

As census begins, Immigration and Population Ministry takes data of President's family



President U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win answer 41 questions for taking census at Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March—A census taking team led by the Deputy

Minister for Immigration and Population took the data of President U Thein

Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win at the Presidential Palace in Zabuth-

iri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, on Sunday.

The President an-

swered 41 questions.

The census will be taken in 80,985 areas

across the nation and over 100,000 volunteers will participate in the process. Officials have already distributed more than 14.8 million copies of census forms, manuals, equipment and documents to ward and villagead ministrative offices.

Officials have prepared 41 questions for households and 11 questions for organizations.

The census was conducted twice during the monarchical era of King Thalun and King Bodawpaya.

The United Nations Population Fund-UNFPA and several donor countries have provided both technical and monetary assistance, to support Myanmar's first census in over three decades. The last census in Myanmar had been taken once every ten years as of 1983.

During the British colonial era, the census was taken in 1872, 1881 and 1891. After the nation regained Independence, the government conducted the census in 1953, 1954, 1973 and 1983.—MNA

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Pyadalin Cave, rare works of Neolithic Age in Myanmar

Pyadalin Cave located in Nyaungchet Village in Ywangan Township, Danu Self-Administered Zone, southern Shan State, is one of the sites where traces of the Neolithic Age of Myanmar can be seen. The cave that emerged as limestone one is situated at an altitude of 1050 feet. In 1969, two cowboys from Nyaungchet Village unexpectedly found the cave. The cave and its related caves were demarcated as Cave-1 and Cave-2. Of them, the former is larger than the latter.

In observations, the researchers and experts found the Stone human palm works in dark red colour, mural paintings of small cows and pictures of rising sun at the wall of the cave, pieces of animals' bones, parts of charcoal, conch shells and

stone weapons.

After conducting the carbon dating tests on pieces of animals' bones and pieces of charcoal at the Nuclear Scientific Research Institute in New Zealand, the conclusions could be adopted that Pyadalin Cave might emerge in the Neolithic age and now it may be about 11,000 years old. The experts and researchers made a conclusion that the mural paintings of Pyadalin Cave were an origin of present Myanmar paintings. The researchers assumed that the Stone Age men created mural paintings which they found the scenes around their places, at the walls of the cave.

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**By Mie Mie Khaing
(Department of Archaeology and National Museum)**



Photo shows Pyadalin Cave in Nyaungchet Village, Ywangan Township, Danu Self-Administered Zone, southern Shan State.

Census taken at families of Speaker of Union Parliament, National Parliament

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March—As the census taking process kicked off across the nation on Sunday, the census collectors gathered the data at the family of Speaker of Union Parliament and People's Parliament Thura U Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet at their residence at 11 am.

The Speaker and wife replied to questions raised by the census takers.

At the noon, the census takers collected data at the family of Speaker of

National Parliament U Khin Aung Myint and wife Daw Khin Pyone. The wife of the speaker replied to the questions.

MNA

Speaker of Union Parliament and People's Parliament Thura U Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet reply to questions raised by census taking team.

MNA



Daw Khin Pyone, wife of Speaker of National Parliament U Khin Aung Myint replying to questions of census taking squad.—MNA

Census taking process commences in Magway Region

MAGWAY, 30 March—The national census taking process kicked off in all regions and states on Sunday.

In the morning, census collectors gathered data of population at the residence of Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe of

Magway Region and filled up his answers at the designated forms. The census taking process in Magway Region was supervised by the chairman of Magway Region Census Committee and officials, and members of supportive committee.

The Chief Minister also viewed the collection of census data in Kantha, Aungmingala and Minkangyi Wards of Magway. There are 6940 census areas in Magway Region.—Khin Marlar (Magway)



Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe and wife replying to questions on census process in Magway.

Nation-wide census taking campaign launch in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March—Chairman of Supervisory Committee on Taking Census in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Union Minister at the President Office U Thein Nyunt viewed census taking activities of the census taking groups at staff quarters of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, Shwekyarpin

Ward, Thabyegon Ward and staff quarter at Thukha Theikdhi Ward and Nyana Theikdhi Ward in Zabuthiri Township on Sunday morning.

The Union minister and party then examined census taking activities of the census taking groups in No (6) Ward and No (1) Ward in Lewe Township

and Ywakauk Ward in Pyinmana Township.

The 12-day National Census 2014 will be conducted in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area as of 30 March by 2796 census-collectors in collaboration with departments concerned and social organizations, officials said.

MNA



Union Minister U Thein Nyunt views collection of census data in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.—MNA

Census data taken from older persons, patients

YANGON, 30 March—A census taking squad took census data on Sunday from 191 older persons at Hninzigon home for the aged in Golden Valley Ward-2, Bahan Township of Yangon Region.

Similarly, the census takers gathered data from 1338 patients in Yangon General Hospital in Latha Township.

MNA

Census taking process launched in Zeyathiri Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March—A census taking team collected data at 132 households in Yinkhwebin Village of Khitaye Village-tract in Zeyathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on Sunday.

People from the households at No.4 plot openly answered 41 points of questions raised by the census takers.

The census taking process goes on up to 10 April.

Myint Than (Oxygen)

NATIONAL

Government to settle understaffing issues at hospitals: Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March — Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham has pledged that the government has responsibility to settle the understaffing issues at hospitals.

During his tour of inspection of the 550-bed paediatric hospital in Mandalay, he stressed the importance of the sufficient staff at the hospital as the hospital has seen more patients.

A child with four legs received surgical operation at the hospital last month to remove extra two legs.

The hospital is planning to provide a surgical operation to a child with four legs in the near future.

The 550-bed paediatric hospital was inaugurat-

ed in July, 2012.

He visited medical wards and departments of the hospital.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham also inspected the Mandalay Central Women's Hospital, midwifery training school and Mandalay Special Orthopaedic Hospital.

MNA

**Vice-President
Dr Sai Mauk Kham
views health care
services for children
at 550-bed paediatric
hospital in
Mandalay.**

MNA



National Census aimed at protecting national interest: Vice-President U Nyan Tun says



Vice-President U Nyan Tun meets with census taking squad in Sittway Township of Rakhine State.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March—Vice-President U Nyan Tun heard reports on security measures taken for recent riots, census taking process and ongoing plans, safe accommodation for foreigners from international organizations, peace and stability in the state, MP's participation in census taking processes in the townships

in Rakhine State presented by Union Minister U Khin Yi, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin, Deputy Ministers and Lt-Gen Hla Min of the Ministry of Defence and Speaker of Rakhine State Parliament U Htein Lin at the meeting hall of state government office in Sittway, Rakhine State on Sunday.

Speaking at the meeting, the Vice-President said that national census, the first in three decades is aimed at ensuring to collect correct data on current population, economic and social facts for development of the country, adding gigantic work has been planned since three years ago with the help of United Nations Popula-

tion Fund. He continued that necessary data will be available from taking census to protect national interest and develop the country.

He warned to monitor those who want to make profit on taking census by dishonest way, saying all participants are to overcome hindrances and difficulties through

mutual understanding and cooperation. He called for departments concerned to join hands in the 12-day National Population and Housing Census Process.

In the evening, they viewed census taking activities in Kyeebingyi Ward, Shwethalam and Barsara Villages in Sittway Township.

MNA

Census taking process begins in regions, states

YANGON, 30 March—Members of census taking squads and volunteers actively participated in the national census taking process in regions and states on Sunday.

From morning to the evening, they collected census data from the local people in cooperation with local authorities. The local people answered the ques-

tions exactly.

The census collectors gathered data over population of the people at their residences in line with the prescribed instructions through door-to-door activities.

The control offices are kept open in respective townships for supervising the activities.

MNA

Natmauk Tsp gets rural health branch

NATMAUK, 30 March—Rural health branch opening ceremony was taken place on Friday in the front of the branch in Theechaung Village, Natmauk Township of Magway Region.

At the ceremony, the township medical officer elaborated on the purpose of the ceremony and accepted the documents related to the health branch handed over by the member

of construction committee.

The medical officer donated K 100,000 to the fund of the health branch through a midwife.

The 70 ft long, 40 ft wide and 15 ft high new building was constructed at a cost of K 97.5 million—K 75 million by the people, K 12 million by the fund of Pyithu Hluttaw (People's Parliament) and K 10.5 million by the well-wishers.—Zin Waiyan Lin

Summer first-aid training course concludes in Myeik



MYEIK, 30 March—Concluding of summer first-aid training course, jointly conducted by the township Red Cross Society and the Ministry of Education under the guidance of Myanmar Red Cross Society, took place at No (1) Basic Education High School in Myeik, Taninthayi Region on 29 March.

First, Myeik District

Compensation presented to farmers for their lost farmlands in expressway

KYAUKDAGA, 30 March—A ceremony to hand over compensation for farmers who suffered loss in confiscation for construction of the expressway was held at the monastery in Danyingon Village of Kyaukdaga Township, Bago Region, on Thursday. Chairman of Township Land Utilization Management and Township Administrator U Htet Aung Phyto and officials presented compensation to farmers. The committee assessed that one acre of farmland was worth K 1.2 million and one acre of cropland K 1 million.

A total of 91 farmers from five village-tracts of the township got K 298.822 million for 173.60 acres of farmland and 90.49 acres of cropland. On Friday, 137 farmers from five farmers from Kyaingon, Hsinzalok, Khiningyi, Hsabyin and Thabayakhon village-tracts accepted K 494.3.1 million for 197.30 acres of farmland and 257.55 acres of cropland at the office of Yuza-na Teak Plantation Station. In Kyaukdaga Township, 228 farmers from 10 village-tracts were presented K 793.032 million for 370.91 acres of farmlands and 348.04 acres of croplands.

Khin Ko (Kyaukdaga)

Deputy Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo handed over wheelchair provided by Myanmar Red Cross Society to township Red Cross Society. Officials presented certificates of honour to the trainees and prizes to outstanding trainees.

One-week course was attended by 359 students from Dawei, Myeik, Kyunsu and Taninthayi Town-

ships. The course is aimed at turning out outstanding volunteers who will be able to serve voluntary works round the clock in Taninthayi Region and taking part in natural disaster mitigation and preparedness tasks, according to course instructor Daw Aye Aye Than, Staff Officer Grade-II of Region Red Cross Society.—*Moe Hein (Myeik)*



Medical team gives health care free of charge to locals in Minbu Tsp

MAGWAY, 30 March—Under the arrangements of Magway Region Development Foundation and Region Health Department, doctors and health staff team led by Dr Than Oo provided free medical treatments to 590 patients at Mookhe Village of Minbu Township, Magway Region, on 28 March.

MMAL

Volunteer students to join literacy campaign 2014

MAGWAY, 30 March—Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe met the volunteer students who will participate in literacy campaign 2014 at the Hall of Magway University on Sunday morning.

Singapore had upheld the motto “If you want your country to get rich, emphasize on education” to be able to upgrade its human resources within 40 years. Although Singapore had got independence in 1965, it became one of the richest countries in the world, said the Chief Minister.

Rector of Magway University Dr Aye Kyaw made a speech. The Chief



Minister presented the gifts to 437 volunteers of Minbu and Natmauk Townships. The ceremony was attended by 500 people from

Magway Region Government Ministers, faculty members and volunteer students.

MMAL

Meiktila dwellers eager to take part in Myanmar Traditional Thingyan Water Festival

MEIKTILA, 30 March—Central pandal is being set up to celebrate Myanmar Traditional Thingyan

Water Festival on a grand scale in Meiktila of Mandalay Region, according to an official from the Township

General Administration Department. The pandal is under construction at the junction near Basic Education High School. Meiktila dwellers of 14 wards have plans to construct one pandal each ward.

Officials will organize the festival for Meiktila dwellers to enjoy entertainments of chorus dance troupes and modern music bands for taking part in the water festival happily in central pandal.

As part of efforts for making good deeds, paying respects to older persons and releasing fingerlings will be held on Myanmar New Year Day.

Myanmar Traditional Thingyan Water Festival will begin on 13 April this year.

Chan Tha (Meiktila)

One more express bus line join transport services on Yangon-Ye route



8000 per passenger.

Thanks to the express

buses, local people and travelers enjoy better transportation.

Nay Myo Htut (Ye)

WORLD

UN assembly chief plans to touch on reform, climate change in Japan

NEW YORK, 30 March—Ahead of his trip to Japan next week John Ashe, president of the UN General Assembly, said on Friday he anticipates holding discussions with Japan's top leaders on a range of issues from climate change to reform of the Security Council.

"While there I will be discussing a number of issues of importance to the government of Japan as they relate to the United Nation's General Assembly," he told *Kyodo News*

during a one-on-one interview in his office. "I will also be using the opportunity to talk about my priorities of the (current) 68th session, which is the post 2015 development agenda—setting the stage."

After arriving in Tokyo next Tuesday, he is scheduled to visit with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, as well as with other senior government officials and Diet Members over a two-day period before returning to

New York on Friday

The president has high hopes of continuing work with member states, such as Japan, to lay the groundwork for developing a plan to improve the lives of millions around the globe after 2015.

This new plan builds upon the so called Millennium Development Goals, which set out to achieve eight global targets, such as halving extreme poverty and achieving universal primary education for all children, by 2015.

At his acceptance speech last June Ashe pledged to move forward on the issue of reform of the United Nations, including the hotly debated reform of the Security Council.

More than two decades of talks have yielded few results although countries largely agree that the 15 member council is overdue for an overhaul. However, there is no common agreement on how to do so.

Kyodo News

10 killed, 37 injured in gas depot blast in Egypt

CAIRO, 30 March—Ten people were killed and 37 others injured when a depot of petroleum products in a village in Egypt's southern province of Sohag exploded on Saturday evening, the *MENA* news agency reported.

The explosion caused big fire that extended to nearby houses, in which 10 people were killed and 37 others injured, *MENA* said. A local resident said the depot was used to store petroleum products which were sold at the black market.

The Interior Ministry said in a statement that firefighters have put out the fire.

Sohag Governor Mahmoud Ateeq told *MENA* that he had ordered to send fire trucks and ambulances to the explosion site and the provincial security forces were deployed to launch investigations.

The victims have been transferred to hospital near the village.—*Xinhua*

Sri Lanka's ruling coalition wins provincial polls

COLOMBO, 30 March—Sri Lanka's ruling coalition led by President Mahinda Rajapaksa won elections held in two provinces, according to results released on Sunday. The ruling United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA) won the elections held in the Western Province, which covers the capital Colombo, and in the Southern Province.

Rajapaksa's party won a majority of the seats in the Western and Southern provinces followed by the main opposition United National Party (UNP) which came second.

The department of elections said that the UPFA secured 56 seats in the Western Provincial Council as opposed to the UNP which won 28 seats while in the Southern Province the UPFA got 33 seats as opposed to the 14 won by the UNP.

Xinhua

Madagascar's president Hery Rajaonarimampianina (C) speeches during a ceremony in Moramanga, 110 km northeast of capital Antananarivo on 29 March, 2014. Madagascar commemorated on Saturday the date of 29 March, 1947, which is historic for Malagasy people for their uprising against France.
XINHUA



Terrorist attacks will not affect Lebanon's decision to fight terrorism

BEIRUT, 30 March—Lebanese Prime Minister Tammam Salam said on Saturday that attacks on the army will not affect the cabinet's decision to combat terrorism, after a suicide bombing killed three soldiers near the border with Syria.

In a statement released by his media office, Salam condemned the attack against the army in Aarsal area, saying it is "a repug-

nant terrorist act."

He stressed that "such operations will not affect the decision to combat terrorism and all kinds of security breach."

"The explosion came as the army soldiers were preparing to carry out the security plan approved by the government to impose the rule of law in areas of Bekaa and the north," he added.

A suicide bomber

exploded his booby-trapped car at an army checkpoint in the border town of Aarsal in eastern Lebanon, killing three soldiers and wounding three others.

The prime minister offered condolences to the families of the victims and wished quick recovery of the wounded.

He also demanded intensified efforts by the army to bring the terrorists to justice.—*Xinhua*



Pakistani security personnel inspect the blast site in southwest Pakistan's Quetta on 29 March, 2014. 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.—XINHUA

Pakistani military sources say Afghan forces fire six mortars into Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 30 March—Pakistani security officials said that Afghan forces fired six mortars into Pakistan's North Waziristan tribal region on Saturday but no casualties had been reported. The mortars from an Afghan National Army post landed near a post of security forces at Ghulam Khan, a small border town in North Waziristan, military sources said. It is the second incident of mortars firing from the Afghan side of the border this month.

Pakistan's military said

earlier this month that Afghan security forces fired more than two dozen mortars into the Pakistani territory.

Pakistan and Afghanistan, which share a common border of 2,500 km, routinely accuse each other of border violations.

Kabul often alleges Pakistan fires rockets into Kunar province in northeastern Afghanistan. Pakistan denies the charges and says its forces target the Pakistani militants who have taken shelter in the border regions

and routinely launch attacks on Pakistani posts.

Kabul also alleges that the Afghan Taliban have taken shelter in Pakistan.

The incident on Saturday occurred at a time when tensions have once again escalated between Pakistan and Afghanistan following a series of recent Taliban attacks in Kabul. Afghan officials claimed that attacks ahead of the crucial elections in Afghanistan are planned in Pakistan. The charges were denied by Pakistan.—*Xinhua*

Egypt sentences two Morsi supporters to death

CAIRO, 30 March—An Egyptian criminal court sentenced two supporters of ousted President Mohamed Morsi to death on Saturday over killing youths in protests last year, official news agency *MENA* reported.

The two Islamists were accused of throwing young men from the roof of a building in the coastal city of Alexandria during violent acts that erupted over Morsi's disposal.

The court has referred the verdict to the grand

mufti, the government's official interpreter of Islamic law, for review. The mufti's opinion is consultative.

The Islamists were also accused of joining terrorist groups, hindering the traffic, burning public utilities, possessing weapons, and disturbing public order.

The trial of another 61 involved in the same case was adjourned to 19 May.

On Monday a criminal court in Upper Egypt sentenced some 529 people

to death over charges of assaulting police stations last year. Prior to the sentence the authorities had dispersed Morsi supporters' sit-ins in Cairo, leaving more than 1,000 people killed and thousands arrested.

The mass death sentence, which is the biggest in Egypt's modern history, has drawn condemnation from human rights groups, the United Nations and the west.

Xinhua

Israel rejects proposal to free Palestinian prisoners for extending peace talks

RAMALLAH, 30 March — Israel rejected a proposal by Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas to extend the direct peace talks scheduled to end in April for releasing 400 Palestinian prisoners, a senior Palestinian official said on Saturday. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told *Xinhua* that Abbas told the United States that if Israel frees 400 prisoners, including women and children, he will accept the extension of the peace talks.

The US-brokered talks have not achieved any tangible results since the negotiations resumed in July last year. The talks ran into a deadlock this week after Israel refused to free the last group of 26 prisoners, out of the 104 prisoners arrested before the two sides signed Oslo peace accords in 1993.

Suicide attack in southern Afghan town of Shahr-e-Safa kill Two, wounds Four

QALAT, (Afghanistan), 30 March — A suicide attack rocked Shahr-e-Safa city in Zabul province 340 km south of Kabul on Sunday, leaving two people, including the attacker, dead and five others wounded, governor of Shahr-e-Safa district Abdul Khaliq Ayubi said.

“A terrorist riding an explosive-laden car blew it up next to a military convoy at 10:00 am local time today in Ishaqzai Manda area of Shahr-e-Safa District leaving himself and another apparently a military person dead and four others, all passersby civilians, injured,” governor Ayubi told *Xinhua*.

Without giving more details, he said that an investigation has been initiated into the case.

Afghanistan has been witnessing increasing militancy mostly in the shape of suicide attacks since the beginning of Afghan Nawroz or New Year that began from 21 March.

A day earlier five suicide bombers were killed and two police injured as militants attacked election commission office in the eastern part of Kabul on Saturday, said Kabul police.

Xinhua

Israel has already released 78 prisoners in three groups of 26 prisoners.

The official said that Abbas insisted that the last group of prisoners is part of an agreement with Israel, adding that the Palestinian president proposed that Israel release another 400 prisoners for extending the talks to the end of this year.

Meanwhile, dozens of Palestinians rallied on Saturday near an Israeli prison in the West Bank, protesting the delay of releasing the last group of prisoners.

A fresh Palestinian poll revealed earlier Saturday showed that an overwhelming majority of Palestinians support the government to head to international agencies for recognition in response to Israel’s rejection to free the last group of the prisoners.

Xinhua

Number of missing in US mudslide drops to 30 as death toll rises

DARRINGTON, (Washington), 30 March — The number of people missing from a landslide that sent a wall of mud cascading over dozens of homes in Washington state dropped to 30 from 90 on Saturday, but the death toll continues to climb as another body was found in the muddy heap of debris.

One week after the catastrophe, the unofficial body count rose to 28. The official tally of those killed is now 18 based on bodies found, extricated and identified by medical examiners.

But with the grim news also came word that the number of missing fell dramatically as officials were able to account for dozens of people as “safe and well.”

Rescue and recovery workers pushed through wind and rain on Saturday continuing to comb through debris left after the



A home located off Highway 530 is surrounded by mud and debris as search work continues from a massive landslide that struck Oso near Darrington, Washington on 29 March, 2014. — REUTERS

rain-soaked hillside gave way without warning and destroyed dozens of homes on the outskirts of the rural Washington town of Oso, northeast of Seattle.

“The number is so big and it’s so negative. It’s hard to grasp,” said volunteer Bob Michajla, 66, who has been helping to search part of the debris field that

covers a square-mile (2.6 square-km). “These are all friends and neighbors and family. Everybody knows everybody in this valley.”

Reuters

Five quakes jolt eastern Romania on Saturday

BUCHAREST, 30 March — An earthquake measuring 4.9 on the Richter scale occurred late on Saturday in Vrancea seismic zone, eastern Romania, according to the National Institute for Earth Physics (INFP). This is the largest earthquake recorded in the country in the current year.

The quake occurred at a depth of 150 km, rocking a mountainous area of Buzau County, some 150 km northeast of the capital of Bucharest.

The quake was last

one in the day when another four measuring between 2.9 to 4.3 degrees on the Richter scale hit the same region.

There is no report of casualty for now. More than 50 felt earthquakes have taken place in Vrancea seismic zone this year, seven of them measuring over 4 and less than 5 degrees on the Richter scale.

An earthquake measuring 5.5 magnitudes on the Richter scale jolted Vrancea region on 6 October, 2013 and another eight

quakes measuring over 4 and less than 5 degrees on the Richter scale hit the same region in the last year.

Vrancea seismic zone, including counties of Vrancea and Buzau, is one of the most active seismic areas in Europe. It is known for its intermediate-depth (70-200 km) earthquakes, which can reach a magnitude of 7.0 to 7.8.

In March 1977, a 7.6-magnitude earthquake killed 1,600 people in Romania and damaged 8,500 buildings. —*Xinhua*



Photo released by Press Information Department (PID) on 29 March, 2014 shows Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif (R) meets with United Nations Special Envoy for Global Education Gordon Brown in Islamabad, capital of Pakistan. A financial programme helping Pakistan’s 6.7 million out-of-school children get access to education was announced on Saturday by Gordon Brown. —XINHUA

Taleban attack election commission HQ in Kabul ahead of vote

KABUL, 30 March — Taliban insurgents attacked the Independent Election Commission headquarters in Kabul on Saturday, staff and police said, in the their third

big assault on the capital this week aimed at derailing the 5 April presidential election.

Afghan security forces battled the militants for about five hours, while

frightened IEC staff and eight international United Nations employees took refuge in safe rooms inside the compound, a security source and staff said.



Afghan security personnel arrive near an election commission office during an attack by gunmen in Kabul on 29 March, 2014. REUTERS

Four suicide bombers were involved in the attack and all were killed in gunbattles, according to an Afghan army general on the scene in the eastern part of the capital. “The fight is over. All four terrorists have been killed. An investigation team is in the area,” said commander Qadam Shah Shaheem, adding that three security force members had been injured in the operation. No other casualties were reported.

With a week to go before Afghanistan’s presidential election, escalating violence across the country risks undermining the credibility of a vote meant to mark the first democratic transfer of power in Afghan history. It was the second IEC

building this week to have been targeted by the radical Islamist Taliban. The attack occurred less than 24 hours after militants stormed a guest-house used by a US-based aid group. A child was killed in Friday’s attack.

Kabul is on high alert ahead of the presidential election that Taliban insurgents have threatened to scuttle with a campaign of bombings and assassinations. Election commission staff heard an initial explosion at around midday on Saturday at the IEC headquarters, followed by gunfire and rockets, one of which damaged a warehouse inside the compound, according to an IEC employee.

Reuters

HEALTH & BUSINESS

Germany, China say renminbi hub in Frankfurt will boost trade

DUESSELDORF, 30 March — A decision by Germany and China to make Frankfurt a European hub for financial transactions in the Chinese currency will give new momentum to trade between the two economic powers, Chinese President Xi Jinping and a German minister said on Saturday.

In a speech to politicians and business leaders in the city of Duesseeldorf, Xi said setting up the hub for the renminbi in Germany “represents an important step on the road of the internationalisation of our

currency,” according to a translation.

The Bundesbank and the People’s Bank of China signed an agreement on Friday to facilitate transactions in the Chinese currency in Frankfurt and to cooperate more closely in clearing and settlement arrangements of renminbi payments.

Up to now, transactions in China’s currency, the renminbi or yuan, have been impractical for all but very large European companies that are able to involve China’s central bank in a deal, because the

renminbi is not freely convertible. German Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel said having the clearing bank in Frankfurt would help trade between the two economic powers.

“Our goal is an economic partnership of equals,” Gabriel said.

The Chinese leader’s first visit to Germany since becoming president last year saw the signing of business deals that will add to trade that was worth about 140 billion euros last year.

Annual trade flows between China, the world’s



China’s President Xi Jinping waves to media following a joint news conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel after an agreement signing, at the Chancellery in Berlin on 28 March, 2014.—REUTERS

second-biggest economy, and Germany, Europe’s largest, exceed Chinese trade with France, Britain and Italy combined.

Xi said China would pursue its course of

reforms but would not simply follow the “old road of the industrial nations” but would rather embrace sustainable development, even if this meant slower growth.—Reuters

Singapore’s Temasek Holdings sets up Europe office in London

SINGAPORE, 30 March — Singapore’s Temasek Holdings launched its Europe office on Saturday, the sovereign investment firm said.

The office will “support its investment interests in Europe, Middle East and Africa,” it said.

“Our new office in London serves as a home base to advise Temasek on investment and partnership opportunities with growth companies here in Europe and further afield,” the firm quoted its chairman Lim Boon Heng as saying.

Temasek Holdings currently has offices in Singapore, Brazil, China, India, Mexico and Vietnam. It said its new office in New York is expected to fully operational some time later this year.

Temasek was incorporated in 1974 and fully owned by the government. It owns a portfolio of 215 billion Singapore dollars (172 billion US dollars) as of 31 March last year, with 71 percent of its underlying assets in Asia.—Xinhua

Gilead says has discounted hepatitis C drug for some health plans

NEW YORK, 30 March — Gilead Sciences Inc, under fire for pricing a new hepatitis C drug at \$1,000 a pill, has discount agreements with a number of health insurers, a company executive said in an interview. The medication, Sovaldi, has a list price of \$84,000 for a 12-week course of therapy and is seen as a breakthrough in the treatment of the serious liver disease.

It has been shown to raise cure rates and cut treatment time with fewer side effects than older medicines, but critics maintain that a price of \$1,000 each is too high for an easy-to-make pill needed by millions of Americans.

On March 20, Democratic lawmakers led by California Representative Henry Waxman asked Gilead to explain the price tag, and a meeting with the company is scheduled for next week.

LME tightens ‘Chinese Wall’ rules on warehouses, traders



Traders and clerks work at the London Metal Exchange (LME) in London, on 22 July, 2011. REUTERS

LONDON, 30 March — The London Metal Exchange (LME) pressed on with reforms to its warehousing network on Friday, unveiling tighter “Chinese Wall” restrictions a day after a court ruling forced the LME to halt a plan to cut delivery backlogs.

The LME said it would bolster rules on firms that both trade on the exchange and own metals warehouses to ensure there was no improper flow of information or conflict of interest.

It aims to carry out a

consultation regarding the proposed changes and to introduce them in January 2015.

The rules apply to parties such as bank Goldman Sachs and commodity group Glencore, which both trade metals and own metals storage facilities.

The LME, owned by Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing, said in a statement that an external review found current restrictions between traders and warehouses were generally adequate.

“The review has, however, helpfully recommended certain modifications to the existing requirements which the LME believes will further enhance certain aspects of the information barrier requirements,” it said. This would “protect confidential information held by warehouse companies, the possession of which by third parties (including trading companies) could otherwise give rise to conflicts of interest and, potentially, market abuse”.—Reuters

Daylight saving time linked to heart attacks

WASHINGTON, 30 March — Switching over to daylight saving time, and losing one hour of sleep, raised the risk of having a heart attack the following on Monday by 25 percent, compared to other Mondays during the year, according to a new US study released on Saturday.

By contrast, heart attack risk fell 21 percent later in the year, on the Tuesday after the clock was returned to standard time, and people got an extra hour’s sleep.

The not-so-subtle impact of moving the clock forward and backward was seen in a comparison of hospital admissions from a database of non-federal Michigan hospitals. It examined admissions before the start of daylight saving time and the Monday immediately after, for four consecutive years.

In general, heart attacks historically occur most often on Monday mornings, maybe due to the stress of starting a new work week and inherent changes in our sleep-wake cycle, said Dr

Amneet Sandhu, a cardiology fellow at the University of Colorado in Denver who led the study.

“With daylight saving time, all of this is compounded by one less hour of sleep,” said Sandhu, who presented his findings at the annual scientific sessions of the American College of Cardiology in Washington.

A link between lack of sleep and heart attacks has been seen in previous studies. But Sandhu said experts still don’t have a clear understanding of why people are so sensitive to sleep-wake cycles. “Our study suggests that sudden, even small changes in sleep could have detrimental effects,” he said.

Sandhu examined about 42,000 hospital admissions in Michigan, and found that an average of 32 patients had heart attacks on any given Monday. But on the Monday immediately after springing the clock forward, there were an average of eight additional heart attacks, he said.—Reuters

Mt Gox faced questions on handling client cash long before crisis

TOKYO, 30 March — Two years before Mt. Gox filed for bankruptcy, a half dozen employees at the Tokyo-based bitcoin exchange challenged CEO Mark Karpeles over whether client money was being used to cover costs, according to three people who participated in the discussion.

The question of how Mt Gox handled other people’s money — the issue raised by staff in the show-down with Karpeles in early 2012 — remains crucial

to unraveling a multi-million dollar mystery under examination by authorities in Japan.

A bankruptcy administrator and police are seeking to determine how a Tokyo start-up that shot from obscurity to dominate global trade in bitcoin managed to lose more than \$27 million in old-fashioned cash held in a bank as well as bitcoins worth close to \$450 million at today’s prices. The still-unresolved issue has thrown a spotlight on how Mt Gox

functioned as a hybrid between an online brokerage

and an exchange.

Essentially, the more

than 1 million traders who used Mt Gox at its peak had entrusted a 3-year-old firm to hold their money safely until they decided to cash out. A court-appointed bankruptcy administrator on Friday said an initial examination of Mt Gox - key to determining whether Mt Gox’s users will be able to recover some of what they had on deposit with the exchange — would not be complete until May, citing the involvement of authorities in the case.

Reuters



Mock Bitcoins are displayed on a table in an illustration picture taken in Berlin on 7 Jan, 2014. REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 31 March, 2014

Helping others is helping ourselves

By Tin Maung Than

Whether they are rich or poor, people need help in their life. There will not be a single person who never needs help from others. The only thing difference is the degree of help he or she needs. Some may have big problems and others may have small problems, but they all need help. Whenever we face difficulties or problems,

the best way is to find a solution through mutual cooperation.

But some people forget to help others or lack humanitarian spirit. They are selfish people. They think that helping others is not worth while as it is like tending someone's cattle without getting any payment. They do not value welfare work. But if we do not help others no one will come to assist us. We must have the spirit of mutual cooperation and support. Then we can solve every problem.

Many people in our society are vulnerable or under privileged; they need help in one way or another. They may be facing financial problems or other difficulties. We can help them directly or through indirect ways. We can coordinate

with others to find answers for them or help ease their burden.

In fact, it is so easy for us to say "busy" when someone comes and ask help, but it is very painful to hear "busy" when we need help. In this context, we all must have sympathy towards others and help others in the interest of humanity. If we help others they will also help us. So, helping others is helping ourselves.

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.

Monastic education schools and monastic institutions in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Monastic education schools and monastic institutions have been existed in Myanmar during the periods of the successive Myanmar Kings since thousand years ago. As you know, Myanmar has been a Theravada Buddhist country since then. About 85 percent of population of Myanmar believes in Buddhism and they all are Buddhists. There is no Myanmar king that does not carry out the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana throughout the country. The countless number of shrines and pagodas built and constructed by successive Myanmar Kings can be seen all over the country till now.

There is at least a monastery in every village throughout the country. The Myanmar Buddhist children of ancient time have only to go to monastery at their villages because there were no academic modern schools at that time. Most of Myanmar nationals of ancient time educated from the monasteries or the monastic education schools. There were many famous and learned monks and people who were well-educated from the monastic education schools all over the country.

The British colonial

imperialists invaded and occupied Myanmar after fighting three invading wars. The British Colonial Government ruled the whole Myanmar for one hundred years and oppressed Myanmar nationals by divisive rule. On other-hand, they persuaded Myanmar nationals to believe in other religions leading to overwhelm the Buddhism, the primitive religion of Myanmar nationals. The monastic edu-

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

cation schools and monastic institutions throughout Myanmar became weak and faint because they were not encouraged and supported by the British Colonial Government at all. However, some of farsighted and learned Myanmar Chief Monks (Mahatheras) and lay-devotees managed to continue keeping up the monastic education schools and the monastic institutions throughout the country. At present, there are altogether over fifty-one thousand monasteries and over fifteen thousand monastic education schools throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Over sixteen hundred thousand monks (members of the sangha) and twenty three hundred

thousand novices (Samaneras) are dwelling at these monasteries and learning the Buddhist scriptures (the Pariyatti Education) which mainly lead to the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana in the Universe.

And now, the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is encouraging and supporting the monastic education

schools throughout states and regions in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar under the guidance of the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The main aims and objectives of the Monastic Education Schools are to uplift of morale and morality of the young generations and to understand well the real

basic essence of the Buddhism, and Myanmar culture and traditions which handed down through ancient Myanmar generations. It is found that most of Myanmar young generations of today do not know and understand the real basic essence of Buddhism and the ancient culture and traditions of Myanmar. In fact, Myanmar culture and traditions mainly depend on the culture of Buddhism. For the time being, many young novices, boys and girls are attending the monastic education schools all over the country.

During the periods of the British Colonial Government, the monastic education schools throughout Myanmar faded out and nearly disappeared for not being encouraged and supported by the British Colonial authorities concerned. After Myanmar had regained her Independence in

1948, some of the farsighted learned chief monks, lay devotees and the Government of the Union of Myanmar tried to re-introduce the monastic education schools.

But they were not completely successful because of confuse and unstable political situation of those days. And so, many young new generations of those days were not able to go to monastic education schools for learning the real basic essence of the Buddhism and the ancient Myanmar culture and traditions. Hence, most of Myanmar young generations who were born in those days did not know well and understand the basic essence of Buddhism and Myanmar culture and traditions.

We can see vividly and clearly that ruthless and cruel activities of killing and beheading innocent people by destructive elements broke out in the period of

1988 disturbance. It is learnt that the destructive elements who committed these crimes are most young people who do not know the basic essence of the Buddhism and Myanmar culture and traditions.

According to the bitter and cruel experience of 1988 disturbance, the State Law and Order Restoration Council of the Union of Myanmar of that time decided to encourage and support the monastic education schools which lead to cultivate the young new generations to become good, gentle and polite in future. Besides, the Monastic Institutions, the main centers for the Pariyatti Sasana (learning canonical Texts of the Buddha) which lead to the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana have been more supported and encouraged by the Government of the State Law and Order Restoration Council of the Union of Myanmar of that time since 18 September 1988.

Census taking process launched across the country

YANGON, 30 March—People from the village/ward/township of states and regions actively participated in the first-day nationwide census taking process on 30 March.

The census taking groups conducted their works as daily tasks from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. and they left marks at the houses which have already taken census data.

The census collectors gathered data not only from the households but from the monasteries, churches, nunneries, hostels, homes for the aged, hospitals, universities, mosques, etc at the same time.

They also took the census data from the people at hotels, motels, lodges, bus terminals and road sides.



The Cocogyun Township in Yangon Region has already collected the data in advance on March 9 due to poor transport.

The census takers are asking 41 questions for the households and 11 for the organizations up to 10 April.—MNA

Census collectors take census data in Latha Township of Yangon Region.—MNA

Pyadalin Cave, rare works ...

(from page 1)

Geologists, foreign researchers and staff and scholars from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum under the Ministry of Culture have been placing emphasis on observation and maintenance of ancient works at the cave with relentless efforts.

At present, visitors can view and pay homage to

magnificent Buddha images in Pyadalin Caves. Moreover, the cave is included in the area of Panlaung-Pyadalin Cave Wildlife Sanctuary designated by the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry.

Since 1996, the department had put the Pyadalin Cave into the tentative list of the UNESCO to become World Heritage List.

Trs: TTA

LOCAL NEWS

Ringroad of Leikpya Lake in Bago upgraded

BAGO, 30 March—A ceremony to commission the repaved road into service was held at Leikpya Lake in Bago, Bago Region, 24 March.

The Executive Officer of Bago Township Development Affairs Committee explained future plans to keep the lake clean and pleasant for public recreation. Region level departmental officials opened the repaved ringroad of Leikpya Lake.

The ceremony was attended by Chief Minister of Bago Region U Nyan Win, region ministers, officials and local people about 300.—*Thant Zin (Bago)*



Students of summer culture course get health care by volunteers

KAWTHOUNG, 30 March—As part of uplifting the education standard of local people, Phyo Cetana mobile medical team gave free health care services to children of the summer culture course at Neikbanaye monastery in Kawthoung, southern tip of Taninthayi Region, on Thursday. Leader of the mobile team Dr Kyaw Swa Hsint and nurses performed medical checkup and provided medical treatment to the children.

They also gave education talks on hygienic practices for the children.

Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

National people enjoy NRC channel in Tangyan

TANGYAN, 30 March—Myanma Radio and Television broadcast its programmes through digital system by changing analogue system.

Information and Public Relations Department under the Ministry of Information installed 8-foot satellite dishes and related devices at its office in Tangyan of Shan State (North) because the people cannot receive the programmes due to lack

of VB-T2 transmitters in some areas.

On 24 March, the local people enjoyed TV programmes at the IPRD Office. Ma Nang Kham Lu of Ward 5 in Tangyan expressed thanks for arrangements of the department as she could enjoy the national race programmes on TV. Tangyan Township IPRD plans to show programmes of NRC channel to the local people daily.

Han Htay (District IPRD)

Palethwe hybrid paddy harvested on model plot in Bilin Tsp

BILIN, 30 March—Palethwe hybrid paddy was harvested at holdings No 16/2 field in Zwegalar Village in Bilin Township of Mon State for 2013-14

cultivation season.

On Saturday, the 10-acre model plot produced 161 baskets of wet paddy per acre and 154 baskets in dried status.

MPF turns out new generations from training course

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March—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, stated in this daily issued on 30 March.

The police training course 201/2013 concluded at the parade ground of No 1 Police Training Depot (Yamethin) in Yamethin of Mandalay Region on 8 March.

The course last from 23 October 2013 to 28 March 2014.

The training depot produced 246 newly-recruited policemen in this intake.

The harvesting was participated by township level officials and local farmers.

Htoo Naing (IPRD)



Vice-Chief of Police Force Training Police Col Aung Kyaw Oo delivered a concluding remark and presented awards to outstanding trainees.—*MPF*

Progress of funding repairs of schools discussed

TOUNGOO, 30 March—A meeting between Toungoo Township Education Network and KMA Foundation was held at Tawwin Ketumati Hotel in Toungoo, Bago Region, on Tuesday.

Chief Executive Officer of KMA Foundation U Hla Myint, Patron of Education Network U San Tin (retired region education officer) and patron U Kyaw Hla (Thamadi) participated in the discussions. General Secretary of the network Dr Ba Swe explained progress of works.

KMA Foundation funded about K 14 million to the education network for renovation of damages at Basic Education Primary Schools and monastic edu-

cations in the rural areas of Toungoo Township.

The foundation plans to make more donations for the education sector.

UKH



Japan, N Korea to seek settlement of outstanding issues



Song Il Ho, North Korea's Ambassador for talks to normalize relations with Japan, gets into a car at Beijing International Airport on 29 March, 2014, after arriving to hold a two-day meeting with Junichi Ihara, head of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau at Japan's Foreign Ministry, in the Chinese capital. —KYODO NEWS

BEIJING, 30 March — Japanese and North Korean senior diplomats on Sunday agreed to work toward the settlement of “outstanding issues” as the two governments held formal talks for the first time since November 2012.

The meeting, to run through Monday in Beijing, comes amid recent mixed signals from North Korea over its willingness to re-engage in diplomacy. At issue is whether North Korea will agree to fulfill its promise to re-investigate the cases of Japanese nationals it abducted in the 1970s and 1980s.

Song Il Ho, North Korea's Ambassador for talks to normalize relations with Japan, compared the resumption of governmental

dialogue to the arrival of spring, “when icy rivers melt and water begins to flow.”

Junichi Ihara, director general of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau at the Japanese Foreign Ministry, said that “through serious and frank discussions” he wants to “work toward making progress on the settlement of outstanding issues.”

“I completely feel the same way,” Song replied at the North Korean Embassy, the venue of the first day of the meeting, expressing hope that relations between the two countries will start moving “in a positive direction.” In an attempt to make tangible progress on the abduction issue, Japan may offer the possibility of

lifting some sanctions now imposed on North Korea over its nuclear and missile development programmes.

But it all remains uncertain if Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government, formed in December 2012, can move forward with his goal of making a breakthrough in the long-fester issue, a major obstacle to normalizing bilateral relations. North Korea, which admitted in 2002 to having abducted 13 Japanese nationals, has repeatedly said the issue has already been settled.

No tangible progress has been seen on the issue since five of them were repatriated to Japan in 2002. North Korea has claimed the remaining eight are dead.—Kyodo News

Cambodian opposition marks 17th anniversary of grenade attack amid tight security

PHNOM PENH, 30 March — The opposition Cambodian National Rescue Party (CNRP) on Sunday morning held a religious ceremony at a memorial stupa in a park, just south of the Royal Palace, in remembrance of the victims of a grenade attack 17 years ago.

Some 60 Buddhist monks were invited to chant at the ceremony, which was attended by CNRP's president Sam Rainsy and some 700 party supporters as well as family members of the victims.

The attack on an opposition rally on 30 March, 1997 killed 16 people. So far, no one was arrested for the killing.

Security has been tightened on Sunday as all

roads around the ceremony site have been blocked to ensure safety of the participants.

“They hold the ceremony with permission from the City Hall, so our forces have been deployed to maintain security and public order for them,” Gen. Kheng Tito, spokesman for the National Military Police, told *Xinhua* over phone.

Sam Rainsy said at the event that after the commemoration ceremony, the CNRP will hold a people's congress at the party's headquarters on the outskirts of the capital in the afternoon because the Phnom Penh Municipality did not allow the party to conduct the congress at the Freedom Park.

Xinhua

Thais vote for Senate ahead of crucial deadline for PM

BANGKOK, 30 March — Thais voted on Sunday for half of the country's 150-seat Senate in a key test for Yingluck Shinawatra's troubled government, a day before the prime minister is due to defend herself against negligence charges over a disastrous rice subsidy scheme. Anti-government protesters are in their fifth month of a campaign to force Yingluck out and set in motion political and electoral reforms before a new general election takes place.

Yingluck's opponents want impeachment charges brought against the country's leader over the government's financially ruinous rice scheme. A Senate dominated by anti-government politicians could hasten her exit.

Thailand's 150-seat Senate is made up of 77 elected senators. The other

73 seats are appointed and are seen as allied to the anti-Thaksin establishment.

Anti-government forces want to ensure a conservative, pro-establishment, majority to influence any decision to remove Yingluck which would require the votes of three-fifths of the senators. Yingluck is due to appear before the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) on Monday to defend herself against charges of dereliction of duty for her role in overseeing the botched rice scheme.

While party affiliation is prohibited in the non-partisan Senate, the majority of the 77 elected seats will be decided on the basis of endorsements from powerful, party-affiliated, local institutions, particularly in rural areas, meaning that the result could deliver a pro-Yingluck majority.



Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra (R) checks a list of voters' names before voting at a polling station in Bangkok on 30 March, 2014. Thais voted on Sunday for half of the country's 150-seat Senate in a key test for Yingluck's troubled government, a day before the prime minister is due to defend herself against negligence charges over a disastrous rice subsidy scheme.

REUTERS

“The Senate vote is likely to deliver a result similar to the nullified 2 February election for the lower house, meaning it will be pro-government,” said political analyst Kan Yuenyong at Siam Intelligence Unit.

“However most, around 90 percent, of appointed senators are anti-government so if the Senate is asked to remove Yingluck they're very close to the number of voices needed to do that.”

Reuters

French set to punish Hollande in mayoral runoffs

PARIS, 30 March — French President Francois Hollande's Socialists braced for losses in hundreds of towns and villages in mayoral elections on Sunday, with far-right National Front candidates seen winning a handful of cities for the first time since 1995.

The runoff round of voting comes at the end of a week that saw French unemployment surge to a new record, making a reverse of first round losses unlikely and a cabinet reshuffle by Hollande possible as soon

as Monday.

Some 80 percent of the French want him to dismiss Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault, according to a recent Harris Interactive poll, and ambitious and tough-talking Interior Minister Manuel Valls comes top of their favourites for the job.

“I can't see how (Ayrault) could stay, unless we save about thirty towns, something nobody really believes,” a Socialist Party source said.

Dissatisfaction with Hollande's rule and a string

of legal intrigues involving opposition conservatives are seen hitting turnout and helping the anti-immigrant FN win in the depressed post-industrial north and in southern towns such as Beziers.

Pollsters identify half a dozen FN-run towns emerging after the vote, giving the party a chance to try exercising power two decades after its attempts to run four southern towns it won in 1995 and 1997 revealed its lack of competence.

Reuters



French President Francois Hollande delivers a speech to mark fifty years of diplomatic relations between France and China at the French Foreign Ministry in Paris on 27 March, 2014.—REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Candy Crush brings IPO market back to earth

NEW YORK, 30 March — In the weeks leading up to the IPO of King Digital Entertainment, the company's bankers scrambled to persuade investors that the maker of popular online game "Candy Crush Saga" was more than a one-trick pony, according to a source familiar with the situation.

As the debut approached this week, the bankers' job only got harder. On Tuesday, Facebook Inc said it would pay \$2 billion for Oculus VR, a two-year-old virtual reality startup that has yet to put a product on the market. Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg described the deal as the social media giant's desire to bet on "the platforms of tomorrow."

But for some investors, the deal brought back memories of the Internet

boom and bust in 1998-2001, where profitability and other financial fundamentals of companies took the back seat to a raging fad about anything with a dot-com identity, according to the source.

Bankers underwriting King Digital's offering had to call in favours with investors who had received large allocations in previous successful IPOs, the source said. As a result, King Digital priced the offering at the mid-point of its range of \$21 to \$24. But its shares tanked in Wednesday's debut, falling 16 percent and fell further on Thursday and Friday. King Digital could not be reached immediately for comment.

Wall Street bankers are now looking at the disappointing opening as a

sign that investors are getting more cautious about the IPO market, especially when it comes to technology and biotechnology stocks. Although bankers said companies waiting in the wings so far seemed to want to forge ahead with their IPO plans, the realization is likely to moderate expectations on the size of offerings and valuations.

"You realize that people are going to be a little bit more cautious. You realize that the valuation needs to be reflective of that cautiousness," said Sam Kendall, global head of equity capital markets at UBS AG.

That would mark a sharp turning point for the IPO market, in which investors have been fed a steady diet of new public offerings this year from



Mascots dressed as characters from the mobile video game "Candy Crush Saga" pose during the IPO of Mobile game maker King Digital Entertainment Plc on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange on 26 March, 2014. —REUTERS

companies yet to turn a profit. More than 50 IPOs have priced in 2014, and two-thirds of those are unprofitable, according to Renaissance Capital, an IPO investment advisor.

Still, companies that

have gone public this year have seen their shares rise 33 percent on average from their offer prices, according to Dealogic. "The market has gotten ahead of itself, and you're seeing a pause in speculation, espe-

cially for biotech and some of these new tech names," said Eric Green, senior portfolio manager and director of research at Penn Capital Management in Philadelphia, which oversees \$7.5 billion. —Reuters

Chairman candidate says Telecom Italia must act as true public company

MILAN, 30 March — Giuseppe Recchi, the front-runner to become chairman of Telecom Italia, said Italy's largest telecoms group by market value must act as a true public company and as chairman he would represent all shareholders equally.

In his first interview since he became a candidate for the post, Recchi, who will leave his job as chairman of oil major Eni if elected by Telecom Italia shareholders on 16 April, said he would ensure good corporate governance practices.

The board of Telecom Italia, which has competitor Telefonica and three Italian financial institutions as its core shareholders, has been accused by investors of not caring for the interest of smaller shareholders.

"Telecom has to behave and act as a public company, because of the challenges in the industry and relevance for financial investors, in Italy and abroad," Recchi told Reuters.

"Our intent is to create value in the interest of all shareholders. There are no different types of shareholders, in my view. There is only one category of shareholders, which is 'all' shareholders".



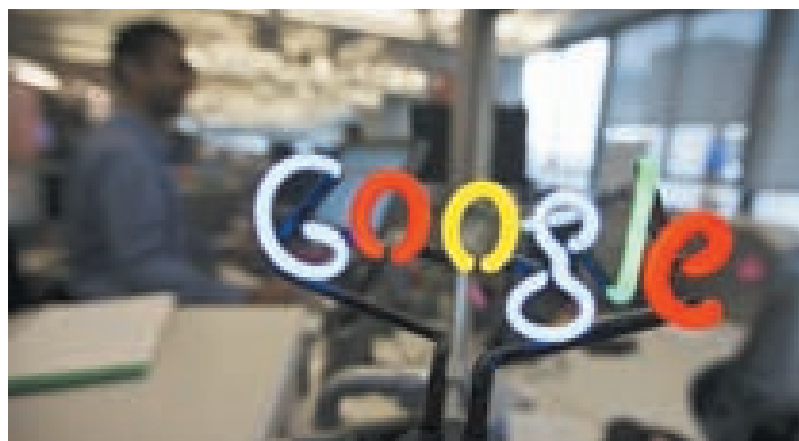
ENI President Giuseppe Recchi poses during a meeting organized by young Confindustria members in Santa Margherita Ligure on 11 June, 2011. —REUTERS

Telefonica and its three allies, Generali, Intesa Sanpaolo and Mediobanca, are united in a shell company, called Telco, that owns 22.4 percent of Telecom Italia. The three financial investors have pledged to exit Telco, with Generali planning to leave it as early as June.

Telco presented a list of candidates for the next Telecom Italia board that sees Recchi as candidate for the chairmanship. Other shareholders have presented different lists of candidates but as Telco is the largest shareholder Recchi is considered the frontrunner for the job.

The current board of Telecom Italia was almost overthrown at a shareholder meeting in December as investors protested against what they said was a lack of transparency and chronic share underperformance at the debt-laden group.

Reuters



A neon Google logo is seen as employees work at the new Google office in Toronto, on 13 Nov, 2012. REUTERS

Apple, Google lose bid to avoid trial on tech worker lawsuit

SAN FRANCISCO, 30 March — A US judge on Friday rejected a request from Apple, Google and two other tech companies to avoid a trial in a class action lawsuit alleging a scheme to drive down wages.

Tech workers sued the companies alleging they conspired to avoid competing for each other's employees in order to avert a salary war. Trial is scheduled to begin in May.

Apple, Google, Intel and Adobe asked for a judgment in their favour without a trial, arguing that any no-hire agreements be-

tween the companies were reached independently, and were not part of an overarching conspiracy. US District Judge Lucy Koh in San Jose, Calif., however, rejected that argument.

"That the agreements were entered into and enforced by a small group of intertwining high level executives bolsters the inference that the agreements were not independent," wrote Koh.

A representative for Adobe could not immediately be reached for comment. An Intel spokesman said the company is studying the ruling, and

representatives for Google and Apple declined to comment. The case began in 2011 when five software engineers sued Apple, Google, Adobe Systems Inc, Intel Corp and others, alleging a conspiracy to suppress pay by agreeing not to recruit or hire each other's employees.

These defendants were accused of violating the Sherman Act and Clayton Act antitrust laws by conspiring to eliminate competition for labour, depriving workers of job mobility and hundreds of millions of dollars in compensation.

Reuters

Panasonic to withdraw from organic EL lighting production

OSAKA, 30 March — Panasonic Corp will withdraw from producing organic electroluminescence panels for lighting due to poor earnings prospects for the panels given the high production costs, company

sources said on Saturday.

A company established jointly with Idemitsu Kosan Co in April 2011 to produce organic EL panels will cease operating at the end of this month and be dissolved.

Panasonic will focus its resources on light-emitting diode lighting, whose application is diversifying due to relatively low production costs as related technology improves, according to the sources. —Kyodo News

Britain to boost agricultural innovation among universities, farms

LONDON, 30 March — The British government has designed a special fund to support agri-businesses and universities to bridge the gap between lab research and the marketplace.

The government funding comes from the 70-million-pound (115-million-US dollar) Agri-Tech Catalyst program announced last year, said the British Department for International Development (DFID) on Friday.

As part of the British Industrial Strategy for Agricultural Technologies, the million-worth program including an urban farm and spin-outs from various universities in the country will share the funding from the government and industry to develop their innovative business ideas, the DFID said. "This funding will make a real difference in bringing innovative ideas from the lab to the marketplace," British Universities and Science Minister David Willetts said.

Some of the projects financed by the fund will look into new farming techniques, such as cultivation of seaweed, and focus on solving problems affecting farmers, including tackling a cattle disease that currently costs the dairy industry over 200 million pounds a year, according to the DFID. —Xinhua

China to open consulate general in Dusseldorf of Germany



Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) meets with North Rhine-Westphalia State Premier Hannelore Kraft in Dusseldorf, Germany, on 29 March, 2014.—XINHUA

DUSSELDORF, 30 March — China will open a consulate general in the German city of Dusseldorf, President Xi Jinping said here on Saturday.

Xi made the announcement during a meeting with

Hannelore Kraft, premier of the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW). The planned consulate general is among Xi's proposals for further cooperation between China and the NRW, one of the most populous and richest states in Germany.

Xi called on both sides to expand cooperation in such areas as economic transformation and sustainable urban development, where the NRW has made remarkable achievements.

The Chinese side welcomes the NRW to take an active part in the building of the Silk Road economic belt, by giving full play to the unique regional position of Port of Duisburg. Both sides should also enhance cultural exchanges, said Xi,

noting that China welcomes the planned exhibition of contemporary Chinese art at various museums of the Ruhr Metropolis in 2015. "I'm confident that the cooperation between the NRW and China will generate more fruitful results," Xi said.

For her part, Kraft said the NRW has enjoyed a close relationship with China, noting that more than 800 Chinese enterprises have settled in the state and over 1,000 NRW enterprises have invested in China.

The NRW is willing to strengthen trade, transport, logistics, and cultural exchanges and cooperation with China, and play a positive role in the development of Germany-China relationship, she added.—Xinhua

N Korea threatens to conduct "new type" of nuclear test

SEOUL, 30 March — North Korea threatened Sunday to conduct a fresh nuclear test if the United States steps up diplomatic pressure on Pyongyang over its recent launch of two medium-range ballistic missiles.

The North Korean Foreign Ministry said in a statement distributed by the official *Korean Central News Agency* that Pyongyang will not rule out testing "a new type" of nuclear weapon.

North Korea fired two medium-range ballistic missiles into the Sea of Japan on Wednesday,

the day the leaders of the United States, Japan and South Korea pledged to boost military cooperation at a trilateral summit in The Hague. The UN Security Council on Thursday unanimously condemned North Korea's missile launch.

In a statement, the Security Council president, Luxembourg UN Ambassador Sylvie Lucas, said the council "agreed to consult on an appropriate response," but she did not elaborate on what possible measures the Security Council might take.

Kyodo News

Kumamoto confab seeks to develop, spread "fair-trade towns" concept

KUMAMOTO, 30 March —Promoters of "fair trade towns" agreed on Sunday to take an inclusive approach in developing and spreading the idea of an ethical consumption movement aimed at helping solve wealth inequalities at global, national and local levels.

"Fair-trade towns movement has so far been somewhat about numbers — about how many towns we can achieve...but it is time to heighten the quality of the movement," said organizer Tatsuya Watanabe, wrapping up the three-day

International Fair Trade Towns Conference.

The goal of the movement is not only the self-sustainability of lower-income producers in developing countries, but also "making our own lives fair and sustainable" in developed countries in light of the negative impact of global neo-liberalism since the 1990s, he said.

The eighth annual conference was held for the first time outside Europe in the southwestern Japan city of Kumamoto, which is the first and only Asian

fair-trade town, having received the status in 2011.

The next meeting will be held in July 2015 in Bristol, England, which became a fair trade city in 2005.

Participants also discussed the so-called Big Tent inclusive approach in campaigning for fair-trade towns and whether they can adopt a "resolution" endorsing it. Watanabe said there was still some way to go, but the conference began discussing the matter, with his own ideas on the approach having evolved.

Kyodo News



Rape flowers are in blossom on terraced fields in Shiyangzhan Village of Ningqiang County, Hanzhong City, northwest China's Shaanxi Province, on 29 March, 2014.—XINHUA

Growing ranks of senile customers pose challenge for Japan Inc

TOKYO, 30 March — As Japanese industries grapple with the social changes brought by the aging of the population, dealing with senile people has become a fact of life in shops and over the bank counter. Supermarket operators and banks have been struggling to figure out how best to handle customers suffering from Alzheimer's disease or other senility disorders, and a government-led care support training initiative is attracting interest as a source of clues.

When shopping in large stores, people with dementia tend to get lost or become erratic, sometimes grabbing food from the shelf and eating it on the spot, for example. At bank branches, it is not unusual to see senile people stand-

ing baffled in front of an ATM as they cannot recall their password.

To address problems like these, many supermarket operators and banks require employees to take a care support training lesson sponsored by the Min-

istry of Health, Labour and Welfare. People who have undergone such training are recognized as "supporters for people with dementia" or dementia care assistants, although the training is nothing more than a one-off lesson lasting just

90 minutes or so. Aeon Co, a major supermarket operator, started adopting this lesson as part of employee education in 2007. By now around 38,000 Aeon employees have taken it.

At Aeon stores, misbehaving customers presumed to be suffering from dementia are quietly taken away, rather than being reprimanded in the open, and their family or a local administrative office is notified as necessary.

The kid-glove approach has spawned a new challenge: some people attempt to shoplift with impunity by pretending to be senile.

In any case, the care support lesson is apparently providing useful guidance. "Previously I was at a loss how to relate (to people with dementia), but

now I listen to them patiently," an employee said.

Among banks, Tokyo Tomin Bank is a particularly eager adopter of the care support program. In just three months from January 2013, all of the bank's 1,600 or so employees took the lesson to become dementia care assistants.

Meanwhile, Hachioji Nagafusa Post Office, located within an aging housing complex in the Tokyo suburb of Hachioji, is doing much more than post offices are supposed to do in support of senile people.

Surrounded by apartments mostly inhabited by elderly families, the post office is visited by more than a few customers presumed to be senile each day.

On one occasion, the

postmaster, Yuriko Asahara, was worried by the sorry sight of a frail woman who regularly came to the post office. The woman looked thinner on each visit, so it occurred to Asahara that she might be eating little. Asahara contacted a local care support center and explained the problem.

In another case, Asahara went out of her way to escort an elderly couple, both presumed to be suffering from dementia, to the care support centre.

"Unless we properly relate to customers with dementia, we can't do business," Asahara said.

By the end of 2013, the number of dementia care assistants under the government-sponsored training initiative surpassed 4.75 million nationwide.

Kyodo News



Photo taken on 10 Feb, 2014 shows a sign indicating a dementia care assistant, or "supporter" for people with dementia, is available at an outlet of Aeon Co in Chiba, Chiba Prefecture.—KYODO NEWS

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MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (849)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (849) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (134)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (134) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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COMPANY is a company in
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LL.B. (C.B.L. LL.M (UK)
For HYUNDAI MOTOR
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Dated, March 31, 2014

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
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.

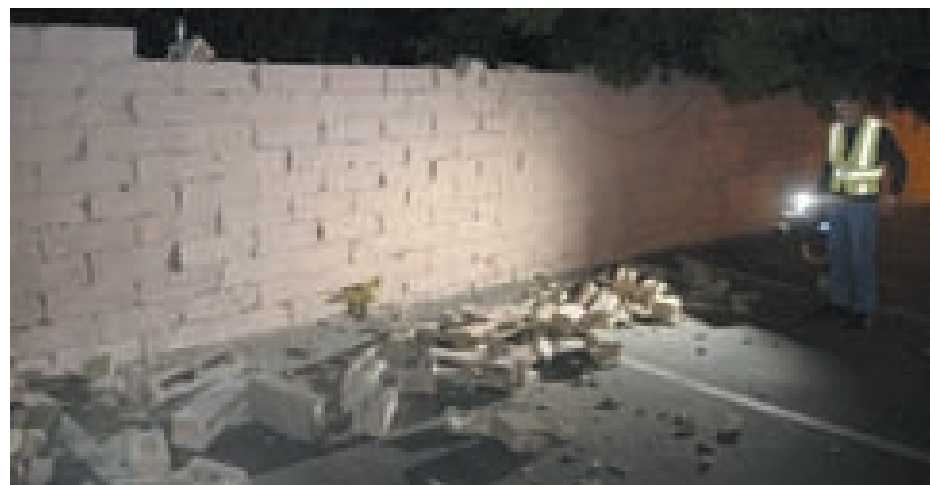
Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB -207(13-14)	5 KW Diesel Engine Driven Generating Set	US\$
(2)	IFB -208(13-14)	Maintenance Requirement for Pipeline Centre (PLC-Daw Nyein)	US\$
(3)	IFB -209(13-14)	Universal Fuel Pump Test Stand	US\$
(4)	IFB -210(13-14)	Spares for CAT D 3512 Dita & CAT D 3406C 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 Quardruble 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

Another earthquake rattles southern California following 5.1 quake



News cameraman Juan Guerra records a video of a fallen brick wall after a magnitude 5.1 earthquake in Fullerton, California on 29 March, 2014.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 30 March —Residents of southern California were rattled by a 4.1 magnitude earthquake 30 Saturday afternoon, the largest of more than 100 aftershocks following Friday's 5.1 rumble that caused light scattered damage around the Los Angeles area.

Saturday's quake rippled through an area near Rowland Heights, California, about 2:32 pm, according to the US Geological Survey. The temblor was considered relatively shallow with a depth of 5.6 miles, the USGS said.

Aftershocks are expected following earthquakes, according to the USGS. Seismologists said there was about a 5 percent chance that Friday's quake, which struck at 9:09 pm, was a foreshock to a bigger temblor.

No injuries were immediately reported from either Saturday's quake or

the more significant earthquake that struck on Friday evening outside La Habra, California, which is about 20 miles east of downtown Los Angeles.

Friday's temblor displaced at least 50 people in Fullerton, about 5 miles from the epicenter, because of minor damage to homes and apartment dwellings, Fullerton Police Lieutenant Mike Chlebowsky said.

As well, a water main break in the city forced the closure of some streets due to flooding, he said.

The quake also shook items off tables, rattled chandeliers and resulted in scattered damage to cars and property, including setting off a rockslide in the Orange County city of Brea that flipped a car on its roof.

Friday's quake was felt as far away as Palm Springs in the east, San Diego in the south and Ventura County to the north. While

not large, the event "seems unusual, of course, because a lot of people felt it," said Doug Given, a USGS geophysicist.

"These quakes occur in populated areas and people try to put two and two together and predict that something more is coming, but that's simply not the case," he said.

The quake shut down Metrolink trains to allow for inspection of tracks and cars. In Anaheim, Disneyland briefly turned off park rides as a precaution and asked guests to remain seated. But the Los Angeles Philharmonic didn't miss a note even as the quake rattled downtown Los Angeles's Walt Disney Concert Hall, *The Los Angeles Times* reported.

"The LA Philharmonic should get combat pay," audience member Michael Healy told the newspaper.

Reuters

Worker dies at Brazil World Cup stadium

SAO PAULO, 30 March —A construction worker died on Saturday in an accident at Sao Paulo's Itaquerao World Cup stadium.

Firefighters said Fabio Hamilton da Cruz, whose age was not immediately disclosed, died after falling 15 metres from a temporary stand being built at the venue.

It is the eighth death reported at Brazil's 12 World Cup stadiums and the third in four months at the Itaquerao.

In a statement, construction firm Fast Engenharia denied negligence, saying strict health and safety requirements were met by all its workers.

The incident comes as Brazil faces increasing pressure to complete its World Cup stadiums.

Three venues remain incomplete despite a December 2013 deadline imposed by football's governing body FIFA.

The Itaquerao will stage the opening match of the tournament between Brazil and Croatia on 12 June.

In December two workers died at the stadium when a crane collapsed. Officials did not say whether Saturday's accident would cause further delays.

Reuters

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International education summit closes in Wellington

WELLINGTON, 30 March—Nearly 400 education ministers and teacher representatives from 25 countries around the world ended a two-day summit in Wellington on Saturday, aimed at closing the gap between rich and poor students.

Delegates to the International Summit on the Teaching Profession discussed ways of improving their education systems and narrowing the difference in achievement between rich and poor.

The delegates said there was strong agreement on the need for high quality teachers and more collaboration between schools and between teachers, Radio New Zealand reported.

They said it was also clear that governments must have strong and positive relationships with teacher unions.

Xinhua

Desire, ice, and fire: 'Game of Thrones' returns for fourth season

NEW YORK, 30 March —Mystical ice creatures, fire-breathing dragons, and the people caught in between return to the small screen come 6 April, when HBO's "Game of Thrones" unsheathes a fourth season that could see it crowned as the cable network's most watched series in history.

The medieval fantasy drama's fan base has grown substantially over its first three seasons, with sizable followings among both men and women thanks to its wrenching interpersonal relationships, complex plotting, and, being HBO, plenty of sex and violence.

The show is based on the "A Song of Ice and Fire" series of novels by George RR Martin, of which five of an expected seven have been published. It takes place in the fictional world of Westeros, following more than two dozen regular characters amid a war for do-between noble houses.

In addition to the squabbling between regions and families, the characters also face external threats, including dragons and the "White Walkers," nearly unkillable creatures from the far northern part of the world who can animate the dead.

The third season of the show climaxed with what is now known as the "Red Wedding," where three primary characters were treacherously murdered along with scores of others at a wedding feast. For some shows, that might be difficult to top, but cast members said this year's season will be even more dynamic, so as to not lose momentum with a growing audience.

"There just seems to be a whole new army of people watching the show for the first time. The more fans you have, the more pressure you feel to keep up the quality of the product," actor John Bradley, said in a recent interview along with other cast members. He plays Samwell Tarly, a member of the Night's Watch, the ancient order that protects Westeros from threats in the frozen north.

Last year, the show averaged 14.4 million viewers across all platforms, only about 50,000 viewers shy of HBO's most-watched show ever, the sixth season of the mob family drama "The Sopranos." Among cable dramas, it is second in viewership, trailing only basic cable's zombie apocalypse saga "The Walking Dead" on AMC Newtworks Inc, which is averaging 17.6 million viewers in its fourth season.—Reuters



Cast members Maisie Williams and Sophie Turner arrive for the season four premiere of the HBO series "Game of Thrones" in New York on 18 March, 2014. REUTERS

Londoners fall in love with cat cafe

LONDON, 30 March—People like coffee and people love cats so together they make the paws that refresh at a London cat cafe that is so popular it's booked out until June.

Lady Dinah's Cat Emporium on the fringe of London's financial district is cashing in on an idea first popularised in Japan to allow stressed-out workers to wind down by stroking a

cat while sipping a cappuccino or latte - or tea, if you prefer.

"The idea is you can come have a peaceful lunch or high tea and be surrounded by cats. If you're

lucky one of them will fall asleep on your lap," said Anna Kogan, an investment banker who is co-owner of Dinah's along with Australian Lauren Pears.

Part-financed by a crowdfunding campaign which raised more than 109,000 pounds (\$181,100) in less than two months, the cafe, which opened its doors on 1 March, is already a runaway success.

Cat lovers stormed the cafe's online booking system within hours of its launch, making more than 3,000 bookings and causing the system to temporarily crash. It is fully booked until the end of June.

"I thought that it would be really really cool to just hang out with loads and loads of cats," said recent patron Christy McCormick.—Reuters



Pedestrians look at a cat in a window at the Lady Dinah's Cat Emporium in London on 28 March, 2014. REUTERS

Shah Rukh Khan: My parents went too early

MUMBAI, 30 March—Superstar Shah Rukh Khan was in a nostalgic mood on Saturday (29 March) as he missed his parents, who he feels "went too early".

"Talking to boys on the sets. We talked of our parents. Miss my parents now on the drive back from the shoot. They went too early," the 48-year-old posted on his Twitter page early Saturday morning (29 March).

The actor's father Taj Mohammed Khan, who came from Peshawar, had died of cancer



Shah Rukh Khan

when SRK was all of 15, while his mother died in 1990 after prolonged illness.

Shah Rukh, a proud father of three — Aryan, Suhana and AbRam, often shares his thoughts about his parents via the online micro-blogging website.

Currently, he is busy shooting for Farah Khan's Happy New Year with actors Abhishek Bachchan, Sonu Sood, Boman Irani, Vivaan Shah and Deepika Padukone. PTI

Vidya Balan: No plans to join politics

MELBOURNE, 30 March —National award-winning actress Vidya Balan, who is on a mini break from her hectic career, says she has no plans to join politics and will stick to her acting career.

"I don't have a political bent of mind except that I will cast my vote like a responsible citizen of India," Vidya Balan told reporters during the launch of Indian Film Festival of Melbourne (IFFM). She said she was honoured to be the brand ambassador of the festival third time with the 2014 being the special one as the festival will be inaugurated by Bollywood legend Amitabh

Bachchan on 1 May.

Vidya is on her two-day trip to Australia and would be returning back tonight to receive Padma Shree award on Monday in New Delhi.

Expressing her gratitude for all the awards and appreciations she has received in the past, Vidya Balan said, "As long as I get exciting parts to play, work with good filmmakers and team, I think that is what I am hoping for. Everything else follows. I have never pursued or

worked towards an award but good work is always what one hopes for," Vidya said. PTI



Vidya is currently on a break from her hectic career.

GENERAL

No honours at the Palace for Chelsea, Man City held

LONDON, 30 March — Chelsea suffered a shock 1-0 defeat at Crystal Palace while Manchester City were held to a 1-1 draw at Arsenal on Saturday, opening the door for Liverpool to go top of the Premier League in their home game on Sunday.

Jose Mourinho's Chelsea sank to their first defeat by Palace in 24 years after captain John Terry headed a Joel Ward cross into his own goal early in the second half amid suggestions the ball touched home defender Joe Ledley's hand on the way in.

The Stamford Bridge club stayed top on 69 points but could be overtaken by Liverpool who are a point behind going into their game in hand against Tottenham Hotspur at Anfield on Sunday. Title favourites City are third on 67 points with two games in hand on Chelsea. "Now I feel it's impossible to win the title," manager Mourinho told Sky Sports. "We depend too much on other results. Two weekends ago we lost three points (to Aston Villa) and now it is too much about other results."

David Silva opened the

scoring for City in the 18th minute before Mathieu Flamini equalised soon after the break to earn a draw for fourth-placed Arsenal who are on 64 points and retain outside title hopes.

Champions Manchester United ended a week of turmoil with a 4-1 win over Aston Villa, a double by England striker Wayne Rooney easing the pressure on manager David Moyes.

Palace's victory lifted them to fifth from bottom with 31 points, five clear of the relegation zone, and Selhurst Park was rocking at the end of the game with the joyous home fans belting out their 'Glad All Over' anthem. Chelsea, who have six matches left, thrashed Arsenal 6-0 last weekend but gave a limp display against Tony Pulis' Palace who had failed to win in their previous five matches, scoring just once.

The Eagles grabbed the only goal when Terry headed the ball into his own net at the near post in the 52nd minute, leaving keeper Petr Cech stranded.

Eden Hazard had two opportunities to haul the visitors level but could not find a way past inspired



Crystal Palace's Kagisho Dikgacoi (R) challenges Chelsea's Gary Cahill during their English Premier League soccer match at Selhurst Park in London on 29 March, 2014.—REUTERS

keeper Julian Speroni. Palace also had several chances to make the game safe with a series of lively counter attacks. "We were threatening and played fantastically well," Pulis said. "We have seven games left to get the points we need and it's going to be tough."

City started brightly at the Emirates Stadium with Pablo Zabaleta and Jesus Navas causing problems down the right while Arsenal had a penalty appeal turned down at the other end when Zabaleta tripped Tomas Rosicky.

When the opening goal arrived it was little surprise

that it was created and finished by the impressive Silva. He fed Edin Dzeko and when the striker's shot rebounded off the bar, the Spain playmaker slotted the ball home.

Flamini had a goal ruled out for offside but made no mistake second time round when Lukas Podolski found the Frenchman in the box and he scuffed his shot beyond the reach of keeper Joe Hart.

It was the first goal City had conceded in six matches and Flamini's first at the Emirates since 2008.

"I think it's a good point," said visiting manager Manuel Pellegrini. "We were maybe unlucky and we came to win."

"Before they scored we had a clear chance to make it 2-0. Arsenal had no clear chances - just the goal. Football is like that."

Seventh-placed Manchester United secured a welcome win over a spirited Villa, lifting some of the gloom surrounding Moyes' dismal first term in charge. Goals by England trio Jay Rodriguez (2), Rickie Lambert and Adam Lallana helped Southampton rout a toothless Newcastle United 4-0. Swansea City defeated Norwich City 3-0 while Peter Odemwingie notched the only goal in Stoke City's 1-0 triumph over Hull City.—Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(31-3-2014, Monday)

- 6:00 am
- 1. Paritta By Venerable Min gun Sayadaw
- 6:25 am
- 2. Physical Exercise
- 6:35 am
- 3. Nice & Sweet Song
- 7:00 am
- 4. News/Weather Report
- 7:20 am
- 5. People Talks
- 8:30 am
- 8. Documentary
- 9:00 am
- 9. News/International News
- 9:30 am
- 10. Cartoon Series
- 12:00 pm
- 11. News/International News/Weather Report
- 12:25 pm
- 12. Myanmar Movies
- 2:30 pm
- 13. Musical Programme
- 3:00 pm
- 14. News
- 3:15 pm
- 15. Documentary
- 4:00 pm
- 16. News
- 4:45 pm
- 17. Documentary
- 5:00 pm
- 18. News
- 5:30 pm
- 17. India Drama Series
- 6:00 pm
- 19. News/Weather Report
- 6:20 pm
- 20. Documentary
- 6:40 pm
- 21. TV Drama Series
- 7:00 pm
- 21. News
- 8:00 pm
- 22. News/International News/Weather Report
- 8:35 pm
- 23. Monthly Weather Report
- 9:00 pm
- 24. News
- 24. Documentary
- 25. Teleplay

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(31-3-14 07:00am~
1-4-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Arts of Myanmar Traditional Tapestry
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Portraiture
- * Local News
- * Secret Places For Yummy Food (Ep-3) (Min Lane Mont Tee)
- * World News
- * In The Studio (Win Lei Thu)
- * Local News
- * Journey To Unimaginable Spots (Ep-9)
- * World News
- * Nang
- * Local News
- * A Visit To Today's Along-Daw-Katthapha
- * World News
- * Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting
- * Local News
- * An Oasis Trip to Mt. Popa
- * World News
- * Photographer: Kyaw Win Hlaing (YUC)
- * Local News
- * Inlay Lake and Its Challenges
- * World News
- * Dengue Fever
- * Local News
- * Me N My Travel (Wonderful Pagodas On The Mount Akauk)
- * World News
- * Traditional Snacks
- * Local News
- * The Stories of The Great Souls (Daw Saw Mone Nyin- A Living Literary Legend Of Myanmar)
- * World News
- * Wholesale Fish

Lithuania celebrates anniversary of joining NATO

VILNIUS, 30 March — The ceremony to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Lithuania's joining NATO was conducted Saturday in the presidential palace where flags of Lithuania and NATO hoisted.

Addressing to the ceremony, President Dalia Grybauskaitė said, "Membership in this alliance (NATO) opened a chapter of new values in the history of our country. Our expectations about Lithuania's security have been fulfilled." "The partners in NATO have demonstrated that we are not alone in the face of threat," she added.

The president's remarks came after some Western powers reaffirmed their defence commitments

in the Baltic region. US Vice President Joe Biden paid a visit to Lithuania and Poland last week amid the Ukraine crisis, stressing the collective defence commitment of the US under NATO.

British Prime Minister David Cameron reaffirmed on Wednesday NATO's commitment to providing certainty and security to its Baltic member states.

Ten F-15 fighter jets and one KC-135 aerial refueling aircraft from the US are stationed in Lithuania for air patrol mission.

A group of F-16 fighters from Denmark will be dispatched to the Baltics this May for air patrol. Lithuania joined NATO on 29 March, 2004.—Xinhua



Swansea City's Jonjo Shelvey (L) is challenged by Norwich City's Wes Hoolahan with Leon Britton (R) during their English Premier League soccer match at the Liberty Stadium in Swansea, Wales, on 29 March, 2014.—REUTERS

Fulham 1—3 Everton

LONDON, 30 March—Everton recorded a fifth successive Premier League win to continue their push for a Champions League berth, dumping Fulham further in trouble.

Kevin Mirallas and Steven Naismith scored late goals to seal victory.

Ashkan Dejagah had levelled for Fulham after half-time substitute Naismith had created the opener when his shot was

deflected in by David Stockdale.

Manager Roberto Martinez introduced Naismith and within five minutes was rewarded with the opening goal.

The Scotland international let fly from the edge of the box after Richardson had half-cleared a corner, and the low shot struck William Kvist before going in off Stockdale.



Everton's Steven Naismith celebrates after scoring third goal against Fulham at Craven Cottage in London on 30 March.

Magway FC's three straight win to reach third place in MNL 2014

Yangon, 30 March—Magway FC reached third place of the table in Myanmar National League after beating Zwegabin United 1-0 at Aung San Stadium in Yangon on Sunday.

Although defender Nyi Nyi was sent off out of the pitch by the referee in the second half of the match, midfielder Aung Sho Tha Maung's last-minute goal made

sure three consecutive win for ten-men Magway FC. Both teams missed many chances to change as goal to move top of the table and fought each other to earn deserved point.

Nay Pyi Taw FC stood first with 22 points, followed by Yadanarbon FC with 21 points and Magway FC third with 18 points in Myanmar National League 2014.—Byline:Nyi Myat Thawda

Players from Magway FC and Zwegabin United vying for the ball during Myanmar National League match at Aung San Stadium in Yangon on 30 March.—PHOTO: SOE NYUNT



Williams beats Li to claim seventh Miami title



MIAMI, 30 March—Proving there is no place like home, world number one Serena Williams swept past China's Li Na 7-5, 6-1 in the final of the Sony Open on Saturday, collecting a record seventh win on the Miami hardcourts.

Williams, who lives an hour's drive from the Tennis Centre at Crandon Park and considers the tournament her home event, treated the second ranked Li like an unwelcome guest, needing just two hours on a steamy centre court to collect her 59th career title, the \$787,000 winner's purse pushing her career earnings over \$55 million.

In 14 appearances at the Miami event Williams has driven back to her Palm Beach Gardens home with the trophy half the time, her seven titles two better than the five each she has won at Australian, US Open and Wimbledon grand slams.

After watching Li's forehand return slam into

the net to end the contest, a delighted Williams danced around the court, raising seven fingers in the air signaling each of her Miami titles.

"I was actually super excited at the end, because I remember sitting here last year trying to get to six, obviously I wanted seven but I don't want to put the pressure on myself to get to seven," said Williams, who had shared the tournament record of six titles with Andre Agassi. "I wanted to have the most titles here."

"I guess that I've grown up coming to this tournament as a kid, watching so many players and to be one of those players now is really, really awesome for me."

While Williams was critical of her performance earlier in the tournament, calling it unprofessional, the 32-year-old American has been at her best against top players, winning 15 straight over top 10 opponents.

"I feel like when

Serena Williams (right) holds the championship trophy as Li Na (left) holds the runner-up trophy after the final of the Sony Open at Crandon Tennis Centre. Williams won 7-5, 6-1. —REUTERS

you're going up against the top players, for me, I have to be ready because they are the best in the world, the whole planet," said Williams. "So you have to be ready to play."

"I enjoy playing people that are ranked like that because I feel like I can eventually bring out the

best in me."

A minority owner in the National Football League Miami Dolphins, a smiling Williams stepped out onto centre court to wild applause from the home crowd dressed in the orange and turquoise colours of her team.

The ovation, however,

failed to inspire Williams as a determined Li seized the early initiative, breaking the American to open the contest and again in the seventh game to storm to a 5-2 lead.

But with Li serving for the set, Williams made her stand, overwhelming her Chinese opponent by sweeping 11 of the next 12 games.

"I don't think I was playing bad," said Li. "Maybe she just started to play a little bit better after 5-2 down."

"I don't think today I was doing a wrong game plan or I was play totally wrong."

"I think it was pretty good match."

Williams launched her comeback by fighting off two set points to record her first break at 5-3 and broke again at 5-5 to get back on level terms against an unsteady Li. A screaming, fist-pumping Williams, now in top gear, held serve to take the lead for the first time and then added one

more break to steal the first set from a crumbling Li, who was now in full meltdown.

Williams may have needed a while to warm up on a hot humid afternoon but once on track there seemed little Li could do to derail the 17-times grand slam winner.

Li held her opening serve of the second set but a ruthless Williams moved in quickly to deliver the knockout punch roaring through the next five games.

"I definitely don't do it on purpose," said Williams when asked about her slow start. "Everyone comes out there, they come really strong."

"Sometimes I do get off to a slow start, but then again, sometimes I get off to a fast start."

"I think for the most part, I try to do the best I can and sometimes things I'm doing don't work out, but they are the right things and eventually they start to work."—Reuters