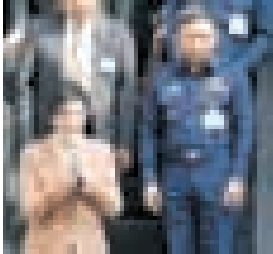


INSIDE

Thai court could declare February election void



PAGE 6

Australia resumes ocean search for missing Malaysia jet



PAGE 7

3,000 assistant Japanese language teachers to be sent to ASEAN by 2020

PAGE 10

Dangerously decayed structures of U Bein Bridge to be replaced



Photo shows decayed pillars of U Bein Bridge.—PHOTO MIN HTET AUNG

The world's famous U Bein Bridge in Mandalay is being repaired and the estimated cost for the repair work is 13 million kyats, according to the Archaeology Department.

The repair project for 21 spans currently underway on the ancient wood-

en bridge which was constructed around 1850 and is believed to be the oldest and longest teakwood bridge in the world. The repair work is targeted for completion before the Myanmar New Year festival which will start on 14 April and end on 16 April this year.

The dangerously decayed pillars, beams and some parts of deck of the Myanmar's one of the tourist attractions will be replaced with new ones without damaging its original architecture.

The 1.2-kilometer bridge features 1,086 pil-

lars that stretch out of the water of the Taungthaman Lake near Amarapura and Mandalay.

The Archeology Department has deployed a guard to monitor the condition of the bridge.

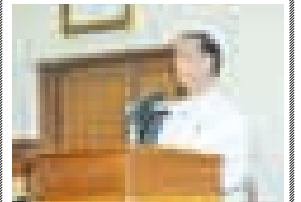
Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-Printing House)

INSIDE

President U Thein Sein, Chair of ASEAN, sends Congratulatory Message to the ASEAN People's Forum

PAGE 9

Nurses from private and government sectors will enjoy equal rights in future



PAGE 3

Myanmar, ROK to strengthen bilateral relations, cooperation

PAGE 3

Hsipaw, best destination for globetrotters in northern Shan State

HSIPAW, 21 March—Arrival of tourists is increasing day by day in Hsipaw, northern Shan State, according to the hotel and lodge entrepreneurs.

Mostly, Hsipaw is the last destination for the globetrotters on their visits

to Myanmar but they have short period for visit to Hsipaw, said a German tourist.

Especially, the tourists make trips to natural rocks midstream of Dokhtawady River where they take photos at natural streams and small waterfalls. They also

prefer to take relaxation at Naungdawgyi Lake, south-eastern part of the town, and visit Haw palace of Shan chieftain.

In the past, not only the locals but the globetrotters avoided to visit Naungdawgyi Lake and

along Dokhtawady River as the peace could not be restored. At present, they can visit Hsipaw anywhere to enjoy traditions of Shan nationals and their livelihoods.

Kyin Maung (Shwekyangan)

Two killed, four injured in Thabeikkyin gold mine collapse

THABEIKKYIN, 21 March — Two have been killed and four injured when a gold mine collapsed Friday in Innbywe about three miles south of Thabeikkyin, PyinOoLwin District, according to local authorities.

The accident happened when one gold min-

er broke a wooden pillar supporting the tunnel.

The two victims identified as Soe Win and Lu Aung were buried and died on the spot, and four got injured. The local police station is conducting investigation into the accident.—*Soe Naing Win (Thabeikkyin)*

Two men who robbed tourist on Ngwehsaung Beach arrested

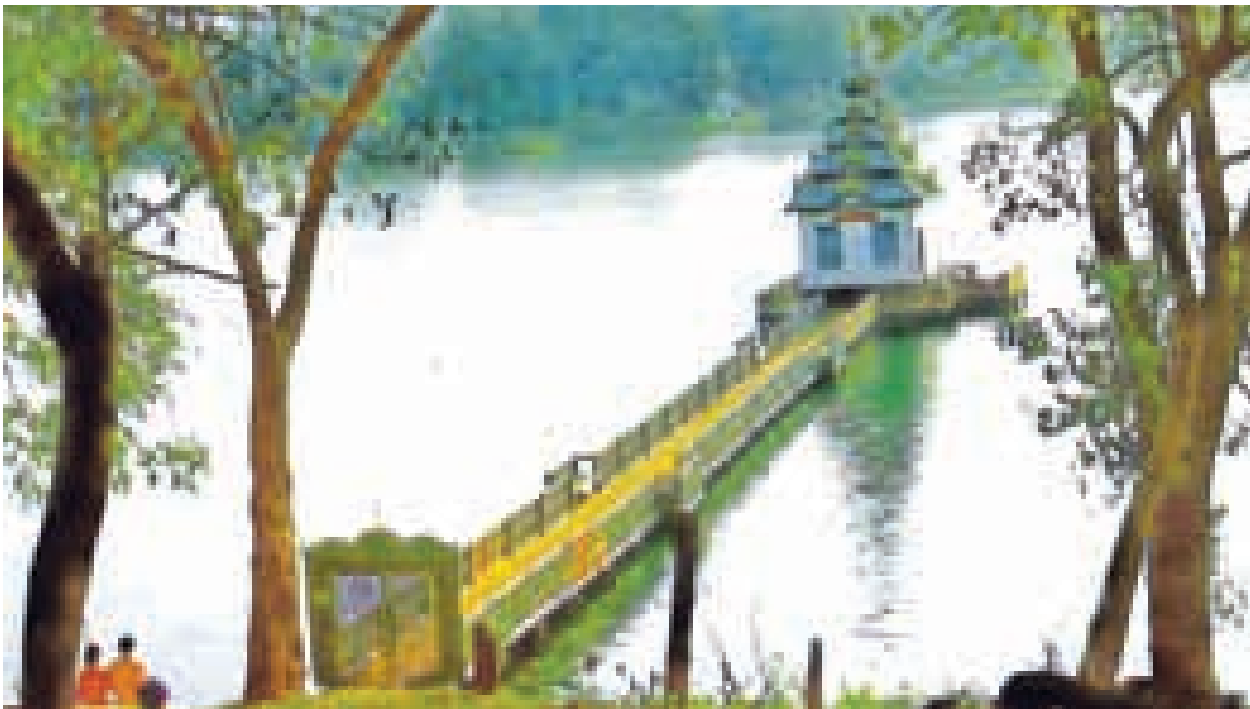
NGWEHSAUNG, 21 March — Two men who robbed a tourist in Ngwehsaung Beach was arrested by local police ten days after the criminal case. The two suspects strike a fist at the face of Ms. Katarzyna Joanna, 37, from Poland, and looted her bag while she was walking on the beach at 9 pm on 10 March on her way to the hotel where she was staying.

Acting tips-off, the

police could arrest the suspects on 20 March after a man sold an iPad phone on 20 March at a shop. The two suspects are identified as Po Aung, 39, son of U Ba Yi, of Ward-3, Ngwehsaung and Hsan Shay (a) Myint Lwin, 36, son of U Hla Nyunt of Ward-2, Ngwehsaung.

Action will be taken against the two suspects, according to the local police station.

Ayeyawady Region IPRD



Myanmar, Korea discuss promoting bilateral ties



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann shakes hands with Deputy Speaker of Korean National Assembly, Mr Park Byeong Seung.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 March—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by Deputy Speaker of Korean National Assembly, Mr Park Byeong Seung at Hluttaw Complex on Friday morning.

They had a cordial discussion on promoting bilateral ties between the two countries and amity and co-operation between Korean National Assembly and Myanmar Parliament.

Also present at the call were Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Py-

ithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Chairman of International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo and officials from Hluttaw Office. The visiting delegation was accompanied by ROK Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Lee Baek Soon.

MNA

Over 34000 DVB-T2 Set Top boxes distributed free of charge in Magway Region

MAGWAY, 21 March—The Ministry of Information plans to distribute 327,863 DVB-T2 Set Top Boxes to the people across the country in which 34,111 boxes have already been given free of charge to low-income households in 16 townships of Magway Region on Friday.

Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw

Shwe thanked the ministry for the distribution of the boxes to enable the local people to clearly enjoy latest programmes through various channels. Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway made clarification on current reform processes of the Ministry in line with the public-centred policy adopted by the President. Even people from the

villages with lack of electricity can watch TV programmes through the Set Top Box using DC Battery.

Region IPRD



Deputy Minister for Information U Pike Htway presents 327,863 DVB-T2 Set Top Boxes to an official.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives New Zealand Ambassador to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 21 March—Ambassador of New Zealand to Myanmar Mr. Tony Lynch paid a call on Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung

Myint at his office in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

It was attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Committee Chairpersons U Nay Win Tun and Daw

Nan Ni Ni Aye, members U Kan Nyunt and U Tin Shan and officials of the Amyotha Hluttaw Office.

MNA



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint receives Ambassador of New Zealand to Myanmar Mr. Tony Lynch.—MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing opens two plants in Bago, Myaungmya

NAY PYI TAW, 21 March—The Automobile Assembly Plant will manufacture high-quality products for contributing to the economic development of the country, said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, at the plant's opening ceremony in Indagaw Industrial Region in Bago Region on Friday.

The plant is under control of the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited. It produces heavy

duty trucks for the armed forces and city buses, prime movers, trucks and trailers.

The Commander-in-Chief urged the staff of the plant to work hard for producing parts of vehicle as much as they can and stressed the need to buy some parts of vehicle which cannot be produced at the plant.

He inspected test-running of machinery at assembly workshops.

The Commander-in-Chief also attended the opening ceremony of

250-ton Rice Reprocessing Plant in Myaungmya Township of Ayeyawady Region.

During the ceremony, the Commander-in-Chief instructed the officials to systematically produce the reprocessing of rice and purchase of rice from the sellers at fair price.

Later, the Commander-in-Chief and party viewed the sample reprocessed rice and scale model of the plant and milling machines.

Myawady



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing inspects automobile production process at automobile assembly plant.—MNA

NATIONAL

Nurses from private and government sectors will enjoy equal rights in future

YANGON, 21 March—“Suggestions for improvement of medical education standard from faculty members are invited to be able to offer health care services to 70 percent of rural people,” said Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham in meeting with the rector, faculty members and students from University of Medicine (1) and Yangon University of Nursing (Main) in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon on Friday.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham continued that outstanding doctors have been constantly turned out by University of Medicine (1), saying although Myanmar has 30,000 doctors

about 1 per 2000 people at present, many doctors are still required in comparison with increasing population. The medical staffs are urged to make field trips to rural areas to provide health care services to local people, he added.

Medical College was upgraded into Institute of Medicine in 1964 and it was renamed as University of Medicine (1) in 2005.

After hearing the reports by Rector Prof. Dr Nwe Nwe Oo of University of Nursing (Yangon), the Vice-President noted that a total of 46 nursing training schools cannot turn out adequate number of nurses

and midwives. In the future, nurses from private and government sectors will enjoy the rights in equal term.

The Vice-President looked into practical works of nurses at Yangon University of Nursing (Main) and Annex.

Nursing Training School was established in 1986 and it was upgraded to the university in 1991. The institution was renamed University of Nursing (Yangon) in 2005.

MNA

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham speaking at the meeting.
MNA



Union FM meets with Switzerland Ambassador to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 21 March—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin received Mr Christoph Burgener, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Switzerland at 11:30 a.m. on Friday at the Minister's

office in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, the Ambassador handed over diplomatic literature books donated from Geneva based Diplo Foundation for Ministry's library to the Union Minister.

MNA



Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin receives diplomatic literature books presented by Ambassador Mr Christoph Burgener.—MNA

Myanmar's trade deficit reaches US\$ 2307.73 million

during April-February in 2013-14 FY

NAY PYI TAW, 21 March—In February 2014, Myanmar's normal trade volume has reached US\$ 541.35 million and border trade volume, US\$ 132.02 million, totaling US\$ 673.37 million while normal import volume was US\$ 1178.07 million and border import volume, US\$ 109.77 million totaling US\$ 1287.84 million. So, Myanmar's total trade deficit in February 2014 was US\$ 614.47 million.

According to monthly export-import report of Central Statistical Organi-

zation, Myanmar's total export volume—US\$ 7631.21 million of normal export volume and US\$ 2593.91 million of border export volume—reached US\$ 10225.12 million while total import volume—US\$ 10881.42 million of normal import volume and US\$ 1651.43 million of border import volume—was US\$ 12532.85 million. Therefore, Myanmar's total trade deficit was US\$ 2307.73 million during the period from April to February in 2013-2014 financial year.—CSO

Education bill discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 21 March—Hluttaw representatives discussed national education bill to be submitted to the Parliament in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee Chairman U T Khun Myat and Education Promotion Committee Chairman Dr Chan Nyein explained the purposes of the meeting. Officials of Education Promotion Committee, Bill Committee and Legal Affairs Commission gave explanations on goal of education, principles, formation of education committee, education system, academics, learning, curriculum and educational management.

Bill Committee Member Dr Soe Moe Aung, Education Promotion Committee Secretary Dr Mya Oo, Amendment Committee Secretary Dr Maung Maung Wint and officials also attended the meeting.—MNA

Myanmar, ROK to strengthen bilateral relations, cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 21 March—Vice-President U Nyan Tun received Mr. Park Byeong Seug, Deputy Speaker of National Assembly of the Republic of Korea and party at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday morning to discuss matters on strengthening bilateral relations and promoting cooperation between Myanmar and Korea. Present at the call were Deputy Ministers U Thant Kyaw and Dr Aung Myat Oo and Korean guest was accompanied by ROK Ambassador Mr. Lee Baek Soon and officials.—MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun shakes hands with Mr. Park Byeong Seug, Deputy Speaker of National Assembly of ROK.—MNA



Rural electrification, renewable energy development discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 21 March—Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint and international investors discussed cooperation in implementing projects on rural electrification and renewable energy development in the areas with no power grids in Mandalay Region and Chin State in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

With the assistance of such donor organizations as UNIDO, KOICA, KOTRA and NEDO, support com-

mittees have pursued rural energy development since 2011 said the minister.

After the 2nd Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum-MDCF, the country has seen more cooperation between the Union government and private sector organizations. Making more investments, ADB is funding pilot projects for rural electrification in Chin State and Mandalay Region as of April 2013.

He said that the work-

shop is aimed at building sound environment to overcome challenges, implementing energy policies effectively and creating a business model that supports to sustainable energy development.

Mr. Chong Chi Nai, Director of Energy Division of Southeast Asia Department of the Asian Development Bank, and Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar Ms. Ann Ollestad delivered addresses on the occasion.

Senior Climate Change Specialist of ADB Mr. Pradeep Tharakan and Mr. Edwin Adkins of Earth Institute Columbia University of the US made clarifications on renewable energy.

As a consequence of the workshop, solar lamp-posts would be set up on both sides of the public roads in and around 20 villages in Mandalay Region and Haka in Chin State. Besides, hospitals and clinics in Haka could be installed with refrigerators. The workshop jointly organized by the Ministry of Industry and ADB continues tomorrow.—MNA

Free clinic buildings completed for monks, nuns in Myeik



MYEIK, 21 March—The clinic for the monks and nuns is the significant symbol of Myeik, the city of Taninthayi Region.

The building of clinic ward is located on 200x120 acres of land on Saba Shwe-wa Road in Upper Yaypon

Ward in Myeik.

The dispensary was opened near the monastery on Phayagyi Street in Myitnge Ward on 10 August 2013. Donors contributed cash and kind to the clinic. Retired doctors, physicians, specialists and tradition-

al medicine practitioners give health care services to the monks and nuns free of charge. The clinic has two-storey building for the monks and another one for the nuns. The buildings cost over K 220 million.

At present, the clinic is

now reliable for monks and nuns not only from Myeik but from other regions far from Myeik.

Khaing Htoo (Myeik)

Farmers in Kyaukse Tsp get wider knowledge of farming equipment

KYAUKSE, 21 March—“Transforming manual to mechanized farming plays a key role for development of socio-economic status of the rural people,” said Mandalay Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Myint Than at the ceremony to hand over farming equipment at the hall of Agricultural Mechanization Department in Kyaukse, Mandalay on 15 March.

Mandalay Region government arranges sales of farming equipment to the farmers through installment. For the first phase, the region government disbursed loans to farmers to buy eight combine harvesters. Moreover, the agricultural mechanization

techniques were shared to rural youths in the trainings.

“The region government plans to reduce use of farming cattle in the works and to increase the rate of one combine harvester per 25 acres,” said the minister.

“At the time the farming workers are shortage, use of agricultural machinery can save the time. Thanks to advantages of machinery, the farming works can be carried out conveniently,” said a local farmer of Yebawlay Village, who has bought a paddy transplanting machine. In Kyaukse, the farming equipment were introduced to the farmers for several times.

Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)

Technicians of Agricultural Mechanization Department introduce paddy transplanting machine.



Tourists defy hot season on visits to ancient cultural sites

SAGAING, 21 March—Although number of globetrotters declined their visits to Myanmar as of March due to high temperature in previous years, the figure of this year is still high in same month.

The tourists who arrived in Upper Myanmar stay in Mandalay to pay visits to famous destinations of ancient cultural sites in Inwa, Sagaing, Mingun and Amarapura. Most of them take taxis

and motorcycles and some express buses arranged by tour companies. Some globetrotters visit the sites by bicycles.

The cyclist tourists visit Inwa, Sagaing, Mingun and Amarapura and other destinations by taking their equipment. Most of the tourists come from European countries.

“A flock of tourists comprise over 20 members and they are old and young. The older persons take tuk-

tuks for their trips. Tour guides follow them by bicycle. They have arranged to visit Inwa and will come back Mandalay. They will visit Sagaing and Mingun by bicycle,” said a tour guide.

In the past, tourists made their trips to destinations by car arranged by travel agencies. Now, they take various vehicles on their trips as the nation has restored peace in its all parts.—*Nanda Min Lwin*



Illegal personal goods, foodstuff worth K 5 million confiscated

MANDALAY, 21 March—A mobile team of Mandalay Region seized personal goods and foodstuff without any custom duty worth K 5 million from a vehicle.

Assistant Director U Wai Myo Khaing of Mandalay Region government handed over the seized goods to the Mandalay Region Customs Department.

The mobile team under the supervision of the Region government opens its office at Buta Village on Mandalay-Muse Road in PyinOoLwin Township from 17 to 19 March to check vehicles as part of

prevention against illegal trade. The mobile team is assigned duty to confiscate illegal goods, prohibited

commodities and the goods inappropriate for the public consumption.—*Zaw Lin Oo (Aung/San)*



Officials seize illegal commodities from a van.

LOCAL NEWS

Buddha image of Myanmar-Thai friendly relations conveyed to Thailand



KENG TUNG, 21 March—In commemoration of the Myanmar-Thai friendly relations, a Buddha image under the title of Abhijayavamsa Maha Muni Buddha Image, was cast recently.

The Buddha image was consecrated by 108 venerable monks at Maha Muni

Buddha Image in Mandalay on the Fullmoon day of Tabaung, 15 March.

Over 50 members of religious association recited Dhamma Cakka Sutta. The people performed entertainment of Shan traditional drum dances to the guests.

On 18 March, 108

venerable monks led by Ayezedi Pagoda monk consecrated the Buddha again in front of Minkyaung monastery in Taunggyi.

The Buddha image

was conveyed to Thailand. On arrival at Kengtung, the Buddha image was kept at Monle monastery of Kengtung for public obeisance.—U Sai Wun Phone

Karathuri Sub-township to get GSM communication tower

KARATHURI, 21 March—As the Union government supports the development of public communications services nationwide, communications networks are mushrooming across the country.

At present, Karathuri Sub-township of Taninthayi Region, southern part of the nation, is going to

see a new GSM tower being constructed by Amara Co Ltd.

“I am very pleased to hear the tower is being built because we hold GSM SIM cards but they are useless. Upon its completion, we will be able to use them by April,” said a resident of the sub-township.

Karathuri Sub-township (IPRD)

KANMA, 21 March—Township administrator U Kyaw Soe Moe Tun and party donated 15 bags of rice and stationery to fire victims in Nyaungkine Village in Kanma Township, Magway Region, on Thursday.

Officials committed to make new citizenship security cards and necessary documents lost in the fire and comforted the victims.

The township official provided cash to a veteran with disability and pledged to make new pension card for him.

Kyaw Zeya Win (IPRD)

Free health services given to locals in Kawthoung Township

KAWTHOUNG, 21 March—As a gesture of hailing 69th Anniversary Armed Forces Day, a mobile medical team from Kawthoung Station gave free health care services to 240 locals from Maliwan and Seikphu Villages at the Dhammayon in Maryam Village in Kawthoung Township, Taninthayi Region, on 20 March.

The team provided children and expectant mothers with necessary medicine and Tactical Operation Commander Col Than Htaik from Kawthoung Station attended the ceremony.

Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)



Coord meeting on holding Myanmar traditional Chinlone competition held

PATHEIN, 21 March—A coordination meeting on holding the 9th Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister's Cup and 38th Inter-Region/State Ooredoo Cup and Myanmar traditional Chinlone competition was held at Pathein Football Academy on Thursday.

Region Development Affairs Minister (Sport in-charge) U Kyaw Win Naing urged the officials

from sub-committees to make collaborative efforts on holding the events successfully.

Then the officials reported to the Region Minister on undertakings for holding the events.

The events will be held in Pathein, Ayeyawady Region from 1 to 4 April and mainly sponsored by Ooredoo.

District IPRD

Work coord meeting held in Ayeyawady Region

PATHEIN, 21 March—Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung heard the reports on the work progress that are running in 2013-14 FY presented by the officials at the work co-ordination meeting at his office in Pathein Township, Ayeyawady Region on Friday.

Officials from the

departments explained the current activities and highlighted strong and weak points for their works that could not meet the target on schedules.

Region ministers, administrators, principals and officials departments and universities from six districts of the region.

District IPRD

Fire victims get relief supplies in Kanma



Course on knowledge about cotton crops opened in Kyaukse

KYAUKSE, 20 March—Course on knowledge about cotton crops was opened with a view to enhancing capacity of the staff at the hall of Myanma Industrial Crops Development Enterprise in Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Region on 18 March.

Speaking on the occasion, Head of Mandalay Region Myanma Industrial Crops Development Enterprise U Tun Win said that the course is aimed at sharing knowledge about

cotton crops to the farmers and providing more assistance for them. The five-day course is being attended by 25 trainees from Kyaukse, Singaing, Myittha and TadaU Townships.

Out of 56350 acres of scheduled cotton plantation in Kyaukse District in 2013-14 fiscal year, 46854 acres have already been cultivated and average per acre yield is 380 viss.

Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)

EU adds 12 people to list of Russia sanctions in step with US

BRUSSELS, 21 March — The European Union on Thursday decided to add 12 people to a list of those subject to its sanctions against Russia over the country's bid to annex Crimea, joining the United States which expanded the scope of its sanctions earlier in the day.

EU leaders also canceled a summit meeting with Russia that had been scheduled to be held in Sochi, southern Russia, in June.

The names of the 12 people added to the EU's travel bans and asset freezes were not disclosed as required legal procedures were still under way. But EU President Herman Van Rompuy said at a press conference after the EU summit that some of the 12 people "are really high-ranking."

"Any steps by Russia to destabilize Ukraine will have far-reaching consequences. By that we mean consequences on relations in a broad range of economic areas," Van Rompuy said.

The EU's fresh sanctions against Russia came on the heels of similar measures by Washington.

The United States expanded the scope of its sanctions against Russia on Thursday to a major bank and more government officials.

Kyodo News

Abe hails possible restart of intergovernmental talks with N Korea

TOKYO, 21 March — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Thursday he welcomes an agreement between Japan and North Korea to work toward the restart of intergovernmental talks that may help address the past abductions by the North of Japanese citizens.

"It's an important step," Abe said at a Press conference. "I'd like to resume (the talks) as soon as possible."

The two countries agreed during a two-day meeting of their Red Cross societies through Thursday in the northeastern Chinese city of Shenyang to work toward the restart of formal



Thailand's Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra gestures as she leaves the Royal Thai Air Force Headquarters, after a defence meeting in Bangkok on 4 March, 2014 file photo. —KYODO NEWS

Thai court could declare February election void

BANGKOK, 21 March — Thailand's Constitutional Court was due to rule on Friday on the validity of a general election held in February that was disrupted by protesters, with speculation growing it could void the vote, adding to the political turmoil in the country.

The protests are the latest chapter in an eight-year crisis that pits Bangkok's middle class and royalist establishment against supporters of Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and her brother, ex-premier Thaksin Shinawatra. Now in their

fifth month, the protesters have shut government offices and at times blocked major thoroughfares in Bangkok to try to force Yingluck out. Twenty-three people have died and hundreds have been injured in the violence. The court complaint was brought by a law lecturer who argues among other things that the 2 February election was unconstitutional because voting did not take place in all areas on the same day. Yingluck called the election in December to try to defuse the protests and since then has headed a

caretaker government with limited powers. The violence and political paralysis has dented confidence, prompting cuts to economic growth forecasts.

Yingluck's Puea Thai Party had been expected to win but the main opposition Democrat Party threw in its lot with the protesters and has demanded electoral changes before any vote, aimed at reducing the influence of Thaksin. Parties led by or allied to him have won every election since 2001.

The protesters retreated this month to a Bangkok

park and the battleground has moved from the streets to the courts. Yingluck faces a spate of legal challenges that could bring down her government, including a charge of dereliction of duty related to a disastrous rice-buying scheme. Thaksin's "red shirt" supporters, who are strong in the north and northeast, are beginning to make militant noises, raising the prospect of more violence if Yingluck is forced out by the courts, the anti-corruption commission or by other means.

Kyodo News



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe holds a Press conference in Tokyo after Japan's parliament enacted a budget for fiscal 2014 on 20 March, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

to a meeting next week to discuss the issue by leaders from the Group of Seven countries of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States. Abe said Japan may take "additional steps" to deal with Russia, indicating Tokyo would impose

further sanctions on the country following a set of measures announced this week, including suspension of talks for easing visa issuance conditions, to punish Moscow for absorbing Crimea in defiance of international calls for restraint.

Kyodo News

Poll shows Brazil's Rousseff still in lead for re-election

RIO DE JANEIRO, 21 March — Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff continues to lead polls in the lead-up to the October presidential elections, according to an Ibope poll released on Thursday. According to the poll, Rousseff would win in the first round with 43 percent of the votes, against 15 percent for Aécio Neves, of the opposition PSDB party, and 7 percent for Eduardo Campos, of the PSB party.

Undecided voters amounted to 11 percent, and 25 percent said they would null their votes in the election. Rousseff and Campos maintained their share of votes compared to the previous Ibope poll, while Neves advanced 1 percent. In a different scenario, with environmentalist and former Senator Marina Silva running for the PSB, instead of Campos, Rousseff would get 41 percent of the votes, against 14 percent for Neves and 12 percent for Silva. For the first time, Ibope included other candidates in the election poll. In a scenario with Campos as the PSB candidate, and other minor candidates in the running, Rousseff would get 40 percent of the votes, followed by Neves (13 percent) and Campos (6 percent).

Xinhua

9 killed in Taliban's hotel attack in Afghan capital

KABUL, 21 March — Nine people, including four women and two children, were killed in the Taliban bloody attack in a popular hotel in central Kabul overnight, sources said Friday morning.

"Nine people were also killed in last night Taliban attack in Serena Hotel besides four gunmen," an Afghan security source told Xinhua anonymously.

Earlier reports suggested three people were injured in the firing.

"Five Afghans, two women, two children and one man and four foreigners including two women were killed by pistols used by the attackers," the source said.

Another six people were seriously wounded in

the attack claimed by the Taliban insurgent group.

The nationalities of the foreign nationals remained unknown.

The incident occurred at around 9:00 p.m. Thursday after four persons who hid pistols in their socks pretended that they came to have dinner in the restaurant of the hotel, which is located near the presidential palace, Interior Ministry spokesman Seddiq Seddiqi told reporters near the site around midnight.

The assailants indiscriminately fired at the people who were dining in the five-star hotel, the source said. Police checked the security camera and found the attackers looked at the age of 20 or even younger.

Xinhua

WORLD

Martin Schulz warns EU not to sleepwalk into ever escalating conflict



European Union heads of state and officials pose for photos during a photo session at EU Summit at the EU headquarters in Brussels, capital of Belgium, on 20 March, 2014.—XINHUA

BRUSSELS, 21 March — Martin Schulz, President of the European Parliament on Thursday warned the European leaders against “sleep-walking” into an ever escalating conflict. Addressing the leaders of

the European Union (EU) gathered Brussels for the blocs’ spring summit, Schulz called the Crimea crisis “a massive threat to the security system,” adding that “People fear the outbreak of a new Cold

War.” He said the Crimea crisis should be treated as a wake-up call to rethink the EU’s relations with Russia and its eastern neighbours.

“What is happening in Ukraine is unacceptable and must never be repeated

anywhere,” Schulz told the EU leaders. Meanwhile, he urged them to think about the conflict from the point of view of its outcome and to keep all channels of communication with Russia open.—Xinhua

Diet enacts 95.88 tril yen FY 2014 budget

TOKYO, 21 March — Japan’s parliament on Thursday enacted a budget for fiscal 2014 totaling a record 95.88 trillion yen, with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledging to prevent a sharp economic downturn in the wake of the consumption tax hike from next month.

At a plenary session of the House of Councilors, the budget for the next fiscal year starting April was approved by a majority of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner the New Komeito party.

The budget cleared the Diet in the third-fastest time in postwar history, according to the secretariat of the upper house.

Abe’s LDP and New Komeito aimed to secure passage of the budget by the end of this month to implement it from 1 April, when the country’s consumption tax rate will be

raised to 8 percent from the current 5 percent.

“We will make every effort to minimize the adverse effects of the consumption tax hike and put the economy back on a recovery track as soon as possible,” Abe said at a press conference following the enactment of the budget.

“I am confident that the budget will become a strong driver in ensuring a path toward economic recovery,” he said.

Finance Minister Taro Aso told reporters that his ministry will soon set numerical targets for how fast the government will implement the budget. The Finance Ministry “will ask other ministries to take steps under the budget in a swift manner” to diminish the pace of an expected economic slowdown after the consumption tax hike, Aso said.—Kyodo News

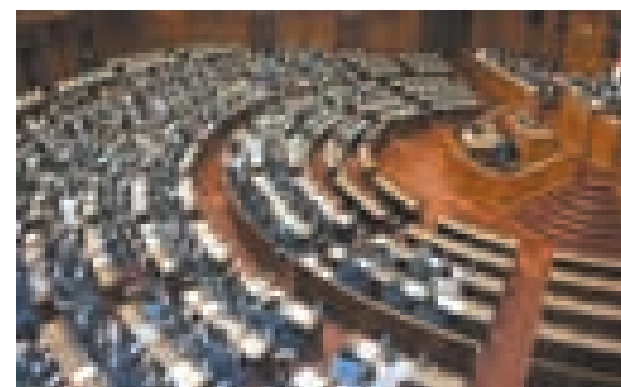


Photo shows a plenary session of the House of Councilors in Tokyo after Japan’s parliament enacts a budget for fiscal 2014 totaling a record 95.88 trillion yen on 20 March, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

UNICEF says 6.3 mln Cambodians lack access to safe water

PHNOM PENH, 21 March — About 6.3 million Cambodians, or 42 percent of the population, have no access to safe water, the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) said in a statement to mark the World Water Day on Friday.

“Some 3.9 million of those without access to safe drinking water in Cambodia are poor and live in rural areas,” the statement said. “Without safe water and adequate sanitation and hygiene, children, who represent 41 percent of the population, are especially vulnerable to water-borne diseases.” This costs lives and money. In Cambodia, said the statement, diarrhea is the second leading cause of death for children under the age of five, while vitamin and mineral deficiencies due

to diarrhea results in an annual loss of 146 million US dollars to Cambodia’s gross domestic product.

UNICEF said increased commitment and investment in enhancing the quality of rural water will not only ensure that every person has water and sanitation as a human right, but also help to accelerate Cambodia’s economic and social development. “Attention to rural water supply, sanitation and hygiene will unquestionably deliver results — less child deaths, better learning at school, less disease, more productive workers, less health costs for the people,” said Ms. Rana Flowers, UNICEF representative to Cambodia. “These services are central to Cambodia’s future as a middle income country.”—Xinhua

Pope, Germany’s Merkel tops Fortune’s “50 Greatest Leaders”

NEW YORK, 21 March — The American business magazine *Fortune* released its list of “The World’s 50 Greatest Leaders” Thursday with Pope Francis and German Chancellor Angela Merkel taking the first and second spots, respectively.

The magazine said it chose the head of the Roman Catholic for his “new tone and intentions” since becoming Pope last March. Since he replaced Pope Benedict XVI last March, the Argentine-born leader has surprised the world by criticizing capitalism and making moderate remarks on homosexuality and other issues controversial within the church.

Although no Japanese leaders made the list, Nissan Motor Co CEO Carlos Ghosn took the 23rd slot for his “salvation” of the automaker.

Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani education activist shot by the Taliban two years ago, Myanmar opposition leader Aung Sun Suu Kyi and Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama also made the list.

The magazine said it chose the 50 global leaders because they are all “energizing their followers and making the world better.”

Kyodo News

China open to recommendations at UN rights council

GENEVA, 21 March — China is open to recommendations made in a periodic review by UN’s top human rights forum, a Chinese envoy said here on Thursday.

China has decided to accept 204 of the 252 recommendations in the final report of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) by the UN’s Human Rights Council, accounting for 81 percent of the total, covering more than 20 areas, said Wu Hailong, Chinese ambassa-

dor to the United Nations Office at Geneva.

China is determined to promote and protect human rights, and adopts an open, active and sincere attitude toward recommendations made by various countries, Wu added.

The UPR report on China, adopted by the UPR Working Group of the Human Rights Council in October 2013 when China went through the second cycle of the UPR review,

was finally endorsed during the council’s 25th session, which runs from 3 March to 28 March.

China attaches great importance to the 252 recommendations made by various countries at the session of the working group last year, and would adopt any recommendation that is suited to China’s national conditions, operable and conducive to China’s human rights development, Wu reiterated.—Reuters

Australia resumes ocean search for missing Malaysia jet

A Royal Australian Air Force P-3 Orion aircraft takes off from RAAF Base Pearce north of Perth on 21 March, 2014.—REUTERS



PERTH, 21 March — An international search force resumed the hunt for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 in the remote southern Indian Ocean on Friday as authorities pored over satellite data to try and confirm a potential debris field. The Australian-led mission said it was sending five aircraft back to a storm-lashed area some 2,500 km (1,500 miles) southwest of Perth. The search began on Thursday after analysis of satellite images identified two large

objects floating in the ocean there that may have come from the Boeing 777 which went missing 13 days ago with 239 people aboard.

Investigators have said the sighting in one of the most isolated parts of the globe was a credible lead but nothing beyond that.

“It’s about the most inaccessible spot that you can imagine on the face of the earth, but if there is anything down there, we will find it,” Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott told

reporters in Papua New Guinea, where he is on a visit. “We owe it to the families of those people (on board) to do no less.”

The investigators suspect Flight MH370, which took off from Kuala Lumpur for Beijing shortly after midnight on 8 March, was deliberately diverted thousands of miles from its scheduled path. They say they are focusing on hijacking or sabotage but have not ruled out technical problems.

Reuters



Saturday, 22 March, 2014

Share water

For many residents in major cities like Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon, water is a thing that comes directly from the tap, but for the majority in the arid zone—which comprises Mandalay, Magway and Sagaing regions—in Central Myanmar, things are just different.

Statistics of Rural Development Department show that 34,311 out of 64,917 villages in Myanmar lack access to clean drinking water, which means over half of the rural villages in the country are experiencing water shortage.

In the past, the slogan ‘neither gold nor silver is wanted, but water’ was used to help set up fund for supplying water to rural villages. Unfortunately,

despite the contribution of donors and efforts of the government, water supply facilities could be built in just more than 30,000 villages.

Water is the key to sustainable development and essential for health, food security and economic progress. According to UN Water, by 2030 nearly half the global population could be facing water scarcity, with demand outstripping supply by 40 per cent. This comes as alarm bell to the global population who are unable to sustain their lives without water.

Talking of water, sanitation can’t be left out. Some 2.5 billion people—one-third of the world’s population—lack access to the dignity and health afforded by access to a toilet and protection from untreated waste, for which water is required.

The term ‘water management’ covers a variety of activities and disciplines. Broadly speaking, these can be divided into three categories: managing the resource, managing water services, and managing the trade-offs needed to balance supply

and demand.

Myanmar formed a national water management committee from July 2 to 5 2013 to address the problem of water scarcity which the arid zone is particularly facing. Hopefully, the committee will be able to help the Rural Development Department reach its target of supplying drinking water to 20,000 more villages within two years from April 2014 to April 2016.

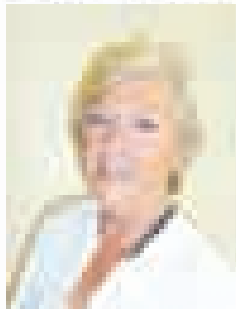
Meanwhile, urbanites that have easy access to tap water should bear in mind that people in some parts of the country still have to walk for miles to fetch potable water.

Water is a common resource. It should be used wisely and wasted less so all get a fair share.

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.

“THE BICYCLE LADY”



MOTHER OF THE FARMER WHOSE THREE WATER AND TEA.

THE SHOP KEEPER OFFER COFFEE AND A BAIT.

FIELD WORKERS WERE AND WHEN HUNTER.

THESE BROTHERS SPOKE “MINDFULNESS”

THE LUCKYMAN POLICEMAN GIVE BROTHERS AND

PHOTO THE MAN.

AND THE SOLDIER PICK UP MOTHER ON HIS MOTOR BIKE.

LIKES STORY AND THEN, A SMALL WAGON WITH FACTS AND NO MATH.

“THE BICYCLE LADY”

AT HOME IN NAY PYI TAW

“No language is the people of Nay Pyi Taw for making her good partners and help her to be happy throughout the region.”

By Roberta T. Taman, March 11, 2014

roberta@roberta.com

This is her personal history.

Roberta Taman is a retired, senior civil servant from Canada who has been living in Nay Pyi Taw for much of the past year. She is here with her husband who is an international expert on legal reform and constitution building. She has worked on development projects in many parts of the world including Afghanistan and Nepal.

Roberta and her husband have a home in France. Their four children and six grandchildren live in Canada. Currently she is preparing a photo exhibition of the “elders” in her French village and is working on a photo book of Myanmar.

She says: “Having the use of a bicycle in Nay Pyi Taw has been a special treat.” The bike was generously loaned to her by one of the staff in their hotel in Nay Pyi Taw, The Aureum Palace. She rides 25 to 30 kilometers three or four times a week exploring the capital, visiting surrounding villages and riding along the Yangon-Mandalay road. She said she wrote this poem to highlight the charm and kindness of the people of this vast and beautiful city.

UNSG Message on The International Day For The Elimination of Racial Discrimination 21 March 2014

This year, the world commemorates the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination for the first time following the death of former South African President Nelson Mandela.

This sad reality is also a reminder of his courageous struggle against apartheid and his inspiring victory over the racist forces that had imprisoned him for 27 years.

The United Nations General Assembly, in a show of solidarity with the anti-apartheid movement, established this Day to commemorate the 1960 Sharpeville Massacre, when 69 people were killed and many others injured as police opened fire on a peaceful protest against South Africa’s appalling pass laws.

Nelson Mandela’s journey from prisoner to President was the triumph of an extraordinary individual against the forces of hate, ignorance and fear—and it was a testimony to the power of courage, reconciliation and forgiveness to overcome the injustice of racial discrimination.

He chose Sharpeville for the historic signing of South Africa’s new Constitution in 1996. On that occasion, President Mandela said, “Out of the many Sharpevilles which haunt our history was born the unshakeable determination that respect for human life, liberty and well-being must be enshrined as rights beyond the power of any force to diminish.”

Today, we remember Sharpeville as a symbol of the terrible toll of racial discrimination, and we honour those who lost their lives during the massacre. At the same time, we recall that President Mandela framed Sharpeville’s legacy as an unwavering resolve to protect the dignity and rights of all people.

The lessons of South Africa’s staunch defence of equality “out of the many Sharpevilles” in the country’s history can be applied anywhere in the world, not only in response to organized, institutional forms of racism but wherever this pernicious problem occurs, including in daily interpersonal relations.

I call on all people, especially political, civic and religious leaders, to strongly condemn messages and ideas based on racism, racial superiority or hatred as well as those that incite racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. On this Day, let us acknowledge that racial discrimination remains a dangerous threat and resolve to tackle it through dialogue inspired by the proven ability of individuals to respect, protect and defend our rich diversity as one human family.

United Nations Information Centre, Yangon

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K 676,200 per tical: Selling K 677,200 per tical

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K 676,000 per tical: Selling K 677,000 per tical

Foreign Exchange Rate

USD	Buying	K 962:	Selling	K 967
SGD	Buying	K 755:	Selling	K 763
Euro	Buying	K 1315:	Selling	K 1332

NATIONAL

Economic integration must be paced and managed in a way that will benefit the many and not just the few

Congratulatory Message to ASEAN People's Forum from President U Thein Sein, Chair of ASEAN

On behalf of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and as the current Chair of ASEAN, I would like to send this congratulatory message to the ASEAN People's Forum held on March 21, 2014, to express Myanmar's pride in hosting this forum and to congratulate all the organizers and participants for successfully organizing such a magnificent event. On a more personal note and on behalf of the citizens of Myanmar, I would also like to warmly welcome all the participants from ASEAN countries to Myanmar. I wish all the peoples of ASEAN to be successful results and cooperation regarding the regional issues through this forum.

This is a watershed

moment not only for the peoples of Myanmar but also for all the peoples of ASEAN. The activities we do, the decisions we make and the policies we adopt over these coming months will affect the hundreds of millions of people in our region for decades to come. Over 50 years ago, Southeast Asia was a byword for armed conflicts and human misery. Our countries were in violent conflicts, facing famine in places, locked in Cold War tensions, with hundreds of thousands of lives lost on the violent repression.

Today ASEAN region is entirely transformed. ASEAN now including all the states of Southeast Asia is the envy of the world. Our economies have been growing at rates never than before in the world. The

idea of armed conflicts between ASEAN members is close to inconceivable. There are greater freedom and human rights in Southeast Asia than at any time before.

But we cannot be complacent. Although there are no armed conflicts between ASEAN Countries, armed conflicts are still in some countries, including Myanmar. In Myanmar, in order to solve the armed conflicts lasting seven decades, we are working towards an historic National Ceasefire Agreement and political dialogues to cement lasting peace. The transition to true democracy, where an informed and engaged citizenry decide for themselves the laws and policies that will govern them, is a challenge for each one of our countries.

And more than anything else, in my opinion, we have the challenge of social inclusion for socio-economic development. Tens of millions are better off than at any time before but tens of millions of others are left behind. We have the gaps between the rich and the poor among ASEAN countries and also social inequalities. So, we do believe that this economic integration must be paced and managed in a way that will benefit the many and not just the few. They must help not make more difficult our processes of peace-building, our democratic transitions, and our efforts towards social justice.

We must also consider closely our economic policies-designed towards growth and job creation

and social inclusion with our fundamental need to protect our natural environment. I believe it must be a priority for all ASEAN. We should be an example to the world on protection of environment and our unique biodiversity.

Southeast Asians have always been a mainly rural people. But we will become urban people in the coming years. Because tens of millions are moving from villages to cities, we must plan for this. We are trying our best to begin to plan our cities, modernized infrastructure, and make possible affordable housing and transport while protecting our heritages and creating truly livable cities in the future.

In all these endeavours, the role of civil

society is paramount. Therefore, we need your strength, your support, your criticism, your ability to foster and facilitate debate and actions. I believe that cooperation and thoughts of civil societies are necessary for the development of the country because the government cannot do it alone.

In addition to resolving the above issues and challenges, I would like to invite your suggestions for other issues and challenges coming out from the discussions.

I send this congratulatory message looking forward to your thoughts on all these issues, wishing all of you to make yourselves at home during your stay in Myanmar.

Thein Sein
President

Government's National Planning Bill to provide for increased spending on health, education sectors

NAY PYI TAW, 21 March—The 26th day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw took place on Friday, with Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw putting forward the National Planning Bill for 2014-2015 Fiscal Year to the Union Parliament, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. According to the new Bill, the government

is committed to increase health and education sectors spending. The allocation to education will increase from K 908 billion in 2013-2014 FY to more than K 1142 billion, accounting for 5.9 per cent of the total spending. Likewise, health sector is targeted to increase from K 499 billion in 2013-2014 FY to more than K 652 billion, accounting

for 3.4 per cent.

The Union Minister gave an account of the newly-modified Bill, saying that it will contribute towards better improvement in the needs of the entire people by boosting the government's investments in rural development including electrification, potable water supply and smooth transportation. According to the Bill, K 4.220 billion has been added to the State's original investment of K 6855.701 billion.

Another Bill presented to today's Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was the 2014

Union Budget Bill that was clarified by Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein. He said State-owned enterprises have been targeted to run on commercial basis since 2012-2013 FY, allowing them to manage their incomes with the opening of other accounts. It is aimed at ensuring their own budgets and they will not be funded by the Union Budget later on, he added.

He continued that plans are underway to translate the State-owned enterprises into public companies or joint venture businesses, conducting studies on burgeoning of

independent budgets like in other nations are being conducted with the help of International Monetary Fund and World Bank.

The Union Minister gave an account of the Union taxation, pointing out that there has been a 36.31 per cent increase in it, from K 3587.932 billion in 2013-2014 FY to K 4890.580 billion in 2014-2015 FY per cent. He assured the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw of tax reform.

Regarding the Union Budget Bill, the Joint Bill Committee remarked that there were no legal comments on the Bill, but



Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein gives an account of Union taxation.

MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Development Fund should be put under the separate heading for the approval of Parliament.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw passes National Education Bill

NAY PYI TAW, 21 March — National Education Bill with 13 points of amendment from parliamentarians and nine points from the Bill Committee was approved at Pyithu Hluttaw session on Friday.

The question-and-answer session of today's Pyithu Hluttaw, People's Parliament focused on two questions about electricity sector, with Dep-

uty Minister for Electric Power U Aung Than Oo responding to the first question that replacement of concrete electric posts for old ones will be made in Okpo Township of Bago Region in accordance with allocation to the substitution plan. Regarding the second question, the deputy minister replied that infrastructure for supplying electricity to the two village-tracts—



U Aung Than Oo responding to the questions.—MNA

Ponnay and Wantse—in Laikha Township in Shan State will be built according to budget allocations



U Tin Htwe takes part in the discussion.

MNA

for upcoming years. He admitted that the ministry's annual budgets were not well enough for in-



U Sai Maung Tin participates in the discussion.—MNA

stallation of power lines to all villages in the country within a few years to come, pointing out that



Dr Zaw Min Aung at Pyithu Hluttaw Session.—MNA

42000 villages across the nation still remain to have access to electricity.

MNA

3,000 assistant Japanese language teachers to be sent to ASEAN by 2020

TOKYO, 21 March — Roughly 3,000 assistant Japanese language teachers will be sent to the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations by 2020 under a new initiative to be introduced in April, a government-backed body promoting international cultural exchanges said on Thursday.

The Japan Foundation said it is scheduled to launch a new Asia Centre to oversee the project with a view to deepening ties between Japan and the members of ASEAN — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

“Despite an increase of Japanese learners overseas, teachers, especially native speakers, are still lacking. We would like to enhance the quality of Japanese language education through the project,” Japan Foundation President Hiroyasu Ando, 69, told a Press conference at the Japan National Press Club in Tokyo.

The assistant teachers, chosen from applicants such as university students and senior citizens, are likely to serve in local high schools. The initial group is scheduled to leave for Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines in September, he said.

A total of 30 billion yen will be allocated to the new project, which will also involve supporting young artists from Asian countries, preserving cultural heritage sites in the region and promoting academic exchanges, he added. The move comes after Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and ASEAN leaders held a special summit in Tokyo last December.

“As the London Olympics in 2012 featured art, we want to do so. I hope the 2020 Olympics will be the one not only for Tokyo, but also for the Asian region,” said Ando, former Japanese ambassador to Italy.

Kyodo News



Warships of Indian Coast Guard attend a search and rescue exercise in the Arabian Sea off the coast of Mumbai, India, on 20 March, 2014.

XINHUA

Maduro calls on Venezuelan opposition to return to democratic path

CARACAS, 21 March — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro called on the opposition to return to a democratic and electoral role after five weeks of violent protests promoted by hardline leaders that have left 31 dead and over 400 injured.

Maduro participated in a meeting with pro-government mayors and governors to review the ongoing peace plans in the country. He said that the only goal and plan of the radical sectors of the opposition are to topple his democratically elected government.

He referred to the case of jailed opposition mayor of San Diego, Vicencio Scarano, who defied the Supreme Court by instigating violence in his

jurisdiction, allowing street barricades and preventing the normal life of the public.

“Nobody in this country is above the law, the State and the people of Venezuela. How many times have we called upon the opposition to participate in a national dialogue?” Maduro said.

Scarano was sentenced to 10 months in jail and removed from his post after he publicly defied a sentence handed down by the Supreme Court last 12 March, where it called upon opposition mayors in some towns of the nation to allow free transit in their localities and prevent protesters from setting up “barricades”.

Maduro stated the

police of that municipality will be intervened in the next few hours to guarantee the safety in that region of the country, which has been hit by violence in the last weeks with the complicity of its authorities.

In another moment, Maduro showed a video where the mayor of the eastern Caracas District of Chacao, Ramon Muchacho, publicly told the protests that they aimed to topple the Venezuelan president.

Muchacho was also ordered last 12 March by the Supreme Court to allow free transit in their localities and prevent protesters from setting up barricades, known here as “guarimbos”.

Maduro said that

according to intelligence information, Muchacho was behind all the logistic and support to those violent protestors.

He added that the opposition in Venezuela has only tried to illegally topple the Bolivarian Revolution during the last 15 years without a democratic project and respect for the Constitution.

“Today in Latin America we have a new picture because the revolutionary forces have achieved the new integration of our countries,” he added.

Maduro again called on the opposition to participate in the National Conference for Peace and Dialogue set up to discuss different topics of the Venezuelan society. — *Xinhua*

Food and fuel trump graft for Turkey’s local elections

ANKARA, 21 March — Taxi driver Ramazan Aktay is quick to shrug off the corruption scandal swirling around Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan, at least as long as the ruling party keeps delivering free food and coal to his working class suburb of Ankara.

Allegations of government graft, which Erdogan has cast as a campaign to destroy him by political enemies at home and abroad, have spiraled into the biggest challenge of his 11-year rule, unnerved foreign investors and raised questions about Turkey’s commitment to democratic reforms.

In other countries, his opponents complain, a scandal of such proportions, with voice recordings purportedly detailing corruption among his inner circle appearing on social media on a daily basis, would bring a prime minister down, or at least force him to publicly confront the allegations head on.

Yet few in Turkey doubt Erdogan’s AK Party will emerge triumphant, if weakened, from local elections on 30 March, carried on a wave of support from a conservative and pious segment of society that sees him as a hero for raising living standards and breaking the hold of a secular, urban elite.

“This is a poor neighbourhood. We got 50 bags of coal and then another 20 as the elections near. They distribute everything; food, clothing, detergent,” Aktay, 33, said of the Islamist-rooted AK Party, standing among dilapidated homes in Ankara’s Mamak District. — *Reuters*

Ivory Coast to send Ble Goude to The Hague court

ABIDJAN, 21 March — Ivory Coast will send Charles Ble Goude, a close ally of ex-President Laurent Gbagbo, to the International Criminal Court to face charges of crimes against humanity, the justice minister said on Thursday. The ICC, based in The Hague, Netherlands, said in October it had issued an arrest warrant for Ble Goude, who headed the Young Patriots street militia during Gbagbo’s presidency, for his alleged role in violence after a disputed 2010 general election.

“The cabinet has agreed to send Ble Goude

to the International Criminal Court,” minister Gbemena Mamadou Coulibaly told reporters. “We are going to study how to quickly execute this decision.”

In a statement, the ICC said it would work with Ivory Coast’s government to arrange Ble Goude’s transfer to the court’s detention centre.

“The ICC welcomes the decision of the Ivorian authorities, and is ready to move forward with proceedings against him as soon as he is transferred, since an arrest warrant against him has been pending since 2011 for alleged

crimes against humanity,” the court added.

Ble Goude had previously asked to be tried by an Ivorian court and not sent to The Hague. Nick Kaufman, Ble Goude’s defence lawyer before the ICC, said the Ivorian government’s approach to justice was arbitrary and politically motivated. “The only rational explanation is that the government continues to be concerned about the popular appeal of Charles Ble Goude and continues to deny his central and essential role in peace and reconciliation in Cote d’Ivoire,” he said. — *Reuters*



Photo shows refugees waiting outside a meal distribution centre in Damascus, Syria, on 12 March, 2014. — KYODO NEWS

WORLD



The exterior of Camp Delta is seen at the US Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, on 6 March, 2013.—REUTERS

China pledges continued efforts for comprehensive solution to Iranian nuclear issue

UNITED NATIONS, 21 March — China will make unremitting efforts to promote a comprehensive, long-term and proper solution to the Iranian nuclear issue, a Chinese envoy to the UN said on Thursday.

“China welcomes the positive momentum demonstrated in the latest diplomatic efforts over the Iranian nuclear issue and welcomes that the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has maintained consultation with Iran on outstanding issues and agreed on future steps,” Wang Min, China’s deputy permanent representative to the UN, told a UN Security Council meeting here.

Talks between Iran and Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States plus Germany, the P5+1, took place in Vienna, Austria this week heading to a comprehensive deal to resolve Teheran’s long-standing disputed nuclear program. They agreed that the next round of talks would reconvene on 7 May in Vienna.

Wang said the dialogue with Iran has entered “a new stage.” Although differences remain on a number of issues, all parties have shown willingness to address other’s concerns, he said.

Wang said that China proposes sticking to the process of P5+1 dialogue with

Iran and bringing the mechanism into full play through joint commitment and consultation on an equal footing in order to solve the issue peacefully.

He believed that it is crucial to approach the concerns of all parties in a balanced manner and seek a comprehensive, fair and appropriate long-term solution. “We should follow the principle of step-by-step and reciprocal process,” said Wang, noting that through working in the same direction and accumulating political mutual trust, all parties will be able to create conditions for an eventual breakthrough.—Xinhua

Syrian troops recapture key town in Homs

DAMASCUS, 21 March — The Syrian troops on Thursday scored a new sweeping victory against militant groups, recapturing a key town in the central Province of Homs, local media reported.

It’s the latest victory in a series of recent successful army offensives to dislodge the rebels out of key areas surrounding the capital Damascus and the

central region.

The Syrian troops, backed by paramilitary National Defence Forces, have recaptured al-Husn, a large town of the Homs governorate in northwest Syria near the border with Lebanon.

The Syrian troops also wrested back control over the al-Husn Castle, a centuries-old heritage located on a high hill in al-Husn

town, putting the Syrian flag atop.

The Syrian army said that its troops also restored security in other towns surrounding al-Husn.

The sweeping victory came just days after the army succeeded to recapture Yabroud in northern Damascus, known as the “revolution bastion” among the rebels.

Xinhua

Guantanamo board reviews case of ‘Dirty 30’ bin Laden bodyguard

ARLINGTON, 21 March — A suspected Osama bin Laden bodyguard held at Guantanamo Bay military prison for 12 years on Thursday faced a US national security board weighing whether he should remain in detention there.

Ali Ahmad al-Razihi, 33, is suspected of having been part of what US intelligence officials called the “Dirty 30” security detail around bin Laden, a founder of al-Qaeda who was killed in 2011 by US forces in Pakistan.

Razihi’s hearing before the Periodic Review Board was to re-examine whether he should continue to be held without charge at Guantanamo Bay, the US military prison in Cuba, or be transferred, possibly home to Yemen.

One of the two US military representatives for Razihi read a statement to the panel that said Razihi was focused on returning to Yemen, getting married and helping with the family fruit and vegetable business. “He is eager to demonstrate

to this board in the most straightforward way that he is a peaceful man,” the representative, who was not identified, said via a closed-circuit television transmission from Guantanamo Bay to a viewing site near the Pentagon.

A detainee profile from the Defence Department said Razihi had been a “low threat” to guards but had not provided information about al-Qaeda. He has been uncooperative and has avoided interviews since 2010, it said.

Reuters



US first lady Michelle Obama (L) is pictured with her daughter Sasha upon arrival at Beijing international airport on 20 March, 2014. The wife of the US president is making her first visit to China, accompanied by her mother and daughters.—KYODO NEWS

Court recognizes 4 as A-bomb disease sufferers

OSAKA, 21 March — The Osaka District Court on Thursday recognized four plaintiffs as sufferers of radiation diseases deriving from the US atomic bombing of Nagasaki in 1945, invalidating government decisions that turned down their applications for such recognition. But the three-judge panel led by judge Kenji Tanaka turned down demand by the four and three other plaintiffs, who have already been recognized as such, for damages from the government.

Aged between 69 and

85, the four were exposed to radiation either by entering Nagasaki shortly after the 9 August atomic bombing of the city or in areas some 1.1 to 4 kilometres from ground zero and are suffering from such diseases as angina and liver cancer.

They sought recognition under the 2008 guideline on those eligible for the government’s special medical allowance of about 135,000 yen per month for atomic-bomb radiation disease sufferers, only to be turned down from 2010 to 2012.—Kyodo News

US looks to expand ties with Paraguay

MONTEVIDEO, 21 March — The United States is looking to expand its cooperation with Paraguay, a visiting top US official said on Thursday in Asuncion, the Paraguayan capital.

Roberta Jacobson, US assistant secretary of state for Western Hemisphere Affairs, met in Asuncion with Paraguayan President Horacio Cartes, whose recent victory brought back to power Paraguay’s long-ruling conservative Colorado Party, unseated in 2008.

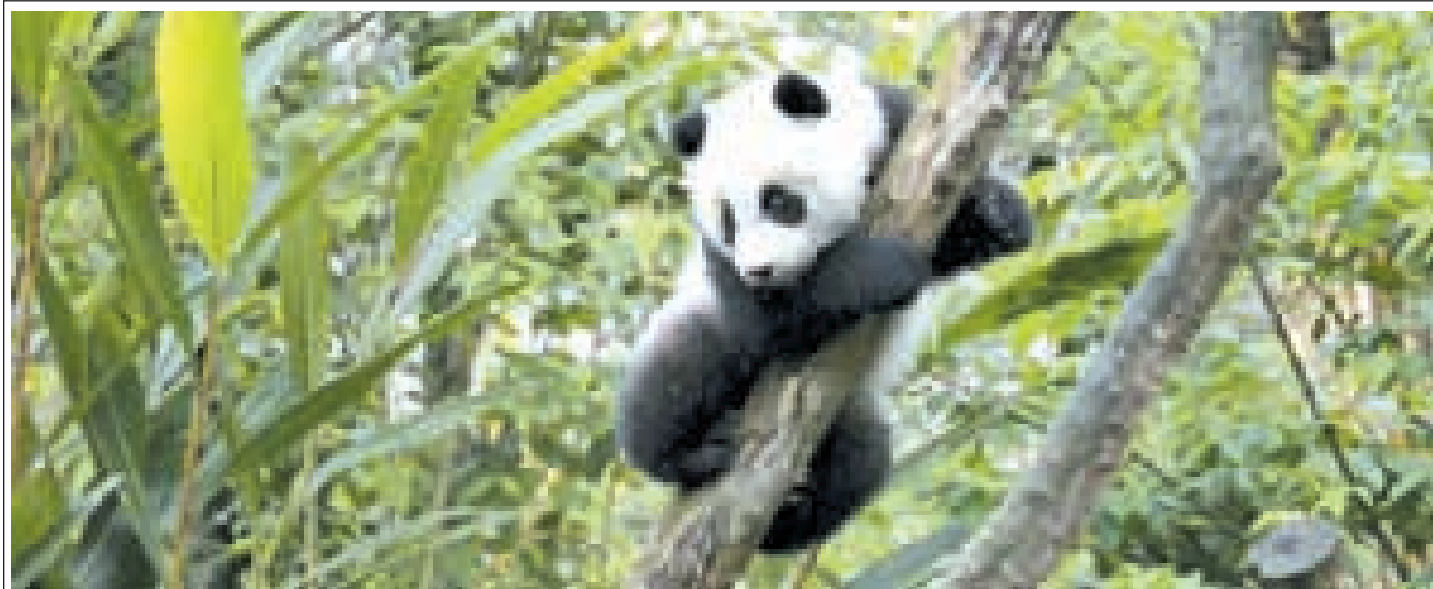
“We have shared our views on the situation in the region and how we can deepen our historic cooperation,” Jacobson told reporters at a press conference in the capital.

During their meeting, the two also discussed how to expand their cooperation, “especially in such areas as education, which is essential for our countries, and investment cooperation in our private sectors,” Jacobson said, adding the two countries could also cooperate to strengthen fight against transnational crimes.

The two countries have “a shared outlook on such crimes, which affect all nations in the region,” said Jacobson. “We are just now cooperating in many areas and we are seeing how we can expand the cooperation in order to help the government (of Paraguay) confront this scourge.”

Cartes, 57, was a millionaire businessman before joining the Colorado Party to run for office. He was sworn in on 15 August, 2013.

Xinhua



Giant panda cub “Yuanzai” climbs a tree during its outdoor activity at the Taipei Zoo in Taipei, southeast China’s Taiwan, on 20 March, 2014. XINHUA

BOJ chief sees inflation rate reaching 2% in late FY 2014 to FY 2015

TOKYO, 21 March — Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda maintained on Thursday the central bank's view that the country's inflation rate is likely to reach 2 percent in late fiscal 2014 to fiscal 2015, saying the economy is on track to achieve the bank's price target.

As nearly a year has passed since the introduction of a large-scale monetary easing policy last April, Kuroda said the policy "has been steadily exerting its effects and Japan's economy has been following a path toward achieving a price stability target of 2 percent as expected."

Kuroda said year-on-year growth in consumer prices is likely to be around 1.25 percent until around this summer as upward pressure stemming from higher energy prices will diminish.

But the inflation rate is expected to start rising again and is likely to reach around 2 percent "toward the end of fiscal 2014 through fiscal 2015," the BOJ chief said in a speech in Tokyo.

Kuroda expressed renewed determination to conquer deflation that has lasted for about 15 years, criticizing the central bank's previous stance of not aiming for 2 percent

inflation under his predecessors.

"If the bank had aimed at a price stability target of 2 percent at an earlier stage, it could have pursued more timely and bolder monetary easing in response to a decline in the inflation rate, thereby enabling the economy to overcome deflation at an early stage," he said.

"With its protraction, deflation has become a problem that is increasingly stubborn and difficult to overcome," Kuroda added.

Kuroda defended the bank's goal of achieving the 2 percent inflation target, saying inflation targets are widely adopted by other central banks globally and

that the bank can secure room for an interest rate reduction when the economy deteriorates.

The central bank will continue with the large-scale monetary easing policy "as long as it is necessary for maintaining that target in a stable manner," Kuroda said, adding it will "make adjustments as appropriate" while examining both upside and downside risks to economic activity and prices.

The bank will make adjustments "without hesitation" to attain the inflation target if the outlook changes due to risk factors in the future, he added.

Kyodo News



Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda delivers a speech in Tokyo on 20 March, 2014. Kuroda reiterated the central bank's view that the country's inflation rate is likely to reach 2 percent in late fiscal 2014 to fiscal 2015, saying the economy is on track to achieve the central bank's inflation target.
KYODO NEWS

Vietnam receives 2nd Russia-made submarine

HANOI, 21 March — A freighter carrying the second Vietnam's kilo-class Russia-made submarine was safely anchored in Vietnam's southern Cam Ranh gulf in Khanh Hoa Province, media reported on Thursday.

The freighter called Rolldock Star arrived in Cam Ranh gulf late Wednesday, after a voyage of nearly two months from Russia's Kaliningrad. This is the second time Rolldock Star has carried out transportation for submarines from Russia to Vietnam, state-run news agency VNA reported.

The submarine, named HQ183-Ho Chi Minh City has the same technical standards as the others in a series of six submarines that Vietnam ordered from Russia.

The submarine has an over 3,000-ton displacement, and is able to operate at a maximum depth of 300 meters and at a speed of 20 nautical miles per hour with over 50 crew members. Ho Chi Minh City submarine is said to be equipped with many modern weapons on board, according to VNA.

After arriving at Cam Ranh gulf, Russian and Vietnamese experts will pump water into the cabins of freighter Rolldock Star to release the submarine to the sea. The submarine will then be taken to Cam Ranh Port.

Xinhua



Students from Tianjin Foreign Studies University perform Peking Opera in the university in Tianjin, north China, on 19 March, 2014, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Confucius Institute. The Confucius Institute is a non-profit institution aimed at expanding the teaching of the Chinese language and promoting Chinese arts, music and philosophy worldwide. So far, about 420 Confucius Institutes have been opened in 113 countries around the world including 90 Confucius Institutes in 31 countries in Asia.

XINHUA

Pakistan not to send troops to other countries

ISLAMABAD, 21 March — Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Thursday said that Pakistan will not send its troops to other countries.

The remarks came amid speculations in the media that Pakistan has changed its policy towards Syria and could send troops to Saudi Arabia to back the Syrian opposition. The reports appeared after the recent series of visits to Pakistan by top Saudi leaders.

The current visit of the king of Bahrain to Islamabad once again stirred up speculation that the country could extend military cooperation to Bahrain as the kingdom is also fighting opposition there.

The major opposition

Pakistan Peoples Party had also sought a debate over the government's foreign policy after Saudi Arabia gifted 1.5 billion US dollars to Pakistan. The opposition alleged that the government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif may have changed policy on Syria.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif himself rejected all these speculation when he was asked by reporters in eastern Mianwali district where he attended a function by the Pakistan Air Force.

"I dismiss the notion that some countries had asked for assistance of Pakistan's armed forces to conduct operations in their land," the prime minister said.

Xinhua

PH gov't to enhance transparency portal for donations to typhoon-hit areas

MANILA, 21 March — The Philippine government will upgrade the Foreign Aid Transparency Hub (FAiTH) website that track donations from foreign donors intended for the rehabilitation of areas ravaged by typhoon Haiyan, a senior government official said on Thursday.

Philippine Presidential Spokesperson Edwin Lacierda disclosed this during his meeting with members of the diplomatic community held at the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) headquarters.

He said the upgrade will cover tracking down of donations not only directly given to the Philippine government, but also

to the partners or non-government organizations of the donor countries.

"It calls for transparent accountability on our part which we are committed to do. It now calls for accountability on the part of other aid organizations. All for the purpose of informing a number of audiences here, we want to make sure that foreign governments... that their donations are fairly reported," Lacierda said.

The Aquino administration launched FAiTH in last November following the outpouring of international aid for the Philippines in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan that hit vast areas of the central Philippines on 8 November, 2013.—Xinhua



Farmers harvest at a greenhouse in Cheng County of Longnan City, northwest China's Gansu Province, on 19 March, 2014. Winter-sown crops are being harvested in Longnan.—XINHUA

One killed, six injured as local train derails in Mumbai

MUMBAI, 21 March — At least one passenger was killed and six were injured as a local train derailed in Mumbai Thursday afternoon, news channel TIMES NOW reported.

The accident happened after a local Kasara-CST train derailed a couple of minutes after it proceeded from Titwala station on its way to CST station. Officials on the site said that five coaches had derailed and people must have got secondary injuries as the train was not very crowded and people might have hit themselves against the metal parts inside the train due to the sudden jerk arising out of the derailment.—Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DANU BHUM VOY NO (364N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DANU BHUM VOY NO (364N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV XIN XANG RUI VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIN XANG RUI VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.3.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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 F.H BERTLING CHATER-
ING AND SHIP MANAGEMENT PTE LTD**
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANGSAKAO VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSAKAO VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.3.2014 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 WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO LTD**
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921



Vacancy Notice

UNFPA - United Nations Population Fund

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is seeking a world-class communications professional to join its team in Yangon.

Want to be part of a team advancing sexual and reproductive health and promoting reproductive rights within Myanmar? Join us and you will, because at UNFPA, everyone counts. We are seeking a creative, dynamic and highly motivated individual to join our growing communications effort to drive forward to the next level our country programs on population, gender equality and reproductive health and reproductive rights. If you're looking for an opportunity to make a difference, thrive in a challenging yet rewarding teamwork environment and have a strong communications background, then we wish to hear from you.

No.	Position and Grade	Type of Contract	Duty Station	Deadline
1.	Project Assistant (Communication) (SC)	Service Contract	Yangon	7 April 2014
2.	Senior National Programme Officer (NOC)	Fixed Term	Yangon	7 April 2014

Applications should be addressed to UNFPA Representative, Attention: International Operations Manager, Room A-807, UNFPA, No. 8, Rattana Park Road, Yangon.

Email: myanmar-office@unfpa.org

For further details, please see the vacancy announcement posted at UNFPA website, No. 8, Rattana Park Road, Yangon and also at UNFPA website (<http://myanmar.unfpa.org>)

Applications will be considered only when meeting all requirements set in detailed vacancy announcement.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PHUONG NAM 69 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NAM 69 VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.3.2014 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 G. LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301191/2301178/2301177

INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER

(TENDER NO. 1 (T) MPE/CONDENSATE (1)/2014-2015)

1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the Conveyance of Yetagun Condensate 1.75 Mbbls(±5%) from Yetagun Marine Terminal Offshore to No.(1) Refinery (Thanlyin).
2. Tender Closing Date : 8.4.2014 at (12:00) noon.
3. Tender Opening Date : 8-4-2014 at (13:00) hrs.
4. Delivery Time : 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2015
5. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing 20-3-2014 on payment of the Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.
6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise

Weather outlook for weekend **Partly cloudy in Yangon and Mandalay Regions.**

Morocco gets 205 mln USD from Europe

RABAT, 21 March — The European Investment Bank (EIB) granted Morocco a loan of 1.65 billion dirhams, or 205 million US dollars, to finance its road network modernization programme, local media reported on Thursday.

The loan will help Morocco expand and upgrade about 1,650 km of roads, the country's Ministry of Transport said.

The programme is part of Morocco's integrated development plan to improve its transport sector and strengthen its economic competitiveness. The EIB has granted Morocco 1.86 billion dollars in total during the past three years to finance its social and economic projects.—Xinhua

Florida executes man who used hammer to kill two female co-workers

TALLAHASSEE, (Florida), 21 March — A Florida man convicted of bludgeoning two women to death with a hammer and setting them on fire more than 26 years ago was executed on Thursday, a state prison official said.

Robert Lavern Henry, 55, was pronounced dead at 6:16 pm after receiving a lethal injection, said Misty Cash, a spokeswoman for the Florida Department of Corrections.

Henry was convicted of two counts of murder in the November 1987 killings of his co-workers, Janet Cox Thermidor and Phyllis Harris.

The three worked at a Florida fabric store, where Henry, a custodian, attacked the women and stole \$1,269 from the store, according to testimony at the trial.

Henry initially admitted to bludgeoning the women and dousing them with a flammable liquid that set fire to the store. He later recanted on the witness stand, blaming unidentified robbers.

Harris, 53, died at the scene but Thermidor, 35, survived for several hours and was able to identify Henry to police.

Attorneys for Henry petitioned the US Supreme Court this week to block his execution by challenging Florida's lethal injection method. The high court denied the request.

Florida started using the sedative midazolam hydrochloride last year as the first of three lethal injection chemicals, after the manufacturer of the previous knockout drug, sodium pentobarbital, stopped selling it for use in executions.

In appeals, Henry's attorneys claimed he suffers from high blood pressure, arterial disease and a cholesterol condition that could produce painful results during the new injection procedure.

The lawyers contended Florida's Department of Corrections has not proved midazolam safely anesthetizes condemned prisoners, to prevent them from feeling the pain of two subsequent drugs that paralyze the body and stop the heart.

Henry's attorneys cited evidence provided by Dr. Joel Zivot, an anesthesiology professor at the Emory University Medical School, who said Henry's personal condition "creates an imminent, substantial and objectively intolerable risk of serious harm" in reaction to midazolam.

Reuters

Advertise with us!
For inquiries to place an advertisement in the NLM, Please email wallace.tun@gmail.com

Angelina Jolie used to scare her children to prepare for Maleficent

LOS ANGELES, 21 March — Angelina Jolie says she went “nuts” while preparing for her negative role in Disney’s *Maleficent* as it involved screaming at bushes and trying to scare her children with her costume and voice.

The 38-year-old actress enjoyed playing the villainous fairy in the children’s classic and would bring her scary costume home to practice for her role, reported *Entertainment Weekly*.

“I loved being *Maleficent*. I was quite sad to put my staff down and put my horns away because somehow, she just lives in a different world,” Jolie said.

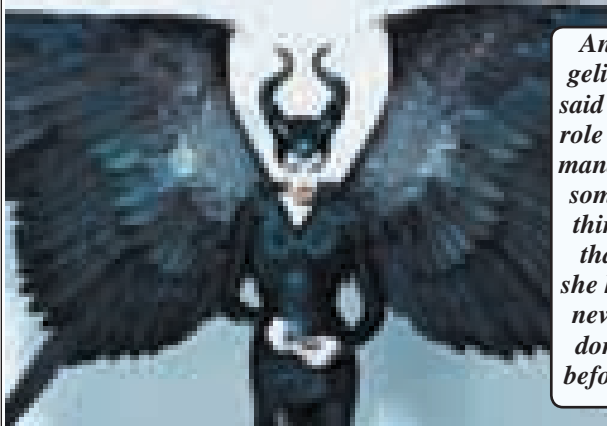
“But I did have to take my staff home to practice walking with it in my cloak, and then I would go outside and scream at the bushes to expand my voice and play with my voice. So, mom was a bit ‘nutso’ for a period.”

Describing her character in the film, Angelina said the role demanded something that she has never done before.

“*Maleficent* was always so elegant. She always was in control. And to play her was difficult. I worked on my voice a lot. She’s bigger than me. She’s on a different level of performance that I have never done. She’s very still.”

“She’s very sure of herself, but I couldn’t figure out her voice, I kept playing with these different types of British voices, making my voice darker and scarier.”

Angelina’s daughter Vivienne plays young Princess Aurora, while Pax and Zahara both play prince and princess from foreign lands.—PTI



Angelina said the role demanded something that she has never done before.

Amitabh Bachchan doesn’t get the lyrics but Pharrell Williams’ songs make him Happy

MUMBAI, 21 March — He is 71, but loves the songs that his children and grandchildren love. Megastar Amitabh Bachchan enjoyed listening to Oscar-nominated Pharrell Williams’ songs *Get Lucky* and *Happy* even if he couldn’t fathom their lyrics

clearly.

“Pharrell Williams and *Get Lucky* on a loop, the kids make fun of me, me thinks he sings ‘mexican monkey’ when in fact, he sings makes it get lucky but on the track, it’s grooving and sounds like yaaa (sic),” Amitabh posted on his blog

on Monday night.

He wondered “what is it that sticks the music to your brain ad nauseam”. “I have no idea, but whatever it is, it sure makes for continued good listening, at times, getting to shake the body and movin’ and tremblin’. Spirits rise, tempo grows within, and before long you wish you were on your feet, on the dance floor, in a club, front of mirror, anywhere. It’s just ‘get lucky’,” he added.

After *Get Lucky*, he came across *Happy*, Williams’ Academy Award-nominated number from *Despicable Me 2*. Big B enjoyed its video too.

“It is hilarious, and most ingenious, how endearing and conceptually exact. Want it to carry on, non-stop,” he said.

PTI



Big B admits he can’t fathom the lyrics of Pharrell’s songs.



He has rarely acted in a movie which is not directed by him in the past two decades.

Woody Allen gets first proper acting job in eight years

LOS ANGELES, 21 March — Actor-director Woody Allen will be seen on the big screen in a full-fledged role after eight years.

Allen, who is otherwise known to make cameo appearances in his own films, will be seen in *Fading Gigolo* with actresses Sharon Stone and Sofia Vergara.

In the movie, he plays the role of Murray who encourages his friend Fioravante, played by John Turturro, to become a male escort in the pursuit of making money, said a statement. Woody Allen has rarely acted in a movie which is not directed by him in the past two decades, making *Fading Gigolo* a truly anticipated release. It is a dramedy film directed by Turturro.

PTI



The *Wanderlust* co-stars got engaged in August 2012.

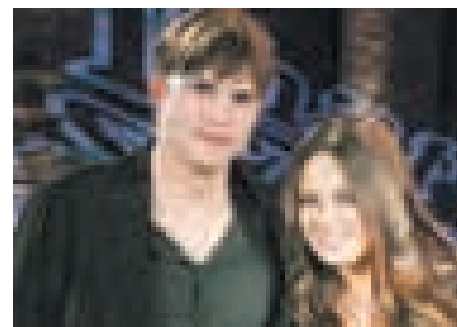
Jennifer Aniston planning island wedding this year?

LOS ANGELES, 21 March — Actress Jennifer Aniston reportedly wants to tie the knot with her actor fiance Justin Theroux on an island later this year.

The couple were recently hit with split rumours following Justin’s absence from Aniston’s 45th birthday celebrations last month. However, the duo were spotted grabbing a lunch together a week ago, reported *E!Online*.

According to the source, the couple are planning to exchange vows later this year and the actress wants to have an island wedding.

PTI



The former *That 70s Show* co-stars have been dating since April 2012.

Ashton Kutcher asked Mila Kunis’ dad for permission to marry her

LOS ANGELES, 21 March — Actor Ashton Kutcher followed the traditional path and sought blessings from his girlfriend Mila Kunis’s father. Ashton, 36, wanted to take a “traditional” approach and decided to have a chat with his girlfriend’s father, Mark, over the Christmas 2013 period before he popped the big question. “He talked with Mila’s dad around Christmas time,” *contactmusic.com* quoted a source as saying.

“He asked for Mark’s blessings for the marriage. It was important to Ashton to be respectful and traditional. This is the real thing for him and he wants to do it all right,” the source added.—Reuters

Lady Gaga: I was bankrupt during Monster Ball Tour in 2009

LOS ANGELES, 21 March — Pop star Lady Gaga has revealed that she was bankrupt during her *Monster Ball* tour in 2009.

The 27-year-old singer was left broke after spending her entire fortune on the show’s elaborate production, she explained in the upcoming *EPIX* documentary, reported *Ace Showbiz*.

“I had three million dollars in the bank to my name and I threw it all in to make my stage. So I was bankrupt during the show,” Lady Gaga said.

The singer explained that she was forced to reassure her family after they were left confused by her financial troubles.

“I remember I went home and I was with my dad and he said, ‘I don’t understand. Bad Romance is out. You are all over the radio. Everyone is talking about you and you don’t have a pot to piss in’.

“I said, ‘Just let me do this. Let me just put it on the stage because I think if I can do this I can get Arthur Fogle’s attention.’ And I did.”

The *Do What U Want* singer revealed that her gamble paid off when Live Nation CEO Fogle offered her a lucrative deal.

“I remember he called me and he said, ‘We want to do this’. And he got Live Nation to write me a USD 40 million check. And it changed my life and the life of my whole family,” Gaga said.

PTI



The 27-year-old singer was left broke after spending her entire fortune on the show’s elaborate production.

GENERAL

90 African refugees rescued off Malta

VALLETTA, 21 March — Some 90 African refugees have been rescued at sea off Malta by an Armed Forces Malta patrol vessel, a government statement said. The refugees, including five women, were transferred from their small boat to the patrol vessel at sea, 25 nautical miles off Malta in the western Mediterranean Sea near Italy, on Thursday, the statement said. The refugees, mostly from Syria, Palestine and the Horn of Africa, were intending to travel to Malta and its neighbouring country of Italy via Libya.

This week alone the Italian navy has rescued a total of 4,000 asylum seekers, local media reported.

The figures have increased rapidly as spring has brought fairer weather conditions for sea travel, the media said.

Last year, over 2000 asylum seekers landed on Malta from North Africa, up from 47 in 2010, according to local press reports.

Xinhua

Cambodia, Turkey convene 1st political consultations

PHNOM PENH, 21 March — Cambodia and Turkey on Friday held the first political consultations with an aim to strengthen and expand bilateral ties and cooperation, officials said.

The meeting was co-chaired by Ouch Borith, secretary of state of the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Ambassador Omer Onhon, deputy undersecretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkey. "We discussed ways to boost bilateral ties and cooperation in politics, economics, trade, education and tourism," Ouch Borith told reporters after the meeting. "We also exchanged views on regional and international issues."

The consultations were very important to set the right framework and the base for cooperation between the two countries, Omer Onhon said, adding that Turkey has been focusing on developing its relations with countries in Asia.

Xinhua



Adam Scott of Australia celebrates sinking a birdie putt on the 18th green during the final round in the 2013 Masters golf tournament at the Augusta National Golf Club in Augusta, Georgia, on 14 April, 2013.

REUTERS

Scott ties Bay Hill course record, leads by four shots

CARY, (North Carolina), 21 March — Masters champion Adam Scott fired a 10-under-par 62 to tie the Bay Hill course record and grab the clubhouse lead in the opening round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational in Florida on Thursday.

Scott, in his final tournament before he defends his green jacket at the April 10-13 Masters, took advantage of his morning tee time at the Bay Hill course in Orlando. Wielding his long putter like a magic wand, the Australian mixed two eagles with seven birdies and a bogey to match his career low round on the PGA Tour.

He led Spaniard Gonzalo Fernandez-Castano by four strokes with half the field still on the course.

"I'm really thrilled with the start today," Scott, making his first Bay Hill start since 2009, told reporters. It's maybe a little surprising.

"I don't know where it came from but the putter

certainly got hot today. Today was just one of those days where the hole was a like a bucket."

World number two Scott is regarded by many as the best driver in the game, but his short game proved just as good on Thursday as he pulled away from the field. He drained putts from at least 20 feet on five occasions, including a 30-footer from off the green at the par-four 15th, where he threaded his ball between a couple of sprinkler heads.

Scott began his round at the 10th, and made a confidence-boosting start by sinking a 20-foot birdie right off the bat.

He got up-and-down from a greenside bunker at the par-five 12th to go two under, before picking up further birdies at the 14th and 15th holes.

An eagle at the par-five 16th, where he hit a mid-iron from 200 yards to 35 feet, took him to six under, while his lone bogey came at the par-four 18th, where

he hit his tee shot left and also missed the green left with his second shot.

But that proved a minor hiccup, as he roared back with a birdie at the par-four third, followed by a 20-foot eagle at the par-five fourth.

Further birdies at the par-five sixth and par-four seventh took him to 10 under. He missed a good birdie chance at his penultimate hole, before ending his day with a long two-putt par to match the course record held by Andy Bean and his boyhood idol Greg Norman.

Scott is playing just his third tournament since mid-January. He has reduced his tournament schedule over the past couple of years in order to prepare for the majors in peace and quiet.

The 33-year-old is the top-ranked player at Bay Hill in the absence of defending champion Tiger Woods, who withdrew from the event earlier this week with a bad back.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(22-3-2014, Saturday)

- 6:00 am
- 1.Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 6:25 am
- 2.Physical Exercise
- 7:00 am
- 3.News/Weather Report
- 7:20 am
- 4.Business News
- 8:30 am
- 5.India Drama Series
- 9:00 am
- 6.News/International News
- 10:20 am
- 7.TV Drama Series
- 11:10 am
- 8.Teleplay
- 12:00 pm
- 9.News/International News/Weather Report
- 12:25 pm
- 10.Round Up of The Week's TV Local News
- 2:45 pm
- 11.Hyper Sports
- 3:00 pm
- 12.News
- 3:15 pm
- 13.TV Drama Series
- 4:00 pm
- 14.News
- 4:15 pm
- 15.University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) - First Year (Chemistry)
- 5:00 pm
- 16.News
- 5:30 pm
- 17.Game For Children
- 6:00 pm
- 18.News/Weather Report
- 7:00 pm
- 19.News
- 8:00 pm
- 20.News/International News/Weather Report
- 8:35 pm
- 21. Business News
- 9:00 pm
- 22. News
- 23. Myanmar Series

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(22-3-14 07:00am~ 23-3-14 07:00am) MST

- * Local News
- * Great Shwedagon - The Prayer Halls And Buddha Images (Part-2)
- * World News
- * The Photographer: Kyaw Kyaw Winn
- * Local News
- * Tazaungmone
- * World News
- * [Doctor][Painter]
- * Local News
- * Walking Along Orchard Road
- * World News
- * Kyaikhteeyoe: Bamboo Guns
- * Local News
- * FLying Without Wings- My Great Limitless Adventure - Pakokku
- * World News
- * Distinguished Myanmar Ladies "Tin Moe Lwin"
- * Local News
- * A Visit To Kayah State (Part-I)
- * World News
- * Sticky Shan Snack
- * Local News
- * A Day Out With Sarah (EP-5)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Puppet
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Traditional Wedding Ceremony
- * World News
- * Myanmar Harpist
- * Local News
- * Lucrative Myanma Rattan Industry
- * World News
- * Kyeikhteeyoe: Welcome All

72 Ukrainian military facilities in Crimea hoist Russian flags

SIMFEROPOL, 21 March — Over 70 Ukrainian military facilities on the peninsula of Crimea have reportedly hoisted Russian flags as of midnight on Thursday, including some Ukrainian Black Sea navy ships.

Local press quoted an anonymous official of the Republic of Crimea as saying that 72 Ukrainian military facilities had hoisted the flags, though did not specify the total number of Ukrainian military facilities on the peninsula. Ukrainian military personnel serving in Crimea will be given the

opportunity to choose whether they stay or leave, Crimean Prime Minister Sergey Aksenov said last Friday.

Either way, they are guaranteed their payment and allowances due under the Ukrainian legislation, the chairman of the then-Autonomous Republic of Crimea council of ministers said.

"I'm absolutely sure that all military units will move to the 17 March side of the legitimate government or become the reserves," he told a press briefing.—Xinhua



Planes of the US Navy Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels, perform during the Los Angeles County Air Show in California, United States, on 20 March, 2014.—XINHUA

Barca need almost perfect game to beat Real - Iniesta

BARCELONA, 21 March — Barcelona will need an almost perfect performance to win at La Liga leaders Real Madrid in Sunday's 'Clasico' and reignite their title bid, playmaker Andres Iniesta said on Thursday.

Real are undefeated in La Liga since Barca beat them 2-1 at the Nou Camp in October and they are four points ahead of their arch rivals, who are one adrift of surprise packages Atletico Madrid in second, with 10 games left.

A victory for the champions at the Bernabeu (2000 GMT) would boost their chances of a fifth title in six years but defeat would almost certainly end their challenge. "We will have to play an almost perfect match because that's what our opponent will demand of us," Iniesta told a

Barcelona's soccer player Andres Iniesta (R) vies for the ball against Granada's Fran Rico during their Spanish first division league match at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on 23 Nov, 2013.
REUTERS



news conference.

"We are in the right shape to do it," added the Spain international.

"It's a very important match for what it means for the standings, for the opponent and for everything around these

kinds of games."

Barca have suffered some sharp criticism in recent weeks after surprise away defeats at Real Valladolid and Real Sociedad but Iniesta said they had no intention of tinkering with their trade-

mark possession-based playing style.

"We have to be Barca, be courageous, if we are not we will suffer," he said. "We have to go out to play for the win as when we have done that things have gone well for us.

"We must have the same confidence we have always had before tackling these games. We have had bad days like anyone but nobody can believe Madrid will beat us easily."

Atletico visit bottom club Real Betis earlier on Sunday (1600).

Reuters

Arsenal's Miyaichi out for season

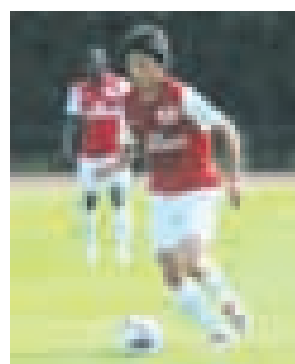
LONDON, 21 March — English Premier League club Arsenal revealed on Thursday that Japan forward Ryo Miyaichi will be out of action for the remainder of this season.

According to the club, it will be impossible for the 21-year-old Miyaichi to return to duty this season due to a serious hamstring

injury he suffered in an under-21 game on Saturday.

Miyaichi, who had an operation on his right ankle a year ago, has recently suffered a rash of injuries and has been unable to earn playing time with the Gunners.

This season, Miyaichi appeared in just one Premier League game, when



he played 17 minutes in a 3-1 home win against Stoke City on 22 September. He also appeared twice in European action and twice in league cup games.

Kyodo News

Japan forward Ryo Miyaichi

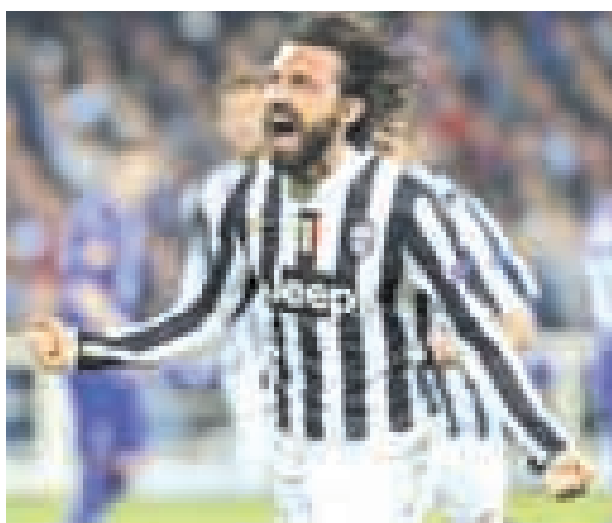
Pirlo puts Juve in last eight with Benfica, Porto

LONDON, 21 March — Andrea Pirlo kept Juventus on course for a home Europa League final after his superb free kick settled their battle with Italian rivals Fiorentina to send the Serie A leaders into the quarter-finals on Thursday.

Pirlo's dead-ball accuracy after 71 minutes, which saw him caress the ball high into the far right corner of the net, handed Juve a 1-0 win in Florence and a 2-1 aggregate success over a Fiore side who finished with 10 men.

Juve were joined in the last eight by last season's beaten finalists Benfica, Porto, Valencia, Sevilla, Olympique Lyon, FC Basel and AZ Alkmaar.

Benfica survived a spirited fightback by Tottenham Hotspur to earn a 2-2 second-leg draw in Lisbon and go through 5-3 on aggregate while 2011



Juventus' Andrea Pirlo celebrates after scoring against Fiorentina during their Europa League round of 16 second leg soccer match at Artemio Franchi stadium in Florence on 20 March, 2014.—REUTERS

winners Porto, who sacked coach Paulo Fonseca this month, drew 2-2 at Napoli to win 3-2 on aggregate.

Sevilla overcame city rivals Real Betis 4-3 on penalties, after a 2-2 aggregate draw, while 10-man

Basel ended the impressive campaign of Austria's Salzburg although their 2-1 away win, after a goalless first leg, was marred by a first-half interruption when Swiss fans threw objects on to the pitch.

This season's final will be held at the Juventus stadium in Turin on 14 May, which was a huge incentive for the Italian league title holders, but Antonio Conte's side needed something special from talisman Pirlo to stay in the competition.

Needing to score after Fiore grabbed an away goal in a 1-1 first-leg draw, Juve were struggling for inspiration at the Stadio Artemio Franchi until Gonzalo Rodriguez was sent off for tripping Fernando Llorente to leave Pirlo with a sight of goal. The Italy playmaker did not let runaway Serie A leaders Juve down, stroking a superb strike past Neto's outstretched hand.

"We knew that we were going to have to fight for it, and Andrea's goal was the crowning glory of a great performance," said Juventus defender Leonardo Bonucci.—Reuters

Serena Williams shrugs off slow start to win Miami opener

MIAMI, 21 March — World number one Serena Williams overcame a wobbly start to open the defence of her Sony Open crown with a spirited 7-6(9-7), 6-2 win over Kazakhstan's Yaroslava Shvedova on Thursday.

Fourth-seeded Russian Maria Sharapova, who lost to Williams in last year's final, turned in a steady opening effort after a shock third round exit at Indian Wells last week, brushing past Japan's Kurumi Nara 6-3, 6-4.

A six-time winner on the Miami hardcourts, Williams' second round meeting with the 59th-ranked Shvedova was expected to be little more than a tuneup for the 17-time grand slam winner but for a brief moment the match delivered some unexpected suspense.

"She was doing a little bit of everything," Williams told reporters. "She

was hitting hard; she was hitting soft; she was doing a little bit of everything."

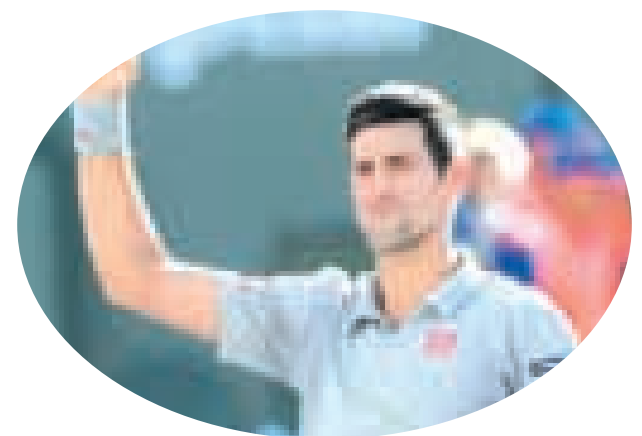
"I was making a little more errors than what I should have been making, what I should've made, and that kind of threw me for a loop, as well.

"She was up a break (in the first set) and I started just really trying to fight to make the shots.

"And then when she was serving for the first set I really just tried to be more Serena like."—Reuters



Like Murray, Djokovic to go it alone in Miami



Novak Djokovic

MIAMI, 21 March — Andy Murray will not be the only top seed at the Sony Open without a trusted coach by his side as Novak Djokovic said on Thursday that Boris Becker will miss Miami to undergo double hip surgery.

"He has surgery of both hips today and tomorrow, so that's unfortunate. He couldn't come, he was supposed to come here," Djokovic said during a pre-tournament news conference.

"Basically in the finals of Indian Wells he called us and said that he had an emergency and he has to operate both hips."

While Becker recovers, world number two Djokovic arrives in Miami fresh off a confidence-boosting win over

Roger Federer in Sunday's final of the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells.

It was the first win of the season for the Serb, who joined forces with the German tennis great last December after losing grand slam finals in 2013 to Spain's Rafa Nadal (U.S. Open) and Briton Murray (Wimbledon).

"I knew I'm playing well," said Djokovic, who will take on Frenchman Jeremy Chardy in a second-round clash after receiving a first-round bye. "I had an incredible end of 2013, so I did have confidence but I started a little bit doubting myself on the court.

"I was struggling a little bit with my, I would say, consistency and the concentration."—Reuters