

Now is time for all national races to join hands, end conflicts and live together

NAY PYI TAW, 19 March — *The following is the unofficial translation of a message sent by Agga Maha Thayay Sithu, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Sien, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 41st anniversary Mon State Day which falls on 19 March. Ed*

Esteemed national brethren in Mon State,

I would like to extend my auspicious greetings to all national brethren residing in Mon State.

I am glad and proud of being given the opportunity to send a message on the occasion of Mon State Day, which falls

on 19 March.

March 19, on which Mon State was first recognized in the 1974 State Constitution (Draft), has been designated as Mon State Day and it has been 41 years since Mon state Day was first celebrated on 19 March, 1974.

We have encountered bitter experiences due to

political conflicts in Myanmar since the country regained independence. Today is the time for all the national races to join hands to live together in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar by ending the conflicts after learning lessons from the bitter experiences.

The ceasefire agree-

ment with armed groups of national races in Mon State was signed and arrangements are under way to organize an inclusive political dialogue. It is my sincere hope that national brethren in Mon State cooperate in respective sectors to help realize the success of the political dialogue.

After signing the ceasefire agreement with the armed organizations of national race groups in Mon State, I am glad with the development of the transport, education, health and economic sectors and the stability of Mon State. I would like to urge you all to maintain the already achieved stability so that

posterity can enjoy it.

I am sending the message, urging all national brethren in Mon State to cooperate in unison to build a new, modern and developed democratic nation based on the sound foundations for stability, unity and development already laid down.

UEC issues notification on voters' list

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March — The Union Election Commission issued a notification dated 18 March, informing the voters of the eligible voters' lists for Botahtaung, Pazundaung, Dawbon, Seikkyikhaungto, Seik-

kan, Dagon, Latha, Kyauktada, Landamadaw and Kamayut townships in Yangon Region, which will be available at ward sub-commission offices for 14 days from 30 March to 12 April.

Everyone is required

to check whether they are on the voters' list. Anyone that is not on the list are to apply for their voting right by submitting form 3 and if data are not correct, everyone can correct them by submitting form 4-c.

If those who should

not be in voters' list, for example those who were dead and those who are in prison, are included in the list, it is necessary to object to the commission with form 4, according to the notification.

MNA

Hundreds more vendors join streamlined trading system

By Aye Min Soe

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March — The Ministry of Commerce has issued 313 Individual Trading Cards in fiscal 2014-2015, bringing the total number of ITC holders in the country to 866, according to the ministry.

The statistics released by the ministry has shown that the border trade volume in 11 months and two weeks in the 2014-2015 Fiscal Year by ITC card holders has reached more than 8.6 billion kyat.

The ministry started to issue the ITC cards to people in border areas in 2012 with the aim of simplifying trading for individuals and minimizing illegal trade.

The ministry has issued the ITC cards with

a K50,000 registration fee to people at 18 border trading camps, with registration valid for one year.

The Individual Trading Card is based on Myanmar's kyat currency, with card holders not allowed to conduct transit trade but free to engage in border trading.

The export and import license for the individual trading card holders is valid for seven days, entitling each to trade K2 million per day and K10 million for five days consecutively.

The individual trading card allows the export of 160 kinds of goods and import of 242 kinds of goods permitted by the Automatic licensing system, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

GNLM

Seventh meeting between UPWC and NCCT contributes to ceasefire agreement



Representatives of UPWC and NCCT hold a press conference on March 18 at Myanmar Peace Centre after their seventh meeting on nationwide ceasefire agreement.—PHO HTAUNG

YANGON, 18 March — The seventh meeting between the Union Peace-making Working Committee and Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team was a favourable step towards nationwide ceasefire agreement to end armed conflicts, leaders of both sides told the media at the Myanmar Peace Centre on 18 March.

One of the members of NCCT Col Khun Okka said

that the seventh meeting for nationwide ceasefire agreement was a brighter prospect for ending conflicts in the entire nation as union leaders met with northern armed group leaders and it was an arrangement to prevent what happened in September, he added.

The sixth meeting between the UPWC and the NCCT resulted in differences on the nation-wide cease-

fire agreement and the negotiations were delayed for five to six months.

Both sides have been prepared to realize the conditions required for the nationwide ceasefire agreement at the seventh meeting of the two sides, the second leader of the NCCT, Phado Saw Kwe Htoo Win was quoted as saying to the media.

U Hla Maung Shwe of the technical supporting

team said that the two-day meeting between the two sides was not likely to clear everything that hindered the process in the past. Only a few things in principle left to be discussed for the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. In the coming days, leaders of both sides will reach an agreement as they have already passed two days of negotiations.

(See page 3)

MPE puts operation of fertilizer factory to tender

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March — The Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise of the Ministry of Energy has invited local and foreign companies experienced in urea production, storage and marketing to apply to run one of its fertilizer factories.

The Letter of Expression of Interest form is available at the ministry's

website and it has urged those interested to submit LOEI proposals to the enterprise in person by 4 May, 2015.

The No.3 Fertilizer Factory (Kyawzwa) is located on 902 acres in Aunglan Township. The factory, which was in operation from 1987 to 2010, manufactured 450 tons of urea per day.—GNLM

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives Vietnamese guests



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann receives Mr Nguyen Thien Nhan.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March — Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received Vietnam Communist Party Politburo member and also the Chairman of Vietnam Fatherland Front Mr Nguyen Thien Nhan on Wednesday in the Hluttaw complex. Together with the speaker were Py-

ithu Hluttaw Economic and Trade Development Committee Chairman U Maung Maung Thein, Pyithu Hluttaw Myanmar-Vietnam Parliament Friendship Association Chairman Dr Kyaw Myint and members U Win Myint, U Aung Hsan, Amyotha Hluttaw Vietnam-Myanmar Parlia-

ments Friendship Association Chairman U Ne Win Tun and member U Hsan Rei, Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission member U Khin Maung Soe and officials. Mr Nguyen Thien Nhan was accompanied by Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Pham Thanh Dung.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw

Information Ministry withdraws proposed Public Service Media bill

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March — The Pyithu Hluttaw in its session Wednesday discussed illegal imports of satellite dishes and receivers for foreign TV channels, motorway toll charges and the withdrawal of the proposed Public Service Media bill by the Ministry of Information.

Deputy Home Affairs Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint told the Lower House that the ministry and its organs are taking action against illegal imports of satellite TV receivers in accordance with the 2012 Import-Export Law. The penalty for breaching the law on the prohibition of illegal items is up to three years' imprisonment, a fine, or both, he said. He added that authorities will take action in response to complaints from TV service providers.

Responding to the query of Lower House MP U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut also said relevant min-



Union Minister U Ye Htut.—MNA

istries need to cooperate to control illegal import of foreign satellite receivers, as some of the channels show explicit programmes and gambling. The information minister said spill-over is technically unavoidable as TV programmes are broadcast through satellites, although imports of satellite dishes that can receive programmes from Skynet and MRTV have been banned.

He also suggested the bill committee of the Pyithu Hluttaw should consider putting this issue into the discussion of a bill on televi-

sion and broadcast law.

On the issue of motorway tolls, Deputy Minister at the President's Office U Kyaw Kyaw Win said the toll rates will not be changed for cars coming into Yangon Region.

Concerning tender invitations for government projects, Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint said projects worth under K 5 million do not require a tender invitation, but instead should be referred to the departmental tender scrutiny board.

From K 5 million to K 50 million, tenders are sought through notice boards of relevant government departments, while for projects worth K 50 million and over, tender invitations are advertised in state-owned newspapers one month in advance.

The Pyithu Hluttaw also agreed on the withdrawal of the Public Service Media bill that was submitted by the Ministry of Information on the 26th day of the

9th regular Pyithu Hluttaw session.

Regarding the withdrawal, the information minister said the ministry tried to transform state-run media to public service media, with a study tour of representatives from the Ministry of Information, the Amyotha Hluttaw, and the Pyithu Hluttaw to four European countries in June 2012 and the holding of a conference on international public service media in Yangon in September 2012. It also provided an explanation about PSM to committee members of the Amyotha Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw.

U Ye Htut also said the ministry drafted the PSM bill with the assistance of UNESCO before it was submitted to Hluttaw.

The information minister said the ministry invited public opinion, publicizing the bill on state-run media, adding that the withdrawal is now aimed at reviewing and improving the bill.—MNA

U Nanda Kyaw Swa receives Canadian Honourary Consul

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March — Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa today received a Canadian

parliamentary delegation led by Honorary Consul of Myanmar to Canada Hon Bryon Wilfert and IDEA mem-

bers on Wednesday. They discussed matters on legislation, Myanmar's development, raising momentum of

parliament's functions, Canada's assistance for promoting capacity of Myanmar's Hluttaw.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Budget committee explains restraints of allocation

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March — Chairman U Soe Thar of the Joint Committee on Scrutinizing National Plans, the Union Budget and Taxation Bills on Wednesday outlined to the national assembly the workings of the committee as it assessed projects funded by state revenue, loans or grants.

He said the committee categorized the projects, determining how long they would take until completion and the likelihood of meeting budget requirements

The committee scrutinized the projects by forming 19 teams and four central sub-committees not to waste allocated budget.

MPs of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw then discussed adjustment of the

Union budget.

U Tin Maung Oo, representative from Shwepyithar Township constituency, said government ministries need to use budgets properly and systematically without waste.

He also said MPs are suggesting budget reductions in some sectors to prevent waste and to ensure a 'clean government and good governance' in the country.

U Khin Maung Nyo, representative from Loikaw Township constituency, said budget reductions proposed by MPs are likely to cause difficulties for ministries concerned, noting that their suggestions

are intended to balance the income and expenditures of the state.

Daw Sandar Min, an MP of Zabuthiri Township constituency, said failing projects should be stopped to save state budgets.

U Zaw Myint Phe, representative from Mandalay region constituency 5, said Hluttaws are laterally supporting government organizations and ministries to make steady progress in the state's economy and to maintain stability.

Later, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw also discussed a controversial bill on the development of small and medium scale enterprises.

MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw

Improved transport for tourism on agenda in Upper House



Union Minister U Kyaw Lwin.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March — The Amyotha Hluttaw convened its 29th day meeting of the 12th regular session on Wednesday, with discussion of road construction in Mandalay region and promotion of tourism through improved transportation in Chin State.

Replying to a query from Upper House MP U Soe Aung about the plan to build a new road outside Meikhtila Township to link Myingyan and Mandalay, Union Minister U Kyaw Lwin said the Ministry of Construction will conduct a feasibility study with Mandalay region government to upgrade the 4-mile-long earth road.



U Paw Hlan Lwin of Chin State Constituency-9.—MNA

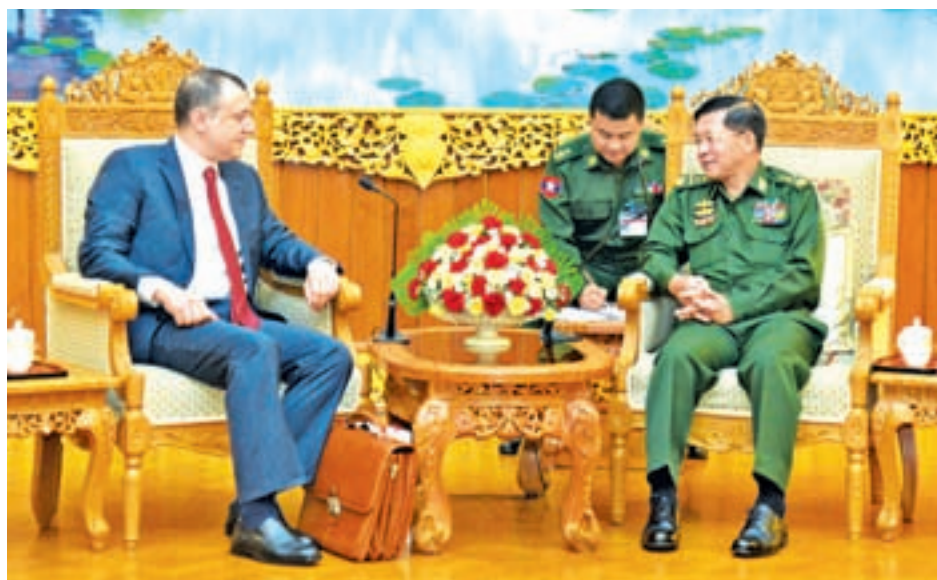
U Paw Lyan Lwin, an MP of Chin State constituency 9 also asked for development of Bungtla Waterfall, the longest waterfall in Chin State near Matupi Township, into a tourist attraction.

Deputy Minister at the President's Office U Aung Thein said the Chin State government is developing its road networks, with understanding that reliable transportation is important for the tourism industry and the respective areas.

The Amyotha Hluttaw then approved a bill on amending the Highways Act passed by the Pyithu Hluttaw with some amendments.

MNA

C-in-C receives Turkish Ambassador



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing discusses promotion of military relations with Ambassador of Turkey.—MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Ambassador of Turkey to Myanmar Mr Murat Yavuz Ates in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

The C-in-C and the ambassador discussed matters on promoting relations between the two armed forces and mutual cooperation. Myanmar and Turkey established diplomatic relations in September 1958 and Turkish embassy in Myanmar was opened in Yangon in March 2013.

Myawady

Media accreditation card for covering Solar Impulse-2 available in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 18 March — Journalists who will cover news on Solar Impulse-2 may take out media accreditation cards in Mandalay International Airport starting from 18 March. The cards will be also available in Pale Ngweyaung Ward, between 20th and 21st Street and 82nd and 83rd Street, and Mandalay sub-printing house, Mandalay railway station and Mandalay International Airport starting from 19 March. Transportation to Mandalay International Airport will be arranged from the station at 3 pm. Press conference on the plane will be held on 20th March at Mandalay International Airport. Those who wish to attend the press conference may take the ferry on 20th March at 7 am at Mandalay station.

Union Cooperatives Minister urges farmers to use Daedong tractors effectively

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March — During his inspection tour of a training school for farmers in ChaungU Township, Sagaing Region, in upper Myanmar on 14 March, Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan urged trainee farmers to use Daedong tractors effectively, telling them the ministry is making arrangements to provide them with spare parts.

The training is conducted by Township Co-

operatives Society with the intention of enabling farmers to properly utilise the tractors. Korean instructors and those from Myanmar who have undergone training to use the tractors give lectures. The training sessions cover driving and maintenance and other use of the tractors. Similar training courses are also being conducted for farmers in other regions and states.

MNA

ROK's Eximbank to assist Myanmar's IT Infra-Network Expansion Project

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March — Myanmar's Ministry of Communication and Information Technology and the Export-Import Bank of Korea signed an agreement on implementing the IT Infra-Network

Expansion Project in Myanmar on 17 March.

The loan agreement worth \$55.874 million was signed by General Manager U Khin Maung Tun of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications and Director Mr Yim Seoung Hyeog of Korea Eximbank in the presence of Deputy Minister U Thaug Tin, who made a keynote address at the signing ceremony.

The loan will be disbursed by South Korea's Economic Development Cooperation Fund. The funds will pay for expansion of high-speed fiber links between Taunggyi and Mandalay; Mandalay and Myitkyina, Dawei and Kawthoung; and Magway and Sittway.

MNA



Ministry of Communication and Information Technology and the Export-Import Bank of Korea sign for IT project.—MNA

Tatmadaw columns capture insurgent-held hilltops

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March — After being forced to abandon strategic location due to the offensive of the Tatmadaw, Kokang insurgent are attacking Kaukkai from afar and ambushing Tatmadaw troops on their way.

At 3 am on Wednesday, Tatmadaw columns drove away six groups of Kokang insurgents who were trying to launch attacks on Laukkai.

Tatmadaw columns also captured five hilltops of the insurgents' defence line with the aid of airstrikes, forcing the insurgent to withdraw to the east

of the region.

At 8 am in the morning, Tatmadaw columns combing the area near Ceaw village fought with Kokang insurgents and the Tatmadaw columns are in hot pursuit of them.

Similarly, Tatmadaw columns are fighting against Kokang insurgents who are trying to recapture Point 1468 hilltop since Marh 17.

Acting on tip-off, Tatmadaw columns and members of police force searched a house and a temporary tent and arrested 16 men with 7 kg of metha-effidine worth over

K 130 million, 21 kg of effidine worth K 5.67 million, 6,000 tablets bearing WY letters worth K 9 million, 103.5 kg of stimulant powder worth over K 20 million, one heroine block worth K 6 million and 300 gm of dye.

During the fighting, Tatmadaw columns seized three bodies of Kokang insurgents, two launchers, six small arms and ammunition. A total of 13 officers and other ranks sacrificed their lives for the country and 28 others were injured during the fighting.

Myawady

Union Defence Minister back home

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March — After attending the 9th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting and Langkawi International Maritime and Aerospace Exhibition (2015), Union Defence Minister Lt-Gen Wai Lwin arrived back in Yangon on 18 March.—MNA

Rakhine gets a new ferry boat after a vessel capsized



Aungdagon-7 double-decker ferry boat will ply in Rakhine State.—MoT

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March — Ministry of Transport is making arrangement to operate a new ferry boat from Sittway, capital city of Rakhine state, to nearby areas.

Aungdagon-7 double-decker ferry boat will ply to enhance transportation sector in the northwest Myanmar state after Aung-

tagon-3 passenger vessel sank on March 13 due to bad weather. The incident cost 61 deaths although 169 people could be rescued.

The upcoming vessel, strengthened in both hull and engine, as well as carrying life jackets, life boats, communication gadgets and navigation signal sys-

tem, is expected to depart Yangon for Hinegyikyun Township and it will proceed to Sittway jetty.

Inland Water Transport of Rakhine State branch is operating ferry boats to Mrauk-U, Butheedaung and Taunggyun townships almost every day.

MNA

Seventh meeting between ...

(from page 1)

The KIO delegation also met with President U Thein Sein, Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on 15 and 16 March for the first time.

If trust can be built between KIO and the government, this will contrib-

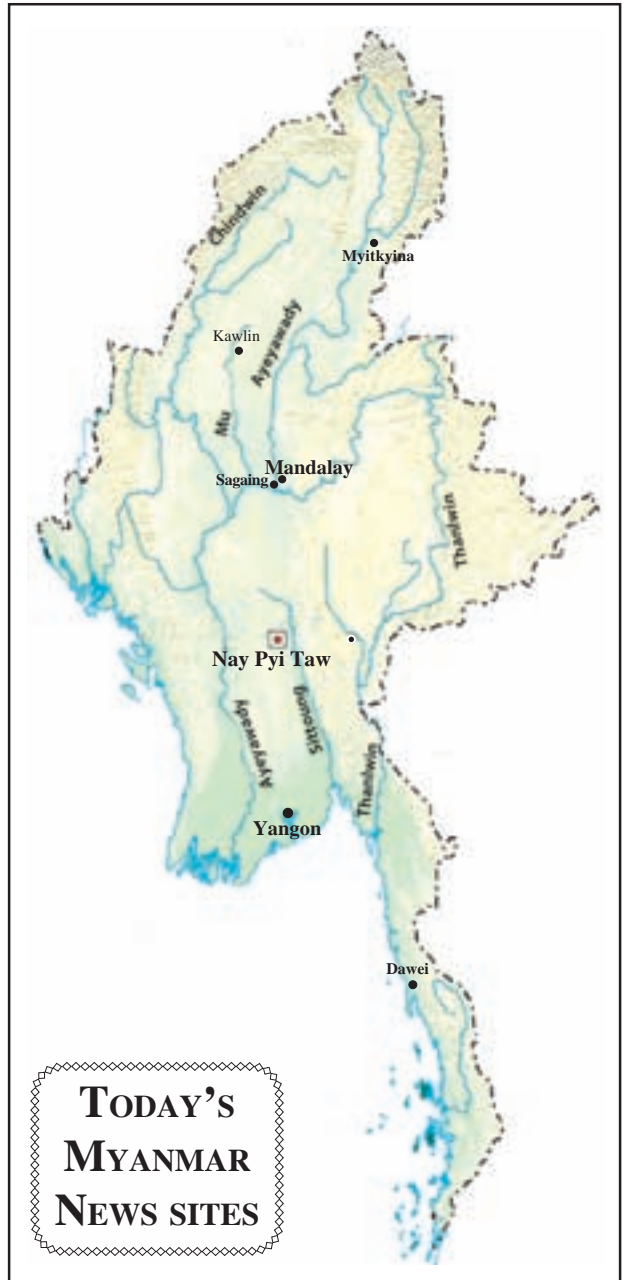
ute much to the nationwide ceasefire agreement being negotiated by the UPWC and the NCCT, according to Leader of the NCCT U Naing Han Tha.

Ye Khoung Nyunt, Myat Thanda Maung

National Scrutinization Card issued to eligible citizens in Launglon, Taninthayi Region

DAWEI, (Taninthayi Region), 18 March — With the assistance of the Norwegian Refugee Council (NRC), staff from Launglon Township Immigration and National Registration Department in Dawei District, Taninthayi Region issued National Scrutinization Cards to eligible nationalities on 17 March. They issued the cards free of charge within one day. The activity was supervised by the Taninthayi Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Dr Win Aung. During the day 150 persons and 5 households received their official documents.

Pho Shwe Thun (Dawei)



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Workshop on International Standard for Exercise of Police Powers in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 18 March — The Myanmar Police Force and the International Committee of the Red Cross jointly organized a work-

shop on the International Standard for Exercise of Police Powers in the second capital city on 17 March. Thirty police officers from

Mandalay Region participated in the work shop from 17 to 19 March. ICRC Representative in Yangon Mr John Erik Jensen discussed topics

including management affairs, functions of the ICRC, maintaining law and order, and control of riots.—*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

Illegal precious wood seized in Kawlin, Kachin State

KAWLIN, (Kachin State), 18 March —Forestry staff from Katha District and Kawlin Township in

Kachin State seized nearly 9 tons of hewn Tamalan timber in the early morning of 14 March.

The Tamalan (*Dalbergia Oliveri*) timber was loaded on a six-wheel truck. When the

officials, acting on a tip off, stopped to search the truck, U Pohkwa was at the wheel but managed to escape. His accomplices Ko Nge and U Thein Win were arrested. The timber worth K 1.5 million was deemed to have been in the possession of the escapee together with another two people from Wuntho town, Kachin State. Kawlin Police Station filed a lawsuit against them. In February this year, Kawlin Township Forest Department seized about 70 tons of various species of illegal woods, as well as vehicles, chainsaws, motorbikes, homemade guns and sawmilling equipment.

GNLM-018



Talks on duties of Golf Referee on 26 March

YANGON, 18 March — Talks on duties of golf referee will be given on 26 March from 9 to 11 am at Yangon Golf Club (Danyingone). As Myanmar Golf Federation is endeavouring for devel-

opment of Myanmar's golf standard, the talks is aimed at turning out new generation golf referees. Those who wish to attend the talks may contact 09 973190117 and 09 254225070.



YOUNG MYANMAR WOMEN PARTICIPATE IN ASEAN YOUTH PROGRAM:
Daw Thet Zin Myint and Daw Lwin Kyawt Kyawt San who are members of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association left for Malaysia on 14 March to participate in the ASEAN Youth Program to be held from 15 to 20 March. —MWEA

REGIONAL

Thai lawyers call for investigation of bomb suspects' complaints

BANGKOK, 18 March — A group of Thai lawyers called on Wednesday for an investigation into allegations that four suspects held over a Bangkok bomb attack were tortured while in police custody.

The call came amid growing concern about tough action by the military government to stifle dissent under martial law, which has been in force since a military coup in May.

A small bomb went off last month outside a court in the capital, Bangkok, causing minor damage. It followed similar small, twin explosions outside a shopping mall on 1 February.

The blasts are widely believed by the public to signal dissatisfaction with military rule and they raised questions about the durability of an uneasy calm since the coup.

Police said 13 people were arrested in connection with the blast at the court and the group Thai Lawyers for Human Rights said four of them, all men, were tortured while in police custody.

"The suspects were kicked in the back ... Some said they were electrocuted during questioning between 9 March and 15 March," the group said in a statement.

Police denied the men

were tortured.

Among the 13 arrested was a volunteer nurse, Natthida Miwanpa. She had earlier said that she witnessed the shooting of civilians by soldiers during violent political confrontations in 2010.

Police said on Tuesday Natthida was charged with terrorism and was being held at a Bangkok prison.

But her family said she was missing for six days before that and New York-based Human Rights Watch group accused the military of holding her in secret.

"Holding a witness to alleged military crimes incommunicado for six days

is a profoundly disturbing abuse of authority that has become commonplace under martial law," said Brad Adams, the group's Asia director.

The ruling junta, known as the National Council Police and Order, denied holding her.

Junta spokesman Colonel Winthai Suvaree also denied that the military was using martial law to go after its critics.

"The government is not trying to go after those who disagree with its views," he said. "Only those who cause extreme damage to national security will be kept under military custody."—Reuters

Condition of Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew worsens further: gov't

SINGAPORE, 18 March — The condition of Singapore's 91-year-old former leader Lee Kuan Yew has worsened further, the government said on Wednesday.

On Tuesday, the government said Lee's condition had worsened due to an infection.

Lee, regarded as the founding father of modern Singapore, has been supported by mechanical ventilation in the intensive care unit of the state-owned Singapore General Hospital since being admitted with severe pneumonia on 5 February.

He was Singapore's prime minister from 1959



Ex-leader Lee Kuan Yew

until 1990 and has been credited for the small island state's transformation from a colonial backwater into Southeast Asia's wealthiest economy.

Kyodo News

Indonesia to call off search for AirAsia crash victims



The tail of AirAsia QZ8501 passenger plane is seen on the deck of the Indonesian Search and Rescue (BASARNAS) ship Crest Onyx after it was lifted from the sea bed, south of Pangkalan Bun, Central Kalimantan in this 10 Jan, 2015 file photo.

REUTERS

JAKARTA, 18 March — Indonesia will on Sunday end a search for the bodies of 56 people missing from an AirAsia (AIRA.KL) jet that crashed in the Java Sea in December, a national rescue agency official said.

AirAsia flight QZ8501 lost contact with air traffic control during bad weather less than halfway into a two-hour flight from Surabaya in Indonesia to Singapore on 28 December. All 162 people on board the Airbus (AIR.PA) A320 were killed.

"Some of our ships and personnel have been pulled back already and some remain on standby, but officially the operation will be finished on Sunday," Yusuf

Latif, a spokesman for the search and rescue agency, told Reuters.

The flight data and cockpit voice recorders — known as "black boxes" — were recovered two weeks after the crash. Large pieces of the fuselage were also found on the sea floor.

A multi-national rescue effort, led by the Indonesian military and often hampered by bad weather and strong currents, recovered 106 bodies, with 56 unaccounted for.

Few details of the analysis of the flight recorders have been made public.

The National Transportation Safety Committee has revealed that the French first officer was at

the controls of the jet just before the accident.

Sources told Reuters the captain of was out of his seat conducting an unusual procedure when his co-pilot apparently lost control, but Indonesian authorities said there was no evidence of that.

The AirAsia crash was the latest in a string of accidents to hit Indonesia's aviation industry, which is among the fastest-growing in the region, and has stepped up pressure on the government and airlines to improve safety.

The final result of the investigation is due in about six months, an investigator said.

Reuters

Lawyer for Pakistan doctor who helped CIA find bin Laden shot dead

PESHAWAR, 18 March — A Pakistani lawyer under death threats for defending a doctor who helped CIA agents hunt al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden was shot dead on Tuesday, police said, and two militant groups claimed responsibility.

Samiullah Afridi represented Dr Shakil Afridi, who was jailed in 2012 for 33 years for running a fake vaccination campaign believed to have helped the US intelligence agency track down bin Laden. That sentence was overturned in 2013 and the doctor is now in jail awaiting a new trial.

Samiullah Afridi was shot dead on Tuesday as he was returning to his home in the northwestern city of Peshawar, police said. According to media, he had recently returned there from abroad after leaving Pakistan for his safety.

"He was returning home when armed men opened fire. He died on the spot," police official Jamal Hussain said. A hospital spokesman added that Samiullah Afridi was shot twice, in the abdomen and the neck.

Two Pakistan militant groups claimed responsibility for the lawyer's

death. Jundullah, a Taleban splinter group, said: "We killed him because he was defending Shakil, who is our enemy."

A Taleban faction, Tehrik-e-Taleban Pakistan Jamaatul Ahrar (TTP-JA), later said it had shot him. "Dr Shakil Afridi had spied on our respected and supreme leader Sheikh Osama to the CIA," TTP-JA spokesman Ehsanullah Ehsan said.

"Samiullah Afridi had represented his case," Ehsan said, "that's why we decided to eliminate him when we can't approach Dr Shakil."

US officials have hailed Shakil Afridi as a hero for helping pinpoint bin Laden's location before a 2011 raid by US special forces in Abbottabad, Pakistan, that killed the al-Qaeda leader after more than a decade of searching for him.

Samiullah Afridi stopped representing the doctor last year, saying he had become a target. "I have been receiving threats from various organizations, and because of those threats I even went to Dubai some time back," he told Reuters TV. "Some organizations do not want us to continue



Samiullah Khan Afridi

defending this case ... Not only is my life in danger, my family is also in danger. I have therefore decided to quit this case."

Shakil Afridi's original sentence damaged ties

between Pakistan and the United States that were already strained over the bin Laden raid. Angry US senators withheld \$33 million in aid from Pakistan in retaliation.—Reuters

US, Japan seek defence guidelines to address new security issues

WASHINGTON, 18 March — US and Japanese national security officials agreed on Tuesday that a set of envisioned defence cooperation guidelines should help both governments deal with new challenges appropriately, according to the White House. Susan Rice, President Barack Obama's foreign policy adviser, and Shotaro Yachi, a right-hand man to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on foreign policy, also agreed that the United States, Japan and

other Group of Seven industrialized nations should be united in dealing with the Ukrainian crisis.

Rice, the National Security Adviser, and Yachi, a veteran diplomat who heads the National Security Council's secretariat, met at the White House ahead of Abe's visit to the United States.

Rice told Yachi that Obama "looks forward to hosting Prime Minister Abe for an official visit next month," according to

the White House.

Japanese government sources said Abe plans to visit the United States in late April or early May but no official itinerary has been announced. The Japanese premier last traveled to Washington in February 2013.

Rice and Yachi "took note of the progress" that has been made in revising the Guidelines for US-Japan Defence Cooperation, which define the roles of the US military and Japa-

nese Self-Defence Forces in a possible contingency.

The US and Japanese officials "agreed that a successful outcome will ensure that the alliance continues to be fully capable of responding to 21st century security challenges," the White House said.

Washington and Tokyo are trying to finish revising the guidelines by late April based on the interim report released in October. Rice and Yachi discussed the importance

of bilateral cooperation in addressing issues such as North Korea's development of a nuclear weapon and ballistic missiles as well as a trilateral alliance involving South Korea.

Other topics in the Rice-Yachi meeting included "maritime security in East Asia," the White House said, apparently referring to China's claims to disputed islands in the East China Sea and South China Sea. The meeting took place a year after Russia

annexed Crimea, southern Ukraine, which drew flak from the G-7 members and other countries.

Rice underscored "the need to maintain G-7 unity in responding to Russian aggression in Ukraine," the US government said.

Yachi arrived in Washington on Sunday for a four-day stay and met with US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter and Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Monday.

Kyodo News

IMF chief lauds Indian central bank's efforts in steering economy



International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde

MUMBAI, 18 March — International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde met with Reserve Bank of India Governor Raghuram Rajan on Tuesday and said she felt positive about India's

economy.

Lagarde, who was on a two-day visit to India, also said she welcomes Rajan's efforts to steer the Indian economy to safer waters and to introduce flexible inflation targeting as a new regime for conducting monetary policy.

Lagarde met with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on Monday. The IMF chief said she expects the world economy to grow about 3.5 percent this year and 3.7 percent next year, but the outlook differs significantly across countries and regions.—*Kyodo News*

Pakistan hangs nine as death row convict's mother begs for mercy

ISLAMABAD, 18 March — Pakistan hanged nine death row convicts on Wednesday, media said, as the mother of a man charged as a child with murder and due to be hanged this week begged the president for mercy.

Wednesday's hangings bring the number of executions in the past two days to 21, and to 48 since an unofficial moratorium on capital punishment was lifted in December. Twelve were executed on Tuesday.

However, the Interior Ministry said it did not know how many people had been executed in total.

"The ministry does not have consolidated data after the lifting of the moratorium as new cases include all types, including terrorism," a spokesman said in a text message.

The death sentence

cannot be used against a defendant under the age of 18 when the crime was committed. Testimony obtained by torture is also inadmissible. Yet lawyers for Shafqat Hussain say he was just 14 in 2004 when he was tortured into confessing to the killing of a child. He is due to be hanged on Thursday.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif lifted the moratorium on 17 December, a day after Pakistani Taliban gunmen attacked a school and killed 134 students and 19 adults. The killings put pressure on the government to do more to tackle the Islamist insurgency.

At first, the government said only militants would be executed. But last week it emerged that officials had quietly widened the policy for all prisoners on death row whose appeals had been rejected.—*Reuters*

South Korea businesses visit North's factory park to protest wage rise

PAJU, (South Korea) 18 March — South Koreans who operate factories in an industrial complex in North Korea went to the park on Wednesday to protest against a North Korean decision to increase wages paid to North Korean workers there.

The Kaesong industrial zone, jointly by the two Koreas, is just on the North Korean side of their heavily fortified border. It is last remaining symbol of economic cooperation between the rival states.

North Korea shut down the complex for five months in 2013, during a period of diplomatic tension, and dialogue between the two sides on its operations have been patchy for years.

"The unilateral change of labour rules is a problem," Chung Ki-sup, the leader of a council of South Korean companies that have operations in the zone, told reporters, referring to the wage increase.

"But that can be easily resolved when dialogue resumes," he said before crossing the border.

South Korea has 125 companies in the zone, most of them small- and medium-sized firms, employing 53,000 relatively



Officials from the G20 Seoul Conference look at miniature models of the Kaesong Industrial Complex (KIC) at the Kaesong Industrial District Management Committee office, a few miles inside North Korea in this 19 Dec, 2013 file photo.

REUTERS

cheap North Korean workers. The complex has operated for a decade but there have been persistent questions about the viability of a project that is subject to political tension between the two Koreas, which remain technically at war.

In September, the North introduced a regulation allowing it to detain South Korean workers if their companies failed to live up to their contracts, if confiscation of property did

not cover potential losses.

A South Korean business representative said the rule could hurt investment.

The wage increase and lack of dialogue about it are likely to compound such doubts.

The North Korean agency that supervises the complex demanded an increase of about \$3.65 in the minimum monthly wage for its workers, to \$74 a month.

South Korea has re-

jected the demand, saying the unilateral increase violated agreements. North Korea has said it has the sovereign right to raise wages at Kaesong.

Chung said he believed the stalemate over Kaesong was linked to South Korea's refusal to ban activist groups from launching into North Korea balloons carrying leaflets critical of the North Korean government. The balloons infuriate North Korea.—*Reuters*

Pro-N Korea group to pay over 200 mil yen a year to rent HQ building

TOKYO, 18 March — The General Association of Korean Residents, a pro-Pyongyang group known as Chongryon, has agreed to pay over 200 million yen (\$1.6 million) a year to rent its headquarters building in Tokyo from a real estate firm, sources close to the matter said on Tuesday.

The firm based in Yamagata Prefecture bought the property for 4.4 billion yen in January from Marunaka Holdings Co that acquired it for 2.21 billion yen through an auction last year.

The Chongryon headquarters building has served as North Korea's de facto embassy in Japan

in the absence of diplomatic relations between Japan and North Korea.

Whether the group would lose the building has been in focus since the property was brought to auction in 2012 to raise funds to help it repay debt.

The latest agreement will enable Chongryon to use the headquarters build-

ing as long as it pays the rent. The association declined to comment on the matter.

The sources also said the group sold another property in Tokyo to an Osaka-based property company for 1.7 billion yen in January. The asset sale is expected to help it pay for the rent.—*Kyodo News*

WORLD

Netanyahu wins Israel election after sharp shift to the right

JERUSALEM, 18 March — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu won a come-from-behind victory in Israel's election on Wednesday after tacking hard to the right in the final days of campaigning, including abandoning a commitment to negotiate a Palestinian state.

In a four-day pre-election blitz, Netanyahu made a series of promises designed to shore up his Likud base and draw voters

from other right-wing and nationalist parties, including a pledge to go on building settlements on occupied land and saying that there would be no Palestinian state if he is re-elected.

With 99.5 percent of votes counted, Likud had won 30 seats in the 120-member Knesset, comfortably defeating the Zionist Union opposition on 24 seats, Israeli media said.

It amounted to a dramatic and unexpected victo-

ry — the last opinion polls published four days before the vote showed the Zionist Union with a four-seat advantage over Likud.

In a statement, Likud said Netanyahu intended to form a new government within weeks, with negotiations already underway with the pro-settler Jewish Home party led by Naftali Bennett, as well as with religious groups.

The critical party to get on side will be centrist Ku-

lanu, led by former Likud member Moshe Kahlon, who won 10 seats, making him a kingmaker given his ability to side with either Netanyahu or the centre-left opposition.

"Reality is not waiting for us," Netanyahu said. "The citizens of Israel expect us to quickly put together a leadership that will work for them regarding security, economy and society as we committed to do - and we will do so." —Reuters



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu waves to supporters at the party headquarters in Tel Aviv on 18 March, 2015. —REUTERS

Brazil's opposition calls for Rousseff probe in Petrobras scandal



Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff reacts during the signing ceremony of the Civil Procedure Code, at the Planalto Palace in Brasilia on 16 March, 2015.

REUTERS

SAO PAULO, 18 March — Brazil's main opposition party said on Tuesday it would call on the Supreme Court to investigate President Dilma Rousseff's involvement in a corruption scheme at state-run oil firm Petroleo Brasileiro SA.

The motion comes a day after prosecutors charged the treasurer of Rousseff's Workers' Party, Joao Vaccari, with corruption and money laundering, saying that Vaccari was aware that donations he sought for the party were bribe money stolen from Petrobras.

Rousseff has denied knowing about corruption at Petrobras as chairwoman of its board from 2003 to 2010 when much of the alleged graft occurred and has urged a thorough investigation.

She is facing a growing wave of anger over the scandal, however. Some 1 million people protested in two dozen cities on Sunday, many calling for her impeachment.

The president of the

opposition PSDB party, Aecio Neves, who narrowly lost last year's presidential election to Rousseff, said in a statement his party would join smaller parties in a Wednesday meeting with Supreme Court Justice Teori Zavascki to ask for the investigation.

The Supreme Court is investigating 34 sitting politicians, including the speakers of both houses of Congress, for allegedly receiving bribe money stolen from Petrobras, but Rousseff is not among them.

Zavascki has previously said there was no evidence to justify an investigation of the president. The Workers' Party says all its campaign donations are legal.

Prosecutors have secured commitments to return 500 million reais (\$154 million) of money funneled off of Petrobras contracts to public coffers through plea bargain deals, but suspect much more was stolen.

Reuters

US concerned about other G-7 nations' plans to join China-led bank

WASHINGTON, 18 March — The United States expressed concern on Tuesday about plans by some other Group of Seven countries to join a China-led development bank, while the European countries pledged to work to address issues of governance and other standards.

"I hope before the final commitments are made, anyone who lends their name to this organization will make sure that the governance is appropriate," US Treasury Secretary Jack Lew told a congressional hearing in reference to the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

The United States, as well as Japan, has been cautious about taking part in the bank that has China as the largest shareholder, citing concerns about its ability to screen projects before lending money to

make sure that its loans do not result in corruption and overdevelopment.

Lew said in written testimony to the House of Representatives' Committee on Financial Services that new players in the multilateral development bank project are "challenging US leadership in the multilateral system," apparently mentioning China.

The US government is worried whether the AIIB can adhere to the high standards that international financial institutions have developed in terms of protection of the rights of workers and the environment, Lew told the committee.

The US finance chief spoke at the committee after China said France, Germany and Italy were going to take part in the AIIB following Britain, which said last week it would do so.

Josh Earnest, the White House press secretary, told reporters there is no change in the US position that it will not join the China-led bank.

"It will be important for prospective members of the AIIB to push for the adoption of those same high standards, including strong board oversight and other safeguards," Earnest said.

Jen Psaki, a US State Department spokeswoman, sought to dismiss the view that there has been a rift among the G-7 countries over participation in the China-led bank.

"I would not characterize it in those terms," Psaki told reporters, noting the G-7 countries have been discussing the issue in various channels including bilateral ones.

The German Finance Ministry said on Tuesday that the country as well as

France and Italy will work "to establish an institution that follows the best standards and practices in terms of governance, safeguards, debt and procurement policies."

Britain said last week it will work on "ensuring that the AIIB embodies the best standards in accountability, transparency and governance, which will be essential to ensuring the success of the initiative."

China and 20 other countries, including Thailand, India, Kuwait and Kazakhstan, agreed last year to launch the \$50 billion development bank by the end of 2015.

The number of countries has since grown while China has said it will regard nations announcing participation by the end of this month as the founding members of the bank.

Kyodo News

Envelope mailed to White House tests 'presumptive positive' for cyanide



Members of the US Secret Service keep watch at the fence surrounding the White House in Washington on 12 March, 2015. —REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 18 March — An envelope mailed to the White House tested "presumptive posi-

tive" for cyanide and will undergo more testing to confirm the results, the US Secret Service said on

Tuesday.

The agency charged with protecting the president said the envelope,

which was received on Monday at the White House Mail Screening Facility, initially tested negative. Biological testing on Tuesday "returned a presumptive positive for Cyanide," the Secret Service said in a statement, adding the sample was then sent to another facility to confirm the results.

The agency declined further comment, citing the ongoing investigation.

There were no injuries from the envelope, according to media reports.

The Intercept news website, which first reported the incident, said the envelope contained a milky substance and was in a container wrapped in a plastic bag. —Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 19 March, 2015

Education, love and nurturing essential for children

By Aung Khin

Children are very delicate, both physically and mentally. They need the care of parents and teachers before they become adults. To ensure their development, they should be nurtured with kindness and love.

A school season is about to end for all children, with many having already completed the academic year. The hot sun is waiting them from outside. Many children from rural areas will not spend their summer holidays playing, but instead will be helping their parents complete the summer harvest. The sun is too hot for these delicate children. Income from these crops would be a source of financial support for their next

year of school, but some of their parents, unfortunately, will not ensure that the children return to the classroom next year.

Most families in Myanmar value education and parents generally understand that a lack of education will almost certainly guarantee their children hardship. Nevertheless, low enrolment, poor attendance and high dropout rates are still prevalent in the country. Successive governments have tried to reduce the dropout rate by providing school supplies and textbooks, as well as not charging enrolment fees.

Official statistics between 2006 and 2011 showed the primary school dropout rate in rural areas was 13.90 percent compared to 1.90 percent in urban areas. Despite officially free primary education, many families in poor or remote areas cannot afford additional exercise books and stationery, uniforms, other unexpected fees and pocket money for their children for schooling.

Poverty, poor schooling opportunities and lack of long-term job prospects are pushing children in some areas to leave school even at primary level and risk their wellbeing by becoming child labourers.

The vast majority of child labour is found in rural settings and the informal urban economy, where children are employed by their parents, rather than in factories.

According to the International Labour Organization, the number of child labourers globally has declined by more than one third since 2000, while more than half of those engaged in child labour perform hazardous work.

Children working away from their families will yearn for the bosom of their mother if they have the opportunity to dream of their home at night.

Write for us

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

Human Relations Skills II

By Kyi Mun

Lose — Win
Lose — Lose
Win — Win, or
No Deal

Self Management

- Authenticity
- Reliability
- Constructiveness

Managing People

- Soft Power
- Protective Heart
- Firm Mind

General Management Skills

- M= Making Things Happen
- A = Accountability
- G = Goal-driven
- I = Interpersonal Relationships

- C = Commitment

General Leadership Skills

- P = Persuading
- O = Organizing
- E = Enabling
- T = Teaching
- I = Inspiring
- C = Caring

Marketing (Customer Service) Skills

- To smile
- To be sweet
- To be smart
- To be sincere
- To be spirited
- To be savvy
- To be sizzling

General

- Strive for Win-Win Outcomes
- Thou shall Prefer One Another
- Salesmanship
- All Ends Well, That Ends Well

Win-Win Outcome

- Win
- Win — Win
- Win — Lose

	High	
High	Win / Lose	Win / Win
Low	Lose / Lose	Lose / Win
	Low	High

Ability and Willingness to Work

- * Able & Willing
- * Able but Unwilling
- * Unable but Willing
- * Unable x Unwilling

	High	
High	Able but Unwilling	Able and Unwilling
Low	Unable and Unwilling	but Unwilling
	Low	High

Effectiveness And Efficiency

- Effective and Efficient
- Effective but Inefficient
- Ineffective but Efficient
- Ineffective and Inefficient
- * Effectiveness means Doing the Right Things.
- * Effectiveness means Goal Achievement
- * Efficiency means Doing the Things Right
- * Efficiency means High Productivity & Low Wastage (of Resources)

		High
High	Efficiency but Unwilling	Efficiency and Unwilling
Low	Inefficiency and Unwilling	Inefficiency but Unwilling
	Low	High

Theory And Practice

- ✓ Both Theoretical & Practical
- ✓ Theoretical but Not Practical
- ✓ Not Theoretical but Practical
- ✓ Neither Theoretical Nor Practical
- * Theory is (beacon) Light (Theory resembles Good Eyes)
- * Practice is Touchstone (Benchmark) (Practice is like having Good Legs)

(If you've no theory, you're like a blind person; and if you've no practice, you've like a barren/infertile person)

		High
High	Theoretical but No Practice	Theoretical and Practical
Low	Inefficiency and Unwilling	Inefficiency but Unwilling
	Low	High

Important And Urgent

(Put First Thing First)

- ✓ Important and Urgent
- ✓ Important but Not Urgent
- ✓ Unimportant but Urgent
- ✓ Not Important and Not Urgent

High

		High
High	Urgent but Not Important	Theoretical and Important
Low	Urgent and Not Important	Inefficiency but Important
	Low	High

Management And Leadership

- Good Management & Good Leadership
- Good Management but Poor Leadership

- Poor Management but Good Leadership

- Poor Management & Poor Leadership

Across all cultures, however, there are distinct differences between being a manager and being a leader:

Managers do things right.	Leaders do the right things.
Managers accept the status quo.	Leaders challenge the status quo.
Managers ensure it gets into practice	Leaders create and articulate a vision.
Managers focus on the tactical and the short term.	Leaders focus on the strategic and the long term.
Managers tell subordinates what to do and how to do it.	Leaders set a direction, obtain buy-in from others, and allow the "how to" to be developed by those handling the implementation.

		High
High	Poor Management but Good Management	Good Leadership and Good Management
Low	Poor Leadership and Poor Management	Poor Leadership but Good Management
	Low	High

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co.,Ltd.

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (18-3-2015)

Yangon Gold Price

Buying K662,700 per tical: Selling K663,700

Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K662,600 per tical: Selling K663,600

FE RATE

USD Buying K 1035: Selling -----

SGD Buying K 765: Selling K774

Euro Buying K 1,120: Selling K1,160

Ngapali's natural beauty draws international attention



NAY PYI TAW, 18 March — Stretching 8 miles from north to south on the western coast of Myanmar, Ngapali beach is renowned for its natural beauty and safety

for swimmers. The beach, located in Thandwe Township, Rakhine State, attracts many international tourists, many of whom enjoy diving among coral reefs or surfing.

As the number of tourists rises year by year, flight schedules have increased and new hotels and bungalows have been popping up. The Ministry of Hotels and

Tourism is taking measures to minimise the environmental impact of the rising visitor numbers, working on conservation together with local authorities and

hoteliers. To improve the status of the beach Ngapali beach was upgraded into a town, an airport in Thandwe was expanded, roads to the beach were upgraded and a

detour was built. Construction of a new dam and the installation of new power lines have improved living standards for local residents. *MOHT*

Veteran sports writers honoured



MANDALAY, 18 March — The Myanmar Sports Writers Association organized the fifth respect-paying ceremony for veteran sports writers on 23 February in Mandalay.

Altogether 18 veteran writers attended the ceremony to take respect. Offi-

cialists recounted the history of respect-paying ceremonies and outlined plans to expand the association. The younger writers went to the homes of their elders to present them gifts.

One of the veteran writers who took respect was Gyodu Nyunt Maung,

who wrote features for the once-famous journal Tagun. He received K 200,000 contributed by the Ministry of Sports, K 100,000 by Myanmar Football Federation and K 200,000 by sports writers plus kind.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

Open division football tourney to mark 700th anniversary of Sagaing

SAGAING, 18 March — With the sponsorship of retired minister U Khin Maung Myint, men's and women's open division football tournaments will be held in the last week of April in Sagaing, upper Myanmar.

The tournaments are to commemorate the 700th anniversary of the founding of Sagaing. Those who wish to participate in the tournaments should contact Sagaing District Sports and Physical Education Department not later than 5

April. The entrance fee is K 30000 per team. The organizers will accept 36 men's teams and 12 women's teams. Handsome prizes will be awarded to winners, according to sources.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

French trainer leads election reporting course in Myitkyina, Kachin State

MYITKYINA, 18 March — It is important to abide by the rights and duties of journalists in election time, said Mr Francois Gerles, a French citizen and coach of the Election Reporting Course, during its opening ceremony in Myitkyina on

16 March.

The five-day course from 16 to 20 March, organized by the Myanmar Journalist Institute, was attended by 15 journalists in Kachin State. During the by-election time in 2012, elections in

three townships were cancelled three days before the election date on security grounds. As a consequence, locals are worried that elections cannot be held in all constituencies in Kachin State.

GNLM-001

Northern Shan State enjoys tourism boom

NAY PYI TAW, 18 March — With tourism booming across Myanmar, parts of northern Shan State have also seen an increase in visitor numbers. Tourists can reach northern Shan State from Yangon by air and car, as well as

by train via Mandalay and Lashio. The most attractive view for tourists during their trips from Mandalay to Lashio by train is The Goteik viaduct located between Naungkio and Kyaukme. The viaduct was built in 1903 with a length

of 2260 feet and height of 320 feet. In northern Shan State there are numerous tourist attractions, including traditional bamboo ware made by locals, ancient pagodas, hot springs, and an ancient manor of Shan chieftains.—*MOHT*



Somali Islamists kill four in cross-border attack on Kenyan town

ISIOLO, (Kenya) 18 March — Somali Islamist militants killed at least four people during a raid on a Kenyan town near the border with Somalia, police said on Wednesday.

Hooded gunmen attacked a shop in the north-eastern town of Wajir, about 100 km (60 miles) from the Somali border, firing guns and setting off explosions, witnesses said late on Tuesday.

“They locked (people) inside the shop, set it on fire and left. Three died inside while one (died) while being ferried to hospital,” said Mohamed Siyat, a county government official.

The Islamist group Al Shabaab claimed responsibility for the raid. The militants last week also killed several people when they attacked a convoy carrying a regional Kenyan governor, Ali Roba, near the Mandera area bordering Somalia.

The northeastern region stretching from Wajir to the border town of Mandera has often been targeted by al Shabaab, which has vowed to punish Kenya for sending troops into Somalia where they are fighting alongside other African peacekeepers.

Many residents and regional politicians have vented frustration with the government for failing to improve security in a crime-ridden region awash with bandits and gunmen.

Analysts say the long and porous border with Somalia has made the north-eastern region a soft target for al Shabaab, who often retreat into Somalia after raids.—Reuters



A boy looks at a model of an Iranian third-generation Fateh-110 (Conqueror) surface-to-surface missile while visiting a war exhibition held by Iran's Basij militia and revolutionary guard to mark the anniversary of the Iran-Iraq war (1980-88), also known in Iran as the "Holy Defence", at a Revolutionary Guards military base in south-eastern Teheran on 23 Sept, 2010.

REUTERS

Militias destroy Iraqi villages, displace thousands: rights group

LONDON, 18 March — Iraqi Shi'ite militias unleashed a campaign of “deliberate and wanton destruction” as they rampaged through dozens of villages last year after driving Islamic State fighters out of the northern town of Amerli, rights activists said on Wednesday.

The militias, along with Iraqi security forces and volunteer fighters, ransacked, torched, bulldozed and blew up thousands of Sunni homes and businesses, Human Rights Watch said.

Shi'ite militias have teamed up with Iraqi government forces and Kurdish peshmerga fighters to dislodge Islamic State, the hardline Sunni Islamist group which has seized swathes of northern and central Iraq.

But HRW warned that

militia abuses were exacerbating sectarian grievances in the deeply divided country.

It said militias and government forces had destroyed over 75 percent of buildings in at least 18 villages surrounding Amerli, including schools, mosques and clinics.

At least 11 men were abducted, the rights group said, but residents reported many others had gone missing.

HRW called for Iraq's Shi'ite-led government to disband the militias and urged the United States, Iran and other countries supporting its fight against Islamic State (ISIS) to ensure operations did not pave the way for such abuses.

“Iraq can't win the fight against ISIS's atrocities with attacks on civil-

US, eyeing Iranian arms in Iraq, warns on sectarian tensions

WASHINGTON, 18 March — The United States is concerned about how heavy Iranian weaponry might be used inside Iraq, including as Iran-backed militia help the offensive to retake the Iraqi city of Tikrit from Islamic State militants, a US official said on Tuesday.

Reuters has previously reported on the alleged presence of Iranian rockets inside Iraq. US officials declined to comment on specific Iranian weaponry after *The New York Times* reported it might include Fajr-5 artillery rockets and Fateh-110 missiles.

Still, the US official said the potential use of heavy Iranian weaponry would raise questions about the risk of civilian casualties. The official, speaking on condition of anonymity,

noted extensive US efforts to ensure precision in its strikes. “Our primary concern is how any weapons — artillery, rockets or other systems — are employed and the potential for civilian casualties or collateral damage,” a second US official said, declining to comment specifically on Iranian weapons. The United States has warned that civilian casualties or other abuses by Iraqi forces and Shi'ite militia against Sunni Iraqis could inflame sectarian tensions, which helped pave the way for Islamic State's advance through Iraq last summer.

US officials are watching with concern as the Iraqi militia and regular forces stage an offensive to retake Tikrit, former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's home

city.

At the State Department, spokeswoman Jen Psaki noted that the United States has previously acknowledged Iran's provision of supplies like arms, ammunition and aircraft to forces in Iraq.

“We continue to emphasise that it's important that actions don't raise ... sectarian tensions,” Psaki said, without delving into specifics on Iranian weaponry.

If Iraq's Shi'ite-led government retook Tikrit it would be the first city clawed back from the Sunni insurgents and would give the government momentum in the next, pivotal stage of the campaign: recapturing Mosul, the largest city in the north.

Reuters



Shi'ite fighters ride an armoured vehicle in the town of al-Alam on 9 March, 2015.

REUTERS

ians that violate the laws of war and fly in the face of human decency,” said Joe Stork, HRW's deputy Middle East and North Africa director.

“Militia abuses are wreaking havoc among some of Iraq's most vulnerable people and exacerbating sectarian hostilities.”

He warned there was a risk that the militias could commit similar abuses around Tikrit where they are helping in a major offensive to wrest the city from Islamic State control.

The militant group laid siege to Amerli, a farming town 170 kilometers (100 miles) north of Baghdad, last June. HRW

said the militias went on the rampage after helping to dislodge the Islamists in early September following US and Iraqi air strikes.

Kurdish peshmerga officers who took part in the Amerli operation told HRW they had seen 47 villages where militias has destroyed and ransacked property, the report said.

Militias looted refrigerators, televisions and clothing before setting homes ablaze. They also stole livestock and destroyed farmland, ruining livelihoods and making it even harder for residents to return home, the report added.

Militias named in the report include the Badr Brigades, Asa'ib Ahl al-Haq, Kita'ib Hezbollah and Saraya Tala'a al-Khorasani.

Reuters

US loses drone over Syria, which claims to have brought it down



A US Air Force MQ-1 Predator unmanned aerial vehicle

WASHINGTON, 18 March — The United States lost one of its Predator drone

aircraft over northwest Syria on Tuesday, US officials said, as Syrian state media

reported its air defenses brought down the spy plane in the government-controlled Latakia Province. If Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's forces took down the US aircraft — something US officials said was not immediately certain — it would raise the stakes in the US-led bombing campaign against Islamic State militants that began in Syria in late September. The United States has previously described Assad's air defenses as “passive,” meaning they have not engaged the US-led coalition's aircraft as

American and other planes carry out strikes against militants.

The US airstrikes have not targeted Assad's forces or military infrastructure.

Tuesday's incident took place sometime around 7:40 pm in Syria, when the United States lost contact with an unarmed MQ-1 Predator aircraft operating over northwest Syria, a US official said. A second US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the aircraft took off from a base in Turkey and a third official confirmed it was operating

over Latakia Province.

A fourth US official said the aircraft was destroyed but US officials were not ready to say what happened — much less whether Assad's forces might have engaged the aircraft. They said the cause of the incident was unclear.

“At this time, we have no information to corroborate press reports that the aircraft was shot down,” said the first US official, who asked to be described only as a defense official.

“We are looking into the incident and will provide

more details when available.” It was the first such incident since the US-led coalition began carrying out air strikes against the hardline militant Islamic State group, first in Iraq in August and then in Syria late the next month. But it was not the first loss of a coalition aircraft in Syria. In December, a Jordanian pilot was captured by Islamic State militants after his warplane came down in northeast Syria. The militants released a video in February showing the pilot being burned alive in a cage.—Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Asian business sentiment steady in first quarter as US rate hike fear keeps firms in check

SHANGHAI, 18 March — Concern over a US interest rate hike kept sentiment in check at some of Asia's biggest firms, as optimism about the outlook for business over the next six months was near steady in the first quarter, a Thomson Reuters/INSEAD survey showed.

The Thomson Reuters/INSEAD Asian Business Sentiment Index RACSI was 71 for the March quar-

ter versus 72 three months earlier. A reading above 50 indicates an overall positive view. Companies in India were the most upbeat for the fourth straight quarter, logging 97 on hopes that low inflation and aggressive interest rate cuts will boost the domestic economy. Singapore firms registered the least positive outlook for the third consecutive quarter in anticipation of the first US rate hike in almost

a decade, which could happen as early as June. Local banks are likely to match the hike, making mortgages expensive and pulling down demand for property.

"There is significant risk as people may have different interpretations of movements in interest rates in a way that can cause dramatic changes in financial markets," said Antonio Fatas, a Singapore-based economics professor at

INSEAD. China's reading rose to 54 from 50, as businesses became more optimistic about their future amid central bank efforts to moderate the economic slowdown with looser monetary policy, including successive interest rate cuts since late last year.

Optimism slid the most in Australia where firms reported a score of 70 from 85 in the fourth quarter, as falling prices of commodities tempered sentiment in the resource-exporting nation. The poll, by Thomson Reuters with global business and management school INSEAD, was conducted over the first two weeks of March. Of 111 respondents, 45 percent reported a positive outlook, 51 percent were neutral and 4 percent were negative.

Participating firms included Japanese beverage conglomerate Asahi Group Holdings Ltd (2502.T), South Korean shipbuilder Hyundai Heavy Industries Co Ltd (009540.KS) and Australian building materials maker James Hardie Industries PLC (JHX.N).

Reuters

Australian research brings malaria vaccine closer

MELBOURNE, 18 March — A team of Australian researchers are a step closer to finding a vaccine to prevent malaria, after discovering patterns in the human immune system that helps fight the disease in its early stages. The team from the Burnet Institute in Melbourne collaborated with universities from Australia, Britain and Africa to develop the research over a ten year period. The study, published in the medical journal "Immunity", concluded that the human immune system can trigger a response that calls upon proteins in red blood cells, and the head of the Burnet Institute's biomedical research center, Professor James Beeson, said that this development could be used in creating a vaccine for the disease.

"The immune system needs to produce specific antibodies and they are proteins that the immune system produces that com-

bat infections," he told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) on Wednesday.

"Those antibodies recognize the malaria infection or parasites as we call them. Then they need to recruit these other proteins that are in the bloodstream, known as complement proteins.

"And then the two together, the antibodies and the complement, perform a double hit on the malaria infection and stop it from getting inside red blood cells, and therefore stopping the infection and the subsequent disease.

"We're hoping that this new knowledge opens up a new strategy to generate or develop highly effective vaccines." Researchers have been seeking a vaccine for the disease for decades, but this natural development in the human immune system brings the chances of a vaccine that much closer. —Xinhua

Aspirin offers no benefit for people with rare genetic variants: study

WASHINGTON, 17 March — Regular use of aspirin or other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAID) can reduce most people's colorectal cancer risk but a few individuals with rare genetic variants do not share this benefit, a study suggested on Tuesday.

"Previous studies, including randomized trials, demonstrated that NSAIDs, particularly aspirin, protect against the development of colorectal cancer, but it remains unclear whether an individual's genetic makeup might influence that benefit," co-senior author Andrew Chan of the Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Gastroenterology Division said in a statement. "Since these drugs are known to have serious side effects—especially gastrointestinal bleeding — determining whether certain subsets of the population might not benefit is important for our ability to tailor recommendations for individual patients."

Chan and colleagues analyzed data from 10 large population-based studies in North America, Australia and Germany. They

compared genetic and lifestyle data from 8,624 people who developed colorectal cancer with that of 8,553 people who did not. Both groups were matched by age and gender.

The researchers found that regular use of aspirin or NSAID was associated with a 30 percent reduction in colorectal cancer risk for most people.

However, they found no such protective effect among about nine percent of the study participants who had genetic variations on chromosome 15.

What's more, about four percent of the participants who carried two even rarer genotypes on chromosome 12 had an increased risk of colorectal cancer.

The researchers cautioned that the ability to translate genetic profiling into tailored preventive care plans for individuals is still years away.

"It is premature to recommend genetic screening to guide clinical care, since our findings need to be validated in other populations," Chan said.

The findings were published in the US journal JAMA.

Xinhua



Mannequins are displayed at Fast Retailing's new flagship Uniqlo store at Tokyo's Ginza district in this 16 March, 2012 file photo. —REUTERS

Foreign banks may be subject to future UK stress tests

WASHINGTON / LONDON, 18 March — The British units of foreign banks could be required by UK regulators to submit to annual health exams for the first time, banking and industry sources said, potentially bringing Britain's policies into line with those of the US Federal Reserve.

The UK's Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA) has recently started asking foreign banks to submit data, the sources said, a possible first step toward making them subject to the stress tests, which assess if banks have enough capital to withstand a hypothetical economic crisis.

One of the sources added that British units of

US banks were being asked for more data to give the regulator a better understanding of market risk, but it does not necessarily mean that formal stress tests will be required in the near future.

Asked for comment, a Bank of England spokesman said: "We collect data to help inform our understanding of risk profiles, such as those in trading books of investment banks. But this should in no way imply an intention to include foreign firms in the concurrent stress testing."

The PRA's deliberations underscore efforts by regulators around the world to step up scrutiny of

foreign banks operating in their region, to make sure they are strong enough to stand on their own if their parent group experiences trouble.

Action by the PRA could create additional headaches for banks, which have to deal with often opaque tests in multiple jurisdictions, while leaving investors with a muddy picture of their health.

Before the 2008 financial crisis, regulators globally largely relied on their peers abroad to oversee foreign banks doing business on their turf. That changed after some foreign banks were forced to tap emergency dollar funding from the US central bank during the crisis.

The US units of foreign banks have often fared poorly in stress tests run by the Federal Reserve. This year, the U.S. units of Deutsche Bank (DBKGn.DE) and Spain's Banco Santander (SAN.MC) were the only two banks out of 31 to fail the test.

The PRA has said it would launch a consultation paper this year to see how it would proceed with its stress testing pro-

gramme beginning in 2016 but declined to give further details. It has said the same eight UK banks and building societies that were stress-tested last year will be examined in 2015.

All eight institutions passed last year's health-check, though Lloyds Banking Group (LLOY.L) and Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS.L) only narrowly exceeded minimum standards for withstanding a severe UK recession and slump in house prices. The exam took place alongside a broader test of Europe's top 130 banks by the continent's watchdog.

The PRA has warned its stress tests could get tougher and this year may focus more on risks from overseas markets.

The PRA's consultation study could lead to proposals to increase the number of banks in the test from 2016 and beyond, including UK units of US and other overseas banks as well as more smaller UK banks, the sources said, asking not to be named because they were not authorized to speak with the media.

Reuters



The Canary Wharf financial district is seen at dusk in east London in this file photo taken on 7 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

UN forum to adopt 7 goals to mitigate disaster risks



Delegates from around the world gather for the last day of the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction in the northeastern Japan city of Sendai on 18 March, 2015. —KYODO NEWS

SENDAI, 18 March — Countries gathering for a UN disaster conference in Sendai are set to agree on Wednesday on seven

global goals to mitigate risks and damage from disasters, in a move to boost international cooperation amid increasing threats posed by climate change.

In a new, 15-year action plan to be adopted at the end of the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction, governments of more than 180 countries will vow to reduce the number of deaths, victims and economic losses due to disasters, as well as damage to medical and educational facilities.

They are also expected to pledge more support for disaster-prone developing countries in the plan, a major outcome of the five-day event held in the northeast-

ern Japanese city hit by the massive earthquake and tsunami in March 2011.

Negotiations, however, have been dragging on due to differences among the participants over how much commitment developed countries should make on financial aid for less-developed economies, according to delegation officials.

The delegations initially planned to adopt the framework on Wednesday morning.

The framework is also expected to call for boosting the number of countries that have specific strategies on disaster risk reduction and early warning systems.

But no numerical targets will be included in the Sendai action plan, conference officials said, despite strong calls among civic groups and nongovernmental organizations for more specific targets.

The UN conference on disaster management was held in the city of Yokohama in 1994 and in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, in 2005. The new framework will replace the Hyogo Framework for Action that covered the past decade.

The Sendai gathering is the first in a series of crucial international meetings this year on development goals and climate change.

Kyodo News

Major Japanese companies to raise pay scales as requested by Abe

TOKYO, 18 March — Major Japanese companies notified their labour unions on Wednesday that they will raise their pay scales to conclude this year's spring wage talks, as requested by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who is eager to boost the economy squeezed by

Tatsuro Ueda, a Toyota Motor Corp executive, holds a Press conference in Toyota, Aichi Prefecture on 18 March, 2015, after the automaker formally offered its biggest pay hikes ever to conclude the spring wage talks, raising average monthly pay scales by 4,000 yen. Ueda said the offer was "the maximum the company could offer."

KYODO NEWS



last April's consumption tax hike.

Attention will now focus on whether wages for other workers, such as those at smaller firms and in regional areas, will also be increased, given criticism that the "Abenomics" policy mix has benefited

only employees of big exporters in large cities.

Toyota Motor Corp and Honda Motor Co will offer their biggest pay hikes ever, raising average monthly pay scales by 4,000 yen and 3,400 yen, respectively. Nissan Motor Co will increase its wage scale by 5,000 yen, the biggest rise among manufacturers. Six major electronics companies including Hitachi Ltd, Mitsubishi Electric Corp, Panasonic Corp, and Toshiba Corp have decided to raise their wage scales by 3,000 yen per month, the highest hike on record.

The management of these export-oriented manufacturers failed to fully meet labour unions' calls at this year's "shunto" spring

labor offensive.

But it will be their second straight annual rise in pay scales, with their business performances improving on the back of the yen's sharp depreciation under Abenomics, centering on the Bank of Japan's aggressive monetary easing.

A weaker yen usually bolsters the profitability of exporters by making Japanese products cheaper abroad and pushes up the value of overseas revenue in yen terms.

Abe has urged business leaders to use improved profits to raise wages for their workers, saying it will help achieve his goal of creating a virtuous economic cycle in which higher salaries encourage consumers to spend more,

thereby stimulating growth.

"It is important to invest in human capital. We are in an important position to beat deflation and bring Japan's economy to a normal state," Nissan Chief Competitive Officer Hiroto Saikawa said at a press conference in Yokohama.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, the government's top spokesman, welcomed the decisions by the nation's major firms, saying during his Press conference later Wednesday, "Strong moves to raise wages have been spreading."

Some Japanese companies, however, did not raise pay scales, as domestic demand has been shrinking in the wake of the 3-percent-age-point consumption tax

hike to 8 percent.

Struggling electronics maker Sharp Corp's labour union refrained from submitting a pay raise demand, effectively withdrawing from the unified labour talks of major Japanese electronics firms.

Japan's economy contracted for a second consecutive quarter through September last year, and rebounded only 0.4 percent from the previous quarter in real terms during the October-December period.

Japan's average real, or inflation-adjusted, wages for employees slid 1.5 percent in January, down for the 19th straight month, data released by the Health, Labour and Welfare Ministry showed earlier this month.—*Kyodo News*

Aid arriving in Vanuatu, but fears persist for remote islands

PORT VILA, 18 March — While relief and recovery work is well underway in Vanuatu's capital Port Vila in the wake of powerful Cyclone Pam, people on outlying islands are reportedly facing shortages of food and fresh water.

The Vanuatu authorities say water in the capital is up and running again and all roads on the main island of Efate will be cleared by Saturday, according to Radio New Zealand International.

Benjamin Shing, spokesman of the National Disaster Management Office, said roads in Port Vila will be cleared by Thursday of all the debris from

Cyclone Pam, according to the report.

On the densely populated southern island of Tanna, which suffered a direct hit by the cyclone, many key roads have been cleared.

A Royal New Zealand Air Force C-130 Hercules on Wednesday landed in the capital loaded with tools, generators and supplies for shelters, according to *Australian Associated Press*. It then continued on to Tanna — about 230 kilometres from Port Vila — with Vanuatu Prime Minister Joe Natuman on board to allow him to assess the damage first hand. A ferry full of relief sup-

plies is expected in Tanna on Thursday, according to AAP.

On Tuesday, a *Reuters* reporter on the island of 29,000 people said that while damage was extensive, it appeared most of the population had survived by sheltering in schools, churches and other sturdy buildings.

In contrast, people living on the remote island of Moso in the northwest of Vanuatu are having to drink harmful saltwater following the cyclone, which slammed into the archipelago late Friday, according to BBC News.

Residents of Moso told the BBC they are still

waiting for outside assistance to arrive.

Oxfam's country director in Port Vila, Colin Collett van Rooyen, said flights over some islands have seen people signaling for help, according to AAP.

"The aerial assessments of Ambryn island reported large white 'Hs' marked out on the ground by people signaling for help, and on Tongoa island people holding up mirrors also signaling for help," he was quoted as saying.

Aid agencies have begun trying to access the country's small outer islands, but flooding has stopped their planes from



A woman carrying her baby walks past fallen trees in Tanna on 18 March, 2015. —REUTERS

landing in some areas.

There is still no communication with many of Vanuatu's 83 islands, and Natuman said it would be at least a week before authorities had a better sense of the destruction.

The United Nations has revised the official number of people killed by the cyclone, bringing it down to 11 from an earlier figure of 24, but says the toll is expected to rise.

Kyodo News

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES-Individual Consultant)**

**The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Myanmar Electric Power Project
Credit No.: 5306-MM**

Assignment Title: International Financial Management Consultant

Reference No.: MEPE-CS-7

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Electric Power Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The Services are expected to be carried out over a period of twelve months, possible starting in,

The Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise (MEPE) now invites eligible individual consultants to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services. The minimum qualifications requirements are:

1. At least a bachelor degree in accounting, finance or relevant field and holding IFAC recognized accounting professional qualification
2. At least 10 years of professional experience in accounting and/or other relevant field
3. Previous experience in conducting similar engagement within the region or other regions
4. Experience in FM capacity development and training
5. Experience in assessing IT user requirements and specification for an FMIS system
6. Experience working with the World Bank financed projects or other major donors is an advantage
7. Good PC/systems literacy, including strong Excel skills and accounting software applications
8. Excellent interpersonal skills and result oriented
9. Reliable, independent and dynamic worker with high social competence and good team spirit
10. Willing and able to travel to remote areas' in Myanmar

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's *Guidelines: Selection and Employment Consultants under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers* dated January 2011 ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Interested applicants may go to the following link to access the TOR of this position:

"Link"

Further information can be obtained from the address below during 10:00 to 15:00 hours on working days.

Expressions of Interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by April 7, 2015.

Attn: Daw Zaw Zaw Than

The General Manager

Finance Department

Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise (MEPE)

Office Building No. 27

Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Email: mepefin@moep.gov.mm

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BAO XIANG VOY NO (1503)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BAO XIANG VOY NO (1503) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.3.2015 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 BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING
CO., LTD**

Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV FS BEACH VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FS BEACH VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (7) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S G LINK EXPRESS
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301191/2301178

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGSAPHAN VOY NO (120)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSAPHAN VOY NO (120) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MUNICH TRADER VOY NO
(RY-1503-04N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MUNICH TRADER VOY NO (RY-1503-04N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S TRANSOFFSHORE
LOGISTICS PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

**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)**

1. 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).

2. 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

3. 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

4. No submission of LOEI can be allowed by fax or email or express.

5. Only the qualified LOEI proposals will be invited to conduct the tender process.

**Ringleader's son given
17 years for 2 of 8
Amagasaki murders**

KOBE, 18 March — The second son of Miyoko Sumida was sentenced to 17 years in prison over the killing of two of the eight people found dead in a series of murders allegedly committed by Sumida's group in the western Japanese city of Amagasaki.

Yutaro Sumida, 28, who had denied his involvement in the murders, was judged to have caused the death of Mariko Nakajima, 26, by violence and abuse after detaining her in a shed on the balcony of an apartment in the city in Hyogo Prefecture between 2005 and 2011, and of forcing Hisayoshi Sumida, 51, to plunge to his death during a trip to Okinawa Prefecture, the Kobe District Court found.

He was living in the apartment with his mother and several others. Miyoko allegedly controlled the group through

violence and starvation but was never prosecuted after committing suicide in a detention facility in December 2012.

A total of seven defendants were indicted in cases involving the deaths of eight people and the disappearance of three others. Yutaro was charged with seven crimes involving five of the victims, but had only admitted to abandoning the body of one. He denied having any intention to kill the two persons he was found guilty of murdering.

Prosecutors had called for the defendant to be sentenced to 25 years in prison.

The trial, which was presided over by Judge Koji Masuda and involved lay judges, lasted for 132 days and was the longest trial involving lay judges since the system was launched in May 2009.

Kyodo News

WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 19th March, 2015: Weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Chin, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

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

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight increase of day temperatures in the Lower Myanmar Area.

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Taylor Swift denies insured leg rumour



LOS ANGELES, 18 March — Country star Taylor Swift has denied reports of insuring her leg for USD 40 million.

The “Blank Space” hitmaker mockingly said her cat owes her the money for scratching one of her legs, reported *Ace Showbiz*. She posted on Insta-

gram a picture of it and used it to laugh off the recent rumour.

“Great work Meredith,” the singer captioned the pic, referring to her cat which was named after “Grey’s Anatomy” character Dr Meredith Grey, tweeted on Sunday.

PTI

Paul McCartney’s ex slams him for working with Kanye West, Rihanna

LOS ANGELES, 18 March — The Beatles star Paul McCartney’s ex-wife Heather Mills feels he is not famous anymore and claims the musician is collaborating with young stars Kanye West and Rihanna so that people remember him.

The 47-year-old former model officially ended her six-year-old marriage to the surviving member of The Beatles in 2008, reported *Aceshowbiz*.

“When I go down the street, I get kids coming up to me — half of them don’t even know who he is,” Mills said during her appearance on Ireland’s “The Late Late Show with Ryan Tubridy”. “That’s

why he’s got to do songs with Rihanna and Kanye West, so people remember (who he is).”

Rihanna’s latest song

“FourFiveSeconds”, featuring McCartney, 72, has peaked at 4 Number on Billboard Hot 100. McCartney has collaborated with

West, 37, on “Only One” and “All Day” that will be featured on the rapper’s own full-length “So Help Me God”.—PTI



Heather Mills slammed Paul McCartney for working with Kanye, Rihanna.—PTI

Oprah Winfrey to auction contents from Chicago apartment



Oprah Winfrey arrives at the 2015 Vanity Fair Oscar Party in Beverly Hills, California on 22 Feb, 2015.

REUTERS

NEW YORK, 18 March — Actress and media magnate Oprah Winfrey is selling antique furniture, paintings, prints, ceramics and memorabilia from her Chicago apartment next month to benefit her education foundation, the auction house running the sale said on Tuesday.

The 571 lots in the Chicago sale on 25 April are mostly from her downtown condominium. Leslie Hindman Auctioneers said proceeds from the auction will go to The Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy Foundation, which supports her education academy for

girls in South Africa.

“She is an excellent collector, very well educated,” Hindman said about Oprah. “She has lots of different interests and over the years she has collected all sorts of different things.”

The top lot in the sale is expected to a painting by American Impressionist artist Richard Miller called “Nude in Red Robe,” which has a pre-sale estimate of \$80,000 to \$120,000. Various other paintings are expected to sell in the \$20,000 to \$40,000 range.

Estimates for the total one-day sale and the complete catalog were not

immediately available. In addition to the in-house auction, potential buyers can also place bids online.

Lots from the sale, which will also include china, porcelain, fixtures, clothing and accessories, will be exhibited ahead of the auction from 16 to 24 April. Winfrey, 61, is one of the richest and most powerful celebrities in the United States. *Forbes* magazine estimates her net worth at \$3 billion.

Earlier this month the former talk show host and philanthropist announced she would be closing Harpo Studios, where she

filmed “The Oprah Winfrey Show” in Chicago.

She said she will be carrying on the legacy of the studios with programming for her cable television network (OWN), which was created in a joint venture with Discovery Communications Inc., from California

Winfrey, who was nominated for a best supporting actress Oscar in 1986 for “The Colour Purple,” appeared in the 2014 Martin Luther King biopic “Selma,” and in the civil rights drama “Lee Daniels’ The Butler” in 2013.

Reuters

Paul Walker jokes to be edited out of Justin Bieber roast

LOS ANGELES, 18 March — Jokes about late Paul Walkers would not be aired in Comedy Central’s roast of Justin Bieber.

The remarks were made by comedians Jeff Ross and Natasha Leggero about the deceased ‘Fast and Furious’ star but they will be edited out when the special airs on 30 March, reported *TheWrap*.

“Roasts often push the limits of good taste and we give the participants full rein to try things knowing we have the edit to shape the show,” a Comedy Central spokesperson said in a statement. “Sometimes the line is discovered by crossing it. The Paul Walker references will not be in the telecast.”

The 21-year-old Bieber too said that he did not like Walker jokes. The actor was killed in November 2013 in a fiery car accident in Santa Clarita, California.—PTI



Models present fashion creations designed by graduates of Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology during the “Already Here” fashion week in Beijing, capital of China on 17 March, 2015. Seven fashion shows and one exhibition will be held during the fashion week that kicked off in the institute on Tuesday.—XINHUA

GENERAL

World's top alcohol and drug experts share strategies in Australian

SYDNEY, 18 March — Some of the world's top alcohol and drug experts gathered at a conference in Brisbane, Australia, on Wednesday to share ideas on how to address common problems associated with substance abuse.

The 7th Australasian Drug and Alcohol Strategy Conference (ADASC) 2015 provides a platform to share experiences between

policing jurisdictions, health service providers, policy analysts, academics and industry representatives.

The ADASC 2015 facilitates strong partnerships and enables collaboration to minimize the detrimental effects of alcohol and other drugs. Queensland police commissioner Ian Stewart said drug abuse was a world-wide problem and different nations can share best-prac-

tice methods to boost treatment and enforcement.

Stewart said drug abuse has widespread effects for all of society. "Sadly, the misuse of drugs is often a compounding factor in relation to mental illnesses and other challenges that people have," Stewart said in a statement.

"The misuse of substances certainly creates a complexity that our people

have to deal with and whilst we provide the training and the equipment, the difficulty is that our officers are sworn to protect the community and put themselves in harm's way on occasions."

Conference organizers said ADASC 2015, which runs until Friday, will enhance, develop and foster inter-agency partnerships and collaboration within and across borders. —Xinhua

Cervantes remains found in Madrid convent, investigators believe

MADRID, 18 March — Spanish scientists said on Tuesday that remains found under a Madrid convent are likely to include those of "Don Quixote" author Miguel de Cervantes, one of the world's most celebrated writers.

Nearly 400 years after his death, the quest to find Cervantes had led investigators deep into the sub-soil of a 17th century convent. Some of bones dug up in recent months almost certainly belong to the writer, they said.

"We believe that some of the remains of Miguel de Cervantes are among the fragments," forensic anthropologist Francisco Etxeberria told a news conference.

Investigators may never be able to guarantee with absolute certainty that it was his body and DNA tests would be tricky, the experts said. Cervantes had a sister who is buried near Madrid, but only tiny bone frag-

ments remain of her body.

Cervantes — whose masterpiece about an errant, daydreaming knight and his faithful servant Sancho Panza has delighted readers around the world - had requested to be buried in the convent. The Trinitarian religious order had helped to pay a ransom to release him from slavery after he was captured by Moorish pirates.

He died in 1616 — the same week as William Shakespeare. But the exact location of his tomb was lost in a subsequent rebuilding of the convent.

Historians hope to establish a burial site for Cervantes, considered the father of the modern novel, to attract literary pilgrims and tourists. Madrid mayor Ana Botella said on Tuesday that authorities were looking into the possibility of opening up the site to visitors. "We've contributed a little bit to our history



Forensic archaeologist Francisco Etxeberria (C), historian Francisco Marin (R) and forensic anthropologist Almudena Garcia speak about the search of the remains of Spanish writer Miguel de Cervantes in Madrid on 17 March, 2015.—REUTERS

today," she said.

Investigators began their search almost a year ago in the cloistered baroque convent, still home to a dozen elderly nuns. They recently found bone fragments and as well as a dilapidated piece of a wooden coffin with the letters "M" and "C" on it.

None of the bones showed signs of the injuries Cervantes was known

to have sustained during his life, including lesions to his left arm when he fought in the Battle of Lepanto in 1571, the experts said.

The Cervantes search takes place after a similar quest in Britain, where investigators found the remains of medieval monarch King Richard III in 2012 under municipal car park. He will be reburied in a ceremony next week. —Reuters

Florida manatee population shows signs of recovery, maybe

ORLANDO, 18 March — A record 6,063 manatees were sighted in Florida's coastal waters during February's annual headcount, demonstrating the success of conservation efforts for the slow-moving sea cow which once numbered in

the hundreds, state wildlife experts said on Tuesday.

But advocates for the endangered manatee cautioned that near-perfect conditions for the headcount may have helped push the number higher than ever, said Holly Edwards, a bi-

ologist for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

She added that the number by itself doesn't determine the need for continued federal protections. "The need is not based on numbers of manatees. It's based on whether the threats to manatees have been adequately addressed," Edwards said.

Patrick Rose, executive director of the Save the Manatee Club, said the fact that virtually all manatees in Florida have scars from encounters with boats demonstrates the need for protection.

Manatees have been on the US Endangered Species list since it was created in 1973. Hunting decimated the population a century

ago, Rose said.

One environmental group last week filed notice it plans to sue federal wildlife officials on charges of violating the Endangered Species Act, for failing to properly protect manatees.

The Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility wants to ban so-called "swim-with" tours that attract swimmers to shallow warm-water lagoons to pet resting manatees.

The US Fish and Wildlife Service in February announced rules to restrict swimmers, canoes and kayaks in certain springs where manatees retreat during cold weather to protect the mammals from bumps and injuries.

Reuters



A Florida manatee interacts with River Ventures' Captain Mike Birns in the Three Sisters Springs in Crystal River, Florida in this 15 Jan, 2015, file photo.

REUTERS

mitv Myanmar International

(19-3-2015 07:00 am~ 20-3-2015 07:00 am) MST

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MRTV News Channel in Brief

(19-3-2015, Thursday)

- 6:00 am**
- Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
- 6:30 am**
- Documentary
- 7:00 am**
- News/ Weather Report
- 7:35 am**
- Weekly Entertainment
- 8:00 am**
- News / International News
- 8:35 am**
- Documentary
- Beautiful ASEAN
- 9:35 am**
- Head Line News
- 10:30 am**
- News / International News / Weather Report
- 12:00 noon**
- Hluttaw Image
- 12:35 pm**
- Fine Arts-Boson of Dramatic Performance
- 1:55 pm**
- Teleplay
- 2:35 pm**
- Songs in honour of 70th Anniversary Armed Forces Day
- 3:00 pm**
- News / International News
- 3:45 pm**
- International Friendly Matches Football Competition (Live) (Myanmar U-20 Vs Malaysia U-22)
- 6:00 pm**
- News / Weather Report
- 6:35 pm**
- People's Talks
- 7:35 pm**
- Current Affairs
- 8:00 pm**
- News / International News / Weather Report
- 9:00 pm**
- News
- Hluttaw Image
- Clever
- Talk on Old Film

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(19-3-2015, Thursday)

- 6:00 am**
- Mono Classical Songs
- 6:35 am**
- Teleplay
- 7:15 am**
- Cultural Show for Soldiers
- 7:40 am**
- Myanmar Series
- 8:05 am**
- TV Drama Series
- 9:00 am**
- TV Drama Series
- 9:45 am**
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti
- 10:05 am**
- Musical Programme
- 10:20 am**
- Myanmar Video
- 3:45 pm**
- International Friendly Matches Football Competition (Live) (Myanmar U-20 Vs Malaysia U-22)

Myanmar U-20 and U-22 to meet Malaysia U-22 on 19 and 22 March



Myanmar U-22 team players participate in a team training session.

YANGON, 18 March — The Myanmar U-22 team, currently in training for the AFC U-23 Championship, and the Myanmar U-20 team, preparing for the U-20 World Cup, will play matches against the Malaysia U-22 team in Thuwunna Stadium in Yangon.

On 19 March at 4 pm, Myanmar U-20 will play the guests and on 22 March, Myanmar U-22 will meet them at the same time. The matches will be broadcast live from Myanmar Radio and Television, News Channel, Entertainment Channel and Radio Myanmar.—MNA

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Atletico win shootout to send Leverkusen packing

MADRID, 18 March — Atletico Madrid stayed on course for a second straight Champions League final appearance by beating Bayer Leverkusen 1-0 on Tuesday and then winning a nerve-jangling penalty shootout to reach the last eight.

Leverkusen won last month's first leg in Germany 1-0 and a goal from Atletico midfielder Mario Suarez in the 27th minute of a finely-balanced and absorbing return match left the teams locked at 1-1 after extra time.

Both sides failed with two penalties before visiting striker Stefan Kiessling fired his side's fifth spot kick over the crossbar to give the hosts a 3-2 shootout victory and send the fans thronging the Calderon into ecstasy.

It was Atletico's first shootout triumph in four attempts in European competition and earned them a place in Friday's quarter-final draw.

"What defines us is that we are a team," said Suarez who also netted a penalty in the shootout.

"We don't care who we get in the next round," he

told Spanish television. "It will be one of the best and nobody will want to play us."

Roared on by the home support, Diego Simeone's men came storming out of the blocks but Leverkusen refused to be intimidated and Suarez's deflected effort that went in off defender Omer Toprak was their first shot. It was more of the same in the second half with a fired-up Atletico pressing forward without really threatening and a well-organised Leverkusen looking to hit back on the counter attack. Atletico playmaker Arda Turan fired over with a volley on the run in the 69th minute after good work down the left from Antoine Griezmann and a Koke free kick evaded everyone and almost sneaked inside the post a minute later. The players clearly tired and chances were scarce in extra time. Atletico midfielder Raul Garcia had the clearest in the 106th minute when he blasted an angled shot straight at keeper Bernd Leno while Leverkusen captain Simon Rolfes lashed a long-range effort just wide in the 111th.—Reuters



Atletico Madrid's goalkeeper Jan Oblak (L) celebrates with teammates after beating Bayer Leverkusen in their Champions League round of 16 second leg soccer match at the Vicente Calderon stadium in Madrid on 17 March, 2015.—REUTERS

Federer, Nadal advance at Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS, (California), 18 March — Roger Federer earned a modicum of revenge against Andreas Seppi in a 6-3, 6-4 triumph that advanced the four-time champion to the fourth round of the BNP Paribas Open on Tuesday.

Federer lost to the Italian at the Australian Open in January but allowed no such repeat as he lost just one service game and needed 82 minutes to beat Seppi and advance to fourth round.

Rafa Nadal also advanced with a sloppy triumph over American Donald Young 6-4, 6-2.

Nadal, a three-time champion at Indian Wells, looked out of sorts in the opening set slamming an easy overhead into the net to give Young an early break and then later double-faulting to hand over another.

But the 47th ranked Young was no better at finding the target saving just two of eight break points as a fist-pumping Nadal walked off Stadium court at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden with the victory.

While the opening set was a comedy of unforced errors the second saw Nadal flash some of his top form as he raced to a 5-1 lead closing out the match in a tidy 80 minutes.

"It's true that I had a few mistakes. I was able to find solutions," Nadal told reporters. "I've played a lot of good tournaments here, good results. "I am confident and I hope that tomorrow I can play a good match."

Ninth seeded Czech Tomas Berdych had earlier kicked off another sunny day of action with a straight-forward 6-4, 6-2



Rafael Nadal (ESP) returns the ball during his match against Donald Young (USA) in the BNP Paribas Open at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden on 17 March, 2015.—REUTERS

win over American Steve Johnson.

Jack Sock, however, will carry the American flag into the round of 16 after rallying past 15th seeded Spaniard Roberto Bautista Agut 3-6, 6-3, 6-2.

France's 13th seed Gilles Simon scored a com-

fortable 6-2, 7-5 victory over German qualifier Michael Berrer while Czech Lukas Rosol was a 6-4, 6-7 (4), 7-6 (3) winner over Dutchman Robin Haase, while Spain's Tommy Robredo beat 11th seed Grigor Dimitrov 6-4, 1-6, 7-5 in the final match to end.—Reuters

Tearful Pennetta stuns Sharapova, Serena wins



Serena Williams (USA) during her match against Sloane Stephens (USA) in the BNP Paribas Open at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden, on 17 March, 2015.—REUTERS

INDIAN WELLS, (California) 18 March — Maria Sharapova fell victim to an emotional Flavia Pennetta, who burst into tears before regaining her composure to stun the second seed 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 at the BNP Paribas Open on Tuesday.

Italy's Pennetta, the defending champion at Indian Wells, left the court momentarily after breaking down following her first set loss. "Sometimes women have these moment. (I) just go and let everything out, screaming..." Pennetta told reporters. "I just breathe and

just let it pass."

When the 15th seeded Pennetta returned she seized the momentum, going on to win 10 of the last 13 games to blaze past the two-time champion Sharapova and into the last eight.

Sharapova said she was unaware of Pennetta's emotional outburst and had struggles of her own, the Russian finishing with 42 unforced errors and 11 double faults.

"Maybe I wasn't playing my best tennis but I was competitive enough," Sharapova said. "I just

wasn't able to step up in the key moments."

Earlier, top seed Serena Williams overcame a wobbly start to see off a determined Sloane Stephens 6-7(3), 6-2, 6-2 and move into the last eight.

Williams, playing her third match at Indian Wells after deciding to end a 14-year boycott of the event where she had suffered alleged racist abuse, enjoyed plenty of support but struggled early to find her form.

Stephens, who reached the quarter-finals a year ago, looked ready to return to the last eight

after breaking Williams twice to open the match but in the end there was no denying the world number one as she extended her winning run to 14 matches.

"I don't feel like I need to come here and win the trophy," Williams told reporters. "I feel like this is more than I have ever imagined doing. I never imagined even having an opportunity to come back."

"I feel like I have been a champ here, and I'm really happy with every match that I win and every result. For me it's all icing on the cake."

Reuters