

KIO holds talks with President, takes new step to achieving peace

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March — A nationwide ceasefire moved a step closer to reality Monday in Nay Pyi Taw as the Kachin Independence Organization held its first-ever meeting with President U Thein Sein and reaffirmed its commitment to the ongoing peace process.

In his opening remarks, President U Thein Sein stressed the important role of key players in the peacemaking process and called for ending the decades-long armed conflict through negotiation.

The eight-member KIO delegation met with the president one day before the 7th peace talks between the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team comprising 16 ethnic armed groups and the Union Peacemaking Work Committee of the government in Yangon.

The 7th talks between the NCCT and UPWC will hear the viewpoints of all NCCT members, and both



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo together with KIO leaders.—MNA

sides will negotiate the timeframe of the ongoing nationwide ceasefire process, said Maj-Gen Guan Maw of the Kachin Independence Army.

He also urged the population to be optimistic about the ongoing peacemaking process, pledging to work until it

is successful.

During the meeting, on behalf of NCCT members, the KIO pledged that ethnic races would never splinter off from the country and they were also

committed to gaining a nationwide ceasefire in order to bring an end to decades of armed conflicts, said U Aung Min, Vice Chairman of the UPWC, who also participated in

the talks between KIO and President U Thein Sein.

The KIO also held talks with Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, chairman of the Union Peacemaking Work Committee,

the day before meeting with the president.

At the meeting, the vice president said peace is within arm's length, urging the KIO to continue (See page 3)

Thai plans to construct second border bridge near Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March — Transport ministry of Thailand plans to construct a second border bridge across Moei River, a natural border between Mae Sot and Myawady, according to Bangkok Post.

Minister Prajin Juntong announced the second Thai-Myanmar Friendship Bridge after a meeting on infrastructure and customs development with a special economic development policy committee, with saying the ministry will inject 3.9 billion baht for the bridge project and finance other infrastructure projects.

The budget is intended for two portions: 2.9 billion baht will come from the national budget and the government will also pay Myanmar's costs of one billion baht. The budget will also

cover a connecting road network in Tak province of northern Thailand.

Transport ministry will use 1.6 billion baht for the building, 80 million baht for the bridge itself, one billion baht for customs and immigration outpost buildings on both sides of the bridge, and 300 million baht for the cost of land acquisition for the project.

The Office of Transport and Traffic Policy and Planning will conduct a feasibility study and the findings will seek the approval of cabinet, and concessionaire agreement works will be finalized by June to be able to start construction in September. Thai government is also in the process of renovating and expanding the Mae Sot airport project in Tak province.—GNLM

Global showcase to feature Myanmar's traditional puppets

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 16 March — Traditional marionettes from Myanmar will be on display at the world's largest folk art exhibition this July in the United States.

The 12th International Folk Art Market in Santa Fe will celebrate living folk art traditions and create economic opportunities for folk artists worldwide, according to U Khin Maung Htwe, art director of Htwe Oo Myanmar Puppetry Home.

"The aim of participation is not to make a profit but to showcase our traditional art of puppetry," U Khin Maung said in an interview on Sunday with the Global New Light of Myanmar.

He sees the exhibition as an opportunity to bring the country's puppetry back to life, as the tradition has almost faded away.

"About 200 string puppets will be on sale at this year's event," he said. "We

do not fix higher prices for puppets. Last year, we did not break even."

Recounting his experience from the past event, U Khin Maung Htwe said

other than people who had visited Myanmar, few people had seen the country's traditional puppets.

But most foreigners show interest in the country's traditions, he said. Some of them bought pup-

pets and then learned puppetry techniques, with customers usually asking about the history of the art form, he added.

Myanmar has taken part in the market since (See page 2)



Myanmar traditional marionette troupe performing a puppet show at theater in Yangon.—PHOTO: HTWEOOMYANMAR.COM

Union ministers explain budgets at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw MPs debates budgets for ministries.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March — Union level officials explained the budgets for ministries at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session on Monday.

Union Minister for En-

vironmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun told the national assembly session that four departments of the ministry asked for less expenditure for fuel oil, maintenance of machin-

ery and receptions than in previous years, but Myanmar Timber Enterprise had to seek more funds to pay income taxes for the 2013-14 fiscal year and cover increased salaries and pen-

sions.

According to the union minister, Myanmar Timber Enterprise will have little left over after it has paid salaries, wages, commercial taxes and income taxes and, as a result, the ministry will face difficulty if the proposed budget is cut by 5 percent by the Joint Public Account Committee.

Union Minister for Health Dr Than Aung said at the session that about 25 percent and 66 percent of the proposed budget of the ministry will be spent on basic public and healthcare services, respectively, and only about 10 percent is allocated for human resources

development, administrative and research purposes.

Although only about 25 percent is allocated for basic public health, most local and foreign assistance will go to the basic public health sector, the union minister explained.

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan said the Hluttaw cut the proposed budget of K 288 million for a new stadium in Lewe to K 100 million and for a synthetic track to K 137.4 million.

The union minister said he aimed to build a modern stadium for township level for youths.

Union Minister for

Industry U Maung Myint explained that the earnings of his ministry dropped because of trade losses, deficits, lack of quality and price-competitiveness, and the hiring of factories to private entrepreneurs.

Concerning the ASEAN regional trade agreement, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw said that if faced with unexpected challenges, Myanmar can temporarily revise current customs commitments or suspend reduction of customs duties in accordance with international conventions and rules and regulations.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw

Seniors' social welfare fund programme will be expanded gradually



Deputy Minister U Win Myint.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March — Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe said the ministry has

Global showcase ...

(from page 1)

2013, giving local puppeteers a chance to exchange knowledge with artists from other countries and showcase Myanmar's arts and culture.

Puppetry has traditionally been one of Myanmar's most popular folk arts, and is commonly seen at pagoda festivals. Researches date the origin of Myanmar marionettes to the 1870s.

According to U Khin Maung Htwe, there are at most 20 professional puppeteers across the country and a few puppet-makers mainly in Yangon and Mandalay. He said unity among puppeteers is crucial to the survival of the art form.—GNLM

proposed a budget to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to support the elder people between 90 and 100 years old in 2015-2016 fiscal year.

He also said the ministry has not planned to give K30,000 monthly to the senior citizens between 65 and 90 years old and the disabled persons in cooperation with NGOs and INGOs, adding that the plan will be carried out year by year based on the budget allocation.

Replying to the query about special programmes of citizenship cards issuing namely 'Moe Pwint Project' raised by U Thein Tun Oo of Amarapura Constituency, Deputy Minister for Immigration and Population U Win Myint said the ministry conducted Moe Pwint Projects from level one to seven in many states and

regions by using ministry's budget for regular expenditure K417.964 million in 2013-2014 fiscal year and the assistance of respective states and regions where citizenship registration cards were issued.

He also said that the ministry did not hire daily staff for the project.

Later, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw said the Hluttaw proposed the union government to set up a pension fund for the retired politicians, however, the President Office rejected the proposal as Myanmar Socialist Programme Party has been revoked in accordance with an order of the military's State Peace and Development Council in 1988, resulting in no pension fund for the dissolved party's members.

MNA

Bill Committee, students continue debate on bill amending national education law

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March — A debate on the bill amending the National Education Law continued at the meeting hall of Amyotha Hluttaw, here, Monday.

Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee explained progress of hearing the bill, procedures of legislation at the Hluttaw and rules and regulations, and said that approval of the bill amending the national education law must not be be-

yond the 2008 constitution.

Maung Chit Win Maung, fourth year civil, Maung Pyaw Phyo Kyaw, third year chemistry, Maung Thant Sin Tun, fourth year civil, Maung Zeyar Lwin, third year Eco., Maung Ye Zarni Tun, second year computer, Maung Paing Ye Thu, third year mathematics, Maung Nan Lin, second year physics, Maung Wai Moe Naing, fourth year English and Maung Min Lwin Oo, BE (Mechani-



U Salai Khwe Yan of Chin State Constituency No.12.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March — The Amyotha Hluttaw continued for the 27th day session, here, on Monday.

U Thaw Zin Oo of Magway Region Constituency raised a question on a plan for installation of 11 KVA power line along Seikpyu, Tegyi, Myaygyandaw, Gwaybin, Hteingan, Ywathitgyi and Kethsegan villages in

Seikpyu Township. Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Aung Than Oo explained that electrification for 22 villages needs to install 11KV power lines in 23 miles of total length from Seikpyu power station to Lethse village and to Pintale village in the township and 23 transformers. Governments of regions and states sought funds for construction of small sub-power stations, 11 KV power lines and 400 volt power lines in 2014-15 fiscal year. Magway region government plans to coordinate allotment of a fund for installation of 11

all-inclusive education, participation of independent experts in education organizations, and academic and management of schools. Both sides focused on the bill paragraph by paragraph.

Chairman of the Bill Committee U Khin Maung Yi, Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Politic, Economic and Legal Affairs Commission U Myint Thein and members reviewed the discussions.—MNA



Deputy Minister U Aung Than Oo. MNA

Seikpyu Township. Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Aung Than Oo explained that electrification for 22 villages needs to install 11KV power lines in 23 miles of total length from Seikpyu power station to Lethse village and to Pintale village in the township and 23 transformers. Governments of regions and states sought funds for construction of small sub-power stations, 11 KV power lines and 400 volt power lines in 2014-15 fiscal year. Magway region government plans to coordinate allotment of a fund for installation of 11

KV power line in coming fiscal years.

U Salai Khwe Yan of Chin State Constituency No 12 asked whether there is a plan to supply electricity to Paletwa Township, Chin State, located on India-Myanmar Asian Highway. Deputy Minister U Aung Than Oo replied that Kyauktaw region in Rakhine State is being supplied electricity through 66 KV Ponnagyun-Kyauktaw power line and sub-power station as of 30 November 2014. A project must be implemented to electrify Paletwa region by building a 66-KV Kyauktaw-Paletwa power line and a sub-power station. Installation of power line and transformer for Paletwa region is expected to cost K12.235 billion except the expenditure for installation of power line to villages. Depending on the budget allotment of the government, the project will be implemented in 2015-16 fiscal year.

MNA

More than 540,000 students sat Chemistry subject in matriculation exam

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March — A total of 547,690 students sat Chemistry subject of matriculation examination for 2015 in regions, states and Nay

Pyi Taw Council Area on Monday.

The number of student was 50,078 less than the amount on the test of Myanmar subject.—MNA

NATIONAL

President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Ireland

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Michael D. Higgins, President of Ireland and His Excellency Mr. Enda Kenny, Prime Minister of Ireland, on the occasion of the National Day of Ireland, which falls on 17 March 2015.

MNA

KIO holds talks with President,

(from page 1)
to its efforts with patience and far-sighted vision.

The current mission of the KIO delegation, comprising political and military representatives, is significant as it held face-to-face talks with the vice president Sunday and with the president Monday for

the first time.

Dr La Ja, General Secretary of KIO, said in his opening remarks at the talks that the delegation will seek rapid progress in the peace process.

The UPWC and the NCCT are scheduled to hold talks in Yangon on Tuesday.—Aye Min Soe

Internal conflicts cost lives of national brethen, says senior general



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for documentary photo with KIO delegation.—MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 16 March — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received delegation of Kachin Independence Organization led by Dr La Ja on Monday.

At the meeting the Kachin ethnic delegation discussed the military affairs of KIO and KIA.

The Senior General said there are some different ideologies and perspectives of relevant organizations in the efforts to establish a democratic state, while the defence ser-

vices personnel are strenuously taking part in maintenance of peace and stability of the country.

He also remarked that those who lost lives in conflicts are Myanmar nationals, with saying that good intention and proper practices are important for the development of the state.

The Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services also said the death of new generation is a great loss despite armed groups and government military can substitute the fallen soldiers with recruitment of

new members.

Dr La Ja, general secretary of KIO also said peace, stability and development of the state are the expectations of all the nationals, adding that all the ethnic people should involve in the peace-making process.

KIA's deputy Chief of Staff S Guan Maw also said the Nationwide Cease-fire Agreement should be aimed for prevention of more conflicts, and KIA has intended to cooperate in education, health and security affairs.

Myawady

13 after it departed for Sittway, the capital of the state, from Taungup jetty on the earlier day.

Local authorities and vessels from Kyaukpyu navy base managed to rescue 169 persons, including two monks, and are now working to pull the ferry boat off the seabed.

MNA



President U Thein Sein cordially greets Dr La Ja, General Secretary of Kachin Independence Organization at peace talks.

MNA

Union FM sends message of felicitations to Ireland

NAY PYI TAW, 17 March — U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Charles Flanagan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Ireland, on the occasion of the National Day of Ireland, which falls on 17 March 2015.—MNA

Tatmadaw launches attacks on Point 1468 hilltop seized by Kokang insurgents

A map shows clashes between Tatmadaw and Kokang insurgents in Laukkau region



NAY PYI TAW, 16 March — Koakng insurgents launched an attack against a Tatmadaw column taking security duty on Point 1219 hilltop to the east of Laukkai on Sunday evening and the Tatmadaw column has to counter the attack.

While Tatmadaw columns were clearing the route from Parsinkyaw village to BP-137 on Monday morning, fighting broke out between the columns and Kokang insurgents from Point 1468 and Tatmadaw personnel were defeating the defence line of the insurgent on the hill.

During the fighting, two officers sacrificed their lives for the country and five other officers and other ranks were injured.

Myawady

Rakhine ferry sinking death toll rise to 59

SITTWAY, 16 March—Ferry boat capsized near Myebon Township, Rakhine State, was found at the river bed on Friday.

Rescue team including 10 divers found 23 bodies, including 14 women, from the hull of the sunken ves-

sel on Monday evening, and death toll has risen to 59.

Double-decker ferry boat Aung Tagun- 3 carried 225 passengers while it sank near Paython island and Myauk Kyuin island at 8 p.m. local time on March

Creek no longer barrier as new bridge connects villages

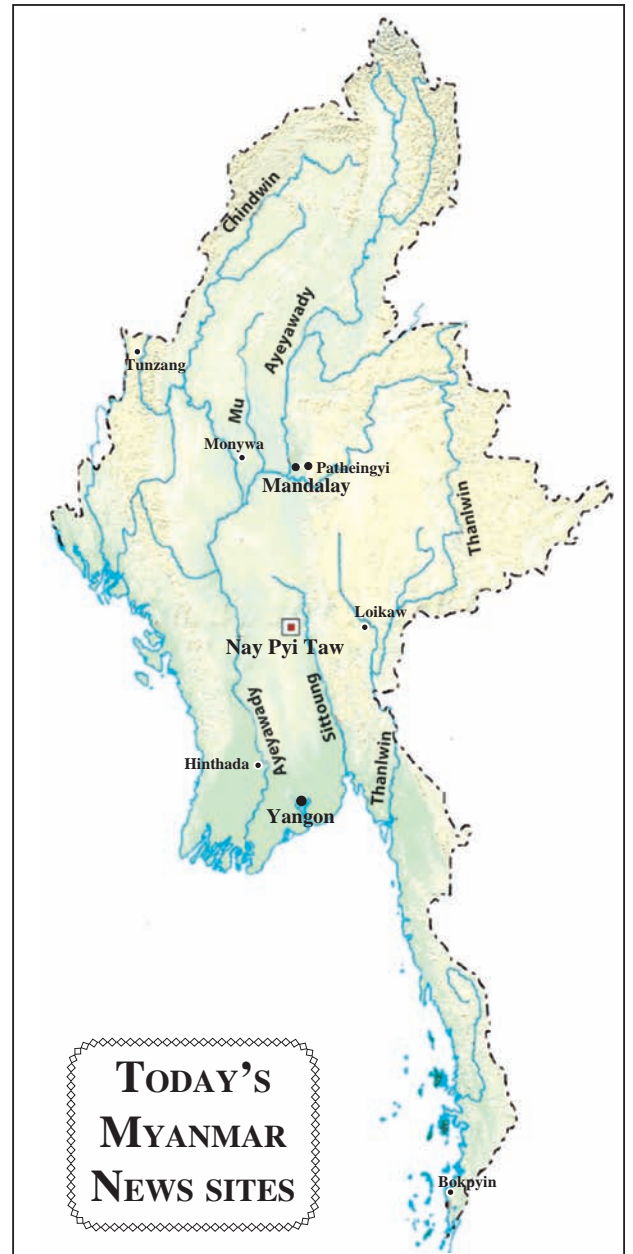


TUNZANG, 16 March—People and goods can more easily make the journey between Cikha and Kant-sauk villages in Tunzang Township, Chin State, following the completion of a bridge spanning Cipilwi Creek in February.

Tunzang Township Department of Rural Development in Chin State provided K1.8 million for construction of the 40-foot-long bridge to ensure the smooth transportation of local residents and swift flow of commodities.

Chin State Minister for Electric Power and Industry U Ciint Lien Pawng, Township Administrator U Kyaw Min Htwe and Head of Township Department of Rural Development U Hlwam Hsan cut the ribbon to open the wooden bridge in the first week of March.

Zo Hay Hsar



Infrastructure upgrades under way in Kayah State

LOIKAW, 16 March — Kayah State Minister for Transport U Chit Hla and Senior Engineer U Than Zaw of Public Works inspected construction of a retaining wall to prevent bank erosion in rainy season near Dawphu Village on Dimawhso-Dawnayaykhu Road in Kayah State on 13 March.

They also viewed progress of Dawnayaykhu-Bawlakhe gravel road and bridges being built with K465.34 million by Public Works.

The minister and party also looked into construction of Yayni-

pauk Bridge in Bawlakhe Township. Naing Min Company assigned duty by Public Works constructs Yaynipauk Bridge on Loikaw-Mawchi-Toungoo Road with allotment of K136.49 million in 2014-15 fiscal year. The 60-foot-long bridge will be made from reinforced concrete.

During the trip, the minister viewed upgrading of Loikaw-Pruhso road and construction of a 5,600-foot-long Ngwetaung Dam detour, in addition to a 120-foot-long RC bridge.

Loikaw District IPRD

Development project seeks to raise rural incomes

BOKPYIN, 16 March — The Department of Rural Development and the Asian Development Bank jointly staged a workshop on their programme to improve rural livelihoods and income at the hall of Bokpyin Township General Administration Department in Taninthayi Region on 12 March.

Both institutions will spend K1.2 million implementing the ongoing project until December 2017 in 96 village-tracts in Ayeyawady, Magway, Mandalay and Taninthayi regions, as well as Shan State. The project will cover 19 village-tracts in Bokpyin Township.

Taninthayi Region Minister for Development

Affairs U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo and Director of the department U Kyaw Moe Hlaing explained procedures of the project.

Bokpyin (IPRD)



Vice Chairman-2 U Thaung Su Nyein together with U Ye Myat Thu and U Ye Myint Naing of Myanmar Youth Entrepreneurs Association seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for Japan on 15 March to attend Asia Leaders Business Summit 2015 in Tokyo on 17 March.—MYEA



Buddha Pujaniya of Shwesaryan Pagoda draws crowds of pilgrims

PATHEINGYI, 16 March — This year's Buddha Pujaniya festival of Shwesaryan Pagoda located in

Patheingyi Township of Mandalay District, attracted crowds from Mandalay and its surrounding townships,

as well as Shan State, which has ties to the religious site.

This year, the festival was held from 4 to 13 March. The pagoda was built by Saw Mon Hla, an ethnic Shan queen of King Anawrahta during the Bagan period.

During the festival, domestic products, traditional foods, herbal plants and toys made of toddy palms were sold by vendors from Shan State. Shan youths played traditional drums as a tribute to Saw Mon Hla.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



REGIONAL

Japan, Laos to cooperate in anti-flood measures in Mekong River

TOKYO, 16 March — Japan and Laos agreed on Monday to step up cooperation in enhancing flood risk management and mitigation in the Mekong River basin covering the South-east Asian country.

In a meeting with Lao Deputy Prime Minister Asang Laoly in Tokyo, Parliamentary Vice Foreign Minister Kazuyuki Nakane said Japan “will continue to implement anti-flood measures (for Laos) through the Mekong River Commission.”

The Mekong River Commission is an inter-governmental agency that works with Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Viet-



Kazuyuki Nakane (L), Japan's parliamentary vice foreign minister, shakes hands with Lao Deputy Prime Minister Asang Laoly (C) prior to their talks on 16 March, 2015 at the Lao Embassy in Tokyo, as Lao Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Noulin Sinbandhit looks on.
KYODO NEWS

nam on joint management of shared water resources and sustainable development of the Mekong River.

Japan is a “development partner” for the body.

The meeting was open to journalists.

Citing inefficient early warning and flood forecasting systems for Mekong tributaries in Laos, Asang

indirectly sought Japan's assistance in developing advanced forecast and notification systems.

Nakane stressed the importance of being well prepared for possible disasters, citing a UN study that a country's economic loss would be reduced to about one-seventh if it employed measures against potential calamities. In an effort to stimulate bilateral exchanges in tourism and other forms of business, Nakane said Japan wants to cooperate with Laos in launching direct flights between the two countries soon in line with an aviation agreement the two governments signed

in January.

Nakane also assured Laos of Japan's cooperation when Laos chairs ASEAN in 2016.

Japan has been promoting ties with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, which is lowering barriers to the flow of people, goods and money across the borders of its 10 member states to launch a more integrated ASEAN Economic Community at the end of this year.

Asang met Nakane after attending sessions of a UN meeting on disaster risk reduction that will run through Wednesday in the northeastern Japan city of Sendai.—Kyodo News

Philippine army arrests leader of Muslim rebel splinter group



Members of the Philippine National Police (PNP) intelligence escort Mohammad Ali Tambako (2nd R), founder and leader of the Justice Islamic Movement, upon arrival at Villamor Air Base in Manila on 16 March, 2015.—REUTERS

MANILA, 16 March — Philippine security forces have arrested the leader of a small but violent Muslim rebel faction, an army spokesman said on Monday.

The government of the largely Christian country has been battling Muslim rebels for decades and while a peace process with the biggest faction has led to a decrease in violence, clashes with smaller factions and bomb attacks are common.

The military said Mohammad Ali Tambako, founder and leader of the Justice Islamic Movement, was detained with five associates in the southern city of General Santos late on Sunday.

“Tambako was fleeing when he was arrested,” said Lieutenant-Colonel Harold Cabunoc, head of the military public affairs office.

“They were on their way to a sea port in General Santos ... armed with hand guns and grenades.”

Tambako had studied in Egypt and Cabunoc said his time overseas had enabled him to build up extensive contacts with foreign militants.

Tambako opposes peace talks with the government and his group was believed to have sheltered a wanted bomber, Abdul Basit Usman. Usman was one of two militants police were hunting on 25 January when they were ambushed by rebels of the main Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and 44 policemen and 18 rebels were killed.

That clash has thrown into doubt a peace process with the MILF, the country's biggest rebel group, and led to criticism of President Benigno Aquino and calls for him to step down.

The army launched an offensive against Tambako's faction on the southern island of Mindanao last month and more than 80,000 people had been displaced by the fighting.

Reuters

ASEAN looks to African Union model for regional peacekeeping force

LANGKAWI, (Malaysia), 16 March — Defence ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations will study the African Union model in their quest to set up an integrated peacekeeping force of the 10-member regional grouping, Malaysian Defence Minister Hishamuddin Hussein said on Monday.

“African Union peacekeeping forces “go under the UN (flag), so why not ASEAN? We just have to check how they do it,” Hishamuddin told reporters after chairing a one-day meeting of ASEAN defence ministers at the resort island of Langkawi off the northern

Kedah state.

Malaysia, which took over the rotating ASEAN chair this year, revived the idea of an ASEAN peacekeeping force that was first mooted over a decade ago among ASEAN member countries. While expressing optimism that the idea of an ASEAN peacekeeping force will materialize, Hishamuddin said it “requires time and a lot of negotiations on how to go forward.”

The concept of such a force failed to take off in the past as some member countries feared it would clash with ASEAN's longstanding principle of non-interference in each other's domes-

tic affairs.

The African Union, formerly known as the Organization of African Unity, has deployed peacekeeping forces under the UN flag to conflict zones in Africa like Sudan and Somalia.

“If an ASEAN peacekeeping force were to materialize, it would likely be a land-based force, consisting of ground troops and personnel, rather than a force oriented to a naval configuration,” Graham Ong-Webb, a research fellow in Singapore's Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, told *Kyodo News*.

“I think there is some strategic value in fielding an

ASEAN peacekeeping force as it would signal to the international community that ASEAN is poised to manage hotspots and conflicts in its own backyard,” Ong-Webb said.

Arguing that the ASEAN Charter of 2007 provides the basis for the establishment of such a regional peacekeeping force, Ong-Webb said the idea “impinges on the Association's traditional principle of non-interference.”

ASEAN's member states are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.—Kyodo News

Four Thai activists to face military court in ‘landmark case’

BANGKOK, 16 March — Four Thai activists are to face military court on Monday on charges of violating junta orders banning public gatherings in what a rights group called a “landmark case” that could stir indignation at strict military rule.

The four men are members of a group called Resistant Citizen, which has held demonstrations around the Thai capital in defiance of the military government which came to power after a coup in May. “It is a landmark case. Hundreds have been sent to military court since the coup but this case is an outright persecution of peaceful expression of dissent,” said Sunai Phasuk of Human Rights Watch.

The four are Arnon Numpa, 30, a rights lawyer, Sirawith Seritiwat, 24,



Arnon Numpa (2nd L), a 30-year-old rights lawyer, and Sirawith Seritiwat (R), 24, a student, leaves a police station for the military court in Bangkok on 16 March, 2015.—REUTERS

a student, Punsak Srithep, 48, an activist whose son was killed in a 2010 army crackdown on anti-government protesters and Wan-nakiet Choosuan, 36, a taxi driver.

They held a pro-election demonstration in Feb-

ruary and set up mock voting tables.

Arnon also faces additional charges under a tough computer crime laws for Facebook messages he posted.

Sunai said the case against them was a direct

violation of their right to freedom of assembly and it would likely stir disgruntlement with the military government. “The case is an important benchmark. Students have started to push back and are calling for a gathering at Thammasat University to oppose military courts.”

Under martial law, which has been in place since May, gatherings of more than five people are banned. “All four of us will be sent to military court today and, if the military court accepts the case, then we will ask for bail,” Arnon told *Reuters*.

Dozens of supporters showed up at a Bangkok police station where the four activists were interrogated, according to a *Reuters* reporter. Some handed the men red roses.

Reuters

China official voices concern on US defence missile plans in S Korea

SEOUL, 16 March — A senior Chinese diplomat expressed concern to South Korean officials on Monday on the possible deployment of an advanced US missile-defence system in South Korea.

China's assistant minister of foreign affairs Liu Jianchao spoke to reporters after what he described as "candid" talks with Lee Kyung Soo, the South Korean deputy foreign minister for political affairs.

"It would be appreciated if (South Korea) treats

the Chinese side's interest and concerns importantly," Liu said.

Liu made the remarks when asked about China's position on US plans to deploy a missile defence system, known as Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD), in South Korea.

THAAD is a land-based system that can shoot down ballistic missiles.

"It is hoped the US and South Korea make a proper decision," Liu said.

The US plan to deploy

THAAD in South Korea has also sparked concerns among South Koreans that it would turn the country into a US frontline missile defence base, causing diplomatic friction with Beijing and forcing Seoul to bear the brunt of intensified China-US rivalry.

In February, Chinese Defence Minister Chang Wanquan similarly voiced concern over the matter during a visit to Seoul.

US officials maintain the system is purely defensive and its deployment



Chinese Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs Liu Jianchao (far R) and South Korean Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Lee Kyung Soo (far L) attend a meeting at the ministry in Seoul on 16 March, 2015, over the issue of deploying an advanced US missile-defence system in South Korea.—KYODO NEWS

in South Korea would be aimed at exclusively dealing with the threats posed

by North Korea.

China argues that its deployment would under-

mine the region's stability and strategic balance.

Kyodo News

Iran, United States resume nuclear talks in Lausanne



US Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz, US Secretary of State John Kerry, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran Ali Akbar Salehi (L-R) pose for a photograph before resuming talks over Iran's nuclear programme in Lausanne on 16 March, 2015.—REUTERS

LAUSANNE, 16 March — US Secretary of State John Kerry and his Iranian

counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif resumed nuclear talks on Monday in

the Swiss city of Lausanne to try to narrow gaps before a 31 March deadline

for a political agreement.

The meeting included US Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz and Iran's nuclear chief Ali Akbar Salehi, who also met on Sunday to negotiate technical details on how to curb Iran's nuclear programme.

Kerry has urged Iran to make concessions that would allow six world powers to reach a political framework agreement for a nuclear deal with Teheran that would lift sanctions in exchange for curbs on Teheran's nuclear programme.

The parties have set a 30 June deadline to finalise an accord. Iran and major powers will meet this week in Lausanne but the date has not been announced yet.—Reuters

Imperial banquet menus to get public showing

TOKYO, 16 March — A Tokyo archive plans to open to the public this fall a former imperial head chef's collection of about 1,200 menus from banquets at the Imperial Palace from 1874 to 1964, sources familiar with the matter said on Monday.

The collection has been donated to the Ajinomoto Foundation for Dietary Culture, an archive operated by food maker Ajinomoto Co, by the granddaughter of Tokuzo Akiyama, who was the imperial head chef for decades through 1972, they said.

Akiyama (1888-1974) was employed by the then Ministry of the Imperial Household as a cook in 1913 after studying in France and later

became the head chef, serving Emperor Taisho (1879-1926) and Emperor Showa (1901-1989).

The foundation already allows people to look at the cards for research purposes, and will make them available to the general public this fall, the sources said.

Tokuko Akiyama, daughter of Akiyama's late son Tadasu, offered the cards to the foundation, hoping that the collection will help promote the research of cooking, the sources said.

Ayako Ehara, a professor emeritus at Tokyo Kasei Gakuin University and an expert in the history of cooking documents, said the menus are a valuable source of information.—Kyodo News

Abe pushes for Japan's permanent membership of UN Security Council

TOKYO, 16 March — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Monday called for immediate reform of the United Nations and expressed Japan's aspiration to become a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

"We should no longer spend time discussing reform of the Security Council. It is time to produce specific results," Abe told a symposium at the United Nations University in Tokyo to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the founding of the

world body.

Japan "is ready to assume the role of a permanent member of the council. It has been so, and it will continue to be," Abe said.

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon was among participants at the symposium.

In collaboration with Brazil, Germany and India, Japan is calling for expanding the number of both permanent and non-permanent members of the 15-member Security Council so it can better represent the realities of

the international community of the 21st century.

With this year marking the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, Abe said that based on deep remorse for the war, Japan has followed the path of a peace-loving nation while respecting freedom, democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

"What Japan has aimed for is to become a country that can contribute to peace, development and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific and the world," he said.

Kyodo News

Indonesia to expand visa-free scheme to 40 countries

JAKARTA, 16 March — The Indonesian government will raise the number of countries receiving free visa to 40 from the current 15 countries, a minister said here on Monday.

Tourism Minister Arief Yahya said that the expansion of the scheme was expected to increase the number of foreign tourist arrivals by 15 percent annually.

The number of foreign holiday makers coming into Indonesia last year

reached 9.453 million, according to the national statistical bureau.

Among the countries to be included in the expansion are China, French, Germany, Norway, South Korea, Japan, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States, Minister Yahya said at the Coordinating Ministry for Economy.

The Indonesian government has doubled the target of foreign holiday makers coming into the

vast archipelago country to 20 million within 5 years, as there is a huge potential to boost the tourism industry in the country, Economic Chief Minister Sofyan Djalil has said.

Indonesia expects 10 million foreign tourist arrivals this year.

Indonesia's tourism industry has recovered from the Asian financial crisis and terrorism attacks in recent years.

Xinhua

PM Cameron's plan for EU treaty change is 'mission impossible' — EU's Tusk

LONDON, 16 March — Prime Minister David Cameron's plan to get changes to European Union treaties as part of his renegotiation of Britain's ties with the bloc is "mission impossible", European Council President Donald Tusk told the *Guardian* newspaper.

Cameron has pledged to reform Britain's EU relationship ahead of a membership referendum by the end of 2017 if he is re-elected in May, and has said he believes treaty change will be needed to adapt rules in areas such as immigration.

"My intuition is that treaty change is close to mission impossible today because it's not only about rationality, about good argument," Tusk told the *Guardian*.

"We need unanimity between 28 member states, in the European



Poland's Prime Minister Donald Tusk (L) and Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron (R) arrive at a group photo during a EU summit in Brussels on 27 June, 2013.—REUTERS

parliament, in 28 national parliaments in the process of ratification. To say that it is a Pandora's Box is too little."

Tusk said he wanted to help Cameron achieve reform but needed to know more details about what Britain wanted to assess whether treaty change was even needed. Other member states did not want dis-

cussion of treaty change, he said.

"We need ... a good solution for Cameron and Great Britain under existing law," he said. "We need the United Kingdom in Europe ... And I feel, but it's not my role to decide about it, but I feel that the United Kingdom needs Europe."—Reuters

Top US Republican lawmaker to launch investigation of Clinton emails — ABC

WASHINGTON, 16 March — The top Republican in the US House of Representatives is expected to announce an investigation this week into Hillary Clinton's use of email when she led the State Department, ABC News reported on Sunday.

ABC's "This Week" said that top Republicans briefed the programme about Speaker John Boehner's plan to investigate Clinton's use of her personal email address when she was secretary of state from 2009 to 2013.

However, the network did not state whether the probe would be separate from an ongoing House investigation and additional actions being considered by an oversight committee.

Clinton's failure to use a government email address has sparked a storm of criticism even as she lays the groundwork for an expected 2016 presidential bid. At a news conference last Tuesday, she said her private email address was a "convenience" so she would not have to carry two mobile devices. Also on Tuesday, Clinton's office released a



Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

detailed document about her email use and the steps she had taken to provide relevant official emails to the State Department.

Clinton sent and received 62,320 emails while at the State Department, and after a review process, 30,490 official emails were provided to the department and 31,830 were withheld as private and personal records, the document said.

Clinton's attorneys used key search terms, such as official government account addresses and countries relevant to ongoing congressional probes, to identify official emails, according to the document. These search was conducted in addition to reading every single email, Clinton spokesman Nick Merrill

confirmed on Sunday.

Clinton's use of a personal email address first surfaced as congressional panels investigated the 2012 attack on a US diplomatic facility in Benghazi, Libya.

Republican Representative Trey Gowdy, the head of a House committee examining Benghazi, has said he would like Clinton to testify before Congress by April, when she is expected to formally launch her presidential campaign. Republican Representative Jason Chaffetz, who chairs an oversight committee on government reform, said last week that his panel would cooperate with Gowdy's and "continue looking into this matter."

Boehner's office declined to comment on the ABC News report. A Gowdy representative said that its Benghazi probe would continue. Gowdy told "Fox News Sunday" that there are "huge gaps" in the Clinton email record provided to the committee. "I just can't trust her lawyers to make the determination that the public is getting everything they're entitled to," Gowdy said.

Reuters

Nearly 1 million Brazilians protest Rousseff, economic woes

RIO DE JANEIRO, 16 March — Close to a million demonstrators marched in cities and towns across Brazil on Sunday to protest a sluggish economy, rising prices and corruption — and to call for the impeachment of leftist President Dilma Rousseff.

The marches across the continent-sized country come as Brazil struggles to overcome economic and political malaise and pick up the pieces of a boom that crumbled once Rousseff took office in 2011.

Now in the third month of her second four-year term, Rousseff is unlikely to resign or face the impeachment proceedings called for by many opponents angry about a fifth year of economic stagnation and a multibillion dollar corruption scandal at state-run energy company Petroleo Brasileiro SA, or Petrobras.

For a president who was narrowly re-elected just five months ago, the protests are a sign of a polarized country increasingly unhappy with its leadership.

Rousseff has recently been jeered at public appearances and Brazilians in some cities banged pots during a televised speech she made earlier this month.

Sunday's gatherings were mostly calm and festive, with little of the violence that tarnished a wave of massive demonstrations in 2013, when Brazilians protested spending to host the 2014 World Cup of soccer.

By late morning, thousands of residents, many

dressed in the blue, green and yellow of Brazil's flag, crowded along Rio de Janeiro's Copacabana beachfront, singing the national anthem and shouting "Dilma, Out!"

In Sao Paulo, the country's biggest city, more than half a million demonstrators gathered along skyscraper-lined Avenida Paulista. As in Rio and Brasilia, the capital, many of the protesters hailed from the country's wealthier classes, who traditionally oppose the ruling

Workers' Party.

Underscoring class divisions, marchers said Rousseff and the ruling party have instigated the polarization by trying to pit their traditional supporters, the recipients of popular social welfare programs, against the rest of Brazil.

The party, opponents complain, for too long ignored critiques that its heavy spending, subsidized lending, protectionist policies and corruption have sapped the vitality that led to average growth exceeding 4 percent during the decade before she took office.

The Workers' Party "is inciting the people against the people," said Helena Alameda Prado Bastos, a 61-year-old editor in Sao Paulo.

So grim are Brazil's prospects that many economists expect it to slip into recession this year. Inflation is running at a ten-year high, while Brazil's currency, the real, has lost over 22 percent of its value against the dollar this year.

Reuters



Demonstrators attend a protest against Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff at Paulista avenue in Sao Paulo on 15 March, 2015.—REUTERS

Putin puts Northern Fleet on alert for Arctic exercises — RIA

Moscow, 16 March — President Vladimir Putin has ordered the Russian Navy's Northern Fleet and paratrooper units to go on full alert as part of snap military exercises in the Arctic, RIA news agency quoted the defence minister as saying on Monday.

Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu, who is overseeing an expensive modernisation of the armed forces, said Russia faced new threats to its security which obliged it to boost its military strength and capabilities.

"New challenges and threats to military security require the armed forces to further boost their military capabilities. Special attention must be paid to strategic formations in the North," state-run RIA quoted Shoigu as saying.

Tensions between Russia and the West have reached their worst level since the Cold War over the crisis in Ukraine.

The West and Kiev accuse Russia of supplying arms and soldiers to sup-



Russian President Vladimir Putin

port pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine who are fighting government troops.

NATO made new allegations last week that Russia was arming the separatists in east Ukraine, where more than 6,000 people have been killed in nearly a year of fighting.

Moscow has boosted its ambitions in the resource-rich Arctic region, where it shares a border with NATO member Norway, and the military is looking to boost its capabilities in the region.

The tests were due to include nearly 40,000 servicemen, 41 warships and 15 submarines, RIA reported.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 17 March, 2015

Avoid mistaking effect for cause

By Myint Win Thein

Every problem has a root cause which must be found before the problem can be solved. It is common among those seeking to solve a problem to mistakenly identify a mere symptom as the root of the problem. But

treating the symptom will not lead to a solution. It can even create more complications, making the problem worse than at the outset.

For example, a doctor must properly diagnose the disease at the root of an illness in order to cure it. If he or she cannot provide a proper diagnosis, but gives only prescriptions for superficial symptoms, the condition of the patient may not improve, and further complications may lead to loss of life. In this instance, distinguishing between causes and symptoms is vital.

In daily life, people who mistake an effect for the main cause are often said to be naïve. They expend their efforts in vain, trying to prevent effects without ever getting to the heart of the matter. They cannot find a solution but spend their

entire lives trying to solve the same problems again and again. Success will never come to them, even if they are given the greatest opportunities to achieve it.

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HEAD AND HEART

By Kyi Mun

Head means: The part of the body on top of the neck containing the eyes, ears, nose, mouth, and brain. It is the organ of consciousness, perception, cognition, intelligence, wits and wisdom.

Heart means:

- (1) Part of Body; the organ in the chest that sends blood around the body, usually on the left in humans.
- (2) The outside part of the chest where the heart is.
- (3) Feelings/ Emotions/ Moods: The place in a person where the feelings, moods and emotions are thought to be, especially those connected with love
- (4) Hearted: Having the type of character or personality mentioned: Cold-hearted, Kind-hearted
- (5) Important Part: The most important part of something, the heart of the matter/ problem; the committee's report went to the heart of the government's dilemma; the distinction between right and wrong lies at the heart of all questions of morality.
- (6) Centre: The part that is in the centre of something: A quiet hotel in the very heart of the city.

- Oxford Dictionary

Now, Let's explore for some more meanings of HEAD AND HEART in the following manner:

H for Honour
E for Education
A for Achievement
D for Duty
&
H for Honesty
E for Empathy
A for Altruism
R for Rapport
T for Trust

HONOUR

Honour means:

- (1) Respect: Great respect and

admiration for somebody; *Guest of honour; seat/place of honour.*

- (2) Privilege: Something that you are very pleased or proud to do because people are showing you great respect. *It was a great honour to be invited here today.*

- (3) Moral Behaviour: The quality of knowing and doing what is morally right: *A man of honour; Proving his innocence has become a matter of honour.*

- (4) Reputation: A good reputation; respect from other people; *upholding the honour of your country. The family honour is at stake.*

- Oxford Dictionary

A man of honour is a man of integrity and selflessness who makes many sacrifices or contribution for the good of others. A man of honour is a man of high morality and high principle; a man of simple living and high thinking; a man of plain living and hard struggle; a man of frugality and diligence.

EDUCATION

Education means: (1) A process of teaching, training and learning, especially in schools and colleges, to improve knowledge and develop skills; Primary/ Elementary Education; Secondary Education; Further/ Higher/ Post-secondary Education, College/ University Education. Education is, indeed, a process of eradicating ignorance and at the same time accumulating wisdom. It is said that: "*Ignorance has no beginning but an end; and education has a beginning but no end*". So, education is something everyone with a head must learn his or her whole life. Education can be inculcated from theory as well as from practice. Education must be used for positive, progressive purposes for PEOPLE, PLANET AND PEACE.

ACHIEVEMENT

Achievement means:

- (1) A thing that somebody has

done successfully, especially using their own effort and skill.

- (2) The act or process of achieving something. Synonyms are Accomplishment, Attainment.

- Oxford Dictionary

It is the most practical function of the head to conceive, believe and achieve. In the sustainable achievement of success, service and social-responsibility, we should live and move and have our being. A superior person specializes in something for the splendid achievement of which, he or she devotes all their life, by going the extra mile with the can-do-spirit of tremendous caliber.

DUTY

Duty means:

- (1) Something that you feel you have to do because it is your moral or legal responsibility.
- (2) The work that is your job
- (3) Duties: Tasks that are part of your job

- Oxford Dictionary

A superior person not only performs his or her duty well but also goes beyond the call of duty. He or she of high principle and purpose usually conducts beyond due diligence. That means they have the habit of going the (second) extra mile.

A person of superior mind is usually not only willing to discharge the duty well, but also in the full knowledge that you reap what you sow; you get in proportion to what you give; and it is nobler to give than to receive.

HONESTY

Honesty means: (1) The quality of always telling the truth, and never stealing or cheating.

- (2) Not hiding the truth about something.
- (3) Showing an honest mind or attitude.
- (4) (of work or wages) earned or resulting from hard work

- Oxford Dictionary

Synonyms are: Frank, direct, open, outspoken, straight, blunt,

and transparent.

It is widely said that honesty is the best policy. A man of heart is a man of honesty. Honesty has many aesthetic aspects such as simplicity, humility, self-denial and walking the talking. I think many animals are more honest than human beings. It is jokingly said that you can find an honest person (only) at the cemetery.

EMPATHY

Empathy means: The ability to understand another person's feelings, experience, etc. Empathy for other people's situations; *the empathy between the two women was obvious; the writer's imaginative empathy with his subject.* Empathy is a most beautiful word. If you are in empathy with another person, you do not hesitate to place yourself in the position of that person. You put yourself in his shoes. For example, if you are a salesperson or a marketer, you think, in empathy, in terms of customer's needs, wants, expectations and satisfaction. You don't push a sale, or you don't make a hard sale. You think win-win relationship.

ALTRUISM

Altruism means: The fact of caring about the needs and happiness of other people more than your own. Altruism also means selflessness, sincerity, service and sense of brotherhood. Altruism is the opposite of hankering after Pride, Power, Position, Possession and Prestige. Altruistic people live and move and have their being in accordance with the Saccāgraha: "**Love all, Serve all; Hurt never, Help ever**".

RAPPORT

Rapport means: A friendly relationship in which people understand each other very well. *They understand the importance of establishing a close rapport with clients.*

People with sense of rapport are people-persons. They are great communicators with other people. They appreciate the val-

ue of connectivity with people. They network with people, they talk to people, they listen to people and establish win-win relationships. People with a sense of rapport know at heart that the present day triple bottom lines are: PEOPLE, PLANET AND PEACE, (in business; it is PEOPLE, PLANET, PROFIT).

TRUST

Trust means: (1) The belief that somebody or something is good, sincere, honest, etc. and will not harm or trick you. *Her trust in him was unfounded; A partnership based on trust; It has taken years to earn their trust. If you put your trust in me, I'll not let you down; She will not betray your trust; He was appointed to a position of trust.*

Synonyms: Depend on somebody or something
 Rely on somebody or something
 Count on somebody or something
 Believe in somebody or something

To earn trust, it is essential to be trustworthy. Trust can only be earned if you have: CREDIBILITY which is made up of:
Character: Integrity & Intent, on the one hand, and Competence: Track Records & Results, on the other.

CONCLUSION

Success in life is built by the Head, at least initially, and maintained and consolidated by the Heart. Some psychologists say that the Head's contribution to success in life is 33%, whereas the HEART'S contribution to it is . . . 67%. Anyway, I think Head and Heart are inseparable; there is hardly any contradiction between the head and the heart. They only have to embrace each other, support and supplement each other in brotherly/ sisterly/ comradely spirit and cooperation for maximum positive outcome and impact.

Ref: Oxford Dictionary

LOCAL NEWS

Ancient monuments in Royal Mandalay City need preservation



MANDALAY, 16 March — Domestic and foreign tourists have urged authorities to preserve historic monuments at risk of falling into disrepair in Royal Mandalay City, including a park containing the statues of nine former kings and

the Union monument.

Opened in 1992 near Mya Nan Sankyaw Golden Palace, the park is home to statues of King Alaungpaya, King Kyansittha and King Bayintnaung.

The park is also located near tombs of King Mindon and his queen. Due to lack of maintenance, the Sabbath Hall of King Mindon, a coin factory and tombs of the king and queen have been left covered with bushes.

Travellers have criticised the state of the attraction, saying the bushes need to be trimmed from around the ancient monuments.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

New upper class coaches improve comfort on Yangon-Mandalay route



MANDALAY, 16 March — Myanma Railways has upgraded the upper-class coaches on 11 trains running the Yangon-Mandalay service, replacing the old 40-seat models with roomier 30-seat cars.

“Myanma Railways gives better services to passengers for comfortable trips,” senior engineer U Aye Cho of Division-3 of Myanma Railways

told media.

The new upper class coaches were assembled at the Myitnge Coaches and Wagon Shed and brought into service 15 March.

Myanma Railways plans to substitute old coaches with new ones on 30 trains running on the Yangon-Mandalay service.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Sabei Housing Project introduced to media in Monywa

MONYWA, 16 March — A press conference outlined the implementation of the Sabei Housing Project, under the arrangement of Sagaing Region government, at the city hall in Monywa on 11 March.

According to the presentation, a plan is under way to initially build eight five-storey buildings. Upon completion, seven of the buildings will be sold to locals through instalment and in cash, and one building will be arranged for rent.

Chairman of the Implementation Committee U Htet Naing Win said, “Priority will be given to government service personnel, families of military servicemen who sacrificed life for the country, and needy people.”

The project is being implemented near Pathein-Monywa Road, beside Kankon Station Hospital in Salingyi Township.

The apartments will range in price from K12 million each for those on the fifth floor to K20 million for ground floor units.

The project will include a shopping mall, school, dispensary, car park and parks.

Po Chan (Monywa)

Earthen road to create linkage among villages in Hinthada Tsp

HINTHADA, 16 March — The Hinthada District Department of Rural Development in Ayeyawady Region allotted capital funds for construction of the Yonthalin-Kyachaung inter-village earthen road in Hinthada Township, Ayeyawady Region, in the 2014-15 fiscal year.

Sitha Shwe Thway Company, assigned duty by the Department of Rural Development, is building the three-mile-long road under supervision of district and township officials.

Upon completion, the road will provide access to over 8,900 local residents from 22 villages.

Win Bo (IPRD)



Organic fruits available at shops of Department of Agriculture



MANDALAY, 16 March — The Myanmar Fruits and Vegetables Producers Association is selling organic, chemical-free produce, direct to consumers, at sales centres in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay cities.

The Department of Agriculture opened the first organic fruits shop at the junction of Mandalay-Py-inOoLwin road and Hsedawlay Road in Htonbo Village, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region, in early March.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Rice offering ceremony to mark 132nd anniversary of Aungdawmu Pagoda

MANDALAY, 16 March — A Buddha Pujaniya festival will be celebrated at Maha Lawka Yanhein Aungdawmu Pagoda, built by King Thibaw, in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay.

A ceremony to offer rice to members of the Sangha for the 23rd time will

take place at the precinct of the pagoda on 22 March.

In commemoration of the 132nd anniversary of the pagoda, the pagoda board of trustees plans to offer rice to 133 members of the Sangha from four corners of Mandalay City.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Islamic State claims Tripoli attack, car bomb in Misrata



People are seen at the scene of an explosion at a checkpoint at the eastern entrance to the city of Janzour in Tripoli on 15 March, 2015. — REUTERS

TRIPOLI, 16 March — Militants loyal to Islamic State claimed a bomb attack on a police checkpoint in the Libyan capital on Sunday, the latest in a series of attacks in Tripoli.

A car bomb also exploded in the western city of Misrata. No one claimed responsibility immediately but the bomb targeted a force tasked with fighting Islamic State militants.

Militants loyal to Islamic State, the group that controls much of Syria and Iraq, have been exploit-

ing chaos in Libya where two governments allied to armed factions are vying for power four years after the overthrow of Muammar Gaddafi.

A bag of explosives went off at a checkpoint next to a Janzour security building, a Tripoli suburb, wounding five policemen, said Essam Nas, a security spokesman.

Islamic State militants published on social media a picture of what they said was the site of the explosion.

In a suburb of Misrata, a car bomb exploded in front of a camp of a faction called 166 battalion, killing one person, said Mahmoud al-Shaoush, one of its members.

The force has been tasked with fighting Islamic State militants in Sirte, a central city. Clashes broke out between the two groups on Saturday east of Sirte.

Misrata, Libya's third-largest city located to the east of Tripoli, is the power base of a faction called Libya Dawn which

seized Tripoli in August, forcing the internationally recognized government to the east.

Misrata had been so far spared the violence gripping much of the major oil producer.

Groups of Islamist militants, who have declared loyalty to Islamic State over the past six months, have claimed responsibility for several high-profile attacks in what appears to be an intensifying campaign.

They claimed responsibility for an attack on the Corinthia luxury hotel in Tripoli in January, which killed five foreigners, as well as a group of Egyptian Copts in Sirte, triggering air strikes by Egypt.

The site of Sunday's explosion in the Tripoli area is close to the Palm City compound, which used to be a favourite place of accommodation for expatriates until last summer when most left due to the deteriorating security situation.

The conflict has knocked down oil production as both governments fight over oil ports, while some fields have been attacked by Islamic State militants.—Reuters

UK teens suspected of trying to join Islamic State arrested

ANKARA, 16 March — Three male British teenagers suspected of planning to join Islamic State militants in Syria have been arrested by London police after being deported from Turkey, officials said on Sunday.

The three, who have not been named, were detained on Friday in the Turkish city of Istanbul, Turkish sources told Reuters, after a tip-off from British authorities that two of them were travelling to Turkey via Spain.

London police said they had been made aware on Friday that two 17-year-old boys from the city had gone missing and were thought to be travelling to Syria. Further inquiries revealed they had travelled with a 19-year-old male, police said.

They were then flown back to Britain late on Saturday, when they were arrested "on suspicion of preparation of terrorist acts", the Metropolitan Police statement said. Turkish authorities confirmed that they had been deported.

They are being held at a London police station, the statement said.

Their arrest comes after three London school-

girls entered Turkey last month and are thought to have joined Islamic State in Syria.

Security services estimate some 600 Britons have gone to Syria or Iraq to join militant groups, including the man known as "Jihadi John" who has appeared in several Islamic State beheading videos.

Hundreds of other Europeans have also joined the fight.

Their involvement has raised fears about the possibility of attacks at home if they return trained and further radicalised.

Turkey meanwhile has faced criticism for not better controlling its southeastern borders, and has accused European countries of failing to prevent would-be jihadists from travelling in the first place.

On Thursday, the Turkish foreign minister said the missing girls who had earlier travelled to Syria were helped to cross the border by a spy working for one of the countries in the US-led coalition against the militants.

Islamic State controls swathes of territory in Syria and Iraq where it has declared an Islamic caliphate.

Reuters

Saudi prince says Iran deal risks nuclear proliferation

RIYADH, 16 March — Any terms that world powers grant Iran under a nuclear deal will be sought by Saudi Arabia and other countries, risking wider proliferation of atomic technology, a senior Saudi prince warned on Monday in a BBC interview.

"I've always said whatever comes out of these talks, we will want the same," said Prince Turki al-Faisal, who has previously served as head of Saudi intelligence and Riyadh's ambassador to Washington and London but is no longer a government official.

Saudi Arabia sees Iran as its main regional rival and fears that an atomic deal would leave the door open to Teheran gaining a nuclear weapon, or would ease political pressure on it, giving it more space to back Arab proxies opposed by Riyadh.

Iran and six world powers known as the P5+1 group are holding talks

to reach a deal aimed at assuaging their fears that Teheran is using the fuel enrichment process of its atomic power programme to secretly develop a nuclear weapon.

Teheran denies that charge and wants to lift heavy international sanctions that have been put on its economy.

"If Iran has the ability to enrich uranium to whatever level, it's not just Saudi Arabia that's going to ask for that," the prince was quoted as saying by the BBC.

Although Prince Turki is not a Saudi official, his comments are widely understood to reflect the thinking at senior levels of the Al Saud ruling family.

"The whole world will be an open door to go that route without any inhibition, and that's my main objection to this P5+1 process," said the prince, who is a brother of Foreign Minister Prince Saud al-Faisal.

Reuters

Iraq needs more airstrikes to dislodge IS in Tikrit

BAGHDAD, 16 March — Iraq needs more airstrikes to dislodge Islamic State militants from Tikrit, senior officials said on Monday, as the campaign to retake Saddam Hussein's home city stalled for a fourth day due to homemade bombs and booby traps.

Iraqi security forces and mainly Shi'ite mili-

tia pushed into Tikrit last week but have struggled to advance against the militants who are holed up in a vast complex of palaces built when Saddam was in power.

Government forces are in control of the northern Qadisiya district as well as the southern and western outskirts of the

city, trapping the militants in an area bounded by the river that runs through Tikrit.

"We need air support from any force that can work with us against IS," Deputy Minister of Defence Ibrahim al-Ilami told Reuters, declining to say whether he meant from the US-led coalition or Iran,

which is playing a role in the assault.

The US-led coalition has been conspicuously absent from the offensive, the biggest to be undertaken by Iraqi forces since Islamic State overran around a third of the country last summer including Tikrit.

More than 20,000 troops and Iranian-backed



A general view shows an Iraqi national flag fluttering in al-Alam Salahuddin Province on 15 March, 2015.—REUTERS

Shi'ite militia are taking part in the operation, which began two weeks ago, supported by a relatively small contingent of Sunni fighters from the area.

"We have been saying we need more air support for all of the operations," the Prime Minister's spokesman Raid Jubbouri told Reuters. "We welcome air support for all our campaigns against IS."

Reuters

Authorities closing in on hackers who stole JPMorgan data



A sign outside the headquarters of JP Morgan Chase & Co in New York, on 19 Sept, 2013. —REUTERS

NEW YORK, 16 March — Federal authorities investigating the data breach at JPMorgan Chase & Co are increasingly confident that a criminal case will be filed against the hackers in the coming months, the *New York Times* reported, citing people briefed on the investigation.

Last October, JP Morgan revealed that names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of about 83 million customers were exposed when the bank's computer systems were compromised by

hackers, making it one of the biggest data breaches in history.

Law enforcement officials believe that several of the suspects are "gettable," meaning that they live in a country with which the United States has an extradition treaty, the newspaper said.

The case is advancing quickly partly because the attack was not as sophisticated as initially believed, and law enforcement authorities were able to identify at least some suspects early on, the

newspaper said.

The investigation is being handled at the highest levels of law enforcement, with the FBI in New York assigning several senior agents to the matter along with a top prosecutor with the computer crimes division at Manhattan US Attorney Preet Bharara's office, the newspaper said.

Officials at JPMorgan, the FBI and Bharara's office were not immediately available for comment outside regular US business hours.

Reuters

Cultural centre offers 1st free Wi-Fi service in Cuba

HAVANA, 16 March — Cuban government has allowed the first free, public Wi-Fi service recently at a cultural centre in Havana, as it is loosening grip on Internet access in the country.

The cultural centre, located in western Havana, is run by a Cuban artist known as Kcho. The Wi-Fi comes from his personal Internet connection, and is permitted by the government.

Kcho, 45, pays the cost of the free Wi-Fi service, which allows 15 simultaneous connections. He did not say an exact amount but said "it is a bit expensive."

"If we are able to share it, we will share it. That is the idea," said Kcho, whose social action has

tremendous recognition in the island. Kcho told *Xinhua* the project is part of a broad cultural community work.

As a famous painter in Cuba, Kcho is believed to have close ties with the government, as the retired Cuban leader Fidel Castro attended the opening of the cultural centre in January 2014.

Even though the service runs slow compared with that in many other places of the world, the hub is crowded by tech-savvy millennials who use their mobile phones, laptops and tablets to surf the web in a country where Internet access is difficult and expensive.

Jose Daniel Garcia, a

medical student and regular visitor of the hub, said it is a great idea because "it is fantastic that anybody can come here and connect free and without restrictions."

"You come here, you sit down and you can enjoy social networks or download some stuff to study," he said.

The network's password in Spanish is "aquinoserindenadie", which means "Nobody gives up here," an old revolutionary slogan referring to the island's resistance against the US embargo for over 50 years.

Tamara Lopez, 34, a hairdresser, said it is "a brilliant idea" to have this service.

Sitting in a bench un-

der the shade of a large awning that covers the Caribbean burning sun, Lopez searched for the new hair-dressing trends on her laptop.

Antonio Hermes, who has a technical degree in Computer Science, said he goes to Kcho's centre almost everyday to stay connected with his friends.

Cuba's state-owned Telecommunications Company SC (Etecsa) is the only provider of Internet service in the island at about 100 public centres. They charge 4.5 Cuban Convertible Pesos (CUC) per hour, equivalent to 4.5 US dollars, which is very expensive for common Cubans who earn only 20 dollars a month on average. —Xinhua

Scientists to explore huge underwater volcano in Pacific Ocean

SYDNEY, 16 March— A team of international scientists are setting out to explore a huge underwater volcano that has been producing tonnes of stone which has washed up on beaches in Australia and New Zealand.

The volcano was discovered by an airline passenger, who reported seeing the lava flow from the air, and reported it to scientific authorities.

Vulcanologist Dr Rebecca Carey from the University of Tasmania in Australia, one of the researchers from the five-nation team, will travel to the Kermadec arc, which is about 1,000 kilometers north of New Zealand.

Carey told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) on Monday the eruption has produced about a cubic kilometre of pumice.

She said the eruption of the undersea Havre Volcano was a one-in-10,000-year event and a rare chance for scientists to learn more about volcano.

"Havre probably has an eruption frequency of maybe one of these type of eruptions every 10,000 years, so it's just our luck I guess that it erupted and we saw satellite images and we've also got pumice," she said.

Carey said a passenger of an airline jet looked out of her window and saw these rafts of volcanic pumice and then contacted the Geological Survey of New Zealand, and the discovery will help researchers better understand the impact of underwater volcanoes.

"Seventy-five percent of Earth's volcanoes are actually on the sea floor and they provide heat and chemicals to the ocean that basically influence the biogeochemical cycles of the Earth," Carey said.

"These eruptions are very frequent. It's just that unless we get a pumice raft or significant seismicity next to a monitoring station, we have no idea that these eruptions are occurring."

Xinhua

Cheap wind power? Just listen to turbines talk to each other, say researchers

NEW YORK, 16 March — The measurements taken inside a Vanderbilt University wind tunnel could hold the key to making wind power a viable, cost effective energy source in the future, according to Professor Doug Adams and his team of engineers.

Inside a massive 20,000 square foot (1860 square metre) laboratory, Adams and his team fitted inertial sensors on two turbines as a 30mph (48km) wind blasts inside a tunnel. His goal is to "listen in as the turbines talk to each other".

"They are like the sensors in your steering wheel but they are just a lot more sensitive than that. We use that sensor to track the motion, to do motion tracking of the blade but monitor also what we call the dynamic response," said Ad-

ams, a professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

"Every time a blade moves we are monitoring it and that tells us something about that conversation that is happening from one turbine to the next," he added.

That conversation could offer clues on how the wake effect of one turbine influences the performance of another. The changes in a single turbine's efficiency due to wake effect is incredibly small, but in a wind farm that has 100 turbines, those tiny changes could add up significantly, Adams explains.

"We think we can lower the cost of maintenance by two to three cents per kilowatt hour. That is a game changer from standpoint of the viability of

wind energy. It becomes absolutely competitive with the fossil fuels that we rely on today, without subsidies it starts to become cost competitive," he said.

Using computer algorithms, Adams and his team process the data and use it to generate models and adjust the rotors of a turbine to compensate for the wake effect and increase its efficiency. Even more promising, he says, is that these tiny real-time adjustments can significantly decrease the fatigue load on a turbine and extends its lifespan.

"So if we eliminate or reduce those fatigue loads we can make them last for much longer. So instead of 15 years it is lasting 25 years," Adams said.

According to the data, the sensors could significantly increase the produc-

tivity of established wind farms while helping design future farms that produce more electricity with fewer turbines, another piece of the puzzle that will ultimately drive down the cost of wind energy while utilizing less land for its production.—Reuters

2015 CeBIT Technology Trade fair in Hanover to kick off

Two staff members work at Huawei's stand of the 2015 CeBIT Technology Trade fair in Hanover, Germany, on 14 March, 2015. As the partner country of CeBIT 2015, the world's leading information technology trade fair, China would send over 600 exhibitors to the annual trade fair in Hanover in March.

XINHUA



UNDP chief calls for pre-emptive spending to reduce disaster risks

SENDAI, 16 March — The international community needs to invest more in pre-emptive measures to reduce risks from natural disasters, rather than spending a lot after they happen, UN Development Programme Administrator Helen Clark says. “You could say it’s a no-brainer that needs more priority,” Clark told *Kyodo News* on Sunday.

The economic damage resulting from natural disasters between 2005 and 2014 totaled an estimated \$1.4 trillion, of which some \$9 billion was spent on Haiti alone after the Caribbean nation was hit hard by a massive earthquake in 2010 that claimed over 300,000 people, according to the United Nations. “I think there is now a high degree of awareness... that it is not enough just to be generous when disaster strikes,” Clark said. “Dis-

aster risk reduction is like the dog that doesn’t bark. You don’t know how much you are saving until disaster strikes.” Clark, who is in the northeastern Japanese city of Sendai for a UN conference on disaster risk reduction, also said countries around the world have made “huge strides” in lessening disaster risks over the past decade under the Hyogo Framework for Action, adopted at the last conference in 2005. A new framework covering the next 15 years will be adopted at the Sendai forum and is expected to include some numerical targets on disaster risk reduction for the first time, such as the percentage of countries having specific plans to that end.

Clark expressed hope it will further encourage national governments to take actions. But she also mentioned difficulty in agreeing

to any binding numerical goals at international meetings. “If countries are making binding commitments they are very careful about what they want to commit to,” Clark said, citing the long-standing efforts made by developed and developing countries to share targets for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in their fight against global climate change.

Regarding the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami disaster that ravaged northeastern Japan, Clark said she has felt “the determination of the region to rebuild.” It is “inspirational to see a community recovering from something as dramatic as that (the 2011 disaster),” she added. The five-day UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction will wrap up on Wednesday.

Kyodo News



UN Development Programme Administrator Helen Clark is interviewed by *Kyodo News* on 15 March, 2015 in Sendai, northeastern Japan, where a five-day UN world conference on disaster risk reduction is taking place. Clark said the international community needs to invest more in pre-emptive measures to reduce risks from natural disasters, rather than spending a lot after they happen.
KYODO NEWS

China displaces Germany as world’s third largest arms exporter

BEIJING, 16 March — China has surpassed Germany to become the world’s third largest arms exporter, a Stockholm-based think tank said in a report on Monday.

Exports of major arms from the world’s second largest economy grew 143 percent over the years 2010 to 2014, versus the previous five-year period, when China had ranked ninth globally, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) said in a report.

“Asian countries continue to expand their military capabilities, with an emphasis on maritime assets,” Siemon Wezeman, senior researcher with the SIPRI Arms and Military Expenditure Programme, said in a news release.

More than 68 percent of Chinese exports went to Pakistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar. Beijing also sold major arms to 18 African states.

Analysts say Chinese-made equipment has found eager buyers among countries at odds with the United States and its allies.

China was “extremely cautious and responsible” with its weapons exports, the country’s Foreign Ministry

said on Monday.

“We follow principles of helping the receiving country with its reasonable self-defence capabilities, not damaging global and regional peace and stability, and not interfering in the receiving country’s internal politics,” Ministry spokesman Hong Lei told a regular briefing. China’s arms imports fell 42 percent between the years 2010 and 2014 compared with the prior five-year period, the report said.

China does not release figures for its arms sales.

China’s military spending has seen double-digit growth for decades, and Beijing has poured funds into modernizing its armed forces as it takes a more assertive stance on territorial disputes in the region. Experts say some Chinese-made equipment is comparable to US- or Russian-made counterparts, though precise information about its performance is scarce. China’s neighbors have reacted with ambivalence over the country’s development of modern equipment, including a second aircraft carrier, drones and stealth fighter jets.—*Reuters*

Coastal areas evacuated as Cyclone Pam batters New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 16 March — The New Zealand mainland started to count the cost of Tropical Cyclone Pam on Monday as the storm began moving southeastwards out to sea.

However, the Chatham Islands, a small group of islands about 750 km east of the South Island and home to about 600 people, is still under a state of emergency with Pam expected to hit about midday Tuesday.

Chatham Islands Mayor Alfred Preece said in a statement from the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management that the reason for the declaration

was the imminent arrival of Cyclone Pam combined with rural fires blazing on the islands.

The declaration was needed to protect public safety and coordinate the emergency response.

The Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management said in a statement the storm could yet intensify slightly and a warning was now in place for severe gales, heavy rain and heavy swells for the Chatham Islands.

The storm had caused only minor damage in the upper North Island mainland, but the eastern Gis-

borne and Hawkes Bay areas were forecast to see continued severe weather until Wednesday, it said.

More than 150 mm of rain had fallen in the worst-hit Gisborne district in the 24 hours to 2 pm on Monday, with one area recording more than 200 mm, and wind gusts were reaching up to 145 km per hour.

Schools in the Gisborne district were closed on Monday and power was out in many areas.

The New Zealand Army was on standby to help in at least two areas in Gisborne.

More than 100 people had been evacuated as a

precaution against inundation by the sea, flooding and slips, Gisborne Civil Defence Emergency Management controller Peter Higgs said in a statement.

Waves of up to 9 metres were expected in parts of the region because of the high winds and swells, but these were expected to reduce to about 3 to 4 metres by midday Tuesday.

Civil Defence staff were considering further evacuations from low-lying areas.

“We have reports coming in of horizontal rain and a fierce sea rising rapidly,” said Higgs.—*Xinhua*



Chinese amphibian armoured vehicles take part in China-Russia joint military exercise in eastern China’s Shandong peninsula.—REUTERS

Japanese golden eagles facing extinction with just 500 left in wild



Supplied photo taken in 2010 shows a golden eagle flying in Toyama Prefecture, central Japan. The endangered Japanese golden eagle population has fallen dramatically to just around 500 birds nationwide amid environmental changes, according to a research group. (Photo courtesy of the Society for Research of Golden Eagle Japan).—KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 16 March — The endangered Japanese golden eagle population has fallen dramatically to just around 500 birds nationwide amid environmental changes, according to a study by a research group. The Society for Research of Golden Eagle Japan’s head, Toshiki Ozawa, warned that the subspecies is facing the threat of extinction, its numbers having been in gradual decline since 1986. “The biggest issue is the reduced breeding success rate due to a lack of prey,” he said. The Tokyo-based society’s research shows the number of breeding pairs has fallen by one-third over the past

33 years, and their rate of reproductive success has also decreased. Japanese golden eagles occupy mountainous habitats from Hokkaido in Japan’s north to Kyushu in the south, with each breeding pair staking out a territory and remaining there for life. This characteristic has allowed the society to keep tabs on the survival of each pair and their success or failure in breeding.

When the society started monitoring numbers in 1981, it estimated the numbers at 340 pairs. But by 2013, 99 of the monitored pairs had died or otherwise disappeared from their territories. Of the 241 remaining pairs, just one

was found in Kyushu, and none on Shikoku, Japan’s fourth-largest island.

Until the 1980s the eagles’ breeding success rate was stable at around 50 percent, but from 1991 began to average between 20 and 30 percent. The breeding success rate in 2013’s data was 20.2 percent. According to the society, the breeding success rate has fallen due to a lack of suitable prey. Poor management has seen forests in the eagles’ habitats grow too densely for them to easily spot hares and other prey from above. A public-private sector project aiming to halt the subspecies’ decline is set to begin experimental tree

thinning in parts of a state-owned forest in the fall of this year. The Nature Conservation Society of Japan, a non-governmental organization, has collaborated with the Forestry Agency for the project to thin out parts of the Akaya Forest, which stretches across 10,000 hectares in Niigata and Gunma prefectures. Japanese golden eagles have a wingspan of up to 2 metres and typically hatch two chicks, of which only one usually makes it out of the nest. As well as being vulnerable to habitat changes due to human development, the birds are prone to abandoning their nests when disturbed.—*Kyodo News*

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO (951N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO (951N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER
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MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (TPN-623)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (TPN-623) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SHAMIM VOY NO (ISC1004E)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHAMIM VOY NO (ISC1004E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S LAND AND SEA
SHIPPING LINE**

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO (1030W)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO (1030W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES**

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7J027R)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7J027R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGSAOTONG VOY NO (169)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSAOTONG VOY NO (169) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (2) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO., LTD**

Phone No: 2301186

**The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Energy
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise**
Title: **Request for Letter of Expression of Interest (LOEI) for Joint Venture Project of No.3 Fertilizer Factory (Kyawzwa)**

- The Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Ministry of Energy of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar hereby announced an invitation to the experienced local and foreign companies in urea production, storage, distribution and marketing to submit the Letter of Expression of Interest (LOEI) for Joint Venture Project of No.3 Fertilizer Factory (Kyawzwa), Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE).
- The required data for LOEI submission and information related to No.3 Fertilizer Factory are available in the Ministry of Energy website (<http://www.energy.gov.mm/index.php/en/information/announcement>) and (www.facebook.com/MinistryOfEnergy.Myanmar) as well as the following address in person during the office hours.
Director (Planning) Fax: - 067 411124
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
Email: MPEHO@mptmail.net.mm
Building No 44, Nay Pyi Taw
Email: mpeict@gmail.com
- LOEI shall be submitted to following address in person not later than 12:00 noon at the date of 4.5.2015.
Managing Director
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
Building No 44, Nay Pyi Taw
- No submission of LOEI can be allowed by fax or email or express.
- Only the qualified LOEI proposals will be invited to conduct the tender process.

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GLOVIS MASTER VOY NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GLOVIS MASTER VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HYUNDAI GLOVIS CO.,
LTD**

Phone No: 2301186

**Belin Industrial Alcohol Distillery Co.,Ltd
Invitation to open tender**

Open tender is invited for supply of the following item in kyat, including transportation and installation at Alcohol Plant, Belin Township, Mon state.

Steam Boiler
6.0 ton/hr (Twin Furnace)
With a maximum operating Pressure of 10.54 Kgs/sq cm and fired with Rice Husk as Fuel.

Closing date and time 23.3.2015 14:00 hr.
Managing Director (B.I.A.D.C)
NO.33, 6 1/2mile Pyay Road, Hlaing township, Yangon
Ph; 095016856, 01-654938 to 654948.

**13 dead, 15 injured in
Nepal bus accident**

KATHMANDU, 16 March — Thirteen people died after a passenger bus skidded off a mountainous road made slippery by overnight rain in far-western Nepal on Monday morning, police said.

An additional 15 people were injured in the accident that happened in Jumla district, about 400 kilometres northwest of Kathmandu.

Among the deceased are the bus driver and his assistant. One passenger survived without injuries.

Police Inspector Indra Bahadur Saud told *Kyodo News* by phone from the district that the bus skidded off the fair-weather road and fell about 200 metres to the banks of Tila River.

The bus was taking passengers to neighbouring Kalikot district when the accident happened at 9:30 am local time, Saud said.—*Kyodo News*

WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 17th March, 2015: Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin and Chin States, generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Generally fair in the whole country.

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Emma Watson

Emma Watson scared of singing debut in 'Beauty and Beast'

LOS ANGELES, 16 March — "Harry Potter" star Emma Watson says she is "terrified" about singing for the first time onscreen in her upcoming film "Beauty and the Beast".

Watson, 24, will play Belle, while Dan Stevens will portray The Beast and Luke Evans will be seen as Gaston in the Disney's live-action film, reported E! Online.

"I sing, so that's really unexpected. I've never had to do that for a film before, and I think people will be interested to see me do something very different like that.

"It gives me a different challenge, really. That's terrifying in and of itself!" she said.—Reuters

Steven Tyler plans to release country album



Rock band Aerosmith frontman Steven Tyler

LOS ANGELES, 16 March — Rockband Aerosmith frontman Steven Tyler is currently working on a country album that is planned to be released later this year or early 2016.

The 66-year-old star, who has relocated to Nashville to work on the album, will release it in November or early 2016 via the label that is representing the likes of Taylor Swift and Tim McGraw, reported Billboard.

Tyler, however, is yet to sign with the label. An insider said that deal could go down "anytime," but is due to happen "before the summer."

Representatives for both the vocalist and the label have declined to comment.—PTI

Sam Smith achieves UK music charts double

LONDON, 16 March — British singer-songwriter Sam Smith secured a UK music charts double on Sunday, topping both the singles and album chart simultaneously, the Official Charts Company said.

Smith's collaboration with John Legend, "Lay Me Down", in aid of charity Comic Relief, debuted at number one in the singles chart, his fourth chart-topping track in less than two years.

Meanwhile his debut album "In The Lonely

Hour" returned to the top of the charts for an eighth week, making it the first album by a male solo artist in charts history to achieve six different spells at number one.

It finished more than 12,000 sales ahead of this week's highest new entry, second-placed "Rebel Heart" by Madonna. Ed Sheeran's "X" was a non-mover in third. In the singles chart, British electronica trio Years and Years slipped one spot to second place with "King",



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

while Flo Rida featuring Sage the Gemini was a new entry at three with "GDFR". — Reuters

Tom Cruise to gain weight for 'Mena'?

LONDON, 16 March — Hollywood star Tom Cruise will reportedly pile on the pounds to play a spy on the gory thriller "Mena".

The 52-year-old "Top Gun" actor will portray pilot Barry Seal, who trafficked drugs and guns for Colombian gangsters before becoming a CIA agent, reported Daily Star.

The real-life Seal, who was murdered by a Medellin cartel hit team, was almost twice Cruise's weight.

Cruise wore a 'fat suit' to play an obese movie mogul in the 2008 comedy "Tropic Thunder". He has, however, been told he cannot do the same for Mena as it would not look realistic.

"He is determined to do whatever it takes to pull it off," a source said.

Seal, known as 'Fat Man' by his CIA handlers and his supposed cartel allies, was played by Dennis Hopper in the 1991 HBO TV drama "Double Crossed".

A senior executive at Universal Pictures, which is producing the film, said, "He's determined to be-

come Barry Seal. Tom believes it's the only way he can do justice to an incredible script and he has been meeting director Doug Liman to discuss how he intends to play him."

Cruise's friends are apparently worried that a sudden weight gain could have serious health repercussions.

"He isn't concerned about the risks. Tom believes he has finally found a lead role that could win him the Oscar that has always eluded him. He is determined to do whatever it takes to pull it off," a friend said.

PTI



Hollywood star Tom Cruise will reportedly pile on the pounds to play a spy in a gory thriller "Mena".—PTI

Disney's "Cinderella" tops North American box office with 70.1M debut

LOS ANGELES, 16 March — Disney proved it still has that magic touch on princess movies this weekend, as the remake of "Cinderella" opened with a stronger-than-expected 70.1 million US dollars in estimated sales in the United States and Canada.

Directed by Kenneth Branagh, "Cinderella" brings back the 1950 animated classic fairy tale with "Downton Abbey" star Lily James as Cinderella, and "Game of Thrones" Richard Madden as Prince Charming.

"Cinderella" opened with 23 million dollars at 3,845 locations on Friday and got 70.1 million dollars in the three-day weekend franchise, according to studio estimates from Rentrak.

Without adjusting for ticket price inflation, "Cinderella" delivered the sixth largest debut ever for the month of March and became the third largest Disney opening for March. IMAX grosses represented 7 percent of the film's overall gross. The film, which cost 95 million dollars to make, got a high reputation among the first-night mov-

iegers. It received a strong "A" grade from audience polling firm CinemaScore. The critics also gave the film a solid 83 percent positive rating on Rotten Tomatoes. The audience skewed heavily towards female moviegoers (66 percent of the audience was female) and towards younger moviegoers (55 percent of the audience was 25 years and younger).

Globally, "Cinderella" pulled in about 62.4 million dollars in more than 30 markets, bringing its total global gross to 132.5 million dollars.

Playing at 3,171 locations, Liam Neeson's "Run All Night" opened in a distant second place with 11 million dollars.

As the fourth Neeson-led action thriller in just over a year, "Run All Night" opened a bit below expectations. It started with 3.9 million dollars on Friday.

The Warner Bros' R-rated action saw Neeson as a hitman at the end of his career, battling with his old friend, played by Ed Harris.

The audience breakdown for the film skewed

heavily towards moviegoers over the age of 25 (86 percent) and slightly towards female moviegoers (52 percent). "Run All Night" received an "A-" rating on CinemaScore and 59 percent approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

Fox's "Kingsman: The Secret Service," in its fifth week of exhibition, was in the third place with 6.2 million dollars and 107 million

dollars gross.

Rounding out the 10 most-popular movies this week were "Focus" (5.8 million dollars), "Chappie" (5.8 million), "The Second Best Exotic Mari-gold Hotel" (5.7 million), "Spongebob Squarepants" (5.7 million), "Kingsman: The Secret Service" (4.1 million), "McFarland USA" (3.7 million), "American Sniper" (2.9 million) and "The Duff" (2.9 million).—Xinhua



Cast members Lily James and Richard Madden pose at the premiere of "Cinderella" at El Capitan theatre in Hollywood, California on 1 March, 2015.—REUTERS

GENERAL

Federer and Nadal cruise, Wawrinka goes out



Roger Federer of Switzerland celebrates after winning his final match against Novak Djokovic of Serbia at the ATP Championships tennis tournament in Dubai, on 18 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

INDIAN WELLS, (California), 16 March — Roger Federer wasted little time easing into the third round of the BNP Paribas Open on Sunday but his fellow Swiss Stan Wawrinka became the first big name to be sent packing at the elite men's event.

World number two Federer launched his bid for a record fifth title at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden with a clinical 6-4, 6-2 victory over Argentina's

Diego Schwartzman which lasted a little over an hour. Seventh-seeded Wawrinka, however, was knocked out of the ATP Masters 1000 event, losing 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 to Dutchman Robin Haase.

Spanish left-hander Rafa Nadal, a three-times champion at Indian Wells, also advanced in comfortable fashion as he demolished Dutchman Igor Sijsling 6-4, 6-2 in an evening match lasting just 72 minutes.

Federer treated the stadium court crowd to his familiar array of blistering forehands, clean-hit backhands, power serving and delicate drop shots as he broke Schwartzman once in the opening set and twice in the second.

"I think I did very well," Federer said court-side after ending the match with a crunching forehand winner down the line. "It was a bit breezy and you had to be careful at times but it's good to get a first win.

"It was important to get off to a good start. I just tried to stay focused and stay aggressive on returns, although that's not always easy."

Federer, who is competing at Indian Wells for a 15th time, will next face Italy's Andreas Seppi, who stunned him with a four-set defeat in the third round of the Australian Open in January.

"I'm happy to play him again," Federer said of the 30th-ranked Seppi, who booked his place in the

third round at Indian Wells with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Romanian Victor Hanescu.

"I was very disappointed with the performance I had in Australia. I hope this time around it's going to go better for me. I will be prepared, there is no doubt about that."

Wawrinka, who clinched his first grand slam singles title at last year's Australian Open, was broken twice by Haase in the opening set and also in the third to be ousted after one hour and 48 minutes.

Haase, who had been beaten by the Swiss in all six of their previous meetings, will next play Czech Lukas Rosol, who battled past Slovakian Martin Kližan 4-6, 6-0, 6-3. In other matches, 11th-seeded Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov scraped past rising Australian Nick Kyrgios 7-6 (2), 3-6, 7-6, taking the climactic third-set tiebreaker 7-4, and sixth seed Milos Raonic of Canada eased past Italian Simone Bolelli 6-3, 6-4.—Reuters

Serena breezes into fourth round at Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, (California), 16 March — Top seed Serena Williams made short work of Kazakhstan's Zarina Diyas in the third round of the BNP Paribas Open on Sunday, obliterating her opponent 6-2, 6-0 in just 53 minutes.

Playing her second match at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden after deciding to end a 14-year boycott of the event where she had suffered alleged racist abuse, Williams broke an error-prone Diyas three times in each set to cruise into the last 16.

Britain's Heather Watson claimed her first victory over a top-10 ranked player with a 6-4, 6-4 upset of world number eight Agnieszka Radwanska, while third-seeded Romanian Simona Halep battled past American Varvara Lepchenko 6-1, 3-6, 6-1.

"Things are going in the right direction," Australian Open champion Williams said court-side after blasting five aces and an array of searing groundstrokes past an outclassed opponent.

"I was able to feel more consistent today and that really worked in my favour. I'm really glad to still be here and in the tournament. I love the support.

"I was able to relax to-

day because I was able to do more of the right things and not make as many mistakes as I did in my last round."

The world number one made a nervous start to her opening match in emotional circumstances on Friday before battling past Romania's Monica Niculescu 7-5, 7-5, saying later she had been overwhelmed by the standing ovation she received from the crowd.

Williams had skipped the showpiece event after winning her second title here in 2001, beating Kim Clijsters in a final marred by some spectators who booed and heckled the American and her family.

The heckling was in apparent response to Serena's sister Venus having withdrawn from their semi-final that year just minutes before the match, citing injury.

Williams, who claimed her 19th grand slam singles crown at the Australian Open final in January, will next face fellow American Sloane Stephens, who scraped past Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova 7-6(4), 1-6, 6-4. Watson broke seventh-seeded Radwanska of Poland in the opening set, then stormed back from 2-4 down in the second to end the match after an hour and a half.

It was the first time

Watson had taken a set off Radwanska, having lost in their three previous WTA meetings, most recently in the second round at Indian Wells last year.

"I knew I'd have to play extremely well today, be patient and pull the trigger at the right time," said the 22-year-old Channel Islander, who is ranked 43rd. "I think I found that balance very well today."

Eighth seed Ekaterina Makarova of Russia was ousted by Swiss Timea Bacsinszky 3-6, 7-5, 6-4 while 10th-seeded Czech Lucie Safarova was sent packing 7-6, 7-5 by Ukrainian Elina Svitolina.

Reuters



Serena Williams (USA) during her match against Zarina Diyas (KAZ) at the BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells Tennis Garden in Indian Wells, CA, USA on 15 March, 2015. REUTERS

mitv Myanmar International

(17-3-2015 07:00 am~ 18-3-2015 07:00 am) MST

- | | |
|---|---|
| * News | * Htan Taw Drums (Part-I) "Osi" |
| * Insight Myanmar "Labour Laws and Policies" | * Entrepreneur News |
| * Myanmar Harpist News | * Marketable Goods (Myanmar Arts & Handicrafts) |
| * Myanmar Handicrafts News | * Ywar Thit's Monhinkhar |
| * Life In Night Art In Life (Ep-2) (Part-2) | * News |
| * Wet Market in Yangon: Thirimingalar Market | * Hanlin, A Treasure Trove of The Ancient Pyu City |
| * News | * Talented Musicians |
| * A Real Dream of Accidental Gift | * News |
| * Orchid Lover | * Lawka Nandar Wildlife Sanctuary And Its Rare Star Tortoises |
| * News | * Products of Myanmar — Kachin Traditional Knife |
| * Cruising To Precious Islands (Part-1) | * News |
| * News | * Youth Filmmaker |
| * Taste of Myanmar (Thin Egg Noodle Soup) | * Caves of Myanmar |

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(17-3-2015, Tuesday)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6:00 am | 1:35 pm |
| • Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | • Sing & Enjoy |
| 6:25 am | 2:30 pm |
| • Physical Exercise | • Head Line News |
| 7:00 am | 3:00 pm |
| • News/ Weather Report | • News / International News |
| 7:35 am | 4:35 pm |
| • Social Economic Scenes | • University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Third Years (Home Economics) |
| 8:00 am | 5:00 pm |
| • News / International News | • News / Weather Report |
| 8:35 am | 6:35 pm |
| • Documentary | • Documentary |
| 9:35 am | 7:35 pm |
| • MRTV's Youth Programme | • People's Talks |
| 10:35 am | 8:00 pm |
| • Science and Technology Programme | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 11:30 am | 9:00 pm |
| • Head Line News | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 12:00 noon | 12:35 pm |
| • News / International News / Weather Report | • Hluttaw Image |
| 12:35 pm | • TV Drama Series |
| • Hluttaw Image | |

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(17-3-2015, Tuesday)

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 6:00 am | 7:55 am |
| • Mono Classical Songs | • Myanmar Series |
| 6:20 am | 8:20 pm |
| • TV Drama Series | • TV Drama Series |
| 6:45 am | 9:10 pm |
| • TV Drama Series | • TV Drama Series |
| 7:10 am | 9:50 pm |
| • Cultural Show for Soldiers | • Musical Programme |
| 7:40 am | 10:20 pm |
| • Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than | • ASEAN China Cultural Show |
| | 10:20 pm |
| | • Myanmar Video |

Tickets for football friendly on sales on 18-19 March

YANGON, 16 March —Malaysian U-22 football team will play friendly football matches with Myanmar U-20 team on 19 March and U-22 team on 22 March at Youth Training Centre in Thuwunna, here.

Tickets are sold at K3,000 per spectator for grand stand and K1,000 per spectator for ordinary stand at Aung San Stadium, Padonma Stadium and office of Myanmar Football Federation from 9 am to 4 pm on 18 March and Aung San Stadium and MFF office as of 9.30 am on 19 March.

Malaysian squad consists of 11 manager and coaches and 29 players.

MFF



Photo shows Myanmar U-20 team that will play against Malaysian U-22 team in soccer friendly.—MFF

Chelsea held but Rooney is a knockout for United

LONDON, 16 March — Chelsea opened a six-point lead in the Premier League on Sunday following a 1-1 draw with Southampton as Manchester United enjoyed perhaps their finest performance yet under Louis van Gaal with a 3-0 trouncing of Tottenham Hotspur.

Chelsea increased their advantage over Manchester

City despite Diego Costa's 11th minute close-range header being answered eight minutes later by Dusan Tadic's fortuitous penalty in an absorbing encounter at Stamford Bridge.

Yet United, so often criticised for being slow and directionless under Dutchman Van Gaal, produced the most electric performance

of the day, crushing Spurs with first-half goals from Marouane Fellaini, Michael Carrick and Wayne Rooney.

A national newspaper ran a bizarre story on Sunday about Rooney being filmed getting knocked out by his friend, Stoke City player Phil Bardsley, in a boxing bout in Rooney's kitchen. Rooney's amused response after his goal was to celebrate by throwing a few shadow punches before falling theatrically on to his back amid delighted cheers from the United faithful.

Chelsea, on 64 points, still have a game in hand on Manchester City, who were beaten at Burnley on Saturday.

United, with 56 points, have climbed within a point of Arsenal and two of their cross-city rivals City as well as moving five points clear of fifth-placed Liverpool.

Their win also seriously dents the Champions

League qualifying hopes of Spurs who, on 50 points, are now behind sixth-placed Southampton on goal difference and struggling to keep alive their hopes of a top-four finish.

At Stamford Bridge, a traumatic week for Chelsea, knocked out of the Champions League by Paris St Germain at the last 16 stage and heavily criticised for the on-pitch behaviour of their players, ended with a little more frustration.

Manager Jose Mourinho, though, made light of not picking up the three points. "I agree Chelsea not winning at home is not a good result, but we had a five-point lead before the match and afterwards we have a six-point lead," he said. "Now we have six points more and one fewer match to play. It makes our situation better than before the game. It's positive rather than negative."

Southampton caused problems in the opening period but Chelsea asserted their authority after the break with Costa clipping the post while captain John Terry was also denied in a frantic finish.

Mourinho was also unhappy that, after Costa capitalised on static defending from Southampton to head home Branislav Ivanovic's cross, the visitors were awarded a penalty when Sadio Mane was adjudged to have been felled by Nemanja Matic.

Tadic converted from the spot, although his tame effort was fortunate to beat the trailing feet of Thibaut Courtois.

Reuters

Bale answers critics with double for Real Madrid

MADRID, 16 March — Real Madrid winger Gareth Bale answered his critics in emphatic style when he ended a nine-game goal drought with a double for the European champions in a 2-0 La Liga victory against Levante at the Bernabeu on Sunday.

The world record signing, whistled by his own team's fans during Real's recent poor run, struck twice in the first half and came close to completing his hat-trick midway through the second period to leave Real a point behind leaders Barcelona.

They failed to add to their tally against the struggling Valencia-based side, however, and question marks remain over their form following a 4-3 reverse at home to Schalke 04 in their Champions League last 16, second leg in midweek.

Real, who still reached the quarter-finals on aggregate, head to Barca for next weekend's 'Clasico' at the Nou Camp in second place behind their arch rivals, who won 2-0 at Eibar on Saturday and lead on 65 points with 11 games left.

Valencia climbed to third on 57 points thanks to Friday's 2-0 win at home to Deportivo La Coruna, above champions Atletico Madrid, who were held 0-0 at Espanyol on Saturday and have 56.

Real coach Carlo Ancelotti made several changes to the team that lost to Schalke but squeaked into the last eight of Europe's elite club competition 5-4 over the two legs.

The Italian left Germany midfielder Toni Kroos on the bench and replaced keeper and captain Iker Casillas with Keylor Navas, while centre back Sergio Ramos returned

from injury.

Clearly anxious to make amends for Tuesday's poor showing against the Germans, Real started strongly and Cristiano Ronaldo poked a close-range shot against a post in the fifth minute.

Bale seemed especially fired up and broke the deadlock in the 18th minute when he volleyed in after an acrobatic Ronaldo effort had been cleared off the line.

The Welshman placed his hands over his ears, perhaps a reference to his treatment from the home fans, and ran to the corner before angrily karate-kicking the flag.

Bale got a somewhat fortuitous second goal five minutes before halftime when he stuck out a leg and deflected Ronaldo's low shot into the corner.

Karim Benzema sent a spectacular volley against the corner of the goal frame in the 64th and Bale was brilliantly denied by Levante keeper Diego Marino in a one-on-one six minutes later.

Ronaldo, who had a frustrating night, stung Marino's hands with a fierce drive and volleyed wastefully over late on but Real were unable to breach Levante's defences again.

"Three points, no goals conceded and now we will go after Barca," Real full back Dani Carvajal said in an interview with Spanish television broadcaster Canal Plus.

"We haven't had a good month but we have our fate in our own hands to win the league and we are in the Champions League quarter-finals, which not many teams can say," added the Spain international.

Reuters



Manchester United's Wayne Rooney in action with Tottenham's Nabil Bentaleb during their Barclays Premier League at Old Trafford on 15 March, 2015.

REUTERS



Chelsea's Gary Cahill looks dejected after John Terry (L) misses a chance to score during their Barclays Premier League match vs Southampton at Stamford Bridge on 15 March, 2015.—REUTERS



Real Madrid's Gareth Bale (L) and Levante's Tono Garcia fight for the ball during their Spanish First Division soccer match at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 15 March, 2015.—REUTERS

Editorial Section — (+95) (01) 8604529
Advertisement & Circulation — (+95) (01) 8604532

gmlmally@gmail.com
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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