

INSEDE

Search planes scour sea for missing Malaysian jetliner



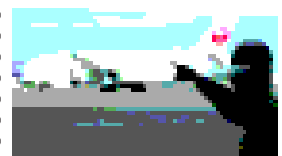
PAGE-4

First Japanese astronaut takes command of space station



PAGE-6

JAL 787 in emergency landing in Honolulu after oil pressure drops



PAGE-5

President U Thein Sein sends felicitations to Lithuanian President, Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 11 March—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms Dalia Grybauskaite, President of the Republic of Lithuania, and Mr Algirdas Butkevicius, Prime Minister of the Republic of Lithuania, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Lithuania, which falls on 11 March 2014.—MNA

K 8 million and K 12 million donated to 2 hospitals in Taninthayi Region as Vice-President visits

KAWTHOUNG, 10 March —Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham on Monday visited the General People's Hospital in Myeik town and expressed his gratitude to the CB Bank and several Myanmar organizations for donating K 8 million to the hospital. Officials from ACE Company, the Adventure Myanmar Company and the Ayeyar Power Company were among the donors who said the money would contribute to funding medical equipment.

Earlier in the day Dr Sai Mauk Kham visited Kawthoung District People's Hospital in Kawthoung, with the 100-bed hospital receiving K 12 million from private donors.

Meeting with staff, the vice-president urged them to provide locals with the best possible



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham looks at patient at Myeik District People's Hospital.—MNA

health care.

Dr Sai Mauk Kham said he was delighted to meet government staff, stressing that they have

been carrying out their duties in the southernmost part of the country well.

The vice-president

then held a meeting with responsible personnel of the hospital to discuss the needs of the hospital.

During his tour of

Myeik, the vice-president also visited a 1,000-ton cold storage factory and a crab farm.

MNA

Over 30,000 villages have no access to sufficient drinking water

By Aye Min Soe

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

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

To deal with the problem, water facilities funded by donors and the government have so far been constructed in over 30,000 villages to supply drinking water.

The department has set a target of supplying drinking water to 20,000 more

villages from April, 2014 to April, 2016.

Families living near streams have so far not reported any problems with water supply.

"We don't have any challenges to get water because we have a stream that originates in the mountain range," said U Win Myint, 45, from the village of Chaung Phya, about 27 miles north of Nay Pyi Taw.

"But, my friends at the village of Sat-kon have to get up around 3 a.m. to collect water from a traditional well with buckets. The

quality of water is bad in summer," he added.

According to U Win Myint, the Sat-kon village has a population of around 300 and relies wells for water supply. Myanmar has been experiencing water shortages especially in the arid regions of central Myanmar, comprising Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing regions.

As water supply management has been unsuccessful, a national-level water resource committee was formed on 25 July, 2013.



Villagers fetch water from a hole they dug to access groundwater.

PHOTO BY AYE MIN SOE

Hermit, wellwishers hoist umbrella atop Kalatcha Pagoda

KYAIKTO, 10 March—Kyaikto Township Ovadaçariya Sayadaws, a hermit and wellwishers hoisted an umbrella, diamond orb and pennant-shaped vanes atop the Kalatcha Pagoda and consecrated it on 5 March at the pagoda.

The pagoda is locat-

ed in Kyaikto Township of Mon State and it is one of the ancient pagodas of Mon State.

The old umbrella of the pagoda was hoisted in 1993. Now, the wellwishers replaced new one. They also donated golden foils circumference of the Pagoda and paved marble

stones at the precinct of the pagoda.

The pagoda was donated at a cost of about K 200 million totally—K 3.7 million by the wellwishers and over K 190 million by a hermit.

*Kyemon-534,
Photo: Sein Hlaing
(IPRD)*



Communication towers installed in Minhla

MINHLA, 10 March—It is learnt that three communication towers are being constructed in Minhla Township, Magway Region by ABC Co as of this early March.

Construction of communication towers is aimed at enabling to improve communication network in Minhla and it is

scheduled to be completed by 2013-14 FY. There will be eight communication towers including already-constructed five communication towers in Minhla.

GSM, WCDMA and CDMA 800 MHz users in the township will be okay, said U Aung Kyaw Tun, an engineer of Myanma Posts

and Telecommunications. A total of 13300 low-cost mobile SIM Cards have been sold out in Minhla Township from June 2013 to February 2014.

Magway Hla Myint



5,000 Samsung handsets imported to curb illegal sales

MYAWADY, 10 March—Myanmar mobile phone providers M-9, Mobile King and O2 have imported over 50 models of Samsung handsets from Vietnam and South Korea to eliminate the illegal handset market in Myanmar.

Officials said that 5,000 Samsung have been imported and will be sold in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw with the ar-

range of Super Light Co Ltd.

The price of a Samsung mobile handset ranges from K 20,000 to K 400,000 depending on the model. Tax imposed for a handset ranges from K 3,000 to K 40,000 with all phones coming with a one-year warranty, according to officials of Super Light Co Ltd.—*TunTunOo (Myawady Border Town)*



Magway car crash leaves four dead, 14 injured

MAGWAY, 10 March—A car crash claimed four lives in Thityarkauk Village in Magway Township, Magway Region at 12:30 am on 6 March.

The incident occurred when the car driven by Soe Tint, 35, run over between the mile posts 16/4 and 16/5 due to dangerous driving while heading from

Magway to Thabutkyaw Village.

Four women from Thabutkyaw Village died on the spot and 14 including driver Soe Tint got injured.

MeKyaung Ye Police Station opened a file of lawsuit to take action against reckless driver Soe Tint.—*Hla Myint*

Making concrete blocks increases local income in ChaungU

MONYWA, 10 March—Locals of ChaungU Township earn money from growing, breeding and running small scale industries. ChaungU is a town in Monywa District in Sagaing Region and it is located on Monywa-Mandalay road.

Today, they can make more money from producing concrete blocks for home decoration.

A local said, “Raw materials come from Mandalay, ChaungU and Myinmu and finished concrete blocks are marketable especially in ChaungU and

Myaung in the region.”

*Ko Ye Naung
(IPRD)*



Kyaukse collegians get knowledge on drugs and disease

KYAUKSE, 10 March—Myanmar Anti-Narcotic Association in Mandalay Region together with

Anti Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Association in Kyaukse organized talks on narcotic drugs, anti-drug laws and HIV infectious disease at

Kyaukse University on 5 March. The talks is the second time given to the collegians at the university. On the occasion, winner students in essay and poem contests on anti-narcotic drugs were awarded.—*Tun Tun Naing*

Pigeon pea, most marketable crop in Magway

MAGWAY, 10 March—Green gram, pigeon pea and black gram are marketable crops in Magway. Yangon buyers purchase one basket of new black gram at K 18,500 and price of green gram is calm in Magway market. Mandalay buyers are purchasing one basket of green gram at K 30,500 and most marketable crop is pigeon pea. Yangon buyers purchase one basket of pigeon pea at K 18,100 and it is higher than previous year's price.

Due to increased price of lablab bean, it leads in the market. Buyers purchase one basket of lablab bean at K 40000-40500. The price of cow pea is calm and sometimes Yangon buyers purchase one basket of cow pea at K 16200.

Cow pea is sold at K 18500 for one basket. Pigeon pea is the most marketable crop in Magway market in this early March and the price of other beans and pulses is calm.

Magway Hla Myint

Natogyi Township to get HQ for Cooperatives

NATOGYI, 10 March—Natogyi Township Cooperative Department will open a headquarters for the cooperative syndicates in Natogyi, according to the township cooperative department.

The 129 cooperative

syndicates in the township have been facing problems due to the lack of organization and meeting space.

According to officials, measures are being taken to open more offices for ward-level cooperative syndicates.—*Htay Mint Maung*

US sanctions will not deter Russia: former Pentagon chief

WASHINGTON, 10 March — As the US considers implementing additional sanctions against Russia over the latter's recent moves in Ukraine's Crimea, former US Defence Secretary Robert Gates said on Sunday that such measures will not deter Russia.

The US has been taking steps to impose sanctions on Russia for its military intervention of Crimea, although Russian President Vladimir Putin said his actions were an

effort to protect millions of ethnic Russians in the region.

"Some of the sanctions that are being discussed and the actions being taken, whether it's limitations on visas or on travel or on potentially freezing assets of specific individuals, frankly I don't believe are going to be any deterrent for Putin," Gates told host Chris Wallace on Fox News on Sunday.

The former defence secretary called for actions that would ensure delivery

of gas to Europe without Russian involvement, as Russia supplies a large chunk of Europe's energy.

"I think the Europeans, with our support, should now press ahead very aggressively with a southern pipeline that would get gas to Europe outside of Russian and Ukrainian territorial space," he said.

Gates also applauded actions taken in the Baltic States. "I worry a lot about the Baltics. I applaud the dispatch of additional fighter aircraft for the air patrols

in the Baltic States Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia I think that's the right thing to do. We ought to be exploring doing more militarily with Poland," he said.

The former Pentagon chief believed this is part of Putin's strategy to recreate a Russian sphere of influence and a Russian block where Russia has economic, political and security relationships with these countries that make them all lean toward or do the bidding of Moscow.

"We saw it first in Georgia in 2008. We've seen it in him (Putin) breaking off the EU discussions with Armenia. We've seen him to the same thing in Belarus," he said.

"This is part of a longer term effort to stop the expansion of NATO, but more importantly, to bring the states of the former Soviet Union back under the influence of Moscow. Frankly, I don't think he (Putin) will stop in Ukraine until there is a government in Ukraine, in Kiev, that

is essentially pro-Russia," Gates said.

But he added that Putin does not want to recreate the Soviet Union, precisely because the Russian leader does not want to have responsibility for economic basket cases like Ukraine is at the present time.

"What he wants is for those governments to look to Moscow and basically (be) subject to whatever Moscow wants, without having responsibility for them," Gates said.

Xinhua

Japan proposes resuming formal talks with N Korea

TOKYO, 10 March — Japan proposed resuming formal negotiations with North Korea during informal talks with the country on 3 March in China, a government source said on Monday. North Korea apparently did not give an answer, the source said.

Formal talks involving senior officials of the two countries' foreign ministries have been suspended in the wake of the North's launch in December 2012 of a "satellite," which other countries condemned as a covert test of long-range missile technology in violation of UN Security Council resolutions.

Japan regards the so-called director general-level talks as an

important opportunity to discuss the issue of North Korea's abduction of Japanese nationals in the 1970s and 1980s. Under the policy of "dialogue and pressure," Japan vows to work toward the comprehensive resolution of outstanding issues of concern with North Korea such as the abductions as well as Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programmes.

The informal talks in Shenyang, northeastern China, were attended by Keiichi Ono, director of the Northeast Asia Division of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, and Ryu Song Il, chief of the Japanese affairs section of the North Korean Foreign Ministry.—Kyodo News



Demonstrators carrying pinwheels march outside the Japanese Embassy in Berlin, Germany, on 8 March, 2014, calling for the halting of nuclear energy, ahead of the third anniversary of the Fukushima nuclear disaster triggered by the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami in Japan.—KYODO NEWS

Nuns held by rebels in Syria are freed, arrive at border

JDAIDAT YABBOUS, (Syria), 10 March — About a dozen nuns held by rebels in Syria for more than three months were released on Sunday and arrived back in Syria after traveling through Lebanon, officials and witnesses said.

Witnesses at the Syrian border with Lebanon said the nuns arrived at the crossing late on Sunday night and headed toward Damascus in a minibus. One witness counted 13 nuns and three other workers from their convent.

"I'm in good health, thank God," one of the nuns said by phone, leaving before she could give her name or further details.

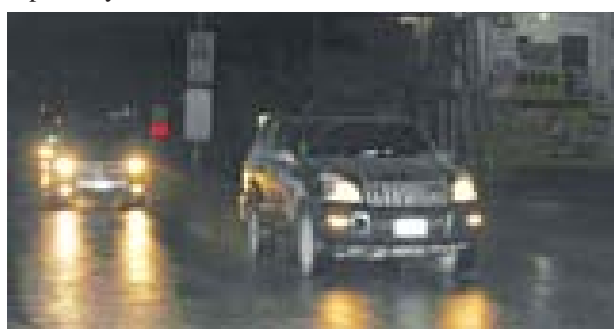
A Lebanese security source had said the nuns had been taken to the Lebanese town of Aarsal earlier in the week and would head to the Syrian capital

on Sunday accompanied by the head of a Lebanese security agency and a Qatari intelligence official.

The nuns went missing in December after Islamist fighters took the ancient quarter of the Christian town of Maaloula north of Damascus. After being held in the Greek Orthodox monastery of Mar Thecla in Maaloula, they were reportedly moved to the

rebel-held town of Yabroud, about 20 km (13 miles) to the north, which is now the focus of a government military operation.

Speaking to reporters at the border, Syrian Greek Orthodox Bishop Louka al-Khoury welcomed the reported release of the nuns. "What the Syrian army achieved in Yabroud facilitated this process," he said.—Reuters



A convoy believed to be carrying newly-released nuns, who were held by rebels in Syria, drives to the Masnaa border crossing between Lebanon and Syria on 9 March, 2014.—REUTERS

The children of Japan's Fukushima battle an invisible enemy

KORIYAMA, (Japan), 10 March — Some of the smallest children in Koriyama, a short drive from the crippled Fukushima nuclear plant, barely know what it's like to play outside — fear of radiation has kept them in doors for much of their short lives.

Though the strict safety limits for outdoor activity set after multiple meltdowns at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant in 2011 have now been eased, parental worries and ingrained habit mean many children still stay inside.

And the impact is now starting to show, with children experiencing falling strength, lack of coordination, some cannot even ride a bicycle, and emotional issues like shorter tempers, officials and educators say.

"There are children who are very fearful. They



A doctor conducts a thyroid examination on five-year-old girl as her older brother and a nurse take care of her at a clinic in temporary housing complex in Nihonmatsu, west of the tsunami-crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, Fukushima prefecture on 27 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

ask before they eat anything, 'does this have radiation in it?' and we have to tell them it's okay to eat," said Mitsuhiro Hiraguri, director of the Emporium Kindergarten in Koriyama, some 55 km (35 miles) west of the Fukushima

nuclear plant.

"But some really, really want to play outside. They say they want to play in the sandbox and make mud pies. We have to tell them no, I'm sorry. Play in the sandbox inside instead."—Reuters

Search planes scour sea for missing Malaysian jetliner

KUALA LUMPUR, 10 March — Search and rescue planes scoured waters off the southern tip of Vietnam on Monday, searching for any trace of a Malaysia Airlines jetliner 48 hours after it vanished from radar screens with 239 people on board.

Questions mounted over possible security lapses and whether a bomb or hijacking could have brought down the Beijing-bound plane, after Interpol confirmed at least two passengers used stolen passports and said it was checking whether others aboard had used false identity documents. Flight MH370 disappeared in the early

hours of Saturday, about an hour into its flight from Kuala Lumpur, after climbing to a cruising altitude of 35,000 ft. The Civil Aviation Authority of Vietnam said on its website late on Sunday that a Vietnamese navy plane had spotted an object in the sea suspected of being part of the *Boeing 777-200ER*, but that it was too dark to be certain.

“We sent two boats to where the navy plane reported seeing that object but the boats couldn’t find it,” Admiral Ngo Van Phat told *Reuters* early on Monday. “We are sending more planes there this morning.”

Shares in Malaysia Airlines fell as much as 18

percent to a record low on Monday morning.

No distress signal was sent from the lost plane, which experts said suggested a sudden catastrophic failure or explosion, but Malaysia’s air force chief said radar tracking showed it may have turned back from its scheduled route before it disappeared. A senior source involved in preliminary investigations in Malaysia said the failure to find any debris for two days, despite dozens of vessels and aircraft crisscrossing the sea below the flight path, indicated the plane may have broken up mid-flight.

Reuters



Vietnamese Air Force officers sit in the cockpit of a search and rescue aircraft as they fly over the search area for a missing Malaysia Airlines plane, 250 km from Vietnam and 190 km from Malaysia, on 9 March, 2014.—REUTERS

42 African refugees drown off Yemeni coast

SANAA, 10 March — About 42 African refugees drowned on Sunday evening off the Yemeni coast after their boat capsized in the Gulf of Aden, while about 30 people on the boat were rescued, the Yemeni defence ministry said in a statement.

The accident took place a few kilometres away off the Bir Ali coast of Yemen’s southern province of Shabwa on Sunday evening, according to the statement that is posted on the ministry’s website.

The Yemeni coastal guards found 42 bodies of the African refugees and managed to rescue another 30 people, it said, adding that the coastal guards were still searching for more survivors. The ministry did not mention the nationality of the refugees, but local authorities said they were Somalis and Ethiopians.

According to local media, hundreds of Africans drown every year trying to reach Yemen in crowded boats. They tried to travel to Yemen through the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea, hoping to reach Gulf countries or Europe.

Over 62,000 asylum seekers, refugees and migrants arrived in Yemen from the Horn of Africa in 2013, according to The United Nations Refugee Agency.

Xinhua



Pro-Ukrainian supporters raise their hands to symbolise a referendum and remember the victims of violence in recent protests in Kiev as they take part in a rally in Simferopol on 9 March, 2014.—REUTERS

Merkel raps Putin as Russian forces tighten grip on Crimea

SEVASTOPOL, 10 March — Germany’s Angela Merkel delivered a rebuke to President Vladimir Putin on Sunday, telling him that a planned Moscow-backed referendum on whether Crimea should join Russia was illegal and violated Ukraine’s constitution.

Putin defended break-away moves by pro-Russian leaders in Crimea, where Russian forces tightened their grip on the Ukrainian Black Sea peninsula by seizing another border post and a military airfield.

As thousands staged rival rallies in Crimea, street violence flared in Sevastopol, when

pro-Russian activists and Cossacks attacked a group of Ukrainians.

Chinese President Xi Jinping called for all parties to remain calm and urged a political solution to the crisis, during telephone calls with US President Barack Obama and Merkel.

“The situation in Ukraine is extremely complex, and what is most urgent is for all sides to remain calm and exercise restraint to avoid an escalation in tensions,” China’s foreign ministry on Monday cited Xi as telling Obama. “Political and diplomatic routes must be used to resolve the crisis,” Xi added.

Russian forces’ seizure of the region has been bloodless but tensions are mounting following the decision by pro-Russian groups there to make Crimea part of Russia.

In the latest armed action, pro-Russian forces wearing military uniforms bearing no designated markings sealed off a military airport in Crimea near the village of Saki, a Ukrainian Defence Ministry spokesman on the peninsula said.

The operation to seize Crimea began within days of Ukraine’s pro-Russian President Viktor Yanukovich’s flight from the country last month. Yanukovich was toppled after three months of demonstrations against a decision to spurn a free trade deal with the European Union for closer ties with Russia.

Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatseniuk will hold talks with President Barack Obama in Washington on Wednesday on how to find a peaceful resolution to the crisis, the White House said.

One of Obama’s top national security officials said the United States would not recognize the annexation of Crimea by Russia if residents vote to leave Ukraine in a referendum next week.

Reuters

El Salvador’s second round presidential election takes place smoothly

SAN SALVADOR, 10 March — El Salvador’s second round presidential election is taking place smoothly on Sunday with the opening of the polling stations without delay, according to reports from the Salvadorian Electoral Supreme Court (TSE).

Salvadorians went to the polling stations Sunday to choose between Salvador Sanchez Ceren, the candidate of the ruling party Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN), and Norman Quijano, the right-wing and former mayor of the capital, San Salvador. —*Xinhua*

Venezuela condemns US Vice President Biden’s statement

CARACAS, 10 March — Venezuelan government on Sunday condemned the statements of US Vice President Joe Biden, who described the situation in the South American country as “alarming” and said President Nicolas Maduro “invents conspiracies.”

In a statement, the Venezuelan government said “the US government has joined the international media conspiracy that pretends to generate a false image of war and general repression in the Venezuelan territory.” The statement, which was read by Venezuelan Vice President Jorge Arreaza in Caracas, was a response to Biden’s statements published in the Chilean press as he was in Santiago for a visit. —*Xinhua*

Ashton's visit to Iran seen as start of expansive cooperation

TEHERAN, 10 March — There is “no guarantee” that Iran and the world powers will succeed in reaching a final agreement in their nuclear talks, the European Union foreign policy chief said on Sunday during her landmark visit to Teheran.

EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad-Javad Zarif discussed nuclear negotiations and the latest developments over the country's nuclear programme in their meeting on Sunday.

Ashton hailed the interim nuclear agreement as an “important” preliminary step, but added that it is “not as important as a (possible) comprehensive accord,” and that reaching a final agreement with Iran is “difficult, challenging and there is no guarantee that we will succeed.”

With the support of the Iranian people and the



Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad-Javad Zarif (2nd R) meets with EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton (3rd L) in Teheran, capital of Iran, on 9 March, 2014. Visiting EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton said on Sunday that there is “no guarantee” Iran and world powers will succeed in reaching a final agreement in their nuclear talks. —XINHUA

international community, there is a hope that comprehensive agreement can be reached, she said. Zarif reiterated that “Iran is not

after a nuclear weapon,” adding that Iran plans to tackle the nuclear issue and stressing that finding a solution depends on the

commitment of the other party to solve the problem at the negotiation table.

Iran and the P5+1 group held expert-level

nuclear talks in Vienna from 5 to 7 March. They aimed to hammer out a final deal on Iran's controversial nuclear programme after an interim agreement was reached in November last year. “Based on the reports from the negotiation meeting, there has been good progress,” said Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Ali-Akbar Salehi, adding that “if the other side shows goodwill, there would be a positive outcome.”

Ashton's visit comes as the two sides aimed to narrow the distance between the Islamic Republic and the EU.

Iranian lawmakers said Saturday that Ashton's visit will open a new chapter in the bilateral economic ties between Iran and the European bloc and it can serve as an opportunity for both sides to amend damaged ties.—Xinhua

Japan, US mull joint project to upgrade Aegis system in 2010

TOKYO, 10 March —The Japanese government considered jointly upgrading the Aegis naval air-defence system with the United States in fiscal 2010 but abandoned the idea later that year, a Japanese government source said on Sunday.

The setback in the defence cooperation plan with the United States, Japan's closest security ally, likely contributed to Tokyo's move to review its self-imposed restrictions on arms exports.

The government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is reviewing arms export rules in the hope of strengthening Japan's security ties with its allies, signaling a major shift in its long-held policy of “three principles” on arms exports.

Tokyo adopted the three principles in 1967 to block the transfer of weapons to communist states, countries subject to embargoes under UN resolutions and those involved in international conflicts. The rules became a virtual blanket ban in 1976.

The Aegis system upgrade project discussed by the two countries suggested a relatively limited technological contribution by Japan, but Japanese officials demanded that the United States seek Japan's consent before providing jointly developed technologies to other countries, the source said.—Kyodo News

Canada's PM heads to South Korea on free trade pact

OTTAWA, 10 March — Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper departed on Sunday for his fourth visit to South Korea, widely expected to wrap up a free trade agreement.

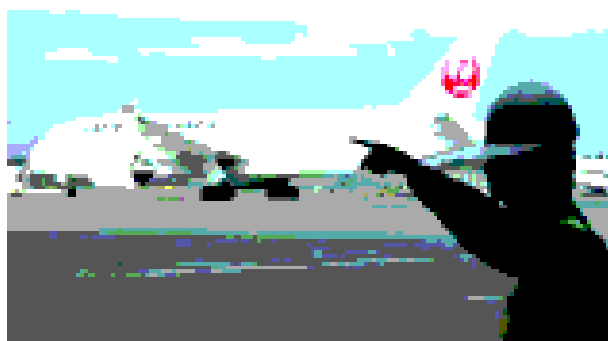
Harper, accompanied by Ed Fast, Minister of International Trade, and James Moore, Minister of Industry, will meet with South Korean President Park Geun-hye to discuss ways to further strengthen ties between the two countries.—Xinhua

JAL 787 in emergency landing in Honolulu after oil pressure drops

TOKYO, 10 March — A Japan Airlines-operated Boeing 787 made an emergency landing at Honolulu Airport after oil pressure in its right engine dropped, the Japanese carrier said.

The two-engined jetliner en route to San Francisco from Tokyo diverted to Honolulu, landing at 1343 local time on Saturday with 160 passengers on board, a spokesman for JAL said. No one was injured in the incident.

“We are investigating the cause of the drop in oil pressure,” the spokesman said. The Dreamliner is still parked in Hawaii, he added.



A staff of Japan Airlines' (JAL) walks past one of the company's Boeing Co's 787 Dreamliner plane at Narita international airport in Narita, east of Tokyo, on 11 November, 2013.—REUTERS

The jet is the same one on which a battery melted and emitted smoke at Boston's Logan Airport in

January last year. A subsequent battery overheating on a 787 owned by ANA Holdings several days

later prompted regulators to ground the global fleet of carbon composite 787s for more than three months.

Investigators in Japan are also probing a battery that overheated on a JAL Dreamliner parked at Tokyo's Narita Airport in January this year.

Authorities have yet to discover the root cause of the any of those melt-downs. They allowed Boeing to return the 787 to operation after it redesigned the battery with insulation, a vent to eject any hot gases out of the aircraft, and encased it in a steel box to contain any fire.—Reuters

Colombians vote for congress ahead of FARC peace accord

BOGOTA, 10 March — Colombians voted on Sunday for a new congress that will tackle legislation for the next president and play a historic role in creating laws to end five decades of conflict if peace is reached with Marxist FARC rebels.

The ballot is likely to consolidate President Juan Manuel Santos as the frontrunner for a second straight term in a presidential vote on 25 May, allowing him to continue talks with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) that could end the war and transform Colombia's political makeup.

“This election is different, it's distinct. It's the most important congressional election in 50 years,” said Senate candidate Juan Manuel Galan.

“Congress not only receives the mandate of the people, but the mandate of peace.”

Up for grabs are 168 seats in the lower house and 102 in the Senate. One of the Senate seats is being sought by Santos' right-wing predecessor, Alvaro Uribe, a fierce critic of the government who believes the FARC should be beaten on the battlefield.

The still-popular Uribe

is expected to win the Senate seat easily, raising the temperature in congress as he may seek to block legislation that could enable FARC rebels to enter the political system without serving considerable jail time.

Secret peace talks reached a partial accord late last year on the FARC's participation in politics, a highly controversial item on the five-point agenda. Any deal with the rebels would be put to the nation in a referendum, and then to congress to devise laws for its implementation.

Reuters



A woman prepares to vote during a congressional election in Toribio in Cauca Province on 9 March, 2014.—REUTERS

First Japanese astronaut takes command of space station

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Fla), 10 March — Japanese astronaut Koichi Wakata assumed command of the *International Space Station* on Sunday, the first Japanese national to oversee a manned space mission. Wakata, 50, had been a space station flight engineer since he and two crewmates arrived on 7 November.

"I am humbled to assume the command of the space station," Wakata said during a change-of-command ceremony broadcast on NASA Television. Outgoing station commander Oleg Kotov, flight engineer Sergey Ryazanskiy, both from Russia, and NASA astronaut Mike Hopkins are

due to depart the orbital outpost on Monday. Their replacements arrive on 26 March.

Wakata's command marks just the third time the station is being overseen by a crewmember who is not from NASA or the Russian Space Agency, the two primary partners of the 15-nation project. Canadian Chris Hadfield served as commander from March to May 2013. European Space Agency astronaut Frank DeWinne led a station crew in 2009. "I am very proud as a Japanese to be given this important command," Wakata, speaking Japanese, said through a translator.

"I think that this reflects the real trust toward

Japan and what Japan has achieved over the past years," he said.

So far, four Japanese astronauts have served as space station crewmembers, including Wakata, who previously flew in 2009. Wakata also is a veteran of two space shuttle missions.

Along with NASA astronaut Rick Mastracchio and Russian cosmonaut Mikhail Tyurin, Wakata is scheduled to remain aboard the station until mid-May.

One of his first tasks as commander will be to oversee the arrival of a Space Exploration Technologies' Dragon cargo ship which is due to launch from Cape Canaveral Air



International Space Station (ISS) crew member Japanese astronaut Koichi Wakata waves after donning a space suit shortly before the blast off for the ISS, at the Baikonur cosmodrome on 7 Nov, 2013. — REUTERS

Force Station in Florida next Sunday and reach the station on 18 March.

The station, a \$100

billion research laboratory, flies about 260 miles above Earth. It has been permanently staffed by ro-

tating crews of astronauts and cosmonauts since November 2000.

Reuters

Korea's quirky messaging apps go on offensive in text-happy Indonesia



A worker prepares a BlackBerry display during Digital Imaging Expo in Jakarta on 5 March, 2014.

REUTERS

SEOUL /JAKARTA, 10 March — South Korea's pioneering mobile messaging apps have taken their oversized emoticons

to Indonesia, intent on breaking the dominance of BlackBerry Ltd's BBM messaging service in one of the world's most

active social media markets. Kakao Corp has hired pop stars and Naver Corp unit Line Corp has partnered Samsung Electronics Co in a country whose capital Jakarta boasts the most users of Twitter Inc's microblog by city, according to researcher McKinsey & Company.

BBM has long been Indonesia's most popular messaging app, with Facebook Inc's \$19 billion buyout target WhatsApp in pursuit.

But KakaoTalk and Line have connected with younger users by also offering voice calls, games, shopping, merchandise

and stickers, or message-conveying cartoons. Under-30s make up over half of the 240 million Indonesians, where just 20 percent use smartphones, making the country a prime growth market for app makers.

Estimates put smartphone use at 50 percent before the end of the decade, by which time messaging apps' global revenue could be over \$24 billion.

"Indonesia is probably the most competitive mobile messenger market right now... And it's a key market we want to win," said Kate Sohn, vice president of Kakao's global

business development division.

KakaoTalk has gained 16 million users in just one year in Indonesia after Kakao signed an advertising deal with Big Bang — a K-Pop boy band popular in Indonesia — and started offering unlimited KakaoTalk data through carrier Telkomsel.

KakaoTalk, whose maker plans to list in Korea around May next year, was Indonesia's 37th most downloaded free app on Apple Inc's App Store as of 7 March, and 14th on Google Inc's Google Play, according to researcher App Annie.

BBM was first on both

since becoming available through those stores in October.

Broadening compatibility freed BBM users from BlackBerry handsets, and left BlackBerry with just 5 percent of Indonesia's smartphone market in October-December from 34 percent a year earlier.

"BlackBerry's falling domination... has made Indonesia more dynamic and created a big opportunity for new entrants," said Kakao's Sohn.

"Indonesia has the right mix of big scale, growing number of smartphone users and the market is really in flux." —Reuters

Four new gases that harm ozone layer found, despite bans

OSLO, 10 March — Scientists have detected four new man-made gases that damage the Earth's protective ozone layer, despite bans on almost all production of similar gases under a 1987 treaty, a study showed on Sunday.

The experts were trying to pinpoint industrial sources of tiny traces of the new gases, perhaps used in making pesticides or refrigerants, that were found in Greenland's ice and in air samples in Tasmania, Australia.

The ozone layer shields the planet from damaging ultra-violet rays, which can cause skin cancer and eye cataracts, and has been recov-

ering after a phase-out of damaging chemicals under the UN's 1987 Montreal Protocol.

"The concentrations are not yet a threat to the ozone layer," lead author Johannes Laube of the University of East Anglia in England told Reuters of the three types of CFCs (chlorofluorocarbon) and one HCFC (hydrochlorofluorocarbon).

In total, the scientists estimated more than 74,000 metric tons of the four had been released to the atmosphere. None was present before the 1960s in Greenland's ice cores, according to the study in the journal *Nature Geoscience*.

Reuters

Softbank unit invests in Alibaba-backed online education firm



Pedestrians walk in front of a SoftBank Corp logo outside its branch in Tokyo on 25 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

HONG KONG, 10 March — An online education

company backed by Alibaba Group Holding Ltd said

on Monday that a unit of Softbank Corp had made

a strategic investment in the company for an undisclosed amount.

The investment in TutorGroup from SBI Group, formerly known as Softbank Finance Group and one of Asia's biggest venture capital firms, follows a capital raising of nearly \$100 million for TutorGroup in February from Alibaba, Singapore state investor Temasek Inc and China's Qiming Venture Partners.

Shanghai-based TutorGroup has more than 2,000 teachers in 30 countries and 60 cities globally and provides online education services in English and Chinese to students from business professionals to young children.

Reuters

HEALTH & BUSINESS

Asian and European industrial health under scrutiny this week



A labourer guides as slag is poured into a container at Dongbei Special Steel Group Co Ltd in Dalian, Liaoning Province on 27 Dec, 2013. — REUTERS

LONDON, 10 March — Europe's and Asia's industrial health will be closely watched in the coming week for an indication of how solid — or weak — a footing the global economy was on at the start of the year. With China's leaders seeking to rebalance the

world's industrial powerhouse more toward consumer spending, and with bad weather distorting most United States data since the

start of the year, some clarity would be helpful.

After private sector business surveys suggesting services activity around the world is on the up, investors and policymakers will shift their focus to industrial production figures for the euro zone, Britain, Japan and China. Industrial output growth in China, the world's second largest economy, is likely to have slowed further in January from 9.7 percent in December, hurt by weaker local and foreign demand.

Economists in a Reuters poll forecast a decline to a 9.5 percent annual pace, which is still strong and would not yet show the kind of rebalancing policymakers are looking for.

Those figures are due on Thursday. "China's export growth is likely to have softened in February after the surge in January due to the front-loading of exports before the Lunar New Year," said David Mann at Standard Chartered.

Beijing says it is aiming for economic growth of about 7.5 percent this year, compared with last year's actual expansion of 7.7 percent, as it seeks to revamp a maturing economy and move it towards slower but better-quality growth. Germany, whose export-driven economy has been the driving force behind the 18-member euro zone's very slow recovery from recession, will also publish trade data this week.

Reuters

Good year-end "to secure 7.5% growth target"



BEIJING, 10 March — As positive economic factors are likely to emerge in the second half of this year, the 7.5 percent growth target set by the government will be met, scholars at the nation's top economic planning agency said on Sunday.

"The positive factors will build up as time goes by. The economy will become better in the second half of this year, and guarantee the realization of the target for the whole year," said Song Li, deputy director of the Institute of Economic Research under the National Development and Reform Commission.

His remark came as some economists have become increasingly doubtful whether China could achieve the 7.5 percent GDP growth set in the Government Work Report. China faces several challenges, including massive excess capacity in some industries, mounting local government debt, slowing growth in property prices and lurking risks in the financial sector.

Premier Li Keqiang, NDRC chairman Xu Shaoshi and Finance Minister

Lou Jiwei have reiterated their confidence in the Chinese economy over the past few days.

According to Song, two major factors for growth are the improvement in external demand and the reform dividend, whose effects will be more salient in the second half. China's exports in January beat estimates to rise 10.6 percent year-on-year, but plunged 18.1 percent in February from a year earlier, adding uncertainty to the sector.

Li promised in his work report on Wednesday to push ahead a slew of reform initiatives, including further cutting administrative review and approval items for businesses, pushing forward hybrid ownership in the State-owned sector and reform of the fiscal and taxation system.

Sun Xuegong, another researcher at the Institute of Economic Research under the NDRC, said structural reform and growth are not necessarily mutually exclusive, and reform requires a certain level of economic growth."

Xinhua

Cambodia reports two new bird flu cases, one dies

PHNOM PENH, 10 March — Two more new human cases of avian influenza H5N1 have been confirmed in Cambodia, and one of them, an 11-year-old boy died on Friday in Phnom Penh's Kantha Bopha Children Hospital, a hospital representative confirmed on Monday.

"An 11-year-old boy from Kampong Chhnang Province was admitted to the hospital last week and tested positive for H5N1 virus," Dr Denis Laurent, deputy director of Kantha Bopha Children Hospital, the kingdom's largest pediatric hospital, told Xinhua.

"The boy's condition was very serious when he arrived at our hospital and

died on Friday," he said. Another 8-year-old boy from Kandal Province has also suffered from the virus last week, but his condition is stable and he is recovering, he said.

The country recorded 8 cases of avian influenza H5N1 so far this year, and there children died. H5N1 influenza is a flu that nor-

mally spreads between sick poultry, but it can sometimes spread from poultry to humans, according to the World Health Organization. The virus was first identified in Cambodia ten years ago. To date, the country has reported 55 human cases of the virus, and 36 people died of it.

Xinhua



Competitiveness matters more than euro strength: French finance minister

PARIS, 10 March — Competitiveness in France and Europe must be improved regardless of how strong the euro is, France's finance minister said on Sunday, in a rebuttal to critics who blame the currency's rise for French firms' export woes.

Several French politicians and companies including carmaker Renault (RENA.PA) and energy management firm Schneider Electric (SCHN.PA) have in recent months raised flags over the impact of the euro's strength on profits.

"The euro is at a high level...(But) we must not make a scapegoat out of

currency," French Finance Minister Pierre Moscovici told BFM TV. "What we must first restore is the health of our companies, their competitiveness...The euro's strength must not be a scapegoat or a pretext to avoid reforming Europe and France."

France's trade deficit, which hit a record of 74 billion euros in 2011, is one of the signs of French firms' loss of competitiveness on international markets. Although it has got smaller since then, figures suggest this is mainly due to exports falling less quickly than imports.

French Industry Minister Arnaud Montebourg has called for a more

aggressive push from Europe and the European Central Bank to bring down

the euro's value in order to boost exports.

Reuters



French Finance Minister Pierre Moscovici speaks to media after an official meeting with Swiss Finance Minister Eveline Widmer-Schlumpf in Bern on 6 March, 2014.—REUTERS

Six electronics makers to raise pay scales by 2,000 yen

TOKYO, 10 March — Japan's six major electronics makers, including Hitachi Ltd and Panasonic Corp, have decided to raise their wage scales by 2,000 yen per month, the highest hike on record, in labour-management wage talks, sources close to the matter said on Monday.

The move by the companies is likely to affect other industries in annual wage talks. NEC Corp and Fujitsu Ltd were originally reluctant to accept the amount and wanted to limit the pay hike to 1,500 yen, but they decided to follow other companies despite the burden.

The companies, which also include Toshiba Corp and Mitsubishi Electric Corp, will announce their final decisions on Wednesday.

The labour unions at the six companies originally made a unified demand to raise basic pay scales by 4,000 yen and said they would launch a strike if the managements do not hike pay by at least 2,000 yen.

In the end, the companies took into consideration calls by the government to raise wages to pull Japan out of deflation and mitigate the possible adverse impact of the consumption tax hike in April to 8 percent from the current 5 percent.

Kyodo News

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 11 March, 2014

Myanmar's scorching summers also have good aspects

We all know summer in many places of Myanmar can be extremely hot. Some are afraid of the scorching heat and some even hate the Summer, and cannot wait for the cold season which is much milder than the harsh winters of the world's northern regions.

Rainy season may also not be popular, but

to many it is more bearable than summer. But all three seasons have their benefits and are vital.

In many places of Myanmar, summer apart is usually accompanied by water shortages, dried lakes and streams, fires and even infectious diseases. Water evaporates because of the summer heat, and this process turns a very large volume of water, especially sea water into rainclouds.

Then the monsoon brings the clouds back to us as rain which is the main supply of all sources of fresh water to support life on Earth. We grow rice, our staple food, during the rainy season, and reservoirs store water for irrigation and other purposes. Raindrops come down from the sky to make the land green again and take away the intense heat of summer with monsoon water every year.

So, summer in reality is the time to gather strength for the monsoon. The temperatures of summer must be high enough to produce abundant supply of rainclouds for the whole rainy season. Without summer there cannot be a rainy season. So, we must love this season as much as we love the others.

Now, we are once again entering another summer during which trees shed their old yellow leaves for the green buds to come out and various kinds of flowers bloom creating a colourful world under the scorching sun.

Write for us

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

Low income households in Toungoo receive DVB-T2 Set Top Boxes

TOUNGOO, 10 March —Low income households in Toungoo of Bago Region have received DVB-T2 Set Top Boxes from the Ministry of Information, officials said Monday.

"As part of efforts to assist the government's drive to alleviate poverty and implement people-centered development projects, a total of 10,202 DVB-T2 Set Top Boxes have been handed over to households with low income level", said Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htwe at the donation ceremony in Toungoo.

With the DVB-T2 Set Top Boxes, local people will have access to 15 or 16 TV channels with high definition that offers a wide range of educational and entertainment pro-

grammes.

A MRTV engineering team demonstrated how to use the DVB-T2 Set Top Box functions.

During his tour of Toungoo, the deputy minister oversaw construction of a temporary market in Toungoo Myoma Market which was destroyed in a fire. The temporary market will house 672 shops in 56 buildings, with 75 per cent completed. Construction is set to be finished this month.

Toungoo Myoma Market was destroyed on 13 February, with the fire believed to have been caused when power lines in the market were under repair. The damage is estimated at K 6499.2 million, with 1,227 shops in 19 buildings destroyed.

MNA

16-bed hospital opens in PyinOoLwin District

Opening ceremony of government-funded hospital in progress in Kyidaupauk Village, Singu Township, PyinOoLwin District. —MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March — A government-funded hospital opened Sunday in Singu Township in PyinOoLwin District.

Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin made a speech at the opening ceremony in Kyidaupauk Village, highlighting the facilities and equip-

ment of the 16-bed hospital that totaled K 384.3 million.

Following the opening ceremony, the Union minister discussed with local authorities first-aid training for local staff.

The hospital is an improved version of a hospital that was destroyed by

the 2012-earthquake.

The minister then went on a tour of Mandalay, where he attended the 6th graduation ceremony

of Mandalay University of Traditional Medicines. He awarded degrees to 160 graduates and post-graduates. —MNA

Cleft lip and palate programme starts at Victoria Hospital in Yangon

YANGON, 10 March — Victoria Hospital and the Alliance for Smiles Organization from the United States on Monday began jointly carrying out a programme in Yangon to give free treatment to people with cleft lip and palate.

During the programme through 20 March, the teams will treat 10 children per day, officials said.

Over 120 patients have registered to get the treat-

ment, with around 100 patients accepted for surgical treatment, according to the hospital.

Victoria Hospital has arranged for accommodation and meals for patients from Mayangon Township near Pauk Monastery.

Dr Khaing Thinzar Maw of the hospital's Public Relation Department said mobile treatment programme across the country are planned. —MNA

Seoul Furniture & Home Living Fair 2014 on 24-27 March

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March —Organized by ASEAN-Korea Centre, Seoul Furniture & Home Living Fair 2014 will be held at Korea International Exhibition Center (KIN-TEX) in Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea from 24 to

27 March. The exhibition is aimed at introducing the ASEAN-made furniture and home living products to ROK's market and boosting trade between ASEAN and ROK.

MNA



Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htwe greets attendees at the donation ceremony in Toungoo. —MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Myanmar, Sri Lanka discuss bilateral economic potential



Union Minister U Win Myint holds talks with Deputy Minister for Industry and Commerce of Sri Lanka Hon. Lakshman Wasantha Perera.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint received Deputy Minister for Industry and Commerce of Sri Lanka Hon. Lakshman Wasantha Perera and party at his office in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

During the meeting, Union Minister U Win Myint said that the ministry is mainly responsible for import/export sector of the

country, focusing on ensuring smooth transportation, relaxation of export/import restrictions and promotion of trade. He continued his saying that private sector development plays a major role for economic development of the country. He called for bilateral cooperation between the two countries in conducting exhibitions and workshops, as well as promoting tourism industries of the two countries.

The Sri Lankan deputy minister expressed his hope to make cooperation in production of value-added agricultural products and finished gems which are the main exports of Myanmar, and waste management and recycling technology of Sri Lanka.—MNA

Union S & T Minister meets faculty of Technological University (Kyaukse)

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March—Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo held a meeting with faculty members of Technological University (Kyaukse) on 8 March at the university in Kyaukse Township of Mandalay Region.

The Union Minister called for applying advanced information and

communication technology, making plans not only for the departments but also for the university, formation of committees in accord with rules and regulations of the Ministry, effective teaching methods and sustainable researches and effort for creating the best text books for learners.

MNA

Myanmar, Laos sign MoU on cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March—MoU on cooperation between the Central Bank of Myanmar and Central Bank of Laos was signed by Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung and Governor of the Central Bank of Laos Mr. Somphao PHAYSITH at Myat Tawwin Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

According to the MoU, both sides will cooperate in the area of banking industry, financial policy and foreign currency management.

It was attended by the Vice-Governors of the Central Bank of Myanmar, directors-general and deputy directors-general.—MNA



Signing of MoU on cooperation between the Central Bank of Myanmar and Central Bank of Laos in progress.—MNA

Reform, peace processes clarified in Taninthayi Region

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March—Chairman of National Races Affairs Subcommittee Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Maung Maung Ohn, Vice-Chairman of the subcommittee Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Chan Maung together with Taninthayi Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Khin Zaw and Region Minister for National Races Affairs U Saw Harvee held a meeting with local people at Town Hall in Dawei on 6 March.

Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko delivered a speech and the subcommittee chairman made clarifications on reform and peace process.

The subcommittee chairman and party met with locals at Pearl Yadanah Hall in Myeik on 7 March. They clarified matters on progress of reform process being undertaken by the State, government's endeavours for ensuring peace with ethnic armed groups and implementation of regional development tasks.—MNA

Union FM felicitates Lithuanian Counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 11 March—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Linas Linkevicius, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Lithuania, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Lithuania, which falls on 11 March 2014.

MNA

Japan's Grass-roots assistance for one monastic school in Mon State and one road and bridge in Kayin State

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March—The Government of Japan, under its Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme, has extended the assistance totaling US \$ 220, 439 for two humanitarian assistance programs.

The hand-over and opening ceremonies of the monastic primary school building in Mon State and the road and the bridge in Kayin State were held at each location on 5 March 2014 respectively.

The monastic school project will benefit over 300 students, who were studying under insufficient environment in old religious buildings. Under such circumstances, the Government of Japan provided funding for one school building including

toilets and necessary furniture at the school.

The road and the bridge between Shwe Taw and Kaw Lone Sein Villages will benefit about 8,600 populations who were facing difficulties in socio-economic situation due to the bad conditions of roads and bridges.

Japan has conducted 669 various grass-roots projects in Myanmar under this GGP scheme since 1993. Among them, 301 education projects, 170 health care projects, 133 public welfare and environment projects, 30 infrastructure projects and 35 other projects are included. It is expected that these assistance will further strengthen existing friendly relations between Japan and Myanmar.

MNA

Dy minister calls for reducing arsenic in drinking water in Kyaunggon Township

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March—Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Tin Ngwe called for removing arsenic from drinking water in the villages of Kyaunggon Township, at a meeting with locals on 7 March.

He pledged that the ministry would strive for supplying purified drinking water without arsenic for the villages in the township.

Groundwater of tube wells in Taungsu, Tagon-daing Ywama, Alesu, Awasu and Hmawthay Villages in the township is high in arsenic.

The ministry will cooperate with relevant ministries, international organizations and NGOs in reducing arsenic in drinking water in the township.

MNA



Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Tin Ngwe visits in a village in Kyaunggon Township.—MNA

Moderate earthquake hits inside Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March—A moderate earthquake of magnitude 5.2 Richter Scale with its epicenter inside Myanmar (about 27 miles southwest of Yae Ni) about 170 miles north of Kaba Aye seismological observatory was recorded at 22 hrs 32 min 54 sec M.S.T on 9 March, 2014, announced by the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—MNA

Baw Kyo Mauddaw Pagoda Festival starts



HSIPAW, 10 March — Baw Kyo Mauddaw Pagoda Festival kicked off in Baw Kyo Village in Hsipaw in Shan State (North) on Monday.

Shan State Road Transportation Minister

U Sai Naw Kham, Chairman of Board of Trustees U Aung Khin and officials cut the ribbon to open the signboard of the festival.

During the ceremony to open the annual festival, attendees donated offer-

tures to the Members of the Sangha and received the Five Precepts from the Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee.

The festival includes entertainments and sports contests, and shops selling local goods are set up during the festival.

Baw Kyo Mauddaw Pagoda is an ancient historic pagoda and the residents hold the pagoda festival annually in the state from 10 to 15 March on a grand scale.

Sai (Hsipaw)

Ownerless opium weighing 18.2 kg worth K 21.6 million seized in Meiktila Tsp

MEIKTILA, 10 March—An ownerless luggage and a packet were found in a car driven by U Kyaw Shwe, 47, that was heading from Taunggyi to Meiktila at 6:30 pm on 8 March. When the car reached the destination, the driver informed about the baggage to No (2) Police Station in Meiktila Township via Bus Line Control Supervisory Committee.

Police Inspector Myint Than and party searched two packets in front of witnesses and found six sachets that is believed to be opium in the luggage. They



seized ownerless opium weighing 1.5 kg each of twelve packets and one 0.2 kg sachet totaling 18.2 kg worth K 21.6 million. Meiktila No (2) Police Sta-

tion opened a file under the Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law and is investigating to arrest the owner.

NLM-018

Office for supervising national census process in Natogyi

NATOGYI, 10 March — An office for supervising the upcoming national census process was opened in Ward-1 in Natogyi Township.

The Ward-1 has a population of 1842 population and data collection areas are divided into there.

According to local authorities, three members will be assigned to each ward office in the township for supervising census-taking process which will start on 30 March and end in 10 April.

Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)

Fire preventive measures in Mohnyin Township

MOHNYIN, 10 March—A group of Township Auxiliary Fire Brigade including the ward administrator in Mohnyin Township in Kachin State disseminated knowledge about fire preventive measures from

6 to 8 March.

People dwelling in Mohnyin Township have taken danger of fire for granted that officials have to disseminate knowledge on fire, said an official from township auxiliary fire brigade.

Nowadays, Mohnyin is packed with people and new buildings emerged and the weather is very hot. Measures are being taken to control the selling and buying of petrol on road side in the town.—*Kyaw Soe Lay*



New bus line runs between Tachilek, Taunggyi



TACHILEK, 10 March — A new bus line which will run between Tachilek and Taunggyi was inaugurated in Tachilek Township of Shan State on Sunday.

“Doe Nyi Naung” bus line was formally opened by local authority at the terminal in Tachilek.

A total of 16 buses of the bus line will

ply to Tachilek-Kyaukdon-Taunggyi and it costs K 25,000 per passenger for the trip between Tachilek and Taunggyi.

The bus line launched its maiden service from Tachilek to Taunggyi after the opening ceremony to launch the bus line which was inaugurated in the pres-

ence of Deputy Commissioner U Thaung Tin Htwe, Tachilek Development Affairs Committee Executive Officer U Ko Ko, Transportation Administration Department of Tachilek District Assistant Director Daw Khin Hnin Phyu and departmental officials.

Maw Gyi (Tri Angle Region)

Taxi catches fire in Insein

YANGON, 10 March—A fire that broke out in a taxi due to the overheated engine in Sawbawgyigone, Insein Township, Yangon on Sunday.

Members of local po-

lice force and firemen put out the fire at around 4 p.m. They totally put out the fire within 10 minutes.

The fire damaged the car worth about K 6 million. No one was hurt in the

incident.

Insein Myoma Police Station lodged a lawsuit against the driver under Section 285 of the Criminal Law.

K Thein Swe



Aluminum furniture becomes popular in Natogyi

NATOGYI, 10 March —Wooden furniture are being gradually replaced with ones in Natogyi Township.

Aluminum with new designs and reasonable prices have caught the attentions of the local people and they seem to be getting

quite popular. “More orders are placed for aluminum furniture recent days,” said a shop owner. “I like to use aluminum furniture because we can move them easily and the price is reasonable”, said a local.

Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)

REGIONAL

Home reconstruction in coastal areas still remains sluggish

SENDAI, 10 March — Only 55 percent of eligible households have applied for official grants for housing reconstruction following the March 2011 disaster, indicating rebuilding homes still remains sluggish three years on, a survey by *Kyodo News* showed on Monday.

The survey was based on data from the governments of the three north-eastern prefectures worst affected by the disaster on 11 March, 2011 — Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima.

While affected households are eligible for up to 2 million yen to newly build or repair their homes, those mainly in tsunami-devastated coastal areas have fallen behind in applying for the grants, chiefly because they have not yet been able to secure land for their homes, according to the survey.

Kyodo News

Vietnam allows Chinese, US vessels to enter its waters to search for missing Malaysian jet

HANOI, 10 March — Vietnam allowed Chinese and US vessels to enter its waters to search for the missing Malaysian Airlines flight, said Vietnam's National Committee for Search and Rescue on Monday. According to the committee, three Chinese vessels and one US vessel were licensed by the Vietnamese defence ministry.

Xinhua

S Korea unveils comprehensive plan to prevent personal data leakage

SEOUL, 10 March — South Korea on Monday unveiled a set of measures to prevent personal information from being leaked out of financial companies after the worst-ever data leakage incident at three credit card firms. Collecting and utilizing personal information by financial institutions will be restricted to essential information necessary for transactions, while illegal usage and circulation of confidential client data will be heavily punished, the Financial Services Commission (FSC) said in a joint statement with related ministries.

Personal information from around 20 million people, equivalent to almost all adults in South Korea, was stolen from three credit card issuers, including KB Kookmin Card, NH Nonghyup Card and Lotte Card, as they shared client information with their settlement banks.

Prosecutors forwarded the case to the financial watchdog on 8 January, saying that an unidentified, outsourced staff in charge of data-processing jobs stole the data and sold it to advertising agents illegally.

Financial companies in South Korea have been

poll in 2009 — partly a reflection of a high-octane campaign by pro-business opposition candidate for prime minister, Narendra Modi, who started nationwide rallies and advertising last year.

"They started much before, and they are also focusing on states where they are traditionally not strong. They are leaving no area untouched," said N Bhaskara Rao, chairman of the Centre for Media Studies.

The campaign spending for this election could give a boost to the economy, which has been heading for its longest slump since the 1980s. Economists have forecast a second year of growth below 5 percent in the financial year



People participate in a candle event in the Yuriage area of Natori, Miyagi Prefecture, on 9 March, 2014, ahead of the third anniversary of the Great East Japan Earthquake and tsunami. — KYODO NEWS

India set to challenge US for election-spending record

NEW DELHI, 10 March — Indian politicians are expected to spend around \$5 billion (2 billion pounds) on campaigning for elections next month — a sum second only to the most expensive US presidential campaign of all time — in a splurge that could give India's floundering economy a temporary boost.

India's campaign spend, which can include cash stuffed in envelopes as well as multi-million-dollar ad campaigns, has been estimated at 300 billion rupees (2.9 billion pounds) by the Centre for Media Studies, which tracks spending.

That is triple the expenditure the centre said was spent on electioneering in the last national



Rahul Gandhi (C), India's ruling Congress party vice president and son of Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, waves to his supporters during a road show ahead of the 2014 general elections at Nagaon in the northeastern Indian state of Assam on 26 Feb, 2014. — REUTERS

REUTERS

ending this month.

Candidate and party funding in India is opaque and the source of much of the spending is hard to ascertain, but the Centre for

Media Studies and other transparency advocates say the main contenders have built up large war chests.

Reuters

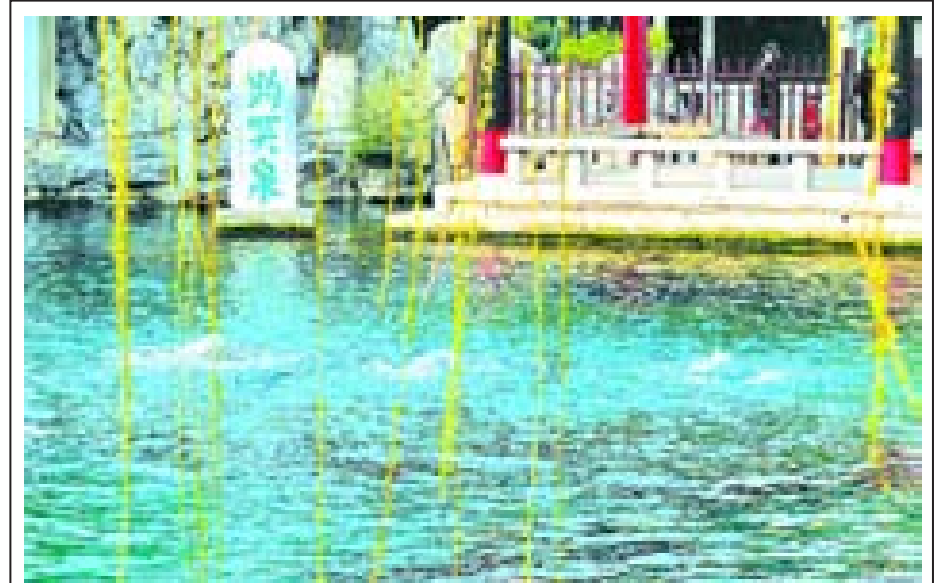
General election for New Zealand in September

WELLINGTON, 10 March — New Zealand voters will go to the polls in a general election on 20 September, Prime Minister John Key announced on Monday. "I'm announcing the election date well in advance as I believe this gives New Zealanders some certainty and is in the country's best interests," Key said in a statement.

Key said his center-right National Party, which has ruled for two terms in coalition with three minor parties, would be campaigning on its "strong record in government and its plans to continue the good progress New Zealand is making over the next three years." The government's intention was that parliament would be dissolved on 14 August, he said.

The National Party has been polling slightly ahead of the main opposition bloc of the Labour and Green parties in recent polls, despite unpopular policies such as its decision to partially privatize the state-owned power companies.

The New Zealand government is selected from 120 Members of Parliament who are elected in a mixed-member proportional representation system, under which each voter has two votes — one for a constituency representative and one for a political party. Each party is allocated a number of seats in parliament according to its share of the total party vote. — *Xinhua*



Tourists visit the Baotu Spring in Jinan, capital of east China's Shandong Province, on 9 March, 2014. Jinan, known as the "Spring City," has launched a water supplement plan as the water levels of its famous Baotu Spring continued to drop almost 30 centimeters since February. — XINHUA

Kyodo News

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development
Department of Rural Development
National Community Driven Development Project
IDA Grant: H813-MM

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank towards the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project. The Department of Rural Development of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, which implements the National Community Driven Development project, intends to apply part of the proceeds for the hiring of the following individual consultant positions. The contract will cover for a period of 12 months starting from May 2014 and will be extended based on the performance of individual consultant, need for the services and the availability of funds.

1. Secretary (C-8-2014)
2. Translator (C-9-2014)
3. Finance and Operations Consultant (C-11-2014)
4. Finance Assistant (C-12-2014)

The Department of Rural Development (DRD) now invites expressions of interest from qualified and experienced Myanmar Nationals for the above positions.

Interested consultants may obtain copies of the detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) for these positions from the address below during office hours from 0900 to 1600. Monday through Friday, except public holidays.

In submitting their expressions of interest, consultants are kindly requested to indicate the positions they apply and the reference numbers stated above. Interested consultants must provide their updated curriculum vitae, indicating personal and technical skills, qualifications and experience in similar assignments along with the names of at least two (2) referees with their contact information (e-mail address, telephone or fax numbers). Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by fax or by e-mail) by April 4, 2014. The successful consultant will be selected in accordance with the provisions, under the World Bank's "Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under IBRD Loans, IDA Credits and Grants by World Bank Borrowers dated January 2011".

Attn: U Myint Oo (Deputy Director General),
 NCDD Project Secretariat Office,
 Department of Rural Development,
 Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development,
 Office No. 14, Nay Pyi Taw,
 Myanmar.

Tel & Fax: +9567 409413,

Email addresses: drdmyanmar@gmail.com

Malaysia says test needed on oil spill found off coast

KUALA LUMPUR, 10 March — A Malaysian aviation official said here late on Sunday that chemical test is being done on oil slick found off northeast Malaysian coast to determine whether it came from the missing airliner.

Director General of the Department of Civil Aviation Malaysia Azharuddin Abdul Rahman told a Press conference on Sunday evening that oil spill had been found near Tok Bali, Kelantan state, but could not confirm whether it came from the disappeared MAS Flight MH370.

"Our work now focus on locating the vanished jet," the official said. But he declined to give more information on a possible terror probe after the authorities disclosed at least two passengers had boarded the airliner with stolen passports.

A large oil slick stretching 100 nautical miles was found near Tok Bali, Kelantan Sunday by Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency.

A total of 34 aircraft and 40 ships are now scouring the South China Sea near the Gulf of Thailand for any sign of the whereabouts of the vanished plane and the search area has been expanded from the South China Sea to the Strait of Malacca.

More Chinese warships are joining the international search and rescue operation.

Late Sunday afternoon, Vietnam sent a boat to investigate a "strange object" spotted by a Singapore search plane near Vietnam's Tho Chu island.

The objects were suspected to come from the Boeing 777 aircraft, Vietnamese press reported earlier. But Rahman has ruled out the possibility that they were from the ill-fated jet.

About 40 hours after Flight MH370 lost contact with air traffic control en route to Beijing from Kuala Lumpur, the whereabouts of the plane with 227 passengers and 12 crew members onboard remained a mystery.—Xinhua

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (845)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (845) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.3.2014 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 Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

MINISTRY OF ELECTRIC POWER

DEPARTMENT OF HYDROPOWER IMPLEMENTATION

INVITATION TO TENDER

1. Qualified Contractors and/or Joint Ventures are invited to submit Tender Proposals in United States Dollars for the design and construction of the Contract:

"Upper Yeywa Hydropower Project - Construction of Underground Facilities"

2. Closing Date of Tender Acquisition - 9.4.2014 (16:00) PM
 Tender Submission Date - 9.7.2014 (10: 00) AM
 Tender Opening Date - 9.7.2014 (14: 00) PM
3. Tender Invitation Letter and Documents with detail information shall be available at the following address.

Tender Invitation Committee
 Department of Hydropower Implementation
 Office No. (38), Nay Pyi Taw
 Phone : 067 411415, Fax : 067 411081

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (038)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (038) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINE

Phone No: 2301185

A villager works in a salt pan in Naxi nationality township of Markam county of Qamdo Prefecture, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, on 9 March, 2014. Markam county is known as a place with rich salt resources. By far, there are some 3,454 salt pans on cliff slopes and riverside in Naxi to evaporate brine in the sun with an ancestral technique since Tang Dynasty (618-907 AD). With a large amount of yearly output of salt products, salt-production has become a main income for local people. Furthermore, the salt fields here and local folk customs also become a unique attraction to visitors.—XINHUA



Award launched to reward climate change stories in Africa

NAIROBI, 10 March — The 2014 African Climate Change and Environment Reporting Award (ACCER) was launched on Sunday to reward African journalists who report consistently and accurately on the subject.

Sponsored by the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance and other donor partners, the award aims to motivate African journalists to pay more attention to the impacts of climate change

on African people.

"Africa remains the epicenter of severe impacts of climate change such as droughts, floods and diseases. There is a need for the African media to devote their attention to these calamities," said Mithika Mwenda, secretary general of the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance.

Mwenda said judges will be looking for stories that stand out in terms of accuracy, consistency and

impact. The winners will receive cash prizes, trophies and certificates of recognition.

He said the African media are key to public awareness about climate change issues on the continent and to actions from the governments.

Nicholas Ozor, a senior research officer of the Africa Technology Policy Studies, said journalists should report more on climate science and policies.

"The media should be part of policy dialogue on climate change and how it impacts our daily lives. The African media should be on the frontline in informing the public of the hazards associated with a warming planet," said Ozor.

Media practitioners from Africa will submit their stories on climate change starting from March 10 and the winners will be announced in June.

Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

British DJ Route 94 snatches top spot in UK music charts

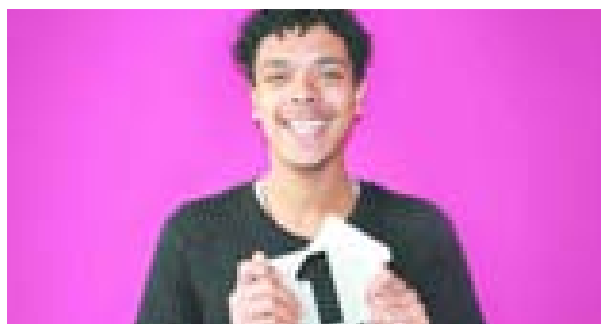
LONDON, 10 March — British DJ Route 94 hit the top of Britain's music charts on Sunday as "My Love", his collaboration with singer Jess Glynne, knocked US star Pharrell Williams into second place, the Official Charts Company said.

For Williams, the disappointment of losing the top spot was tempered by the fact his new album "G I R L" was crowned the week's top album, and

the fastest-selling record of 2014 so far after racking up sales of nearly 70,000 copies.

No other new entries made an impression at the top of the album chart, as British singer Ellie Goulding rose to second place, nudging last week's chart topper "Bad Blood" by Bastille down to number three.

Glynne, the vocalist on Route 94's number one, also featured on the week's third



Route 94 said he did not expect to score a number one hit.

best-selling single "Rather Be" by Clean Bandit. Katy Perry's "Dark Horse" and

"Money On My Mind" by Sam Smith completed the top five singles.—Reuters

"300" tops "Mr Peabody" to capture weekend box office

LOS ANGELES, 10 March — The action film "300: Rise of an Empire," battled its way to \$45 million in ticket sales to win the weekend box office race, slashing its way past the animated film "Mr Peabody & Sherman."

"Mr Peabody & Sherman," based on the "Peabody's Improbable History" segments in the 1960s animated TV show starring the characters Rocky and Bullwinkle, collected ticket sales of \$32.5 million at US and Canadian theaters.

Last week's box office winner, "Non-Stop," was third with \$15.4 million in

sales. The film stars Liam Neeson as an alcoholic US air marshal racing to stop a string of murders on an international flight.

"300: Rise of an Empire," set in ancient Greece, is a blood-splattered sequel to the 2006 blockbuster "300." It takes place before and after the earlier film when 300 Spartans marched to their deaths in a battle against the Persians.

In the sequel, an alliance of Greek city-states wage battle on the seas against the Persians.

Both films are based on graphic novels written

by author Frank Miller. "300: Rise of an Empire," stars Australian actor Sullivan Stapleton as the Greek leader Themistocles and French actress and model Eva Green as Artemisia, the ruthless commander of the Persian forces.

"This far exceeded our expectations," said Jeff Goldstein, executive vice president for theatrical distribution at Warner Brothers, which distributed the film produced by Legendary Pictures.

The studio anticipated an opening in the range of \$35 million to \$40 million, "thinking, if we can get

to \$100 million (total box office), we'd be in a good place," Goldstein added, noting that the movie made nearly half that in its opening days.

"Clearly we captured a much broader audience than we anticipated," Goldstein said.

The film added another \$88 million from foreign boxes in 58 markets, Warner Brothers said, and another \$12 million from IMAX screenings globally.

"Mr Peabody & Sherman," which features the talking dog Mr Peabody and his adopted boy, Sherman, exceeded studio 20th Century Fox's (FOXA.O) expectations for an opening from about \$25 million to \$30 million.

"With nostalgia in play, this film was geared toward both adults beyond the traditional family film audience, while introducing the characters of Sherman and Mr. Peabody to a new generation of kids who had never seen them," said Chris Aronson, president of domestic distribution for Fox.

Aronson said he expected to film to continue to perform well in the coming weeks, noting "there's not an animated film for another month, and with spring holidays approaching we're in a really good place."

Reuters

Kim Kardashian crosses 20 million followers on Twitter

LOS ANGELES, 10 March — Reality TV star Kim Kardashian has garnered 20 million followers on Twitter. The 33-year-old socialite took to the micro-blogging site to express her excitement after reaching a new milestone on Twitter, reported Ace Showbiz.

"20 million followers! Are you kidding me! Thank you so much! I love you guys," Kim tweeted.

The Keeping Up with the Kardashians star also tweeted a revised version of her fiancé Kanye West's song Sanctified. "All I really wanted was 20 million," she wrote.

Holding the record of the person with most Twitter followers is Katy Perry. The Dark Horse singer reached 50 million followers in early February, while Justin Bieber had 49.3 million at the same time.—PTI



Kim has one of the highest numbers of followers on twitter.—PTI

Favreau goes from 'Iron Man' to stainless steel food truck in new film



Jon Favreau as Carl Casper in the movie "Chef", is pictured in this undated handout photo courtesy of Open Road Films.

REUTERS

AUSTIN (Texas), 10 March — Actor, director and screenwriter Jon Favreau traded the high-flying super hero antics of his "Iron Man" movies for a quieter new film about a celebrated chef who quits his job at a top-flight restaurant and takes to the road in a food truck.

"Chef," a small-budget, independent comedy with a big-name cast,

including Iron Man veterans Robert Downey Jr and Scarlett Johansson, made its premiere at the South by Southwest film festival in Austin this weekend.

It will open nationwide in the United States on 9 May.

For Favreau, "Chef" helped cleanse his palate after directing the first two of the three Iron Man films, which have a combined world box office of more than \$1 billion. The movie also comes ahead of what will likely be his next expensive project, an adaptation of "The Jungle Book."

"If you are spending in excess of \$100 million on something, you better make sure that you make that money back," Favreau told Reuters. "When you are doing something for a fraction of that, the smaller you make the movie, the smaller the risk, and the more specific the audience can be."—Reuters



Director of the movie Noam Murro (R) poses with cast members (from L-R) Jack O'Connell, Eva Green, Callan Mulvey and Lena Headey at the premiere of "300: Rise of an Empire" in Hollywood, California on 4 March, 2014.

REUTERS

Justin Bieber, Selena Gomez hug and kiss in public

LOS ANGELES, 10 March — Singer Justin Bieber and actress-crooner Selena Gomez were reportedly seen together having breakfast and they even hugged and kissed each other during their outing in McAllen, Texas.

"Selena Gomez-Justin Bieber came in with their

bodyguards for breakfast and were here for an hour and a half," said Lori Johnson, manager of Don Pepe's McAllen Mexican restaurant. Justin Bieber ate huevos rancheros, while Gomez had pork chops with grilled onions, tomatoes and jalapeños. Along with their meal,

the singers enjoyed public display of affection on 7 March, reports people.com "They were sitting next to each other hugging and kissing in front of the staff. They weren't hiding it and seemed to be boyfriend and girlfriend," said Johnson.

After breakfast they visited the Royal

Perfumeria shop. "They came in together for about five minutes and he wanted to smell the Givenchy cologne and he wanted Obsession, and Selena was just browsing and looking at the fragrances for women. They were both polite and nice," said shop owner Lydia Gonzalez.—PTI



Selena Gomez and Justin Bieber. PTI

Real punish Barca defeat by storming clear

MADRID, 10 March — Real Madrid took full advantage of Barcelona's shock defeat at Real Valladolid with a 3-0 home win over 10-man Levante on Sunday that put Carlo Ancelotti's in-form side three points clear at the top of La Liga.

Cristiano Ronaldo, the leading scorer in Spain this season, took his tally to 24 league goals when he headed the opener from Angel Di Maria's corner in the 11th minute and Marcelo added a second from Ronaldo's assist four minutes after the break. David Navarro was harshly shown a straight red card in the 64th minute for an innocuous-looking tackle

on Ronaldo and fellow Levante defender Nikos Karampelas put the ball into his own net nine minutes from time.

Ronaldo, who became Portugal's leading scorer with a double against Cameroon in Wednesday's 5-1 friendly victory, came close to a second in the 90th minute when he headed against the underside of the crossbar and Gareth Bale whistled a low shot just past the post in added time. "I don't think it was a perfect game but we were close," Marcelo told Canal Plus television.

"We were a bit weaker in the first half than the second but the important thing was that we didn't concede

any goals and in that respect we have improved a lot," added the Brazil international. "We couldn't afford to stumble today and of course it's better when the others lose but we are focusing on ourselves."

Real, unbeaten in 29 matches in all competitions, have 67 points with 11 matches left and Atletico Madrid are three behind in second position after winning 2-0 at Celta Vigo on Saturday.

Champions Barca, who visit Real for the 'Clasico' in two weeks' time, turned in one of their worst performances of the campaign on Saturday at relegation-haunted Valladolid and slipped to third on 63



Real Madrid's Marcelo (2nd R) is congratulated by teammates after scoring a goal against Levante during their Spanish first division soccer match at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 9 March, 2014.—REUTERS

points.

Real are well placed in all three competitions they are in and a treble of Champions League, La Liga and King's Cup, which would be a first for the world's

richest club, is within reach. They have a 6-1 lead over Schalke 04 ahead of their last-16 second leg in Europe's elite club competition on March 18 and meet Barca in the King's

Cup final in Valencia on 16 April. "The team played well from the first minute to the last, with confidence and efficiency," Ancelotti told a news conference.

Reuters

Djokovic advances, Tsonga crashes out



Novak Djokovic (SRB) during his second round match against Victor Hanesu (ROU) in the BNP Paribas Open at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden on 9 March, 2014.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 10 March — Novak Djokovic remained on course for his first title of the season with a second round victory over Victor Hanesu 7-6, 6-2 at the BNP Paribas Open on Sunday.

Djokovic, the second ranked player in the world, is off to a slow 2014 and has only defeats at the Australian Open and the Dubai Duty Free Championship to show for thus far.

He failed to reach the final in either event, but does bring positive vibes to Indian Wells, California where he is a two-time champion.

Facing the Romanian Hanesu, Djokovic fended off five break points during the competitive opening set before dominating the tiebreaker and taking complete control of the match from there.

"I didn't make any returns in the first set. (In the) Second set I also struggled with the return, which is one of my better sides in

the game generally speaking," Djokovic told reporters after registering his 550th career win, the sixth active player to do so.

"It's the first match and it takes a little bit of time to get used to the center court. I haven't played on it this year."

Djokovic will next face Alejandro Gonzalez who made the third round by defeating Ivan Dodig 6-4, 2-6, 7-6.

Elsewhere in the draw, a couple of high seeds were sent home packing early.

Fourth seed Tomas Berdych was upset by Spain's Roberto Bautista Agut 4-6, 6-2, 6-4.

Berdych had been in strong form, winning 11 matches in a row in February, but slipped up in the early loss.

Sixth seed Juan Martin del Potro withdrew because of a left wrist injury that had also forced him out of the Dubai tourney last week.

Reuters

Woods back problems could cause Masters rethink

DORAL, (Florida), 10 March — World number one Tiger Woods arrived at the WGC-Cadillac Championship with concerns over his fitness and gingerly walked off the Blue Monster Course on Sunday with new questions about his ailing back.

With the year's first major just a month away, Woods' Masters preparations may have to be quickly reworked as he deals with back spasms that have plagued him through his last two events.

After pulling out of the final round of the Honda Classic a week earlier, the defending champion looked ready to make another unscheduled early exit at Doral on Sunday when his back problems flared up again on the sixth following an awkward shot out of the bunker.

"It is back spasms, so we've done all the protocols and it's just a matter of keeping everything aligned so I don't go into that," said Woods. "It's basically started on six, the second shot out of the bunker, my foot was out of the bunker."

"That's what set it off

and then it was done after that, just see if I could actually manage through the round, keep the spasms at bay."

Woods, a seven-time winner of the WGC-Cadillac, had surged into contention on Saturday with a third round 66 to start the final day three shots behind

but returned a six-over 78 to finish tied for 25th.

The 14-times major winner did not make a birdie in his final round and walked gingerly off the course having completed his first PGA Tour event of the season.

"If I feel good, I can actually make a pretty decent swing," said Woods. "You saw it yesterday."

"I actually can make some good swings and shoot a good score but if I'm feeling like this, it's a little tough."

"I mean, it was just one thing that set it off and as I say, I had a quick turnaround from last week."

"Normally things like this, you shut it down for a while and then get back up and get the strength and everything developed around it."

Reuters



Tiger Woods tees off from the 4th hole during the final round of the WGC - Cadillac Championship golf tournament at TPC Blue Monster at Trump National Doral.—REUTERS

Wigan repeat FA Cup final upset to knock out Man City

LONDON, 10 March — Manchester City's hopes of an unprecedented quadruple were in tatters on Sunday after holders Wigan Athletic repeated their FA Cup heroics with a stunning 2-1 victory in their quarter-final at the Etihad Stadium.

Jordi Gomez's first-half penalty and a tap-in by James Perch gave Wigan, who beat City 1-0 in the FA Cup final at Wembley last May, a place in this year's semi-finals against Arsenal.

City, who won the League Cup last Sunday and need to overturn a two-goal deficit to Barcelona

in the second leg of their Champions League tie next week, looked jaded against their second-tier opponents until they staged a thrilling late fightback.

Frenchman Samir Nasri made City's breakthrough in the 68th minute with a sweet 20-metre left-foot strike.

Substitute Edin Dzeko came within inches of forcing a replay, but Emmerston Boyce produced a remarkable last-ditch block and Wigan, managed by former City favourite Uwe Rosler, held on.

In the other quarter-finals played on Sunday, Iton Athletic 2-0 and Hull



Wigan Athletic's James Perch (C) celebrates with teammates after scoring a goal against Manchester City during their English FA Cup quarter final soccer match at the Etihad stadium in Manchester, northern England on 9 March, 2014.—REUTERS

City defeated Sunderland 3-0 to set up the second semi-final.—Reuters

GENERAL

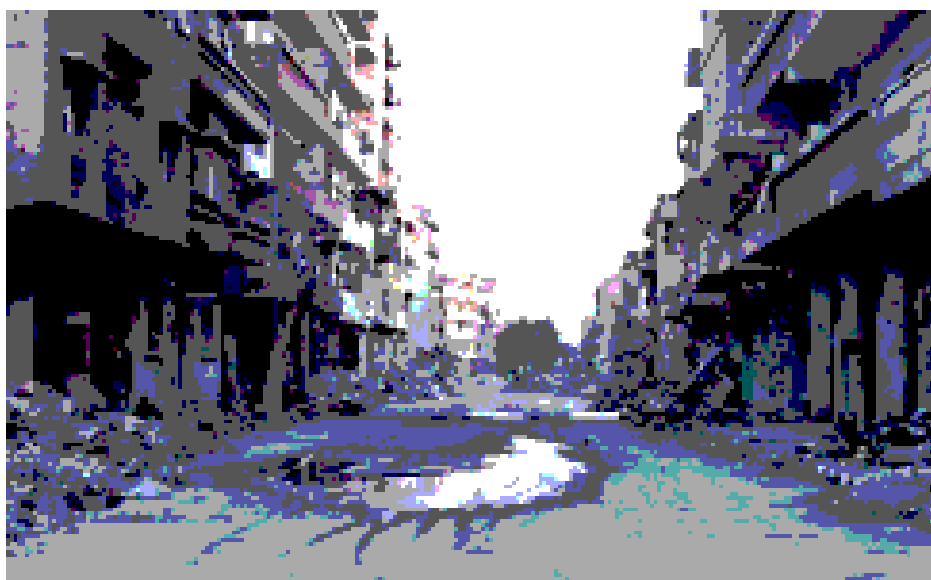
Syrian journalist killed covering fighting: Al Mayadeen TV

DUBAI, 10 March — A Syrian journalist has been killed covering clashes between government forces and opposition fighters in the eastern city of Deir al-Zor, a regional broadcaster said.

Beirut-based Al Mayadeen said on its website that its cameraman Omar Abdelqader was shot in the neck on Saturday and was pronounced dead in hospital shortly afterwards.

Syria was the deadliest place for journalists in 2013 for the second year, the Committee to Protect Journalists, a media rights group based in New York, said in December.

At least 29 journalists were killed last year in a three-year-old conflict that turned into civil war after a crackdown on peaceful



A general view shows a deserted street filled with debris of damaged buildings in Deir al-Zor on 5 March, 2014.—REUTERS

protests, and has claimed more than 140,000 lives. Al Mayadeen quoted a local Syrian military commander as saying Abdelqader was

shot by a sniper while he was filming government forces advancing on an area in the rebel-held city. His sister was quoted as saying

the family was preparing to celebrate his 27th birthday when news of his death arrived.

Reuters

Kakuryu dodges bullet to open yokozuna bid with win

OSAKA, 10 March — Ozeki Kakuryu got on the war path in his first yokozuna promotion bid, dispatching rising star Endo on the opening day of the Spring Grand Sumo Tournament on Sunday. It was far from pretty as the ozeki nearly found himself on the losing end, but he rebounded in the nick of time to kick off his campaign on a winning note at Bodymaker Colosseum.

Kakuryu lost on the first day of the New Year basho before winning his next 14 bouts, including beating Hakuho on the final day, although he lost to the grand champion in a playoff. The ozeki could

get the green light for promotion to the top rank by winning his career first title with at least 13 wins. No 1 maegashira Endo, who is at the highest rank of his brief career, was left with a stream of blood running down the side of his head after being flung into the ringside seats. Endo will lock horns with Yokozuna Harumafuji on Monday. Grand champion Hakuho, who is aiming for his 29th career title this time out, was business as usual and hardly broke a sweat as he bent down low and forced out Komusubi Shohozan in a matter of seconds. Hakuho will move within two of Chiyonofuji's mark and

three of the all-time record of 32 held by sumo legend Taiho with a championship in Osaka. Harumafuji, who is still recovering from ligament damage in his left ankle and ailing with an injured right elbow, got Toyonoshima off-balance with a vicious thrusting attack before deploying a kubi-nage neck throw.

The Yokozuna, who missed the entire New Year basho through injury, left the dohyo with his topknot filled with dirt after rolling on the top of his head as he brought down his opponent. Kisenosato, who is facing demotion after a failed bid at Yokozuna in January, avoided

using his injured big toe as he maneuvered gingerly around the ring before dumping Okinoumi with an overarm throw. The Ozeki, who finished with an unflattering 7-8 mark in January, must notch eight wins to remain at Ozeki.

Ozeki Kotoshogiku, who is nursing an injured right shoulder, employed his healthier left hand to barge out Tamawashi to make it three wins out of three for sumo's second highest rank. Local favorite Goeido was unable to maneuver into a strong position, but the sekiwake found a way to twist down Tochinowaka for a first-day win.—*Kyodo News*

MYANMAR TV

(11-3-2014, Tuesday)

- 6:00 am**
- 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 6:30 am**
- 2. Physical Exercise
- 7:00 am**
- 3. News/Weather Report
- 8:30 am**
- 4. India Drama Series
- 9:40 am**
- 5. Business News
- 10:00 am**
- 6. News
- 11:35 am**
- 7. Tamyethnar Takwetsar
- 12:00 pm**
- 8. News/International News/Weather Report
- 2:30 pm**
- 9. Traditional Boxing
- 3:00 pm**
- 10. News
- 3:15 pm**
- 11. TV Drama Series
- 4:15 pm**
- 12. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) Third Year (Physics)
- 5:00 pm**
- 13. News
- 5:15 pm**
- 14. Business News
- 6:00 pm**
- 15. News/Weather Report
- 6:20 pm**
- 16. Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than
- 7:00 pm**
- 17. News
- 7:25 pm**
- 18. TV Drama Series
- 8:35 pm**
- 19. Pyi Thu Ni Ti
- 8:50 pm**
- 20. Hit Songs of Stars
- 9:00 pm**
- 21. News
- 22. Documentary
- 23. Alinka Wat Yi Music Troupe

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(11-3-14 07:00am~12-3-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Travelling In Shan Mountain Ranges (Inle Phaungdaw Oo Pagoda Festival) (Part-1)
- * World News
- * Traditional Snacks
- * Local News
- * The Man and The Elephant (Part-I)
- * World News
- * Wholesale Fish
- * Local News
- * In The Studio: May Phyu Phyu
- * World News
- * The Photographer (Portiature) "Aung Kyaw Moe"
- * Local News
- * Hiker's Journey (Taung Gyi City) (EP-3)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Railways City Circular Train
- * Local News
- * Tapestry; A Genuine Myanmar Handicraft
- * World News
- * Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting
- * Local News
- * Food Trip (Ep-3) (Part-1)
- * World News
- * In The Studio: L CO
- * Local News
- * Journey To Unimaginable Spots (Ep-6)
- * World News
- * Modifying Natural Thanakha Bark into Ready-Made Skin Care Product
- * Local News
- * Home Grown Treasure
- * World News
- * Making of Nawarat Rings

Fulham eye miracle survival, plan extra defending session

LONDON, 10 March — Fulham need a miracle to survive relegation from the English Premier League but defender Johnny Heitinga still believes they can avoid the drop as manager Felix Magath plans extra sessions to plug the team's leaky backline.

A 3-1 defeat at fellow strugglers Cardiff City on Saturday left Fulham rooted to the bottom of the table on 21 points, four away from safety, and without a win in nine games.

"It was not good enough. We have to take a look in the mirror now because there are only nine games left," Heitinga, signed in January from Everton until the end of

the season, was quoted as saying by British media on Monday.

"It's not difficult to see what went wrong, we conceded too many goals. At the moment, this is a team that plays without confidence and concedes goals too easily." I still believe in the miracle. There are still 27 points to fight for, and we play some of the teams around us, but to stay in the Premier League now would be like winning the Champions League for us.

"It does not matter how we survive, but we have to find a solution to stay up and it needs to be quick, because it is already five past midnight now."

Cardiff went ahead

through Steven Caulker on the stroke of halftime after the visitors failed to clear a long ball into the box then left the defender to slot home a cross from close range.

Another January signing, Lewis Holtby, put Fulham level 15 minutes into the second period but Caulker headed the home side back in front seven minutes later before another cross resulted in a Cardiff goal with Sascha Riether diverting into his own net.

"I am shocked that we concede goals from corners because that is the easiest situation. You have time to stand and organize so I don't know why," Magath told reporters.—*Reuters*



Fulham's goalkeeper Maarten Stekelenburg fails to stop a goal from Cardiff City captain Steven Caulker (not pictured) during their English Premier League soccer match at Cardiff City Stadium in Cardiff, Wales, on 8 March, 2014.

REUTERS

Commission formed to draft Laws on religious conversion and balancing population: President

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March — A law on religious conversion and a law on balancing the increasing population will be drafted with the support of a new commission, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker told parliament.

According to a message by the president, a commission with officials from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Ministry of Immigration and Population as well as other experts has been formed to do extensive research and take the advice from monks into consideration before drafting the bills.

Regarding two other

laws, the interfaith marriage law and the law on monogamy, the president's message urged Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to directly work with the Supreme Court of the Union. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker also thanked officials, including those from the Ministry of Finance and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office, for drafting the Union Taxation Bill and bills amending the Income Tax Law and Commercial Tax Law. He urged all representatives to complete their tasks as soon as possible to get approval for the bills.

Another topic discussed at today's session was a report on the contro-

versial 2014 Writ Petition Bill in which the two Hluttaws had a dispute over the length of the period in which citizens are allowed to file a writ. The joint Bill Committee suggested allowing citizens a two-year period to file a writ, but critics said a one-year period was enough.

Reports on the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Bill, Consumer Protection Bill and Anti-Money Laundering Bill were also presented to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Today's session ended with a discussion on the 2014 Union Taxation Bill.

MNA



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann takes part in the discussion.—MNA

International Conference on “Challenges of a Free Press” kicks off



Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Htut gives interviews to media persons.—MNA

YANGON, 10 March—An International Media Conference titled “Challenges of a Free Press” began in Yangon on Monday.

Officials and experts from ASEAN countries, the European Union and the United States attended the forum, with Deputy Minister for Information U Ye Htut elaborating on the pro-

gress of media reforms in Myanmar and international senior editors discussing the reforms from a regional perspective.

Regional medial reforms, challenges in the region, media freedom and the future of media will be discussed at the conference through 12 March.

MNA

Pensioners urged to take out their pensions: MEB

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March—The Myanmar Economic Bank on Monday urged pensioners to withdraw their money from banks and visit nearby branches, as pensions have increased with many elderly unaware of the move.

Officials said many very old and weak people should take out their pen-

sions and make use of it.

Following the announcement of increased pensions in 2013, most pensioners have visited respective branches of Myanmar Economic Bank to take out their increased pensions. The bank has been trying to contact pensioners who are unable to visit MEB's branches. —MNA

Three Myanmar ancient cities might be included on World Heritage list, decision due in June

NAY PYI TAW, 10 March—The UNESCO World Heritage Committee is considering to include the ancient cities of Srikestra, Hanlin and Vishnu on its world heritage list, with the decision made at the 38th session of the World Heritage Committee in Qatar this

June, Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin said during an inspection tour of Pyay on Saturday.

Meeting with staff from the Department of Archaeology, National Museum and Library at the hall of the Archaeological Technical Institute, she stressed the importance of

research on the history of the cities and the preservation of the artifacts and buildings.

She finished the tour visiting a photo exhibition on the Pyu era at Shwephonepint Library and presented the photographers with certificates.—MNA

GEO Myanmar 2014 held in Yangon

YANGON, 10 March—Organized by Myanmar Geosciences Society (MGS), the 13th ASEAN Geosciences Conference took place in conjunction with a paper reading session at Sedona Hotel on Kaba Aye Pagoda Road of Yangon on Sunday.

At the reading session, 85 papers were read out by geologists and scholars from the United States, Japan, Thailand, Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, the Philippines, Australia and Myanmar.

The Myanmar Geo-

sciences Society (MGS) has been working in co-operation with the Meteorology and Hydrology Department to establish weather observation stations and seismic stations in Myanmar. The session continues tomorrow.

MNA



Tenth Annual General Meeting and Fifth Ceremony for Paying Homage to Elderly Geologists in progress at Sedona Hotel, Yangon.—MNA