home after the windshields were repaired.

An international search for Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 has entered its third week, with still no confirmed trace of the Boeing 777 that vanished on 8 March en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 239 people on board.—Reuters



A resident looks for reusable materials after a fire at a slum area in Manila, the Philippines, on 23 March, 2014. The Philippine Bureau of Fire Protection estimated that around 200 to 300 houses were razed by the fire, affecting more than 1,000 families in the area.—XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & ENTERTAINMENT

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

1. Within 33 townships of the area of Yangon City Development Committee, there are 4 districts of East, West, South and North and the activities for waste management have been established. In order to do so, there are 3 sectors: collection, transportation of the collected waste and disposing of the waste at final disposal site. Among them, the Committee has implemented Waste to Energy Project in relation to the final sector. It is now planning to transfer the following sectors to private company:

- Collection of the waste
- Transportation of the collected waste

2. Local companies, the joint ventures of local and foreign companies and foreign countries which are willing to operate the above mentioned schemes will have to submit tender proposals to Pollution Control and Cleansing Department at No. 267, 9 Storey Building, 3rd Floor, Seikkan Thar Street (Upper Block), Kyauktada Township by 30.4.2014, fully mentioned the following facts:

- Require companies' letterheads in tender proposals.
- Describe the proposed area such as the whole area of YCDC (or) one district (or) two districts. (not permit only for township)
- Describe the address of company in details
- Submit the tender proposal in both English and Myanmar

3. The basic facts for tender proposal are as follows:

- The period for the transfer of the activities to private company is 10 years.
- No need tipping fees for disposal of the waste at specified final disposal site.
- Not consider the proposals submitted after the due date of 30.4.2014.
- Pollution Control and Cleansing Department will invite the proposed companies within 2nd week of May, 2014 in order to explain detailed facts and give necessary facts for final full proposal. The companies will have to do feasibility study from 2nd week of May, 2014 to 30th September 2014. Then they will have to submit final full proposal by 3.10.2014.
- The period for the transfer of the project is 1.4.2015.
- Detailed information regarding to the tender are available at Pollution Control and Cleansing Department before the due date of 30-4-2014.
- The companies will have to input 50 lakh of Insurance Premium for tender to the Yangon City Development Bank by 30.4.2014 and the company which fails to submit final full proposal by 3.10.2014 will not be able to take out the Insurance Premium.
- Contact and query to the following phone numbers of PCCD, YCDC for detailed information before the due date of 30.4.2014.
01-246570, 01-246571, 01-384824

Pollution Control and Cleansing Department
Yangon City Development Committee

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO (1013W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO (1013W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (011N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MVPANJA BHUM VOY NO (011N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (375)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (375) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FENG SHUN SHAN VOY NO (121)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FENG SHUN SHAN VOY NO (121) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FS GLORY VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FS GLORY VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-7 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301191/2301178/2301177

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (363)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (363) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 27th March (Thursday) 2014, Armed Forces day, being public holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act.
Central Bank of Myanmar

**Sanjay Leela Bhansali
wanted to cast Deepika in
Bajirao Mastani.**

Did Deepika Padukone turn down Sanjay Leela Bhansali for Karan Johar's next film?



to go on the floors by the end of this year.

A source close to the actress says, "The dates Bhansali wanted from Deepika have been allotted to Karan Johar's Shuddhi. This is why the actress is not in a position to play

Mastani in the former's film."

It seems that after directing her in Ram Leela, Bhansali wanted to work with Deepika again. If sources are to be believed, a look test was also done, but due to her date issues, Deepika could not sign on the dotted line.

Trade reports say that

Kareena Kapoor is now keen to take on the role of Mastani. However, Bhansali's office maintains that no actress has been finalised as yet.

When Bhansali first announced the film in 2002, he planned to cast Aishwarya Rai, Salman Khan and Rani Mukherji in lead roles. But the film never re-

ally took off. "Now there is buzz that Ajay Devgn may play Bajirao in the film and Kareena has apparently expressed her desire to play Mastani. Priyanka Chopra will play Bajirao's wife, Kashibai," says the source.

Sanjay Leela Bhansali and Deepika Padukone were not available for comment.—PTI

GENERAL

Messi hat-trick seals Clasico, Chelsea hit six

LONDON, 24 March — Lionel Messi's hat-trick blew the Spanish title race wide open as Sunday's Clasico produced a stunning conclusion to a remarkable weekend of action across the continent.

Barcelona's 4-3 victory over Real Madrid in the Bernabeu left La Liga heading for a three-way fight to the finish with Atletico Madrid ending the weekend top of the standings. Premier League leaders Chelsea put six past Arsenal in a high-scoring weekend in the Premier League which also saw chasers to Liverpool and Manchester City run riot.

Bayern Munich Munich moved to the brink of the Bundesliga title as Juventus and Paris St Germain marched on in Italy and France.

SPAIN

Lionel Messi's hat-trick gave Barcelona a 4-3 comeback win against 10-man Real Madrid in a breathtaking Clasico to leave the title race on a knife edge.

Barca took a seventh-minute lead at the Bernabeu through Andres Iniesta before a Karim Benzema double and Messi's first of the night made it 2-2 at the break.

Cristiano Ronaldo put Real ahead from the penalty spot 10 minutes after half-time after he was tripped by Daniel Alves but the match turned when Real skipper Sergio Ramos was sent off for clipping Neymar when he was through on goal.

Messi, the all-time top scorer in 'Clasicos' with 21 goals, tucked home the resulting penalty and struck the winner from the spot six minutes from time after Iniesta was bundled down.

With nine games left, Real have 70 points, level with city neighbours Atletico Madrid who won 2-0 at

bottom side Real Betis, and one ahead of third-placed Barca.

ENGLAND

Leaders Chelsea humbled 10-man Arsenal 6-0, Liverpool and Manchester City also notched up big wins and Wayne Rooney's spectacular strike from over 50 metres was one of 42 goals scored in England's top flight.

Arsene Wenger's 1,000th game as Arsenal manager was ruined by a ruthless Chelsea performance at Stamford Bridge in a game also notable for a bizarre refereeing decision which led to the wrong Arsenal player being sent off.

Luis Suarez bagged a hat-trick as Liverpool came from behind to crush Cardiff City 6-3 and Manchester City's Yaya Toure struck three times to inspire his side to a 5-0 rout of Fulham. Chelsea lead the table by four points from Liverpool, who have a game in hand, with Man City two points further back but with three matches in hand on the leaders.

Manchester United striker Rooney opened the scoring against West Ham with an audacious looping shot from near the halfway line to help the champions to a 2-0 win which will put them in good heart for the derby against City on Tuesday.

GERMANY

Bayern Munich are a win away from securing their 24th German league title after beating Mainz 05 2-0 on Saturday to stay 23 points clear with a maximum 24 still available from the remaining eight games.

Late goals from Bastian Schweinsteiger and Mario Goetze secured a league record 18th successive win to maintain their huge lead at the top, having also stretched their league unbeaten run to 51 games.



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo (R) vies the ball against Barcelona's Javier Mascherano (2nd R), Dani Alves (2nd L) and Lionel Messi (L) during La Liga's second 'Clasico' soccer match of the season at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 23 March, 2014.

REUTERS



Oscar of Chelsea celebrates scoring with teammates Fernando Torres (1st R) and Branislav Ivanovic (2nd L) during the Barclays Premier League match between Chelsea and Arsenal at Stamford Bridge Stadium in London, Britain on 22 March, 2014.

XINHUA

They can set a record for the fastest title if they beat Hertha Berlin on Tuesday and clinch the trophy with seven games left. Fellow Champions League quarter-finalists Borussia Dortmund stayed second after a 3-0 win at Hannover 96, one point ahead of Schalke 04, 3-1 winners over Eintracht Braunschweig.

ITALY

Juventus stayed 14 points clear of AS Roma and on course for a third successive Serie A title after both sides won away from home.

Serie A leading scorer Carlos Tevez gave Juventus a 1-0 win at bottom club Catania with his 16th goal of the season while the Sicilians had striker Gonzalo Bergessio sent off for elbowing Giorgio Chiellini.

Roma won 2-0 at Chievo with first-half goals from Gervinho and Mattia Destro. Napoli's grip on third place, the Champions League playoff spot, was loosened when they lost 1-0 at home to fourth-placed Fiorentina after Joaquin Sanchez headed an 87th minute winner.

Juventus have 74 points from 29 games and Roma 64 with a game in hand. They are followed by Napoli (58) and Fiorentina (51).

FRANCE

Paris St Germain's march towards a second Ligue 1 title in succession continued when they beat Lorient 1-0 on Friday and second-placed Monaco were held 1-1 at home by Lille on Sunday.

The results left PSG with 73 points with eight matches left, 10 points ahead of Monaco.

PSG were not at their best in Brittany but Thiago Motta's first-half goal

was enough for them to secure the points. In Monaco, Mounir Obbadi's early strike was cancelled out by Vidock Origi's goal six minutes before the break.

Lille stayed third on 54 points, three ahead of St Etienne who beat Sochaux 3-1 on Sunday.

PORTUGAL

Benfica beat Academica Coimbra 3-0 to stay on course for their first league title since 2009/10 as the top three all won.

Two goals from Lima and one from Enzo Perez gave the Eagles their seventh successive league win to keep them seven points clear at the top.

Adrien Silva, with a penalty, William Carvalho and Jefferson scored in second-placed Sporting's 3-1 win at Maritimo. Titleholders Porto, a further five points back in third, needed a late Juan Quintero goal to beat 10-man Belenenses 1-0.

GREECE

Nelson Valdez scored a hat-trick before halftime as Olympiakos bounced back from Champions League elimination by Manchester United with a resounding 4-1 away win over Ergotelis in Crete on Sunday.

Michel's team, who wrapped up their 41st league title last weekend but slipped to a 3-0 defeat to United in the second leg of their last 16 tie in Europe's elite competition, were 3-0 up by the 13th minute after Valdez netted the fastest treble in Super League history.

The top five all recorded wins, with Atromitos and PAOK Salonica maintaining second and third place respectively, 18 points behind the champions.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(25-3-2014, Tuesday)

- 6:00 am**
- 1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:25 am**
- 2. Physical Exercise
- 7:00 am**
- 3. News/Weather Report
- 7:20 am**
- 4. People Talks
- 8:30 am**
- 5. India Drama Series
- 9:00 am**
- 6. News/International News
- 10:20 am**
- 7. TV Drama Series
- 11:10 am**
- 8. Songs in honour of (69th) Anniversary Armed Forces Day
- 12:00 pm**
- 9. News/International News/Weather Report
- 12:30 pm**
- 10. Myanmar Movies
- 2:40 pm**
- 11. Traditional Boxing
- 3:00 pm**
- 12. News
- 3:15 pm**
- 13. Documentary
- 4:00 pm**
- 14. News
- 4:25 pm**
- 15. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - First Year (Physics)
- 5:00 pm**
- 16. News
- 5:15 pm**
- 17. Business News
- 6:00 pm**
- 18. News/Weather Report
- 6:20 pm**
- 19. Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than
- 8:00 pm**
- 20. News/International News/Weather Report
- 8:50 pm**
- 21. Hit Songs Of Star
- 9:00 pm**
- 22. News
- 23. Alinka Wat Yi Music Troupe
- 24. Teleplay

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(25-3-14 07:00am~ 26-3-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Travelling In Shan Mountain Ranges (Ya Za Gyi Village)
- * World News
- * Green Grocer
- * Local News
- * Making Of Nawarat Ring
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Conceptual Art
- * Local News
- * In the Studio: Khin Su Shin
- * World News
- * Temple Stalls
- * Local News
- * History And Mystery Behind The Caves
- * World News
- * School for the Blind
- * Local News
- * An Aficionado of Alluring Antiques
- * World News
- * Myanmar Street Foods
- * Local News
- * Food Trip (Ep-3) (Part-2)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Impressionism
- * Local News
- * Journey To Unimaginable Spots (Ep-8)
- * World News
- * The Pride of Myanmar "Traditional Handicraft"
- * Local News
- * Chanmyay Yeiktha Meditation Centre-Chaw Dwin Gone
- * World News
- * Hip-Hop & Design

Premier League Table

Pos	Clubs	P	W	D	L	PTS
1	Chelsea	31	21	6	4	69
2	Liverpool	30	20	5	5	65
3	Manchester City	28	20	3	5	63
4	Arsenal	30	19	5	6	62
5	Everton	29	15	9	5	54
6	Tottenham	30	16	5	9	53
7	Manchester Utd	30	15	6	9	51
8	Newcastle	30	14	4	12	46
9	Southampton	30	12	9	9	45
10	Aston Villa	29	9	7	13	34
11	Stoke City	30	8	10	12	34
12	Hull City	30	9	6	15	33
13	Norwich	31	8	8	15	32
14	West Ham	30	8	7	15	31
15	Swansea	30	7	8	15	29
16	West Brom	30	5	13	12	28
17	Crystal Palace	30	8	4	18	28
18	Sunderland	28	6	7	15	25
19	Cardiff City	31	6	7	18	25
20	Fulham	31	7	3	21	24

Sigurdsson winner caps superb Spurs fightback, Stoke crush Villa



Danny Rose(R) of Tottenham Hotspur vies with Calum Chambers of Southampton during the Barclays Premier League match between Tottenham Hotspur and Southampton at White Hart Lane in London, Britain on 23 March, 2014. Tottenham Hotspur won 3-2.—XINHUA

LONDON, 24 March — Gylfi Sigurdsson scored a stoppage-time winner after Christian Eriksen's double as Tottenham Hotspur hit back from 2-0 down to beat Southampton 3-2 in the Premier League on Sunday.

Sigurdsson converted Denmark midfielder Eriksen's layoff to keep alive Spurs' lingering hopes of a top-four finish.

They are fifth on 56 points, six behind fourth-placed Arsenal having played one more match.

"You have to find

a way to win, it wasn't free-flowing, it wasn't fantastic football but at the end of the day you have to find a way to win," Spurs manager Tim Sherwood told reporters.

"We have come back and on the back of two or three really poor results, we have shown character and that's what I am looking for."

In Sunday's other match, Stoke City came from behind to beat Aston Villa 4-1 at Villa Park to climb to 10th in the table on 37 points from 31 matches,

one place and three points above their opponents.

The 10 goals scored on Sunday took the weekend's tally to 42, the most in the Premier League since December 2012.

Southampton, boasting several young players vying for spots in World Cup squad, dominated the opening period with delightful one-touch football and mistakes from Spurs right back Kyle Naughton enabled them to take a 2-0 lead after 28 minutes. Jay Rodriguez pounced on a loose ball after Naughton

misjudged a clearance in the sunshine from goalkeeper Artur Boruc, placing a perfect angled shot wide of Spurs keeper Hugo Lloris for his 15th goal of the season.

Naughton's next mistake, when he failed to clear on the edge of his own box, allowed Adam Lallana to plant the ball past Lloris for Southampton's second. England manager Roy Hodgson, watching in the stands, would have noted both goals from the squad hopefuls with interest.

Reuters

United go into Manchester derby with new confidence

LONDON, 24 March — Tuesday's Manchester derby is the highlight of five midweek matches as the Premier League continues almost without pausing for breath following another eventful weekend's football in England.

Manchester United, 18 points behind leaders Chelsea, have no chance of retaining their title but are keen to stop third-placed Manchester City succeeding them as champions.

Badly beaten 4-1 by their local rivals in September, United have home advantage this time and go into the game buoyed by successive victories over Olympiakos, to reach the Champions League quarter-final, and West Ham.

Saturday's 2-0 win at Upton Park, where acting captain Wayne Rooney scored one of the goals of the season from more than 50 metres, helped ease the pressure from manager David Moyes, who has struggled in his first season after taking over from Alex Ferguson.

"You get three points for winning any game but there is an added importance of winning the big games," Moyes told reporters.

"It's not been something we have done well enough this season, so it would be nice if we could get it in this game."

"Their ability to score goals would be in anybody's mind because if you

look at the record this year they have been terrific."

City trail Chelsea by six points but have three games in hand and with a superior goal difference would go top by winning two of them. They will again be without their leading scorer, Argentinian striker Sergio Aguero, who has a hamstring injury but captain Vincent Kompany is available after suspension.

City have been solid in defence, not conceding in the last three league games, but despite scoring five times without reply against bottom-of-the-table Fulham on Saturday, their total of 76 goals is now six fewer than rampant Liverpool.

Brendan Rodgers's side have joined the title chase with six successive victories, scoring 24 goals in the process. Having won 6-3 at Cardiff at the weekend, they will be expected to defeat another of the relegation-threatened sides, Sunderland, at Anfield on Wednesday.—Reuters



Manchester United manager David Moyes

Li finds Keys to victory, reaches Miami fourth round

MIAMI, 24 March—World number two Li Na finally made her first appearance at the Sony Open on Sunday, taming Madison Keys in an unsteady effort while three-time champion Venus Williams was also made to work under a blazing Florida sun for her spot in the fourth round.

Li displayed some signs of rust in her first match of the tournament after receiving an opening round bye and a walkover when Alisa Kleybanova withdrew from their second round meeting with illness.

She had to fight off three set points and an early break in the second set before clinching a 7-6 (7-3), 6-3 win over her American opponent. Williams, seeded 29th at the tournament she considers her home event, battled Casey Dellacqua for almost two and a half hours before subduing the determined Aus-

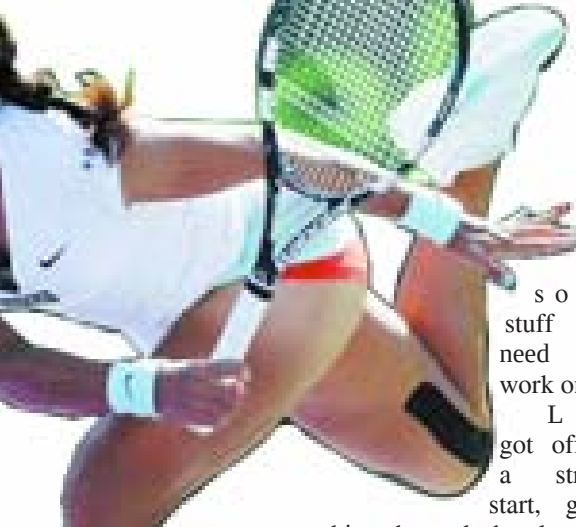
tralian wild card 6-4, 5-7, 6-4. Third seed Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland continued to confirm she is over the knee problem that plagued her in the final in Indian Wells last Sunday, registering a 7-5 6-3 victory over Russian Elena Vesnina.

Keys, who lives in nearby Boca Raton, had her Chinese opponent on the ropes several times but allowed the experienced



Madison Keys

Li to escape time-and-time again. "She's number two in the world for a



reason. She just won the Australian Open for a reason," said Keys. "She's a great player."

"I played well at times and she just played the bigger points really, really well."

"There is a lot to be happy with but there is also

some stuff I need to work on." Li got off to a strong start, grabbing the early break and a 3-1 lead, but the big hitting Keys answered with two breaks of her own, surging in front 5-3. Keys however could not convert any of her three set points, Li wiggling free with a break and forcing the set to a tie-break which she easily won 7-3.—Reuters

Murray sizzles under Miami sun at Sony Open

MIAMI, 24 March — Wimbledon champion Andy Murray appeared to be adjusting just fine to life without coach Ivan Lendl, storming into the fourth round of the Sony Open on Sunday with 6-4, 6-1 win over Spain's Feliciano Lopez. After getting the defence of his Sony Open title off to a shaky start with a three-set win over Matthew Ebden on Friday, the sixth seeded Scotsman needed just 73 minutes on a sweltering centre court to claim a convincing decision over the 32nd



Andy Murray

ranked Spaniard.

Murray has been in the Miami spotlight for more than his play this week after announcing he had ended his successful partnership with Lendl, who helped steer him to a pair of grand slam titles and an Olympic gold medal.

Seven of Murray's previous eight matches had gone three sets but the Briton, who maintains a Miami residence, made sure he would spend as little time as possible under a punishing South Florida sun, breaking Lopez three times in the second set, sweeping the last four games.

In other third round action, Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga, the 11th seed, battled his way into the fourth round, rallying for a 4-6, 7-6(6), 7-5 win over Cypriot wildcard Marcos Baghdatis.—Reuters