THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume I, Number 180 | 10th Waxing Day of Tagu 1376 ME | Sunday, 29 March, 2015

Mandalay General Hospital gets new ten-storey building

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The vice president spoke about the government's efforts to improve medical services in prevention, treatment and rehabilitation.

He took a guided tour of the building, with officials explaining to him the background history of the hospital.

The hospital started life as a 250-bed facility in 1925 and expanded to 1,000 beds in 2012.

The building was constructed at a cost of some K3.5 billioncontributed by the government and well-wishers.The new facility includes the nuclear medicine department, the renal medical department, the gastrointestinal department, teaching halls and intensive care units.

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham also met faculty members at Mandalay University of Medicine and urged them to turn medical students into qualified doctors. He pledged more teaching aids, calling for collective participation in bringing the medical universityup to international standards.

MNA

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham comforts a patient at Mann Taungyeikkho new hospital building in Mandalay General Hospital.

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Solar Impluse-2 to take off Mandalay on 30 March

MANDALAY, 28 March — Solar Impluse-2 will leave Mandalay for Chongqing of China to continue its around-the-world trip at 4 a.m. on March 30.

The crew of Swiss long-range experimental solar-powered aircraft will hold a press conference at noon on March 29 about their trip.

Officials has announced media persons can get entry card for the airport from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 29 at Mandalay Sub-Printing House in Pale Ngwe Yaung Ward, and ferry buses for the media will leave Mandalay Railway Station, gathering point, at 2 a.m. on March 30.

"We will have to consider the weather conditions of the route between Myanmar and China before we fly," said a member of Solar Impluse Team.

Min Min Zaw (Kalay)

Exhibition marks 30-year art career for Myanmar painter

By *Khaing Thanda Lwin*

YANGON, 28 March— Yangon Gallery will host a solo exhibition of artist Soe Soe in April, to mark the 30th anniversary of the internationally successful painter's debut, organizer Lynn Whut Hmone said Saturday.

"This is the first-ever solo show in Myanmar in celebration of my career as an artist," Soe Soe told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

More than 20 works, including the artist's signature three-dimensional acrylic paintings, will be exhibited at thegallery from 4 to 10 April.

The artist said,"Apart from one painting, all paintings on display at the gallery will be on sale,

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Hate speech must be fought using alternative narratives, journalists' panel says

By *Ye Myint*

YANGON, 28 March— Journalists and media groups from around the world discussed strategies for tackling speech that could spread hatred and incite conflict on Saturday, the second day of the 65th International Press Institute World Congress in Yangon.

The panel discussion on challenging hate speech proposed combating dangerous and harmful messages in the media by promoting alternative narratives.

Describing the media environment in her native Sri Lanka, panelist Manori Kalugampitiya said the press had been heavily controlled through "ownership" rather than "censorship" under the former regime in her country. Media ownership became more consolidated, with many private outlets bought by

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Panel members discuss hate speech at the IPI 2015 World Congress, with speakers encouraging members of the media to promote alternative narratives to combat harmful messages.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

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PHOTO: YE MYINT

YCDC to carry out its free rabies vaccination programme in northern Yangon next FY

YANGON, 28 March— Yangon City Development Committee plans to carry out free vaccination against rabies and birth control of stray dogs in the northern Yangon in early April, according to Dr Hla May Oo, one of assist heads from YCDC.

"The project aims to reduce people's death rate caused by rabies and to create a rabies free city as well as to control the amount of strays on the streets," the assistant head of Veterinary and Slaughter House Department said in an interview with the Global New Light of Myanmar on Friday.

Since mid-2014, the YCDC has launched its project at the four corners of the city. Over 300 stray dogs are vaccinated against rabies so far, most of them in South Dagon Township.

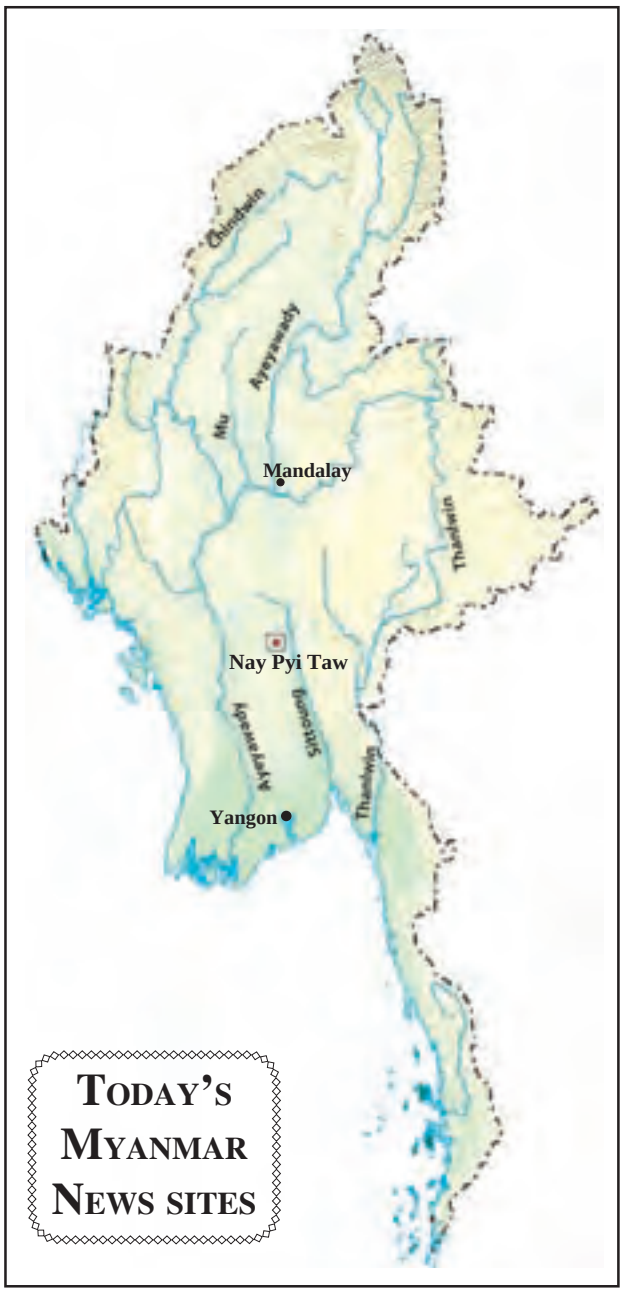
At the same time, the YCDC also carry out its former method of clearance of stray dogs with poison-laced meats in 33 townships in Yangon at night, Dr Hla May Oo said. Local dog lover's groups are planning to submit their draft proposal to the YCDC, the city mayor, health department and veterinary science this year, Daw Thuza Wai, leader of Animals Protect Organization, a local non-profit organization, said. The draft proposal mainly includes replacing method of birth control in dogs to the old one, animal rights and the demands for lands to open dog shelters, she added. Currently there are three dog shelters in Yangon.

"People also prefer the birth control of dog population rather than the culling," said Dr Hla May Oo.

Myanmar's neighbours including Indonesia practice method of birth control in dogs.

More than 95 percent of rabies-related human deaths occur in Asia and Africa. According to the World Health Organization, a person dies every 15 minutes by rabies disease around world. Myanmar stands first in the death rate caused by rabies in ASEAN.

GNLM



GGP scheme to provide cash assistance for construction of health centres, school

YANGON, 28 March— Mr Tateshi Higuchi, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar and Chairmen of the Committees from the State concerned, signed the grant contracts for six projects as listed below on 24 March. Under these contracts, Japan's Grant Assistance for Gross-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme will provide a total of US$ 1,086,125.

The budget was shared US$ 157,636 for construction of rural health center in Mei Se Nan Village, Meisei Township, Kayah State; US$ 193,453 for a rural health centre in Kaykaw village, Pruhso Township, Kayah State; US$174,050 for a rural health centre in Mawchi village, Pasawng Township, Kayah State; US$82,397 for a rural health branch in Sintaung village in Demohso Township, Kayah State; US$ 151,269 for two rural health branches in Tanai Township, Kachin State and US$ 327,320 for a school building at Basic Education High School Branch in Mindat, Chin State.

GNLM

Yangon to host Miss Myanmar World 2015 in April

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 28 March— The Miss Myanmar 2015 contest is set to launch next month, with the winner going on to represent the country on the global stage, the event's organiser said Thursday.

Entertainment firm Forever BEC-TERO hopes to promote the role of women in Myanmar through the event in Yangon, the company's national manager U Soe Thura said.

"We will select 20 candidates among the applicants to participate in the contest," he said. "The winner will have an opportunity to compete in Miss World 2015 which will be held in September in South Africa."

The organising body arranged to present K10 million to the winner of the contest, K5 million to the first runner-up and K3 million to the second runner-up, he said.

This year will be the second time the event has been staged in Myanmar.

Nineteen-year-old Miss Wyne Lay was crowned Miss Myanmar World 2014, and was among the top 40 contestants at Miss World 2014, won by 22-year-old South African Miss Rolene Strauss.

Women aged between 18 and 23 may apply to join the contest no later than 28 April. Further details can be found at the website www.foreverbectero/mmw2015.com.—*GNLM*

Miss Myanmar World 2014 winner Wyne Lay.
PHOTO: MISS MYANMAR WORLD FACEBOOK PAGE

Hate speech must be fought using...

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officials or close associates of the regime.

"As Sri Lanka's media is highly divided along ethnic lines, this division has created a dynamic where mainstream journalists pay little or no attention to conflict-sensitive journalism," the Sri Lankan journalist said, adding that hate speech had influenced the country's media.

In her presentation, she called on journalists, publishers and civic organizations to build necessary safeguards to reduce hate speech without compromising freedom of expression.

Discussing whether Myanmar needs more laws to fight hate speech, panelist U Thiha Saw said the country's media already faced enough legal restrictions, and that it would be better for those in the industry to take the initiative themselves and work together.

***Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut converses with Nobel Lauerate and Grameen Bank Bhaban Chairman Professor Mohammad Yunus at IPI World Congress.*—MNA**

"We need to go further on free press in Myanmar, at 145th place out of 180 countries on press freedom," he said. "I don't agree personally to see further restrictions on media that would curb the freedom of expression that Myanmar has gained. Self-regulation should be preferred."

In his presentation, the Myanmar journalist stressed the need to raise public awareness about online and offline hate speech and encouraged all media to denounce it.

Freelance journalist Daw Mon Mon Myat, who was in the audience at the conference, said she agreed with the panel's call for social media users to be accountable and act responsibly. "Social media has influenced on the mainstream media," she said.

The panel discussion was one of the sessions organized at the International Press Institute's 2015 World Congress that began on Friday at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon with the theme "On the Path to a Free Media."—*GNLM*

Dhammacariya examination continued for third day

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 March – Ministry of Religious Affairs organized Dhammacariy Examination for 2015. The third day of the examination continued at the 50 exam centres in the whole country. According to the Religious Affairs Department, of the 18847 candidate monks and nuns who have enrolled to sit for the exam, 13898 candidates took it accounting for 73.74 percent.—*MNA*

MPC organizes "Youth and Peace" forum

***KNPP Vice Chairman U Khu Oorei.* MNA**

***Union Peace Making Working Committee Vice Chairman U Aung Min.* MNA**

***Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane.*—MNA**

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 March— Myanmar Peace Centre organized a forum on "Youth and Peace" at Hotel Max here on Saturday, with MPC's advisor U Tin Maung Than giving a talk on "Preparation of individual citizens for co-operation in peace process," according to officials.

Prominent speakers gave talks on peace process and contemporary issues of the political, economic and social trends. According to organizers, the forum was aimed at arousing interest on young people to get involved in peace processes and cherish peace.

The forum drew officials from 33 ministries and young people of ethnic groups, and will continue up to 30 March. Similar forum also took place in Loikaw, Kayah State with the attendence of Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane, Vice Chairman of Union Peace Making Working Committee U Aung Min, KNPP Vice Chairman U Khu Oorei and others. —*MNA*

Minister urges staff to grow perennial and seasonal crops

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 March—During his visit to staff quarters in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 March, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw urges his staff to grow perennial and seasonal crops in a manageable scale to save income. He also advised them to clear the bushes and dredge the gutters around their quarters weekly to protect against the danger of insects. The Union Minister also warned the staff against the danger of electric short circuit.

MNA

MMA to host talk on drug-resistant TB

Yangon, 28 March— In commemoration of World Tuberculosis Day 2015, talks organized by the Myanmar Medical Association on drug-resistance TB will be held at the hall of Yangon University of Nursing in Lanmadaw Township on 29 March.

The event, which is open to the public, will include talks by Dr Tin Mi Mi Khaing, Prof U Win Naing, Dean of the Lung and Chest Specialist Department of the University of Medicine-1, and Prof U Ye Myint Kyaw, Dean of the university's Child Health Education Department.

Aung Thura

Village-to-village asphalt road opened in Ayeyawady Region

Kyaunggon, (Ayeyawady Region), 28 March—As a gesture to honour the 70th anniversary Armed Forces Day, an asphalt road was opened on 25 March in Yaykhalot village, Kyaunggon Township in Ayeyawady Region.

Deputy Speaker of Region Hluttaw Dr Htein Win attended the opening ceremony for the road, which was built by the Larb Moh company using capital funds of Kyaunggon township Rural Area Development Department. The road linking Yaykhalot and Dauntgyi villages provides a shortcut to Kyaunggon-Einme Road and the Yangon-Pathein Highway in Ayeyawady Region.

David (Kyaunggon)

New school building opened in Hlaingthaya

Yangon, 28 March— With the sponsorship of AEON Co., Ltd and under the supervision of the Ministry of Education and UNICEF, a school building was built in Hlaingthaya Township. The opening and handing over ceremony of No. 42 Basic Education Primary School was held on 27 March. The school building built at a cost of US$ 76,637 is a three-unit one with the measurement of 72 feet long and 32 feet wide. The donation also includes 60 sets of desk and one five-unit latrine. Executive Director Mr Ken Hayami of Japan Committee for UNICEF and Chairman Mr Naoki Hayashi of AEON 1% Club Foundation handed documents related to the school to Deputy Director General U Kyaw Swa Thwin of No. 3 Basic Education Deaprtment.

Also present on the occasion were Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Tateshi Higuchi, Deputy Representative Ms Campbell of UNICEF Myanmar, and Program Manager Ms Claudia Schneider of Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

After the opening ceremony, the chief minister, the Japanese Ambassador together with school children grow trees to commemorate the opening of the school.—*MNA*

Exhibition marks 30-year...

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but no price has been set for my handiworks yet."

The artist said he developedhis technique of using layers of acrylic paint to create landscapes with a three-dimensional-appearance in 2004.

After entering the art world in 1985, Soe Soe travelled with his works, exhibiting in countries including Singapore, Malaysia, Belgium, the United States and England. Hesaid Myanmar has skilful artists, but many lack the creative vision and ambition of their international counterparts.

The gallery is located near Planetarium Museum on Alhone Road in Yangon.

GNLM

***A 3D painting created by Artist Soe Soe (Labutta) will be on display for sale at Yangon Gallery.*—Photo: Yangon Gallery**

Abe refers to comfort women as "human trafficking" victims

WASHINGTON, 28 March — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe described women who were forced to work at wartime Japanese military brothels as victims of "human trafficking" in an interview with *The Washington Post* in its Friday edition.

The paper quoted one of Abe's aides as saying it was the first time for the premier to use the word "trafficking" in reference to what Japan euphemistically calls "comfort women," an issue that has strained bilateral ties between Japan and South Korea.

"[W]hen my thought goes to these people, who have been victimized by human trafficking and gone through immeasurable pain and suffering beyond description, my heart aches," Abe was quoted as saying.

Abe indicated he had no intention of undoing the apologies over the comfort women issue made by two of his predecessors, Tomiichi Murayama and Junichiro Koizumi, according to the report.

Exactly what Japanese words Abe used during the interview are not yet known.

Differences over the interpretation of the comfort women history have soured Tokyo-Seoul ties as many of the women were from the Korean Peninsula, which was under Japan's colonial rule before and during World War II.

Kyodo News

***Visiting Indonesian President Joko Widodo offers a flower basket at the Monument to the People's Heroes in Tian'anmen Square, in Beijing, capital of China, on 27 March, 2015.*—XINHUA**

Japanese ruling lawmaker meets China's president

BOAO, (China), 28 March — A lawmaker from Japan's ruling party on Saturday met with Chinese President Xi Jinping amid a slight easing of tensions between the two countries.

Toshihiro Nikai, a senior member of the Liberal Democratic Party, said he spoke with Xi in a photo session at the Boao Forum for Asia, an annual gathering of political and business leaders in China's Hainan Province.

Since Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe held his first talks with Xi in November, Nikai, chairman of the LDP's General Council, is the first Japanese political figure to have met with the Chinese president.

On Friday, Nikai, a 76-year-old seasoned lawmaker, told reporters he will "find ways (for the two countries) to cooperate and develop." Former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, who was at the venue as chairman of the annual forum, was also present when Nikai met with Xi.

Among lawmakers of the LDP, Nikai is known for having one of the best relations with China and South Korea, which have repeatedly criticized Japan over its handling of territorial and wartime issues.

Nikai, who previously handled the transport and industry portfolios, plans to visit China in May with a delegation of around 3,000 people, including representatives of the tourism industry.

In mid-February, Nikai, who visited Seoul with a delegation of about 1,400 people, held talks with South Korean President Park Geun-hye and agreed with her on the need to work harder for improved ties.

Park has yet to have a formal meeting with Abe since she took office in early 2013.

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and is politically delicate for Japan's relations with China and South Korea.

China and South Korea, where painful memories of Japan's militarism before and during the war run deep, are closely watching what Abe will say this summer on the occasion of Japan's defeat in the war.

Despite political difficulties, Yu Zhengsheng, the Chinese Communist Party's fourth-ranked leader, has assessed Sino-Japanese relations as improving since Xi's first meeting with Abe, which has led to the resumption of various contacts between the two countries. "The force is not strong yet, but it is heading in a good direction," Yu told lawmakers of Japan's ruling coalition parties on Monday in Beijing.

Kyodo News

Some 570 Cambodians fall ill after eating contaminated snacks

PHNOM PENH, 28 March — Approximately 570 Cambodian people, mostly children, in northwestern Cambodia's Siem Reap Province got sick after eating bread filled with meat and vegetables on Saturday afternoon, a provincial health chief confirmed.

The incident took place at Chhi Kreng district when NGO World Vision hosted an event for school children and distributed loaves of bread filled with meat and vegetables to each of participants, said Kros Sarath, chief of Siem Reap Provincial Health Department.

"About 570 people, most of them were children, got dizzy and vomited after eating the contaminated bread," he told *Xinhua* over telephone. "According to a preliminary conclusion, it was suspected that the vegetables, especially cucumbers, which were put in the bread, were contaminated with insecticide as a result of failure to properly clean."

He said the provincial health staff arrived at the scene soon after the incident and provided on-site intravenous injections to those ill-fated people.

"No one is in serious condition, and about 30 percent of them have recovered and returned home," he said. Checks on food are rare in Cambodia, where safety regulations are lax.

In January, about 25 school children in southern Cambodia's Takeo Province got sick after eating fried rice at a food stall near the school, and in October last year, around 283 people, mostly children and females, suffered diarrhea and vomiting after having traditional noodle soup at an engagement party in central Kampong Thom Province.—*Xinhua*

Crowds swell to bid farewell to Singapore's founder Lee ahead of funeral

SINGAPORE, 28 March — Thousands of people gathered in Singapore on Saturday to bid farewell to former leader Lee Kuan Yew in an unprecedented wave of sympathy after authorities had to temporarily suspend queues overnight to manage surging crowds.

The waiting time to enter Singapore's Parliament House where Lee's body was laying in state was as long as 6 hours just before midday on Saturday, a rare sight in a city where public gatherings are tightly controlled.

Mourners walked by Lee's coffin, draped with a Singaporean flag and flanked by five uniformed military officers, in silence. Many bowed. Some saluted. Others sobbed.

"In our lifetime this is probably the only person who will garner this kind of respect from everyone, so I think it's something that we should do," said Ho Shaw Ming as he waited in line.

Lee, Singapore's first prime minister, died on Monday at the age of 91.

He is credited with transforming the city-state from a British colonial outpost into one of the world's wealthiest nations, with a strong, pervasive role for the state and little patience for dissent.

Commercial activity in Singapore, known for its shopping and food, is expected to slow significantly on Sunday. Several shopping mall owners and big stores such as Tangs and Metro said they would close on the day of the funeral.

The casino at Genting Singapore's Resorts World Sentosa will be closed on Sunday from 2 pm to 6 pm as a mark of respect, it said on its website.

***People pay their respects to the late first prime minister Lee Kuan Yew at a community tribute site in Singapore on 28 March, 2015.*—REUTERS**

Lee's funeral procession will begin at about 12.30 pm (0430 GMT) on Sunday and cover 15.4 km to the National University of Singapore, where funeral services will be held.

Asia-Pacific leaders including Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Australian, Prime Minister Tony Abbott, New Zealand Prime Minister John Key, Indonesian President Joko Widodo and South Korean President Park Geun-hye will be among those attending the services.

The number of visitors to Parliament House has exceeded 300,000, or 5 percent of Singapore's population, since the public viewing opened on Wednesday morning.

More than half a million visitors have flocked to 18 designated community tributes, writing messages of condolence and leaving flowers.

Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and his ministers visited the queues near the parliament house and community centres where people were lining up.

"I am deeply moved by the overwhelming response of people wanting to visit my father's Lying in State at Parliament House," Lee said on his Facebook page.

With elections expected as early as later this year, it was unclear whether the wave of support for the country's founder would generate more votes for Lee's People's Action Party (PAP), which has ruled Singapore since independence.

Income inequality, resentment over immigration and expensive housing were among the issues which knocked the PAP's share of the vote down to 60 percent from 67 percent in elections four years ago.

"Don't expect sympathy votes for the PAP on account of the late Mr Lee," said Eugene Tan, associate professor of law at the Singapore Management University.

"The PAP instead has the unenviable task of unequivocally showing that they are noble and worthy successors to the late Mr Lee and his founding generation of leaders."

Reuters

Shopping mall near Pentagon evacuated over bomb threat

WASHINGTON, 28 March — A shopping centre near the headquarters of the US Department of Defence in Arlington, Virginia, was evacuated on Friday afternoon after authorities received a bomb threat.

The Pentagon Centre shopping plaza and roads surrounding the area were closed after an anonymous bomb threat was made around 12:30 pm ET, the Arlington County Police Department said. Local media reported that bomb-sniffing dogs were searching the area. "It's going to take a while to do a full sweep just because of sheer size of the centre," Arlington County Police Department spokesman Dustin Sternbeck said.

The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority said the entrance to the Metrorail station near the shopping centre was closed due to police activity. —*Xinhua*

Pentagon official defends Marine base relocation plan in Okinawa

WASHINGTON, 28 March — A senior US defence official defended on Friday a plan to relocate a Marine Corps airfield within Japan's Okinawa Prefecture despite local objections to the way the central government is pushing ahead with the project.

David Shear, assistant secretary of defence, described the plan to relocate the Futenma Air Station as the "best" from the viewpoint of military operations and in terms of benefit to people in Okinawa at an event in Washington.

Speaking at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies think tank, Shear said he was "heartened" by statements by Japanese leaders including Prime Minister Shinzo Abe that the current plan is the only solution to replacing the Futenma base.

Shear commended Abe's government for being committed to seeing the relocation facility "through."

Shear made the remarks as the Okinawa prefectural government and the central government have been clashing over the construction of a facility in a seaside area to which functions of the Futenma base will be transferred from a congested area in the southern island prefecture.

Kyodo News

UN chief appeals to defence chiefs for "unity and backing" on peacekeeping

UNITED NATIONS, 28 March — The first-ever United Nations Chiefs of Defence Conference was held here on Friday with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appealing to senior military officials for more contributions and political will to boost peacekeeping operation.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (C) addresses the first-ever UN Chiefs of Defence Conference at the UN headquarters in New York on 27 March, 2015. The first-ever United Nations Chiefs of Defence Conference was held here Friday with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appealing to senior military officials for more contributions and political will to boost peacekeeping operation.—XINHUA

"Peacekeeping is a shared global responsibility that advances the world's common interests," Ban said in his remarks at the conference, calling for "more diverse and more quickly available contributions" from member states.

"It also includes additional 'boots on the ground' from developed countries with more technologically advanced militaries, " he noted.

"We need unity and backing," Ban said. "Effective performance demands broad consensus on why, where and how peacekeepers carry out their mandates."

The historic event brings together chiefs of defence and senior military officials from more than 100 member states to discuss issues central to UN peacekeeping as part of a wider process of engagement by the UN with member states to expand the peacekeeping partnership and promote effective and efficient implementation of mandates.

The conference continues throughout today, with Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Herve Ladsous, and Atul Khare, Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, also speaking.

Sun Jianguo, deputy chief of the General Staff of the People's Liberation Army, also attended the event. Ban told the gathered soldiers that threats to peacekeepers "are growing," with more deaths year on year now than ever before.

"Before 2000, there were four times when more than 100 peacekeepers lost their lives in a single year. Since then, we have suffered that tragic toll ten times. Consecutively, 10 times," he said.

After a moment of silence was marked for fallen peacekeepers, Ban said the role of peacekeeping was first and foremost to protect civilians from violence.

"They also support stabilization and the extension of state authority. They strengthen the rule of law. They address gender inequality. They protect human rights," he said.

Xinhua

Iran, powers close in on two-three page nuclear deal; success uncertain

US Secretary of State John Kerry (L), US Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz (2L), Robert Malley (3L), of the US National Security Council, European Union High Representative Federica Mogherini (C), Head of Iranian Atomic Energy Organization Ali Akbar Salehi (2R), Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif (R) and others wait for a meeting at the Beau Rivage Palace Hotel on 27 March, 2015 in Lausanne, Switzerland.
REUTERS

LAUSANNE, (Switzerland) / ANKARA, 28 March — Iran and major powers are close to agreement on a 2- or 3-page accord with specific numbers that would form the basis of a long-term settlement aimed at ending a 12-year standoff over Teheran's nuclear ambitions, officials said on Friday.

Western and Iranian officials familiar with the negotiations between Iran, the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China cautioned that they still had not agreed on the framework of a deal and key details were still being hotly negotiated.

"The sides are very, very close to the final step and it could be signed or agreed and announced verbally," a senior Iranian official familiar with the talks told *Reuters* on condition of anonymity. Other officials echoed the remarks while warning that negotiations in the coming days might still fail.

US Secretary of State John Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif have been discussing the political framework agreement for days in Lausanne, Switzerland. Other foreign ministers from the six-power group are expected to arrive over the weekend.

There were discussions under way about whether to make the 2- or 3-page document public, but two officials said it would be released. It was expected that some details of the agreement would be kept confidential, officials noted. "The plan is for the 2-3 page (document) to be made public," one official said. Earlier a senior US official said it was now time for Iran to make the necessary hard decisions to make a deal possible.

If agreed, the document would cover key numbers for a future nuclear agreement between Iran and the six — such as the maximum number and types of uranium enrichment centrifuges Iran could operate, the size of uranium stockpiles it could maintain, types of atomic research and development it could undertake and details on lifting sanctions that have crippled Iran's economy.

One of the key numbers in the agreement is expected to be the duration of the agreement, which the officials said would have to be in place for more than 10 years. And once the main agreement would expire, there would likely be a period of special UN monitoring for Teheran's nuclear programme.

The goal of the negotiations, under way for nearly 18 months, is to hammer out an accord under which Iran would halt sensitive nuclear work for at least a decade in exchange for lifting sanctions, with the ultimate aim of ending Iran's 12-year nuclear standoff with the West and reducing the risk of a war in the Middle East.

The two sides have been working to agree on a preliminary framework accord by the end of March, to be followed by a comprehensive deal by 30 June that includes all technical details on limits Teheran would place on sensitive nuclear activities in exchange for the easing of sanctions.

It remains unclear whether the agreement between the two sides will be formally signed or agreed to verbally. The Iranians have been opposed to the idea of a written agreement, fearing that committing to something in writing would limit Teheran's negotiating space while the technical details would be worked out in the coming months.

Even if such a preliminary deal is accepted in the coming days, the officials said, there was no guarantee the two sides would be able to agree on the many technical details by 30 June. The negotiations could still fall apart afterward, they cautioned.

There are some details that have been out in the open for months. An Iranian government website said in November that Washington could let Iran keep some 6,000 early-generation centrifuges, down from nearly 10,000 now in operation.

Along with lifting UN sanctions, officials say the biggest sticking point in the talks remains centrifuge research and development. They say Iran wants to conduct advanced centrifuge research at the underground Fordow site, but the Western powers dislike the idea of Iran operating centrifuges there.

The deal would call for US, European Union and United Nations Sanctions to be lifted gradually according to a specific schedule. Some sanctions could be lifted very quickly, the officials said.

Iran denies allegations by Western powers and their allies that it is seeking the capability to produce atomic weapons.—*Reuters*

Ukraine arrests Turkish cargo ship over Crimea port call

KIEV, 28 March — Ukrainian authorities have arrested a Turkish-owned cargo ship and detained its captain over a visit it made to a port in Crimea after Russian annexed the peninsula from Ukraine last year.

Prosecutors said the Tuvalu-registered 5,095 deadweight tonne ship *Kanton* was being held in the Ukrainian port of Kherson. They said the crew could go to jail for up to three years and the ship could be seized.

The vessel's Istanbul-based owner, Master Shipping Ltd, called the detention illegal.

Russia seized Crimea shortly after Ukrainian protesters toppled a pro-Moscow president in February 2014. Ukraine has said any visit to Crimean ports is illegal, and a ban came into effect in July last year.

Master Shipping told *Reuters* on Friday that the *Kanton* called at Sevastopol in Crimea on 24 July, 2014 to pick up a cargo of feed barley.

But it said this was before Ukraine had notified international shipping companies and insurers of the ban, and that Ukrainian authorities had later acknowledged this and cleared the vessel to enter other ports.

"The Ukrainian authorities have, despite their written permission, forcefully seized our papers and made the decision to detain our vessel after preventing the vessel's departure for 17 days," it said.

Master Shipping said the 12 crew members, mostly Turkish nationals, were on board the vessel, and none of them had been involved in the disputed Crimean visit.

Reuters

People clear up the blocked road after the landslides in Chosica district of Lima, Peru, on 27 March, 2015. At least nine people were killed and four others were missing in Peru after a massive landslide buried parts of a town amid heavy rains on the last hours, Operations Centre of National Emergency said on Tuesday.—XINHUA

India to evacuate nationals stranded in Yemen

NEW DELHI, 28 March — Indian government is preparing to carry out an evacuation from Yemen by sending two ships to the coast of the country to bring home Indians stranded there, officials said here Friday.

The Indian Ministry of External Affairs has already set up a 24- hour control room to monitor the situation and respond to queries, said the officials.

Since all the airports in Yemen are closed, the plan is to bring people to the neighbouring country Djibouti by ships and from there to India by aircraft, or bring Indians to Saudi Arabia by road before flying them home, a government release said.

Indians from the southern state Kerala residing in Yemen informed the government that the passports and certificates of those working in hospitals have been held back, which is creating problems for their return to home.

Some 3,000 Indians, mostly from Kerala, are staying in Yemen.

Saudi Arabia and some other Muslim countries have launched a military operation against rebel forces in Yemen.—*Xinhua*

Japan is set to extend sanctions on North Korea

TOKYO, 28 March— Japan will likely extend its sanctions against North Korea because of Pyongyang's delay in reporting into its abductions of Japanese citizens decades ago, the *Nikkei* business daily reported on Saturday without citing sources.

The government is poised to decide next Tuesday on an extension to a trade embargo on North Korea, a ban on North Korea charter flights and a prohibition on North Korean ships entering Japanese ports, the Nikkei said.

Japanese government officials were unavailable for comment.

In 2002, North Korea admitted kidnapping 13 Japanese citizens in the 1970s and 1980s to help train spies.

Five of those abductee and their families later returned to Japan.

North Korea said that the remaining eight were dead and that the issue was closed, but Japan has been pressing for more information.

Last July, Japan lifted some of sanctions against North Korea, such as easing travel curbs, in return for Pyongyang's reopening of an investigation into the abductees.

Tokyo will leave the partial easing of some sanctions unchanged but wants to keep pressure on Pyongyang for not disclosing facts about the kidnappings and the launch of missiles early this month, the *Nikkei* report said.

North Korea was supposed to issue an initial report on a probe into the kidnappings last September but postponed it saying the investigation was at an early stage.

There were informal talks among officials between the two sides this month and Japan's delegation threatened to impose tougher sanctions if the report on the abduction probe was delayed further, the *Nikkei* said.

Reuters

IATA airlines group calls for full civil probe of French crash

PARIS, 28 March — Airline industry body IATA on Friday called for a full civil accident investigation of this week's crash of a Germanwings (LHAG.DE) aircraft in the French Alps.

"The interests of aviation safety are best served by considerations made in light of full and complete information and understanding of any accident, or issue concerning safety or security," IATA said in a statement.

It added that thorough accident investigation is a pillar of the industry's safety performance.

Reuters

Photo taken with a mobile phone shows the crash site of a helicopter in Santa Maria Chilchota municipality, Oaxaca state, south of Mexico, on 27 March, 2015. According to local press, the helicopter crashed on Friday, leaving at least 3 people dead and another injured. —XINHUA

US welcomes Israel release of withheld Palestinian tax revenue

WASHINGTON, 28 March — The United States said on Friday it welcomed Israel's decision to release withheld tax revenue to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

"This is an important step that will benefit the Palestinian people and help stabilize the situation in the West Bank," State Department spokesman Jeff Rathke said at a press briefing.

"We hope that both sides will be able to build on this and work together to lower tensions and find a constructive path forward," Rathke said.

The move was made due to "humanitarian considerations and an overall view toward serving Israel's interests at this juncture," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement.

In January, Israel halted the transfer of tax revenues it collected on behalf of the PNA as a punitive measure following the Palestinian bid to join the International Criminal Court in The Hague.

Since then, some 500 million US dollars have been frozen, plunging the Palestinian economy into a major financial crisis, with a dangerously exposed banking system and a 40-60 percent cut in the salaries of the PNA's employees.—*Xinhua*

Saudi-led air strikes target fresh Houthi advance on Aden — residents

Aden, 28 March — Saudi-led air forces struck a convoy of Yemeni Houthi fighters advancing on Aden from the east on Saturday, residents said, and the Saudi navy evacuated diplomats from the southern port city. The Iranian-allied Shi'ite Muslim Houthi fighters, seeking to overthrow the Western- and Saudi-allied President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, have continued to make gains since the Saudi-led coalition launched air strikes against them early on Thursday.

On Friday, the Houthis and allied army units gained their first foothold on Yemen's Arabian Sea coast by seizing the port of Shaqra, 100km (60 miles) east of Aden, allowing them to open a new front to march on the south's main city.

Residents said a Houthi convoy of armoured vehicles, tanks and military trucks heading along the coastal road to Aden from Shaqra was targeted by warplanes from the Saudi-led coalition before dawn on Saturday, and a number of vehicles were hit. There was no immediate comment from the Houthis, and no details on any casualties were available.

Aden residents said the convoy had been stopped, but the Houthis were sending reinforcements to Shaqra and the advance along the main al-Mukalla-Aden road was expected to resume.

With the prospect looming that Hadi could lose his last refuge in Yemen, Saudi Arabia's navy evacuated dozens of diplomats from the city, Saudi state television reported. It said the foreign envoys had been safely shipped to Saudi Arabia's Red Sea port of Jeddah. —*Reuters*

Death toll from Somalia hotel attack rises to 15, fighting continues

Mogadishu, 28 March — The death toll from an attack by Islamist militants on a hotel in the Somali capital rose to at least 15, police said as fighting continued into early Saturday, with loud explosions heard overnight.

Al Shabaab fighters blasted and shot their way into the popular Hotel Maka Al Mukaram on Friday afternoon, trapping many government officials.

Security personnel, led by a unit from the elite US-trained special forces troops known as "Gaashaan" (Shield) stormed the hotel on Friday evening and fought the attackers into Saturday. "At least 15 people died including Somalia's ambassador to Geneva, and at least 20 others were wounded," Colonel Farah Aden, a senior police officer at the scene, told *Reuters.*

"Those who died include civilians, hotel guards and government soldiers."

Residents evacuate an injured boy after Islamist group al Shabaab attacked Maka Al-Mukaram hotel in Mogadishu, on 27 March, 2015. **Reuters**

Abdiasis Abu Musab, al Shabaab's military operations spokesman, said they had targeted only government officials.

"We killed those who belonged to the government and released the civilians," he told *Reuters* by phone.

Journalists and paramedics were barred from entering the hotel grounds on Saturday and were only allowed to watch from its gate. A *Reuters* photographer said the siege seemed to have subsided, with security forces searching the rooms for fighters and booby traps. Streets surrounding the hotel were sealed off by government and African Union peacekeeping troops.

Al-Qaeda-linked al Shabaab was pushed out of the capital by African peacekeeping forces in 2011, but has kept up guerrilla-style attacks, looking to overthrow the government and impose its strict version of Sharia, or Islamic law, on the country.

An offensive launched last year by African Union forces along with the Somali army has driven the group out of its strongholds in central and southern Somalia, while a series of US drone strikes have killed some of its top leaders.— *Reuters*

Syrian army closes in on city near Lebanese border

Beirut, 28 March — The Syrian army, backed by Hezbollah fighters, closed in on the city of Zabadani near the border with Lebanon on Friday, a Lebanese security source said, and Syrian media said at least 20 insurgents had been killed in the battles to seize high ground.

Violence from Syria's four-year war has regularly tipped over into Lebanon, and militiamen from the Iranian-backed Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim group Hezbollah have been fighting on the side of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Syrian state news agency *SANA*, citing a Syrian military source, said the army had gained control of at least ten "strategic areas" to the west of Zabadani. The military had "managed to kill and injure a large number of terrorists" and destroyed many of their bases, it said.

Those killed included a number of foreign fighters, it added.

The Lebanese television station al-Manar, run by Hezbollah, broadcast footage of Syrian soldiers in a mountainous area using heavy weapons around Zabadani, and showed the body of at least one enemy combatant.

Syrian forces and pro-government fighters have regularly clashed with insurgents in the mountainous area north of the capital Damascus. The rebel groups in the area include al-Qaeda's Syrian wing, the Nusra Front.

Reuters

France to begin push for UN Middle East action in 'coming weeks'

United Nations, 28 March — France plans to start discussions with partners in the "coming weeks" on a United Nations Security Council resolution to lay out parameters for ending the Middle East conflict, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said on Friday.

"I hope that the partners who were reluctant will not be reluctant anymore," said Fabius, referring to the United States, which has traditionally shielded its ally Israel from any action at the UN.

The United States has said it would "reassess" its options on US — Israel relations and Middle East diplomacy after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took a stand last week against Palestinian statehood during his election campaign.

In December, the United States voted against a Palestinian drafted resolution calling for an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem and the establishment of a Palestinian state by late 2017.

In response to Fabius' comments, a US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said: "We're not going to get ahead of any decisions about what the United States would do with regard to potential action at the UN Security Council."

***French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius addresses a United Nations Security Council meeting on the Crisis in the Middle East in his capacity as the current President of the Council at UN headquarters in New York on 27 March, 2015.*—Reuters**

He said Washington continues to engage with key stakeholders, including France, "to find a way forward that advances the interest we and others share in a two state solution."

France, along with Britain and Germany, had also drafted a Security Council resolution late last year to set parameters for ending the conflict, but the text was put on the back burner until after the Israeli elections, which took place last week.

"We have said that these parameters have to be defined and recognized by the Security Council and that obviously the two parties have to discuss, but the discussion will be accompanied by an international effort," Fabius told reporters at the United Nations in New York.

Palestinians seek a state in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem, lands Israel captured in 1967.

Ahead of his re-election, Netanyahu said he would not permit a Palestinian state to be created under his watch and promised to go on building settlements on occupied lands.

Most countries view Israel's settlement building on occupied land as illegal. UN Middle East envoy Robert Serry told the Security Council on Thursday that continued settlement building may have already killed a possible two-state solution.

"Today nothing has moved forward, still development of settlements, the Palestinians are in a more and more difficult situation and we cannot stay like that," Fabius said.

Reuters

Two Saudi pilots eject over Red Sea, rescued with US help: state news

Cairo, 28 March — Two Saudi pilots ejected over the Red Sea on Friday after their fighter plane suffered a technical problem and were rescued with US assistance, state media said.

"A plane of the *F-15S* type was stricken by a technical fault yesterday evening over the Red Sea and the two pilots were forced to use their rescue seats," state news agency *SPA* quoted a defence ministry official saying.

"Praise be to God, the pilots were rescued in coordination with the American side, and the two pilots are in good health and high spirits," the official said.

A US defence official said earlier on Friday that the US military rescued the two Saudi pilots in international waters by a helicopter from Djibouti after Saudi Arabia requested assistance.

Saudi Arabia is leading a coalition of Arab and Gulf countries in the second day of a bombing campaign against Iran-allied Houthi rebels in neighbouring Yemen who are fighting against the Saudi-backed president Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 29 March, 2015

Learning to handle pain part of maturation

By *Aung Khin*

Experiencing pain and learning to respond to it appropriately is a crucial part of the maturation process not only for individuals, but entire societies. A society can only achieve maturity once the people within it themselves become mature.

Diversity, experimentation, stability and order are some of the requirements to obtain maturity for any society.

While maturation, physically, is a series of gradual changes the body undergoes from conception through to death, one's attainment of physical maturity does not necessarily mean they have reached a mature state of mind. Maturity is also determined by our experience throughout life and the way we react to them.

To develop and nurture maturity in children, parents and teachers must help them gain self-confidence through positive reinforcement. Excessively chiding or rebuking children will not foster self-confidence. Just as a fruit needs the right conditions to ripen, children also require appropriate surroundings if they are to develop, physically and mentally, to the point of their potential. They should know their rights, as well as their responsibilities, which change with age.

A child cannot expect all of the same rights as an adult. Parents and teachers should train them to know their rights in line with their ages. If children cannot evaluate their rights, and understand how these rights relate to their level of maturity, there may be some conflicts the children and their parents.

There are different levels of knowledge and education for children. Some of them will see limits and boundaries as unnecessary restrictions on their desires. They may well be excited to widen their horizons, but have a level of confidence that exceeds their experience and abilities.

Similarly, if an entrepreneur wants to expand his business into the international market, he first needs the knowledge and expertise to compete with global firms.

If a person's experiences are too bitter at an early age, they may not properly develop the ability to tolerate and respond appropriately to pain, giving them a negative outlook on life and hindering their ability to see things in perspective. Life is not always a bed of roses. It can be a mix of pain and struggle. But we can overcome the obstacles tactically and pragmatically and reach our goals, provided we have the maturity to do so.

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

The Conquering Spirit

By *Kyi Mun*

Life is not a bed of roses, it is said. It is also said that life is not like going for a picnic, nor is it like embroidering. It is commonly assumed that life is a fight; life is a struggle; or life is a journey. Anyway, life is a long process of unity and struggle of opposites. So, life is made up of both good and bad things, pain and pleasure, gain and loss, joy and sorrow, likes and dislikes, etc. Since life is impermanent and transient and very vulnerable, we have got to have fortitude, resilience, endurance and equanimity, and have the conquering spirit deep down in our being. Ever surrounded by the eight winds, we have got to fortify ourselves with an indomitable spirit. So, let us indulge ourselves in exploring the meanings of the Conquering Spirit as follows:

- **C *for* Courage**
- **O *for* Objective**
- **N *for* Newness of Mind**
- **Q *for* Quality of Character**
- **U *for* Unique Spirit**
- **E *for* Endeavour**
- **R *for* Resourcefulness**
- **I *for* Inspiration**
- **N *for* Never Giving Up**
- **G *for* Going all-out for Victory**

&

- **S *for* Strategy**
- **P *for* Purpose**
- **I *for* Integrity**
- **R *for* Revolutionary**
- **I *for* Initiative**
- **T *for* Tough-mindedness**

*** COURAGE**

Courage means : The ability to do something dangerous, or to face pain or opposition, without showing fear. Synonyms are : Bravery Boldness, Fearlessness, Audacity, Temerity, Indomitability etc. In the Bible it is said; **"Be bold and mighty forces will come to your aid; and "Be strong and of good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed."** It is commonly said that **"If courage is lost, all is lost."** It is also said that cowards die many times. Courage is usually allied with dignity, honor and selflessness.

*** OBJECTIVE**

Objective means : Something that you are trying to achieve. Synonym is goal. In considering : **" How to get what you want, "** how to get is the strategy and what you want is the objective. So, we have got to unambiguously and definitely know what we want most in our life, in our job, and in our relationships. In going on a journey, you must have a definite destination. You must know where you are going and where you want to arrive at.

*** NEWNESS OF MIND**

To have a conquering spirit in our lives, we have got to be transformed by the renewal of our mind. We must dare to walk in newness of mind. We must be always strong-minded with fervor, determination and resolute steadfastness.

*** QUALITY OF CHARACTER**

Character is what you are. So, your character will be determined by the qualities of your :

- Health & Strength
- Vision & Strategy
- Passion & Values
- Selflessness & Service
- Competence & Commitment

*** UNIQUE SPIRIT**

To have a conquering spirit, you have got to have a very strong spirit, stamina, staying power, serenity and selflessness. You must have the spirit of : **"My head is bloody but unbowed; I'm the master of my fate, and I'm the captain of my soul."**

*** ENDEAVOUR**

It is said that : **"Actions are ours : consequences belong to heaven."** It is also said that **"we reap what we sow".** And a Jewish proverb says : **"The wisdom of life is to endure what we must and to change what we can."** The Prince Gautama Siddhattha had proclaimed :

" Let there be all skins,
Let there be all bones,
Let there be all sinews,
Let my life be forfeited,
I'll not rise until
I've attained full enlightenment."

It is said that one of the implied meanings of effort or endeavor is courage.

*** RESOURCEFULNESS**

Man, mind, morale, money, material, method and machine are resources for building business, wealth and success. If we wisely use these resources most effectively, we'll be able to be the movers and shakers for peace, progress, and prosperity.

*** INSPIRATION**

Inspiration, here, means : Encouragement or motivation that excites and enhances desire, enthusiasm, fervor, perseverance and indomitable spirit to have a sustainable conquering spirit. We have got to have hands-on, mind-on and heart-on inspiration, as the saying goes : **"motivators must be motivated and trainers must be trained."** Napoleon Bonaparte had said **"Morale is to material as 3 is to 1."**

*** NEVER GIVING UP**

A person with a conquering spirit will :

"Never give up,
Never give in,
Stand up to it, and
Fight it through to victory"

It is said that : "A quitter never wins, and a winner never quits."

*** GOING ALL-OUT FOR VICTORY**

To be victorious and triumphant, we've got, with all our mind, with all our heart, with all our soul and with all our strengths to:

- **Drive**
- **Strive**
- **Thrive**
- **Arrive**
- **Revive**

*** STRATEGY**

Strategy means : A Plan of Action with a definite objective in mind and backed up by adequate, comprehensive resources. It is a combination of a winning vision and meticulous planning and preparations for securing decisive victory. A strategy should be based on the Eight Principles of:

- Clear-cut, definite objective
- Concentration
- Offensive
- Cooperation
- Economy of Force
- Security
- Surprise
- Mobility

*** PURPOSE**

Purpose means :

(1) The intention, aim or function of something; the thing that something is supposed to achieve.

(2) The ability to plan something and work successfully to achieve it. Synonym is mission, the meaning of which is :

Reason for being. For example, the reason for being a teacher is to teach; and the reason for being a doctor is to heal and cure disease of some sort. So, the purpose of a man of conquering spirit is to secure victory in whatever is aimed at and executed.

*** INTEGRITY**

Integrity means :

(1) The quality of being honest and having strong moral principles:

(2) The state of being whole and not divided.

People with the conquering spirit cannot but seamlessly be integrated with personal uprightness, dignity, honor and self-respect.

*** REVOLUTIONARY**

Revolutionary means :

(1) Involving a great or complete change : a revolutionary idea : a time of rapid and revolutionary change.

(2) A person who starts or supports a revolution. In making a radical, revolutionary transformation of a person's life or a nation's destiny, the conquering spirit is indispensible. A revolutionary change must be effected with the spirit of : "Do or die"; and 'Swim or sink." A catalyst of radical change must have : The resolute determination and capability to turn heaven and earth upside down !

*** INITIATIVE**

Initiative means :

(1) The ability to decide and act on your own without waiting for somebody to tell you what to do.

(2) The power or opportunity to act and gain an advantage before other people do.

The conquering spirit flies with the two wings of resourcefulness and initiative.

*** TOUGH-MINDEDNESS**

A Tough-minded person with a conquering spirit deals with problems and situations in a determined way without being influenced by emotions.

*** CONCLUSION**

Let's strive for health, happiness, harmony and heaven-ward ascendency over peace, progress and prosperity with a conquering spirit !

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

Rice producers need to unite for export promotion of rice

YANGON, 28 March—Growers and sellers in Myanmar's rice industry need to work together to promote their product on the global market, Director-General U Toe Aung Myint of the Trade Promotion Department told the annual general meeting of Myanmar Rice Producers Association on Friday.

Cambodia has penetrated the world market with its top-quality rice, he said.

Myanmar rice producers are aiming to export 4 million tons of rice in 2020, more than tripling income at current export levels, he said.

The association provides technical assistance, good quality crop strains and modern agricultural machinery to local farmers so as to improve rice cultivation and production across the nation.

Aung Thura

Artists aim to help children affected by war in Kachin State

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 28 March—Young artists from minority ethnic backgrounds are planning to hold a collective exhibition here in April to raise funds for children affected by war in Kachin State, one of the show's organisers said Thursday.

The funds will be used to buy food, toys and necessities, said the organiser, a graphic artist who goes by the name ZZDD.

ZZDD, 32, said he wants to help children, who he sees playing a vital role in building a modern, developed country.

"We plan to exhibit at least 15 to 20 paintings in a variety of media to display on sale during the exhibition, with the artists preparing their works for it," he said, adding visitors would see summer-related thoughts represented in the paintings.

"I usually take part in the fund raising activities with my graphic arts," said ZZDD, who is currently displaying works at an exhibition at River Ayeyawady Gallery with other artists.

ZZDD, an ethnic Kachin, has been a graphic artist since 2007. He encouraged aspiring graphic artists to improve their English language skills to get the most from art courses.

Kachin State is the northernmost state of Myanmar. According to the 2014 census, more than 1 million ethnic people live there.—*GNLM*

Improving Myanmar people's access to electricity and communication network to meet increasing demands

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) signed the Loan Agreements of Japanese ODA Loan with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to provide concessional loans of up to a total of 35.178 billion Japanese Yen (approximately US$300 million) in order to assist the implementation of two projects.

These two Loans are to reaffirm JICA's commitment to assisting Myanmar's socio-economic reform process with an emphasis on "people-centered development". Given the electrification ratio at around 30 percent at present and the mobile penetration rate at around 13 percent in 2013, the Government of Myanmar aims to expand the infrastructure network to cover the majority of people as early as possible, such that the real fruits of the socio-economic reform could be provided for people in Myanmar. Furthermore, Myanmar is facing huge challenges in terms of "quality of infrastructure" (138th out of 144 countries in the Global Competitiveness Index (2014-2015)), which is essential to attract investments. Especially, mobile telephone subscription is ranked the lowest among 144 countries.

"National Power Transmission Network Development Project Phase I" aims to increase the power transmission capacity and improve system reliability by construction of high voltage substations along the national power grid connecting the north to the south, thereby availing the electric power to the areas and people in need. "Communication Network Improvement Project" is to increase communication capacity by improving communication network between and within Yangon, Nay Pyi Taw, and Mandalay, thereby enabling the increasing number of mobile and internet users to have smooth and reliable connections.

GNLM

Mdy CCI signs MoU with Dalian business council for export and economic cooperation

MANDALAY, 28 March—Mandalay Region Chambers of Commerce and Industry held a meeting with the Dalian Business Council, from China's Zhongshan region, in Mandalay on 26 March.

Chairman of the chamber U Aung Than, Vice Chairman (international relations) U Kyaw Min and officials held a talk with the director of the Dalian council and signed a memorandum of understanding on exports and economic cooperation.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

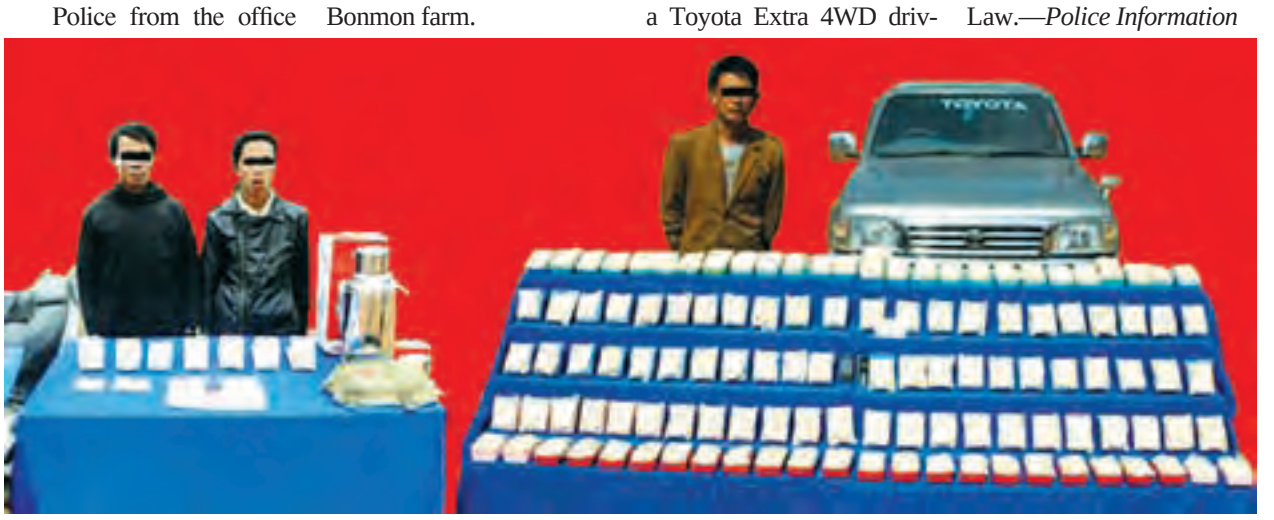
Police seize heroin, stimulant tablets in Lashio Tsp

NAY PYI TAW, 28 March—Police seized more than two kilograms of heroin and nearly 200 stimulant tablets during two raids in Lashio Township, Shan State, on 25 March.

Police from the office of the Deputy Commander of Shan State Police Force and No 24 Anti-Drug Squad stopped a motorcycle carrying suspects San Ohn and Maung Hsan on Muse-Mandalay Union Highway near Bonmon farm.

After searching the motorcycle, the police seized 0.91 kilo of heroin from seven soap cases and 190 stimulant tablets.

The police also seized 1.416 kilos of heroin from a Toyota Extra 4WD driven by Kyan Kwe Chen near the same farm the same day. The police filed lawsuits against Maung Hsan, San Ohn and Kyan Kwe Chen under the Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Police Information*



Strawberry growers vying to be Japan's top brand

Foreign tourists look at Amaou strawberries from the southwestern Japanese prefecture of Fukuoka on 20 March, 2015, at Mitsukoshi department store in Tokyo's Ginza shopping district. Growers of giant, juicy and sweet strawberries have been competing to make their produce the country's top strawberry brand in recent years.
KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 28 March — Growers of giant, juicy, sweet strawberries are competing to be Japan's top strawberry brand, reflecting an increase in demand both at home and abroad, as well as efforts to promote local produce and stimulate prefectural economies.

Often bought as a gift item for weddings, birthdays or parties, strawberries can command high prices in Japan where one strawberry can fetch as much as 50,000 yen ($419) on an online shopping site.

Reflecting heated competition for quality improvement, some 50 new strawberry varieties have been registered in Japan since 2011, bringing the total number of brands to 253 as of March, according to the farm ministry. Brightly coloured, succulent strawberries are usually sold at Japanese department stores or fruit specialty retailers, providing strawberry lovers with a feast for the eyes and stomach.

In the race for high quality, Amaou strawberries from Fukuoka Prefecture in southwestern Japan are a front-runner, boasting the highest average sales price per kilogram of about 1,200 yen in 2013 among major domestic producers. The brand name is a kind of acronym for the Japanese words "akai" (red), "marui" (round), "ookii" (big) and "umai" (delicious). At Mitsukoshi department store in Tokyo's upscale Ginza shopping district, Amaou strawberries were prominently displayed with price tags ranging from 1,620 yen to 5,400 yen for a box of 10 to 12.

"The taste of Fukuoka's Amaou is an amazing balance of sweet and acid, that's why the variety attracts so many customers," said 47-year-old Toyoharu Komine, head of a Sun Fruits Co shop in the department store, adding the product also attracts tourists from the rest of Asia and Middle Eastern countries.

Leung Kwai-kuen, a 42-year-old Hong Kong traveller who came to Japan with his father, bought two boxes of Amaou strawberries, saying, "Japan's strawberries looks so juicy and cute, so we want to buy some for our relatives."

Closing in on Amaou are the newly developed Skyberry strawberries from Tochigi Prefecture, north of Tokyo, where the yield of strawberries is the highest among Japan's 47 prefectures. Tochigi farmers spent 17 years to produce Skyberry strawberries, which have a nice aroma and weigh roughly 25 grams each.

Shipping has just begun. At the flagship store of fruits specialty retailer Takano Co in Tokyo's Shinjuku district, Skyberry strawberries were selling for 500 yen apiece. The cone-shaped, bright red Skyberry was also used to make strawberry parfaits at the Takano fruits parlor, becoming one of the most popular items on the menu.

"We sold a record 320 strawberry parfaits priced at around 1,700 yen each in one day when we launched the product in February," said Naoko Kubo, an official of the Shinjuku Takano.

At a Skyberry farm in Sano, Tochigi, farm owner Kohei Shinozaki said he is happy that consumers are satisfied with his produce, but says he cannot take time off and that great care is needed to grow the strawberries.

Other prefectures are also working hard to grow high-quality strawberries, with the aim of boosting their profile and as well as the regional economy.

Yamanashi Prefecture, west of Tokyo, has created white strawberries with the romantic brand name Hatsukoi no Kaori (Scent of First Love) that are juicy and sweet tasting. The colour on the surface and inside is white, but the seeds are red.

Ehime Prefecture in western Japan, which is known as Japan's leading producer of citrus fruits, spent around 10 years to develop the Akai Shizuku (Red Drop) brand of strawberries, which have a slightly sour taste that appeals to grownup consumers.

Shizuoka Prefecture in central Japan has developed the Kirapika (Glitter) strawberries as a successor to its Beni Hoppe (Red Cheek) brand. The product has a jewel-like glitter and its growers are eager to beat rival Amaou.—*Kyodo News*

A fruit tart using "Akai Shizuku," a variety of strawberries produced in Ehime Prefecture, is shown in Tokyo on 25 Feb, 2015. Prefectural governments in Japan are aggressively promoting locally produced high-quality strawberries. —KYODO NEWS

Toyota's Aqua ranks top in compact fuel efficiency for 3rd year

TOKYO, 28 March —Toyota Motor Corp's Aqua hybrid ranked top in fuel efficiency among compact vehicles for the third year in a row in 2014, the government said on Friday.

The Aqua hybrid achieves 37.0 kilometres per liter, according to the 2014 ranking released by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism.

Honda Motor Co's Fit hybrid ranked second, achieving 36.4 km per liter, followed by Honda's Grace hybrid at 34.4 km per liter. There were nine hybrid vehicles in the top 10, with Mazda Motor Corp.'s Demio diesel model ranking ninth. The most fuel-efficient minivehicles were Suzuki Motor Corp.'s Alto and Mazda's Carol, both achieving 37.0 km per liter.

Taking the No 3 slot were Daihatsu Motor Co's Mira e:S, Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd's Subaru Pleo Plus and Toyota's Pixis Epoch, all of which achieve 35.2 km per liter. The ranking covered new passenger vehicles on the market as of the end of 2014.

Kyodo News

Honda corrects domestic auto production figures for February

TOKYO, 28 March — Honda Motor Co on Friday corrected its domestic auto production figures for February, saying output fell 25.1 percent from a year earlier to 63,593 units.

The company reported on Wednesday that its domestic auto production in the month declined 32.6 percent to 57,197 units.

Accordingly, the combined domestic production of Honda and seven other Japanese carmakers in February fell 5.0 percent from a year earlier to 778,341 units. Data released on Wednesday by the eight companies showed their domestic production had fallen 5.8 percent to 771,945 units.—*Kyodo News*

Liberia's sole remaining known Ebola patient dies

MONROVIA, 28 March — A woman who was Liberia's sole remaining known Ebola patient died on Friday at a treatment center in the capital, said Francis Ketteh, acting head of the country's Ebola response team.

The case was Liberia's first in weeks and it set back efforts to halt a virus that has killed more than 10,000 people in Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone. Authorities say the woman may have contracted Ebola through sex with a survivor.

"We have been able to trace the people she came in contact with," Ketteh said. "We call on everyone to follow the Ebola preventative measures."

Health officials have warned the general population that even after areas are declared free of the disease, new cases are possible through sexual transmission.

Liberia remains vulnerable to cases imported from Guinea and Sierra Leone. Guinea has reported a rash of new cases of the disease, which had appeared to be on the wane.

Before the woman fell ill, the Liberian government had hoped to declare the country Ebola-free next month, 42 days after the last patient tested negative for a second time, which would mark double the length of the virus's incubation period.

Reuters

Eyeliner too close to the eye leads to contamination

TORONTO, 28 March — Eyeliner applied on the inside of the lash line is very likely to move into the eye itself and cause symptoms, according to a small study that captured migrating makeup on video.

Eye doctors often see patients coming into clinics with eyeliner residue stuck to contact lenses or trapped in the coating over their eyes called the tear film, said Alison Ng, a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Waterloo in Canada who led the study. "We wanted to look at how differently eyeliner migrated into the tear film when applied in two different ways: inside the lash line and outside of the lash line," Ng said in an email. Ng and her colleagues recruited three female subjects from the School of Optometry and Vision Sciences at Cardiff University in Wales. The participants were between ages 26 and 30 and had no known eye conditions. The volunteers were assigned to one of two groups, those applying eyeliner inside the lash line, close to the eye, and those applying eyeliner to the skin outside of the lash line, further from the eye. They returned the next day and received eyeliner in the opposite location.

The researchers took video of each participant's eyes five to 10 minutes after applying makeup and counted how many particles of eyeliner moved into the eye. They found that between 15 and 30 percent more particles moved into the eye when eyeliner was applied to the inside of the lash line. The makeup also moved more quickly into the eye when eyeliner was applied inside the lash line. A second round of videotaping two hours after applying the makeup showed there was little to no eyeliner remaining in the tear film.

Ng's team writes in Eye and Contact Lens that theirs is the first study to prove that particles from pencil eyeliner move into the eye.—*Reuters*

US-Russian crew reaches space station for year-long stay

CAPE CANAVERAL, 28 March — A Russian Soyuz rocket blasted off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on Friday, sending a US-Russia crew to the *International Space Station* for a year-long flight, a NASA Television broadcast showed.

The capsule holding NASA astronaut Scott Kelly, 51, and cosmonauts Mikhail Kornienko, 54, and Gennady Padalka, 56, slipped into a docking port on the station's Poisk module at 9:33 pm EDT/0133 GMT. The trio blasted off about six hours earlier. Kelly and Kornienko are slated to make the first year-long stay on the orbital outpost, double the current mission durations. Padalka, who is making his fifth flight, will return to Earth in September after racking up 878 days in space, setting a new record for the total amount of time anyone has spent in space.

Four Soviet-era cosmonauts lived on the now-defunct Mir space station for a year or longer, but the missions, which concluded in 1999, did not have the sophisticated medical equipment that will be used during *International Space Station* investigations, NASA said.

Scientists are interested in seeing how the human body fares during longer stays in space, as the United States and other countries begin planning for multi-year missions to Mars.

In addition to more exposure to radiation, astronauts experience bone and muscle loss and changes in their cardiovascular, immune and other systems.

Kelly and Kornienko will participate in a battery of experiments before, during and after their flight to assess psychological and physiological changes from being in microgravity for a year.

A third participant is Kelly's identical twin brother, Mark Kelly, a former NASA astronaut who will serve as a ground-based subject for genetic and other studies.

"The classic question is 'How much of our health and our behaviour is determined by our genes, and how much by our environment?' — the nature versus nurture discussion," Craig Kundrot, deputy chief scientist of NASA's Human Research Programme, said in a NASA interview.

"In this case, we've got two genetically identical individuals and we can monitor what kind of changes occur in Mark in an ordinary lifestyle and compare that to the changes that we see in Scott in flight," he said.

While no definitive conclusions can be made from a study of a single set of twins, scientists hope the experiments may provide clues for follow-up investigations.

The station, a $100 billion project of 15 nations, is a research laboratory that flies about 260 miles (418 km) above Earth.

Reuters

Terminator-style transformable machine developed in China

BEIJING, 28 March — Chinese scientists have developed liquid metal machines that can change form like the shape-shifting T-1000robot in the movie Terminator 2.

Researchers from the Technical Institute of Physics and Chemistry at the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the medical school of Tsinghua University found a liquid metal can "eat" substances and then propel itself like a self-fueled motor.

The finding, which may pave the way for the development of a liquid metal robot, was published in the *Advanced Materials journal.*

Scientists found that if the machines "ate" a small piece of aluminum a liquid metal ball formed with a diameter of 5 millimetres. This could move spontaneously in various solutions and structured channels for more than an hour at a speed of 5 centimetres per second.

"The biomimetic mollusk is highly self-adaptive and closely conforms to the geometrical space it is in," scientists wrote.

The power of the liquid metal motor comes from the endogenous electric field of liquid alloys and metal "food," and the hydrogen generated by the electrochemical reactions.

Based on the theory, researchers have developed several liquid metal machines that can move in alkalescent, acidic or neutral electrolytes.—*Xinhua*

Yahoo, Microsoft extend search partnership talks for 30 days

SAN FRANCISCO, 28 March — Yahoo Inc and Microsoft Corp agreed to extend by 30 days the deadline to re-negotiate a ten year search deal, as the two Internet companies attempt to revamp a thorny partnership crafted by former chief executives.

The search partnership, which took effect in 2010, allowed the companies to negotiate changes or to terminate the arrangement entirely after five years. Under the terms of the deal, the companies had 30 days to make changes following 23 February.

According to a filing with the US Securities and Exchange Commission on Friday, Yahoo and Microsoft mutually agreed to extend that deadline to a 60-day period following 23 February. "We value our partnership with Microsoft and continue discussions about plans for the future. We have nothing further to announce at this time," Yahoo said in a statement.

A Yahoo logo is pictured in front of a building in Rolle, 30 km (19 miles) east of Geneva, in this file picture taken on 12 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Microsoft declined to comment. It was not immediately clear if the extension signalled progress or lack of consensus between Yahoo CEO Marissa Mayer and Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella. The announcement to extend the talks comes a few days after Nadella's mother passed away in Hyderabad, India, according to a report in *The Economic Times.*

Yahoo and Microsoft began a 10-year search partnership in 2010, in a deal crafted by former Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer and former Yahoo CEO Carol Bartz. The two companies hoped their combined efforts could mount a more competitive challenge to Google Inc, the world's No 1 search engine. The partnership has not lived up to expectations. Google still controls roughly two-thirds of the US search market, while Microsoft and Yahoo's combined share of the market is essentially unchanged at roughly 30 percent.

Yahoo's Mayer, who joined Yahoo in 2012 and who has been critical of the deal in the past, tried to hold off on adopting Microsoft search technology in certain markets in 2013. A court ruled at the time that Yahoo must use Microsoft's search technology.

Reuters

BlackBerry sees part of software growth coming from acquisitions

WATERLOO, (Ontario), 28 March — BlackBerry Ltd is likely to see a part of its targeted software revenue growth in the coming fiscal year come from the acquisition of companies that will allow it to sell more value-added services, Chief Executive John Chen said on Friday.

"Now that we have a cash generation capability, we are going to invest and some of the growth is going to be inorganic," said Chen, who has hung his hat on the company making $600 million (403 million pounds) in software revenues in the current fiscal year. "We are looking to buy a company, acquisition is part of our strategy this year," he said speaking with media after BlackBerry posted a surprise fiscal fourth quarter profit and said its cash position rose to $3.27 billion.

He said any acquisitions are likely to be focused around the security and enterprise segment.

BlackBerry made a couple of strategic acquisitions last year that have allowed it to sell such value-added services. In July, BlackBerry announced it was buying Secusmart, a privately held German firm that specializes in voice and data encryption, used by the German government and other customers.

In September, it acquired Movirtu, a UK-based tech start-up whose software allows users to have two phone numbers on the same device with a single SIM card.

The purchases have helped BlackBerry ramp up its portfolio of services that cater to the needs of its core base of clients, like corporations and government agencies. Chen said that while there remains the chance that revenue may weaken slightly from current levels, he is fairly confident that revenue is at, or near its nadir and is likely to stabilize at these levels, before beginning to rise later this year. He also said device shipments likely bottomed in the last quarter, and should tick higher from here. He noted US carriers only began to get shipments of the BlackBerry Classic a month ago.

Chen said roughly 90 percent of device shipments in the last quarter were newer higher-margin devices like the Classic and Passport.

"I feel comfortable in my winning chances, more so now than a year ago," said Chen. "Partly because of products, partly due to our sales force, partly because of partners, and also because many are staring to feel good about us being around. A year ago that was a problem - that's why making money and generating cash is so important."—*Reuters*

Eight security personnel, four militants killed in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 28 March — At least eight security personnel and four militants were killed and many others injured in separate incidents of bomb blasts and clashes in Pakistan on Friday, local media and officials said.

The worst attack took place in the country's southern port city of Karachi in the morning where two policemen were killed and 15 others injured in a bomb explosion.

Senior Superintendent Police, Rao Anawar, said that some unknown militants blew up explosive materials fixed on a motorbike with a remote controlled device as soon as a police bus passed by it and fled the scene.

In a separate incident, four policemen were killed when some unknown militants ambushed their vehicle in Loralai area, a main district in the country's southwest Balochistan province.

In another incident in Loralai, some unknown gunmen shot sown a police officer when he was travelling to the country's east Punjab province by a passenger van. Police said that the militants forced the officer to alight from the van and opened fire at him, leaving the body at the main highway.

Fourth attack happened in South Waziristan agency where two soldiers were killed and two others injured when their vehicle hit a landmine.

In another incident in Karachi, four militants of a banned outfit were killed in a gunbattle with police.

Officials said that the cops conducted a search operation on an intelligence tip-off of presence of the terrorists who were involved in activities of target killings, bomb blasts and extortion in the city.

No group claimed responsibility for any of the attacks yet.

Xinhua

Police officials inspect the blast site in southern Pakistani port city of Karachi, on 27 March, 2015. —XINHUA

Japan, India firms in talks to set up joint company to produce US-2

MUMBAI / NEW DELHI, 28 March — The Japanese manufacturer of *US-2 amphibious* aircraft operated by the Self-Defence Forces has entered talks with multiple Indian firms to set up a joint company in the event Tokyo and New Delhi reach an agreement on joint production of the plane, sources familiar with the matter said on Friday.

Japan and India have stepped up talks over potential *US-2* exports since Tokyo eased its rules on exports of defence equipment and technology last April. If bilateral talks go without a hitch, it would mark the first time for Japan to export finished defence equipment to a foreign country.

ShinMaywa Industries Ltd, a Hyogo Prefecture-based manufacturer, is in talks with multiple companies including Indian multinational conglomerate Mahindra Group, the sources said. ShinMaywa is also considering building a factory in a coastal area in India for maintenance. Japanese Defence Minister Gen Nakatani and his Indian counterpart Manohar Parrikar are expected to discuss India's potential purchase of *US-2*s when they meet in Tokyo on Monday.

The *US-2*, which costs roughly 12 billion yen ($100 million) can take off and land on water even in bad weather and be used in rescue operations. For a deal to be clinched, India has told Japan that it wants to buy two *US-2*s built in Japan, and then jointly produce around 10 more in India, according to the sources.—*Kyodo News*

Nigerians vote in first genuine contest since end of dictatorship

ABUJA, 28 March — Nigerians vote on Saturday in what looks set to be the first genuine electoral contest since the end of military rule in 1999, one in which an opposition aspirant has a fighting chance of unseating the incumbent President Goodluck Jonathan.

Jonathan, seeking a second elected term, faces former military ruler and main opposition candidate Muhammadu Buhari in a tense race with an electorate divided along ethnic, regional and in some cases sectarian lines.

The vote is also seen as a referendum on the former zoology professor's record, the most blazing issues being rampant corruption and insecurity.

Twelve other minor candidates are also running.

Polls open across 119,973 polling stations at 8 am (0700 GMT) for accreditation, then actual voting starts at 1.30 pm and continues until the last person has voted. That could drag well into the next day — 56.7 million voters are eligible.

A fair, credible and peaceful poll would be a new chapter in the often troubled history of Africa's most populous nation, biggest economy and top oil producer, a past blighted by graft, secessionist movements, military coups and in the last six years an Islamist Boko Haram insurgency that has killed thousands.

The poisonous rhetoric emanating from both sides' campaigns, and some scuffles and shootings ahead of the poll, have raised fears its knife-edge closeness could be a catalyst for violence.

When Buhari, a northern Muslim, lost to Jonathan, a southern Christian and son of a canoe carver in the oil producing Niger Delta, in 2011, it triggered rioting in the mostly Muslim north that killed 800 people and rendered 65,000 homeless.

Fearing a contested poll could spill even more blood this time, world powers, including US President Barack Obama, British Prime Minister David Cameron and the European Union are pressuring both sides to chill the tempers of their supporters.—*Reuters*

Newspaper headlines are seen on a newspaper at a vendor's stand along a road, in Katsina city on 27 March, 2015. —REUTERS

British government tightens travel warning on Kenya

A tourist rides on a camel's back at the Jomo Kenyatta public beach in Kenya's coastal city of Mombasa on 24 March, 2013. REUTERS

NAIROBI, 28 March — Britain toughened its warning to citizens travelling to Kenya, telling them on Friday to avoid most coastal resorts including the region's main airport at Mombasa, another blow to the east African country's battered tourist industry.

The previous advice told Britons to avoid a smaller portion of the coast, areas near the Somali border and parts of Nairobi, citing threats including Somali Islamist group Al Shabaab, who were behind the deadly raid on Nairobi's Westgate shopping mall in 2013.

The new warning, published on a British government website, indicated only a small area of the coast was now safe to visit.

The revision was issued just over a week after Kenyan officials urged visiting British Foreign Minister Philip Hammond to lift the advisory to help the struggling tourist industry, which has been hurt by a series of attacks.

Kenya's government made no immediate comment on the new advice from Britain, one of its biggest source of tourists.

Australia warned its citizens on Friday that terrorists might be planning an attack in Nairobi. The new British warning did not mention any specific threats of an attack.

"We don't let political or economic considerations determine our travel advice," said Stephen Burns, spokesman at the British High Commission in Nairobi.

"Our advice is driven solely by our objective assessment of the level of risk to British nationals in Kenya. It is kept under constant review," he said.

Kenya's government has criticized the warnings, saying its security forces are thwarting attacks.

In Nairobi last week, Hammond said more security cooperation would be needed to help in any review of the British travel advisory. Diplomats have accused Kenyan authorities of not doing enough to share security information.

Britain helps train and support Kenya's security forces. Other Western states, such as the United States which has also issued a travel advisory, offer similar support.

Kenya, which offers palm-fringed beaches and safaris, has long relied on tourist dollars as a valuable source of foreign exchange. The downturn in visitors has put pressure on the shilling and forced some hotels out of business.

In 2013, the al Shabaab attack on Nairobi's Westgate mall left 67 dead. The group has also carried out attacks since then on the coast and along the Somali border, killing scores.—*Reuters*

China to help Africa strengthen post-Ebola health system

BEIJING, 28 March — China will help Africa with its public health system post-Ebola, said a Chinese official on Friday at a China-Africa health roundtable.

Lin Songtian, director of the Chinese Foreign Ministry's African Affairs Department, made the remarks at the three-day Fifth International Roundtable on China-Africa Health Collaboration held in Beijing, which will end Saturday.

Lin said China was studying the support it could offer Africa, adding China will help the African Union build a disease prevention and control centre, which would link epidemic surveillance facilities in each member countries. In terms of capacity building, Lin suggested that more scholarships could be granted to African health professionals and students for them to study in China, as well more training offered to Chinese health aid workers dispatched to the African continent.

A policy recommendation on China-Africa health cooperation was put forward at the roundtable, which included suggestions such as the two sides should boost cooperation in medicine and vaccine production, diagnostics, health financing instruments, and enhanced dialogues and knowledge exchange.

Ren Minghui, director of the department of international cooperation of the National Health and Family Planning Commission, said China had a unique role to play in supporting African health development as it was capable of producing high-quality and low-cost medicines and vaccines. China was among the first to deliver Ebola emergency aid to the region. Medical professionals, lab technicians and public health specialists soon followed.

Xinhua

US Airways flight makes emergency landing at Houston airport

HOUSTON, 28 March — A US Airways plane was forced to make an emergency landing at Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston on Friday evening, airport officials said.

US Airways Flight 5568 was making its way from Charlotte, North Carolina to Austin, Texas with 83 people on board when it started having engine problems, airport officials told NBC-affiliated local TV KPRC.

The plane was then diverted to Bush airport where it landed safely with only one functional engine. No injuries were reported and all passengers were transferred to another jet to Austin.

Officials suspect there was an issue with oil pressure in one of the plane's engines. The Federal Aviation Administration has been notified of the incident and will investigate.

Xinhua

China to import goods worth 10-trln-USD in 5 years

China will import more than 10 trillion US dollars of goods in the coming five years, marking continued opportunities brought to the world, Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Saturday. — XINHUA

BOAO, (Hainan), 28 March — China will import more than 10 trillion US dollars of goods in the coming five years, marking continued opportunities brought to the world, Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Saturday.

"Chinese economy will continue to bring more opportunities of trade, growth, investment and cooperation for other countries in Asia and beyond," Xi said while delivering a keynote speech at the opening plenary of the annual conference of the 2015 Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) in Boao, south China's Hainan Province.

In the coming five years, Chinese investment abroad will exceed 500 billion US dollars, and more than 500 million outbound visits will be made by Chinese tourists, according to the speech.

"China will stick to its basic state policy of opening up, improve its investment climate, and protect the lawful rights and interests of investors," Xi said.

Xi noted that the people of Asian countries could drive this train of Asia's development to take Asia to an even brighter future.

Under the theme of "Asia's New Future: Towards a Community of Common Destiny", the forum from Thursday to Sunday will span issues such as the China-proposed "Belt and Road" initiatives to Asia's economic integration.

Xinhua

Technical failure blamed for major power failure in Netherlands

THE HAGUE, 28 March — A technical failure as a result of a particular set of circumstances have caused a major power outage in large parts of the Dutch provinces of North Holland and Flevoland on Friday, Dutch grid operator for electricity Tennet has announced.

The power failure started at around 9.37 am local time after a defect in a high-voltage substation in the town of Diemen, bordering Amsterdam.

Within an hour, Tennet managed to restore power in some parts of the provinces. Nevertheless, it took some time to restore the power supply in North Holland and Flevoland completely. At 3.30 pm local time, all affected households had electricity again.

"The last power outage of this size was in 1997. We do not know the exact cause yet. We will investigate that and will have an external party do an investigation as well," Mel Kroon, CEO of Tennet, told Dutch news show Nieuwsuur on Friday.

Dutch Minister of Security and Justice Ard van der Steur will also investigate the power failure.

The power failure had a massive impact in the two provinces. A total of around 1 million households were affected by the failure, according to power supplier Liander.

Rail traffic was severely affected the whole day in North Holland and Flevoland and in the provinces of South Holland and Utrecht. Thousands of travelers were stranded at major train stations in Amsterdam and Utrecht.

Air traffic at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport was also severely disrupted on Friday.

Around 20 flights were cancelled and many were delayed. In addition, part of the public transport in Amsterdam was out of service, and some hospitals and the Media Park in Hilversum ran on emergency power.

Xinhua

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the South Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 29th March, 2015: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Sagaing, Mandalay, Yangon, Ayeyarwady and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan and Chin States, weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).
STATE OF THE SEA: Strong easterly winds with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong easterly wind may reach (35) m.p.h. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

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Canadian High Commissioner to Kenya David Angell (2nd L) awards one Kenya Wildlife Service ranger with the training certificate at the Kenya Wildlife Service Law Enforcement Academy in Tsavo West National Park on 27 March, 2015. 42 Kenya Wildlife Service rangers undergoing an advanced first aid training course, which is the first time in East Africa, graduated on Friday at the Kenya Wildlife Service Law Enforcement Academy in Tsavo West National Park. The training supported by the Canadian government has equipped the KWS frontline officers with the necessary skills and first hand response to trauma during emergencies such as injuries from bullet wounds in fire exchange with poachers, drowning while on patrol and attacks by wildlife.—XINHUA

Revealed: 'Spectre' first teaser trailer

Los Angeles, 28 March — After the release of its teaser poster earlier this month, the first official teaser trailer for 'Spectre' has been unveiled.

The less than two minutes clip kicks off with a scene where Daniel Craig's James Bond receives a mysterious black box.

It then continues with him looking at a half-burned photograph, and travelling around several places to meet different people. There is also a scene that showcases the hunk holding what looks like an ancient ring.

'Spectre' is slated to hit US theatres on 6 November this year. The action-thriller is said to be following the story of James Bond after a cryptic message from his past sends him on a trail to uncover a sinister organization.

While M battles political forces to keep the secret service alive, Bond peels back the layers of deceit to reveal the terrible truth behind Spectre.

Joining Craig on the cast ensemble among others are Lea Seydoux, Naomie Harris, Ralph Fiennes, and Monica Bellucci.—*PTI*

Rihanna tops iTunes charts with new single

London, 28 March — R&B star Rihanna has jumped up iTunes charts across the globe with her new single.

The 27-year-old singing star released new cut 'Better Have My Money' on iTunes and has since seen the track climb up the Top Songs chart, reported *Digital Spy*.

It is currently number one on the US store, while sitting at number four in the UK.

'Better Have My Money' is also number one in Brazil, France and South Africa, and in the Top 10 in Canada, Germany, and Spain, among others.

The track is the latest to be lifted from Rihanna's forthcoming eighth studio album, which is expected to be released later this year.

It follows lead single 'FourFiveSeconds' which features Kanye West and Paul McCartney.

PTI

Grammy award nominee to perform in Namibia: organizer

Windhoek, 28 March — Grammy award nominee and American R&B sensation Tremaine Aldon Neverson, better known as Trey Songz, will perform in a concert in celebration of Namibia's 25th independence in May, said mobile telecommunication giant MTC.

South African senior gospel artist Rebecca Malope has also been invited to the largest music concert to have ever hit the capital Windhoek, according to Tim Ekandjo, Chief Human Capital and Corporate Affairs officer for MTC.

The grammy-nominated superstar is known for dozens of hits such as "Na Na" and "Slow Motion", with more than 20 million albums and singles sold. Trey Songz is set to perform on 30 May, while Malope will grace the stage the next day. Songz performance will be complemented by best female and male artist winners of the Namibia Annual Music Awards 2014.—*Xinhua*

Italy recovers lost Picasso from retired frame maker

Rome, 28 March — Italian police have recovered a painting by Spanish master Pablo Picasso that a retired frame maker in Rome said he had been given nearly 40 years ago.

The 1912 oil painting, titled "Violin and Bottle of Bass", portrays a cubist image of a violin and a beer bottle and has an estimated value of 15 million euros ($16.2 million). Italy's special Carabinieri police squad that tracks down stolen art took custody of the painting when a man from Rome, who was not named, sought official permission to export it to be sold at an auction.

Investigators have verified the painting's authenticity, but they are still trying to determine whether the pensioner is its rightful owner. The man said he had been given the painting in 1978 by an elderly client as a gift, in exchange for having repaired a treasured picture frame of his client's deceased wife for no charge.

Since the frame maker did not know it was a valuable Picasso, police said, he packed it away for 36 years "without particular care" until he discovered — by chance, as he said — that it was the work of the Spanish master.

In a separate case, police recovered an ancient Roman marble sculpture of a man poised to sacrifice a bull. The statue was being transported in a flower van.

It was later discovered that raiders of Etruscan tombs north of Rome had stolen the statue, which is thought to depict the god Mithra, and were trying to smuggle it to Switzerland to sell on the black market.

Blessed with a vast archaeological heritage, Italy has long been plagued by thieves who dig up ancient artefacts and smuggle them abroad to sell them to rich foreign collectors or even museums. Some American museums, including the J Paul Getty in Los Angeles and the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, have returned stolen masterpieces to Italy.— *Reuters*

Michael Keaton to host 'Saturday Night Live'

***Oscar-nominated actor Michael Keaton and Empire star Taraji P Henson will both host "Saturday Night Live" in April.*—PTI**

New York, 28 March — "Birdman" star Michael Keaton and Taraji P Henson will both host "Saturday Night Live" in April.

NBC announced that the 63-year-old Oscar-nominated actor will present the 4 April episode with musical guest Carly Rae Jepsen, reported *New York Daily News.*

Mumford & Sons are scheduled to perform on SNL for the second time when Empire star Henson hosts on 11 April.

This is Keaton's third stint as a "Saturday Night Live" host and it comes 23 years after his last appearance on the NBC sketch comedy series.

"Saturday Night Live" returns this weekend with Dwayne Johnson and George Ezra.—*PTI*

Matthew McConaughey to star in Sony's 'The Billionaire's Vinega

***Oscar-winning actor Matthew McConaughey has come on-board for Sony's new project "The Billionaire's Vinegar".*—PTI**

Los Angeles, 28 March — Oscar-winning actor Matthew McConaughey has come on-board for Sony's new project "The Billionaire's Vinegar".

The Sony Pictures film is based on the book by Benjamin Wallace, titled "The Billionaire's Vinegar: The Mystery of the World's Most Expensive Bottle of Wine", reported Ace Showbiz.

The film will tell the story of "the scandal that ensued when an auctioned cache of wine bottles purported to have been owned by Thomas Jefferson were called fakes".

Michael Brandt and Derek Haas have been tapped to write the script, with Todd Black, James Lassiter, Jason Blumenthal, Steve Tisch, and Will Smith on hand serving as producers.

No official statement has been made by Sony on what character McConaughey will portray. Other cast members also haven't been named. No production and release dates have been set yet.

McConaughey's "Free States of Jones" will be hitting theaters on 11 March next year. The action-romance flick will see him starring as the main character Newton Knight, an American farmer who turned to be one of the best known rebel leaders in Civil War history.

PTI

2008 Olympics legacy teaches Beijing how to cut back on 2022 cost

BEIJING, 28 March — Beijing has vowed to deliver an economical 2022 Winter Olympic Games should it win the bid.

Wang Anshun, Beijing mayor and president of the Beijing 2022 Committee, said the Chinese capital will make a meticulous budget plan to lower cost on the condition that the Games can be staged successfully.

Based on the Agenda 2020 reforms of the IOC, Beijing presents three concepts in bid — running athletes-centred Games, ensuring sustainable development and hosting economical Games.

"Beijing will lower the cost of staging the Games through thorough marketing, proper arrangement of venues and activities on the condition that the Games can be delivered successfully," said Wang.

The legacy from 2008 Games play an important role in hosting an economical Games.

"The legacy of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games is the biggest advantage for the 2022 bid," said National People's Congress member Yang Xiaochao.

Out of the 12 competition and non-competition venues in Beijing, 11 are existing venues inherited from the Beijing 2008 Olympics.

The "Water Cube" Aquatic Centre and the National Indoor Stadium are planned for hosting the competitions of ice sports, including figure skating, short track speed skating, ice hockey and curling, while the "Bird Nest" will hold the opening and closing ceremonies.

New venues are planned to hold events like speedskating, biathlon, cross-country skiing and alpine skiing. They will become training bases, competition venues and be open to winter sports fans. The Olympic Village and media village will turn into hotels and condominiums.

"In the very beginning Beijing has had scientific planning for the Olympic legacy. The 2022 Games legacy will fit in the long-term project of the area," said Wang.

Apart from the venues, the experience of holding the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games and a series of international competitions will also help Beijing save time and money in holding another Olympic Games.

Wang also stressed the importance of sustainable development. "To host an economical Games we must ensure sustainable development," he said.

Beijing views the Olympic Winter Games not only as a significant international sports event, but also a valuable opportunity to speed up the development of the host cities, the region around them and even the country.

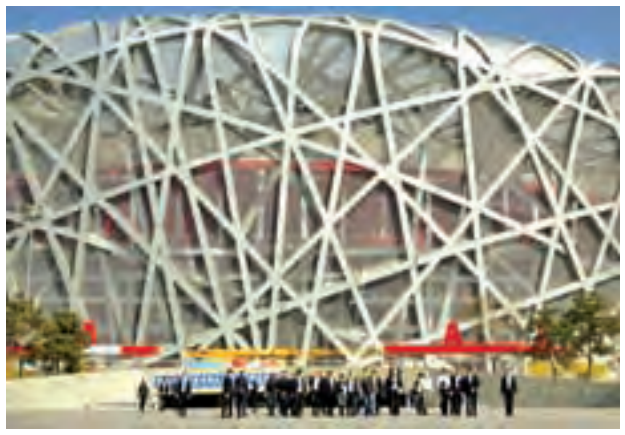
Beijing 2022 has been included in the "National Strategy of Integrated and Coordinated Development" of the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, and the long-term regional development plans.

City development will provide strong backing for the hosting of the Winter Olympics.

Changes have already taken place in Chongli, a small county about 200 kilometres from Beijing.

Chongli, famous for modern ski resorts, has attracted more than three million people to go skiing last season, including visitors from Asia, Europe and America.

Xinhua



Members of the 2022 Evaluation Commission for the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and representatives of Beijing's 2022 Winter Olympics bid committee walk outside Beijing National Stadium, also known as the Birds' Nest, in Beijing on 24 March, 2015.—REUTERS

Montenegro v Russia abandoned after crowd trouble, players clash

PODGORICA, 28 March — The Euro 2016 Group G qualifier between Montenegro and Russia was abandoned midway through the second half on Friday after crowd trouble and a scuffle between players.

The game was delayed by 35 minutes when Russian goalkeeper Igor Akinfeev was hit in the head by a flare soon after kickoff.

Midway through the second half a scuffle ensued between players by the touchline, with Eastern Europe's Sport Klub television saying a missile hurled from the terraces appeared to hit another Russian player.

The score was 0-0 at the time and German referee Deniz Aytekin ordered the players back into the dressing room for the second time moments after Montenegro keeper Vukasin Poleksic saved a Roman Shirokov penalty.

Reuters

Vietnam's collectors keep war memories alive, with bullets, bombs and dogtags

HANOI, 28 March — Grubby satchels, helmets, rusty knives and chunky radios are strewn around Dinh Van Loc's front room, transforming his house in Vietnam's capital into an abandoned battlefield.

For Loc, these are treasured items amassed over the years, rooted in a teenage fascination with the country's devastating war with the United States that ended nearly four decades ago.

The 32-year-old's obsession with combat zone memorabilia is a rare one in Vietnam, where the vast majority of its 90 million people were born long after the war. And those who do remember it chose to move on.

"These things help me feel the lives of the soldiers," said Loc, the proud owner of more than 2,000 war souvenirs. "That's what drove me to collecting." He points to etchings on unused ration tins retrieved from the front line, some bearing the names of soldiers and their lovers or crude scratchings meant to resemble Hanoi landmarks.

"I can feel some of the atmosphere of those days," Loc said. "I can see what they were thinking, their emotions, how they were missing their parents."

US military items used during the Vietnam War are seen displayed for sale at an old items market in Hanoi on 14 March, 2015.—REUTERS

Postwar generations in communist-run Vietnam are proud of their heritage, schooled in the same ideology as their parents, but are increasingly seduced by the tokens of capitalism — smartphones, couture and flashy motorbikes.

Still, the wounds of war have not entirely healed and collector Lai Dung says it's important that future generations don't forget the war that killed several million Vietnamese. The 32-year-old mattress maker scours tables at a makeshift Hanoi market each Sunday where Kalashnikov rifle parts, missile tails and boxes of ammunition vie for attention with uniforms worn by Vietcong fighters and sandals fashioned from car tires.—*Reuters*

mitv Myanmar International

(29-3-2015 07:00 am~ 30-3-2015 07:00 am) MST

* News
* Beach Food Delivery
* Shwe Maw Daw: The Glory of Bago City
* News
* Kindhearted Pet Lovers
* Reflected Glory
* Goldsmith
* News
* A Dream A Destination (Hpa An)
* News
* Singapore-Myanmar Bilateral Ties
* Porcelain and Glass
* News
* Food Trip (Ep-8) (Part-II)
* News
* U Kyaw Thu: From Artist to Philanthropist
* Myanmar Masterclass "Min Wae Aung"
* News
* Great Shwedagon — The Historic Bells
* A Glance At A Naga Family Life
* News
* One Heritage…… One Festival
* Shan Novices To Be……..
* News
* The Eel Business (Fisherman the eel culture)
* Innovative Handiworks Based on The Art of Line Drawing
* News
* Flying Without Wings- My Great Limitless Adventure — Pakokku
* Amazing: Magician Sak Kaw Ma

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(29-3-2015, Sunday)

6:00 am
- Paritta by Venerable Min Gun Sayadaw

6:30 am
- Physical Exercies

7:35 am
- Business News

8:00 am
- News / International News

8:35 am
- Teleplay

9:35 am
- Weekly Entertainment

10:35 am
- Documentary

11:35 am
- Amazing World

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

12:35 pm
- Round Up of The Week's International News

12:50 pm
- Movie (Part-1)

2:35 pm
- Movie (Part-2)

3:35 pm
- Movie (Part-3)

4:35 pm
- University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Third Years (Chemistry)

5:30 pm
- Head Line News

5:50 pm
- People's Talk

6:00 pm
- News / Weather Report

7:30 pm
- Head Line News

7:35 pm
- Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)

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

9:00 pm
- News
- Tasty Trip
- Sing & Enjoy

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(29-3-2015, Sunday)

6:00 am
- Alinka Wutyi Music Troupe

6:25 am
- Myanmar Video

8:25 am
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

8:45 am
- Fashion Show (Music)

8:50 am
- Sing & Enjoy

9:45 am
- Myanmar Movie

12:00 noon
- Close Down

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Sunday, 29 March, 2015

Kane scores on debut as England thrash Lithuania

England's Harry Kane scores their fourth goal against Lithuania during their UEFA Euro 2016 Qualifying Group E at Wembley Stadium, London, England on 27 March, 2015.—Reuters

London, 28 March — England's Harry Kane scored on his debut less than two minutes after coming on as they brushed Lithuania aside 4-0 at Wembley on Friday to maintain their grip at the top of the Euro 2016 qualifying Group E standings.

The Tottenham Hotspur striker, who has scored 29 goals in all competitions this season, headed England's fourth in the 73rd minute after replacing skipper Wayne Rooney as England won for the fifth successive match in the competition.

England are six points clear of Slovenia and Switzerland, who also won on Friday and have nine, with Lithuania fourth with six points having won two and lost three of their five matches.

Rooney put England ahead in the sixth minute when he headed home his 47th international goal, taking him to within two of Bobby Charlton's all-time record of 49.

Danny Welbeck scored the second just before halftime when the ball hit his shoulder and deflected in off Lithuania skipper Tadas Kijanskas before Raheem Sterling scored his first goal for England with a simple tap-in after 58 minutes.

One of the biggest cheers of the night, though, was heard when Kane was introduced from the bench and the applause was even louder when he scored with his third touch.

"It's the start that I dreamed of," Kane told ITV Sport. "To see it come true is just amazing. "It's all a bit of a blur at the moment but I'm delighted for the lads and the most important thing it to get the win."

Rooney almost put England ahead in the fourth minute of the first senior international between the two countries when he hit the woodwork after running on to a through ball from Fabian Delph but he did find the net two minutes later.

He headed his eighth goal in his last nine internationals, reacting quickly to a rebound from Lithuania keeper Giedrius Arlauskis, but he was unlucky again in the 19th minute when his looping header struck the angle of bar and far post.

The hosts were dominant against the 94th-ranked team in the world whose defence was being run ragged by England's high tempo attacking game, with Welbeck and Sterling continually switching wings and Michael Carrick creating opportunities from midfield.

Reuters

Nadal, Murray advance in Miami

Miami, 28 March — Rafa Nadal and Andy Murray got their Miami Open bids off to a solid start with straight sets victories at Key Biscayne on Friday.

Nadal defeated fellow Spaniard Nicolas Almagro 6-4, 6-2 in 89 minutes in windy conditions as he began his campaign to finally win the Miami tournament where he has lost in the final on three occassions.

"In general I thought I played a solid match. I played well, I had good movement," said Nadal. "I had to put the balls in and play with no mistakes -- that was the idea with very tough conditions. Almagros was not an easy opponent."

Murray had little trouble dealing with American Donald Young in his opening match with a 6-4, 6-2 victory. Murray, a two-time winner at Key Biscyane, broke left-hander Young four times as he wrapped up the win in 82 minutes. The Scot will face Santiago Giraldo in the next round after the Colombian beat Robin Haase of the Netherlands 6-2, 3-6, 6-0. Murray is looking for his 10th Masters 1000 title and his third trophy in Miami, having won in 2009 and 2013. Key Biscayne is something of a 'home court' for Murray, who practices at the venue during his off-season preparation. "I spend hours, hundreds and hundreds of hours, practicing on that court," he said.

Reutess

Morata goal fires off-colour Spain past Ukraine

Seville, (Spain), 28 March — Forward Alvaro Morata justified his selection for Spain by scoring his debut international goal in a laboured 1-0 home win for the holders against Ukraine in Euro 2016 qualifying Group C on Friday.

Morata galloped on to a Koke pass in the 28th minute at the Sanchez Pizjuan stadium in Seville and his shot took a slight deflection off a defender before looping over Ukraine goalkeeper Andriy Pyatov into the net.

The victory helped Spain maintain pressure on group leaders Slovakia, who won 3-0 at home to Luxembourg and have 15 points from five matches.

Spain, beaten 2-1 away to Slovakia in October, are second on 12 points, three ahead of Ukraine.

"It was a difficult game, they are very tough, very physical," Morata, who was playing in place of the injured Diego Costa, said in an interview with Spanish television.

"It wasn't my best game but now I just need to keep working to get another chance in the team," added the Juventus forward, who was making only his third appearance for La Roja.

Spain had the upper hand for most of the first half, with Andres Iniesta, David Silva and Isco at the heart of their forays forward.

Although chasing the ball for long periods, Ukraine managed to trouble the European champions and midfielder Ruslan Rotan lashed an effort narrowly wide moments before Morata struck.

Sergio Ramos nodded against the frame of the goal from a David Silva free kick and Spain goalkeeper Iker Casillas had to be alert to keep out a Rotan free kick either side of halftime.

Spain lost control in the second period as Ukraine pushed hard for an equalizer and the excellent Rotan twice tested Casillas with powerful efforts.

Spain substitute Santi Cazorla came close to a second for the home side three minutes from time but Pyatov pulled off a superb finger-tip save.

The next match for Spain, unbeaten in 30 competitive home games since they lost 1-0 to Greece in 2003, is a friendly on Tuesday against the Netherlands in Amsterdam, a repeat of the 2010 World Cup final.

Reuters

Okazaki, Honda on target as Halilhodzic wins Japan coach debut

Oita, (Japan), 28 March — Japan coach Vahid Halilhodzic won his first game in charge as Shinji Okazaki and Keisuke Honda came off the bench to score in a 2-0 victory over Tunisia on Friday.

Shinji Kagawa featured in both goals as Japan took their first step under the Bosnian, whose men will host Uzbekistan in Tokyo in another friendly on Tuesday.

Halilhodzic was pleased with both the result and performance from his new team, who have only been training since Monday.

"We scored twice but we could have had more," the former Algeria coach said. "Victory was very important today. But the show goes on. We have another game to prepare for."

"I will make changes again in the next game to give more opportunities to more players. The subs played very well and I am extremely happy with the performance."

Okazaki quickly turned his sights to the Uzbekistan game at Ajinomoto Stadium.

"We played well today but we need to move on right away," the Mainz striker said. "Uzbekistan showed at the Asian Cup that they are a good side, and we've got to play with more determination. We're still thinking too much as we play; we need to be more instinctive."

Just as he said he would the night before, Halilhodzic walked the talk by giving Japan a vastly different look from the team that played for his predecessor Javier Aguirre at the Asian Cup in January. Halilhodzic made nine changes to the XI who started in Japan's quarterfinal defeat to the United Arab Emirates in Australia. The only two who retained their place were Eintracht Frankfurt midfielder Makoto Hasebe, who held on to the captaincy for this night, and Southampton centre-half Maya Yoshida.

"As I told you, I wanted to give some players an opportunity to show what they can do," the manager said. "Honda, Kagawa, (Atsuto) Uchida, I already know their qualities. I wanted to give the others a chance."

"We managed to breed competition within the squad. More players will get a chance in the next game. Watching them on video is not enough; I want to see them with my own eyes."

"We have work to do for the competitive games in June," he said referring to World Cup qualifiers for Russia 2018. "I want to discover more quality in Japan."

Against a Tunisian side close to full strength, Japan put on a reasonable first-half display considering all their inexperience, with Nagoya Grampus' Kengo Kawamata and Hiroki Fujiharu of Gamba Osaka winning their first caps. The hosts created several chances before the break, going the closest in the 22nd minute when Kawamata headed off the bar from a Hiroshi Kiyotake corner.

Halilhodzic turned to his bench on the hour, bringing on household names Honda and Kagawa for Kensuke Nagai and Kiyotake, respectively, to the delight of sellout crowd of 34,777 at Oita Bank Dome.

Japan coach Vahid Halilhodzic

Honda and Kagawa injected some life into their team, as did Okazaki and highly anticipated debutant Takashi Usami when they set foot on the pitch after 72 minutes for Kawamata and Yoshinori Muto.

The subs linked in the 78th minute to break the deadlock, Kagawa setting the wheels in motion with a ball for Honda chugging down the left wing. Honda cut back for the far post on his first touch before Okazaki nodded in his 42nd goal in 90 international appearances.—*Kyodo News*

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