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President U Thein Sein encourages Solar Impulse-2 pilots

President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo together with pilots Mr Addre Borshberg and Mr Bertrand Piccard with Solar Impulse-2 in the backbround.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March—President U Thein Sein on Friday met the pilots of the Solar Impulse-2 during their stopover in Mandalay as part of a history-making attempt to circle the globe in a plane powered by the sun.

The president arrived at Mandalay International Airport in the morning, accompanied on the trip from Nay Pyi Taw by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Khin Aung Myint, Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Ye Htut, Dr Than Aung, U Htay Aung and officials.

The president's party was welcomed at the airport by Union Minister U Soe Thane, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint, Commander General Soe Htut, Deputy Minister U Zin Yaw, Swiss Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Christoph Burgener, pilots and officials.

The president watched a documentary about the Solar Impulse-2 before inspecting the plane and exchanging gifts with pilots Andre Borshberg and Bertrand Piccard, with whom he also posed for commemorative photos. The pilots briefed the president on the trip.

Built in Switzerland in 2011, the Solar Impulse-2 made its maiden flight on 2 June 2014. Formed in three parts, the wing of the plane is 72 meters long. With 17,000 solar cells in the wing, the 2.3-ton plane can fly 70 kilometres per hour at an altitude of 12,000 meters.

The round-the-world trip began on 9 March at Abu Dhabi airport in the United Arab Emirates, with the aircraft reaching Muscat, Oman, after a flight of 13 hours and 1 minute. The plane reached Mandalay on 19 March after further stopovers in Ahmedabad and Varanasi in India, completing the Varanasi-Mandalay stretch in over 15 hours.

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Ceasefire talks between govt, ethnic armed groups proceed smoothly on Day 4

By *Ye Myint*

YANGON, 20 March—Day 4 of ceasefire talks between the government's Union Peacemaking Work Committee (UPWC) and the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT) of ethnic armed groups progressed without any discord over the main points, the peace negotiators said Friday.

The fourth day of the meeting was a boon for both sides, with an agreement made on the formation of a mechanism to implement the conditions of an eventual nationwide ceasefire accord, said NCCT member Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sakhoung.

Despite calling for more discussions on the political dialogue roadmap, progress has been made in negotiating the wording of discussions on security integration at the political dialogue, he added.

Among the agreements reached on Day 4 was the formation of joint monitoring committees at Union, state and regional levels after the signing of the ceasefire deal, as well as the creation of a joint committee for Union-level peace talks and other necessary working committees on technical matters, negotiators said.

With the establishment of a permanent committee, signatories to the peace accord will be held accountable in the case of an impasse in the implementation process, they said.

Two points that were pending on the fourth day of the meeting will be carried over to the next day, said U Hla Maung Shwe, senior adviser at the Myanmar Peace Centre.

GNLM

Union Peacemaking Work Committee (UPWC) and Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT) hold fourth day meeting of the seventh round of nationwide ceasefire accord talks in Yangon on Friday.
PHOTO: CREDIT TO MYANMAR PEACE CENTRE

Fisheries Department puts fish firms, cold storage factory out to open tender

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March — The Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development is calling for bids to run its three fish firms and cold storage factory through the joint venture system.

The request for tender on Fisheries Department-owned businesses includes a 130-ton cold storage factory in Ywathagyi in Yangon Region, the Twantay Fisheries Camp on more than 1,223 acres in Twantay, the Thazin Yay Kyaw Fisheries Camp on 3,468 acres in Nyaungdon Township, and the Wa-Taw-Kwin Fisheries Camp on 300 acres in Maubin, Ayeyawady Region, according to the ministry.

The application form and other documents for the tender procedure are available at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw from 20 to 30 March, 2015.

The ministry has urged those interested to submit their applications at the ministry by 10 am on 2 April 2015.

The submitted tender forms will be opened the same day.— *GNLM*

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Sharing power, resources, taxes critical to states, regions, self-administered areas: MP

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March — Defence Services representative Brig-Gen Tint Hsan tabled a motion Friday in the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw calling for the parliament and the central government to revise laws on the sharing of legislative power, resources and taxes with regions and states.

He stressed decentralization in those three areas, saying that regions and states have been unable to make use of their rights provided in the constitution and strive for their own development over the past four years.

Power sharing, resource sharing and tax sharing will enable regions, states and self-administered areas to rely on themselves and benefit their people, he said.

The speaker welcomed the motion, saying it would pave the way for national reconciliation and peace if the parliament and central government acted on it, urging parliamentarians to take the motion into consideration in studying and amending the constitution.

The central government is engaged in discussions with regions, states and self-administered areas with respect to the sharing of power, resources and taxes, according to U Kyaw Kyaw Win, Deputy Minister at the President's Office. He said steps will be taken to amend existing laws and write new laws as necessary.

U Saw Hla Tun from the ChaungOo constituency urged the parliament and the central government to send an account of new salaries no later than 23 March so as to endorse the budgets bill of 2015.

Dr Lin Aung, Deputy Minister for Finance, responded that the growth of the country's economy is still sluggish and that there will be side effects triggered by increased salaries. According to him, the government uses over K237 billion a month as salaries for all of its staff and pensioners.

New salary rates were calculated by the central government based on its budget allotments on hand, with the deputy minister saying timing is of the essence given the sensitivity of financial issues.—*MNA*

Defence Services representative Brig-Gen Tint Hsan.—MNA

Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Lin Aung
MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw agrees to discuss education amendment bill

Union Minister for Education Dr Daw Khin San Yi.—MNA

Chairman of Bill Committee U Khin Maung Yi.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March — The Amyotha Hluttaw on Friday agreed to discuss the national education amendment bill as proposed by Union Minister for Education Dr Daw Khin San Yi.

The bill committee said the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw passed the National Education Law on 30 September 2014, prompting the student-led Democratic Education Movement Leading Committee to seek its amendment.

Following four-party talks, the bill was brought before the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 17 February, which handed over the case to the Amyotha Hluttaw on 20 February.

The amendment of the education law was discussed in the upper house from 5 to 17 March. According to the bill committee, hearings drew nine representatives from the Democratic Education Movement Leading Committee, 20 from the National Network for Education Reform, 34 from political parties, eight from civil society organizations and 15 from educators and legal experts.

The bill committee called for the Amyotha Hluttaw to discuss the education amendment bill as proposed by the education union minister by embracing it as a national concern and helping raise the education standard of the country.—*MNA*

(A translation of the Notification No. (2/2015) issued by UEC on 19 March, 2015)

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
UNION ELECTION COMMISSION
NAY PYI TAW
NOTIFICATION NO. (2 / 2015)
MARCH 2015

In exercising the powers conferred by Section 90 of the Election Law, the Union Election Commission has issued the following Code of Conduct for Observers for the election to be observed by stakeholders for conducting the election in free and fair manner.

CODE OF CONDUCT FOR INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS

(1) Every person who participates in election observation as a member of an organization or International Election Observation Mission must read and understand this Code of Conduct and shall sign a pledge annexed to this Code.

(2) Observers shall respect the sovereignty of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar as well as the fundamental rights and freedom of its people.

(3) Observers shall adhere to the laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and respect the authority of the Union Election Commission, subcommissions and its election officials.

(4) Observers shall follow instructions issued from the Union Election Commission and State/Region authorities, including police forces, security officials and maintain a respectful attitude towards them.

(5) Strict political impartiality shall be maintained by Observers at all times during election process. They shall not exhibit any bias or preference with regard to national authorities, political parties and candidates as well as any issue related to the process of elections.

(6) Observers shall not conduct or participate in any activity that may generate an impression of favouring or opposing any political party or a candidate.

(7) The Observer will have right to ask any question and to clear any query but they will not obstruct directly or indirectly in any pre-election, election and post election process.

(8) Observers shall display their official identification badges, issued by the Union Election Commission and respected Sub-Commissions, at all times and shall present it to electoral officials and other national authorities when requested.

(9) Observers shall ensure that all their observations are impartial, objective and depict the highest standards of accuracy.

(10) Individual Observer shall not make any personal comments about his/her observation or conclusion on the election process to the media. Observation Organizations or groups should ensure that only their authorized persons give comment about the election process.

(11) Observer Organizations may share their findings, methodology and recommendations with the Union Election Commission.

(12) Observers shall maintain proper personal behaviour and respect others, including exhibiting sensitivity for culture and customs of the country and observe the highest level of professional conduct at all times.

(13) All organizations requesting accreditation from the Union Election Commission shall be responsible for education and training of their individual observers in electoral laws and procedures, including this Code.

(14) The Observers intending to visit Myanmar shall submit their visa applications well in time, according to the rules laid down by relevant authorities of the Government of Myanmar. No observer shall stay in Myanmar beyond the duration of granted visa.

(15) Observers shall comply with advisories that may be issued by the Government or security agencies to ensure their safety during their stay in Myanmar.

(16) In case of violation of this Code of Conduct, the Union Election Commission of Myanmar reserves the right to withdraw observer accreditation of an individual Observer or an Observer Mission. The authority to determine the violation also rests with the Union Election Commission of Myanmar.

Chairman
Union Election Commission
Myanmar

PLEDGE TO ABIDE BY THE CODE OF CONDUCT

I have read and understood the Code of Conduct for Election Observers, that was provided by the Union Election Commission of Myanmar. I, hereby pledge that I will follow the Code of Conduct and that I will conduct myself and my activities in complete accordance with it.

I have no conflicts of interest, political, economic nor any other, that will interfere with my ability to be an impartial election observer and to follow the Code of Conduct.

Signed ----------
Name ----------
Date ----------

President U Thein Sein encourages...

(from page 1)

The plane is scheduled to continue its journey from Mandalay to Chongqing and Nanjing, China, to Hawaii and Phoenix in the United States, then to New York and Southern Europe or North Africa, before returning to Abu Dhabi in August. During the trip, the pilots will share knowledge about Switzerland's technology sector. The three-day stopover in Mandalay includes media briefings and public discussions.

During his visit to Switzerland in September 2014, President U Thein Sein received a request from then-president of Switzerland Didier Burkhalter to allow the stopover of the plane.

It is estimated that the cost of the flight of the Solar Impulse-2 will be more than US $400,000. In 2014, the journey of the Solar Impulse-1 cost some $500,000. Speaking to the press, the pilots said Solar Impulse-2 is an example of how renewable energy can bring prosperity and peace while protecting the environment.

On behalf of companies sponsoring the round-the-world flight, Managing Director Mr Steven Foster of the Schindler Group and Mr Surge Pun, also known as U Then Wai, explained their contribution to the trip.

MNA

***Pilots Mr Addre Borshberg and Mr Bertrand Piccard of Solar Impulse-2 meet press.*—MNA**

Water management vital to improving economy, living standards: vice president

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March—Despite its abundance of water, Myanmar faces difficulties managing the precious resource in both rural settings and big cities, Vice President U Nyan Tun said Friday, during a speech to mark World Water Day.

The United Nations observes World Water Day every year with a view to raising public awareness of the importance of potable water and good sewage systems, which are beyond the reach of some people, the vice president said during his speech at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 here.

Water resources account for 75% of electricity generated nationwide, with 90% of total water consumption in rural areas coming from irrigation facilities.

The vice president said every day was 'water day,' as the decisions people make each day are vital to the management of water resources.

Myanmar formed a national water resources committee in 2013, the following year setting the goal of achieving effective water resource management in 10 years.

Safe drinking water and adequate irrigation facilities top the government's agenda for national development, the vice president said, quoting President U Thein Sein's speech delivered on 9 August 2013.

U Nyan Tun described water resource management in the agricultural sector as critical for agricultural growth, environmental sustainability and rural development, stressing programmes to educate people on river ecosystems and encourage public participation in water management.

Speaking of the effects of urbanization on water resources, he said greater emphasis should be put on improving water supply, sewage and drainage in big cities of Yangon and Mandalay.

With greater waves of migration from rural to urban areas, a majority of urban people lack access to adequate clean water, thereby worsening living standards, he said, adding that an all-inclusive approach has been taken to write a law on protection and preservation of water resources.

Representatives of the Water Expert Team of the World Bank gave talks on "Dynamics of River Basin Management" and "Linking Myanmar and the post-2015 Development Agenda-A New Era for Water Resources Development and Management," followed by "From Vision to Action and From Action to Vision" by Mr Joan Boer, Ambassador of Netherlands to Myanmar, and "Process of Myanmar Water Sector Reform and Progress" by U Tun Lwin Oo, Director General of the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems.

The Dutch ambassador handed over a copy of "Myanmar IWRM Strategic Study Report" to U Han Sein, Deputy Minister for Transport.

MNA

***Vice President U Nyan Tun observes a booth displayed at World Water Day ceremony.*—MNA**

80% of Myanmar 5-year-olds have tooth decay: dental association

By *Khaing Thanda Lwin*

YANGON, 20 March—More than 80 percent of five-year-olds in Myanmar are suffering from tooth decay, Dr Phwint Phu, President of the Myanmar Dental Association, said Friday at a ceremony to mark World Oral Health Day.

Organized by the MDA in cooperation with Signal, a toothpaste brand of Unilever Co, the ceremony was aimed at promoting oral health awareness among public.

"The result comes from the small-scale survey conducted by the MDA and the country needs a national oral health survey to Prevent and reduce dental diseases," Vice president Dr Aung Than of the association said in an interview with the Global New Light of Myanmar on that day.

He added tooth decay is one of the most common types of oral diseases in Myanmar which affect mostly young people and especially women. Periodontal disease, however, affects some 60 per cent of adults aged over 40.

"We saw a few patients with oral cancer, most from rural areas, especially in Balugyun near Mawlamyine, during their free oral care programme," Dr Aung Than said, adding MDA plans to extend its free medical treatment to people especially in remote areas this year.

The international day is celebrated every year on 20 March in 70 countries, with the aim of raising awareness of oral health. According to the FDI World Dental Federation, 90% of the world's population will suffer from oral diseases in their lifetime.

In his speech at the ceremony, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe said the Ministry of Health plans to promote public health improvement in 2015-16 FY. The ministry has received a budget exceeding K650 billion from the Union government for 2014-2015 FY.

GNLM

Lake restored for fire prevention

Kawlin (Kachin State), 20 March – Residents of Kawlin, Kachin State, are once again able to use an artificial lake for recreation following environmental restoration work carried out in preparation for the high fire-danger season.

The lake, dug for fire-fighting purposes in 1990, had been known for its clean water, but became silted and polluted with rubbish and waste.

With a K 5 million contribution from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament), K 1 million from the Township Development Assisting Committee and K 1.8 million from Zeya Padetha Livestock Breeding Foundation, the Kawlin Township Administration Committee built a retaining wall at the eastern bank of the lake.

Myanmar Railway Division-2 took responsibility for building the retaining wall at the western bank.—*GNLM-018*

Officials issue NSC cards in Dawei District

Dawei (Taninthayi Region), 20 March – The Immigration and National Registration Department in Dawei, Tanithayi Region, issued national scrutinization cards and household certificates to eligible citizens free of charge on 19 March.

The officials issued 150 NSC cards and 15 household certificates. Similarly, with the assistance of the Norwegian Refugee Council, Longlon Township Immigration and National Registration Department in Dawei District, Taninthayi Region issued NSC cards to 65 individuals as well as 10 household certificates.

Pho Shwe Thun (Dawei)

Blood donation association marks 2nd anniversary

Meiktila (Mandalay Region), 20 March – With more than 600 members, the Cetanamon Blood Donation Association marked its second anniversary on 18 March.

Members donated blood at Meiktila General Hospital to commemorate the anniversary.

The association was launched under the aegis of leading monks of the Aungtheikdi Monastery in Cantoment Area in Meiktila in 2013 with 50 founding members.

In two years, 531 blood donors of the association donated 872 bottles of blood. Those who need blood may contact phone numbers 064 26931, 09 6522344 and 09 402567432.—*GNLM 018*

Nursery children perform traditional dance: ***Nanhteik Yadana Nursery School under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement in Wunna Theikdi ward, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, organized a concert on 19 March. Photo shows nursery school children perform traditional dance.—Than Naing (Zabu Thiri)***

Authorities file suit against motorcyclists killed on expressway

Nay Pyi Taw, 20 March — Authorities have filed lawsuits against two men killed while illegally riding motorcycles on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway.

Min Soe died on the spot when he was hit by a bus while turning his motorbike across the expressway at Mile Post 137 shortly after midnight on 16 March. Motorbikes are not allowed on the expressway.

On 15 March, U Pauksa, 71, of Gwaygone village in Wundwin Township, Mandalay Region, met a similar fate when he tried to turn his bike at Mile Post 311. He was rushed to hospital but died soon afterwards.

On 15 March, a light truck carrying monks and laypersons lost control and hit concrete roadblocks at Mile Post 168 on the expressway. An 88-year old monk died on the spot and three others sustained injuries.

Under the Myanmar legal system, lawsuits are filed against parties at fault in traffic incidents, even those who have died, in order to formally clear other parties of wrongdoing.

Police Information

Villagers get new road in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area: ***A new tar road, 8400 feet long and 10 feet wide, was open to the villagers of Kyaukeinn village in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 19 March.***
Tun Tun Win (Pyinmana)

Japan marks 20th anniversary of sarin nerve gas attack on Tokyo subway

TOKYO, 20 March — Japan on Friday marked the 20th anniversary of a deadly sarin nerve gas attack by the AUM Shinrikyo cult that killed 13 and injured more than 6,000 on the Tokyo subway.

A memorial ceremony was held at Kasumigaseki Station where around 20 employees of Tokyo Metro Co observed a moment of silence at 8 am, around the same time that two employees were killed at the station on 20 March, 1995.

"It was like coming here to see him," said 68-year-old Shizue Takahashi, who lost her husband Kazumasa Takahashi. The then 50-year-old deputy stationmaster at Kasumigaseki died after removing one of the sarin-containing plastic bags planted by AUM members in subway trains.

"We've seen one tragedy after another. I hope that young people will keep remembering what the attack by AUM meant," a tearful Takahashi said after laying flowers at a stand.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe also visited Kasumigaseki Station to offer flowers. "I'd like to offer my condolences to the victims. We will do all we can so something like this will never happen," Abe told reporters.

Similar stands for flowers were set up at five other Tokyo subway stations where lives were lost.

Officials of the Tokyo subway's Kasumigaseki station fall silent in honour of victims of the sarin gas attack on the subway system by members of the AUM Shinrikyo cult on 20 March, 2015, the 20th anniversary of the incident. The attack killed 13 people and injured more than 6,000.—KYODO NEWS

A total of 13 members of the cult, including Chizuo Matsumoto, the 60-year-old founder more commonly known as Shoko Asahara, have been sentenced to death over the gas attack and a series of other crimes. Five others have been sentenced to life in prison.

The Tokyo District Court that handed down the sentence to Asahara in 2004 says the attack was carried out in an attempt to cause a catastrophe in Tokyo and avert investigation into the group.

The sarin gas attack left many people bedridden and suffering from shock. AUM Shinrikyo has yet to pay compensation money in full to the victims.

The AUM Shinrikyo cult has two successor groups — Aleph and The Circle of Rainbow Light. The groups have a total of 1,650 believers and 690 million yen ($5.7 million) in assets, according to the Public Security Intelligence Agency.

"Even now, it is possible that they could carry out an indiscriminate mass killing," Justice Minister Yoko Kamikawa told a press conference.

She said the two groups are greatly influenced by Matsumoto, and the ministry will continue to monitor their activities and ensure public safety.

The anniversary came amid a series of terrorist attacks around the world, prompting countries to grapple with threats of terrorism. On Friday, the Metropolitan Police Department conducted a joint terrorism response drill with firefighters and others at JR Ikebukuro Station in Tokyo.

Kyodo News

Former Australian leader Malcolm Fraser dies at 84

SYDNEY, 20 March — Former conservative Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, who led the country from 1975 to 1983 but later turned against his party over its tough immigration policy and involvement in the Iraq war, died on Friday, his office said. He was 84.

The country's 22nd prime minister died peacefully in the early hours after a brief illness, his office said in a statement. It did not elaborate. "We appreciate that this will be a shock to all who knew and loved him," it said. Fraser's death comes five months after the death of his predecessor and former Labour opponent Gough Whitlam, marking an end to one of Australia's deepest and best-known political rivalries. "It is the end of an era, two towering figures who created a huge impression on many generations of Australians," Treasurer Joe Hockey told media.

After joining the House of Representatives aged 25 in 1955, then the youngest member of parliament, Fraser became prime minister 20 years later when the governor general sacked Whitlam for his inability to pass budget bills through the Senate.

For years seen as an enemy by Whitlam's centre-left Labour party, Fraser distanced himself from his Liberal party in the 1990s and 2000s, opposing its determination to retain the British monarchy, detain asylum seekers in offshore camps and join the Iraq war. He quit the party in 2010.

Reuters

At least 30 killed, 50 injured in railway mishap in northern India

NEW DELHI, 20 March — In a tragic railway mishap, at least 30 people were killed and over 50 others injured when two coaches of an express train derailed in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh on Friday.

"The mishap happened when two coaches of the Janta Express train, which operates between the northern cities of Dehradun and Varanasi, derailed at the Bachhrawan railway station, nearly 30 km from the state's Rae Bareli district, around 10 am (local time), " an official from the railways said on condition of anonymity.

Rescuers have so far pulled out 30 bodies and the death toll may go up later in the day, the official said, adding those injured have been admitted to nearby hospitals where the condition of some are said to be serious.

Local TV channels reported that one of the two compartments was crushed in the impact of the derailment and showed footage of rescuers cutting the mangled coaches using gas cutters to pull out passengers still feared trapped.

Quoting a railway official, a report said that a brake failure led to the mishap while the train was about to halt at the station.

Indian Railway Minister Suresh Prabhu has expressed grief over the deaths, saying that the railways has been prioritising safety as a "thrust area".

"An inquiry has been ordered into the incident," he tweeted.

After the accident, four medical teams with doctors, paramedics, and first-aid kits were rushed to the site. A total of 40 ambulances were also rushed to the spot.

The Indian Railways has announced a compensation of 200,000 rupees (3,220 US dollars) for the next of kin of those killed in the accident.

The accident has disrupted train services in the region. India's state-owned railways is the world's fourth largest network which cris-crosses the country from north to south, operating 12,000 passenger trains and carrying some 23 million passengers daily.

But it's safety record is questionable. In fact, there have been numerous train accidents in India in recent years, in which hundreds of people were killed.

Last month, at least 11 people were killed and several others injured when three coaches of the Bangalore-Ernakulam Intercity Express derailed in the southern state of Karnataka.

Xinhua

Australia honours victims of deadly siege as Sydney cafe reopens

SYDNEY, 20 March — A Sydney cafe that was the scene of a siege three months ago reopened on Friday with plaques honouring two victims killed during the 16-hour standoff, which prompted tighter Australian immigration controls and a review of anti-terror laws.

The Lindt Chocolate Cafe opened its doors again with commemorative plaques for cafe manager Tori Johnson, 34, and 38-year-old lawyer Katrina Dawson prominently displayed. Both were killed in the final minutes of the 15-16 December siege.

Johnson was ordered to kneel by gunman Man Haron Monis and then shot in the back of the head. His execution prompted police to storm the cafe and investigations have since shown that Dawson was killed by a ricochet from at least one police bullet.

Monis, a self-styled sheikh with deep grievances against the Australian government and who claimed allegiance with the Islamic State group, was killed by police.

Cafe worker Joel Herat, who was among the 17 hostages held by Monis, returned to work, drawing praise from New South Wales state premier Mike Baird.

"There's a strong sense of comradeship that says we can get through this together, we are stronger together, just as the city has marched forward today," Baird said.

Dozens of Sydney residents gathered before the cafe opened, some clutching flowers in scenes reminiscent of the days after the siege when thousands of mourners left floral tributes in Martin Place in the centre of the city's main business district.

"I really believe that bringing some flowers and having a look of the memorial and paying homage to the two people that died is a very worthwhile thing to do," resident Alan Sexton told *Reuters*.

Four people were wounded in the siege, including a policeman hit in the face with shotgun pellets and a 75-year-old woman who was shot in the shoulder.—*Reuters*

Photographs of Sydney's cafe siege victims, lawyer Katrina Dawson (L) and cafe manager Tori Johnson are displayed in a floral tribute near the site of the siege in Sydney's Martin Place, on 23 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

Okinawa man arrested over making bomb threats to US Embassy

TOKYO, 20 March — Police arrested on Thursday a 52-year-old man living in Okinawa on suspicion of making bomb threat phone calls to the US Embassy in Tokyo.

Mitsuyoshi Kamiya has admitted to having made such phone calls three times, threatening to bomb the embassy and a US military base in Okinawa, Japan's southernmost prefecture, between 5 and 14 March, the Metropolitan Police Department said.

Kyodo News

Abe to become 1st Japan PM to address US Congress joint session

WASHINGTON, 20 March — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe will become the first Japanese leader to address a joint session of Congress, possibly on 29 April, a US legislative source said on Thursday.

Staff of House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner have already informed a senior Japanese government official of the plan, the source said.

Japanese prime ministers Nobusuke Kishi and Hayato Ikeda addressed Congress in the past but not a joint session. Kishi is Abe's grandfather.

Details of Abe's speech are unknown yet but the source said he is likely to refer to the actions of the Japanese military before and during World War II.

Abe expressed his "most sincere condolences toward the many souls who lost their lives" when he touched upon the Australian victims of the war in his speech at the parliament in Canberra in July last year.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe attends the budget committee of the House of Councillors in Tokyo on 20 March, 2015. He will become the first Japanese leader to address a joint session of Congress, possibly on 29 April.
KYODO NEWS

The US legislative source said it is expected that Abe will use similar or stronger language compared with the Canberra speech in his speech in Washington.

With this year marking the 70th anniversary of the country's surrender to the Allied forces in 1945, Abe is also expected to highlight the contribution Japan has made to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region. Abe will speak in the plenary room of the lower house in front of members of both the lower house and the Senate — called a Joint Meeting of Congress.

According to US media a total of 117 foreign dignitaries have delivered speeches at the congressional Joint Meeting since 1874, including South Korean President Park Geunhye in 2013 and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu earlier this month.

The source said some in Congress, both Republicans and Democrats, have been cautious about allowing Abe to speak there because of his 2013 visit to Tokyo's Yasukuni Shrine, which honours convicted Class-A war criminals, ignoring objections expressed by Vice President Joe Biden.

Those US lawmakers also mentioned Abe's remarks in 2006 that appeared to question the legitimacy of the verdicts of the postwar International Military Tribunal for the Far East, which convicted Gen Hideki Tojo and other Japanese as war criminals.

But the reservations were not sufficiently strong to sway the congressional leadership, including Boehner who has the final say over whether Abe can speak, the source said.

Kyodo News

Russia says sanctions 'destructive', will act in own interests

***A rebel takes cover as a woman from inside a kiosk looks on, during what the rebels said was an anti-terrorist drill in Donetsk, on 18 March, 2015.—*REUTERS**

Moscow, 20 March — Russia described "sanctions rhetoric" as destructive on Friday and said it would do what is in its national interests after European Union leaders kept economic sanctions in place over the Ukraine crisis. In comments to reporters, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov also accused Kiev of violating the terms of a peace deal for eastern Ukraine that was agreed in the Belarussian capital Minsk.

"We prefer to engage in creative matters, not destructive matters such as sanctions rhetoric. So we do not discuss sanctions and the Russian Federation will do what is in its national interests," he said.—*Reuters*

Vietnamese official urges strengthening int'l coordination to improve search, rescue missions

HANOI, 20 March — International coordination should be strengthened to increase the capacity of joint search and rescue missions once an accident happens as the operation of the aviation sector involves many countries, said Vo Van Tuan, deputy chief of the General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army.

In a recent interview with *Xinhua* in Hanoi over one year after the disappearance of Malaysian airliner MH370, Vo Van Tuan said that it is necessary to conduct regular search and rescue exercises and drills, in order to promptly respond to an incident with the highest of efficiency.

"When such incidents occur, by saving just one or two minutes, many more lives can be saved. If we fail to respond in time, it may cause severe consequences. Therefore, the search and rescue forces should be trained well in order to always stay ready," Tuan said.

"At bilateral and multilateral meetings, including those of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and with other regional countries such as China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, Vietnam often mentions issues related to the deployment of joint search and rescue exercises and drills between regional countries for natural disasters and serious accidents among others," Tuan told *Xinhua*.

Concerned countries should reach a consensus and build plans based on each country's capacity to better coordinate with others, he added. Recalling Vietnam's search and rescue operation one year ago, Tuan said "Right after receiving the information, Vietnam, in a humanitarian response, tried to mobilize all forces in its utmost capacity to seek for the missing airplane."

"It is the largest search and rescue operation that Vietnam has launched so far with the mobilization of personnel forces and vehicles including planes, ships and vessels of search and rescue agencies, the coast guard, the navy and from the fisheries sector."

"In the shortest time, Vietnam mobilized the largest-ever force and set up a rescue plan. More than 10 planes and some 20 specialized ships and vessels, as well as numerous fishing boats, which were operating from Vietnam's southern Ho Chi Minh Flight Information Region (FIR) southward within the country's waters where the plane may have flown, joined the search mission," said the official.

After the mission, the country learned some lessons related to search and rescue work, Tuan told *Xinhua*, adding that "ensuring safety for the search forces is of great importance as sometimes in such missions, accidents can happen. Therefore, we must strive to ensure the highest safety during missions."

In the meantime, information and communication are also important. Information should be transferred in the fastest, most accurate way possible.

"Once learning about the incident, the Vietnamese minister of defence and the chief of the general staff of the Vietnam People's Army assigned me as commander and spokesperson for the rescue mission. The receiving and releasing of information was centralized, thus ensuring the consistency of information," Tuan told *Xinhua*.

Xinhua

Chinese military denies role in reported US hacking

BEIJING, 20 March — China's Defence Ministry on Friday denied that it had anything to do with a cyber attack on Register.com, a unit of Web.com, following a report in the *Financial Times* that the FBI was looking into the Chinese military's involvement.

"The relevant criticism that China's military participated in Internet hacking is to play the same old tune, and is totally baseless," the ministry said in a fax to *Reuters* in response to a question about the story.

According to the *Financial Times*, hackers apparently have had access to Register.com's network for about a year, but the attack did not disrupt or result in theft of client data.

It is not clear what the Chinese military would be looking for or what it would gain from Register.com's data. Register.com says on its website it manages more than 2.5 million domain names, and also provides web management and design services.

China and the United States regularly accuse each other of hacking attacks.

State news agency *Xinhua*, citing a report from the National Computer Network Emergency Response Technical Team/Coordination Centre of China, said that last year, 4,761 IP addresses in the United States controlled 5,580 Chinese websites through backdoor programs, allowing remote access to a computer.

It did not provide an on-year comparison. The ministry repeated the government's standard line that China is one of the world's biggest victims of hacking.

"The Chinese government has all along resolutely opposed and dealt with in accordance with the law Internet hacking and other relevant criminal activities, and the Chinese military has never been involved in or participated in any activities to steal commercial secrets online," it added.

The United States needs to "give a clear explanation" to the world of its theft of secrets and online surveillance "and not make thoughtless remarks about other people", the ministry said.

Reuters

Russia confirms Putin planning to attend war victory event in China

Russian President Vladimir Putin

Moscow, 20 March — Russian President Vladimir Putin is planning to attend a 3 September event in Beijing where China will commemorate what it calls its victory over Japan in World War II, Kremlin administration chief Sergei Ivanov was quoted as saying on Thursday by Russian media. Ivanov also touched on Chinese President Xi Jinping's plan to attend an event in which Russia marks the 70th anniversary of its defeat of Germany in the war, scheduled to take place in Moscow in May, the reports said. The two leaders' attendance at their respective victory anniversary events will be an opportunity for the peoples of both countries to remember the history of the victory against fascism and Japan's militarism, Ivanov reportedly said.— *Kyodo News*

EU ministers set for further Iran talks

BRUSSELS, 20 March — The British, French and German foreign ministers are due to meet Iranian nuclear negotiators in Lausanne on Saturday, European diplomatic sources told *Reuters*, adding that a final decision would depend on talks among officials on Friday.

It was not immediately clear if the foreign ministers would be joined by the Russian, US and Chinese counterparts who are part of a process aimed at ending a confrontation over Teheran's nuclear programme. The sources spoke after the French, German and British leaders met the EU foreign policy chief in Brussels.

"The meeting today on Iran was useful to consolidate a European line," one diplomatic source told *Reuters* after European Commission Vice President Federica Mogherini met British Prime Minister David Cameron, French President Francois Hollande and German Chancellor Angela Merkel for about 40 minutes before a second day of wider talks at an EU summit.

"A will to find a good deal has been confirmed by all participants," the source said. "The target is to reach a deal as soon as possible, bearing in mind that June is the deadline."

A second source described Friday's meeting in Brussels as a "useful informal session on coordination and consultation".

The talks came after a senior European Union negotiator at talks in Switzerland said that the six world powers are unlikely to reach a framework agreement with Iran on its nuclear work in the coming days as the sides are still far apart on key issues.

Reuters

Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif (C on left) and head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Ali Akbar Salehi (C on right) talk outside with aides after a morning negotiation session with US Secretary of State John Kerry over Iran's nuclear programme in Lausanne on 19 March, 2015.
REUTERS

Despite Hillary Clinton promise, charity did not disclose donors

NEW YORK, 20 March — In 2008, Hillary Clinton promised Barack Obama, the president-elect, there would be no mystery about who was giving money to her family's globe-circling charities. She made a pledge to publish all the donors on an annual basis to ease concerns that as secretary of state she could be vulnerable to accusations of foreign influence.

At the outset, the Clinton Foundation did indeed publish what they said was a complete list of the names of more than 200,000 donors and has continued to update it. But in a breach of the pledge, the charity's flagship health programme, which spends more than all of the other foundation initiatives put together, stopped making the annual disclosure in 2010, *Reuters* has found. In response to questions from *Reuters*, officials at the Clinton Health Access Initiative (CHAI) and the foundation confirmed no complete list of donors to the Clintons' charities has been published since 2010. CHAI was spun off as a separate legal entity that year, but the officials acknowledged it still remains subject to the same disclosure agreement as the foundation. The finding could renew scrutiny of Clinton's promises of transparency as she prepares to launch her widely expected bid for the White House in the coming weeks. Political opponents and transparency groups have criticized her in recent weeks for her decision first to use a private email address while she was secretary of state and then to delete thousands of emails she labeled private.—*Reuters*

Obama tells Netanyahu US to 'reassess' policy on Israel, Mideast diplomacy

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

WASHINGTON, 20 March — President Barack Obama told Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday that Washington would "reassess" its options on US-Israel relations and Middle East diplomacy after the Israeli prime minister took a position against Palestinian statehood during his re-election campaign, a White House official said.

Obama's telephone call to Netanyahu followed a television interview in which the Israeli leader backed away from his pre-election declaration that there would be no Palestinian state on his watch, an about-face apparently aimed at quelling US criticism triggered by his comments.

The White House, unmoved by Netanyahu's effort to backtrack, delivered a fresh rebuke against him on Thursday and signalled that Washington may reconsider its decades-old policy of shielding close ally Israel from international pressure at the United Nations.

An official statement put out later in the day said Obama called Netanyahu to congratulate him on his election win and used the opportunity to reaffirm his commitment to a two-state solution, a longtime cornerstone of US policy on the Middle East conflict.

But Obama also delivered a blunt message that underscored the seriousness of the US-Israel rift. "The president told the prime minister that we will need to reassess our options following the prime minister's new positions and comments regarding the two-state solution," the White House official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest warned earlier that there would be "consequences" for Israel as the Obama administration monitors the formation of Netanyahu's new ruling coalition.

"He walked back from commitments that Israel had previously made to a two-state solution," Earnest told reporters. "It is ... cause for the United States to evaluate what our path is forward."

Obama told the Israeli leader he values the close security partnership between their countries and the two agreed to keep consulting on resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," the White House said in its statement.

"I haven't changed my policy. I never retracted my speech in Bar-Ilan University six years ago calling for a demilitarized Palestinian state that recognizes the Jewish state," Netanyahu told MSNBC in his first US television interview since winning the bitterly contested Israeli ballot.

"What has changed is the reality," Netanyahu said, citing the Palestinian Authority's refusal to recognize Israel as the homeland of the Jewish people and the Hamas militant group's continued control of the Gaza Strip.

The harsh US response signalled that relations with Israel, already at their lowest point since Obama took office, could deteriorate further as an end-of-March deadline looms in US-led nuclear diplomacy with Iran that Netanyahu vehemently opposes. Among the most serious risks for Israel would be a shift in Washington's posture at the United Nations. The United States has long stood in the way of Palestinian efforts to get a UN resolution recognising its statehood, including threatening to use its veto, and has protected Israel from efforts to isolate it internationally.

Reuters

EU tells Greece time, patience running out

BRUSSELS/BERLIN, 20 March — Euro zone leaders told Greece on Thursday its leftist-led government must implement agreed reforms to avert a looming cash crunch that could force it out of the single currency.

Greece has been kept from bankruptcy by two international bailouts but now risks running out of money within weeks if it does not receive more funds. Greek banks reported the largest deposit withdrawals in a month, a sign savers are worried about the outlook for the country's finances and institutions.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras requested a meeting with the leaders of Germany, France and the main EU institutions on the sidelines of a European Union summit to press for Athens to receive short-term funds to keep itself afloat.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel doused any expectation of a deal at the late-night session, saying decisions were up to the Eurogroup of finance ministers of the 19-nation euro area.

"I want to say: don't expect a solution, don't expect a breakthrough. It's not the right setting," she told reporters on arrival at the summit. "Decisions are made in the Eurogroup and that's how it will remain."

French President Francois Hollande said the message to Tsipras would be that all sides must stick to their commitments.

***Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras (L) gives a statement with Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament, at the European Parliament in Brussels, on 13 March, 2015.—*REUTERS**

The chairman of euro zone finance ministers, Jeroen Dijsselbloem, told reporters they would merely "take stock of the progress being made, which seems to be small...

"Time is ticking away, so we don't have a lot of time," he said. "So we have really got to get to work."

A person familiar with ECB thinking said European Central Bank President Mario Draghi would make clear the bank would not lift its limit on Greek short-term debt issuance, which Greece's finance minister has said is "asphyxiating" his country.

"It's up to Greece to meet its commitments in order to get money from its creditors," said the person. "The ECB doesn't do bridge finance."

Tsipras did not respond to questions about his country's funding problems, saying only: "The EU needs more political initiatives that respect both democracy and its treaties so that we leave behind the crisis and move to growth." A Greek official said Athens had enough cash to pay a final 350 million euro (253 million pound)instalment of a loan repayment to the International Monetary Fund on Friday.Merkel earlier told the German parliament in Berlin the crisis could only be resolved if Greece stuck to reform commitments it made when it agreed with the euro zone on a four-month extension of its bailout programme.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 21 March, 2015

Do not miss the right to vote in 2015 general election

By *Myint Win Thein*

THE general election scheduled to be held in late 2015 is significant not just for political parties but also for the people of Myanmar, since the result may dramatically change the country's political landscape.

One reason why the 2015 vote is so significant for Myanmar is that it stands to be the first election in which almost all political forces in the country will participate. Major opposition parties boycotted the 2010 election and almost all votes were taken by a major party which has dominated the parliament. After the election, we are likely to see more opposition representatives in the parliament.

Another reason is that voters have developed the ability to judge political parties during the last four years. Both the ruling and opposition parties have shown strengths and weaknesses during the period.

In addition, voters have become well aware of the power of their ballots during the period, while the media will have more experience covering elections. These factors make the general election more exciting than the previous one, and it is likely that voter turnout will be higher.

It is important for everyone eligible to make sure they are included in the voters' lists released by election sub-commissions for the 2015 general election. The first step for a free and fair election is to ensure all eligible citizens exercise their right to vote.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

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.

Clean Water for a Healthy World

Dr. Aung Soe @ Aung Kyaw Moe
Retired State Medical Superintendent

2015 is the final year of International Decade for Action – 2005 to 2015, to safeguard water for all planet citizens, declared by the United Nations, World Water Day, however will ever exist every year on 22 March for awareness.

Water is the source of life and link that binds all living creatures on this earth. Water is connected directly to all Millennium Development Goals: food security, women's empowerment, improved maternal and child health, life expectancy, climate change adaption and mitigation, sustainable development and so on. Theme of 2005 – 2015 International Decade of Action, "Water for Life", represents crucial elements.

World's growing population needs water for food, energy and raw materials. The need is increasingly competing with nature's own demands for water to sustain ecosystems and the services on which we rely. Our indispensable water resources have proven themselves to greatly resilient, but they are increasingly threatened and vulnerable.

Both the quality and quantity of water resources are endangered. On each single day, humans pour billions of kilograms of untreated sewage and industrial and agricultural wastes into world water systems. As such, clean water has become scarce and may become even scarcer with the drive of climate change. Logically the poor continue of suffer first and most for lack of adequate sanitation, pollution and water shortages.

As water is central to all Millennium Development Goals, and for all life on earth, each country should know how to solve these problems, development potentials, sustainably manage waters for the poor. One should bear in mind that deaths caused by unsafe water is much more than due to conflicts, violence and wars, statistics reveal.

A few words on Myanmar Health perspectives for "Clean Water for a Healthy World". Not long ago, a cross-sectional descriptive study was carried out by health research scientists from Department of Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar) in two selected wards of North Dagon Township, Yangon. Introductory remarks of the research paper says, worldwide, the estimated 2.5 billion cases of diarrhoeal diseases are annually reported and one of the major contributors being unsafe drinking water. Researchers discovered 93.4 percent of household drinking water samples were contaminated with foecal coliform bacteriae, the causative organisms for diarrhoeal diseases, some being fatal. The research findings were of immense value in intervention programs for Household Drinking Water Treatment and Safe Storage – HWTS.

Out of over 60,000 villages in Myanmar, more than 30,000 villages do not have access to clean drinking water, according to the Rural Area Development Department.

Statistics of the department have shown that out 64,917 villages, 34,311 villages are severely affected by water scarcity.

To deal with the problem, water facilities funded by donors and the government have so far been construced in over 30,000 villages to supply drinking water, with more emphasis in dry zones of Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway districts. The department has set a target of supplying drinking water to 20,000 more villages from April, 2014 to April, 2016. (GNLM 11/03/2014 article by Aye Min Soe)

With the world's population and economies growing fast while the amount of available water remains the same, collaboration over more essential resource is more urgent than ever, said the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI) in a statement in 2013 during World Water Week, attended by global leaders.

"Mortgaging our future by draining water from the ground, surface and sky faster than it can be replaced by nature is untenable and unwise", said Torgny Holmgren, executive director of SIWI, addressing the opening session. Jan Eliasson, deputy secretary–general of the United Nations, urged governments, development partners and the private sector to work together to help change this.

About 2,500 politicians, business leaders and innovators took part in more than 100 seminars, workshops and events under the theme of "Water cooperation – Building partnership," aiming to find solutions to the world's most pressing water challenges. During the week, the prestigious Stockholm Water Prize and Stockholm Industry Water Award were also awarded.

Shall we put our individual efforts and strategies collectively, looking forward to get clean water for a healthy world.

Nanyang Technological University of Singapore: Vital aspect of Technology in Education

By *Sayar Mya*

(Continued from yesterday)

Ranking

Currently, NTU is ranked 39th globally (6th in Asia) by the 2014 **QS World University Rankings**, placing it in the top 1% of universities globally. The 2014 QS Asian University Rankings which uses a different set of performance criteria places NTU 7th in Asia. NTU is also ranked 1st in the world among young elite universities according to the 2014 QS Top 50 Under 50. In 2011, NTU became the first university in Asia to receive the maximum five stars under the QS Stars evaluation system. Other international universities with a five-star rating include the University of Cambridge, Stanford University and Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In 2014, NTU's **"Engineering and Technology"** is ranked by QS World University Rankings as 9th in the world (2nd in Asia). It is the 5th most cited in the world while its research output is ranked among the top three universities globally in Engineering by Essential Science Indicators of Thomson Reuters.

NTU's **"Nanyang Business School's"** MBA is ranked 32nd in the world (and 6th in Asia) by the Financial Times Global MBA Rankings 2013 and 64th globally (4th in Asia) by The Economist Intelligence Unit Full-time MBA Rankings 2013.

The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies is ranked second among university-affiliated think-tanks in Asia and 22nd globally.

NTU has many multi-national programmes and initiatives with institutions worldwide. Some examples of key partners include MIT, Stanford University, Cornell University, Caltech, University of Washington, Carnegie Mellon University; world-class universities in Asia such as Beijing University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Waseda, IIT of India; European universities like Cambridge University, Imperial College London, Eidgenössische Technische Hochschule Zürich, Karolinska Institutet, University of Mannheim, Heidelberg University and Technische Universität München; and Israeli Universities like Hebrew University of Jerusalem and Technion – Israel Institute of Technology.

NTU is also the first **Kauffman Campus** outside the United States, spearheading entrepreneurship in Asia.

Internet learning on campus

The University is connected to the high speed Internet. All the facilities and resources available over the Internet are accessible by anyone on the campus network. The campus network, which links together all computing systems on the campus, is managed by the University's Centre for IT Services (CITS).

Degrees awarded by NTU

Bachelor degrees:

- Bachelor of Accountancy
- Bachelor of Business
- Bachelor of Fine Arts
- Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Engineering
- Bachelor of Arts (Honors)
- Bachelor of Communication Studies

Higher degrees:

- Master of Business
- Master of Business Administration
- Master of Science
- Master of Arts
- Master of Education
- Master in Educational Administration
- Master of Engineering
- Master of Public Administration
- Master of Applied Science
- Master of Communication Studies
- Master of Mass Communication
- Master of Management in Hospitality
- Doctor of Philosophy
- Doctor in Education

Maritime Degrees:

- B. Sc in Maritime Studies
- B. Sc in Maritime Studies with Business Major
- M. Sc in Maritime Studies
- **Conclusion**

The author of this article is simple presenting the vital aspect of Technology in Education citing the colleges and universities under the **"Nanyang Technological University (NTU)".** As the world is fast moving, the writer saw some comments about the NTU.

According to the president of Nanyang Technological University, the potential for Western universities to forge links with Singapore is growing, but they should not take a **"normative approach"** on freedom of expression in the city state.

NTU, which has recently seen a dramatic rise in its global rankings positions and citation impact scores, has opened a medical school in Singapore in a joint venture with Imperial College London. The partnership "may be one of the most spectacular academic joint ventures in today's world," according to Andersson, a Swede who is a member of the board of trustees of the Nobel Foundation.

If the esteemed and valued readers of the Global New Light of Myanmar and the interested educators could grasp and take hold of the vital aspect of Technology in Education, then the aim and purpose of the writer is fulfilled and rewarded.

(Concluded)

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham inspects college and university in Lashio

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March—Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham inspected a construction site Friday at a college in Lashio, accompanied by Dr Maung Maung Htay, Deputy Minister Dr Zaw Min Aung and Dr Win Myint.

The principal of the Lashio Education College and the deputy minister reported to the vice president on construction of buildings in the 2015-16 fiscal year and courses for trainees.

After hearing the reports, the vice president said there is a shortage of teachers, especially in small towns, and the government has been attending to the needs of the education sector as much as possible.

Thanks to the efforts of the president during one of his foreign trips, English language teachers were sent to states and regions in cooperation with the British Council, the vice president said, before urging teachers to try to improve their own abilities, as well as those of students.

Afterwards, the vice president and party proceeded to Lashio University and met with the rector and faculty members.

The rector reported to the vice president on construction of new buildings for the university. The vice president said the image of the university will improve only when its graduates can compete with those of other universities.

The vice president said it is necessary to link with international universities for research and development.

The government has been increasing the education budget year by year and the ministry of education is in the top five priorities among over 30 ministries, according to the vice president. In conclusion, the vice president urged faculty members to exert efforts for the future of the country.

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham hears reports presented by officials at Lashio Education Collage.—MNA

Later, the vice president attended the coordination meeting of second-level officials of Shan State in Lashio.

Chief Minister of Shan State U Sao Aung Myat, State Minister Col Aung Thu, Deputy Minister Dr Maung MaungHtay, Deputy Minister Dr Zaw Min Aung and Deputy Minister Dr Win Myint reported to the vice president on water supply, measures for development, construction of a nunnery, upgrading of schools and healthcare services. After hearing the reports, the vice president urged the officials to try to improve public services including water, electricity supply and healthcare

MNA

Education Promotion Task Force discusses temporary handing and taking over of universities and colleges

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March – At the meeting of Education Promotion Task Force, Union Minister for Education Dr Daw Khin San Yi discussed academic, financial, management, staff affairs, plans for emerging standard education system, temporary handing and taking over of universities and colleges by the ministry and preparations made for transitional period. Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein also clarified management system in the education sector, separate universities, actions to be carried out by each university and managements of the respective ministries. The meeting also focused on organizational setup and administrative affairs of universities and colleges run by ministries, and financial and staff affairs. mna

Point-1965 Hill under Tatmadaw control

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March — The Tatmadaw's forces conquered the Point-1965 Hill, one of the strongholds of Kokang insurgents, in the afternoon of Friday after fierce attacks to the rebels.

Bunkers and fox holes for about 200 fighters and about 10 big huts are found on the hill.

Similarly, the air force of the Tatmadaw also bombarded the Point-0951 and Point-1968 hills located north of Point-1965 Hill.

Besides, the Tatmadaw's forces also took control of the insurgents' strategic hills located about 1,500 meters away from the border on Thursday.

During the fighting, the Tatmadaw seized one China-made machine gun, 710 rounds of bullets, six grenades, one TNLA uniform, 10 sets of Kokang rebel uniforms, one book with notes written in Myanmar and Rakhine languages and equipment for about 200 insurgents.

Map shows clashes between Tatmadaw and Kokang insurgents.—MYAWADY

Three soldiers sacrificed for the country while 12 soldiers including officers got injured during the fighting.—*Myawady*

Mines Ministry urges private miners in Mogok to extend permits

NAY PYI TAW, 20 March — The Ministry of Mines has urged small-scale private miners working in the Mogok gems land to extend their permits before they expire in May.

Those who want to extend their permits can get application forms at the Department of Mines in Mogok, Mandalay Region, from 3 March and can submit their application to the ministry's local department until 30 April, an announcement of the ministry said.

The number of mining blocks which will expire for mining in May stands at 144, according to the ministry.

The Ministry of Mines invited applications for mining on a manageable scale in Mogok from private businesses in 2011, granting permission to mine there with the aim of boosting gem production and creating local jobs, the ministry said.

GNLM

Festival exposes work of Myanmar photographers

YANGON, 20 March—An exhibition showcasing the work of local photographers opened Friday at the Yangon Gallery as part of a three-day festival celebrating the visual art form.

The Myanmar Photographic Society's "All Myanmar Photography Festival" runs from 20 to 22 March, with more than 150 photos on display at the gallery. The event aims to promote the skills of local photographers, the organiser said.

It is the second staging of the festival, with the organizer inviting enthusiasts to come and enjoy the handiwork of MPS members and other photographers.

During the festival, photographers have an opportunity to attend workshops and talks conducted by local and foreign experts.

Works exhibited at the gallery, located near the Planetarium Museum on Ahlone Road, will be on sale, starting from K 200,000.—*GNLM*

US 'deeply disturbed' by reports of chemical weapons in Syria — Kerry

*Secretary of State John Kerry speaks to a meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce in Egypt in Sharm el-Sheikh on 13 March, 2015.—*Reuters

Washington, 20 March — The United States is deeply disturbed by reports that Syrian government forces attacked the town of Sarmin using chlorine as a weapon on Tuesday, Secretary of State John Kerry said in a statement on Thursday.

"We are looking very closely into this matter and considering next steps," he said.

"While we cannot yet confirm details, if true, this would be only the latest tragic example of the Assad regime's atrocities against the Syrian people, which the entire international community must condemn."

A group monitoring the Syrian civil war said on Tuesday that government forces carried out a poison gas attack that killed six people in the northwest, and medics have posted videos of children suffering what they said was suffocation.

But a Syrian military source described the report of an attack on the town in Idlib province as propaganda.

Kerry has been getting tough on Syria in recent days after raising concerns among Middle East allies that the United States is open to negotiating with Assad, who has been fighting Islamist and other rebels since 2011. The State Department has said the United States is seeking a negotiated political settlement but one that excludes Assad.

Syria agreed in 2013 to destroy its entire chemical weapons programme under a deal brokered with the United States and Russia after hundreds of people were killed in a sarin gas attack on the outskirts of the capital, Damascus.

Syria's ambassador to the global chemical weapons watchdog said on Thursday that his country condemned any use of chemical weapons, without mentioning any specific incidents, according to Syrian state news agency *SANA*.

Envoy Basam al-Sabagh said Damascus had provided the Hague-based Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) with documents in December showing armed groups had used chlorine gas in Syria, the *SANA* report said.

It cited Sabagh's comments to the OPCW's executive council in a session on Thursday in which he also said Syria had fulfilled all of its obligations under the Chemical Weapons Convention.

The OPCW has found evidence that chlorine gas was repeatedly used as a weapon in the country.

Reuters

Islamic State video purports to show Kurdish peshmerga beheadings

Erbil, 20 March — Islamic State has published a video purporting to show the beheading of three Kurdish peshmerga fighters in northern Iraq by militants who threatened to kill "dozens" more of those being held captive.

The six-minute clip, which appeared timed to coincide with celebrations for the Kurdish New Year, showed the peshmerga wearing orange jumpsuits being decapitated by three black-clad militants, all of whom spoke Kurdish.

The footage could not be independently verified.

The peshmerga have emerged as a key partner for the US-led coalition in its campaign to "degrade and destroy" the extremist group, which they have driven back in northern Iraq with the help of airstrikes.

"To the Muslim Kurdish people: know that our war is not with you, rather it is with those who ventured into an alliance with the Safavids and crusaders to wage war on the Muslims," said one of the militants, using derogatory terms to refer to Iran and the coalition respectively. Teheran has also provided assistance to the peshmerga.

Another of the militants then directly addressed Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani: "We warned you before that for every rocket you fire on those under the care of the Islamic State, you will kill one of your prisoners with your own hands."

Kurdish forces shelled inside Mosul several days ago in what the peshmerga ministry said was retaliation for an Islamic State missile that landed in a vegetable market outside the regional capital of Erbil on Monday.

Reuters

*A destroyed building with a wall painted with the black flag commonly used by Islamic State militants, is seen in the town of al-Alam on 10 March, 2015.—*Reuters

No Iraq request for coalition air support in Tikrit campaign

Erbil, (Iraq), 20 March — Iraq has not requested air support from the US-led coalition for its campaign to retake Tikrit from Islamic State insurgents, a senior military official in the coalition said on Thursday, as the assault on the city remained on pause for nearly a week.

Some Iraqi officials this week said more air strikes are needed to dislodge the militants, who are holed up in a complex of palaces built when Saddam Hussein was in power and have turned the city into a labyrinth of homemade bombs and booby-traps.

A Pentagon spokesman said Iraqi forces essentially had Tikrit encircled but did not appear to have progressed as far in their operation to retake the city as initially suggested in early reporting.

Reuters

Plane attacks Hadi's Aden base as Yemen conflict worsens

Aden, 20 March — An unidentified warplane attacked the presidential palace in Aden on Thursday after rival forces fought the worst clashes in years in Yemen's second city, an official and residents said, in a sharp escalation of the country's months-long conflict.

Thirteen people were killed when forces loyal to President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi fought their way into Aden's international airport and wrested an adjacent military base from a renegade officer, Aden governor Abdulaziz bin Habtoor said.

Both the fighting on the ground and subsequent air attack appeared to be part of a deepening power struggle between Hadi and the Shi'ite Muslim Houthi group, which controls the capital Sanaa and is allied with former president Ali Abdullah Saleh.

In a statement Hadi described the attack on Aden as an attempted coup backed by the previous regime. "The failure of the military coup... was backed by the former regime, which was one of the perpetrators of extermination," said the presidential statement.

The statement made no reference to Saleh but said that "agents of Iran" had also backed the former regime's forces.

"What happened today is a clear message to the whole world that the coup and their supporters of traitors reject any solutions or sit at the dialogue table in order to exit the crisis of Yemen to safety," it added.

Earlier on Thursday in a televised speech, Habtoor accused the Houthis of being behind the air attack on the compound in Aden's al-Maasheeq district, where Hadi is based, but said the bomb "had fallen harmlessly into the sea".

"Aden is peaceful and things are back to normal after the rebellion was ended," he said on Aden television. A Houthi spokesman could not immediately be reached for comment.

The Houthis earlier this week removed the air force chief for refusing to provide them with air support and replaced him with a general who is closer to their group.

*Militia men loyal to Yemen's President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi are seen at the barracks of the Special Forces in Yemen's southern port city of Aden on 19 March, 2015.—*Reuters

Residents said anti-aircraft guns opened fire at the plane, and smoke was seen rising from the area, but it was not immediately clear if Hadi was in the compound. A second approach by a warplane was repelled by anti-aircraft fire, they said.

An aide to Hadi said the president was "safe at a secure location ... There was a raid, but there were no casualties."

In Washington, US State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki called on both parties to refrain from violence.

"We're concerned about actions that could increase tensions in Yemen and lead to further destabilisation. We call on all parties to de-escalate the situation," she said.

The affiliation of the aircraft was not immediately known, but residents in Sanaa said they saw an unusually busy level of flights by military aircraft in the skies of the capital.

Earlier in the day, soldiers and militiamen loyal to Hadi using tanks and armoured vehicles battled their way into Aden's airport and stormed the nearby military base, residents said.

General Abdel-Hafez al-Saqqaf had been holed up for days in the base after refusing Hadi's order to hand his Special Forces unit to another officer's command, a security source said.

The fighting brought traffic at the airport to a halt.

Witnesses said many Special Forces soldiers had been taken prisoner at the al-Sawlaban base in the Khor Maksar district.

Saqqaf later turned himself in to the governor of the adjacent Lahj province, the *Aden al-Ghad* newspaper reported.

In a statement, the Houthi-led Supreme Security Committee urged an end to the Aden fighting, saying both sides "are obliged to keep the peace and return to the negotiating table".—*Reuters*

New HIV infections in Uganda reduce by 10,000

KAMPALA, 20 March — Uganda's new HIV/AIDS infections reduced by 10,000 in 2014, new statistics from the ministry of health show.

According to the figures, the number of Ugandans getting infected with HIV dropped to 127,000 cases in 2014 from 137,000 recorded in 2013.

Sarah Opendi, Uganda's state minister for primary health care told *Xinhua* by telephone on Thursday that this was the third successive decline of the HIV infections rates in the East African country.

"We urge Ugandans to remain faithful to their partners in a bid to combat the virus. The youth should be faithful and use condoms consistently if tempted to have sex," said Opendi. The statistics shows some 713,774 patients have been enrolling on antiretroviral therapy (ART) at 1,603 health facilities in the 112 districts in the country out of 1.4 million people who need treatment.

The number of children born with HIV dropped to 4,000 in 2014 compared to 8,000 in the 2013. At least 28,000 children were being born with the virus in 2011, according to Uganda AIDS Commission (UAC) and Ministry of Health.

HIV-related deaths are now estimated at 63,000, a marginal drop from 66,000 in 2011 and 120,000 in 1998, according to statistics from the Uganda Aids Commission.

Xinhua

Asian youth have intense interests in financial products, with Malaysian being most active

BEIJING, 20 March — Asian youth have intense interests in investment, stocks and other financial products, with those from Malaysia being the most active, according Japanese Economic News.

In its recent survey on the young people in 10 Asian countries (cities), the newspaper reported that more than half of the respondents have purchased financial products and 60 percent have made loans, mainly due to optimism about the economic outlook of the continent.

A total of 60 percent of the Malaysian young hold stocks and trust investments, the highest in Asia, and are closely followed by those from India and Singapore, with 52.5 percent and 50.5 percent respectively, the paper said.

In China, Thailand and the Philippines, more than 40 percent of the respondents buy financial products.

Less than 10 percent of the Japanese respondents have made loans, the lowest in Asia, as compared with the highest 60 percent in Malaysia.

However, most of the young people in Asia have the habit of savings. More than 90 percent respondents in Singapore and Thailand said having savings, and 82 percent in Japan. Some 78.5 percent of the Chinese young have the habit of saving, though they believe "savings not good as investment ".

Xinhua

Industry makes $7,000 for each tobacco death: health campaigners

An ash tray with cigarette butts is pictured in Hinzenbach, in the Austrian province of Upper Austria, on 5 Feb, 2012.— REUTERS

LONDON, 20 March — The tobacco industry makes $7,000 for each of the more than 6 million people who die each year from smoking-related illness, the health campaign group World Lung Foundation (WLF) said on Thursday.

Last year, more than 5.8 trillion cigarettes were smoked, similar to 2013, as rising tobacco use in China counters declines in other countries, according to a report on Thursday led by WLF.

In their global Tobacco Atlas, the WLF and the American Cancer Society said that in 2013, the last year for which detailed figures were available, tobacco industry profits were more than $44 billion. Meanwhile, 6.3 million people died from smoking-related illness, equivalent to a profit of $7,000 for each death caused by tobacco.

The report said that, if current trends continue, a billion people will die from smoking and exposure to tobacco this century.

Besides causing lung cancer, which is often fatal, tobacco use is also a major risk factor for a range of other illnesses. It is the world's leading preventable cause of premature death from chronic conditions such as heart disease, strokes and high blood pressure.

In China, the world's most populous country, almost 2,250 cigarettes were smoked per person over age 15 last year, making it one of only around a dozen countries topping 2,000.

The average Chinese smoker consumes 50 percent more than in 1980, a symptom of a broader phenomenon, as tobacco use declines or is stable in many wealthy, developed nations but growing in poorer regions such as Africa and parts of Asia.

"The significant reductions in smoking rates in the United Kingdom, Australia, Brazil, and other countries that implement increasingly tight tobacco control laws have been offset by the growing consumption in a single nation: China," the report said. Many countries around the world have introduced some anti-tobacco laws, including curbing advertising and banning smoking in enclosed spaces such as bars, restaurants and offices.

But the Tobacco Atlas found that only 10 percent of the world's population are covered by comprehensive bans on tobacco advertising, promotion and sponsorship, and only 16 percent by comprehensive smoke-free legislation.

Low- and middle-income countries now account for more than 80 percent of tobacco users and tobacco-related deaths.

The Tobacco Atlas also found that smoking among women is also on the rise, driving up rates of female lung cancer.

Reuters

FDA panel backs Glaxo asthma drug for adults, not adolescents

WASHINGTON, 20 March — GlaxoSmithKline Plc's drug to treat chronic breathing problems is safe and effective enough for adults with asthma to use but not adolescents, an advisory panel to the US Food and Drug Administration concluded on Thursday.

The panel voted 16-4 that Breo Ellipta should be approved for once daily treatment of asthma in adults 18 years and older. It voted 19-1 that the data did not support approval for use in children aged 12 to 17.

The FDA is not obliged to follow the advice of its advisory panels but typically does so. Glaxo licensed the product from Theravance Inc in 2002.

The drug consists of a corticosteroid, which reduces inflammation, and a long-acting beta-agonist, or LABA, called vilanterol, which is designed to open the airways.

The LABA class of drugs has been linked in the past with asthma-related deaths, though there were no asthma-related deaths in studies of Breo Ellipta reviewed by the FDA. Timothy Anderson, an analyst at Sanford Bernstein, said in a research report that children represent about 10 percent of the eligible population for the drug. Even so, the company's inability to market it for children "will have certain commercial implications," he added.

A British Airways airplane flies past a signage for pharmaceutical giant GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) in London on 22 April, 2014. — REUTERS

Anderson said insurance companies will need to include more than one LABA/corticosteoroid on their formulary to meet the needs of the total asthma population, when most would prefer just one agent. In addition, he said, competitors will be quick to rally behind a "one drug meets all" approach. He predicts $750 million in Breo sales in 2020.

The panel vote came after the US market closed. Anderson said he expects Theravance stock to fall Friday morning to between $13-$15 a share from $17.97 on Thursday.

Reuters

Nikkei drifts to 15-yr high amid optimism over Japanese recovery

TOKYO, 20 March — The Nikkei stock index drifted up Friday to finish at a 15-year high after erasing early losses, bolstered by continuing optimism about Japan's economic recovery.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average ended up 83.66 points, or 0.43 percent, from Thursday at 19,560.22, its highest finish since April 2000. The broader Topix index of all First Section issues on the Tokyo Stock Exchange finished 4.70 points, or 0.3 percent, higher at 1,580.51.

Selling took the upper hand during most of the morning session after a fall in the Dow Jones Industrial Average overnight prompted investors in Tokyo to lock in recent sharp gains.

But shares erased early losses later amid persistently bullish sentiment, aided by the prospect for higher wages, hopes for earnings growth and speculation of further stock buying by pension funds, dealers said.

The Nikkei widened its gain toward the end of the day's trading, marking the sixth consecutive weekly rise. Investors were also buying for dividends ahead of the end of the fiscal year this month, especially shares of companies that announced higher dividends, they said.

Yahoo Japan surged 30 yen, or 6.3 percent, to 510 yen after saying it will nearly double its year-end dividend payment. Mitsubishi Electric rose 30.00 yen, or 2.1 percent, to 1,461.50 yen after announcing its plan to raise dividends.

"Amid the prolonged low interest policy (in Japan), companies increasing shareholder returns look more attractive," said Akira Tanoue of Nomura Securities Co's investment research department.

Kyodo News

Seventy years on, Japan, US remember epic Iwo Jima battle

TOKYO, 20 March — When Yoshitaka Shindo was a boy, he did not hear much from his family about his grandfather Tadamichi-Kuribayashi, commander of the Japanese troops who fought and died in the bloody battle of Iwo Jima.

The battle, in which nearly 7,000 US Marines and almost 22,000 Japanese defenders died, was etched in America's memory by an Associated Press photo of six soldiers raising the US flag on the small volcanic island's Mount Suribachi.

For many in Japan, however, it was long a tragic defeat best forgotten.

"Human beings don't want to talk about what is most painful," Shindo, a conservative ruling party lawmaker and former member of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's cabinet, told *Reuters* in an interview.

"As a child, I was told that my grandfather worked diligently for the sake of the country and that he was a very gentle person. But as for details such as what happened when, neither my grandmother or mother really spoke about that."

Japanese Defence Minister Gen Nakatani and Health Minister Yasuhisa Shiozaki will attend a memorial service with US representatives on Saturday to mark the 70th anniversary of the epic 36-day battle.

More ordinary Japanese are now aware of the battle, in which just 1,083 Japanese defenders escaped death, in part because of Clint Eastwood's 2006 film "Letters from Iwo Jima", inspired by letters from Kuribayashi to his family on the eve of the battle.

But the years of silence have left a gap that makes it harder to pass on wartime experiences to younger Japanese.

"My grandfather didn't really like to speak about the war. At night, he would moan in his sleep. He would scream sometimes and I assumed it was because of the war," said Atsushi Hirano, 22, who has travelled to 11 battlefields including Iwo Jima, as a member of a group that collects the bones of fallen soldiers.

"But I always thought I couldn't ask about it and then he died six years ago. I wish I had asked him more," said Hirano, a college student studying to become a teacher.

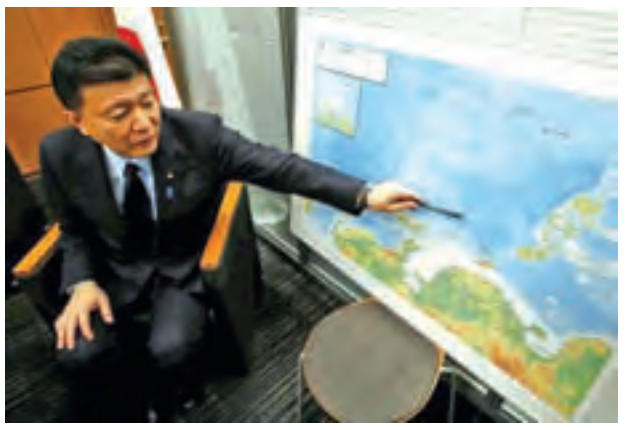
The tiny tear-shaped island of Iwo Jima, 700 miles (1,000 km) south of Tokyo, was the first scrap of Japan's native soil to be invaded in World War Two. America wanted it as a base for fighters escorting *B-29* bombers headed for the Japanese mainland.

Kuribayashi, who studied at Harvard and served as a military attache in the United States, had little hope of victory at a time when many Japanese leaders knew the war had been lost.

"The battle looms and except when I am tired and sleep, all I think of is the fierce fight, an honourable death, and what will happen to you and the children after that," wrote the father of three.

But aiming to inflict as much damage as possible on the US forces, Kurbayashi honeycombed the island with tunnels from which defenders could only be dislodged at great cost.

Reuters



Yoshitaka Shindo, a conservative ruling party lawmaker and grandson of Tadamichi Kuribayashi, commander of the Japanese troops who fought and died in the battle of Iwo Jima, points at a map of south east Asia including Iwo Jima as he speaks during an interview with Reuters in Tokyo on 18 March, 2015.—REUTERS

DIY bomb instructions, device remains shown at Boston trial

Evidence from the Boston Marathon bombing trial, including a pressure-cooker bomb recovered from the Watertown crime scene and a diploma for Tamerlan Tsarnaev, is seen at the Moakley Federal Courthouse in Boston, Massachusetts on 19 March, 2015.
REUTERS

BOSTON, 20 March — The Boston Marathon bombing trial jury on Thursday saw the remains of a pressure-cooker bomb that prosecutors say DzhokharTsarnaev hurled at police during a gunfight four days after the bombing as well as jihadist files recovered from his laptop.

The bomb, described as similar to the twin bombs set off at the race, was extracted from a Honda Civic in which it embedded itself on a Watertown, Massachusetts street after DzhokharTsarnaev and his older brother, Tamerlan, detonated it during the gunfight.

The pressure cooker was the same type as was used in the bombs that killed three people and injured 264 on 15 April, 2013, said Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent Brian Corcoran, though the pieces found in Watertown were more intact than those discovered at the race's finish line.

"Those pieces were typically more fragmented, more cut up," Corcoran testified in US District Court in Boston, looking at both the main pot and its lid, which was found halfway down the block from the blast site, in a child-sized soccer goal in a home's side yard. "This was a better representation of the pressure cooker as a whole."

DzhokharTsarnaev, 21, could be sentenced to death if he is convicted of charges that include carrying out the bombing and shooting dead a university police officer three days later as he and Tamerlan, 26, tried to flee Boston.

The Watertown gunfight in the early hours of 19 April, 2013 ended when DzhokharTsarnaev hopped into a black Mercedes and attempted to run over three police officers who were trying to arrest Tamerlan. The officers jumped out of the way but Dzhokhar ran over his brother, who was briefly caught up in the vehicle's wheels and dragged.

Tsarnaev's lawyers opened the trial early this month by bluntly admitting he carried out the bombing and shooting. Their goal is to convince the jury that the plot was driven by Tamerlan, with Dzhokhar a junior partner in the scheme. Proving that could persuade the jury to sentence the younger brother to life in prison without possibility of parole, rather than death.

Another FBI agent testified that investigators recovered several apparently jihadist documents on DzhokharTsarnaev's laptop, including at least three copies of al-Qaeda's "Inspire" magazine, one featuring a cover story headlined "Make a Bomb in the Kitchen of Your Mom," and another brochure-type document titled "Jihad and the Effects of Intention Upon It."

The bombing killed restaurant manager Krystle Campbell, 29, graduate student Lingzi Lu, 23, and 8-year-old Martin Richard. Massachusetts Institute of Technology police officer Sean Collier, 27, was shot dead three days later.

Separately on Thursday, Middlesex County District Attorney Marian Ryan said her office would pursue murder charges against Tsarnaev for the shooting of Collier, following his current trial on bombing charges.

Ryan's office may also soon confirm whether a transit police officer badly wounded during the gunfight was hit by friendly fire. Local media have reported that the officer, Richard Donohue, was wounded after TamerlanTsarnaev had run out of bullets in the one working firearm the brothers had.—*Reuters*

Assange likely to remain in embassy pending US Wikileaks probe

WASHINGTON, 20 March — WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is likely to remain at the Ecuadorean Embassy in London where he has taken refuge as long as US authorities pursue a criminal investigation of his anti-secrecy group, one of his lawyers said.

Speculation rose that he might leave the embassy after Swedish authorities last week offered to question him there over allegations of sexual misconduct, dropping their insistence that he go to Stockholm for questioning about a 2010 incident.

He refused to return to Sweden, arguing that the Swedes would send him on to the United States to face possible trial. Assange, 43, denies the allegations, which are not related to WikiLeaks' publication of US military and diplomatic documents five years ago.

Michael Ratner, a US lawyer who represents Assange and WikiLeaks, said if Assange left the embassy, where he has been holed up for just over 1,000 days, he was likely to be arrested by British authorities and risked being extradited to America.

"Even were the Swedish case to be disposed of, the UK would arrest Assange upon leaving the embassy for claimed violations of bail conditions or something similar," Ratner told *Reuters*. Washington would almost certainly seek his extradition, he said.

Ratner said a recent federal court ruling disclosed that the FBI and US Justice Department were conducting a "multi-subject investigation" of WikiLeaks and he said it had been going on for "at least five years."

Another legal source close to Assange said he would remain in the Ecuadorean Embassy until the US ended a grand jury investigation of WikiLeaks.

Joshua Stueve, a spokesman for the US Attorney's office in Alexandria, Virginia, said the investigation into WikiLeaks remained open. Other US law enforcement sources said criminal charges had not yet been filed against Assange.

The sex allegations against Assange, who is an Australian, were lodged against him by two female WikiLeaks supporters who hosted him during a visit to Sweden.

British authorities have declined to say what they might do if Sweden were to close its investigation of Assange and he were to try to leave the Ecuadorean Embassy in London.—*Reuters*

Police officers walk past the Ecuador Embassy following a shift change in London on 6 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES-Individual Consultant)
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Myanmar Electric Power Project
Credit No.: 5306-MM

Assignment Title: International Financial Management Consultant

Reference No.: MEPE-CS-7

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Electric Power Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The Services are expected to be carried out over a period of twelve months, possible starting in May 2015,

The Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise (MEPE) now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The minimum qualifications requirements are:

1. At least a bachelor degree in accounting, finance or relevant field and holding IFAC recognized accounting professional qualification
2. At least 10 years of professional experience in accounting and/or other relevant field
3. Previous experience in conducting similar engagement within the region or other regions
4. Experience in FM capacity development and training
5. Experience in assessing IT user requirements and specification for an FMIS system
6. Experience working with the World Bank financed projects or other major donors is an advantage
7. Good PC/systems literacy, including strong Excel skills and accounting software applications
8. Excellent interpersonal skills and result oriented
9. Reliable, independent and dynamic worker with high social competence and good team spirit
10. Willing and able to travel to remote areas' in Myanmar

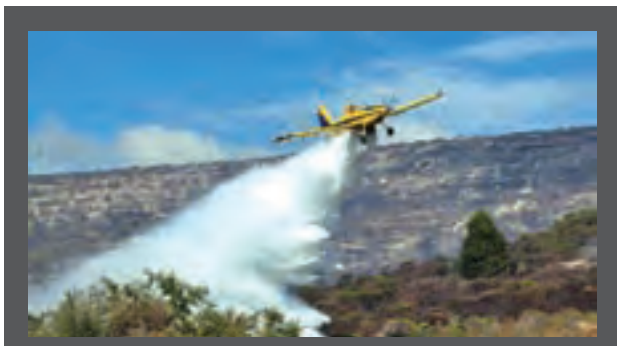
The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers* dated January 2011 ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained from the address below during 10:00 to 15:00 hours on working days.

Expressions of Interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by April 7, 2015.

Attn: Daw Zaw Zaw Than
The General Manager
Finance Department
Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise (MEPE)
Office Building No. 27
Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Email: mepefin@moep.gov.mm



An aircraft splashes water on the area of the forest fire in the Sierra de los Padres, in the province of Buenos Aires, Argentina, on 19 March, 2015. About 200 hectares have been consumed during a forest fire that started Wednesday in Sierra de los Padres, according to local press.—XINHUA

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV INNWA STAR VOY NO (1004W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV INNWA STAR VOY NO (1004W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINETAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PUTRI ASIA VOY NO (03/15)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PUTRI ASIA VOY NO (03/15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.F.S.L where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S K MARINE CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Energy
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

Title: Request for Letter of Expression of Interest (LOEI) for Joint Venture Project of No.3 Fertilizer Factory (Kyawzwa)

1. The Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Ministry of Energy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar hereby announced an invitation to the experienced local and foreign companies in urea production, storage, distribution and marketing to submit the Letter of Expression of Interest (LOEI) for Joint Venture Project of No.3 Fertilizer Factory (Kyawzwa), Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE).
2. The required data for LOEI submission and information related to No.3 Fertilizer Factory are available in the Ministry of Energy website (http:// www.energy.gov.mm/index.php/en/information/announcement) and (www.facebook.com/MinistryOfEnergy.Myanmar) as well as the following address in person during the office hours.
   Director (Planning) Fax: - 067 411124
   Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
   Email: MPEHO@mptmail.net.mm
   Building No 44, Nay Pyi Taw
   Email: mpeict@gmail.com
3. LOEI shall be submitted to following address in person not later than 12:00 noon at the date of 4.5.2015.
   Managing Director
   Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
   Building No 44, Nay Pyi Taw
4. No submission of LOEI can be allowed by fax or email or express.
5. Only the qualified LOEI proposals will be invited to conduct the tender process.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV DAI DUONG QUEEN VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAI DUONG QUEEN VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-1 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S G LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301191/2301178

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KULSAMUT VOY NO (04/15)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULSAMUT VOY NO (04/15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (3) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S KULNATEE CO

Phone No: 2301186

Zimbabwe's small businessmen improvise, steal to get power

BULAWAYO, (Zimbabwe), 20 March — Jeffias Moyo kickstarts a generator and waits for its reassuring hum to fill the air at a maize grinding mill in Zimbabwe's second largest city. Operating three mills in one of Bulawayo's many working class townships, Moyo knows all too well the frustrations of trying to run a business without reliable electricity.

Frequent power cuts mean resorting to a generator, solar panels and even car batteries to breathe life into machines that strip and pound kernels of corn until they become a fine powder.

What should be a thriving business faces unpredictable costs in the southern African country where, like many residents and businessmen, Moyo pays twice for energy — once to the state power authority and again for back-up energy when the electricity fails.

"I bought a generator which I alternate between grinding mills, but I cannot survive," he said. "This thing requires a lot of fuel."

The cuts have no fixed schedule, sometimes lasting for eight hours in a working day, making it nearly impossible for Moyo to budget for the fuel to keep his mills running. The extra costs can cut 25 percent from his profits each month.

While Zimbabwe has ambitious plans to expand its power production by 2018, the sector is beset by corruption scandals.

Lawmakers have called for energy projects to be cancelled and for high-level arrests over charges of inflated costs. Last month, former energy minister Dzikamai Mavhaire, his deputy Munacho Mutezo and a local investor were accused in a parliamentary report of corruption involving an ethanol plant.

According the report, Mavhaire received kickbacks from local bio-fuel firm Green Fuel, which was awarded a $2 billion contract for an ethanol project to produce fuel from sugar cane in Chisumbanje, eastern Zimbabwe.

Reutres

Gina Rodriguez to star in 'Deepwater Horizon'?

Los Angeles, 20 March — "Jane the Virgin" star Gina Rodriguez is in talks to star opposite Mark Walhberg in the oil rig disaster drama "Deepwater Horizon".

Gina Rodriquez

The film is being directed by Peter Berg. The story unfolds on Deepwater Horizon, the infamous British Petroleum oil rig that caught fire and exploded on 22 April, 2010 while drilling in the Gulf of Mexico, killing 11 crew members and resulting in the largest offshore oil spill in United States history.

Walhberg, 43, is starring as an electrician on the rig, and Rodriguez, 30, would play the movie's female lead, the communications officer for the company, said *The Hollywood Reporter*.

Lorenzo di Bonaventura and Mark Vahradian are producing.—*PTI*

Pharrell Williams to receive CFDA Fashion Icon Award

Los Angeles, 20 March — Singer Pharrell Williams will be honoured at the CFDA Fashion Awards, which will be held on 1 June.

He will receive the CFDA Fashion Icon Award, which was presented to R&B star Rihanna, last year.

"If cool was a person, it would be Pharrell, not just for his looks and sense of style, but for his kindness and openness. I cannot imagine anyone not seduced by him," CFDA President Diane von Furstenburg said of Williams in a statement.

The ceremony will be held at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, said *The Hollywood Reporter*.

The 41-year-old musician has dabbled in fashion collaborations with Adidas, Moncler and Uniqlo, to name a few, and starred alongside Cara Delevingne in Chanel's short fashion film shot by Karl Lagerfeld.—*PTI*

MADONNA weighs in on Dolce & Gabbana IVF controversy

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

New York, 20 March — Madonna added her voice to the controversy surrounding fashion designers Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana, telling them to "think before you speak" after Dolce described children born to gay couples through fertility treatment as "synthetic."

The performer joined other celebrities who criticized the Italian duo when she posted a message on Instagram along with a photograph of herself and a baby from Dolce & Gabbana's 2010/2011 winter collection campaign.

"All babies contain a soul however they come to this earth and their families. There is nothing synthetic about a soul!! So how can we dismiss IVF and surrogacy?" said Madonna, who released her 13th studio album, "Rebel Heart," earlier this month.

Pop star Elton John, who with his partner and husband David Furnish is the father of two children conceived through fertility treatment, slammed the designers for the comments and called for a boycott of the fashion brand.

Celebrities ranging from designer Victoria Beckham to singer Ricky Martin rallied behind John after the Italian magazine Panorama published Sicilian-born Dolce's comments.

"You are born and you have a father and a mother. Or at least it should be like this, that's why I am not convinced by chemical children, synthetic babies, wombs for rent," Dolce said.

Madonna, a mother of four and a client of the designers, said God is involved in everything, including technology.

"We are arrogant to think Man does anything on his own. As above so below! Think before you speak," she added on Instagram. In a statement released by the designers, who once had a romantic relationship and remain business partners, they said it was never their intention of judge other people's choices.

Reuters

Diverging from canon, 'Insurgent' finds steelier wartime heroine

Los Angeles, 20 March — With a new haircut and storyline, Shailene Woodley as "Divergent" heroine Tris Prior is hell-bent on revenge, battling the ghosts of her past in "Insurgent," the second film in the young adult sci-fi action film franchise.

"Insurgent," out in US theatres on Friday, picks up where the first film in the dystopian series ended, with the genocide of Tris' parents and the people in her faction after she joins another community.

Traumatized by the slaughter, Tris sets her mind on killing the calculating ruler Jeanine, played by Oscar-winning actress Kate Winslet ("The Reader"), who orchestrated the mass murder.

"She's still struggling with the battles in her memories and demons and ghosts, that was something I really wanted to play on. It seemed like it was very dark psychologically," Woodley said about her character.'

The "Divergent" series follows a post-apocalyptic world that has been divided into five factions, each defined by character traits: wisdom, honesty, selflessness, kindness and bravery.

"Insurgent" diverges from the complex layered plot of the second book by American author Veronica Roth. In the new narrative, Tris must unlock a mysterious box to access a protected secret that can stop the war.

The storyline allowed the film's stars such as Woodley to also take more liberties with their portrayals of the characters.

"(Tris') psychological perspective from the book was very different from the movie, and so I did have to go on and create a Tris on my own," Woodley explained.

"Divergent," the first of four films by LionsGate to be made from Roth's trilogy, pulled in $288 million worldwide after its release in March last year. The second film is expected to make about $60 million in its opening weekend, slightly more than its predecessor.

While the second book delved into Tris' relationship with her boyfriend Four, played by British actor Theo James, the film downplays the romance and puts the spotlight on the brutality of violence in the name of power.

"It would be inappropriate to have them having tiffs or canoodling for hours while people are getting executed," said James.

Miles Teller ("Whiplash") delivers the laughs in the film as Tris' nemesis Peter with light one-liners echoing the colloquial playfulness among teens.

"In the first (movie) he became this comedic relief," Teller said. "I didn't know why they thought Peter was funny, but it's good to add some levity to it."—*Reuters*

Actress Shailene Woodley

Usher, Foo Fighters to play iHeartRadio Music Awards

London, 20 March — Usher, Foo Fighters, Black Eyed Peas are set to play at the 2015 iHeartRadio Music Awards. The Jamie Foxx-hosted gala will air on NBC from the hrine Auditorium in Los Angeles on 29 March, reported *Digital Spy*.

A new NBC promo for the iHeartRadio Music Awards also confirmed that Academy Award winner John Legend will appear.

Previously-announced acts include Taylor Swift, Madonna, Rihanna, Sam Smith and Florida Georgia Line. Justin Timberlake will also be on hand to collect the 2015 iHeartRadio Innovator Award. The coveted Artist of the Year category pits Iggy Azalea against Luke Bryan, Sam Smith and Ariana Grande. Azalea and Smith are also up in the Best New Artist category along with Bastille, Meghan Trainor and Cole Swindell.

The 2015 iHeartRadio Music Awards air on Sunday, 29 March.—*PTI*

"Business as usual" will create a thirsty planet in 15 years, says UN

LONDON, 20 March — The planet faces a 40 percent shortfall in water supplies in 15 years due to urbanization, population growth and increasing demand for water for food production, energy and industry, the United Nations said on Friday.

Competition for water between water-thirsty sectors means better management is essential to ensure everybody gets the water they need, said the World Water Development Report.

With "business as usual" the world is facing a "collapse in our global socioeconomic system," Richard Connor, lead author of the report, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

A worker arranges a water bottle, which he supplies to offices and apartments, at a water bottle shop in Sao Paulo, on 3 Feb, 2015. — REUTERS

By 2050 two thirds of the world's population will be living in cities and demand for water is expected to increase by 55 percent, mainly from demands related to growing urbanization in developing countries.

Urbanization means that access to safe water and adequate sanitation, although typically higher in cities, has decreased in the fastest growing urban areas.

One example is sub-Saharan Africa, where urbanization — often unplanned — is happening most rapidly. Here the proportion of people who have piped water on their premises has fallen to 34 percent from 42 percent since 1990.

"The spontaneous urbanization, which creates slums, makes it very difficult because of the layout of the slums to provide water," Joan Clos, executive director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT), told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a phone interview from Nairobi.

"Once you have a street then for the water operator it becomes very easy to reach the plots."

Reuters

Vietnam capital U-turns on tree felling after public outcry

An aerial view shows West Lake and its surroundings in Hanoi on 18 Dec, 2014. REUTERS

HANOI, 20 March — Political leaders of Vietnam's capital halted the felling of thousands of Hanoi's trees on Friday after the plan sparked public outrage and fears it would damage the image of one of the world's most picturesque cities.

Social media criticism went into overdrive this week after authorities started cutting down some 500 of the 6,700 trees it considered dangerous in the leafy metropolis often dubbed the "Paris of Asia".

The rolling back on the plan was top billing on the lunchtime television news, which announced that upon the instruction of the Hanoi People's Committee, trees cut down would be replaced immediately.

"Chairman Nguyen The Thao has requested the Construction Department as well district authorities as related agencies to suspend the cutting," state-run VTV announced. The abrupt U-turn shows how social media like Facebook, used by about one-quarter of communist Vietnam's 90 million people, is playing a role in scrutinising some government decisions in a country tightly controlled by one party for four decades.

Though discussion of politics remains strictly taboo and can sometimes result in arrests and jail, many Vietnamese speak up about social and environmental issues.—*Reuters*

Eclipse thrills on remote Arctic islands, clouds mar for some

TORSHAVN, (Faroe Islands), 20 March — A solar eclipse thrilled thousands of sky gazers on remote Arctic islands on Friday but clouds disappointed some viewers of a rare celestial show that was also partly visible for millions in Europe, Africa and Asia.

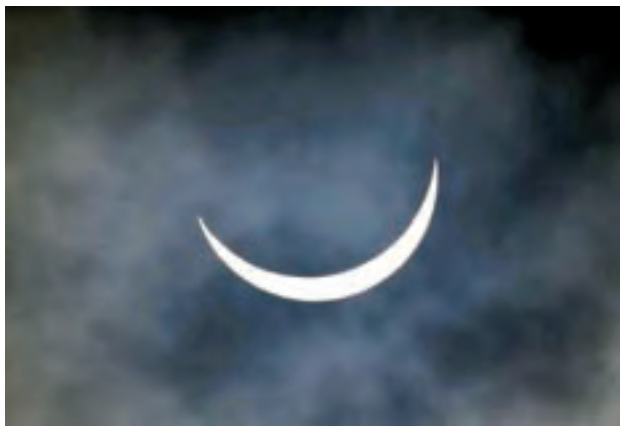
People cheered and clapped as the moon blocked the sun for about 2.5 minutes under clear skies on the icy Norwegian islands of Svalbard, where tourists had been warned of polar bears after an attack on Thursday and risks of frostbite.

But clouds masked the sky over Torshavn, the capital of the Faroe Islands further south, the only other place where the eclipse was visible from land as it swept across the Atlantic.

"It was overcast, there was rain and wind. You could see nothing. It was a disappointment for everybody," said Gabor Lantos, a Hungarian tourist in Torshavn.

"Some tourists were so irritated, they argued with tour operators, demanding their money back," he said, adding that would be impossible.

In Svalbard, a polar bear mauled a Czech tourist on Thursday, breaking into his tent as he slept. Jakub Moravev, flown by helicopter to hospital, escaped with slight injuries to his face, chest and an arm.



A partial solar eclipse is seen through cloud in Altrincham northern England on 20 March, 2015.—REUTERS

The Faroe Islands expected about 8,000 visitors on top of the island's 50,000 population for the first eclipse in the region in 60 years. About 2,000 people have made the trek to Svalbard, doubling the population.

Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(21-3-2015 07:00 am~ 22-3-2015 07:00 am) MST

* News
* Great Shwedagon: The Sacred Hair Relics Hailing Pogodas
* School for the Blind
* News
* A Famous Festival & Its Fantastic Fair
* Colonial Buildings and a New Yangon
* News
* Crab Business (Part-II) Soft Shell Crab
* Oboist and His Life
* News
* My Great Limitless Adventure - Mandalay & Sagaing
* …..Changes
* News
* Food Trip (Ep-5) (Part-2)
* Today Myanmar "The Lake, Inle"
* News
* Sai Htee Hseng or An Exceptional Music Star From Shan Plateaus (Ep-1)
* Sagaing: Youth Leader
* News
* Snow Flakes…Scenic Confluence…To Kachin State
* Entrepreneur
* News
* A Famous Pagoda in the Sea
* Chaung Tha Souvenir Business
* News
* Traditional Matrimony of Khamti Shans
* Wedding Planner "U Cho Gyi"
* Shrinking Footprints
* News
* The Caves
* Sittway, Evergreen Seaside Town

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(21-3-2015, Saturday)

6:00 am
- Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:30 am
- Physical Exercies

7:00 am
- News/ Weather Report

7:35 am
- Solar Impulse -2 Video Clips

8:00 am
- News / International News

8:35 am
- Documentary

9:35 am
- MRTV's Youth Programme

10:35 am
- Science and Technology Programme

12:00 noon
- News / International News / Weather Report

12:35 pm
- Hluttaw Image

12:50 pm
- Round up of the Week's TV News

1:30 pm
- Round up of the Week's Hluttaw News

2:35 pm
- Teleplay

3:00 pm
- News

3:35 pm
- Hyper Sports

4:35 pm
- University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Fourth Years (Law)

4:50 pm
- Songs in honour of 70th Anniversary Armed Forces Day

6:30 pm
- Head Line News

7:00 pm
- News / Weather Report

8:00 pm
- News / International News / Weather Report

9:00 pm
- News
- Gitadagale Phwintbarohn

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(21-3-2015, Saturday)

6:00 am
- Honour Song for Alinka Kyaw Swar Myoma Nyein

6:20 am
- Analysis About Myanmar Movie

6:35 am
- Classical Songs

6:50 am
- Myanmar Series

8:00 am
- Dramatic Arts

9:45 am
- Musical Programme

10:00 am
- Myanmar Video

12:00 noon
- Close Down

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Saturday, 21 March, 2015

Myanmar golf team stands second in Bangladesh Golf Tourney

YANGON, 20 March — Over 70 golfers from 11 teams participated in 30th Bangladesh Amateur Golf Championship 2015 held at Kurmitola Golf Club, Dhaka, Bangladesh, from 11 to 14 March. Host Bangladesh (A) team stood first with 281 strokes; the runner up Myanmar team of Maung Maung Oo and Kyaw Thet Oo with 292 strokes, Thai team with 296 strokes and Sri Lanka team with 297 strokes.—*GNLM*

***Maung Maung Oo and Kyaw Thet Oo seen with their trophies of 30th Bangladesh Amateur Golf Championship.*—MGF**

2022 World Cup final to be played on 18 December

ZURICH, 20 March — FIFA ended more than four years of uncertainty over the timing of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar by announcing on Thursday that it would be played in November and December with the final on 18 December.

Spokesman Walter De Gregorio said the winter tournament would probably last 28 days, instead of the 32 for last year's finals in Brazil, but this was still to be decided.

"The executive committee today ... decided that, yes, we are going to play in November and December and, yes, the final is going to be played on 18 December," De Gregorio told reporters at FIFA headquarters.

A replica of the FIFA Soccer World Cup Trophy is pictured at the FIFA headquarters in Zurich on 23 Jan, 2014.
REUTERS

"It's a Sunday and it's also the national day of Qatar and, in principle, we try to play in 28 days.

"The next steps will be to have different talks especially related to the match calendar," he added, referring to the 2019-22 cycle of international fixtures and the 2023 African Nations Cup in Guinea that is scheduled to be played in January.

Thursday's news was widely expected after the November/December period had been recommended by a task force of football's ruling body FIFA.

It will be the first time the tournament has been played outside the European summer.

Qatar was awarded the event in December 2010 on the basis it would take place in the summer in air-conditioned stadiums.

Reuters

UEFA ban Ibrahimovic for one match following Chelsea red card

***PSG's Zlatan Ibrahimovic is shown a red card by referee Bjorn Kuipers.*—REUTERS**

LONDON, 20 March — Paris St Germain's Swedish striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic was banned for one match by UEFA's Control & Disciplinary Body on Thursday after being sent off during a Champions League last 16 match at Chelsea last week.

UEFA also handed a three-match suspension to PSG's Serge Aurier for insults he posted on social media about the referee after the bad-tempered second leg match at Stamford Bridge which ended in a 2-2 draw and gave PSG qualification on the away goals rule after a 1-1 draw in the first leg.

Ibrahimovic was sent off by Dutch referee Bjorn Kuipers in the first half after he went into a tackle with Chelsea midfielder Oscar provoking an orchestrated display of fury by the Chelsea team.

Nine of them surrounded the referee baying at him to send the Swede off although TV replays later showed that Oscar went into the tackle with his studs up and Ibrahimovic tried to pull out of the collision.

He later accused the Chelsea players of acting like "babies" to get him sent off and he will now miss the first leg of the quarter-finals. The draw for that is being made on Friday.

Aurier, who was injured and did not play in the match, made a derogatory remark on his Facebook page about the referee following the dismissal.

The Ivory Coast defender said sorry for his action afterwards on his Twitter account but that did not save him from a three-match ban that will keep him out of the quarter-finals and the first leg of the semis, if PSG get that far.—*Reuters*

United is my last job in football, says Van Gaal

LONDON, 20 March — Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal will retire from football when he leaves his job at Old Trafford, he was quoted as saying by *The Daily Telegraph* on Thursday.

"This is my last job. For sure," he said in an interview published on the newspaper's website (www.telegraph.co.uk).

"I have to pay attention to my kids, my grandchildren but also to my wife. They deserve it. Now I cannot pay that attention."

The 63-year-old Dutchman, whose United contract runs until 2017, has managed some of the world's top teams including Ajax Amsterdam, Barcelona, and Bayern Munich, and guided the Netherlands to the World Cup semi-finals in Brazil.

"It is an honour and a challenge to be coach of United because I was trainer-coach of No 1 (team) in the Netherlands, No 1 in Spain and No 1 in Germany," he said.

"I had a choice to be manager of different clubs (like Tottenham Hotspur). I have chosen the No 1. I am very proud. I don't think there are many other coaches who can say that."

Van Gaal, who won the Champions League with Ajax in 1995, said he had always set out goals.

"Everything that I've reached I've set in advance — that I go to the Premier League for example," he added.

"I said it a year before (the World Cup) to my federation, and everybody was 'aghhh, it is not possible'. I said: 'I go after the championships'. One experience in the world championship is, for me, enough."

Manchester United's manager Louis Van Gaal

At United his ambition is to build a team capable of winning the Champions League and Premier League.

"That's our goal, yes, and it depends on how we end this season," he said.

"We have to qualify for the Champions League and we have many tests next year. That also develops the level of your team, and of course how many players can come in to improve our selection." Once Van Gaal has finished with the rebuilding job at United he plans to retire to the Algarve with his second wife Truus, who he said had wanted him to quit for the last five years.

"I have a paradise in Portugal. I want to quit to go there, play golf, eat fantastic food. There are very good wines in Portugal. There is the beach, the very beautiful weather."—*Reuters*

England's four Champions League places look safe — for now

LONDON, 20 March — Despite the absence of any Premier League clubs in the last eight of the Champions League for the second time in three years it is likely to be at least three seasons before England could lose any berths in the competition.

England has been able to enter four clubs — currently three directly into the group phase and one into the playoff round —since 2001-02 and there seems little realistic danger of that situation changing until the 2017-18 season at the earliest.

Even then it would need comparable failures in both the Champions League and Europa League over the next two seasons — and a big improvement by Italian clubs — to significantly impact on the UEFA coefficient system that ranks clubs and countries and determines their allocation of Champions League and Europa League places.

However, English teams cannot rest on their laurels because Italy is set to close the coefficient points gap by the end of this season.

Currently the top three countries — Spain (94.713 points), England (80.105) and Germany (77.986) have four Champions League places, while Italy (66.010), Portugal (60.882) and France (51.916) get three.

The system allocates points to countries on the performances of their clubs in both competitions over the previous five seasons.

But at the end of this season England will lose the bonus points they accumulated in 2010-11 when Manchester United reached the Champions League final.

The exits of Liverpool, in the group stage, and Manchester City, Arsenal and Chelsea in the last 16 in the Champions League and the early departures of Tottenham Hotspur, Hull City and Liverpool in the Europa League will mean a lower overall figure for England because this season's tally will be lower than those gained in 2010-11.

England manager Roy Hodgson, asked about this season's European disappointments on Thursday when he named his England squad for the upcoming internationals against Lithuania and Italy, said: "No doubt the Premier League and the top clubs won't want to lose the fourth Champions League place. "No English team in the last eight is not endemic — that this time we have teams going out is just one of those things. "The Premier League is a great league and we have great players but that doesn't give you the right to win matches against teams from other countries."—*Reuters*

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