

President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Pakistan

NAY PYI TAW, 23 March — On the occasion of the Pakistan Day of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan which falls on 23 March 2015, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Mamnoon Hussain, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, and His Excellency Mr. Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.—MNA

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits Lashio People's Hospital

NAY PYI TAW, 22 March — Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham met doctors, nurses and staff at Lashio People's Hospital in Shan State on Sunday

during his inspection tour, according to officials. After taking briefings

on ongoing construction works and cooperation with Japan International Coop-

eration Agency (JICA), Dr Sai Mauk Kham gave (See page 3)

Nationwide ceasefire talks in recess until 30 March following conclusion of Day 6



Together with Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win (middle) and Col Khun Okkar (right) of Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team, MPC Senior Adviser U Hla Maung Shwe (left) responds to media's questions at the press conference after the sixth day of national ceasefire talks on Sunday.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 22 March— Nationwide ceasefire talks adjourned Sunday following six days of negotiations between the government and ethnic armed groups, with discussion on unresolved parts of the prospective peace accord scheduled to continue from 30 March.

One major point and three subparagraphs of the pact remained pending at the end of Day 6 of the peace talks.

At a press conference, negotiators from the government's Union Peace-making Work Committee (UPWC) and Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team (NCCT), representing ethnic armed groups,

affirmed their commitment to finalizing the negotiation on the nationwide ceasefire accord at the planned 30 March meeting, which may continue into a second day.

U Hla Maung Shwe, senior adviser at the Myanmar Peace Centre, said further negotiation is needed on specific wording and definition included in the unresolved major point and three subparagraphs.

As results of the six-day of the seventh round of nationwide ceasefire talks started on 17 March, only one major point and the wording of discussions on three subparagraphs are left to finalize the pact with seven chapters, 30 paragraphs and 81 subparagraphs, according to the peace negotiators.—GNLM

INSIDE

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing comforts injured military personnel in PyinOolWin

PAGE-3

MNA to accept first airplane from Boeing Company in June

PAGE-3

Before saying something

PAGE-8

Safety in Travelling

PAGE-8

Solar Impulse-2 prepares to leave Mandalay on 27 March

MANDALAY, 22 March — Solar Impulse-2 is preparing to continue its journey from Mandalay to China on 27 March, according to a member of Solar Impulse Team.

It landed in Mandalay International Airport on 19 March and students and the public are being allowed to view the aircraft while talks on solar energy were held aboard before flying to China.

When it leaves Mandalay International Airport, it will fly over Mandalay and Sagaing Hills.

Maung Zaw (Kalay)

Commerce Ministry to lease garages out to tenants

YANGON, 22 March — The Ministry of Commerce said Saturday it will lease out 30 garages and two rooms across the country by tender.

Seven of the garages are in Yangon, 13 in Ayeyawady Region, two in Taninthayi Region, two in Bago Region, two in southern Shan State, one in Kachin State and three in Rakhine State. The two rooms are in

Mandalay Region.

Tenants will sign six-month contracts under one-year lease terms, the ministry said.

Tender forms are available from 22 March to 1 April at the offices of departments in respective regions.

The ministry has urged those interested to submit their tender forms to the Office No. 3 in Nay Pyi Taw.—GNLM

Myanmar, India to found IT institute

YANGON, 22 March — The International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore (IIIT-B) is collaborating with its counterpart in Mandalay, ancient capital of Myanmar, to build information technology institute in the Southeast Asian country, according to an Indian diplomat.

"We are setting up Mandalay Institute of Information Technology which is the centre of ex-

cellence for IT modelled on IIIT-B and being implemented by IIIT-B," Indian ambassador to Myanmar Gautam Mukhopadhaya said on the sidelines of an event organized by CII.

IIIT-B is in Electronics City, which is one of India's largest industrial parks and which houses major electronics and IT corporations.

For next step, the entrepreneurship development institute in Yangon

is also in the process of tying-up with Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow (IIM-Lucknow).

Myanmar was also sending its people for training at the Institute of Management Training, Bangalore.

Bangalore based-watchmaker HMT Limited has built two industrial training centres in Myanmar aimed to skill up that nation's workforce.

Mukhopadhaya also

said, "We have set up an entrepreneurship development institute in Yangon which we are now trying to tie-up with IIM-Lucknow. We have also established two industrial training centres that have been set-up by HMT."

India has provided supports to English language department in Yangon University and a language laboratory for Ministry of Foreign Affairs to enable its officials to learn foreign languages.

Indian ambassador also said that Calcutta University has also tied-up with Dagon University, one of the largest universities in Myanmar which has two IT institutes, one each in Mandalay and Yangon and another one is coming up shortly. "

Indian investments in Myanmar for capacity building have scaled up to the tune of US\$250 million.

GNLM



Photo shows International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore (IIIT-B), India.

Rural dispensary ready to provide healthcare to local residents

MYAWADY, 22 March — The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw allotted K100 million each to all constituencies for undertaking development tasks in 2014-15 fiscal year in all corners of the nation.

A rural dispensary built with K5 million from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw fund was commissioned into service in Baledo Village, Sukali, Myawady District in Kayin State, on 20 March.

District and township authorities cut the ribbon to open the dispensary, with local people in attendance.

The dispensary, 50 feet long and 30 feet wide, will give health care services to



people from Baledo and its surrounding villages.

Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

Librarians discuss challenges in serving readers

TAUNGTHA, 22 March — Taungtha Township Information and Public Relations Department in Mandalay Region conducted a workshop on service of libraries at Township General Administration Department on 19 March, with Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative U Than Htay in attendance.

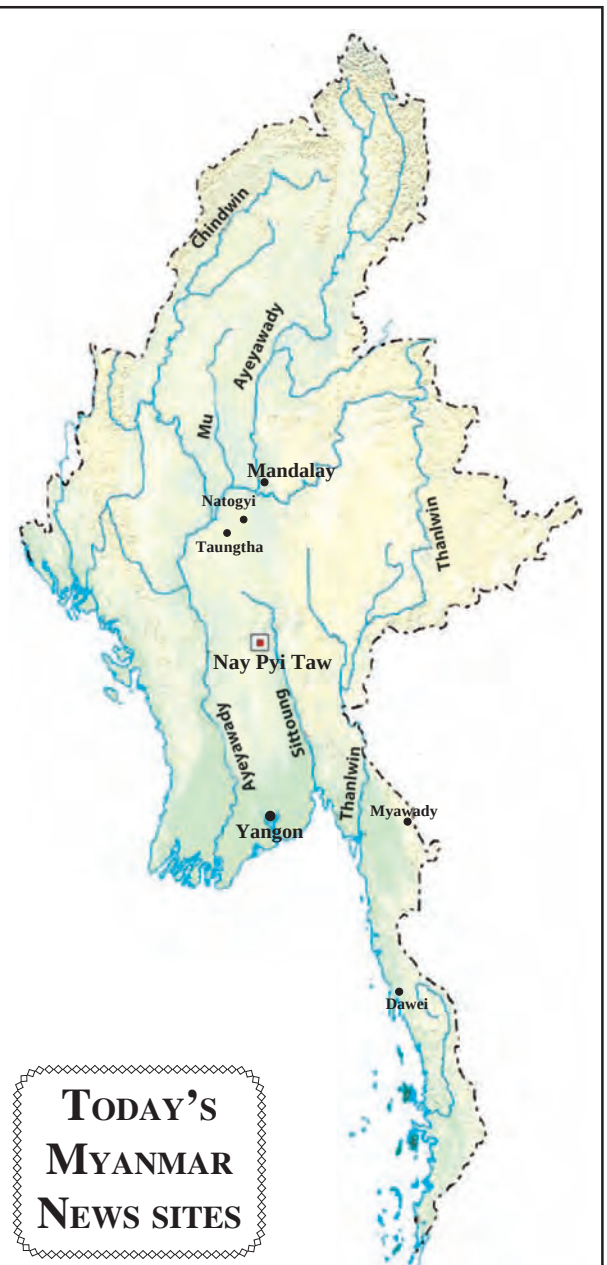
Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department U Htein Lin and Myingyan District IPRD Staff Officer Daw Hnin Yi explained uplifting services of libraries in the township in conformity with the government policies, seeking feedbacks of readers, co-operation with donor organizations to develop the libraries, and raising the role of libraries.

Participants discussed

challenges in uplifting the libraries' services, and ways and means for solving the problems.

Local authorities and libraries joined the workshop on 19 and 20 March.

Kyaw Myo Naing
(Taungtha)



TRAFFIC RULES TALKS GIVEN: Police Sgt Aye Cho explains root causes of traffic accidents and traffic rules for drivers and road users at talks on traffic rules enforcement organized by Hinthada District Directorate of Road Administration, Ayeyawady Region, on 20 March. After the talks, officials issued driver licences to 176 applicants.

WIN BO (MYANAUNG IPRD)



Myo Gon Yaung Cineplex gives better services to movie-goers

MANDALAY, 22 March — “Myo Gon Yaung Cineplex” was inaugurated at the corner of 31st and 83rd streets in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, on 21 March as the government is placing emphasis on modernizing the cinemas in the country for uplifting the Myanmar motion picture's standard.

Mandalay Region Minister for Finance Dr.

Myint Kyu, Vice Chairman of ACE Construction Group U San Ko Ko Tint Hsan and executive director Daw Moe Nway Oo of Mega Ace Cineplex formally opened the ceremony.

Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut and vice chairman U San Ko Ko Tint Hsan unveiled the signboard of the Cineplex.

The union minis-

ter and party enjoyed the movie through digital cinema package system.

Four of five State-owned cinemas in Mandalay have been leased to private entrepreneurs for the long-term service. Of them, Myo Gon Yaung Cineplex is third of its kind in applying digital cinema package-DCP system.

Tin Maung
(Mandalay)



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing comforts injured military personnel in PyinOoLwin

NAY PYI TAW, 22 March — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, accompanied by Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Khin Aung Myint, senior military officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Soe Htut, comforted Tatmadaw personnel who were receiving treatments for injuries sustained while serving the security duties at battlefields at the military hospital in PyinOoLwin station on Sunday.

The senior general comforted the injured personnel and attended to their needs before presenting cash awards and food for them.

Then, the senior general met with families of the injured personnel at the hospital and fulfilled their needs.

The senior general also asked after the health of two kidney transplant patients at the hospital.

Myawady

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing comforts injured military serviceman at military hospital in PyinOoLwin.—MYAWADY



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits maternity ward at Lashio People's Hospital.—MNA

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits . . .

(from page 1) to save space, explaining suggestions on construction of high-rise buildings the government's efforts to upgrade hospitals and

have ambulances in case of emergency in all regions and states.

The vice president visited the Kaukkwe reservoir in Lashio and heard reports on annual rainfalls, water supplies and pipeline work with the use of insulated pipes.—MNA



MNA to accept first airplane from Boeing Company in June

NAY PYI TAW, 22 March — The Langkawi International Maritime & Aerospace Exhibition (LIMA-2015) staged aviation skills, products of maritime and aviation companies and information of airlines in Langkawi, Malaysia, from 17 to 20 March.

Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung visited the Boeing aircrafts company's booth.

Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) hires four

Boeing 737-800 MAXs and six Boeing 737-800 NGs from GECAS Company. Of them, MNA will accept first airplane in coming June and the second in October.

The union minister visited Bell helicopter company of the US and Beech airplane company.

The union minister held a meeting with TAXROL Company to buy two Grand Caraval aircrafts with financial assistance from EXAM Bank of the

United States of America this year.

He also visited the pilot training school at Langkawi international airport on 17 March and discussed officials to establish an international level pilot training school in Myanmar and viewed training aircrafts.

He attended the ASEAN Aviation Summit on 18 and 19 March and exchanged views on ASEAN Open Sky 2015 and Single Aviation Market.

At a meeting, the un-

ion minister and the Malaysian Transport Minister discussed aviation agreement between the two countries, matters related to the sank Aung Tagun-3 ship in Rakhine State and training courses for safety of watercrafts and crew.

During the second-day session, the summit focused on accidents of MH-370 and MH-17 and efforts of Malaysia's Department of Aviation. The union minister arrived back in Myanmar on 20 March.—MNA

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 23 March — The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of H.E. Mr. Benjamin Clement Eghan as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Ghana to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Kuala Lumpur.

Born on 27 September 1948, Mr. Benjamin Clement Eghan holds B.A. (Hons.) majoring in Modern History from University of Ghana, M.P.A. (Master of Public Administration) and D.D.A. (Diploma in Development Administration) from Institute of Social Studies of the Netherlands University Foundation for International Cooperation. He was a Senior Lecturer at the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration from 1977 to 1993. He then served as Chief Director at various Ghanaian Government Ministries namely the Ministry of Manpower Development and Employment, the Ministry of Transport and Communication, the Ministry of Communication and the Ministry of Environment, Science and Technology from 1993 to 2003. He was also a consultant for various organizations and agencies from 2003 to 2004 and was appointed Dean of the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration from 2004 to 2008. He also served as Secretary of the Cabinet of the Government of Ghana from 2009 to 2013. He was one of the contributors and experts for the establishment and strengthening of organizations in Ghana such as the Commonwealth Association for Public Administration and Management (CAPAM), the Far East Ghana Travel and Tours and Hospitality Company Ltd (FEGTTH), the Ghana-China Friendship Association (GHACHIFA), the China-Ghana Business Development Promotion (CGBDP), the Apostolic Lutheran Church of Ghana (ALCG) and African Council of Secretaries to the Cabinet (ACSC) since 2013 to date. He speaks English and French.

H.E. Mr. Benjamin Clement Eghan will serve as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Ghana to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Kuala Lumpur.—MNA

Former Singapore leader Lee Kuan Yew weakens further in ICU



Singapore's former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew

SINGAPORE, 22 March — Singapore's ailing former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew's condition continues to weaken, the government said on Sunday.

"Mr Lee Kuan Yew has weakened further today," said a statement from the office of his elder son Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

Lee Kuan Yew's condition has been worsening in the past week.

He was admitted to Singapore General Hospital in early February for pneumonia and has been lying in the intensive care unit where he has depended on mechanical ventilation since 21 February.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and his wife were spotted at the hospital, mingling with well-wishers on Sunday morning, local media reported.

Droves of Singaporeans have come forward to drop off bouquets, get-well cards and gifts, while offering a prayer for Lee on the grounds of the hospital as his condition deteriorated and also at his constituency.

The senior Lee was Singapore's first prime minister from 1959 to 1999 and has been credited with the wealthy city state's success as Southeast Asia's most advanced economy.

Kyodo News

Indonesia leader to start Japan tour for talks with Abe, defence pact

Tokyo, 22 March — Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo will begin a four-day official visit to Japan on Sunday evening, a trip that Japanese officials hope will strengthen the strategic partnership between the two major democracies and oceanic states in Asia.

Jokowi is scheduled on Monday to hold summit talks with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in the evening after having an audience with Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Following the summit, the two governments will sign an accord on defence cooperation that will involve Japanese capacity-building assistance for Indonesian forces, as well as bilateral cooperation in peacekeeping missions, defence equipment development and exchange of military information, according to Japanese and Indonesian officials.

Jokowi's stay in Japan, which will also include a visit to Toyota Motor Corp's headquarters in Aichi Prefecture, is part of a weeklong trip that will also take him to China.

"It is significant that

Japan is Mr Jokowi's first foreign travel destination outside the Association of Southeast Asian Nations solely for a bilateral summit since he became president last October," a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said. Jokowi visited China in November for a summit of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

In Monday's summit, Abe and Jokowi are expected to affirm a plan to promote talks between their defence and foreign ministers, the official said. Abe and Jokowi's predecessor, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, in December 2013 agreed to launch so-called "two-plus-two" security talks, but the two sides have yet to start the dialogue.

Abe and Jokowi plan to reaffirm cooperation in maritime security at a time when Indonesia is vowing to serve as a fulcrum between the Pacific and the Indian Ocean under Jokowi's maritime axis doctrine that calls for eliminating the sources of conflict at sea such as piracy and violations of sovereignty.

Jokowi is also likely to seek Japan's aid in upgrading Indonesia's port infrastructure and enhancing



Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi"

inter-island connectivity.

In the context of ensuring regional peace and stability, the two leaders plan to urge China and several ASEAN member states such as the Philippines and Vietnam to address territorial disputes in the South China Sea based on international law, the Japanese and Indonesian officials said.

Abe plans to offer low-interest yen loans to assist construction of what would be a second mass rapid transit line in the Jakarta metropolitan area as part of efforts to ease serious traffic congestion, according to a Japanese news report.

The total cost of construction, maintenance and control of the envisaged 32-kilometre MRT system linking the eastern and western parts of Jakarta

will amount to 100 billion yen (about \$833 million), the *Sankei Shimbun* newspaper said in its Saturday edition.

The first MRT system linking the north and south of the capital is under construction with Japanese loans.

On Tuesday, Jokowi, a former Jakarta governor, will address a business forum in Tokyo and have a luncheon with Japanese business leaders, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.

Japan is the second biggest investor in Indonesia after Singapore, with about 1,440 Japanese companies operating in the country as of 2013, according to Indonesian data. Japan is the largest export market for Indonesia, followed by China and Singapore, while China is the biggest origin country of imports, followed by Singapore and Japan.

On Wednesday, Jokowi will travel to Nagoya in central Japan by shinkansen bullet train to visit the Toyota headquarters. The shinkansen could be an option for an Indonesian high-speed railway project to connect Jakarta and Surabaya.

Kyodo News

ASEAN waiting for China to present "structure" of AIIB

KUALA LUMPUR, 22 March — Malaysian Second Finance Minister Ahmad Husni Handadzli said on Saturday the Association of Southeast Asian Nations is still waiting for China to present the "structure and model" of its proposed Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

Speaking at a joint Press conference after chairing the annual meeting of ASEAN finance ministers, Husni said, "Most of the ASEAN countries are founding members (of AIIB) so we are waiting for China to come up with the structure and model and what will be

the contribution of ASEAN countries."

"We are giving full cooperation because with the establishment of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the ASEAN Infrastructure Fund, we have more sources of funding for infrastructure within ASEAN," he said.

The ASEAN Infrastructure Fund has now reached \$485.3 million and has been utilized to finance several projects like the power transmission and water sanitation projects in Indonesia and power interconnection project in Vietnam.

The \$50 billion AIIB,

meanwhile, was unveiled last year by Chinese President Xi Jinping. It is seen as a move to counter Washington's grip on the global financial system through the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

So far more than 20 countries have signed up to join the AIIB including all 10 ASEAN member countries. Major Western countries like Britain, Germany, France and Italy have also agreed to come on board, much to the dismay of the United States.

The United States has tried to convince its allies not to join the institution,

claiming concerns over the AIIB's governance standard.

Husni said the issue of governance has been discussed previously during the APEC finance ministers' meeting last year.

"The AIIB will definitely practice governance in accordance with international standards," he said, "Let us wait. I believe the Chinese are very serious about it."

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Kyodo News



An elderly woman returns with a bucket of water from a tap nearby on the World Water Day in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 22 March, 2015. World Water Day is observed annually to bring the awareness globally to save, conserve and manage water resources for future generations.—XINHUA

Nine people burnt ahead of Bangladesh opposition's fresh strike

DHAKA, 22 March — At least nine people sustained burn injuries in a petrol bomb attack in southwestern Bangladesh before an opposition-called strike, police said on Sunday.

A police officer, who declined to be named, said miscreants hurled petrol bombs at the truck in Magura district in southwestern Bangladesh, leaving nine people, including its driver and

helper, injured.

The arson attack took place on Saturday night hours after the 20-party opposition alliance, led by ex-prime minister Khaleda Zia, announced a fresh 72-hour nationwide

strike from Sunday morning.

Five of the victims, who were badly burnt, will be sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, said the officer from Magura, some 150 km

southwest of Dhaka.

With the death of a driver on Saturday, who suffered burns on Thursday, 89 people have been killed and over a thousand injured in the wave of violence since January.

The opposition has launched a transport blockade across the country since 5 January, demanding fresh election under a non-party caretaker government system.

Xinhua

WORLD

Japan-S Korea consultative group tackles sore points at 1st meeting

Tokyo, 22 March — A group of veteran political and economic leaders from Japan and South Korea tasked with finding ways to improve strained bilateral relations held its first meeting in Tokyo on Sunday. The nongovernmental consultative group gathering for the two-day meeting comprises 12 people including former Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda and former South Korean Prime Minister Lee Hong Koo. On the heels of a commitment to closer ties by the countries' foreign ministers at a meeting in Seoul on Saturday, the group aims to bring talks between Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean President Park Geun Hye closer to reality.

The group's charter stresses the need for "a comprehensive solution over outstanding issues in Ja-

pan-South Korea relations." Bilateral relations have plunged to their lowest level in years due to a territorial dispute and differing perceptions of history. Noting that this year marks 50 years since the normalization of diplomatic relations between the countries, the charter said the anniversary should "provide justification for the leaders of both countries to go forward with future-oriented actions." A follow-up meeting is set for May in Seoul, where the group will aim to compile a proposal to be issued to Abe and Park. The group's members representing Japan include former Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori and Yuzaburo Mogi, chairman of the Japanese delegation at the Korea-Japan Forum, while the South Korean side includes former Foreign Minister Gong Ro Myung.—*Kyodo News*

Fire breaks out at India's Parliament compound

NEW DELHI, 22 March — A massive fire broke out on Sunday afternoon at the Indian Parliament's huge compound, said local media reports.

The fire apparently came from the compound's tower station, causing huge smoke at the scene and a fire emergency at the Rastina Hill which leads from the parliament building to

the presidential palace and some key government ministry offices.

No one has been reported injured in the fire and nothing was damaged to the parliament house, said local TV Times Now.

At least nine fire tenders have been rushed to the spot and have completely put the fire under control.—*Xinhua*

Japanese artist "draws" on world canvas with GPS technology

KOBE, 22 March — In July 2008, company employee Yasushi Takahashi decided he wanted to ask his then-girlfriend of eight years to marry him and he was determined to make it "the world's biggest proposal." So he quit his job and went off on a six-month journey across Japan — on foot and by car, ferry and bicycle.

After 7,160-kilometres of travel that took him through 40 of the country's 47 prefectures, Takahashi's unique marriage proposal was finally ready: the global positioning system records of his journey spelled out the phrase "Marry Me" across the Japanese archipelago covering the Honshu main island, and Kyushu and Shikoku in the southwest, accompanied by an arrow-struck heart shape over the northernmost island

of Hokkaido.

Fortunately, she said yes. "It was a big surprise," she was quoted by Takahashi as saying. "I felt the

A monk picks tea leaves at a tea garden in Fajing Buddha Temple in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, on 21 March, 2015. More than 40 monks in the Fajing Temple began to pick Fajing zen tea belonged to the temple on Saturday. The Fajing zen tea, produced within the origin area of West Lake Dragon Well(Longjing) Tea, is planted, picked and drunk by monks themselves in the temple. Zen tea is a special tea culture for Buddhists to be enlightened with Buddha dharma through tea making and drinking.—XINHUA



PYONGYANG, 22 March — The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) warned on Sunday that its military will blow up balloons carrying anti-Pyongyang leaflets which are reportedly to be flown by civic groups in South Korea, the state media KCNA reported.

South Korean civic groups announced a plan to float anti-DPRK leaflets across the inter-Korean border around 26 March, the fifth anniversary of South Korea's Cheonan warship sinking.

"It is the height of hostility that the South Korean puppet forces still misuse the warship sinking case, which

has long been branded as the unprecedented hideous conspiratorial farce, for escalating confrontation with the DPRK by linking the case with it," said a statement issued by frontline units of the Korean People's Army.

The statement said the reckless acts are aimed at deliberately escalating tension on the Korean Peninsula "where the situation has reached the brink of a war due to 'Key Resolve' and 'Foal Eagle' joint war rehearsals."

The army threatens to launch attacks "without prior warning" on the balloons involved in the move, no matter "whether the scatter-

ing operations are conducted in areas along the MDL (Military Demarcation Line) or in any point of sea or in the air, whether balloons or drones are used for those operations and whether openly or secretly."

The statement also recommended South Korean inhabitants living close to the border to evacuate in advance for their own safety in case such leaflet drops take place. About 500,000 leaflets, denouncing the DPRK government, and some 10,000 copies of "The Interview," a film featuring a fictional plot to assassinate top DPRK leader Kim Jong Un, will reportedly be sent via

hot air balloons to the DPRK across the inter-Korean land border. South Korean Unification Ministry spokeswoman Park Soo-jin told a Press briefing that civic groups' scattering of anti-DPRK leaflets is "basically" a matter of freedom of expression that cannot be forcefully restrained because it has no legal grounds. But the government will take necessary measures if the anti-DPRK leaflets dispersion endangers the safety of residents living near the border, while considering the guarantee of basic rights of people and the protection of people's safety in a balanced manner, Park said.—*Xinhua*

greatest love in the world."

And as a bonus, Takahashi received his own surprise a few years later — the Guinness World Record for

the largest GPS drawing by an individual.

When the couple went to London for their honeymoon in June 2010, Takahashi, who goes by the name Yassan for his artworks, looked up the map and trekked the shape of a gigantic heart in the British capital to dedicate to his bride.

Among his more recent GPS drawing projects, Takahashi completed in July 2014 a yearlong, 676-km journey on foot and by bicycle along the coastline of Chiba Prefecture, east of Tokyo, and its border with other prefectures to "draw" a full-scale "Chiba kun," a mascot whose side-view figure is shaped like the prefecture.

In picking the routes, priority is given to perfecting the resulting appearance on the GPS drawing and thus,

often times, Takahashi has to trek through mountain paths that are inaccessible by car. In some cases, he runs over 40 km a day.

"I used to be the type who is more into academics and arts, but now I have turned into the sporting kind," the Tokyo University of the Arts graduate quipped. He has travelled about 20,000 km in total for GPS drawing projects over the past six-and-a-half years. To maintain physical strength and stamina, Takahashi devotes himself to exercising every day.

In the fall of 2014, Takahashi was selected as one of three international models to appear in a promotion campaign for a major global brand for outdoor gear to illustrate how walking can lead to extraordinary experiences.

He gained instant attention from the world's media, contacted by TV stations from Spain to South Korea after the campaign's video of his unique marriage proposal expedition was posted on the Internet.

Takahashi aspires to become like Ino Tadataka (1745-1818), the Japanese surveyor and cartographer known for completing the first map covering the whole of Japan during the Edo period.

"The year 2018 will mark the 200th year after (Ino's) death," Takahashi said. "I want to walk the coastlines and map the Japanese archipelago, just like Tadataka did, and then compare it with the Ino Maps."

"I want to experience in person the magnitude of Tadataka's greatness," he said.—*Kyodo News*



Artist Yasushi Takahashi (L), his wife and child hold Takahashi's GPS drawings and a Guinness World Records certificate in Saitama, north of Tokyo, in November 2014. His "MARRY ME" drawing, formed by tracking his movements across Japan, has been recognized as the world's largest GPS drawing.

KYODO NEWS

Obama says it is now 'hard to find a path' on Israeli-Palestinian peace

WASHINGTON, 22 March — In a fresh rebuke to Benjamin Netanyahu, President Barack Obama said the Israeli leader's pre-election disavowal of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict makes it "hard to find a path" toward serious negotiations to resolve the issue.

In an interview with the Huffington Post, Obama also scolded Netanyahu over his remarks about Arab Israelis voting, making clear that the deep rift in relations between Israel and the United States, its most important ally, is not ending anytime soon.

In the interview, conducted on Friday and published on Saturday, Obama described his Thursday phone call with Netanyahu, two days after the Israeli leader was re-elected.

"I did indicate to him



US President Barack Obama speaks to the City Club of Cleveland about middle class economics in Ohio on 18 March, 2015. — REUTERS

that we continue to believe that a two-state solution is the only way for the long-term security of Israel, if it wants to stay both a Jewish state and democratic," Obama said, in his first public comments on the issue.

"And I indicated to him that given his statements prior to the election,

it is going to be hard to find a path where people are seriously believing that negotiations are possible."

The worst crisis in decades in US-Israeli relations was worsened by Netanyahu's declaration just before Tuesday's election that there would be no Palestinian state on his watch. Netanyahu sought

on Thursday to backtrack from that.

"Well, we take him at his word when he said that it wouldn't happen during his prime ministership, and so that's why we've got to evaluate what other options are available to make sure that we don't see a chaotic situation in the region," said Obama, whose administration sponsored failed talks aimed at creating a Palestinian state that would exist peacefully side-by-side with Israel.

The White House had said after Obama's call on Thursday that the president had told Netanyahu Washington would "reassess" its options on US-Israel relations and Middle East diplomacy.

In the interview, Obama also expressed dismay over Netanyahu's Election Day warning to his sup-

porters about Arab Israeli voters going to the polls "in droves."

"We indicated that that kind of rhetoric was contrary to what is the best of Israel's traditions, that although Israel was founded based on the historic Jewish homeland and the need to have a Jewish homeland, Israeli democracy has been premised on everybody in the country being treated equally and fairly," Obama said.

Obama underscored his support for Israel's security, saying he would make sure that military and intelligence cooperation continues in order to keep the Israeli people safe.

"But we are going to continue to insist that, from our point of view, the status quo is unsustainable. And that while taking into complete account Israel's

security, we can't just in perpetuity maintain the status quo, expand settlements. That's not a recipe for stability in the region," Obama said, referring to the current state of affairs with the Palestinians.

The United States provides \$3 billion in military aid annually.

Netanyahu's tense relations with Obama have been strained over US efforts to reach an international agreement with Iran to curb Teheran's nuclear programme.

Ties worsened when Netanyahu accepted a Republican invitation to speak to the US Congress two weeks before the Israeli election to criticize Obama's quest for such a deal. Democrats assailed the speech as an insult to the presidency and a breach of protocol.—Reuters

Close cooperation with Austria on issue of extremists



Serbian Minister of Interior Affairs Nebojsa Stefanovic

VIENNA, 22 March — Serbian Minister of Interior Affairs Nebojsa Stefanovic noted that the number of cit-

izens joining radical groups is dropping in Serbia after the country recently adopted the law to ban fighting in

other countries. The number of people joining radical groups is dropping and one piece of data remains clear — extremists from Serbia first travel to Vienna as the hub from which they then continue their path to jihad destinations, Stefanovic said in an interview for the Vienna-based daily *Die Presse*.

He underscored that the Austrian police are seriously working on the problem,

adding that the two countries are exchanging information on individuals who could be a part of the organization.

In this context, Stefanovic underscored the unemployment issue which constitutes, as he said, one of the biggest problems in the region. The Serbian government managed to reduce unemployment but a lot of work still remains to be done in the area, he said.—Tanjung

West should consider all tools, including arms, for Ukraine — NATO general

BRUSSELS, 22 March — The West should consider using all its tools to help Ukraine, including sending defensive weapons, NATO's top military commander said on Sunday.

Asked whether he was in favour of sending defensive weapons to Ukraine, US Air Force General Philip Breedlove told a Brussels conference: "What we

see (is) diplomatic tools being used, informational tools being used, military tools being used, economic tools being used against Ukraine."

"And so we, I think, in the West should consider all of our tools in reply. Could it be destabilising? The answer is yes. Also, inaction could be destabilising," he said.—Reuters

France goes to polls with National Front in ascendancy

PARIS, 22 March — Voting began on Sunday in the first round of French local elections where the anti-immigration National Front (FN) hopes to come top and consolidate leader Marine Le Pen's bid for the presidency in 2017.

Opinion polls suggest voters are unexcited about the election for councillors with limited powers in the "departements", one stratum of France's complex local administration which President Francois Hollande has in any case promised to overhaul.

But it is a measure of the fear Le Pen's far-right party has struck among France's political elite that Hollande, his ministers and their mainstream conservative rivals have all been touring the country with last-minute appeals to voters. The FN, which wants a return to the French franc and a referendum on capital punishment, surfed a wave of disenchantment with established politicians to emerge top in last year's European Parliament elections and won control



of a dozen city halls in a separate ballot. Surveys have put it and the opposition UMP neck-and-neck to win close to a third each of Sunday's vote, with Hollande's Socialists trailing. A Harris Interactive opinion poll for France's parliamentary TV channel released on Friday put the FN on 29

percent, the UMP on 28, and the Socialists on 19.

The two-round nature of the ballot means the FN will win control in only a handful of departements in second-round run-offs due on 29 March, as many UMP and Socialist voters will switch allegiance to whatever party can

keep it out of power.

About 53 percent of voters will not take part, according to an Ifop poll for Paris Match, iTele and Sud Radio that was published on Friday, only 3 points lower than the stay-away recorded at this electoral level the last time around in 2011.—Reuters

Israel's defence firm awarded US Marines contract

French Economy

Minister

Emmanuel

Macron

campaigns for

Socialist Party

candidates at a

political rally in

Fresnes, near

Paris on 19

March, 2015.

REUTERS

JERUSALEM, 22 March — Israel's largest publicly traded weapons and defence company, Elbit Systems Ltd, said on Sunday that the US Marine Corps awarded it a contract worth 73.4 million US dollars for laser-based range finder systems.

The Haifa-headquartered company said it won the contract through its fully-owned subsidiary Elbit Systems of America.

The contract extends through March 2020, the company said in a statement, adding that Elbit Systems of America has to date received an initial order in the amount of 7.5 million dollars.

Elbit's Common Laser Range Finder-Integrated Capability utilizes lasers to gauge distances and navigate. Raanan Horowitz, president and chief executive officer of Elbit Systems of America, said the system would enable Marines to find targets without breaking cover from their concealed fighting positions.—Xinhua

WORLD

Islamic State calls on backers to kill 100 US military personnel

WASHINGTON, 22 March — Islamic State has posted online what it says are the names, US addresses and photos of 100 American military service members, and called upon its “brothers residing in America” to kill them.

The Pentagon said after the information was posted on the Internet that it was investigating the matter. “I can’t confirm the validity of the information, but we are looking into it,” a US defence official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said on Saturday.

“We always encourage our personnel to exercise appropriate

OPSEC (operations security) and force protection procedures,” the official added.

In the posting, a group referring to itself as the “Islamic State Hacking Division” wrote in English that it had hacked several military servers, databases and emails and made public the information on 100 members of the US military so that “lone wolf” attackers can kill them.

The *New York Times* reported that it did not look like the information had been hacked from US government servers and quoted an unnamed Defence Department official as saying most of the information could be found in public

records, residential address search sites and social media.

The *Times* quoted officials as saying the list appeared to have been drawn from personnel mentioned in news articles about air strikes on Islamic State. The group’s forces control parts of Syria and Iraq and have been targeted in US-led air strikes.

The posting, addressed to disbelievers, Christians and “crusaders” in America, included what the group said were the names, military service branch, photos and street addresses of the individuals. The posting includes the military rank of some but not all of those named.—Reuters



Militant Islamist fighters waving flags, travel in vehicles as they take part in a military parade along the streets of Syria’s northern Raqqa Province on 30 June, 2014.—REUTERS

Nine British medical students believed to be in Syria

LONDON, 22 March — Nine British medical students have travelled to Syria, apparently to work in hospitals controlled by Islamic State, *Britain’s Observer* newspaper reported on Saturday.

The group of four women and five men crossed into Syria from Turkey last week, having travelled from Sudan where they had been studying, said the story, published on the website of the *Observer’s* sister paper, the *Guardian*.

It quoted Turkish opposition politician Mehmet Ali Ediboglu, who had met members of the students’ families who were trying to persuade the students to return.

Britain’s security services estimate that some 600 Britons have gone to Syria or Iraq to join militant groups, including the man known

as “Jihadi John”, who has appeared in several Islamic State beheading videos.

Islamic State’s attempt to create a theocratic Sunni Muslim ‘caliphate’ by violent means has attracted thousands of recruits from Europe and elsewhere.

Three British schoolgirls are thought to have travelled through Turkey to Syria in February to join the militant group, in one of the most high-profile recent cases. Their families and British authorities have made repeated appeals for them to return home. Britain’s Foreign Office was not immediately available for comment on Saturday.

The group of medical students are in their late teens and early 20s and all have Sudanese roots but were born and brought up in Britain, the story said.

—Reuters

Afghan intelligence agency says it foiled attempt to kill vice-president

KABUL, 22 March — Afghanistan’s intelligence agency said on Saturday it had foiled an attempt to assassinate Vice-President Abdul Rashid Dostum in the northerly Jawzjan Province. The assassination was to have been carried out by a suicide bomber who had hidden a bomb on the back of his horse as he attended a game of buzkashi, a national sport.

“The suicide bomber ... planned to detonate it during a buzkashi match,” the statement by the spy agency said.

The powerful Uzbek leader is known as a fan of the sport, in which players on horseback try to drag the carcass of a calf or goat into a goal. During last year’s election campaign, Dostum was photographed watching games from a throne-like sofa placed on the back of a pick-up truck, in a show of his wealth and influence.

This week, Dostum’s office issued a statement denying that he felt marginalised by other members of the national unity government, as the *New York Times* had reported. The newspaper said the former warlord had been close to tears after one particularly difficult meeting. The statement said this did not fit Dostum’s personality and nature.—Reuters

Yemeni president demands Houthis quit Sanaa; US evacuates remaining forces



Yemen’s President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi delivers a speech in the southern port city of Aden on 21 March, 2015. REUTERS

ADEN / WASHINGTON, 22 March — Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi accused the Iranian-allied Houthi militia on Saturday of staging a coup against him and appealed to the United Nations for “urgent intervention”, even as the United States evacuated its remaining forces.

In a call to arms from the southern city of Aden, where he fled last month after escaping house arrest by

the Houthis, Hadi called on them to pull their forces out of state ministries, return weapons seized from the army and quit the capital, Sanaa.

The UN Security Council was set to meet on Sunday to discuss Yemen after Hadi appealed to the 15-member body for assistance “in all available means to stop this aggression”.

Yemen has been hurtling towards civil war since last year when the Houthis seized Sanaa and advanced into Sunni Muslim areas, leading to clashes with local tribes and energizing a southern separatist movement.

US officials said Washington had evacuated its remaining personnel from Yemen, including about 100 special operations forces, because of deteriorating security, marking a further setback in US efforts against a powerful local

al-Qaeda branch.

The last major US military contingent in Yemen had been stationed at the al-Annad air base in the south, according to national security sources. State Department spokesman Jeff Rathke said all remaining US staff had been “temporarily relocated” but insisted that Washington would “continue to actively monitor terrorist threats emanating from Yemen and ... take action to disrupt continuing, imminent threats to the United States”.

Washington for years has been waging a campaign of deadly drone strikes against al-Qaeda operatives in Yemen. US officials say the unmanned aircraft fly out of a base in neighbouring Saudi Arabia.

Only last September US President Barack Obama touted the partnership with Yemen as a model in counter-terrorism.

But the subsequent col-

lapse of Hadi’s government disrupted some US counterterrorism operations, and the closing of the US embassy in Sanaa last month took a further toll.

Despite that, Hadi sounded a defiant note from his base in the south on Saturday, threatening action against the Houthis’ northern stronghold.

“We shall deliver the country to safety and raise Yemen’s flag on Mount Marran in Saadeh instead of the Iranian flag,” he said in a televised speech, his first since reaching Aden. Iran is an ally of the Houthis, who belong to a Shi’ite Muslim sect.

The Houthis, in a statement from their Supreme Revolutionary Committee, did not directly respond to the speech but called for a “general mobilization” of the armed forces against a “dirty war” they said was being waged by militias loyal to Hadi.—Reuters

Anti-aircraft guns fire at plane over Aden — witnesses

ADEN, 22 March — Yemeni anti-aircraft guns opened fire at an unidentified plane flying over President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi’s compound in the southern city of Aden on Sunday and appeared to force it away, witnesses said.

It was the third incident of its kind in the past four days, in which unidentified aircraft have flown over the compound, where Hadi is based, on one occasion dropping bombs without causing any casualties.

Aden’s governor Abdulaziz bin Habtoor has accused the Shi’ite Muslim Houthi movement of ordering the flights, an allegation the Iran-allied group, which controls much of the north of the country, has yet to address.

Yemen has descended into civil war since last year when the Houthis seized Sanaa and removed Hadi from

effective control of the state. The Houthis then advanced into Sunni Muslim areas, leading to clashes with local tribes and al-Qaeda.

On Saturday Hadi, who fled to Aden from Sanaa last month, accused the Houthis of staging a coup against him and appealed to the United Nations for “urgent intervention”.

Eyewitnesses in the central province of Ibb described to *Reuters* seeing a column of dozens of tanks and military vehicles travelling from the Houthi-loyalist north on their way southward toward Taiz, 150 km (200 miles) northwest of Aden.

The Houthis are allied with former Yemeni president Ali Abdullah Saleh, who still wields influence in the armed forces despite having given up power in 2011 after mass protests against his rule.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 23 March, 2015

Before saying something

By Myint Win Thein

It is natural for people to say what they think is right, but others will decide whether it is true, reasonable, objective and so on or not. On the other hand, one has complete right to judge what other people say when one

is listening to them.

Therefore, it can be said that as soon as one exercises the right to say, one loses the right to judge whether it is true or not. Others people will use their right to judge one's words. Although what has been said can be withdrawn as soon as one knows they are not right, this can still have negative effects on one's reputation. Therefore, it is important that one should be careful before saying something. At that time, one has complete right to check whether something is true, reasonable or objective or not. One should use one's own right most effectively before losing it to others.

According to a moral story for children, one needs to check three things before saying some-

thing. The first thing to be checked is whether it is true. Another thing to be considered is whether it is kind to say so and the last thing to be pondered is whether it is necessary.

Write for us

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

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

(Thinking in Advance for Better Tomorrow)

Safety in Travelling

By San Shwe Aung

We learn from the past mistakes. True. But human tend to be lax in following regulations to properly prepare essential measures according to the check lists. Accidents are happening in many places, in many countries around the world. There are many hazards in our life time. Natural disaster, wars, consequences due to climate change, global warming and greenhouse gases. Not a single day has passed without bad news about accidents, if one reads any daily newspaper. Hazards, such as fire, traffic & train accidents, airplane crashes, ships sinking, buildings under construction collapse, dangerous poisonous gases leaks from chemical plants happen due to human negligence. Sometimes the calamity may happen accidentally. Whatever the reasons the outcome will be catastrophic. Loss of human lives and properties are usual results of those incidents. We have to have safety in life as much as possible. Safety is protection from illness and accidents.

Decades ago people in a simple village are self sufficient in food, clothing and shelter. They were so satisfied with simple way of life. Travelling to far distances was rare. I was a volunteer teacher of 3R {Ah Thone Lone Programme} in 1972 while I was a university student. I was assigned in a village about 16 miles from Madaya Town in Mandalay Region. I spent in that vil-

lage of 30 households for one month teaching to the village elders and some youngsters basic writing, reading and calculation. I was provided a bed at the shelf of a cows' shelter together with a young man of my age from the village. It really struck me the fact that most of the villagers from the village had never been to Mandalay. The farthest distance they travelled, of course by bullock carts, was Sa Gyin village which is about 4 mile from their village to watch Zat Pway and Ah Nyient during pagoda festivals couple of times a year. Few of course travelled often to Madaya Town for selling their farm products, which are mainly ground nuts and forest products. Thinking back, the villagers form that village were quite peaceful, satisfied and not vulnerable to any hazards for they hardly travelled far from their village.

However, we people in modern time have to travel to make living, for education, for recreation, for social and family matters. Information age has brought people from far and remote villages to travel to foreign countries for greener pasture and for attaining better education. People living near the rivers and coastal region usually travel by steamers, express boats, ships to one place to another. Extension of highway and roads allow many citizens to travel from village to village, city to city by cars and buses. Railway is another facility people can travel and carry

goods. Other people fly from city to city and from a country to another. Tourists from almost all countries in the world crisscross the continents. Myanmar tourists are now vacationing in Europe, US, Japan and Korea. Last year our country received more than 3 million tourists. It is good for more employment and income for the business connected to the tourism. Airports are packed with travelers. Bus terminals, railways stations and jetties are full of people travelling every day. People, regardless of foreign tourists or local citizens want and have to be safe with full security in travelling until they reach their destinations. The travelers have to use different types of vehicles, which are manmade. Any manmade machines need to function correctly. There are responsible people, managers, supervisors at all levels, operators, drivers, ship captains, aircraft pilots, to make manmade machines function satisfactorily and correctly. Safety regulations are there but following them strictly is very important. Any laxity should not be tolerated by law enforcing bodies. Organizations, publicly or privately owned, providing services in travelling/transport sector have safety regulations, guidelines, check lists and rescue and response packages. Yet accidents sadly happened in many parts of the world.

The following is some of most deadly accidents happened in Asia and Africa. They are widely publicized due to their serious

nature in recent public transport history in the world. On 27 March 1977, runway collision between 2 Boeing 747 aircraft at Loa Rados on Spanish island of Tenerife had killed all 583 passengers and air crews due to failure in communication while the runway was under thick fog with very poor visibility. That was the deadliest accidents in aviation history. Another aviation accident took place in Japan on 12 August 1985 killing 520 people. Japan Airline domestic passenger flight Boeing 747 was flying from Tokyo to Osaka and due to mechanical failure crashed into mount Takamagahara, in Ueno Gunma Prefecture. Very recently, in last year April, a ferry ship MV Sewol, carrying hundreds of passengers including many school children, capsized killing 304 people. The worst rail accident in Africa happened on 14 January 1985 in Awash, Afar, Ethiopia. The train plunged into a ravine and killing 428 passengers. On 2 August 1999, 2 trains carrying a total of 2,500 passengers collided at Gaisal, 310 miles from the city of Gauhati, Assam State in India, killing 285 people. In our world there are risks to our safety in daily life. In family homes, going to work and school, travelling to other places for recreation, we have to be very cautious and aware of the risk as well as threats and vulnerabilities. Disaster management experts have formulated the linkage between risk, threat and vulnerability as follow.

Risk Assessment

Because Risks are always out there in our world, the organizations need to make risk assess-

ment for their public services. Risk in other words is likelihood of causing illness and encountering accidents. **Risk = Threat (External) x Vulnerability (Internal)**. When Risks and Threats are given, only Vulnerability can be influenced. Risks are always there in certain degree and Threats, in transport sector, could be translated into wide open sea with rough waves, hilly narrow and winding roads, flying in night time, poor visibility, bad weather etc. In above mathematical equation, if we can reduce Vulnerability, Risk can be minimized. What are the Vulnerabilities? In Vulnerability assessment there are 4 main areas to be scrutinized. (1) What components are most vulnerable? (2) Why are those components vulnerable? (3) Where are those vulnerable components? (4) When do those components become vulnerable? There may be hundreds of components which are vulnerable to many conditions but people can prioritize them. If all vulnerable components are safe and functioning well, the Risk of encountering accidents is minimum.

Design Loading

All vehicles used in the transport sector have maximum allowable loading according to the design of the vehicles. You cannot carry 200 people in an aircraft with 150 seats and the additional 50 people are supposed to be seated with potable chairs in between the seats! No operators or authorities will allow this to happen. The same applies to cars, buses and ships, steamers. Many local media reported that it was apparent that overloading with passengers and goods was one of the

many causes for the drowning of Aung Tagon (3) steamer in the sea off Rakhyne coast recently. But in our country busses carry more people than prescribed number of passengers on our high ways. 6 Ton trucks have been modified crudely with additional leaf springs to carry goods more than 6 Tons. Therefore, overloading is very dangerous and prone to cause accident.

Check lists

Before starting the journey responsible people and or operators of all vehicles, steamers, aircrafts must have gone through the check lists. Check list are very important to ensure all equipments, tools, fuel, water, spare parts, life boats, life jackets, oxygen masks, communication radios, other navigation tools such as GPS, light signals, food, drinking water etc. are fully in place and in good conditions. All public and private transport operators have to follow this institutionalized check lists.

In modern days advanced communication tools and equipment such as mobile phones, emails, GPS devices, satellite communication can play a very crucial role in the preparation, actual travelling, navigation, avoiding hazards, and even in rescue operations to minimize casualties. It is therefore essential to equip all public transport vehicles, steamers, boats with modern communication gadgets which are now much affordable and easily available in the market.

Reference

1. The Mirror Daily newspapers by Ministry of Information
2. <http://www.bbc.com/news/>

LOCAL NEWS

Rural people receive new library building



NAY PYI TAW, 22 March—Local residents received a library named Pyinnya Bank in Lewun Village, Ot-tarathiri Township, on 19 March.

Staff Officer of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Swe Swe Moe explained an important role of library in widening scope of knowledge of people.

After opening the ceremony, well-wishers donated books and publications to the library through officials. The government allotted a fund for construction of the library which is 30 feet long and 26 feet wide.

Shwe Ye Yint

Development tasks narrow gap between urban and rural areas

MYAWADY, 22 March — Myawady District's deputy commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo and township authorities made an inspection tour of Sukali Town in the district in Kayin State on 20 March.

They inspected progress of school buildings, appointment of teachers,

construction of roads and bridges, electrification and health care services in villages and urban area of Sukali Town.

While in Sukali town, the deputy commissioner gave a pledge to develop all sectors of the town and its villages as much as possible.—Htein Lin Aung

Dawei Museum accepts cultural heritages

DAWEI, 22 March — Well-wishers donate artifacts to Cultural Museum



(Dawei) in Taninthayi Region, as part of preserving cultural heritages of

the country.

On Saturday morning, well-wishers donated amber beads in Pyu period, votive tablets, long swords, a rice bowl made of lacquerware, picture of title and currency notes in Japanese era to the library committee U Tin Thein.

Chairman of Dawei Township Writers Association explained the purpose of donating the cultural heritages to the museum.

Po Shwe Thun
(Dawei)



Newly-opened asphalt road improves living standard of people



NAY PYI TAW, 22 March — A 4,500-foot-long and 18-foot-wide asphalt road identified Sein Pan Pyar Road was commissioned into service in Shwekyabin Ward, Zabuthiri Township, on 21 March.

Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myo Nyunt, Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee member U Kyaw Myint and district's deputy commissioner U Zaw Lwin Oo opened the road and strolled along it.

The newly-opened

road will help improve education, health, social and economic affairs of the people.

In meeting with locals, the council member explained regional development tasks for uplifting

their living standard.

The council member also donated stationery to students at the 8th cultural course at Maha Wizitayon Sasana Wunhsaung monastery in Aungzabu ward.

Shwe Kokko

Essay and painting contests mark International Day of Forests

MYAWADY, 22 March — Students from basic education schools in Myawady participated in the essay and painting contests in commemoration of the International Day

of Forests at Basic Education High School No 1 in Myawady, the town sharing border with Thailand, on 21 March.

Assistant Director U Khin Maung Oo-5, Staff

Officer of Township Forest Department U Soe Tint and officials supervised participation of students in the contests.

Htein Lin Aung
(IPRD)



New rural road gives transport service in Natogyi Tsp

NATOGYI, 22 March — Department of Rural Development in Natogyi Township, Mandalay Region has assigned duty to Htut Khaung Thukha Company to construct a four miles and seven furlongs

long earthen road in the township so as to improve living standard of the people. The Thamaaye-Hngetp-yawaing-DaungU-Nyaung-zin-Natogyi road now benefits more than 4,800 people from six villages in

the township.

The department allotted K65 million to the construction company for the road that started in October 2014 and completed on 12 February.

An old rural road in the

township was included in the area of building the Natogyi-Mandalay railroad. Thanks to local authorities, a new rural road has come out in the township.—Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)

Currency hedging takes on new importance for global stock funds

NEW YORK, 22 March — As the dollar surged in the last 12 months, David Marcus, head of the Evermore Global Value fund (EVGBX.O), steadily increased his stake in Europe. He now has 60 percent of his portfolio invested in companies in the euro zone, the largest stake among any global fund tracked by Lipper.

The gains in those stocks wouldn't matter if the fund wasn't actively hedging against euro weakness, which it is, helping the fund rise 8.8 percent so far in 2015, putting it among the top-performing global stock funds this year.

"We're stockpickers, and by hedging currencies we can be pure stockpickers without the currency risk," said Marcus.

Concerns over currency have prompted a surge of assets to hedged equity funds, with inves-

tors moving \$12.1 billion (8.09 billion pounds) to exchange-traded funds that hedge currencies over the year to date, according to Lipper data. One such fund, the WisdomTree Hedged European Equity fund, is up 18.9 percent for the year so far.

Demand for a way to hedge currency exposure while investing in Europe helped the WisdomTree Europe Hedged Equity Fund (HEDJ.P) bring in \$5.3 billion in new assets over the first two months of the year, the most of any equity fund, according to Lipper.

The fund's top holdings include Anheuser-Busch InBev NV (ABIBR), Telefonica SA (TEFMC), and Daimler AG (DAIGN.DE).

Following behind it was the Deutsche X-trackers MSCI EAFE Hedged Equity (DBEF.P), with \$2.7 billion in new assets.



US dollars are counted out by a banker at a bank in Westminster, Colorado on 3 Nov, 2009.—REUTERS

The fund tracks an index of developed-market equities outside of the United States and Canada, and has its largest positions in Nestle SA (NESN.VX), Novartis AG (NOVN.VX), and Roche Holding AG (ROGVX).

The dollar's rally looks to be eating into the returns of actively managed funds, fund analysts say. While major stock indexes in Ja-

pan, Germany, and France are up 11 percent or more in local currency for the year to date, the average global fund is up just 2.6 percent in dollar terms over the same time, according to Lipper data.

Investors have few ways of knowing whether a global fund hedges its currency exposure. Lipper has no way of tracking it, said Jeff Tjornehoj, head of

Lipper Americas Research, a unit of Thomson Reuters. Morningstar (MORN.O), another fund tracking service, does not track currency hedges either, according to a spokeswoman.

Fund returns this year suggest most global funds do not hedge against currency risk, even though most are allowed to do so. The difficulty of getting such a move correct keeps managers from actively hedging.

"When you hedge a currency you have to be right twice. You have to be right about the market, and right about the currency. I'm not sure that's something one can do on an ongoing basis," said John Manley, chief equity strategist at Wells Fargo Funds (WFC.N).

The track record of the Evermore Fund shows the difficulty with timing on currencies: Over the last three years, the fund has

posted an average annual return of 9.2 percent a year, trailing 75 percent of its peers, according to Morningstar data.

This year, the Evermore Global has benefited from significant gains in companies such as Belgian construction firm CFE SA (CFEB.BR), French conglomerate Bolloré SA (BOLL.PA) and Italian engineering firm Maire Tecnimont SpA (MTCM.MI).

Marcus has been pulling back from investing in US companies that get a significant portion of their revenues in Europe.

Lately, he has been adding to positions in companies such as German materials company ThyssenKrupp AG (TKAG.DE), best known for making elevators. The cheaper euro will likely boost its exports, while lower energy costs will amount to "found money," he said.

Reuters

Toyota set to approve Mexico plant within weeks

TOKYO / MEXICO CITY, 22 March — Toyota Motor (7203.T) is finalizing plans for its first passenger car assembly plant in Mexico that could be approved by its board as early as next month, according to three people with knowledge of the matter.

The plant would make the popular Corolla compact sedan and begin production in 2019. Based on recent investments by rivals, including Volkswagen (VOWG_p.DE), a new assembly plant would represent an investment of over \$1 billion for Toyota.

A green light for the plant would signal an end to a 3-year expansion freeze imposed by the Japanese automaker's pres-

ident Akio Toyoda, who has blamed aggressive expansion a decade ago for contributing to quality lapses and a 2009 recall crisis.

Toyoda last year asked planners scouting for a site in Mexico to hit 'pause' and review the rationale for the project, executives familiar with the matter said then. He urged executives to squeeze more production from existing factories.

Toyota is the last mass-market automaker without a major production hub in Mexico, which has lured car makers and suppliers through its low labour costs and tariff-free access to the United States, Toyota's largest single

market. The Japanese firm has a plant in Mexico's Baja California that produces the Tacoma pickup truck, but it has no passenger car plant.

Last year, Mexican officials pitched half a dozen potential sites for a new plant, and Toyota executives have zeroed in on a site in the central state of Guanajuato, two people with knowledge of the deliberations said.

A delegation of Toyota executives recently spent a week in Guanajuato and remain in talks with local government officials over a potential plot of land that would give the automaker a big enough footprint to expand in the future, a source said.

"We are always evaluating our production capacity in Mexico, and in North America generally, to keep it in line with local market demand, but no such decision has been made at this time," Toyota spokesman Itsuki Kurosu told Reuters.

An official at Mexico's economy ministry had no immediate comment on Toyota's plans in the country. A spokesman for Guanajuato's economic development department declined to comment.

Reuters

Researchers develop mini-heart on microchip

SAN FRANCISCO, 22 March — Researchers with the University of California at Berkeley have grown a viable, pulsating heart on a microchip to improve drug screening.

It is the latest human organ, after a lung, a liver and a piece of intestine, replicated under laboratory environment. With the help of this tissue created from stem cells, researchers can predict if a certain medicine will have an adverse effect or how much dosage a patient needs. This method, if works, will replace animal models that do not mimic human responses, according to the researchers.

"Many times doctors and researchers fail to predict a response to a certain drug or medicine because of the inaccuracy of the models used, like mice, that don't have the same reactions as human tissue," Dr Anurag Mathur, lead author of the study and post doctoral fellow at UC Berkeley, told Xinhua.

The research, which was published by the latest journal Scientific Reports, was carried out at the laboratory of bioengineering professor Kevin Healy.

The tiny heart, which, according to Mathur, is hardly the width of a human hair,



was created with human-induced pluripotent stem cells that can form many different types of tissues. These cells, once tricked into forming heart tissue, were grown around a special silicon microchip with cell and media channels that mimicked the heart's blood vessels. Feeding this bionic heart a mix of nutrients to keep it alive, researchers then could make the heart beat and work for up to a month.

"We were able to run multiple tests during this period, so we proved that this can be a viable solution to replace animal models," Mathur said. "It began beating only 24 hours after being developed at a normal rate of 50 to 80 beats per minute."

Drug screening using this device could not only save lives, but also millions of dollars due to the high cost of calculating the approximate dose needed for patients with heart condi-

tions.

"It takes about 5 billion US dollars on average to develop a drug, and 60 percent of that figure comes from upfront costs in the research and development phase," Healy said in a press release. "Using a well-designed model of a human organ could significantly cut the cost and time of bringing a new drug to market."

Researchers see the future of medicine as completely personalized thanks to this kind of organs-on-a-chip. All it takes will be a sample, the patient then will be able to have his or her heart modeled in a lab with all the tests done.

"Doctors will be able to predict how certain drugs react on specific patients, thus preventing many illnesses and loss of valuable time," Mathur said, adding that "I see this happening in five years in most of the doctor's offices." — Xinhua



Members of the media are shown under a large Toyota logo during the first press preview day of the North American International Auto Show in Detroit, Michigan, on 12 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Fish changes colour to fool its prey

SYDNEY, 22 March — A small fish that lives in the Australian Great Barrier Reef preys on smaller fish by changing colour and pretending to be an adult of their own species, according to a study released on Friday.

The dusky dottyback (*Pseudochromis fuscus*) is a small predatory fish that is found throughout the Indo-Pacific and has the ability to be able to change colour.

Its ability to vary in colouration has baffled scientists until an international research team led by evolutionary biologists Dr Fabio Cortesi and Profes-

sor Walter Salzburger from the University of Basel have developed a theory.

The zoologists are now able to show that dottybacks can quickly change their colour in order to mimic other fish species and chase their prey.

The dusky dottyback fish also helps protect it from its own predators.

"This strategy is very similar to the classic example of the wolf in sheep's clothing.

However, while the wolf may be found out eventually, dottybacks are able to change again," Cortesi said in the journal.

Xinhua

Genetically engineered apples, potatoes "safe for consumption"

WASHINGTON, 22 March — The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) said on Friday two varieties of apples genetically engineered to resist browning when sliced or bruised and six varieties of potatoes altered to reduce black-spot bruising are "as safe and nutritious as their conventional counterparts."

The FDA said in a statement it has completed a case-by-case evaluation for the apples, known collectively by the trade name "Arctic Apples," and the potatoes, known collectively by the trade name "Innate," that resolves food safety issues prior to their commercial distribution.

Arctic Apples, developed by Canada's Okanagan Specialty Fruits and to be available in the Granny Smith and Golden Delicious varieties, are genetically engineered to resist browning associated with cuts and bruises by reducing levels of enzymes that can cause browning.

Innate potatoes, developed by a US company called J R Simplot and to be available in the Ranger Russet, Russet Burbank and Atlantic varieties, are genetically engineered to reduce the formation of

black spot bruises by lowering the levels of certain enzymes in the potatoes.

In addition, Innate potatoes are altered to produce less of a substance called acrylamide, which can form in some foods during high-temperature cooking, such as frying, and has been found to be carcinogenic in rodents.

The FDA regulates foods derived from genetically engineered plants through a voluntary consultation process with their developers.

As part of its consultation process, both Okanagan and Simplot submitted to the FDA a summary of their safety and nutritional assessments, including the nature of the molecular changes and the nutritional composition of the food compared to traditionally bred varieties.

The FDA said it has no further food safety questions at this time concerning food from these plant varieties.

Prior to the FDA approval, the US Department of Agriculture has also approved the commercial planting of the gene-altered apples and potatoes. Currently, there are no genetically engineered apples or potatoes in commercial production.—Xinhua

Steve Jobs bio says Disney CEO kept Jobs' condition a secret

NEW YORK, 22 March — Walt Disney Co CEO Bob Iger learned that Steve Jobs' cancer had returned less than an hour before Disney announced it was buying Jobs' Pixar studio in 2006, and Iger kept the Apple co-founder's condition a secret for three years, according to Bloomberg, citing a new biography of Jobs.

Iger told the authors of "Becoming Steve Jobs" he thought about the implications of keeping such a secret at a time when regulators were calling for more disclosure and holding executives more accountable to their fiduciary duties, Bloomberg reported.

The \$7 billion deal to buy Pixar made Jobs Disney's largest shareholder and put him on the enter-



A portrait of Apple co-founder and former CEO Steve Jobs is placed on the Federation Tower skyscraper in Moscow's new business district on 19 Oct, 2011.

REUTERS

tainment company's board. Iger decided that Disney was assessing the transaction on the value of Pixar, not Jobs, and his medical condition did not need to be disclosed, the biography said.

Iger said Jobs told him

that the cancer had returned while they were on a private walk at Pixar's Emeryville, California, campus about 30 minutes before the deal was to be announced. "Frankly, they tell me I've got a 50-50 chance of living five years," Iger quoted

Jobs as saying.

According to the book, Iger said he told Jobs: "You're our largest shareholder, but I don't think that makes this matter. You're not material to this deal. We're buying Pixar, we're not buying you."

Jobs was diagnosed with a rare form of pancreatic cancer in 2003 and underwent surgery the following year. The tumour returned and he had a liver transplant in 2009. Jobs died in October 2011.

The book, which will be published on Tuesday, paints a more sympathetic picture than the 2011 biography by Walter Isaacson, who devoted several passages in his book to Jobs' messy personal life and mercurial temperament, Bloomberg said.—Reuters

US FAA plans new steps to speed up commercial drone use

WASHINGTON, 22 March — The US Federal Aviation Administration plans to unveil new steps soon to make it easier for companies to use drone aircraft for specific business operations, according to people with knowledge of the matter.

Commercial drone flights are generally banned in the United States, except in a small number of cases where the FAA has granted an exemption. The has agency received more than 750 requests for exemptions to the ban, but has awarded only 48.

Now the US aviation regulator intends to streamline the process by no longer requiring companies with exemptions to obtain a new certificate of authority for each new use of a drone, the people familiar with the matter said.

The FAA could announce the change next week, ahead of a congressional hearing on drones scheduled for Tuesday, these people added.

The FAA had no immediate comment. The agency has been taking measured steps to ease restrictions on commercial use of drones.

The change in policy could be a positive signal to a wide swath of companies that are pushing for federal regulators to remove barriers to commercial uses of automated aircraft, and

help foster growth of an emerging sector of manufacturers and service providers built around drone technology.

The rule changes also would be a boost for companies that already have exemptions from the commercial drone ban, such as Chevron, Berkshire Hathaway's BNSF Railway Co, State Farm Mutual Automobile Insurance Co, and a number of film and media companies. Those companies could get more flexibility to use pilotless aircraft for rail and pipeline inspections, crop surveys and aerial photography for commercials or movies.

Companies awaiting exemptions from the overall ban could also benefit, including Amazon.com Inc and Yamaha Motor Co.

On Thursday, Amazon got FAA clearance to experiment with drones at an outdoor facility in Washington state under a different set of federal rules. Amazon hopes to develop drones capable of delivering packages to customer doorsteps.

Industry lobbyists have criticized the current process as too slow. Companies with approval to fly unmanned aircraft must obtain government permission each time they intend to use drones for a new project. They must fill out and get FAA approval for a two-page "certificate of authority" before each flight specifying where, when and how long the drone will fly.

The process of authorizing specific flights has

bogged down, said Mark Dombroff, a partner in the drone practice of McKenna, Long and Aldridge. In one case, Dombroff said, applicants sought permission to fly over an area of land, but the FAA "wanted us to apply for every farm individually."

FAA Administrator Michael Huerta told industry representatives at a recent meeting that his agency was moving to streamline the process, the sources added.

In February, the FAA proposed rules that would lift the current ban on most commercial drone use. But industry representatives say it could be years before the ban is lifted, leaving businesses to follow the cumbersome exemption process for now.—Reuters



A drone picks up a pair of shoes during a presentation by the Crocs footwear company in Tokyo on 4 March, 2015.—REUTERS

Japanese “rakugo” storyteller spins yarns in Thai

BANGKOK, 22 March — Japanese “rakugo” comic storyteller Katsura Takemaru was reminded of his boyhood in Osaka in the 1960s when he visited Thailand for the first time in 2007.

Katsura, 57, was so intrigued by Thailand that he began learning the Thai language to become better acquainted with the Southeast Asian nation. He soon became a repeat visitor, travelling there three or four times a year, and finally performed there last year.

It was during his latter days at university that Katsura embarked on a career as a rakugo storyteller, eventually joining the ranks of “shin-uchi” or rakugo masters in 1993.

But as there are an estimated 800 or so rakugo storytellers, Katsura found it difficult to stand

out. That’s when he decided to perform in Thai, encouraged by the fact that rakugo circles looked favourably on promoting the art overseas.

“If I can perform rakugo in Thai, I could be the only one,” he thought at the time.

A native of Kagoshima Prefecture in southwestern Japan, Katsura studied Thai intensively for two months and visited Bangkok last autumn to perform before university students studying Japanese, including those at the elite Chulalongkorn University. He chose modern stories rather than classics to make it easier for foreign audiences to follow.

Katsura felt the same stage fright he experienced on his debut performance back home, knowing that he was still a novice at speaking Thai, but was re-

lieved and pleased when he heard the audience laughing.

For this year, Katsura has purchased seven round-trip air tickets for performances in Thailand. While introducing Japanese culture to Thais through rakugo, he is taking pains to help promote exchanges between the two countries in other fields.

Katsura donated equipment to show Japanese animation movies to children in local slum areas, where he also put on performances.

Katsura is considering rakugo stories based on Thai culture. “As the official name of Bangkok is long, I wonder if I can do a take on Jugemu,” he said, referring to one of the best-known rakugo stories involving the repetition of an absurdly long name.

Kyodo News



Japanese “rakugo” comic storyteller Katsura Takemaru performs in the Thai language, as seen in this file photo taken on 4 Sept, 2014, hoping to contribute to cultural exchanges between Japan and Thailand.

KYODO NEWS

Former senior China police chief detained on suspicion of murder

BEIJING, 22 March — The former police chief of the northern Chinese region of Inner Mongolia has been detained on suspicion of murder, state news agency Xinhua said on Sunday, citing public security authorities.

Zhao Liping was in charge of the police in Inner Mongolia from 2005 until 2010 and had worked for almost three decades as a police officer, Xinhua said in a brief report.

He is suspected of involvement in a murder that happened in Inner Mongolia’s Chifeng city on Friday, Xinhua said.

The state-run Legal Evening News said the person who was murdered was “a lady with whom he had quite a close relationship”.

Neither report elaborated. It was not possible to reach Zhao for comment.

Inner Mongolia, which covers more than a 10th of China’s land mass and has the country’s largest coal reserves, is a strategically located part of the country on the borders of Russia and Mongolia.

It was rocked by protests in 2011 after an ethnic Mongol herder was killed by a truck after taking part in protests against pollution caused by a coal mine, and there has been periodic unrest there ever since.—Reuters

Emperor, empress meet with survivors of Palau battle ahead of visit

TOKYO, 22 March — Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko met with two Japanese survivors of the fierce battle on Palau’s Peleliu Island during World War II at the Imperial Palace in Tokyo on Sunday to hear about the men’s experiences ahead of the imperial couple’s visit to Palau early next month, the Imperial Household Agency said.

Keiji Nagai, 93, and Kiyokazu Tsuchida, 95, lived

through the land battle with the US military that claimed an estimated 10,000 lives on the Japanese side.

The emperor and empress are scheduled to visit the battle site to commemorate the dead during their two-day visit from 8 April.

Emperor Akihito, who is suffering from a fever and other cold symptoms, heard the first five minutes of the men’s discussion, while Empress Michiko listened

to the men for 45 minutes, the agency said.

After the meeting, Nagai told reporters that the emperor had thanked him for his hard work over a long period of time.

Nagai said the empress listened to his account of going into hand-to-hand combat with US soldiers coming ashore on the island’s coast and quietly commented, “You went through a lot.” Nagai added he is “extremely thankful” to the imperial cou-

ple for making the visit to Palau despite both being in their 80s.

Tsuchida, who is planning to welcome the emperor and empress at the site in Palau, said his comrades who died in the battle “would be very moved and pleased.”

Nagai and Tsuchida were among 34 Japanese military personnel who were found in 1947 after hiding on the island following the 1945 end of the war.—Kyodo News

Brooklyn house fire kills seven from Orthodox Jewish family

NEW YORK, 22 March — Seven children from an Orthodox Jewish family died early on Saturday when flames ripped through their Brooklyn home in one of New York City’s deadliest fires in years, officials said.

Their 45-year-old mother and a teenage sister survived after jumping from an upper floor. The two were taken to a local hospital and were in critical condition, New York Fire Department spokesman Michael Parrella said.

The blaze erupted in the single-family dwelling around 12:30 am. It apparently was started accidentally by a hot plate, used by many Orthodox families to warm food on the Sabbath, said Fire Commissioner Daniel Nigro.

It was the highest death toll in a fire in the city in seven years, Nigro said. “This is an unbelievable tragedy,” New York Mayor Bill de

Blasio told reporters after seeing the devastation at the site of the blaze. “Every New Yorker is feeling this pain right now.”

De Blasio described the interior of the house, located in Brooklyn’s middle-class Midwood neighbourhood, as completely charred. “You can literally see what was a home for a large and strong family and now it is wiped out, every room empty and burned,” he said.

De Blasio asked for the surrounding community to support the family’s grieving father, who was apparently away for a conference overnight. Responding to reports of flames inside the home, firefighters forced their way in and extinguished the fire, which had started in the kitchen, Nigro said. They then found the children, aged 5 to 16, in their bedrooms near the back of the home, he said, after the mother and another

daughter jumped.

“I heard the mother yelling, ‘My kids are in there! My kids are in there! Get them out! Get them out!’” neighbour Nate Weber told the *New York Daily News*. “The mother was outside. She was burned.”

Police have identified the children who died as Yaakob Sassoon, 5, Sara, 6, Moshe, 8, Yeshua, 10, Rivkah, 11, David, 12, and Eliane, 16. Authorities initially said the oldest child was 15 years old.

More than 100 firefighters turned out to battle the blaze and brought it under control within an hour, Parrella said. Midwood has a large population of Orthodox Jewish residents.

Nigro said the hot plate was likely left switched on because of religious restrictions on lighting fires during the Jewish Sabbath, which begins at sundown on Friday.—Reuters

Poland and US Army hold joint air defence exercises near Warsaw

WARSAW, 22 March — The US Army Europe has deployed a Patriot missile defence battery near Warsaw as part of joint exercises with Poland aimed at reassuring the NATO member in light of the conflict in neighbouring Ukraine.

Poland, in NATO since 1999, does not have its own system to protect against ballistic missiles and is to take a decision regarding the supplier for its medium-range missile defence system within weeks.

“We have always been friends and we have been allies for the last 16 years,” Polish Defence Minister Tomasz Siemoniak told a joint Press briefing with the US ambassador on Saturday.

“During this time we have always been by the

side of the United States. When we are in need, the United States have firmly stood by our side,” Siemoniak said.

US Army Europe said earlier this week that the aim of the week-long exercise was to “reassure allies, demonstrate freedom of movement and deter regional aggression on the eastern flank of NATO.”

The Patriot missile battery, which is manufactured by US firm Raytheon, arrived in Poland accompanied by 100 US soldiers and approximately 30 vehicles.

The ground-to-air missile defence system was deployed at a military base in Sochaczew, a city roughly 50 km (30 miles) from Warsaw.

Siemoniak said it was natural for Poland to train with allies on defending

the city.

“We are here to show our Polish allies that US security guarantees for Poland as part of NATO mean something more than only words on paper,” the US ambassador to Poland, Stephen Mull, said.

The deployment follows unofficial Russian media reports that Russia deployed Iskander ballistic missiles in its Kaliningrad exclave neighbouring Poland as part of exercises earlier this week.

Poland plans to choose the supplier for its medium-range missile defence system within the next few weeks. Warsaw short-listed Raytheon and a consortium of France’s Thales and European group MBDA in the tender last year.

Reuters

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/MinistryOfEnergyMyanmar) 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.

Consultations on the Reform of the Myanmar Companies Act 1914

In order to modernise the Myanmar Companies Act 1914, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) is currently preparing a new Companies Law with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The draft Companies Law has been published on DICA's website (www.dica.gov.mm) in English and will be published in Myanmar as it becomes available.

Interested parties are invited to provide any comments and feedback on the draft law by email at lawreform.dica.mm@gmail.com, by post or fax at the details set out below.

Yangon Office:	No. 1, Thitsar Road, Yankin Township, Yangon Fax No.: 01-658135
Nay Pyi Taw Office:	Office No. 32, Nay Pyi Taw Fax No.: 067-406306
Mandalay Office :	Corner of 26 th and 84 th Street, East ZayCho Market, 2 nd floor, Chan Aye Thar Zan Township, Mandalay, Mandalay Region
Shan State Office:	No. 139, Sat San Tun Road, Zay Pine Yut, Taunggyi, Shan State
Mon State Office:	No. 401, Toe Chae Kan Nar Road, Mayangone Quarter, Mawlamyine Township, Mon State
	Directorate of Investment and Company Administration

Advertise with us!

For inquiries to place an advertisement in the GNLM,
 Please email
wallace.tun@gmail.com (+95) (01) 8604532

Pakistan says 80 militants killed in heavy Khyber clashes

ISLAMABAD, 22 March — Pakistani troops killed 80 militants in heavy clashes in the lawless northwest, near the mountainous border with Afghanistan, a spokesman said on Sunday, while the Pakistani Taliban said at least six soldiers had been killed.

Fighter jets have pounded positions in the Tirah Valley in the Khyber region, west of the city of Peshawar, over the last few days.

A security official said those killed last week belonged to the outlawed militant group Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan and an allied group, Lashkar-e-Islam.

"In Khyber, terrorists being dislodged from bases, fleeing to border. So far 80 terrorists killed, approximately 100 injured in this phase," the head of army's media wing, Gen Asim Bajwa, said on his Twitter account.

"Operations will continue with full force till total terrorist elimination from these areas."

Taliban spokesman Muhammed Khurassani said on Saturday there had been heavy fighting in the Tirah Valley for three days.

A mine "targeted" 12 soldiers and six were killed in a separate attack. Two intelligence sources said an army major was also killed and air strikes were also targeting the South Waziristan region, causing dozens to flee.

There was no way to confirm the casualties independently as the area is sealed to journalists.

The Pakistani Taliban are allied with the Afghan militants of the same name and share a similar jihadist ideology. But they operate as a separate entity, focused on toppling the Pakistani state and establishing strict Islamic rule in the nuclear-armed nation.

Security officials said last week there were strong indications the leader of the Pakistani Taliban, Maulana Fazlullah, was in the area at the time of the air strikes and there has been constant speculation about his fate on social media.

Military offensives in Khyber and South Waziristan began in 2009.

Reuters



Planes of the US Air Force Thunderbirds perform during the Los Angeles County Air Show at William J Fox Airport in Lancaster, California, the US, on 21 March, 2015.—XINHUA

Japan dispatches official to Tunis in wake of museum attack

SEOUL, 22 March — Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said on Sunday he is dispatching Parliamentary Vice Foreign Minister Kazuyuki Nakane to Tunis, where three Japanese nationals were killed in a militant attack on a museum on Wednesday.

Nakane is expected to arrive in the Tunisian capital later in the day, Kishida told reporters during a visit to Seoul.

Nakane is scheduled to meet with three Japanese injured in the attack and

Tunisian government officials to discuss cooperation over security concerns going forward.

Gunmen stormed the Bardo National Museum on Wednesday, killing 18 foreign tourists, three Tunisians and injuring 44 others, the Tunisian government said.

Among the dead were also visitors from Colombia, France, Italy, Poland and Spain, according to the Tunisian government and media reports.

Kyodo News

Mummified Buddha shown in Hungarian stolen from China

FUZHOU, 22 March — Chinese relic experts have determined a 1,000-year-old Buddha statue containing a mummified monk, which is now in possession of a Dutch private collector, is a relic stolen from an east China village in 1995.

The Cultural Relic Bureau in east China's Fujian Province said on Sunday that judging from research and media reports, experts have confirmed that the statue on show in Hungarian Natural History Museum was a relic stolen from Yangchun Village in Fujian in 1995.

The bureau will continue the relic investigation in the village and search for more information while reporting to the national cultural author-

ities in order to identify and trace the stolen relic in compliance with normal procedures, said a bureau spokesman.

The statue was on a "Mummy World" exhibition at the Hungarian Natural History Museum that opened in October last year and was originally scheduled to be on display until 17 May, but was pulled from the exhibition on Friday as the museum said "the Dutch owner withdrew the statue without giving any reason."

Villagers in Yangchun burst into tears while other lit fireworks after seeing the statue via Chinese TV news earlier this month.

The bureau immediately dispatched experts to the village to investigate the issue. Through the re-

search, experts found a large amount of photos, relics and historical records including a pedigree suggesting the mummy was a former ancestor (or Zushi in Chinese) of the local clan.

The statue, formerly housed in the village temple, was stolen in 1995. It wore a hat and clothes when sitting in the temple, and was worshiped as an ancestor.

According to Yangchun archives, the Buddha, named Zhanggong Zushi, was a local man who became a monk in his 20s and won fame for helping people treat disease and spread Buddhist belief. When he died at the age of 37, his body was mummified and local people made a statue with the mummy

inside at around the time in China's Song Dynasty (960-1279). The statue has been worshipped in the village temple ever since.

In the temple, local people still preserve the statue's hat and clothes and other affiliated relics.

Xinhua



A Chinese Buddha statue with the mummified body of a Buddhist monk inside is on display at the Hungarian Natural History Museum in Budapest, Hungary on 3 March, 2015. According to the Chinese characters written on the pillow of the statue, the body inside the statue belonged to Chinese Buddhist monk Zhang Liuquan who lived around AD 1100.—XINHUA

Paul Walker's estate alleges possession of personal property



Actor Paul Walker's estate has filed a lawsuit against a man's estate, alleging it failed to return vehicles owned by the "Fast and Furious" Star.

PTI

LOS ANGELES, 22 March — Actor Paul Walker's estate has filed a lawsuit against a man's estate, alleging it failed to return vehicles owned by the "Fast and Furious" Star.

The suit is against the estate of Roger W Rodas, who was behind the wheel when he and Walker died in a car wreck in November 2013. The actor was 40.

Walker's estate said Rodas was in possession of 17 cars, including a 1969 Ford Mustang and a 2010 Audi R8, owned by Walker that have not been returned to his estate, said *The Hollywood Reporter*.

The suit said that Walker's estate demanded the return of the vehicles both orally and in writing, but Rodas' estate refused the return of the vehicles.

It went on to allege that prior to the accident, Rodas sold vehicles that were partially or wholly owned by Walker, but his monetary share of the sales were not delivered to the actor's estate.

According to the suit, in November 2014, Walker's estate filed a Creditor's Claim seeking the return of the vehicles and the monetary share of sales.

The suit claimed that one month later Rodas' estate filed a Rejection of Creditor's Claim rejecting the claim.

Walker's estate claimed that Rodas' estate has refused to deliver possession of the plaintiff's vehicles.

The actor's estate is seeking "compensatory damages for the value of the property converted and for the proximate and foreseeable loss resulting, therefrom in an amount to be determined at the time of trial."

A trial by jury was also demanded.

PTI

NEW YORK, 22 March — "High School Musical" star Vanessa Hudgens has made her Broadway debut with romantic musical comedy "Gigi".

The Eric Schaeffer-helmed tuner, adapted by Heidi Thomas, also stars Corey Cott, Howard McGillin, Steffanie Leigh, Victoria Clark and Dee Hoty. Opening night is scheduled for 8 April at the Neil Simon Theatre, according to Broadway.com.

Set during the turn of the 20th century, "Gigi" tells the story of a free-spirited teenage girl living in Paris who is groomed (in the custom of her family) to serve as a companion to a bored, wealthy playboy until the pair realize they have fallen in love.

The show features the memorable tunes "Thank Heaven For Little Girls," "I Remember It Well," "The Night They Invented Champagne," "It's a Bore," "Say a Prayer for Me Tonight" and more.

The cast also includes Cameron Adams, Kathryn Boswell, Max Clayton, Madeleine Doherty, Ashley Blair Fitzgerald, Hannah Florence, Alison Jantz, Brian Ogilvie, James Patterson, Justin Prescott, Jeffrey C Sousa, Manny Stark, Tanairi Sade Vazquez, Richard White, Amos Wolff and Ashley Yeater.

PTI



Vanessa Hudgens debuts at Broadway

Bobbi Kristina Brown moved to rehab facility

LOS ANGELES, 22 March — Singer Whitney Houston's daughter Bobbi Kristina Brown has been reportedly moved into a rehabilitation facility in Atlanta after being hospitalised for seven weeks at Emory University Hospital.

According to *TMZ*, Bobbi, 22, was moved from the hospital on Thursday, 19 March and her condition remained the same.

Bobbi was moved to the facility after she did not respond when doctors at the hospital slowly removed her life support.

Doctors reportedly



Singer Whitney Houston's daughter Bobbi Kristina Brown has been reportedly moved into a rehabilitation facility in Atlanta after being hospitalised for seven weeks at Emory University Hospital.—PTI

said that Bobbi's "in the same non-responsive state she's been in for weeks."

Bobbi's father Bobby

Brown and aunt Pat Houston were spotted removing her belongings from the hospital.

Some photos showed Pat was accompanied by an assistant who carried a big backpack and a plastic bag filled with clothes and stuffed dolls.

Pat was also seen carrying a Whitney Houston tribute book.

A source said that Bobby was "devastated" that he's going to make decision about his daughter's life support.

According to the source, Bobby was "praying that God will make the decision for him" because he didn't want to be the one to make decision on his daughter's life.—PTI

Ryan Reynolds' 'Self/less' release date moved up



Actor Ryan Reynolds's science fiction thriller "Self/less" has been given a new release date.

PTI

LOS ANGELES, 22 March — Actor Ryan Reynolds's science fiction thriller "Self/less" has been given a new release date.

"Self/less" had originally been scheduled to open against "Mission: Impossible 5" on 31 July, but Focus Features has postponed it up to 10 July, *The Hollywood Reporter* said.

The thriller from "Mirror Mirror" director Tarsem Singh explores the dangerous implications of technological advancement.

Ben Kingsley stars as

an affluent aristocrat who seeks to stave off his death from cancer by having his consciousness implanted into a younger body (Reynolds). He soon discovers that the corporation who organized the procedure is seeking to cover up the frightening true origin of this new body.

Michelle Dockery and Victor Garber also appear in "Self/less", while Matthew Goode plays a menacing member of the group behind the cover-up.

PTI

Glastonbury festival defends Kanye West's participation

LOS ANGELES, 22 March — Music festival Glastonbury has defended its decision to book rapper Kanye West for its upcoming edition following demand from fans to replace him.

The festival's co-founder Emily Eavis praised West, 37, in an open letter she wrote to *The Guardian*.

An online petition was recently launched on Change.org by a fan who wanted rock acts to replace West to play the festival

traditionally known as a rock event. The petition has been signed by more than 100,000 supporters.

Eavis first made it clear that those acts headlining the festival were never limited to rock.

"To say that our headliners should be 'rock' is, I think, a bit silly," she said before pointing out that they had also made non-rock artists like Jay-Z and Beyonce Knowles headliners in the past.

While praising West,

she said, "One of the world's biggest superstars and a music legend, always interesting, never boring. He has agreed to play a festival where headliners get paid a fraction of their normal rate in support of Oxfam, Water Aid and Greenpeace as well as thousands of other worthy causes. We think that's pretty great."

Eavis also voiced her opinion on people who have signed the petition and attacked West on internet.

"I have such faith in



Rapper Kanye West

humanity, but believe me, some of the vitriol being thrown around this week has made me question the dark underbelly of the web," she said.

PTI

GENERAL

Bournemouth back on top in race to Premier League

LONDON, 22 March — Bournemouth are in pole position in the race to be promoted to the Premier League after a 3-0 victory over fellow contenders Middlesbrough on Saturday.

Having started the day behind Watford and Middlesbrough in the Championship, penalties from Yann Kermorgant and Brett Pitman with a Harry Arter stunner sandwiched in-between sent the humble south coast club top with 73 points from 39 games.

Richard Chaplow's stoppage-time winner gave Ipswich Town a 1-0 victory at Watford to move them into sixth spot, the final playoff position, above Brentford who were held 2-2 at home by relega-



AFC Bournemouth's Yann Kermorgant celebrates scoring their first goal with team mates during Sky Bet Football League Championship at Goldsands Stadium, Dean Court on 21 March, 2015. —REUTERS

tion-threatened Millwall.

Watford remain in the second automatic promotion spot with 72 points, above

Middlesbrough on goal difference.

"Psychologically it gives us a boost knowing

we've beaten one of the best sides in the division and it should serve us well hopefully in the remaining games," Bournemouth manager Eddie Howe told the BBC.

There is precious little between all the frontrunners though in what is a wildly unpredictable division.

Norwich City, attempting to return to the top flight at the first attempt, are fourth with 70 points after a 3-1 victory over Nottingham Forest whose slim hopes of joining the scrap for a play-off spot now look to be over.

Derby County were beaten by Wolverhampton Wanderers on Friday and are fifth on 67 points, the same as Ipswich.

Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(23-3-2015 07:00 am~ 24-3-2015 07:00 am) MST

- | | |
|---|---|
| * News | * News |
| * Myanmar Traditional Toys | * Taste of Myanmar (Fried Flat Noodle) |
| * Welcome to the southernmost part of Myanmar | * Diary of a Fisherman |
| * Modifying Natural Thanakha Bark into Ready-Made Skin Care Product | * News |
| * News | * Unique Pattern of Myanma... A Trend of Chin Traditional Dress |
| * Myanmar Women Day | * News |
| * Living Myanmar Glazed Ceramics | * Myanmar Women Football Champions (Myanmar National Team) |
| * Green Grocer | * Pagoda Forest in Pa-O Land |
| * News | * News |
| * Lucrative Myanma Rattan Industry | * Dawei — Tavoy , Travel To The Southern Part of Myanmar |
| * We'll Leave After 12 Passengers are on Board | * Thread Charm "A Kayin Threading Ceremony" |
| | * The Photographer (Portraiture) |
| * News | * News |
| * Youth of The Future (Ep-5) | * News Extra — Korea-Myanmar Bilateral Ties |
| * A Tea Business: Pankwan (Part-1) | * Mosaic Painting (Precious Stones & Gems) |
| * News | |
| * A Day Out With Sarah (EP-7) | |
| * Guiding Star of Song Birds | |

Djokovic crushes Murray, faces Federer in Indian Wells final

INDIAN WELLS, (California), 22 March — World number one Novak Djokovic crushed Britain's Andy Murray 6-2, 6-3 on Saturday to set up a mouthwatering final against number two Roger Federer in the BNP Paribas Open.

Federer defeated Canada's Milos Raonic 7-5, 6-4 to reach his 40th ATP Masters 1000 final and earn a repeat of last year's epic final where he lost to Djokovic in three sets.

Djokovic has now won six straight matches against the Scotsman since his defeat in the 2013 Wimbledon final and owns a 17-8 record in their career meetings.

"It went really well from the beginning," said Djokovic. "I came out with the right intensity and Andy made a lot of unforced errors. I just played solid and I am happy with the perfor-

mance," Djokovic said after the one hour, 28 minute match.

"I was expecting a battle, it always is with Andy but today I guess he wasn't as close as where he wanted to be on a high quality. I just hung in there and played tactically right."

The defending champion broke Murray three times to win the opening set and never looked in danger of needing a third set to secure his place in the final.

Djokovic, who has won three times in Indian Wells, looked sharp right from the outset while Murray made just two first serves in six points in his opening service game. Murray made a series of unforced errors, and having fallen a set behind, he struggled to find a way to turn the momentum in his direction. In a tight first set, Federer broke to go 6-5



Novak Djokovic (SRB) during his semi final match against Andy Murray (GBR) during the BNP Paribas Open at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden, Indian Wells, CA, USA on 21 March, 2015. REUTERS

up when Raonic, who beat Rafa Nadal in Friday's quarter-finals, went long with a backhand.

Big serving Raonic produced nine aces but Federer kept firm control in the second set, saving the only break point he faced.

"I think I did very well in the first set, scrambled

down a few balls and then I did well to get the early break in the second set," said Federer. "After losing 7-6 to him (Djokovic) in the third last year, I couldn't wait to face him on centre court again." Federer, who is on a 19-set unbeaten run, has won Indian Wells on four occasions.—Reuters

Kim leads by two strokes at LPGA Founders Cup

PHOENIX, (United States), 22 March — South Korean teenager Kim Hyo Joo reeled off three consecutive late birdies to earn a two-stroke lead over American Stacy Lewis after the third round at the JTBC Founders Cup in Arizona on Saturday.

Kim carded 66 on the Wildfire course in Phoenix to post a 16-under-par 200 total with one round left.

Lewis stayed in contention for her 12th LPGA victory with a 67 that included six birdies in the first 11 holes, before she stalled down the stretch and allowed Kim to zoom to the front.

Kim bogeyed the 13th



Hyo Joo Kim makes birdie at the 5th hole during round two action of the JTBC Founders Cup at Wildfire Golf Club at JW Marriott Phoenix Desert Ridge Resort & Spa, Phoenix, AZ, USA on 20 March, 2015. REUTERS

hole but stormed back immediately with a hat-trick of birdies.

She gained international prominence when she won the Evian Cham-

pionship, an LPGA major, last year.

A victory here would set the 19-year-old up nicely for a tilt at a second major title at the ANA

Inspiration in the California desert in two weeks.

Lewis was happy with the quality of her game, if not thrilled by her score.

"Today I felt like I played a lot better than I scored," she told Golf Channel.

"I had a bunch of putts right around the edge. I'm looking forward to tomorrow. I feel like I've put myself in contention a lot and should hopefully handle things pretty well tomorrow."

New Zealand's world number one Lydia Ko was within striking distance, four shots behind after a 69.

Reuters

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(23-3-2015, Monday)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6:00 am | 2:35 pm |
| • Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | • Teleplay |
| 6:40 am | 3:00 pm |
| • Physical Exercises | • News / International News |
| 7:00 am | 3:35 pm |
| • News/ Weather Report | • Songs in Honour of 70 th Anniversary Armed Forces Day |
| 7:35 am | 4:35 pm |
| • Weekly Entertainment | • University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Second Years (Psychology) |
| 8:00 am | 5:30 pm |
| • News / International News | • Head Line News |
| 8:35 am | 6:35 pm |
| • Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society) | • Socio Economic Scenes |
| 9:35 am | 7:00 pm |
| • Documentary (ASEAN) | • News |
| 10:35 am | 8:00 pm |
| • People's Talks | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 11:35 am | 9:00 pm |
| • MRTV's Youth Programme | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 12:00 noon | • Hluttaw Image |
| • News / International News / Weather Report | • TV Drama Series |
| 12:35 pm | |
| • Tasty Trip | |
| 1:10 pm | |
| • Gitadagale Phwintbarohn | |

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(23-3-2015, Monday)

- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 6:00 am | 9:15 am |
| • Mono Classical Songs | • Pyi Thu Ni Ti |
| 6:30 am | 9:40 am |
| • Cultural Show for Soldiers | • ASEAN Cultural Fair (2014) |
| 7:00 am | • ASEAN Japan Cultural Show (2013) |
| • Myanmar Series | • China in Myanmar Cultural Show |
| 7:30 am | 10:00 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • Musical Programme |
| 8:20 am | 10:15 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • Myanmar Video |
| 9:00 am | |
| • Musical Programme | |

Liverpool F.C goes into partnership with Myanmar energy drink firm



YANGON, 22 March—English football team Liverpool F.C announced on Sunday a new partnership with Myanmar energy drink company Cobra Energy, according to the statement of the football club.

The deal has made the brand become the official energy drink of the club in Myanmar.

Billy Hogan, chief commercial officer at Liverpool, said: "Liverpool Football Club is one of the most popular football clubs in Myanmar, which is very much a nation of football fanatics.

"We're really excited to partner with Cobra Energy Drink to bring our fans in Myanmar closer to the club."

Lyka C. Frontuna, senior country brand manager of Cobra Energy Drink at Cobra Energy Drinks, said: "We're delighted to be the official energy drink of Liverpool FC in Myanmar for the 2015-16 Barclays Premier League season", adding that, "the partnership is a perfect match for us as we share the values of Liverpool FC."

"Liverpool FC is one of the largest global brands and this exclusive partner-

ship demonstrates our commitment to help quench the thirst of football fans in Myanmar by providing new opportunities for fans to watch Barclays Premier League games involving Liverpool, for example," the manager added.

As part of this partnership, Cobra Energy Drink will create a new TV campaign featuring LFC players and, as well as running competitions for fans to win Liverpool merchandise and engage with the club they'll also be able to purchase LFC-themed bottles of Cobra Energy Drink.—GNLM

Second football friendly ends at 1-1 draw

YANGON, 22 March — Second football friendly match between Myanmar U-22 football team and Malaysian opponent ended a 1-1 draw at Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna, here, on Sunday.

Players of both teams could show excellent skills in the match. Malaysian players had more football possession than Myanmar players.

In the 21st minute, Nay Lin Tun, captain of Myanmar team, scored an opening goal but Sha-

harudil of Malaysia could equalize the match in the 32nd minute.

In the 63rd minute, Myanmar grasped an opportunity of penalty kick due to rough defending of Malaysian players in the box. However, captain Nay Lin Tun missed the chance to translate his kick to the winning goal due to fantastic save of the Malaysian goalkeeper.

In the 83rd minute, Myanmar shot a ball into the net but the Malaysian keeper could show his skill

in saving the kick. In the 90th minute, Phyo Ko Ko Thein of Myanmar and Adam Nor Azlin of Malaysia were sent out for their rough attacks while Myanmar strikers were trying to netting the ball through a corner kick.

Before the final whistle, Malaysia possessed a great chance to kick the ball into Myanmar's net but they missed the chance by bouncing the ball from the ball of Myanmar defenders.

GNLM

Student youths ready to take part in U-15 Cup

YANGON, 22 March — The 16-day long Nippon Foundation U-15 Cup 2015, jointly organized by Ministry of Education and Myanmar Football Federation and sponsored by Nippon Foundation of Japan, will kick off at the artificial turf No 3 of Myanmar Football Federation, here, on 25 March, aiming at uplifting football skills of students and turning out new generation youth foot-

ballers.

Altogether 18 U-15 football teams from basic education schools in Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Rakhine, Shan (East), Shan (South) and Shan (North) states and Sagaing, Bago (East), Bago (West), Magway, Mandalay, Taninthayi, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions and Nay Pyi Taw Council Area will take part in the tournament.

The youth football teams will stay at Basic Education High School No 1 in Lanmadaw, Latha BEHS No 1 and Botahtaung BEHS No 6 for taking training.

The group fixtures will be arranged at the office of the Myanmar Football Federation at 1 p.m. on 24 March and the pre-match press conference at 1.30 p.m.

MFF

Man City cruise past 10-man West Brom, Arsenal win

LONDON, 22 March — Manchester City retained their slim title hopes thanks to a 3-0 win against 10-man West Bromwich Albion but Arsenal are hot on their heels after a 2-1 victory against Newcastle United in the Premier League on Saturday. Much-maligned after their Champions League exit in Barcelona on Wednesday and a league defeat by Burnley last week, City were helped by a bizarre refereeing decision in the second minute in which West Brom's Gareth McAuley was sent off instead of Craig Dawson in a case of mistaken identity.

Wilfried Bony, who had been hauled down by Dawson only for referee Neil Swarbrick to send off McAuley, later scored his first City goal and Fernando and David Silva completed the win to mark Manuel Pellegrini's 100th game in charge of the club.

Second-placed City have 61 points from 30 matches, three behind leaders Chelsea, who have a two games in hand over



their title rivals and play Hull City on Sunday. Arsenal have 60.

Fourth-placed Manchester United (56) are at fifth-placed Liverpool on Sunday. After a trying week for Man City, Pellegrini said it was a relief to get back on track, especially with their top-four place far from guaranteed. "We have lost the last two games in different competitions,

so it was important to return to victory," Pellegrini said.

"We have to play eight games more, we can win the eight games and if Chelsea don't drop points we cannot win the title."

Arsenal, knocked out of the Champions League by AS Monaco on Tuesday, remain one point behind City after victory against Newcastle at St James' Park means

the Gunners have now won their last six league matches. Olivier Giroud struck twice in four minutes in the first half but they had to dig deep in the second half after Moussa Sissoko pulled a goal back for Newcastle. "The last 40 minutes were difficult because our legs had gone a little bit and Newcastle played very well in the second half," manager Arsene Wenger said.

West Bromwich

Albion's Darren

Fletcher in action

with Manchester

City's Wilfried

Bony during their

Barclays Premier

League at Etihad

Stadium on 21

March, 2015.

REUTERS

"We know we have a fight first to be in the top four. We go step by step, game by game."

Tottenham Hotspur striker Harry Kane celebrated his first senior England call up with a hat-trick as Spurs beat bottom side Leicester City 4-3 in a thrilling match at White Hart Lane. Kane scored twice in the opening 13 minutes to give Spurs a

two-goal advantage but goals from Jamie Vardy and Wes Morgan drew the visitors level. Leicester striker David Nugent conceded a penalty that Kane converted to complete a first Premier League hat-trick and move him above Chelsea's Diego Costa with 19 goals on top of the scoring charts.—Reuters

Nugent set up a nervy finish with a late consolation.

Sixth-placed Southampton stay above Spurs on goal difference after their 2-0 win at St Mary's against struggling Burnley who remain in the bottom three. Dutchman Dick Advocaat's first game as Sunderland manager ended in defeat as his side were beaten 1-0 at West Ham United, Diafra Sakho striking late for the Hammers.

Crystal Palace came from a goal down to beat Stoke City 2-1 at the Britannia Stadium, while Aston Villa's recent resurgence came to end with a 1-0 home defeat against Swansea City.—Reuters