

Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife attend ceremony to assign duties to medical doctors in Lashio

NAY PYI TAW, 21 March—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham this morning attended a ceremony to assign duties to medical doctors newly appointed by the Shan State government in Lashio.

The event was held at Myanmar Medical Association (Lashio) in Shan State.

The Shan State Chief Minister highlighted the State efforts to provide healthcare services for the people in parallel with the health standards of the regional countries, adding that medicines and medical equipment are distributed to

all states and regions on an equal basis.

He said 42 medical doctors had been appointed under the arrangement of the regional government. He then urged the doctors to perform their medical duties out of goodwill.

Deputy Health Minister Dr Win Myint also called on the new employees to provide public healthcare in a patient and duty-conscious manner while trying to become brilliant doctors.

Dr. Sai Mauk Kham in his speech said Myanmar had turned out over 30,000 medical doctors but some of them are in foreign countries due to various reasons while some have been out of the medical field. He stressed the need to train more doctors as there are only about 10,000 health staff members across the country.

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Vice President U Nyan Tun on inspection tour of Thilawa special economic zone (A)

YANGON, 21 March—In the afternoon on Saturday, Vice President U Nyan Tun went on an inspection tour of the Thilawa special economic zone (A) in northern Yangon.

The vice president visited the Koyorad Myanmar factory project and the Golden Tokyu construction project, both of which are being undertaken with Japanese investments.

Officials briefed the vice president on employment opportunities, prospects of foreign investments and arrangements for power supplies.

The zone has employed 1,936 people, of whom 1,900 are Myanmar citizens.

The vice president urged officials to create the zone as a pleasant environment for investments,

stressing the need to make the area a model economic zone by building mutual trust with the people.

The zone (A), located on an area of 396 hectares, is 78% complete and its completion is expected in June this year.

So far, 39 companies from 11 countries including Japan, Thailand, China, Malaysia, Singapore, Sweden, the US and Australia,

have shown their interest in running business in the zone. Of them, 21 have been awarded licences for investments, with seven others already starting their construction projects.

According to reports, arrangements are under way to put five factories into operation in September. The entire facility, which is expected to complete in 2016-2017, will

create some 40,000 jobs.

In the morning of the same day, Vice President U Nyan Tun met heads of sports federations and urged them to set their ambitions high on bagging medals home in as many events as possible.

The vice president stressed strong team spirit, mutual respect and co-operation are all critical

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National ceasefire negotiators move closer to deal despite unresolved points



Peace negotiators from the NCCT and UPWC engage in discussions on the fifth day of the seventh round of nationwide ceasefire accord talks on Saturday. The fifth-day meeting concluded Chapter 5 of the accord.

PHOTO: CREDIT TO MYANMAR PEACE CENTRE

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 21 March — Government negotiators and ethnic armed groups wrapped up a fifth day of national ceasefire talks Saturday, making solid progress despite leaving two points of the prospective peace agreement unresolved, both sides said.

On Day 5, the govern-

ment's Union Peacemaking Work Committee and the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team of ethnic armed groups concluded the fifth chapter, entitled "Political guarantees and political dialogue," of the seven-chapter ceasefire pact.

Of the two unresolved points, one relates to all-inclusive political dialogue and the other to the roadm-

ap for the political dialogue, said U Hla Maung Shwe, senior adviser at the Myanmar Peace Centre.

It may be possible to reach agreements on the two points on Day 6, which is scheduled to include discussions on chapters 5 and 6, said NCCT member Daw Saw Mya Yazar Lin, who accompanied U Hla Maung Shwe and NCCT leader

U Naing Hong Has at the press conference following the day's talks.

She said patience and understanding from participants were the keys to completing the chapter.

The sixth day of the meeting is expected to see approval from both sides on including members of political parties and ethnic armed groups at the national level, as well as setting criteria for who should be included in the political talks.

The main barrier to the previous NCA meetings was "choice of words" while negotiating the pact, said the MPC senior adviser, who stressed there were no such disagreements this time around.

He continued that the meeting might be extended by a day if it is impossible to conclude the discussions on remaining chapters within the current schedule.

Peace negotiators at the press conference expressed hope for finalization of the negotiation on the nationwide ceasefire accord at this round. — GNLM

Deadline approaches for advance income tax payment

NAY PYI TAW, 21 March — The deadline for payment of advance income tax for this fiscal year is 31 March, the Internal Revenue Department said Saturday.

Those who receive total income chargeable to income tax must pay either

monthly or quarterly within the fiscal year according to the Income Tax Law Section 15 (a) and 16 (a), the department under the Ministry of Finance and Revenue said.

Those who fail to pay on time incur a 10 per cent penalty.— GNLM



Under the Myanmar Income Tax Law, resident nationals and resident foreigners are taxed all income derived from sources within and outside Myanmar.—PHOTO BY AYE MIN SOE

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Meiktila rises from ashes



Scenic beauty of Meiktila where people are leading peaceful life.—GNLM-018

MEIKTILA, 21 March — Two years after the riots in Meiktila, residents are returning to their homes in ThiriMingalar and Aung Zeya Wards, where houses have been rebuilt. Altogether 350 one-unit houses have also been built in Chanaye Tharyar Ward. Residents are determined to live in peace and avoid repeating the bitter communal violence that resulted in a state of emergency.—GNLM-018

Library built with Union Parliament fund

NAY PYI TAW, 21 March — A new library is under construction in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Councilarea, funded by K 4.9 million from the Union Parliament's Township Development Fund.

The construction works stated on 18 March and are scheduled for completion on 27 March 2015 (Armed Forces Day).

KoPauk (Okkamyay)



Peace Funfair in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 21 March — Mandalay-based political parties hand in hand with local people organized the Peace Funfair on 20 March.

The fair will be held from 20 to 24 March. During the fair comedy plays, performances to honour Myanmar armed forces and circus events will be staged.

Organizers include the Union Solidarity and Development Party, Nation Unity Party, National Democratic Force Party, Wunthanu Democratic Party, Democratic Party (Myanmar), National Political Alliance League and Federal Union Party.—Tin Maung (Mdy)



TODAY'S
MYANMAR
NEWS SITES

Talks to commemorate World TB Day on 29 March

YANGON, 21 March — Medical specialists and experts on tuberculosis will give talks about the disease on 29 March at Nursing University in Yangon.

The event, to commemorate World TB day, which falls on 24 March, is being organized by Myanmar Medical Association. Speakers will include TB specialist Dr Tin Mi Mi Khaing, Professor U Win Naing and Professor U Ye Myint Kyaw. — AungThura



ANTI-DRUG MEASURES TAKEN IN MYAWADY: Global New Light of Myanmar correspondent U Tun Tun Oo attended a meeting on cooperative anti-drug campaigns along the Myanmar-Thailand border on 19 March. Chief of Myawady District Police Force Police Col Moe Nyo led 14 officers at the two-day meeting.—THUZAR (MYAWADY TOWN)

NATIONAL

Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife attend ceremony...

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The Vice-President said new medical doctors were usually assigned duties in large hospitals so that they could gain experiences. He then urged them to study further to become doctorates.

Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon attended a ceremony to open Thukha Wihara Kanmein Ordination Hall.



The ceremony was attended by venerable Buddhist monks, lay people, Shan State Chief Minister U Sao

Aung Myat and wife and his cabinet members.

The Vice-President and wife donated K 10 mil-

lion and the chief minister and wife K 5 million for the ordination hall.

MNA



Dr Sai Mauk Kham inaugurates Thukha Wihara Kanmein Ordination Hall.

MNA



Vice President U Nyan Tun on inspection tour of Thilawa special economic zone...

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to turning challenges into victories so as to bring a great credit to the country, pledging the government's

prompt assistance to their requirements.

According to Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan, the Myanmar sports

Vice President U Nyan Tun talks to officials of a construction project on his tour of Thilawa special economic zone.—MNA

team with 418 members will compete in 22 events in the 28th Southeast Asian

Games to be held in Singapore from 5 to 16 June this year.—MNA

Real estate seminars aim to hone agents' skills

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 21 March—Myanmar real estate website House.com.mm will hold seminars in March and April in Yangon with the aim of developing the country's property market and helping agents sharpen their skills, the site's PR and marketing manager Kaung Htike said.

At the first seminar on 26 March, house.com.mm managers will share their experience of customer relationship management. Marketing, online promotion and advertising tech-

niques will be discussed at the second seminar on 9 April.

Each seminar allows a maximum of 50 people, with the organiser inviting real estate service providers to take part.

Property prices in Yangon skyrocketed amid a real estate boom, but the market has been in decline since late 2014 due to falling demand.

"The Myanmar property market is expected to be cool this year," said Daw Moh Moh Aung, sec-

retary of Myanmar Real Estate Services Association.

House.com.mm, the

top online marketplace for property listings in Myanmar, launched in 2012.

GNLM



Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye observes Solar Impulse-2.

MNA

Government dignitaries, schoolchildren study Solar Impulse 2 in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 21 March —Basic education students are visiting the Mandalay International Airport to study Solar Impulse 2, the first round-the world flight of solar-power aircraft sitting at the airport after arriving in Myanmar on Thursday. The aircraft began its journey around the world from Abu Dhabi on March 9, stopped over in Oman and India and arrived in Myanmar.

Nearly 500 students as well as civil servants and trainees from training schools including the Defence Services Academy in PyinOoLwin studied the solar-powered aircraft today.

During their study, the students and other visitors were briefed by crew members on the accounts of the aircraft such as use of solar power only to fly the aircraft, challenges and difficulties in its round-the-

world trip, the importance of weather conditions during flight and cooperation of governments in respective countries where the flight is scheduled to stop over.

News and Periodicals Enterprise under the Ministry of Information is distributing visitors its daily newspapers free of charge, including The Global New Light of Myanmar in English version.

Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye, Union Home Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko, Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint and regional ministers also visited the airport to study the aircraft today.

Two pilots and crew members of the aircraft were hosted dinner by First Myanmar Investment and Yoma Strategic Holdings Co.

MNA



PSCs signed for four oil fields off Rakhine State



Signing ceremony of Production Sharing Contracts in progress.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 March — Production sharing contracts (PSCs) were signed here on 20 March for four oil fields located off Rakhine State, according to officials.

The contracts for

offshore blocks A-4 and AD-2 was signed by the Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) under the Ministry of Energy and BG Exploration & Production Myanmar Pte Ltd with Woodside En-

ergy (Myanmar) Pte Ltd and Myanmar Petroleum Exploration & Production Company Ltd.

MOGE and Woodside Energy (Myanmar) Pte Ltd reached an agreement on production sharing for offshore oil fields A-7 and AD-5 with BG Exploration & Production Myanmar Pte Ltd and Myanmar

Petroleum Exploration & Production Company Ltd.

Based in Britain and registered in Singapore, BG Exploration & Production Myanmar Pte Ltd will be an operator of the A-4 and AD-2 blocks, while Australia-based and Singapore-registered Woodside Energy (Myanmar) Pte Ltd will serve as an operator of the A-7 and AD-5 blocks. Myanmar will earn a US\$82.4 million as a signature bonus and \$3.7m as data fee from signing the contracts.

Two oil fields on shallow water drilling will take one year for observation and six years for exploration at a cost of \$545.5m, and the other two on deepwater drilling two years for observation and six years for exploration at \$535.1m.—MNA

Myanmar observes International Day of Forests in capital city

NAY PYI TAW, 21 March — The Ministry of Forest observed International Day of Forests 2015 under the theme for this year “Forests and Climate Change” here on Saturday, according to officials.

In an opening address, Union Minister U Win Tun described forestation as the most effective and simplest way to tackle environmental issues facing the world.

Some 1.6 billion of the world's population depend on forests, which he said are home to over 80% of biodiversity, adding that 75% of freshwater comes from forested

catchment areas.

Forests provide climate-resilient services with equal proportions of oxygen, carbon dioxide and humidity, he said.

Two decades of annual deforestation in Myanmar from 1990 to 2010 accounted for 0.55% of the country's total forest area, with annual global deforestation reaching over 13 million hectares.

Myanmar is making strategic arrangements for its deforestation to come to zero in 2030 in a bid to sustain forest resources, with emphasis being placed on green industries.—MNA

Union Minister for Forest U Win Tun and party pose for documentary photo at the ceremony to mark the International Day of Forests.—MNA



Tatmadaw seizes Kokang insurgent stronghold

NAY PYI TAW, 21 March — Tatmadaw forces captured a Kokang insurgent stronghold near the Chinese border Saturday, where they found three dead rebels along with stores of weapons and ammunition.

Equipped with bunkers and bomb shelters, Point-1564 Hill, some 1500 meters from the bor-

der, fell under Tatmadaw control this morning after fierce fighting. The Tatmadaw forces seized guns, grenades, ammunition and uniforms.

Eleven government soldiers died in the battle, while another 11 were wounded. The Tatmadaw offensive against the insurgents is ongoing.

Myawady

Myanmar sport athletes leave for China for training in the run-up to SEA Games



Myanmar selections seen at the airport before departure for China to take training.—MNA

YANGON, 21 March — Under a government-to-government training programme, Myanmar is sending its athletes to Kunming, Nanning and Guangzhou of the People's Republic of China in batches for their training so that

they could achieve a victory in the 28th SEA Games to be hosted in Singapore this year.

A total of 89 sports consortiums from various fields left in the first batch the Yangon International Airport by China Airline

today. Their training will finish in the end of May and proceed to Singapore where the sports and games are due to commence on 5 June.

The second batch will leave for China on 8 April. *MNA*

People stage protests against crackdown on NEL amendment protesters

NAY PYI TAW, 21 March — Some people took to the streets Saturday in protest against the crackdown on protesters who demanded to amend the National Education Law.

With the permission of local authorities, around 120

people, holding placards and shouting slogans, staged a protest around 9 am in Mandalay against the crackdown and dispersed about noon.

Similarly, about 60 people, though they were allowed to stage a protest at an designated place in

Tamway Township, gathered at the Inya Lake in Yangon around 4.30 pm, holding placards and hot-air balloons, and recited poems and shouted slogans.

They dispersed themselves around 6.30 pm.

009



People take to street of Mandalay to protest against crackdown.—009

Japan, China, S Korea foreign ministers meet after 3-year hiatus

SEOUL, 21 March — The foreign ministers of Japan, China and South Korea gathered together on Saturday for the first time in nearly three years in the hope of breathing new life into their three-way cooperation, despite persistent difficulties stemming from wartime issues.

A major focus is on whether the foreign ministers will be able to build momentum toward an annual trilateral summit that has been suspended since May 2012 as Japan's relations with China and South Korea have sunk to their lowest levels in decades over historical and territorial issues.

A foreign ministers' meeting of the three Asian powers had traditionally served as an occasion to set the stage for a summit of their leaders, in addition to discussing regional affairs, particularly North Korea, and collaboration among them in other areas such as a free trade agreement and environmental protection.

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida has expressed hope of realizing a trilateral summit at an early date to help foster "future-oriented" relations, before meeting his Chinese



Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (L), his South Korean counterpart Yun Byung Se (C) and Chinese counterpart Wang Yi shake hands before talks at a Seoul hotel on 21 March, 2015. —KYODO NEWS

and South Korean counterparts, Wang Yi and Yun Byung Se, in Seoul.

In reality, however, the chance of Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe being accepted in the immediate future by China and South Korea are not very high as the two countries see him as having revisionist historical views.

This year is politically delicate for Japan, China and South Korea as it marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

Although tensions between Japan and China have somewhat eased since Abe's long-cherished first meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping materialized in November, it appears that the time is yet not ripe to resume a three-way summit.

China has already told Japan it cannot decide when to hold the summit until seeing the content of a statement to be released this summer by Abe to mark the 70th anniversary,

according to people with knowledge of the situation.

China is apprehensive about warming ties with Abe's government out of concerns that he may water down Japan's past official apologies for its militaristic past in his upcoming statement.

Not just China, where an untold number of people were killed before Japan's defeat in 1945, South Korea has shared the same perception, claiming that Abe's government lacks

sensitivity toward the suffering of other Asian countries before and during the war.

A major sticking point in relations between Tokyo and Seoul in recent years has been the issue of "comfort women," who were recruited to work in wartime brothels for the Japanese military, many of whom were from the Korean Peninsula that was under Japan's colonial rule from 1910 to 1945.

South Korea has criticized Japan for not doing enough to atone for the suffering it caused those women. Partly because of that, its president, Park Geun Hye, has yet to hold formal talks with Abe since she took office in early 2013.

In a speech on 1 March, Park urged Japan to "promptly address the human rights violations" against comfort women, calling it "a historic task that has to be resolved without fail in the journey of our two nations to the future."

Earlier Saturday, Kishida, together with Yun and Wang, met with Park, the first contact between the South Korean president and a Japanese Cabinet member in Seoul since she

held talks with Taro Aso, deputy prime minister and finance minister, at her inauguration ceremony in February 2013.

It is possible that the Chinese and South Korean foreign ministers will raise wartime issues when they meet trilaterally with Kishida.

During Yu's bilateral talks with Kishida, the South Korean foreign minister raised the issue of comfort women, according to a Japanese diplomat.

Earlier this month, Wang similarly renewed calls for Abe's government to properly face up to Japan's past misdeeds, recalling sage advice that "the more the victimizer is conscious of his guilt, the easier the victimized can recover from the suffering."

"Seventy years ago Japan lost the war. Seventy years afterward, Japan must not lose its conscience," Wang told a press conference in Beijing on 8 March during China's parliament session. "Will it continue to carry the baggage of history or will it make a clean break with the past aggression? Ultimately, the choice is Japan's."

Kyodo News

Singaporeans wish ex-PM Lee Kuan Yew speedy recovery

SINGAPORE, 21 March — The Singapore General Hospital (SGH) has designated an area outside Block 7, known as the Quad, for those who want to place cards or flowers for Singapore's ex-Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, who remained critically ill according to the latest statement from Singapore's Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

SGH set up this special zone on Friday afternoon, and people who wish a speedy recovery for Lee Kuan Yew started coming in to support him.

Representatives from Positive Intentions (PI), a social enterprise, training and development agency, stopped by with a poster filled with messages of support, saying "Thank you" and "We love you."

"If there's no Lee Kuan Yew, there's no Singapore," said Ethen Ong Yongsan, co-founder of the PI, "there's no way for us to thank him personally, but we need to do something."

"I love Lee Kuan Yew

very much. He developed our country. He has done very good things to make Singapore one of the No.1 nations in Asia," said Ram, a Singaporean who came to pray for Lee.

Ram also told *Xinhua* that he hoped Lee Kuan Yew can celebrate Singapore's Golden Jubilee this year with them.

When asked why they came to pray for Lee, the couple of Nms Raju said that they wanted to thank the founding father for what he has done for the Singaporeans.

"We have beautiful homes, everyone has a home which is affordable. He has built a nation where every Singaporean can own a home," said Mrs Nms Raju. It is estimated that about 80 percent of Singaporeans live in the public housing units developed by the Housing and Development Board, a government department that plans and provides Singaporeans with quality homes and living environments.



Flowers and a card with well-wishes are pictured at the Singapore General Hospital, where Singapore's first prime minister, Lee Kuan Yew is hospitalised, in Singapore on 20 March, 2015.—REUTERS

Typically, the prices of these units are much lower than that of homes built by private developers.

Besides providing a living of good quality that "only other people can dream about everyday" in Koh Swee Keow's words, Koh thinks Lee has contributed in so many ways.

"He contribute to the relationship of different races here, building our economy, education..." said Koh Swee Keow, "I can't pick out only

one aspect." She thought Lee has laid a good foundation for the city state.

Koh added that the former prime minister propelled a lot to make sure everybody is equally treated in Singapore although the country has Malaysians, Indians and Chinese, among others.

"Whatever the colour of your skin, the religion you believe in, one race can't have an advantage. We just respect each other," said Koh.—*Xinhua*

China opens sea shipping for overseas direct purchase in e-shopping push

QINGDAO, 21 March — An eastern Chinese port city on Friday saw the arrival of the country's first parcels booked through overseas direct purchase and transported by sea.

The arrival of nearly 6,000 South Korean parcels in Qingdao, Shandong Province, shows China and South Korea's ambitions to tap into the potential for bilateral e-commerce.

China introduced the direct purchase importation model in 2014 to ensure quicker customs clearing for foreign goods purchased by Chinese online shoppers in the "Haitao" market, which allows direct purchase of foreign goods that are unavailable or exorbitantly priced in China.

Prior to the launch of the sea shipping service for overseas direct purchase, most parcels were transported via air or mail routes.

Customs officials in Qingdao say the short marine distance between Shandong and South Ko-

rea — 340 nautical miles — means transportation only takes about 17 hours and Chinese consumers can have the parcels in two or three days after placing their order.

China's e-commerce has seen explosive growth in recent years. Online retail sales racked up 2.6 trillion yuan in 2014, up 41 percent, and cross-border trade by e-commerce companies is forecast to reach 6.5 trillion yuan in 2016.

However, South Korea's *JoongAng Daily* reported that South Korea only accounted for less than 1 percent of China's Haitao market, thus, the government and business sectors were eager to make more from the market boost by China-S Korea free trade area. On Wednesday, e-commerce giant Alibaba said it would launch logistic service in South Korea to make it easier for Chinese consumers to purchase commodities from South Korean sellers.—*Xinhua*

China invites S Korea's Park to attend war anniversary in September

SEOUL, 21 March — Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Saturday extended an invitation to South Korean President Park Geun Hye to attend a ceremony in China to mark the 70th anniversary of victory in World War II on 3 September, according to South Korea's Foreign Ministry.

Wang offered the invitation in a meeting with South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung Se in Seoul. The meeting was held hours ahead of the ministerial talks between Wang, Yun and Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida.

Chinese President Xi Jinping made the war anniversary day also as the "victory against Japan" day, a day of remembrance added to the national calendar last year as part of a campaign to raise national awareness of war history.

On North Korea, Wang and Yun reaffirmed a common stance that Pyongyang's nuclear weapons program should never be tolerated and that the North should be denuclearized.

The two ministers agreed to make joint efforts to resume "meaningful talks" in efforts to prevent North Korea from advancing its nuclear weapons program and achieve North Korea's denuclearization.

Wang and Yun also agreed to further promote communication and consultations at various levels, including those of the chief delegates to the six-party talks aimed at denuclearizing North Korea.

The six-party talks, involving the two Koreas, the United States, China, Japan and Russia, have been deadlocked since late 2008.

"The two ministers also

agreed to exert joint efforts to make a trilateral cooperative relationship (along with Japan) return to normal at an early date and develop it as a mechanism to substantially help stabilize the region and bring about a common prosperity," a Foreign Ministry statement said.

Meanwhile, the statement did not mention whether Wang reaffirmed his country's opposition to the possible deployment of a US anti-ballistic missile system in South Korea.

A senior South Korean Foreign Ministry official later told reporters the deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) in South Korea was not an agenda for Saturday's talks and thus the issue was not discussed.

China has been protesting against the deployment of the THAAD system in

South Korea, claiming it will target China as part of US efforts to expand its military presence in East Asia.

South Korea has maintained strategic ambiguity on the issue so far, saying there have been no consultations with the United States and no decision has been made.

US officials maintain the system is purely defensive and its deployment in South Korea would be aimed at exclusively dealing with threats posed by North Korea.

At the meeting with Yun, Wang also expressed his country's hope that South Korea will join the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, a new China-led development bank, and Yun replied that South Korea is "reviewing the issue in a comprehensive way," a senior South Korean Foreign

Ministry official told reporters.

Seeing the AIIB as a potential rival to the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank, the United States is pressuring its allies to stay away from joining it. In a blow to the United States, four major European countries — Britain, Germany, France and Italy — recently announced their decision to join the bank.

China and 20 other countries, including Thailand, India, Kuwait and Kazakhstan, agreed last year to launch the \$50 billion development bank by the end of 2015.

The number of countries has since grown while China has said it will regard nations announcing participation by the end of this month as the founding members of the bank.

Kyodo News

Netanyahu row casts doubt on Obama pledge to 'have Israel's back'

WASHINGTON, 21 March — US President Barack Obama, who once famously said he would "always have Israel's back," may be rethinking that promise as aides begin weighing options in response to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's pre-election disavowal of a two-state solution to the Middle East conflict. Following Obama's warning that the United States would "reassess" its relationship with Israel, the administration is not only reconsidering the diplomatic cover it has long given Israel at the United Nations but is also looking at a range of other possibilities to put pressure on its historically close ally, US officials said.

Those could include becoming less active in protecting Israel in international forums and finding new ways to reinforce the message of US opposition to Jewish settlement expansion. As internal discussions proceeded on Friday, the White House appeared in no rush to lower the temperature in the worst US-Israeli crisis in decades, sparked by Netanyahu's campaign declaration that there would be no Palestinian state on his watch. The White House made clear for a second straight day that it had little faith in Netanyahu's effort to backtrack since winning Tuesday's election and insist he was in favour of a two-state solution, long a cornerstone of US Middle East policy.

Reuters

US first lady meets Cambodian female students, stressing importance of girls' education

SIEM REAP, (Cambodia), 21 March — US First lady Michelle Obama on Saturday met Cambodian female students to stress the importance of girls' education.

Michelle, along with Bun Rany, wife of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, visited female students at Hun Sen Prasat Bakong High School here.

"We met with a group of young girls. Most we talked with were teenagers. These girls were amazing, they have big huge dreams," she said at a "Let Girls Learn" event after a meeting with those female students. "Their plans are to use their education to serve their community and to build their country."

The first lady, who is a Princeton graduate in soci-

ology, encouraged girls to focus on schooling, saying that their success would not happen without education.

"Let Girls Learn 'is about giving girls like you here a voice in your community and in your country,'" said the first lady, who also holds a Juris Doctor (JD) degree from Harvard Law School.

"When you have chance to fulfill your potential, there is no limit to what you can achieve, so I'm today to urge you to keep learning as much as you can."

According to the UNESCO, literacy rate among females in Cambodia is much lower than males, only 70.9 percent of females are literate, compared with 85.1 percent of males. The "Let Girls Learn" initiative, launched

by the first lady earlier this month, aims at reducing the number of girls who do not attend school.

The effort will use America's nearly 7,000 Peace Corps volunteers live and work in developing communities across the globe to help expand access for schooling for girls.

Carrie Hessler, director of US Peace Corps, said "An investment in girls' education is the single greatest investment because when a girl is given the opportunity to learn, everyone in her life benefits." Cambodia is one of the 11 countries in the Let Girls Learn initiative, according to the White House.

The other countries are: Albania, Benin, Burkina Faso, Georgia, Ghana, Moldova, Mongolia, Mo-



US first lady Michelle Obama speaks at the event "Let Girls Learn" in Siem Reap, Cambodia, on 21 March, 2015. Michelle Obama on Saturday met Cambodian female students to stress the importance of girls' education. —XINHUA

zambique, Togo, and Uganda. Michelle arrived in the country Friday to promote her new "Let Girls Learn" global education initiative to Cambodian girls.

She is scheduled to visit the famed Angkor Wat Temple on Saturday afternoon before leaving for the United States on Sunday morning. —Xinhua

France says deal with Iran must be robust, guarantee no atomic bomb

LAUSANNE, 21 March — France's foreign minister said on Saturday that his country wanted an agreement over Iran's nuclear programme that was sufficiently robust to guarantee that Teheran could not acquire an atomic bomb.

Iran and six world powers — the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China — suspended negotiations on a nuclear agreement on Friday and are set to meet again next week to break a deadlock over sensitive atomic research and lifting

of sanctions.

France has been demanding more stringent restrictions on the Iranians under any deal than the other Western delegations and at one point during the talks French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius phoned his team to ensure it made no more concessions, officials said.

The Europeans and US Secretary of State Kerry plan to meet in London on Saturday to help bridge differences, negotiators said, before a end-March deadline for a political frame-

work agreement and a full nuclear deal by 30 June. Officials have expressed concerns that the French might block a deal.

"France wants an agreement, but a robust one that really guarantees that Iran can have access to civilian nuclear power, but not the atomic bomb," Fabius told Europe 1 radio on Saturday. Iran denies allegations from the Western powers and their allies that it harbors nuclear weapons ambitions. It wants all UN sanctions to be lifted immediately, including those



France's Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius (L-R), Germany's Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond pose ahead of nuclear talks in Brussels on 16 March, 2015. —REUTERS

targeting its nuclear programme.

While the talks have made progress over the past year, differences on sticking points are still wide enough to potentially prevent an agreement in the end.

There was no breakthrough this week. Disagreements arose among the powers, with France insisting on a longer period of restrictions on Iran's nuclear work. It also opposed the idea of suspending some UN sanctions relatively quickly if a deal is struck.

Reuters

Japanese, S Korean top diplomats agree to defuse tensions

SEOUL, 21 March — Japan and South Korea agreed on Saturday to work toward a de-escalation of tensions that have flared over wartime historical issues as this year marks the 50th anniversary of the normalization of diplomatic ties.

“Despite difficult issues between the two countries, we confirmed that we will continue communicating at various levels in order to strengthen our cooperation,” Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters after meeting in Seoul with his South Korean counterpart Yun Byung Se.

Kishida said he agreed with Yun to make the 50th anniversary “significant” for the two countries.

Among other plans aimed at restoring bilateral trust, the two countries agreed to aim for the early resumption of security dialogue involving director-general-level foreign and defence officials, last held in December 2009, according to a Japanese official who attended the 90-minute meeting.

Visiting South Korea for the first time since he assumed the ministerial post in December 2012, Kishida said he also agreed with Yun that the two Asian countries, along with the United States, will maintain close collaboration in dealing with North Korea.

During Kishida’s meeting with Yun, which

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (L) and his South Korean counterpart Yun Byung Se shake hands at the Foreign Ministry in Seoul before their talks on 21 March, 2015. They aim to explore the possibility of arranging the first summit between their current leaders amid lingering tensions over wartime historical issues.

KYODO NEWS



took place ahead of a tri-lateral foreign ministers’ meeting also involving China, one of the major issues discussed by them was the issue of “comfort women,” many of whom were recruited against their will to work in wartime brothels for the Japanese military.

South Korea’s Foreign Ministry said the two agreed to step up efforts to settle the issue.

South Korea has criticized Japan for not doing enough to atone for the suffering it caused to those women, many of whom were from the Korean Peninsula that was under Japan’s colonial rule from 1910 to 1945.

Partly because of the issue, South Korean President Park Geun Hye has avoided holding one-on-

one talks with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe since taking office early 2013.

Yun said South Korea is paying attention to what Abe will say in his statement on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of Japan’s defeat in World War II, the official said.

Kishida told Yun that Abe’s government will inherit the stance of previous governments on Japan’s militaristic past, according to the official.

Still, strong worries remain in South Korea that Abe may water down Japan’s past remorse, such as a 1993 statement issued by then Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono, in which Tokyo admitted to the Japanese military’s involvement in establishing “comfort

stations” of mostly Asian women for Japanese soldiers during World War II and apologized for their sufferings.

The Japanese government is hoping to realize a meeting between Abe and Park before the prime minister travels in late April to Washington, whose major allies in Asia are Tokyo and Seoul, to ease the ongoing bilateral tensions.

The likelihood is not that high. But, according to the Japanese official, Kishida and Yun agreed that the two countries should create “an appropriate environment” and seek a leaders’ summit at an early date.

Following the meeting, Kishida, Yun and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met with Park at her office.—Kyodo News

UNSG’s Message on World Water Day

22 March 2015

This year, as the United Nations prepares to adopt a new post-2015 sustainable development agenda in September, World Water Day highlights the essential and interconnected role of water. We rely on water for public health and equitable progress, it is essential for food and energy security, and it underpins the functioning of industries.

The onset of climate change, growing demand on finite water resources from agriculture, industry and cities, and increasing pollution in many areas are hastening a water crisis that can only be addressed by cross-sectoral, holistic planning and policies — internationally, regionally and globally.

Among the most urgent issues are access to safe drinking water and sanitation. Despite progress under the Millennium Development Goals, adopted in 2000, some 750 million people — more than one in ten of the world’s population — remain without access to an improved water supply. Women and children, in particular, are affected by this lack, as not only is their health compromised, but considerable hours are wasted in the unproductive — and sometimes dangerous — business of collecting water.

The statistics on sanitation are even less encouraging. Some 2.5 billion people still live without improved sanitation, and a billion people practice open defecation, making sanitation the least successful area of the MDGs. We cannot achieve a world of dignity, health and prosperity for all until we address this urgent need.

Our sustainable future is also jeopardized by climate change, which is why United Nations Member States are working hard towards a meaningful, universal climate agreement this December in Paris. Over the coming years, greenhouse gas emissions will have to significantly decline in order to avert the worst impacts of climate change, which include changed weather patterns and the threat of water scarcity in large parts of the world.

To address the many challenges related to water, we must work in a spirit of urgent cooperation, open to new ideas and innovation, and prepared to share the solutions that we all need for a sustainable future. If we do so, we can end poverty, promote global prosperity and well-being, protect the environment and withstand the threat of climate change.

UNIC/Yangon

EU leaders pledge security cooperation, aid for Tunisia

BRUSSELS, 21 March — European Union leaders pledged to step up help for Tunisia on Friday, worried that an attack that killed 20 foreign tourists shows Islamic State militants spreading their influence from Libya and posing a growing threat to Europe.

EU governments are already deeply worried about chaos in Libya which has fuelled an exodus of migrants that are putting a heavy strain on southern EU countries such as Italy. Wednesday’s attack in Tunisia, regarded in Brussels as a rare bright spot among countries swept up by the Arab uprisings, increased the EU’s concern about threats to stability among its southern neighbours. Islamic State claimed responsibility for the museum attack and Tunisia’s government said the two gunmen had trained at a jihadist camp in Libya.

“Events in the southern Mediterranean are dangerous for Europe,” European Council President

Donald Tusk told a news conference after an EU summit.

“We have to offer everything we can to stabilise the situation in Tunisia. We can’t say Tunisia is destabilised after this terrorist attack, but the risk is quite obvious that Tunisia will be the next step of activity and violence from Islamic State activists,” he said.

Tusk said he had invited EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini to join him on a visit to Tunisia, Malta and Italy at the end of March. In a statement condemning the Tunis attack, EU leaders pledged to intensify cooperation with Tunisia to counter terrorism, to strengthen Tunisia’s democracy and to help with its economic and

social development.

Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi said the attack in Tunisia was “new evidence that we are facing a global threat, the threat of terrorism. We need to concentrate our attention a bit more on the Mediterranean.” “It will be very important to help Tunisia also in terms of economic support so that

it can face the negative impact on the tourism sector and on Tunisian GDP,” Renzi told reporters.

EU leaders backed UN-brokered peace talks in Libya, where two rival governments and armed factions are battling for power and oil wealth four years after NATO helped oust Muammar Gaddafi. They urged all sides to quickly agree on a government of national unity, which the EU was ready to support. German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Islamic State’s influence in Libya was growing. “If the problems in Libya are not solved, the EU as a whole has a big problem,” she said. EU officials are drawing up proposals for a possible EU mission to Libya if the UN talks reach a deal. Mogherini has suggested a team of EU soldiers or civilians could monitor a ceasefire or protect airports and other infrastructure if the talks succeed, but EU member states are cautious about the idea.—Reuters



(R-L) French President Francois Hollande, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Eurogroup Chairman Jeroen Dijsselbloem, European Commission President Jean Claude Juncker, Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, European Council President Donald Tusk, EU Council General Secretary Uwe Corsepius and European Central Bank President Mario Draghi take part in a meeting during a European Union leaders summit in Brussels on 19 March, 2015.—REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 22 March, 2015

Clean water essential for sustainable development

By Aung Khin

The world is expected to face a 40 per cent shortfall in water supply by 2030 unless global organisations dramatically improve management of this precious resource.

Global water use is projected to increase by 55 per cent through 2050, with growing demands from manufacturing, thermal electricity generation and domestic use in cities around the world, especially in

developing countries, according to surveys of the water management research department.

Water is essential for sustainable development in sectors from food and energy security to human and environmental health. It plays a vital role in strengthening the resilience of social, economic and environmental systems amid rapid and momentous changes in the world.

Furthermore, clean water is crucial for the health of new generations across the globe. While the world population is rapidly increasing, the planet's water resources are limited and often shared between several countries. For example, many of the world's rivers are shared by two or more states. Throughout history, conflicts have arisen over how water resources are to be shared.

Water treatment technologies are making advances. However, a lack of clean water and sanitation are still life-threatening problems for millions of people in the world, especially in dry zones and desert regions.

While a relatively small number of people have ready access to purified water for drinking and hygiene, large numbers at grassroots rely on tap water and lakes in many areas of Myanmar.

Clean, reliable water resources are crucial for human life. Likewise, a clean and hygienic water supply and treatment infrastructure is essential for the sustainable development of the country.

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

(ICIMOD Feature Article for Regional Media Uptake for World Water Day, 22 March 2015)

The Himalayan waters: complex challenges and regional solutions

**Santosh Nepal and
Arun Bhakta
Shrestha, ICIMOD**

It is difficult to think of a resource more essential to the wellbeing of people and their economies than water, yet managing water resources is a complex and challenging task. The Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKH) region heavily depends on water resources for irrigation, food, hydropower, sanitation, and industry, as well as for the functioning of many important ecosystem services. Water thus directly contributes to the national GDP and to livelihoods and income generation at the local level. Although water is the foundation of sustainable development, water management in the HKH region remains fragmented and uncoordinated, and does not take relevant regional issues into account.

Many big rivers like the Indus, Ganges, and Brahmaputra originate from the snow and glacier covered high mountains, and have abundant seasonal and annual water supply. Despite this, mountain people living on the ridges and hill slopes have limited access to water for drinking and agriculture. Throughout the mountain region, springs are reported to be drying, and mountain agriculture has suffered from drought. The shortage of water has placed an increasing burden on mountain communities, particularly on women. Furthermore, the communities face loss of property and lives due to water-in-



Arun B Shrestha

duced natural hazards. Climate change has exacerbated the situation by creating uncertainty about the future water availability and water security. Understanding the characteristics of water is crucial for sustainable water management. This article attempts to highlight some of the complexities and challenges of water management in the HKH region and discusses a possible way out for sustainable management.

Water and energy

Energy is one of the most important pillars of sustainable development. In the HKH region, hydropower is one of the most promising environmentally friendly sources of energy. With a potential estimated to be 500,000 MW, the region has abundant opportunities for hydropower development. Energy security can open up opportunities for development and employment and contribute to the national GDP. Moreover, innovative solutions such as electric transportation and a clean source of domestic and industrial energy supply would significantly improve the deteriorating environmental condition of the region. However, many countries



Santosh Nepal

in the region have been able to tap only a small fraction of their available potential. Out of the 42,000 MW potential reported in Nepal, only about 2% is harnessed so far, whereas Pakistan has harnessed 11% of its total potential. Still, people in both these countries face many hours of scheduled power cuts.

Water and the environment

Water plays a vital role in maintaining different ecosystem services in riparian areas. Freshwater ecosystems in particular largely depend on the specific flow regime of rivers passing through them. However, due to intervention of infrastructure development, the flow regime changes in the downstream areas, where, in many cases, communities depend on water resources for livelihoods such as fishing. A major concern is how to make sure that a certain minimum flow is maintained so as to sustain freshwater supply and support dependent ecosystems. There is very weak monitoring of the minimum flow requirement in the region.

Water for food

Water and food share a strong nexus, both being essential ingredients for

human survival and development. Agriculture is a major contributor to the GDP of countries in the HKH. In Nepal, it contributes to 35% of the national GDP. The Indus River system is a source of irrigation for about 144,900 hectares of land, whereas the Ganges basin provides irrigation for 156,300 hectares of agricultural land. Access to water resources for food production and their sustainable management is a concern from the local to national level. Amid rapid environmental and socio-

prone to various water-induced hazards (e.g., landslides, floods, glacial lake outburst floods, and droughts). Every year, during the monsoon season, the floods bring havoc to the mountains and the plains downstream. These floods are often transboundary. Globally, 10% of all floods are transboundary, and they cause over 30% of all flood casualties and account for close to 60% of all those displaced by floods. The social and economic setting of the region makes its peo-

ple more vulnerable to natural hazards. Lack of supportive policy and governance mechanisms at the local, national and regional levels, and the lack of carefully planned structural and non-structural measures of mitigation lead to increased vulnerability. Regional cooperation in sustainable development of water resources



Tibetan part of the Koshi basin—Santosh Nepal

Due to its physical setting, the HKH region is

Water and disaster

The examples above show that water has both

cent 18th SAARC summit in Kathmandu, the SAARC member countries signed a Framework Agreement on Energy Cooperation. This agreement has opened up the energy market in South Asia, and thereby possibilities for cooperation in the energy sector. However, it remains to be seen to what extent the collaboration would play a role in energy security.

(See page 9)

ARTICLE

Man, Mind and Morale

By *Kyi Mun*

- Man Matters Most
- Mind is the Key To Life
- Morale is To Material
As 3 is To 1

MAN

Man has five innate qualities as well as the nurtured and cultivated ones. They emerge in combination as general human qualities of:

- Physical quality of HEALTH & STRENGTH
- Mental quality of VISION & STRATEGY
- Emotional quality of PASSION & VALUES
- Spiritual quality of SELFLESSNESS & SERVICE
- Creative quality of CHARACTER & COMPETENCE

Man should be:

- Positive instead of being negative
- Active instead of being passive
- Dynamic instead of being static
- Proactive instead of being reactive
- Constructive instead of being destructive
- Progressive instead of being regressive
- Authentic instead of being imitative
- Against the status quo instead of for the status quo.

Man should have:

M for **Management**
A for **Accountability**
N for **Networking**

Management

Management has FIVE basic functions of:

- Forecasting and Planning
- Organizing and Talents Hunting
- Leading and Enabling
- Controlling and Coordinating
- Recognizing and Rewarding

The Mission of Man is:

- Going places and doing things
- Making things happen and getting things done

The Responsibility of Man is:

- To be effective □ i.e. to do the RIGHT things
- To be efficient □ i.e. to do the things RIGHT

The Purpose of Man is:

- To be able to attain health, happiness and success
- To be willing to achieve peace, progress and prosperity

The Pursuit of Man is:

- To love all
- To serve all
- To hurt never
- To help ever

The Practice of Man is:

- Simplicity
- Humility
- Frugality
- Diligence

- Equanimity

Accountability

Man must be accountable for his actions. Man is governed by the law of cause and effect, seed and fruit. It will not do for man to be lawless, order-less, chaotic, anarchic, despotic. Man must be held responsible for all his or her moves, actions and schemes. The moral is: "We reap what we sow!"

Networking

Man does not and cannot live alone, like Robinson Crusoe. In society and amidst people, man has to live and move and has his or her being. So, it is important to connect with other people, continually in touch and in communication with them. The primary duty of man is to live together and to help each other achieve success and happiness.

MIND

The Power of Your Mind

Mind is the key to life.

You can elevate your life with your mind,

And you can degrade your life with your mind.

- Bhagavad Gita

- ❖ Mind is the root of our bondage, mind is the means of our liberation. A mind that acts wrongly remains shackled, an unpolluted mind becomes freed.
- ❖ Neither enemy nor antagonist can harm you as much as can your own mind when it is defiled.
- ❖ As long as the mind is darkened, as long as the mind is muddled, it is crooked and twists like a serpent.
- ❖ Hidden within the mind is a lode of heavenly pleasures; burning within the mind are also the fires of hell.
- ❖ The uprightness of your mind is the essence of your happiness. The crookedness of your mind is a weight upon your head.
- ❖ A stained mind remains agitated, an unstained mind is joyful. An unstained mind is liberated, a stained mind is in bondage.
- ❖ The mind can be wicked, the mind can be gentle, the mind can be a foe or friend. Peace and happiness spread in life when the mind becomes pure.

- Dhammapada

M for **Mirror**
I for **Inspiration**
N for **Never Losing Heart**
D for **Duty**

Mirror

Mind is like a mirror. A mirror reflects the truth, only the truth, nothing but the truth, and the objective, concrete conditions. A mirror is never subjective. It expresses only the concrete aspects. A mirror does not refuse anything, and accept all things, but keeps nothing. A mirror is by nature clean and clear. A man of superior wisdom should discover the mirror-nature of his mind and live and move and have his being with it.

Inspiration

Mind is the instrument of inspiring oneself as well as others. Mind inspires man to sow:

- Love where there is Hatred
- Joy where there is Sadness
- Pardon where there is Injury
- Hope where there is Despair
- Faith where there is Doubt
- Light where there is Darkness

Never Losing Heart

Mind must be stout, strong, straightforward, serene and sound. Mind should dare to struggle, dare to win and dare to scale the heights. Mind should dare nobly, will strongly and never falter in the path of duty. Mind should be resolute, fear no sacrifice and surmount all difficulties to win victory.

Duty

Mind should be so cultivated that it is always willing to do all the needful in the discharge of one's own duties, leaving no stone unturned. But a superior and high mind never hankers after the fruits of doing one's duty but only passionately focuses on discharging the duty well.

MORALE

Morale is to material as 3 is to 1.

- Napoleon Bonaparte

Morale means: State of discipline and spirit (in an army, in nature, in an organization, in a team, etc.) temper; state of mind as expressed in action. e.g. the army recovered its morale and fighting power. The failing morale of the enemy (their loss of confidence in themselves.) helped to shorten the war.

M for **Mighty Spirit**
O for **Outstanding Insight**
R for **Resolute Determination**
A for **Audacity**
L for **Learning, Unlearning, Relearning**
E for **Endurance**

Man with Mighty Spirit, Outstanding Insight, Resolute Determination, Audacity, Learning, Unlearning, Relearning and Endurance is a superior man and is destined to achieve success, serenity and sanctity.

CONCLUSION

Man is **Supreme**
Mind is **Foremost**
Morale is **Determinant**

Ref: (1) The Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi
(2) The Jewel of the Dhamma by S N Goenka

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co.,Ltd.

The Himalayan waters:...

(from page 8)

There are strong indications the HKH region is going to be warmer in the coming years. Precipitation is likely to increase in different places and have more inter-annual and intra-annual variability. What does the change in temperature and precipitation mean to water availability in the HKH region? What complexities do the cryosphere dynamics add to this equation? Should these changes be of concern to water resources develop-

ment in the region? These questions cannot be answered without concerted efforts of the regional countries.

The regional nature of the natural hazards requires a regional approach to the solution. Effective flood management requires sharing data and information between the upstream and downstream areas, not only within the country, but also at the transboundary level. Technological innovations based on satellite informa-

tion, in combination with ground-based data, can be transformed into information that can prove vital in saving lives and properties. For example, the Koshi Flood Outlook (www.icimod.org/?q=14181) being developed by the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) and its national partners in Nepal and India has high potential for saving lives and properties in the basin. Such efforts should be promoted widely in the region. During the Jure landslide event of August

2014 in Nepal, during which the Sun Koshi River was blocked for several days, a great concern emerged from the Indian side regarding the status of the landslide and the likelihood of an outburst flood. The flood outlook was helpful in providing important information. This example shows that disaster risk reduction could be an entry point for immediate regional cooperation. This will create trust, which can be a basis for future cooperation for maximizing benefits such as energy trade. Countries of the HKH

region should recognize the potential of water resources for sustainable development. These resources can help reduce poverty, improve livelihoods, conserve ecosystems and contribute to flood and drought management in the region. This will not only help us face the present crisis, but also

open up avenues to deal with issues of future water availability amid climate and socioeconomic changes. Regional cooperation should be based on the three pillars of sustainability: economic vitality, environmental integrity and social equity, both at the national and local level.

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Tunisia arrests suspected militants after museum attack

TUNIS, 21 March — Tunisian authorities have arrested more than 20 suspected militants following the Bardo museum attack when gunmen killed foreign tourists, leading to a nationwide security crackdown.

Hundreds of Tunisians gathered for a mass in the cathedral in Tunis on Saturday, lighting candles to remember the victims — 20 foreign tourists and three Tunisians — in a ceremony attended by government ministers. Outside, there was a heavy police presence along the capital's central Habib Bourguiba boulevard.

Wednesday's assault — the most deadly attack involving foreigners in Tunisia since a 2002 suicide bombing in Djerba — came at a fragile moment for a country just emerging to full democracy after its pioneering popular uprising four years ago.

The government said the two gunmen had trained in jihadi camps in Libya before the attack at the museum inside the heavily secured Tunisian parliament compound. Japanese, French, Polish, and Colombian visitors were among the victims.

Authorities have arrested more than 20 suspected militants, including 10 believed to be directly involved in the Bardo attack, Interior Ministry spokesman Mohamed Ali Aroui said on Saturday. "There is a large-scale campaign against the extremists," he said. The government plans to deploy the army to major cities to increase security following the shootings.

Islamic State militants have claimed responsibility for the attack, but social media accounts tied to an al-Qaeda-affiliated group in Tunisia have also published details purportedly about the operation.

Whoever was responsible, the Bardo attack illustrates how Islamist militants are turning their attention to North Africa, especially in neighbouring Libya where two rival governments battle for control allowing Islamic State to gain a foothold. The United States is increasingly worried about the growing presence of Islamic State militants in Libya.—Reuters

US fears Islamic State is making serious inroads in Libya

WASHINGTON, 21 March — The United States is increasingly concerned about the growing presence and influence of the Syria-based Islamic State movement in Libya, according to US officials and a State Department report.

The officials said what they called "senior" Islamic State leaders had travelled to the country, which is whacked by civil war, to help recruit and organize militants, particularly in the cities of Derna and Sirte.

Since late January, Islamic State militants have carried out attacks, including a car bombing and siege at the Corinthia, a luxury hotel in Tripoli, and an attack on the Mabrak oilfield south of Sirte,

according to a report circulated this week by the State Department's Diplomatic Security Bureau.

The militants also posted on the Web images of the beheading of 21 abducted Egyptian Coptic Christians on a Libyan beach.

The State Department document said estimates of the number of Islamic State fighters operating in Libya ranged from 1000 to 3000.

Around 800 fighters were based in the Derna area alone, the report said, including up to 300 who previously fought in Syria or Iraq.

US officials said that because of its strategic position, Libya had become a springboard for would-be fighters from across North

Africa wanting to link up with the Islamic State. They could travel from there to Syria for frontline experience.

The State Department assessment, whose existence was first reported by the Washington Free Beacon website, said that the disintegration of central authority in Libya "has given ISIL an opening to establish a legitimate foothold."

The report said Islamic State had only had limited success in capturing and holding territory in Libya.

US officials said Libya Dawn, an Islamist, but non-Jihadist, movement based in the city of Misurata, was mounting a counter-attack against Islamic State forces, a develop-



A Libya Dawn fighter uses a monocular to look at Islamic State (IS) militant positions near Sirte, Libya, on 19 March, 2015.—REUTERS

ment which the United States considered encouraging.

Islamic State has also endorsed, or received expressions of loyalty, from other militants around the region, including factions based in Nigeria, Yemen, Afghanistan, Pakistan and

Egypt's Sinai Peninsula.

US agencies are evaluating evidence that appears to tie Islamic State to the militants who killed 20 foreign tourists on Wednesday at a museum in Tunis, the capital of Libya's western neighbour Tunisia.—Reuters

Lebanon seizes half a tonne of radioactive sanitary towels

BEIRUT, 21 March — More than 550 kilograms of sanitary towels containing a radioactive substance were confiscated at Beirut international airport, officials said on Friday.

The Ministry of Finance said in statement

that 30 cartons of confiscated pads will be sent to the Lebanese Atomic Energy Agency for checks before being returned to the exporter. It declined to name the company that made the pads or the name of the substance, which was discovered by customs of-

ficers during regular checks on freight arriving at the airport. Officials did not say what level of radioactivity had been detected.

Customs officials, speaking on condition of anonymity as they were not allowed to talk to the media, said that the sanitary

towels were Chinese-made and delivered to Lebanon through Dubai.

There has been a public outcry in recent months over contaminated goods in Lebanon. A Ministry of Health inspection last year into food hygiene found that hundreds of restau-

rants, supermarkets and slaughterhouses had unsatisfactory hygiene conditions.

The uproar led to several restaurant closures and calls for stricter standards on imports and business practices.

Reuters

Italy wants North African countries to rescue migrants at sea

BRUSSELS, 21 March — Italy wants Egypt and Tunisia to play a role in rescuing stricken migrant vessels in the Mediterranean, a government planning paper showed, so that survivors could be taken back to African instead of European ports.

The plan, which calls for the European Union to support the proposed Egyptian and Tunisian operations, was prepared by the Italian home affairs ministry and seen by Reuters.

It represents an attempt to stem the growing flow of people risking their lives to reach Europe, most of whom try to get to Italy, often on overcrowded or defective vessels.

Last April Italy rescued 4,000 migrants from boats trying to reach European shores in only 48 hours in a deepening immigration crisis that is being made worse by the turmoil in Libya, which has grappled with chaos and rampant militias since the oust-



Police escort migrants as they are disembarked from a navy ship in the Sicilian harbour of Augusta on 4 March, 2015. — REUTERS

ing of Muammar Gaddafi in 2011.

In one of the worst such tragedies in October 2013, a boat carrying migrants from Libya to Italy sank off the Italian island of Lampedusa. The Italian Coast Guard managed to rescue 155 survivors but

more than 360 migrants drowned.

Italy is already in bilateral talks on sea-rescue operations with Tunisia and Egypt, but joint diplomatic action of the EU is crucial to get them involved, the paper, said.

According to the plan,

Tunisian and Egyptian naval units would intervene to rescue migrants in areas close to Libya, which is the main departing point for migrants bound for Europe, but has no effective control of its territorial waters because of the ongoing conflict between its warring

factions. Once the migrants are taken out of the sea by the Egyptians or the Tunisians, they could be taken to North African ports, the paper said.

The Tunisian and Egyptian operations should be carried out in cooperation with Italian and European authorities and be adequately financially and technically supported by the EU, Italy said.

Last November, Italy stopped its Mare Nostrum search-and-rescue missions in the Mediterranean, citing cost concerns.

Since then, Triton, a European border control operation, was launched under the lead of the European border agency Frontex.

Italy says that the number of migrants that arrived at its shores in the first two months of 2015 was almost twice as big as in the same period of last year, when the Mare Nostrum operation was in place, the paper said.—Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

US, United Arab Emirates move forward on space cooperation

WASHINGTON, 21 March — The United States and the United Arab Emirates have agreed to work toward greater civil and national security space cooperation after officials from the two countries met in Washington this week, the US State Department said on Friday.

The officials reviewed

“a broad list of potential areas of space cooperation,” department spokesman Jeff Rathke said in a statement.

“They agreed on developing a strategic approach that would focus on building mutual confidence and understanding of space systems on which both countries rely for eco-

nomic, environmental, security and social well-being,” Rathke said.

Rathke said the talks focused on issues including space policy and regulatory developments, space security, space science cooperation, weather monitoring and the use of satellite-based applications.

Reuters

Britons welcome solar eclipse despite cloudy weather

LONDON, 21 March — Millions of people across Britain witnessed a rare solar eclipse on Friday morning.

The BBC reported the eclipse in Britain peaked at around 0935 GMT, and reached totality at 0941 GMT.

The eclipse reached at least 83 percent in most

parts of Britain, but was not clearly visible due to cloudy weather.

Londoners missed the rare chance to view the eclipse — a phenomenon that will not repeat on this scale until 2026, according to the Royal Astronomical Society in London.

Cornwall witnessed the moment at 0923 GMT,

and northern Shetland Islands at 0943 GMT with the eclipse reaching about 97 percent.

The partial solar eclipse in Edinburgh started at 0830 GMT and ended at 1044 GMT.

The 2015 solar eclipse is the deepest one in Britain since 1999.

Xinhua

Dude, why is my mushroom glowing? Scientists have the answer

WASHINGTON, 21 March — If you think you see a glowing mushroom, you might not be having a psychedelic hallucination. Some mushrooms indeed are bioluminescent, including one that sprouts among decaying leaves at the base of young palm trees in Brazilian coconut forests.

Scientists have long wondered what possible reason there could be for a fungus to glow. They now have an answer.

Researchers said on Thursday that experiments in Brazil involving the big, yellow mushroom called “flor de coco,” meaning coconut flower, showed its nighttime bioluminescence attracted insects and other

creatures that could later spread its spores around the forest.

“Our research provides an answer to the question, ‘Why do fungi make light?’ that was first asked, at least first asked in print, by Aristotle more than 2,000 years ago,” said biochemist Cassius Stevani of Brazil’s Instituto de Química-Univer-

sidade de São Paulo. “The answer appears to be that fungi make light so they are noticed by insects who can help the fungus colonize new habitats.”

Geneticist and molecular biologist Jay Dunlap of Dartmouth College’s Geisel School of Medicine said bioluminescence had independently evolved many

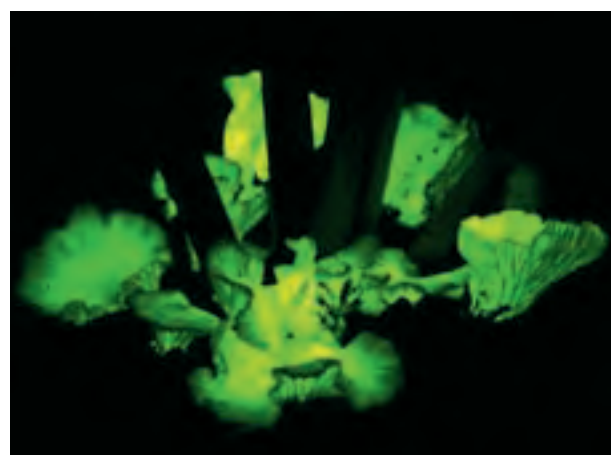
times in such diverse life forms as bacteria, fungi, insects and fish.

“Most of these make light in their own way, that is, with biochemistry that is unique to each organism,” Dunlap said.

Of the 100,000 known fungus species, 71 are bioluminescent. The species in the study, published in the journal *Current Biology*, is one of the biggest and brightest of them.

The researchers found a circadian clock regulates its bioluminescence, glowing only at nighttime.

They created two sets of plastic mushroom replicas, one with LED lights replicating bioluminescence and a second set



N gardneri mushrooms are seen growing on the base of a young babassu palm in Gilbues, Brazil, in this undated handout picture. —REUTERS

with no light. Suspecting the glow might be used to entice insects, they put glue on both sets of phony mushrooms in forest loca-

tions where real ones grow, then tracked the beasties that got stuck.

The glowing replicas lured an array of ants,

cockroaches, flies, beetles, spiders, harvestmen, slugs, snails and centipedes.

Such creatures, after crawling on a real bioluminescent mushroom, disperse fungal spores around the forest. Dunlap speculated that many of Earth’s bioluminescent mushrooms likely developed their glow for that purpose.

“Because it has evolved so many times in so many different organisms, each with their own biology, studying bioluminescence gives one a window on living things in all their wonderful diversity, and it sends you off to questions that you did not know existed,” Dunlap said.

Reuters

Luxury brands hedge their bets with smartwatches

PARIS, 21 March — The flurry of technology deals luxury watchmakers announced this week to tackle the Apple Watch threat are more a way to hedge their bets in case the smartwatch market takes off than a strategic U-turn.

The costs of development of these hybrid watches, combining elements of traditional watchmaking with digital know-how and wireless connectivity, will

be mostly financed by the technology providers, industry specialists predicted. Therefore, the partnerships unveiled at the Baselworld fair actually involve little investment for luxury brands — aside from their marketing efforts — but represent potentially high returns in terms of image and sales.

On Thursday, LVMH’s Tag Heuer and Bulgari, and Kering’s Gu-

ci were among the more than dozen or so watch brands that announced partnerships with technology companies.

Regarding Tag Heuer’s alliance with US chip maker Intel and Google unveiled on Thursday, independent financial analyst Richard Windsor said: “I strongly suspect that Intel and Google will be putting up the majority of the development costs of the

product, which is expected to be launched before the end of the year.”

Few details of the watch were provided such as its functions or price, and Tag Heuer Chief Executive Jean-Claude Biver acknowledged it was not yet clear whether gaining the “Intel Inside” also meant losing the precious “Swiss Made” label.

“Swiss brands like TAG are hedging their bets — just in case ‘wrist computers’ become popular and they are totally out of the game,” said Exane BNP Paribas analyst Luca Solca.

But while the announcement helped Tag Heuer make headlines and project the image of a brand in tune with its times, the project has many limitations, and could, in fact, fail to ever yield a product, Windsor said. Many luxury watchmakers, including Patek Philippe and Breguet, said this week smartwatches were incompatible with their brands’ values and the timelessness of their products.

Reuters

DIY robotics device developed

KRAKOW, (Poland), 21 March — It’s a revolution in robotics that makes building your own personal robot a reality for the masses.

The new device developed by Polish scientists Dominik Nowak and Radoslaw Jarema of the Husarion Company, acts as a robot’s central nervous system and provides people with the hardware and software to build almost any type of robot they can think of.... So you don’t need any programming or engineering skills.

“By applying RoboCORE, the user can create their own mechanical platform where they plug in our RoboCORE through various connectors to engines and sensors. Next, they can log in to our internet platform and use it to program their device and later they can control and steer, guide it and supervise its functions.”

While RoboCORE contains advanced technol-

ogy, the designers kept the system simple for users. It’s compatible with almost any mechanical system; even Lego’s Mindstorm, and uses open system cloud-based software to control the finished construction.

“The inventors of robots based on RoboCORE can construct both robots for play and hobby uses, as well as robots which solve ordinary human problems. We’re keeping in mind that many huge technology companies started off their work in garages and we hope that people in garages around the world will build robots based on our solutions, our drivers, which to a bigger or smaller extent will improve our lives.”

RoboCORE comes in two sizes and the company has already raised more than it needs to get off the ground with a crowdfunding campaign on Kickstarter. It looks like having your own personal helper, may not be that far-fetched an idea after all.—Reuters



The Tag Heuer logo is seen at the entrance of their new watch manufactory in Chevenez on 5 Nov, 2013.—REUTERS

Gunfight kills 10 after ambush on Mexican police

MEXICO CITY, 21 March — Ten people were killed in a gunfight in western Mexico when suspected gang members ambushed a police convoy in one of the deadliest attacks on security forces since Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto took office in December 2012.

Five members of Mexico's new militarized police, or gendarmerie, were killed in the shootout on Thursday night in Ocotlan, Jalisco state, and eight others were wounded, the National Security Commission said in a statement on Friday.



Federal agents inspect bullet impacts at a crime scene in the town of Ocotlan, Jalisco on 20 March, 2015.

REUTERS

Two bystanders who apparently had nothing to do with the ambush and three suspected gang mem-

bers were also killed. Units of the gendarmerie were patrolling the town south-east of the state capital

Guadalajara, the commission said.

At least 10 vehicles took part in the attack on police, with the assailants firing with high-powered rifles before being beaten back, the security commission said.

Some of the attackers then fled.

Police confiscated seven firearms and four fragmentation grenades at the scene, as well as five vehicles believed to have belonged to the assailants, the government said.

Jalisco has been plagued by fighting between the Jalisco New

Generation drug cartel and the Knights Templar, a drug gang from the neighbouring state of Michoacan that has been gradually weakened by the capture or killing of its leaders.

More than 100,000 people have been killed in gang-related violence in Mexico over the past eight years.

Bringing peace to Mexico was President Enrique Peña Nieto's first promise when he took office in 2012. The gendarmerie was unveiled to spearhead the government's efforts to restore order. It began operating last summer, albeit on a smaller scale than first envisaged.

Reuters

Ethiopian pilot who hijacked plane sentenced to 20 years in jail

ADDIS ABABA, 21 March — An Ethiopian court sentenced an Ethiopian Airlines pilot to 19 years and six months in prison on Friday for hijacking his own plane and flying it to Geneva, more than a year after he surrendered to Swiss police and sought asylum.

The high court in Addis Ababa issued its ruling on Hailemedhin Abera Tegegn in his absence. He had been convicted in absentia on Monday.

"The court sentenced him to 19 years and six months in jail for the crime he committed," Shimeles Kemal, the government's spokesman, told Reuters.

Shimeles said an extradition request had been rejected by Switzerland and that Swiss authorities had said Hailemedhin would face charges there. There were no details on his current whereabouts.

The 32-year-old was second-in-command on the 17 February, 2014 flight to Rome. According to Swiss police, he took control of the aircraft when the main

pilot, an Italian, left the cockpit for a toilet break, then sent a coded signal announcing he had hijacked his own plane.

With the Boeing jet on the tarmac, an unarmed Hailemedhin scrambled down an emergency rope and surrendered to police without harming the 193 passengers, mostly Europeans, on board. Swiss officials have said Hailemedhin asked for asylum, saying he did not feel safe in Ethiopia. Opposition politicians and rights campaigners in the Horn of Africa nation often accuse the government of stifling dissent, a charge it rejects.

Thousands of people from north and east Africa travel to Europe each year to flee poverty and conflicts, although Hailemedhin left behind a relatively well-paid job at the flagship airline of one of Africa's fastest-growing economies. Ethiopian officials have noted that, as a pilot, Hailemedhin had a visa allowing him to travel freely to Europe.

Reuters

Officer shoots man who attacked TSA agents at New Orleans airport

NEW ORLEANS, 21 March — A law enforcement officer shot a man who attacked several Transportation Security Administration (TSA) agents while armed with a machete and wasp spray at a New Orleans airport on Friday night, officials said.

Jefferson Parish Sheriff Newell Normand said the man, who he identified as 62-year-old Richard White, approached an agent at a boarding pass screening area in the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport and sprayed the officer

in the face around 8 pm local time (0100 GMT).

White then pulled out the machete, which was tucked in his pants, and started swinging it. He moved past the counter and approached more agents, spraying one in the face, Normand said.

A lieutenant with the sheriff's office who was manning the checkpoint responded to the melee and fired three shots as White chased one of the agents. The shots struck White in the chest, face and thigh and hit the fleeing TSA agent in

the arm, the sheriff's office said in a statement.

Normand had earlier told reporters that a bystander was also grazed by a shot.

White was taken to a hospital and was undergoing surgery, Normand said. Other travellers attempting to flee the chaos suffered scrapes and other minor injuries, he said.

The TSA agent's injuries were not life-threatening, the statement said.

Brent Long, a resident of Austin, Texas, who was at the airport with his wife and teenage daughter waiting for

a connecting flight, said he heard the shots ring out in the airport's Concourse B.

"We ducked into this restaurant and basically got underneath the table because we didn't know if the person was coming down the concourse. It was panic and chaos," said Long, who estimated he was about 60 feet (18 metres) away from the shooting.

The airport said on its Twitter account that the site had been secured. Officials said the concourse would be reopened on Saturday.

Reuters

Fewer food items to be tested for radioactive cesium

TOKYO, 21 March — The government released on Friday a shorter list of food items to be tested for radioactive cesium, after finding more items without it.

Based on test results so far, the health ministry will exclude 20 items, such as broccoli, plums and tea, starting in April. That will reduce the number of food items on the list to 45. Beef and milk will continue to be tested for radioactive cesium given that the level of the substance in those foods depends heavily on how the cattle were raised, including what they were fed. The tests are conducted in 17 prefectures mainly in northeastern Japan, and in Tokyo and the surrounding region, amid health concerns after massive amounts of radioactive materials were released into the air and sea in the March 2011 nuclear disaster.—Kyodo News

Canadian jury finds two men guilty in plot to derail train

TORONTO, 21 March — A Canadian jury on Friday found two men guilty of planning to derail a passenger train travelling between Canada and the United States in a plot intended to instil fear and force the two countries to withdraw troops from Muslim lands.

The case against Tunisian postdoctoral student Chiheb Esseghaier, 32, and Raed Jaser, 37, a permanent Canadian resident of Palestinian descent, relied heavily on intercepted conversations between them and an undercover FBI agent.

The agent posed as a wealthy businessman with radical views who could help pull off the train attack and other violent plots, including plans to target political leaders.

After 10 days of deliberations, Canadian media reported the jury found Esseghaier guilty on all five charges he faced and found Jaser guilty on three of the four charges he faced. Both were found guilty on the key charges of conspiring to murder and participating in a terrorist group.

The jury was dead-

locked on the charge against Jaser of conspiring to damage transportation property with the intent to endanger safety.

The two men will be sentenced at a later date. The conspiracy charges carry a maximum sentence of life, while participating in a terrorist group carries a maximum sentence of 10 years.

Jaser's lawyer had argued that his client was a con man feigning interest in the alleged plots to scam money out of his co-accused and the agent.

Reuters



Rescuers and locals gather at the site of a train accident near Bachrawan railway station in Indian state of Uttar Pradesh's Rae Bareilly, some 50 km from the state capital Lucknow, on 20 March, 2015. The death toll from a passenger train derailling on Friday morning in northern India has risen to 38, while around 150 were injured, when two coaches of an express train derailed in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh on Friday. —XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

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.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (096N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (096N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (126N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (126N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.3.2015 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 MOL (S'PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SCI KAMAL VOY NO (010E/W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SCI KAMAL VOY NO (010E/W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W 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 THE SHIPPING CORP OF INDIA LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Solar energy in Slovakia drops over 60 percent during solar eclipse

BRATISLAVA, 21 March — Friday's solar eclipse also meant a significant reduction of the volume of energy transferred onto the Earth's surface, reported by local news agency on late Friday.

As revealed by spokesperson of the Slovak Hydrometeorologic Institute (SHMU) Ivan Garcar, the institute measured the difference in the levels of direct solar radiation between Wednesday and Friday at approximately 63 percent in Slovakia.

"While the level of direct solar radiation reached around 920 watts per square metre at the same time on Wednesday, it was only 340 watts per square metre today," confirmed Anna Pribulova of SHMU's Aerology and Radiation Centre.

Xinhua

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A person watches an ash column rising from the Villarrica volcano, located 18km south of Pucon, in the Araucania Region, Chile, on 19 March, 2015. Chile's National Geology and Mining Service (SERNAGEOMIN) issued on Wednesday an orange alert due to the volcano's volatile activity.—XINHUA

Two injured, two missing in small plane crash in Colombia

BOGOTA, 21 March — Two people were injured and two others went missing when their small plane crashed into a river in southeastern Colombia on Friday, said the country's civil aviation authority. The aircraft, which belongs to the Colombian company Aerolineas Llaneras, crashed into the

Vaupes River at 13:20 local time (1820 GMT) en route from Mitu to Caruru, two neighbouring municipalities in Colombia's southeastern province of Vaupes.

Jorge Diaz, director of the local civil defence department, said the pilot and one passenger managed to get out of the plane with in-

juries shortly after the accident, but two others onboard went missing and rescuers are now searching for them in the jungle area around the crash site. The plane, a Cessna 206 type with the registration number of HK-2327, had four people on board when the tragedy occurred.—Xinhua

China, Germany to jointly march towards next industrial revolution

HANOVER, (Germany), 21 March — China has brought its in-depth cooperation with Germany into a new era as it decides to let its "Internet Plus" action plan join hand with the European nation's "Industry 4.0" strategy.

Both nations have expressed strong willingness to deepen cooperation between "Internet plus" and "Industry 4.0" in a bid to fuel innovation, foster new economic growth points and promote common development.

As new manufacturing concepts with web-based networking, the "Internet Plus" and "Industry 4.0" strategies share the same goal of revolutionizing the traditional manufacturing industry as well as all the other fields of human society.

Seeking to ride the tide of information technology, China has made a visionary move to strengthen co-ordination with Germany in promoting the "Internet Plus" and "Industry 4.0" initiatives.

As this year's CeBIT

has shown, almost all economic sectors in today's society find themselves increasingly intertwined with information technology (IT), which is expected to bring earthshaking changes just as electricity did in the past.

By integrating its manufacturing with IT, China will be able to upgrade itself from a manufacturer of quantity to one of quality.

The foundation for its cooperation with Germany will also be solid as the two countries can complement each other's advantages.

Meanwhile, both China and Germany have the advantages of an early start, which will enable them to play a leading role in developing "Industry 4.0" and exert a significant impact globally.

In a keynote speech in the trade fair, Jeremy Rifkin, an expert on the impact of scientific and technological changes on the economy, said both China's "Internet plus" and Germany's "Industry 4.0" have similar concepts. As initiators, China and Germany will become

the double engines in the process of "Industry 4.0."

Moreover, with a huge market, China has its own advantages in developing the IT industry.

Experts interviewed by Xinhua said it is possible for China's manufacturing to take advantage of the digitalization to catch up with its international competitors.

"It's possible to skip some stages of development," said Christoph Meinel, head of Postdam-based Hasso Plattner Institute. "It's possible to even become a leader and come to the position to sell technologies also to other countries."

As a country with the biggest population in the world, China's biggest responsibility to the world's peace and development is to ensure its stability and growth.

By strengthening co-operation with Germany, China will find new growth engines for its economy and contribute to the growth and prosperity of the country and the world at large.

Xinhua

Rihanna's songs from 'Home' land online



Rihanna

LOS ANGELES, 21 March — Rihanna's two new soundtracks from upcoming animated film "Home" have landed online.

The tracks titled "Dancing in the Dark" and "As Real as You and Me", arrived on 19 March, are both the Bajan beauty's contributions to the soundtrack of the film, reported Ace Showbiz.

The "Home" soundtrack is set for release on 24 March. It will also include another song recorded by Rihanna called "Towards the Sun" and other cuts by Charli XCX, Jennifer Lopez and Kiesza.

The film will hit US theaters later on 27 March.

Other actors attached to the Dreamworks film include Lopez, Jim Parsons and Steve Martin.—PTI

'Sleepy Hollow' renewed for season 3



Fox confirmed that season three will be composed of 18 new episodes.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 21 March — 'Sleepy Hollow' has been renewed for a third season.

Fox confirmed that season three will be composed of 18 new episodes, reported Deadline.

Season three will see "White Collar" and "The Glades" writer Clifton

Campbell replace Mark Goffman as "Sleepy Hollow" showrunner.

The network also announced that upcoming episodes will refocus the show around Ichabod Crane (Tom Mison) and New York police detective Abbie Mills's (Nicole Beharie) partnership.—PTI

930 global movies vie for Beijing festival award

BEIJING, 21 March — The 5th Beijing International Film Festival, to be held on 16 to 23 April, has attracted 930 movies from across the globe to compete for the Tiantan Award, organizers said on Thursday.

The participating films are from 90 countries and regions. In addition, 1,531 films from 103 countries and regions have registered for Beijing Film Panorama, an event during the festival, they said.

Famous French director Luc Besson will chair the jury of Tiantan Award, which also includes US Robert Mark Kamen, South Korean auteur Kim Ki-duk, Brazilian director Fernando Meirelles, Russia's Fyodor Bondarchuk, Peter Chan from Hong Kong and Chinese actress Zhou Xun.—Xinhua

Harrison Ford to narrate aviation documentary



Harrison Ford

LOS ANGELES, 21 March — National Geographic Studios will release in April the Harrison Ford-narrated, large-screen film "Living in the Age of Airplanes", about the history of aviation, the studio announced.

Directed by Brian J Terwilliger ("One Six Right"), the film shot in 18 countries. The pic features an original score by

James Horner ("Avatar") and cinematography by Andrew Waruszewski.

"With this film, we want to reignite people's wonder for one of the most extraordinary aspects of the modern world," Terwilliger said in a release.

Ford, 72, and his love of airplanes have been in the news recently. He is an experienced pilot, licensed to fly helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft.

PTI

Elisabeth Moss aims for it all in Broadway's 'The Heidi Chronicles'

NEW YORK, 21 March — After years playing the ambitious copywriter Peggy Olson in the acclaimed TV show "Mad Men," Elisabeth Moss has traded the small screen for the Broadway stage in the Pulitzer Prize and Tony award-winning drama "The Heidi Chronicles."

The feminist play, which opened on Thursday night at the Music Box Theatre, is a revival of Wendy Wasserstein's work that opened on Broadway in 1989.

Women have made strides in gaining equality and juggling careers and family in the quarter century since it was written but many of its themes are relevant today.

"Lesson from 'The Heidi Chronicles' still ring true," the newspaper *USA Today* said in a headline. "A debate of the 80s, motherhood vs. career, still resonates," added the *New York Times*.

The play follows the hopes, dreams and disappointments of Heidi Holland (Moss) and her baby-boomer generation. It begins with Heidi giving a lecture as an art historian and looks back to high school in 1965 and then follows her through college, the feminist movement, relationships and career over more than two decades.

"Elisabeth Moss (waving goodbye to 'Mad Men') is effortlessly endearing — and wonderfully real — as

the brainy, mixed-up heroine," said the trade magazine *Variety*.

USA Today praised the "empathy and accessibility" Moss, 32, brings to the role along with a goofiness and "a slight neurotic edge that suits the character."

But *The New York Post* said she struggled in the role and *The Daily News* described her performance as "middling."

Byrce Pinkham, a Tony nominee for "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder," is Heidi's gay friend Peter, whom she meets at a high school dance. He becomes her best friend and a well-known paediatrician.

Scoop Rosenbaum, played by "American Pie" actor Jason Biggs, is an arrogant writer who picks up Heidi at a Eugene Mc-

Carthy campaign event. Despite his marriage and affairs they form a life-long relationship.

"Biggs manages to make a manipulative, self-serving philanderer oddly likeable, which is crucial to Heidi's enduring affection for him, and Pinkham tosses off Peter's bon mots with genial aplomb," said *The Hollywood Reporter*.

But it is Moss who carries the play, particularly with a touching monologue to her high school alumnae.

"Ms Moss, her eyes moistening even as her voice remains strong, delivers this beautiful speech with a grace that grows strong as Heidi's peppery, self-aware humour gives way to lacerating honesty," said the *New York Times*.

Reuters

Everything is inspired by something: Pharrell Williams



LOS ANGELES, 21 March — Rapper Pharrell Williams is warning the entertainment industry could become "stifled" after the "Blurred Lines" copyright lawsuit.

In his first interview since being sued by Marvin Gaye's family, Williams said it could mean other musicians face similar legal action.

"The verdict handicaps any creator out there who's making something that might be inspired by something else. This applies to fashion... anything," he said.

"If we lose our freedom to be inspired we're going to look up one day and the entertainment industry as we know it will be frozen in litigation. This is about protecting the intellectual rights of people who have ideas," he added. Last week a court in LA ordered Pharrell, and Robin Thicke, to pay USD 7.3m in damages to the family of the late soul singer. The judge agreed with the family's claim Gaye's "Got To Give It Up" was copied by the pair's "Blurred Lines" hit.

"Blurred Lines" was the biggest hit of 2013, selling millions of copies worldwide.—PTI



Cast member Elisabeth Moss poses at the premiere for the seventh season of the television series "Mad Men" in Los Angeles, California on 2 April, 2014.—REUTERS

GENERAL

Raonic stuns Nadal, will face Federer in semis

INDIAN WELLS, (California), 21 March — Big-serving Milos Raonic fought back from a set down and saved three match points to upset Rafa Nadal 4-6, 7-6(10), 7-5 in a pulsating quarter-final at the BNP Paribas Open on Friday.

The 24-year-old Canadian's first win over Nadal in six meetings earned him a place in Saturday's semi-finals where he will face Roger Federer, who cruised through the last eight with a ruthless 6-4, 6-0 demolition of Czech Tomas Berdych.

World number one Novak Djokovic will face fourth-seeded Scot Andy Murray in Saturday's other semi in a re-match of this year's Australian Open final, won by the Serb in four sets.

"I feel obviously all



Milos Raonic (CAN) pumps his fist as he looks to his coach after defeating Rafael Nadal (ESP) 4-6, 7-6, 7-5 in quarter finals in the BNP Paribas Open at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden on 20 March, 2015, Indian Wells, CA, USA.—REUTERS

sorts of good," said sixth seed Raonic, who blasted 19 aces past Nadal before sealing victory in just under three hours. "There was a lot of up and down through that match, and all I could ask of myself was just keep competing and hope to find a way. I got fortunate a few times

and it worked out." Nadal, a three-times champion at Indian Wells, broke Raonic once to clinch the opening set in 37 minutes and had further break point opportunities in the first, fifth and ninth games of the second — all five of them saved by the Canadian.

The set went to a nerve-jangling tiebreak where Nadal squandered three match points before Raonic, playing more aggressively, finally squared the match at his third attempt when the Spaniard netted a forehand.

Both players saved further break points in the third set before Raonic broke Nadal in the 11th game when the Spaniard hit a backhand long and the Canadian advanced into the last four by comfortably holding in the 12th.

"I had more opportunities than him in the first (set), in the second and in the third too," said Nadal, who had won all eight of his previous quarter-final matches at Indian Wells. "I had a lot of chances to win.

Reuters

French court orders ex-employee to hand back Picasso works

GRASSE, (France), 21 March — Nearly 300 works by Pablo Picasso must be returned to the family of the late artist, a French court ruled on Friday, rejecting testimony from a former employee who said the painter's last wife gave them to him as a gift over 50 years ago.

Pierre Le Guennec, 75, a retired electrician, and his wife Danielle, 71, were given a suspended sentence of two years in prison for handling stolen goods. They were also ordered to hand over the 271 works, estimated at between 60-120 million euros (\$64-\$128 million), to the heirs of Picasso, who died in 1973.

Le Guennec, employed by Picasso in his last home in Mougins in southeast France, told the court in Grasse that Jacqueline Picasso offered him the box containing unsigned collages, sketches and paintings with the consent of her husband in either 1971 or



Pierre Le Guennec (R) and his wife Danielle (L) are surrounded by the media following the verdict of their trial at the courthouse in Grasse, southeastern France, on 20 March, 2015.—REUTERS

1972.

"One night, Madame called me in the hallway as I was leaving and told me, 'This is for you'," he testified.

The box sat in Le Guennec's garage for nearly 40 years before the couple brought it to Paris to be

appraised in 2010. After the discovery of the cache, Picasso's heirs contacted authorities who opened an investigation.

One of Picasso's sons, Claude Ruiz Picasso, said he was satisfied with the ruling and said the collection, believed to have been

created between 1900 and 1932, included important works and could now be exhibited.

"He's got a lot of cheek to try and make us swallow this story," Maya Picasso, one of the artist's daughters, told reporters.

Reuters

Oldest woman in Latin America dies at 127

MEXICO CITY, 21 March — The oldest woman in Latin America, Leandra Becerra, passed away on Thursday night at the age of 127 in Zapopan, a town in Mexico's western state of Jalisco, family members said on Friday.

Becerra's relatives held

a wake for her at her home in the town's Miramar district, and planned to have her cremated on Saturday.

Her family said Becerra, who liked eating chocolates and cookies, had said jokingly that the secret of her longevity was not having a husband, eating well

and getting plenty of sleep.

Known as the last of the revolutionary-era "adelitas," women who followed their men into battle, Becerra was born in 1887 in northeastern Tamaulipas state. Though never married, Becerra had five children and some 200 descendants scattered across

the states of Jalisco, Tamaulipas and Nuevo Leon, and in the United States.

Becerra couldn't be registered in the *Guinness Book of World Records* as the longest-living woman for she lost all her official documentation.

Xinhua

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| * News Extra - Korea-Myanmar Bilateral Ties | * Colonial Buildings and a New Yangon |
| * Mosaic Painting (Precious Stones & Gems) | * News |
| | * Crab Business (Part-II) Soft Shell Crab |
| | * Oboist and His Life |
| | * News |
| | * My Great Limitless Adventure - Mandalay & Sagaing |
| | *Changes |

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(22-3-2015, Sunday)

- | | |
|------------------------|--|
| 6:00 am | 9:25 am |
| • Fashion Show (Music) | • Myanmar Movie |
| 6:15 am | 3:45 pm |
| • Myanmar Video | • International Friendly Match Football Competition (Live) (Myanmar U-22 Vs Malaysia U-22) |
| 7:40 am | |
| • Game for Children | |
| 8:05 am | |
| • Sing & Enjoy | |

Nevada wildlife managers reject ban on coyote-hunting contests

RENO, 21 March — Nevada wildlife managers on Friday voted down a proposal that would have banned hunts offering cash and prizes for slaughtering coyotes in competitions across Western states that conservationists decry as "killing contests."

In December, California became the first US state to prohibit inducements like money and merchandise for hunting events of wild animals including coyotes, foxes, bobcats and other creatures classified in the state as fur-bearers and non-game mammals.

The recent push by wildlife advocates to outlaw hunting contests for wild animals like coyotes, which are considered nuisances allowed to be shot on sight in most of the West, comes as increasing numbers of competitions are held in states such as Nevada, California, Idaho, New Mexico and Oregon.

The Nevada Board of Wildlife Commissioners rejected banning the hunts in a 7-1 vote during a meeting in Reno that heard several hours of emotional testimony, mostly from animal activists, said Commissioner Karen Layne.

Layne, who said her seat on the commission obliges her to represent the general public rather than sportsmen, said she voted in support of the prohibition because her constituents oppose the tournaments.

But she said her vote was largely symbolic, because the proposal from wildlife advocates was awkwardly worded and likely would not have passed legal muster in a state where coyotes are not a protected species subject to hunting restrictions.

Fauna Tomlinson, spokeswoman for the conservation group, Project Coyote, spoke in support of the ban.—Reuters

Cycling contests in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 21 March — The Myanmar Cycling Federation and Myanmar Shwepyi Tractor Limited (MSP CAT) will organize cycling races on 27 to 29 March in Mandalay.

The races include a night MTB XC races and a road race. The starting line for riders in the team night MTB XC race, starting at 7 pm, is Nature's Life sports ground near Yankin Hill.

The road race event will be held on 28 March from Mandalay Sedona

Hotel to the finish line at the office of MSP CAT. The MTB XC Race will be on 29 March at Nature's Life sports ground from 8 am. The road race and MTB XC races are categorized into three groups — under 19, 19-25 and above 26. There will be no age limit for the team night MTB XC race, with teams comprising three to five riders. Cyclists competing in night events must have their own lights installed on their bikes.

Tin Maung (Mdy)



Summer sports training courses open in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 21 March — A number of sports training course are on offer to schoolchildren in Mandalay to help them make the most of their summer holidays.

The summer sports training courses give children the opportunity to improve their physical and

mental fitness, while also lifting the standard of the nation's athletes in the long term.

After the opening ceremony of the courses on 20 March, wushu, karate and taekwondo athletes demonstrated their skills.

Tin Maung (Mdy)

Messi would be in my team ahead of Ronaldo, says Pele

LONDON, 21 March — Brazil great Pele has stirred the pot ahead of this weekend's Clasico, saying he would rather have Barcelona's Lionel Messi as a team mate than Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo.

The 74-year-old Pele, who scored a record 1,281

goals, mostly for Santos, has watched the two phenomenal goal hunters jousting for the title of the world's best player but said he preferred Messi because he was a superior team player.

"To compare Ronaldo and Messi? It's a hard

question. They are different kinds of footballers," he told reporters in London's West End on Friday.

"Messi is more for the team, preparing the game and assisting, but Ronaldo is maybe more like the Brazilian Ronaldo and scores more.

"But in my team I would decide Messi, but both are fantastic. Messi now is playing completely different to Ronaldo. Ronaldo plays only in front."

Pele, in England to attend the Liverpool versus Manchester United Premier League game on Sunday at Anfield in his role as global ambassador for sandwich chain Subway, said both players would have scored bundles of goals in his era, even if they would have found defenders a little less accommodating.

Whereas the modern game is weighted towards attacking players, with tackling apparently a dying art, Pele was literally kicked out of the 1966 World Cup finals in England as defenders sought to rough him up.

"I think the good players would score goals in any era," he said. "After all I managed to score 1,000 goals!"

Messi, the all-time

leading scorer in La Liga with 253 at more than one a game, has struck 32 league goals this season for leaders Barcelona with Ronaldo on 30.

Brazilian Neymar has 17 for Barcelona — a return that has impressed Pele, who watched him develop as a youngster at Santos alongside his own son Edinho. "Everybody had their fingers crossed for Neymar to keep going when he was a boy at Santos," Pele said. "He needs a little more experience but has a great future."

On Sunday Pele will get to run the rule over another young Brazilian, Liverpool playmaker Philippe Coutinho who is still to establish himself as part of the selecao.

"He is a good player and he is getting a good experience to play in Europe, but it's too early to start talking about the national team because they have a lot of options," he said.

Reuters



File photo of Barcelona's Lionel Messi (R) chased by Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo during their Spanish first division "Clasico" soccer match at Nou Camp stadium in Barcelona on 26 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

Ibrahimovic hat-trick puts PSG back on top

PARIS, 21 March — Paris St Germain striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic put his disciplinary woes aside on Friday, taking his side back to the top of Ligue 1 with a hat-trick in their 3-1 home victory over FC Lorient.

PSG's talisman was banned for one match by UEFA's Control & Disciplinary Body after being sent off during a Champions League last 16 match at Chelsea last week.

And he also faces French League's (LFP) disciplinary commission to explain derogatory remarks he made about refereeing after PSG's loss at Girondins Bordeaux last week.

However, he showed his good side as PSG moved a point clear of Olympique Lyon who play on Saturday.

After two minutes the pony-tailed Swede slotted a penalty after being up-ended by keeper Benjamin Lecomte up-ended him as he ran on to a long ball.

Lecomte received a yellow card for his challenge. Ezequiel Lavezzi missed a sitter for PSG half an hour in. A cheeky backheel from Ibrahimovic sent him clear on the edge of the box but he pushed the ball into the side netting for one of a series of missed opportunities for the league leaders.

Lorient equalized midway through the second half when Benjamin Jeannot teed up a strike for Jordan Ayew.

Ayew had another shot cleared off the line a few minutes later, sparking the game into life with 15 minutes to go.

Ibrahimovic then showed his prowess from the spot again in the 82nd minute after Lamine Kone's foul on Javier Pastore.

He completed his hat-trick on full time.

Lyon, one point behind PSG on 58 points, are at home to Nice on Saturday while third-placed Marseille, on 54, travel to second-from-bottom RC Lens on Sunday.

Reuters