

President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Lithuania

NAY PYI TAW, 11 March—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to Her Excellency Mme. Dalia Grybauskaitė, President of the Republic of Lithuania, and His Excellency Mr. Algirdas Butkevičius, Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Lithuania, which falls on 11 March 2015.

MNA

Seed supply shortfall prompts invitation to private investors

By Aye Min Soe

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March — In a bid to solve

the ongoing problem of insufficient seed supply to farmers, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

has invited private investors to enter the seed production sector, offering technical assistance for quality inspection and certification.

Local authorities

should seek ways of inviting investors to develop region- and state-wise seed industries, said Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Tun Than.

The ministry can meet just 10 per cent of demand for rice seeds from farmers, according to an official.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and local seed companies produced 7.25 million baskets of rice seeds in total for the rainy season cultivation of the 2014-2015 FY.

A number of foreign seed companies are operating with local companies under a joint venture system, importing and selling seeds in the country.

“In fact, foreign seed companies are willing to invest 100 per cent in the seed production sector. To do it, they need permission from Myanmar Investment Commission and legal protection for their own products,” said U Naing Kyi Lin, Deputy Director-General of (See page 2)

Gov’t forms inquiry commission into protest dispersal in front of Yangon City Hall

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March— President U Thein Sein signed an order Tuesday to form a commission of inquiry into the dispersal of protesters who called for the amendment of the National Education Law in front of Yangon City Hall on 5 March.

The commission will be led by Chairman Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun, deputy minister of Home Affairs, and Secretary U Saw Tun Aung Myint, Yangon Region minister for Kayin ethnic affairs, together with deputy attorney-general U Tun Tun Oo, retired deputy director-general Dr Than Aung, and retired civil service officer U Mya Ngwe.

The commission is assigned to investigate whether security forces acted properly in dispersing the protesters, and whether the authorities responsible acted in line with legal procedures, while also seeking measures to prevent such cases in the future.

The order also mentioned that the tasks of the commission will be facilitated by the Yangon Region government, with the inquiry body having legal authority to summon witnesses, check documents, and examine the scene of the protest.

The commission’s report will be submitted directly to the President on 31 March at the latest.—MNA

As paddy is Myanmar’s staple food, farmers are engaged in cultivation of various species of paddy. Agriculturists concentrate production of quality paddy seeds to be supplied to farmers.

PHOTO:
AYE MIN
SOE



Project delivers safe drinking water to Ayeyawady Delta

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 10 March— Work will soon begin to supply safe drinking water to villages where arsenic contamination poses a serious health risk, under a collaborative project to be implemented in Ayeyawady Region.

The three-year project in the region’s Thabaung Township will be conducted with the assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Ministry of Health, in cooperation with Japan’s University of Miyazaki.

“The township comprises seven villages and has 5,000 residents,”

Dr Khin Phyu Phyu, director of National Poison Control Centre, the Department of Medical Research (Lower Myanmar), said at Saturday’s seminar in Yangon.

The main aim of the project is to promote environmental health in arsenic-contaminated areas of the country. It includes construction of safe water facilities, establishment of maintenance systems, and education for residents.

“Before the project, we will collect and analyse resident’s basic health data and conduct medical examinations in the (See page 2)

ASEAN, India aim to strengthen economic, security ties in Delhi Dialogue VII

By Ye Myint

DELHI (India), 10 March—A two-day strategic dialogue among the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and India begins Wednesday in New Delhi, with the aim of broadening ties between the 10-member regional block and the world’s second-most populous nation.

Bringing together members of the strategic community, thinks tanks, academics and opinion makers from ASEAN and their Indian counterparts, the seventh Delhi Dialogue

will focus on political, security and economic issues in shaping the post-2015 agenda for the ASEAN-India partnership.

In addition to discussions on common security challenges faced by ASEAN members and India, (See page 2)

Photo of India Gate at the centre of New Delhi, which is hosting the seventh Delhi Dialogue between ASEAN and India for two days starting from Wednesday.

PHOTO: YE MYINT



Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw explains laws on electioneering and campaigning activities

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March — A representative from the TadaU constituency asked the Pyithu Hluttaw here on Tuesday about public campaigns for what action would be taken against in violation of the law on electioneering, with an official of the Union Election Commission responding that nobody is above the election law and that lawsuits could be filed in police stations as for violation of laws prescribed

in Section 13.

The Union Election Commission announced the Election Law to take action against violators on 16 January this year, according to the official.

An MP from Myebon asked whether incumbent representatives and candidates need to abide by the electioneering law and the election law, to which the same UEC official responded, stating that they all must obey the laws.

UEC has announced that the general elections have been scheduled for late October or early November this year, with the official saying that political parties are found soliciting for votes although the commission has not yet officially designated the canvass period.

He also spoke of speeches and leaflet distribution must be in line with the existing law and the election law.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw

Construction ministry giving compensations for land seizures in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March — Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin said the ministry has given some compensations for land confiscations in Lewe and Pinyinmana townships for construction of Lewe-Pinyinmana Highway.

During Amyotha Hluttaw session Tuesday, U Kyaw Lwin replied to the query of U Hmat Gyi from Mandalay Region

constituency No.9, saying the ministry has compensate K407.11 million from Union Budget (Additional) to 217 farmers for 319.88 acres from December 28, 2014 to January 13 2015.

He added the five remaining farmers will get compensations for a total of 7.8 acre in March after the land prices have been approved by local scrutinizing committee.

The union minister also said that compensation will be given to 265 farmers for their 170.34 acres of vacant lands, 169.97 cultivated land and two buildings after the prices have been approved by relevant committees.

Deputy Minister for

Defence Maj-Gen Kyaw Nyunt said the farmers who are cultivating crops in army-owned lands will get loans from Myawady Bank and Inwa Bank if they agreed to sign they are temporarily working on these lands.

The deputy minister also said these farmers will need approvals and recommendations for their property or the agreement of the military base concerned to return loans if the debtors failed to do so.

Then, Amyotha Hluttaw members viewed video record that carries discussion about amendment of the bill for National Education Law.

MNA

Vietnamese delegation on goodwill visit to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March — A delegation led by Vice President Madam Nguyen Thi Doan of the Social Republic of Vietnam arrived at the international airport here on Tuesday evening, officials said.

The Vietnamese delegation was welcomed at the airport by Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw and officials.—MNA

Deputy Minister U Thant Kyaw welcomes Vice President Madam Nguyen Thi Doan of SRV at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.—MNA

**Police clear Letpadan protest site**

LETPADAN, 10 March — Police arrested 127 protesters after clashes with police in Letpadan, Bago region, Tuesday.

Protesters against National Education Law forcibly tried to liberate from the surrounding of police, turning the sit-in protest to

violence between the both sides.

A total of 16 police were wounded in the incident. The arrested protest-

ers include 52 male students, 13 female students, 62 civilians including 55 male and seven women, totalling 127, according to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

009

“It would be OK if MIC (Myanmar Investment Commission) relaxed its rules for the seed production sector to a certain extent as an exception, allowing farmers to have good quality seeds, good harvests and good incomes,” he said.

Though the PVP law and the Copyright Law

have not yet been enacted, the Myanmar Seed Law provides guarantees for registration and punishment for fraud, he added.

Around four local companies and foreign firms have formed joint ventures in the sector and are awaiting permission from the Myanmar Investment Commission to produce certified rice seeds in the country.

Some local companies are importing seeds of other crops and selling them in the country.

GNLM

ASEAN, India aim to . . .

(from page 1)

the conference is scheduled to hold sessions exploring the potential for increasing business and economic ties, as well as others dedicated to cultural and development matters.

The partners have identified cooperation in education and skill development fields, integration of regional production networks, and promotion of social and cultural links among their peoples as areas of priority.

The Ministry of External Affairs of India is organizing Delhi Dialogue VII in partnership with the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA) and other stakeholders.

GNLM

Project delivers safe drinking water to . . .

(from page 1)

project area,” Dr Khin Phyu Phyu said.

The doctor said arsenic is a naturally occurring contaminant. It is a component of certain underground rocks, with small quantities being dissolved in groundwater as a result of weathering.

If ingested over long periods, even low concentrations can cause damage to health, including hy-

per-pigmentation of the skin, liver and kidney disorders, as well as various types of cancer.

Safety and accessibility of drinking water is a major concern throughout the world. According to the World Health Organization, there have been 4,600 million diarrhoea cases annually and 2.2 million deaths attributed to drinking unsafe water.—GNLM



Protesters are violence in destroying police barriers at Letpadan protest site.—MNA

NATIONAL

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of Managing Director U Aung Nyunt Thein of Myanma Gems Enterprise under the Ministry of Mines on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

The president of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed the following persons as heads of service organizations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Tin Oo Head of Department (teaching and training) Myanmar Mercantile Marine College Ministry of Transport	Principal Myanmar Mercantile Marine College Ministry of Transport
(b) U Aye Hsan Deputy Director-General Hydropower Administration Department Ministry of Electric Power	Director-General Hydropower Implementa- tion Department Ministry of Electric Power

Myanmar cooperates in judicial training in ASEAN

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March—Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo attended the 3rd ASEAN Chief Justices Meeting (ACJM) in Boracay island, the Philippines, from 1 to 3 March.

The meeting focused on establishment of ASEAN Judicial Portal, connection with ASEAN Secretariat to implement the decisions of the meeting, cooperation of Myanmar in judicial training, process of summon for civil cases among ASEAN countries, and promotion of cooperation in court technology case management among ASEAN countries. The first meeting was held in Singa-



Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo poses for documentary photo with delegates to 3rd ASEAN Chief Justices Meeting.—MNA

pore, the second in Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia and the third in Boracay island, the Philippines.—MNA

Yangon sees mass rallies, two official and one unofficial

YANGON, 10 March—Mass rallies were organized in two townships in Yangon Region on Tuesday, with each rally comprising nearly 500 people.

The mass rally in Taikkyi gathered in front of the town hall and marched along the Yangon-Pyay Road till they reached the Gyophyu sport ground.

A participant said the rally called for coordination and negotiation on the disputed education law, raising concern over the negative effects the ongoing student protests might have on the matriculation examinations, which are scheduled for 11 March. The rally sought permission from local authorities.



Protesters march near Hledan junction in Kamayut Township.

PHOTO: THAW HEIN HTET (IRRAWADDY)

In the mass rally in Okkan, participants carried

banners and placards reading “We want peace and stability”, “Rule of law and order”, “No disruptions in exam seasons” and “Find solutions through negotiations and coordinations”.

Kamayut, a township in Yangon Region, saw an unofficial mass rally near the Hledan market in the

afternoon, with participants carrying banners reading ‘Main student columns of democracy education’.

Shouting slogans, the 60-strong rally marched along Pyay Road and dispersed near the Yangon Institute of Education following some negotiation with authorities.—MNA

Government troops retake insurgent-held hills

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March — Government troops mounted attacks on Kokang insurgent-based hills in the vicinity of the village of Lonhtan, taking some hills after four air-strikes on 9 March, officials said.

Heavy fighting ensued on Tuesday morning

as the army shelled rebel bases near the border of Myanmar and China. The military columns captured some strategic hills, continuing their launch of massive security operations in nearby areas.

Clashes left the army with two dead and seven wounded.—Myawady

A map show clashes between Tatmadaw and Kokang insurgents in Laukkai region.

MYAWADY



Union FM sends message of felicitations to Lithuania

NAY PYI TAW, 11 March—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Linas Antanas Linkevičius, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Lithuania, which falls on 11 March 2015.

MNA

Public Announcement for remonstrance

The Democracy and Peace Party headquartered at No. 14 on 161st Street in Tamwaygyi A+C Ward, Tamway Township, Yangon Region, registered by the Union Election Commission as a political party under the Article 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law, submitted an application to change its flag and logo as below.

It is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party's flag and logo may submit a complaint along with the strong evidences within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement in line with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules.

Flag of Democracy and Peace Party



Logo of Democracy and Peace Party



Union Election Commission

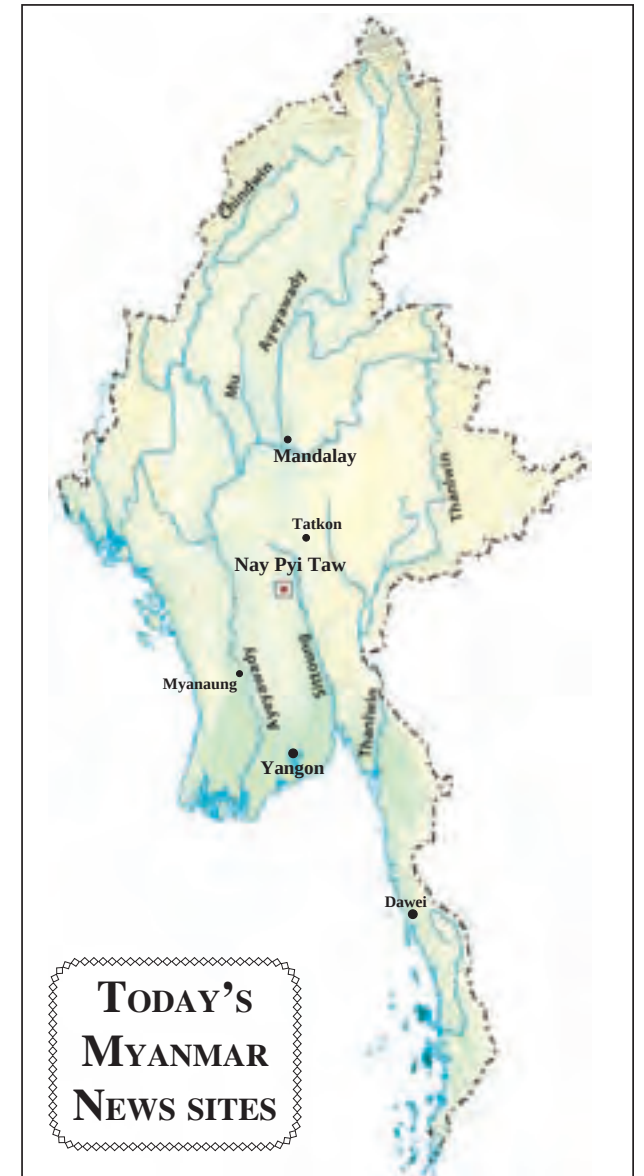
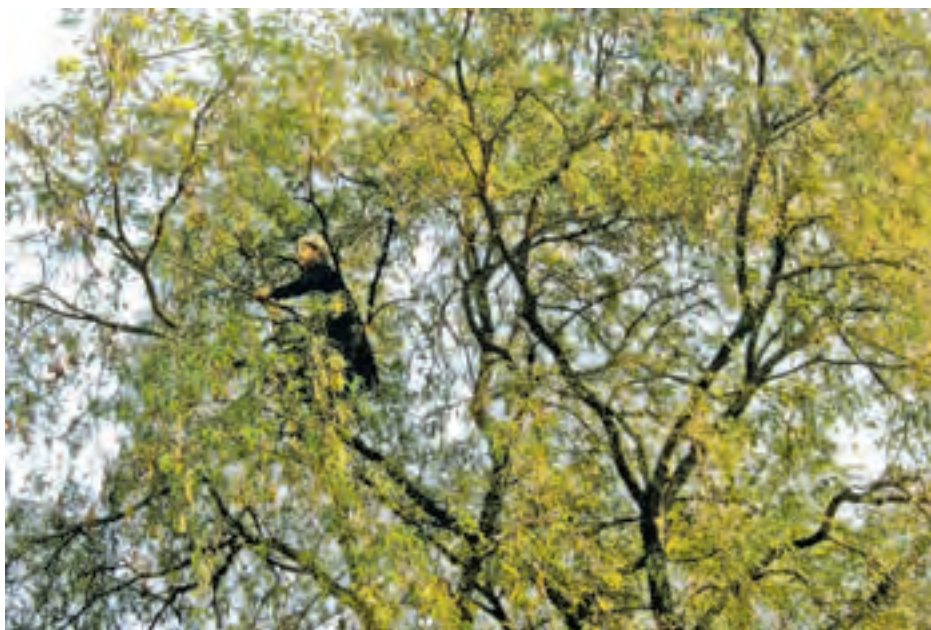
Youths study Buddhist culture in summer holidays

DAWEI, 10 March — A Buddhist culture course aimed at helping young people become conscientious followers of the religion began this week at the hall of Myoma Sasana Yeiktha on Myeik Road in Dawei, Taninthayi Region.

Organized by the Buddhist Culture Development Group of Dawei Township, instructors gave lectures on basic knowledge about Buddhism and Buddhist culture to the youths.

More than 600 youths from Dawei District and surrounding areas are attending the one-month course from 8 March to 8 April.

Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)



TATKON, 10 March — With tamarind fruits having come into season, rural residents are busy harvest-

ing and sorting crops in the prime growing area of Takton Township in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

The fruit can be found on many wild-growing trees around the township in addition to those planted

by land owners.

Rural residents of the township's Kantha Village have been sorting tamarind fruits to earn extra income in addition to their main agricultural work.

Depending on the number of fruits, local residents have bought tamarind plants from owners since June and July every year. In February and March, plant owners need to hire labourers to pick the fruits, paying labourers up to K5,000 per day.

Despite buying K30,000 to K40,000 per plant, owners can earn K300,000 to K400,000 profit per tree after production.

Tin Soe Lwin (IPRD)

Senior librarians share tips of trade with trainees

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March — As part of its push to improve literacy countrywide, the Information and Public Relations Department has been opening a succession of ward and village libraries across the nation.

A basic librarian course began at the hall of Dekkhina District IPRD in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Tuesday, with an address by Director (Information/Relations) U Aung Ngwe of IPRD (Head Office).

Trainees will receive the opportunity to study the courses on the durability of libraries, the role of the library in development of human resources, the history of libraries, the democratisation process and public service media, procedures of librarianship, and public librarian service.

Senior librarians of the department will share their experience with 51 ward and village librarians from the district in a three-day course from 10 to 12 March.

Tun Tun Win (Pyinmana)



Under Special Moe Pwint Project, Head of Dawei Township Immigration and National Registration Department U Nyi Nyi Zaw and staff issue citizenship scrutiny cards to 214 people and household registration certificates to 15 households in Zaha Village-tract in Dawei Township, Taninthayi Region, on 8 March.

PO SHWE THUN



State School of Fine Arts under Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture conducted the summer painting course and dancing course on 9 March, attended by about 70 youths from Mandalay and surrounding towns. Under the supervision of Principle Daw Khaing Thazin Htwe, artists U Soe Win Aung, Daw Phyto Yin Win, Daw Thida Swe and Daw Lin Lin Aye give painting training to trainees in one-month course as of 9 March.

TIN MAUNG (MANDALAY)



REGIONAL



The third plenary meeting of the third session of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) is held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, on 10 March, 2015.

XINHUA

Malaysian parliament observes minute's silence on MH370

KUALA LUMPUR, 10 March — A minute's silence was observed in Malaysia's parliament on Tuesday to mark the one-year anniversary of the disappearance of Malaysia Airlines' MH370 flight.

"The MH370 tragedy has truly touched the whole nation. The members of parliament and me hope, while rescue efforts are still on going, that the families and victims of the incident will continue to remain strong throughout the ordeal," Speaker Pandikar Amin Mulia said.

The Malaysia Airlines plane disappeared en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on 8 March, 2014 with 239 people on board. So far no trace has been found de-

spite a massive surface and underwater hunt.

The massive search has been jointly carried out by Australia, Malaysia and China in the Indian Ocean some 1,600 kilometres off Australia's west coast, with four ships using sophisticated sonar systems to scour a huge underwater area. The vessels are focusing on a 60,000-square-kilometre priority zone, with the hunt scheduled to end in May.

An interim statement accompanied by a 587-page report containing factual information was released by a 19-member independent international investigation team which was set up by Malaysia's Ministry of Transport.

Xinhua

Sanyo Shinkansen bullet train marks 40th anniversary

OSAKA, 10 March — The Sanyo Shinkansen Line, Japan's second-oldest bullet train service that covers the western part of Japan, marked the 40th anniversary of its full operation on Tuesday, having carried a total of 2.5 billion passengers.

After the initial operation to link Shin-Osaka and Okayama stations in 1972, the line was extended west to Hakata station in Fukuoka Prefecture in the southwestern main island of Kyushu three years later.

Around 180,000 passengers take the train every day on average at present, according to West Japan Railway Co which runs the Sanyo Shinkansen Line.

JR West developed the Nozomi 500 series bullet train in 1997 which set a

world speed record of 300 kilometres per hour at that time, shortening the travel time between Shin-Osaka and Hakata to two hours and 17 minutes from the previous three hours and 44 minutes.

Following the 500 series, the company introduced more high-speed trains including the latest Nozomi N700 series, due to intensifying competition with rising low-cost airlines.

In 2011, the Sanyo Shinkansen Line was connected with the newly launched Kyushu Shinkansen Line that runs through Kyushu to expand its service area.

The Mizuho high-speed train now runs between Shin-Osaka and Kagoshima Chuo stations in about three hours and 40 minutes.

develop by Thursday that could hit the northwest coast by the weekend.

Current models indicate the weather pattern is likely to affect the West Pilbara region, which is home to many large iron ore mines.

A second cyclone is also expected to develop off Australia's east coast by Thursday as a tropical low south of Papua New Guinea moves slowly westward, the bureau said.

Should a cyclone make landfall, it will be the second east coast storm in recent weeks after Cyclone Marcia flooded homes and businesses and knocked out power lines on 20 February.

Insurance Australia Group (IAG.AX) is facing 3,500 claims totalling up to A\$90 million (\$70 million), although the state's mining and agricultural sectors suffered little damage. —Reuters



A Shinkansen bullet train departs JR Hakata station in Fukuoka Prefecture, southwestern Japan, on 10 March, 2015, during a ceremony to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the opening of the extended Sanyo Shinkansen Line. —KYODO NEWS

With several commemorative ceremonies held along the line on Tuesday, Toshihiko Kunihiro, head of JR West's Osaka branch, pledged to continue to improve its services and pursue safe operations at a ceremony at Shin-Osaka station.

"The full operations (linking between Osaka and Hakata) became a driver of economic development in the Kyushu area," said Hiroshi Ogawa, governor of Fukuoka Prefecture, in a separate ceremony at Hakata station.

Kyodo News

Forty years after escaping war, 'boat people' find fortune back in Vietnam

HO CHI MINH CITY, 10 March — As one of the Vietnam War's final battles raged four decades ago, Quynh Pham lay with her

mother in a field covered in a stranger's blood. They survived only by pretending to be dead.

They were among an

exodus of over a million South Vietnamese who fled oppression and uncertainty before and after US forces retreated and vic-

torious North Vietnamese tanks rolled into Saigon in April 1975, reuniting the two sides under communism.

Pham, 41, resettled in California and is now owner of an art gallery in Ho Chi Minh City, one of a stream of Vietnamese Americans who found their fortunes in a fast-changing Vietnam where capitalism is thriving under communist rule.

Pham runs leading art house Galerie Quynh. In the 17 years she's lived in Vietnam, her mother has refused to visit.

"When I moved back to Vietnam, she disowned me," said Pham. "She said, 'You're not my daughter.'"

They've since buried the hatchet, but Pham's mother has bitter memories and can't understand why she returned.

The war drove boatloads of Vietnamese to the United States, which had more than 1.5 million citizens of Vietnamese origin in a 2010 census. Others resettled in Australia, Canada, Britain and France via refugee camps in Asia, surviving perilous voyages on crowded, rickety boats on which thousands starved or drowned.

Now, many former refugees and their offspring are reaping the gains of Vietnam's booming emerging market and middle-class growth, tapping a young consumer population that's embracing Western culture.

The most notable is Henry Nguyen, a venture capitalist and former Goldman Sachs associate from Virginia who co-owns a Los Angeles soccer team and helped bring McDon-

ald's (MCD.N), Pizza Hut and Forbes Magazine to Vietnam.

"Vietnam was in a certain place in its development and I was in a certain place in my life," Nguyen told Reuters, referring to his return in 1995. "That was a good fit."

He's also famous for a marriage that brought together families on opposite sides of the war.

His wife, Phuong, is daughter of Vietnam Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung.

"It forced people who share common values and culture to pick sides," Nguyen, 41, said of the war. "It's kind of like a tragicomedy."

Not all Viet Kieu, or Vietnamese overseas, can move on. Some are scarred by war and persecution.

Reuters



Quynh Pham poses in her art gallery Galerie Quynh in Ho Chi Minh City on 8 March, 2015. —REUTERS

Tokyo marks 70th anniv of 1945 US air raids, PM Abe vows peace

TOKYO, 10 March — Tokyo marked the 70th anniversary on Tuesday of the US firebombings of the capital during World War II, holding events to commemorate the 100,000 victims of the bombings and to pray for peace.

During a Buddhist memorial service in Sumida Ward, which was one of the badly hit downtown areas in the 1945 air raid, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe vowed to “contribute as much as possible to achieve lasting peace,” while “humbly facing up to the past and keeping deeply in mind the lessons of the tragic war.”

It is thought to be the first time that a prime minister has taken part in the annual event, according to the organizer of the service.

Tokyo Gov Yoichi Masuzoe told the ceremony attended by about 600 people that his

government will “carry out its responsibility to pass on the present peace to the next generation as the city hosting (the 2020) Olympics, which is a peaceful festivity.”

Prince Akishino, younger son of Emperor Akihito, and his wife Princess Kiko made an offering of incense at the memorial hall, where the ashes of those killed in the raids are placed.

On 10 March, 1945, more than 300 US B-29 bombers dropped incendiary bombs on parts of the capital, particularly on populous residential areas in eastern Tokyo, killing an estimated 100,000 people.

Tokyo suffered more than 100 bombing raids during the war, with 60 percent of the metropolis destroyed, according to the Centre of the Tokyo Raids and War Damage.

After the 10 March raids,



Photo taken on 10 March, 2015, in Tokyo shows a memorial service to commemorate the victims of the Great Tokyo Air Raid on its 70th anniversary.—KYODO NEWS

the United States attacked other cities and towns across Japan, before eventually dropping atomic bombs on Hiroshima on 6 August and on Nagasaki on 9

August, 1945.

Japan finally surrendered on 15 August that year.

Etsuzo Nukagawa, who was living in Sumida Ward at that

time and lost many of his classmates in the air raid, was among those who took part in the memorial service on Tuesday.

“I still remember clearly how people were running around in the fire. We should never engage in war again,” said the 83-year-old who now lives in neighbouring Katsushika Ward.

According to the Tokyo Metropolitan government, the number of air raid victims registered on its list has increased to 80,324, as the names of 174 victims have been newly identified last year.

Designating on 10 March as a “Day of Peace,” the Tokyo metropolitan government held a memorial ceremony at its building in the afternoon, with US Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy among the attendants.

Kyodo News

US ambassador to South Korea leaves hospital after knife attack



South Korean President Park Geun-hye (L) talks with US ambassador to South Korea Mark Lippert during her visits to a hospital where he is being treated after a knife attack, in Seoul in this handout picture provided by The Blue House and released by Yonhap on 9 March, 2015.—REUTERS

SEOUL, 10 March — The US ambassador to South Korea left a Seoul hospital on Tuesday, five days after he was slashed by a knife-wielding Korean nationalist with a history of violent protest, causing wounds that required 80 stitches to the envoy’s face.

Police are seeking to bring charges including attempted murder against Kim Ki-jong, 55, for the attack at a forum discussing Korean reunification. The am-

bassador, Mark Lippert, suffered a deep facial gash and a puncture wound on his wrist.

Lippert, 42, had become known for an approachable, informal style since taking up his posting in Seoul in November and the attack raised questions about his security arrangements.

The South Korean government has since ordered increased security for diplomatic missions, including the US Embassy.

“We have made it our mission to be open and friendly, and that will not change,” Lippert told a crowded media conference amid heavy security at Yonsei University’s Severance Hospital.

Lippert declined to comment on potential changes to his security arrangements. He said he expects to return to work as soon as possible and to make a full recovery.

“I feel pretty darn good, all things considered. I mean it was obviously a scary incident. But I’m walking, talking, holding my baby, hugging my wife, so I just feel really good,” Lippert said.

Kim was given a suspended jail sentence in 2010 for trying to attack the Japanese ambassador by throwing a piece of concrete. He said after he attacked Lippert he was protesting against annual joint US-South Korean military drills, which began last week.

Lippert was accompanied by his bodyguard, an unarmed South Korean policeman, when the attack took place at a government-owned theater across the street from the heavily guarded US embassy. Other police were present at the event, although not at the request of the US Embassy or organizers.—Reuters

Serbia active in preservation of global peace

BELGRADE, 10 March — Defence Minister Bratislav Gasic, who is on a visit to the Central African Republic, told UN Secretary General’s Special Representative for that country Babacar Gaye that Serbia will continue to actively contribute to preserving international peace and security.

Gasic and Gaye discussed the political and security situation in the Central African Republic and peacekeeping activities within the Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission (MINUSCA), in which members of the Serbian defense system are also engaged, Serbia’s defense ministry said in a statement on Monday.

Gasic talked with Gaye at length about the engagement of members of the Serbian defence ministry and armed forces in 11 EU and UN multinational operations, and underscored that Serbia will continue to contribute to maintaining international peace and security.

During the meeting, Gasic pointed to our country’s mil-



Defence Minister Bratislav Gasic

itary/medical capacities involved in various peacekeeping missions, reads the release.

68 people are working at a level-2 military hospital as part of MINUSCA, as well as two military observers and two staff officers, which makes this Serbia’s largest engagement after the mission in Lebanon, notes the release.

A total of 76 members of the Serbian defence ministry and armed forces are engaged in the EU and UN missions in the Central African Republic, 23 of whom are women.

Tanjug

Cuba to expand int’l airport as tourists surge

HAVANA, 10 March — The Brazilian construction conglomerate Odebrecht will expand Havana’s International Airport “Jose Marti” beginning this month, according to a local media here on Monday.

Fabio Goebel, Odebrecht’s representative in Cuba, said the

planned update of the airport terminal No 3 will cost 207 million US dollars, as cited by the digital magazine “Cubacontemporanea.”

Goebel said the goal is to “streamline the service for the nearly 2,000 travellers transiting through the facility during the peak hours.”

As Cuba’s main port of entry, the Jose Marti international airport received 3 million visitors in 2014.

Cuba is expecting a significant increase of visitor arrivals as the United States has decided to facilitate its citizens to travel to the Caribbean nation.

In a surprise agreement, US President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro announced last December that they would normalize ties between their countries after a half-century embargo.

Under the new regulations, Americans are allowed to travel to

Cuba for any of a dozen specific reasons without seeking permission first.

According to Cuban officials, tourism to Cuba was up 16 percent in January from the same time last year, following the rapprochement between the island and the United States.—Xinhua

WORLD

US declares Venezuela a national security threat, sanctions top officials

WASHINGTON, 10 March — The United States declared Venezuela a national security threat on Monday and ordered sanctions against seven officials from the oil-rich country in the worst bilateral diplomatic dispute since socialist President Nicolas Maduro took office in 2013.

US President Barack Obama signed and issued the executive order, which senior administration officials said did not target Venezuela's energy sector or broader economy. But the move stokes tensions between Washington and Caracas just as US relations with Cuba, a longtime US foe in Latin America and key ally to Venezuela, are set to be normalized.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro denounced the sanctions as an attempt to topple his government. At the end of a thundering two-hour speech, Maduro said he would seek decree powers to counter the "imperialist" threat, and appointed one of the sanctioned officials as the new interior minister.

Declaring any country a threat to national security is the first step in starting a US sanctions programme. The same process has been followed with countries such as Iran and Syria, US officials said.

The White House said the order targeted people whose actions undermined democratic processes or institutions, had committed

acts of violence or abuse of human rights, were involved in prohibiting or penalizing freedom of expression, or were government officials involved in public corruption.

"Venezuelan officials past and present who violate the human rights of Venezuelan citizens and engage in acts of public corruption will not be welcome here, and we now have the tools to block their assets and their use of US financial systems," White House spokesman Josh Earnest said in a statement.

"We are deeply concerned by the Venezuelan government's efforts to escalate intimidation of its political opponents," he added.



US President Barack Obama gestures as he delivers remarks at the National League of Cities annual Congressional City Conference in Washington on 9 March, 2015. —REUTERS

Venezuela called home its charge d'affaires in Washington for consultations, and Maduro accused Obama of a "colossal mistake" and "imperialist

arrogance" similar to his predecessors Richard Nixon and George W Bush.

"President Barack Obama ... has personally decided to take on the task

of defeating my government and intervening in Venezuela to control it," Maduro said in a televised address.

In response, Maduro said he would on Tuesday ask the National Assembly, controlled by the ruling Socialists, to grant him decree powers — for the second time in his nearly two-year rule through a so-called Enabling Law, which critics blast as a power grab.

Maduro also paraded the seven officials, hailing them as "heroes" and naming national intelligence head Gustavo Gonzalez, whom Washington accuses of complicity in violence against protesters, as new interior minister.

Reuters

New judge to hear Ferguson court cases after federal probe

FERGUSON, 10 March — A Missouri state appeals court judge will take over all current and future cases assigned to Ferguson's municipal courts following a scathing US Justice Department report that found systemic abuses, the Missouri Supreme Court said on Monday.

The court said the transfer of Judge Roy Richter would take effect on 16 March and was aimed at helping restore public trust and confidence in the courts. Richter will also have the power to implement needed reforms to court policies

and procedures.

"Extraordinary action is warranted in Ferguson, but the court also is examining reforms that are needed on a statewide basis," Chief Justice Mary Russell said in a statement.

Ferguson municipal judge Ronald Brockmeyer, criticized in the Justice Department report, resigned on Monday, the *St Louis Post-Dispatch* newspaper reported.

The Justice Department launched an investigation into Ferguson, a St Louis suburb, following the shooting death of unarmed

black teen Michael Brown, 18, by a white police officer in August.

The department found insufficient evidence to charge Officer Darren Wilson with federal civil rights violations, but found pervasive racial bias in Ferguson's police and courts practices.

The department's report found that Ferguson's police officers overwhelmingly arrested and issued traffic citations to blacks to swell city coffers through fines, creating a culture of distrust that exploded after Brown was fatally shot.

Instead of acting as neutral arbiter, the court primarily uses its authority to compel payment of fees and fines, imposing unnecessary harm, overwhelmingly on African Americans, the report found.

In one case the department cited, a woman received two parking tickets totalling \$151 plus fees in 2007. Seven years later, after paying \$550 in fines and fees, being arrested twice and spending six days in jail, she still owed Ferguson \$541.

Brockmeyer's attorney said in a statement posted on the *Post-Dispatch* website that Brockmeyer hoped appointment of a new judge would help restore public confidence that has diminished following the Justice Department report.

The statement said the judgeship is a part-time position not involved in day-to-day operations and Ferguson's court clerk routinely performs essentially judicial duties including accepting guilty pleas and issuing subpoenas.

Ferguson Mayor James Knowles noted last week that the city announced last year it was reducing some fines and the number of offenses that could result in arrests. Missouri Governor Jay Nixon called the state Supreme Court's actions "a solid step forward."

Reuters

NZ police reveal threat to contaminate infant, other formulas

SYDNEY, 10 March — New Zealand police said on Tuesday that anonymous threats have been made to contaminate infant and other formulas apparently in protest against the use of a pesticide known as 1080 poison.

Letters were sent to farming groups — Federated Farmers and Fonterra — last November together with small packages of milk powder that later tested positive for a concentrated form of 1080, threatening to contaminate formulas with the pesticide unless the use of the agent in New Zealand was stopped by the end of March, the police said in a statement.

Since then, an Auckland-based investigation

team has been working with the Ministry of Primary Industries to investigate the threats.

"Whilst there is a possibility that this threat is a hoax, we must treat the threat seriously and a priority investigation is under way," Deputy Commissioner of National Operations Mike Clement said in the statement.

New Zealand Food Safety Minister Jo Goodhew said in a separate statement on Tuesday that a new testing method for detecting 1080 in dairy products was in place and that authorities have been working with manufacturers and retailers to minimize any risks.

Kyodo News

Russian starts military exercises in southern region of Stavropol: RIA news agency

Moscow, 10 March — The Russian defence ministry said on Monday it had launched military exercises in the country's southern region of Stavropol, the news agency RIA Novosti

reported on Tuesday.

The exercises involve artillerymen and multiple launch rocket systems, the agency reported, citing a statement.

Reuters



Protesters stare at a line of police officers and National Guard soldiers during a protest to demand justice for the killing of 18-year-old Michael Brown, outside the Ferguson Police Department in Ferguson, Missouri in this file photo taken on 28 Nov, 2014. —REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 11 March, 2015

Developing countries must root out tax evasion

By Aung Khin

Tax evasion can have a major impact on the economies of developing countries. The more businesses and individuals that properly pay their taxes, the faster the country can liberate itself from poverty. If policy makers do not act against this problem, the success of tax evaders may encourage others to follow suit.

Diversion of nominally public money through corruption or tax evasion hinders economic development. The amount of uncollected

taxes is more than the education or health budget in some countries, and almost as large as the revenue from the business sector in others.

Tax evasion exacerbates income inequality, widening the gap between rich and poor. It also siphons away money that can be used for investment in productive resources needed to diversify the economy and address urgent social problems.

Corruption and tax evasion are mostly inter-related, causing the loss of revenue and redirecting financial resources away from the state budget and towards private spending, which contributes less to development than public expenditures on agricultural inputs, education, health and infrastructure.

A World Bank study has shown that the losses caused by corruption and tax evasion are powerful examples of how criminal activities can have a tremendous negative impact on the economic development of a country.

In fact, when ill-gotten money is diverted from productive investments, it can have a multiplier effect on an economy. Therefore, any official strategy to alleviate poverty must include measures to address corruption and tax evasion.

If developing countries are to improve the standard of living for all citizens, it is vital that they establish mechanisms to pursue and punish tax evaders.

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

I will leave Myanmar with admiration and hope

By Masahiko Tanaka

In the last three and a half years I have served in Myanmar, I have come to admire its people deeply. Just since the start of 2015, I have come across three 'incidents' that reinforced my love for this country and made me hopeful about its future.

First, one day in early January, I lost my wallet while I had gone out for some errands. It seemed like a bad beginning for a new year, but I quickly gave it up for lost. My driver, however, insisted that I should retrace my steps and ask around. At the supermarket where I had stopped earlier, I was told that someone had turned in my wallet to the security office. It was returned to me, all the cash

and credit cards intact.

Second, I came upon an index called the World Giving Index, compiled by a global organization called Charitable Aid Foundation. It ranks countries by charitable giving (giving money, volunteering time, and helping strangers). I was astonished to find that Myanmar ranks number 1 in the world, along with the US, in the 2014 report. The Foundation estimated that in Myanmar, 91% of the people aged 15 and older gave money to charity, far distancing the other 134 countries. Myanmar was also number 2 in volunteering time. (Only in helping strangers, Myanmar stood in the middle of the group, probably reflecting its more reserved culture.)

Third, I came to realize that Myanmar people

are very good at doing arithmetic in their heads. When I buy something for Ks. 4,550, for instance, if I hand Ks. 5,050 to a store clerk or shop keeper, they hand me a Ks. 500 note back without missing a beat. Myanmar people may think this is trivial, and so would my compatriots, but I know this does not happen commonly in many countries.

In Myanmar, I knew traditional values of honesty and generosity remained firm. But, the first two incidents showed me how strong they really were. When that is combined with mental agility as well as attention to details and diligence (which I had noted in one of my earlier pieces) that Myanmar people seem to acquire through their upbringing and educa-

tion, I feel Myanmar is well equipped for economic success, especially in manufacturing. Some economists would say culture-based explanations of growth potential are unsound. But, cultures do affect political and economic institutions, which in turn determine the capability of a country to grow. Besides, even economists agree that a high level of trust in the society is an important success factor for an economy (because it reduces transaction costs). That my driver took it for granted that someone would turn in my wallet demonstrates a shared trust in people's honesty.

In my earlier articles, I have argued that for Myanmar to achieve people-centered development and become a prosperous country,

it must get on a path of sustained and inclusive growth. That in turn requires policy actions in four key areas: (1) limiting elite influence (so that fair competition will encourage innovation), (2) promoting high-value industries (because they create well-paying jobs), (3) assuring a quality education to every child (both to support growth of innovative businesses and to give everyone a chance to find a good job), and (4) establishing social norms for equitable income distribution (so that there will be social harmony and stability, and because without conscious policy actions, inequality in income distribution tends to rise). In this effort, what is critical and urgent is for Myanmar to escape from the old system of political economy that is dominated by the elite and serves its interests and establish one that is more inclusive and serves the interests of everyone.

Well-established virtues of honesty and generosity should surely support Myanmar's efforts to limit the elite influence and affirm a social compact for equitable income distribution. What would be more dishonest and contrary to generosity than a system that benefits a small privileged class at the expense of the great majority that suffers from poverty? Creating an inclusive economic system is so fundamental to encouraging the growth of competitive and innovative businesses (in manufacturing, agriculture, and

services); in the long run, they will be the source of well-paying jobs for everyone. Building such a world-class private sector, however, is no easy task. It will require not only the right incentive framework and far-sighted entrepreneurship, but also a high-quality work force. This is where some of the qualities that mark the Myanmar people seem perfectly suited for supporting the businesses that aspire to make high-value and high-quality products. For whatever reason, Myanmar's traditions of education (not just in formal schools but at home and in the community) seem to generate young people with honesty, diligence, attention to details, and mental agility. These are precisely the traits that are valued in innovative industries.

Some of the neighboring countries surely had similar traditions but lost them as their people got into the "rat race" of getting ahead economically. They failed to uphold the social norms for equity and fairness, and allowed the traditions of honesty and generosity to wither. Their experiences show that Myanmar must guard against such a change. But, others have preserved similar values as they developed along a path of inclusive development. I am hopeful that Myanmar will succeed in following the latter path, for I believe the common aspirations of the Myanmar people for harmony would not allow their country to go down the wrong path.

Mr. Tanaka will soon complete his assignment as the Head of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) office in Myanmar and return to Tokyo.

Pakistani naval ship docks at MTT

YANGON, 10 March—PNS Zulfiqar, a Pakistani ship commanded by Cap-

tain Amir Mahmood, paid a goodwill visit to Myanmar on Tuesday.

The ship manned by 28 officers and 275 crew docked at Myanmar Inter-

national Terminal Thilawa, 25 km south of Yangon, from 10 to 13 March.

During the four-day trip, the commanding officer and crew will hold bilateral meetings between Pakistan and Myanmar and visit Myanmar naval establishments.

"PNS Zulfiqar" is the pioneer ship of the sword class, F-22P Frigate Project. The ship is a state of the art and carries a helicopter on board.

GNLM

**Pakistani naval ship
PNS Zulfiqar.**



LOCAL NEWS

Vets warn poultry farmers about avian influenza



MYANAUNG, 10 March — Local poultry farmers recently attended lectures on avian influenza and bio-security at the hall of the Myanaung Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department, Ayeyawady Region, as part of a campaign to prevent the spread of the disease.

Staff Officer Dr. Hlaing Swe shared knowledge about the proper handling of contaminated chicken.

In recent days, bird

flu broke out in Monywa, a city of Sagaing Region, where local breeders lost significant numbers of livestock to the disease. As a result, veterinarians conducted training on bio-security measures for poultry farmers and chicken vendors in Myanaung.

Officials of Myanaung Township Development Affairs Committee checked sales of fresh chicken and meats at the Naychi Market in Myanaung.

Veterinarians urged owners of more than 20 poultry farms to seek advice and consultation on

breeding tasks from the Township LBVD whenever they extend farms. The departmental officials have plans to provide pesticides for the breeders.

“As a result of cooperation between poultry farmers and departmental officials, Myanaung Township faces only rare outbreaks of bird flu disease with minimal loss. Veterinarians have shared their knowledge of poultry farming with local breeders several times,” Staff Officer Dr. Hlaing Swe told media.—Nay Win Zaw (Myanaung)

Mdy Police Force officers undergo media skills training

MANDALAY, 10 March — Under the arrangement of the European Union, the Mandalay Region Police Force staged a three-day media skills workshop at the Mandalay Swan Hotel on Monday.

A total of 12 police officers at different branches participated in sharing of knowledge at the workshop.

Ms. Karin Deckenbach explained the procedure of media and community-based organizations. Course instructors Ms. Mechthild Menneke and Ms. Bettina Ambach introduced subjects to be given to the trainees. The course will run until 11 March.—Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Ottara District Police Force organized a workshop on security measures for holding 2015 general elections at the hall of Pobbathiri Township Police Force on 9 March, focusing on roles of organizations and departments concerned in assisting in the elections, with 54 police officers and eight reporters in attendance.

SHWE YE YINT

Agriculturists promote use of natural fertilizers

TATKON, 10 March — Local farmers have been receiving training on use of natural fertilizers and safer crop cultivation from staff and officials of the Agricul-

ture Department.

Farmers should not rely too much on chemical fertilizers, but instead systematically use natural fertilizers including EM Bo-

kashi on their farms, which can improve the health of farmland and consumers, an agriculturalist said.

Tin Soe Lwin (IPRD)



Under supervision of Myawady District's deputy commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo and officials, Assistant Director U Kyaw Htay of Myawady Township Immigration and National Registration Department and staff prepare to issue citizenship scrutiny cards to 162 eligible citizens in Ward 5, Myawady, on 8 March.

TUN TUN Oo (MYAWADY TOWN)



Islamic State alternative to Facebook gets bumpy start

DUBAI, 10 March — Facing a ban from mainstream online social networks Facebook and Twitter, supporters of the Islamic State appear to have launched their own “caliphate book.”

But 5elafabook.com was offline on Monday just a day after its launch and its Twitter account was suspended, highlight-

ing the challenges faced by backers of the ultra-violent militants based in Iraq and Syria in spreading their message and recruiting online.

The amateur page showed a map of the world dotted with Islamic State’s trademark Arabic insignia and was crafted by Socialkit, a programme that lets users produce do-it-

yourself social networks.

It was unclear who created the site or how many members it attracted. A banner message in its current form said it had temporarily suspended operations to “protect the information and details of its members and their safety.”

“5elafabook is an independent site and not sponsored by the Islamic State. We reiterate that the purpose of launching the site was to clarify to the whole world that we do not only carry guns and live in caves as they imagine ... we advance with our world and we want advancement to become Islamic,” it added.

Online supporters of the group wondered in an web forum whether platforms like 5elafabook could be trusted or whether they could be used by IS’s many enemies to gain intelligence, according to militancy watchdog SITE

Intelligence Group.

“There is no secure website, even if it did belong directly to the Islamic State, because the servers are controlled by the governments, which can take all the IP addresses of those who visited the website,” said a user calling himself Taqni Minbar.

IS militants have relied heavily on social media networks for coordination and communication, and the militants use them to publish shocking videos of beheadings and other violent acts against their enemies.

Twitter Inc. and United States law enforcement are investigating alleged threats against the company’s employees by the group’s online backers, the company said last week, as Twitter and Facebook work to close accounts spreading IS’s message.

Reuters

Ivory Coast court jails ex-first lady for 20 years over election violence



Simone Gbagbo, wife of former Ivory Coast’s President Laurent Gbagbo, gestures during the opening ceremony of celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the country’s independence, at the presidential palace in Abidjan on 31 Jan, 2010. — REUTERS

ABIDJAN, 10 March — A court in Ivory Coast on Tuesday found former first lady Simone Gbagbo guilty of charges related to her role in a 2011 post-election crisis in which around 3,000 people were killed, sentencing her to 20 years in prison, her lawyer said.

Gbagbo, who is also wanted by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for alleged crimes against humanity, was tried along with 82 other allies of ex-President Laurent Gbagbo.

“The jury members retained all the charges against her, including disturbing the peace, forming and organizing armed gangs and undermining state security,” said Rodrique Dadjé.

Her civil rights will also be suspended for a period of 10 years.

The former president’s son, Michel Gbagbo, was also convicted and sentenced to five years in prison, he said.

Ivory Coast’s brief 2011 civil war was sparked by Laurent Gbagbo’s refusal to acknowledge his defeat to Alassane Ouattara, now president, in elections in late 2010.

He is awaiting trial at the ICC accused of crimes against humanity for his alleged role in orchestrating the violence. Ivory Coast refused to transfer Simone Gbagbo to The Hague court, claiming she could be judged fairly in a domestic court.

Reuters

Dozens escape Islamic State-run jail in Syria — monitor

BEIRUT, 10 March — Around 95 captives have escaped an Islamic State-run prison in northern Syria, a group monitoring the war said on Tuesday, saying the escapees included about 30 Kurdish fighters.

The jailbreak happened in the town of al-Bab, 30 km (20 miles) south of the Turkish frontier, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

Al-Qaeda offshoot Islamic State controls tracts of territory across northern Syria and runs its own prisons, courts and other facilities in what it describes as an Islamic caliphate extending into Iraq.

Kurdish fighters backed by US-led air strikes have been trying to drive back Islamic State across northern Syria.

The escapees also included Syrian civilians and members of Islamic battalions opposed to the more hardline Islamic State, the Observatory said.

Islamic State has put the town on high alert and has been using loudspeakers to tell citizens to capture the escapees, the Observatory said, citing people on the ground.

Al-Bab was the site of Islamic State infighting over the weekend when several of its members broke out of another jail in the town and tried to head for the Turkish border.

The group, which included mainly European fighters, was stopped by other Islamic State members in clashes that killed at least nine, the Observatory said.

Reuters



An Iraqi officer walks past a wall painted with the black flag commonly used by Islamic State militants, in the town of Tal Ksaiba, near the town of al-Alam on 7 March, 2015.—REUTERS

Suicide car bombing kills civilian, wounds 25 Egyptian police in Sinai

CAIRO, 10 March — A suicide car bomber killed a civilian and wounded 25 Egyptian policemen when he tried to ram his car into a police barracks in the city of al-Arish on Tuesday, security sources said, the latest in a string of attacks in the Sinai peninsula.

The violence comes days ahead of an investment conference in the resort of Sharm el-Sheikh,

340 km (210 miles) south of al-Arish, that Egypt hopes will project an image of stability and attract billions of dollars.

Previous attacks have been concentrated in North Sinai.

The security sources said police were able to stop the suicide bomber from entering the barracks. Security and medical sources said a civilian was

in the area by coincidence when the bomber struck.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

But Islamist militants based in the Sinai have carried out similar attacks that have killed hundreds of soldiers and police since the army toppled Islamist president Mohamed Mursi in 2013 after mass protests against his rule.

On Monday, a roadside

bomb killed three Egyptian soldiers in Sinai, a largely lawless area bordering Israel and the Gaza Strip which is home to Egypt’s most dangerous Islamist group, Sinai Province.

Formerly known as Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis, the group has pledged allegiance to Islamic State, the ultra-hardline Sunni group which controls large parts of Iraq and Syria.—Reuters

Iraqi forces launch operation to retake Tikrit from IS

TIKRIT, (Iraq), 10 March — Iraqi security forces launched on Tuesday a major offensive against militants of the Islamic State (IS) to free the city of Tikrit, the capital of Salahudin Province, a provincial security source said.

Iraqi army and police forces backed by thousands of allied Shiite and Sunni militias entered outer neighbourhoods of the city, some

170 km north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, from the south, west and north, while heavy clashes with the extremist militants are underway, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The troops were also backed by dozens of tanks and armored vehicles and covered by heavy artillery shelling and Iraqi aircraft, the source said.

For the past few days, the city has been under

siege by the Iraqi forces and continuing heavy bombardment on IS positions inside the city, the source said. The battles to free Tikrit started one day after the troops retook control of the last IS stronghold in town of al-Alam, east of Tikrit. Some 30,000 Iraqi troops and thousands of allied Shiite and Sunni militias have been involved in a week-long offensive to recapture Tikrit and other key towns and villages in

northern part of the province from IS militants.

Large parts of Salahudin Province have been under IS control since 11 June, a day after bloody clashes broke out between Iraqi security forces and the IS group, which took control of the country’s northern city of Mosul and later seized swathes of territories in Nineveh and other predominantly Sunni Provinces.—Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Apple debuts \$17,000 watch, some waiting for killer app

SAN FRANCISCO, 10 March — Apple Inc (AAPL.O) launched its long-awaited watch on Monday, including yellow or rose gold models with sapphire faces costing up to \$17,000 (11,238 pounds), but some investors questioned whether Chief Executive Tim Cook's first product would be a breakaway hit.

Apple's first new device since Cook became CEO will be available for order on April 10 and in stores on 24 April, including chic boutiques in Paris, London and Tokyo.

In a nod to both fashion and technology, Cook shared the stage with model Christy Turlington Burns, who used it to train for a marathon, and Apple engineers who showed how to send drawings, pictures and even heartbeats with the watch.

Apple shares barely budged, however. Investors and analysts agreed that Ap-

ple would sell millions to fans but questioned whether it had a "killer app" that would engage a broader audience. Apple in September gave a sneak peek of the watch which included many features shown on Monday.

"I think there's a niche market for these kind of Apple tech people who love Apple and will buy anything they come out with. But I just don't know if it's going to be the power product that everyone's looking for," said Daniel Morgan, senior portfolio manager at Synovus Trust Company in Atlanta, Georgia, who described Wall Street as "scratching its head".

Members of the style establishment, in Paris for shows from the glittering likes of Chanel, Givenchy and Hermes mostly said they saw the watch as a gadget, not this season's must-have accessory.

The Edition price tag which is inexpensive com-



Apple CEO Tim Cook speaks about the Apple Watch during an Apple event at the Flint Center in Cupertino, California, on 9 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

pared with a Patek Philippe Nautilus at just over \$42,000 on 11main.com, inspired plenty of jibes on social media, including many who questioned whether it would become outdated and compared the price to a car's. "Wonder what kind of gas mileage it gets," asked Twitter user Christopher Caruso.

Nevertheless many made clear they wanted it. "My birthday is gonna rock this year... :-) #applewatch,"

wrote Jay Runquist.

The Apple Watch sport will start at \$349 for the smaller, 38-mm model. The standard version of the watch will start at \$549 and the high-end "Edition" watch will be priced from \$10,000, said Cook, who loved the Dick Tracy ability to hold phone calls by watch.

"I have been wanting to do this since I was five years old," said Cook.

The different models

reflect different materials. A \$17,000 Edition in the smaller, 38-mm size, has a case made from a customised version of 18-karat rose gold, which is especially hard, along with a sapphire display. It comes with a magnetic charging case.

A \$349 Sport model the same size has an aluminium case, a 'sport band' and a magnetic charging cable, and no case.

All the watches share digital faces that can look like traditional time pieces, show the heart beat of a friend, and display photos and interfaces for apps.

"Apple's been very good at personalizing its products," said Angelo Zino, an analyst at S&P Capital IQ, who said the "intimacy" of the watch was appealing. He saw 10 million in sales this year. In the presentation, Cook described the watch handling many functions currently associated with the iPhone, which tethers wire-

lessly to the watch and connects it to the Internet.

The watch will track exercise and remind wearers of events with a tap on the wrist. Cook also laid out other product successes and launched a new MacBook notebook computer that starts at \$1,299 and weighs as little as 2 pounds.

Every major car brand had committed to delivering Apple's CarPlay entertainment system, and the new iPhone 6 and 6 Plus have 99 percent customer satisfaction rates, he said. The Apple Pay payment system is now accepted at 700,000 locations, and Time Warner Inc's (TWX.N) HBO in April will debut its streaming HBO NOW service on Apple TV.

Apple also is offering researchers new development tools, called ResearchKit, to help medical researchers design apps for clinical trials, the company said.—Reuters

Coins, jewelry from Alexander the Great era found in Israel



Undated photograph taken in a cave in northern Israel and released by Israel Antiquities Authority shows agate stones that were part of a string of beads and the Hellenistic oil lamp in which the stones were kept. Rare coins and jewelry from the time of Alexander the Great have been found by chance in a cave in northern Israel, officials with the Israel Antiquities Authority said on 9 March, 2015. The 2,300-year-old cache includes silver coins of Alexander the Great, who conquered the region in the late fourth century BC. In addition, several pieces of silver and bronze jewelry were found, including decorated earring, bracelets and rings, which were apparently concealed in the cave, inside a cloth pouch.—XINHUA

JERUSALEM, 10 March — Rare coins and jewelry from the time of Alexander the Great have been found by chance in a cave in northern Israel, officials with the Israel Antiquities Authority said on Monday.

The 2,300-year-old cache includes silver coins of Alexander the Great, who conquered the region in the late fourth century BC. In

addition, several pieces of silver and bronze jewelry were found, including decorated earring, bracelets and rings, which were apparently concealed in the cave, inside a cloth pouch.

"The valuables might have been hidden in the cave by local residents who fled there during the period of governmental unrest stemming from the death

of Alexander, a time when the Wars of the Diadochi broke out in Israel between Alexander's heirs," the Antiquities Authority said in a statement.

"Presumably the cache was hidden in the hope of better days, but today we know that whoever buried the treasure never returned to collect it," the authority said. Archeologists with the Israel Antiquities Authority believe this is one of the important discoveries to come to light in the north of the country in recent years.

The cache was discovered by chance two weeks ago, as three members of the Israeli Caving Club were touring the area, known as one of the largest and well-hidden stalactite caves in northern Israel. They wandered and crawled between the different parts of a stalactite cave for several hours, as a shining object caught their eyes.

They reported the find to the Antiquities Authority, which sent researchers that have examined the cave over the past two weeks.

The discovery comes a month after a hoard of at least 2,000 ancient gold coins was accidentally discovered by divers off the coast of Caesarea, north of Tel Aviv, in the largest gold trove ever discovered in Israel.—Xinhua

World's oldest primitive animal fossil found in China

WASHINGTON, 10 March — Animals have been on Earth for at least 600 million years, research led by Chinese scientists confirmed on Monday.

The study, published in the *US journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, described a well-preserved, rice grain-sized primitive sponge fossil recovered from 600-million-year rocks in southwest China's Guizhou Province.

"It's the world's earliest and most credible fossil record of primitive animal bodies," lead author Maoyan Zhu of the Nanjing Institute of Geology and Palaeontology, which is part of Chinese Academy of Sciences, told *Xinhua*. "The discovery will help remove doubts as to whether animals have emerged on Earth 600 million years ago."

The fossilized animal,

slightly more than 1.2 mm wide and 1.1 mm tall, displays multiple independent characters of modern adult sponges, according to an analysis based on advanced imaging techniques including scanning electron microscope and synchrotron X-ray tomography. The specimen is composed of hundreds of thousands of cells, and has a gross structure consisting of three adjacent hollow tubes sharing a common base, the researchers said.

Flat tile-like features on the fossil's external surface, punctuated with small pores, resemble pinacocytes on modern sponges, whereas the fossil's inner surface is covered with a regular pattern of uniform pits, with many pits surrounded by collars, similar to sponge choanocytes. In addition, it has a simple canal system for water inflow and outflow.

"These features showed it's a primitive animal very similar to modern sponges and could have lived a filter-feeding life through its simple water canal system on the shallow sea floor," Zhu said.

Sponges are the most primitive living animals. They have only differentiated cells, but no real organs or tissues. The prior oldest known primitive sponge fossil only dated to 530 million years ago, in early Cambrian period.

There are other isolated objects that are claimed to be pre-Cambrian fossilized sponges, including a 760-million-year-old fossil from Namibia, but Zhu said they decided to leave aside other discoveries because those objects "did not preserve typical structural characteristics of modern sponges."—Xinhua

In Japan, Abe's robot panel aims to give drone industry an edge

TOKYO, 10 March — The government of Japan, a country with a proven track record in electronics and robotics, is looking to fast track industry-friendly regulation to give its drone sector an edge over the United States. Companies from motorcycle maker Yamaha Motor (7272.T) to security firm Secom Co (9735.T) are readying drone technology and services, as advisers to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe drive a regulatory overhaul.

The Robot Revolution Realization Committee, an advisory panel appointed by Abe, will review existing radio and civil aeronautics laws and set up industry-run best practice for drones. Another panel is asking companies for ideas on how to open up new special economic zones in Tokyo and other big cities to drones on a test basis. The Fukushima area, blighted by the 2011 tsunami and nuclear disaster, could also become a "field test zone" for robots and drones, largely free of regulation.—Reuters

MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

- Open Tender is invited for supply of the following items in Euro:

Tender No	Description	Qty
12(T)1/(ISN)	Spare Parts for Diesel Electric	82 Items
2015-2016	Locomotive	

Closing Date & Time - 27.4.2015 (Monday)(12:30)Hrs
- Tender documents are available at our office starting from 9.3.2015 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-291985, 291994,



Guatemala's President, Otto Perez Molina (C) delivers a speech during the opening of the Summit of the Central American Integration System (SICA, for its acronym in Spanish) and Spain, in the National Culture Palace, in Guatemala City, capital of Guatemala, on 9 March, 2015. According to the local press, Spain's Prime Minister, Mariano Rajoy, is in Guatemala for an official two-day visit where he participates in the Summit of the SICA and Spain.

XINHUA

Oklahoma University shuts 'disgraceful' fraternity for racist video

NORMAN, (Okla), 10 March — The University of Oklahoma closed a fraternity linked to a video of students singing racial epithets, ordered its members to move out of the house and labeled the actions of those involved "disgraceful."

"Effective immediately, all ties and affiliations between the university and the local SAE (Sigma Alpha Epsilon) chapter are hereby severed," University President David Boren said on Monday.

Members have until midnight on Tuesday to vacate the premises. People could be seen loading goods into moving trucks behind the fraternity house on Monday.

The incident comes at a time of heightened racial tensions following US incidents of unarmed African-Americans being fatally shot by police. Over the weekend, ceremonies in Selma, Alabama, marked the 50th anniversary of a crackdown on a civil rights march there known as "Bloody Sunday."

In the 10-second video posted online on Sunday and replayed by media outlets, students on a bus chanted in unison, using offensive language referring to blacks and vowing to never admit them into the fraternity.

It was not immediately clear when the video of students on a bus chartered for a date night was taped.



People load goods into moving trucks at the back of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity at the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma, on 9 March, 2015.

REUTERS

"To those who have misused their free speech in such a reprehensible way, I have a message for you. You are disgraceful," Boren said.

He told a news conference the fraternity would not be allowed back on campus as long as he is president and the university has launched an investigation to see if individual members can be punished. No students were named.

Boren walked alongside hundreds of students at a solidarity rally on campus on Monday morning, hours after the Sigma Alpha Epsilon's national leadership suspended its members at the university over the video.

The fraternity in Okla-

homa was hit by graffiti, with one message calling for it to be torn down.

"We apologize for the unacceptable and racist behavior of the individuals in the video, and we are disgusted that any member would act in such a way," Sigma Alpha Epsilon's national headquarters said after verifying its OU members were involved.

The fraternity, one of the country's largest, has been linked to at least six deaths in the past eight years from excessive drinking or hazing violence. SAE has denied any wrongdoing.

SAE chapters have been punished before over racially charged incidents at other campuses. It did

not respond to a request to comment.

Douglas Fierberg, an attorney specializing in school hazing, said a major problem is that SAE relies heavily on self-management by undergraduates on campuses.

"You can have a 'Lord of the Flies' circumstance in that these young men are essentially on their own island managing themselves and doing a god-awful job of it," he said. "It does have deadly results."

The Oklahoman website reported that a top high school football recruit, Jean Delance, announced he had withdrawn from the university on Monday "due to personal reasons," after the scandal broke.—Reuters

Sri Lanka bans foreign travel by former defence chief in armoury probe

COLOMBO, 10 March — A Sri Lankan court has banned the feared brother of former President Mahinda Rajapaksa from foreign travel, police said on Tuesday, over allegations he used a commercial floating armoury as weaponry for a "private army".

The move against former defence secretary Gotabaya Rajapaksa is the toughest sanction yet on a member of the family that ruled the Indian Ocean island until a surprise election defeat in January.

It is part of a wide probe of alleged corrupt deals and repression by the former president and his relatives. Police this year seized more than 3,000 weapons in 20 containers from the armoury, run by private security firm Avant Garde Maritime Services (Pvt) Ltd and docked in the southern port of Galle.

"The Galle magistrate imposed a travel ban on three people: former secretary of defence Gotabaya Rajapaksa; former navy commander and adviser

of Avant Garde, Satilaka Dissanayake; and another director of Avant Garde," acting police spokesman Ruwan Gunasekara told Reuters. The armoury was a commercial venture that stored weapons for maritime security guards stationed on ships that pass near Sri Lanka, located on one of the world's busiest sea routes. The loosely regulated practice of arming merchant ships has flourished in recent years in response to the threat of piracy.

Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who oversaw the military defeat of Tamil Tiger separatists after a 26-year war, is also being investigated by police over abductions, assaults and murders during his brother's time in office. Government spokesman Rajitha Senarathne accuses Gotabaya Rajapaksa of maintaining a "private military" with the floating armoury. Gotabaya Rajapaksa, who has previously denied wrong doing, was not immediately available for comment.—Reuters



Sri Lanka's Secretary of Defence Gotabaya Rajapaksa

Aircraft makers call for ban on lithium battery shipments

WASHINGTON, 10 March — Aircraft manufacturers are seeking a ban on shipment of bulk lithium batteries on passenger planes, calling the threat of fire "an unacceptable risk", the Associated Press reported, citing an industry paper.

The International Coordination Council of Aero-

space Industry Associations (ICAO), which represents manufacturers such as Boeing Co, Airbus Group and Bombardier Inc, has also called for stronger packaging and handling regulations for batteries shipped on cargo planes, AP said.

The International Federation of Air Line Pilots

Associations (IFALPA), which represents more than 100,000 pilots worldwide, joined the aircraft makers in issuing the paper.

The paper cites recent testing by the Federal Aviation Administration that shows batteries packed in containers emit explosive gases when overheated.

During the tests, a buildup of gases inside the containers led to explosions and violent fires which the aircraft fire protection systems were unable to suppress or extinguish.

The Rechargeable Battery Association said in a statement that lithium-ion battery makers were com-

mitted to the safe transport of lithium batteries and the association would continue to work with industry and government officials, AP reported. The call for the ban pertains only to cargo shipments and applies to both lithium-ion and lithium metal batteries. Two major US airlines, Delta Air Lines and

United Airlines, recently decided not to accept rechargeable battery shipments, AP said. Representatives at ICAO, the Federal Aviation Administration, IFALPA and the Rechargeable Battery Association were not immediately available for comment outside regular US business hours.—Reuters

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Reg. No. 19302/2014

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In respect of **Class 30**: Fish (bonito) flavored seasonings.

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For **Shimaya CO., LTD.**

Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 11.3.2015

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

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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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Phone No: 2301186

Marubeni signs deal to build thermal power generator at Thai plant

Tokyo, 10 March — Japanese trading house Marubeni Corp said on Tuesday it has signed a deal with Thailand's electricity authority to build a 600-megawatt coal-fired power generator at a power plant in northern Thailand.

The joint project with French power company Alstom Power Systems SA and its local unit Alstom

(Thailand) Ltd. will be worth over \$1 billion.

Under the deal signed with the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand on Monday, Marubeni and its French partner will replace four existing power generators at the country's Mae Moh lignite-fired power plant in Lampang Province with the new generator.— *Kyodo News*

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 11th March, 2015: Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin and Mon States, generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Generally fair in the whole country.

FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th March, 2015: Generally fair weather.

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 11th March, 2015: Generally fair weather.

Iran's Assembly of Experts elects new chief

TEHERAN, 10 March — Iran's Assembly of Experts on Tuesday elected Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi as the new chief of the deliberative body of 86 Iran's Mujtahids (Islamic scholars).

Yazdi, who replaced deceased Ayatollah Mohammad-Reza Mahdavi-Kani, won 47 in favour out of 73 votes in the meeting of the assembly.

The newly elected chief served as the head of

Judiciary System of Iran between 1989 and 1999.

The Iran's Assembly of Experts is charged with electing and removing the Supreme Leader of Iran and supervising his activities.—*Xinhua*

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Madonna unveils renegade, romantic sides in new album 'Rebel Heart'

NEW YORK, 10 March — Madonna proves her staying power as a creative force and an enduring pop icon with her new album, "Rebel Heart," her 13th studio release that also shows her renegade and softer sides.

It is a revealing portrait of the Material Girl, showing the Grammy-winning singer as a trail-blazer and provocateur but also someone who is sensitive, reflective and outsider.

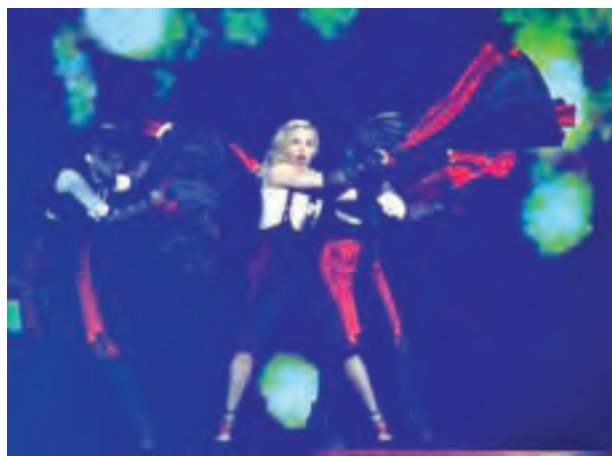
Madonna, 56, told Reuters that the album's title "Rebel Heart" reflected her original intent to make a two-sided record featuring 10 songs on each.

"One side was going to

be the more rebellious, provocative, envelope pushing part of me and the other side was going to be the more romantic, vulnerable side and they end up getting all mushed together," she said.

"Rebel Heart" is her first album since 2012's "MDNA," which shot to the top of the Billboard 200 chart. It is also somewhat autobiographical with tracks like "Veni Vidi Vici," which chronicles her career, and personal, revealing feelings of insecurity, heart ache and loss.

The album's 19 tracks includes lush, lyrical ballads, such as "Devil Pray," "Ghosttown" and "Joan of



Singer Madonna performs at the BRIT music awards at the O2 Arena in Greenwich, London on 25 Feb, 2015.

REUTERS

Arc" that ponder the meaning of life, breakups and love.

"Each time they write

a hateful word/Dragging my soul into the dirt/I wanna die/Never admit it but it hurts," she says in "Joan of

Arc."

But Madonna also lets loose with catchy dance numbers including "Living for Love" and "Unapologetic Bitch," a collaboration with Grammy-nominated American DJ Diplo.

"He likes to make people get up out of their seat and dance and so do it," she said about Diplo.

"Living for Love," the lead single has a thumping disco beat with lyrics about the heartache of a parting and picking herself up to find love again.

Madonna returns to themes of sex and religion, which she said she finds infinitely interesting topics.

"They are as impor-

tant to people as they are misunderstood," she explained. "They both bring a lot of light into the world and a lot of darkness. For those reasons, I like to explore them."

For "Rebel Heart," Madonna collaborated with rapper Kanye West on four songs, Swedish DJ and producer Avicii, American producer and songwriter Toby Gad, among others. West, rappers Nas and Nicki Minaj and boxer Mike Tyson also lent their vocals on tracks.

Madonna will support "Rebel Heart" with an international tour beginning in Miami on 29 August.

Reuters

Two Broadway musical imports top London theatre award nominees

LONDON, 10 March — Broadway imports "Memphis The Musical" and "Beautiful — The Carole King Musical" collected the most nominations on Monday, with nine and eight nods, respectively, for London's Olivier Awards to be announced in April.

Mark Strong and Richard Armitage both received best actor nominations for roles on the London stage in revivals of Arthur Miller plays — Strong for "A View from the Bridge" and Armitage for "The Crucible".

They are competing with James McAvoy for his performance in "The Ruling Class" and Tim Pigott-Smith in "King Charles III". Nominees for best actress in a play are Gillian Anderson for "A Streetcar Named Desire", Kristin Scott Thomas for "Electra", Imelda Staunton for "Good People" and Penelope Wilson in "Taken at Midnight". The best director nominees are Rupert Goold for "King Charles III", Jeremy Herrin for "Wolf Hall" and "Bring Up the Bodies", Josie Rourke for "City of Angels" and Ivo Van Hove for "A View from the Bridge". Caro Newling,



Cast member Richard Armitage signs autographs at the premiere of "The Hobbit: The Battle of the Five Armies" at Dolby theatre in Hollywood, California on 9 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

president of the Society of London Theatre, which runs the awards, said it had been "an absolutely wonderful year" for British theatre and she was not at all concerned that two American imports were leading the nominations list.

"There's nothing wrong with imports and I think actually given how many British plays are on the other side of the Atlantic it feels great that we're welcoming American musicals," she said. "People talk all the time about the future of new musicals and I think what we have this year is representa-

tives on both sides of the Atlantic alive and kicking."

"Memphis" and "Beautiful" were both nominated in the categories of best sound design, best costume design, best theatre choreographer, best achievement in music, best actress in a musical and best new musical. "Memphis" got a nod for best actor in a musical and "Beautiful" was nominated for best actress in a supporting role in a musical but "Memphis" edged out "Beautiful" with two nominations to one for "Beautiful" in best actor in a supporting role in a musical.

Reuters

Helen Mirren reigns on Broadway as Queen Elizabeth

NEW YORK, 10 March — Nearly a decade after winning an Academy Award for her role as Britain's Elizabeth II in "The Queen," Helen Mirren is ruling over Broadway in "The Audience," a new play about the monarch's weekly meetings with her prime ministers.

Mirren said she has huge empathy for the 88 year-old royal she plays in the British import that premiered in London and opened on Sunday at New York's Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre. "Both times, for the film and now the play, I had to do a lot of research and the more research I did really, the more respect I gained for her," Mirren, 69, said ahead of the opening.

The queen's weekly meetings with her prime

ministers are private, so "The Audience" is an imagining of the conversations and relationships Elizabeth has had with eight of the 12 British leaders who served during her more than 60-year reign.

Mirren, a multiple-Tony nominee, admits it is difficult to imagine what Elizabeth's world is like. But the newspaper USA Today said her Elizabeth defends the monarchy and "deftly reconciles her sense of entitlement with a deep humility and empathy." In the play, which does not run chronologically, Mirren is shown as a older queen reassuring a doubtful John Major, played by actor Dylan Baker, that is he is up to the job. In the next scene she changes into the young Elizabeth, holding

her first meeting as queen with the formidable Winston Churchill (Dakin Matthews).

The play, written by Peter Morgan who also penned "The Queen," and directed by Stephen Daldry, lets audiences listen in to her conversation with a depressed Gordon Brown (Rod McLachlan.) They hear her playful, friendly banter with Labour Prime Minister Harold Wilson and watch as she soothes a testy Margaret Thatcher.

With each scene the queen's age changes along with her costumes and hairstyle.

"Even if she's not the real royal deal, this is still about as close as most of us are going to get to a cozy tete-a-tete with the best loved of the regal Windsors," said *The New York Times* newspaper.

Mirren also appears alongside younger versions of the monarch, showing her reluctant to move into Buckingham Palace and her early annoyances with royal life. "It's obvious who the real ruler is when it comes to Broadway. Mirren's crown is safe," said *The New York Post* newspaper.—Reuters

Actress Helen Mirren arrives at the 72nd Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, California in this on 11 Jan, 2015 file photo.

REUTERS



Paul McCartney adds second London O2 show

LONDON, 10 March — Beatles legend Paul McCartney has added a second show at London's O2 arena due to high demand. The singer will perform at the venue on 23 May, with an additional show on 24 May, reported Digital Spy.

The UK leg of McCartney's Out There tour

Paul McCartney:

I'm looking

forward to taking

the Out There tour

back to Europe

this summer.

PTI



also includes shows in Birmingham on 27 May and Liverpool on 28 May.

Announcing the tour, he said, "I'm looking forward to taking the Out There tour back to Europe this summer. It's been a little while since I've performed in some of these places, so we know it's going to be a fun tour."

"I hope the audiences enjoy this tour as much as we've been enjoying it ourselves all over the world."

McCartney's first show at The O2 in London on 23 May falls on the 50th anniversary of him completing The Beatles' hit single 'Yesterday'.

PTI

GENERAL

Mauresmo leads group elected to Hall of Fame



Former French tennis player Amelie Mauresmo speaks during a news conference at the French Open Tennis tournament at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris in this file photo taken on 8 June, 2014.
REUTERS

NEW YORK, 10 March — Amelie Mauresmo, a two-time grand slam winner and the first French woman to be ranked number one, was elected to the International Tennis Hall of Fame, organizers said on Monday.

Joining Mauresmo in the Class of 2015 were Australian David Hall as a player in the wheelchair category and Nancy Jeffett of Dallas in the contributor category.

“It’s wonderful to see such diversity in our induction class — a contributor, a wheelchair athlete and a fabulous female tennis player,” said Todd Martin, chief ex-

ecutive of the Hall of Fame, in announcing the inductees during a news conference.

Mauresmo captured the singles titles at both the Australian Open and Wimbledon in a dominant run in 2006.

Her powerful yet elegant one-handed backhand and strong net play helped her claim 25 singles titles and the silver medal at the 2004 Atlanta Olympics.

The three other finalists in the player category were all double grand slam winners: Mary Pierce of France, Sergi Bruguera of Spain and Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia.

Hall, one of the most decorated wheelchair tennis players ever, was ranked world number one in singles and doubles and won every major title in the sport. He claimed nine Australian and eight US Open titles.

Jeffett was recognised for her work in tennis over the past half century in advancing professional women’s tennis and in developing opportunities for junior tennis development.

An induction ceremony will be held 18 July at the International Tennis Hall of Fame in Newport, Rhode Island.—Reuters

French sports stars among 10 dead in Argentina helicopter crash

BUENOS AIRES/PARIS, 10 March — Eight French nationals including celebrity yachtswoman Florence Arthaud, Olympic swimmer Camille Muffat and boxer Alexis Vastine were among 10 killed when two helicopters collided in Argentina on Monday while filming a French reality TV show.

The accident happened in the rugged western province of La Rioja near the Andes mountains, local authorities said, adding that the cause was not currently known.

“The sudden death of our fellow French nationals is a cause of immense sadness,” a statement from French President Francois Hollande’s office in Paris said.

It added that several members of the ALP TV production company in-



Olympic swimmer Camille Muffat

involved in shooting the adventure show “Dropped” for private TV station TF1 were among the dead.

TF1 issued a statement expressing sadness and solidarity for the families of the victims. “Dropped” involves contestants being left in the wilderness and having to use their skills to find their way back to civilisation.

Arthaud, 57, was one of the first women to carve a place for herself in the world of sailing and in 1990 secured the record for the fastest solitary crossing of the North Atlantic, according to her publisher’s site.

Muffat, 25, won 400 metres freestyle gold at the 2012 London Olympics. Vastine, 28, won bronze at

the Beijing 2008 Olympics. “I am sad for my friends, I’m shaking, I’m horrified, I can’t find the words,” Tweeted Sylvain Wiltord, ex-footballer for English Premier League club Arsenal and fellow cast member.

The victims included the helicopters’ two pilots, Cesar Angulo, La Rioja’s security chief, told reporters earlier.

“There were no survivors, according to the information we have,” Angulo said.

Argentina’s official news agency Telam said one of the helicopters belonged to the provincial government and the other to organizers of a survival competition that had been held for three years near the village of Villa Castelli.

Reuters

A British pilot, a missing plane and a ring returned after 70 years

TIRANA, 10 March — Of 14 sorties flown by British World War Two pilots supplying anti-fascist fighters in Albania on 29 October, 1944, 12 returned to base in Italy, one failed to discharge its load and “the other is missing and assumed to have crashed”, according to military records.

For seven decades, the Handley Page Halifax bomber was believed to be at the bottom of the Adriatic Sea. Then, last October, a British and US team climbed 6,000 feet (1,829 metres) into the Albanian mountains to locate its wreckage, which had been spotted by a villager out collecting herbs.

“Clearly what we found was enough to suggest we had found the remains of a big four-engine bomber,” said Chris Casey, a doctor at the US embassy in Tirana

and part of the expedition.

A British-born aviation enthusiast, Casey trawled the Internet but was frustrated in his attempts to pinpoint the identity of the plane or its crew. The vital clue would come in the form of a gold ring, engraved “Joyce & John” and held in safe keeping by an Albanian villager and then his son.

Jaho Cala found the ring in 1960 while collecting metal and wood in the mountains, when Albania was shut off from the outside world by the Stalinist regime of Enver Hoxha.

“He gave it to me when I got married in 1971, but told me clearly the ring did not belong to our family and I was to return it to its owner after communism ended,” Jaho’s son, Xhemil Cala, told Reuters. Twenty years later, with Albania rid-



Albanian Xhemil Cala (L) puts the ring of the British flight engineer Sergeant John Thompson, onto the finger of his sister Dorothy Webster, 92, during a ceremony held at the Ministry of Defence in Tirana on 9 March, 2015. —REUTERS

of communism, Cala took to wearing the ring while serving as a police officer. But he had not given up returning it to its rightful owner. He said the ring would not stay

put on his finger, twisting as he slept.

“It is not yours, that is why,” Cala quoted a Muslim cleric as telling him.

Reuters



Myanmar International

(11-3-2015 07:00 am~ 12-3-2015 07:00 am) MST

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News Channel in Brief

(11-3-2015, Wednesday)

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| • Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | • Gatamahir |
| 6:25 am | 2:20 pm |
| • Physical Exercise | • Teleplay |
| 7:00 am | 2:35 pm |
| • News/ Weather Report | • Documentary |
| 7:35 am | 3:00 pm |
| • One Vision Part-2 (B) (Part-B) | • News / International News |
| 8:00 am | 3:30 pm |
| • News / International News | • Head Line News |
| 8:35 am | 4:00 pm |
| • People’s Talks | • News / Weather Report |
| 9:35 am | 4:45 pm |
| • Science and Technology Programme | • FIFA Women’s Olympic Football Tournament Rio 2016 (ASIAN Qualifiers) (LIVE) (Sir Lanka & Myanmar) |
| 10:35 am | 7:00 pm |
| • Documentary | • News |
| 11:35 am | 7:30 pm |
| • MRTV’s Youth Programme | • Head Line News |
| 12:00 noon | 7:35 pm |
| • News / International News / Weather Report | • Documentary |
| 12:35 pm | 8:00 pm |
| • Hluttaw Image | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 12:50 pm | 9:00 pm |
| • TV Drama Series | • News / Weather Report |
| 1:40 pm | • Hluttaw Image |
| • Cultural Show (Part-6) | • Fine Arts-Boson of Dramatic Performance |



Entertainment Channel

(11-3-2015, Wednesday)

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| 6:00 am | 7:15 am |
| • Mono Classical Songs | • Honour of Cultural Show |
| 6:25 am | 8:35 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • TV Drama Series |
| 6:50 am | 9:20 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • Myanmar Movie |

Region minister encourages Myanmar women footballers

MANDALAY, 10 March — Myanmar national women's team together with Sri Lanka and India will participate in the qualifiers of Asian Zone for the football tournament of the 2016 Olympic Games at Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay from 11 to 15 March.

Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing, Deputy Director U Wai Zin of Mandalay Region Sports and Physical Education Department and officials met coaches and players of Myanmar team at the hotel on Tuesday and urged them to make all-out efforts in playing the qualifiers with sporting spirit.

The 2016 Olympic Games will kick off on 5 August 2016 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Aung Thura (Mandalay Sub-printing House)



Bayern Munich's coach Pep Guardiola stands on the sidelines during their German first division, Bundesliga soccer match against FC Cologne, in Munich on 27 Feb, 2015.

REUTERS

Bayern ready for 'final' against Shakhtar

BERLIN, 10 March — Bayern Munich go into their Champions League last-16 second leg at home to Shakhtar Donetsk on Wednesday knowing the game will make or break their season.

Bayern are runaway Bundesliga leaders and also reached the German Cup quarter-finals last week, but anything short of lifting Europe's biggest club crown will be considered a failure for Germany's wealthiest team.

"This match is a final for us," coach Pep Guardiola told reporters after Bayern's 3-1 win at Hanover 96 in the league on Saturday. "Only one thing matters and that is to win."

"We know what we have to do. They (Shakhtar) have extremely quick forwards and we cannot allow them to make their runs," said the Spaniard.

Bayern, five-time European champions, need to win to advance over 90 minutes, with a score draw sending the Ukrainians through after their goalless first leg last month.

The Bavarians are still odds-on favourites to progress, having won all their previous home games in the group stage this season without conceding a goal.

Bayern's domestic form has been equally impressive, having scored an eye-popping 21 goals in their last four league games.

"Against many opponents it is us who are the favourites and that is justified," said captain Philipp Lahm, who will miss the game after breaking his ankle late last year.

"So it is also up to us and our own performances to make sure we can count ourselves among the top teams or not," he told Kicker magazine. "Bayern have to advance because we want to belong to Europe's elite."

Guardiola will be without the experienced Xabi Alonso, who is suspended after his red card in the first leg, but he could have defender Medhi Benatia, back from injury, in the squad.

Reuters

Welbeck sinks United as Arsenal reach FA Cup semis

MANCHESTER, 10 March — Discarded striker Danny Welbeck returned to demolish Manchester United's hopes of silverware by netting the winner in Arsenal's 2-1 FA Cup quarter-final victory at Old Trafford on Monday.

England international Welbeck, who joined the Londoners in September after his United career stalled, pounced on a horrendous back pass by Antonio Valencia in the 61st minute to send the holders through.

In a rip-roaring first half Nacho Monreal's cool finish put Arsenal ahead in the 26th minute but Wayne Rooney's diving header evened it up three minutes later.

United, who will now ponder a second consecutive season without a trophy in the wake of manager Alex Ferguson's retirement, ended the match with 10 men after Angel Di Maria was red-carded for grabbing the referee's shirt just seconds after being booked for diving.

Welbeck had managed only two goals for Arsenal since October and was not having much joy on his first return to Old Trafford since his 16 million pounds (24.20 million) switch.

But he produced the game's decisive moment with a helping hand from United's bungling defence.



Arsenal's Danny Welbeck celebrates scoring their second goal during FA Cup Quarter Final at Old Trafford on 9 March, 2015.

REUTERS

There seemed little danger as a high ball was pumped forward but Phil Jones elected to chest the ball to Valencia who wafted a weak pass in the direction of keeper David De Gea.

It never stood a chance and Welbeck clipped the ball round the Spaniard and rolled it into an empty net.

"We had to start without apprehension and play at a high pace and we did that well," said Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger, who admitted in the build-up that he was still haunted by a 1999 FA Cup semi-final defeat by United.

"Danny Welbeck, I believe is just happy to score. He worked extremely hard today and deserved his goal." It was Arsenal's first FA Cup win over United since the 2005 final and their first in any competition since May 2011.

Reuters

Another Wimbledon title is Federer's goal



Roger Federer of Switzerland celebrates after winning his final match against Novak Djokovic of Serbia at the ATP Championships tennis tournament in Dubai, on 28 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 10 March — Roger Federer is proud of all his grand slam singles titles, but if the Swiss master could add just one more to his record men's haul of

17 it would be at Wimbledon.

"It would be my favourite choice if I had a choice right now," Federer, 33, told reporters on the eve of Tuesday's BNB Paribas Showdown exhibition at Madison Square Garden against 23-year-old Grigor Dimitrov.

"I'd love to win Wimbledon. I think it's possible, and I think if I win Wimbledon it's more cool for me personally, and my team and Swiss people and my fans."

Another singles title at the All England Club would give Federer a record eighth Wimbledon crown, breaking his tie with Pete Sampras and WC Renshaw of the late 19th century.

It would also make him the oldest Wimbledon men's winner, eclipsing Arthur Ashe, who was

31 when he won in 1975.

Federer said he is not consumed by a quest to add breathing room to his record total with Rafa Nadal sitting on 14, six ahead of world number one Novak Djokovic, who lost to the Swiss in the final at Dubai on 28 February.

Federer said Nadal could charge past him, but felt Djokovic was a longshot.

"Who knows? Rafa has the best shot if he wins the French Open a few more times and if I don't win anymore he can catch me quickly."

"I guess Novak is still a long shot but it really depends on how dominant his next years are going to be," said Federer, whose wife and two sets of twins travel with him around the globe.

"They have to be very dominant because Rafa and me, we both are still playing. It's not like we're both retired or anything."

"I'm more focused on me than on them. I hope to make it more difficult on them but at the end of the day records are there to be broken."

Federer, whose last grand slam triumph came at the 2012 Wimbledon, made it clear that setting the all-time record meant a great deal to him.

"I was very happy to get the grand slam record at Wimbledon in 2009," he said about surpassing Sampras's total of 14. "It was a dream come true and it was a huge motivation to get to that after Pete had set that record."

Reuters

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