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Media Accreditation for ASEAN Finance Ministers Meeting on 5 April

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March — Local and foreign journalists have been informed to register for media accreditation from 5 to 25 March for the 18th ASEAN Finance Ministers Meeting and related meetings which will be held in Nay Pyi Taw from 1 to 5 April.

The 18th ASEAN Finance Ministers Meeting and the press conference will be held only on 5 April and accreditation cards will be issued to journalists before the morning session of the meeting on the same day.

MNA

Myanmar, Brunei agree to cooperate in peace and stability in ASEAN region

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—President U Thein Sein rolled out the red carpet for the visit of Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, His Majesty King of Brunei, on the lawns of the Presidential Palace, in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

At a meeting held at the Credentials Hall, leaders of both countries discussed cooperation in energy and agriculture sectors between the two countries, prospects of Myanmar's rice export to Brunei, and harmony in diverse societies in Myanmar.

At the talks, the leaders of both countries agreed to cooperate in peace and stability in ASEAN region. The Sultan of Brunei expressed his attitude that current issues of Myanmar are its internal affairs.

Myanmar and Brunei established diplomatic relations on 21 September 1993. Being ASEAN member countries, both countries focus on strengthening friendly relations.

The Sultan of Brunei Darussalam paid a goodwill visit to Myanmar in 1998 for the first time, and now is the second time.

In the time of new government, President U Thein Sein paid his first goodwill visit to Brunei in 2012 and attended the ASEAN Summit held in Brunei in 2013.

MNA

President U Thein Sein shakes hands with Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah, His Majesty King of Brunei.—MNA



Development tasks in Letpadaungtaung Copper Mine area to be carried out in accordance with CSR

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March — The coordination meeting of Committee for implementation of the report of Investigation Commission on Letpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project has pledged to continue to carry out regional development tasks in the mining area in accordance with the Social Corporate Responsibility.

The committee will

systematically scrutinize the disputes over compensation and cash assistance issues in the copper mine, said U Hla Tun, the chairman of the committee and Union Minister said the committee at the coordination meeting of the committee in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

The committee has completed some tasks and will step up efforts for im-

plementing the remaining tasks guided by the investigation report, he added.

Knight Pie' sold Pty Ltd which is carrying out environmental conservation plans meeting international norms and standard in Letpadaungtaung copper mining area has clarified facts included in the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment to local people

in 29 villages in the mining area.

U Hla Tun also stressed the need for ensuring transparency in efforts for development of socio-economy in the area.

He also stressed importance of giving rights to all employees of the mining project including local employees without hesitation.—MNA



Union Minister U Hla Tun addresses coordination meeting of Committee for implementation of the report of Investigation Commission on Letpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project.—MNA

INSIDE

Union Parliament Speaker receives Mongolian Ambassador, basic education students

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Union Hluttaw Speaker receives Mongolian Ambassador, basic education students

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—Mongolian Ambassador Mr. Battumur Chimeddorj paid a courtesy call to Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament) and Pyithu Hluttaw (People's Parliament), in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday morning. At the hall of Union Parliament, the Speaker met 69 students from Basic Education High School and Middle School in Ahlon Township from Yangon Region and their parents who observed convening of the Union Parliament.—MNA

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with Mongolian Ambassador Mr Battumur Chimeddorj.—MNA



Myanmar, ROK discuss forestry sector development

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun received ROK Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Lee Baek Soon at his office on Tuesday.

During the meeting, they discussed promotion of bilateral cooperation in implementing environmental conservation and forestry sectors, and expansion of mutual ties between the two countries.

The meeting also focused on plans for the 8th meeting of Korea-Myanmar Joint Committee to be held in April 2014.

Future plans to open a forest school in Myanmar and to promote bilateral cooperation in carbon dioxide emission reducing activities, and to enhance human resources development and research development were also discussed.

MNA



Yangon Region, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region sign MoU

YANGON, 25 March—Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe met with Mr Peng Qinghua, Secretary of Communist Party

Committee of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China on Monday, discussing cementing

relations and cooperation between Yangon Region and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

The Chief Minister and

Mr Peng Qinghua signed MoU on bilateral relations and cooperation between the two regions.

The Chief Minister hosted a dinner to the visiting secretary and party at Sedona Hotel in Yangon.

MNA



Signing ceremony of Friendship and Cooperation between Yangon Region and Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region in progress.—MNA

Myanmar Parliamentary Union meets for second time

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—The Myanmar Parliamentary Union held the meeting 2/2014 at Zabethiri Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, this afternoon.

Chairman of Myanmar Parliamentary Union Speaker of Pyidaungsu

Hluttaw (Union Parliament) Thura U Shwe Mann and Vice-Chairman of the Union Speaker of National Parliament U Khin Aung Myint made speeches.

Secretary of the Union Deputy Speaker of Union Parliament U Nanda Kyaw Swa explained minutes of

the meeting 1/2014 and work progress.

Member of the Union Deputy Speaker of National Parliament U Mya Nyein and speakers of region and state Parliaments participated in the discussions.

MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, The Elders focus on ceasefire and peace-making process with armed ethnic groups

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with Deputy Chair of Lon-

don-based The Elders Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

They discussed ceasefire and peace-making process with armed ethnic

groups, issue of the constitution, cooperation in the affairs of UN Peacekeeping Troops and women's duties including Defence Services Personnel MPs.—Myawady

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for documentary photo with Deputy Chair of London-based The Elders Dr Gro Harlem Brundtland and party.—MNA

Laws on conversion, on balancing the increasing population to be drafted

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—The first coordination meeting on drafting a law on conversion and a bill on balancing the increasing population was held at the Union Attorney-General's Office on Tuesday.

Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo said that the President Office, has formed the commission to draft new bills on conversion and on balancing

the increasing population.

In line with the local laws and international laws including existing laws and traditions of all religions, the laws are to be drafted, he added. He disclosed that the laws must be fair and in conformity with social life of Myanmar people.

Next, the commission's vice-chairmen and members participated in discussion about drafting the laws.—MNA

GOLD PRICE (25-3-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K 671,400 per tical: Selling K 672,400 per tical

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K 671,400 per tical: Selling K 672,400 per tical

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein felicitates Bangladeshi counterpart, PM

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—On the occasion of the 43rd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh which falls on 26 March 2014, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Abdul Hamid, President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and Her Excellency Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.—MNA

Brunei Sultan visits farms, Defence Services Museum

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—President U Thein Sein together with Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiyah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah and party visited model crop plantations in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday afternoon.

At the 500-acre model crops plantation in Pobbathiri Township, the President warmly welcomed the Brunei Sultan and party.

At the farm, the President conducted the visiting Brunei Sultan and party round the thriving organ-

ic vegetables plantations. They also visited organic crops and fruits plantations and pineapple plantation on 900-acre Setsetyo model plantation.

On arrival at the modern fruits cold storage and packaging plant on 500-acre mechanization plantation, the Brunei Sultan and party viewed display of fruits, samples of rice, sugarcane, beans and pulses and processing of fruits in the cold storage before sending them to the market. The President

explained cultivation of fruits and crops in respective seasons through mixed and double cropping patterns, and transporting the fruits to the markets. The Brunei Sultan and party viewed round the thriving Paletwe hybrid paddy plantation of local farmers near Alyinlo Village. They also visited Defence Services Museum in Zeyathiri Township and enjoyed displays at the booths of Defence Services (Army), (Navy) and (Air).

MNA



President U Thein Sein together with Brunei Sultan view display of fruits and processing of fruits.—MNA

Mekong region countries discuss providing quality health care service to migrant workers



First consultative meeting on policy financing and services delivery issues in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March — Efforts for providing quality health care service to migrant workers in countries in Mekong region is critical to the health

care goal of the Mekong region, said Dr Pe Thet Khin, the Union Minister for Health.

In his opening address at a Conference Series on

Migrant Health Care in Mekong Region on Monday in Mandalay, the Union minister stressed the importance of providing quality health care services

to migrant workers in the region as it have set a goal of health care services for all in the Mekong region which comprises Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam.

“Healthy labour resource is not only basic infrastructure for development of economy but also important for ASEAN economic integration in 2015,” the Union minister said. He called on participants from Mekong region countries for openly discuss the matters related to providing health care services to migrant workers and their families. The four-day meeting will end on 26 March.

MNA

Myanmar, Japan discuss wide range of bilateral relations

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—President U Thein Sein and a Japanese delegation led by Foreign Minister Mr Fumio Kishida discussed matters on assistance from Japan.

The meeting at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday focused on implementation of Thilawa Special Economic Zone, the survey of upgrading Yan-

gon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay Railroad, expansion of the Mandalay International Airport, assistance for information and TV broadcasting sector, tasks being carried out in co-operation with Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA for human resource development, improvement of health and education sector, assistance for water supply system in Yangon and in

regions and states, matters related to food security for farmers and launching survey of the Dawei Special Economic Zone.

Also present at the call were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein, U Win Shein and Dr Kan Zaw while the Japanese was accompanied by the ambassador of Japan to Myanmar.—MNA

Myanmar, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region discuss strengthening cooperation fields



President U Thein Sein shaking hands with Mr Peng Qinghua, Secretary of Communist Party Committee of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of PRC.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—President U Thein Sein held talks over further strengthening cooperation fields with Mr Peng Qinghua, Secretary of Communist Party Committee of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China, in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the talks on Tues-

day, both sides discussed promoting opportunities of cooperation in multi-sector and trade, prospects of co-operation in maritime trade at ports in Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region of China and Myanmar, transport sector and environmental conservation in the future.

MNA



Chick-pea plantations benefit farmers

PATHEINGYI, 25 March K 48,000.

—Farmers in Patheingyi Township of Mandalay Region grow summer paddy, monsoon paddy and cold season crops. The yield of chick-pea which is a type of cold season crops has been boosting due to fine weather. The crop plantations produced 20 baskets per acre yield. Chick-pea is sold at one bag per

Farmer U Myo Thant in Yankintaung field of Patheingyi Township said the yield of chick-pea has been more increasing than the previous year due to fine weather. As the chick-pea produces 20 baskets per acre yield, the farmers can earn more than K 300,000 per acre yield.—Aung Kyaw Tun (Patheingyi)



Thanbyuzayat Township Forest Department of Mon State supervises nurturing of saplings at its nursery on Monday. Departmental personnel and members of Women's Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Association sow the seeds at the nursery.

TOWNSHIP IPRD

Longest culvert in Mahlaing Township to emerge soon



MAHLAING, 25 March —A culvert is being built between the Basic Education Primary School and the monastery at Ason Village in Kyatse village-tract which is six miles far from Mahlaing Township, Meiktila District of Man-

dalay Region.

Village administrator U Win Myint Thein said construction of the culvert started on 23rd January and it is of concrete type with nine feet high, 120 feet long and 10 feet wide. It will cost K 35 mil-

lion to complete the whole project.

The culvert with the fund donated by the Pyithu Hluttaw representative of Mahlaing Township will emerge soon as the longest one in Mahlaing Township. It can

contribute great benefit to local people.

The donor of the culvert Grandma Saw in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area spent K 50 million on construction of RC concrete type Withakha Dhammayon in the compound of Pwinttaw Monastery in Kyatse Village-tract in Mahlaing Township.

Kyaw Kyaw (Mahlaing)

Lecture halls under construction at Meiktila University

MEIKTILA, 25 March—Two lecture halls are being constructed at Meiktila University spending the fund of 2013-14 FY, officials said.

It is estimated that the cost will be K 561.6 million for 192 feet long, 38 feet wide and 42 feet high each building. Officials are striving for completion of

the two buildings before the coming academic year.

Similarly, one gymnasium and one library are under construction on the campus so that students may take sports training with full sports facilities and broaden their horizon.

One boarding house for men and another one for women have been opened

with facility of mess halls in the compound of the university for convenience of the students.

A total of over 15,000 students from Meiktila, Mahlaing, Thazi, Wundwin, Pyawbwe and Yamethin townships are pursuing high education at the university every academic year.

NLM-018

One fire engine handed over to Pyu Fire Services Department



PYU, 25 March—One of the six fire engines allocated for Toungoo District was handed over to Pyu Township Fire Services

Department in Toungoo District, Bago Region recently.

At present, the department has been facilitated

three fire engines.

As the fire engine holds 800 gallons of water, it is very useful to put out fire.

“There are 11 members of Fire Services Department, 23 water tanks that can store 2000 gallons of water and one tank, 20000 gallons of water in Pyu. We always fill them with water and take fire preventive measures,” said U Thet Win, head of township Fire Services Department.

Pyu Myint Oo



LOCAL NEWS

Dawei District TB Control Squad to install gene X-pert machine



DAWEI, 25 March—TB is posing a threat to the mankind till today, and free medical treatment is being provided to TB patients to heal their diseases in various townships of Taninthayi Region, said Chief Minister U Myat Ko of Taninthayi Region at the ceremony to mark the World TB Day in Dawei on Monday.

Myeik District TB Control Squad has a gene X-pert machine to check TB resistant patients and expose more TB patients.

Under the arrangement

of the Union government, a similar machine will be installed in Dawei for providing better treatment to the TB patients. The Chief Minister urged the local authorities, departmental officials, members of social organizations, media and local people to join hands in combating TB disease.

On the occasion, the Union Minister for Health sent his message to mark the World TB Day.

At the ceremony, documentary photos on activities of TB control were displayed for observation.—*Kyaw Kyaw Latt*

MRCS starts distribution of family kits donated by China to families at relief camps

MYITKYINA, 25 March—Responsible persons of Myanmar Red Cross Society and Kachin State Red Cross Supervisory Committee distributed 5000 family kits donated by Chinese Red Cross Society to families of internally displaced persons at the relief camps in Kachin State. On 20 March, while loading the relief aid onto the vehicles in Myitkyina, Staff Officer Grade (II) U Myo Thant Oo and Acting A/Q Staff Officer (Grade III) U Soe Moe Aung re-

ported on progress of tasks and plans for distribution to MP of Mansi Township Constituency and Kachin State Minister for Electric and Industry U Sai Maung Shwe and Joint Secretary U Gennes of Kachin State Red Cross Society.

The State minister gave necessary suggestions and attended to the needs of distribution works.

The relief aid convoy of MRCS will stop over in Bhamo passing Laiza and proceed to Mansi.

MMAL-173

Villagers of Myeik Tsp enjoy electricity through solar panels

MYEIK, 25 March—Under the supervision of Taninthayi Region government, Myeik Township Rural Development Department install solar panels in Nga-inn, Mawsone and Pyingyi villages of the township free of charge as part of rural electrification.

One set of 70-amp solar panel can generate electricity for one TV, two fluorescence and one blub.

As of 20 March, solar panels were distributed

to 126 houses in Nga-inn village, 102 in Mawsone village and 32 in Pyingyi village, totalling 260. The department cost K 50.6 million on installation of solar panels.—*Khaing Htoo (Myeik District IPRD)*



Mandalay to install modern Meteorological devices

MANDALAY, 25 March—The 64th World Meteorological Day was observed in Mandalay on Sunday.

This year's motto was adopted as "Weather and Climate; Engaging Youth". Weather forecast should be issued regularly for the people.

Mandalay Region can receive adequate rainfall 31.91 inches in the late monsoon. With the assistance of Japanese government, the radar for

weather forecast will be installed in Mandalay in 2015-16 fiscal year, said Mandalay Region Minister for Transport U Kyaw Hsan. Director-General Dr Haryin Naingtiyan of Hydrology and Meteorology Department read the message of the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization.

Assistant Director U Hla Saw of the department (Mandalay Branch) sub-

mitted a research papers. The World Meteorological Day was held in Mandalay for the first time this year. Previous occasions took place in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon. This year, personnel of the department submitted 12 research papers to the ceremony.

Mandalay Region branch of the department needs various devices for hydrology and meteorology in addition to staff.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Over 68% electricity consumers no need to change payment rate in Thingangyun Tsp

YANGON, 25 March—Head of Yangon East District Electricity Supply Board U Phone Myint met local people of Ward 16/1 and Kyaikkasan West Ward at the hall in Ward 16/1 in Thingangyun Township on Sunday.

He made clarifications on raising rate of electricity charge for the customers.

The township official explained that there are 44327 households of electricity users in the township. Of them, the people using electricity from 1 to 100

units count for 40.92 per cent, from 101 to 200 units for 27.63 per cent and above 201 units for 30.45 per cent. That is why 68.55 per cent of consumer do not need to change rates of payment for meter bills.—*Hmwe Hmwe (Thingangyun)*

Traditional boat race shows strength of youths

PHAUNGPYIN, 25 March—A traditional boat race was organized in the creek of Posagon Village in Phaungbyin Township, Mawlaik District of Sagaing Region on 21

March. The opening ceremony of the race was held in the compound of Basic Education Middle School No 5 Branch in the village.

Responsible persons of the organizing committee

explained the disciplines for the boat race.

A total of four women's teams and 10 men's teams are taking part in the race up to 27 March.

Han Tun (Phaungpyin)



G7 warns Russia of more sanctions if Ukraine crisis escalates



Leaders of the Group of Seven major nations hold an urgent meeting in The Hague, the Netherlands, on 24 March, 2014. The G-7 leaders agreed to sit out the Group of Eight summit planned in Sochi, Russia, in June in protest at Russia's annexation of Crimea—KYODO NEWS

THE HAGUE/FEODOSIA, 25 March—US President Barack Obama and major industrialized allies warned Russia on Monday it faced damaging economic sanctions if President Vladimir Putin takes further action to destabilize Ukraine

following the seizure of Crimea.

Leaders of the Group of Seven nations, meeting without Russia, agreed to hold their own summit this year instead of attending a planned G8 meeting in the Russian Olympic venue of

Sochi, along the Black Sea coast from Crimea, and to suspend their participation in the G8 until Russia changes course.

On a day when Kiev ordered its remaining troops to withdraw from Crimea and Russian forces

captured a Ukrainian marine base and a landing ship in the region, leaders of the United States, Germany, France, Britain, Italy, Japan and Canada condemned what they called “Russia’s illegal attempt to annex Crimea in contravention of international law”.

They also agreed their energy ministers would work together to reduce dependence on Russian oil and gas and increase energy security.

“We remain ready to intensify actions including coordinated sectoral sanctions that will have an increasingly significant impact on the Russian economy, if Russia continues to escalate this situation,” they said in a joint statement. The G7 leaders, who met on the sidelines of a nuclear security summit in The Hague, said they would convene again in Brussels in early June, the first time since Russia joined the G8 in 1998 that it will have been shut out of the annual summit of industrialized democracies.

Reuters

US to pressure Israel to release Palestinian prisoners

RAMALLAH, 25 March—Top US officials have promised to pressure Israel to release 26 long-term Palestinian prisoners, an official Palestinian source said on Monday.

The promise was made to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas as the US intensifies its efforts to avoid a collapse of the faltering peace talks.

In a telephone conversation on Monday, Abbas and US Secretary of State John Kerry discussed the issue of Palestinian prisoners and ways to revive the peace process.

Kerry’s phone call came during Abbas’ meeting with the US Special Envoy for Peace, Martin Indyk, in the Jordanian capital of Amman, the source told *Xinhua*. “Abbas discussed with Kerry and Indyk the US proposals to push the peace process forward,” the official said.

Kerry and Indyk told Abbas the US would pressure Israel to release 26 long-term Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails who are supposed to be freed later this month.

According to the Palestinian official source, the US is now intensifying its efforts to avoid a collapse of the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks it has been mediating since last July. He added the US has proposed to extend the negotiations, which are set to end late in April. When the peace talks between the two sides resumed in July, Israel originally agreed to release 104 prisoners chosen by an Israeli ministerial committee. Seventy-eight prisoners have been freed so far.

Israeli officials say if the Palestinians refuse to extend the peace negotiations, the remaining prisoners will not be released.

However, the Palestinians reject linking the prisoners’ release with the extension of the peace negotiations, and threaten to approach international organizations to sue Israel for not meeting its commitments.—*Xinhua*

World leaders gather for nuclear security summit for discussions on preventing nuclear terrorism

THE HAGUE, 25 March—The third Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) kicked off here on Monday, aimed at preventing nuclear terrorism around the globe.

Leaders from more than 50 countries and international organizations have gathered here to assess past achievements in safeguarding global nuclear security and to seek more actions in preventing nuclear material falling into the wrong



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon arrives for the third Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) in The Hague, the Netherlands, on 24 March, 2014. The third Nuclear Security Summit (NSS) kicked off here on Monday, aimed at preventing nuclear terrorism around the globe.

XINHUA

hands. On the first day of the event, participating countries presented their

national statements on nuclear security, and then proceeded to discuss what

they would do and how they would cooperate at the international level.

A plenary meeting was held after the two-day event officially opened Monday afternoon.

Addressing the opening session on Monday afternoon, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte stressed the goal of the summit is to discuss how to prevent nuclear terrorism during the summit.—*Xinhua*

Israeli troops fire at infiltrators on Egypt border, one injured

JERUSALEM, 25 March—An Israeli military patrol opened fire at two men who attempted to infiltrate the security barrier along Israel’s western border with Egypt on Monday, wounding one of them.

An army spokeswoman said the patrol spotted the suspects climbing the border fence and initially called them to turn back according to the rules of engagement. The troops opened fire at the men when their calls were ignored.

One suspect was hit in the leg and seen fleeing toward Sinai, while the other crossed into Israel, who was apprehended and handed over to security forces for questioning, the spokeswoman added.—*Xinhua*

Russian, Ukrainian foreign ministers to hold talks

MOSCOW, 25 March—Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov is to meet his Ukrainian counterpart Andriy Deschchysya on the sidelines of a nuclear security summit now under way in the Hague, a Russian diplomatic source said on Monday.

The source cited by Russian news agencies RIA and Interfax said the Ukrainian delegation had asked for the meeting.

The nuclear security conference runs through on Tuesday.

Reuters

Search for debris linked to Flight MH370 halted due to poor weather

SYDNEY, 25 March—Australian authorities on Tuesday suspended the search for debris linked to missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 in the southern Indian Ocean due to poor weather conditions on Tuesday, after Malaysia announced overnight that experts have concluded that the Boeing 777 crashed into the sea in the remote area.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority said waves of up to two meters and an associated swell of up to four meters are expected in the search area, some 2,500 kilometers southwest of Perth, while strong gale force winds of

up to 80 km per hour and periods of heavy rain are also forecast.

“Current weather conditions would make any air and sea search activities hazardous and pose a risk to crew. Therefore, AMSA has suspended all sea and air search operations for today due to these weather conditions,” the AMSA said in a statement.

It said search operations are expected to resume on Wednesday “if weather conditions permit.”

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak told a press conference Monday night that satellite data analysis experts have

concluded that MH370 “ended in the southern Indian Ocean,” while the airline reportedly texted relatives of the victims to say it has to be assumed that nobody on board the flight survived.

Najib said British air accident investigators and experts from Inmarsat, the British company that earlier provided satellite data indicating two possible flight corridors, concluded on the basis of new analysis that the last position of the Boeing 777-200 was a remote area in the middle of the Indian Ocean, far from any possible landing sites.

Kyodo News



A woman is taken away on a stretcher from a hotel room in Beijing for family members of passengers aboard missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370, after Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak announced that satellite experts have concluded that the flight ended in the southern Indian Ocean, on 24 March, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

WORLD

Abe, Park to meet in US-brokered trilateral summit

THE HAGUE, 25 March — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean President Park Geun Hye will have their first formal encounter on Tuesday in a trilateral summit arranged with the help of US President Barack Obama.

The three-way summit was arranged in the hope that face-to-face talks between Abe and Park will help the two countries ease tensions and work together with the United States on dealing with regional problems such as North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

North Korea in a rare move fired as many as 46 rockets into the Sea of Japan over the weekend despite repeated calls from other countries including the United States to cease provocative acts.

Ben Rhodes, deputy US national security adviser, described the trilateral meeting as "a very important message to show the United States aligned with our two most important allies in Northeast Asia."

But relations between Japan and South Korea remain unsettled with a remark by an aide to Abe on Sunday with regard to the history of Japan's colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula sparking fresh controversy. The trilateral meeting has drawn attention as the first formal occasion for Abe and Park to meet, albeit not bilaterally, since the Japanese and South Korean leaders took office in December 2012 and February 2013, respectively. They only chatted on the fringes of past international events.

Kyodo News

20,000 affected by serious flooding in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 25 March — Some 20,000 people have been affected by devastating floods as the Madeira River in northern Brazil burst its banks, state media said on Monday.

Madeira's water level rose to a record high of 19.52 meters due to heavy rainfall, which caused monsoon floods that affected communities along the river, including several neighbourhoods in Porto Velho, capital of the state of Rondonia, Brazilian news agency *Agencia Brasil*

reported.

In Porto Velho alone, 3,262 families have been displaced after various rivers and their tributaries, including the Mamore River along the Brazil-Bolivia border, burst their banks.

The BR-364 federal highway, which is an overland route between Rondonia and the Atlantic coast, has been inundated, causing supply problems as trucks are unable to enter the flood-hit region.

Xinhua



Smoke rises after what activists said were barrel bombs dropped by forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad in the northern entrance to the city of Aleppo on 23 March, 2014.—REUTERS

Syrian forces battle rebels near Turkey border crossing

BEIRUT, 25 March — Syrian troops backed by war planes battled on Monday to dislodge Islamist rebels from a border crossing and northern town in the coastal province of Latakia, heartland of President Bashar al-Assad's Alawite minority.

Fighters from the Islamic Front and al-Qaeda-linked Nusra Front seized the Armenian Christian town of Kasab on Sunday after taking the nearby border crossing in an offensive which follows a string of recent rebel defeats further south.

Video footage released by activists showed fighters driving through the largely

deserted Kasab, passing a municipal building and a shattered statue of Bashar's father Hafez, who ruled Syria for 30 years until 2000. While the rebel advance has gained only a small pocket of territory, it has put Assad on the defensive and deprived him — at least for now — of the last border crossing from Turkey into government-held territory. It follows months of advances by Assad's troops and Lebanese Hezbollah fighters near the capital Damascus and the Lebanese border, choking rebel supply lines and reasserting control of central Syria as the civil war enters a fourth year.

More than 140,000 people have been killed in the conflict and nearly half the population has been displaced but the coastal provinces of Latakia and Tartous have so far remained largely loyal to Assad and relatively unscathed.

Activists said authorities have sent reinforcements to the Kasab area to stem the rebel advances. State media said the army and National Defence Force militia were surrounding the rebels close to the border.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group said there was heavy fighting on the eastern edge of Kasab and

other areas near the border.

War planes were bombarding rebel positions and causing forest fires, it said, while television images showed smoke rising from the wooded border region.

Rebel fighters have also struck deeper into Latakia province, attacking the town of Solas to the south and firing rockets overnight into Latakia city, killing eight people. Latakia port is the main transport hub for the international operation to ship Syria's chemical weapons out of the country for destruction, but the Observatory said the rockets did not land close to the port area.

Reuters

US to help in 'elimination' of sensitive Japanese nuclear stockpile



An anti-nuclear protester wearing a protective suit is seen behind a mock drum which is labelled as radioactive waste from Tokyo Electric Power Co's (TEPCO) Fukushima nuclear power plant, before he starts marching in Tokyo on 9 March, 2014.—REUTERS

THE HAGUE, 25 March — Japan will turn over hundreds of kilograms

(pounds) of sensitive nuclear material of potential use in bombs to the United

States to be downgraded and disposed of, the two countries' leaders said as

a nuclear security summit began on Monday.

China had voiced concern earlier this year about regional rival Japan's holding of plutonium but Washington and the United Nations nuclear agency have made it clear they are not worried about the way Tokyo is handling the issue.

Still, US President Barack Obama and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said that all highly enriched uranium (HEU) and separated plutonium would be removed from the Fast Critical Assembly at the Japan Atomic Energy Agency, a facility used for studying the nuclear physics of so-called fast reactors. The announcement followed what the White

House said were technological advances since the 1960s launch of this type of research plant that would allow it to be converted to run on fuel not potentially usable for bombs, unlike HEU or plutonium.

Japan, the world's only target of atomic bombs, during the final stages of World War Two, does not have nuclear weapons and has long said it will not seek to obtain them.

Like uranium, plutonium is used to fuel nuclear power plants and for research purposes, but can also serve as the fissile material for the core of a nuclear bomb.

"This effort involves the elimination of hundreds of kilograms of nuclear material, furthering our

mutual goal of minimizing stocks of HEU and separated plutonium worldwide, which will help prevent unauthorized actors, criminals, or terrorists from acquiring such materials," said a joint US-Japanese statement released by the White House. "This material, once securely transported to the United States, will be sent to a secure facility and fully converted into less sensitive forms."

The announcement was made in The Hague shortly before leaders from 53 countries, including Obama and Abe, began a two-day summit aimed at agreeing steps to help prevent al-Qaeda-style militant groups from obtaining nuclear bombs.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 26 March, 2014

One village one product

In addition to normal crops like paddy and other edible oil crops, growing other income-generating crops in a village or a region on an extensive scale contributes to emergence of a crop market as well as to ensuring local farmers to enjoy higher incomes.

According to the marketing principles, mass production can bring about the market devel-

opment. Mass production of quality agricultural products helps develop the crops market. The market development can lead to mass production as well as high demand.

We can see booming crops market in the villages along Hsinthay creek in Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Township. This region is exporting cauliflower, corn and cabbage to the four corners of the country. Like this region, other regions and states should take the example of this region's mass production for the emergence of huge market.

The ministry of agricultural and irrigation is disseminating knowledge on shifting to one village one product system from household food sufficiency one by establishing farmer-educative model planta-

tions in Alyinlo village of Pyinmana and Ottarathiri Townships in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

These plantations are distributing technology and seeds to farmers. Planting crops favorable to their regions can enable farmers to get extra income. Mass production of crops would contribute to domestic food sufficiency as well as to more exportation of crops. All farmers are urged to place special emphasis on one village one product system.

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.

Management *by Kyi Mun*

Management is the act of running and controlling a business or similar organization. It is also the people who run and control a business or similar organization. It also means the act or skill of dealing with people or situations in a successful way. - **Oxford Dictionary**

Management should start with managing oneself or self-management. Only after proper self-management, managing others or management of people should take place.

In self-management, there are three cardinal rules to observe : To be authentic, to be reliable and to be constructive. In managing others, the person who manages should use soft power, should have a protective heart and must have a firm mind.

The most fundamental requirements of management are : (i) to make the present business effective; (ii) to find and realize the business potential; and (iii) to focus on building the future or to be future-oriented.

The strategic responsibilities of management are : (i) to get direct results; (ii) to strengthen values commitment, and (iii) people development.

The basic functions of management include : (i) planning (ii) organizing (iii) staffing (iv) directing (v) aligning and coordinating (vi) controlling and (vii) reviving or self-renewing.

The fundamental job of management are : (i) to go places; (ii) to do things; (iii) to make things happen; and (iv) to get things done.

The field of management include 17 Ms, which

are : Man, Money, Mission, Material, Machine, Market Research, Method, Manufacturing, Merchandizing, Marketing, Modus operandi, Mode of communication, Morale, Mobility, Meeting, Measuring, Materialization.

Management Framework consists of : Strategy, Strengths, Structure, Systems, Style, Skills, Shared Vision & Values, Synergy, Sense of Fairness, Seeing through the Future, Social Responsibility, and Success.

The following are the **Perspectives of Management** : People, Purpose, Proactivity, Passion, Planning, Preparations, Performance, Plotting, Painstaking, Perseverance, Prevailing, Profitability and Planet.

Management Attitudes include, among others: Beliefs, Feelings, Desires, Values, Focus, Enthusiasm, Confidence, Respect, Drive, Courage, Commitment, Character, Congruence, Cost-effectiveness and Caring.

Management Abilities comprises of : Skills, Art, Judgment, Insight, and Wisdom.

Management Knowledge Factors are : Ideas, Concepts, Principles, and Neutral Laws.

If Management is the tail of business administration, Leadership is the head of it. Leadership will be discussed separately.

Ref : Managing for Results, and The Practice of Management

by Peter F. Drucker
The Essentials of Management

by Joseph L. Massie

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

Job-trainings at Industries

by H. Aung

Time is flying swiftly across mid-summer days, towards water festival coming soon in April. Kindergarten-kids are now under shelter of summer schools for various training courses including religion-based cultural courses, to the like of parents. Matriculation students are now free from the yoke of exam-load and about to indulge themselves in what they have been bearing in mind during the whole academic year. Here, we would like to spotlight the vacations of technical students either from technical colleges or from universities.

There had once been a jointly-organized training program between Yangon Institute of Technology in Gyogone and industry related ministries, for engineering students to undergo practical trainings for relevant field of technologies, generally starting from fourth year. Particularly in summer vacations, mechanical students were fielded to manufacturing industries, electrical students to power generation plants and projects, civil engineering students to construction sites (not very much in those days), chemical engineer-would-be to chemical-based factories like paper mills, sugar mills. It is like medical students compulsorily required to study in operation theatres at hospitals. Factory officers-in-charge gave fraternal welcome and were in readiness to impart knowledge they gleaned, through years of experiences. As they were also previously learners from the same institutions they knew and understood shortcomings in pursuing

practical practices at major faculties. So, they usually suggested trainees to exploit chances of studies at factories and plants on real ground where theories are put into practices. Hearing how they started service life, how they had to absorb practical lessons from their predecessors and also from partner-technicians, how they had to tackle problems unexpectedly faced, etc. are valuable lectures not obtainable in the classrooms.

Apparent feature of today is, private industries, locally owned and F.D.I based, are growing in number tremendously and outnumber the state-owned industries, indicative of wider-than-before-training ground for interested trainees. Newly installed machineries at private industries can provide modern technology and mechanism whilst students can learn basic science and technology at old factories, mostly in state sector. For an example, a student who wants to see inside structure and know the function of an engine, he had better go to old locomotive workshop, like that in Insein, or Dala shipyard, where he can see engines of simple design and old model, read manuals and hand books, instead of going to computer-controlled engine mounted hybrid-car workshops. As these industries can be sources of job opportunities for the students after graduating from the institutes, they should avail themselves of the opportunities they have in hand to study the environment of industry in which their careers will have to be engrossed in future. Who dare says, one day, students of today cannot be

successful and resourceful entrepreneurs and key developers of Myanmar SME sector, identified now as spring-board of industrial productive forces.

Job training program mentioned in title, can provide not only subject-wise know-how, but also noteworthy information such as, specification and sources of raw materials used in production process and also as to locally available or imported. As a matter of fact, factories and worksites can be likened to big technical books. Seeing, touching every hand tool and power tool, machine, instrument; study of production process from start to end of producing a good; interview with technicians, chemists, engineers; listening to challenges they encountered; rules of thumb and conventional methods old mechanics and fitters used, and so and so, are like reading technical books in a library.

Furthermore, this way of learning enables the students to put the facts into memory easily and sustain for long. Technical books, leave alone latest edition, are scarce, expensive in market, and in library are of only a few not meeting the needs of book-worms. Limited work-shop facilities at technical institutions are also incommensurate with what the students need to be trained practically according to prescribed sandwich course. What is being highlighted here is not to reveal weakness, but to fill up this blank. It will pay to do. Students are students as well as youths. They may be willing to have part of vacation as spree. However, on return to campus, new data and concept will follow them, being unconsciously stored in mind.

In the present era, we are tempted to say that girls get the better of boys in the art of sitting for examination with proof that when results are out, girls' marks are higher. More girls get admitted to favorite universities. Number of women-Master Degree holders and doctorates are on the rise. It is a good indicator woman resource persons are powerful in developing nation. But, women cannot be in such a position that, after passing entrance examination for public service work sponsored by Union Civil Services Board, they just drive desk and push pen at the office. They must have well-preparedness, strengthening capacity mentally and physically. For that, this kind of field studies can be a good supporting means. In terms of U.N vocabulary, "empowerment" of women can be upgraded by this means.

While serial meetings on education reform process are now going on, this is an activity that should not be overlooked. This will require inevitably coordination among education authorities, Industrial Zone Management Committees, UMFCCL, proprietors of industries, plants and companies followed by participation of students and staff of host industries concerned. Pertaining to this, if a question as to whether job-trainings are to be conducted only in summer days is raised, the answer is "Absolutely not." It is not non-flexible and can be arranged at any time favorable, but with the aim of gaining tangible results, not in the name only.

Wishing all students higher Q.

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sien hosts dinner to Sultan of Brunei



President U Thein Sein and Brunei Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah pose for documentary photo with artistes at the dinner.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—President U Thein Sein hosted a dinner to Brunei Sultan Haji Has-

Legislative matters practising at Myanmar Parliament discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa received a delegation led by Ms Heike Alefsen, Deputy Head of the Regional Office of OHCHR at I-1 Hall of Hluttaw Complex on Tuesday. They exchanged views on legislative matters practising at Myanmar Parliament and providing assistance by OHCHR to Myanmar and cooperation.—MNA

sanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah at the Presidential Palace on Tuesday.

On the occasion, President U Thein Sein and the Sultan of Brunei purposed toast.

Before and during the dinner, performers from the Fine Arts Department entertained them with songs and dances.

After the dinner, the President and the Sultan of

Brunei presented baskets of flowers to the artistes and posed for documentary photo with them.

Also present at the dinner were Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun and Union ministers and deputy ministers and the Ambassadors of Myanmar and Brunei Darussalam and officials concerned.

MNA

Union FM felicitates Bangladeshi counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 26 March—On the occasion of the 43rd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the People's Republic of Bangladesh which falls on 26 March 2014, 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. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bangladesh.

MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw passes National Planning Bill, Union Budget Bill

NAY PYI TAW, 25 March—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, (Union Parliament) session continued in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday, with members of Union level organizations responding to suggestions of parliamentarians on the National Planning Bill for 2014-2015 FY and the 2014 Union Budget Bill and the parliament approved the two bills.

Deputy Minister for Transport U Zin Yaw quoted an instruction of the President Office saying that the total cost of K 1000 million for construction of an airport in Chin State should

be spent on other infrastructure developments as the project will cost about three times more than an estimated cost due to constraints of various factors including high transportation cost for construction materials and machinery.

He assured Pyidaungsu Hluttaw of the ministry's plans to build more airports within coming 30 years in accord with a Transport Master Plan being formulated in cooperation with Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Regarding the electricity-generating projects, Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Aung Than Oo gave an account of the projects to be implemented with the use of foreign loans during 2014-2015 FY and the upgrade of power lines and sub-power stations in Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing Regions and the systems of power distribution in 23 townships in

Yangon.

The targeted projects are construction of Upper Yeywa, Thahtay and Upper Kengtaung hydropower projects, installation of 500 KV Toungoo-Kamanat power grid, 230 KV Upper Yeywa-Shwesayan power line, 230 KV Athok-Pathein power grid, 230 KV Biluchaung (2)-Shwe Myot power line, 230 KV Hlaingthaya-Kyaiklat power line, 230 KV Mawlamyine-Ye-Dawei power line, infrastructure development in Thilawa Area Japan ODA Phase-1, urgent rehabilitation and upgrade project Japan ODA Phase-1, Myitthar hydropower project and related infrastructure development, 285-mile long Bhamo-Nabar-Hngetyaw Daing-Ohndaw power line and sub-power station project, 120 MW Thaton power plant project that will be funded by World Bank and 50 MW Gas Turbine in Kyaukpyu with the use of

Chinese loan.

Upon completion of the projects, there will be betterment of distribution system and production of more electricity, thereby minimizing power losses and contributing towards increased productivity and higher living standard, he added.

After seeking approval of parliamentarians, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw passed the two bills.

During today's session, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw documented matters related to adding one more ward to Monywa Township in Sagaing Region and formation of Indakaw town by combining Indaw village-tract with Thayakon village-tract in Bago Township of Bago Region and President's message on matters related to allocation of special fund in accordance with 2013 Union Budget.

Before approving the

President's message on joining the UNESCO's Convention for Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu elaborated on benefits of signing the convention that there will be more technically and financially assistance of international community to develop the conservation of traditional livelihoods and cultural heritages of Myanmar. It can thereby contribute towards promotion of Myanmar's tourism industry, improving the image of the country.

During today's Q and A session of Pyithu Hluttaw, Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htaik assured that necessary assistance are being provided to hold competitions in respective regions for emergence of younger generation in some sports that are not listed in SEA Games. He has spoken of summer sports courses and advanced courses to be

conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Education and a plan to promote sports standard in basic education schools and universities.

Responding to a question about health sector, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Than Aung elaborated on measures being taken to provide primary health care to the people and mobile medical units giving health care services to workers at factories and industries. He continued that specialists from the people's hospitals are making field trips to give free health care services to local people. He vowed to increase the number of mobile medical units through the pilot projects.

At the today's Pyithu Hluttaw session, the Bill Committee presented a report on the Bill amending the Political Parties Registration Law (State Peace and Development Council Law 2/2010). —MNA

Correction

Please read "To commemorate World Water Day 23rd March 2014" instead of "To commemorate World Water Day 23rd March 3014" at the heading of article on page 9 of this daily issued on 25-3-2014. Error is regretted.—NLM



(L to R) Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Indian External Affairs Minister Shri Salman Khurshid, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Maite Nkoana-Mashabane and Undersecretary-General for Political Affairs, Ambassador Carlos Antonio Paranhos of Brazil, pose for photo before a BRICS meeting of foreign ministers during the 2014 Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague, the Netherlands, on 24 March, 2014. —XINHUA

US sends black box locator, underwater vehicle to Australia

WASHINGTON, 25 March — Pentagon spokesman John Kirby said on Monday the US has sent a towed pinger locator, an autonomous underwater vehicle and trained personnel to Australia in case the equipment is needed to search for the black box of the missing Malaysia Airlines jetliner.

A towed pinger locator and a Bluefin-21 autonomous underwater vehicle were flown out of JFK Airport in New York to Perth, Australia earlier the day, and expected to arrive there on Tuesday, Kirby confirmed at the Pentagon Press briefing. “There will be a small number of people going along with them,” he added. “I think there are two on the flight with the gear itself, and then another eight folks will be flying separately to Perth to prepare the equipment.”

The towed pinger locator could be used to locate the missing airliner’s black box, while the Bluefin-21 autonomous underwater vehicle has sophisticated sonars that could be used to locate wreckage, he said. The underwater unmanned vehicle can dive to 14,700 feet, and if needed, the vehicle will operate off an Australian commercial ship, he said.—Xinhua

Italy watches nervously at French far-right forces’ advance, as next elections loom

ROME, 25 March — Italian media and analysts paid a great deal of attention to the French local elections, the day after far-right forces showed a surprising good performance. Anti-immigration and anti-European National Front, led by Marie Le Pen, achieved a significant result in the voting for 36,000 local councils on Sunday. It took the majority of votes in historical leftist stronghold, such as the city of Henin-Beaumont, and made gains in many other towns.

The news dominated the front pages of major Italian news outlets on Monday, and triggered much speculation by political analysts. French president Francois Hollande and his socialist party were seen as big losers of the contest, and the high rate of voter abstention was perceived as a sign of disaffection especially towards Europe.

“The jump of Marie Le Pen, a signal for Europe,” headlined the Corriere della Sera leading newspaper. “National Front’s success is a message of populist exasperation, rejection of politics, and fear of Europe. The French ‘disease’ is severe and it may spread to other European societies,” analyst and Paris correspondent Massimo Nava elaborated.

Xinhua

Xi’s visit opens new chapter for China-France ties upon golden jubilee

BEIJING, 25 March — At the annual Chinese Spring Festival gala on 30 January, French star Sophie Marceau, in an elegant red long dress, performed Edith Piaf’s La Vie En Rose with Chinese musician Liu Huan.

The beautiful duet is a vivid embodiment of the blossomy China-France relationship.

Just three days before the show was the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic ties between the two countries. Fifty days after that, Chinese President Xi Jinping is now set to further consolidate bilateral amity by visiting the

first major Western country that forged formal ties with the People’s Republic of China in 1964.

Indeed, the friendship between the two permanent members of the UN Security Council is an example of candid and constructive relations between Eastern and Western countries in the modern world. Frequent high-level visits, various people-to-people exchanges and prolific cooperation in such areas as nuclear energy, aviation and automobile manufacturing have bonded the two countries and peoples closer.

In a historical rari-

ty, France’s president and prime minister both visited China last year. In April, President Francois Hollande signed with China a major Airbus jets deal. Eight months later, Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault vowed in China to facilitate bilateral cooperation in civilian nuclear power and to simplify visa procedures for Chinese citizens travelling to France.

As Xi arrives in Lyon on Tuesday and kicks off a state visit to France, the China-France relationship is presented with a golden opportunity to move further forward.

In order to achieve a more friendly, fruitful and resilient relationship, the two sides need to bear in mind that mutual respect is an indispensable component of friendship.

China-France ties went astray when Paris decided to sell arms to Taiwan in the early 1990s, and when former French President Nicolas Sarkozy met the Dalai Lama in 2008 while his country chaired the European Union.

Fortunately, the overall development of the China-France relations has been kept in the right direction.

Xinhua

Thai protesters hope vote for Senate will tee up PM’s impeachment

BANGKOK, 25 March — Anti-government protesters marched in Bangkok on Tuesday to drum up support for a rally at the weekend, just before Thailand holds elections for the Senate, which will play a central role in their aim of removing Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

The demonstrators led by Suthep Thaugsuban disrupted a general election for the lower house in February, which was annulled by the Constitutional Court on Friday, but they have no problem with Sunday’s vote for the upper house.

“We will not block Sunday’s Senate election, because we need to reform the executive and legislative branches and the Senate is key to our reform

plans,” Wittaya Kaewparadai, a protest leader, told Reuters.

Thailand has been in crisis since former premier Thaksin Shinawatra, Yingluck’s brother, was ousted in a 2006 coup. The conflict broadly pits the Bangkok-based middle class and royalist establishment against the mostly poorer, rural supporters of the Shinawatras.

The turmoil entered a fresh phase in November, when anti-government protesters first took to the streets, with 23 people killed during the political violence over the following months.

Sunday’s vote is to elect 77 senators for the 150-seat Senate. The rest are appointed, and a gov-

ernment attempt to make it a fully elected body was one of the sparks that set off the latest unrest in November.

The non-elected Senators are picked by judges and senior officials from agencies such as the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC), members of an establishment whom government supporters see as viscerally anti-Thaksin.

The protesters appear confident that Sunday’s vote will deliver a Senate majority likely to impeach Yingluck after an investigation under way by the NACC.

Yingluck has until the end of the month to answer a charge of dereliction of duty over a ruinous



Anti-government protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban (C) waves as he leads protesters in a rally in central Bangkok on 25 March, 2014.—REUTERS

rice-buying scheme that has run up huge losses and left hundreds of thousands

of farmers unpaid. The prime minister is unlikely to attend the NACC hearing,

and Yingluck’s lawyers will probably present her defence.—Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Cyber fugitive Dotcom mocks authorities: “From 0 into a \$210m company”

WELLINGTON, 25 March—Kim Dotcom, one of the world’s most wanted cyber fugitives, on Tuesday gloated over a deal that will see a cloud storage firm he founded while on bail listing on the New Zealand stock exchange and valued on paper at NZ\$210 million.

The flashy internet mogul, who also goes by the name Kim Schmitz, is fighting a bid by US authorities to extradite him from the lavish estate he lives in New Zealand to face online piracy charges over the now closed file sharing site Megaupload.

The New Zealand government in early 2012 arrested Dotcom at his mansion near Auckland in a SWAT-style raid requested by the Federal Bureau

of Investigation. Dotcom is free on bail as he fights extradition although his movements are restricted.

After a reverse takeover deal was announced between Mega Ltd and TRS (TRS.NZ), an inactive local investment firm, Dotcom tweeted: “Indicted. Raided. On Bail. All assets frozen without trial. But we don’t cry ourselves to sleep. We built #Mega from 0 into a \$210m company.”

TRS said in a statement to the New Zealand stock exchange it had a conditional agreement to buy Mega Ltd through a share issue to Mega’s shareholders, which will result in them holding 99 percent of TRS.

The plan, expected to be completed by the end of May, would see the issue



An actor in police costume mock-arrests Megaupload founder Kim Dotcom (L) as he launches his new file sharing site “Mega” in Auckland on 20 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

of 700 million new TRS shares at 30 NZ cents each, after which TRS’s current 1.1 billion shares would be reduced to about 7 million.

Mega Ltd, launched in 2013 by Dotcom and several other people involved in Megaupload, offers encrypted, cloud-based data storage. It claims about 7 million registered users.

New Zealand company records show Mega Ltd’s shareholders include Dotcom’s wife, through a trust, with a 26 percent stake. Dotcom is not listed as a shareholder nor a director, but on the Mega website he is called principal strategist.

Dotcom, a large, ebullient German national with New Zealand residency, could not be reached for comment.

Reuters

ENERGY Week 2014 opens in Brunei

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 25 March—Brunei’s Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah launched on Monday the ENERGY Week 2014 at the BRIDEX Exhibition Center organized by the Energy Department at the Prime

Minister’s Office (PMO).

The five-day ENERGY Week 2014, with over 70 companies participated this year, carried the theme “Sustainable Energy for Brunei Darussalam’s Prosperity,” the event is



Brunei’s Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah (R) visits the ENERGY Week 2014 in Jerudong, Brunei, on 24 March, 2014. Brunei’s Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah launched Monday the ENERGY Week 2014 at the BRIDEX Exhibition Center organized by the Energy Department at the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO).—XINHUA

aimed to promote the Energy White Paper Brunei Darussalam, as the Brunei Oil & Gas Book titled “You Can Make A Difference (Brunei Oil and Gas: Where Opportunities Await You).”

In conjunction with the event, Energy Department also launched the Energy Industry Competency Exhibition, Brunei Maritime Academy Exhibition, as well as an Energy Sector job and career fair where the Energy Week 2014 aims to promote awareness among the community about the importance of energy sources, and the need to conserve them. The event also involved students and youth in the energy industry allowing them to gain experience and social skills when interact with the public.

The Youth Energy Dialogue will also take place on 25 March, where youth will be provided the opportunity to discuss energy-related matters with the

Minister of Energy at the PMO. Meanwhile, issues on the latest developments in business opportunities, technology, regulations and business initiatives will be discussed during the Local Business Development Forum, on 26 March.

Other activities lined up are the Brunei National Energy Research Institute (BNERI) Conference, during which international energy experts from several agencies have been invited to speak at the Royal Berkshire Hall, Royal Brunei Polo and Riding Club on 25 March.

A Local Business Development (LBD) Forum will also take place on March 26 at the BRIDEX Conference Hall to discuss issues on the latest developments in business opportunities, technology, regulations and business initiatives.

Xinhua

Luxottica, Google clinch Glass eyewear deal

MILAN, 25 March—Ray-Ban sunglasses maker Luxottica (LUX.MI) said on Monday it had sealed a strategic partnership with Google Inc (GOOG.O) over its Glass eyewear that could pave the way for a new market in smart glasses.

In a statement, Italy’s Luxottica said it would design, develop and distribute a new kind of eyewear for the US group’s Internet-connected Glass eyewear.

Google Glass is a small stamp-sized screen attached to a pair of eyeglass frames. It can record video, access email, and retrieve information from the Web by connecting wirelessly to a user’s cell phone.

Luxottica said the two groups would work together to create innovative wearable devices for the

iconic Glass brand.

No financial terms were disclosed.

Luxottica said its two major brands, Ray-Ban and Oakley, would be part of the deal with Glass but it gave no further details.

“We believe that a strategic partnership with a leading player like Google is the ideal platform for developing a new way forward in our industry and answering the evolving needs of consumers on a global scale,” Luxottica Chief Executive Officer Andrea Guerra said.

Many believe wearable computers such as Google Glass represent the next big shift in technology, just as smartphones evolved from personal computers.

But some concern has been expressed over possible privacy intrusion issues the device might entail.

Reuters



A Google search page is seen through the spectacles of a computer user in Leicester, central England on 20 July, 2007.—REUTERS

China’s President challenges Obama on telecoms spying report

BEIJING, 25 March—China’s President Xi Jinping questioned his US counterpart Barack Obama about reports that Washington had secretly tapped Chinese telecoms giant Huawei for years, a top security aide said on Monday.

“President Xi did raise that recent report in the context of their discussions on cyber-security,” Ben Rhodes, Obama’s deputy national security adviser, told a press briefing.

Obama “made clear” to Xi that “the United States does not engage in

espionage to gain commercial advantage,” Rhodes said after the two leaders met on the sidelines of a major summit on nuclear security in The Hague.

The New York Times and Germany’s Der Spiegel said that the NSA had accessed Huawei’s email archive, communications between top company officials, and even the secret source code of some of its products.

At an official press briefing in Beijing earlier Monday, a foreign ministry spokesman said China

was “seriously concerned” about the reports, which were based on documents provided by fugitive NSA contractor Edward Snowden.

Spokesman Hong Lei told reporters that Beijing had on “many occasions” asked Washington for answers on reports of US surveillance activities in countries across the globe.

“We ask America to give a clear explanation and stop such behaviour,” he said.

Beijing itself has repeatedly been accused of

large-scale cyber-espionage, which it vehemently denies.

The Chinese reprimand came after a top Huawei official similarly denounced the NSA.

Rhodes said that both the US and China “engage in intelligence activities on matters of national security”. “But there’s a clear distinction in our view between intelligence activities that have a national security purpose and intelligence activities that have a commercial purpose,” he said.—Reuters

Australian PM aiming for free trade “trifecta” in north Asia tour

CANBERRA, 25 March — Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott on Tuesday said he would be working for the “trifecta” of free trade with the country’s three biggest trading partners when he leads trade missions to Japan, the Republic of Korea (ROK) and China next month.

“This will be my first official visit to north Asia and it’s happening very early in the new government’s term,” Abbott said in a speech to the Asia Society in Canberra.

“There is, of course, no law of nature saying that the Asian middle class must buy the products of Australian manufacturers,

must use our services, must study at our colleges, or must visit our tourist destinations,” he said.

“Just because Asian countries have found Australia a good supplier in the past, doesn’t mean they will inevitably do so in the future. That’s why this government is doing everything it can to complete free trade agreements with our top three export markets.” He said he hoped to witness the signing of the ROK-Australia free trade agreement (FTA), to finalize the Japan-Australia FTA, and to announce substantial progress towards freer trade with China.

Xinhua

S Korea, New Zealand to hold talks on FTA

SEOUL, 25 March — South Korea and New Zealand will hold talks on the bilateral free trade agreement (FTA) this week to reach a compromise on remaining issues, Seoul’s Trade Ministry said on Tuesday.

The sixth round of FTA negotiations will be held in Seoul from Wednesday to Friday, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

The bilateral talks had been suspended for around four years since May 2010 as South Korea sought the delay of liberalization in the agricultural sector, but the negotiations were resumed last month.

The ministry said it will seek, at the upcoming talks, to reach a compromise on the lingering

issues in the service, investment, rule of origin and customs.

The upcoming round was expected to make great progress in concluding the long-stalled negotiations given that South Korea signed a separate FTA with Canada earlier this month only about five months after the talks were resumed following a five-year suspension.

Seoul has sought to come to agreement in FTA talks with members of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) to join the multi-lateral trade pact, which include Canada, Australia and New Zealand as well as the United States, Brunei, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.

Xinhua



Activists hold placards during a protest rally at the gate of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) headquarters in Quezon City, the Philippines, on 24 March, 2014. The activists held the protest rally as the Philippines and the US meet for the 7th round of negotiations for the Enhanced Defence Cooperation which will grant the US access to the Philippines’ military bases, a few weeks before the state visit of US President Barack Obama.—XINHUA

Fukushima fishermen OK dumping groundwater from Fukushima plant

FUKUSHIMA, (Japan), 25 March — A local fishermen organization on Tuesday decided to allow Tokyo Electric Power Co to dump groundwater at the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex into the sea on condition that the water is clean enough for release.

The measure is expected to slow the pace of increase of toxic water at the plant, as groundwater will be pumped up before it gets mixed with highly radioactive water accumulating at the basement of reactor buildings and will be directed to the Pacific Ocean.

Amid concerns that the move could harm the marine environment, TEPCO said in February that it will set stringent safety criteria for the water release. For example, the density of

radioactive tritium in the water should not exceed one-fortieth of the legal limit.

But it is not clear whether the so-called groundwater bypass system will operate smoothly, with the plant plagued by various problems linked to the toxic water management.

On Tuesday, the Fukushima Prefectural Federation of Fisheries Co-operative Associations handed a petition that calls on TEPCO and the government to make sure that the water released into the sea is below the required radiation levels.

Highly radioactive water is increasing by about 400 tons daily at the plant because the same volume of groundwater is seeping into the basement of

reactor buildings and mixing with water used to cool three reactors that suffered meltdowns in the 2011 accident.

By operating the groundwater bypass system, TEPCO says it can reduce the amount of water seeping into the reactor buildings by about 100 tons per day.

TEPCO finished installing a dozen wells in March last year to pump up uncontaminated groundwater. But the utility has not been able to discharge groundwater up to now amid local reluctance.

TEPCO also plans to start building from June a huge underground ice wall around the reactor buildings to block the entry of groundwater.

Kyodo News

3 cops injured in landmine blast by left-wing rebels in eastern India

NEW DELHI, 25 March — At least three policemen sustained serious injuries in a landmine blast triggered by suspected left-wing Naxalite rebels in the eastern Indian state of Jharkhand on Tuesday, a senior police official said.

“A police team was coming back to a local police station in the state’s Khunti District this morning from a remote place when the blast took place. The three injured have been rushed to a hospital where their condition are said to be serious,” he said on condition of anonymity.

A manhunt has been launched to track down the rebels, the official added.

Xinhua

Thai bus accident kills 27

BANGKOK, 25 March — A bus plunged into a valley in northern Thailand’s Tak Province at around 10:30 pm local time on Monday, leaving at least 27 people dead and 24 others injured, local media reported.

The accident happened after the bus’ brakes failed, the Spring News reported, adding that 24 people died on the spot and three others were later pronounced dead at the hospital.

Xinhua

Two road accidents kill 20 in China

CHONGQING / KUNMING, 25 March — Twenty people were killed and dozens more injured in two separate road accidents in southwest China, authorities said on Tuesday.

Fifteen people have died and 56 others were injured in a multiple pileup early Tuesday on an expressway section in Chongqing Municipality. The accident happened just after midnight when a truck hit an overturned coach, and vehicles behind plowed into the back of the truck at a section of the Baotou-Maoming Expressway.

Xinhua



Candidates take part in the interview at North University of China in Taiyuan, capital of north China’s Shanxi Province, on 23 March, 2014. Hainan Airlines on Sunday held an interview here for air attendants from hundreds of undergraduates.

XINHUA

S Korea urges N Korea to halt ‘provocative words and actions’

SEOUL, 25 March — South Korea urged North Korea on Tuesday to abide by international obligations.

“North Korea should halt provocative words and actions increasing tensions on the Korean Peninsula and abide by UN resolutions and other international obligations,” South Korea’s Foreign Ministry spokesman said during a press briefing.

Cho Tai Young’s remarks were made after a North Korean envoy at the United Nations slammed the United States for conducting military drills

with the South that he said exacerbate regional tensions, warning Pyongyang will take “additional measures.”

In a Press conference in New York, Deputy Ambassador Ri Tong Il did not elaborate on what the additional measures would be but said, “I think the meaning is clear to you, the additional measures are ready, but we are keeping ourselves restrained.”

The Foal Eagle combat field training between the United States and South Korea started in March and runs through 18 April.

Kyodo News

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

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

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

- (a) Collection of the waste
- (b) Transportation of the collected waste

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

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

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

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

Pollution Control and Cleansing Department
Yangon City Development Committee



People enjoy floral decorations inside the Macy's department store in New York City, on 24 March, 2014. With the theme of "the secret garden" for this year, the annual Macy's Flower Show in the New York City kicked off on Sunday.—XINHUA

China should facilitate inclusive, sustainable urbanization: WB

BEIJING, 25 March — While urbanization has been good for growth and economic transformation, China now needs a new model, World Bank Managing Director Sri Mulyani Indrawati, said here on Tuesday.

"China has avoided some of the common ills of urbanization, notably poverty, unemployment and slums, but despite the success, the strain is starting to show," she said at the International Conference on Urban China: Toward Efficient, Inclusive and Sustainable Urbanization.

China's growth has been driven by investment rather than productivity, but investment has become less effective in generating growth both in cities and nationwide. Urbanization has relied on land conversion and land financing, which is causing urban sprawl and, on occasion, ghost towns and waste, she noted.

Barriers to migration have kept China's urbanization rate artificially low, curbing economic opportunities and widening urban-rural income inequality. Citizens without urban

household registration (hukou) do not enjoy equal access to public services in cities, another barrier to mobility, said Indrawati.

Through better allocation of land, labor, and capital a new model of urbanization can help China share the benefits of urbanization more widely than in the past, and it can be environmentally sustainable while ensuring China's food security, she said at the release of a joint report by the World Bank and the Development Research Center of the State Council.

Xinhua

Three Russian warships pass Dardanelles Strait in Turkey

ISTANBUL, 25 March — Three Russian warships passed Dardanelles Strait in Turkey and headed towards the Mediterranean Sea on Monday morning.

Local Dogan News Agency (DHA) reported that the Russian warships made the movement after a Syrian warplane was shot

down by Turkish military on Sunday.

Russian warships Minks, Olenegorsky and Kaliningrad are sailing in the Marmara Sea from the Black Sea. A Turkish coast guard ship escorted the warships during their passage from the Dardanelles Strait.—Xinhua

Indonesia extends heartfelt condolence to MH370 plane tragedy

JAKARTA, 25 March — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Tuesday on behalf of the Indonesian people extended his heartfelt condolence to the accident of Malaysian airline plane MH370 that crashed into southern Indian Ocean and killed all 239 people on board. President Yudhoyono made the statement on his twitter account following the announcement by Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak on Monday night that the plane losing contact on March 8 crashed into the ocean with none of passengers and crew alive. "Indonesia is mourning on the tragedy of MH370 plane," President Yudhoyono said on his twitter account. "To the people of Malaysia and Prime Minister Najib Razak, we extend heartfelt condolence to this tragedy," said Yudhoyono.—Xinhua



Photo taken on 25 March, 2014 shows the accident site on the G65 Baomao Expressway in the Qianjiang District of Chongqing, southwest China. At least 15 people were killed and 56 others injured in multiple pileups early Tuesday in Chongqing.

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‘Divergent’ teen warriors defeat ‘Muppets’ at box office



Cast member Kate Winslet poses with fans at the premiere of “Divergent” in Los Angeles, on 18 March, 2014. REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 25 March — Dystopian thriller “Divergent,” the story of a society that divides people based on personality traits, dominated weekend movie charts with \$56 million in US and Canadian ticket sales, kicking off a new franchise for “Hunger Games” producer Lions Gate Entertainment Corp (LGF.N).

Walt Disney Co (DIS.N) family comedy

“Muppets Most Wanted” finished in second place, nabbing \$16.5 million from Friday through Sunday, according to estimates provided by Rentrak. Animated “Mr Peabody & Sherman,” produced by Dreamworks Animation Inc (DWA.O), took the No 3 slot with \$11.7 million.

“Divergent” is adapted from a popular series of young adult novels by

newcomer author Veronica Roth. Ahead of the week-end, forecasters had predicted the film would debut with between \$50 million and \$68 million in North American (US and Canadian) ticket sales.

Shailene Woodley stars in “Divergent” as Tris Prior, a teenager who doesn’t fit in to a faction because she has multiple dominant personality traits, making her a threat

to the government. She chooses to join the Dauntless faction of warriors who defend the society’s inhabitants. British actor Theo James plays Four, Tris’ mentor and love interest.

The debut of “Divergent” fell short of the box office heights of two other young adult franchises. “Hunger Games” started with a massive \$152.5 million in March 2012 while

“Twilight” opened with \$69.6 million in November 2008.

Lions Gate said Friday it was confident “Divergent” would become an important franchise for the company and it was moving ahead with the second film in the series, called “Insurgent,” which will reach theaters in March 2015.

Noting that the “Divergent” opening was shy of blockbusters “Hunger Games” and “Twilight,” Jeff Bock, senior box office analyst at Exhibitor Relations Co, said “\$56 million is a great opening for any film, and virtually locked down the proposed trilogy.”

“This is something to build on for the series, and with the cast expected to be in high demand, the ‘Divergent’ legacy will continue to grow,” Bock added.

Richie Fay, the studio’s president of domestic distribution, said, “We’re very pleased with the outcome for the franchise launch.”

The movie’s A+ CinemaScore grade from the under-18 audience bodes well for the coming weeks as spring break and Easter school holidays approach, Fay said, noting, “The young adult audience has been underserved in the last couple of weeks.”

Reuters

Japanese architect Shigeru Ban wins 2014 Pritzker prize



Japanese architect Shigeru Ban

LOS ANGELES, 25 March — Japanese architect Shigeru Ban has won the 2014 Pritzker Architecture Prize, often considered the Nobel prize of architecture, the prize’s sponsor organization said on Monday.

“For twenty years Ban has traveled to sites of natural and manmade disasters around the world, to work with local citizens, volunteers and students, to design and construct simple, dignified, low-cost, recyclable shelters and community buildings for the disaster victims,” the Hyatt Foundation said. Ban, 56, is the seventh Japanese architect to become a Pritzker laureate. The first six include the late Kenzo Tange in 1987 and Tadao Ando in 1995.

Kyodo News

Julia Roberts: Kids come first, career second



Oscar-winning actress Julia Roberts.

LOS ANGELES, 25 March — Oscar-winning actress Julia Roberts says her children will always come before her career. The Pretty Woman star is a mother of nine-year-old twins Hazel and Phinnaeus and six-year-old Henry and only accepts one movie a year, so she can spend most of her time with her family, reports contactmusic.com.

“I make one film per year and that’s a good balance. My older kids have just turned nine and my son is six; they still need me. My family takes up a lot of my time and my creative energy, but I’m lucky to have worked enough already to allow myself to take time off,” said Julia Roberts, who made her acting debut in late 1980s.

“When I see my friends struggling to juggle both, I feel very privileged. I act less, but better; I’ve always been demanding (of a role), now I’m difficult,” she added.

Reuters

George Michael beats Kylie Minogue in British album chart battle



British singer George Michael performs on stage during his “Symphonica” tour concert in Vienna on 4 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

LONDON, 25 March — Singer George Michael racked up his seventh British number one album on Sunday as “Symphonica” took top spot in the charts, beating off competition from Australian pop diva Kylie Minogue, the Official Charts Company said.

Michael’s first new album in nearly 10 years outsold Minogue’s “Kiss Me Once” by 20,000 copies in a battle between two artists with a record of British chart success stretching back to the 1980s.

Last week’s number one album, Elbow’s “The Take Off And Landing of Everything”, drifted to fifth place, while Paloma Faith’s “A Perfect Contradiction” fell to fourth from second. Pharrell Williams’s “G I R L” held its place at number three.

Reuters

Angelina Jolie, Stella McCartney create Maleficent-inspired children’s clothing

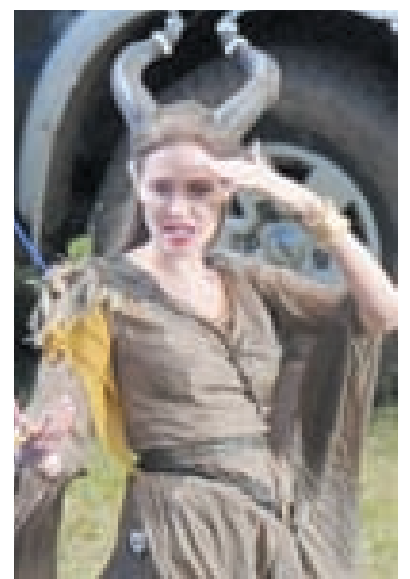
LOS ANGELES, 25 March — Maleficent star Angelina Jolie collaborated with fashion designer Stella McCartney to create a children’s clothing range inspired by the Disney movie.

The collection, named after the movie, will include eight styles including sparkly princess dresses, bow-adorned sandals, dragon-print tees and cool sneakers for boys and girls aged 4 to 14, reports people.com.

“I’ve always been a huge fan of Disney growing up, as was my mother, and I grew up watching all the films like most kids did,” McCartney told WWD.

“When the opportunity presented itself and I was invited by Angelina Jolie to visit the film set, I jumped at the chance.”

Starting April end, the capsule collection, which will range from \$75 to \$145, will be available at Stella McCartney Kids stores worldwide, as well as Disney stores and online.—Reuters



Angelina plays the title role of the witch in the film.

GENERAL

David Beckham unveils proposal for waterfront Miami soccer stadium



This image courtesy Miami Beckham United shows an artist rendering of a proposed stadium for a Major League Soccer (MLS) team backed by retired English soccer star David Beckham of the group's preferred location for the arena seated in between Biscayne Bay and downtown Miami, Florida in this handout image released on 24 March, 2014. — REUTERS

MIAMI, 25 March — A group led by English football star David Beckham unveiled plans on Monday to build a 25,000-seat football stadium on Miami's waterfront for the Major League Soccer team he will own, but the proposal is already facing some opposition.

The open-air stadium would be built in an

area known as PortMiami, which hosts the world's busiest cruise ship terminal. Long-term plans for the island port have never included the possibility of being home to a sports arena, port officials have said.

PortMiami Director Bill Johnson declined to comment on the stadium proposal. "The important part for us is getting

everybody on side, getting everybody to realize why we want to bring the team here, and why we want to have the stadium in a certain place," Beckham told reporters in Miami.

Royal Caribbean Cruises, whose headquarters are located at the port, has expressed concern about the proposed stadium, citing traffic concerns

and its own plans to develop the land the Beckham group hopes to lease for the stadium. "We have shared our serious reservations about the suitability of PortMiami as a location for a stadium," Cynthia Martinez, Royal Caribbean's director for global corporate communications, wrote in an e-mail on Monday.—Reuters

Ruthless Nadal continues Miami rampage



Stanislas Wawrinka hits a forehand against Daniel Gimeno-Traver (not pictured) on day six of the Sony Open at Crandon Tennis Centre in Miami on 22 March, 2014. Geoff Burke-USA TODAY Sports

MIAMI, 25 March — World number one Rafa Nadal continued his ruthless rampage through the Sony Open on Monday, crushing Uzbekistan's Denis Istomin 6-1, 6-0 to reach the fourth round at Crandon Park.

Also through to the next round is Australian Open champion Stanislas Wawrinka, who looked sharp in a no-nonsense 7-5, 6-4 win over Frenchman Edouard Roger-Vasselin.

Nadal, who has reached the final three times but never lifted the Miami

title, blew past Lleyton Hewitt in the second round before overwhelming Istomin in less than an hour in a centre court master class.

Next up for the Spaniard is a fourth round meeting on Tuesday with Italian 14th seed Fabio Fognini, who advanced with a 4-6, 6-3, 6-3 comeback win over Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut.

Further down the road is a possible semi-final meeting with third seed Wawrinka, who beat the Spaniard in the final of the Australian Open to claim

his first grand slam title.

Nadal has shown no signs of losing focus, however, and broke Istomin twice to open the match and grab a 4-0 lead.

The 57th ranked Istomin finally held serve at 4-1 but that would be the only time as Nadal thundered through the next eight game to complete the rout.

"I played a very complete match," said Nadal, who was given a warning for slow play. "No match is perfect but I did a lot of things very well. No mistakes, serving with good percentage, and playing a lot of winners.

"My movements were better than what I did last event events.

That's a very important thing for me."

Wawrinka, who has admitted to suffering something of a grand slam hangover, has already matched his best effort in six visits to Miami. His win set up a last 16 meeting with Ukraine's Alexander Dolgoplov, a 3-6, 6-0, 7-6(5) winner over Serb Dusan Lajovic.—Reuters

Water buffaloes escape Sydney film set, race down busy street

SYDNEY, 25 March — Two water buffaloes startled residents of an inner-Sydney suburb on Tuesday morning, as they pelted 2 km (1.2 miles) down a city street past disbelieving pedestrians, while car drivers scurried to get out of the way.

Eyewitnesses told local media the buffaloes looked agitated, having escaped from a city park where an advertisement was being filmed.

"I was just waiting for the bus and instead of a bus, two random buffalo ran past," Abril Felman, a student at the University of Sydney campus nearby, told Reuters by telephone.

Firefighters rounded up the animals and live-tweeted the operation, saying they used ladders and firefighting gear to corral the animals into a makeshift pen, until handlers from the film set took them away.—Reuters

MYANMAR TV

- (26-3-2014, Wednesday)
- 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. Pyi Thu Ni Ti
- 8:30 am
5. India Drama Series
- 9:00 am
6. News/International News
- 9:55 am
7. Live Broadcast of the President's Address at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on the 3rd Anniversary of taking Office
- 11:25 am
8. Approaching Science Discovery World
- 12:00 pm
9. News/International News/Weather Report
- 12:25 pm
10. Myanmar Movies
- 2:45 pm
11. Songs in honour of (69)th Anniversary Armed Forces Day
- 3:00 pm
12. News
- 3:15 pm
13. Musical Programme
- 4:00 pm
14. News
- 4:15 pm
15. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - Second Year (Oriental)
- 5:00 pm
16. News
- 5:30 pm
17. India Drama Series
- 6:00 pm
18. News/Weather Report
- 6:20 pm
19. Shwe Yin Khone Than
- 8:00 pm
20. News/International News/Weather Report
- 8:50 pm
21. Documentary
- 9:00 pm
22. News
23. Documentary
24. Teleplay

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

- (26-3-14 07:00am~ 27-3-14 07:00am) MST
- * Local News
- * Shwe Kyin: A Picture of Peace and Progress
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: 3D
- * Local News
- * Those Who Never Give Up (Ep-1) Aung Thamar Di Gold Shop
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movie Review "Be the Right Heir"
- * Local News
- * Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Decision"
- * World News
- * Parents' Day
- * Local News
- * Hiker's Journey (Yangon City)(Ep-6) (Part-2)
- * World News
- * Tea
- * 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

La Liga Standing Table

Pos	Clubs	P	W	D	L	PTS
1	Real Madrid	29	22	4	3	70
2	Atletico Madrid	29	22	4	3	70
3	Barcelona	29	22	3	4	69
4	Athletic	29	16	7	6	55
5	Sevilla	29	13	8	8	47
6	Real Sociedad	28	13	7	8	46
7	Villarreal	29	13	6	10	45
8	Valencia	29	11	6	12	39
9	Espanyol	29	10	7	12	37
10	Levante	29	9	10	10	37
11	Granada CF	29	10	4	15	34
12	Celta	29	9	6	14	33
13	Malaga	29	8	8	13	32
14	Elche	29	7	9	13	30
15	Rayo Vallecano	29	9	3	17	30
16	Osasuna	29	8	5	16	29
17	Getafe	29	7	7	15	28
18	Valladolid	29	5	12	12	27
19	Almeria	28	7	5	16	26
20	Betis	29	4	7	18	19

Serena, Sharapova again on Miami collision course



champion Venus could not join the party.

On a day that saw play interrupted by rain, it seemed nothing

could stop the cream of women's tennis from rising to the top with Williams, a six-time Miami

champion, Australian Open winner Li Na, third seed Agnieszka Radwanska, five-time runner-up Maria Shara-

pova and fifth seed Angelique Kerber all moving into the last eight.

But Serena's big sister Venus could not complete the Williams family double falling 6-1, 5-7, 6-3 to Slovakian 10th seed Dominika

MIAMI, 25 March—World number one Serena Williams led a stampede of top seeds into the quarterfinals of the Sony Open on Monday but big sister and three-time Miami

Frustrated Woods says

'too soon' to make call on Masters



Tiger Woods

NEW YORK, 25 March—Tiger Woods is still no closer to knowing whether he will be able to play in next month's Masters as he struggles with back pain.

The world number one withdrew from last week's Arnold Palmer Invitational in Florida because of his aching back and remains unsure if he will be fit for this year's first major, starting on 10 April at Augusta National.

"For Augusta, it's actually a little too soon to be honest with you," he told reporters on Monday at a sponsorship announcement for the AT&T National.

Woods has been plagued by back problems since last year but his condition worsened over the

past month. The 38-year-old American failed to finish the Honda Classic at Palm Beach Gardens earlier this month, quitting after 13 holes in his final round.

Then he tweaked his back again on the last day at the WGC-Cadillac Championship in Miami a week later, tumbling out of contention with a final-round 78 to finish tied for 25th.—Reuters

Referee retained despite Arsenal red-card blunder

LONDON, 25 March—Referee Andre Marriner will remain a part of next weekend's Premier League games despite his high-profile gaffe in sending off the wrong Arsenal player at Chelsea on Saturday.

Marriner will take charge of Southampton against Newcastle United on Saturday, the Premier League said.

The referee caused uproar when he awarded a penalty against Arsenal for Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain's handball and then sent off Kieran Gibbs by mistake despite the real

culprit owning up at the time.

Arsenal went on to lose 6-0 at Stamford Bridge but Marriner's blunder was the talk of the afternoon, with the referee later expressing his 'disappointment' to Arsenal.

Former World Cup referee Clive Thomas told BBC radio the referee had made a "disgusting, shocking decision" and suggested Marriner should be stood down for the rest of the Premier League season.

The visitors had been trailing 2-0 to early goals from Samuel Eto'o and

Cibulkova just as the center court clock was about to strike midnight.

While Serena Williams and Sharapova clashed in last year's Miami final there will be no championship rematch this Saturday with the American and Russian on the same side of the draw and closing in on a semi-final showdown.

After getting her title defense off to a slow start, Williams, who lives an hour's drive from the Crandon Park Tennis Center and considers the event her home tournament, stepped it up a gear against Coco Vandeweghe, sweeping past the young American qualifier 6-3, 6-1 in 79 minutes.

"I was definitely happier today," Williams told reporters. "I was really

Wenger urges shattered team to respond in the right way

LONDON, 25 March—Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger promised the club's stunned supporters they would do everything they could to "respond in the right way" to Saturday's 6-0 defeat at Chelsea when they play Swansea City at the Emirates on Tuesday.

Wenger, who only spoke to TV reporters at Stamford Bridge and did not hold his routine pre-match news conference before a game, sent out his message in an email to supporters and later expanded on his thoughts in a written statement to the media.

Saturday's defeat in his 1,000th match in charge of the club was Arsenal's joint-worst defeat in the Premier League era and their heaviest defeat in London since a 6-0 loss at West Ham United in 1960.

Wenger, who described the day as "a nightmare"

struggling my first two matches, so I just wanted to have a better performance today.

"Going into the match I knew I could only do better. That kind of helped out, too."

Li was no less ruthless, the Chinese world number



two demolishing Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro 6-0, 6-2 in 61 minutes while Radwanska grinded out a 7-6 (5), 5-7, 6-2 victory over Ukraine's Elina Svitolina.

Kerber also needed three sets to get past Russian Ekaterina Makarova 6-4, 1-6, 6-3.

Fourth seed Sharapova got a much-needed wake-up call after sleep-walking her way

through the opening set before dispatching Belgian Kirsten Flipkens 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 while Kerber also needed three sets to get by Russian Ekaterina Makarova 6-4, 1-6, 6-3.

Former world number one and 12th seed Ana



Ivanovic seemed headed for a quarter-final berth after comfortably taking the first set against eighth seed Czech Petra Kvitova but fell apart after that, committing 11 double faults en route to a stunning 3-6, 6-0, 6-0 loss.—Reuters

down to 3-0 it became of course an impossible task. You just wonder, 'OK let's finish it'

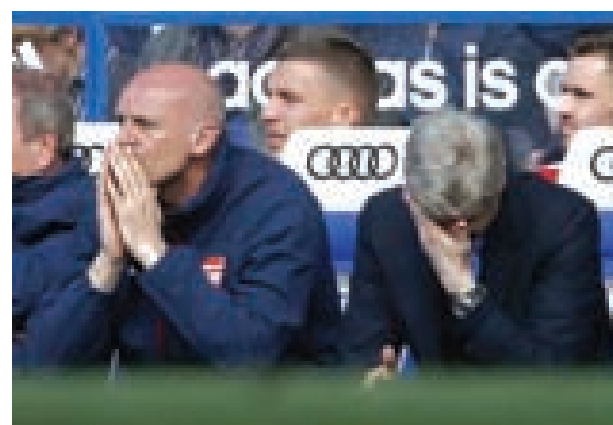
"When you have to attack with 10 men and you're down 3-0 you know you have more chances to concede another goal. That's what happened."

The result left Arsenal in fourth spot, seven points behind leaders Chelsea but with a game in hand.

They remain a place ahead of arch-rivals Tottenham Hotspur who beat Southampton 3-2 on Sunday to close to within six points of Arsenal, having played one more match.

It was the third time this season that Arsenal have suffered a big loss against another top four side having been beaten 6-3 by Manchester City in December and thrashed 5-1 by Liverpool last month.

Reuters



Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger (R) and team coach Steve Bould react during their English Premier League soccer match against Chelsea at Stamford Bridge in London on 22 March, 2014.—REUTERS

repeated that he took full responsibility for the result, adding: "We have to think deeply about it because it is not the first time it has happened in this kind of game."

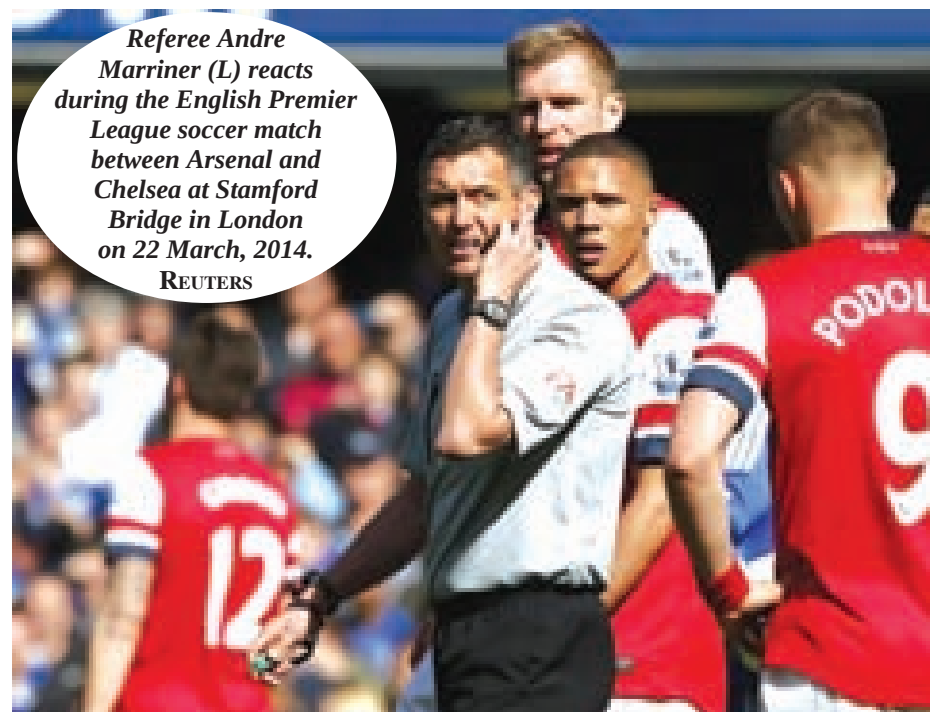
"It all went wrong and we failed completely on Saturday because we did not turn up with a performance."

He continued: "We are

intelligent enough and care enough about the club to of course be disappointed."

"It looked like we missed the start of our game and were caught on the counter attack. We were caught on the break."

"After that of course the game became very long because down to 10 men,



Referee Andre Marriner (L) reacts during the English Premier League soccer match between Arsenal and Chelsea at Stamford Bridge in London on 22 March, 2014. REUTERS