

Reforming Myanmar's police force to take years: Expert



In this file photo shows police carry out security checks outside Wunna Theikdi Stadium during 27th SEA Games in Nay Pyi Taw.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

As Myanmar is undergoing a string of reforms with the support of foreign experts, the country's police is now also facing an overhaul aimed at transforming its police force into a modern police that protects human rights. With little training and no knowledge of what constitutes a modern force.

But with the recent

training of young police officers near Yangon by experts from the European Union, Myanmar is sending yet another signal that it is willing to change old structures. One of the international trainers, however, said that the government needs to be realistic in what can be achieved in the next years, estimating that it will take around 15 years until significant change will be seen. With training by foreign experts limited to cer-

tain units at the moment, the international rules of policing cannot be adopted across the country in a short period of time.

As the police reform has a long way to go, Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said at the 69th Anniversary Armed Forces Day Parade in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday, that all people must "cooperate with the Tatmadaw as the Armed

Forces are assisting the police in the enforcement of rule of law". But President U Thein Sein stressed on Wednesday that the role of the Armed Forces at the parliament will gradually be reduced as the country matures in democracy. As a result the police force will increasingly have to get used to acting independently.

To successfully deal with complex issues such as protests over land grabs,

riots between ethnic groups or drug smuggling, a wide range of skills are required, including experience on how to do psychological and intellectual assessments.

But the force is grappling with much more basic problems. Speaking on condition of anonymity, a police inspector told *NLM* that the force is lacking support from the government. He said he has to use his own motorbike to get to crime scenes, that the salary was hardly enough to survive, and that he would like to see a sufficient daily allowance for food.

Regarding training, he said that after his graduation from university, he took part in a one-year course to become sub-police inspector. He learnt basic English and law, improved his computer skills and was trained in military combat techniques. Only one or two years after that course would he learn detective skills.

He feels the current law and military training are sufficient to work as an officer, but stressed the need for more training to cope with the changing situation in the world and the country as well.—*NLM*

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Authorities take security measures over foreigners in Sittway

SITTWAY, 29 March—Myanmar Police Force and officials of the administrative bodies are taking preventive measures not to occur more destructions over the recent riots in Sittway of Rakhine State and security measures of Myanmar citizens and foreigners of the UN agencies and INGOs.

Seven foreigners of the UN agencies and INGOs went back to their organizations on Thursday and 31 more foreigners on Friday. The officials are making security measures for remaining 29 foreigners in Sittway.—*MNA*

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March — Japanese farms are planning to import organic rice, crops and vegetables from Myanmar, officials said Friday.

During a meeting with U Myint Hlaing, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday, a Japanese trade delegation discussed expansion of growing organic rice, fruits and vegetables as well as organic egg production for export to Japan, where organic products are in high demand.

The Japanese delegation has also offered to assist in producing val-

ue-added products with the use of Japanese technology and to establish farmer markets near farms in order to support farmers.

The Japanese delegation was led by former Agriculture Minister Mr Iwanaga, comprising Mr Murota, Chairman of Mitsui Company, Mr Iwai, Chairman of Farm Do Company and Mr Teng Cheong Thye, an expert of the food industry.

The delegation also visited a farm where rice and vegetables are grown organically for export to Japan.

MNA

Japan plans to import organic produce from Myanmar



A woman harvests brinjal at an organic farm in Nay Pyi Taw.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Regional development fund to be spent effectively: National Parliament Speaker says



NAY PYI TAW, 29 March—Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw (National Parliament) U Khin Aung Myint met members of township development supportive committee who are implementing regional development tasks under the Union parliament development fund law at district General Administration Department in

Speaker of National Parliament U Khin Aung Myint speaking at the meeting with members of township development supportive committee in Yamethin.—MNA

Yamethin, Mandalay Region on Saturday.

Speaking at the meeting, the Speaker said that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament) development fund law was enacted to implement regional development tasks for the sake of people's interest. He put emphasis on effective spending the fund for regional development, urging respective committees to fulfill people's wishes.

Pyithu Hluttaw (People's Parliament) representatives U Myint Soe and U Bo Ni, Region MPs U Tin Oo, U Tin Soe, U Zaw Min and officials also attended the meeting.—MNA

Meetings prepared for Socio-Cultural Community Council meetings

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March—The meeting on central committee and working committee for holding the 16th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Socio-Cultural Community Council and the 11th meeting of the ASEAN Ministers' on Socio-Cultural Community Council was held at the Ministry of Culture, here, on Wednesday.

Chairman of Myanmar ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu called on ministries concerned to submit their reports and

concept papers to be discussed at the meetings during the time of Chairmanship. As cultural sector is one of the priorities, he has decided to promote ASEAN Awareness of cultural sector in cooperation with ASEAN member countries.

Discussion on role of ASCC sector, decisions, declarations and signing matters are to be submitted to ASCC through SOCA at the ASEAN Summit which will be held in May. The ministries concerned are requested to submit facts and figure and concept papers for discussion at ASEAN Summit.—MNA

Union Attorney-General meets former German Minister of Justice

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March—Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin met former German Minister of Justice Ms. Sabine Leutheusser-Schnarrenberger and party at a discussion on implementation of Myanmar rule of law, participation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption to against brib-

ery, enactment of local law, formation of anti-corruption commission, holding meeting, workshops and discussions by the Union Attorney-General's Office to disseminate the knowledge of law, amendment of the constitution in line with its provisions duty and function of the Advocates Council.—MNA

Thai Film Festival Yangon, Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Arts Festival celebrated in Yangon

YANGON, 29 March—The Thai Film Festival Yangon 2014 and the Myanmar-Thailand Friendship Arts Festival took place at the People's Park and People's Square in Dagon Township in Yangon on Friday night.

Rose Garden Ltd.

During his inspection tour of the hotels, the Union Minister called on the staff to work hard for timely completion of the hotel at Center Point Towers Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road which was invested by Thailand-based L.P Holding Co., Ltd.

The Union Minister also inspected the work progress of Hoang Anh Gia Lai Myanmar Center project and Sedona Hotel Phase (2) on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road.—MNA

The Thai Film Festival was held in Myanmar for the first time. The festival is aimed at developing the media sector between Myanmar and Thailand. It was organized by ADMA Media Co., Ltd. and Myanmar Media 7 of Myanmar and Kantana JK of Thailand.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Yangon Region Minister for Finance Daw San San Nwe, Deputy Permanent Secretary Dr. Apinan Poshayananda at the Ministry of Culture in Thailand and the Thai Ambassador to Myanmar formally opened the festivals.

During the festivals, famous Myanmar and Thai artists performed the attendees with songs and dances.

These festivals continue on 30 March.—MNA

Education Ministry, British Council sign MoU on promoting and developing use of English language



Signing ceremony of MoU between Myanmar and British Council in progress at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March—Ministry of Education and the British Council signed an MoU at Thingaha Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday at 3 pm.

Deputy Minister Dr Zaw Min Aung and Chairman of British Council Sir Vernon Ellis signed the notes.

Union Minister Dr Daw Khin San Yi spoke words of thanks and Chairman of British Council made a speech.

The MoU features promoting and developing use of English language, education policy, role of education sector, connecting UK academics, basic and higher education, vocational education, teachership education, education activities, establishment of Centres of Excellence/research,

teaching language, and testing quality of students and experts.

MNA

Union Hotels and Tourism Minister inspects hotels in Yangon



YANGON, 29 March—Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung on Saturday attended the Rose Garden Hotel opening ceremony and inspected progress of the hotels in Yangon. At the ceremony, the Union Minister gave opening remarks and looked round the hotel.

The hotel is located on Upper Pansodan Road in Yangon and it covers 300 rooms, meeting room, ballroom and dining room. It was completely invested by Hong Kong-based Emerald

Photo shows Sedona Hotel Phase (2) under construction in Yangon.

NATIONAL

Nationwide ceasefire agreement is aimed not only at reaching durable stage in ceasefire process but also paving the way for holding political dialogue



President U Thein Sein cordially greets leaders and representatives of political parties.—MNA

YANGON, 29 March—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein met leaders and representatives of political parties at Mingala Hall of Yangon Region Government, here, at 9 am on Saturday.

At the meeting, the President delivered an opening address.

I am very delighted to see 65 political parties that are enthusiastically taking part in Myanmar's democratic transition. Despite meeting with the political parties three times before, the three meetings had limitations.

Now is a very impor-

tant transitional period for Myanmar. After taking office, the government prioritized three tasks: The first priority is to achieve internal peace, political reform and national reconciliation, second is national level development for the entire people and third is making preparations to create a better Myanmar society for the next generation. Some matters met with success while others call for follow-up tasks.

Firstly, I would like to talk about the peace process that has reached a certain stage during the previous three-year period.

State level ceasefire agree-

ments were signed with 14 out of 16 organizations and Union level meetings held. Talks with the remaining two organizations are in progress. While working on the peace process, negotiation is progressing and moving towards a nationwide ceasefire agreement. In meeting with leaders of national races, religious association and political parties in MyitkyiaofKachin State last week, I gave an account of the present progress in political and peace process and urged them to contribute as much as they can.

I would like to present an example of a fellow ASEAN member, the Philippines, where the historic Bangsamoro peace pact was signed on 27 March after 17-year long negotiations. We could be in more difficulties while holding talks with several armed organizations. But, we had reached today's stage thanks to participation and cooperation of all. I would like to stress the need for more effort to make more progress.

It is required to hold a political dialogue to pave

the way for the emergence of a federal Union that guarantees mutual respect and equality inspired by the national races.

During the course of history, durable peace could not be built through ceasefire only. So, we are

moving towards a peace process based on political dialogues. It is necessary to reach a durable stage regarding the ceasefire at the same time.

A meeting on formulation of political frameworks will be held af-

ter signing a nationwide ceasefire agreement. All participants are to decide how to move towards a political dialogue, what will have to be discussed and who will take part in the political dialogue. All forces are to clearly understand what road map is needed to find peace. Based on the political framework, plans are underway to hold the political dialogue that includes those who should be there. The door is kept open to discuss all matters except matters related to secession from the Union of Myanmar, and issues that can harm national sovereignty. I believe the political dialogue will produce a historic peace pact of Myanmar. It is also required to take potential consequences of its outcome into consideration.

Discussions on constitutional amendment, one of the desires of political parties, will be allowed at the political dialogue.

Regarding the constitutional amendment, I would like to repeat some of my views on it. I agree with the basic principal of amending the constitution in order to be in harmony with political, economic and social needs of Myanmar in accord with
(See page 8)



President U Thein Sein greets representatives of national race political parties.—MNA

During the course of history, durable peace could not be built through ceasefire only. So, we are moving towards a peace process based on political dialogues. It is necessary to reach a durable stage regarding the ceasefire at the same time.

Security measures crucial for stability, peace and development in Rakhine State

SITTWAY, 29 March—A meeting between officials from Central Committee for Implementation of Stability and Development in Rakhine State and UN agencies took place at Sittway Hotel in Sittway, Rakhine State on Saturday.

First, Secretary of Central Committee Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Maung Ohn made clarifications on situation of recent riot, arrangements made by the committee and Rakhine state government for stability in the state, ongoing relief tasks to be carried out by UN agencies in a transparent manner in co-operation with local people from both communities in Rakhine State and security measures arranged for UN agencies.

Member of Central



Officials from Central Committee for Implementation of Stability and Development in Rakhine State holds discussions with delegates from UN agencies in Sittway, Rakhine State.—MNA

Committee Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun explained matters related to security measures and action to be taken in accord

with the law and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin made supplementary reports.

They then met with officials from the Ministry of

Home Affairs at the office of the head of state police force and called for making arrangements for regional stability.

State IPRD

were dead in worksite accidents. The Myingyan Township administrator, officials and staff of the Social Security Board, employees and employers attended the knowledge sharing ceremony.—Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Social Security Smart Cards go to Myingyan employees

MYINGYAN, 29 March—An official from Social Security Board issued Social Security Smart Cards to the employees at

his office in Myingyan Township in Mandalay Region on Wednesday.

The officials shared knowledge about the Social

Security Law 2012 which will be activated in April 2014 and presented over K 4.7 million to seven families of the employees who

Two canals dig up in Meiktila to prevent inundation in rainy season



A canal is being excavated in Meiktila to prevent inundation in rainy season with the use of heavy machinery.

MEIKTILA, 29 March—Two canals are being excavated to prevent inundation in rainy season for the houses in Pyithaya Ward in Meiktila, Mandalay Region, said U Nyunt Maung, Chairman of Ward Development Supportive Committee.

He continued that 5

feet depth, 2500 ft long two canals are being dug up on either side of No (3) Road from Yeset Junction to Pyithaya Creek by township development affairs committee in collaboration with locals under the supervision of township level officials.

No (3) road is a ma-

jor thoroughfare for the dwellers from Pyithaya South and Pyithaya North Wards. The residents from two wards faced inundation and flood in rainy season yearly as drains on either side of the road have not been cleared regularly.

Chan Tha (Meiktila)

Public Service Media Course concludes in Toungoo IPRD

TOUNGOO, 29 March—Public Service Media Course concluded in Toungoo District Information and Public Relations Department on 28 March.

Head of Toungoo IPRD Daw Khaing Khaing Thin explained the purpose of the course and presented certificates to trainees.

A total of 30 staff from IPRDs of six townships in Toungoo District joined the one week

course. The course covered several subjects including democratic reforms, public service media, public literary service, public relations and journalism.

Bago Region Assistant Director Daw Khin Khin Oo, Bago Region Chairman of Myanmar Journalist Association U Kyaw Hla and officials attended the ceremony.

U Kyaw Hla (Toungoo)

Coord meeting on census taking process held in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 29 March—Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint held a work coordination meeting with those who will conduct the population and census taking process from 30 March to 10 April at his office in Mandalay Region on Wednesday.

The Chief Minister urged them to prepare any requirement including the language barriers for collecting the data in hilly re-

gions and to take care of their health and security.

He also urged them to get real data that is very important for the country and to actively participate in the process as a national duty.

The Chief Minister fulfilled the requirements of taking process presented by the members of Census-taking Committee in the region.—Tin Maung (Mandalay Sub-printing house)

Vehicle without licence, over 3.5 million Baht seized in Tachilek

TACHILEK, 29 March—Officials arrested a vehicle without licence and over 3.5 million Baht in Tachilek Township of Eastern Shan State on Thursday.

While a combined team made a surprise check at detour junction

on Tachilek-Monghsat road, the suspect vehicle ran away without obeying inspection of authorities at the check points.

In catching up the vehicle, the authorities found the ownerless vehicle on the right side of detour.

They seized 3.5028 million Baht and clothes on board the vehicle in the presence of the witnesses.

Further investigation is being conducted for exposing matters related to the seized items.

Myintmo (Tachilek)



Photo shows seized unlicensed vehicle on Tachilek-Monghsat Road in Shan State.

WORLD

UN urges end to Syria's 'convoluted' aid restrictions



UN humanitarian chief Valerie Amos addresses a news conference on the situation in Central African Republic at the United Nations in Geneva on 7 March, 2014.—REUTERS

UNITED NATIONS, 29 March —The United Nations humanitarian chief Valerie Amos on Friday urged Syria's government to end needless restrictions on access to areas where besieged Syrians are in desperate need of aid after three years of civil war.

She also voiced concern about opposition groups, especially those such as al-Qaeda-linked extremist al Nusra, which has said it will not allow foreigners to operate in Syria.

"The administrative

arrangements that have been put in place for clearance for our convoys are quite convoluted," Amos told *Reuters* in an interview after briefing the UN Security Council about how much-needed aid is still not reaching many in Syria.

She said different procedures applied to aid convoys involving multiple agencies and those of individual agencies, making it difficult for aid workers to deliver relief supplies. And even when the Syrian government approves deliver-

ies, it can still be difficult to reach besieged areas.

"Even if we have the agreement of the government in Damascus, we have examples of individuals on the ground that support the government...who will prevent us from crossing certain checkpoints or prevent us from delivering aid."

While the government has primary responsibility when it comes to the delivery of aid across Syria, Amos said opposition groups also played a role in making the delivery of aid

a difficult and complicated process. Amos said there was "a proliferation of groups operating" in Syria that range from moderate to extremist al-Qaeda-linked. Some are "tiny but influential in terms their location."

She cited the example of the United Nations' long negotiations on accessing the Old City of Homs to deliver aid and evacuate civilians. The United Nations had to negotiate with 33 different opposition groups, 11 of them very small.

Reuters

Houston-area man arrested in undercover FBI terrorism sting

HOUSTON, 29 March—A Houston-area man suspected of leading an anti-government group appeared in federal court on Friday to face charges of trying to rob an armored car with explosives and plotting to blow up US government buildings.

Robert James Talbot Jr, 38, of Katy, Texas, was arrested by US agents on Thursday after an eight-month federal probe as he was about to rob an armored car with inert explosives provided to him by informants who had entered his group, according to a criminal complaint filed in a US federal court in Houston. Talbot provided a manifesto to his accomplices, which included the informants. It read: "We must rebel. Blood and bullets are the only two things that will change this world, short of divine action," the complaint said.

A lawyer for Talbot said he was only appointed on Friday and had no statement to make at this time. "Talbot espoused his desire to recruit five to six other like-minded individuals to blow up government buildings, rob banks and kill law enforcement officers," federal officials said in a statement.

If convicted, Talbot faces up to 20 years in prison, the statement said.—*Reuters*

Tanzania floods derail cargo train, one killed, five missing

DAR ES SALAAM, 29 March —One person was killed and five others went missing on Friday after floods triggered by ongoing heavy rains in many parts of Tanzania derailed a cargo train in the country's central town of Mpwapwa.

Mpwapwa District commissioner Christopher Kangoye said the floods swept away the locomotive engine of the cargo train that was pulling 11 petrol and diesel tankers and nine wagons with different types of cargo.

"The accident occurred at dawn today, and five people are still missing. We suspect that they have been swept away by the floods," said Kangoye, adding that the train was heading for the lake zone region of Mwanza from the capital Dar es Salaam.

He said the search for the five missing people was continuing.—*Xinhua*

Park announces initiative laying groundwork for reunification

SEOUL, 29 March—South Korean President Park Geun Hye on Friday announced an initiative aimed at spurring reunification of the Korean Peninsula in a speech she delivered in the former East German city of Dresden.

The initiative calls for South Korea to boost humanitarian aid and infrastructure investment to the North and increase exchanges among their peoples to lay the groundwork for unification, while also

demanding that Pyongyang give up its nuclear ambitions.

Specifically, Park said that the South Korean government will work with the United Nations to implement a programme to provide healthcare support for pregnant mothers and infants in North Korea through their first 1,000 days, according to an English-translation of her speech made available by *Yonhap News Agency*.

South and North Korea

should collaborate to set up multi-farming complexes that support agriculture, livestock and forestry in areas in the north suffering from backward production and deforestation, she said in the speech given at Dresden University.

She also proposed to North Korea the joint establishment of an inter-Korean exchange and cooperation office for deepening grass-roots exchanges such as in culture, sports and education.

In addition, she called for reunions of family members separated by the 1950-53 Korean War to take place regularly "so we could ease their anguish and build trust in doing so."

On the North's denuclearization, she said, "I hope North Korea abandons its nuclear aspirations and returns to the Six-Party Talks with a sincere willingness to resolve the nuclear issue so it could look after its own people."

Kyodo News

The proposal made by President Juan Manuel Santos would resurrect an earlier commission set up during the presidency of Ernesto Samper (1994-1998).

The rebels recommended the commission include community and grassroots leaders, to avoid being solely "integrated by elite or politicians that are not going to contribute to finding solutions, but only to obstruct things."

Xinhua



Photo taken on 28 March, 2014 shows the delegation of Kyrgyzstan at the 24th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-terrorist Structure of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. The 24th meeting of the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-terrorist Structure of the SCO kicked off on Friday. Delegations from China, Russia, Uzbekistan, Tadzhikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan attended the meeting.—XINHUA

Venezuelan court denies appeal to free jailed opposition leader

CARACAS, 29 March —A Venezuelan court on Friday rejected an appeal to release jailed opposition leader Leopoldo Lopez who awaits trial on charges of inciting political violence.

The court of appeals issued a statement saying it rejected Lopez defence team's argument that the charges against him were minor and he should there-

fore be allowed to be freed on bail. It insisted Lopez should remain detained at the military prison of Ramo Verde, about 50 kilometres south of the national capital Caracas, until his trial.

Following the court's decision, Lilian Tintori, wife of Lopez, said in a message via Twitter that "the truth has been denied once more and justice rejects the appeal for

Leopoldo Lopez."

Lopez, leader of the country's hardline right-wing opposition, publicly called for President Nicolas Maduro to step down and led 12 February protests which turned violent. Lopez went into hiding after authorities issued a warrant for his arrest, but turned himself in to the authorities a week later.

Xinhua



Kiyomizu temple in Kyoto is lit up on 28 March, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

Chinese police arrest suspected rare animals smugglers

BEIJING, 29 March — Chinese police have recently arrested 24 people suspected of smuggling and selling products made from rare and endangered animals, including bear paws and pangolin parts.

The Ministry of Public Security said in a statement on Friday that about 4,500 products have been confiscated in police raids across nine provinces.

The value of the animal products was estimated at more than 10 million yuan (1.6 million US dollars), it said, without specifying when the arrests and confiscations took place. In July 2013, police in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, uncovered a local restaurant that was purchasing, transporting and selling rare and endangered animal species and products.

Led by the clue, police found two suspects, who were identified by their surname Deng and Li, smuggling rare animal products from overseas, which were then sold and stored in three places in Nanjing. The products in Nanjing were then sold to Shanghai, and the provinces of Hebei, Shanxi, Jiangsu, Anhui, Shandong, Henan and Shaanxi. —Xinhua

Albania to strengthen cooperation with UNESCO

TIRANA, 29 March — Albania will strengthen co-operation with UNESCO in all areas such as education, culture, sport and communication, Foreign Minister Ditmir Bushati said Friday during a meeting with visiting UNESCO director general Irina Bokova.

Speaking about the membership of Albania in UNESCO Executive Board for the period 2013-2017, Bushati said it is important for Albania and wish to play an active and constructive role.

The minister voiced the commitment of the Albanian government to protect and promote the cultural heritage as an important part of national and European identity.

Xinhua



Fire fighters check the accident site after an explosion of gas cylinders in Jinan, capital of east China's Shandong Province, on 28 March, 2014. Casualties and cause of the explosion which took place around 3:20 pm on Friday were under investigation. —XINHUA

Another body found in US mudslide as fears grow for missing

ARLINGTON, (Washington), 29 March — Authorities combing a massive mud pile left by a Washington state landslide that buried dozens of homes said on Friday they were bracing for the worst for 90 people still listed as missing, in one of the strongest official acknowledgments that many of those lives may be lost.

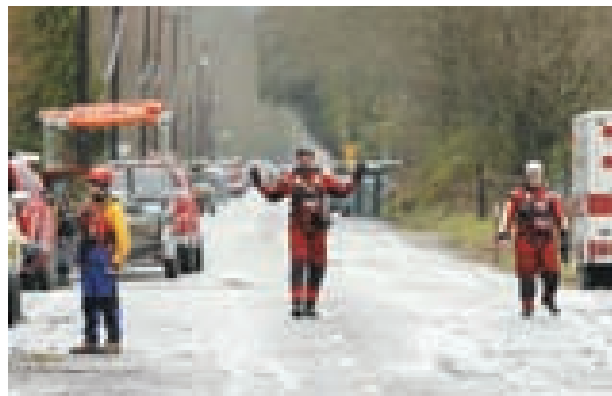
Officials said one more body had been found in a field of debris left behind when a rain-soaked hillside collapsed without warning last Saturday, unleashing a towering wall of mud onto the outskirts of rural Oso, about 55 miles northeast of Seattle. The new discovery brings the presumed death count to 27 based on the number of bodies officials have reported finding, even as the official toll of victims who have been found, recovered and formally identified

remained steady at 17.

"We always want to hold out hope but I think we have to at some point expect the worst," Snohomish County Executive Director Gary Haakenson told a news conference after being asked if a large portion of the 90 people

listed as missing were now feared dead. "The crews are finding bodies in the field. It's a very slow process. It was miserable to begin with. As you all know, it's rained heavily the last few days. It's made the quicksand even worse," he said.

Reuters



Rescue workers stand near a blocked portion of Highway 530 as search work continues in the mud and debris from a massive mudslide that struck Oso near Darrington, Washington on 27 March, 2014.

REUTERS

France apologizes to Morocco over airport search incident

PARIS, 29 March — French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius on Friday apologized to his Moroccan counterpart who was searched while transiting at a Paris airport. "Laurent Fabius called his Moroccan counterpart to apologize on behalf of the French authorities for the inconvenience he suffered," the Quai d'Orsay spokesman Romain Nadal said to reporters in a daily press briefing.

"The minister immediately asked the relevant authorities at the Interior Ministry and airport that everything should be done to strictly respect diplomatic rules and norms that apply to foreign ministers, heads

of state and governments," he added. Moroccan media reported that the Kingdom's top diplomat Salaheddine Mezouar was searched as well his suitcase at Paris Charles de Gaulle Airport, although he presented his diplomatic passport.

The new incident was likely to fuel further growing diplomatic row between Paris and Rabat over allegation on human rights abuses and freedom repression. In a further sign of increasing tensions, Morocco, France's strong ally, summoned the French ambassador and decided to suspend judicial cooperation with its former colonial ruler last month. —Xinhua

Lebanon president urges to implement security plan

BEIRUT, 29 March — Lebanese President Michel Suleiman stressed on Friday that despite the terrorist attacks against the Lebanese security forces, the decisions adopted by the council of ministers will be implemented.

In a statement by the presidential media office, Suleiman urged the Lebanese Armed Forces to confront terrorists and criminals no matter how many sacrifices they make, stressing that they "should cut the road to those who sought to turn the nation into a hostage to serve terrorists and criminals."

He said "all terrorist activities that target the members of the army and police won't stop those forces from implementing the decision of the government to preserve security and stability."

The cabinet approved on Thursday a security plan for the northern port city of Tripoli and the eastern Bekaa region bordering Syria that tasks the armed forces with seizing weapons depots and take all measures to arrest armed men in Tripoli. —Xinhua

S Africa, Vietnam work out Action Plan to combat rhino poaching

PRETORIA, 29 March — An action plan has been developed between South Africa and Vietnam in curbing rhino poaching and the illegal wildlife trade, it was announced on Friday.

This emerged from just-concluded discussions in Pretoria on issues related to biodiversity conservation and management, the South African Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) said.

The action plan is aimed at promoting cooperation between the two countries in the field of biodiversity management, conservation and protection, law enforcement, technology transfer, and other relevant legislation and international conventions on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

The commitment by both sides to improving co-operation on biodiversity conservation, especially controlling the illicit trade and poaching of wildlife, including rhino, has formed an important part of the working visit to South Africa by a high level delegation from Vietnam, the DEA said.

The 20-member delegation was headed by Vietnamese Vice Minister of Natural Resources and Environment, Bùi Cách Tuyen. The delegation was briefed on rhino anti-poaching initiatives in the Kruger National Park, one of Africa's biggest game reserves, and were provided an insight into the research and work being undertaken by the non-governmental sector in South Africa to curb rhino poaching. "Following the robust discussions, agreement was reached to advance the implementation of the Action Plan and to assist South Africa in meeting its international obligations," DEA spokesperson Roopa Singh said. —Xinhua



Visitors look at paintings during the opening ceremony of an exhibition of Italian paintings from 1850 to 1950 in Changsha, capital of central China's Hunan Province, on 28 March, 2014. Over a hundred pieces of famous Italian oil paintings will be on display. —XINHUA

HEALTH & BUSINESS

New drug innovations discussed at pharmaceutical conference in Vienna

VIENNA, 29 March — New innovations in medicine such as time-delayed controlled release of formulations and more accurate targeting of drugs were discussed by experts at the annual EuroMeeting of Drug Information Association in Vienna on Thursday.

Time-delayed release, the idea that active ingredients in medicines release into the body at a controlled

time, could help to prevent diseases such as heart attacks and strokes that occur particularly often in the first three hours after waking in the morning, according to Professor Howard Stevens from the University of Strathclyde in Glasgow.

Professor Stevens, presenting his research in front of roughly 2,500 attendees, said current medications are effective quite quickly,

and nobody wakes in the night to take more in order to be covered for the morning hours. Innovations to release active ingredients at just the right time would help achieve the maximum effect of the pills, he said.

Another hot topic discussed at the meeting was “more targeted therapy,” which aims to have the active ingredients in pills placed precisely at the parts

of the intestine affected by the disease.

The therapy, once brought to clinical use, could be used to treat diseases such as chronic inflammatory bowel diseases and in the chemotherapeutic agents used against colon cancer, according to Professor Henderik Frijlink from the University of Groningen in Netherlands.

Xinhua

Eating cruciferous vegetables may lower inflammation

NEW YORK, 29 March — In a study of more than 1,000 Chinese women, those who ate the most cruciferous vegetables had substantially less inflammation than those who ate the fewest. Cruciferous vegetables include cabbage, broccoli, bok choy, Brussels sprouts, kale and cauliflower, and eating them is often encouraged as a way to lower risk for heart disease and cancer.

Based on their findings, the study authors say the health benefits of these vegetables may be at least partly a result of their anti-inflammatory effects.

“Our group and others have found that consumption of fruits and vegetables, particularly cruciferous vegetables, was associated with lower total mortality and cardiovascular disease mortality — however, the potential mechanisms behind this association are not well understood,” Dr Gong Yang told *Reuters Health* by email. Yang is a researcher at Vanderbilt University Medical Centre in Nashville, Tennessee, and senior author of the study.

“Chronic inflammation is implicated in the pathogenesis of cardiovascular and other chronic diseases — we therefore examined whether cruciferous vegetable intake may relate to inflammation,” he said. In animal studies, high intake of cruciferous

vegetables or certain key compounds within them has been found to lower inflammation, Yang’s team writes in the *Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics*.

To see whether that is the case in people too, Yang and colleagues analyzed signs of inflammation in the blood of 1,005 middle-aged Chinese women who filled out questionnaires about their diets as part of the Shanghai Women’s Health Study. The participants included in the new analysis were generally healthy, and had an average age of 58. Yang and his colleagues divided the women into five groups based on their daily intake of cruciferous vegetables.

The median intake of cruciferous vegetables was just under one cup per day, with women in the lowest fifth consuming about half that amount. The women in the top fifth of consumption took in about 1.5 cups of cruciferous vegetables every day.

The researchers then measured levels of signaling molecules involved in causing inflammation in the women’s blood. Blood levels of three important inflammatory molecules — tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF-a), interleukin-1beta (IL-1b) and interleukin-6 (IL-6) were lowest among women with the highest intakes of cruciferous vegetables. —*Reuters*

Brazil eyes euro, yen markets to finance domestic companies

COSTA DO SAUIPE, 29 March — Brazil is looking at the euro zone and Japan to open new financing options for companies that are expected to invest in the country’s infrastructure sector, Treasury undersecretary Paulo Valle said on Friday.

After returning to the euro capital market this week following a six-year hiatus, the Treasury may sell yen-denominated bonds in the next few months to start building a yield curve there, he said. “We have a strong demand from the Japanese market,” Valle told investors on the sidelines of a meeting hosted by the Inter-American Development Bank in a resort 47 miles north of Salvador. “Maybe this year we’ll start again to issue bonds in that market to open it to the corporate sector.”

Brazil is trying to boost



Brazil’s President Dilma Rousseff speaks at a joint news conference with European Council President Herman Van Rompuy and EU Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso (unseen) during an EU-Brazil summit in Brussels on 24 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

funding alternatives to domestic companies in order to encourage much-needed investment in President Dilma Rousseff’s infrastructure programme. Initial disagreement over the return rates for a number of concessions for airports, roads and railways have put the

programme on a slow start. Until recently, the Treasury had focused mostly on the market for dollar-denominated global bonds in order to create a liquid yield curve there. This year, however, it decided to diversify its investor base, Valle said.

The first step was to

return to the euro market, where Brazil had only two outstanding bonds maturing in the next few years. On Thursday it sold 1 billion euros worth of seven-year global bonds at a yield of 2.961 percent, its first euro-denominated issue since 2006.—*Reuters*

Healthy job growth could calm stocks’ nerves

NEW YORK, 29 March — If hiring picked up in March at a healthy pace, that could convince US stock investors next week that the economy’s recent setbacks caused by the weather were only temporary.

Friday’s monthly jobs report, the most widely watched US economic indicator, is expected to show that nonfarm payrolls added 200,000 jobs in March, according to a *Reuters* poll of economists.

The rebound in hiring started last month despite the icy weather. Employers added 175,000 jobs to nonfarm payrolls in February after creating 129,000 new positions in January.

Wall Street will get

more data on the broader economy next week as well.

The Institute for Supply Management will release its national surveys for March on the manufacturing and services sectors, which are expected to show improvement from the previous month as well.

Rosier data could confirm for investors that recent weakness in economic data was caused by the winter’s harsh weather, suggesting the US economy’s uptrend is intact.

Improvement in the labour market, along with a pickup in the manufacturing and services sectors, could also bolster the case for the Federal Reserve’s scaling back of economic stimulus and put more focus on the

timing of when the central bank will begin raising interest rates.

Job growth would be a plus for the market, which has suffered a bout of volatility as some of the most high-flying shares, including biotechs, have tumbled in the past week.

“We potentially could have a big positive surprise. The polar vortex is over, and I believe we could get a snapback in payroll numbers that is significantly better than expected,” said Doug Cote, chief market strategist at ING US Investment Management in New York.

Car sales for March will be released next week, along with ADP’s private-sector payrolls report for March and data on the US international trade



People fill out application forms before a screening session for seasonal jobs at Coney Island in the Brooklyn borough of New York on 4 March, 2014.—REUTERS

deficit for February.

Investors are anxious to get a look at more trade data after China’s weak export numbers earlier this month underscored worries that the world’s second-largest economy is slowing.

The recent selloff in biotech and other recent big gainers could persist, strategists said, although so far it has not eroded the market’s bull run. Investors have been putting money into utilities and other sectors.

The Nasdaq biotechnology index .NBI fell 7 percent for the week. With just one trading day left in March, the Nasdaq biotech index was down about 13 percent for the month at Friday’s close.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 30 March, 2014

Save our mother land

By Myo Than

A living organism cannot live by itself. Organisms interact among themselves. Hence, all organisms, such as plants, animals and human beings, as well as the physical surroundings with whom we interact, form part of our environment. All these constituents of the environment are dependent upon each other. Thus, they maintain balance in nature.

As we are the only organisms try to modify the environment to fulfill our needs; it is our responsibility to take necessary steps to control the

environmental imbalances. The environmental imbalance leads to many problems. Pollution, soil erosion leading to floods, salt deserts and sea recedes, desertification, landslides, change of river directions, extinction of species, and vulnerable ecosystem, depletion of natural resources, waste accumulation, deforestation, thinning of the ozone layer and global warming. The environmental problems will become even greater due to pollution, population growth, development, industrialization, unplanned urbanization etc.

Rapid migration and an increase of the population in the urban areas have also lead to traffic congestion, water shortages. Air, water and noise pollution are common noticeable problems in almost all urban areas. Environmental pollution leads to undesirable changes in physical, chemical and biological characteristics of our air, land and water. As a result of over-population, rapid

industrializations, and other human activities like agriculture and deforestation, our environment has become loaded with diverse pollutants released as by-products.

The 3Rs—reduce, reuse and recycle are considered the basics of environmental awareness and a way of promoting ecological balance through conscious behavior and choices. These patterns of behavior and consumer choices will be of benefit to us in the long run as the environment gets protected. We need to educate people on the 3Rs.

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.

Message from President U Thein Sein to 5th Mekong River Literature Conference in Siem Reap, Cambodia on 30 March

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March—President U Thein Sein sent a message to the 5th Mekong River Literature Conference in Siem Reap, Cambodia.

The full text of the message is as follows:-

I would like to ex-

press my best wishes to all dignitaries attending this 5th Mekong River Literature Conference to be healthy and happy.

Notably, today is an auspicious day for all countries and people where the mighty Mekong flows, especially for writers, authors

and all those who love literature. As we all know, today, we are going to honour the work of the literati of the countries that share the Mekong.

Literature in reality is the light for the entire mankind, and writers are the creators of this valuable

light. It is indeed a pleasure for me that Mekong region countries have been collectively honouring their esteemed writers on a regular basis for the past four years. I would like to express my appreciation to the Association of Cambodian Writers for kindly in-

viting members of the Myanmar Writers Association to this 5th conference. As Myanmar is striving for national development while promoting and maintaining her cordial relations with every country of the international community, I have sent this message wishing

to develop further friendly ties and cultural exchanges, and also to promote cooperation programs between the Myanmar Writers Association and the writers association in the Mekong region.

Thein Sein
President

Nationwide ceasefire ...

(from page 3)

an opportune time. Thanks to political awareness and media freedom brought about by sweeping reforms of the country, debates on matters related to constitutional amendment and amendments to other laws have been made freely.

There are three parts of constitutional amendment: firstly, constitutional amendment is needed for agreements that will come out of the political dialogue which is an essential prerequisite for the peace process; secondly, it is needed for meeting democratic standards and values necessary for the establishment of open and independent society; and third-

ly, it is needed for setting necessary qualifications for political leadership. From my point of view, on the one hand, I have a political goodwill allowing every Myanmar citizen to take the lead in Myanmar politics, but on the other, I am willing to see proper basic principles that can guarantee national interest and integrity of national sovereignty.

Our aim is to resolve the problems of the country through cooperation during the political dialogue. I hope the political dialogue will be held in the presence of political parties, parliamentarians, national race leaders and others who should be included in it

apart from the government and national race armed organizations and problems addressed through negotiation.

A nationwide ceasefire agreement is aimed not only at reaching a durable stage in the ceasefire process but also paving the way for holding a political dialogue. Despite ups and downs in the peace process, signatories to the nationwide ceasefire agreement are to approve a clear determination in order not to make a U-turn.

The next point is about development. Our government is trying hard to ensure better relations with the international community and infrastructure in the sectors of telecommunication, health and education, introducing lots of relaxation of restrictions. But, some requirements still remain. I would like to call on all political parties to join hands with us. I would like to stress the need for cooperation and coordination for ensuring a better outcome and a smooth transition.

I understand that the aim of all political parties is to make a better society based on peace, democracy, equality and development. I believe we can

make more cooperation in the future as we all have a same goal. Despite differences, leaders of political parties will provide suggestions to the government and there will be discussions between us.

It is expected to see many difficulties while translating the old system into a democratic one regarding political reform and national reconciliation. Problems will be addressed as far as we cooperate. We should be role models for the entire people to inspire the needs of the people to get accustomed to democratic practices and customs. We all have to build a democratic society. The onus is on us all to lay down democratic foundations for the future nation. A challenge we will see is how much of cooperation we can make. Greater cooperation is needed to stand united together. Only when we make greater cooperation and we stand united together, will our nation-building endeavours take good shape.

All in all, I wish leaders of political parties will cooperate with the government in the coming political dialogues for the sake of the country and its people. I would like to urge

all of you to make history while translating the nation into a democracy through a smooth transition.

It was attended by General Secretary of Kayan National Party U Nan Yi, Chairman of Chin Progressive Party U Do Htang Kap, Chairman of 88 Generation Student Youths (the Union of Myanmar) U Ye Tun, Vice-Chairman of Union Pa-O National Organization U Khun Myo Myint Oo, Chairman of National Democratic Force U Khin Maung Swe, Chairman of Chin National Democratic Party U Zo Zam, Chairman of Myanmar New Society Democratic Party U Zin Aung, General Secretary of All Mon Regions Democracy Party Dr Min Nwe Soe, Chairman of Zomi League for Democra-

cy U Pu Ciint Shin Thang, Information in-charge of National Development and Peace Party U Mohamed Salin and Chairman of Shan Nationalities Democratic Party U Sai Aik Paung.

Leaders from political parties expressed their opinions on issues of the constitution, peace-making process, 2015 elections, the development of social economy, national races affairs and providing assistance for political parties.

The President reviewed the discussions.

Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye and Union Ministers also participated in the discussions with leaders and representatives of the political parties.

MNA

The door is kept open to discuss all matters except matters related to secession from the Union of Myanmar, and issues that can harm national sovereignty. I believe the political dialogue will produce a historic peace pact of Myanmar.

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (29-3-2014)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K 661,800 per tical: Selling K 662,800 per tical

Foreign Exchange Rate

USD Buying	K 962:	Selling	K 967
SGD Buying	K 757:	Selling	K 767
Euro Buying	K 1315:	Selling	K 1335

LOCAL NEWS

Locals, MPs contribute to development of basic education school



MYINMU, 29 March—Spending the fund allotted by the Ministry of Education, the renovation tasks were carried out at the school building of Basic Education Primary School No. 7 in Tabinshwehti Ward of Myinmu Township, Sagaing Region. The renovation tasks were supervised by members of the school board of trustees and local authorities, and it was completed on 15 February. Under the arrangements of Union Parliament,

People's Parliament MP U Zaw Win and Region Parliament MPs U Thaung Myint and U Thein Swe supervised sinking tubewell and construction of 600-gallon-capacity water tank.

Ko Ko Naing (Myinmu)

Mobile medical teams give health care to Minbu dwellers

MINBU, 29 March—Magway Region Development Foundation and Region Health Department assist in providing health care services free of charge to the local people in Minbu Township.

A ceremony to honour those who participated in health care activities was held at Montaung Village Station Hospital in Minbu Township, Magway Region, on Thursday.

Chief Minister of Magway Region U Phone Maw Shwe presented gifts to specialists and nurses who performed surgical operations at the eye patients. The Chief Minister gave glasses to the patients.



An older person of Taungman Village expressed her thanks for eye surgical operations performed by the specialists.

As health care services are being accelerated in Magway Region, the mobile medical teams give medical treatment to the local people in Minbu Township. They carried out health care

tasks in Letpadaw Village on 27 March, Mokokhe Village on 28 March and Shwe Htanaunggon Village on 29 March. The mobile medical team comprises specialists from various subjects.

Tin Tun Oo

Police hands over bag of foreigner

NAY PYI TAW, 29 March—A travel bag of Mrs Isbeii of the EU Embassy to Myanmar was left on board the taxi while she went a trip from the embassy to downtown Yangon at 6.30 pm on Tuesday.

Under the instructions of Yangon Region Police Force Commander, members of No. 6 traffic police force checked the computer records. So, they found U Tin Myint, Ward 3 of Thakayta Township was the owner of the taxi.

No. 29 traffic police corps (Thakayta) enquired where it is real taxi owner or not. They found that the driver of the taxi is U Sha Lu of Yuzana Garden City in Dagon Seikkan Township. Due to connection with the driver by the traffic police, the driver handed over the bag to Sangyoung Police Station.

At 8 am on the same day, police of Yangon Region handed over the bag to Mrs Isbeii in the presence of the authorities.—*Kyemon*

Kyemon-597

People's Library of Gangaw Township IPRD attract child readers

GANGAW, 29 March—The number of child readers is on the increase at the People's Library opened by Gangaw District Information and Public Relations Department in the summer holidays.

Child readers like car-

toons and journals of Teza and Shwe Thway in addition to publications of the mini book corners.

A reader expressed his emotional that it should provide child literature for child readers, said a staff.

Gangaw Township

IPRD keeps eight mini book corners at the public places and four at the coaches of Gangaw-Kalay train. In addition, officials of the department supply new publications at the mini book corners monthly without fail.—*Kyemon-465*

Dwellers thank stopover of Mandalay express train at Nantsiaung station

INDAW, 29 March—The local people in Nantsiaung have been relying on rail transportation. Now, the 57-up and 58-down Mandalay express trains stop over at Nantsiaung station at 11.20 am daily as of 26 March.

Nantsiaung station was located in Nantsiaung Village. After 1952, the station was moved to Pegon Village due to various rea-

sons. In 1991, a fire broke out at the station. Before the school sports festival in Myitkyina in 1994, the railway station was rebuilt with the contributions of local people and Myanma Railways. In 2013, officials renovated the platform and station.

Pegon Village is located at the edge of Sagaing Region, and Nantsiaung Station is linking Sagaing

Region and Kachin State.

"In the past, those wishing to take express train have to wait for the train at Mawlu station, six miles from the village. Now, Mandalay express train stops over the station, so local people from Manhe and Pinlon village-tracts heartily thank the government for its arrangement," said U Thaung Kyi, a local people.—*Indaw IPRD*

International Branded Show 2014 on 3-6 April

YANGON, 29 March—International Branded Show 2014, organized by Creation Strength Co Ltd, will be held at Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township in Yangon from 3 to 6 April.

Over 180 booths from

50 companies will showcase car spare parts, equipment of banking services, construction materials, mobile phone accessories, home decoration, electronic devices, clothing and cosmetics, computer, medicines, furniture, household items, personal goods and

foodstuff from 9 am to 5 pm at the four-day show.

The show includes special programmes and lucky draw for the customers and everyone can buy motorcar through hire purchase system by linking with the banks.

Aung Thura

Changing electricity bill rate clarified in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 29 March—Officials made clarification on rate of changing electricity bill in Aungmyethazan Township in Mandalay on Friday.

Township Electrical Engineer U Aung Kyaw

Moe said sub-power stations and power lines will be extended spending the fund to be obtained from raising rate of electricity bill. He urged electricity users to reduce power consumption.

The township electrical engineer and the ward administrator explained ongoing plans to repair old lamp-posts and power lines. Officials replied to queries raised by attendees.—*Tun Hla Aung*

Passengers need to wear life jackets on board

YANGON, 29 March—The authorities issued instructions for the passengers and crew members to wear life jackets whenever they pass the Yangon River from one side to another by boat. Due to weak inspection, some of boat and passengers do not abide by the instructions.

They steer the boats along the routes among the boats that anchors and near the sailing vessels. If the boats are failure in engine and face weeds, they may cause capsizes. That is why the passengers are to wear life jackets and crews are to issue the jackets before their departure.





Chinese Ambassador to Japan Cheng Yonghua (L) shakes hands with Tokyo Gov Yoichi Masuzoe as the ambassador made a courtesy call on the governor at the metropolitan government offices on 28 March, 2014.
KYODO NEWS

N Korea envoy arrives in Beijing for talks with Japan

BEIJING, 29 March — A senior North Korean diplomat on Saturday arrived in Beijing for the country's first formal meeting in more than a year with Japan.

Song Il Ho, North Korea's Ambassador for talks to normalize relations with Japan, will attend the two-day meeting from Sunday in the Chinese capital, during which the issue of Pyongyang's past abduc-

tions of Japanese nationals and its launch earlier this week of two medium-range ballistic missiles into the sea will most likely top the agenda.

The first governmental meeting since November 2011 will take place after diplomats from Tokyo and Pyongyang held informal talks last week in the north-eastern Chinese city of Shenyang.

Kyodo News

Russia has no intention of sending troops to Ukraine

MOSCOW, 29 March — Russian said on Saturday it had no intention of sending its armed forces into Ukraine, signaling Moscow wants to ease tensions in the worst East-West standoff since the Cold war.

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov reinforced a message from President Vladimir Putin that Russia will settle—at least for now—for annexing Crimea,

although it has thousands of troops near Ukraine's eastern border.

"We have absolutely no intention of—or interest in—crossing Ukraine's borders," Lavrov told a Russian television channel.

He added, however, that Russia was ready to protect the rights of Russian speakers, referring to what Moscow sees as threats to the lives of

compatriots in eastern Ukraine since Moscow-backed Viktor Yanukovich was deposed as president.

The West imposed sanctions on Russia, including visa bans for some of Putin's inner circle, after Moscow annexed Crimea following a referendum on union with the Russian Federation which the West said was illegal.—Reuters

17 countries join naval exercise for disaster preparation

JAKARTA, 29 March—Navies from 17 countries began a six-day joint exercise Saturday in the South China Sea to improve co-ordinated efforts on how to deal with natural disasters.

"With this exercise, I hope international assistance can be better organized in future natural disasters," Djoko Suyanto, coordinating minister for political, legal and security affairs, said at an opening ceremony on Batam Island, near Singapore.

The exercise involves 4,885 navy personnel from the 10 member countries of the Association of South-east Asian Nations and its seven dialogue partners from China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Russia, South Korea and the United States.

Australia, an ASEAN dialogue partner, is participating as an observer due to suspension of defense cooperation with Indonesia following Canberra's alleged wiretapping of Indonesian

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

The United Nations, the European Union, the Netherlands, Spain and the ASEAN Secretariat are also participating as observers. "Learning from the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, during which international assistance was not well-organized and well-coordinated, the exercise is expected to provide more knowledge on disaster mitigation for navy officers in the region, as well as to harmonize var-

ious national, regional and international protocols in this matter," Lt. Col. Agus Cahyono, spokesman for the Western Fleet of the Indonesian Navy, said. A powerful earthquake and tsunami struck Indonesia's northernmost province of Aceh on Dec. 26, 2004, leaving about 180,000 people dead in Aceh alone and an additional 100,000 in other countries such as India, Sri Lanka and Thailand that face the Indian Ocean.

Kyodo News

Thai protesters rally against PM ahead of Senate vote

BANGKOK, 29 March — Tens of thousands of Thai anti-government protesters rallied across Bangkok on Saturday in their latest bid to topple Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, a day before a crucial vote to elect a new Senate.

Waving flags and blowing whistles, protesters marched from Lumpini Park in the business district of Bangkok, where protesters retreated to earlier this month, toward the city's old quarter.

"There are enough protesters to cause traffic headaches but there are less participants than at past rallies," Paradorn Pattanathabutr, a security adviser to the prime minister, told Reuters.

"We think the crowd will swell to 50,000 people. Protesters are still trickling in from outside the capital

and we have 8,000 police on standby if violence takes place but, overall, we're not expecting anything to happen."

Saturday's march is seen as a test of the anti-government movement's

popularity as the number of protesters has dwindled considerably in recent weeks.

By mid-morning police put the crowd at around 30,000. Around 500 protesters from the Network

of Students and People for the Reform of Thailand, a splinter group of the main protest group, broke into the compound of Government House, a site largely abandoned by officials.

Reuters



Anti-government protesters from the Network of Students and People for Thailand's Reform take part in a rally at Government House in Bangkok on 29 March, 2014.

REUTERS

New Zealand aircraft spotted 11 objects in southern Indian Ocean

WELLINGTON, 29 March —New Zealand Air Vice-Marshal Kevin Short said on Saturday that the New Zealand Orion found a total of 11 objects during Friday's search for the missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 in the southern Indian Ocean, one of which looked like an orange buoy.

"Those objects turned out to be rectangular in shape, nothing bigger than one meter, some of them down to half a meter in size," Kevin Short, who heads New Zealand's Joint Forces, told a Press conference in Wellington on Saturday.

The RNZAF Orion photographed the objects and dropped a reference marker nearby.

A Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) Orion then relocated the objects a short time later. Short

said the objects would have to be retrieved by ships and examined in Perth before they could be identified as coming from the missing plane.

He said the New Zealand air crew couldn't identify anything that would say it was definitely from the Malaysian aircraft, and those images are being analyzed as well.

The main issue is that those objects will have to be picked up by a ship so they can physically examine them, he added.

Air Vice-Marshal Short would not speculate on what the objects might be, but added that fuel tanks from wings, composite materials and plastics from an aircraft would float.

"So it's not unusual to have that sort of thing

on the surface."

The objects were all close together, but others had been found hundreds of miles away.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) said on Saturday's search area had been determined by applying the effects of weather and currents to the analysis of likely aircraft movements provided by Malaysian air crash investigators.

Ships taking part in the search for the missing Malaysian airliner have arrived in an area of the southern Indian Ocean where unidentified pieces of debris were spotted by New Zealand and Australian Air Force Orions.

Searchers are hopeful that a cluster of white rectangular objects are pieces of the missing Malaysia Airlines flight.

Xinhua

Teachers shout slogans during a march towards the Presidency, in Panama City, capital of Panama, on 28 March, 2014. Panamanian teachers marched on Friday against an evaluation that conditions their salarial increase, according to the local press. —XINHUA



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

US judge OKs class action in e-book suit against Apple

NEW YORK, 29 March —A federal judge in New York granted class certification on Friday to a group of consumers who sued Apple Inc for conspiring with five major publishers to fix e-book prices in violation of antitrust law.

US District Judge Denise Cote said the plaintiffs had “more than met their burden” to allow them to sue as a group. She rejected Apple’s contentions that the claims were too different from each other, or that some plaintiffs were not harmed because some e-book prices fell.

“This is a paradigmatic antitrust class action,” wrote Cote, who has scheduled a trial later this year to determine damages, which could reach hundreds of millions of dollars.

An Apple spokeswoman declined to comment.

In July 2013, Cote found the technology company liable for colluding with the publishers after a separate non-jury trial in a case brought by the US Department of Justice. Cote found that Apple took part in a price-fixing conspiracy to fight online retailer Amazon.com Inc’s dominance in the e-book market.

Apple is appealing that decision.

Thirty-three states and US territories have separately sued on behalf of their consumers, while individual consumers in other states and territories filed the class action lawsuit that Cote addressed on Friday. The plaintiffs are seeking more than \$800 million in damages.—Reuters



A collection of Apple iPad Smart Covers are seen at the Apple store in San Francisco, California on 1 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

Scientists create first functional “designer chromosome”

WASHINGTON, 29 March—An international team of scientists said Thursday they have synthesized the first working chromosome for yeast in what they called a “major advance” for “designer” microorganisms that could produce novel medicines, raw materials for food, and biofuels.

Over the past five years, scientists have built bacterial chromosomes and viral DNA, but this is the first report of an entire eukaryotic chromosome, the threadlike structure that carries genes in the nucleus of all plant and animal cells, built from scratch, the team reported. “It is the most extensively altered chromosome ever built. But the milestone that really counts is integrating it into a living yeast cell,” said Jef Boeke of the Langone Medical Center at New York University, who led the study.

“We have shown that yeast cells carrying this synthetic chromosome are remarkably normal. They behave almost identically to wild yeast cells, only they now possess new capabilities and can do things that wild yeast cannot,” Boeke said.

In the U.S. journal *Science*, the team reported how, using computer-aided design, they built a fully functioning chromosome, which they call synIII, and successfully incorporated it into brewer’s yeast, known scientifically as *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*.

Yeast chromosome III was selected for synthesis because it is among the smallest of the 16 yeast chromosomes and controls how yeast cells mate and undergo genetic change, the team said.

The effort to construct synIII, which took seven years, tied together some 273, 871 base pairs of DNA, shorter than its native yeast counterpart, which has 316,667 base pairs.—Xinhua

Journalists, media under attack from hackers

SINGAPORE, 29 March —Twenty-one of the world’s top-25 news organizations have been the target of likely state-sponsored hacking attacks, according to research by two Google security engineers.

While many internet users face attacks via email designed to steal personal data, journalists were “massively over-represented” among such targets, said Shane Huntley, a security software engineer at Google.

The attacks were launched by hackers either working for or in support of a government, and were specifically targeting journalists, Huntley and co-author Morgan Marquis-Boire said in interviews. Their paper was presented at a Black Hat hackers conference in Singapore on Friday.

“If you’re a journalist or a journalistic organization we will see state-sponsored targeting and we see it happening regardless of region, we see it from all over the world both from where the targets are and

where the targets are from,” Huntley told Reuters.

Both researchers declined to go into detail about how Google monitors such attacks, but said it “tracks the state actors that attack our users.” Recipients of such emails in Google’s Gmail service typically receive a warning message.

Security researcher Ashkan Soltani said in an earlier Twitter post that nine of the top-25 news websites use Google for hosted email services. The list is based on traffic volumes measured by Alexa, a web information firm owned by Amazon.com Inc.

California-headquartered Google also owns VirusTotal, a website that analyses files and websites to check for malicious content.

Several US news organizations have said they have been hacked in the past year, and *Forbes*, *the Financial Times* and *the New York Times* have all succumbed to attacks by the Syrian Electronic Army, a



One of the business sites of Internet search engine Google Inc is shown on a computer screen in Encinitas, California on 13 April, 2010.—REUTERS

group of pro-government hackers.

Huntley said Chinese hackers recently gained access to a major Western news organization, which he declined to identify, via a fake questionnaire emailed to staff. Most such attacks involve carefully crafted emails carrying malware or directing users to a website crafted to trick them into giving up credentials.

Marquis-Boire said that while such attacks were nothing new, their research

showed that the number of attacks on media organizations and journalists that went unreported was significantly higher than those made public.

“This is the tip of the iceberg,” he said, noting a year-long spate of attacks on journalists and others interested in human rights in Vietnam, including an Associated Press reporter. The attacks usually involved sending the target an infected email attachment masquerading as a human rights document.—Reuters

Bamboo-munching giant panda also has a sweet tooth

WASHINGTON, 29 March —Giant pandas eat plenty of veggies, but apparently they like dessert, too.

Scientists studying the endangered black-and-white bears said on Thursday that while pandas almost exclusively eat bamboo, which contains only

tiny amounts of sugars, they showed a strong preference for natural sweeteners in an experiment.

The researchers also examined panda DNA and found a match to the same “sweet receptor” gene that humans possess that underpins their ability to taste

sugars.

Sweeter foods like fruit may have been part of the natural diet of pandas before human activities helped drive the animals into their current mountainous habitat where those foods are scarce, the researchers said.

“Giant pandas love sweets,” said behavioral geneticist author Danielle Reed of the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia, who led the study published in the journal *PLOS ONE*.

“We are a bit surprised. However, given the anecdotal evidence that they like apples, sweet potato and so on in captivity, we are not completely surprised,” added Monell molecular biologist Peihua Jiang, another of the researchers.

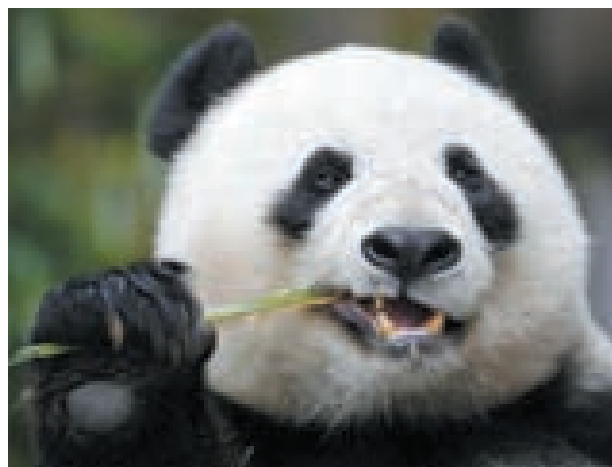
Pandas, the rarest species of bear, reside primar-

ily in bamboo forests high in the mountains of western China. Understanding what type of food pandas prefer may help determine what nutrients can be used to supplement bamboo in their diet as part of efforts to conserve them, Jiang said.

The study was conducted as part of long-term research aimed at understanding how taste preferences and diet selection are affected by taste receptor genes.

The researchers wondered if pandas were able to taste sweet stuff because while pandas are plant eaters, their ancestors were meat-eaters. Many strict carnivores have lost their sweet-tasting receptor gene, called *Tas1r2*, and show no preferences for sweet-tasting compounds.

Reuters



Giant Panda mother Bai Yun snacks on bamboo at the San Diego Zoo in San Diego, California in this 10 Jan, 2013 file photo.—REUTERS

Pentagon chief says US cyberspace force to expand further

WASHINGTON, 29 March —US Defence Secretary Chuck Hagel said on Friday the cyberspace force at US Cyber Command will grow to more than 6,000 by the year 2016.

Hagel disclosed plan while addressing the retirement ceremony of General Keith Alexander, the outgoing head of US Cyber Command and of the con-

troversial National Security Agency (NSA), at the NSA’s headquarters in Fort Meade, Maryland.

The cyber capabilities require dedicated professionals, Hagel said, and Alexander has been recruiting and training the cyberspace force at the Cyber Command.

“In 2016, that force should number 6,000 pro-

fessionals who, with the close support of National Security Agency, will be integrated with our combatant commands around the world,” said Hagel. “Continuing General Alexander’s work to build this cyber force will remain one of DOD’s top priorities.”

The force would expand President Barack Obama’s options with “

full-spectrum cyber capabilities that can complement other military assets,” he added.

Hagel also praised Alexander’s service, especially his tenure of more than eight years at the helm of the NSA and his duties as Commander of the Cyber Command since May, 2010.

Xinhua

Japan's 1st "fair trade town" seeking to aid sustainability

KUMAMOTO, 29 March — The city government of Kumamoto hopes as the first "fair trade town" in Japan and Asia to contribute to global sustainability by hosting the first international conference of the campaign outside Europe, its mayor said on Saturday.

"I hope this will be a big opportunity to spread the fair trade town movement from Kumamoto to Asia and around the world," said Kumamoto Mayor Seishi Koyama as the International Fair Trade Towns Conference began in the southwestern Japan city as part of a three-day event from Friday.

Noting that the global problem of polarization is relevant also in Kumamoto, Koyama said, "In that sense it is a great honour to have been recognized as a fair trade town, but there is also a great responsibility we should bear."

Deputy Mayor Shintaro

Maki said the movement in the city of 740,000 people began as a citizens' initiative, but has come to involve not only municipal authorities but various community sectors to help revitalize local business.

"Excessive market fundamentalism is...in our view not sustainable," he said. "One of the ways to resolve this is regulations by governments, treaties and international bodies, but another approach is for every citizen to raise awareness and make a sensible choice in shopping and linking together."

"We hope to work together with various sectors to attain a sustainable society," he said.

Nearly 500 participants and volunteers from over 20 countries are gathering for the eighth annual conference, according to the local organizer.

Kumamoto became Asia's first fair trade town in 2011 and is still the only



A producer group from Laos displays textile and other products on 28 March, 2014, at Fair Trade Fair as part of the eighth International Fair Trade Towns Conference, which opened that day in Kumamoto, Kumamoto Prefecture, with a series of related events.—KYODO NEWS

one, but campaigns to follow suit are burgeoning elsewhere in Asia, such as Nagoya, Sapporo and other cities in Japan, Seoul and Incheon in South Korea, and Taiwan.

To date, 1,444 towns in 24 countries have received the designation in the movement that began in 2000 in Garstang, England, and is led by Britain, the largest fair trade market with 584

fair trade towns, according to updated figures provided on Saturday.

Fair trade, which campaigners say started about 50 years ago in Europe as alternative trade, is designed

to support producers of coffee, cocoa for chocolate, bananas, handicrafts and other primary items in developing countries by paying a fair price and promoting their collective and sustainable development.

One of the two major focuses of the latest gathering, however, is building "fair" local socio-economies not only in developing countries but also within developed countries, said Tatsuya Watanabe, head of the conference organizer Fair Trade Towns, Japan.

"It is time for us to move to the next stage," he said.

Another focus is on the so-called Big Tent approach that embraces the viewpoints not only of support for producers in developing countries but also consumer awareness and corporate social responsibility in promoting fair trade, according to FTTJ director Takashi Kobuki.—Kyodo News

Cambodia bans opposition from rallying in capital on Sunday

PHNOM PENH, 29 March —Cambodia on Friday issued an official letter to ban the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) from conducting a rally on Sunday afternoon at the capital's Freedom Park.

In a letter to the CNRP, Phnom Penh Municipal Governor Pa Socheatvong said "The Ministry of Interior does not allow the Cambodia National Rescue Party to hold the people's congress at the Freedom

Park or other public places in the city on 30 March."

He explained that the ban on the proposed rally is due to the fact that competent authorities have not completed an investigation into cases of violent protests in January and to avoid any unrest that can arise from opportunists.

The governor said the CNRP can organize its people's congress at its headquarters or at any private locations.

The prohibition came

after the CNRP's President Sam Rainsy announced Wednesday that the party would hold a people's congress at the park on Sunday afternoon with some 3,000 supporters.

CNRP said that it would defy the government ban, raising fears of violence.

Prime Minister Hun Sen warned Thursday that the government would take legal actions against any illegal protests in order to maintain peace and

political stability. "A country has its own constitution and law. If you do anything outside the law and cause violence, there will be no more tolerance, and legal measures will be taken," he said in a public speech.

Row between Hun Sen's ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and Sam Rainsy's CNRP simmered after the July election results showed that the CPP won 68 parliamentary seats against 55 seats for the CNRP.—Xinhua

One killed, 18 injured in SW Pakistan blast

ISLAMABAD, 29 March —A five-year-old girl was killed and 18 people were injured when a bomb went off near a vehicle of paramilitary troops in Pakistan's southwest Quetta city on Saturday afternoon, local media reported.

Geo TV said that the explosion happened in the commercial Sohrab area of Quetta, the capital city of southwestern Balochistan province, when people including women were shopping there.

Police said the blast was triggered off by a remote controlled device and the explosive materials were fixed in a roadside rickshaw parked, and the apparent target was a vehicle of local paramilitary troops Frontier Corps (FC), which was passing.—Xinhua

Singapore priciest city for expatriates

SINGAPORE, 29 March—Singapore was the most expensive for expatriates to live in among 109 cities based on the prices of goods and services in 2012, partly due to a strong Singapore dollar, according to a report released on Friday by a local think tank.

The Asian Competitiveness Institute, a unit of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, National University of Singapore, said that the Singapore dollar appreciated by some 25 percent against the US dollar between the year 2005 and 2012.

Singapore was ranked the 17th based on the cost of living for expatriates in 2005.

In parallel rankings based on the cost of living for average residents, however, Singapore was only the 60th. The rankings were different for expatriates and average residents, reflecting the different basket of consumption goods and services due to their different lifestyles and economic well-being, the institute said.

The cost of private transport in Singapore was much higher compared with that in New York, whereas the cost of housing, education and medical care were cheaper.

Xinhua

Sri Lankans vote in provincial polls seen as referendum on UN vote

COLOMBO, 29 March—Sri Lankans went to the polls on Saturday to elect representatives to two local councils in an election which the Government hopes will be a form of referendum on a resolution against Sri Lanka adopted at the UN Human Rights Council this week.

Elections for the western and southern provincial councils got underway with both the government and the opposition confident and coming out on top.

The government is confident of winning the elections and says it will

use the results to tell the international community the public oppose international intervention in Sri Lanka.

The government had this week rejected the resolution adopted by the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva which called for an international investigation in Sri Lanka over alleged war crimes.

Meanwhile, the main opposition is seeking a mandate to push for early Presidential and General elections to remove the Mahinda Rajapaksa Government.

Xinhua



People walk past the Earth Hour sand art created by sand artist Sudarshan Pattnaik on the eve of Earth Hour observation in Puri, India, on 28 March, 2014.—XINHUA

Auckland airport to build new terminal

WELLINGTON, 29 March —Auckland airport will build a new combined domestic and international terminal to accommodate three times more passengers within the next 30 years.

The airport plans to have the new combined terminal complete in the next

five years, airport chief executive Adrian Littlewood said on Saturday.

The airport will also build a second runway as it prepares for passengers to increase from 14.5 million each year to 40 million.

The expansion will create more than 27,000 full-

time jobs. There'll be almost twice the number of spaces for aircraft to park and an area for public events.

Space has been set aside for an underground rail station and rail corridor as the daily trips to and from the airport are expected to more than double.—Xinhua

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MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(7/2014)**

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

<u>Sr.No</u>	<u>Tender No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Remark</u>
(1)	IFB -207(13-14)	5 KW Diesel Engine Driven Generating Set	US\$
(2)	IFB -208(13-14)	Maintenance Requirement for Pipeline Centre (PLC-Daw Nyein)	US\$
(3)	IFB -209(13-14)	Universal Fuel Pump Test Stand	US\$
(4)	IFB -210(13-14)	Spares for CAT D 3512 Dita & CAT D 3406C Engine	US\$
(5)	DMP/L-068(13-14)	Spares for Komatsu Dozer	KS
(6)	DMP/L-069(13-14)	315/80 R 22.5 Tubeless Tyres	KS
(7)	DMP/L-070(13-14)	Cylindrical Roller Bearings for FA-1600 Mud Pump	KS
(8)	DMP/L-071(13-14)	1 1/4" Pitch Quadribble Chain & Offset Link	KS
(9)	DMP/L-072(13-14)	Fuel Bowser (3200 Gals Capacity)	KS
(10)	DMP/L-073(13-14)	Electronic Private Branch Exchange and Telephones	KS

-Tender Closing Date & Time - 28-4-2014, 16:30 Hr.

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 28th March, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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



Workers pick up tea leaves at the Beishan Tea Plantation Base in Jiujiang City, east China's Jiangxi Province, on 28 March, 2013. Farmers here are busy with picking tea leaves before the Qingming Festival, which falls on 5 April this year, as this kind of tea is regarded to have a better taste. —XINHUA

EU pledges 100 mln USD for repair of Zambia-Zimbabwe dam

LUSAKA, 29 March — The European Union (EU) says it will release between 85 million and 100 million US dollars by July this year towards repair works for a dam jointly owned by Zambia and Zimbabwe which has developed cracks which are threatening its existence, the *Zambia Daily Mail* reported on Friday.

Engineers have warned that the Kariba Dam, Africa's largest man-made lake measuring 226 kilometers long and in some places 40 kilometres wide, has developed weaknesses and may collapse if nothing is done to repair it in the next three years. The

collapsing of the dam will affect nearly 3.5 million people in the southern African region and about 250 million dollars is required for its repair.

EU Head of Delegation in Zambia Gilles Hervio said he recently traveled to the EU headquarters in Brussels where the matter was presented. "Kariba Dam is a potential disaster and I traveled to Brussels and By June and July, money will be released. We are studying it and no decision has been made yet but the amount involved could be between 85 million dollars and 100 million dollars," he was quoted as saying by the paper.—Xinhua

"China Library" inaugurated at College of Europe

BRUGES, (Belgium), 29 March — The "China Library" was inaugurated on Friday at the College of Europe, an independent institute of European studies located in Bruges, a historic city of Belgium.

The "China Library" is a brand from China's State Council Information Office (SCIO) that is dedicated to introducing China and promoting cultural exchanges between China and the rest of the world.

Ling Li, a senior official with the SCIO, said at an opening ceremony that the launch of the library will make studying China more convenient for scholars and students at the College of Europe.

"I believe the China Library will be a new highlight in cultural exchanges between China and the European Union (EU)," he said.

The SCIO has donated around 10,000 books and audio-visual publications in six different languages to the library.

The publications are about China's education, science, arts, history and people's life in modern China.

Jorg Monar, rector of the College of Europe said the "China Library", which is a beautiful gift from China, will be the witness of the intensifying China-EU cooperation.

Xinhua



Ling Li (1st R), a senior official of the China's State Council Information Office, and Jorg Monar (2nd L), rector of the College of Europe, inaugurate "China Library" at the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium on 28 March, 2014. The "China Library" was inaugurated on Friday at the College of Europe, an independent institute of European studies located in Bruges, a historic city of Belgium.

XINHUA

20 Afghan militants killed in raids

KABUL, 29 March — Twenty Taliban militants were killed in military operations conducted by the Afghan security forces since early Friday, the Interior Ministry said on Saturday morning.

"Afghan police, army and intelligence agency carried out several operations across the country and battled the militants within the last 24 hours, killing 20 armed Taliban insurgents," the ministry said in a statement.

In addition, three insurgents were wounded and 11 others were arrested by the joint forces during the raids in Balkh, Wardak, Nangarhar and Ghazni Provinces, the statement added.

The joint forces also found and seized weapons, the statement said, without saying if there were any casualties on the side of security forces.

Xinhua

The Wedding Announcement

U Kyaw Myint & Daw Pyone
are pleased to announce the marriage of
their daughter
KYI SOE MOE (B.Sc Chemistry), D.G.I.,
residence of No. 10, Gaung Oo Bar Ward,
Kyat Pyin, Mogok Township
to

NAING WIN (Sale Executive)

son of U Tin San and Daw Khin Hla,
residence of No.356, Nilar (2) Street, Ward (C),
North Okkalapa Township, Yangon.
The wedding was held at No. 356, Nilar (2) Street,
Ward (C), North Okkalapa Township and signed
at the presence of High Court Judge
Mr. Myint Than Htut at Yangon Region High
Court on Wednesday, March, 2014.

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Amy Winehouse to get hologram treatment?

LONDON, 29 March—Late singer Amy Winehouse will reportedly get a hologram treatment for a world tour. The 'Back to Black' singer



will be resurrected as a hologram by billionaire Alki David using 3D computer technology and backing orchestra, reported Contactmusic. "The most important thing to

Amy was the music and I'm sure a lot of people would like to hear her sing again.

It depends on what Amy's fans want as a way to keep her memory alive. If it's a book, an album or a hologram, then so be it," David has said earlier.

David previously resurrected late rapper Tupac Shakur, who died in 1996, using the same technology.

27-year-old Amy died of alcohol poisoning on 23 July in 2011.—PTI

Victoria Beckham says Curvy women can wear my clothes

LONDON, 29 March — Singer-turned-fashion designer Victoria Beckham says her clothes can be worn by both slim and curvy women.

The 39-year-old designer said some women feel that they need to be slender in order to wear her clothes, reported Contactmusic.

"A lot of women think they have to be slim to wear my clothes, which isn't at

all the case. I've dressed Oprah Winfrey, for instance. It's not because I have a certain body shape that I expect my clients to be the same," Beckham said.

The former Spice Girl singer said she tries to make women look magnificent in the attires designed



by her. "I'm conscious of making women look their best," she said.—PTI

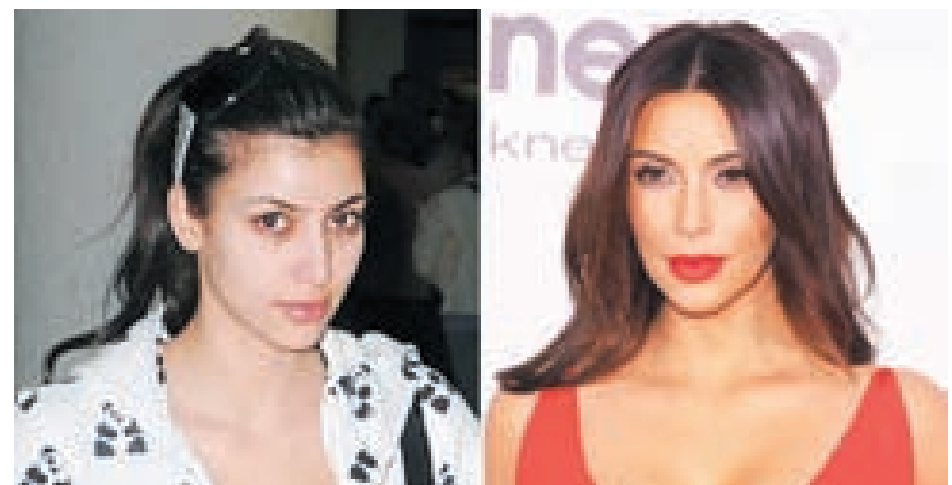
I do not recognise myself without make-up

LONDON, 29 March — Reality TV star Kim Kardashian says she does not recognise herself without make-up.

The 33-year-old socialite recently secured the front cover of the upcoming issue of *Vogue* magazine with her fiancé Kanye West, reported Daily Mirror. "I feel odd when I don't wear makeup! I don't recognise myself," Kardashian said.

The couple, who are parents to a baby daughter North, enjoy going on movies together.

"There's nothing that



Kim Kardashian

we love more than to just hang out and go to the

movies. So we drive to Malibu or Santa Barbara and fig-

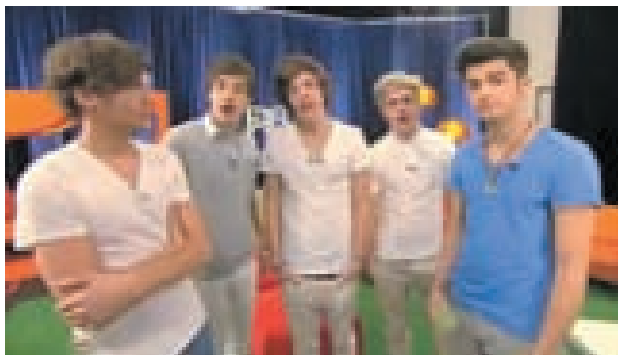
ure out how to get to places alone," she said.—PTI

Harry Styles gets pranked

LOS ANGELES, 29 March — One Direction singer Harry Styles readily agreed to pay USD 5000 to 'Emmerdale' star Matt Healy during a prank.

Healy recently played a prank on the the 20-year-

old singer on a radio show, asking Styles if he could lend him USD 5,000 to help him handle a "threatening" situation with two men, reported E! Online. The singer readily agreed to pay the amount.—PTI



One Direction

Angelina Jolie in Bosnia to campaign against war rape

SREBRENICA, (Bosnia) 29 March — Actress Angelina Jolie was brought to tears while talking to rape victims of the Bosnian war during a visit on Friday to promote a campaign to end sexual violence against women in war. "There can be no peace while women in conflict or post-conflict zones are raped with impunity," the Oscar-winning actress said in Sarajevo.

Jolie was accompanied by British Foreign Secretary William Hague, with whom she will co-host a global conference in London in June on preventing rape being used a tactic in war.

She said she hoped the initiative would help break down taboos about war rape.

Witnesses said Jolie cried while listening to victims in the town of Srebrenica. "Our tradition is not to talk about the rape," said Munira Subasic, the head of the association of Srebrenica mothers. "Many women have been through it but don't talk about it. That is why this visit is important, to show them they don't have to cope with it alone," Subasic said.

Reuters



Actress Angelina Jolie

Vintage guitar market anxious for high notes at auction

NEW YORK, 29 March — The market for vintage guitars is tuning up again after years of hitting flat notes. Its comeback will be tested next week, when California-based collector Hank Risan puts 265 of his 700 guitars on the block in the biggest such auction in recent memory. Up for sale are electric and acoustic guitars by D'Angelico, Gibson, Gretsch, Martin and Washburn and others, from the 1890s to the 1950's, a period many collectors see as a golden era of guitar making.

A 1930 Martin OM-45 deluxe acoustic, one of only 11 made, lists a starting bid of \$875,000 and is expected to be the highlight of the auction, set for 2-3 April at boutique auction house Guernsey's in New York.

The sale is being closely watched not only by guitar enthusiasts hankering for a historic "axe," both to play and as an investment. Dealers are looking for a fix on prices after the market cratered in 2008, as wealthy investors and aficionados got slammed by the financial crisis. "This is the first time in six years, ba-

sically, that there has been this sort of opportunity to see whether there has been a recovery," said Peter Szego, a collector and former architect who last year edited a history book on American guitars.

An index by *Vintage Guitar Magazine* that uses the value of 42 classic guitars as a market proxy has started to tick upward after falling some 30 percent from its 2008 peak of \$1 million, when the financial crisis sent collectors scurrying, to a trough early last year. In the years before 2008, many

speculators, particularly for electric guitars, jumped into the market for the first time, creating a bubble. The index remains some 25 percent below peak. Yet, there have indeed been signs of life in the market.

In December, Christie's sold the 1964 Fender Stratocaster guitar owned and played by Bob Dylan at his legendary electric performance at the Newport Folk Festival in 1965 for \$965,000, an all-time record for a guitar at auction.

That beat out an Eric Clapton-owned 1956 Fend-

er Stratocaster that fetched \$959,000 in 2004 at Christie's. The Guernsey's sale will be all the more scrutinized since Christie's is no longer holding guitar auctions, instead offering private sales only.

On Thursday, the first production model Fender Stratocaster was sold for \$250,000, the *Associated Press* reported. The 1954 guitar was sold by George Gruhn of Nashville for owner and historian Richard Smith to an unnamed US buyer who was not a musician, it said.—Reuters



Vintage guitars are seen on display during a preview before their auction in New York on 20 March, 2014. —REUTERS

GENERAL



Indian villagers gather around the debris of an Indian Air Force (IAF) transport plane that crashed near Karauli village in the central Indian state of Madhya Pradesh, on 28 March, 2014. At least six people were killed when an Indian Air Force's transport plane, C-130J Super Hercules, crashed in the western state of Rajasthan on Friday, a senior official said.
XINHUA

Israeli soldiers shoot two infiltrators from Syria

JERUSALEM, 29 March — Israeli soldiers on Friday shot two suspected armed infiltrators from Syria trying to breach the fence to the Golan Heights, the military said. Local media said the two were killed instantly.

“Soldiers detected two armed suspects infiltrating into Israel and tampering with the infrastructure of the Israeli-Syrian border of the Golan Heights,” the Israel Defense Force said in a statement issued overnight. “The Israeli army opened

fire, hits were confirmed.”

No information was disclosed on the identity or the injuries of the suspects, but the Israeli news website Ynet reported that the military didn't attempt an arrest procedure and used precision fire to hit the two

suspects, who were instantly killed.

Israel seized the Golan Heights in the 1967 Middle East War. It later annexed it in a move that is not recognized by the international community.

Xinhua

Overseas Cubans to be allowed to invest in home country

HAVANA, 29 March — An updated investment law, which is pending approval by lawmakers on Saturday, would allow overseas Cubans to invest in their home country, an official said on Friday. Under the new legislation, any natural or legal person with homes and capital abroad would be regarded as foreign investors, including Cuban citizens living abroad, Minister of Foreign Trade and Investment Rodrigo Malmierca told a parliamentary session.

Malmierca added, however, that Cuba does not look for foreign investment from the US city of Miami, where most of overseas Cubans live, although the new law wouldn't prohibit such investment.

The official said the effort to attract foreign capital aims to diversify export markets, gain access to advanced technologies, and replace imports with a priority to reduce food imports which cost the island 2 billion US dollars a year.

The move would also help the island to achieve energy independence as foreign firms are encouraged to conduct oil exploration off Cuban coasts. He also said some sectors such as communications and news media would remain off-limits to foreign investors and private businesses.

The draft law updates the current one enacted in November 1995, when the island first opened to foreign capital in post-revolution era.—Xinhua

Chemical spill injures nine at Rolls-Royce plant in Indiana

NEW YORK, 29 March — Nine employees were injured on Friday in a release of nitric acid from a 250 gallon tank at a Rolls-Royce aviation engine plant in Indianapolis, authorities said. Eight of the injured people were taken to hospitals and one person was treated at the scene, the Wayne Township Fire Department said on its twitter feed. All were in stable condition, it said.

A “pressurized release” of nitric acid occurred on the manufacturing floor in one of the Rolls-Royce plants, company spokesman Joel Reuter said. The cause of the leak was not clear, he said.

None of the injuries were believed to be life-threatening, Reuter said. Nitric acid is a toxic liquid that can cause serious burns. The plant was evacuated due to air quality concerns, but the readings later were found to be within safe levels and it was turned back over to Rolls-Royce, the fire department said. Reuter said a second and third shift at the plant had been canceled.

Reuters

Norway's former PM Jens Stoltenberg named new NATO chief

BRUSSELS, 29 March — The NATO decided on Friday to appoint Jens Stoltenberg as Secretary General of NATO and Chairman of the North Atlantic Council, in succession to Anders Fogh Rasmussen. Stoltenberg will assume his functions as Secretary General from 1 October 2014, when the present NATO chief Rasmussen is to step down after five years and two months at the helm of the Alliance, a NATO statement said.

“Warm congratulations to Jens Stoltenberg on his appointment as my successor,” said Rasmussen in

a Twitter message, “The Ukraine and Russia crisis shows need for continued strong and determined leadership of NATO.”

Rasmussen said, “I've known Jens Stoltenberg for many years and know he's the right man to build on NATO's record of strength and success after the NATO summit in the UK.”

From 2001 to 2009, Rasmussen held the position as prime minister of Denmark until he was elected as future NATO Secretary General at the Strasbourg-Kehl Summit in April 2009.

Jens Stoltenberg, a

two-time Norwegian prime minister, was born in Oslo on 16 March 1959. He was appointed Prime Minister for the first time in 2000, at the age of 40. He once again became Prime Minister at 2005 and hold the position until October 2013.

“During his tenure as Prime Minister, Mr Stoltenberg frequently called for NATO to focus on security challenges close to Allied territory,” said NATO on its website.

He is currently leader of the Norwegian Labor Party as well as the party's parliamentary leader.

Xinhua

Chelsea at a disadvantage in title race, says Mourinho

LONDON, 29 March — Chelsea's Premier League title rivals Manchester City and Liverpool enjoy a big advantage at the business end of the season because they are not involved in the Champions League, manager Jose Mourinho said. Leaders Chelsea have seven Premier League games left, compared to nine for 2012 champions City, but face Paris St Germain in the Champions League quarter-finals with the first leg in Paris on Wednesday.

“We have the most difficult (run in) because we play Champions League

— they don't. We have to play matches with two and three days in between,” Mourinho told reporters on Friday ahead of Saturday's trip across London to face Crystal Palace (1500).

“We have to change our focus from the Premier League to the Champions League... play two big matches (against PSG).”

“We have no time to prepare for matches like (City and Liverpool) they have. It's an advantage that City has now, an advantage that Liverpool have had since the beginning of the season.”

Chelsea start the weekend programme a point ahead of Liverpool, who host Tottenham on Sunday (1600) and three ahead of City, who are away at

fourth-placed Arsenal on Saturday evening (1730).

Mourinho said Liverpool, who they play at Anfield on 27 April, had enjoyed the “perfect season”

to emerge again as title aspirants. “When you have six days a week to prepare, to train six days a week to train, maybe twice a day... you have conditions to improve that nobody has,” he said.

“You can see clearly that some of their players are not paying the consequences of (fatigue) accumulation. You see freshness. The season for them is the perfect season to do what they are doing.”

The Portuguese reiterated that Chelsea were in a false position at the summit.—Reuters



Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(30-3-14 07:00am~
31-3-14 07:00am) MST

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- * World News
- * Photographer: Kyaw Win Hlaing (YUC)
- * Local News
- * Inlay Lake and Its Challenges
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- * Local News
- * Me N My Travel (Wonderful Pagodas On The Mount Akauk)
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- * Modifying Natural Thanakha Bark into Ready-Made Skin Care Product
- * Local News
- * FLYing Without Wings- My Great Limitless Adventure - Bagan
- * World News
- * Great Minds of Myanmar (Anthropologist U Kyaw Win)

Yadanarbon FC falls to second place of the table after 1-1 draw against Manawmyay FC

YANGON, 29 March—Mandalay-based Yadanarbon FC's title hopes unrevealed today after a 1-1 draw with Manawmyay FC in the Myanmar National League 2014 at Youth Train Centre Thuwunna in Yangon, falling to second from the top in the league table.

Yadanarbon FC threatened in the first half of the match and were awarded a penalty in the 42nd minute,

however, goalkeeper Thiha Sithu saved the penalty kick from Ivory Coast forward Kambu. Midfielder Naing Oo Lwin scored the opener for Manawmyay FC in the 70th minute with Columbian striker Fonseca equalizing for Yadanarbon FC in the 82nd minute.

Nay Pyi Taw FC is currently leading the table with 22 points.

Byline: Nyi myat Thawda

Manawmyay goalkeeper M.T Aung saves the ball kicked by the Yadanarbon midfielder during Myanmar National League 2014 at Thuwunna YTC in Yangon on 29 March.—PHOTO: SOE NYUNT



Miami left devastated by Djokovic, Nadal walkovers



MIAMI, 29 March—The Sony Open, one of tennis's most prestigious events, was left devastated when both men's

semi-finals ended in walkovers on Friday sending world number one Rafa Nadal and number two Novak Djokovic through to the final without hitting a ball. Three-time champion Djokovic was first gifted a spot in Sunday's final when Japan's Kei Nishikori withdrew with a groin injury.

A few hours later the tournament was rocked

again when seventh seeded Czech Tomas Berdych announced he was withdrawing due to gastroenteritis, handing Nadal a free pass.

Thousands of tennis fans had arrived at the Crandon Park complex expecting a day of pulsating action but instead were left with two women's doubles matches. When it was announced prior to the start of the night session that the Nadal/Berdych match would not be played the stadium erupted in an angry chorus of boos, many showing their disgust by turning and heading for the exits.

"Sorry for Kei. Sorry for Tomas. Sorry for the tournament. Especially sorry

for the fans," said Nadal about the double walkover. "It's very unlucky, very unusual for something that can happen."

"I cannot remember that (ever happening)." That would be because a double walkover in the semi-finals of an ATP Tour event is unprecedented in the professional era.

The walkovers, however, left the Sony Open with a mouth-watering final featuring the world's top two players, Nadal and Djokovic set to clash for the 40th time.

Nadal leads the head-to-head 22-17 but has never lifted the Miami title despite reaching the final three times.—Reuters

Asia fight back but still trail Europe in EurAsia Cup

KUALA LUMPUR, 29 March — Prayad Marksaeng and Kim Hyung-sung sparked a mini revival with a convincing victory in Friday's four-somes as Asia reduced Europe's lead to four points in the inaugural EurAsia Cup in Kuala Lumpur.

After Asia were whitewashed 5-0 on Thursday, Thai Marksaeng and South Korea's Kim beat the Danish pairing of Thomas Bjorn and Thorbjorn Olesen 4 & 3, while Anirban Lahiri and Siddikur Rahman edged Joost Luiten and Victor Dubuisson one up.

Europe's only win of

the day came when Graeme McDowell and Jamie Donaldson rallied to beat Gaganjeet Bhullar and Nicholas Fung 2 & 1 in the final match.

With points shared in the two remaining contests, Europe will take a 7-3 lead into the final day with 10 more singles to be played in the Ryder Cup-style biennial event, co-sanctioned by the European and Asian tours. The first team to reach 10 1/2 points will be crowned champions.

After a disastrous opening day, Asia dug in and at one stage led in four of the five matches and were level in the other.

Reuters

Dutch confirm Hiddink appointment, Blind follows in 2016

AMSTERDAM, 29 March — The Netherlands named two new national coaches on Friday with Guus Hiddink's appointment after the World Cup confirmed following months of speculation and Danny Blind lined up to replace him after the Euro 2016 tournament.

Hiddink had been the front-runner for several months to take over from Louis van Gaal after the World Cup in Brazil and told reporters details of his two-year contract long before the Dutch football association's (KNVB) formal announcement on Friday. However, the KNVB did surprise many by also naming Blind as Hiddink's successor after Euro 2016 in France,

handing the former international defender an extra two-year contract till the 2018 World Cup.

Blind, who is an assistant coach at Ajax Amsterdam, and former striker Ruud van Nistelrooy, who recently joined the staff of PSV Eindhoven, will serve as Hiddink's assistants.

"With Guus Hiddink we have appointed a Dutch trainer with a treasure of international experience and success. Danny Blind will get two years to grow further under him," KNVB team director Bert van Oostveen said in a statement. "By allowing Blind, after Euro 2016, to take over from Hiddink, we are keeping long term valuable knowledge and a line of succession."—Reuters

Manchester United 4-1 Aston Villa



Juan Mata celebrates with his teammates Rooney and Fellaini after scoring third goal for ManU against Aston Villa during English Premier League at Old Trafford Stadium in Manchester.

MANCHESTER, 29 March—A plane carrying an anti-Moyes banner was booed by some home fans as it flew over Old Trafford in the second minute.

Ashley Westwood's curling free-kick put Villa ahead but Rooney quickly headed United level, then scored from the spot after Leander

dro Bacuna fouled Juan Mata.

Mata slotted home a third before Javier Hernandez made it 4-1 in injury time.