

## President U Thein Sein views Peasants' Day booths at MICC-II

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March — President U Thein Sein visited Myanmar International Convention Centre (2) on Monday where a display of modern agricultural machinery was arranged to mark Peasant's Day.

The displayed items included Korea-made machinery for harvesting crops such as groundnuts, potatoes and taro, as well as earth-moving equipment and tractors supplied by the Japanese International Co-operation Agency.

The President suggested the senior government officials at the event accelerating efforts to move from traditional to modern farming practices. He also greeted representatives of farm workers.

President U Thein Sein also looked around vegetables, fruits and other agricultural products, before seeing high-yield paddy seeds of the International Rice Research Institute that produced seeds suited for Myanmar's varied geographic conditions and seasonal climates.

The President and of-



President U Thein Sein views agricultural machinery displayed at booths at the ceremony to mark Peasants' Day at MICC-II.—MNA

officials arrived at the booth of Malar Myaing agricultural company to look at the packaging process of value-added fruits for export markets.

Local agricultural import companies also displayed their wares, alongside paddy sector development plans from Yezin Agriculture Uni-

versity, the Department of Water Resources Utilization, the Department of Settlement and Land Record, the Department of Irrigation, the Department

of Agricultural Research, the Department of Industrial Crops Development and private companies.

MNA

## President meets NLD Chairperson DawAung San Suu Kyi



NAY PYI TAW, 2 March — President U Thein Sein met with Chairperson

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi of the National League for Democracy in Nay Pyi

Taw at 6 pm on Monday. They frankly discussed constitutional amendment

and holding free and fair elections.

MNA

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### No organization or person using Chinese territory would be allowed to undermine the China-Myanmar relationship

BEIJING, 2 March — A senior Chinese diplomat on Sunday clarified China's policy toward its neighbour Myanmar since conflict in northern Myanmar has triggered rumors.

In a written interview with Xinhua, Kong Xuanyou, director-general of the Department of Asian Affairs of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, denied any Chinese local authorities' involvement in the conflict.

China has always adhered to the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries, Kong said.

No organization or person using Chinese territory would be allowed to undermine the China-Myanmar relationship and

stability in border areas, according to Kong.

He stressed that China respects Myanmar's sovereignty, territorial integrity.

The conflict near the border areas has had an impact on China's border control and social security, Kong said, noting that the two countries maintain close contacts in various levels in dealing with the issue.

He called on relevant parties to achieve a nationwide ceasefire through peace talks to create favorable environment for national development.

Mutual understanding and respect are significant in the China-Myanmar friendship, Kong said, (See page 3)

## Vice-Senior General Soe Win comforts soldiers wounded in Kokang conflict



NAY PYI TAW, 2 March— Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win comforted wounded soldiers on Monday at PyinOoLwin and Lashio military hospitals.

Vice-Senior General Soe Win and senior military officers first visited the wounded soldiers at the military hospital in PyinOoLwin, where they handed out gifts and cash.

He also met with family members of local battalion.

Accompanied by Lt-Gen Aung Than Htut from the Office of the Com-

*Vice-Senior General Soe Win meets family members of local battalion in Lashio.*

MYAWADY

mander-in-Chief (Army), Vice-Senior General Soe Win arrived at Lashio military hospital to meet the soldiers, who had been wounded in Kokang and in other clashes, with donation of cash and food before comforting their families.

Together with the head monk of Thiri Minglar Mansu Shan Monastery, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Soe Win also handed out rice, cooking oil and food items to the IDPs.

Government troops successfully repelled an offensive by insurgents seeking to take control of Kokang. Among the government soldier casualties were some who sacrificed their lives protecting and safeguarding the sovereignty of the country.

Myawady

## Union Energy Minister looks into Yangon natural gas pipeline projects

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb— Union Minister of Energy U Zeyar Aung inspected natural gas pipeline construction projects in Yangon and suburban areas Monday.

The minister first arrived at Ywama natural gas control and distribution station where a nitrogen removal unit is under construction. Officials from Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise explained the project, with instruction of the minister to have less envi-

ronmental impacts on environment.

The minister and party then inspected the construction of a 35-mile long and 30-inches in diameter natural gas pipeline of Ywama-Hlawga-Thakayta route in Dagon Myothit (East) Township by using road boring machines, and instructed for scrutinizing compensation for farmland seizures along the project.

The project started in October 1, 2014 and it has completed 38 percent on

February 27, 2015, with the targeted period at the end of March. Upon the completion of project, more natural gas will be delivered to power stations and industries in Yangon.

On Sunday, U Zeyar Aung also viewed construction of natural gas filling station at Hmawby Township. It will become the third stations for the passenger buses which are operating from Yangon to Bago and Taikkyi townships.—MNA



## PRB announces registered pesticides

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—The Pesticide Registration Board has accepted the registration of 383 products following laboratory analysis, moving them a step closer to approval for commercial use.

Pesticides with experimental registration must undergo further tests on their potential and agricultural friendliness before manufacturers can apply for provisional registration.

For export and import of pesticides that have earned provisional registration and amendment registration, endorsement will need to be sought from the Directorate of Trade. In addition, they will need to have registration numbers and the endorsement of



*A farmer sprays pesticides on crops.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE*

local authorities printed in the Myanmar language on their packages, the board stated. Otherwise, their

sales are prohibited.

Action will be taken against pesticide producers who engage in unauthor-

ized exporting, importing, sale or storage, the board warned.

MNA

## Foreign insurance firms seeking SEZ access will learn fate by mid-April

YANGON, 2 March — Foreign insurance companies seeking to operate in special economic zones will learn whether their applications have been successful before mid-April.

Having finished the drafting criteria, the Ministry of Finance will select the winning applicants soon, according to an official of Myanma Insurance under the ministry.

The ministry said it will give priority to companies that demonstrate strength, reliability and social responsibility.

The capital benchmark for foreign insurance companies is higher than that for local firms, the official said.

Foreign companies selected must show strong evidence in terms of ratings and capital, Dr Maung Maung Thein, Deputy Minister for Finance, said in November last year.

The successful foreign companies will only be allowed to run insurance businesses inside the special economic zones, he said.

Fourteen foreign insurance companies, including from Japan, the US and Europe, have opened representative offices in Myanmar, to share the market with 12 domestic private insurance companies, following the government's opening of the sector in June 2013.

GNLM

NATIONAL

### President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Bulgarian President, PM

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Rosen Plevneliev, President of the Republic of Bulgaria and His Excellency Mr. Boyko Borisov, Prime Minister of the Republic of Bulgaria, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria, which falls on 3 March 2015.—MNA

### Chief Justice of the Union to attend 3rd ASEAN Chief Justices Meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March — Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo left for the Philippines Monday to attend the 3rd ASEAN Chief Justices Meeting in Boracay.

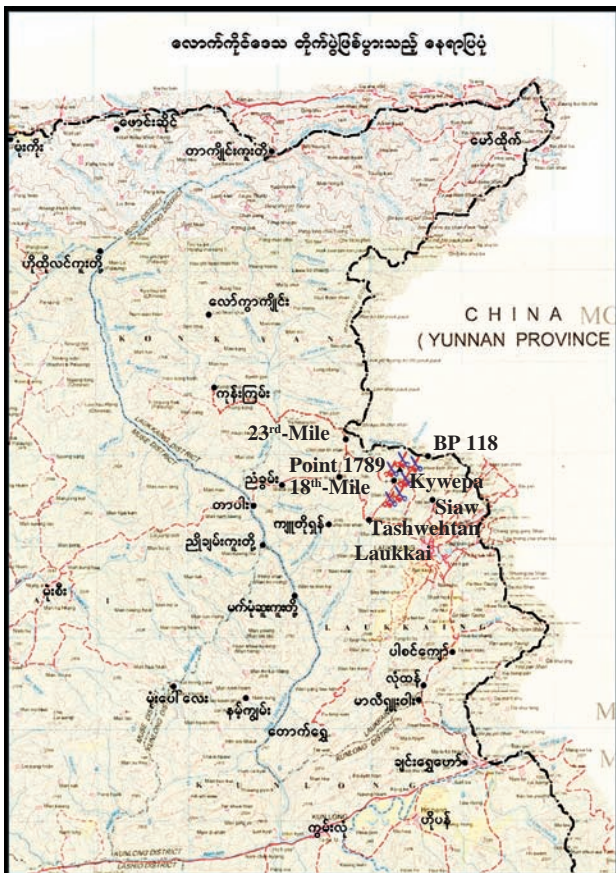
The meeting that started in 2013 will highlight development of an Internet portal for information of ASEAN judicial organizations, cooperation in

training judges and judicial officers in ASEAN region, technical application of courts, criminal management ways and summoning of civil case in ASEAN region.

The Chief Justice of the Union was seen off at Yangon International Airport by the chief justice of Yangon Region high court and judges.—MNA

### Union FM sends message of felicitations to Bulgarian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 3 March — U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Daniel Mitov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Bulgaria, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Bulgaria, which falls on 3 March 2015.—MNA



## Vice President U Nyan Tun recognises service to farm workers

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March — Vice President U Nyan Tun attended the ceremony marking Peasants' Day at Myanmar International Convention Centre (2) in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday, and presented certificates in recognition of international organizations, companies and individuals who advanced the interests of farm workers.

The vice president, who is also the leader of the Organization for Protection and Promotion of Peasants Interests, first viewed farm equipment provided by Japan International Cooperation Agency and booths of vegetables and fruits at the centre.

The vice president then read out a Peasants' Day message from President U Thein Sein.

The vice president, Union Ministers U Myint Hlaing, U Soe Maung, U



Vice President U Nyan Tun presents certificate of honour to a foreign agriculturist at the ceremony to mark Peasants' Day.

MNA

Kyaw Hsan, U Ohn Myint, U Zeyar Aung and U

Win Myint presented certificates of honour to the organizations, companies and individuals.

Then, Chairman of Myanmar Music Association (Central) announced the winners of a song competition marking the day.

The vice president and the union ministers presented prizes to the winners of the song competition, the vegetables

and fruits competitions and posed for documentary photos with attendees and prize winners.

After the ceremony, the vice president and party warmly greeted farming representatives from various ethnic groups.

Present at the ceremony were representatives of farm workers from regions and states including the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.—MNA

### Roads in two regions being upgraded

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March — Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin inspected progress of Magyigan-Hngetausan-Kyaikhtaw road in Yangon Region on Sunday.

With the ODA loan of Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA, Shwedaung Company is upgrading one-mile section of the road.

The union minister looked into upgrading of Kawhmu-Wabalaukthauk-Thayettaw road being undertaken by Myat Noe Thu Company.

He also viewed maintenance of Twantay-maubin-Hsamalauk road and upgrading of Nyaungdon-Kyeinbinse-Sakaw-Danubyu-Zalun road.

MNA

### Government troops take strategic hill

NAY PYI TAW, 2 March — Government troops conquered Point 1789 hill near border post number 118 after an offensive to stabilize the area and restore peace at Kokang area.

Fighting accelerated as military columns launched all-out offensive with the support of heavy weapon

attacks to Kokang insurgents based at the hills near Kywepa village which is 6,000 meters away from border line with China. Military columns are chasing insurgents who fled to border area.

The Point 1789 hill is strategically important for defensive actions, but government forces defeated insurgents there with harmonious offensives.

The fight left 5 bodies of Kokang insurgents and six small weapons were sized, with three deaths and 11 injured soldiers.

Myawady

A map shows clashes between military columns and Kokang insurgents in Laukkai region. MYAWADY

### No organization or person . . .

(from page 1) affirming that China will stick to its current policy toward Myanmar and is willing to make joint efforts to implement consensus between the two countries' leaders on partnership.

China is also will-

ing to work with Myanmar to ensure the peace, friendship, development and cooperation of their border areas, to create better conditions for the two peoples' livelihood and economic, social development, according to Kong.—Xinhua

### GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (2-3-2015)

<b>Yangon Gold Price</b>	
Buying K677,500 per tical:	Selling K678,500
<b>Mandalay Gold Price</b>	
Buying K676,800 per tical:	Selling K677,800
<b>FE RATE</b>	
USD Buying K 1035:	Selling -----
SGD Buying K 760:	Selling K770
Euro Buying K 1,160:	Selling K1,190

## Hospital anniversary marks start of heart attack awareness week



MANDALAY, 2 March —Mandalay General Hospital launched heart attack awareness week Monday, while also marking the sec-

ond anniversary of Primary PCI treatment at its Cardiology Department.

Short for percutaneous coronary intervention,

PCI treatment involves the widening of arteries that have narrowed as a result of heart disease. Some 135 patients have successful-

ly received the treatment since 18 February 2013, the hospital said. Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Mint gave a speech at

the ceremony, while retired medical superintendent of the hospital Dr Maung Win explained healthcare services being provided in the

region, as well as the construction of new hospitals and clinics.

Dean of the Cardiology Department Daw Than Than Kyaing explained the advantages of elective PCI and primary PCI.

Associate Professor Dr Kyaw Soe Win also explained plans of Mandalay General Hospital's special treatment network for performing surgical treatments on the patients suffering from heart attack.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

## Bridge boosts Ayeyawady Region transport network

MYANAUNG, 2 March — Transport links in Myanaung, Ayeyawady Region, have received a welcome upgrade with the opening of a new road bridge.

Ayeyawady Region Minister for Development Affairs U Kyaw Win Nang, Region Hluttaw MP U Aung Myo Nyunt and Father U Saw Mo Shae on Sunday formally opened the 100-foot long, 12-foot wide Asel Bridge linking Shwegyin Village-tract in Myanaung Township with Htugyi Town.

Myanaung Township Rural Development Department commissioned Thitsa Lun Say Company to build the bridge on Htugyi-Shwegyin Road in the 2014-15 fiscal year.—Win Bo (Myanaung IPRD)

## Top Myanmar referee to assess AFC officiating

YANGON, 2 March — Myanmar's most senior football referee, U Tun Hla Aung, will oversee the officiating of upcoming AFC Champions League and AFC Cup football matches.

The Myanmar Referees Committee Chairman will be referee assessor for the match between Australia's Western Sydney Wanderers and China's Guangzhou Evergrande in the ACL Group (H) in Australia on 4 March.

He will also assess match officials in the clash between a Hong Kong side, either Kitchee or Sun Pegasus, and one of two Malaysian sides, Honor Darul Taz'im or Selangor,



Chairman of Myanmar Referees Committee  
U Tun Hla Aung.

in Group (F) of the AFC Cup to be held in Hong Kong on 17 March.

U Tun Hla Aung played for the Myanmar National Team in 1972. He refereed internation-

al matches from 1995 to 2004 before becoming an Asian Football Confederation referee assessor in 2006.

He is the first official from Myanmar to hold the position.—GNLM



**CERTIFICATE PRESENTED:** Basic Education High School No. 1 in Myawady, Kayin State, held the completion certificate presentation ceremony for primary and middle school students for 2014-15 academic year at its hall on Monday. Headmistress Daw Yin Yin Shein presents completion certificate to grade-5 student Ma Shwe Ein Lin.  
TUN TUN OO (MYAWADY TOWN)

## Clinic set for construction on land donated by monastery

NATOGYI, 2 March — A new health clinic is slated for construction in Natogyi, Mandalay Region, on a plot of land donated by a local monastery.

At a ceremony held 27 February at Theindaw monastery in ward 2 of Natogyi, Abbot Bhaddanta Jatila donated a 60x30 foot land plot for construction of the clinic to Chairman of

the Thukha Chantha health association, U Aye Lwin, in the presence of venerable Buddhist monks led by the Township Sangha Nayaka Committee abbot of Hmankyaung monastery.

The chairman of the association said a plan is underway to build the clinic within the year.

Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)



Solar Impulse-2, made of carbon and solar fibres, from Switzerland will arrive in Mandalay on 10 March 2015.

## REGIONAL

## Indonesia's Jokowi may visit Japan in three-nation trip

JAKARTA, 2 March — Indonesian President Joko Widodo, popularly known only as Jokowi, may visit Japan as part of a three-nation trip that will also take him to Singapore and China, Indonesian senior government officials and a diplomatic source said over the weekend.

No final decision has been made, but it may take place by the end of this month, they told *Kyodo News* on condition of anonymity.

One of the officials said that during Jokowi's visit to Japan, Indonesian and Japanese officials are expected to review the Indonesia-Japan economic partnership agreement, signed seven years ago in Tokyo.

"We will review which one in the IJEPA should be



Indonesian President  
Joko Widodo

maintained and which one should be changed," the official said, adding that some parts of the agreement are not beneficial for Indone-

sia, particularly in the aspect of capacity building and technology transfer.

The official gave the case of Indonesian nurses and caregivers having been sent to work in Japan as an example.

"It's more to provide jobs to the nurses than to transfer their knowledge from Japan to Indonesia," the official said.

"We want the nurses, actually, to 'steal' the knowledge and share it to nursing schools in Indonesia, so in the future, we will be able to send skilled workers to foreign countries, not export the unskilled ones," he added.

Under the bilateral partnership agreement, hundreds of Indonesian nurses and caregivers have been sent to work in Japan. The pass rate in qualifica-

tion exams of the nurses and caregivers, however, has been very low due to the language barrier and most of them have returned to Indonesia for failing to pass the tests in a certain period of time.

It is also expected that during the visit, Jokowi will directly hand over an invitation to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to attend the 60<sup>th</sup> commemoration of the Asia-Africa Conference, a meeting of Asian and African states that led to the birth of the 120-member Non-Aligned Movement, in the West Java provincial town of Bandung next month.

The government officials said that Jokowi will visit Singapore before going to Japan, and China afterward.

*Kyodo News*



Photo taken on 2 March, 2015 shows the scene of a press conference on the third session of the 12<sup>th</sup> Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee in Beijing, capital of China. The third session of the 12<sup>th</sup> National Committee of CPPCC, the national advisory body, is scheduled to open in Beijing on 3 March.—XINHUA

## Militants' bomb factory cracked down in S Philippines

MANILA, 2 March — Government forces have overrun an factory of improvised bombs in an assault to Muslim militants in Mamasapano town in southern Philippine Province of Maguindanao, military said on Monday.

Melquiades Feliciano, commander of the army's 601<sup>st</sup> infantry brigade that spearheaded the offensive operations against the bandits, said his troops captured on Sunday the encampment owned by Mohammad Tambako in Dasikil village in Mamasapano,

the stronghold of the Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF), a splinter group of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

"Our troops successfully seized a bomb-making facility after assaulting the enemy positions yesterday. The enemy was able to escape but the equipment and materials that are used to fabricate home-made bombs were left behind," he said.

Among those recovered include components for making bombs such as

mortar fuses, ammonium nitrate, blasting caps and tie wires.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) has launched an all-out offensive against the BIFF, believed to be among those who attacked police commandos during their operation against two suspected terrorists in Mamasapano on 25 January, leaving 44 policemen dead.

Feliciano said Abdul Basit Usman, bomb maker and one of the two high-value targets during the Mamasapano operation,

is allegedly being coddled right now by small bands of notorious bandits from different BIFF groups.

Usman of terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group evaded arrest during last month's operation, while Zulkifli bin Hir, alias Marwan, a leader of the Jemaah Islamiyah, was killed.

The AFP said so far nine members of the BIFF were killed in the recent law enforcement operations in Maguindanao, while three soldiers were wounded.

*Xinhua*

## Cambodian, Laos defence ministers pledge to bolster ties, cooperation

PHNOM PENH, 2 March — Cambodian Defence Minister Gen Tea Banh said here on Monday that had met with his visiting Laos counterpart Lt Gen Sengnuan Saiyalath, and they agreed to further enhance bilateral ties and cooperation for mutual benefits.

"We are neighbouring countries, so it is very important for us to strengthen cooperation along the border so as to ensure security and safety for the peoples of the two countries," he said.

"We also agreed to exchange information relevant to security issues," he added.

The two sides also agreed to exchange visits of defence delegates at all levels in order to share experiences and expertise, Tea Banh said.

The two countries signed a memorandum of understanding on defence cooperation at the end of the two ministers' meeting.

Lt Gen Sengnuan Saiyalath arrived in Cambodia on Saturday for a four-day official visit.—*Xinhua*

## Trial to push for better flight tracking a year after MH370

SYDNEY, 2 March — Australia, Indonesia and Malaysia are launching a trial to allow air traffic controllers to more closely track aircraft traversing remote oceans such as the one believed to be the final resting place of Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370.

No trace has been found of the Boeing 777 aircraft (BA.N), which disappeared a year ago this week carrying 227 mainly Chinese passengers and 12 crew in what has become one of the greatest mysteries in aviation history.

Under the system being tested, long-haul aircraft would effectively be required to check in every 15 minutes, rather than every 30-40 minutes, which is the current norm.

Long-haul flights in an area covering roughly 11 percent of the world's surface will take part in the test.

There was no further detail immediately available about what flights or routes the trial would cover.

MH370 vanished from radar screens shortly after taking off from Kuala Lumpur, bound for Beijing, early on 8 March. Investigators believe it was flown thousands of miles off course before eventually crashing into the ocean off Australia.

A preliminary report issued by Malaysia last May described frantic attempts to trace the aircraft, with air traffic control in Kuala Lumpur contacting counterparts in Singapore,



Chinese relatives of passengers aboard missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 pray at the Thean Hou temple in Kuala Lumpur on 1 March, 2015.—XINHUA

Hong Kong and Phnom Penh when something appeared to have gone awry.

Australian Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss said in a media release on Sunday that the

new system, which adapts technology already used by most long-haul jets, could greatly narrow down search areas in the case of future tragedies.

"This new approach

enables immediate improvements to monitoring long-haul flights and will give the public greater confidence in aviation, without requiring any additional technology investment by airlines," Truss said.

Military radar showed MH370 veered back across Peninsular Malaysia after contact with it was lost. A handful of faint "pings" picked up by a commercial satellite for around another six hours helped experts piece together where it went next.

But the area identified as the plane's likely resting place remains vast — a rugged 60,000 sq km (23,000 sq mile) patch of sea floor some 1,600 km (1,000 miles) west of Perth.

Four vessels owned by Dutch engineering firm Fugro (FUGRc.AS), equipped with sophisticated underwater drones, have scoured about 40 percent of this highest priority search area, and are expected to finish the task by May.

Airlines say they generally support improved tracking, but balked recently at a stop-gap proposal to oblige carriers to fit existing systems within 12 months, saying the technology was still evolving.

The European Union is expected to unveil new regulations on flight tracking soon as the international aviation community attempts to show some progress a year after MH370 was lost.—*Reuters*

## Xi tells Prince William of his hope to visit Britain this year

BEIJING, 2 March — Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday expressed hope to visit Britain later this year after Prince William gave him a letter of invitation from Queen Elizabeth II.

"I want to thank her majesty the Queen for the invitation issued to me," Xi told the prince in Beijing's Great Hall of the People. "I look forward to meeting her majesty and other British leaders during the visit and to jointly plan out the future of Sino-British relations."

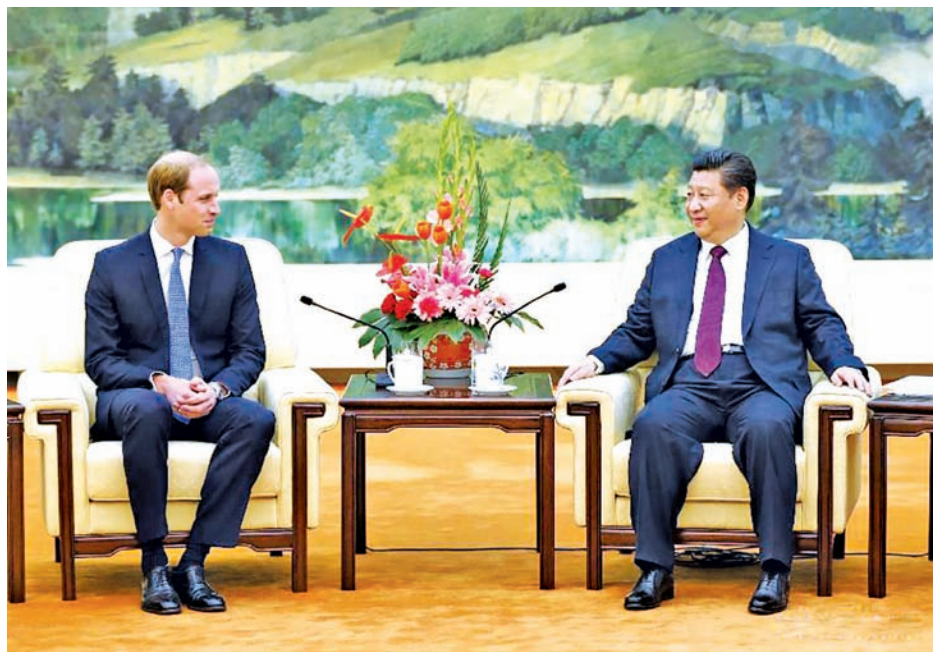
The Duke of Cambridge's visit to mainland China is the most high-profile by a member of the British royal family since

1986.

"It's been a long interest of mine for many years to come and visit China," said the 32-year-old prince, who arrived Sunday night in Beijing after spending four days in Japan. "I look forward to, as you say, strengthening UK-China relations and building things for the future."

"I'm particularly interested in the young people and seeing how the next generation develops and is aware of the world as it is," he said.

Until British Prime Minister David Cameron's visit to Beijing in December 2013, China suspended high-level political contacts



Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) meets with Britain's Prince William at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China on 2 March, 2015. —XINHUA

between the two countries for more than a year.

The suspension was put in place following Cameron's meeting with the Dalai Lama, Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, in May 2012.

During his stay in China through Wednesday, the prince will not visit Hong Kong, a former British colony that was returned to Chinese sovereignty in 1997, where massive pro-democracy protests took place last year for weeks.

After Beijing, the prince will travel to Shanghai and an elephant sanctuary in the southwestern province of Yunnan.

Kyodo News

## Australia bars travel to Mosul ahead of planned offensive

SYDNEY, 2 March — Australia on Monday barred its citizens from traveling to Mosul in northern Iraq, in a push to combat what the government calls growing radicalization among young Australian Muslims, some of whom have fought overseas with militant groups.

The announcement by Foreign Minister Julie Bishop comes ahead of a planned offensive, perhaps as soon as April or May, to retake Mosul with a contingent of US-trained Iraqi and Kurdish force of 20,000 to 25,000.

It is the second time

Australia has used a tough new law barring overseas travel to specific areas, following a ban on the province of Raqqa in Syria, a key strategic hub for Islamic State. "The government is determined to stop Australians joining the terrorist conflict in Iraq and Syria and supporting terrorist organizations," Bishop said in a statement. Last month the Pentagon said it had sent 10,000 US M-16 rifles and other military supplies worth about \$17.9 million to Iraq as US troops pushed ahead with training and supplying Iraqi security forces

battling Islamic State fighters.

Islamic State militants were recently shown in videos destroying priceless antiquities from Mosul, using sledgehammers and power drills on 3,000-year-old sculptures and statues.

Under tough new security powers won by conservative Prime Minister Tony Abbott in October, Australian citizens can face up to a decade in prison for overseas travel to areas declared off limits.

The move was part of a broader crackdown on what Abbott calls a growing

threat posed by Australians radicalized whilst fighting overseas with Islamist militant groups such as Islamic State, or various al-Qaeda-affiliated groups.

In September, the United Nations demanded that all countries make it a serious criminal offence for citizens to travel abroad to fight with militant groups, or recruit and fund others to do so, in a move sparked by the rise of Islamic State.

Security analysts have put the number of foreign fighters in Iraq and Syria, traveling from scores of countries around the world,

in the thousands.

Australia is on high alert for attacks by radicalized Muslims or home-grown militants returning from fighting in the Middle East. In December two hostages and a radical self-styled sheikh who had sought to align himself with Islamic State were killed in a Sydney hostage siege. Abbott, who recently warned that the balance between freedom and security "may have to shift", is also pushing controversial data retention laws he says are needed to tackle security and criminal threats.—Reuters

## Accident kills one, injures one in cycling tournament in Vietnam

HO CHI MINH CITY, 2 March — One man died and another was injured in an accident on Sunday during the on-going Binh Duong International Women's Cycling Tournament in southern Vietnam, local media reported on Monday.

Riders from an escort team for cyclists clashed with another large-volume motorbike group riding from the opposite direction, resulting in the death of an escort rider and injury in the leg of another, Ngo Quang Vinh, vice president of the Vietnam Motorbike Federation, was quoted by local VN Express as saying.

The accident took place near the starting point of the 82 km second leg of the race, which started at La Nga in Dong Nai province, on Sunday. To arrive at the starting point, cyclists, coaches and logistic staff had to move by vehicles, under the escort of a motorbike team, from Binh Duong province, where the first leg of the race was held.

Cyclists later all completed their race.

Binh Duong International Women's Cycling Tournament (Biwase Cup) 2015, the fifth of this kind held in southern Vietnam, kicked off on 28 February in Binh Duong province, attracting 63 cyclists from 11 teams, including two foreign teams from Thailand and Kazakhstan. The tournament is scheduled to last till 8 March.—Xinhua

## S Korea, US begin annual military drills, N Korea fires missiles



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe enters his office in Tokyo on 2 March, 2015, after North Korea fired two short-range missiles into the Sea of Japan, in reaction to US-South Korea joint military exercises that began earlier in the day.

KYODO NEWS

SEOUL, 2 March — South Korea and the United States began their annual joint military drills on Monday, ahead of which North Korea fired two short-range missiles into the Sea of Japan.

The missile launches, which were the first since 26

July of last year, appear to be in reaction to the joint exercises, according to the South Korean Defence Ministry.

In a statement issued just ahead of the launches, North Korea condemned the exercises as "dangerous nuclear war drills for invading" the North and warned of

"merciless strikes."

"The only means to cope with the aggression and war by the US imperialists and their followers is neither dialogue nor peace... They should be dealt with only by merciless strikes," a spokesman for the General Staff of the Korean People's



Photo taken in March 2014 shows annual US-South Korea joint military exercises in the city of Pohang and its surrounding sea area in South Korea. The two countries began their annual joint military drills on 2 March, 2015, ahead of North Korea's firing of two short-range missiles into the Sea of Japan.

KYODO NEWS

Army said, according to the country's official *Korean Central News Agency*.

In Tokyo, the Japanese government also confirmed the missile launches and said it has lodged a strong protest with North Korea through diplomatic channels.

Speaking to reporters, Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida denounced North Korea's move as infringing on UN Security Council resolutions that ban it from any launch using ballistic missile technology. It also runs counter to accords at the six-party talks aimed at ending North Korea's nuclear ambitions, Kishida said.

One of the drills, the Key Resolve command post exercise, will last until 13 March, while the other, the Foal Eagle field training exercise, will last until 24 April.

The Key Resolve exercise will involve about 10,000 South Korean and

8,600 American troops, while the Foal Eagle will mobilize about 200,000 South Korean and 3,700 American troops, mostly from overseas.

Each year, prior to the joint exercises, North Korea has demanded the United States and South Korea not hold the drills, claiming that they serve as rehearsals for invasion and issuing threats of retaliation.

According to the South's Defence Ministry are believed to have a range of some 490 kilometres and were launched from the western port city of Nampo between 6:32 am and 6:41 am.

Meanwhile, the US-South Korea Combined Forces Command said the Fort Worth, a 3,450-ton Freedom-class littoral combat ship of the US Navy, will take part in the Key Resolve drill.

Kyodo News

## WORLD

## US army chief says “very concerned” at UK defence cuts: Daily Telegraph



US Army Joint Chief of Staff General Raymond Odierno

LONDON, 2 March — The United States’ army chief of staff said he was very concerned about the impact of cuts to British defence spending that he said had forced a review of how Britain’s troops could be deployed alongside US forces in future conflicts.

In an interview with the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper published on Monday, Army Chief of Staff General Raymond Odierno urged Britain to maintain defence spending at the NATO agreed level of 2 percent of national output, warning that British forces could end up fighting inside US units rather than alongside them.

“I would be lying to you if I did not say that I am very concerned about the GDP investment in the UK,” Odierno was quoted as saying by the newspaper.

Britain has cut defence spending by around 8 percent in real terms over the last four years to help reduce a record budget deficit, shrinking the size of the armed forces by around one sixth.

“In the past we would have a British Army divi-

sion working alongside an American division. Now it might be a British brigade inside an American division, or even a British battalion inside an American brigade,” Odierno said, in reference to previous conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As a result of the cuts following the 2010 Strategic Defence and Security Review, the British army has been cut by a fifth, the air force now has just seven combat squadrons and the navy barely has enough warships to fulfill its international duties, the *Daily Telegraph* reported.

Britain’s Ministry of Defence said the government was committed to spending 2 percent of GDP on defence, adding that decisions on spending level after the 2015/16 financial year had yet to be made.

In December, top US commander Lieutenant-General Ben Hodges voiced concern that Britain’s military spending could fall below a NATO target and said the country’s army did not have enough money for its needs.—Reuters

## Kerry to defend Israel as Netanyahu readies critique of Iran talks

GENEVA, 2 March — US Secretary of State John Kerry will defend Israel at a UN human rights body on Monday as Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu prepares to criticize nuclear negotiations with Iran that the top diplomat is leading.

Kerry landed in Geneva late on Sunday for up to three days of talks with Iran’s Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on a deal to restrain the Iranian nuclear programme in exchange for easing sanctions on Teheran. The talks will be held in Montreux.

In addition, Kerry will meet Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov on Monday to discuss Iran, Syria and Ukraine and speak at the UN Human Rights Council in part to defend Israel against what US officials regard as its bias against the Jewish state.

“Our position is always very much in defence of Israel and protection

of Israel’s interests at the Human Rights Council,” a US official aboard Kerry’s plane told reporters, saying any investigations of Israel should be “objective and neutral and not... one-sided and biased.”

The official said that one of Washington’s main concerns was a UN inquiry into last summer’s conflict in Gaza in which more than 2,100 Palestinians, most of them civilians, 67 Israeli soldiers and six civilians in Israel were killed.

The UN investigation, due to issue its report by 23 March, is looking in to violations by both sides. The US official said the United States wanted “to try to protect against any follow-on” steps or inquiries after the report is released.

In travelling this week to Switzerland, Saudi Arabia and Britain, Kerry will avoid being in Washington when Netanyahu is expected to deliver a scathing criticism of US negotiations

to curb Iran’s nuclear programme.

The United States and many of its allies, including Israel, suspect that Iran is using its civilian nuclear program as a cover to develop atomic weapons. Iran denies this, saying the programme is for peaceful uses such as generating electricity.

Netanyahu’s planned speech on Tuesday before a joint session of Congress has strained relations with the Democratic White

House, which has made no secret of its anger that it was set up with congressional Republicans without it being in the loop.

Netanyahu has described the emerging agreement as a bad deal, even though US officials stress that its details have yet to be nailed down. The White House has suggested that Netanyahu’s speech, two weeks ahead of an Israeli election, has injected partisanship into the US-Israel relationship.—Reuters



US Secretary of State John Kerry arrives at Geneva International airport on 1 March, 2015. —REUTERS

## Estonia’s ruling, pro-NATO centre-right claims election win

TALLINN, 2 March — Estonia’s centre-right prime minister claimed victory in an election on Sunday, cementing pro-NATO policies after a campaign dominated by fears of interference by neighbouring Russia following Moscow’s annexation of Ukraine’s Crimea region.

Taavi Roivas’ Reform Party won 28 percent, ahead of 25 percent for the opposition centre-left Centre Party which wanted Estonians to embrace a new policy of better relations with Moscow to ensure security for the small Baltic state.

The vote reaffirmed support for a coalition gov-

ernment which has urged the West to unite in deterring Russian President Vladimir Putin. Estonia has suffered more frequent breaches of its airspace by Russian military aircraft since Moscow annexed Crimea.

A free-marketeer, strongly pro-NATO and the youngest European Union leader at 35, Roivas is best placed to form a new coalition government and is likely to continue its conservative economic policies.

“Estonia has enjoyed a lot of success economically. We have been very open to our allies and we want to continue that path,” Roivas told Reuters after claiming

victory on Sunday night.

But the vote showed deep splits in Estonia. A quarter of Estonia’s 1.3 million population are Russian speakers and about 70 percent of them support the Centre Party, which signed a 2004 cooperation deal with Putin’s United Russia Party.

“Silver medal shouldn’t be a disappointment for anyone,” Centre Party leader Edgar Savisaar told supporters, the Baltic New Service said. “A party which represents so many people of Estonia can’t be shunned or forced to be silent.”

Some political analysts have warned that Rus-

sia could follow on from Ukraine and foment instability in Estonia, whether through Russian-speaking minorities, energy policy or cyber warfare, challenging NATO’s ability to defend one of its smallest members.

Asked if he would work with the Centre Party in forming a new coalition government, Roivas said: “Definitely not”.

Still, he will have to widen his coalition from his current alliance with the Social Democratic Party since the two are now short of a majority in the 101-seat parliament. Forming a new coalition could take from days to weeks.—Reuters

## Brazil cracks down on protesting truckers, most roads open



Trucks line up at sugar and soybean terminals at the port of Santos on 25 Feb, 2015. —REUTERS

SAO PAULO, 2 March — Brazilian police cracked down on striking truckers on Sunday, arresting protesters and ending roadblocks in all but two states after demonstrations turned violent and slowed food deliveries in Latin America’s largest economy.

By Sunday evening, there were only 12 partial roadblocks nationwide, down from 52 on Saturday, the federal highway police said in a report on the 12<sup>th</sup> consecutive day of strikes over rising freight costs.

Authorities in the southern state of Rio Grande do Sul detained at least eight people and sent riot police to some areas, ending blockades in a state that erupted in violence over the weekend.

Protesters torched a vehicle full of tires overnight, police said, after protester Cléber Adriano Machado Ouriques was hit and killed by a truck that did not stop at a blockade in the municipality of São Sepé.

The nearly 2-week-old movement has slowed grain deliveries, forced meat-pro-

cessing plants to close and started to leave some grocery stores with bare shelves.

Two of the remaining roadblocks were on the BR 163 highway in Brazil’s top soy-growing state of Mato Grosso and the other 10 were in the southern state of Santa Catarina, where protesters have periodically blocked access to Brazil’s main poultry-exporting port of Itajaí.

The federal government vowed late on Saturday to increase the police presence

on affected highways and end the roadblocks. Police started handing out steep fines last week to those blocking roads illegally.

Protest leaders say the government has still not adequately addressed their concerns over high fuel and freight costs.

The country’s No 2 and 3 soy-exporting ports of Paranaguá and Rio Grande had warned that dwindling soy stocks at the ports could affect exports if roadblocks continued.

Reuters

## PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 3 March, 2015

## Do you really love your country?

By Myint Win Thein

Almost all of us say we love our country, and it is indeed rare for someone to profess a view to the contrary. Even when changing citizenship to that of another nation,

most continue to love the land of their birth.

There are some who repeatedly profess love for their motherland, while getting richer and richer as the country becomes poorer. On the other hand, there are people who unwaveringly express love for their country, despite not even having a roof over their heads. This disparity raises the question, what is it that makes one love their country?

People who truly love their country do so because it is the greater home of all citizens. They would hate to see conflicts, hatred, violence and poverty in their homeland. Therefore, one who really loves his or her country should surely try to eliminate these things.

If someone is exploiting one or all of these social woes for their own interest, it can be said that they do not really love their country. It is important that people should judge who really loves their country not by their words but by their actions.

## Write for us

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

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

## Introduction to e-Government

(Opinions expressed here are those of the author.)

By San Shwe Aung

On 30 March 2011, the new President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, U Thein Sein, delivered his inaugural speech to the both Chambers of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw (Union Parliament). The president at one point made very clear that it will be the Government's top priority to build national unity in order to build "a peaceful, modern and developed nation". He also touched upon the long democratization process saying "In transition to democracy, it is obligatory to promote democratic practices not only among the Hluttaw representatives but also among the people" and "Democracy will promote only hand in hand with good governance".

Governance refers to "all processes of governing whether undertaken by a government, market or network, whether over a family, tribe, formal or informal organization or territory and whether through laws, norms, power or language. It relates to the process of interaction and decision making among the actors involved in a collective problem or issue that led to the creation, reinforcement, or reproduction of social norms and institutions". Governance is therefore broad based strategic process which is in modern time tackled or approached by internet based communication facilities. Then governance of Governments is also indispensably processed through IT. So we have a new system, in the modern world, called "e-Government".

Electronic-Govern-

ment (or e-Government) is widely described as "employment of internet or world wide web for delivering Government information and services to the citizens". (United Nations 2006). It can also be elaborated that e-Government essentially refers to the utilization of Information Technology (IT), Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) and other web-based telecommunication technologies to improve and/or enhance on the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery in the public sector. Therefore, e-Government promotes and improves broad stakeholders contribution to national and community development, as well as deepens the governance process.

United Nations Member States, through the UN General Assembly Resolution 66/288 entitled "The Future We Want", have reaffirmed that democracy, good governance and the rule of law, at the national and international levels, as well as an enabling environment, are essential for sustainable development, including sustained and inclusive economic growth, social development, environmental protection and the eradication of poverty and hunger. Member States have also stressed that ICT is facilitating the flow of information between governments and the public, and have recognized the power of communication technologies, including connection technologies and innovative applications, to promote knowledge exchange, technical cooperation and ca-

capacity-building for sustainable development.

## e-Government Development Index (EGDI)

The e-Government Development Index presents the state of e-Government Development of the United Nations Member States. Along with an assessment of the website development patterns in a country, the e-Government Development index incorporates the access characteristics, such as the infrastructure and educational levels, to reflect how a country is using information technologies to promote access and inclusion of its people. The EGDI is a composite measure of three important dimensions of e-government, namely: provision of online services, telecommunication connectivity and human capacity. The EGDI is not designed to capture e-Government development in an absolute sense; rather, it aims to give a performance rating of national governments relative to one another

## e-Participation Index

Promoting participation of the citizenry is the cornerstone of socially inclusive governance. The goal of e-participation initiatives should be to improve the citizen's access to information and public services; and promote participation in public decision-making which impacts the well-being of society, in general, and the individual, in particular.

The e-participation index (EPI) is derived as a supplementary index to the UN e-Government Survey. It extends the dimension of the Survey by focusing on the use of online services to facilitate provision of infor-

mation by governments to citizens ("e-information sharing"), interaction with stakeholders ("e-consultation"), and engagement in decision-making processes ("e-decision making").

## e-Participation Framework:

- e-information: Enabling participation by providing citizens with public information and access to information without or upon demand
- e-consultation: Engaging citizens in contributions to and deliberation on public policies and services
- e-decision-making: Empowering citizens through co-design of policy option and co-production of service components and delivery modalities.

Importance of Government ministries/departments/agencies web-sites: The novel intention and objective of e-Government is democratization, equality, transparency, inclusiveness of people from all walks of life, economic and social improvement and above all peace and prosperity by eradicating poverty. To realize all novel intention, one key factor lies in front of us to tackle. All Government ministries, departments, boards, agencies have to develop respective websites and update all information [except those sensitive to the national security]. Many

public services can be provided through web-based systems so that time and effort consuming paper-based services can be reduced and the public will enjoy and be happy the arrival of e-Government services.

## References:

- a. President U Thein Sein's inaugural speech-New Light of Myanmar, 31st March 2011,
- b. Wikipedia
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The author of this article worked for United Nations as a Project Manager in Malawi and Thailand and as a senior Coordinator for INGOs in Sri Lanka, Sudan and Myanmar. Now he retired and live in Yangon.

## Both employers and employees need to abide by laws and rules



NAY PYI TAW, 2 March—Employers and employees need to cooperate in boosting production and worksite tranquility, Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Aye Myint told employer and employees at Dong Long garment factory

in Patheingyi Industrial Zone on 27 February.

He urged both sides to abide by prescribed labour laws and rules, adding that employers should provide necessary assistance for the workers.

The union minister fulfilled the requirements of

employees' organizations.

At the office of Ayeyawady Region Social Security Board, the union minister met staff and urged them to carry out their tasks under the rules and regulations for serving the interests of the State.

MNA



LOCAL NEWS

# New board oversees popular Mandalay Buddhist sites



*Maha Lawka Marazein Kuthodaw Pagoda located in 300 metres southeast of Mandalay Hill.*



*Sanda Muni Buddha Image in Mandalay.*

east of the Kyauktaw Gyi Pagoda. The iron Buddha image was cast by King Bodawpaya before the founding of the city Mandalay in 1164 Myanmar Era (1803 A.D.).

“Under the guidance of the Ovacariya Sayadaws, we will work together to develop the religious edifices,” Chairman of the pagoda board of trustees Thiha Thudamma Manijotadhara U Kyaw Win said.

Officials of the old board of trustees handed over accounts, keys, financial statement, bank savings and documents related to the pagodas to the new board comprised of 23 members representing five townships in downtown Mandalay City.

Both monuments have become tourist attractions. Stone inscriptions on Tri Pitakat treatises of Buddhism called the “World Largest Books” can be seen at Kuthodaw Pagoda. Sightseers can also take a close look at the large Buddha image called Sanda Muni.

*Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)*



MANDALAY, 2 March — A pair of Buddhists monuments popular with visitors to Mandalay have recently come under new custodianship.

The board of trustees for Maha Lawka Marazein Kuthodaw Pagoda and Sanda Muni Buddha Image were reconstituted Sunday at the meeting hall of Kuthodaw Pagoda in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay.

*An Ovacariya Sayadaw gives advice to new members of pagoda board of trustees.*

Kuthodaw Pagoda is roughly 300 metres southeast of Mandalay Hill. It is a large walled complex at the base of the southeast stairway to Mandalay Hill and was commissioned by King Mindon, who also built the Royal Palace in Mandalay.

The Sanda Muni Buddha Image is located to the

thodaw Pagoda in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay.

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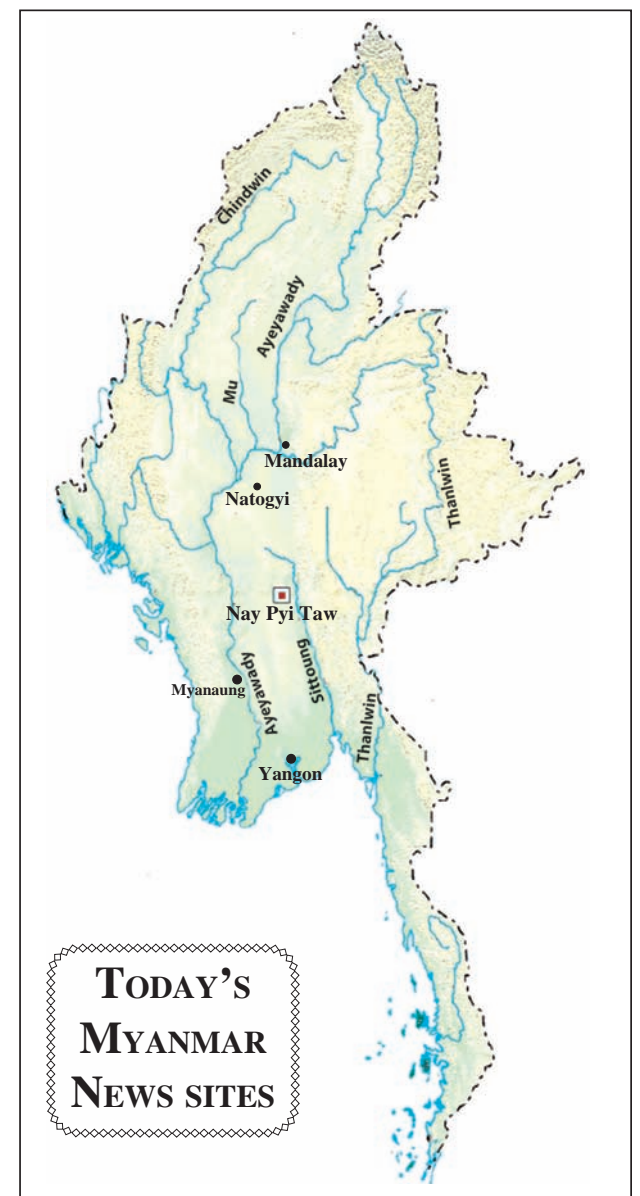
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The Sanda Muni Buddha Image is located to the

thodaw Pagoda in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay.



# Library opening improves local access to learning resources

MYANAUNG, 2 March — A new library has opened in Nyaungtay Village in Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Region.

The Lunge Ahman Library officially opened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony Sunday attended by Head of Information Department of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation Daw Soe Wut Yi, wife of Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Than Htay, Ayeyawady Region Minister for Development Affairs U Kyaw Win Nang and library committee chairman U Than Soe cut the ribbon to open the library.

The head of department and the region minister donated books and publications and K100,000 each, while the Head of

Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Sanda Waing also donated books to the library.

Head of department Daw Soe Wutyi also do-



nated K100,000 each to Thabyegon Village-tract WAO and Maternal and Child Welfare Association and 25 dozens of notebooks to Basic Education Middle School Branch in

Nyaungtay Village. Myanmar Libraries Foundation and local people funded over K4 million for construction of the library.—Win Bo (Myanaung IPRD)

## Iraq army and Shi'ite militias launch attacks north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 2 March — Iraq's armed forces, backed by Shi'ite militia, attacked Islamic State strongholds north of Baghdad on Monday at the start of a campaign aimed at driving them out of the mainly Sunni Muslim province of Salahuddin.

The offensive is the biggest military operation in the province since the Sunni Islamist radicals seized swaths of north Iraq last June and advanced towards the capital Baghdad.

Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi declared the start of the Salahuddin operations on Sunday during a visit to the government-held city of Samarra, where some of the thousands of troops and Shi'ite militia had gathered for the offensive.

The pace of their progress in Salahuddin could affect plans to recapture

Mosul further north. A US official said the assault on Mosul, the largest city under Islamic State control, could start as early as April but Iraqi officials have declined to confirm that timetable.

In Salahuddin, Islamic State fighters control several strongholds including Tikrit, hometown of executed former president Saddam Hussein and other Tigris river towns.

A source at the local military command said forces advanced north from Samarra towards the town of al-Dour, which officials describe as an Islamic State bastion, and Tikrit, which lies about 40 km (25 miles) north of Samarra.

Iraq's air force was carrying out strikes in support of the advancing ground forces, who were being reinforced by troops and militia — known as

Hashid Shaabi, or Popular Mobilisation units — from the neighbouring province of Diyala to the east.

Iraqi army forces in a military base just north of Tikrit also bombarded Islamic State positions in the city, another source said.

Declaring the start of operations on Sunday evening, Abadi gave Islamic State supporters what he said was one last chance to lay down their arms, or face "the punishment they deserve because they stood with terrorism".

But he also stressed that the army and militia must protect civilians and property in the battlefield. Shi'ite militia have been accused of mass executions and burning of homes in areas they have seized from Islamic State. Leaders of the paramilitary forces have denied the accusations.

Monday's offensive



*Iraqi security forces and Shi'ite fighters gesture from the top of an armoured vehicle as they gather at Udham dam, north of Baghdad on 1 March, 2015. —REUTERS*

follows several failed attempts to drive the militants out of Tikrit since last June, when Islamic State declared a caliphate in the territories it controls in eastern Syria and northern and western Iraq.

In Iraq, months of US-led air strikes, backed up by the Shi'ite militias, Kurdish peshmerga fighters and Iraqi soldiers have contained Islamic State and pushed them back from around Baghdad, the Kurdish

north, and the eastern province of Diyala.

But they have held most of their strongholds in Salahuddin and taken new territory in the western province of Anbar.

Reuters

## US drone attack kills three suspected Qaeda members in Yemen



*An MQ-9 Reaper drone*

ADEN, (Yemen), 2 March — Three suspected al-Qaeda members were killed when a US drone fired missiles on a pick-up truck in Yemen's southeastern province of Shabwa, a military source told *Xinhua* on Monday.

"The US attack destroyed a small pick-up vehicle loaded with weapons and explosives in Khora area in Shabwa province late on Sunday night, killing three people inside the car," the military source said on condition of anonymity.

"The al-Qaeda gunmen were attempting to move weapons which they looted in the 19<sup>th</sup> Infantry Brigade last month," the source said.

A tribal source told *Xinhua* by phone that "an al-Qaeda car filled with arms was shelled and caused huge explosions and rocked the ground in the village."

Yemen, an impoverished Arab country, has been gripped by one of the most active regional al-Qaeda insurgencies in the Middle East.

Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), known locally as Ansar al-Sharia, emerged in January 2009 by unifying al-Qaeda branches in Saudi Arabia and Yemen. It had claimed responsibility for a number of attacks on some Western countries.

The United States has carried out more than one hundred rounds of drone strikes in Yemen on the AQAP since 2011, but its operations were halted after the Shiite Houthis group took over the Yemeni capital of Sanaa in September 2014. The United States closed its embassy in Yemen last February, but insisted that it would not suspend anti-terror operations there.—*Xinhua*

## 'Jihadi John' part of network linked to failed London bombers — court papers

LONDON, 2 March — Islamist militant Mohammed Emwazi, identified as 'Jihadi John', was a member of a network in contact with one of the men convicted of trying to bomb the British capital's underground railway in 2005, according to the government.

The man dubbed by British media "Jihadi John" has fronted Islamic State videos from Syria that showed either the killing or bodies of victims including British, US and Japanese citizens and Syrian soldiers. US security sources last week identified the man, who appeared clad in black and brandishing a knife, as Mohammed Emwazi.

The British government's view is set out in court papers, reviewed by *Reuters* and publicly available on the Internet, which refer to 2011 and 2013

British legal hearings concerning two of Emwazi's London associates, known only as Iranian-born "CE" and Ethiopian-born "J1."

The court papers reported in the *Observer* and Sunday *Telegraph* newspapers, offer a fleeting glimpse of Emwazi's life in London before he left for Syria.

They show that Emwazi was known to Britain's security services as early as 2011 and that they believed he was part of a group involved in procuring funds and equipment "for terrorism-related purposes" in Somalia.

They show that authorities thought Emwazi was part of a network that numbered at least 12 people.

One of the same network's members, "J1", spoke on the phone with Hussain Osman, one of the



*A masked, black-clad militant, who has been identified by the Washington Post newspaper as a Briton named Mohammed Emwazi, brandishes a knife in this still image from a 2014 video obtained from SITE Intel Group on 26 Feb, 2015. —REUTERS*

men convicted in connection with an unsuccessful attempt to blow up the London underground in 2005, on the day of the failed attack itself, the papers show.

British Islamists killed 52 people in an attack on London's transport network on 7 July, 2005. An-

other group of Islamists — of which Osman was one — tried and failed to pull off a second attack two weeks later.

Osman, who like "J1" was also born in Ethiopia, was convicted by a London court of conspiracy to murder in 2007 and sentenced to a minimum of 40 years in prison.

The same documents show that "J1", Emwazi's associate, was stopped by police in Scotland in 2004 with three others wearing plastic gloves. The men said they were on their way to an area where the authorities said an extremist training camp was being held.

The camp's organiser, a man identified in court papers only as Hamid, was subsequently convicted of soliciting to murder and of providing terrorism training.—*Reuters*

## Rockets kill two, wound 30 in Libya's Benghazi

BENGHAZI, 2 March — Rockets hit residential areas in Libya's Benghazi on Sunday, killing at least two people and wounding more than 30 others in continued fighting over the city, officials said.

Nearly four years after the fall of Muammar Gaddafi, Libya is caught up in a conflict between two rival governments, one internationally recognized and the

other controlling Tripoli since its fighters took over the capital in the summer.

The conflict involves loose confederations of rebel brigades who once battled Gaddafi, and Benghazi is a battle between a former Libyan general who declared war on Islamist militants, and an alliance of militants and former rebel fighters.

Libyan military offi-

cial Fadil Hassi said two people were killed and 30 wounded when at least two rockets hit downtown Benghazi.

Commander of special forces, Wanis Bukhama-da, told *Reuters* his troops now controlled a large part of the airport road, the Benghazi security directorate and a communications company.

Medical sources told

*Reuters* at least 47 people were killed and 229 wounded in January during fighting in Benghazi.

Two administrations, one in the capital and Prime Minister Abdullah el-Thinni's government in the east, have been battling for power since the armed group Libya Dawn seized Tripoli in July and reinstated lawmakers from a previous assembly.—*Reuters*

## Astronauts breeze through spacewalk to rig station for US space taxis



**NASA astronaut Terry Virts works to complete a cable routing task near the forward facing port of the Harmony module on the International Space Station, on 21 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS**

CAPE CANAVERAL, 2 March — Two US astronauts whipped through a third spacewalk outside the International Space Station on Sunday to rig parking spots for new US space taxis.

Station commander Barry “Butch” Wilmore and flight engineer Terry Virts expected to spend about seven hours installing

antennas, cables and navigation aides on the station’s exterior truss. Instead, the astronauts, who were making their third spacewalk in eight days, were back inside the space station in 5.5 hours.

The purpose of the outings was to prepare berthing slips for spaceships being developed by Boeing and Space Exploration Technol-

ogies, or SpaceX.

Wilmore and Virts floated outside the Quest airlock shortly after 7 am EST/1200 GMT, a NASA Television broadcast showed. Their job was to install more than 400 feet (122 metres) of cables, a pair of antennas and reflectors that the new spaceships will use to navigate toward and dock with the station, a \$100 billion laboratory that flies about 260 miles (418 km) above Earth.

After the spacewalk, Virts reported that a small amount of water had seeped into his helmet, a situation that also occurred after a spacewalk last week.

“It’s no issue to crew safety,” mission commentator Daniel Huot said.

In July 2013, Italian astronaut Luca Parmitano nearly drowned when water began leaking into his helmet. NASA immediately aborted the spacewalk

and suspended spacewalks while engineers figured out the cause of the problem. The incident with the suit Virts was wearing is unrelated, NASA said.

Sunday’s outing followed two spacewalks last week to rig power and data cables for a pair of docking port adapters that are due to arrive later this year. One adapter will be installed at the berthing slip once used by NASA’s space shuttles, which were retired in 2011. The second docking system will be located at an adjacent hatch on the Harmony connecting node.

Since the shuttles’ retirement, the United States has been dependent on Russia to fly crew to and from the station, a joint project of 15 nations.

NASA aims to break Russia’s monopoly before the end of 2017 by buying rides from Boeing and SpaceX.—Reuters

## Nokia, NTT DoCoMo prepare for 5G ahead of Tokyo Olympics launch

BARCELONA, 2 March — Japan’s NTT DoCoMo and Finland’s Nokia said on Monday they are working together to develop networks running at high frequencies for use in the 5G wireless era — technology expected to be showcased at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

DoCoMo, Japan’s

gigahertz spectrum band.

By contrast, current 4G network specifications promise download speeds of up to 300 megabits per second. Although practical commercial speeds are typically far lower than that, 4G has fuelled strong demand for watching TV and video on phones.

They plan an outdoor



**The Nokia company logo is pictured at its headquarters in Espoo on 29 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS**

largest mobile operator, and Nokia, the world’s third biggest telecom equipment maker, said they will be demonstrating their early technical progress on 5G radio equipment at the Mobile World Congress show here this week.

The companies said they have achieved super-fast data transmission speeds of higher than 2 gigabits per second in a joint indoor trial using Nokia Networks’ radio technology operating in the 70

70 GHz trial later this year.

This band of airwaves is on a range of spectrum from 10 to 100 gigahertz that the International Telecommunications Union is expected to free up by 2019 for use in fifth generation mobile networks.

“This development underscores (DoCoMo’s) readiness to deliver a state-of-the-art 5G network in 2020 and beyond,” the companies said in a joint statement.

Reuters

## Tibet’s mobile phone users reach nearly 3 mln

LHASA, 2 March — The number of mobile phone users in southwest China’s Tibet Autonomous Region has reached nearly 3 million, according to the latest data.

By the end of 2014, Tibet had 2.92 million registered mobile phone users, accounting for nearly 95 percent of the total population of the region, a spokesman with the regional communications administration told *Xinhua* on Saturday.

The number of landline

subscribers reached 359,000, according to the data, which was released by the administration. The plateau region is known as “the roof of the world” due to its average altitude of over 4,000 metres, and building telecommunications infrastructure there is difficult and costly.

Tibet launched mobile phone services in 1993, with only one base station set up in Lhasa. More than ten years ago, mobile phones in Tibet were still considered a

status symbol. Now mobile phones have become indispensable for Tashi Tsering, a 19-year-old Tibetan man who works in Ngari Prefecture. He uses his phone to contact friends, spot job vacancies and read the news.

“It connects me with a larger world and makes life more convenient,” he said.

The local technology and information department and technology companies have developed an input method, operating system

and web browser in the Tibetan language to help more people use mobile phones.

Currently, Tibet has about 2.17 million Internet users. The spread of mobile phones and Internet use has shortened the distance between Tibet and the outside world, promoted the region’s economy and broadened horizons for Tibetans, said He Gang, an associate researcher with the Tibet Autonomous Regional Academy of Social Sciences.—*Xinhua*

## Samsung unveils sleek new Galaxy phones to battle Apple

SEOUL / BARCELONA, 2 March — South Korea’s Samsung Electronics Co Ltd unveiled its latest Galaxy S smartphones, featuring a slim body made from aircraft-grade metal, in a bid to reclaim the throne of undisputed global smartphone leader from Apple Inc.

Designed from scratch in an operation dubbed “Project Zero”, the Galaxy S6 and its curved-edged variant are critical for Samsung’s plans to reverse plunging smartphone revenues that led to its first annual earnings fall in three years in 2014.

A warm initial reception sent Samsung shares rising as much as 3.9 percent on Monday to their highest in nearly nine months. Some technology publica-

tions described the phones as Samsung’s best-looking to date after its previous flagship device, the Galaxy S5, failed to impress.

By 0223 GMT, the shares were up 3.4 percent, outperforming a 0.2 percent rise for the broader market.

“We listen to our customers and we learn from our missteps,” JK Shin, Samsung’s mobile chief, told a packed hall in Barcelona ahead of the annual Mobile World Congress trade show, where the Galaxy S6 and the Galaxy S6 edge were unveiled on Sunday.

By some estimates, arch-rival Apple surpassed Samsung as the world’s top smartphone maker in the fourth quarter, with record sales of the big-screen iPho-



**Samsung’s President and Chief Executive JK Shin walks on stage during the presentation of the Galaxy S6 smartphone at the Samsung Galaxy Unpacked event before the Mobile World Congress in Barcelona on 1 March, 2015.—REUTERS**

hone 6 and 6 Plus.

Samsung begins its fight-back on 10 April when the revamped Galaxy phones go on sale in 20 countries in one of the most important product launches

in the company’s history.

Stand-out features include a casing made from light-weight metal used in airplanes, a step up from the plastic that disappointed many critics of the S5, and

Corning Inc’s Gorilla Glass on both front and back.

In addition to camera and screen upgrades, Samsung stripped out many of its unpopular in-house apps that infuriated users by gobbling up memory. The new phones will be powered by Samsung’s own 64-bit, 14-nanometer Exynos processors, a departure from its previous reliance on Qualcomm Inc’s chips.

In another departure, batteries in the new phones cannot be replaced. To compensate, the devices are the first from Samsung to support wireless charging without a dedicated accessory and can also get four hours of power with a 10-minute charge by cord.

Samsung is also touting the Galaxy S6’s compatibil-

ity with a new mobile payments system it is preparing to launch in the United States and South Korea in the second half of this year.

The system, in partnership with major US banks and credit card companies including Visa and MasterCard, will allow users to make mobile payments through magnetic strip-card readers without an external accessory needed for other models.

The rival Apple Pay system, launched in the United States in September and rapidly winning retailer support, requires merchants to install near-field card readers, limiting its reach as contactless credit cards have been slow to take off there.

Reuters

## Bangladesh says arrests main suspect in US blogger's killing

DHAKA, 2 March — Bangladesh's anti-terrorism unit said it had arrested on Monday the main suspect in the killing of a US blogger who was hacked to death in Dhaka last week in the latest attack on critics of religious extremism in the Muslim-majority nation.

Forces from the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) arrested Farabi Shafiur Rahman, who was previously jailed for his ties to the extremist Hizbut Tahrir Islamist group, at a bus stop in Dhaka, a RAB spokesman told reporters.

The spokesman said Farabi had confessed to

threatening to kill blogger Avijit Roy. Farabi was still being interrogated.

Roy, an engineer of Bangladeshi origin, was killed by machete-wielding assailants on Thursday while returning from a book fair. His wife and fellow blogger Rafida Ahmed suffered head injuries and lost a finger. She remains in hospital.

The police said Farabi was arrested in 2013 for social media comments that supported the murder of another blogger, Ahmed Rajib Haider, but he was later released on bail. Last year, Farabi posted on Facebook: "It's a holy duty

of Bangalee Muslims to kill Avijit", the police added.

Roy's killing comes amid a crackdown on hard-line Islamist groups, which have increased activities in recent years in the South Asian nation. In 2013, religious militants targeted several secular bloggers who had demanded capital punishment for Islamist leaders convicted of war crimes during Bangladesh's war for independence. Media group Reporters Without Borders rated Bangladesh 146<sup>th</sup> among 180 countries in a ranking of press freedom last year.

Reuters

## China to compile polylingual dictionary on Buddhist manuscripts

BEIJING, 2 March — Chinese scholars will start to compile a four-language dictionary this year on palm-leaf manuscripts of Buddhist sutras and valuable ancient records, a Tibetan scholar and national political advisor told *Xinhua* on Monday. To push forward research and study on palm-leaf manuscripts, a Sanskrit-Tibetan-Chinese-English dictionary was needed, said Drongbu Tseringdorje, a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. Palm-leaf manuscripts are mostly written in Sanskrit, and they feature ancient records of culture, philosophy, history and the sciences in South and Central Asia. Tibet has numerous, important palm-leaf manuscripts. A central government survey on palm-leaf manuscripts in the region began in 2006, confirming nearly 60,000 pages dating back over 1,000 years.

Researchers are preparing for the second round of the survey, according to Drongbu Tseringdorje, who is also head of China's first and only research institute specializing in palm-leaf manuscripts. As for the dictionary, Drongbu Tseringdorje said research institutes and universities in Beijing will be contacted after this year's national legislative session.—*Xinhua*

## Up to 380,000 Nagano Pref homes blacked out after lines failure

NAGOYA, 2 March — Up to 380,000 homes in central Japan's Nagano Prefecture lost power after a major outage early on Monday morning, according to operator Chubu Electric Power Co.

The blackout began around 5:35 am and power was fully restored by just after 10 am, the utility said.

The outage affected the northern, central and eastern parts of the prefecture, including the prefectural capital city of Nagano.

Chubu Electric said it has traced the cause of the blackout to faulty transmission lines between substations in the cities of Shiojiri and Ueda, and is investigating further.

There have been no re-

ports of injuries caused by the blackout. Three road accidents were reported before 9:50 am.

Services on a section of the Nagano Shinkansen Line were stopped for around three and a half hours, operator East Japan Railway Co said.

According to JR East, shinkansen services between Nagano and Karuizawa stations were suspended from the first service at 6:03 am, and restarted at around 9:40 am. A total of 15 scheduled services were cancelled, affecting about 6,600 passengers. Some local train services were also cancelled or delayed.

With the blackout paralyzing a range of infrastructure and facilities, the prefec-

tural government dispatched all members of its crisis management task force from around 8 am to respond to reports and ascertain the scale of the outage.

After some 2,415 traffic lights stopped working at 5:55 am, Nagano prefectural police officers were sent to power the lights with generators or direct traffic with hand signals.

As of 11 am, 12 public schools in the prefecture had cancelled classes for the day, and 110 more had shortened classes.

In the city of Suzaka, Nagano Prefectural Suzaka Hospital deferred its Monday morning outpatient appointments after it became unable to access electronic medical records.

Elsewhere in the city, a convenience store owner said people flocked to the store to buy breakfast foods and batteries. "We couldn't use the cash registers, so we had a hard time adding up the transactions with calculators," the owner said.

A 24-hour supermarket in Nagano opted to temporarily close.

Sugadaira Kogen snow resort in Ueda opened around one hour and a half later than usual after its chair lifts stopped working, the resort's operators said. Guests at nearby inns kept warm with blankets in lieu of heaters. Chubu Electric released a statement on Monday apologizing for the disturbance caused by the outage.—*Kyodo News*

## S Korea celebrates 96<sup>th</sup> anniversary of independence movement



Girls in Seoul wave South Korean flags in the capital on 1 March, 2015, during a government ceremony to commemorate the 96<sup>th</sup> anniversary of an independence movement against Japanese colonial rule. — KYODO NEWS

## Takarazuka Music School holds graduation ceremony



Graduates pose for group photos after a graduation ceremony on 2 March, 2015, at Takarazuka Music School, a training school in Takarazuka, Hyogo Prefecture in western Japan for the Japanese all-woman Takarazuka Revue. The 40 graduates, who passed the highly competitive entrance exam with 1 successful applicant in about every 22, will debut on stage in April. — KYODO NEWS

## N Korea to lift Ebola travel restrictions: tour agency

BEIJING, 2 March — North Korea is set to reopen its border for tourism after implementing a strict quarantine against Ebola for more than four months, a travel agency said on Monday.

"Pyongyang (authorities) have told us to expect confirmation that tourism will reopen soon," said Beijing-based Koryo Tours.

"The National Tourism Administration in Pyongyang contacted us this morning to let us know that there is some movement in the border policy, and we should expect con-

firmation later today," said the firm, which has been specializing in tours to North Korea for more than two decades.

Since October, North Korea has been quarantining all foreigners arriving in the country for 21 days, regardless of their status and point of origin, although no Ebola cases have been confirmed in Asia.

North Korea's official media have suggested that the outbreak of the virus began as a biological weapon created by the United States.

It is still unclear when exactly North Korea will

lift travel restrictions.

Agencies organizing tours to North Korea said last week that authorities there told them foreign tourists will not be allowed to run in the streets of its capital for an annual marathon in April, as part of measures against the virus.

In 2014, North Korea for the first time invited foreign tourists to compete in the marathon, which has been held every year in mid-April on the occasion of the birth anniversary of North Korea's founder Kim Il Sung.

*Kyodo News*

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- TEAK HANDSAWN & CONVERSION (278)TONS  
HARD WOOD LOGS  
- PADAUK / THIN WIN / HTAUK KYANT / HNAW / PYINKADO / KANYIN / THIT YAR/ INGYIN / THINGAN / SAGAWA ABOUT (10000) TONS  
- HARDWOOD HANDSAWN (PADAUK)/(TAMALAN) ABOUT (1900)TONS
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MINISTRY OF ENERGY  
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE  
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER )  
(4/2015)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-166(14-15)	Maintenance / Requirement for Pipeline Centre (PLC) Daw Nyein	US\$
(2)	IFB-167(14-15)	Spares for National Torque Converter ( 21 ) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-168(14-15)	Electrical Spares (14)Items for D <sub>3</sub> T <sub>2</sub> Rigs	US\$
(4)	IFB-169(14-15)	5" Drill Pipe (1000) M	US\$
(5)	IFB-170(14-15)	Maintenance / Requirement for Ywama Gas Distribution Station (GDS)	US\$
(6)	DMP/L-042(14-15)	UPS with Stabilizer (Online System, 10KW) & Auto Start Electric Generator (20 KVA)	Ks
(7)	DMP/L-043(14-15)	Echosounder (1) Lot	Ks
(8)	DMP/L-044(14-15)	Spares for F 1600 Rig Pump (5) Items	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 31-3-2015, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise  
Ph . +95 67 - 411097 /411206

## Eldest of three teen suspects admits to killing Kawasaki boy



People visit the spot on a riverbank in Kawasaki, near Tokyo where the body of Ryota Uemura, a 13-year-old boy, was found the previous month. Many flowers and basketballs have been left there as condolence offerings. The eldest of three male teenagers arrested in connection with the death of Uemura has admitted to killing the boy with a box-cutter, investigative sources said the same day. —KYODO NEWS

YOKOHAMA, 2 March — The eldest of three male teenagers arrested in connection with the death of a 13-year-old boy last month in Kawasaki, near Tokyo, has admitted to killing the boy with a box-cutter, in-

vestigative sources said on Monday.

The 18-year-old suspect also told police that he wanted to punish the victim, Ryota Uemura, for telling about a violent assault he had made on the

boy earlier, the sources said.

The police believe the 18-year-old played the main role in the killing as the other two suspects, both 17 years old, had earlier told the police that it was he who had assaulted Uemura. The names of all three suspects are being withheld as they are minors.

The incident took place after friends of Uemura, a first-year junior high school student, blamed the 18-year-old suspect for attacking Uemura in mid-January and made him apologize. The police believe the prime suspect got angry at Uemura for naming him to his friends.

The three teenagers were arrested on Friday on suspicion of stabbing Uemura to death on the bank of the Tama River at around 2 am on 20 February.—Kyodo News

## Three confirmed dead in E China colliery gas outburst

NANCHANG, 2 March — Three miners were confirmed dead after a coal and gas outburst at a colliery in east China's Jiangxi Province trapped four miners underground, local authorities said on Monday. The rescuers have found the bodies of three miners, the search continues for the other miner trapped in Yongshan coal mine in Leping City, according to the city's mining bureau. Over 800 tonnes of coal has blocked the access shaft. The incident occurred at around 11:57 am on Saturday. The investigation into the incident continues.

Xinhua

## 5.5-magnitude quake injures 32 in SW China

KUNMING, 2 March — Thirty-two people have been injured after a 5.5 magnitude earthquake struck southwest China's Yunnan Province on Sunday afternoon, according to local authorities.

As of 8 am of Monday, the tremor that struck Cangyuan County at 6:24 pm had affected more than 67,000 residents in the counties of Cangyuan and Gengma in Lincang City, displacing nearly 12,400, according to a statement from the city's civil affairs bureau.

Seven of the injured were severely hurt.

In addition, over 220 homes were razed and 15,800 were seriously damaged in the two counties, it said.

A total of 1,000 tents,



2,000 quilts and 1,000 tarpaulins have been sent to the regions, another 1,000 tents, 500 tarpaulins and 2,000 fold-out will follow.

Cangyuan is a sparse-

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**WEATHER REPORT**

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2015:** Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Photo taken on 1 March, 2015 with a cellphone shows a quake-damaged house of the local government at Mengding Township of Gengma Dai and Wa Autonomous County in Lincang City, southwest China's Yunnan Province. A 5.5 magnitude earthquake jolted Cangyuan, an autonomous county where many of China's Wa ethnic group live, at 6:24 pm on Sunday. The number of casualties was unknown as of 7 pm. —XINHUA

earthquake hit Yunnan's Ludian County on 3 August, 2014, claiming more than 600 lives and destroying over 80,000 homes.

Xinhua

## Canadian serial sex offender jailed in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 2 March — A 71-year-old Canadian convicted and later cleared of more than a dozen sex offence charges in his home country has now been jailed in Nepal for sexually abusing a 15-year-old disabled orphan, officials said on Monday.

Ernest Macintosh, a businessman from Nova Scotia, Canada, has been sentenced for seven years in prison by a Nepalese court for repeated sexual assaults against the boy whom he met at an orphanage in Kathmandu last year.

"Posing as a social worker, Macintosh befriended the boy who lost his right arm to a burn injury in his childhood. He promised the boy a prosthetic arm, bought him clothes, took him to restaurants and then to his hotel room where he engaged in unnatural sex with the boy several times," Police Inspector Radha Prasad Parajuli, who investigated the case, told Kyodo News.

Macintosh, who came to Nepal in August, was arrested in December following the boy's complaint.

The Lalitpur District Court that handed him the prison sentence also ordered him to pay \$10,000 in compensation to the boy, said Deputy Superintendent of Police Pawan Giri, who is police spokesman for the district that neighbours Kathmandu.

Canadian media reports say Macintosh had a decades-long history of sexual offences.

Kyodo News

## I'll probably be single even at 30: Taylor Swift



Young Taylor Swift is not sure if she will ever have a long-term relationship as the pop star feels celebrity status makes it difficult for her to find a boyfriend.—PTI

LONDON, 2 March — Young Taylor Swift is not sure if she will ever have a long-term relationship as the pop star feels celebrity status makes it difficult for her to find a boyfriend. The 25-year-old 'Blank Space' hitmaker has previously dated celebrities like Harry Styles, Jake Gyllenhaal and John Mayer, reported the *Daily Telegraph*.

When asked where she'd be in five years time, she said: "I'll be 30. I'll probably still be single, let's be honest. No one's going to sign up for this and everything that goes with it. Like, 'Hi, nice to meet you, want a date? Do you love camera flashes? I hope you do!'"

"...I don't know what's going to happen if I'm ever content in a relationship — no idea how that's going to work. I don't even know if that's possible with the life I have."

The prospect of being single for another five years, however, does not bother the singer, who has admitted she would rather have fun and be adventurous.—PTI

## Will Smith's 'Focus' opens with \$19.1 million to win US box office



Cast member Will Smith poses at the premiere of "Focus" at the TCL Chinese theatre in Hollywood, California on 24 Feb, 2015. The movie opens in the US on 27 Feb.—REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 2 March — Will Smith's new action drama "Focus" booted the kinky sex tale "Fifty Shades of Grey" for its perch atop US and Canadian weekend box office charts, racking up \$19.1 million (12.3 million pounds) in ticket sales. Smith, in his first leading role since 2013's "After Earth," plays a seasoned con artist who meets up with an aspiring con artist, played by Margot Robbie, in the romance-caper film hybrid. "Kingsman: The Secret Service", an adaptation of a popular comic series which stars Samuel L Jackson and Colin Firth about a spy agency's training program and a global threat by a tech genius, also outpaced "Grey" to claim second place with \$11.8 million. Third place on a weekend that saw business hampered by rough winter weather in the south and midwest again went to the family-friendly "The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water", based on the popular television show about a talking animat-ed sponge. It sold \$11.2 million in tickets.—Reuters

## Pakistani singer Adnan Sami applies for Indian citizenship



Pakistani singer Adnan Sami has applied for Indian citizenship for a second time despite an earlier plea of his having been rejected by the Centre.—PTI

NEW DELHI, 2 March — Pakistani singer Adnan Sami has applied for Indian citizenship for a second time despite an earlier plea of his having been rejected by the Centre.

The 43-year-old singer — whose earlier request was rejected some two years back — has made his application to the Foreigners' Division of the Home Ministry. "His application is under consideration," official sources said.

Last month, Home Ministry had asked Law Ministry as to whether Sami can be granted Indian citizenship. But Law Ministry refused to entertain the request, saying that the power of granting Indian citizenship lies with the Home Ministry under the Citizenship Act.

The Law Ministry, however, said that it can help Home Ministry with the interpretation of any provision of the Citizenship Act to enable it to decide the case.

PTI

## I love my engagement ring more than anything else: Nikki Reed

LOS ANGELES, 2 March — 'Twilight' actress Nikki Reed, who got engaged to 'The Vampire Diaries' star Ian Somerhalder last month, says her ring is her most prized possession.

Reed, 26, and Somerhalder, 36, dated for six months before getting engaged, reported *Us* magazine. "Can't tell you anything about it other than I love it more than anything



'Twilight' actress Nikki Reed, who got engaged to 'The Vampire Diaries' star Ian Somerhalder last month, says her ring is her most prized possession.—PTI

in the world!" Reed said when asked about the ring.

She was earlier married to singer Paul McDonald before separating in 2014. Their divorce got finalised two months back. Somerhalder previously dated his 'The Vampire Diaries' co-star Nina Dobrev for three years before splitting in 2013.—PTI

## Brit awards shake up British album chart, boost Sam Smith



Sam Smith receives the award for British Breakthrough Act at the BRIT music awards at the O2 Arena in Greenwich, London, on 25 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

LONDON, 2 March — Fallout from the Brit awards shook up the music

favour of English singer/songwriter Sam Smith, data from the Official Charts company showed.

Smith won the British BreakThrough Act award at last week's ceremony, helping lift sales of his album "In the Lonely Hour" to number one from number two.

By contrast, "Smoke & Mirrors," by Imagine Dragons, last week's number one, fell to twelfth place.

British singer Ed Sheeran, winner of British Male Solo Artist, grabbed the number two spot with "X", while British hard rock group Royal Blood, winners of the British

Group award, bagged the third slot, up 15, with their self-titled album.

In the singles chart there was no change from last week.

Ellie Goulding topped the chart for a fourth week, the Official Charts Company said, with her track "Love Me Like You Do," a song which appears in the "Fifty Shades of Grey" movie.

Hozier's "Take Me To Church" held steady in second, and Mark Ronson's "Uptown Funk" featuring Bruno Mars, remained in third place.

Reuters

## Ariana Grande bags nominations at Radio Disney Music Awards

LOS ANGELES, 2 March — Ariana Grande, One Direction, Taylor Swift, Meghan Trainor, and Fifth Harmony, are among the top nominees at the Radio Disney Music Awards.

Grande is up for four nominations, namely Best Female Artist, Song of The

Year for 'Problem' feat Iggy Azalea, Most Talked About Artist, and Artist With The Best Style, reported *Ace Showbiz*.

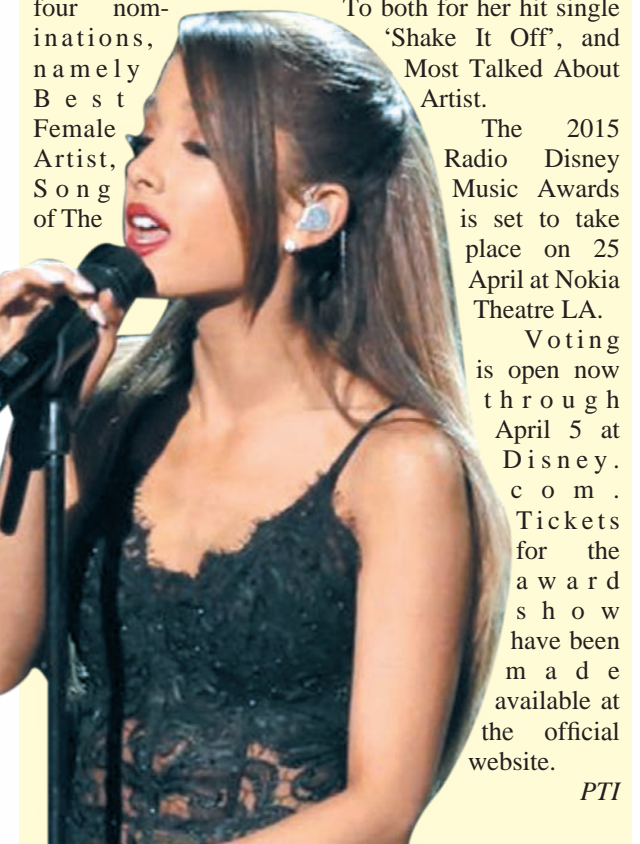
Swift also scored four nominations; Best Female Artist, Song of The Year and Best Song To Dance To both for her hit single 'Shake It Off', and Most Talked About Artist.

The 2015 Radio Disney Music Awards is set to take place on 25 April at Nokia Theatre LA.

Voting is open now through April 5 at [Disney.com](http://Disney.com).

Tickets for the award show have been made available at the official website.

PTI



GENERAL

## English pair Poulter and Casey share lead at Honda Classic

PALM BEACH GARDENS, 2 March — Britain's Ian Poulter and Paul Casey shared the lead at the weather-delayed Honda Classic, both at seven-under at the close of play on Sunday.

After Saturday's play was wiped out by rain there was no chance of completing the fourth round on Sunday and players will return on Monday for the conclusion.

Poulter's third-round 66 propelled him into the 54-hole lead, with a three-stroke advantage, but he slipped in fourth-round play with a double bogey on the par-three fifth and a bogey on the sixth.

But the Englishman restored his spirits with a birdie on the par-three seventh before darkness ended play.

"I was tiring and made a couple of really bad swings on five and six," said Poulter.



**Ian Poulter tees off on the 17<sup>th</sup> hole during the third round of the Honda Classic at PGA National GC Champion Course.—REUTERS**

"But that kind of angered me inside enough to spark a little bit of energy there to hit a good shot on seven.

"I'm pretty pleased with the golf I've played throughout the whole of today. I haven't really made many mistakes, at all. I've put it in position an awful lot, which is encouraging right now, and if I do that on Monday, then I'm going to be in a good position," he said.

Casey reveled in the dusk at PGA National, reaching the turn at four-under, bogey-free, to pull level with his compatriot.

"Sleeping on this sort of situation, is going to be difficult for everybody, it just breaks up momentum," said Casey.

"Some guys will carry it through tomorrow. Others won't and that's very difficult to predict. You just

hope you wake up tomorrow and you feel like you've got the same kind of golf swing and the putts are going in the hole. I hope the golfing gods are nice to us." American Patrick Reed, who shot an even-par 70 in his third round, was in third place, a stroke behind the leading pair.

Overnight leader Padraig Harrington fell to four strokes off the lead after a third-round 71 was undone by a bogey on the fourth and a double bogey on the sixth, his penultimate hole of the day where he got in trouble in the rough. Five players were three shots off the lead including Phil Mickelson, who had a third-round 69 and was one-under through the first eight holes of his fourth round.

World number one Rory McIlroy had missed the cut after shooting seven-over from his first two rounds.

Reuters

## Nadal wins first title of year in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, 2 March — Rafael Nadal won his first title of the year with a 6-4, 6-1 victory over Juan Monaco in a rain-interrupted Argentine Open final on Sunday.

Nadal, showing marked progress in his comeback from injury and other woes last year, notched his 65<sup>th</sup> career title and equalled Guillermo Vilas's 46 on clay with the Argentine great watching from the stands.

"I had the hope of winning here and I prepared very well for this so it's objective achieved,"

the Spaniard, upset in the Rio Open semi-finals a week ago, told a courtside interviewer.

The world number four, nine-times French Open champion, got the first break in the seventh game after a finely weighted chip that landed well out of Monaco's reach put him 30-15 up and took it when the Argentine netted a service return.

Nadal wrapped up the rain-interrupted set in 45 minutes. It had stood at 1-1 after 14 minutes when the players had to come off court for nearly an hour before play could resume.

He was too good for the



**Spain's Rafael Nadal plays a shot during his final tennis match against Argentina's Juan Monaco at the ATP Argentina Open in Buenos Aires, on 1 March, 2015.—REUTERS**

2007 tournament winner and former world number 10, who is also looking to regain his best form after

a lean spell, breaking serve three more times for a comfortable victory in one hour and 26 minutes.—Reuters

## Sullivan rises from the pack to grab Joburg Open win



**Andy Sullivan of England tees off on the 13<sup>th</sup> hole during the final round of the Dubai Desert Classic on 1 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS**

JOHANNESBURG, 2 March — A blistering front nine laid the platform for Briton Andy Sullivan to claim a second European Tour win at the Joburg Open on Sunday.

Sullivan, who has now qualified for the Open

Championship at St Andrews in July, sunk five birdies on his outward nine.

Two more birdies coming home, coupled with a bogey, gave him a final round score of 66 and a total of 270 to win at the Royal Johannesburg and Kensington Club.

That was two shots better than compatriots Anthony Wall and David Howell, who both also qualify for The Open, Irishman Kevin Phelan and home players Jaco van Zyl and Wallie Coetsee, who all finished on 272.

The 28-year-old Sullivan turned professional in 2010 but has had to wait until this year to win on the European Tour having also claimed the South African Open Championship in January when he defeated Charl Schwartzel in a playoff.

There was no need for extra holes on Sunday though as Sullivan, who started the day three shots behind overnight leader Coetsee, was quick out the blocks and finished his round with a massive putt for birdie on

the 18<sup>th</sup>.

"It's unbelievable, I never imagined it would happen again so quickly," Sullivan said at the presentation ceremony.

"Coming down the stretch me and my caddie were loving life again and enjoying it. It seems to be a theme, enjoying my golf and getting the right results at the moment."

Sullivan, who won a trip into space for a hole-in-one during the KLM Open last year, admitted he has never played better. "I think I am already there (in space) to be honest with you," he said.

"I'm on the crest of a wave at the moment and I don't want it to end. I just want it to keep going."

Reuters

## mitv Myanmar International

(3-3-2015 07:00 am~ 4-3-2015 07:00 am) MST

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(3-3-2015, Tuesday)

- |                                   |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>6:00 am</b>                    | <b>8:30 am</b>              |
| • Mono Classical Songs            | • TV Drama Series           |
| <b>6:20 am</b>                    | <b>9:10 am</b>              |
| • TV Drama Series                 | • Musical Programme         |
| <b>6:45 am</b>                    | <b>9:25 am</b>              |
| • TV Drama Series                 | • Teleplay                  |
| <b>7:10 am</b>                    | <b>10:10 am</b>             |
| • Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than | • ASEAN China Cultural Show |
| <b>7:25 am</b>                    | <b>10:30 am</b>             |
| • Myanmar Series                  | • Myanmar Video             |

## MRTV News Channel in Brief

(3-3-2015, Tuesday)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>6:00 am</b>                               | <b>2:30 pm</b>                                   |
| • Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw        | • Head Line News                                 |
| <b>6:20 am</b>                               | <b>3:00 pm</b>                                   |
| • Physical Exercise                          | • News/ International News                       |
| <b>7:00 am</b>                               | <b>4:20 pm</b>                                   |
| • News/ Weather Report                       | • 2015 University Entrance Examination (English) |
| <b>7:35 am</b>                               | <b>5:00 pm</b>                                   |
| • Socio Economic Scenes                      | • News/Weather Report                            |
| <b>8:35 am</b>                               | <b>6:45 pm</b>                                   |
| • Documentary                                | • One Vision Part-2 (B) (Part-B)                 |
| <b>9:35 am</b>                               | <b>7:00 pm</b>                                   |
| • MRTV's Youth Programme                     | • News   |
| <b>10:35 am</b>                              | <b>7:35 pm</b>                                   |
| • Science and Technology Programme           | • People's Talks                                 |
| <b>11:30 am</b>                              | <b>8:00 pm</b>                                   |
| • Head Line News                             | • News / International News / Weather Report     |
| <b>12:00 noon</b>                            | <b>9:00 pm</b>                                   |
| • News / International News / Weather Report | • News / International News / Weather Report     |
| <b>12:35 pm</b>                              | • TV Drama Series                                |
| <b>1:25 pm</b>                               | • Sing & Enjoy                                   |

# Mighty Terry inspires Chelsea to League Cup glory

LONDON, 2 March — John Terry embellished his status to Chelsea fans as “captain, leader, legend” by scoring the goal that set his side on the way to a 2-0 win over Tottenham Hotspur in the Capital One League Cup final at a rain-sodden Wembley on Sunday.

The former England captain was once again a quite inspirational presence for the club that adores him as he defended like a lion and scored a 45<sup>th</sup>-minute goal to ease Chelsea nerves before Kyle Walker’s deflected own goal from a Diego Costa shot settled the final in the 56<sup>th</sup> minute. It meant an ecstatic Terry lifting the League Cup 10 years since he first did so under Jose Mourinho’s watch — and just as in the last reign of ‘The Special One’, he will be hopeful that it signals an era of supremacy for the west London club.

“That’s the first one, it’s massive. It meant an awful lot to us (to win the League Cup) in 2004-05 in Jose’s first year here,” Terry



Chelsea’s John Terry celebrates winning the Capital One Cup Final at Wembley Stadium on 1 March, 2015.—REUTERS

told Sky Sports.

“That could be the start of something very good but we have to kick on and we have the league to focus on, but it’s a great win today.”

Victory indeed capped a perfect day for Chelsea, which may effectively have seen them claim

two trophies, after their nearest Premier League title challengers Manchester City lost at Liverpool.

They are now five points clear with a game in hand and Mourinho, fresh from ending his personal drought of not having won any trophy for three years, still has a treble in his lofty sights

with the Champions League also on the agenda.

“The pressure was there before the game, obviously, but that’s what cup finals do to you,” Terry said.

“I thought we played very well, handled the game very well and delighted with the win.

“I think it was fairly even first half, second half I thought we controlled it a little bit better and deserved winners.”

There could be no argument about Chelsea’s superiority against a side who thrashed them on New Year’s Day even though Spurs had the better of a poor first half in which the one moment of quality was Christian Eriksen’s free kick for Spurs that rattled Petr Cech’s bar.

Most interest seemed to stem from Costa’s desire to enjoy a war with everything that moved until Branislav Ivanovic was awarded a free kick just before halftime, skillfully controlling Terry’s aimless hoik towards the touchline

and drawing the foul from Nacer Chadli.

From Willian’s free kick, chaos reigned as Danny Rose failed to clear, the ball deflected to Terry and his shot struck Eric Dier to leave Hugo Lloris helpless.

As the rain careered down after the break, Cesc Fabregas found Costa on the left edge of the box and his shot-cum-cross took a cruel deflection off Walker, beating hapless Spurs keeper Lloris on his near post.

Tottenham’s efforts to conjure a response were fairly soggy, with Eden Hazard and Fabregas coming closest to adding to the lead, and even when they did threaten, the immaculate Terry made a superb intervention to block Harry Kane.

Mourinho’s sentimental side then shone through as he brought Didier Drogba on in the 93<sup>rd</sup> minute, reuniting the three survivors of the 2005 triumph, Drogba, Terry and Cech.

Reuters

## Nishikori ranked 4<sup>th</sup>, equaling highest ever by Japanese



Kei Nishikori

NEW YORK, 2 March — Kei Nishikori rose to No 4 in the ATP world rankings on Monday, tying Kimiko Date-Krumm as the highest-ranked Japanese player ever.

“Just saw the new rankings,” Nishikori said through his Twitter account. “Very proud of another step.”

Nishikori’s ranking means that he will be seeded fourth or higher at future tournaments, and will not have to face the top three — No 1 Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal — before the semifinals, increasing his chances of winning a Grand Slam or a Masters title.

Nishikori’s next scheduled tournament is the BNP Paribas Open in Indian Wells, California, the first of nine Masters events on the ATP calendar.

“You move up, you move down. What’s important is where you are at the end of the year,” Nishikori said. “I hope I can produce some big results.”—Kyodo News

# Brilliant Coutinho lifts Liverpool to victory over City



Liverpool’s Philippe Coutinho celebrates after scoring the second goal for his side against Manchester City during Barclays Premier League on 1 March, 2015. — REUTERS

LONDON, 2 March — Liverpool’s Philippe Coutinho produced a moment of Brazilian magic to dent Manchester City’s Premier League title aspirations in a 2-1 home win on Sunday as Arsenal moved up to third with a 2-0 victory against Everton.

Coutinho found the corner with a stunning curling effort to extend Liverpool’s unbeaten run to 11 league games after Henderson’s excellent first-half strike had been cancelled out by City’s Edin Dzeko.

It was a serious blow to City manager Manuel Pellegrini and his second-placed team’s hopes of retaining their title as they missed the chance to close the five-point gap on leaders Chelsea, who play Tottenham Hotspur in the League Cup final later on Sunday.

Arsenal got over Wednesday’s 3-1 home defeat by AS Monaco in the Champions League when France striker Olivier Giroud, who missed a glut of chances in that loss, swept in a corner after 39 minutes in a tight game against Everton at the Emirates Stadium.

Substitute Tomas Rosicky added a late second with a long-range strike to make sure of the win for the north London side.

Victory meant Arsene Wenger’s team leapfrogged Manchester United in the table and moved to 51 points, four behind second-placed City. Liverpool nudged ahead of Southampton into fifth, a further three points adrift.

Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers had expressed concerns over the fitness of his team ahead of City’s visit after they had just

two days to recover from a penalty shootout loss at Besiktas in a Europa League last-32 tie on Thursday. Yet they showed no ill-effects from that match when Henderson, who passed a late fitness test, bent an excellent effort from 20 metres into the top corner to give the hosts the lead after 11 minutes, shortly after Adam Lallana had a goal ruled out for offside.

City equalised when Dzeko slotted the ball past Simon Mignolet after Sergio Aguero and David Silva had combined well to create the chance. Lallana saw another goal chalked off nine minutes after the interval when he was again flagged for offside after he tapped in Martin Skrtel’s headed knock-down from close range. As both teams appeared to be tiring after an open and attacking match, Brazil’s

Coutinho found the breakthrough with a brilliant goal, curling the ball beyond a despairing dive from Joe Hart with 15 minutes remaining.

“I have to take my hat off to the players,” Rodgers told Sky Sports. “To get back at half four in the early hours of Friday morning — by the time they got to bed it was six, and they had to sleep all of Friday. “We then did some light work yesterday, but to come out and play like they did — they were relentless.”

For City, who last week had gained two points on Chelsea as the leaders drew, it was another step backwards and a further disappointment after Tuesday’s 2-1 Champions League home defeat against Barcelona.

Arsenal had to contend with their own misery in Europe but they set about 14<sup>th</sup>-placed Everton in the mood to atone for their mistakes.

Many had questioned Giroud’s finishing after a dismal display against Monaco but the Frenchman had no problems putting 14<sup>th</sup>-placed Everton to the sword.

The visitors, who at times looked jaded after their 3-1 home win against Young Boys in the Europa League on Thursday, threatened occasionally through Belgian striker Romelu Lukaku but Rosicky’s goal quelled their hopes of a late equaliser.

“You could see we suffered on Wednesday night against Monaco and that was still in our mind but we were patient, that got us a good chance and we got a good win today,” Wenger told the BBC.

Reuters

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