

New bridges improve transport links in coastal Rakhine State

SITTAWAY, 7 March— Two new bridges opened to traffic on Saturday in coastal Rakhine State, a gateway to neighbouring countries via the Indian Ocean, as part of ongoing improvements to regional transport infrastructure.

Vice President U Nyan Tun officially opened the 1,216-foot Sun Ye Bridge and the 900-foot Sinkhonetine Bridge, both of which can accommodate vehicles of up to 60 tonnes each, on Pauktaw-Minbya road.

The ceremony was also attended by union ministers, including Lt. Gen Thet Naing Win, U Soe Thane, Dr Than Aung and U Kyaw Lwin, U Maung Maung Ohn, chief minister of Rakhine State, deputy ministers and state government ministers.

At the ceremony, U Nyan Tun said roads play a crucial role for the development of economy, adding that the government has been emphasizing major road projects since taking office.



Vice President U Nyan Tun poses for documentary photo together with union ministers, officials and Rakhine damsels at opening ceremony of Sun Ye Bridge on Pauktaw-Minbya Road.—MNA

Myanmar is currently conducting a feasibility study for construction of bridges and tunnels along

Minbu-Ann Road, as well as joint research with Japan to determine optimal construction materials to

resist sea water and natural disasters.

Nay Pyi Taw-Magway-Minbu-An-Kyauk-

pyu Road will also be constructed through the Build-Operate-Transfer system, with upgrading

of Minbu-An-Sittway, Pyay-Padaung-Taungup-Thandwe and Ngathaingyoung-Gwa-Thandwe roads, as well as construction of Kyauktaw-Paletwa Rad.

As part of its plan to improve connections between different parts of the country, the union government will allocate funds to upgrade the Buthidaung-Alethanyaw-Angumaw Road, as well as electricity supply and telecommunications.

The vice president urged local people to contribute their efforts in the development programmes of the government.

In Rakhine, the union government has allocated funds for 18 bridges and 191 miles of tarred roads in 2011-2012 fiscal year; 32 bridges and 104 miles of tarred roads in 2012-2013 fiscal year; nine bridges and 36 miles in 2013-2014 fiscal year; 12 bridges and 42 miles of tarred roads in the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

(See page 3)

Myanmar to continue budget deficit in 2015-16, missing 5% of GDP

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 7 March — Myanmar's budget will continue to run in the red next fiscal year, with a deficit equivalent to 5.22 percent of GDP, according to forecasts presented at a consultation workshop on the 2015-2016 Union Budget.

The forecast exceeds the target of 5%-of-GDP deficit recommended by the IMF during its mission to Myanmar last month.

"It is necessary to bring budget deficit growth under control, so it does not exceed 5% of GDP", said MP U Phyo Min Thein, who is also a member of the banks and monetary development affairs committee of Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) at the workshop Friday.

Emphasising the importance of increasing tax revenue in order to control the deficit, the MP highlighted Myanmar's relatively low level of tax revenue compared to neighbouring economies.

"In comparison to ASEAN fellows that have

tax revenues above 10% of GDP, Myanmar's tax revenue stands at about 8.11%", he said.

His statement echoed the sentiments of Myanmar's Central Bank vice-governor Daw Khin Saw Oo, who told a parliamentary session earlier in the week that bringing the deficit under the 5% benchmark is vital to achieving sustainable economic development in the country.

During the IMF's nine-day mission to the country, mission chief Yang Yongzheng said it is "imperative to prioritize spending and increase tax revenues" if the 5% target is to be achieved.

The IMF mission chief highlighted the importance of broadening the tax base, improving tax compliance and minimizing exemptions to mitigate the risk of the large proposed increase in public-sector wages that could reduce spending on health, education, and infrastructure "absolutely" needed to boost the country's growth potential.

Regarding methods to increase tax revenues, U Zaw Pe Win, one of the panellists at the workshop, called for efficient tax structure and expanding the tax base to new payers to mitigate the country's persistent deficit totalling

more than K7, 200 billion for the three previous fiscal years. He said the deficit for 2014-2015 FY amounted to K2, 751 billion, accounting for 4.16% of GDP while standing at K2, 886 billion for 2013-2014 FY.

At the workshop that brought together lawmakers, economists, civic groups and other stakeholders to provide suggestions on 2015-2016 FY, those present stressed the need of a balanced budget and called for raising revenues and reducing spending, pointing out the problem of tax evasion and slower growth in the country's productive sectors.

GNLM



UNFPA partners with 3MDG to help improve Myanmar's health system

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 7 March— The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) and the Three Millennium Development Goal Fund (3MDG) have announced a partnership to support the Myanmar government plan to strengthen the country's health system.

According to a 3MDG press release on Thursday, the partners signed a US\$909,500 agreement that covers implementation of the health workforce strategic plan in cooperation with the Ministry of Health.

UNOPS Director and

Lawmakers, economists and other stakeholders hold talks to provide suggestions on the 2015-2016 Union Budget which is soon to be discussed in parliament, at RUMFCCI Building in Yangon on Friday.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

Representative in Myanmar Mr Sanjay Mathur said, "With UNFPA's significant expertise in the areas of maternal and reproductive health, gender equality and population and development strategies, this partnership furthers the contribution of 3MDG Fund to strengthening health systems and responds to the health ministry's priorities for attaining universal health coverage in Myanmar."

With technical support from UNFPA, health staff will receive training on the use of geographical information systems (GIS) as well as data collection for the Myanmar Health Management Information System. The UN agency will also work with the ministry on areas of sector policy, strategy and planning, and specifically on strategic plans on adolescent and reproductive health as part of the National Health Plan.

GNLM

Industrial park forecast to create 200,000 jobs in dry zone



MANDALAY, 7 March — A new industrial park under development in Ngazun Township, part of a dry zone in Mandalay Region, is forecast to create

job opportunities for some 200,000 people upon completion.

The Mandalay Region Hluttaw approved construction of the Myo

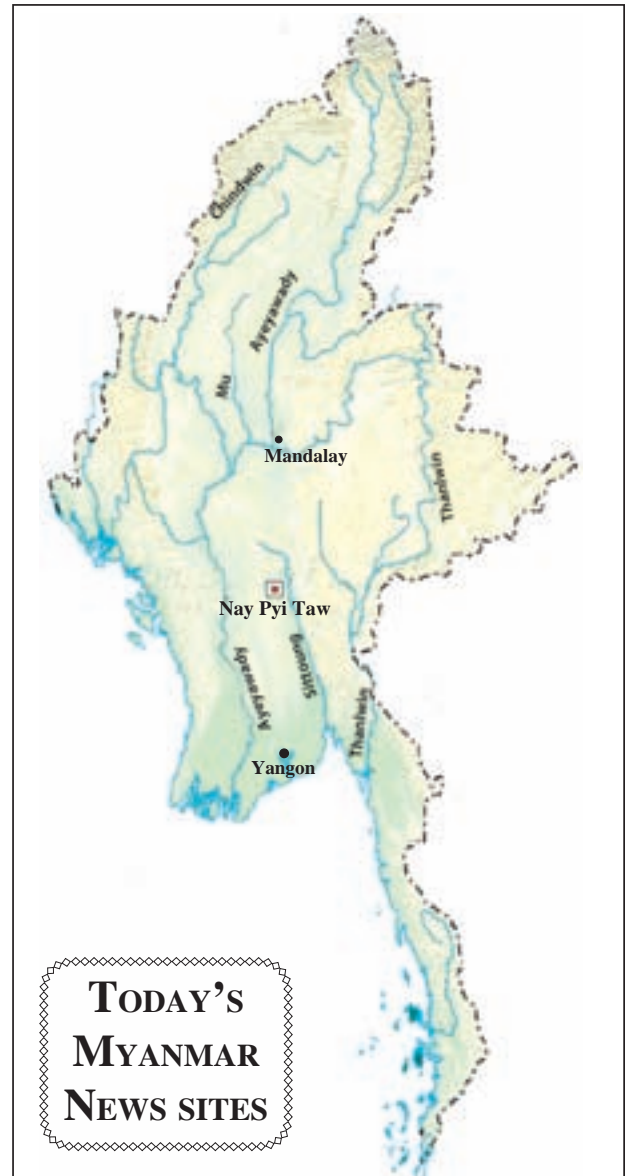
Industrial Park, which will incorporate 200-foot wide roads and the Hsimeekhon port, in its fifth regular session.

The Mandalay Region

government has given K2 million per acre to farm-land owners who lost their land plots in construction areas. Moreover, the region government has also given K500,000 per acre for farmers to cultivate crops on vacant and virgin lands. In addition, the government allotted them 60x80 foot land plots.

On 4 March, Mandalay Region Minister for Electric Power and Industry U Kyaw Myint made an inspection tour of construction tasks at the industrial park. In meeting with Chairman of the construction committee U Aung Win Khaing and township officials, the minister outlined construction of a rural road in Letpankwin Village, electrification in Aingtha Village and building two sub-power stations in Kokke and Ngamyia villages.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)



Mandalay Region LBVD to vaccinate cattle against foot-and-mouth disease

MANDALAY, 7 March — Mandalay Region Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department has a plan to vaccinate more than 200,000 cattle against foot-and-mouth disease in 10 townships in Mandalay Region, with the assistance of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE).

Under the programme, which is part of the Emerald Green project to alleviate poverty in rural areas, priority will be given to 10 townships in the

region —Amarapura, Singaing, TadaU, Kyaukse, Myittha, Ngazun, Meiktila, Wundwin, Natogyi and Myingyan — where a large number of beef and dairy cows are bred.

“Vaccination will be

given to cattle of above one-and-a-half years old,” said an official of the region department. “The vaccination gives six months’ protection from the disease.”—*Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)*



Breeders exchange experiences of taking care of animals

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March — Breeders and farm officials discussed livestock breeding technology, use of animal medicines and techniques for raising goats during a workshop at a farm in Kangyi Zone, Tatkon Township.

Head of Monghsat Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department Dr. Saw Htet Win led the workshop, while Head of Tatkon Township LBVD Dr. Kyi Than and farm officials also gave presentations at CP goat farm on Thursday. “We get invaluable

experiences from the excursions at the goat farms in Yangon and townships in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area,” said U Kya Hei, a breeder from Mongton. “I breed 120 cows, 250 buffaloes and 200 goats at my farms. Experiences from visiting the farms in cities will be a force to extend my breeding farms.”

During the trip, the breeder team visited a poultry farm, a cattle farm, as well as goat and pig breeding farms in Tatkon Township.

*Ko Myo (Shwe Paukkan):
Photo: Chit Thamee*

Entries open for Miss Universe Mandalay

MANDALAY, 7 March— Entries are now open for Miss Universe Mandalay 2015, with the winner earning the chance to enter the national-level pageant.

Applicants can register through the website from 9 to 31 March. Personal interview will be made on 11 April. The selected contestants must do philanthropic works during the Maha Thingyan festival period.

The final stage of the contest will take place on 10 May to choose Miss Mandalay who will have the chance to directly take part in the Miss Universe Myanmar 2015 together with another 19 contestants.



The winners in Miss Universe Mandalay 2015 will be awarded K3 million for first prize, K2 million for the second and K1 million for the third.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



NATIONAL

New bridges improve...

(from page 1) structure in Rakhine State. Chief minister U Maung Maung Ohn said he appreciated the importance of improving infrastructure and party flew back from Sittway to Nay Pyi Taw in the evening.—MNA

Union Minister encourages families of fallen soldiers in Kokang conflict

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March— Union Minister U Hla Tun visited wounded soldiers at military hospital (100-bed) in Lashio Township, northern Shan State, on Friday.

U Hla Tun is chairman of Kokang Self-Administered Zone Rehabilitation and Supporting Committee which was formed to rehabilitate education, health and social affairs of people in Kokang area and to support defence services personnel in there.

Together with the union ministers, U Sao Aung Myat, chief minister of Shan State, as well as Lt. Gen Aung Than Htut of the Ministry of Defence Services and Maj-Gen Aung Soe, Commander of North-East Command gave cash to the wounded soldiers at the

hospital. The union ministers and party opened a tarred road in Lashio Township to commemorate 70th Anniversary of Armed Forces Day which will fall on March 27. U Hla Tun and senior government officials gave cashes to the families of fallen soldier at No.522 Light Infantry Unit.

In the afternoon, the union ministers handed over K310 million, 4,000 rice-bags and 200 viss of cooking oil donated by private wellwishers and organizations for rehabilitation works in Kokang area.

The potential donors for Kokang people may contact secretary U Phone Swe of Kokang Self-Administered Zone Rehabilitation and Supporting Committee, and deputy minister

Union Minister describes education as important to peaceful society

SITTWAY, 7 March— As education can translate the country into a peaceful society, teachers play an important role in nurturing students, the union minister told faculty members at Sittway University in Rakhine State on Saturday, officials said.

U Soe Thane, Union Minister at President Office,

urged them to keep track of difficulties of students and respond to their spiritual needs.

The rector and teachers gave briefings on issues of health care, a football ground, a post office and staff welfare. In the evening, the union minister went to the emergency coordination centre at the office of the

Rakhine State government, where he met UN agencies and international organizations engaged in regional development activities, which are being carried out in cooperation with the local government.

The meeting discussed matters related to ongoing undertakings and future plans for the region, with

the union minister explaining in details stability, rule of law, socio-economic development, health, education, transportation and power supply.—MNA

Five protesters handed over to Letpadan protest leaders

LETPADAN, 7 March— Four male students and one female student who staged illegal protest near Letpadan Myoma market were handed over to their leaders after they were arrested and taken by police from Thawady police station on Saturday.

Officers from Letpadan Township Administrative Office helped the handover. A total of 63 people— three monks, 45 men and 15 women— continue their sit-in protest near the Aung Myay Beikman Monastery where six monks, 22 men and 19 women are staying.—009



Union Minister U Hla Tun presents cash assistance to wounded soldier at military hospital (100-bed).—MNA

for Social Welfares, Relief and Resettlement.

Kokang conflict has

cost many lives and President Office announced an Emergency Act and

military administrative order to restore peace and stability.—MNA

Fights intensify between Kokang insurgents and gov't troops

NAY PYI TAW, 7 March— Fights stepped up between Kokang insurgents and government troops on patrol in Laukkai area Friday.

Government troops were engaged in fights with a combined insurgent groups of Kokang, Palaung and Rakhine near Lawkwakyaing village before the insurgents fled due to attacks of military infantry units.

In the afternoon, military troops retrieved Point

2014 hill, which is strategically important post of Kokang insurgents.

Government forces also cleared Kokang insurgents who attacked conveyance of relief items.

Beginning March 7 afternoon, fights are intensifying as military launches six air offensives of attack helicopters and airplanes to retake the posts of Kokang insurgents, including Point 1753 hill.

During the conflicts, government troops seized

one M-16, one M-22, two magazines, 92 bullets, two TNTs and other military equipment, with four deaths of military personnel and 11 injured.

While military col-

umnns were combing suspected places after some tip-offs, three M-22s, two pistols, two magazines, 2,020 bullets, six RPGs and military wares and equipment.—Myawady

State-owned Myanmar language newspapers to reduce ad rates

NAY PYI TAW, March 7— State-owned Myanmar language newspapers will reduce their advertisement rates for foreign commodities, trademarks and brands of commodities, intellectual property rights, domestic airlines, national-owned hotels and foreign travel agencies beginning April 1 this year.

The move is aimed to encourage foreign investments and small and medium-scaled business firms, followed by reduction of advertisement rates for books, departments, social affairs and business starting February 1 after carrying 32 colour pages in the Mirror and Myanma Alinn newspapers on January

this year. Under the new plan, one inch of one column for foreign commodities, foreign airlines and foreign hotels will be K30,000 in both colour pages and black-white pages, reducing from US\$50 from the present rates.

Those for trademarks and brands of commodities, and intellectual property rights will be reduced to K50,000 from US\$100.

While the rates for these sizes of domestic airlines, national-owned hotels and foreign travel agencies will be lowered to K15,000 from K20,000 for colour pages and to K13,000 from K17,000 for black-white pages.—MNA



Materials seized from Kokang insurgents in aukkai area.—MYAWADY



A map shows clashes between government troops and Kokang insurgents in Laukkai area.—MYAWADY

Indonesia seeks missing nationals in Turkey amid IS recruiting suspicion

JAKARTA, 7 March — Indonesia is searching 16 of its nationals reported missing in Turkey after they split from their tour entourage and lost contact, a senior official of Indonesia's foreign ministry said here on Friday.

Indonesian Intelligence Agency (BIN) has been coordinating with Turkey's intelligence service on their possible joining in the radical group Islamic State (IS).

Indonesian Foreign Affairs Ministry spokesperson Arrmanatha Nasir said the 16 were among 24 people taking part in a tour to Turkey. They asked the travel agent to split from the entourage from visiting a tourist destination shortly after their arrival at Istanbul's Attaturk airport on 24 February.

The missing persons planned to visit Istanbul

and several other cities in Turkey, media reports said.

The spokesperson said the Indonesian embassy in Turkey has reported the case to the Turkish police.

All of those disappearing persons came from Surabaya, East Java, he added. Nasir said there has been no confirmation so far whether they had joined IS or not at the moment. BIN Chief Marciano Norman said further coordination with its Turkish counterpart is underway at the moment to seek confirmation of the IS recruiting. Marciano said this recruiting channel has been used by Indonesians.

The Indonesian government has banned the IS ideology from developing in the country. The authorities have arrested people promoting the IS and those trying to recruit militants for the group. —Xinhua

FM confirms upcoming China-Japan security dialogue

BEIJING, 7 March — China and Japan will hold a new round of security talks later this month, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said on Friday.

Spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a daily press briefing that Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Jianchao would visit Japan later this month and talk with diplomats and defence officials. The trip will also take him to the Republic of Korea (ROK). “

The Chinese and Japanese foreign ministries have maintained contact and interactions,” Hua said, adding that in Japan Liu would hold a security dialogue as well as the regular round of consultation between the ministries.

Liu and Japanese diplomats and defence officials will exchange views on bilateral ties, defence policy as well as regional and international issues, according to the spokeswoman.

The last security dialogue, the 12th round since 1993, was held in Beijing in January 2011.

Talks were stalled following the Japanese government illegally “nationalizing” part of the Diaoyu Islands in 2012. In November last year, China and Japan signed a four-point agreement to ease tensions, to resume political, diplomatic and security dialogues while acknowledging different positions on the Diaoyu Islands.

Xinhua

Abe welcomes planned news exchange between Kyodo, Laotian agency

TOKYO, 7 March — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday welcomed the planned exchange of news materials between *Kyodo News* and *Lao News Agency*, saying such cooperation will lead to increased understanding of Japan in Laos. In a summit with

Laotian Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong in Tokyo, Abe referred to the signing in the near future of an agreement between the two news agencies and said, “I hope (the accord) will promote understanding of Japan in Laos,” according to the

Japanese Foreign Ministry. Since November 2013, *Kyodo* has been in cooperative relationship with *Lao News Agency*, or *Khaosan Pathet Lao* known as *KPL*, and distributed its English-language news materials to *KPL News*, an English-language daily

published by Laos' official news agency.

The envisaged agreement would allow *Kyodo* and *KPL* to exchange their English-language news materials. *Kyodo's* English-language news wire is known as *Kyodo World Service*. — *Kyodo News*



An exhibitor sells rice during a rice fair held in Bangkok, Thailand, on 6 March, 2015. The rice fair aiming at supporting Thailand's rice growing industry opened on 5 March and will last to 5 April in Bangkok.

XINHUA

Turkish airbus moved to TIA runway after 72 hours, flights likely to resume in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 7 March — After being stuck in a grassy shoulder for more than 72 hours in the Tribhuwan International Airport (TIA) of Nepal, the airbus of Turkish Airlines has been finally moved to runway on Saturday morning.

The *Airbus A330* that skidded off the runway on Wednesday morning has been removed from the grass area in the second attempt after replacing the damaged wheels, with the help of Indian Removal Kit. At a Press conference organized in TIA premise in the morning, Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN) Director General Ratish Chandra Lal Suman said “With the help of 12 technicians from India, the Nepal Army, the Nepal Police and other professionals, we have been finally able to pull the aircraft into



Photo taken on 6 March, 2015 shows the crash-landed Turkish Airlines Flight TK726 during the process of pushing it back to the runway at Tribhuwan International Airport in Kathmandu, Nepal. The Tribhuwan International Airport, Nepal's only international airport, has remained shut for the past three days following Turkish Airlines Flight TK726 skidding off the runway after landing since Wednesday morning. All international flights have been suspended and about 40,000 passengers remain stranded. —XINHUA

main runway”. The distance between the runway and grassy shoulder where the front landing gear of aircraft collapsed and the plane nose-dived is around 150 metres.

CAAN informed that the measures are underway to locate the aircraft some 700 metres away from main runway to a secured parking area by this afternoon.

Following the clearance of runway, CAAN has informed that the international flights are likely to resume from 2 pm local time on Saturday. —Xinhua

Seafood processing firms show slow recovery from 2011 disaster

SENDAI, 7 March — A poll of Japanese processed seafood producers affected by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami showed on Friday that only 40 percent have seen sales recover to 80 percent or more of pre-disaster levels.

Concern over the effects of the nuclear accident triggered by the disaster,

labour shortages and cost increases amid the weaker yen are impeding the recovery of the eastern Japan region's mainstay industry, according to the poll conducted by the Fisheries Agency.

The agency conducted the poll between November and January in five prefectures hit hard by the disaster,

receiving responses from 314, or 34 percent, of firms covered by the poll.

Seafood firms that had seen sales recover to 80 percent or higher accounted for 90 percent of the total respondents in Aomori, 58 percent in Iwate, 40 percent in Miyagi, 39 percent in Ibaraki and 21 percent in Fukushima, which hosts the

disaster-hit nuclear plant. Compared with a separate survey conducted between February and March last year in the hardest-hit prefectures of Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima, the proportion of seafood processing firms showing sales recoveries of 80 percent or higher still increased in those prefectures.

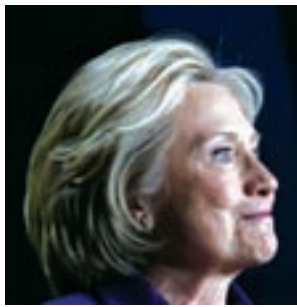
Larger companies tended to see faster recoveries than smaller ones.

In the latest five-prefecture poll, respondents that had seen sales recover to 80 percent or higher accounted for 61 percent of firms capitalized at 50 million yen or more, much higher than 25 percent among companies with

capital of 10 million yen or less. Among problems faced by the companies, 31 percent of the respondents, accounting for the largest proportion, cited difficulties in securing sales channels and food safety concerns associated with the nuclear accident, followed by 25 percent reporting labour shortages. —*Kyodo News*

WORLD

Jeb Bush calls Clinton's US State Department email storage 'baffling'



Former secretary of state Hillary Clinton delivers dinner remarks at EMILY's List 30th Anniversary Gala in Washington on 3 March, 2015.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 7 March — Republican presidential hopeful Jeb Bush on Friday stepped up his criticism of Hillary Clinton, calling it “baffling” that she stored official US State Department emails on a personal server rather than safer government systems.

“It’s a dangerous world, and security would mean that you couldn’t have a private server,” the former Florida governor said in an interview with Radio Iowa on Friday morning. “It’s a little baffling, to be honest with you.”

Bush and other Republicans have pounded Clinton, the early front-runner for the 2016 Democratic presidential nomination, for using a personal email account for work during her four years as secretary of state from 2009 to 2013.

They claim she was trying to avoid transparency and could have posed a security threat.

Clinton has turned over to the State Department 55,000 pages of her email records that were stored on a private server, and asked the agency to release them. But officials said the review could take months, ensuring the controversy extends beyond the expected launch of her campaign.

Bush also used a personal email account during his time as governor but has released hundreds of thousands of the emails from that account. Bush told Radio Iowa he would not use a private email account if elected president.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest has said official policy requires that any work-related emails sent on personal accounts be documented on government systems.

Reuters

Gunman's video says Parliament attack spurred by Canada military action

OTTAWA, 7 March — The gunman who shot and killed a soldier in Canada's capital and then stormed Parliament last year said he was retaliating against Canadian military involvement in Afghanistan and Iraq, according to a video recording released on Friday.

Michael Zehaf-Bibeau made the short video on his mobile phone just before launching his attacks on 22 October. A Canadian convert to Islam, he died in a gun battle with police and security guards shortly after entering the Parliament building in Ottawa.

“To those who are involved and listen to this movie, this is in retaliation for Afghanistan and because (Canadian Prime Minister Stephen) Harper wants to send his troops to Iraq,” Zehaf-Bibeau said in a calm voice on the video, which police played to a committee of legislators.

“So we are retaliating, the Mujahedin of this world ... just aiming to hit some soldiers just to show that you’re not even safe in your own land, and you gotta be careful,” he said.

Zehaf-Bibeau, 32, struck three weeks after Canada decided to deploy forces against Islamic State militants in Iraq. Two days

earlier, another convert to Islam rammed and killed a soldier in Quebec with his car.

Canada maintained a military mission in Afghanistan between 2001 and 2011.

Harper cited the attacks and the threat of “jihadist terrorism” as reasons for a tough new security bill the Conservative government unveiled in January.

Critics say the bill — which would give Canada's spies greater powers to disrupt attacks — is too sweeping. Royal Canadian Mounted Police Commis-

sioner Bob Paulson did not say if the police probe into the attacks had determined whether Zehaf-Bibeau was acting alone.

“But I am persuaded that he was influenced by other individuals towards this crime so in that sense I am of the view that there were other individuals involved,” he told reporters.

Paulson said Zehaf-Bibeau, who had a long knife strapped to his wrist during the attack, had become “increasingly aligned with terrorist ideology”.

He said the attack could have been prevented if Zehaf-Bibeau's associates had reported these signs to authorities. Citing operational reasons, Paulson said 13 seconds had been edited from the start of the video and five from the end. Zehaf-Bibeau said in the video: “We’ll not cease until you guys decide to be a peaceful country ... and stop going to other countries and stop occupying and killing the righteous of us who are trying to bring back religious law in our countries.”—Reuters



Police officers take cover near Parliament Hill following a shooting incident in Ottawa on 22 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

Iran nuclear commitments do not go far enough

RIGA, 7 March — Commitments offered by Iran in talks with six world powers on its nuclear programme do not go far enough and more work needs to be done, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said on Friday.

Fabius said he had invited US Secretary of State John Kerry, EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini and the foreign ministers of Germany and Britain to Paris on Saturday to review the state of the Iran nuclear negotiations.

“We are in favour of a solid agreement ... for now there remain difficulties,” he told reporters in Riga where he was taking part in a European Union foreign ministers’ meeting.

“There has been progress but as far as the volume, checks and duration of the envisaged commitments are concerned, the situation is still insufficient, so there is more work to be done,” he said. The participants in Saturday’s talks in Paris —

Kerry, Mogherini, Fabius, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier and British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond — are the Western members of the six powers negotiating with Iran. The six powers, also including China and Russia, have given themselves an end-June deadline to reach an agreement that curbs sensitive Iranian nuclear work in exchange for sanctions relief. The Western powers hope to have a political framework agreement by the end of March.

The West suspects Iran of secretly preparing the way for production of nuclear weapons. Iran says its nuclear research programme is strictly for peaceful purposes.

Fabius took a more downbeat view of the Iran talks than Mogherini, who said earlier in the Latvian capital that a good deal was at hand in the negotiations.

“I also believe that there is not going to be any deal if it is not going



Britain's Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond (R) and France's Minister of Foreign Affairs Laurent Fabius speak during the informal European Union Ministers of Foreign Affairs meeting (Gymnich) in Riga on 6 March, 2015.—REUTERS

to be a good deal. And this is something we have to pass as a message to all our friends and partners,” Mogherini said in apparent reference to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's criticism of the nuclear deal under negotiation. Mogherini said the “last mile” of the nuclear talks would involve politi-

cal will more than technical negotiations.

US President Barack Obama told Reuters on Monday that Iran must commit to a verifiable freeze of at least 10 years on sensitive nuclear activity for a landmark atomic deal to be reached between Teheran and six world powers.

Reuters

International focus turns to bolstering Ukraine ceasefire

RIGA, 7 March — Steps to bolster a fragile ceasefire in eastern Ukraine gathered momentum on Friday as support within the European Union for more economic sanctions on Russia appeared to wane.

Russia and Ukraine have agreed to double the number of ceasefire monitors from the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to 1,000 from 500, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said.

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, who chaired an EU foreign ministers meeting in Riga, said the ceasefire was “not perfect” but it was improving. “We need ... to strengthen the OSCE mission that is on the ground now,” she said.

She said the EU could not ease sanctions now and French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said the situation would have to improve sharply before there would be pressure to loosen them.

At the same time, Fabius opposed any tightening at the moment. “It would be paradoxical at the very time that Minsk is being applied to reinforce the sanctions now,” he said.

The EU has joined the United States in imposing sanctions on Russia but found it increasingly difficult to agree on tougher measures as many member states rely heavily on Russia for energy.

The truce has eased pressure for new sanctions, but the EU must decide soon whether to extend current economic curbs on Russia that expire in July.

Lithuanian Foreign Minister Linas Linkevicius, an EU hawk on Russia, said extending sanctions to the end of the year was “the least we can do”.

“Everyone is for unity but you know unity to do nothing is not for me. I don’t like it. So we have to be united on doing something,” he told reporters.

Danish Foreign Minister Martin Lidegaard said sanctions may be eased if Russia stuck to the ceasefire, while his Dutch counterpart Bert Koenders saw no reason to relax them.

Reuters

Obama criticizes Ferguson as city seeks settlement over racial bias

WASHINGTON, 7 March — President Barack Obama condemned the Missouri city of Ferguson on Friday for “oppressive and abusive” actions against African-Americans that were laid bare in a US Justice Department report accusing police and court officials of racial bias.

The president’s comments came as US Attorney General Eric Holder said on Friday dismantling the city’s police department was a possibility.

“We are prepared to use all the power that we

have... to ensure that the situation changes there,” Holder said. “That means everything from working with them to coming up with an entirely new structure.”

Ferguson Mayor James Knowles said three city workers who demonstrated “egregious racial bias” are no longer employed by the city, and said Ferguson officials are pursuing other reforms to try to reach a settlement with the Justice Department.

City spokesman Jeff Small said police officers

Rick Henke and William Mudd resigned on Thursday and Ferguson’s top court clerk, Mary Ann Twitty, was fired after the release of the Justice Department report on Wednesday.

The Justice Department said it found that the mostly white police force routinely targeted African-Americans for arrests and ticketing, in part to raise revenue for the city through fines and fees. It found a pattern of officers using excessive force and illegally arresting people

without cause, deploying attack dogs and tasers on unarmed people “unreasonably.”

“What we saw was that the Ferguson Police Department in conjunction with the municipality saw traffic stops, arrests, tickets as a revenue generator, as opposed to serving the community, and that it systematically was biased against African-Americans in that city who were stopped, harassed, mistreated, abused, called names, fined,” Obama said at a town hall-style meeting in South Carolina.

The federal investigation started after a white Ferguson police officer shot and killed an unarmed black teenager on 9 August, triggering nationwide protests and illuminating long-held complaints in Ferguson and elsewhere about police treatment of minorities.

The Justice Department said it did not find grounds to prosecute police officer Darren Wilson for killing 18-year-old Michael Brown, but it did find racially disparate practices rampant through the police force. Obama said on Friday he fully supported the decision not to charge Wilson. —Reuters

UNSG’s Message for International Women’s Day 8 March 2015

Twenty years ago, when the world convened a landmark conference on women’s human rights, the devastating conflict in the former Yugoslavia prompted deserved attention to rape and other war crimes there against civilians. Two decades later, with girls as young as seven not only targeted but used as weapons by violent extremists, it would be easy to lose heart about the value of international gatherings. But while we have a long way to go to achieve full equality — with ending gender-based violence a central goal — progress over the past two decades has proven the enduring value of the 1995 Beijing Conference on Women.

Since the adoption of its Declaration and Platform for Action, more girls have attained more access to more education than ever before. The number of women dying in childbirth has been almost halved. More women are leading businesses, governments and global organizations. I welcome these advances. At the same time, on this International Women’s Day, we must acknowledge that the gains have been too slow and uneven and that we must do far more to accelerate progress everywhere.

The world must come together in response to the targeting of women and girls by violent extremists. From Nigeria and Somalia to Syria and Iraq, the bodies of women have been transformed into battlegrounds for warriors carrying out specific and systematic strategies, often on the basis of ethnicity or religion. Women have been attacked for trying to exercise their right to education and basic services; they have been raped and turned into sex slaves; they have been given as prizes to fighters or traded among extremist groups in trafficking networks. Doctors, nurses and others have been assassinated for trying to operate in their professional capacity. The women human rights defenders brave enough to challenge such atrocities risk — and sometimes lose — their lives for the cause.

We must take a clear global stance against this total assault on women’s human rights. The international community needs to translate its outrage into meaningful action, including humanitarian aid, psycho-social services, support for livelihoods and efforts to bring perpetrators to justice. With women and girls often the first targets of attack, their rights must be at the centre of our strategy to address this staggering and growing challenge. Empowered women and girls are the best hope for sustainable development following conflict. They are the best drivers of growth, the best hope for reconciliation and the best buffer against radicalization of youth and the repetition of cycles of violence.

Even in societies at peace, too many girls and women are still targets of domestic abuse, female genital mutilation and other forms of violence that traumatize individuals and damage whole societies. Discrimination remains a thick barrier that must be shattered. We need to expand opportunities in politics, business and beyond. We need to change mind-sets, especially among men, and engage men in becoming active change-agents themselves. And we must back up our resolve with resources based on the sure understanding that investments in gender equality generate economic progress, social and political inclusion and other benefits that, in turn, foster stability and human dignity.

This is a vital year for advancing the cause of women’s human rights. The international community is hard at work on establishing a new sustainable development agenda that will build on the Millennium Development Goals and shape policies and social investments for the next generation. To be truly transformative, the post-2015 development agenda must prioritize gender equality and women’s empowerment. The world will never realize 100 per cent of its goals if 50 per cent of its people cannot realize their full potential. When we unleash the power of women, we can secure the future for all.—UNIC/Yangon



Protesters stare at a line of police officers and National Guard soldiers during a protest to demand justice for the killing of 18-year-old Michael Brown, outside the Ferguson Police Department in Ferguson, Missouri in this file photo taken on 28 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

Two suspects detained in relation to Boris Nemtsov’s murder

Moscow, 7 March — Two suspects have been detained for involvement in the murder of Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov, Russian Federal Security Service chief Alexander Bortnikov said on Saturday.

“As a result of the investigation, we detained today two people suspected of committing this crime — Anzor Gubashev and Zaur Dadayev,” Bortnikov was quoted by the *Tass* news agency as saying.

“We have reported the process to the president (Vladimir Putin), while necessary operative and investigative work will continue,” he said.

According to the chief, the suspects came from the Caucasus regions, a volatile region of southern Russia plagued by violence.

The *Interfax* news agency quoted a source as saying that Russian law enforcement agencies traced

down the two suspects after examining biological evidence found inside the car used by them at the time of the murder.

Moreover, “quite clear” images of the two

suspects were obtained by examining footage of street video cameras, according to the source.

Nemtsov, who was a former Russian deputy prime minister and an out-

spoken critic of Putin, was shot dead at about midnight of 27 February near the Kremlin when he was strolling with Ukrainian model Anna Duritskaya.

Xinhua



A portrait of Kremlin critic Boris Nemtsov and flowers are pictured at the site where he was killed on 27 Feb, with St Basil’s Cathedral seen in the background, at the Great Moskvoretsky Bridge in central Moscow on 6 March, 2015.—REUTERS

Syrian deputy minister seeks antiterrorism cooperation with Japan

DAMASCUS, 7 March — Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad proposed in a recent interview that Japan deepen cooperation with his country to deal with the terrorist threats Islamic State poses to the Japanese people.

“We call upon the Japanese government to cooperate with us in the battle against terrorism... Syria has a treasure of information on terrorists,” Mekdad told *Kyodo News*, becoming the first high-level Syrian official to meet with Japanese media after a hostage crisis involving two Japanese earlier this year.

The deputy foreign minister also said the government of President Bashar al-Assad did its “best” to investigate the whereabouts of the two Japanese citizens, Haruna Yukawa and Kenji Goto, but “did not

get any information” about them.

“Nobody has informed us about their arrest, about their place of detention and so on,” he said. “That’s why unfortunately we could not do anything.”

Islamic State militants are believed to have killed the two men and in an online video threatened “carnage” wherever Japanese people are found.

Mekdad said there are places in northern Syria where the government cannot be “present” because they are controlled by the extremist group.

The deputy foreign minister also said Syria will immediately contact Japan if his government learns the whereabouts of the two slain Japanese bodies.

As for ways to deepen ties between Syria and Japan, Mekdad proposed reo-

pening the Japanese Embassy in Damascus, which was closed three years ago amid deteriorating security in the Middle Eastern country.

Characterizing the air strikes carried out by a US-led coalition on Islamic State as “cosmetic,” he said the most effective way to combat the extremist group is through ground operations conducted by the Syrian and Iraqi armies.

The deputy foreign minister also criticized a US plan to train groups that Washington calls the “moderate armed opposition” to fight against Islamic State militants.

“We think this will only prolong the conflict. This will lead to more bloodshed in Syria. This will lead to weakening Syria and to the spread of terrorism outside Syria and Iraq,” he said.

Kyodo News



Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mekdad attends an interview with Kyodo News in Damascus on 5 March, 2015. He proposed that Japan deepen cooperation with his country to deal with the terrorist threat Islamic State poses to the Japanese people.
KYODO NEWS

UN experts concerned Libya arms could be diverted to militias

UNITED NATIONS, 7 March — UN sanctions monitors said on Friday they are concerned that if a United Nations Security Council committee approves a request by Libya’s government for weapons, tanks and jets, some of the equipment could be diverted to militias supporting them.

The experts, who monitor violations of an arms embargo imposed on Libya in 2011, said in a letter — obtained by *Reuters* — that arms could also end up in the hands of other militia after battles or if Libyan troops lose control of stockpiles.

Libya’s internationally-recognized government of Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thinni has operated out of the east since a

rival armed faction called Libya Dawn took over Tripoli in fighting last year and set up its own administration.

The rival governments and their allies are battling for control of Libya four years after a civil war ousted Muammar Gaddafi. The chaos has allowed Islamic State and Ansar al-Sharia militants to use their foothold in Libya, an OPEC member.

The internationally-recognized government is allowed to import arms with approval of the 15-member Security Council committee overseeing the embargo. Libya asked the committee for weapons and military equipment to take on Islamist militants and to control borders.

Reuters

Iraqi forces push advance after seizing key town from IS

RAMADI, (Iraq), 7 March — Iraqi security forces regained the town of al-Baghdadi after fierce clashes with the Islamic State (IS) militants and still fought with IS in the province of Anbar, the security and medical sources said on Saturday.

The troops and allied Shiite and Sunni militias, backed by US-led coalition aircraft, cleared on Friday the small town of al-Baghdadi, after they drove out the IS militants who captured the town for months and threatened the nearby military airbase of Ain al-Asad, which houses hundreds of US marines, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

The Ain al-Asad military base is used by Iraqi military forces and about 300 US marines as military trainers and advisers.

“The security forces

and al-Hashed al-Shaabi (Popular Mobilization of Shiite and Sunni militias) are seizing the centre of al-Baghdadi, including its police station and bridges,” the source said.

It added that the adjacent areas of al-Doulab and Sin al-Deeb in southwest of the town are still in the hands of the IS militants.

Separately, the IS militants in the morning drove out the security forces and allied Shiite militias from al-Hitawiyn area, just near the town of Garma, some 40 km west of Baghdad, after heavy clashes, leaving at least eight militants killed and 10 others wounded, a local security source told *Xinhua*. The clashes near Garma, came just two days after the troops seized the area as part of an offensive designed to drive out the

militants who from time to time approached to Baghdad from the areas located in east of the militants-seized town of Garma and fired mortar and rockets on the Shiite neighborhood of Shula, in northwestern Baghdad, killing and wounding dozens of civilians during the past few months.

Also in the province, fierce clashes erupted in the morning in central and western parts of the provincial capital city of Ramadi, about 110 km west of Baghdad, between the security forces and IS militants who seize parts of the city, a provincial security source said, without giving further details.

A medical source from the city hospital told *Xinhua* that the hospital received 13 bodies of the security members and 20 others were admitted for treatment, the



A Shi'ite fighter carries a rocket-propelled grenade launcher as he walks in the town of Hamrin in Salahuddin Province on 5 March, 2015.—REUTERS

source said.

The IS group has seized around 80 percent of Iraq’s largest province Anbar and tried to advance toward Baghdad, but several counter attacks by security forces and Shiite militias have

pushed them back.

The security situation in Iraq has drastically deteriorated since June 10 last year, when bloody clashes broke out between Iraqi security forces and the IS, an al-Qaeda offshoot.

The IS has taken control of the country’s northern province of Nineveh, and then seized swathes of territories after Iraqi security forces abandoned their posts in other predominantly Sunni provinces.—*Xinhua*

UK charities cease funding Cage, group linked to ‘Jihadi John’

LONDON, 7 March — Two high-profile British charities have stopped funding Cage, a Muslim campaign group that has drawn criticism over statements about the Islamic State militant known as “Jihadi John”, the regulator of British charities has announced.

Cage was in contact several years ago with Kuwaiti-born Londoner Mohammed Emwazi, at a time when he was on the radar of Britain’s intelli-



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

gence services over signs of radicalization.

Since Emwazi was identified on 26 February as the man in a black balaclava who appears in Islamic State beheading videos, Cage members have said he was once a “beautiful young man” and have blamed the intelligence services for radicalizing him.

“Last week, public statements by Cage officials heightened concerns about the use of charitable

funds to support their activities,” the Charity Commission said in a statement late on Friday.

“In our view, those statements increased the threat to public trust and confidence in charity,” it said, adding that it had taken “robust action” by requiring two well-known charities that had funded Cage to confirm they would no longer do so.

The two organizations are the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, a Quaker

foundation, and the Roddick Foundation, set up by the late founder of the cosmetics retailer Body Shop. They had come under intense public scrutiny since Emwazi was named and Cage went public with their views about him.

The commission said Joseph Rowntree had made grant awards to Cage of 305,000 pounds (\$459,000) between 2007 and 2014, of which 271,250 pounds was paid, while the Roddick Foundation had made

grant payments of 120,000 pounds between 2009 and 2012.

The Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust confirmed it had stopped funding Cage and would not do so in future, citing “regulatory pressure” and saying it wanted to protect the interests of other recipients of its funding and other work by the trust.

The Roddick Foundation could not be immediately reached for comment.
Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 8 March, 2015

End gender-based violence to achieve full equalityBy *Kyaw Thura*

IT was in Beijing two decades ago that the Fourth World Conference on Women initiated equal rights as a global priority. Despite this, the world still witnesses gender inequality, with violence against women rampant, especially in underdeveloped countries.

The bright side, however, is that a growing

number of girls have come to enjoy easier access to education than their mothers and grandmothers. Today, we have seen and heard more women become engaged in politics, business, education, health and beyond, even though the pace of progress is slow. Judging from this, gender equality is a shared goal. In other words, no single country can make it happen on its own. This propels the whole world to make a concerted effort to step up the momentum for rapid progress everywhere.

News that girls and women in search of education are still subject to extremist atrocities makes us see red. But there is no point getting infuriated at these denials of human rights unless we are willing to take action to stop them.

The celebration of International Women's Day, which falls on 8 March, reminds us to come together in defence of equal rights for women all over the world. It is a time for all of us to speed up

our effort to eliminate the vicious cycles of violence against women and girls. It is a time to accept that gender equality paves the way for economic growth, social integration and political stability, thereby ensuring human dignity. In the words of UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, we must prioritize gender equality and unleash the power of girls and women so that we can secure the future for all.

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

The Unresolved Equation*(Opinions expressed here are those of the author.)**Anita Karki and Suman Bisht*

WE grew up in the 70's and 80's when women in our region were beginning to step out of their homes and create space for themselves in the public sphere. For the first time in history, women were becoming prime ministers, astronauts, and pilots; they were climbing Everest and winning gold medals in the Olympics. The achievements of the first wave of feminism and the struggle to gain rights as equal human beings and citizens, the right of suffrage and equal opportunities in education was a birthright to us. As we were schooling and grooming ourselves to become career women, the issues of sexuality, reproductive rights, women's double burden and the sharing of household chores between the sexes, property rights, and political participation raised by second wave feminists were still being articulated by our predecessors, women activists and advocates of that time. By the time we entered the market ourselves, in the mid or late 90's, most of these issues had also translated into binding international commitments for nations, legal rights, policies, and development agendas.

We entered the professional world as development workers with specialization in 'Gender', committed to mainstreaming gender and promoting gender equality in every sphere. At times we feel that we have taken for granted the gains of the feminist movements before us that put women's questions up front. The fact that women are now legally equal seems to have led to a pause in raising women specific issues. Today, after almost two decades of working as professionals, we want to reflect on our own experiences and those of other women in our region to see what it means to be a professional woman, the dilemmas and the enabling

and hindering factors.

Unlike our male siblings, in our early and mid-twenties, we had to choose between higher studies and marriage. While an advanced degree and a job were prerequisites for marriage for our brothers, for us education and employment were considered additional assets. Matrimonial columns in newspapers were full of advertisements that sought 'beautiful, convent educated, loving, homely, caring, working, salaried, professional bride' for their sons! Many women had to discontinue or halt their studies to get married.

As working women with children and household responsibilities, we had two clear options; one, become superwomen, i.e., perfect homemakers as well as competent professionals; two, quit job. In reality, most of us were and are still trying to be the superwoman, and failing, we feel guilty and unsatisfied with our performance in both arenas. This brings us to rethink the old equation: given the increasing number of women in labour markets, shouldn't men have been assigned an equal share of the household work by now? Weren't we supposed to have moved away from traditional gender roles?

It is often said that behind every successful man is a woman. Sometimes we wonder who is behind a successful professional woman. At this point in our lives as professional women of this region we have little doubt that it is almost always another woman (or women) who takes up a large share of the household and child care responsibilities of the working woman. These women are either stay-at-home mothers, mothers-in-law or sisters/sisters-in-law in the family, or 'aayas', 'didis' and 'kaamwalo bai', either non-paid or underpaid women who help balance the home and office work for us. Men have found the supplementary or co-earners in modern-day-working wives, but have women found co-household workers in the modern husbands?

*Suman-Bisht**Anita-Karki*

As women become more ambitious professionally, the challenge to maintain work-home balance becomes more difficult. Even after working hard to gain specialized skills and knowledge, many a time women have to choose between advanced professional growth and a sound family life. The big question is – why are women professionals still compelled to choose one over the other?

Inequality persists. A successful career man can simultaneously be an ideal family man by fulfilling his role as a provider for the family. But for a woman, a successful career raises questions about her performance as a family woman, and she has to make an extra effort at home to prove that she is still devoted to her family.

When are these inequalities going to end? Clearly, not anytime soon. For haven't we spent decades advocating for equal division of household labour? How many of men's magazines talk about 'good housekeeping' for men? When will the meaning of the word 'fathering' go beyond the mere act of spawning and include the rearing and caring of a child? It is assumed that men who do household chores are just 'helping', and seldom are they tormented for exhibiting poor skills. But no such concessions are made regarding women's shortcomings, whether at home or at work.

As we struggle to balance our professional and family life, we cannot help but wish for some change at our workplace. We wish for leadership positions that do not involve long hours in the office. We wish we would be rewarded for our creativity and achievements rather than for long hours spent at our desks. We wish we did not have to spend our weekends and evenings at work to be on a par with our male colleagues, who can afford to do so.

Flexi timing can be used very effectively to help women and men achieve a work-life balance. Technology such as the Internet and video-conferencing can allow them to work from home. Those who have to be at the office regularly could benefit a lot from facilities such as daycare centres, pick-up and drop-off services (especially during after-office hours), provisions for a child caretaker during official travels, and compensatory leaves.

And while we seek these temporary measures of relief, we feel that this unresolved equation must be brought to the surface again to see why it has not happened yet! And analyse what it takes to Make it Happen!

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Choosing a university and choosing a subject to study*(Opinions expressed here are those of the author.)**U Hla Maung, (Retired geologist, MOGE)*

Many people in Myanmar believe that in the democratic countries of the West, students are free to choose which university they wish to study at, and which subjects they wish to study. In practice, this is not so, unless their marks show that they are among the top students in the whole country.

In theory, yes, you can apply to any university, but if, for example, you apply to a top-ranked university and your marks are not so good, you will not only be rejected but you will lose your registration fee. For example, Harvard, one of the top universities in the USA, advises all intending students on their website that to be accepted for consideration, they will probably need to be the top student in their school. Applicants pass through a thorough selection process. The student's headmaster/mistress will be asked to rank the student as 1) The best student in the school in the year, or 2) The best student in the past 5 years, or 3) The best student he/she has ever taught. The student will be asked to submit

an essay stating why and what he/she wants to study at Harvard, and what he/she aims to achieve, etc.. Acceptance rates for Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Stanford in the USA are only 5 to 8%. And remember only the best students are applying, so most applicants are rejected.

In the UK, a central "Universities and Colleges Admissions Service" (UCAS) has been in place for over 50 years, which attempts to match the number of applicants with the number of places available for various subjects. Years of experience have shown what range of marks are needed for acceptance at a university in a certain subject, and students are advised by the schools to select schools and subjects based on the marks they are likely to get. Students still unable to find acceptance can get information on which courses are still accepting students. Thus, students cannot always choose what they want to study and where. Most must accept and go where places are available.

U Hla Maung went to school in London and graduated from London's Imperial College of Science and Technology in 1966.

LOCAL NEWS

Authorities need to raise bio-security and control import of chicken

MANDALAY, 7 March—Poultry producers and farm workers have been receiving bio-security training in Monywa, Sagaing Region, Chairman of Mandalay Region Livestock Breeding Federation Dr Kyaw Htin told media.

He noted that it is necessary to control import of chicken to local markets while the authorities are taking preventive measures of avian influenza disease.

Newcastle disease, E-coli and other poultry diseases may break out in early summer period.

Breeders need to send any chickens that die suddenly to the laboratory in Singaing Township to examine the bodies.

“Authorities concerned should control chicken production of local entrepreneurs and import of chicken. A law concerning the import and sales of chicken has been enacted but its rules have not been approved yet,” said a legal expert.

An official of LBVD stressed the need to remove piles of byproducts from chicken at roadsides in Madaya and Patheingyi townships because this waste spreads the disease surrounding areas.

Mandalay Region LBVD plans to hold talks on raising bio-security in the region and prevention of seasonal diseases at animals as of March.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)



Mandalay residents join Father’s Day celebration

MANDALAY, 7 March—A Father’s Day ceremony was held at Sasana Beikman on 85th street in Chanayethazan Township on 4 March, with a speech delivered by Chairman of the organizing committee U Phone Myint Aung.

The chairman and officials presented prizes to winners in the poem, article and short story contest in commemoration of the Father’s Day.

On the occasion, Sitagu venerable Sayadaw Dr. Ashin Nanisara, former director-general of Department of Meteorology and Hydrology Dr. Tun Lwin, film academy award winner Kyi Soe Tun and Lashiolay Sayadaw talked about gratitude of father.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Football course aims to improve skills for young players

MANDALAY, 7 March—A one-month football training course at Mandalay’s Aungmyay Mandalay sports ground will start 15 March, giving local youths the

chance to sharpen their skills during the summer holidays.

Youths aged 10 to 15 will be allowed to attend the course from 6 a.m. to 8 a.m. daily. Coaches will

provide training to free of charge.

The youths need to obtain application forms from the sports ground by 6 p.m. on 10 March.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Celebrations mark 66th Anniversary of Pa-O National Day

MANDALAY, 7 March—The 66th Anniversary of Pa-O National Day was recently observed in conjunction with the prize presentation for outstanding students at a Chinese temple on 81st street in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay.

The attendees saluted the State Flag and the Pa-O National Flag at the 5 March event. Officials read out messages sent by the Speakers of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw.

Officials gave gifts to students who are pursuing education at Mandalay Education College, University of Nursing (Mandalay), University of Medicine (Mandalay) and Sagaing University of Education and honoured the outstanding students who passed examinations with flying colours.

Later, a Pa-O cultural troupe gave a music and dance performance.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



Round-the-world solar aircraft set to land in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 7 March—A Swiss-designed solar aircraft set to attempt a round-the-world flight will make a landing at Mandalay International Airport later this month, according to the Mandalay Region Ministry of Transport.

The Solar Impulse-S12 will land on 16 March at the airport in TadaU, Mandalay, after flying from India, the ministry said.

“Arrangements have been made for students and other people to observe the

Solar Impulse, but the number of observers will be limited due to the short observation time. After spending three nights at the airport, it will proceed to Chongqing Airport of the People’s Republic of China,” Region Minister for Transport U Kyaw Hsan told media.

A schedule has been set for Technological University and high school students from Mandalay District on 17 and 18 March to observe the aircraft and to join a workshop and

press briefing.

A total of 200 university students, 150 high school students and 210 others, totalling 760 will have the opportunity to view the aircraft. Those wishing to take part may enlist by phoning the Transport Planning Department of Mandalay Region on 02-36362. Officials will arrange transportation for those who gather at Basic Education High School No 16 on 17 and 18 March.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Six-way kidney swap complete at San Francisco hospital



Surgeons remove a kidney from Zully Broussard at California Pacific Medical Center in San Francisco, California, on 5 March, 2015, in this handout photo Provided by California Pacific Medical Centre.—REUTERS

SAN FRANCISCO, 7 March — Doctors at a San Francisco hospital on Friday completed kidney transplant surgeries in a rare organ-transplant chain from living donors that resulted in healthy kidneys going to six sick people.

The group of 12 donors and recipients, ranging in age from 24 to 70-years-old, were recovering after their operations at California Pacific Medical Centre, said hospital spokesman Dean Fryer.

“All the surgeries went smoothly. Everybody is now in their recovery rooms and getting some well-deserved rest,” Fryer said, adding that donors

typically can be released in two to three days and recipients in three to five days.

The first round of operations began on Thursday and all the surgeries were completed by late Friday afternoon, Fryer said. Five surgeons and dozens of hospital staff were on hand for the two days of procedures, he said.

Among those recovering from Thursday’s surgery was Zully Broussard, 55, of Sacramento, California, a so-called altruistic donor who had triggered the domino effect. Broussard, whose son and husband both died of cancer, offered to donate a kidney to a friend, but the friend

ultimately had to use another donor, according to hospital officials.

Broussard was still willing to donate, so she was matched with a man she did not know from Benicia, California. That man’s sister-in-law, who was not a match for him, agreed to donate her kidney to a Fresno woman, while her son, in turn, would be a donor for another woman, and so on.

This was the largest kidney swap in the 44-year history of California Pacific’s transplant center. In 2011, the hospital became the state’s first to do a five-way swap, Fryer said.

Reuters

China says aims to finish Asian free-trade talks by December

BEIJING, 7 March — China hopes to finish talks on creating an Asian free-trade bloc estimated to cover 28 percent of the world economy by the end of this year, the country’s trade minister said on Saturday.

Gao Hucheng said on the sidelines of China’s annual session of parliament that China would work hard to wrap up talks for the RCEP, or Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, before the end of this year.

RCEP, which comprises of the 10-nation ASEAN club plus six others — China, India, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand — is a Beijing-backed trade framework that has gained prominence as an alternative to US trade plans.

ASEAN, or the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, groups Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, the Philippines, Malaysia, Myanmar, Laos, Indonesia, Cambodia, and Brunei.

The United States has been leading negotiations on a more comprehensive US-backed Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade plan that involves 12 coun-

tries, not including China.

Gao said China was closely monitoring and assessing the impact of the TPP deal on global trade, and that the Chinese government welcomed any trade framework that was open and transparent.

China will “continue to unswervingly push forward and quicken the pace of China’s free-trade agreement strategy”, Gao told a news conference.

He reiterated that China was confident of growing its trade flows by around 6 percent this year, as targeted by the government, even though he warned that the country’s import and export growth

likely shrank in February.

China is set to release its February trade data on Sunday, and exports are forecast to recover after a grim January reading.

The median forecast of 16 analysts polled by Reuters showed annual export growth probably shot up to 14.2 percent on an annual basis in February, recovering from a 3.3 percent contraction in January that surprised analysts.

Imports are seen declining again, however, dropping 10.0 percent, although still an improvement compared to January’s plunge of 19.9 percent.

Reuters



A trailer loaded with container boxes travels in Ningbo port in Zhejiang Province, on 22 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

German industry interested in Chinese smart manufacturing strategy

BERLIN, 7 March — German industry of information technology and telecommunication was interested in China’s new strategy to develop smart manufacturing and would like to seek opportunities to cooperate, said a German industry representative on Friday.

The Chinese government announced on Thursday to implement the “Made in China 2025” strategy and develop “Internet Plus” action plan with an aim to seek innovation driven development, apply smart technologies, integrate the mobile Internet, cloud computing, big data, and the Internet of Things with modern manufacturing, and to upgrade China from a

manufacturer of quantity to one of quality.

Wolfgang Dorst, the head of Department “Industrie 4.0” in German ICT industry association BITKOM, told Xinhua in an interview that German industry was eager to know more about new trends in Chinese manufacturing sector and was willing to seek more cooperation opportunities.

“It (Chinese smart manufacturing) is both challenge and opportunity,” Dorst said, added that despite its strong basis in manufacturing and IT, Germany needed a globalized value chain to win the competition in the fourth industrial revolution.

“A single national state can be ahead but a

single national state cannot do it by himself,” he said, “The international network of cooperation is so tight that German companies have to work with Chinese companies and vice versa.”

Germany raised the concept “Industrie 4.0” and set it as one of the country’s 10 “future projects” in 2010.

In a weekly podcast in February, German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Germany is seeking to set a global standard for “Industrie 4.0”.

According to Dorst, the concept not only relates to manufacturing but also to all the services based on the Internet. Thus, a competition in the future would also be a competition in services,

software, connectivity, broadband and robustness of network.

Citing the visit of Miao Wei, Chinese Minister of Industry and Information Technology, to BITKOM last October, Dorst said the information exchange between China and Germany on this topic has started, but the German side wishes to get chances to be “more engaged” in the cooperation.

He added that he would visit CeBIT 2015, the world’s biggest IT trade fair where China would be the partnership country this year, in Hanover next week, and to get more ideas about China’s development in this field.

Xinhua

200,000 Austrians consume alcohol excessively: survey

VIENNA, 7 March — Alcoholism is the most common form of addiction in Austria with about 200,000 Austrians consuming excessive amounts, a new survey from market research institute GfK revealed on Friday.

Rudolf Bretschneider from GfK Austria said the survey results show alcoholism has a central place in Austrian society. Of the 4,000 people aged 15 and over who took the survey, only one in 10 said they had not consumed alcohol in the past year. In addition, 39 percent of men and 15 percent of women admitted to drinking two to three times a week or more, and only one in three said they only drank alcohol once a month. Almost half of the survey respondents also said there were other people they knew who drank too much.

And 6 percent of men and 1 percent of the women who admitted to drinking alcohol several times a week

during the past year said they drunk six or more glasses each time, meaning 200,000 Austrians overall fit into the category of “binge drinkers,” the survey conductors said.

The figures are also to be presented at the 5th Interdisciplinary Symposium on Addiction in Grundsee in the state of Styria at the weekend. The symposium organiser and psychiatry and psychotherapy specialist from the Medical University of Vienna Gabriele Fischer said compared to the scale of alcoholism in Austria, other well-known addictions such as drug addictions and gambling play a lesser role in society. According to OECD figures, Austrians drink 12.2 litres of alcohol per person per year, which is 1.1 litres more than the EU average. This puts it third-highest in the EU, behind only Lithuania (12.7 litres) and Estonia (12.3 litres) in terms of per-capita consumption.—Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

US spacecraft reaches dwarf planet Ceres for 16-month study



CAPE CANAVERAL, 7 March—A US space probe slipped into orbit around Ceres, a miniature planet beyond Mars believed to be left over from the formation of the solar system, NASA said on Friday.

Launched in 2007, the *Dawn* spacecraft made a 14-month tour of the asteroid Vesta before steering itself toward Ceres, the largest body in the asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter. *Dawn* shifted its path to allow itself to be captured by Ceres' gravity at 7:39 a.m. EST, becoming the first spacecraft to orbit a dwarf planet.

"We feel exhilarated," lead researcher Chris Russell at the University of California, Los Angeles, said in a statement after *Dawn* radioed back to Earth.

NASA's New Horizons probe is scheduled to fly by another dwarf planet, Pluto, in the far reaches of the solar system later this year. Like Ceres, Pluto was once considered a full-fledged planet, but was reclassified after the discovery of similar bodies.

Dawn will spend about a month repositioning itself from its initial orbit about 38,000 miles (61,000 km) above Ceres to the first survey altitude of 2,730 miles (4,400 km).

By the time the mission ends in June 2016, *Dawn* will have flown as low as 230 miles (375 km) above the surface.

Scientists already have a mystery to solve. Last month as *Dawn* neared Ceres, it relayed images of startlingly bright spots on the surface, which could be patches of subsurface ice exposed after an asteroid or comet impact. They also could be deposits of salt or other minerals.

"These spots were extremely surprising," *Dawn* scientist Carol Raymond of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, told reporters on Monday.

Scientists suspect Ceres may have had an underground ocean early in its history that later froze. Europe's Herschel telescope last year detected water vapor around Ceres, a clue that impacting bodies may periodically send plumes of watery material shooting into space. *Dawn* will try to confirm those findings. The mission, which is costing NASA about \$473 million, is the first to include stops at more than one extraterrestrial body.

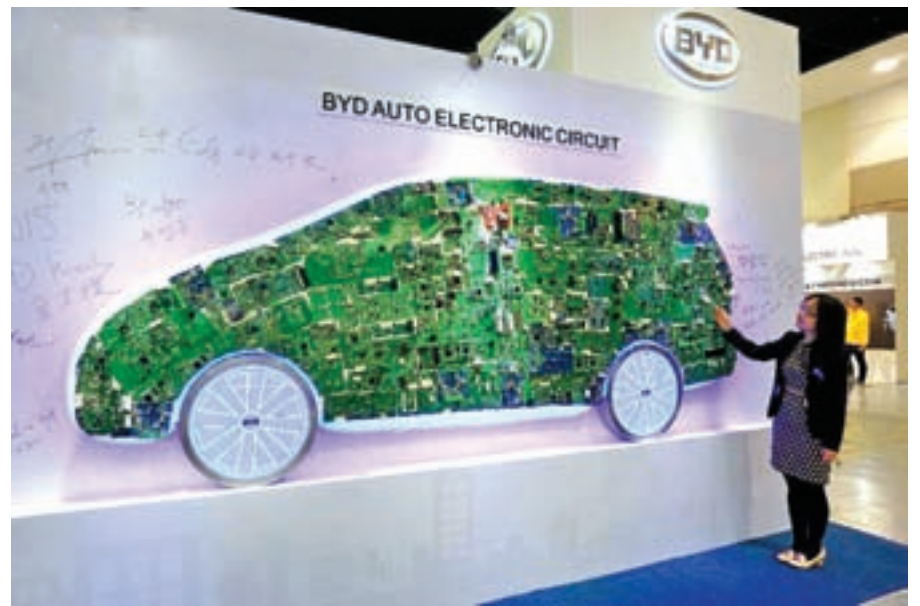
Dawn is outfitted with an ion electric propulsion engine, which requires far less fuel than traditional chemical engines.

The spacecraft was designed and built by Orbital ATK (O.A.N).

No new pictures of Ceres are expected until April when *Dawn* will be able to see the sunlight side of its new home.—Reuters

2nd Int'l Electric Vehicle Expo kicks off in S Korea

A staff of BYD Auto Co introduces the electronic circuit of a BYD car during the International Electric Vehicle Expo (IEVE) held in Jeju island of South Korea, on 6 March, 2015. The second International Electric Vehicle Expo kicked off on South Korea's popular vacation spot Jeju island on Friday, attracting around 70 electric vehicles (EVs)-related companies worldwide. The expo will last for 10 days from 6 March to 15 March under the theme of "E-mobility and Green Communities".—XINHUA



At long last, Dow gets a taste for Apple

NEW YORK, 7 March — Apple Inc (AAPL.O), the largest US company by market value, will join the Dow Jones industrial average .DJI, replacing AT&T Inc (T.N), in a change that reflects the dominant position of the iPhone maker in the US consumer economy.

The decision to nudge aside AT&T, which has been part of the Dow for the better part of a century, is a recognition of how communications and technology have evolved. It's also a marker of Apple's transformation, from a struggling company with a small, fervent following two decades ago, into the nation's predominant consumer tech company.

"This is a sign of the times, and it might get everyone to look at the Dow more than they have been," said Richard Sichel, who oversees \$2 billion as chief investment officer at Phila-

delphia Trust Co. "It would be difficult to pick any 30 companies that would cover the entire economy, especially compared with the S&P 500, but it does give the Dow more credibility."

The action, by S&P Dow Jones Indices, had been widely expected since Apple split its shares seven-for-one in June of last year. AT&T declined to comment on its removal from the average, of which it has been a member for most of the last

100 years. The stock was added to the Dow in 1916, the year after the first-ever transcontinental telephone call. It was removed in 2004, but after SBC Communications renamed itself AT&T following a 2005 merger, it was reinstated.

"It was a new way of life: telephones, back then 100 years ago, these talking machines," said Howard Silverblatt, index analyst at S&P Dow Jones Indices. "Back then, AT&T was it,

end of story."

After Apple's stock split, many investors felt it was only a matter of time before the company, whose high stock price had previously made it unsuitable for the price-weighted index, would join it.

The Dow industrials is the oldest US stock average, first published in 1896. Its compact size — just 30 names — and its mission to reflect the US economy means that many retail investors are more familiar with it than other indexes covering a broader cross-section of the market.

Even though professional managers generally benchmark against the S&P 500, additions and removals from the Dow are still a big event on Wall Street. It was last altered in September 2013 when Goldman Sachs Group Inc (GS N), Visa Inc (V N) and Nike Inc (NKE N) were added.—Reuters



Oregon city of Eugene sues Uber, citing safety regulations



The logo of car-sharing service app Uber on a smartphone over a reserved lane for taxis in a street is seen in this photo illustration taken in Madrid on 10 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

PORTLAND, 7 March — The Oregon city of Eugene

has sued the ride-sharing firm Uber to stop the com-

pany from operating until it agrees to follow local safety regulations, officials said on Friday. The city filed a lawsuit in Lane County Circuit Court on Thursday asking the court to stop Uber from operating until it meets what the city calls "minimum safety requirements," said Laura Hammond, Eugene's communication and policy analyst.

The city and Uber have been in talks about regulations since the ride-sharing service launched there in September, but hit an impasse over what regulations the company should follow. The city has also fined

Uber \$146,000, which Uber is appealing.

"Our goal isn't to shut Uber down. It's really to ensure the minimum public safety requirements," Hammond said. "We were really hoping they would be willing to work with us the same way they did with Portland."

Uber suspended operations in Portland in December, agreeing to give that city until April to come up with revised ride-sharing regulations. But Uber officials complain that Eugene has been more rigid, and that a city decision to add Uber to its for-hire code sets its services up for fail-

ure.

"While jurisdictions across the country, including neighbours like Vancouver and Portland, work to craft regulations that ensure public safety and embrace ridesharing, Eugene city leaders decided to hide behind bureaucratic red tape," Brooke Steger, Uber General Manager for the Pacific Northwest, said in a statement.

Uber has been fighting with cities across the country, contending it is not a taxi service and should not be required to adhere to existing taxicab regulations.

At issue in Eugene are city regulations that in-

clude background checks conducted by local police, proof of insurance, and proof of a mechanical inspection that shows they can verify safety features, Hammond said.

Uber contends it already conducts its own third-party background checks and provides commercial auto insurance coverage.

Hammond said the city has made good faith efforts to get Uber under an umbrella of regulations.

"We're still hopeful but at some point you kind of have to go to the next step," she said.

Reuters

Japan, N Korea eye abduction talks in late March

TOKYO, 7 March — Japan and North Korea are arranging to hold an official meeting as early as late March over the stalled talks on the North's past abductions of Japanese nationals, sources familiar with bilateral relations said on Saturday.

Official bilateral talks, if realized, would be the first since last October when senior officials of the two countries met in Pyongyang after North Korea proposed Japan send a mission there to learn about details of the North's investigations into the fates of Japanese nationals ab-

ducted decades ago.

Junichi Ihara, director general of the Asian and Oceanian Affairs Bureau of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, is expected to attend the talks, while North Korea is likely to be represented by members of a special committee investigating into the abduction issue, or by Song Il Ho, North Korea's ambassador for negotiations to normalize relations with Japan, according to the sources.

The planned talks come as Japan is considering whether to extend its economic sanctions against North Korea beyond their

scheduled expiry in mid-April. The sanctions include a total ban on exports and imports.

It is still unclear, however, whether the specific whereabouts of the abducted Japanese are to be reported at the planned talks.

Japan lifted some of its sanctions last July, including restrictions on travel between the two countries, as Pyongyang launched the special committee to conduct an all-inclusive and comprehensive probe into all Japanese residing in the North, including those abducted in the 1970s and 1980s.

But tangible progress has yet to be made and the agreed deadline for the reinvestigation is this summer. Japan officially lists 17 nationals as abduction victims but suspects North Korea's involvement in hundreds of other disappearances.

Five of the 17 were repatriated in 2002. Pyongyang has maintained that of the remaining 12, eight have died and four others never entered the country.

The abduction issue remains a major impediment to normalizing ties between the two countries.—*Kyodo News*

Sister of MH370 pilot speaks out in defence of brother

KUALA LUMPUR, 7 March — Capt Zaharie Ahmad Shah's sister made an impassioned statement on Friday to defend her pilot brother against claims that he was behind the mysterious disappearance of Malaysia Airlines (MAS) flight MH370 a year ago.

In a statement issued to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the tragedy, Sakinab Shah described Zaharie, who was affectionately known as "Ari," as a "doting father," "generous, kind and cool with a warm sense of humor. He had a passion for life, for family, and above all, for flying."

"I want the world to know here is a loving man who will stop at nothing to render help when it is needed," she said.

"As things stand today, with no tangible evidence to show, no one, be you politician, scientist, aviation expert, plane crash investigator, pilot, retired pilot, media or whoever else, none of you have a right to blame Capt Zaharie Ahmad Shah of any wrongdoing," she added.

Flight MH370 was en route to Beijing from Kuala Lumpur International Airport with 239 passengers and crew when it vanished from radar in the early hours of 8 March last year. Despite a massive international search operation, no trace of the plane has yet been found.

While theories abound as to what happened to the flight, fingers have pointed at Zaharie, a pilot with over 18,000 flight hours under his belt.

The police launched an investigation on him, taking several items from his home including a flight simulator, but thus far have found no evidence to implicate him.—*Kyodo News*



A demonstrator waves the national flag as people gather to protest against austerity policies and increases in water bills, according to local media, in central Dublin on 31 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

Ireland begins to fret over 'Brexit' as UK election nears

DUBLIN, 7 March — Concerned Irish politicians and businesses have begun planning for the possibility of Britain exiting the European Union, a step that could have large implications for the UK's small neighbour.

Britain's future in the EU could hang on the 7 May election as Prime Minister David Cameron has promised to renegotiate Britain's EU ties, then hold a referendum on membership, by the end of 2017 if his Conservative Party is re-elected.

Ireland is not the only EU member bristling at the idea of a "Brexit", but the costs would likely be most acutely felt in the former British colony whose export-led economy is the fastest growing in Europe as it recovers from a deep financial crisis.

"We cannot afford the potential deep uncertainty that would inevitably result from a fundamental change in the EU-UK relationship, let alone the concrete difficulties which could arise," Ireland's European Minister Dara Murphy told a parliamentary committee this week.

The Committee has been holding twice-weekly hearings since February on what a "Brexit" — shorthand for a British exit from the EU — would mean for Ireland. Members also travelled to London this week to meet with MPs and other groups.

Murphy laid out Dublin's

concerns as being four-fold — the potential damage to the economy, to British-Irish relations, to peace in the British province of Northern Ireland and to Ireland's influence in the EU were it to lose a close ally.

Economic concerns have been to the fore. The United Kingdom is Ireland's biggest trading partner and Murphy said nearly 200,000 Irish jobs — representing 10 percent of Ireland's workforce — depend on that close economic relationship.

Over 40 percent of merchandise exports from Irish-owned firms goes to the UK, as does more than half of imports and exports of agri-food products. Analysts warn trading costs could become prohibitive if an EU-free Britain reintroduced tariffs.

"These are huge numbers. The concept of Britain leaving the EU is very worrying, it serves nobody's purpose," Smurfit Kappa CEO Gary McGann told *Reuters* on the sidelines of a British Irish Chamber of Commerce conference on the subject.

Businesses have begun to weigh up the possible consequences. Bank of Ireland boss Richie Boucher said last week his bank had examined the issues around a referendum, concluding that its British business would not be much affected but there would be "potential upsides and downsides" for Ireland.—*Reuters*

Ohio man accused of plotting Capitol attack says would have shot Obama

WASHINGTON, 7 March — An Ohio man claiming sympathy with Islamic State militants and charged with plotting to attack the US Capitol said in a television interview that he would have shot President Barack Obama in the head.

Christopher Cornell, 20, told Cincinnati's FOX 19 WXIX TV that if he had not been arrested by FBI agents in January, he would have carried out an alleged plot to plant pipe bombs on the Capitol and at the Israeli Embassy.

"What would I have done? I would have took my gun, I would have put it to Obama's head and I would have pulled the trigger," Cornell, of Cincinnati, said in a telephone interview from the Boone County, Kentucky, jail aired on Friday.

"Then I would have released more bullets on the Senate and the House of Representative members, and I would have attacked the Israeli Embassy and various other buildings full of kafir (a Muslim term for infidel) who want to wage war against

us Muslims and shed our blood. That's what would happen," he said. Cornell was arrested after he researched how to make pipe bombs, purchased a rifle and ammunition and made plans to travel to Washington to carry out the plot, according to court testimony from an FBI informant.

He is being held without bail. The charges include attempted murder of government officials, possession of a firearm to commit a crime and solicitation to commit a violent crime.

"I got orders from the brothers overseas because I'm with the Islamic State. My brothers over there, in Syria and Iraq, gave me specific orders to carry out jihad in the West, so I did so," Cornell said.

Islamic State militants rule a self-proclaimed caliphate in parts of Iraq and Syria. The Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Homeland Security warned police on Thursday about US youths wanting to join the Islamic State in the Middle East.—*Reuters*



Iranian men take part in a camel running competition at port city of Chabahar, southeastern Iran, on 6 March, 2015.—XINHUA

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (125N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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

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**INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER (2/2015)
[TENDER NO. MPPE/ JET A1 / T / 1
(2014-2015)]**

1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of JET A1 (282,000 bbl±10%)
2. Tender Closing Date & Time - 16-3-2015, 12:00 Hrs
3. Tender Opening Date & Time - 16-3-2015, 13:00 Hrs
4. Delivery Time - 1st April 2015 to 31st August 2015
5. Tender documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, the Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing 5-3-2015 on payment of Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.
6. Only bid from tender who has purchased tender document officially from the Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Ministry of Energy, No(6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw
Contact Phone No. 067-411487 / 411486 / 411280

Antinuclear workshop still going strong 4 years after Fukushima

TOKYO, 7 March— With preparations underway to restart Japan's nuclear power plants, writer Keiko Ochiai has pledged to continue beyond the fourth anniversary of the Fukushima accident a workshop on problems related to atomic power generation.

The monthly workshop organized by Ochiai in Tokyo was first held in May 2011, two months after a massive earthquake and tsunami hit northeastern Japan, and there have been more than 50 meetings since.

"It's unfortunate but I have to continue the workshop," the 70-year-old writer told *Kyodo News* in an interview.

All 48 commercial nuclear reactors across Japan are currently offline in the wake of multiple meltdowns at the Fukushima Daiichi plant, but four of them have obtained safety clearance to restart under tighter regulations intro-

duced after the crisis.

At the latest meeting at the end of February, about 110 people attended the "Morning Study of Silent Spring" in Tokyo featuring British-born broadcaster Peter Barakan, who gave a speech on "Can Music Change the World?"

During their dialogue, Ochiai and Barakan took up various issues ranging from nuclear power generation to problems of Japanese mass media and discrimination in the country.

"We mustn't forget the fact that, currently, roughly 120,000 people are forced to live away from their hometowns," Ochiai said, referring to Fukushima residents who have been evacuated from their homes due to the nuclear accident.

To date, 57 people have given lectures at the workshop including journalists, economists, a lawmaker and a doctor who has treated children in Fukushi-



Writer Keiko Ochiai (R) and Peter Barakan, a British-born broadcaster, talk in an antinuclear power workshop in Tokyo on 28 Feb, 2015.—KYODO NEWS

ma. A former nuclear plant designer spoke about the structural defects of nuclear plants, while the leader of a nonprofit organization dealing with nuclear issues talked about the demand and supply of electricity in Japan.

The name of the workshop came from Ochiai's blog whose title is "Journal

of Silent Spring" named after "Silent Spring," a book about the danger of pesticides such as DDT by environmentalist Rachel Carson in 1962.

"Silence does not exist for silence. It exists to be broken after we learn something. I want the participants to learn about silence-breaking days," Ochiai said.

ai said.

A popular radio personality since the 1960s, Ochiai has hosted the workshop at "crayonhouse," a children's book store she has run for around 40 years near Omotesando Street.

"Morning Study of Silent Spring" is not her first attempt at a workshop.

In the wake of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident, Ochiai set up a similar study session, but it faded out over time.

A mixed feeling of regret and anger for not having continued with it drove her to organize a new workshop in 2011, she said.

Explaining the reason why she is opposed to nuclear power, she said, "We have to think about the future generations of children. And we have to think again that there is no 'absolute' in what people do."

Despite persisting safety concerns and antinuclear public sentiment following

the Fukushima crisis, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government has been pushing to bring some of the nuclear reactors back online, saying it is necessary for economic growth.

Ochiai said, "It is obvious the economy will collapse if there is another nuclear accident."

Every year as the anniversary of the disaster approaches, media reports about disaster-hit northeastern Japan and its residents remind other Japanese people of the disaster and the Fukushima nuclear accident.

"I think we are on a system to 'make people forget.' The farther we are from the disaster area, the easier we are influenced by a spate of everyday news," said Ochiai.

"But what we can do is not to forget and think about the next step we can make," she added.

Kyodo News

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WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 8th March, 2015: Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Region, weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing Region, Kachin and Mon States, generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Gazprom receives another \$15 million prepayment for gas from Ukraine

Moscow, 7 March— Russian gas export monopoly Gazprom said on Friday it had received another \$15 million prepayment from Ukraine for gas deliveries, Gazprom's spokesman said.

This indicates that Ukraine has prepaid for gas until mid-month.

Gazprom's spokesman said that Ukraine made the payment for 63.3 million cubic metres, excluding deliveries to rebel-held territories in east of the country.

On Thursday, Gazprom said it had also received \$15 million from Ukrainian state energy firm Naftogaz. —Reuters



The Gazprom logo is seen on the side of the company's headquarters in Moscow, on 24 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

Lanvin is loved at Paris fashion week



Alber Elbaz, Israeli-American artistic director for fashion house Lanvin (L), and US Vogue Editor-In-Chief Anna Wintour visit the Jeanne Lanvin exhibition at the Palais Galliera in Paris, on 6 March, 2015. — REUTERS

PARIS, 7 March — Paris fashion week was a Lanvin love-fest this season as designer Alber Elbaz showcased a tassel-laden collection inspired by Morocco and kicked off a retrospective of France's oldest surviving couture house.

Lanvin's Winter 2015 ready-to-wear show, which drew a newly blond Kim

Kardashian to the front row on Thursday night, was a study in refined chic despite the liberal use of decadent velvets and satins and its pervasive Bohemian spirit.

A cropped navy jacket paired with shiny black boots and trousers sporting a thick red side-stripe cut a dashing line worthy of any Hussar, while the North

African influence emerged with black tassels and fringe on blanketlike yet supremely feminine skirts, dresses and coats.

So strong was the collection that even the frenzied side-show of Kardashian and rapper husband Kanye West arriving a half hour late did not detract. Also sporting platinum locks was actor Jared

Leto, who added mirrored sunglasses and a pair of duck boots to the look for good measure. In an overdue homage to the house's founder who died in 1946, the Palais Galliera fashion museum presents through August a retrospective of the work of Jeanne Lanvin, from golden pearl-encrusted turbans to airy silk dresses in shades of absinthe or sea-foam thickly embroidered with glittering crystals.

Elbaz was on hand on Friday to show off some of the 90 pieces on display, many featuring Art Deco geometric motifs and intricate embroidery and beading. Some fabrics are so delicate they cannot be steamed to remove wrinkles, he said.

"When you see the collection, there is such a modernity," Elbaz, a claret-hued velvet scarf draped over his shoulders, told journalists. "I opened up boxes from 100 years ago. I saw the care with which they were made, how long they took ... it's a mirror to the past." —Reuters

Amal Clooney to lecture on human rights law at Columbia University

LOS ANGELES, 7 March — Human rights lawyer Amal Clooney will join Columbia Law School as a visiting faculty member this spring, the New York-based university said on Friday.

Clooney, wife of Hollywood actor George Clooney, will deliver lectures on human rights law during the current spring semester. Amal Clooney, who is based in London, said in a statement that it was "an honour" to teach at the Ivy League institution.

"I look forward to getting to know the next generation of human rights advocates studying here," she said.

Lebanese-born Clooney, 37, may have shot into the public eye as the partner of George Clooney, whom she married in a lavish Italian ceremony last year, but she has forged a notable career as an international human rights lawyer.



Amal Clooney arrives at the 72nd Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, California on 11 Jan, 2015. — REUTERS

She previously served as an adviser to Kofi Annan in his role as a United Nations special adviser for Syria, and she also represented WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange in his extradition proceedings.

She is currently representing jailed Al Jazeera journalist Mohamed Fahmy, who was sentenced last year on charges that include spreading lies to help a terrorist organization.

Reuters

Demi Lovato inspired by Jennifer Lopez

LOS ANGELES, 7 March — Singer Demi Lovato says she has formed a really close bond with Jennifer Lopez and looks to her for inspiration.

The 'Skyscraper' hitmaker said she really admires the 45-year-old star's confidence and looks to her for inspiration, reported E!Online.

"Some of the women that really inspire me, I would say I've become



"Some of the women that really inspire me, I would say I've become really close with Jennifer Lopez," said Demi Lovato. —PTI

really close with Jennifer Lopez," she said.

Asked what she likes about the 'Booty' hitmaker, Lovato, 22, said, "She's such a strong, confident woman that she's really helped me with learning that stuff and she's just such an inspirational person and so empowering and if there's anybody that's super radiant and confident, it's her."

PTI

Ian Somerhalder, Nikki Reed to have outdoor wedding?

LOS ANGELES, 7 March — 'The Vampire Diaries' star Ian Somerhalder and fiancée Nikki Reed are reportedly planning a roman-

tic outdoor ceremony.

Although a source close to the couple explained that they have 'done very little planning'

because they are too busy being young, in love, and engaged, there are a few things the couple have decided on for their big day,

reported *Hollywood Life*.

"They do want an outside wedding and they also want it to be very intimate. They definitely want the feel of it to be outside near where they live," the source said.

The two animal lovers are apparently hoping that they can have their outdoor wedding somewhere where their animals can also attend.

"They have also discussed to have it near where their animals can be part of the festivities," the source said.

Reed, 26, and Somerhalder, 36, dated for six months before getting engaged in February, reported *Us* magazine. —PTI



'The Vampire Diaries' star Ian Somerhalder and fiancée Nikki Reed are reportedly planning a romantic outdoor ceremony. —PTI

Patricia Arquette clarifies Oscar night comments

LOS ANGELES, 7 March — Oscar-winning actress Patricia Arquette said she could have made her backstage remarks in a more eloquent way at this year's Academy Awards.

Arquette, 46, who is facing backlash from media for her backstage speech while collecting her Best Supporting Actress Oscar for 'Boyhood', reported *The Wrap*.

"You can't go back in time. But, I guess I would have chosen my words a

on Twitter following the post-Oscars uproar, went on to say that helping all women should be the priority.

"Everyone should help women. Everyone has a vested interest. Every single lesbian and transgender woman is a woman.

"Every single woman in the African American community is getting impacted. Every single woman in the Latino community is being impacted. This is having devastating eco-



Oscar-winning actress Patricia Arquette said she could have made her backstage remarks in a more eloquent way at this year's Academy Awards. —PTI

little more carefully. I think the way people perceived it is not the way at all I intended."

The actress, who also clarified what she meant

conomic consequences across the board [...] If people can throw their weight behind women I think it would really help each of these bases." —PTI

GENERAL

Nishikori wins to level Davis Cup tie vs Canada

VANCOUVER, 7 March — World No 4 Kei Nishikori defeated Vasek Pospisil in straight sets to pull Japan level at 1-1 in its Davis Cup World Group first-round tie against Canada on Friday.

The day started with Canada's top player — No 6 ranked Milos Raonic — reeling off 19 aces and putting Canada ahead with a 6-2, 6-1, 6-2 win over No 85 Tatsuma Ito. But Nishikori, who last month became the first player to win the Memphis Open title three times in a row, made it all square in the second singles match, beating 62nd-ranked Pospisil 6-4, 7-5(5), 6-3. "I'm pleased," said Nishikori, runner-up at the Mexico Open last Saturday. "I had a bit of concern about the fast surface but gathered momentum and was able to play with confidence."

"I have to prepare well for the next match and not forget this feeling."

Japan beat Canada 4-1 last year to advance to the quarterfinals for the first time since the current WG format started in 1981, although the Canadians were missing top players Raonic and Pospisil because of injuries.

Kyodo News

Easier to beat Blatter with one candidate, says Van Praag

AMSTERDAM, 7 March — Dutch Football Association President Michael van Praag believes he and former Portugal international Luis Figo have no chance of unseating Sepp Blatter in the FIFA leadership elections if they both stand against the Swiss.

"That's what I think and (UEFA president) Michel Platini too," Van Praag was quoted as saying by Dutch newspaper 'De Telegraaf' on Saturday.

"What Figo thinks about that I don't know but it would be much better for Europe if we presented one candidate."

Predictably, Van Praag said he was the better option.

"Figo is more photogenic. All the South American member association presidents wanted to take their photo with him. But they didn't want to say if they would vote for him," the Dutchman said on his return from the CONMEBOL Congress in Paraguay this week.

Both were lobbying for support for the election at the end of May, where

they are up against Blatter and Jordan's Prince Ali bin Al-Hussein, another ally of Platini.

Van Praag and former Barcelona and Real Madrid winger Figo share similar ideas on how to reform the world governing body but they do differ slightly on how to allocate the annual grant to the 209 member associations, the Dutchman said.

"I want to hand over one million Euros (\$1.08 million) (annually) but Figo wants to double that. That would bankrupt FIFA. A million is the most that can be disbursed without putting FIFA in danger."

Van Praag kept up his criticism of the spendthrift ways of Blatter, who travelled by helicopter for lunch with Paraguay President Horacio Cartes after the congress in Asuncion.

"Why did Sepp Blatter have to travel to South America in a private jet when there are good air connections between Europe and South America?"

"There is far too much spent on travel, salaries and tournament costs. It is



Royal Dutch Football Association (KNVB) President Michael Van Praag is pictured after the CONMEBOL ordinary congress in Luque on 4 March, 2015.—REUTERS

our money. The money of the national associations. That's what I've been telling everybody."

Van Praag said two of the 10 South American associations had promised him support in the 29 May election.

However, a source told Reuters on Tuesday the confederation would back the 78-year-old Blatter, who has held power since 1998, for another four year term.

Van Praag said he would travel to other continental confederation congresses in coming weeks to present his ideas.—Reuters

Wine from Civil War-era shipwreck uncorked in South Carolina

CHARLESTON, 7 March — A bottle of wine recovered intact four years ago from the 1864 wreck of a Civil War blockade runner that sank off the coast of Bermuda was uncorked and sipped by a panel of experts on Friday during a food festival in Charleston, South Carolina.

The verdict: A heady sulfur bouquet with distinct notes of saltwater and gasoline. The wine was uncorked at a Charleston Wine + Food event titled "From Deep Below: A Wine Event 150 Years in the Making."

About 50 people bought tickets to watch as a panel of wine experts decanted and tasted it on Friday evening, organizers said.

"I've had shipwreck wines before," master sommelier Paul Roberts said. "They can be great."

This one, obviously, was not. To peals of audience laughter, the panel said the cloudy yellow-gray liquid smelled and tasted like a mixture of crab water, gasoline,



Joe Lapore, from the Waitt Institute, holds a bottle recovered from the Civil War blockade runner ship Mary-Celestia, which sank off Bermuda in 1864, with diver Stuart Joblin, in this handout photo provided by LookBermuda/Chris Burville and taken on 19 June, 2011.—REUTERS

salt water and vinegar, with hints of citrus and alcohol.

It could have been a Spanish fortified wine, a spirit, or medicine. But after 151 years at the bottom of the ocean, it's now mostly saltwater, they said.

Wine chemist Pierre Louis Teissedre of the University of Bordeaux who had analyzed samples drawn through the cork earlier said

the "nose" of the wine was a room-clearing mix of camphor, stagnant water, hydrocarbons, turpentine and sulfur. Analysis showed it was 37 percent alcohol, he said.

The wine was one of five sealed bottles recovered by marine archaeologists from the Mary-Celestia, an iron-hulled sidewheel steamship that sank under mysterious circumstances during the US

Civil War.

The boat was leaving Bermuda with supplies for the Confederate states when it struck a reef and sank in six minutes, said Philippe Rouja, a cultural anthropologist and custodian of historic shipwrecks for the Bermudan government.

Whether the sinking was deliberate or accidental has been debated.

Rouja and his brother, Jean-Pierre Rouja, were diving on the shipwreck in 2011 after winter storms swept over the site when they found a bottle of wine inside a secret boatswain's locker in the bow. Subsequent dives turned up the additional bottles, as well as sealed bottles of perfume, women's shoes, hairbrushes and pearl shell buttons, Philippe Rouja said.

This year marks the 150th anniversary of the end of the Civil War, which was fought from 1861 to 1865 and began in Charleston Harbor with the Battle of Fort Sumter.

Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(8-3-2015 07:00 am~ 9-3-2015 07:00 am) MST

- | | |
|---|--|
| * News | Icon; Prolific Writer of Poems & Prose — Min Thu Wun (Ep-4) Political Life & Remembrance |
| * Myanmar Leading Lady "Naw Sussana Hla Hla Soe" | * Myanmar Masterclass "Caricature" |
| * Entrepreneur: Chaw Khin Khin | * News |
| * News | * "Great Shwedagon" The Religious Insignias of pagodas in Myanmar |
| * ID Show (Education) | * Products of Myanmar — Pottery Business |
| * A Nun's Creation in Fruit Carving | * News |
| * News | * Kyaik Hmaw Wun Yele Pagoda Festival |
| * A Historic Town: 9 Pagodas | * Myanmar Traditional Instruments — Myanma Harp (Episode-1) |
| * My Travel In This Exceptional Place, Inle Lake | * News |
| * News | * The Eel Business |
| * "India-Myanmar Bilateral Ties" | * Ngapali, Unique Spot To Relax |
| * History of MraukU Pagoda | * News |
| * News | * Flying Without Wings- My Great Limitless Adventure — Inle lake (Part-1) |
| * Food Trip (EP-4) (Part-1) | * Sagaing: Gold Leaf |
| * Today Myanmar "Tour Guides Demand in Peak Season" | |
| * News | |
| * Myanmar National Poet And Literary | |

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(8-3-2015, Sunday)

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|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 6:00 am | 8:05 am |
| • Alinka Wutyi Music Troupe | • Game For Children |
| 6:30 am | 8:30 am |
| • Myanmar Video | • Sing & Enjoy |
| 7:55 am | 9:25 am |
| • Fashion Show | • Myanmar Movie |

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(8-3-2015, Sunday)

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|--|--|
| 6:00 am | 3:00 pm |
| • Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | • News / International News |
| 6:30 am | 3:35 pm |
| • Physical Exercise | • Myanmar Movies (Part-2) |
| 7:00 am | 4:35 pm |
| • News/ Weather Report | • 2015 University Entrance Examination (Biology) |
| 7:35 am | 5:00 pm |
| • Business News | • News |
| 8:35 am | 5:35 pm |
| • Documentary | • Documentary (Weather) |
| 9:35 am | 5:50 pm |
| • Weekly Entertainment | • People's Talks |
| 10:30 am | 7:00 pm |
| • Head Line News | • News |
| 11:35 am | 7:35 pm |
| • Amazing World | • Documentary (Woman in Myanmar Society) |
| 12:00 noon | 8:00 pm |
| • News / International News / Weather Report | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 12:20 pm | 9:00 pm |
| • Round up of The Week's International News | • News |
| 12:35 pm | • Tasty Trip |
| • Myanmar Movies (Part-1) | • Sing & Enjoy |



New generation boxers to meet in challenges

YANGON, 7 March—The boxing challenges for new generations including three four-round matches and four three-round matches, organized by Myanmar Boxing Federation, will take place at Theinbyu Stadium, here, on 8 March afternoon.

Pairs in the challenges are Thar Nagar (Waso/Yangon) vs. Soe Min Oo (Mudonthar/Mon); Min Htet Aung (Doh Yoe Yar/Yangon) vs. Aung Myin Thu (Waso/Yangon);

Aung Ye Lin (Tiger/Hpa-an) vs. Tein Taik (Mudonthar/Mon); Bo Soe Aung (Swan KK/Mandalay) vs. Moe Kaung Kin (Whitish New Generation/Yangon); Htin Lin Oo (Tiger/Hpa-an) vs. Saw Htoo Aung (Doh Yoe Yar/Yangon); Moe Lay (Swan KK/Mandalay) vs. The Gyi (S.T.L./Yangon); and Naing Lin (Tiger/Hpa-an) vs. Thura Leik (Swan KK/Mandalay).

Ticket is sold at K2,000 per spectator.

Khin Maung Win (Kyemon)

Myanmar to meet Indonesia in tune-up match soon

YANGON, 7 March — Myanmar national football team will play an international tune-up match with Indonesian national team at Delta Stadium in Sidoarjo, East Java, Indonesia on 30 March.

The Myanmar Football Fed-

eration responded to an offer dated 4-3-2015 of the Football Association of Indonesia to play a tune-up match.

Myanmar national team under control of head coach Serbian Radojko Avramović will start its training on 12 March.

The tentatively selected Myanmar team is formed with goalkeepers Van Lal Harwe, Chan Nyein Kyaw (Ayeyawady), Pyae Phyo Aung and Zaw Htet Lin (Southern Myanmar); defenders Aung Zaw (Hanthawady), Zaw Lin, Win Min Htut and Thein Naying Oo (KBZ), Ye Win Aung (Yadanabon), Zaw Min Tun and Khin Maung Lwin (Yangon) and Nay Zaw Aung (Nay Pyi Taw); midfielders Min Min Thu (Ayeyawady), Hein Zar Aung (Magway), David Dune, Yan Aung Kyaw and Kyi Lin (Yangon), Nyan Lin Aung (Zwekabin), Nanda Lin Kyaw Chit (Yadanabon), Yan Aung Win (KBZ) and Thet Paing Oo (Zeyar Shwe-myay); forwards Zin Min Tun (Yadanabon), Kyaw Ko Ko (Yangon), Sam Lang Mahn (Chin United), Soe Min Naing (Magway), Kyaw Zeyar Win (KBZ) and Pyae Moe (Rakhine United).

MFF



Serbia, Britain in control as depleted Swiss hold Belgium

KRALJEVO, (Serbia), 7 March — Serbia carved out a 2-0 lead over rivals Croatia while Britain led the US by the same score and holders Switzerland were tied with Belgium in the Davis Cup world group first round on Friday.

France also raced into a 2-0 lead away to Germany after Gilles Simon overpowered Jan-Lennard Struff in five sets and Gael Monfils beat Philipp Kohlschreiber 6-4, 7-5, 7-6(4).

Roared on by a passionate 3,000 crowd, who also applauded Croatia's national anthem, world number one Novak Djokovic put 2010 winners Ser-

bia ahead with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 whitewash of Mate Delic before Viktor Troicki staged a magnificent comeback to beat 18-year-old Borna Coric in five sets in the Kraljevo Arena.

Trailing by two sets and 2-0 in the third, Troicki looked a different player after winning the next five games to haul himself back into the match.

The 29-year-old from Belgrade piled on the pressure against a worn-down Coric who looked completely deflated for the rest of the match and acknowledged he ran out of steam and energy after suffering a 4-6, 1-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 defeat.

"I played an almost perfect match up to the point when I was two games up in the third set and, having missed some volleys which I shouldn't have, I completely lost it," said Coric, recently touted by Djokovic as the next big thing in men's tennis after wins over Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray.

"Clearly, I lack the experience and stamina for five-set matches but that's exactly where I will improve in the future."

Troicki said: "I had to dig deep but I never lost faith and felt good on the court even when I was losing.

"The crowd really

gave me a lift and they deserve a lot of credit for my comeback against a top quality player who has a very bright future."

Britain's Murray cruised to a predictably comfortable 6-1, 6-1, 4-6, 6-2 win over Donald Young before James Ward, ranked 111th in the world, staged a comeback as impressive as Troicki's to beat John Isner in five sets.

The 28-year old Londoner prevailed 6-7(4), 5-7, 6-3, 7-6(3), 15-13, clinching a marathon fifth set after conjuring triple match points in the final game of the contest which lasted four hours and 56 minutes.—Reuters

Rooney, inspired by memory of United loss, eyes first FA Cup

LONDON, 7 March — Wayne Rooney has never won an FA Cup winner's medal and the Manchester United captain is desperate to get his hands on one having fallen in love with the competition watching his team lose the final 20 years ago.

In a glittering 13-year career, the oldest cup competition in soccer remains the only major domestic trophy the England international has not lifted.

The 29-year-old has tasted defeat twice in the final with United, in a penalty shootout to Arsenal in 2005 and 1-0 to Chelsea in 2007.

With Monday's quarter-final against Arsenal at Old Trafford looming, Rooney recalled the happy memory of seeing his former club Everton beat United 1-0 in the 1995 final.

"We haven't been to a final for a few years, we want to try to win that game and we are looking forward to that," Rooney told the United website.

"Of course, I think it is a massive trophy. It is a trophy that, growing up as a youngster, I used to



Wayne Rooney

love watching and I was fortunate enough to see Everton lift the FA Cup in 1995 when I was nine years old. It is something which I would love to do and, hopefully, it can be this year."

With United fourth in the league, 10 points adrift of leaders Chelsea, the FA Cup is Louis van Gaal's only realistic chance of winning a trophy in his first season in charge.

Reuters

Cisse and Evans handed hefty bans for spitting

LONDON, 7 March — Newcastle United forward Papiss Cisse has been banned for seven matches and Manchester United defender Jonny Evans for six after they spat at each other during a Premier League match, the Football Association (FA) said on Saturday.

The incident, which was not spotted by match officials, occurred in the 38th minute of Manchester United's 1-0 win at St James' Park on Wednesday.

"Both players were charged in relation to an alleged breach of FA Rule E1[a] in that in or around the 38th minute of the fixture they spat at each other," the FA said in a statement.

"Mr Cisse accepted the charge and his suspension consists of six matches, which is the standard penalty for this offence, with an additional one match as he has previously accepted a violent conduct charge this season.

"Mr Evans denied the

charge but it was found proven following an Independent Regulatory Commission hearing on Friday."

Neither player has been granted the right to appeal against the sanction and the bans are effective immediately.

The FA's charge was brought after a three-man panel of former referees said both players should have been dismissed for their actions.

Northern Ireland international Evans, 27, will

Reuters