

## Myanmar celebrates International Women's Day in capital city



Honorable patron of MAAF Daw Khin Khin Win views products displayed by women's vocational training schools.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March — Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation celebrated International Women's Day 2015 under the theme "Empowering Women, Empowering Humanity: Picture it!", at its office here on Sunday. Speaking at the cele-

bration, Daw Khin Khin Win, President U Thein Sein's wife and MAAF's honourable patron, said new opportunities as well as challenges are facing today's world, with an unprecedented growth of urbanization and industrialization sweeping in de-

## President U Thein Sein, wife Daw Khin Khin Win to pay State Visit to Malaysia

NAY PYI TAW, 9 March — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and wife Daw Khin Khin Win will pay a State Visit to Malaysia in the near future at the invitation of His Majesty Almu' Tasimu Billahi Muhibbuddin Tuanku Alhaj Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah ibin Almarhum Sultan Badlishah, The Yang di Pertuan Agong of Malaysia XIV, and Her Majesty the Raja Permaisuri Agong Tuanku Hajah Haminah.—MNA

veloping countries.

Women constitute nearly a half of the world's population and their empowerment plays a vital role in the fast-changing world.

She called women engaged in national movements through the independence struggle historic figures, praising other female figures in literature, arts, law, medicine and other social spheres.

She described gender equality as fundamental in the drive to national reconciliation, calling for more women participation in po-

litical, economic and social settings.

Myanmar women have a longer life expectancy than their opposites, with males at 63.57 years and females at 68.46, she stated, citing that of over 600 senior citizens aged 100 and over who received the state's honour, 70% were found to be women.

She urged women to follow the example of those women of successive eras who had contributed a lot to their society going hand in hand with men on all fronts.

MNA

## Ahlon International Port Terminal 1 comes on line

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 8 March — Ahlon International Port Terminal 1 was opened here in Yangon on Sunday, with Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in attendance at the ceremony.

The newly-opened port terminal is close to the downtown area of Yangon and located on the eastern bank of the Yangon River.

"This wharf with a 600-metre long bridge and 45.183 acres of a container space allows three vessels with 20,000 tons of load," according to a presentation by U Khin Maung Soe,

director of projects at Myanmar Economic Corporation.

MEC said state-of-the-art facilities are installed at the terminal to handle containers and general cargos in a total terminal operation area of 190,000 square meters.

The new transport facility has a container storage capacity of 13,210 TEU (twenty-foot equivalent unit) in the container yard, alongside a general cargo storage of 8,500 metric tons in the warehouse on an area of 2,400 square metres in the port.

(See page 3)

## Scientists rediscover 'extinct' bird in Myanmar

YANGON, 8 March — Scientists surprisingly rediscovered Myanmar Jerdon's babbler alive after it has disappeared for many years and thought to be extinct.

Reports of these scientists last week said that a bird thought to have gone the way of the dodo decades ago has been rediscovered in Myanmar.

The Jerdon's babbler,

a bird about the size of a house sparrow, was first discovered in 1862 by British naturalist T. C. Jerdon in grassy plains near Thayet Township, a city in central Myanmar. There have been no recorded sightings of the bird in 74 years.

A team led by the Wildlife Conservation Society unexpectedly discovered the bird while the group was studying other birds in a small grassland area near an abandoned agricultural research station.

The WCS found several more individuals of the bird which is one of the three subspecies of Jerdon's babbler found throughout the river basins of South Asia. The birds used to be common in the grasslands, but agriculture and urbanization had driven it from its natural habitat, the

WCS said in a statement. "The degradation of these vast grasslands had led many to consider this subspecies of Jerdon's

Babbler extinct," Colin Poole, director of the WCS' regional conservation hub in Singapore, said.

He said the discovery proves that the species — and its habitat — still exists. The rediscovery was described in the recently published issue of *Birding Asia*, the magazine of the Oriental Bird Club, according to the WCS.

This is not the first time scientists have rediscovered a species long thought extinct. In 2009, Worcester's buttonquail, a bird thought extinct in the Philippines, was photographed for the first time, before being sold as food at a poultry market.

Richard Thomas, a council member of the Oriental Bird Club, note that there are a few other species experts are hoping to find again, including the white-eyed river martin of Thailand, last seen in 1978, and the pink-headed duck, whose last confirmed sighting was in 1949.—GNLM



When scientists heard the call of a Myanmar Jerdon's babbler (above), they quickly recorded it and played the recording back, prompting one of the birds to come investigate.

PHOTOGRAPH BY ROBERT TIZARD, WCS

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E** Union minister meets with teachers from Kokang SAZ

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Mandalay Region to house 1727 mobile communication stations nest year

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Hearing for amendment bill for national education law goes on

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# Daw Nan Shwe Hmon attends ceremony to honour religious title recipient Sayadaws

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March — Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, wife of Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, attended the ceremony to honour

abbot of Dammawdaya Pariyatti Monastery in Kengtung Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Ajeya and abbot of Sasana Wiponla Dawtaw Pariyatti Monastery in Loilem, Joint Secretary of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Agga Maha Pandita Dr Bhaddanta Pannananda

at Thiri Mingala Manhsu Shan monastery in Lashio on Sunday.

Buddhist monks read out the biographies of two venerable Sayadaws.

Wellwishers donated offertories worth over 74 million to venerable Sayadaws and shared merits of donations.—MNA

**Daw Nan Shwe Hmon donates eight prerequisites to a Sayadaw.—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March — Myanmar-China Friendship Association Special delegation led by Patron U Tin Oo and Chairman U Sein Win Aung visited the People's Republic of China from 3 to 8 March 2015 at the invitation of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. U Myo Aung, Secretary of Myanmar-China Friendship Association accompanied the delegation as a member.

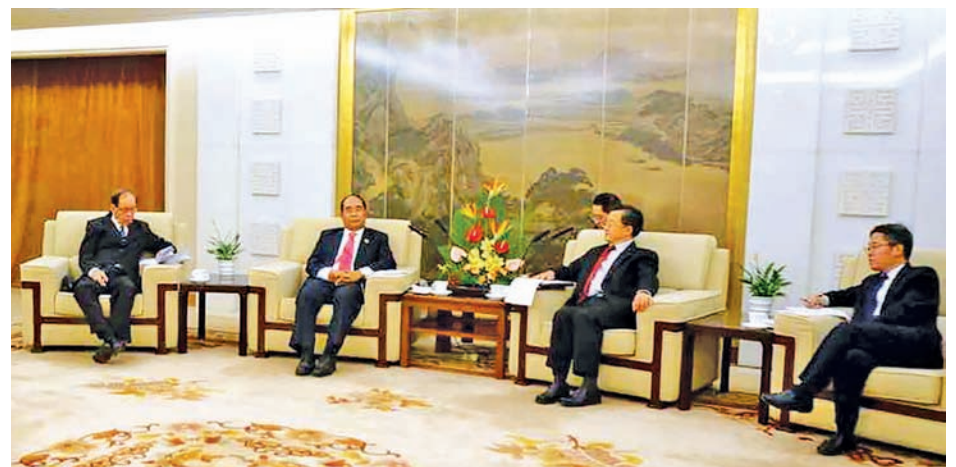
Executive Vice Chairman of China-Myanmar Friendship Association in separate meetings. U Thit Linn Ohn, Myanmar Ambassador to the People's Republic of China also attended the said meetings.

During those meetings, they discussed matters related to promoting the friendly relations and cooperation, and also exchanged views on maintenance of law and order in border area. Myanmar delegation also expressed appreciation to Chinese government for humanitarian assistance provided to people who temporarily came to China for security concern.

Myanmar-China

# Myanmar, China exchange views on maintenance of law and order in border area

Friendship Association Special delegation also visited Yunnan Province from 5 to 8 March. Myanmar-China Friendship Association Special delegation was accompanied by U Aung Kyaw Oo, Myanmar Consul-General residing in Kunming. In Kunming, Yunnan Province, U Tin Oo and party met with Mr. Meng Sutie, member of Standing Committee, Yunnan Province, the Communist Party of China and proceeded to Lincang County on 7 March. In Lincang, they met with Mr. Li Xiaoping,



Myanmar and Chinese officials focus on friendly relations, prevalence of law and order at border area.—MNA

party secretary of Lincang municipal city and visited seized and one Tatmadaw member was injured.

As Tatmadaw columns continued combing the area for the insurgents, three guns, two magazines, 509 rounds of ammunition, three bullet proof helmets, one hat of senior military officer, one jungle hat of military officer and two military vehicle number plates.

Tatmadaw columns are launching military operations against the insurgents to ensure the safe travelling of locals.

Myawady

the temporary settlements at boundary pillar nos. 137, 127 and 125 set up by Chinese government for people who temporarily came from Kokang region to China for security concern. Delegation met with 1100 temporary displaced people living in temporary camp at boundary pillar no. 137 and about 1500 people

at boundary pillar no. 127 camp. People temporarily sheltered at boundary pillar no.125 camp have already returned back to their homes. Myanmar-China Friendship Association Special delegation arrived back Yangon on 8 March after conclusion of the fruitful visit.

MNA

# State-owned Myanmar language newspapers to reduce ad rates

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March — 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.

ary 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 of the present rates.

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 Janu-

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

# Tatmadaw launches operations on point 0753 hill and nearby hilltops

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March — As Kokang insurgents harass the safe transportation of locals between Laukkai and Chinshwe-

haw, Tatmadaw columns attacks point 0753 hilltop and nearby hilltops, foothold of the insurgents, with the assistance of air and

# Map shows armed clashes in Laukkai



artillery forces on 7 March afternoon.

As Tatmadaw personnel fought bravely, some strategic hills were recaptured from the insurgents after 7 air and artillery strikes.

As Tatmadaw columns combed the recaptured hills, one body of insurgent in Kokang uniform, one M-22, one magazine and eight rounds of bullets were



Arms and ammunitions, and military equipment seized in clashes between Tatmadaw and Kokang insurgents.—MYAWADY



**NATIONAL**

**Ahloné International Port Terminal 1 comes . . .**

*(from page 1)*

The wharf can offer better services to local and foreign shipping companies, thereby contributing to the development of the country's maritime trade sector, an official said.

Funded by MEC, the construction project of the terminal started in early 2013, and is one of the six projects being implemented under the Yangon port terminals development project.—GNLM



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing launches operation of Ahloné International Port Terminal.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

**Union minister meets with teachers from Kokang SAZ**

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March — Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun, who also chairs the supporting committee for rehabilitation of Kokang Self-Administered Zone, went to Thirimingalar Mansu Shan Monastery in Lashio on 7 March and comforted the IDPs at the monastery, before making necessary arrangements to enable them to return their homes.

Then, the union minister went to No. (1) BEHS and met with teachers who are taking refuge in Lashio due to fighting in Kokang

Self-Administered Zone. At the meeting, the union minister praised the teachers and explained the arrangements for restoring stability in the area, before presenting cash awards of K 100,000 each to 89 teachers. At the meeting, Shan State Government also presented K 30,000 each to the teachers.

The union minister urged the teachers to continue making efforts in the interest of the country.

After the meeting, the union minister cordially greeted the teachers.—MNA

**Myanmar, China discuss restoring law and order in border area**

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March — A meeting between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China was held on Sunday in Muse, northern Shan State.

The Myanmar delegation was jointly led by U Tin Oo Lwin, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and Commodore Aung Thaw, Deputy Minister for Defence and the Chinese delegation led by Mr Liu Zhenmin,

Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs. During the meeting, they discussed in friendly manner on cooperation based on existing friendly relations for maintaining peace and stability and restoring law and order in the border area, and for earliest and safe return of people who are temporarily taking shelters in China for security concern to their homes.

The Chinese delegation left for China in the afternoon.—MNA

**Mandalay Region to house 1727 mobile communication stations next year**

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March — Union Minister for Communications and Information Technology U Myat Hein inspected installation of Multi-service Access Node exchanges in Kume on 5 March and urged officials concerned to provide better services

for the public.

Then, the union minister inspected Hanmyintmo Mobile Communication Station and the auto-exchange station in Kyaukse.

On 6 March, the union minister, together with Mandalay Region Communication and Transport

Minister U Kyaw San, inspected the Madaya auto-exchange station and gave instructions on upgrading and maintenance of the exchange facility.

Then, the union minister inspected Nyaungwon mobile communication station, Letpanhla exchange

and mobile communication station, Kyipartauk mobile communication station of the Ooredoo Company in Singu.

Then, the union minister arrived at Daw Nan Kyi Taung microwave and mobile communication station and the mobile communication station of Telenor Company in Kyatpyin before inspecting communication stations in Mogok.

On 7 March, the union minister inspected the communication stations in Thabeikkyin.

Mandalay Region will witness a great stride of progress in the communication sector as there will be 1727 communication stations in the region including 318 new mobile communication stations of Myanmar Post and Telecommunications, 121 new stations of the Ooredoo Company and new 213 stations of Telenor Company.—MNA



Union Minister U Myat Hein meets engineers and staff at Hanmyintmo mobile communication station.—MNA

**Hearing for amendment bill for national education law goes on**

NAY PYI TAW, 8 March — Hearing on amendment bill for the national education law continued at the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall on Sunday, with representatives from political parties submitting their advice on the bill.

Present were the chairman of the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee and members, members of Amyotha Hluttaw Political, Economic

and Legal Affairs Commission, Chairman of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party U Tun Naing, Secretary of Kayah Ethnic Democracy Party U Sai Naing Naing Htwe, Chairman of Rakhine National Force Party U Aye Kyaing, Vice Chairman of Federation of Alliances for National Politics U Thein Kyi, Chairman of Democracy and Peace Party U Soe Maung, Chairman of Democratic Party (Myanmar) U Thu Wai, Chairman of Chin Democratic League U Ngai Serk, and Chairman of United Democratic Party U Hla Myint gave advice and their opinions on the bills.—MNA

*Officials of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee and party hold talks with representatives of political parties.—MNA*





## Disciples hoist diamond orb, pennant-shaped vane atop Sule replica pagoda



DAWEI, 8 March — Consecration ceremony and hoisting of a pennant-shaped vane and diamond orb were held at Sule replica pagoda in Myitta, Dawei District, Taninthayi Region, on 7

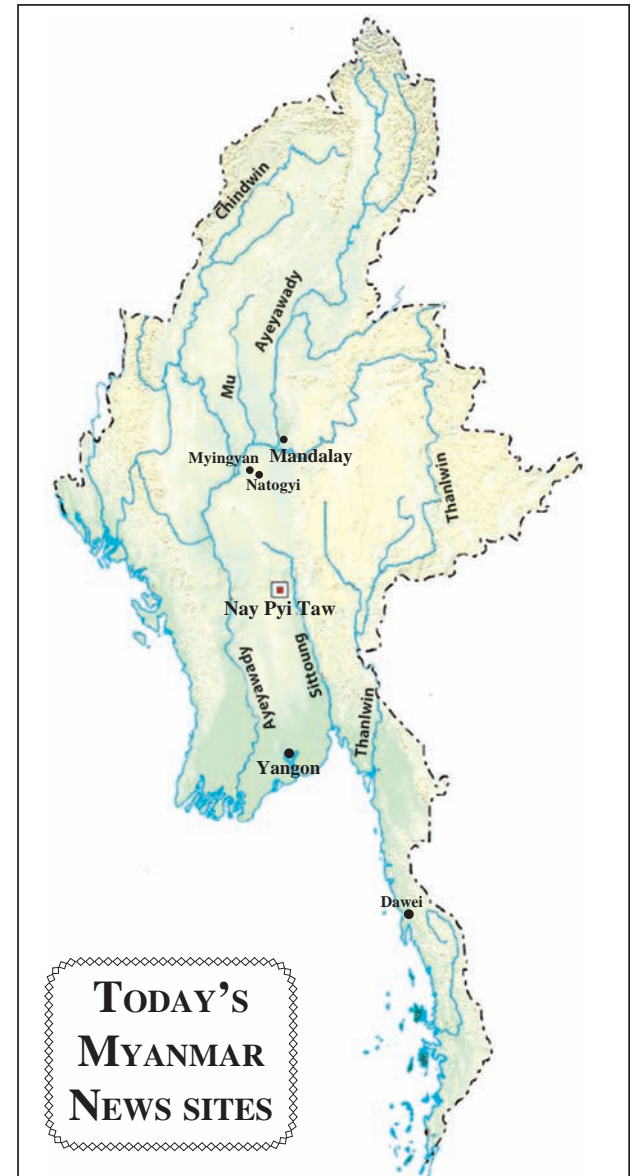
March. It was attended by Union Minister U Aung Min, Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi, Taninthayi Region Chief Minister U Myat Ko, Commander of Coastal

Region Command Maj-Gen Khin Maung Htay and officials.

The congregation led by Union Minister U Aung Min received the nine precepts from abbot of

Zeyawady Monastery.

Laypersons hoisted diamond orb and pennant-shaped vane atop the pagoda after enshrining religious objects into the reliquary.—*Region IPRD*



## Myanmar to take hockey training in Malaysia

YANGON, 8 March — A tentatively selected hockey team left Yangon International Airport on Saturday morning for Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to take a one-month training at a hockey academy in Ipoh city, Malaysia, up to 6 April.

The team consists of manager U Kyaw Kyaw Oo, the chief coach and coaches together with 20 players. They were seen off at the airport by President of the federation U Htin Zaw Win and officials.

While in Malaysia, Myanmar team will play against the tentatively selected Malaysian team, clubs, state champion teams and university se-



lected teams.

Myanmar hockey team had taken training at

the same venue as part of preparations for the 27<sup>th</sup> SEA Games hosted in Nay

Pyi Taw in 2013.

*Reporter Than Shwe (Pabedan)*

## Local farmers earn income from cultivation of tobacco

MYINGYAN, 8 March — Farmers in dry zone of Myanmar cultivate paddy, onion, beans and pulses and edible oil crops as well as tobacco plants.

They grow two species of tobacco cultivated on the croplands and alluvial land.

Farmers must grow tobacco on the croplands in monsoon while cultivate another one species on alluvial lands when the Ayeeyawady River subsides in December and January.

“Farmers spend more

than K480,000 per acre on cultivation of tobacco on cropland including costs for inputs and farming workers. Tobacco yields about 650 viss per acre. We can sell tobacco at K2,200 to K1,500 per viss at cheroot industries in Myingyan,” said a local grower from Patta village.

Some farmers tenant croplands at K200,000 per acre but they can fetch K700,000 per acre as net profit.

*Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)*

## Police arrest suspect with 4,000 stimulant tablets



NAY PYI TAW, 8 March — Members of No 26 Anti-Drug Squad, acting on tip-off, stopped and searched a motorcycle driven by Chit Maung near mile post 42 on Tonghon road in Pinlaung, Shan State, on 6 March.

They seized 4,000 stimulant tablets from the pulse of the biker.

Action was taken against Chit Maung under Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Police Information*





## REGIONAL

## Abe calls for swift security legislation as LDP holds convention

TOKYO, 8 March — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called on Sunday for swift enactment of legislation to enable Japan to better defend its security as his Liberal Democratic Party convened its annual convention.

“We have a responsibility to protect the lives and peace of the Japanese people...We will stand firm till the end in defence of Japanese territory, air-space and waters,” Abe said.

The prime minister, who heads Japan’s ruling party, also underscored his resolve to promote economic reforms, saying his administration plans to “advance a growth strategy by taking on the largest reforms in the postwar era.”

In its strategy for 2015 adopted at the event,



**Prime Minister Shinzo Abe addresses the annual convention of his ruling Liberal Democratic Party at a hotel in Tokyo on 8 March, 2015. Abe called for swift enactment of legislation to enable Japan to better defend its security.—KYODO NEWS**

the party, which marks its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year, also emphasized its desire to revise the Constitution, a goal it has held since its founding in 1955.

Abe, who in December launched his second Cabinet since returning to power in 2012, also called for party unity to win nationwide local elections in April. On the Constitution, the strategy says the LDP will “promote a campaign to increase supporters” of its move to rewrite the US-drafted supreme law.

“What we have to take into our hearts is pride as a conservative party that started off with amending the Constitution as the party line.”

As this year also marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II, the party will “make efforts to improve relations with neighbouring countries,” the strategy says, while also calling for quick enactment of legislation to bolster national security.

*Kyodo News*

**Female members of the Nepalese Armed Police Force take part in a rally to mark the International Women’s Day in Kathmandu on 8 March, 2015.**

XINHUA



## Cambodia sees remarkable progress in promoting women’s status in last two decades

PHNOM PENH, 8 March — Cambodia has seen remarkable progresses in promoting women’s status in economy, society, politics and health within the last two decades, Prime Minister Hun Sen said on Sunday.

“We have fulfilled remarkable achievements in the work of enhancing women’s rights in the last 20 years,” he said during the celebrations of the 104<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the International Women’s Day. “Women’s status has been improved in all fields.”

He said the progresses and achievements have responded to the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995, which was aimed to enhance women’s rights in economy, society, politics and health.

Minister of Women’s Affairs Ing Kantha Phavi said over the last 20 years, women have benefited from peace, political stability, strong national

economic growth, poverty reduction and the promotion of public services.

“The participation of women in the economy is increasing and remains very high when compared to other countries in the region,” she said.

“In education sector, gender equality has been fully achieved at primary level and at lower secondary education, while gaps remain at upper and tertiary education.”

The participation of women in decision-making and politics has also increased, she said. Between 1993 and 2013, the percentage of women parliamentarians increased from 5.8 percent to 20.3 percent, the number of female deputy prime ministers increased from zero to 1, number of ministers and head of institutions increased from zero to 3, number of secretaries of state increased from zero to 38, and undersecretaries of state from 2 to 48.

According to the minister, in regard to women’s

health, maternal mortality decreased 61 percent to 170 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2014 from 436 deaths in 2000, due to an increase in number of women accessing reproductive and sexual health services.

“All these results were achieved thanks to the high commitment of the Cambodian government under the wise and strong leadership of Prime Minister Hun Sen for promoting gender equality in order to improve governance and democracy,” she said.

Even though Cambodia experienced rapid progresses in promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment, women and girls are still facing many challenges, including low enrollments in higher education, high maternal mortality if compared to other countries in the region, domestic violence and trafficking, she said.

*Xinhua*

## Malaysian PM says committed to search for missing plane

KUALA LUMPUR, 8 March — Prime Minister Najib Razak said on Sunday Malaysia remains committed to the search for the missing MH370 jetliner a year after it vanished without trace and he is hopeful it will be found.

A team led by Malaysia with investigators from various countries including the United States, Britain, China, France and Australia is due to release an interim statement on their inquiry into the cause of the disappearance on Sunday.

The Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777-200ER (BA.N) disappeared on a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing with 227 passengers and 12 crew on board. It has become one of the greatest mysteries in aviation history.

“The disappearance of MH370 is without precedent, and so too is the search — by far the most

complex and technically challenging in aviation history,” Najib said in a statement.

“Together with our international partners, we have followed the little evidence that exists. Malaysia remains committed to the search, and hopeful that MH370 will be found,” he said.

Investigators believe the plane was flown thousands of miles off course before eventually crashing into the Indian Ocean.

Some of the relatives of those on board have been holding vigils this weekend to mark the anniversary.

In Beijing, police scuffled with some family members offering prayers at a temple as they tried to talk to foreign reporters.

“I can’t sleep at night, each night I’m only getting about two hours, but I’m certain that my daughter is still alive and I’m going

to get her back,” said one mother, who did not give her name, before being escorted away.

Family members have previously described harassment by police, who are nervous about any threats to social stability.

The Chinese government, however, says it will provide whatever help it can to the relatives and it offered its sympathies on the anniversary.

China’s foreign minister said the search for the aircraft would not stop.

Australia’s deputy prime minister said recently the search could not go on forever, and discussions were under way between Australia, China and Malaysia as to whether to call off it off soon.

Malaysia declared the disappearance of the flight an accident in January, clearing the way for the airline to pay compensation to victims’ relatives,

## China, India should strengthen cooperation to facilitate boundary issue settlement, says FM

BEIJING, 8 March — China and India should do more to strengthen mutual cooperation, so as to enable and facilitate settlement of the boundary issue, Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Sunday.

Wang made the remarks at a press conference on the sidelines of the annual session of the National People’s Congress, China’s top legislature.

The boundary dispute between China and India is a legacy of history, he said, adding that after many years of efforts, progress was made through negotiation and the dispute has been contained.

At the moment, the boundary negotiation is in the process of building up small and positive developments, Wang said. “The going is tough, and that is only because we are on the way up.”

Wang quoted the remarks of late Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping as saying that “unless China and India are developed, there will be no Asian century.”

He called on the Chinese dragon and the Indian elephant to join in a duet, to work for the early revitalization of two oriental civilizations, the common prosperity of two emerging markets, and the amicable co-existence of two large neighbours.

Chinese President Xi Jinping made a historic visit to India last September. The picture of the two countries’ leaders working on a spinning wheel in the home state of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi spread far and wide in China.

Modi is to visit China this year. Wang said that he is surely to be warmly welcomed by Chinese government and people.—Xinhua



**Malaysia’s Prime Minister Najib Razak says special prayers for the victims of missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 at the National Mosque in Kuala Lumpur on 30 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS**

but insisted that the search for the jetliner would go on.

In a separate statement, Malaysia Airlines said it held a private gathering to remember the 13 employees lost when flight MH370 disappeared.

*Reuters*



## China hints open to Japan PM attending WWII anniversary events

BEIJING, 8 March — China suggested on Sunday it is open to inviting Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to a military parade or other events this year to mark the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II.

“We will extend invitations to the leaders of all relevant countries and international organizations, and will welcome anyone who is sincere about coming,” Foreign Minister Wang Yi said during a press conference in Beijing, when asked whether China plans to invite Abe to the commemorations.

But Wang urged Abe’s government to properly face Japan’s role and its defeat in the war.

“70 years ago Japan lost the war. 70 years afterward, Japan must not lose its conscience,” he said. “Will it continue to carry the baggage of history or will it make a clean break with the past aggression? Ultimately, the choice is

Japan’s.”

China has been ratcheting up pressure on Abe over wartime historical issues and carefully watching what he will say this summer on the anniversary, which Beijing calls its victory in a war of resistance against Japanese aggression.

Although political tensions between the countries have receded somewhat following Abe’s long-sought first meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping last November, the issues, in the words of the foreign minister, “haunt the Sino-Japanese relationship.”

Wang, a former ambassador to Japan, said it is “perfectly normal” for China to stage the parade and that the main purpose is to “remember history, commemorate the martyrs, cherish peace and look to the future.”

He said Tokyo should be more conscious of its



*Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi speaks at a press conference in Beijing on 8 March, 2015, on the sidelines of a meeting of the National People’s Congress, China’s parliament. Wang suggested was China was open to Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe taking part in a series of events to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of World War II.*

KYODO NEWS

“guilt” to help China recover from the suffering of Japan’s past militarism and

improve bilateral relations.

The military parade is expected to take place around 3 September in Beijing. The date is regarded by China as “victory day” as Japan formally surrendered to the Allied Powers on 2 September, 1945, with a signing ceremony aboard the US battleship Missouri in Tokyo Bay.

It is unusual as until now all China’s major military parades were staged on National Day on 1 October. The last one was held in 2009 on the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the People’s Republic of China. Wang touched on China’s relations with many other countries on the sidelines of an annual meeting of the National People’s Congress, the country’s parliament, which will run through 15 March.

On North Korea, he said China’s traditional strong ties with it will “not be affected by temporary events.”—*Kyodo News*

## Four killed in Southern Philippines clash

COTABATO CITY, (Philippines), 8 March — Government forces killed at least four members of Muslim rebels on Saturday as they intensified the all-out-offensive in the southern Philippine province of Maguindanao, military said on Sunday.

Lt Col Willy Manalang, commander of Marine Battalion Landing Team-8, said that his men were figured out in a 15-minute fierce fighting during an operation against elements of Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) in remote village of Shariff Saydona town around 10:00 pm on Saturday.

He said the fighting erupted after a small size patrol composed of the 63<sup>rd</sup> Force Recon Company led by Cpt Bernardo and the Special Operations Platoon 8 were dispatched to track down 20-man group of BIFF.

Manalang said some of the fatalities on the enemy side were clad on Special Action Force uniform.

“I believe that this bandit is one of those who butchered the members of police last month in Mamasapano. Despite of their crimes, we will turn them over to the community leaders to be given decent Islamic burial,” he said. Marine troopers also clashed with another band of 30 BIFF militants around 7:15 am on Sunday about one kilometre from the encounter site last night where four rebels were killed.

Since 25 February after the military ordered for an all-out-offensive against the BIFF, four camps of the rebels were already overrun by soldiers while at least 20 of them were killed.

The ongoing conflicts displaced over 75,000 people.—*Xinhua*

## US, France ‘on same page’ over Iran, want stronger deal

PARIS, 8 March — The United States and France sought on Saturday to play down any disagreements over nuclear talks with Iran, saying they both agreed the accord now under discussion needed to be strengthened.

“We are on the same page,” US Secretary of State John Kerry told reporters after talks with French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius in Paris. “If we didn’t think that there was further to go, as Laurent said, we’d have had an agreement already,” Kerry added.

“The reason we don’t have an agreement is, we believe there are gaps that have to be closed. There are things that have to be done to further strengthen this. We know this.”

The aim of the negotiations is to persuade Iran to restrain its nuclear programme in exchange for relief from sanctions that have crippled its economy. Iran, a major oil exporter, wants the sanctions scrapped swiftly, the powers only in phases.

France’s Fabius said on Friday commitments offered by Iran in the nuclear talks with six world powers do not go far enough and more work needed to be



*French Foreign Affairs Minister Laurent Fabius (L) and US Secretary of State John Kerry speak as they arrive for a meeting at the French Foreign Affairs Ministry in Paris on 7 March, 2015.—REUTERS*

done, notably on what he called “volume, checks and duration”.

On Saturday, he made clear that by volume he meant the number and quality of centrifuges Iran might be allowed to operate under any deal. By checks, he meant an inspection and verification regime to ensure Iran does not violate the deal.

“There is still work to be done,” said Fabius, who

was also hosting his British, German and EU counterparts in Paris.

France, a UN Security Council veto-holder, has long held out for strict terms, linking any loosening of international sanctions on Iran’s oil-based economy to commitments by Teheran to demonstrate that its nuclear work is as peaceful as it says.

The discovery in 2013 that the United States was

holding secret talks with Iran was an opportunity for Paris, by saying ‘no’ to a deal, to assert itself internationally and to rebuke Washington for backing down on bombing Syria as punishment for using chemical arms.

It also helped France cement new commercial ties with Gulf Arab states hostile to Iran.

“It is a multilateral negotiation, but we want

to make sure that our positions are aired,” said Fabius, who stressed several times the need for a “solid agreement”.

US officials privately bristle at what they sometimes see as France’s effort to insert itself into the diplomacy on Iran and other issues. Some other diplomats close to the talks say Washington is rushing into a deal with Iran.

From the outside, it appears as if the negotiations are fundamentally a US-Iranian bilateral discussion, with the other nations briefed and brought in periodically.

As well as the United States and France, the other world powers involved in the Iran negotiations are Britain, China, Germany and Russia.

Kerry this week held three days of talks with his Iranian counterpart, Mohammad Javad Zarif.

He plans to meet Zarif again on 15 March ahead of talks with all sides aimed at sealing some form of understanding by the end of March before a final deal in June.

“The next couple of weeks are crucial,” said EU policy chief Federica Mogherini.

*Reuters*

## Saudi surpasses India as world’s largest weapons importer

RIYADH, 8 March — Saudi Arabia surpassed India and became the top state in the world in military equipments imports in 2014, *Elaf news* portal reported on Sunday.

Saudi Arabia has become the world’s largest weapon importers with the purchase of military equipments worth 6.4 billion US dollars.

The oil-rich country surpassed India (5.5 billion dollars) to become the most important market to the United States, said the report, based on an HIS Jane’s report released on Sunday.

The report predicts that Saudi Arabia to remain on top with 9.8 billion dollars’ spending by the end of this year. Meanwhile the newspaper highlighted the reason of the rising demands to the uncertainty and disturbances in surrounding countries such as Syria, Iraq and Yemen.

The report also indicates that one of each seven dollars Saudi Arabia spends has been used to buy weapons.—*Xinhua*



## On Selma anniversary, Obama says racial progress made but more needed

SELMA, 8 March — With a nod to ongoing US racial tension and threats to voting rights, President Barack Obama declared the work of the Civil Rights Movement advanced but unfinished on Saturday during a visit to the Alabama bridge that spawned a landmark voting law.

Obama, the first black US president, said discrimination by law enforcement officers in Ferguson, Missouri, showed a lot of work needed to be done on race in America, but he warned it was wrong to suggest that progress had not been made.

“Fifty years from Bloody Sunday, our march is not yet finished, but we’re getting closer,” Obama said, standing near the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where police and state troopers beat and fired tear gas at peaceful marchers who were advocating against racial discrimination at the voting booth.

The event became known as “Bloody Sunday” and prompted a follow-up march led by civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr that spurred the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

“The Americans who crossed this bridge, they were not physically imposing, but they gave courage to millions. They held no elected office, but they led a nation,” Obama said.

“What they did here will reverberate through the ages ... because they proved that nonviolent change is possible.” After his remarks,



President Obama participates in a march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama on 7 March, 2015. — REUTERS

Obama and his wife Michelle, daughters Malia and Sasha, and mother-in-law Marian Robinson joined some of the original marchers along with former President George W Bush and his wife, Laura, to walk across the bridge.

The marchers sang songs including “We Shall Overcome” as a crowd of some 40,000 people looked on. The anniversary comes at a time of renewed focus on racial disparities in the United States, including discrimination from police against black citizens nationwide. Obama condemned the city of Ferguson on Friday for “oppressive and abusive” actions against black residents that were revealed

in a US Justice Department report accusing police and court officials of racial bias.

On Saturday, he criticized efforts to limit voting rights that have sparked a clash between Republicans and Democrats across the country.

“Right now, in 2015, fifty years after Selma, there are laws across this country designed to make it harder for people to vote. As we speak, more of such laws are being proposed,” he said. “Meanwhile, the Voting Rights Act, the culmination of so much blood, so much sweat and tears, the product of so much sacrifice in the face of wanton violence ... stands weakened.” Rev Raphael Warnock, the 45-year-old pastor of the

Atlanta church led by King at the height of the Civil Rights Movement, lamented that the measure was now in limbo.

“I’m glad to see a parade of politicians here, but two years later we still are waiting on reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act,” he said. “You can’t celebrate lessons of history from one period while standing on the wrong side of history today.”

Others reflected on how much had changed since the violence of a bygone era.

“Fifty years ago if we were standing here we would be surprised if a police officer did not beat us,” said Dick Gregory, 83, who was on the bridge 50 years before.—Reuters

## One of Nemtsov killing suspects served in police

MOSCOW, 8 March — One of the men detained on suspicion of killing Russian opposition figure Boris Nemtsov served in a police unit in the Russian region of Chechnya, Russian news agencies quoted a law enforcement official as saying.

Nemtsov was shot dead on the night of 27 February within sight of the Kremlin walls, in the most high-profile killing of an opposition figure in the 15 years that President Vladimir Putin has been in office.

The two men detained on Saturday in connection with the killing, Anzor Gubashev and Zaur Dadayev, were expected to be brought before a judge at a Moscow court on Sunday to be formally arrested.

A Reuters reporter outside the Basmanny court said there were large numbers of police lining the street and guarding the entrances.

Dadayev served for around 10 years in the “Sever” battalion of Chechnya’s interior ministry, Russian state-controlled news agencies quoted Albert Barakhayev, Security Council secretary in the neighbouring Ingushetia region, as saying.

Gubashev and Dadayev were detained on Saturday in Ingushetia,

where some members of their families live, according to Barakhayev. He said a relative of Gubashev was also detained, though this has not been confirmed by officials investigating Nemtsov’s killing.

It was not immediately clear if Dadayev was a serving member of the battalion, or has left. There was no confirmation from the authorities in Chechnya.

Chechnya is a mainly Muslim republic on Russia’s southern border. It has been the scene of violent separatist insurgencies over the past two decades.

It is now firmly under the control of its leader, Ramzan Kadyrov, a former rebel who now pledges loyalty to Moscow and has considerable autonomy over the running of the region, including its security services.

Russia’s Interfax news agency, quoting a Chechen law enforcement source, said a man killed in a standoff with police in the Chechen capital late on Saturday was wanted by police in connection with Nemtsov’s killing.

The agency said when police arrived at an apartment block, the man threw one grenade at officers and then blew himself up with a second.

Reuters

## No sign Putin has changed strategy on Ukraine: UK foreign minister

LONDON, 8 March — British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said on Sunday he had detected no change in Russian President Vladimir Putin’s strategic intentions towards Ukraine, despite a reduction in violence following the Minsk ceasefire agreement.

“There has been a reduction in violence since the new agreement was signed but I don’t detect that Mr Putin’s strategic intentions have changed,” he said in an interview on BBC television. “This is just a question now about what tools he uses to achieve those objectives.”—Reuters



Britain’s Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond



Workers conduct ice blasting task at the base of the Rideau River in Ottawa, Canada on 7 March, 2015. Ice blasting is performed every year before the spring melt to allow for more efficient flow of water into the Ottawa River, which runs between the provinces of Ontario and Quebec. —XINHUA

## Colombian gov’t, FARC rebels reach agreement to remove landmines

HAVANA, 7 March — The Colombian government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) rebels agreed on Saturday to remove landmines in the country’s rural areas affected by a half-century war between the two sides.

The accord on landmines marked the end of the 33rd round of peace talks between the Colombian government and the FARC rebels, after the two sides started talks in Havana in November 2012, with the support of Cuba and

Norway, and the “accompaniment” of Chile and Venezuela. Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos said the agreement is a “new and decisive step in the de-escalation of the armed conflict,” according to a statement read out here by Humberto de la Calle, who led the Colombian government delegation at the peace talks in Havana.

“Our main target of these conversations is to put an end to the conflict, and to avoid future victims in our country. For that reason the proposal to clear landmines is a

first step, but a giant step toward peace,” the statement said. In previous talks, the two sides have reached agreements on issues of drugs, agrarian reform and the political participation of the rebels. Colombia is among countries with a large number of landmines planted in its territory, as a result of the five-decade civil war. Since 1990, around 11,000 people have been killed or injured by landmines in the country, including 1,101 children, according to figures released by the Colombian authorities.—Xinhua



## PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 9 March, 2015

## Migration for expectation of a better society

By Aung Khin

The number of global immigrants today is estimated to reach more than 215 million: if all of these migrants came together to form a country, it would be the fifth most populous on the planet.

These immigrants left their native countries for many reasons, including a desire for economic prosperity, political issues, family re-unification, escaping conflict or natural disaster, or simply the wish to change one's surroundings. The issue is a highly debated and controversial topic in today's community.

In Southeast Asia alone, an estimated 54,000

people have undertaken sea crossings in 2014, most of them headed to Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. In the Caribbean, about 50,000 people are known to have taken to boats last year. UNHCR received information of more than 4,000 reported deaths in the same year. It has also warned that the international community was losing its focus on saving lives amid confusion among coastal nations and regional blocs over how to respond to the growing number of people making risky sea journeys in search of asylum or migration.

Taking advantages from civil-conflicts, human trafficking networks are flourishing with impunity in areas of instability or conflict, and profiting from human desperation.

As migration has many impacts both on host countries and original countries of immigrants, the UN Human Rights Office is promoting a human rights-based approach to migration, arguing that the framework provides practical and concrete solutions to the complex challenges of international migration.

Poverty and instability are mainly resulted from political or civil conflicts, while fleeing from natural

disasters such as drought, flood and earthquakes needs cooperation of international community with protective measures for refugees not to fall into human trafficking rings.

A fundamental and common reason for immigrants is that they feel insecure in their areas. However, stability of a state relies on both the governments and citizens. While the word authority should not represent or cruelty, people need strategic ways and proper means in facing challenges. Migration is not the only solution to create a better society for everybody.

## Write for us

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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.

## A Glimpse into an Age-old Culture

Maung Phyo (WYU)

With a sudden jerk, I was shaken a little aside. I tried to lift heavy eyelids and take a look around. Aboard, everyone seemed lost in their intermittent slumber. Out there, roadside trees were flying past the windshield like shadows. Lime-white Cettis away at the mountaintops were at first catching up with the bus. However, they gave in a few seconds later and lagged behind afar. Inside the bus was air-conditioned. That seemed no match to the outside world. The green rubber plantations were awash in the glistening sun. Thanks God! The area remained untouched by the negative impacts of industrialization itself. It was late in the morning and the blinds I was leaning on felt hot like seared by the sunbeams. I was induced to pull the blinds sideway.

All of a sudden, our car was drawn to a screeching halt as a line of Mon Maidens clad in their traditional costume was crossing the road. Not long afterwards, our bus took off and resumed the interrupted momentum. The environment was totally green and quiet. I felt it despite being inside the bus.

We drove past the welcoming signboard and found ourselves approaching the outskirts of Thaton, an ancient city of Thudhamavati. A few minutes later, we found ourselves warmly welcomed at the gate of Naung Kala Village situated about two miles before Thaton. We were lodged at a two-story house with a large compound. The village lay quietly at the foot of the Alantaya Hill, a land of vegetarians. Finally,

we set our foot on the Land of Pa-O People. Yes, Naung Kala is a Pa-O village.

I made a query about the origin and meaning of the word "Naung Kala". U Tin Shwe (or) Khun Tin Shwe replied that it was primarily Naung Tala: in Pa-O, "Naung" stands for "natural pond or lake" and "Tala" means "eastern gooseberry" /zi: bju:/. It is generally assumed that the word "Naung Tala" had been later corrupted into today "Naung Kala" probably after the British Annexation of Myanmar in that the British had brought influx of Chattyars from India into Myanmar. At that moment, I was struck with an idea whether there may be any connection between Naung Kala (Naung Tala) in Thaton, Mon State and Naung Tara in Pinlaung Township in Shan State. It is because Pa-O Oral History asserted that when King Anawayatha came down to occupy Thaton ruled by Manuha, the native Pa-O fled up to Shan State and established a city called Thaton (Hsa Taung in Colonial Days and Hsihseng nowadays) not very far from Pinlaung. If the story is true, it will be very likely that they would build satellite townships that would look like the environment of Lower Thaton. However, it turned out to be my questionable assumption due simply to the fact that Naung Kala was no older than 200 years, which is proved by the name itself and the buildings in the monastery.

However old as it might be, the village itself seemed a peaceful retreat cloaked

in lumps of fruit-trees but the surrounding hillside was blanketed with rubber plantation. Our house got face to face with the village monastery. Its compound seemed about five acres in width. Many tall and shady trees were belting the paddy fields as windbreaks beside the monastery. The monastery compound was occupied by massive buildings of ancient and old.

We paid a homage visit to the monastery and the Sayadaw after breakfast, next morning. On the main building, we paid respect to the residing Sayadaw. We espied a treed hillside of Alantaya. A few limed Cettis were dotted along the range like a painter's careful white-drops on the emerald velvet. Golden dappled rays were streaming their way through the tree canopy. The Sayadaw invited us to a traditional donation to be held in the afternoon.

To our surprise, we were told that all the villagers were informed of an impending donation the following day by the sound of brass gong struck in the monastery the night before. It is indeed their custom. No loud-speaker is to be used to spread the news in the village. In every case, the sound of brass gong is always the news-bearer or village-crier.

Early next morning brought us the sight of well-wishers and donors flocking towards the monastery. Many of them were in their national costume. Significantly, elderly men were found to be holding a

shoot of Eugenia each in their hands. The bowl of offertory "gado.bwe" for the residing monk was not as so-called as in Yangon where a bowl of donated notes was to be seen as a gado.bwe placed in front of the Sayadaw. There in Naung Kala, the gado.bwes would be bowlful of edible oil (usually groundnut oil), biscuit boxes and some packs of exotic and savory snacks for the well-to-do whereas the wealthier would donate a variety of items in the bowls in the traditionally competitive fashion. Addition of charity money would be out of question. Suddenly, I hit upon the idea of "gado. pan:" (flower of obeisance) in Myanmar. For the Pa-O, "gado. pan:" or flower of obeisance is not only symbolized by putting up both hands like the bud of lotus flower, yet they would carry a shoot of Eugenia to epitomize it. What an adorable custom!! After listening to the Dhamma Talk delivered by the Venerable Sayadaw, we returned home.

The day was Pavarana Day (Pavarana stands for invitation). The festival is usually held at the end of the Buddhist Vassa (Buddhist Lent). According to Encyclopedia Britannica (2014), Buddhist Vassa concludes with the Pavarana ceremony, in which every monk, irrespective of rank or seniority, agrees willingly to receive instruction from any other monk in the monastery if he acts improperly during the Buddhist Lent.

In the afternoon of the same day, many private cars rolled into the monastery. Many lay people in their traditional costume rushed

out to respectfully fetch the venerable Sayadaws coming from the neighborhood to the Sima where the Pavarana Ceremony was being held. The ceremony lasted for only a few hours. Meanwhile, people were flocking into the compound of the monastery with offertories. On the side of the pathway adjoining the Dhamma Hall and the Sima, the Padetha Trees (the tree of plenty) were laid on the long benches. The bank notes threaded to each of the Padetha tree were also flapping in the breeze. A white paper with the name of the donor was also stuck on each Padetha Tree. Indeed, none of them was makeshift. Instead, each was beautifully decorated with fake flowers. Padetha tree would come in here earlier than elsewhere in Myanmar although it epitomizes the Kathina-Robe-offering ceremony that usually takes place approximately in November.

That afternoon, the scorching sun was as usual. However, the motley crowd was standing in a row along the pathway looking really exuberant for their upcoming donation. Out they came from the Sima!! The Venerable Sayadaws were serenely stepping down the stairs along the pathway and finally into the Dhamma Hall where donated items would be conferred on by drawing lots. Standing donors were huddling up against one another for a better view of the Sayadaws in order to make offering. The donation at last was brought to an end with a roar of "Sadu" (Well Done) echoed off the buildings in the monastery.

The evening was for flying of hot-air-balloons up into the skies. Strangely enough,

all the hot-air-balloons makers were of young age mostly in their early twenties. The monastery compound was full of spectators. There were a few different groups among the hot-air-balloon flyers. They competed against one other in their attempt to launch the balloon. When the first balloon soared up to the skies, a piece of thread was dangling down from it. To the thread, items of charity in the form of pens, pencils, snacks and money were tied. The kids in each group were generously engaged in making charity. Their faces were all beaming with smiles. It was really moving even for the on-lookers like us. The last balloon was flown to the skies at about 7 pm and the activity was brought to a successful end with cheers and applause from the crowd.

Our host, Khun Tin Shwe told that such activities have been preserved from generation to generation for scores of years. As far as I am concerned, they are indeed intangible cultural heritage. No doubt, intangible culture heritage seems much more difficult to preserve than the tangible ones. Nowadays, it is becoming a daunting task to maintain them as today globalization makes it possible for a diversity of world's cultures to assimilate not only in the developed nations but also in the developing ones like Myanmar. In my opinion, cultural heritage and resources are the backbone of a nation. Therefore, by my visit to Naung Kala, I should say I have found a vertebra of that backbone unspoiled. I simply hope other vertebras are in good shape too.

(This article is dedicated to Khun Tin Shwe and other Pa-O friends in Naung Kala.)



LOCAL NEWS

## Artistes honour military servicemen, family members with entertainment

MANDALAY, 8 March — Under the supervision of Mandalay Region Government and organized by Strong Flowers women's association, an entertainment for honouring military servicemen in Laukkai region and their families was staged at Mingalar Mandalay car park in Channmyathazi Township on Saturday evening.

Film actor Khin Hlaing and actress Khaing Thin Kyi announced the agenda of the entertainment. After that, artistes led by film director Maung Thi together with audiences paid tribute to the servicemen fallen in Laukkai region by holding



candle lights. Star vocalists presented songs to the audiences. Artistes participated in a play directed by Maung Thi and Anyeint performance by D Star troupe.

Well-wishers and

companies donated cash to the servicemen and family members.

The entertainment was attended by Deputy Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Arnt Zaw,

Mandalay Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Aung Kyaw Moe and Minister for Development Affairs U Aung Moun and audiences.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

## Kanbawza Bank branch donates cash for journalists in Natogyi Tsp

NATOGYI, 8 March — In commemoration of opening the 207<sup>th</sup> branch, Kanbawza Bank Ltd. donated cash to the fund of Natogyi Township Journalists Association at the bank branch on 6 March.

Chairperson of Natogyi Township Journalists Association Daw Khin Zar Mon Myint (Khin Zar

Mon Myint-Law) accepted cash donation from Natogyi Kanbawza Bank branch manager U Win Zaw Tun.

Officials of Township Writers Association and Publishers and Distributors Association returned certificates of honour to the well-wisher.

Htay Myint Maung



## Students study Buddhist culture on summer holidays



MANDALAY, 8 March — Aungmyethazan Township Women's Affairs Organization on 6 March kicked off the Buddhist culture course for enabling

the students to spend their spare time in summer.

At Yadanaponsan nunnery near the foot of Mandalay Hill, the course instructor gave lectures to

71 trainees.

Chairperson of Mandalay Region WAO Daw Su Su Lwin and district and township officials presented stationery and snacks to

the trainees. The township WAO chairperson also presented gifts to the trainees.

The WAO runs the one-month long course as of 6 March.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

## Vets, chicken breeders and producers need cooperation in control of avian influenza



Veterinarian explains ways and means to control outbreak of avian influenza at breeding farms in Mandalay Region.

MANDALAY, 8 March — A meeting on cooperation in control of avian influenza took place at the hall of Mandalay Region Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in Pyigyidagun Township on Saturday.

Veterinarians explained outbreaks of avian

influenza diseases, prevention of disease and the cooperation of livestock breeders and egg and chicken producers in control of the disease.

After the talks, officials distributed pamphlets on control of bird flu to attendees.

It was also attended by departmental officials, the chairman of Mandalay Region veterinarians association, the chairman and executives of Mandalay Region Livestock Breeding Federation, officials of LBVD and entrepreneurs.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



IP Zaw Min Oo and party of Zabuthiri Township traffic rules enforcement committee check motor cars and motorcycles near Gems Museum in Thabyegon Ward and near City Hall on Pyinmana-Taungnyo Road on 8 March with the aim of reducing traffic accidents.

THANT MAUNG (IPRD)



# Iraqi troops battle to advance in towns on edge of Tikrit



Members of Iraqi security forces and Shiite fighters sit on a vehicle in Al Hadidiya, south of Tikrit, en route to the Islamic State-controlled al-Alam town, where they are preparing to launch an offensive on 6 March, 2015.—REUTERS

BAGHDAD, 8 March — Iraqi security forces and Shi'ite militia fighters struggled to advance on Saturday into the two towns of al-Alam and al-Dour near Tikrit, their progress slowed by fierce defence from Is-

lamic State militants.

"We are facing a strong resistance from terrorist groups and we are trying to surround Daesh inside al-Alam and al-Dour and cut all supply routes for them," said al-Alam mayor Laith

al-Jubouri, referring to the Islamic State fighters.

Army and militia fighters entered the southern and eastern parts of al-Dour on Friday. Commanders said at the time that the town had been completely recaptured,

but officials said only parts of it had been retaken.

Canada said one of its soldiers was killed in a friendly fire incident, the first fatality for the country during its current military mission in Iraq. Three oth-

er Canadian soldiers were wounded.

The soldiers were with Canada's special operations forces and were mistakenly engaged by Iraqi Kurdish forces following their return to an observation post behind the front lines, the defence department said in a statement.

Elsewhere in Iraq suicide and car bomb attacks killed at least 19 people on Saturday, police and medical sources said.

The deadliest attack took place in the northern town of Tuz Khurmatu where a car bomb blast followed by a suicide attack killed eight people and wounded 32 in the town centre, police and medical sources said.

A bomb exploded near local government and political party headquarters in the town, and after passers-by gathered a suicide attacker blew himself up among the

crowd, one police officer said. In a separate incident, four mortars hit Baghdad's southern neighbourhood of Arab Jubour, killing two people, police said. A bomb blast killed one person in the capital's northern Shaab district. Three people were killed and 11 wounded when a bomb struck a bus in the district of New Baghdad, police said. In the town of Khan Bani Saad, north of Baghdad, a parked car bomb exploded near a football match, killing two people.

In the western province of Anbar, a suicide bomber driving an army Humvee vehicle packed with explosives attacked a police post near the border crossing with Jordan, killing three policemen and wounding three, local security officials said. Gunmen in another humvee opened fire. "It seems it was a failed attempt to control the post," said one police officer.—Reuters

## Police confirms 54 killed in Nigeria's multiple suicide bombings

LAGOS, 8 March — Nigerian police have confirmed that 54 persons have been killed on Saturday and 146 others injured in five different bomb explosions detonated by suicide bombers, mostly females, in the northeast city of Maiduguri.

"We had multiple blasts today in Maiduguri and sadly about 54 persons

were killed and many were injured," Clement Adoda, police chief in charge of the restive Borno state told reporters in Maiduguri, capital of the state.

The suicide bombings occurred in four different spots in the city, while another took place at a military checkpoint at a town called Benisheik, 75 km away from Maiduguri,

Adoda said.

On 20 February, at least 21 people were killed as suspected Boko Haram fighters carried out armed attacks on three villages in the state.

The group have so far killed more than 13,000 people and displaced over one million others in Nigeria, Africa's most populous country.—Xinhua

## At least three people killed in attack on Mali's Kidal

BAMAKO, 8 March — At least three people were killed in an attack on the north Malian town of Kidal early on Sunday, including

a UN peacekeeper, a witness and a security source said.

Dozens of rockets and shells were fired towards

a UN base just outside the desert town, and at least one of them fell on a Tuareg camp, the witness said.—Reuters

## Yemen's defence minister escapes Houthi-controlled Sanaa

ADEN, 8 March — Yemen's defence minister has fled Houthi-controlled Sanaa for Aden, officials said on Sunday, in a move expected to bolster President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi in his power struggle with the Shi'ite Muslim group.

Yemen is caught in a stand-off between the Western-backed president and the Iran-backed Houthi clan, now the country's de facto rulers. The group seized the presidential palace in Sanaa in January and confined the president to

his private residence. Hadi managed to escape from the Houthis two weeks ago. Officials said the defence minister, General Mahmoud al-Subaihi, escaped in a convoy on Saturday night, arriving in the southern port city of Aden early on Sunday.

They said the Houthis shot and killed four of Subaihi's security guards in the western province of Hodeida where they attacked a convoy in their search for the minister.

Hadi, who resigned after the Houthis seized

the presidential palace, has since re-claimed the presidency and is seeking to set up a rival power center in the south with loyalist army units and tribes. An impoverished country of 25 million, Yemen is part of a regional struggle for influence between rival powers Saudi Arabia and Iran. The Iran-backed Houthis control much of the northern half of the country while several Gulf state embassies have said they would operate from Aden in the south after Hadi's escape.

Reuters

## Egyptian court adjourns trial of Al Jazeera journalists to 19 March



Al Jazeera journalist Mohamed Fahmy (2<sup>nd</sup> L) and his lawyer are seen inside a court before a hearing in his trial in Cairo on 23 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

CAIRO, 8 March — An Egyptian court on Sunday adjourned until 19 March the trial of two Al Jazeera television journalists. The pair are charged with aiding a terrorist organization, a reference to the Muslim Brotherhood.

A court last month released Mohamed Fahmy, a naturalized Canadian who gave up his Egyptian citizenship, and Egyptian Baher Mohamed, on bail after over a year in detention.

A third Al Jazeera journalist, Australian Peter Greste, was deported earlier in February.—Reuters

## Nigeria's Boko Haram pledges allegiance to Islamic State

LONDON, 8 March — Nigeria's militant Islamist group Boko Haram pledged allegiance on Saturday to Islamic State, which rules a self-declared caliphate in parts of Iraq and Syria, according to an audio clip posted online. The symbolic move highlights increased coordination between jihadi movements across north Africa and the Middle East and prompted an appeal from Nigeria's government for greater international help in tackling the Boko Haram insurgency. Boko Haram has killed thousands and kidnapped hundreds during its six-year campaign to carve out an Islamist state in northern Nigeria. In recent months

it has increased cross-border raids into Cameroon, Chad and Niger. "We announce our allegiance to the Caliph ... and will hear and obey in times of difficulty and prosperity, in hardship and ease," read an English language translation of the audio broadcast in Arabic that purported to be from the Nigerian militant group. "We call upon Muslims everywhere to pledge allegiance to the Caliph," it read. The pledge of allegiance was attributed to Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau.

The audio script identified the Caliph as Ibrahim ibn Awad ibn Ibrahim al-Awad al-Qurashi, who is better known as Abu Bakr

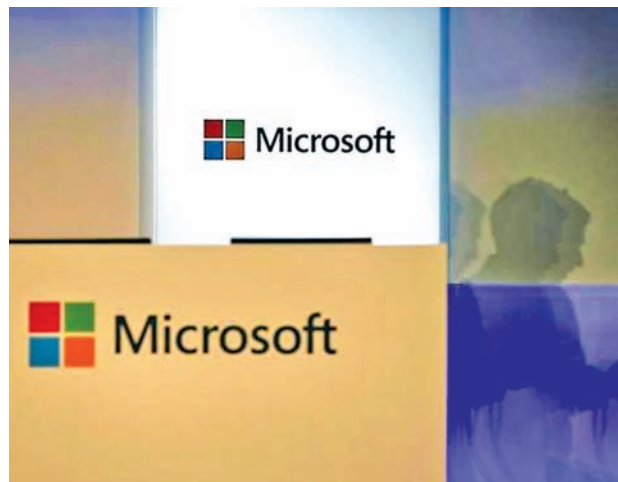
al-Baghdadi, the leader of Islamic State and self-proclaimed caliph of the Muslim world.

"(The audio) is confirming what we always thought. It's sad, it's bad," said Nigerian government spokesman Mike Omeri.

"It's why we were appealing to the international community ... Hopefully the world will wake up to the disaster unfolding here," he told Reuters. On Saturday, four bomb blasts killed at least 50 people in the north-eastern Nigerian city of Maiduguri in the worst attacks there since Boko Haram militants tried to seize the town in two major assaults earlier this year.—Reuters



## Microsoft warns Windows PCs also vulnerable to 'Freak' attacks



A shadow of a man using his mobile phone is cast near Microsoft logo at the 2014 Computex exhibition in Taipei on 4 June, 2014.— REUTERS

BOSTON, 8 March — Hundreds of millions of Windows PC users are vulnerable to attacks exploiting the recently uncovered "Freak" security vulnerability, which was initially believed to only threaten mobile devices and Mac computers, Microsoft Corp warned.

News of the vulnerability surfaced on Tuesday when a group of nine security experts disclosed that ubiquitous Internet encryption technology could make devices running

Apple Inc's iOS and Mac operating systems, along with Google Inc's Android browser vulnerable to cyberattacks.

Microsoft released a security advisory on Thursday warning customers that their PCs were also vulnerable to the "Freak" vulnerability.

The weakness could allow attacks on PCs that connect with Web servers configured to use encryption technology intentionally weakened to comply with US government regu-

lations banning exports of the strongest encryption.

If hackers are successful, they could spy on communications as well as infect PCs with malicious software, the researchers who uncovered the threat said on Tuesday.

*The Washington Post* on Tuesday reported that whitehouse.gov and fbi.gov were among the sites vulnerable to these attacks, but that the government had secured them.

Security experts said the vulnerability was relatively difficult to exploit because hackers would need to use hours of computer time to crack the encryption before launching an attack.

"I don't think this is a terribly big issue, but only because you have to have many ducks in a row," said Ivan Ristic, director of engineering for cybersecurity firm Qualys Inc.

That includes finding a vulnerable web server, breaking the key, finding a vulnerable PC or mobile device, then gaining access to that device.

Reuters

## China to launch Tianzhou-1 cargo ship in 2016 to rendezvous with space lab

BEIJING, 8 March — China will send a cargo ship into the space in 2016 to dock with a future space module scheduled to be launched earlier the same year, a leading Chinese space scientist said on Friday.

The Tianzhou-1, which literally means "heavenly vessel", will carry propellants, living necessities for astronauts, research facilities and repair equipment to China's second orbiting space lab Tiangong-2, said Zhou Jianping, chief engineer of China's manned space programme.

Cargo transportation

system is a key technology China must master and make breakthroughs to build its own space station, said Zhou who is also a member of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, the country's top political advisory body. China's multi-billion-dollar space programme, a source of surging national pride in the country, aims to put a permanent manned space station into service around 2022. The country already launched its first space lab, Tiangong-1, in September 2011 and has conducted two dockings with the module in

the following two years. In June 2013, three Chinese astronauts delivered a physics lesson onboard Tianzhou-1.

According to Zhou, Tianzhou-1 will be blasted off on top of a next-generation Long March-7 rocket, possibly from a new launch site in the southern Hainan Province. Research on the Long March-5 carrier rocket - to be used to lift the Tiangong-2 lab into space - Tiangong-2's payload, and selection of astronauts for the mission are currently "progressing in an orderly manner," Zhou said.

Xinhua

## 46,000 Twitter accounts used to promote IS: Brookings study

BEIJING, 8 March — A small group of "hyperactive" users are manipulating most of at least 46,000 Twitter accounts to promote the Islamic State (IS), a recent study said.

Between 500 and 2,000 "hyperactive" users tweet 545 to 2,000 posts each day, and most of the accounts tweet in Arabic,

with only about one in five using English, according to a study entitled "The ISIS Twitter Census" published by the Washington DC-based Brookings Institute.

Most IS supporters were located within the territories where the IS operates, as well as Saudi Arabia, and they created their accounts in 2014, Al

Jazeera quoted the study as saying on its website on Friday.

The study questioned the effectiveness of suspending IS-related accounts, saying it does not have concrete effects in limiting the reach and scope of the IS activities on social media.

Xinhua

## Biggest Mobile World Congress in history closes doors

BARCELONA, (Spain), 8 March — The Mobile World Congress (MWC) closed its doors on Thursday, being the biggest in the event's history according to its organizers.

GSMA, an organization that represents the interests of more than 800 mobile operators and more than 250 companies in the mobile ecosystem, expects the number of visitors exceeds the estimated 90,000 figure, surpassing the figure of the previous edition, 56,000 attendees.

During these four days leading mobile companies presented their new products, company representatives met in the event and reached key agreements to the development of technologies, connectivity and mobility.

They also discuss key issues for the future of connectivity, such as 5G technology. But this event was not only a technological one, its economic impact on the city of Barcelona and its surroundings in terms of business profits and job creation was also very important.

Organizers predicted an economic impact of about 436 million euros (480 million US dollars) in the city and its surroundings, which would mean 10 percent more than last year.

"So, the Mobile has a direct economic impact of more than 400 million euros in our city, when it comes to the hotel and restaurant industry, transports, apart from the impact on job creation, 12,000 temporary jobs specifically created for the weeks of the Mobile," Jordi Puignero i Ferre, General Director of Telecommunications and Information of the Regional Government of Catalonia told *Xinhua*.

The event also provides prestige to the city.

"The Mobile World Congress is at the moment the most important technological event in the world. So, the fact that Barcelona and Catalonia host this event, it is a great opportunity for us and businesses of this country, because during these days, we are in the spotlight in the field of technology, mobile and smart technologies," Puignero said.—*Xinhua*

## PayPal to buy Israeli cyber security firm CyActive



A PayPal sign is seen at an office building in San Jose, California on 28 May, 2014.— REUTERS

TEL AVIV, 8 March — Online payments company PayPal, a unit of eBay, will buy Israeli cyber security company CyActive for

\$60 million, Israeli media reported. *The Globes financial* newspaper said the deal is expected to close shortly. A spokeswoman

for CyActive, which was founded in 2013, declined to comment on the reports.

CyActive, which says it can forecast future cyber

attacks and offer companies such as utilities detection and prevention, received a strategic investment from the venture capital unit of Siemens in September. Financial details were not disclosed.

Siemens joined Jerusalem Venture Partners (JVP), an Israeli venture capital firm, in investing in CyActive. JVP was the main shareholder in another cyber security company, CyberArk Software, which went public on Nasdaq in September.

This would be PayPal's second acquisition in Israel, after it bought FraudSciences, which monitors financial fraud, in 2008 for \$169 million.

Reuters

## Wild cat spotted in SW China after 30 years

KUNMING, 8 March — Images of the rare marbled cat have been captured in a remote nature reserve in southwest China's Yunnan Province, researchers said on Friday. This is the first time researchers with Gaoligong Nature Reserve, which was founded in 1983, have managed to obtain photographic evidence of the endangered animal. The discovery was jointly announced by Kadoorie Conservation China (KCC) and Gaoligong Nature Reserve.

Images were captured on 7 October, 2014 and 11 November, 2014 by infrared cameras installed at the Datang station of the nature reserve, according to researchers. Wang

Yingxiang, researcher with Kunming Institute of Zoology of Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Doctor Will Duckworth with the World Conservation Union confirmed it was the rare marbled cat. According to Wang, the first records of the marbled cat in Yunnan were a few specimens found in 1976. The animal was last seen in 1984. "The images captured this time give us proof that the marbled cat is still alive in Yunnan," Wang said. Marbled cats, whose scientific name is *pardofelis marmorata*, has been listed as vulnerable by IUCN. It is mostly distributed in southeast Asia, along the Himalayan foothills and on the island of Borneo.—*Xinhua*



## Bill Clinton defends his charity's foreign government donors



Former US President Bill Clinton attends the Clinton Global Initiative's 2015 Winter Meeting in New York on 10 Feb, 2015.

REUTERS

MIAMI, 8 March — Former US president Bill Clinton on Saturday defended donations his family's charity receives from

foreign governments after renewed criticism that they would create conflicts of interest should his wife, Hillary Clinton, run for

president.

Clinton said it was possible to work with foreign governments even if one disagrees with some things they do, and that it was acceptable for them to donate to the Clinton Foundation if the donations are publicly disclosed.

"I think it's a good thing," he said onstage at a youth conference organized by the foundation at the University of Miami during an interview with Larry Wilmore, a television talk-show host.

"The UAE gave us money. Do we agree with everything they do? No. But they help us fight ISIS," he added, using an

acronym for the Islamist militant group Islamic State. The United Arab Emirates donated between \$1 million and \$5 million to the foundation in 2014, according to a list of donors published on the foundation's website.

It was one of several new foreign governments, including Canada and Saudi Arabia, that have begun giving to the foundation since Hillary Clinton, who is on the cusp of announcing a run for the presidency as a Democrat in 2016, stepped down as US secretary of state two years ago.

Before she took office in 2009, the Clintons and the Department of State agreed that foreign

governments that already supported the foundation, such as Oman, Australia and Qatar, could not increase their contributions, and that no new foreign governments could begin contributing. Exceptions to this would have to be approved by State Department ethicists and lawyers, who would check for possible conflicts of interest.

The Clintons also agreed to annually disclose the names of all new donors to the foundation, which does charitable and development work in dozens of countries.

Hillary Clinton's political opponents say the donations would create at least an appearance of

owed favors that could cloud US government foreign policy.

"My theory is: disclose everything and let people make their judgments," Bill Clinton said in the onstage interview.

Hillary Clinton spoke onstage about women's rights before her husband arrived. She has faced a week of intense criticism from political opponents, transparency advocacy groups and some journalists for exclusively using a private email service during her time as secretary of state. She addressed neither that nor the criticism about donors in her remarks.

Reuters

## Local gov'ts cautious in setting goals for women managers

TOKYO, 8 March — Local governments have been cautious in setting goals for appointing women to managerial posts, a *Kyodo News* survey has found.

*Kyodo News* sent questionnaires to a total of 1,788 heads of the nation's 47 prefectures, 790 cities, 745 towns, 183 villages and Tokyo's 23 wards in mid-January, with 1,776 replying by mid-February.

Only 18.8 percent of the respondents said they have set goals. A further 12.2 percent said they intend to set them but 67.6 percent — mainly small municipal bodies of towns and villages — said they have no such plans.

The central government has set the goal of raising the proportion of women in management posts to 30 percent in 2020.

The municipal government of Nanjo in Japan's southernmost prefecture of Okinawa said there is no need to have a goal as it is a small municipality.

The municipal government of Osaki in Kagoshima Prefecture on the island of Kyushu said it is difficult to set a goal amid a decline in the town office workforce due to administrative reforms.

The city government of Nankoku in Kochi Prefecture on the island of Shikoku said the promotion of personnel to management posts should be based on abilities regardless of sex.

The city government of Tahara in central Japan's Aichi Prefecture said the matter should be left to the discretion of each municipality.

The town government

of Aikawa in Kanagawa Prefecture to the southwest of Tokyo noted that some female officials refuse to accept promotion offers, citing family circumstances.

Meanwhile, the municipal government of Kasaoka in western Japan's Okayama Prefecture said it is aiming to raise the proportion of female senior officials to 20 percent in fiscal 2017, which starts on 1 April that year.

The city government of Niigata on the Sea of Japan coast said it is planning to increase the number of female department directors. A senior official at the central government's Cabinet Office, who is in charge of promoting the appointment of women to management posts, said it is desirable that local governments set realistic goals.—*Kyodo News*

## Two detained after grenade explodes outside Bangkok court

BANGKOK, 8 March — Thai police detained two people for questioning on Saturday after a grenade exploded outside a criminal court in Bangkok.

The explosion caused no deaths or injuries, the police said. It took place in the early evening when the court was not in session.

"We are not certain

about the motive of the bombing. Officials are investigating," Police Lieutenant General Prawut Thawonsiri, a spokesman for the Royal Thai Police told *Reuters*.

Thailand has been under martial law since the military seized power on 22 May last year to end months of sometimes dead-

ly street protests.

In early February, twin explosions outside a luxury shopping mall rattled Bangkok. After those blasts, the first in the Thai capital since the coup, Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said he would tighten security to prevent any further similar incidents.—*Reuters*

## Full-scale dinosaur statue installed in Fukui



Photo taken on 7 March, 2015, shows a full-scale model of a dinosaur, Fukuititan, installed in front of JR Fukui Station in the city of Fukui. The six-metre-high, 10-metre-long statue is expected to be a big hit with tourists.

KYODO NEWS

## Indian president emphasizes more steps for protection of women

NEW DELHI, 8 March — Indian President Pranab Mukherjee has emphasized that more steps would be taken by the government to protect women through enactment of relevant laws, on the occasion of International Women's Day on Sunday.

The president's message on the day also appealed for a "fundamental re-setting of mental and moral make-up as well as social conduct" for a more

protective environment for women in the country.

"The International Women's Day is an opportunity for us to renew our commitment to the security and welfare of women. Despite numerous legislations enacted to safeguard women, there is much that still remains to be done. Legislation alone cannot emancipate our women," he said.

"Let us ensure that honor and respect is accorded to women at all

times," he added.

He quoted Indian poet Rabindranath Tagore: "Woman is the builder and moulder of a nation's destiny. She is the supreme inspiration for man's onward march." Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi too had appealed for a change in the people's mindset as he recently launched various government economic and social projects aimed at empowerment of women.—*Xinhua*



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Vacancy Announcement  
(For Myanmar Nationals Only)

**Background**

The Fostering Agricultural Revitalization Project in Myanmar (FARM) is funded by International Fund for Agricultural Development and the Government of Myanmar and will be implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation through an independent Project Coordination Unit (PCU), governed by a National Project Steering Committee. The Project duration is 6 years.

The Project aims to improve the economic status of poor rural women and men of irrigation schemes, rained lowlands and uplands areas in Nay Pyi Taw Union Territory. The objective of the Project is to increase the incomes of smallholder and landless households.

FARM project is currently recruiting a **Project Manager** for the Project Coordination Unit based in **Nay Pyi Taw**. The deadline of application is **15<sup>th</sup> of March 2015**. The **salary** will be competitive with international organizations and private sector.

Qualified candidates are invited to submit an updated CV and a cover letter in English and certificate of the degree to the email [farmmoai@gmail.com](mailto:farmmoai@gmail.com) or to the Director General, Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Office No.(15), Nay Pyi Taw, (Ph: 067-410007067-410007/410016).

Detailed Terms of Reference and qualification for the position can be found at:

Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation (MOAI) website: [www.moai.gov.mm/zg/index.php/doanoticboard](http://www.moai.gov.mm/zg/index.php/doanoticboard)  
Myanmar Information Management Unit website: [www.mimu.org](http://www.mimu.org)

**Abeno Harukas building draws fewer-than-expected visitors in 1<sup>st</sup> year**



Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter on 7 March, 2015, shows Japan's tallest building Abeno Harukas in the western Japan city of Osaka. Its owner said the 300-metre-tall skyscraper drew a total of 42.73 million visitors in its initial year of operation, coming short of its first-year target of 47.4 million visitors. KYODO NEWS

**WEATHER REPORT**

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

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 9<sup>th</sup> March, 2015:** Light rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Region, weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Kayin 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.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Likelihood of continuation of isolated light rain or thundershowers in the Southern Myanmar areas.

**Yangon Stock Exchange  
ICT System  
Invitation for Open Tender**

1. Any interested Information and Telecommunication System Companies are invited for open tender of Yangon Stock Exchange that will be opened within 2015 to develop the business system and to manage its maintenance for the Stock Exchange's operation ICT system.
2. Application form with detail plan for ICT system and its requirement will be sold starting on (5-3-2015). Tender will be closed on (26-3-2015) at (16:00) pm.
3. For more information, contact to tentative office of the Yangon Stock Exchange Joint-Venture Company Limited, located at No. (21/25), 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, Myanma Economic Bank Building. Ph-(01-1220836)

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**PRESS CONFERENCE**  
On 21 March 2015 (Saturday) @ UM FCCI  
for  
**MITA MYANMAR MEDICAL HEALTHCARE CONFERENCE & EXHIBITONS**  
To be held @ Tatmadaw Hall, Yangon  
During 7-9 August 2015  
**The first time in Myanmar, at the same venue**  
Myanmar Medical Exhibition, Pharmaceutical Expo, Myanmar Cosmetics & Beauty Spa Exhibition, Myanmar Sports & Fitness Equipment Exhibition, Hospital Exhibition and Healthcare Conference  
**will be held during 7-9 August 2015**  
[www.medical-healthcare.mitamyanmar.com](http://www.medical-healthcare.mitamyanmar.com)  
**Any Journalists/Media/Interested Persons**  
Who want to attend press conference on 21.03.15  
**Please email:** Full Name, Organization, Position & HP No to: [maizar@mitaservices.com.sg](mailto:maizar@mitaservices.com.sg)  
Latest by **18<sup>th</sup> March 2015. Entry is Free.**  
Prior Registration is Mandatory; Seats are Limited.

**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 - 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> 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 tenderer 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

**China says search for missing Malaysian plane will not stop**

BEIJING, 8 March — China's foreign minister said on Sunday the search for a Malaysian Airlines flight which vanished one year ago will not stop, adding that the government will keep providing whatever help it can to relatives of those on board.

"The search for MH370 will continue," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on the sidelines of an annual meeting of China's parliament.

"Today must be a tough day for the family members of those on-board," Wang added. "Our hearts are with you."

No trace has been found of the Malaysia Airlines Boeing 777 aircraft, which disappeared a year ago on Sunday carrying 239 passengers and crew, in what has become one of the greatest mysteries in aviation history. Most of those on board were from China. Flight MH370 vanished from radar screens shortly after taking off from Kuala Lumpur, bound for Beijing. Investigators believe it was flown thousands of miles off course before eventually crashing into the Indian Ocean.

Australia's deputy prime minister said recently the search for the plane could not go on forever, and discussions were already under way between Australia, China and Malaysia as to whether to call



A message left on a board of remembrance by Kelly (last name not given), 29, the wife of a passenger aboard MH370, is seen at a vigil ahead of the one-year anniversary of the disappearance in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 6 March, 2015.—REUTERS

off the hunt within weeks. Wang said that Malaysian Airlines has started compensation work for family members. "We will provide all necessary assistance and services to each family of those onboard the plane," he said. "We will help you uphold legitimate interests and lawful rights."—Reuters

**Nationwide organization to promote "ninja" to be launched in September**

TOKYO, 8 March — Local governments and tourism associations will set up a unified "ninja" organization in September to promote Japanese culture and boost the number of foreign tourists ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

The organization will gather and provide information on its website about

ninja — fighters trained in Japanese martial arts — and about tourist destinations, organizers said on Sunday.

It will also respond to inquiries from home and abroad, and is scheduled to host events to boost the popularity of ninja. Ninja often appear in Japanese films and anime.

The launch comes

amid growing calls from abroad for creating such a unified body, as various groups have been working separately to promote ninja culture, the organizers said.

Japan's five prefectures historically famous for ninja — Kanagawa, Nagano, Mie, Shiga and Saga — are part of the initiative, which is also supported by Japanese kabuki

actor Ichikawa Ebizo. "We want to make ninja something that people can enjoy regardless of nationality or age," Mie Gov Eikei Suzuki told a press conference in Tokyo.

Kanagawa Gov Yuji Kuroiwa said he hopes to "introduce Fuma ninja in Odawara city to the world."

Kyodo News



## Calista Flockhart visits ailing husband Harrison Ford

LOS ANGELES, 8 March — Actress Calista Flockhart has visited husband and Hollywood star Harrison Ford, who was injured while crash-landing his small plane near here, in the hospital.

Ford, 72, suffered a bad laceration to his face in the crash and was transported to the local hospital, where Flockhart, 50, and his children from his previous marriages rushed to his side, reported *People* magazine.

“Calista arrived at the ER shortly after Harrison. She looked concerned and stayed with Harrison until late last night. This morning, she drove (their son) Liam to school and then straight to the hospital. She is still at the hospital now,” a source said.

The pair tied the knot in 2010 after dating for more than eight years.

“They are a super loving, normal, down-to-earth family. Flying is something they’ve shared. This whole thing must be terrifying,” the source said.

The condition of ‘Star Wars’ actor Harrison Ford, who sustained injuries while crash-landing his small plane near here, is stable now.

The vintage yellow fighter plane crashed at Penmar Golf Course, not far from the Santa Monica airport, Los Angeles Fire Department spokesman Erik Scott said, reported *People* magazine.

Ford, 72, was the only person on board the craft. An LAPD spokeswoman confirmed the ac-



Harrison Ford and Calista Flockhart

tor is in stable condition.

Ford underwent surgery to repair a broken ankle and pelvis following his death-defying plane crash in California yesterday.

“Harrison was flying a WW2 vintage plane today which had engine trouble upon take off,” a representative for Ford said in a statement.

“He had no other choice but to make an emergency landing, which he did safely. He was banged up and is in the hospital receiving medical care. The injuries sustained are not life threatening, and he is expected to make a full recovery.”

Ford’s son Ben, a chef, tweeted on Thursday night that he was at the hospital with his father, who was “battered, but ok! He is every bit the man you would think he is. He is an incredibly strong man. Thank you all for your thoughts and good

vibes for my dad.”

Santa Monica City Commissioner Phil Brock said the star sustained a head injury.

“There were two doctors who had been at the golf course who first attended to Mr Ford and the Santa Monica Fire Department was the first to arrive,” Brock said.

This is not the first time Ford, an experienced pilot, has been in a plane crash.

His six-passenger plane took a hard landing in Lincoln, Nebraska, in the summer of 2000, but the actor was not hurt. Ford also crash-landed a helicopter in October 1999 while he was practising emergency landings with a flight instructor.—PTI

## Cate Blanchett adopts girl child

LOS ANGELES, 8 March — Oscar-winning actress Cate Blanchett and husband Andrew Upton have adopted a baby girl. A representative for the 45-year-old actress has confirmed the news, reported E! Online. “The Upton family (Cate Blanchett and Andrew Upton) have adopted a baby girl. No further details will be provided,” the representative said.

Blanchett and Upton, who got married in 1997, have three children together — Roman Robert, Ignatius Martin and Dashiell John.

According to Australia’s *Women’s Weekly*, their adopted daughter’s name is Vivienne.

—PTI



Cate Blanchett

## Judi Dench’s worst audition

LOS ANGELES, 8 March — Veteran actress Judi Dench says her worst audition was when she was told by a director that she didn’t have the “face” for movies.

The ‘*Skyfall*’ actress is well known for her acting credits in a host of top films but recalled a time where she was told she did not have the right look to be a movie star.

“I went and met (the director) and I was at the Old Vic at the time and he asked me some questions and in those days, you weren’t filmed and he said to me, ‘Well it’s been very nice meeting you but I’m sorry not this film and probably not any film as you have every single thing wrong with your face,’” she said at ‘*The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon*’.

“Well I got to do a few films after that so I’m very pleased he was wrong,” she said.

Despite proving the director wrong, the 80-year-old actress has insisted she will not reveal the name of the man who turned her down.

“I can’t because I’ve never, in all of time, since it happened — it was a long time ago — have I said the name of the director but it was for a big film,” she said.—PTI



Despite proving the director wrong, Judi Dench has insisted she will not reveal the name of the man who turned her down.—PTI



## Madonna splashes USD 20 million for penthouse in Israel?

LOS ANGELES, 8 March — Pop queen Madonna has reportedly splurged USD 20 million for a luxury two-storey penthouse at the top of a skyscraper in Tel Aviv, Israel.

Sources close to the deal said the 56-year-old star is finalizing the details on a com-

pletely customized 12,000 square feet property, reported TMZ.

It boasts view of the Mediterranean, and Madonna will reportedly outfit her two-floor apartment with a first-class gym, and a sprawling living room.—PTI



Sonam Kapoor

## Sonam Kapoor discharged from hospital after being treated for swine flu

MUMBAI, 8 March — Bollywood actress Sonam Kapoor was discharged from the hospital today after being treated for swine flu.

Sonam Kapoor, who was admitted to a private hospital in Mumbai last week, took to Twitter to announce the news of going back to home.

“Discharged! Home sweet home!,” she posted on Twitter.

While shooting in Rajkot, Gujarat for the Salman Khan-starrer ‘*Prem Ratan Dhan Paayo*’, the Bollywood fashionista was diagnosed with the swine flu.

The actress was then taken to Mumbai on 28 February and admitted to a hospital for treatment.—PTI



## Omae doubles up as Shimizu start season with win over Kashima

SHIZUOKA, (Japan), 8 March — Genki Omae struck in each half as Shimizu S-Pulse defeated Kashima Antlers 3-1 to open their J-League season with victory on Sunday.

Captain and former Antler Takuya Honda netted the decisive second for Katsumi Oenoki's side, who barely survived relegation last season after sacking coach Afshin Ghotbi at the halfway point.

Substitute Yasushi Endo scored in the second half for Kashima, who have dropped all three competitive games in 2015 counting the two losses in the Asian Champions League.

"I'm absolutely thrilled," Omae said. "It doesn't get any better than this. I thought we played really well. 3-1 is a terrific result." "Last season was difficult for us but we start from zero again this year. This is a great way to start the new season."

Controversy marred the league for the second straight day when with S-Pulse up 2-1 in the 81st minute, defender Tomoya

Inukai appeared to clear Mu Kanazaki's shot off the line with his arm but no call was made.

On Saturday, Gamba Osaka scored their first in a 2-2 home draw with FC Tokyo but only after Takashi Usami looked to have run over the by-line.

When asked about Inukai's play that may have cost his team points, Kashima manager Toninho Cerezo unloaded on the refereeing. Antlers plan to formally take up the issue with the league office.

"Well, what I saw from the bench was that the ball didn't go off his head, chest, thigh or shin so what other part of the body could it have gone off of?" Cerezo said. "Even when something like this happens in a game, no one says anything and nothing gets debated. Everyone who was here today — from the fans, the teams on the field, the media — saw what happened. It's why you guys are asking me this specific question."

"But let me be clear that I'm saying what I'm saying because I'm being asked

about it. Because if I'm the one who raises the issue, I'm the one who gets fined, punished or called into (the Japan Football Association) for questioning."

"They want to pretend like nothing ever happened. They want to sweep anything inconvenient under a rug in this country."

Shimizu opened the season at home for the first time in seven years and with a sellout crowd behind them, gave a depleted and tired Kashima team a game at Nihondaira.

Antlers were not only coming off a midweek defeat at FC Seoul in the ACL, but also missing several from the first team due to injury or rest — midfielder Mitsuo Ogasawara, defender Gen Shoji, goalkeeper Hitoshi Sogahata and forward Davi. The visitors still had enough chances to win the contest, starting with a clever chip in the 21st minute by Takahide Umebachi from 40 meters out that came off the crossbar.

S-Pulse, though, would be the ones to draw first blood in the 40th minute,

when Kohei Hattanda set up Omae from the edge of the box after Antlers failed to clear a corner.

Endo was a lively presence after coming on at halftime for Caio, setting up Kanazaki for a close-range header that forced a reflex save from nervy custodian Masatoshi Kushibiki three minutes into the second half.

Endo continued to keep Kushibiki busy and managed to beat him in the 69th minute, when his deflected shot from inside the six-yard box went over to make it 1-1. But Shimizu regained the advantage five minutes later as Honda volleyed in the second from point-blank range after a right-wing cross by Kazuya Murata, just the fourth career goal in 123 league appearances by the former Japanese international.

After Kanazaki's phantom goal during Antlers' push to restore parity for a second time, Omae doubled up in the 91st minute to put the game beyond doubt with a screamer from outside the penalty area.

*Kyodo News*

## Maeda makes strong bid for worlds in Nagoya Women's Marathon

NAGOYA, 8 March — Sairi Maeda likely sealed a spot on Japan's team for this year's world athletics championships with a strong third-place finish at Sunday's Nagoya Women's Marathon, won by Asian Games champion Eunice Kirwa of Bahrain.

Kirwa won in a race-record time of 2 hours, 22 minutes, 8 seconds. She picked up speed after the 30-kilometre mark to pass Maeda and defending champion Mariya Kononova, who finished second. Maeda, who fell at the 15-km water tables, finished in 2:22:48, the eighth-fastest time by

a Japanese woman. "I'm surprised (about the time)," said Maeda, who fell when she came into contact with another runner, hurting her left wrist. "It hurts quite a bit." "I was aspiring to win the championship, so I can't be satisfied with this."

Maeda is now in the driver's seat to race in the IAAF World Championships in Beijing, with Nagoya being the last of three qualifying races. Compatriot Mai Ito finished fourth in 2:24:42, a time that might be fast enough to send her to Beijing as well.

The race was the final qualifying event for Japan's

team for the worlds. The fastest times posted so far in the other qualifying marathons, in Yokohama and Osaka, were Tomomi Tanaka's race-winning time of 2:26:57 in Yokohama, and

**Eunice Kirwa of Bahrain crosses the finish line at Nagoya Dome in Nagoya, central Japan, on 8 March, 2015 to win the Nagoya Women's Marathon. Kirwa won in a race-record time of 2 hours, 22 minutes, 8 seconds.**

**KYODO NEWS**

Risa Shigetomo's 2:26:39 in Osaka, where she was third. Japanese runners finishing in the top eight in Beijing will punch their ticket to next year's Rio de Janeiro Olympics.— *Kyodo News*



## mitv Myanmar International

(9-3-2015 07:00 am~ 10-3-2015 07:00 am) MST

- \* News
- \* Marketable Goods — (Straw painting)
- \* Pyin Oo Lwin Sweater
- \* News
- \* Size Does Matter (Ep-1) Human-Elephant Conflict
- \* Products of Myanmar — Velvet Slippers
- \* News
- \* An Oasis Trip to Mt Popa
- \* Culture Show: Theatrical Make Up
- \* News
- \* Youth of the Future (Ep-4)
- \* Kindhearted Pet Lovers
- \* News
- \* A Day Out With Sarah (Ep-3)
- \* Today Myanmar "Visiting Neighbours Thailand"
- \* News
- \* Taste of Myanmar (Rice Salad with Vegetables)
- \* Traffic Police
- \* News
- \* Myanmar Leading Lady "Naw Sussana Hla Hla Soe"
- \* Entrepreneur: Chaw Khin Khin
- \* News
- \* ID Show (Education)
- \* A Nun's Creation in Fruit Carving
- \* News
- \* A Historic Town: 9 Pagodas
- \* My Travel In This Exceptional Place, Inle Lake
- \* News
- \* "India-Myanmar Bilateral Ties"
- \* History of MraukU Pagoda

## MRTV News Channel in Brief

(9-3-2015, Monday)

- 6:00 am**
  - Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
  - Orchestra (ASEAN Pops Medley)
- 6:30 am**
  - Physical Exercise
  - People's Talks
- 7:00 am**
  - News/ Weather Report
  - 2015 University Entrance Examination (History)
- 7:30 am**
  - Head Line News
  - News / Weather Report
- 8:35 am**
  - Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)
  - Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)
- 9:35 am**
  - Documentary (ASEAN)
  - News / Weather Report
- 10:30 am**
  - Head Line News
  - Socio Economic Scenes
- 11:35 am**
  - MRTV's Youth Programme
  - News
- 12:00 noon**
  - News / International News / Weather Report
  - Documentary
- 12:35 pm**
  - Tasty Trip
  - News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 1:10 pm**
  - Gitadagale Phwintbarohn
  - News/ International News/ Weather Report
- 2:35 pm**
  - Performance By State
  - Hluttaw Image
  - TV Drama Series

## Five dead, twelve injured in China road accident

ZHENGZHOU, 8 March — Five people died and 12 others were injured after a coach bus crashed into a pond in central China's Henan Province early Sunday, local authorities said. The accident happened on an expressway in Gushi County around 6:20 am when the bus carrying 55 passengers crashed the guardrail and fell into a pool nearby. Five people were killed and 12 were injured, according to the county government. The bus carrying 55 passengers was travelling from Shangcheng County in Henan to Xiaoshan District of Hangzhou City in east China's Zhejiang Province.

The injured have been sent to hospital. The cause of the accident is under investigation.— *Xinhua*

## Djokovic takes Troicki's place in doubles v Croatia

KRALJEVO, (Serbia) 8 March — World number one Novak Djokovic has replaced Viktor Troicki as Nenad Zimonjic's partner for Serbia in Saturday's doubles against Croatia in their Davis Cup world group first-round tie, the International Tennis Federation said.

Serbia, the 2010 winners, are 2-0 up after Djokovic enjoyed a straight-sets



**Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns the ball to Tomas Berdych of Czech Republic during their semi-final match at the ATP Championships tennis tournament in Dubai, on 27 Feb, 2015. — REUTERS**

win over Mate Delic in Friday's opening singles before Troicki fought back from two sets down to beat 18-year old Borna Coric.

Although Troicki was initially named to play alongside Zimonjic and said he was fit after a grueling clash with Coric, Serbia coach Bogdan Obradovic opted for Djokovic who blew away Delic in just 89 minutes.— *Reuters*





## Team manager encourages Myanmar women footballers

MANDALAY, 8 March—Myanmar national women's team is under training as preparations to take part in the Olympic qualifiers. It takes two training sessions in Mandalay daily—the first session from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. at Bahtoo Stadium and one more session at Mandalay Thiri Stadium from 4 p.m. to 5 p.m.

On Sunday morning, team manager Daw Myat Myat Oo met players of the team.

An opponent team from Sri Lanka will arrive in Yangon through Malaysian airlines at 11 a.m. on 9 March and proceed to Mandalay. The Indian women's team will directly come to Mandalay through Thai airlines the same day.

The Sri Lankan team will leave Myanmar on 14 March and the Indians on 16 March.—MFF

## Kane strikes twice as Spurs sink struggling QPR

LONDON, 8 March — Harry Kane struck twice as Tottenham Hotspur beat Queens Park Rangers 2-1 on Saturday to boost their hopes of a top-four finish and leave their London rivals facing an uphill battle to avoid relegation.

QPR enjoyed the better of the early exchanges at Loftus Road but in-form Kane continued his impressive run of scoring in his last five London Premier League derbies to put Spurs ahead.

Kane added his second after the break in front of England manager Roy Hodgson before former Tottenham midfielder Sandro pulled a goal back for QPR.

Spurs resisted a late onslaught to hold on to the victory which moved them up to sixth on 50 points — three behind fourth-placed Manchester United.

QPR remained in 18<sup>th</sup> place on 22 points, three behind Aston Villa.

"It's a massive win, we always seem to be winning 2-1," Kane told the BBC. "I'm loving my football, being out there with my team mates and my mates."

"I feel good and confident, it's important for a striker to have that. The second goal was a nice composed finish."

"There are a lot of top teams up there (competing for the top four) and whoever can put a run together will be right up there." Both goalkeepers were called into action early on as Hugo Lloris forced Bobby Zamora's header over the bar before Rob Green produced a smart save to deny Kane. Charlie Austin fired a shot against the underside of the crossbar as QPR piled on the pressure but Spurs snatched the lead when Kane headed in Andros Townsend's free kick. QPR had appeals for a penalty turned down at the end of the first half when Lloris appeared to clip Mauricio Isla in the box. But Kane scored his 16<sup>th</sup> Premier League goal of the season to double Spurs' advantage in the 68<sup>th</sup> minute when he latched on to Ryan Mason's pass and slotted the ball home. Sandro's neat finish gave QPR a lifeline and the home side were denied another possible penalty in the dying minutes when Steven Caulker's header appeared to strike the hand of Nabil Bentaleb.—Reuters

## Villa could face FA wrath after Cup crowd chaos

LONDON, 8 March — Aston Villa will be braced for a Football Association investigation after their FA Cup triumph over West Bromwich Albion ended in alarming crowd scenes on Saturday.

Albion manager Tony Pulis criticised the stewarding at Villa Park after ugly scenes involving both sets of supporters of the local rivals disrupted the home side's 2-0 quarter-final win.

Albion fans threw seats on to the pitch and celebrating Villa fans caused a short interruption in play by invading the playing surface in the dying minutes.

They were described as "mindless idiots" by Pulis.

At the final whistle, a full-scale pitch invasion saw the players of both teams engulfed by fans in what Villa scorer and

captain, Fabian Delph, described as "very, very scary" scenes.

He even said that, bizarrely, he had been bitten during the chaos.

The scenes, reminiscent of some of the uncon-

trolled old days of English football in the 1980s, seem bound to prompt the wrath of the FA. Pulis pointed a finger at Villa, saying the club should before the game have recognised potential problems which

could endanger the players.

"It's disgraceful. We don't want to see those scenes. They've beaten us and, for that to happen, that's just mindless idiots," he said.



Aston Villa fans celebrate on the pitch after the match in FA Cup Quarter Final at Villa Park on 7 March, 2015.—REUTERS

## PSG thump Lens 4-1 to take top spot, Monaco win

PARIS, 8 March — Paris St Germain thrashed RC Lens 4-1 to move top of Ligue 1 on Saturday as the French Champions geared up for their Champions League clash at Chelsea next week.

David Luiz, Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Blaise Matuidi and Javier Pastore scored the goals that put PSG on 56 points from 28 games, two ahead of Olympique Lyonnais who can reclaim the lead if they beat Montpellier away on Sunday (8.00 pm BST).

Marseille are a further point back in third on 53 after thrashing Toulouse 6-1 away on Friday. Monaco are fourth on 47 after beating Evian Thonon Gaillard 3-1 away on Saturday.

PSG warmed up for their visit to Stamford Bridge for their last 16 re-

turn leg with Chelsea on Wednesday, having drawn 1-1 at the Parc des Princes, with a comfortable win over Lens.

The visitors, who reduced the arrears to 2-1 through Yoann Touzghar after 68 minutes, stayed second-bottom on 22 points having lost seven of their last 10 league games and won none.

The hosts dominated but Lens keeper Rudy Riou kept his team afloat with a string of fine saves before the northerners cracked on the stroke of halftime.

PSG went ahead when Luiz wrongfooted Riou with a low, long-range free kick in the 43<sup>rd</sup> minute as the Brazil defender netted his second league goal.

Laurent Blanc's side doubled their tally on the hour when Sweden striker

Ibrahimovic converted a penalty after Gregory van der Wiel was brought down by Baptiste Guillaume.

Touzghar narrowed the deficit from close range but Lens's hopes quickly vanished. PSG substitute Pastore had an immediate effect when France midfielder Matuidi tapped in from the Argentine's cross to make it 3-1 10 minutes from time.

Pastore wrapped it up three minutes later by volleying home Ibrahimovic's fine lofted pass in the box.

Van der Wiel almost added a fifth in the closing stages but his rising shot from the spot smashed against the bar.

Monaco lost winger Yannick Ferreira Carrasco who left the pitch with a possible ankle injury after 15 minutes at Evian and he was replaced by the Bulgari-

an striker Dimitar Berbatov.

The visitors took the lead in the 19<sup>th</sup> minute through Anthony Martial before Berbatov's 35<sup>th</sup>-minute shot was deflected into his own net by Kassim Abdallah to double Monaco's

lead. Alamy Toure made it 3-0 on the hour before former Monaco player Pape Amodou Sougou reduced the arrears for Evian, who are in 16<sup>th</sup> place three points above the relegation zone.

Reuters



Paris St Germain players celebrate after Javier Pastore (L) scored the fourth goal for the team during their French Ligue 1 soccer match against RC Lens at Parc des Princes stadium in Paris, on 7 March, 2015.

REUTERS