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MODERN TRAIN ON ROAD

Rail service introduces new train along Yangon-Pyay Route

MYANMA Railways put a rail service with a modern train imported from China into commission on the Yangon-Pyay route yesterday.

The modern train will run along the route as the 71-Up and the 72-Down trains. The estimated time for the duration of the trip between two destinations is 8 hrs 30 minutes, with 13 stops.

The ceremony to launch the service with the modern train was held at Yangon Railways Station at 12.40 pm yesterday. Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Nyan Tun Aung was present as well as Deputy Minister U Myint Thein, the speaker and deputy speaker of the Yangon Region Hluttaw and the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar.

The 71-Up train will depart Yangon Railways Station at 1 pm and will arrive Pyay Station at 9 pm while the 72 Down train will leave Pyay at 11.30 pm and will arrive Yangon at 7.30 am the next day.

The locomotive of the modern train costs \$1.5 million and each car costs US\$ 400,000.

Myanmar Railways is building a factory in Nay Pyi Taw to build new coaches and to assemble locomotives.

—Soe Win (MLA)



The 71-Up train equipped with modern facilities is ready to run on Yangon-Pyay Route. PHOTO: SOE WIN (MLA)PEOPLE



Confluence of Maykha and Malikha rivers. PHOTO: WIN NAING

NLD spokesman refutes speculations about resuming Myitson Dam project

Thein Ko Lwin

THE spokesperson of the incoming government denied the fact that the controversial Myitson Dam project is expected to resume during the time of the next government.

Asked by journalists whether the project will resume in the time of next government, U Zaw Myint Maung, the spokesperson of the next government, replied that the next government, led by the National League for Democracy,

would not consider resuming the project if it adversely affects local people.

Following Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hong Lian's message on 4 March expressing that China is willing to negotiate with Myanmar's new government on the Myitsone Dam project, there have emerged speculations that the US \$3.6-billion Myitsone Dam project would possibly be reviewed again in the time of the next government.

"Just rumours," said Dr Zaw

Myint Maung referring the speculations, "According to the policy of NLD, we will not do anything that would have negative impacts on the people."

The dam project, located at the confluence of the Maykha and Malikha rivers on the Ayeyawady River, was suspended in 2011 by current President U Thein Sein during his presidential term.

Critics and environmentalists in Myanmar have warned of the social and environmental consequences of the project.

El Nino reduce the flow of Pyin Oo Lwin waterfall

MANDALAY the early drying up this year of Kehlaung river has caused a reduction in the flow of the well-known Pwe Kauk waterfall, located near the village of the same name in Pyin Oo Lwin, according to the Pwe Kauk waterfall management office.

The flow of water cascading over the Pwe Kauk waterfall usually starts to diminish with the arrival of the Thingyan festival (Buddhist New Year) in the second week of April, but this year saw the waterfall start to shrink much earlier, from the beginning of March, it is known.

"The negative effects of the, stronger than usual, El Nino weather front have been felt more distinctly in lower parts of the country: cracks appearing on scorched landscapes and scarcities of water. Then there's lessening rain fall which has caused water sources [in this part of the

country] to dry up; rocks of the waterfall which are usually covered by flowing water are now visible," said U Chan Thar, a person of responsibility from the Pwe Kauk water management office.

The aforementioned waterfall was given the name BE Fall in 1949 and looked after by the Tatmadaw (Myanmar Armed Forces), while the surrounding forest is managed by the Department of Forestry.

Recent urban housing expansion, to accommodate an increasing population, has seen the destruction of large, ageing trees, which has been a factor resulting in the drying up of natural sources of water in the vicinity to the Pwe Kauk waterfall.

"People in the past used to know the waterfall by the name BE Fall. These days, people know it as the Pwe Kauk waterfall. The water flowing down the



People visit Pwe Kauk waterfall in PyinOoLwin. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

waterfall used to be really strong. The building of roads nearby put an end to the flow of water [into the waterfall] from natural sources. This year is very dif-

ferent to the year previous. The diminishing flow of water is very stark," said Ko Win Aye, an annual visitor to the waterfall.

The Pwe Kauk waterfall

features over a hundred souvenir shops and eateries to cater for visitors, according to the waterfall management office. —Myitmakha News Agency

Foreigners should be warned against off-limit areas in Kayin State, says Immigration

HOTELS and travel agents are required to inform foreigners in advance of restricted areas within Kayin State to which they are prohibited from travelling, U Kyaw Sein Htun, deputy head of immigration for Kayin State, said.

The majority of day visiting foreigners to Kayin State enter via the Thai boarder into Myawaddy, it is known.

"There are areas in Kayin State which are off-limits to foreigners because of safety

concerns, but there are cases of foreigners crossing in and out of such areas. Hotels and travel agents should also take responsibility to pre-warn foreigners of areas they are not allow to travel to. People say such matters don't concern them because they are related to issues of the State but people should play their part," said U Kyaw Sein Htun.

Kayin State is dissimilar to other States and Regions around Myanmar as some areas within

the State are still off-limits to foreigner travellers, including such regions of Hpapun, Kamamaung and Myainggying, according to the Kayin State Immigration Department.

"When foreigner travelers ask which area they should or shouldn't visit - for example, if they say they want to visit such a place as the Kyone Htaw waterfall - we will tell them it wouldn't be the right time to go, explaining poor road conditions, suggesting

they pay a visit to Yathet Pyan cave instead. We don't directly tell them that a place is off-limits to them. We try to tell them as politely as possible," said U Aung Than, chair of the Hotels and Tourism Entrepreneurs Association for Hpa-an.

Over fifty thousands foreign travellers visited Kayin State in 2015 with the majority, 41,257, entering the State via Myawaddy boarder crossing, while the remainder entered via waterway,

plane or by other mode of transportation. The first two months of 2016 saw over 6,800 Thai nationals entering into Myanmar through Myawaddy.

Hotel and travel agents analyse that improvements to road transportation within Kayin State will allow for increased numbers of both foreign and domestic tourists to visit the area to experience the ancient historical caves, pagodas, natural landscapes and waterfalls. —Myitmakha News Agency

Fugitives, hooligans arrested with pistol



Myo Thet Naing, San Oo, Ko Ko Maung and Nyein Chan Ko. PHOTO: YANGON REGION POLICE FORCE

POLICE arrested two fugitives and two hooligans with a pistol in Twantay yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, the police stopped a car with the four men on board near Yangyi Village in Twantay Township.

However, as the car did not stop and attempted to outrun the police a wheel was shot out by the officer.

During the search police arrested San Oo, 44, Nyein Chan Ko, 25, Myo Thet Naing, 31, and Ko Ko Maung, 30 and discovered a 9 mm pistol loaded with five bullets and another 47 bullets, three daggers and three mobile phones.

It was found that San Oo and Nyein Chan Ko were fugitives and wanted by the Twantay Police Station for five criminal cases. San Oo, a hooligan from Thirimingala Market in Hline Township is wanted by the police for three criminal cases.

Charges have been filed against all four. —Yangon Region Police Force

Self-help garbage collection system launched in Ye

PEOPLE in Aungmingalar ward, Ye Township, Mon State, have bought a garbage truck to collect the rubbish on a self-reliance basis. "Previously, when the municipal garbage truck was absent, we had to throw the rubbish into some drains and creeks. But now the ward-owned garbage truck collects the rubbish regularly and so our environment is clean because we throw the rubbish systematically", said a local people. The local people collectively bought a garbage truck for Ks 7.5 million under the supervision of ward administrator. The garbage truck will collect the rubbish two times a day- in the morning and in the evening with two conductors. The rubbish will be incinerated once in two weeks. On account of the ward's buying a new garbage truck to collect garbage on a self-reliance basis, the region municipal also stopped collecting municipal revenue. —Nay Myo Htut

Holy objects hoisted atop two pagodas in Putao

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein attended a ceremony to hoist two holy religious objects each atop two pagodas in Putao district, Kachin State, yesterday.

Accompanied by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Union Ministers, President U Thein Sein hoisted a sacred diamond bud (Seinphudaw) and a bird's perch vane (Hngetmyat-nadaw) atop the Maha Tezawunta Shwedagon Pagoda in Machanbaw township.

Prior to the ceremony, the congregation led by the president received the ninefold precepts of virtue from Wuntho Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Silavamsa, followed by a recitation of parittas (religious verses of protection). The president planted a Sacred Bodhi Tree to mark the success of the ceremony.

At another event, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hoisted a sacred diamond bud and a bird's perch vane atop the Maha Tezawunta Shwesigon Pagoda. The commander-in-chief also planted a Sacred Bodhi Tree to mark the success of the ceremony.

The ceremony was followed by a luncheon offered by the president to the members of the Sangha present at the event.



President U Thein Sein sprinkles scented water on the diamond orb before it was fixed atop a pagoda in Putao. PHOTO: MNA

The president presented Buddha Statues and clothes to the townsfolk attending the

ceremony. He also inspected the construction of a section of Putao-Machanbaw road, the

construction of the new Malikha bridge and the maintenance of the old Malikha bridge.

The president and entourage flew back to Nay Pyi Taw in the evening.—Myanmar News Agency

Approved broadcasting law still needs amending: DVB's chief editor

THE Democratic Voice of Burma (DVB) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) organised a conference on Myanmar's broadcasting law in Yangon yesterday.

In his opening speech, DVB's Chief Editor U Aye Chan Naing stressed that the Broadcasting Law, which was passed by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw in August last year, needs amending.

"We have been frank about this issue with the incumbent government and we need to be so with the incoming government as well," the chief editor said, adding that the conference was aimed to encourage the emergence of more

independent broadcasting media.

Information Union Minister U Ye Htut said that his ministry started to study the media reform in 2008, resulting in the establishment of a new body to implement the media development in 2011. The union minister pointed out the need to stick to a set of five indicators for media development endorsed by the United Nations, Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, if the law was to be modified. The country developed its broadcasting law in collaboration with international organisations to ensure its best efficiency and potential, with the union minister stressing the need

to feed reliable news to the public.

U Aung Shin, a member of NLD's central committee and in charge of the party's information centre, described media as an effective tool for dissemination of news to the people, calling for combined efforts to make the broadcasting law as flawless as possible. The discussions of the law focused on the four areas — the review of the law, provision of public media, the handling of private media and the formation of a body responsible for permission of channels.

The outcomes of the group discussions will be announced today.—Myanmar News Agency



Union Minister U Ye Htut discusses at the conference on Myanmar's broadcasting law. PHOTO: MNA

A farmer in Kayin State got right foot blown off as he stepped on land mine

A Kayin State farmer is receiving medical treatment in Hpa-an General Hospital after his right foot was blown off after stepping on a land mine in Kayin National Union (KNU) controlled territory of Kamamaung township whilst walking to his fields.

The land mine victim in question, U Phar Kal, aged 45, is a resident of Bawkyo village, Kamamaung Township. He stepped on the land mine on the morning of March 16 that was buried in the vicinity of Thayphyu River and Bawkyo village.

"He takes that route every time. The mine wasn't on the road. He's a farmer, so he takes short-cuts here and there. An innocent villager has had to suffer having his foot blown off. We don't know who planted the mine.

Villagers are of course always anxious whenever they have to venture into the forest that they too might step on such a land mine," said Saw Ehde, a

resident from Bawkyo village.

U Hpar Kel had his right foot amputated from above the ankle, whilst he also suffered injuries in his hands and chest from the blast, it is known.

He was originally transferred to the emergency room of the Kamamaung hospital, before being sent on to Hpa-an General to receive treatment after his situation was deemed to be of serious concern.

While it is not clear who is responsible for planting the mine which cost U Hpar Kel his right foot, local residents have expressed that area is active with Karen National Liberation Army (KNLA) troops, which fall under the control of the KNU.

The KNU have yet to carry out mine clearing activities within its controlled territory, but they are conducting awareness programs on the dangers of land mines, according to Saw Tar Doemu, finance officer of the KNU.—Myitmakha News Agency

Crime NEWS

Car accident in Yedashe



Damaged 12 wheel vehicle seen between mileposts 204/1-2 on Yangon-Mandalay road. PHOTO: KO LWIN(SWAR)

A 12-wheel vehicle collided head on with another 12 wheel vehicle on Yangon-Mandalay road, between mileposts 204/1-2, near Indine village, Thagara town, Yedashe township, Bago region on Friday.

The 12- wheel vehicle driven

by Tint Lwin, 47, crashed with the other being driven by U Kyi Swe, 52. The reason for the collision is not known yet.

The accident damaged both vehicles. Police are currently investigating.— *Ko Lwin (Swe)*

The fire destroyed house in Heho

A HOUSE fire broke out in Lai Khaung village, Heho town, Kalaw township, Shan State on Friday when one Ko Pho Gyi allegedly became drunk and belligerent before stabbing his mother and setting fire to his bed sheets in a fit of rage following what was described as a domestic dispute.

The flames quickly got out of control and engulfed his family home. The fire was put out by firemen with the assistance of neighbours. According to the fire services department, the accident killed Ko Pho Gyi and destroyed his family home.— *Myanmar Alinn Daily*

Explosion occurs in Pyin Oo Lwin



A member of local army engineer unit investigating the inside of a house where explosion occurred. PHOTO: THET NAING (PWIN OO LWIN)

AN Explosion occurred in a house owned by one Daw Khin Myo Tint in Sithar village on Mandalay- Pyin Oo Lwin road, Pyin Oo Lwin township on Friday.

According to an investigation the accident happened around 10:40am. Three Chinese foreigners and a Chinese man,

who holds Myanmar citizenship lived in the house, said U Soe Lwin from Sithar village. The explosion injured three of the occupants. They are receiving medical treatment at Pyin Oo Lwin general hospital. A local army engineer unit collected the suspected explosives.— *Thet Naing (Pwin Oo Lwin)*

Illegal sawn timber seized in Kawthoung



Culprits seen together with illegal sawn timber. PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)

LOCAL authorities seized illegal sawn timber from a six-wheel vehicle near Shwe Pyi Thar Ward, Kawthoung, on Thursday.

Acting on a tip-off, members

of the police searched the vehicle being driven by one Aung Aung with 11 people on board and discovering illegal sawn timber weighing five tonnes. The re-

sponsible personnel handed over the illegal sawn timber to the Forestry Department. The vehicle owner is being charged by police.— *Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)*

Rakhine sees two fires in one day

AN outbreak of fire caused by electric short circuiting destroyed a house on Winkgaba road, Sittwe town, Rakhine on Thursday.

The fire was put out by firemen with four fire engines and with the help of local residents. Another fire also broke out in Phaya paw ward, MraukU on the same day.

The fire was put out by firemen with three fire engines. Police have taken action against the MraukU house owner — *Myat Wai*



Firefighters and locals seen putting out the fire. PHOTO: MYAT WAI

Huge cache of Yabba seized in Kunhein



Than Aung. PHOTO: KO YE

A LOCAL anti-drug squad seized yabba from a vehicle at Tar Kaw bridge gate, Kunhein township on Tuesday. Acting on a tip-off police discovered

816,000 yabba pills inside the vehicle being driven by one Than Aung, 42. The police have filed charges against him under the Anti-Narcotic Law.— *Ko Ye*

Man arrested for two felonies

POLICE have filed charges against a man on suspicion of two felonies- murder and robbery- in Katha township, Sagaing region on 11 March, according to the local police.

One Ko Lin alias Kyaw Lin Tun, 18, was stopped and interrogated at the Katha police station. He admitted that he had killed one Daw Pwe in her house. According to an investigation, Ko Lin went to the house, saw Daw Pwe sitting in front of the TV before approaching her and stabbing her to death. He took all her jewelry and fled



Ko Lin alias Kyaw Lin Tun. PHOTO: LU AUNG (KATHA)

the scene. The local police station has filed a murder charge against him.— *Lu Aung (Katha)*

LOCAL Business

Myanmar-China bilateral trade discussion held in Kengtung

KENGTUNG, March 18 - Discussion was held recently at the Department of Trade in Kengtung, Eastern Shan State, on bilateral boarder trade between Myanmar and China.

"It was a discussion of entrepreneurial associations and companies from both countries on the benefits of bilateral trade, not just for those actors involved in the trade industry, but for both countries as a whole," said U Khin Aung Thwin, assistant director of the Department of Trade for Kengtung township.

Myanmar representatives present during the aforementioned discussion have made it known that dialogue was held because of Chinese entrepreneurs and companies' willingness to invest in agricultural enterprises other than rice industries, as well as textiles and wooden furniture enterprises.

Paddy produced in Eastern Shan State is transported to China via Kengtung, up through Mong La on the Myanmar side of the boarder. If the 300 Chinese yuan in duty, which has to be paid for every ton of rice exported to China, could be reduced, or if expenses could be alleviated by exporting rice to



Trucks loaded with goods are seen en-route to China. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

China from the Wanpone wharf, located on the Mekong river, then it would make life easier for companies and farmers exporting rice, said Chin Hsin, chair of China-ASEAN financial enterprise.

"We haven't been able to establish a strong, firm and

stable economic community as yet because the generation of industry of eastern Shan State traders and companies, together with other company owners, whether as an individual or as a company, is operated solely on the financial investment capital of others." said by U Saing

Zaw Min, chair of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) for Kengtung.

It is known that the aforementioned dialogue was attended by staff from the Eastern Shan State Department of Trade, the chair and members

of the Kengtung UMFCCI, rice and paddy entrepreneurs, rice mill entrepreneurs, the committee of city markets, head of the Kengtung Department of Agriculture, and the chair of China-ASEAN financial enterprise.— *Myitmakha News Agency*

Threshing machine hirers in Yesagyo are earning good income

THRESHING machine hirers in Yesagyo are doing well as now is gram harvesting period for farmers in that region.

"Using the threshing machine saves time and energy. The stalks of gram also are made cattle feed after threshing. We only need to pay 3 cans of gram for threshing a basket", said a local farmer.

"We have no time for rest. It is good as we can get three cans of gram for threshing a basket gram", said a machine owner.

Local farmers hire the threshing machine because they want to cultivate the summer crops in time.—*Pe Htun Zaw*



Farmers threshing groundnuts with use of machine. PHOTO: PE HTUN ZAW

Telenor sells special numbers in Mandalay

TELENOR Myanmar will hold the 2nd special number sale in Sedona Hotel, Mandalay Region on 26 March.

There are 100 special numbers for customers to bid. All the profits to be fetched from the 2nd bid will be donated for construction of a digital education center and to Myat Lay Yon Monastic School in Kung-yangon.

The special numbers for sale are 09 - 79 9999999, 09 -

77 7777770, 09 - 79 9000000 and the others beautiful special numbers are reserved for sale. The floor price is Ks 3 million for all numbers. Those who are wishing to bid will have to contact phone No. 09 - 79 7000097 or the following email specialnumber@telenor.com.mm mentioning such particulars as their name, email address, NRC, company name and bank account before March 21 deadline.—*Thura Phyu*

Government slashes interest rates for small saving schemes

MUMBAI — The government cut interest rates on Friday for term deposits offered to millions of small savers to align them with market rates, which have come down after rate cuts by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) last year.

The government cut the one-year term deposit rate to 7.1 per cent for the period of April to June from 8.4 per cent during the 2015/16 fiscal year, which ended in March, according to a government statement. The two-year term deposit rate was lowered to 7.2 per cent from 8.4 per cent.

The government also lowered the rate on a federal pension fund known as the public provident fund (PPF) to 8.1 per cent from 8.7 per cent.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley had agreed to cut interest rates offered to millions of small savers in about \$130 billion of federal deposits after the Reserve Bank of India lowered its key policy rate by 125 basis points in 2015.

Indian banks said they could not cut their retail deposit and lending rates substantially when the small savings schemes



A man walks down the staircase of an Indian post office in New Delhi, India, on 9 October, 2015.

PHOTO: REUTERS

offered higher rates.

That slowed the process of banks passing through the central bank rate cuts to boost economic growth.

Banks have lowered their deposit rate by up to 100 basis points in 2015 and lending rates by around 60 basis points.

The small savings rate will be changed every quarter from next fiscal year, starting in April, to shift them closer to market interest rates.—Reuters

Japan, US commemorate WWII death on Iwoto Island

OGASAWARA (Japan) — Japan and the United States held a ceremony yesterday on Iwoto Island in the Pacific to commemorate the 29,000 people who died in one of the fiercest battles of World War II, with veterans, relatives of the dead and senior government officials from the two nations attending.

Senior vice foreign minister Yoji Muto attended the ceremony together with former Internal Affairs and Communications Minister Yoshitaka Shindo, a grandson of Tadamichi Kuribayashi, the Japanese commander in the Battle of Iwojima against the United States.

The grueling fighting on the island, some 1,250 kilometres south of Tokyo, continued for around a month after US forces landed in February 1945. About 21,900 Japanese soldiers and 7,000 US soldiers died in the battle. The remains of some 11,500 out of the 21,900 Japanese war dead have yet to be retrieved.

The United States returned Iwoto, previously called Iwojima, to Japanese sovereignty in 1968.—Kyodo News

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Cambodian, Thai defence ministers to meet next week over cooperation along border

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian defence minister Gen. Tea Banh will fly to Bangkok next week, where he is scheduled to meet with his Thai counterpart Gen. Prawit Wongsuwan to discuss

continued cooperation along the border, the defence ministry said in a statement yesterday.

The two ministers will meet in the 11th meeting of Cambodia-Thailand General Border

Committee, which will be held on 23 and 24 March, the statement said.

“The meeting will be focused on three important topics, covering security affairs, rela-

tions and cooperation, and development along the border of the two countries,” it said. Cambodia shares more than 800 km border with Thailand to the north and west.—Xinhua

China orders probe after polluting factory fined just \$90

BEIJING — China’s environment ministry has ordered an investigation after a provincial environmental protection body fined a polluting factory just 603 yuan (\$90) for dumping waste water, state media said on Friday.

China’s government has repeatedly vowed to get tough on pollution, which has fouled the country’s air, soil and water, prompting public ire.

But enforcement of laws is often lax.

The official Xinhua news agency said the chemical plant in Gaoyou city in the eastern province of Jiangsu was given the fine for dumping water with an abnormal pH level.

“After the news was released it was called into question by the public, who thought a fine of 603 yuan was too low and insufficient to act as a deterrent to companies which break the law on the environment,” Xinhua said.

The environment ministry



Buildings of a residential compound are seen in the haze during a polluted day in Beijing, China, on 17 March.

PHOTO: REUTERS

was paying “great attention” to this case and had ordered an investigation and for “serious pun-

ishments” to be meted out, the report added.

Environmental protection

bodies at all levels had a responsibility to uphold the law, the ministry added.—Reuters

Abe mentions Senkakus at Coast Guard school graduation ceremony

MAIZURU (Japan) — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe mentioned the Japanese-controlled, China-claimed Senkaku Islands as he congratulated students yesterday at a Japan Coast Guard School graduation ceremony in Kyoto Prefecture, western Japan.



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe attends a Japan Coast Guard School graduation ceremony in the western Japan city of Maizuru on 19 March 2016.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

“(Coast Guard officers) are nobly fulfilling their duties without fear of rough waves and enduring tremendous strain.

The Japanese people feel pride in them,” he said in a speech, referring to patrolling duties in waters around the Senkakus in the East China Sea.

He also stressed the need for international cooperation to protect free and peaceful passage through the sea.

Abe is the first serving Japanese prime minister to take part in the school’s graduation ceremony at a time when China Coast Guard vessels have been often spotted in Japanese territorial waters around the islets.

China and Taiwan both claim the islands, calling them Diaoyu and Tiaoyutai, respectively.

A total of 243 students, of whom 22 are female, graduated from the Japan Coast Guard School for trainees located in Maizuru on the Sea of Japan coast. The educational facility is a nonmilitary organisation administered by the transport ministry.—Kyodo News

Premier says China will make pre-emptive policy changes to spur growth

BEIJING — China, which expanded at its slowest pace in 25 years last year, will make pre-emptive policy changes to support growth and ward off financial risk, Premier Li Keqiang said in remarks published on Friday.

The government would make sure it achieved its main economic development targets this year, state radio quoted Li as telling a regular cabinet meeting.

Li said the government would closely watch the economic situation at home and abroad.

The government has set a growth target of 6.5 per cent to 7 per cent for 2016. The world’s second-largest economy expanded 6.9 per cent in 2015, its slowest pace in a quarter of a century.

The government would “make good use of fiscal and monetary policy tools to strengthen preemptive and timely fine-tuning, prepare policy reserves and effectively guard against various

risks”, Li said.

It would allocate fiscal funds and launch major investment projects quickly this year and make sure planned policy and reform measures were implemented.

China’s central bank won’t resort to excessive stimulus to bolster growth but would keep a flexible stance in the event of an economic shock — domestic or global, Governor Zhou Xiaochuan said earlier.

Li also said that China would expand tax reforms to replace a business tax with a valued-added tax in the construction, property and financial services sectors, effective from 1 May.

The VAT reform, which was launched in 2012 as a trial programme, has been applied to railway transport, postal services, telecommunications and some service sectors.

The tax reforms will cut firms’ tax burdens by more than 500 billion yuan (\$77.21 billion) this year.—Reuters

US, Philippines agree on five base locations under defence deal

WASHINGTON — The United States and the Philippines have agreed on five locations for US military bases in the Philippines under a security agreement inked amid rising tensions with China in the South China Sea, US officials said on Friday.

The US State Department named the five as Antonio Bautista Air Base, Basa Air Base, Fort Magsaysay, Lumbia Air Base, and Mactan-Benito Ebuen Air Base.

US Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defence Amy Searight said the deal was reached under the Enhanced Defence Cooperation Agreement (EDCA) signed last year that grants Washington increased military presence in its former colony through rotation of ships and planes for humanitarian and maritime security operations.

Searight told the opening of the annual US-Philippines Bilateral Strategic Dialogue in Washington that Manila was a “critical

US ally” and ties had never been stronger. US Defence Secretary Ash Carter is set to visit the Philippines in April.

Searight also said the Pentagon had told the US Congress of its intention to provide \$50 million to help build maritime security in the region and that the Philippines would get “the lion’s share.”

The funds are expected to go towards improving radar and other monitoring capabilities in the South China Sea, where China’s pursuit of territorial claims has raised US concerns and those of rival claimants, including the Philippines.

In January, the Philippines said it had offered eight bases for US use, including the former US air force base of Clark and the former US Navy base at Subic Bay, and two sites on Palawan island near the South China Sea.

Philippines Defence Undersecretary Pio Lorenzo Batino said

Manila was pleased with the finalization of the locations.

US Assistant Secretary of State Daniel Russel said the deal would speed US help in response to natural disasters and facilitate modernization of the Philippines armed forces.

He said it came at an important time ahead of a ruling in a case the Philippines has brought against China over its South China Sea claims in the International Court of Arbitration in the Hague.

On Thursday, the US Navy said it had seen activity around a reef China seized from the Philippines nearly four years ago that could be a precursor to more Chinese land reclamation in the South China Sea.

Admiral John Richardson also expressed concern that the Hague ruling, which is expected in late May, could prompt Beijing to declare an exclusion zone in what is one of the world’s busiest trade routes.—Reuters

Two Indian student leaders get bail in sedition case

NEW DELHI — Two student leaders arrested on charges of sedition from India’s prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) were freed Friday on bail, officials said.

Umar Khalid and Anirban Bhattacharya, charged with “sedition” for allegedly shouting anti-India slogans along with their union president Kanhaiya Kumar last month at an event organised in the university campus.

The students deny the charges. Kumar was granted the bail earlier this month.

“JNU students Umar Khalid and Anirban Bhattacharya, arrested in a sedition case, were today granted interim bail for six months by a Delhi court,” an official said.

“The Judge noted that the duo should not leave the country without its prior permission.”

Sedition as per Indian law amounts to inciting people to oppose their government. The maximum punishment for sedition in India is life imprisonment. The law dates back to 1870 and was introduced by the British during their time in India.

The arrest of students led to massive protests and clashes across India, besides generating a debate over “freedom of expression” in India at large.

Reports said anti-India slogans were allegedly shouted during an event on 9 February event at JNU to mark the hanging anniversary of 2001 parliament attack

convict Mohammed Afzal Guru.

Guru, a Kashmiri was convicted for 2001 Indian parliament attack building and executed in 2013. Many in India and Indian-controlled Kashmir believe Guru was denied fair-trial.

India’s former federal minister P Chidambaram also stated there were “grave doubts” about the involvement of Guru and that the case was “perhaps not correctly decided”.

Reports earlier this week said a panel nominated by university to probe its students facing sedition charges has recommended expulsion of five students including Kumar, Khalid and Bhattacharya for violating norms inside the campus.—Xinhua



People are evacuated by boat at Tanjungsari village in Tasikmalaya, West Java, Indonesia, on 17 March 2016. Flood inundated four villages here due to the down break of the dam of Cikidang River.

PHOTO: XINHUA

OPINION

Good management benefits employers and employees alike

Kyaw Thura

THERE is a general but false assumption in our country that inactivity and detachment can sustain your position at work. A majority of workers, mostly from government organisations, have been accustomed to this mere speculative hypothesis. In other words, they are used to

acting on instructions from above.

It is understandable that job security matters most for us to support our families while many people are to eke out a miserable existence in the sluggish economy of the country. However, job security in this sense should not be mistaken for a situation in which employees will not be fired without apparent reasons. In fact, job security occurs when employees develop a sense of well-being at work with enchanting prospects for promotion and without secret worries of losing their jobs. Once employees feel job security, they will no doubt do their best for the organisation that employs them.

With the democratic reform taking shape over the past five years, good opportunities are opening up for all of us to roll up our sleeves in pursuit of knowledge and skills necessary for better employment that offers appropriate pay, merit pay and af-

fordable health care benefits.

Now is the time for employers and employees to understand the simple rule that their mutual desire to work together benefits both sides in the long run. After all, employers, on their part, need to create a happy workplace, whereas employees need to return their best services.

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

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

Time to wake up, teachers!

Myo Myint

ALL citizens will welcome the news in the local newspapers that 100,000 more teachers are to be recruited as primary teachers in the 2016-2017 financial year, as education plays a pivotal role in the country's development, more so, in the defining moments of transition to democracy, development and decentralization.

Those familiar with the tasks of the education sector will know that there are five main areas in the sector: teacher, student, administrator, curriculum and courses, and facilities. As a former teacher, among them, I regard teachers as being the most important. No matter how weak the students are, no matter how backward the curriculum and courses are, no matter how inefficient and slow to take action the administrators are, and no matter how poor the facilities are, weak students can become inspired to become good learners by a skilled teacher; an outdated curriculum and courses can be updated in the hands of a teacher with progressive ideas; the short comings of administrators can be remedied by the dynamism of the teacher; and the poor quality of facilities can be improved with the creative efforts of the teacher. On the other hand, no matter how capable the students are, no matter how high the quality of the curriculum and learning materials are, and no matter how modern the learning facilities are, they mean little, if teachers do not put in the necessary efforts, or do not keep learning.

It must be pointed out that however highly developed a country is, not all persons who want to join the teaching profession will possess the intellectual capacity, the determination, the motivation, or the spirit of sacrifice to improve themselves, or the teaching-learning situation demanded by the profession. In my opinion, the key to success in education is that those who want to become teachers must

enter the profession with open eyes and are fully aware of the many roles expected of them, and the sacrifices they have to make, so that, in the long run, they are not overwhelmed by the multifaceted demands of the job, and become disappointed with the work, and unfulfilled expectations. They should join the profession fully aware that, teaching involves a lot more than explaining things to students, and that it entails a variety of sacrifices regarding time, money, health, family interest and personal ambitions.

Persons who have the ambition to become teachers should also know that if they become teachers, they will have to behave impeccably, as they are regarded by Myanmar society as models of honesty, morality, humility and industriousness. One of the worst acts of money-grubbing teachers is luring their students to their tuition classes with promises of access to question papers and high position in the examination results. Instead of improving the ability of students, school-teachers-cum-tuition-teachers turn their tuition students into parrots by making them memorize the answers to tests. What is even worse is that they mistreat those students who do not, or cannot attend their tuition classes.

Those who intend to become teachers need to also know that they have to give more time than the designated working hours for lesson preparation, correction, remedial teaching, and helping solve the many academic and personal problems faced by their students. At school, every minute counts in training students to become healthy, capable, young persons who will not only be of credit to their families, but also to their society.

The would-be teachers should also know that teachers need to have a certain level of intelligence because they need to not only teach students academic subjects but also a variety of areas, such as ethics, life skills which includes

knowledge about the world around them, healthy living, nutrition, conserving the environment, and how to face natural disasters, and social skills in order to learn how to interact in different situations and how to get along with people in order to nurture well-rounded persons. Therefore, so that they will be able to keep themselves abreast with new trends and be able to provide the latest knowledge to their students, teachers need to keep pace with new developments, in the academic as well as other relevant fields by reading extensively and attending training programmes whenever the opportunity arises. In addition, they must appreciate that for the sake of their students, they must be able to keep changing themselves and be adaptable, and prove wrong the prevailing belief that teachers are the most difficult persons to change. If teachers do not have the capacity to change, how can they provide fresh knowledge, new skills and new experiences to their students, so that these young people have the capacity to satisfy the demands of an ever-changing world?

What has been presented above is a synopsis of the multifaceted responsibilities of teachers which, if they fail to carry out effectively, will affect not only the ability of current and future generations but also the ability of the country to be competitive in the this very challenging era. In addition to blaming the education sector for the declining standards, lack of necessary knowledge and skills, critical and problem solving thinking skills, and lack of a sound foundation to pursue further studies after completing school and higher education, many people are also putting the blame on the education sector for all the ills and lacks of society such as increase in horrifying crimes, deterioration in moral, religious and cultural values, lack of respect for fellow human beings, rude behaviour, rise in lack of consideration for others, poor communication skills, and

decline in attention to one's surroundings. It may not be fair to put the blame on the education sector for all the prevailing social ills, but the general opinion that education is responsible in building so many skills and improving the mindset of young people shows the high regard society has for the power of education.

Hence, at this important juncture in the history of our nation, when we are on the verge of ushering in a just, equal, peaceful, united, and dynamic society, both those who are about to join the profession, and those already in the profession must be fully aware of the important responsibility thrust on their shoulders. They must therefore

1. be fully aware of the responsibility that society has entrusted to them regarding the nurturing of young people and the development of human resource for the country,
2. pursue lifelong learning to develop all the necessary qualities of a good teacher,
3. make good use of the time when taking a class and not waste the precious time of students by coming to class unprepared and uninterested,
4. stop exploiting their students to become rich, and stop using the rote learning methodology that impedes the development of independent learning, creativity and realization of the full potential of students, and
5. together with other citizens, make the necessary sacrifices at this historic moment, so that the country will catch up with the rest of the world quickly

On the part of education authorities, they must

1. provide teachers with a salary that is in commensurate with their work, the hardship they face, and the responsibilities entrusted to them by society, and create a fair and transparent system for reward, promotion and transfer,

2. create a better welfare system for teachers regarding health care, housing and transportation,
3. provide quality pre-service and in-service training programmes to improve teaching skills, knowledge and attitude,
4. ensure effective and fair leadership at schools and higher education institutions by appointing qualified and dynamic persons as heads and not simply basing appointments and promotions on seniority, and
5. show that inefficiency and corruption will not be tolerated and take legal action against teachers who infringe the rules and regulations of the ministry, especially those who are enriching themselves by exploiting their students and weakening the education system.

Those who are seeking to safeguard the rights of teachers must also strive for the rights of students to have proper and well-prepared instruction, as the large majority of students come from poor families and are wholly dependent on the teachers at school to receive quality education. It must also be pointed out that in all aspects of the education sector including teachers, quantity has to go hand in hand with quality, for the achievement of true progress. No nation and no sector can leapfrog out of long-standing negligence, poor management, corruption, backwardness, poverty and disunity, if every citizen does not join in and make the necessary sacrifices. Since it is now time for all citizens to work extra hard, it is also time for all teachers to wake up from their long slumber and fulfill the wishes of students and parents and perform their responsibilities effectively, as their sector, the education sector, plays a leading role in working for prosperity and emergence of a nation that can stand shoulder to shoulder with other nations.

Growing need to conserve Monastery of Yaw Min Gyi U Pho Hlaing



The Brick Monastery donated by Yaw Min Gyi U Pho Hlaing in 1866. PHOTO: MAUNG PYI THU (MDY)

THE Yaw Min Gyi Brick Monastery, donated by Yaw Min Gyi U Pho Hlaing in 1866 (1228 Myanmar Era) requires conservation because of destruction caused by rain and wind.

The monastery was burned down losing all its original wooden infrastructure and concrete rinceaux, there remained only the brick structure during the World War II as the Allied bombed in Mandalay in March 1945.

The wooden beams and floor of the monastery were replaced with concrete beams and concrete floor, and roofed with zinc sheets under the supervision of the Department of Archaeology under the Ministry of Culture in December 1998. Myanmar artists created a rinceaux to match the original. In 2013, according to the instructions of the Ministry of Culture, the Department of Archaeology carried out the work

of installing a ceiling, a drainage around the monastery, the installation of doors and windows, Myanmar concrete rinceaux and wiring. The Ministry of Culture has designated the Yaw Min Gyi Brick Monastery as an ancient heritage building. The Monastery should be renovated and have a garden to attract tourists from abroad and home to come and visit, said a tourist guide.—*Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)*

Second coffee quality competition held in Pyin Oo Lwin

THE second coffee quality competition was held in Pyin Oo Lwin from 12 to 16 March at a local coffee processing plant.

The winning coffees at the competition will be exported to the US market, sources involved in the competition reported.

“American coffee experts are judging samples of locally grown coffee.

They will announce [the winners] with certificates of recognition. The main [purpose of the event] is to allow Pyin Oo Lwin-grown coffee to break penetrate the international market,” said U Min Hlaing, secretary of the Mandalay Coffee Association.

A total of 60 samples of naturally grown coffee, submitted by farmers from the regions of Pyin Oo Lwin, Nawnghkio, Myitni, Mogok and Ywa Ngan, were entered into the testing competition. Five coffee varieties will be awarded certificates

of quality authenticity in May.

“This competition only comprise natural coffee produced by coffee growers new to the business. The coffee was dry roasted between 12 and 14 March.

It has been tested by coffee experts after that. We’ve entered the competition in the manner taught to us by USAID. It’s also a chance to invite buyers to come and try our coffee. Being added to the list of official international coffee beans will raise the quality of our coffee, attracting international buyers,” said U Win Aung Kyaw, a coffee grower from the town of Ywa Ngan in the Danu Self-Administered Zone, who also serves as chair of the Ywa Ngan Coffee Association.

The competition was the second of its kind. The prize-winning coffee samples will be registered by the Coffee Quality Institute (CQI).—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Haka will get new water support at the end of March 2016

COME the end of March and residents of Chin State’s capital, Haka, will be able to access water pumped up from the Thi river, according to the Chin State Development Committee (CSDC).

In a bid to ensure a sufficient supply of drinking water for Haka residents, the Chin State government began implementation during the 2014-15 fiscal year on construction of a dam and water pumping system on the Thi river, which will be completed by the end of March, it is known.

“Only sixty-two per cent of our water reserve remains. The arrival of the dry season has dried up our streams, rendering an insufficient water supply. We will have a sufficient amount of drinking water once the Thi river water project is finished,” said U Thalahre, director of the CSDC.

The government allocated a budget of K8,800 million for the aforementioned water project which spanned the two fiscal years of 2014-15 and 2015-16.

The Chin State government

contracted out the Myanma Ahla company for the construction project. Once the dam and water pump system have been constructed, water pipes and meters will be linked to homes and dwellings for water distribution, but that cannot come soon enough for local residents.

“People are buying water from private companies because the amount provided by the Hakha municipal isn’t enough. The current price for a tank full of water is as much as K2,500. If water could really be distributed from the Thi river then we would have enough.”, said by U Tikon, administrator of Haka’s Haung neighbourhood.

Residents of Haka rely upon water running down from mountain streams as their source of drinking water, with the onset of the hot season causing problems of water shortages.

The municipal department is currently working to provide distribution of water by connecting every fifteen households with a hand water pump.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Israeli Eye doctors’ delegation arrives in Myanmar

THE 7th time Israeli eye doctors’ delegation “Eye from Zion” has arrived in Myanmar as part of ongoing collaboration in the area of health between Myanmar and Israel.

This year’s delegation included three doctors and led by Dr. Nir Shoham Hazon (Director of Glaucoma Unit in Barzilai Hospital).

They will concentrate on conducting treatment for Glaucoma. They will operate and transfer knowledge to local doctors, using equipment and know-how from Israel.

The activity is being conducted in North Okkalapa General Hospital and No. 1 Defence Services General Hospital. The surgeries involves live training sessions and demonstrations for



Israeli ambassador Mr. Daniel Zonshine at the opening ceremony, N-Okkalapa Hospital. PHOTO: ISRAELI EMBASSY

interns and doctors from different eye departments.

The team will also hold a

seminar on Glaucoma for doctors from different institutions in Myanmar.—*GNLM*

Plane crashes in Russia, all 62 people on board killed



A view shows the crash site of Flight number FZ981, a Boeing 737-800 operated by Dubai-based budget carrier Flydubai, at the airport of Rostov-On-Don, Russia, on 19 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

MOSCOW — All 62 people aboard a passenger jet flying from Dubai to southern Russia were killed when their plane crashed on its second attempt to land at Rostov-on-Don airport yesterday, Russian officials said.

Russia's emergencies ministry said the aircraft, a Boeing 737-800 operated by Dubai-based budget carrier Flydubai, crashed at 03:50 (0030 GMT). Most of those aboard were Russian.

"The aircraft hit the ground and broke into pieces," the Investigative Committee of Russia said in a statement on its website. "According to preliminary data, there were 55 passengers aboard and 7 crew members. They all died."

The plane's wing hit the ground on its second landing attempt and burst into flames, the

Rostov region emergency ministry said in a statement.

The region's governor, Vasily Golubev, said bad weather — strong, gusting wind in the Rostov area — was the primary line of investigation for the crash, but Zhanna Terekohova, an adviser to the Russian transport minister, said pilot error could also be a factor. The plane came down inside the airport's perimeter, about 250 metres (yards) short of the start of the runway.

Grainy pictures from a security camera pointing towards the airport, which were broadcast on Russian television, showed a large explosion at ground level, with flames and sparks leaping high into the air. A representative of Rostov's emergency ministry said at a briefing that flight re-

corders have not yet been recovered.

"We are doing all we can to gather information as quickly as possible. At this moment our thoughts and prayers are with our passengers and our crew who were on board the aircraft," Flydubai said in a statement.

"We will do everything we can to help those who have been affected by this accident," said the carrier, which is owned by the Dubai government.

Six of the crew were non-Russians, Russian emergency ministry said in a statement on its website, but it did not reveal the citizenship of the crew or passengers aboard. Governor Golubev said on state television that there were seven children aboard. —Reuters

Europe's most wanted held in Brussels for Paris attacks



Armed Belgian police apprehend a suspect, in this still image taken from video, in Molenbeek, near Brussels, Belgium, on 18 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

BRUSSELS — Europe's most wanted man was captured after a shootout in Brussels in a major coup for authorities investigating November's Islamic State attacks on Paris.

Salah Abdeslam, 26, the first suspected active participant tak-

en alive, was being held overnight in hospital with a slight leg wound, Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel announced at a news conference alongside French President Francois Hollande. "This is an important result in the battle for democracy,"

Michel said on Friday, adding that US President Barack Obama had called to congratulate the Belgian and French leaders.

A Belgian minister broke the news by tweeting, "We got him."

Prosecutors said a second wanted man, who used the false name of Amine Choukri, was also wounded and captured in the raid on the apartment in Abdeslam's home neighbourhood of Molenbeek.

The operation, planned after fingerprints and passports were found in a bloody raid three days earlier, was staged in a rush after media leaked word that police had found Abdeslam's trail.

Hollande, who was visiting Brussels for a European summit, confirmed France would seek extradition for the Brussels-based Frenchman who, he said, was definitely in Paris on the bloody night of Friday, 13 November when 130 people were killed. —Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lufthansa reports near miss with drone over Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES — The pilot of a Lufthansa passenger jumbo jet reported a drone aircraft nearly collided with the airliner on Friday on its landing approach to Los Angeles International Airport, according to the Federal Aviation Administration.

The close encounter between the wide-body, four-engine Airbus A380 and the drone occurred at about 1:30 pm at an altitude of 5,000 feet (152 metres) as the unmanned aircraft passed about 200 feet (61 metres) over the Lufthansa flight 14 miles (22.5 km) east of the airport, the FAA said.

No evasive action was taken by the airline crew, and the plane, Lufthansa Flight 456, safely made its landing minutes later without further incident, according to FAA spokesman Ian Gregor. The FAA immediately alerted the Los Angeles Police Department's air support division. —Reuters

US makes new arrest in UN bribery case

NEW YORK — US prosecutors on Friday unveiled charges against a China-born woman involved with two organisations focused on the United Nations as part of an ongoing investigation into a scheme to pay bribes to a former UN General Assembly president.

Julia Vivi Wang, 55, was accused in a criminal complaint filed in federal court in Manhattan of having paid a bribe of at least \$500,000 to buy Antiguan diplomatic positions for her late husband and another Chinese businessman.

The bribe was solicited and facilitated by John Ashe, a former UN ambassador from Antigua and Barbuda and who was General Assembly president from 2013 to 2014, the complaint said.

He was among six people charged in October for participating in a scheme that involved the payment of more than \$1.3 million in bribes to Ashe by Chinese businessmen, including Ng Lap Seng, a billionaire Macau real estate developer. —Reuters

Sri Lanka partially faces power cuts following power station fire

COLOMBO — A fire broke out at an electricity substation in Kotugoda on the suburbs of the capital Colombo Friday, triggering power cuts in several areas near the capital.

The fire occurred just days after an explosion in another power transformer caused an islandwide power failure.

Ceylon Electricity Board officials said malfunction had caused the fire. Firefighters had been called in, local media said.

The fire broke out just two days after security forces were deployed to protect all power installations and substations in the country after the government raised suspicions that the nationwide power failure could be an act of sabotage. On Thursday, Deputy Minister of Power and Energy Ajith Perera told reporters that there was a serious threat to the country's power and energy system which led to the deployment of the military. —Xinhua

France carries out biggest ever attack drill ahead of Euro 2016

PARIS — More than a thousand police and firemen took part in the largest attack response drill ever carried out in France this week in the southern city of Nîmes, ahead of the Euro 2016 football championship due to be held in the country from 10 June.

French authorities are keen to show they are well prepared for the event, which will take place less than a year after Islamist attacks in Paris that killed 130 people. The exercise was designed to simulate a chemical attack in a "fan zone", a closed perimeter where football fans will be able to monitor the competition on giant outdoor screens when not attending matches in one of the 10 stadiums.

A Reuters witness saw dozens of police and military officers taking part in the drill, some of them equipped with gas masks. —Reuters

Letter with granular matter sent to Trump's son in New York

NEW YORK — Authorities were investigating a threatening letter containing a granular substance that was sent to Donald Trump's son urging an end to the elder's presidential campaign, a New York City police official said on Friday.

The letter was addressed to the Manhattan home of Eric Trump, 32, who has appeared frequently on the campaign trail with his father, the Republican front-runner for the White House in 2016. "There was a substance inside that is being tested, it's not lethal," the official said. The letter, which contained threats over Trump continuing his campaign, was being examined by law enforcement experts, the official said. No suspects have been identified. —Reuters

UN tells Syrian government to go faster, get specific in Geneva talks

GENEVA — Syria's government must do more to present its ideas about a political transition and not merely talk about principles of peacemaking, UN mediator Staffan de Mistura said on Friday after a fifth day of peace talks.

The end of a week of talks in Geneva came as Syria neared the three-week mark in its "cessation of hostilities", a temporary truce in the five-year-old civil war that has largely held but was marred by "some incidents" on Friday, he said.

"We are in a hurry," he

told reporters after what he called an "intense" day and meetings with Syria's government delegation and the main opposition, the High Negotiations Committee (HNC).

De Mistura said he had given both sides weekend homework so the negotiations could speed up on Monday, and during the second week of discussions he would go deeper into the issue of a political transition.

He had told the government delegation that they could talk about procedures if they wished, but it was

impossible to avoid dealing with the substance, he said.

"In the end, people in Syria don't need procedure, they need reality and they expect that from us." Syria's war has killed more than 250,000 people and caused the world's worst refugee crisis with more than half the pre-war population displaced.

Next week he aims to build "a minimum common platform" to better understand how to approach a post-war transition, which is the core issue to be tackled at the next round of talks in April, he said. "We are



The delegation of the High Negotiations Committee (HNC) and UN mediator Staffan de Mistura are pictured at the start of a meeting during the Syria peace talks at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, on 17 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

already aiming very clearly for that."

De Mistura said he had been impressed by the depth of the engagement in the process by the HNC, including substantive points

on its vision of a peaceful transition. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad has rejected opposition demands he give up power as a precondition for lasting peace.

De Mistura said the

talks saw "no walkouts, no excessive rhetoric, no breakdowns... despite the fact that I am obviously still detecting large distances" between the two sides.—

Reuters

Russia pulls most strike aircraft from Syria, now using artillery



Russian Sukhoi Su-25 fighter jets fly in formation after returning from Syria, before landing at an airbase in Krasnodar region, southern Russia, in this 16 March 2016 handout photo by the Russian Ministry of Defence. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON — Russia has withdrawn most of its strike aircraft from Syria, the US military said on Friday, adding that it was now entirely carrying out strikes in support of Syrian government forces using artillery instead of aircraft.

"They still have helicopters and some transport aircraft. But what we've seen is that the majority of Russian strike aircraft have left Syria," Colonel Patrick Ryder, a spokesman at the US military's Central Command, told Pentagon

reporters. Ryder said the United States had not seen Russia carrying out any air strikes in recent days, including around the Syrian city of Palmyra and was instead using artillery.

"In the last week, we have not seen any Russian aircraft conducting any strikes in Syria. And that any counter-ISIL strikes that may have been done, would have been — from a Russian standpoint — would have been via artillery systems," Ryder said, using an acronym for Islamic State.—Reuters

Israeli troops shoot dead a Palestinian wielding knife

JERUSALEM — Israeli soldiers shot dead a Palestinian man who tried to stab them in the occupied West Bank on Friday, the military said.

"An assailant, armed with a knife, exited his vehicle and charged at the soldiers guarding the junction. Forces responded to the threat and shot the attacker, resulting in his death," the military said in a statement.

Since October, Palestinian street attacks have

killed 28 Israelis and two US citizens. Israeli forces have killed at least 188 Palestinians, 127 of whom Israel says were assailants. Most others were shot dead during clashes and protests.

Palestinian leaders say attackers have acted out of desperation in the absence of movement towards creation of an independent state. Israel says they are being incited to violence by their leaders and on social media.—Reuters

US military punishes more than a dozen for Afghan hospital air strike

WASHINGTON — The US military has disciplined more than a dozen personnel, including officers, following a deadly October air strike in Afghanistan that destroyed

a hospital run by Medecins Sans Frontiers and killed at least 42 people, US officials told Reuters on Friday. The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the

US military took administrative and non-judicial actions against the US personnel, instead of seeking criminal charges.

In November, the US

military described the strike, which killed at least 42 medical staff, patients, and caretakers, as a tragic, avoidable accident caused primarily by human error. According to

the initial US investigation, US forces had meant to target a different building in the city and were initially led off-track by a technical error in their aircraft's mapping

system but then misidentified their intended target. The full results of an investigation into the strike are expected to be released in the coming days.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MATHU BHUM VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MATHU BHUM VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S MOL (S'PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV E.R TURKU VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R TURKU VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S HANJIN SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (030N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (030N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES
Phone No: 2301185

Cruise ship rescues 18 Cuban migrants who say nine fellows died



File photo of the Royal Caribbean cruise liner "Brilliance of the Seas" seen at sunset in Valletta's Grand Harbour on 14 December 2010. PHOTO: REUTERS

COZUMEL, (Mexico) — A cruise ship off the Florida coast on Friday rescued 18 Cuban migrants who said nine fellow travellers died during their 22-day-long journey, the US Coast Guard said.

The Coast Guard said the migrants were picked up by Royal Caribbean's Brilliance of the Seas cruise ship west of Marco Island. The survivors were suffering from severe dehydration, and they reported that nine others had already died, the Coast Guard said.

The Coast Guard could

not confirm the veracity of the statements. The 18 people would be taken to the cruise ship's next port of call, in Cozumel, Mexico, the Coast Guard said.

"Our deepest condolences to the families of the nine people who recently did lose their lives," said Coast Guard Captain Mark Gordon, who heads up enforcement for the Coast Guard 7th District. "Unfortunately, tragedy is all too common when taking to the sea in homemade vessels with no safety or navigation equipment." Coast Guard officials

also repatriated 42 other migrants to Cuba on Friday, as a result of two interdictions earlier in the week.

The Coast Guard said it has seen a steady increase in illegal immigration attempts to the US southeast from Cuba since diplomatic relations between the two countries were normalised in late 2014.

The rescues come just days ahead of President Barack Obama's scheduled visit to Cuba, which will be the first by a sitting US president in 88 years.—Reuters



Notice of Funding Opportunity

USAID Funded Private Sector Development Activity

Annual Program Statement

The USAID Private Sector Development Activity funded by USAID and implemented by Nathan Associates Inc (Nathan) is a 3-year program that aims to increase economic opportunities in Myanmar by creating more inclusive economic governance rules and processes and increasing access to finance for emerging economic actors.

The Private Sector Development Activity has recently issued an Annual Program Statement (APS) to invite civil society organizations (CSOs), community-based organizations (CBOs), non-profit organizations, private-sector associations, and for-profit businesses and financial institutions (FIs), including banks and microfinance institutions (MFIs), to apply for grants that will help them innovate, start a new activity or expand an existing, successful activity.

This grant solicitation is open for one year (December 17, 2015 – December 16, 2016) for grants up to a maximum amount of USD \$100,000 to be implemented over a 3 to 12 month period. Grant concepts that propose a budget of more than \$100,000 or more than a 12-month period of time will not be considered at this time.

Concepts will be accepted on a rolling basis and will be reviewed monthly by the USAID Private Sector Development Activity.

The proposed activity should aim to achieve one or more of the following broad objectives:

- Promote and improve inclusive and transparent economic policy-making and implementation processes;
- Organize public awareness activities on key economic policy and commercial law issues;
- Increase civil-society, private-sector and public-sector capacity to engage in evidence-based advocacy on key economic policy and commercial law reform initiatives;
- Conduct research on key economic policy and commercial law issues for the purpose of disseminating through public dialogues;
- Encourage economic reforms in States and Regions;
- Encourage economic reforms that benefit women and ethnic-minorities;
- Provide business development services in response to needs of local businesses;
- Expand access to finance of small and medium enterprises and microbusiness, and mobilization of savings; and,
- Support financial-sector development and reform, including for banks, non-bank FIs, insurance and financial literacy.

Grants are open to all local organizations in Myanmar. US based organizations are also eligible to apply for grants. International, non-US, organizations that are permitted to operate in Myanmar may also apply for grants. Grantees, particularly local organizations, may use the grants to build their own staff and institutional capacity in achieving the above objectives. Organizations with limited experience working with grants are encouraged to apply. International grantees should put a strong emphasis on enhancing local capacity in utilizing the grants.

To apply, please refer to the full Annual Program Statement on http://themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/call-for-proposals/The_USAID_Private_Sector_Development_Activity_Grants_Program.zip (or) <http://www.themimu.info/calls-for-proposals>, which includes complete application information and the required concept template.

Questions related to this notice can be asked via email to psdagrants@nathaninc.com

Advertorial

Romney offers vote, little else, to Cruz in Republican election battle



Former Republican US presidential nominee Mitt Romney introduces current Republican presidential candidate John Kasich at a campaign rally in North Canton, Ohio, on 14 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON — Republican Mitt Romney said on Friday he would vote for US Senator Ted Cruz in Utah's presidential nominating contest, but the party's 2012 election standard-bearer stopped short of an official endorsement as he urged voters to deny the nomination to front-runner Donald Trump.

In a Facebook post, Romney said a vote for Cruz in Utah's caucus on Tuesday was the best way to prevent Trump from locking down the nomination, which would give opponents a chance to select another candidate at the party's July convention.

"The only way we can reach an open convention is for Senator Cruz to be successful in as many of the remaining nominating elections as possible," Romney wrote.

Romney did not offer any praise for Cruz, who emerged as a favourite of the party's most ardent conservatives after clashing with party leaders in Washington. Romney did not say

whether or not he would campaign with Cruz, a first-term senator from Texas.

Trump responded quickly. "Mitt Romney is a mixed up man who doesn't have a clue. No wonder he lost!" he wrote on Twitter.

Cruz, acknowledging the tepid nature of Romney's support, said the pledged vote enforces the idea that his campaign is the only one that can beat Trump, likening a vote for Ohio Governor John Kasich, the third remaining Republican contender, to tacit support for Trump.

"In my book, when someone says 'I'm voting for you, and I encourage everyone else to vote for you,' that's pretty darn good," Cruz, a self-styled Washington outsider, told reporters in Arizona. "And I'll take that and take that happily." Arizona also holds its nominating contest on Tuesday.

"As Mitt Romney observed today, if you want to beat Donald Trump, Cruz is the only campaign that can do it. That's why he's voting for me in Utah," Cruz said.

Romney has emerged as one of the most prominent critics of Trump, the billionaire businessman and reality-TV star who has become the surprise front-runner in the battle to secure the Republican nomination for the 8 November election. Romney, who lost to Democratic President Barack Obama in 2012, called Trump a "fraud" and a dangerous demagogue who would lose to Hillary Clinton, the Democratic Party front-runner, in November.—Reuters



On March, 20th 2016, International Check In At
NEW TERMINAL 1, Yangon International Airport.

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Myanmar National Airlines Takes Off From Newly-Opened Terminal 1 at Yangon International Airport

Yangon Aerodrome Company Limited warmly welcomes MNA at Terminal 1



We extend a warm welcome and congratulate our national carrier, Myanmar National Airlines, on its inaugural flight from Terminal 1 on 20th March 2016.

We are honoured to have the opportunity to wish you "Mingalabar".

Terminal 1 promises to deliver a unique, engaging and relaxing experience for all visitors to our Golden Land.

We warmly welcome all airlines.

THE GATEWAY INTO MYANMAR

NOTICE – MNA International Flights departure and arrival shall be at T1 Yangon International Airport with effect from 20th March 2016

RGN→SGN departs at 07:15(UB001) SGN→RGN arrives at 14:30(UB002)
RGN→HKG departs at 09:00(UB027) HKG→RGN arrives at 16:30(UB028)
RGN→BKK departs at 17:45(UB017) BKK→RGN arrives at 21:35(UB018)

Madonna again criticised by Australian fans for stage behaviour

SYDNEY — Madonna has again been criticised by Australian fans for her on stage behaviour during her first tour “Down Under” in 23 years, this time for appearing hours late for a concert and revealing a fan’s breast.

The 57-year-old pop star frustrated patrons when she began a performance in Brisbane more than two hours late on Wednesday night.

“So many upset fans walked out,” wrote concertgoer @Sally_Springs on Twitter. “If you can’t show up on time or sing live, it might not be worth the effort.”

Fans were further inconvenienced as public transport had stopped for the evening by the time Madonna’s late concert ended.

At her next show in Brisbane, on Thursday, Madonna invited a 17-year-old female fan on stage and pulled on the young woman’s corset, briefly revealing her breast.

The singer said jokingly: “She’s the kind of girl you just want to slap on the ass, and pull,” before tugging on

the girl’s corset top, which came down, briefly revealing her breast, drawing gasps and cheers from the crowd and later a backlash on social media.

“Exploiting young people, taking advantage of them and pulling a sexual stunt like that is NOT OK,” wrote Facebook user Pauline Ryeland.

Madonna’s representatives could not be immediately contacted.

Fan Josephine Georgiou, a barista and part-time model, later told Brisbane’s Courier Mail newspaper that she was not upset by her breast being revealed.

“Only I get to decide if I’m humiliated or not — why would people assume I am humiliated by my own breast, nipple or body?” she told the paper.

The incidents follow claims from audience members that the singer was drunk on stage at a concert in Melbourne earlier this month. Madonna denied she was drunk and wrote on Instagram that she “could never” do any shows “high or drunk”.—Reuters

I had to have psychotic breakdown last year: Iggy Azalea

LOS ANGELES — Singer Iggy Azalea says that she canceled her 2015 Great Escape tour last year because she was stressed out.

The 25-year-old “Fancy” hit-maker admitted that she had a “psychotic breakdown,” reported Us magazine.

“I had to have a psychotic breakdown last year. I felt tired and stressed out. Last year, I felt like I was definitely not in control of the media’s narrative of me.

“It made me feel very out of control of my own life or my ability to have my own perception of who I was. You

don’t want someone else writing your narrative and making you the villain. Then I just realized that, you know what, you can’t control it and I think I accepted that and moved on to living my life,” Azalea said.

The singer was set to perform throughout the United States and Canada last year in April. Azalea’s team then pushed the tour back to September before canceling it entirely.—PTI

throughout the United States and Canada last year in April. Azalea’s team then pushed the tour back to September before canceling it entirely.—PTI

Singer Iggy Azalea.
PHOTO: REUTERS



Heroes face consequences as ‘Batman v Superman’ clash for justice

LOS ANGELES — Superheroes have long existed in a world of their own, but as two iconic caped heroes battle in “Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice,” both are brought crashing down to reality as the ramifications of their actions catch up with them.

“Batman v Superman,” out in US theaters on 25 March, opens with the climax of 2013’s “Man of Steel,” in which Superman’s battle with alien General Zod causes mass-scale destruction in Metropolis.

In the city’s streets, Bruce Wayne, Batman’s alter ego, sees his company building crumble and blames Superman for the deaths of civilians, which sets up the clash of superheroes.

“I’m a big advocate of the consequences of these movies,” director Zack Snyder told Reuters. “Without the consequences, they’re slightly irresponsible in that it’s unconditional violence.”

An older, wearier Batman (Ben Affleck) sets out to destroy Superman (Henry Cavill), crossing paths with the psychotic technology entrepreneur Lex Luthor (Jesse Eisenberg) and elusive Diana Prince, the alter ego of Wonder Woman (Gal Gadot).

Superman meanwhile battles a growing public discourse against his actions, and a senator is determined to hold him accountable.

“There’s always been that little tete-a-tete with Batman and Superman and there has always been that question by fans — who will win in a fight?” Cavill said.



Actor Ben Affleck attends a news conference of the movie “Batman v Superman: Dawn Of Justice” in Beijing, China, on 11 March.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Fear also permeates the superhero fight, Affleck said.

“The way that we get afraid, how we react, sometimes that turns us into the worst version of ourselves ... there’s no place to go from there but to conflict,” he said.

Warring heroes will also feature in Walt Disney Co’s “Captain America: Civil War” in May, where Captain America and Iron Man face off. It offers a new angle to the superhero ensemble films such as Marvel’s “Avengers,” which have generated billions at the box office in recent years.

Warner Bros’ “Batman v Superman” sets the stage for 2017’s “Wonder Woman” and “The Justice League Part One.”

Superhero stories sometimes hold a mirror to society, with Superman’s 1938 comic book debut often perceived as answering America’s need for a hero during the Great Depression.

Eisenberg said “Batman v Superman” could be seen as a reflection of current American society, particularly with the Machiavellian Luthor, whom he described as “a classic xenophobe” who instills public fear against the alien Superman.

“I think if you look at some of the more nasty, political discourse in at least our country today, you’d see shades of that,” Eisenberg said.—Reuters

Roger Daltrey, Pete Townshend rock opening of NY teen cancer lounge

NEW YORK — Roger Daltrey and Pete Townshend of the British rock band The Who were on hand for the opening on Friday of a special social area at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre for teens and young adults suffering from the illness.

Called The Lounge, the new space was developed by Teen Cancer America, a nonprofit organisation co-founded by the two rock stars. The charity works with hospitals to develop state-of-the-art facilities to give teens suffering from cancer a place to

meet, spend time together and stay connected.

“The music business was founded with the support of teenagers, well it was in my day,” Daltrey told a press conference. “And this is a good way of giving back.”—Reuters

Tattoos express my feelings: David Beckham

LONDON — Former football star David Beckham says his tattoos express his “deeper feelings”.

Beckham already has 40 inks on his body and admits he still wants to add to more artwork because it makes him happy, reported Female First.

“The tattoos are a way of me expressing deeper feelings, about the things I care about and love. Am I done? Probably not. (I) think Victoria’s given up on telling me to stop now. She used to. She used to say, ‘Do you have to?’ But she knows it makes me happy,” the 40-year-old former Manchester

United star said.

Known for his sense of style, Beckham said he enjoyed dressing up and “looking smart” from a young age.

“Even as a kid, seven or eight years old, I liked to wear nice shoes. I liked to wear a nice suit my mum or dad bought me. It wouldn’t have been expensive, but I always liked to dress up. I liked to look smart.

“Later, I liked having the nice cars... And luckily I was able to have it pretty young. Every penny that I earned went into something nice,” he said.—PTI



Former football star David Beckham. PHOTO: REUTERS

Ballet star Acosta returns to Cuban roots with dance company

HAVANA — Global ballet star Carlos Acosta returns to his Cuban roots when his new dance company takes to the stage next month.

Since retiring last year from London's Royal Ballet where he was principal guest artist, the 42-year-old has gone back to his native Havana to found Acosta Danza.

"My country made it possible for me to become a ballet dancer and I want to pass that on too," Acosta told a news conference on Thursday. "That is where the idea for my company, to found the school, came from — to establish a platform, to create this pathway, but not just for Cuba, for the world."

Having trained at the National Ballet School of Cuba, Acosta went on to perform with many of the world's leading ballet companies.

He has been likened to

the late ballet legend Rudolf Nureyev and earned numerous accolades in his career, including an Olivier Award for Outstanding Achievement in Dance at Britain's top theater honours.

Acosta joined the Royal Ballet in 1998 and he danced in "Carmen" for his swan song performance last year.

"My heart is always in Cuba. I could have opened my company in England and they would have given me everything," he said.

"But with everything we want, we want this to better everything in every way, that artists create new possibilities for themselves, new productions and I want to try to do that."

Acosta Danza will make its debut at Havana's newly refurbished Alicia Alonso Great Theatre on 8 April, performing a range of contemporary works.—Reuters

Fried cow's brains? — Italy's historic cities push local cuisine, produce



Italian chef Cristina Palanti poses with a meat cleaver and cooking fork hovering over a plastic pig figurine at the 'L'e'Maiala' restaurant in Florence in 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

ROME — Fried cow's brains might not be to everyone's taste, but more people may sample the Florentine specialty now that Italy's art capital has ordered food outlets in the city centre to sell mostly local produce.

Florence is the latest Italian tourist destination to adopt the mantra "you are what you eat", and is requiring shops and restaurants to make sure that 70 per cent of their food comes from the sur-

rounding region.

"We are seeing an unstoppable distortion in our cultural heritage, of which food is a part," Mayor Dario Nardella wrote on his Facebook page.

"A restaurant opens every week in Florence, not to mention minimarkets and Asiamarkets," he said, apparently referring to food and drink shops often run by immigrants and open all hours.

Promoting a short supply

chain and seasonal eating has been fashionable in Italy for years, promoted by the Slow Food movement and upmarket food hall chain Eataly. But now local governments are turning up the heat.

Last month for example, Verona Mayor Flavio Tosi said he would not allow new kebab shops to open in the historic centre of the city where William Shakespeare set "Romeo and Juliet".

These measures have prompted a mixed reaction among Italy's legion of gastronomic pundits and business people, some noting that local products could also be of low quality while others said the move would help defend local biodiversity.

Nardella's drive in Florence appeared even simpler, though: to offer good local food and less junk to the city's crowds of visitors.

"Where once there were artisans' workshops, historic cafes, cinemas and old taverns, now fast food, pizzerias and low-grade restaurants have opened, ready to snare the first unsuspecting tourist," he said.—Reuters



News Channel in Brief

(20-3-2016, Sunday)

6:00 am

• Paritta by HillyRegion Missionary Sayadaw

7:35 am

• Business News

8:35 am

• Meet The Successful

9:35 am

• Weekly Entertainment

10:35 am

• Poem For Children

11:15 am

• Documentary

11:35 am

• Amazing World

12:35 pm

• Round Up of The Week's

International News

12:50 pm

• Myanmar Movie

4:15 pm

• Documentary

4:35 pm

• MRTV Job Opportunity Programme

5:15 pm

• Analysis For Myanmar Movie

5:35 pm

• People's Talks

6:35 pm

• Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)

7:15 pm

• Variety Song

8:00 pm

• News / International News/ Weather Report

8:35 pm

• Documentary

9:00 pm

• News

• Tasty Trip

• Sing & Enjoy

Note/ Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

PICTURE OF THE DAY



Participants play the Monopoly board game during a record-breaking attempt at Universal Studios Singapore (USS) in Singapore, on 19 March 2016. A total of 605 individuals played Monopoly together in Universal Studios Singapore on Saturday, breaking the Guinness World Records of having the most people playing a Monopoly game in a single venue. PHOTO: XINHUA



Myanmar International

(20-3-2016 07:00am ~ 21-3-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	An Ardent Aficionado Of Traditional Design
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	Pa Khan Traditional Nat Festival In Ku Ni Village (Part-II)
08:50	Am	Myanmar HR Conference (Part-I)
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	To The Land Of Countless Temples - Bagan Trip (EP-1)
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	"Myanmar's Traditions and Culture" Myanmar's Secret Beautifier

10:49 Am Myanmar Railways City Circular Train

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)-Saturday Repeat(07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm)-Today Repeat(07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Bago: A City Of Famous Historic Pagoda
07:50	Pm	Today Myanmar "Community based Tourism Development"
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	National Literary Icon & Guiding Light of Myanmar Literature: Sayar Zaw Gyi (Episode-3) National Literary Icon in His Old Age
08:54	Pm	Now in Yangon

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm)-Today Repeat(09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)- Saturday Repeat(07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am)-Today Repeat(07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)



Entertainment Channel

(20-3-2016, Sunday)

6:00 pm

• Weather Report
• Today Myanmar & Ecommerce

6:30 pm

• Music Programme

7:00 pm

• A May Yay Yin Nat Festival (Part-1)

7:20 pm

• Special Movie "Iron Man"

9:20 pm

• Music Programme

9:40 pm

• Myanmar MovieMidnight
• Close Down.

* 10:30 PM Live "English Premier League" Tottenham Vs AFC Bournemouth

From 20-3-2016 (Sunday) 6:00 Pm
To 21-3-2016(Monday) 6:00 Pm

This schedule will be repeated four times in 24 hours.

Serena battles past Radwanska to reach Indian Wells final

INDIAN WELLS — Serena Williams overcame a sluggish start to forge past Agnieszka Radwanska 6-4, 7-6(1) and move into the final of the BNP Paribas Open on Friday.

The world number one, who will play against Victoria Azarenka for the title, was 4-2 down in the opening set and not moving freely in the semi-final at Indian Wells.

However, after the American found her rhythm she claimed four straight games to take control of the set, then continued her run in the second to win the opening three games before her Polish opponent fought back. Radwanska displayed the kind of tennis that will see her rise to number two in the world rankings on Monday, rallying to win the next three games to get the set back on serve.

The Pole even had a chance to win just her second career set against Williams when she broke the American to lead 6-5, but could not close out on serve.

Williams then snuffed out any hopes Radwanska had of claiming a first victory over the American, win-

ning seven straight points to take the tiebreaker 7-1 and improve to 10-0 in their head-to-head battles.

"I think it was really good for me to have a match like that and I think that's the reason 'Aga' is doing so well, because she never gave up," Williams told reporters.

"I was up so much in the second and she just came back and was determined more than ever, so it was really good to play well against her tonight. "I could have played three sets but I figured I should at least do 1,000 percent right now. That's what I tried to do."

Williams improved to 23-1 at Indian Wells, where she won in 1999 and 2001, before taking a self-imposed 14-year exile from the event amidst allegations of racial abuse from fans after sister Venus withdrew minutes before their semi-final showdown. Some 15 years later, she is feeling the love.

"I had a lot of support, I heard a lot of 'Go Serenas' and that was kind of cool," Williams added.

"This year has been great. It feels so great to be supported. It's

been a great comeback here in Indian Wells, so I'm excited about that." Williams will play 13th seed and 2012 champion Victoria Azarenka in the final after she beat Czech Republic's Karolina Pliskova 7-6(1), 1-6, 6-2 in the other semi-final.

Despite service troubles, including five double faults in the opening set, and a poor second set, Azarenka found her way past the 18th seed to give herself a chance at a second title of the year and a return to the world's top 10.

"It definitely was a tough battle," Azarenka said.

"I'm glad I stayed strong and stayed cool and calm and tried to find a way in the third set to take control. "I worked so hard this week to put myself in a position to play the best player in the world," she added about the final.

"That's exactly where I want to be. I want to go out there and try to play my best tennis, play high quality tennis, do what I do in practice and just have fun." — Reuters



Serena Williams (USA). PHOTO: REUTERS

United still trust home-made recipe to revive fortunes

LONDON — This season's Manchester United highlights reel is hardly vintage but Marcus Rashford's cameo contribution to it offers a glimpse of more entertaining times ahead.

United's established names and big-money signings have laboured under the much-maligned Louis van Gaal with Thursday's Europa League defeat by Liverpool the latest low.

But in Rashford, Cameron Borthwick-Jackson, Jesse Lingard, Will Keane and James Wilson to name but a few, there is evidence

that the club's famed Academy production line is still in working order.

Injuries to first-teamers may have forced Van Gaal's hand to some extent, but United's new generation have shown promise when called upon — particularly 18-year-old Rashford who marked his debut with two goals against Danish club FC Midtjylland and a few days later scored another brace against Arsenal.

Nicky Butt, part of the class of 92' along with David Beckham, Gary and Phil Neville and Paul

Scholes, was recently promoted to Academy Director and the former midfielder says the recipe for United's success is still home-grown.

After 280 million pounds spent by Van Gaal for no visible improvement, it is a sound philosophy. "United have always been very proud of their record of youth development," Butt, who benefited from former manager Alex Ferguson's passion for bleeding young players, said at the club's Carrington training ground this week.

"It's a massive part of the club's history." — Reuters



Liverpool's Mamadou Sakho and James Milner in action with Manchester United's Marcus Rashford during UEFA Europa League Round of 16 Second Leg at Old Trafford, Manchester, England on 17 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

Nadal beats Nishikori, to face Djokovic in semis

INDIAN WELLS — Fourth seed Rafa Nadal survived a few anxious moments before booking his place in the semi-finals of the BNP Paribas Open with a see-sawing 6-4, 6-3 victory over Japanese Kei Nishikori in California on Friday.

The Spanish left-hander, a three-times champion at Indian Wells, will next meet top-seeded Serb Novak Djokovic, who battled past Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga 7-6(2), 7-6(2) in the last of the quarter-finals.

Djokovic, the world number one and defending champion, improved his stellar record for the year to 20-1 as he seeks a fifth title at Indian Wells.

Nadal fought back from 1-3 down and 15-40 on serve in the opening set, then held off a late fightback by Nishikori in the second to prevail after a little more than an hour and a half at the sun-baked Indian Wells Tennis Garden.

"The first set was very important," 14-times grand slam winner Nadal said in a court-side interview with ESPN. "At 15-40 for one double break for him, that was the key moment and after that I started to play with higher balls, slower balls."

"I changed a little bit the rhythm of the match and I think I played well."

After levelling at 4-4 in the first set, Nadal won the next five games to take command before his fifth-seeded opponent clawed his way back with a break in the seventh to trail 3-4.

Nadal, however, immediately regained his advantage in the eighth game after Nishikori netted a backhand, and the Spaniard served out for the victory, ending the match with a forehand winner down the line.

Djokovic delivered his usual blend of brilliant defence and precise shot-making to wear down an error-prone Tsonga in a match that lasted just over two hours.

The Serb failed to close out the first set when he served at 5-4, but dominated the tie-break as the Frenchman paid the price for a typically high-risk strategy.

Though Tsonga broke Djokovic in the third game of the second set, the Serb immediately leveled at 2-2 before going on to lead 5-4.

The Frenchman saved two match points in the 10th game with booming forehands to take the set into another tie-break but again lost momentum with erratic play and the match ended when he blasted a forehand service return wide. — Reuters