

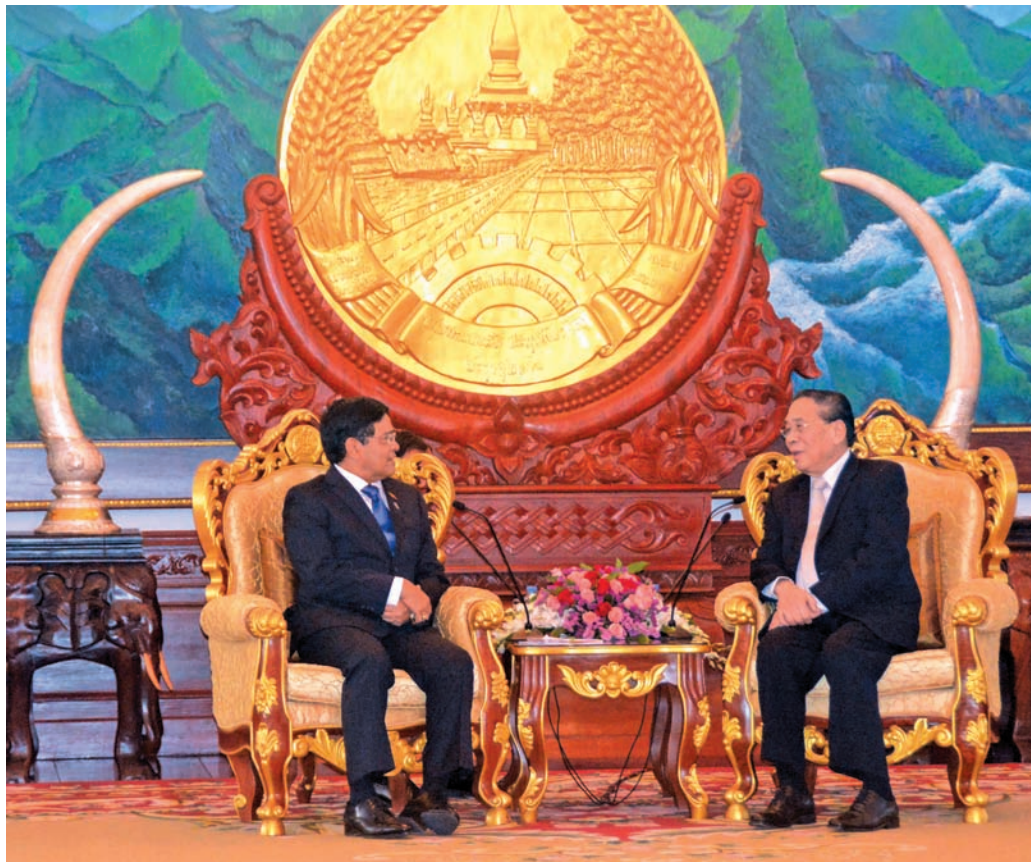
Vice President U Nyan Tun pays official visit to Laos

VIENTIANE, 30 March— At the invitation of Vice President of Laos Mr Bounnhang Vorachith and Prime Minister of Cambodia Mr Samdech Hun Sen, Myanmar delegation led by Vice President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint left for Laos and Cambodia on Monday morning.

The vice president and delegation were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe and wife, region ministers, the ambassador of Cambodia to Myanmar, the Charge de affaires of Laos to Myanmar and officials.

The vice president was accompanied by deputy ministers U Thant Kyaw, U Kyaw Kyaw Win, U Maw Thar Htwe, Daw Sandar Khin, Shan State Transportation Minister U Sai Naw Kham and officials.

The delegation led by the vice president arrived at Wattay International Airport in Vientiane, Laos,



Vice President

U Nyan Tun

holds talks with

President of

Lao People's

Democratic

Republic Mr

Choummaly

Sayasone.

MNA

in the afternoon and were welcomed by a minister at the president office of Laos, the vice mayor of Vientiane, the ambassador of Laos to Myanmar, the

Myanmar ambassador to Laos, the military attaché of Myanmar to Laos and officials at the embassy.

Then, the delegation proceeded to the Presiden-

tial Palace of Laos, where they were greeted by Vice President Mr Bounnhang Vorachith.

Afterwards, the vice president and the delega-

tion met with President of Laos Choummaly Sayasone and discussed promotion of friendly relations between the two countries, (See page 3)

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National ceasefire talks end with agreement on draft accord

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 30 March — Government negotiators and their counterparts representing ethnic armed groups have completed talks to finalize the draft of the national ceasefire accord, both sides confirmed Monday.

On the seventh day of

negotiations, the government's Union Peacemaking Work Committee and the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team, representing 16 armed ethnic groups, concluded the talks on the prospective peace accord without leaving any points unresolved, peace negotiators said at a press conference.

The single text for the

national ceasefire accord will be approved with the signing of a negotiation completion agreement between the two sides on Tuesday, they added.

From the UPWC side, it can be said that the government is ready to sign the national ceasefire accord following the completion of negotiations with the ethnic armed groups' ne-

gotiating team, said U Hla Maung Shwe, senior adviser at Myanmar Peace Centre.

The signing of the accord will follow an ethnic conference likely to be held next month, with a specific date yet to be arranged, said U Nai Hong Sar and Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sak-hong of the NCCT.

(See page 3)

The Union Peacemaking Work Committee and the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team conclude negotiations on making a single text for a national ceasefire accord between the government and ethnic armed groups on the seventh day of the seventh peace talks.

PHOTO: CREDIT TO MPC

Sanctions handicap Myanmar fishing industry's overseas market push

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 30 March — Myanmar's fishing industry is struggling to expand its share of overseas markets, including the European Union, due to difficulty accessing the financial support needed for vital infrastructure improvements.

"The private fishery sector has many challenges ranging from ice to fishing boats," U Myo Nyunt, Secretary of the Myanmar Fisheries Products Processors and Exporters Association, said at a workshop on market access and rules of origin for Myanmar under GSP schemes and FTAs. "So we need to prepare to overcome the challenges."

"For example, we need to upgrade our factories because foreign countries have questioned our fisheries' standards, but most factories are still struggling because they have not yet received loans from banks."

The Netherlands is assisting with online services, but its help is limited

by the financial constraints stemming from the United States' sanctions on Myanmar, he added.

The US sanctions, which have yet to be lifted, have been the biggest barrier to accessing banking services in foreign countries, U Myo Nyunt said.

Myanmar's fisheries exporters are facing many challenges to expanding their share of the European market, currently sending 5 per cent of their products to the EU and more than 50 per cent to China.

Currently, the fisheries sector is focusing on the breeding industry as fish resources in Myanmar's seas are declining.

According to a recent survey, Myanmar's fish stocks have dwindled to just 10 per cent of their levels of 30 years ago. In attempting to save the country's fish resources, the Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development Ministry (See page 9)



Union NPED minister pledges to take priority over additional budgets of eight ministries



Representatives of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw focus on additional budget of eight ministries.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw

Arid zone to get water under rural development plan



Deputy Minister Dr Zaw Min Aung.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March— Dry zone in central Myanmar will get water supply under rural development plan of Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development.

Replying to the query of U Thein Lwin, an MP of Chauk Township constituency, about possible means to ensure sufficient drink-



Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Aye.—MNA

ing water in the arid area, Deputy Minister for MLFRD U Khin Maung Aye said the ministry has drawn the plan up to 2015-2016 fiscal year for water supply.

Then, U Paik Linn, an MP of Paletwa Township constituency, asked any plan for university of distance education students in science majors to work laboratory experiments for



U Paik Linn, an MP of Paletwa Constituency.—MNA

seven or 14 consecutive days at the universities.

Dr Zaw Min Aung, Deputy Minister for Education, said, these students have to learn theory and then have to do practical at the weekend when other regular classes are closed, noting that this schedule is more appropriate than one or two consecutive weeks.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March— Pyidaungsu Hluttaw started its 35th day of 12th regular session on Monday with inviting any objection of representatives to President's assignment of eight members for Union Election Commission.

Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw pledged the ministry will take priority over the additionally proposed budgets by eight government ministries

under Appendix 1 (A) for 2015-2016 fiscal year.

He also said the ministry will allot additional budgets to implement guarantees, pledges and undertakings of the ministries in accordance with the list of priorities.

Dr Kan Zaw then requested Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for the approval of the whole National Planning Bill for 2015-2016 fiscal year. The NPED ministry submitted the bill to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on January 19, 2015, followed by the remarks of Joint-Bill

Committee to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on February 19.

It was then discussed by 29 representatives of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on February 26 and 27 this year, and respective ministries discussed the bill on March 5 and 6. Each paragraphs of the bill was discussed on March 9.

The bicameral assembly then approved regular expenditures mentioned in 2015 Union Budget submitted by MPs of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Zaw Myint Pe and Dr Myat Nyana Soe.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw

Sports federations not to practise pro system except football, Futsal, traditional boxing



Deputy Minister U Aung Than Oo. MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March—Defence Services personnel representative Major Aung Ko Min asked about the plans for practising the pro sport system in football, volleyball, Futsal, Sepak Takraw, Chinlone, boxing, Myanmar traditional boxing, basketball, hockey, badminton, tennis and table tennis events in Myanmar at the 36th day



U Nu of Yangon Region Constituency No. 10.—MNA

session of Amyotha Hluttaw on Monday.

Deputy Minister for Sports U Zaw Win explained that Ministry of Sports has transformed amateur to professional system in football, Futsal and traditional boxing events. Sports federations have no plan to change competition system of their sports events to professional one.

U Kham Swin Mong of Chin State constituency No 5 asked whether there is a plan to install a 66-KV power line and build a sub-power station in Tiddim. Deputy Minister for Electric Power U Aung Than Oo replied that a 230 KV Gangaw-Kalay power line is being installed as of 2014-15 fiscal year while sub-power stations are under construction in Falam and Kalay. Upon completion, the 230KV Kalay sub-power station will sup-



Defence Services personnel representative Major Aung Ko Min.—MNA

ply electricity to Tiddim through a 66KV power line in 2016.

U Nu of Yangon Region Constituency No 10 asked about supply of electrical equipment to Ward 3 in Pale Myothit in Mingaladon Township. The deputy minister said that depending on the financial allotment of the government, the ministry could not carry out installation of 1.05 miles long power line, 11KV overhead power line and a 400-volt power line and construction of a 315KVA transformer. If the government allots the fund in 2015-16 FY, the ministry will facilitate the ward with power lines and transformer.

The Hluttaw invited nomination to discuss the inland water vessel bill, healthcare bill for control of population rate and the bill revoking the 1993 Development Affairs Committees Law (State Law and Order Restoration Council Law No 5/93) sent by the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments.

Queen Maxima of the Netherlands arrives in Myanmar

YANGON, 30 March— At the invitation of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, a delegation led by Queen Maxima of the Netherlands, UN Secretary-General's Special Advocate for Inclusive Finance for Development arrived at Yangon International Airport on Monday morning.

The queen was welcomed by Yangon Region Minister for Finance Daw San San Nwe, the ambassador of the Netherlands embassy and officials.

MNA



Queen Maxima of the Netherlands being welcomed at Yangon International Airport by officials.—MNA

MNA

NATIONAL



Vice President U Nyan Tun greets Vice President of Lao People's Democratic Republic Mr Bounnhang Vorachith.—MNA

Vice President U Nyan Tun pays . . .

(from page 1)
cooperation with regional and international organizations, promotion of trade, cooperation in agriculture, tourism, culture and sports and information and communication technology.

The vice president and the delegation also met

with Laotian vice president and discussed cooperation between the two countries.

Then, the vice president and party met with Prime Minister of Laos Thongsing Thammavong and discussed promotion of friendly relations and cooperation in combat against narcotic drugs in the border

regions of the two countries.

The delegation led by the vice president and wife visited Ammalin Silk Handicraft Museum and Song Mue Nang Handicraft Museum.

In the evening, the vice president and delegation attended the dinner hosted by the Laotian vice president.

MNA

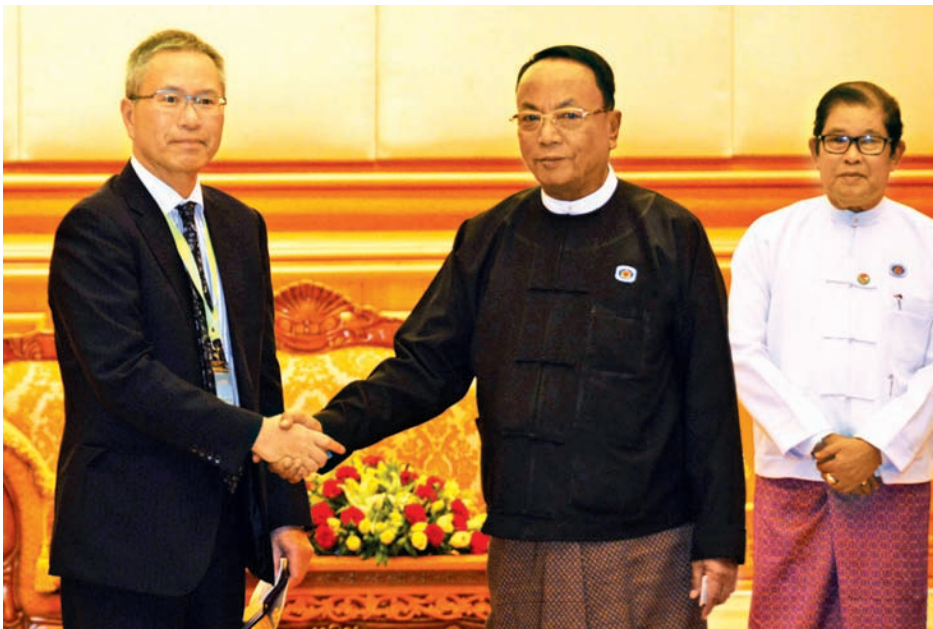
Amyotha Hluttaw speaker meets MD of KEIO Corporation of Japan

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March — Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) U Khin Aung Myint received a delegation led by Managing Director Mr Mamoru Yamamoto

to of KEIO Corporation of Japan at the hall of the Amyotha Hluttaw, here, on Monday.

Also present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha

Hluttaw and Chairman of the Hluttaw Rights Committee U Mya Nyein, members of the Hluttaw committees and officials of the Amyotha Hluttaw office.—MNA



Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint cordially greets Managing Director Mr Mamoru Yamamoto of KEIO Corporation of Japan.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw committees discuss national education bill



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann speaking at coordination meeting on national education bill.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March — Committees of Pyithu Hluttaw held a coordination meeting on national education bill at the building of Lower House on Monday.

At the meeting, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann urged members of parliament to create laws which can actu-

ally benefit the country and people.

He also said that repercussions of protest against National Education Law intensified after holding four-party talks on solving this problem, and disputes have not totally dissolved until now.

Dr Chan Nyein, Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw

Education Promotion Committee, and U T Khun Myat, Chairman of Bill Committee, discussed the amendment process of the bill.

The meeting was attended by chairmen, secretaries and members of commissions of Pyithu Hluttaw.

MNA

Union Information Minister explains plans of ministries to release information

NAY PYI TAW, 30 March — A coordination meeting on release of information took place at the Ministry of Information, here, on Monday.

Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut explained arrangements for the President office and ministries to release information.

Director U Zaw Htay of the President Office explained release of information. The Union Minister replied to queries raised by media persons.—MNA

National ceasefire talks

(from page 1)

We can say the NCCT's commitment to finalizing the draft represents 95 percent completion, but it is required to hold the ethnic summit for reaching 100 percent, U Nai Hong Sar added.

The shared goal throughout the series of talks, which faced many

obstacles, is to reach a national ceasefire deal which is the first stage of the political dialogue roadmap, NCCT peace negotiators said at the press conference, expressing the willingness of all ethnic armed groups to sign the truce deal.

The two sides will clarify all points in the

accord before inking the negotiation completion agreement, they said.

GNLM

Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut highlights release of information by ministries concerned.

MNA

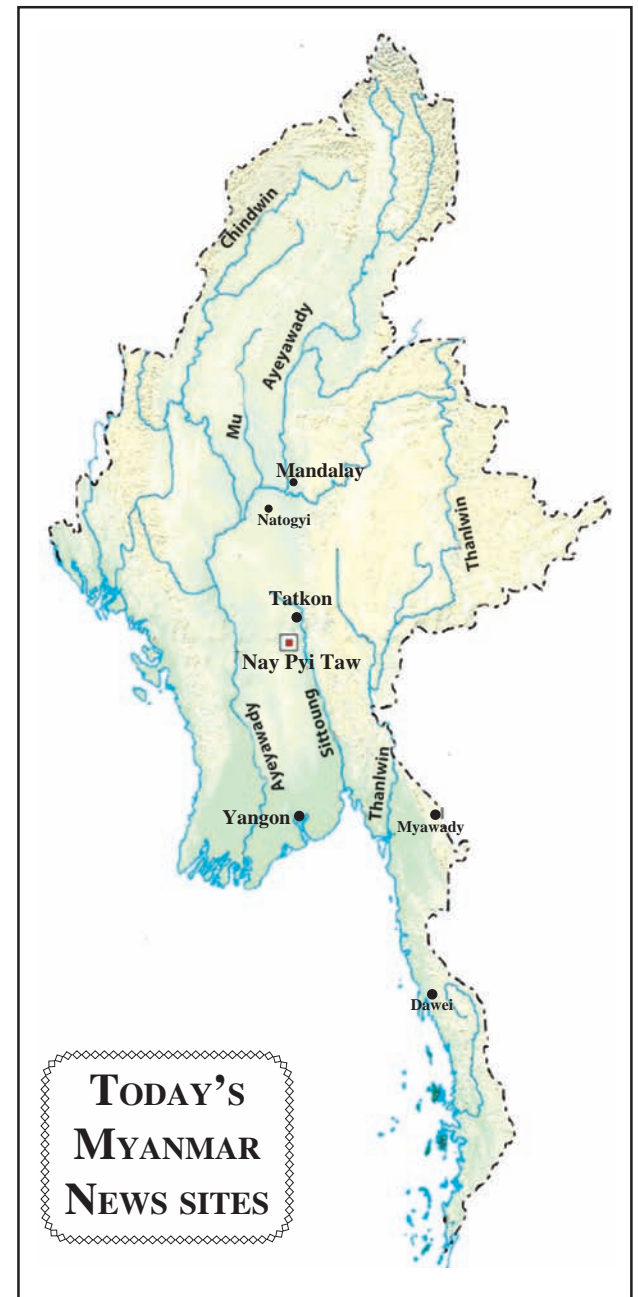


Experts share knowledge of liver disease prevention, treatment



MANDALAY, 30 March — Specialists gave talks on liver disease at Yadanabon Hall of the Myanmar Medical Association in Mandalay on 29 March. Regional Director Mr. Thomas Wong of Unico Overseas Development Limited and Director Dr

Aung Khaing Than of Fortune International Limited extended greetings. Professor Dr Than Sit gave a lecture on symptoms of liver disease while Prof Dr Win Naing of Yangon General Hospital explained prevention and treatment. *Tin Maung (Mandalay)*



Traffic light eases traffic congestion in Mingaladon



YANGON, 30 March — Yangon City Development Committee installed lights at the junction of Yangon-Pyay Road and Yangon-Bago Road in Mingaladon Township on 25 March to improve the flow of vehicles at the junction.

Before installation of the lights by the Engineering Department (Road and Bridge) of YCDC, many traffic police were assigned to the junction to reduce congestion and ensure safety.

Khin Zaw (Mingala)

Display of cultural artefacts draws visitors to museum

DAWEI, 30 March — The collection of Dawei's Cultural Museum includes cultural and historical artefacts that reflect the heritage of Taninthayi Region. Journalists Association, U Ba Myint, spoke about some of the pieces entrusted to the museum.

Well-wishers donated ancient earthen pipes, small boats made in the Salon ethnic style, ceramic wares, lacquer wares, bronze wares and stone materials. Region ministers U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo and U Tin Soe accepted the donations and spoke on the occasion. *Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)*

Specialists from Suksawat Hospital in Thailand give health care services free of charge to more than 250 monks, nuns and laypersons at Nanda Aungmyay monastery on Shwegondine Road in Bahan Township on 28 and 29 March. MAUNG MAUNG THANT (KYEMON)



Bullock-cart race reflects Myanmar's traditional culture



MANDALAY, 30 March—The men's open football tournament, Sepak Takraw tournament and bullock-card race in the Taungthaman Sports Festival kicked off at the sports ground in Bonoh Village in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region, on 29 March.

Mandalay Region Hluttaw MP U Moe Naing Kyaw, President of Myanmar Chinlone and Sepak Takraw Federations U Soe Naing and officials formally launched the festival. *Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

Deputy Director of Sports and Physical Education Department U Wai Zin gave a speech outlining the background of the three-day event.

Departmental officials and spectators watched the bullock-cart race and Sepak Takraw events.

A total of 11 teams participated in Sepak Takraw, 20 teams in football, while the bullock-cart races involved 50 pairs of bulls.

LOCAL NEWS

Villagers undergo farm machinery training



DAWEI, 30 March — The Dawei District Agricultural Mechanization Department conducted a basic agricultural machinery operation course at Basic Education Primary School in Thayagon Village-tract in Launglon Township, Taninthayi Region, on 28 March.

Head of Region AMD

U Aung Htwe explained the purpose of the course while head of District AMD U Aung Win spoke about the advantages of moving from manual to mechanized farming.

Altogether 30 villagers will practise driving power-tillers and tractors during the one-week course.

Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)

NATOGYI, 30 March — The Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development is overseeing the construction of two three-storey buildings for government staff beside Myingyan-Mandalay Road in Ward 2, Natogyi, Mandalay Region, with work having reached the halfway stage.

The department commissioned the Arnt Min and Myintmo Nay La construction companies to build the housing, an engineer said.

Mandalay Region Minister for Transport U Kyaw Hsan and officials of the department inspected the progress of construction.

The construction companies aim to complete all buildings within five months.

Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)

Housing project for govt workers reaches halfway stage



Trade Fair attracts local residents in Tatkon Tsp



TATKON, 30 March — Temporary shops have been built in the compound of Tatkon Township Cooperative Syndicate to hold the trade fair and market festival organized by Golden Lion Company from 28 March

to 2 April. On Saturday morning, Township Administrator U Kan Saw Hlaing and the staff officer of Township Cooperative Department cut the ribbon to open the trade fair.

An official of Golden

Lion Company said that the company gathered shopkeepers and vendors to sell products at a same place for sales of textile, cosmetics, kitchen products and others.

Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)

Authorities provide aid to storm victims in Tatkon Tsp

TATKON, 30 March — Violent storms damaged homes and schools in Thaphanchaung, Okshikon, Kanni and Phetthantaung villages in Tatkon Township on 25 March.

Members of the Township Natural Disaster Preparedness Commit-

tee, local authorities and well-wishers donated 878 corrugated iron sheets to storm victims in Thaphanchaung village and 95 sheets in Lepazin village, worth some K1.85 million in total.

Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)



Summer sports courses nurture young talent

DAWEI, 30 March — Summer sports courses jointly conducted by the Taninthayi Region Sports and Physical Education Department and Women's Affairs Organization concluded at the gymnasium in Dawei on 28 March, with the aim of nurturing sporting ability among local youths.

After delivering a speech, Region Minister for Forestry and Mines U Tin Soe presented certificates to the trainees.

The trainees demonstrated their skills in Myanmar martial arts, Karate,

Wushu and judo.

A total of 280 trainees also including aerobics,

football, Sepak Takraw, basketball, volleyball and mini tennis.

Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)



Myanmar, Thai entrepreneurs showcase products

MYAWADY, 30 March — A three-day show of Myanmar and Thai products opened at the sports ground

in the Kayin State border town of Myawady on 29 March.

Myawady Town-

ship administrator U Khin Maung Zaw said the show would further strengthen bilateral relations between Myanmar and Thailand, lead to the exchange of products in the market and promote tourism industry between the two countries, while also creating job opportunities.

The administrator of Tak Province extended greetings. More than 120 booths from Tak, Udon Thani and Nakhon Sawan districts from Thailand have been selling handicrafts, personal goods and foodstuffs to visitors, with dancers also giving performances.

Htein Lin Aung (IPRD)

Israel Agritech 2015 (28 -30 April, 2015, Tel Aviv, Israel)



TEL AVIV, 30 March — The upcoming “Agritech 2015 – the 19th International Agricultural Exhibition and Conference” will take place in Tel-Aviv, Israel, between 28th – 30th April 2015.

This exhibition is one of the world’s most

important exhibitions in the field of agricultural technologies and it is a good opportunity to be exposed to the latest innovation, equipment and agrotechnology as well as to participate in professional seminars and tour agricultural sites in Israel.

This year’s programme will also comprise the International Conference on Facing Challenges in Post-harvest Food Losses.

Visitors and Delegations from foreign countries will have an opportunity to meet Israeli companies within this



filed. For more information visit the exhibition website: www.agritech.org.il (or) contact to the Embassy of Israel (Tel: 515115).

GNLM

US, China top officials meet before AIIB membership deadline

BEIJING, 30 March — US Treasury Secretary Jacob Lew on Monday held talks with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, at a time when an increasing number of countries are rushing to be part of a new Beijing-led infrastructure bank despite Washington’s opposition.

China has set Tuesday as the deadline to become founding members of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, seen as a broad development to undercut US global influence and a potential rival to Washington-dominated existing institutions such as the World Bank.

The meeting in Beijing’s Great Hall of the People was also attended

by Chinese Finance Minister Lou Jiwei, who has been playing a major role in making arrangements for the establishment of the new institution.

Lew’s talks with them were also intended to prepare for the next round of the bilateral Strategic and Economic Dialogue in June and Chinese President Xi Jinping’s state visit to the United States in September.

“We have a large stake in each other’s success,” Lew told the Chinese premier at the outset of the meeting. In response, Li said Xi’s forthcoming visit will be “conducive to giving a strong boost to the development of China-US relations.”

The AIIB will help finance construction of roads, ports, railways and other infrastructure projects in Asia. It will be launched by this year’s end with an initial capital of around \$50 billion, with China planning to be the biggest stakeholder.

When there was a ceremony about the bank last October in Beijing, only about 20 countries, mostly developing countries in Asia, were recognized as its founding members.

But the number has doubled since then and the trend has completely changed after Britain announced in mid-March that it would join the AIIB, in defiance of US calls on its allies to stay out of the Chi-

nese-led institution.

The United States has expressed worries as to whether the new bank can have high standards of governance and transparency as the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

However, since the British announcement, France, Germany, Italy, as well as Australia and South Korea, both of which are close US allies in the Asia-Pacific region, have decided to follow suit along with more than a dozen other countries.

Japan is an exception. It has shared the stance with the United States, casting doubt about the AIIB’s ability to have good governance and strict standards for lending.—*Kyodo News*

Abe asks Park to arrange trilateral summit with China

Tokyo, 30 March — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Monday he had spoken with South Korean President Park Geun Hye in Singapore and requested that South Korea arrange a trilateral summit with China at an early date.

Addressing the House of Representatives Budget Committee, Abe said that in his brief conversation with Park during a trip to attend the state funeral of former Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, he praised her leadership in convening a meeting in Seoul on 21 March of the foreign ministers of Japan, China and South Korea.

Abe said he asked that South Korea, which currently holds the rotating chair of the trilateral framework, arrange a summit, saying he “expects the Japan-China-South Korea

(foreign ministerial) meeting to be elevated to a leaders’ level.”

It was the first confirmed contact between Abe and Park since they chatted after a working dinner at the Group of 20 summit in November in Australia.

The contact came amid continuing bad bilateral ties over the issue of “comfort women” recruited to work in wartime brothels for the Japanese military, many of whom were taken from the Korean Peninsula that was under Japan’s colonial rule from 1910 to 1945.

On Sunday, South Korea’s *Yonhap News Agency* reported the Park-Abe talks, saying Park proposed that South Korea, China and Japan take necessary steps toward holding a trilateral summit, which has not been held for about three years.—*Kyodo News*

Minister suspends Okinawa’s order to halt US base work



People tussle with police officers on 30 March, 2015, in front of the gate of the US Marine Corps’ Camp Schwab in Nago, Okinawa Prefecture, while protesting against the Japanese government’s decision to suspend an instruction by the Okinawa governor for a local defense bureau to halt work on the planned relocation of a US military base within the island prefecture.

KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 30 March — The fisheries minister Yoshimasa Hayashi said on Monday he has suspended an instruction by the Okinawa governor for a local defence bureau to halt work on the planned relocation of a US military base within the island prefecture.

The decision, which will enable the Okinawa Defence Bureau to contin-

ue its work, came after the arm of the Defence Ministry filed a complaint seeking to invalidate Gov Takeshi Onaga’s instruction concerning the bureau’s work off the Henoko coastal area in Nago. The area is the relocation site of the US Marine Corps Futenma Air Station, located in the densely populated city of Ginowan, also in Okinawa.

Kyodo News



A pilot from the Philippine Air Force (PAF) descends from a newly-acquired C-295 Medium Lift Fixed-Wing Aircraft at Villamor Air Base in Pasay City, the Philippines on 30 March, 2015. The Philippines bought three C-295 aircrafts from Spain, each one can carry 71 passengers, 50 paratroopers, or up to 20,000 lbs of cargo.

XINHUA

South Korea picks KAI, with Lockheed, for 5 billion pounds fighter jet development

SEOUL, 30 March — South Korea chose on Monday Korea Aerospace Industries Ltd (047810.KS), which expects to partner Lockheed Martin Corp (LMT.N), to develop a mid-level fighter jet that will cost around 8.7 trillion won (5 billion pounds).

The Defence Acquisition Programme Administration (DAPA) also confirmed its decision to upgrade South Korea's Patriot missile system, with Raytheon Co (RTN.N) chosen to upgrade the launch systems. PAC-3 missiles will be bought from the United States.

South Korea has been trying to bolster its arsenal in the face of a missile threat from North Korea.

"Once the Patriot upgrades are completed, the warheads of North Korean ballistic missiles can be struck directly, and minimising damage to the ground," DAPA said in a statement.

Reclusive North Korea sporadically test fires missiles on the Korean peninsula, most recently in protest against annual US-South Korean military exercises.

The KF-X mid-level fighter jet programme will aim to develop jets to replace ageing F-4 and F-5 fighters by 2025, as well as adding air defence for



Officials stand at Korean aircraft industry Korea Aerospace Industries (KAI) booth at the Baghdad International Fair for Defence and Security on 1 March, 2014.

REUTERS

its sole foreign partner, Indonesia, which is paying a fifth of the development cost.

KAI beat out Korean Air Lines (003490.KS), which had partnered with Airbus (AIR.PA).

The PAC-3 missiles will be built by Lockheed Martin. The total upgrade is expected to cost about 1.3 trillion won (\$1.18 billion), two people with knowledge of the matter said.

Both declined to be identified because the details of the projects are confidential.

With South Korea's arms procurement budget

increasingly constrained, some analysts have questioned the viability of the fighter jet project. A state-run South Korean think tank estimated the KF-X programme would need an additional 10 trillion won for production.

Indonesia agreed last year to pay 20 percent of the development costs.

DAPA's estimated budget requirement for arms procurement in 2016-2020 was 96 trillion won, up from 72 trillion won DAPA estimated for 2015-2019, *Yonhap* reported this month.

The budget has al-

ready been hit by high-profile purchases such as the 40 Lockheed Martin F-35 fighter jets for 7.34 trillion won finalised last year, and four in-flight refuelling tankers for about 1.4 trillion won under negotiation.

DAPA declined to comment on the cost of the projects, or on Lockheed's involvement.

Lockheed Martin said it was committed to supporting the KF-X programme but did not have any immediate comment on the Patriot upgrade. Raytheon could not be reached for immediate comment.

Reuters

New security system launched at Narita Int'l Airport near Tokyo

CHIBA, (Japan), 30 March — The operator of Narita International Airport outside Tokyo on Monday launched a new security system featuring surveillance cameras able to recognize faces and record vehicle license plates to replace the system of manually checking visitor identification.

Narita International Airport Corp, or NAA, had checked the ID of users since its opening in 1978 due in part to a history of violent protests against its construction, with security officers deployed at six points such as railway stations and roads around the airport in recent years.

The new system involves some 190 cameras installed at terminal buildings and train stations to monitor users as well as some 140 cameras on roads and in parking lots that can record vehicle license plate numbers.

Bomb-sniffing dogs have also been added to tighten patrols in and around the airport.

NAA had studied a revision of the security system amid criticism that the old method, which was not used at any other Japanese airport, was an inconvenience.

The airport operator

also marked the completion of a new terminal building for low-cost carriers on Monday with a ceremony attended by about 390 people including Chiba Gov Kensaku Morita and NAA President Makoto Natsume. Located in the city of Narita, Chiba Prefecture, Narita airport is Japan's biggest international airport with two runways that are 4,000 metres and 2,500 metres long.

Kyodo News



Combination photo taken on 30 March, 2015, shows the No 2 gate at Narita International Airport near Tokyo. The upper photo shows the crowded gate before a new security system was introduced at noon, while the lower photo indicates smooth traffic after its introduction.

KYODO NEWS

Tsunami threat passes after M7.5 quake off Papua New Guinea

SYDNEY, 30 March — A tsunami threat has passed after an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.5 struck off Papua New Guinea on Monday, according to official monitors. The epicentre of the quake, which struck around 9:50 am local time, was located 55 kilometres southeast of Kokopo on the main island of New Britain, according to the US Geological Survey. The Hawaii-based Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre, which initially warned of tsunami waves hitting some coastal areas of Papua New Guinea, later said the tsunami threat had largely passed.

Authorities in Papua New Guinea told Australian media that there were no reports of major damage.

According to the Japanese Embassy in Papua New Guinea, there are some 30 Japanese nationals on New Britain and other parts. Among them, around a dozen people connected with the Japan International Cooperation Agency and all employees of Japanese businesses were confirmed safe, it said.—*Kyodo News*

Rhino enters Nepalese town, kills one, injures four

KATHMANDU, 30 March — A one-horned rhino that strayed from a protected area entered a busy marketplace in central Nepal on Monday, where it killed one woman and injured four other people, police said.

The rhino travelled some 15 kilometres from the famed Chitwan National Park to Hetauda town, located about 50 kilometres southwest of the capital Kathmandu.

In Hetauda, it attacked five people, of whom a 61-year-old woman died from her injuries, Deputy

Superintendent of Police Sishu Sharma told *Kyodo News* by phone from the town.

"The rhino first attacked and injured three people in the town before it entered Hetauda Hospital where it attacked and injured two more people," Sharma said.

The rhino is now resting just outside the hospital compound, according to Sharma, who said the authorities are waiting for the arrival of three elephants that will be used to guide the animal back to the national park.

One-horned rhinos are an endangered species. Nepal's protected areas are home to 534 of them.

Nepal achieved zero poaching in 2011 and 2013, leading to an increase in the number of rhinos and tigers. During a 13-nation conference in Kathmandu last month that called for zero poaching and zero demand for wildlife parts, Nepalese conservationists raised concerns that communities living around protected areas may have become vulnerable with the rise in the wildlife population.—*Kyodo News*

US, S Korea conduct joint drill



Photo taken on 30 March, 2015, shows a US-South Korea joint drill conducted around the southeastern South Korean city of Pohang. The two countries opened part of their landing drill to the media.—REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 31 March, 2015

Political dialogues are continuation of war by other means

By Myint Win Thein

War is the continuation of politics by other means, according to Carl von Clausewitz, a Prussian general and renowned military theorist. It can therefore be said that armed conflicts break out between par-

ties when political problems cannot be solved through negotiations.

However, when armed conflicts cannot solve the political problems in the long run, they put innocent people in jeopardy and hurt the development of a country as a whole. As a result, people have to turn again to the negotiation table to solve the political problems.

It is therefore important to solve the political issues completely when the opportunity for negotiation can be grasped. When opposing sides come to the negotiating table in search of an agreement, all stakeholders are required to make certain compromises, in the interests of the people.

Otherwise, the continuation of politics will

become war again, and people will suffer social woes in the ongoing cycle. Political dialogues may be the continuation of war by other means, but they affect the people of a country positively. They can pave the way for sustainable peace for a country and put it on a development path.

Write for us

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

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

DETERMINATION

By Kyi Mun

Determination means (1) The quality that makes you to continue trying to do something even when this is difficult. Fierce/ grim/ dogged determination. *He fought the illness with courage and determination. They have survived by sheer determination.* (2) The process of deciding something officially. (3) The act of finding out or calculating something.

Please understand DETERMINATION as follows:

D	<i>for</i>	Decision
E	<i>for</i>	Endurance
T	<i>for</i>	Tough-mindedness
E	<i>for</i>	Earnestness
R	<i>for</i>	Resilience
M	<i>for</i>	Mindfulness
I	<i>for</i>	Integrity
N	<i>for</i>	Nerves of Steel
A	<i>for</i>	Altruism
T	<i>for</i>	Thoughts of Accentuating the Positive
I	<i>for</i>	Indomitable Spirit

Critical Thinking

U Hla Maung

A "critic" is a person who reviews a situation, book, painting, play ("zat"), film, or whatever, in a thorough and careful way, and as objectively and dispassionately as possible, without bias or prejudice. "Criticism" implies finding faults, but a "critic" is not a person who aims to merely "criticise". A "critic" is someone who points out both the good points and the bad, and the flaws and merits of whatever is under review.

With this in mind, it becomes easier to understand what is meant by "critical thinking". Critical thinking is thinking that is thorough and careful. Note that thinking can be "thorough" only when it is based on a wide or deep knowledge of a subject, and not based on rumour, assumption and speculation. If thinking is based on limited knowledge and experience, it will be flawed because it will not be thorough and will not have considered other more correct and valid conclusions.

It is thinking that is logical and systematic, and without contradictions, so that it can be understood, appreciated and accepted. Such thinking is also possible only if a person is without anger or hatred, and unswayed by personal frustrations.

However, what makes "critical thinking" so difficult is that people everywhere are comfortable with long-held beliefs and assumptions. Many of these beliefs and assumptions have been passed down from parents to children. They become part of cherished traditions, which are often mixtures of truths, half-truths, misperceptions and superstitions. How many of us, for example, think of 13 as an unlucky number, or black as a colour of mourning. And in

O *for* **Outlasting Purpose**
N *for* **Now or Never**
DECISION

Decision means making up your mind in terms of: Yes or No; Pros & Cons; To Be or Not to Be; To Do or Not to Do; To Have or Not to Have. Making a decision is in fact choosing an option, making a choice, following a certain way instead of other ways. For example, you can decide or make up your mind whether to be:

- Passive or Active
- Static or Dynamic
- Status quo or Change
- Reactive or Proactive
- Sink or Swim

Determination is ability to stick to a decision. It is steadfastness and strength of mind.

ENDURANCE

A person of determination is a person who has endurance of mind, enduring patience and enduring perseverance. It is said that: "The wisdom of life is to endure what we must, and to change what we can". It is also said that "what can't be cured must be endured". Since the inevitable duty of living, moving and having our being is to fight, to suffer and to love, we have got to have lots of endurance and bulldog determination to make the most of our lives.

Myanmar, most parents continue to name their children according to the day of birth. Many of the reasons for our beliefs and traditions are vague and unclear.

And naturally, most of us are biased towards our own country, our own race, our own religion, our own likes and dislikes. We become upset when long-held beliefs are questioned. We defend our "views" and "opinions" vigorously. We are pushed by our fears and our insecurities into making decisions. And while we may be quick to find fault with others, we do not like to admit that we do not know enough, or that we were wrong even after we realize it.

It takes effort to think clearly, honesty to see our own bias and prejudices, and courage to admit our errors and our mistakes. But all this is necessary if we are to learn and grow in maturity and wisdom as we age.

Critical thinking cannot be developed overnight, or learned from books. We must make the effort to be on our guard continuously against jumping to conclusions, against making decisions on limited information, against bias and prejudice, against making decisions because of personal fears and or personal likes, against making decisions guided by hate, fear or anger. We must learn to consider a subject or situation from all possible angles and from others' points of view, because not all situations can be judged simply as either good or bad. Real life is often complicated, and there may be no clear cut right decisions or solutions. It nevertheless remains essential for all of us to think critically and learn to make decisions for the common good, and sometimes agree to disagree while remaining united and at peace with one another. The decisions we make will impact not only our lives and our families, but also our communities.

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

TOUGH-MINDEDNESS

Life is not a bad of roses. Living and moving and having our being is not going to a picnic, or not doing embroidery. Life is a fight, a struggle and a tug-of-war; the test of a person is the fight he/she makes and the grit that he/she daily shows. In pursuing an active and useful life, we have got to: "Be resolute, fear no sacrifice and surmount all difficulties to win victory." We should nurture a FIRE in our heart, FIRE being:

- F *for* Fearlessness
- I *for* Iron Mind
- R *for* Resilience
- E *for* Endurance

EARNESTNESS

A determined mind is an earnest mind. A person of determination is always earnest in mind to earn what he/she thinks he/she deserves. An earnest person is a doer, creator, fighter and giver. An earnest person lives to learn, to love, to laugh and to let go. An earnest mind is always mindful to see through the ultimate meaning of life.

RESILIENCE

Life is not a linear progression. Life has many dimensions. Life has depth, breadth and width. So also, life has pleasure vs. pain, gain vs. loss, fame vs. blame, praise vs. persecution. Life is not all breeze. It is said that there are Eight Winds, a multitude of vicissitudes in human life. So, it is imperative to be strong, determined and resilient in the journey of life.

MINDFULNESS

A person of determination usually has mindfulness to be careful, heedful and thoughtful to be consistent in the pursuit of his/her calling. Such a determined person is always mindful to resolutely avoid the following factors of destruction of a good name or a good brand:

- Arrogance
- Greed
- Complacency
- Inconsistency
- Myopia
- Apathy
- Inertia
- Ignorance

INTEGRITY

A person of iron determination is also a person of integrity. Integrity is the glue that binds the determination and purpose together. Integrity means honesty, honour and harmony. A determined person who is really faithful to life and living is also faithful to PEOPLE, PLANET AND PEACE.

NERVES OF STEEL

A determined mind knows no giving in. A person of strong determination has nerves of steel. Such a person usually has a bulldog determination of purpose. Such a person holds a big stake in his/her determination. Such a person of tremendous determination usually has FIVE HIGHS -

- HIGH CHARACTER
- HIGH COMPETENCE
- HIGH COMMITMENT
- HIGH COURAGE
- HIGH CARING

(See page 9)

NATIONAL

MANDALAY, 30 March — Solar Impulse 2, the first aircraft of a solar-powered round-the-world flight, left from Mandalay for Chongqing, China, at 3:30 am local time on March 30 after a 12-day visit in the Myanmar ancient capital.

Inappropriate weather conditions made the aircraft's departure delayed, according to a press statement from Masdar, the departure and arrival host partner of the first Round-The-World Solar Flight.

The aircraft departed from Abu Dhabi on March 9th for Muscat, Oman, and departed the following day. It arrived in Ahmedabad, India on March 10th. Following a brief stop in Varanasi, India, Solar Impulse took off for Mandalay, Myanmar on March 19th with Chairman Bertrand Piccard in the cockpit.

Following its stop in Chongqing, Solar Impulse will continue its journey eastward, landing in

Nanjing, China, prior to crossing the Pacific Ocean via Hawaii. Si2 will then fly across the continental United States, stopping in three locations, including Phoenix and New York City at JFK International Airport. A location in the Midwest will be decided dependent on weather conditions. After crossing the Atlantic, the journey's final legs include a stop-over in Southern Europe or North Africa before arriving back in its host city, Abu Dhabi.

Before leaving Mandalay International Airport, the two pilots were seen off by U Ye Myint, chief minister of Mandalay region and local authorities.

The single-seater aircraft spent more than a week waiting in Mandalay for a sound weather conditions. The aircraft, which has more than 17,000 solar cells built into its wings,



Local authorities see off Solar Impulse-2 at Mandalay International Airport.—MNA

Sanctions handicap Myanmar . . .

(from page 1)
will set a closed season and closed area for fishing in

the 2014-2015 fishing season, according to Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and



With lack of proper capital, Myanmar fisheries industry still has not yet upgraded its aquaculture facilities to properly penetrate the market though it has preferential market access from the European Union.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

igation attempt.

It has to fly at an altitude of 28,000 feet to

Rural Development.

Meanwhile, many fish breeders who have been under debt burden since Cyclone Nargis destroyed their

be able to absorb sun in the daytime and at 5000 feet above sea-level

businesses in 2008 have yet to recover from the huge financial hit.

To overcome their difficulties, Myanmar's fish breeders need more financial assistance, according to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation. Developing an efficient fish breeding method and implementing a systematic approach to fishing from the sea and rivers are the two biggest challenges for the country's fishing industry, said U Win Kyaing, Secretary of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation during a recent meeting of industry representatives in Yangon.

The Myanmar Fisheries Federation held a meeting in Yangon recently to gather information about the fisheries industry in all parts of the country as it attempts to create a strategy for the development of the sector.

GNLM

of the oceans.

Mandalay will mark the completion of the fifth leg of Solar Impulse's five-month 35,000 km mission. It will stay in China for a month. After an expect-

ed one-day pit stop in Chongqing, the team will proceed to Nanjing – the sixth leg of their historic journey without using fuel energy for the aircraft built in Switzerland.—MNA

MNA to change flight schedules from Yangon to other destinations

YANGON, 30 March — Myanmar National Airlines will change its flight schedules from Yangon to other destinations as of 1 April.

According to the new schedules, MNA will run daily flights from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw, six days a week to Mandalay, three days to Myitkyina, five days to NyaungU, daily to Sittway, four days to Kyaukpyu, daily to Thandwe, two days to An, daily to Heho, three days to Tachilek, four days to

Kengtung, one day to Lashio, two days to Monghsat, daily to Myeik and Kawthoung, three days each to Loikaw and Bokpyin, daily to Dawei and one day to Mawlamyine.

All flights will be transported by E-190 Embraer jet and ATR-72 aircrafts.

Passengers may contact travel center of the MNA on 01-377840~3, 01-378604, 01-378606~8 and 01-373828 and visit www.flymna.com for further information.—GNLM

DETERMINATION

(from page 8)

ALTRUISM

A person of great determination is usually a more or less selfless person. Such a character is never awfully selfish and self-serving. Such a person is not egoistic, self-centered and dogmatic. An altruistic person is never a fanatic. Such a person is reasonable, flexible, prudent, liberal and generous. He/she has a positive mental attitude and a constructive mind. He/she follows the principle of: "one for all and all for one".

THOUGHTS OF ACCENTUATING THE POSITIVE

A person of high determination usually has a positive turn of mind. Such a person never has a HALF-EMPTY ATTITUDE OF MIND; he/she has a definite HALF-FULL

ATTITUDE OF MIND. Such a person with a positive mindset is:

- Not a PESSIMIST who groans and moans about the fierce wind;
- Not a OPTIMIST who prays and hopes for a quiet wind; but
- Is a REALIST who adjusts the sails.

INDOMITABLE SPIRIT

A person of rock-like determination always has an indomitable spirit. Such a person never cracks under pressure. He/she is not a quitter. They are resolutely determined to be a winner. A person of passionate determination is a fearless fighter. Such a person is tremendously determined: "To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield," as Poet Tennyson has said.

OUT-LASTING PURPOSE

A person of iron determination has a strong and sound purpose that outlasts all obstacles and difficulties. A really determined mind has a long lasting purpose that survives and triumphs over all obstructions and hindrances. A truly determined spirit is like a lighthouse that shines even in the darkest moment of the night.

NOW OR NEVER

Do it now. Never procrastinate. Seize the moment. Seize the day. Opportunity never comes twice.

CONCLUSION

A determined person usually has a dedicated purpose.

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

Sarkozy wins French local elections; far right makes limited gains

PARIS, 30 March — The far-right National Front made only limited gains in French local elections won by a wide margin on Sunday by ex-president Nicolas Sarkozy's conservatives and their centrist allies.

Sarkozy's UMP and its allies will take over two thirds of the 102 local "departements", exit polls showed, up from 41 now, in a boost for the former president, whose recent comeback at the helm of the UMP is challenged within the party.

"The French people have massively rejected the policies of (President) Francois Hollande and his government," he told party supporters. "The time for change is now."

Hollande's Socialist party was set to lose half of the 61 departements it held before the election, exit polls showed.

The anti-immigrant National Front (FN) has seen 62 of its candidates elected, Interior Ministry data showed with 96 percent of the 4,108 local council seats accounted for.

That is quite a jump from holding just one currently. But it's less than 2 percent of the total and the FN will have too few in any one of the 102 "departements" to control any of them, updated exit polls showed.

Marine Le Pen's FN is



Ex-president Nicolas Sarkozy

banking on building a base of locally elected officials to be better placed to contest national ballots. But the party, which had won one in four votes in the first round last week, is struggling to transform its growing popularity into winning constituencies.

Initial exit polls had shown the FN, might win two departements, but the party conceded it had failed to do so. It said however the fact that it had won many seats would help spread its ideas.

"In the second round we knew that the electoral system would allow the UMPS accomplices to share the pie among them," Le Pen's father and FN founder Jean-Marie Le Pen said, referring to the UMP and Socialist (PS) parties.

"But it's a victory for the FN," he said, pointing out that the party had attracted one in four votes in the first round.

His daughter Marine said the local elections would be "the foundations for the big victories of to-

tomorrow."

French Prime Minister Manuel Valls, whose deeply unpopular administration had tried to play up modest signs of recovery in the euro zone's second largest economy, conceded defeat and said the government would introduce new measures aimed at boosting employment and public and private investment.

"The far right's strong, much too strong, results are a challenge to all democrats," he said. "This is a sign of a lasting upheaval of our political landscape and we will all need to draw lessons from it."

The FN, which topped last year's European Parliament elections in France, is aiming to make more progress in regional polls in December. Surveys see Le Pen likely to make it to the second round of the presidential election in 2017, but not win.

In total, 4,108 councillors with limited powers over roads, schools and social services were elected in the two rounds of local elections.

The complex voting system, in which a duo of councillors is elected per constituency who then elect next Thursday the presidents of 98 "departement" councils, means it will take time to form an exact picture of how many councils each party won.

Reuters

Republicans see Obama as more imminent threat than Putin

WASHINGTON, 30 March — A third of Republicans believe President Barack Obama poses an imminent threat to the United States, outranking concerns about Russian President Vladimir Putin and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

A Reuters/Ipsos online poll this month asked 2,809 Americans to rate how much of a threat a list of countries, organizations and individuals posed to the United States on a scale of 1 to 5, with one being no threat and 5 being an imminent threat.

The poll showed 34 percent of Republicans ranked Obama as an imminent threat, ahead of Putin (25 percent), who has been accused of aggression in the Ukraine, and Assad (23 percent). Western governments have alleged that Assad used chlorine gas and barrel bombs on his own citizens.

Given the level of polarization in American politics the results are not that surprising, said Barry Glassner, a sociologist and author of "The Culture of Fear: Why Americans are afraid of the wrong things."

"There tends to be a lot of demonizing of the person who is in the office," Glassner said, adding that "fear mongering" by the Republican and Democratic parties would be a



US President Barack Obama holds rails as he almost slips on the steps of Air Force One at Joint Base Andrews outside Washington after a weekend trip in Palm City, Florida on 29 March, 2015.—REUTERS

mainstay of the US 2016 presidential campaign.

"The TV media here, and American politics, very much trade on fears," he said.

The Ipsos survey, done between 16 and 24 March, included 1,083 Democrats and 1,059 Republicans.

Twenty-seven percent of Republicans saw the Democratic Party as an imminent threat to the United States, and 22 percent of Democrats deemed Republicans to be an imminent threat.

People who were polled were most concerned about threats related to potential terror attacks. Islamic State militants were rated an imminent threat by 58 percent of respondents, and al-Qaeda by 43 percent. North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un was viewed as a threat by

34 percent, and Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei by 27 percent.

Cyber attacks were viewed as an imminent threat by 39 percent, and drug trafficking was seen as an imminent threat by a third of the respondents.

Democrats were more concerned about climate change than Republicans, with 33 percent of Democrats rating global warming an imminent threat. Among Republicans, 27 percent said climate change was not a threat at all.

The data was weighted to reflect the US population and has a credibility interval, a measure of accuracy, of plus or minus 2.1 percentage points for all adults (3.4 points for Democrats and 3.4 points for Republicans.)

Reuters

Cameron to meet queen, formally call knife-edge election

LONDON, 30 March — Campaigning in Britain's closest national election in decades will start on Monday after Queen Elizabeth dissolves parliament at Prime Minister David Cameron's behest, teeing up an unusually fraught battle to govern the \$2.8 trillion (1.9 trillion pound) economy.

In a ritual steeped in tradition, Cameron will be driven to Buckingham Palace to ask the monarch's approval to dissolve parliament ahead of a 7 May ballot, a formality marking the symbolic end of five years of coalition government between Cameron's Conservatives and the centre-left Liberal Democrats.

Hours later, Cameron, who says he passionately wants another term in office "to finish the job", is expected to lead an election rally in rural England, while the

opposition Labour Party is due to present its business policies, warning Cameron's Europe stance poses a "clear and present" danger.

Although the government formally continues until a new one is formed, convention dictates it take no more major policy decisions, while the 650 members of the lower house of parliament revert to being ordinary members of the public. Britain excels at such set-piece events. But the consequences of the election — in which polls predict nobody will win an outright majority — could be more disorderly. Britain's continued membership of the European Union hangs on the outcome, as does the future of the increasingly frayed balance of power between the United Kingdom and its most assertive constituent part: Scotland.



Britain's Prime Minister and leader of the Conservative Party, David Cameron, gestures during his keynote speech at the party's spring forum in Manchester, northern England on 28 March, 2015.—REUTERS

In a sign of the uncertain times reflecting the fragmentation of the political landscape, the leaders of the two main parties — the Conservatives and Labour — will on Thursday be joined by the leaders of five other parties for a seven-way TV debate. The issues on the slate: how to tackle the budget deficit, the future of the country's treasured but troubled Na-

tional Health Service (NHS), and immigration.

Both the Conservatives and Labour say they want to better manage immigration flows and pump more money into the NHS. The main difference between them is on the deficit with the Conservatives promising to cut it faster with deeper spending cuts and Labour saying it would do it more steadily

and fairly.

Two polls released on the eve of campaigning underscored the election's volatility. One gave Labour a four point lead, the other gave the Conservatives exactly the same lead.

However, most polls put the two neck-and-neck. None give either enough support to govern alone, meaning that the winner may need to try to rule as a minority government relying on others for backing on an issue-by-issue basis, or go into a formal coalition government with another party.

The contest is freighted with irony. Even though the economy has bounced back from its deepest downturn since World war Two to become one of the fastest-growing in the industrialized world, many Britons say they haven't felt the benefit or that they feel dissatis-

fied for other reasons.

If Cameron is re-elected, he has promised to deliver an EU membership referendum by the end of 2017, raising the spectre of Britain leaving the world's largest trading bloc, something the United States had made clear it doesn't want.

If Britain voted to leave the EU, Scottish nationalists have signalled they'd push for another independence referendum, even though they lost one as recently as last year.

Labour opposes an EU membership referendum.

Buffeted by high levels of immigration from eastern Europe after 10 mostly former communist states joined the EU, many voters blame the bloc at a time of belt-tightening because of fiscal austerity for pressure on wages and school and hospital places.—Reuters

Warplanes hit Yemen's Sanaa overnight, after dawn



People carry ammunition boxes they took from army depots in Yemen's southern port city of Aden on 27 March, 2015.—REUTERS

SANAA, 30 March — Warplanes struck Yemen's capital Sanaa overnight and after daybreak on Monday, residents said, on the fifth day of a campaign by Saudi-led forces against Houthi forces opposed to President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi.

One of the residents said the strikes appeared mainly focussed around the diplomatic quarter of the capital.

"It was a night from

hell," a Yemeni diplomat said. He said the strikes also appeared to strike weapons depots believed to be housed in tunnels dug into mountains that overlook the city.

Riyadh announced early on 26 March that it and nine other Sunni Muslim countries had commenced air strikes against the Shi'ite Houthi militia, who control the capital and are allied to the kingdom's

main regional foe Iran.

Iran, which denies helping the Houthis militarily, has strongly condemned the offensive.

The Health Ministry, controlled by the Houthi movement, said on Sunday that the air strikes had killed 35 people and wounded 88 during the night of Saturday-Sunday. The figures could not be independently confirmed.

Reuters

Syria's Assad says Islamic State has expanded since start of US air strikes

WASHINGTON, 30 March — Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said in a US television interview that Islamic State, which has seized swaths of territory in Syria and Iraq, has been gaining recruits since the start of US-led air strikes against the militant group.

Asked how much benefit he was getting from the strikes in Syria that began last September, Assad told CBS' "60 Minutes": "Sometimes you could have local benefit but in general if you want to talk in terms of ISIS,

actually ISIS has expanded since the beginning of the strikes."

Assad, who has been fighting Islamist and other rebels since 2011, said in the interview aired on Sunday there were some estimates that Islamic State was attracting 1,000 recruits a month in Syria.

"And Iraq — they are expanding in — Libya and many other — al-Qaeda affiliate organizations have announced their allegiance to ISIS. So that's the situation," Assad said, using another acronym for the militant group.

Washington is seeking a negotiated settlement to Syria's civil war that excludes Assad, but has made clear its top priority in Syria is the fight against Islamic State militants.

Asked under what circumstances he would leave power, Assad said: "When I don't have the public support. When I don't represent the Syrian interests, and values." In reply to a question about how he determined what support he had among Syrians, he said: "I don't determine. I sense. I feel. I'm in contact with them."—Reuters

UN Secretary General to meet with Iraqi leaders in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 30 March — UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon arrived in Baghdad on Monday for meetings with Iraq's leaders, a UN official confirmed.

"The secretary general will meet Iraqi leaders to discuss the political and security developments in the country," the official said, who was not authorized to speak about the UN chief's

visit. Ban was last in Iraq in August. The secretary general's visit comes as Iraq remains mired in war with the militant group Islamic State, which occupies nearly one-third of the country.

Ban attended the weekend Arab League summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, where attention focused on the protracted conflict in Yemen.—Reuters



United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Nigeria election results due to start trickling in

ABUJA, 30 March — Results from Nigeria's elections, potentially the closest contest since the end of military rule in 1999, were due to start trickling in on Monday after a weekend vote marred by confusion, arguments and sporadic violence.

The election pits President Goodluck Jonathan against former military ruler Muhammadu Buhari for the favour of an electorate divided along a complex mix of ethnic, regional and in some cases religious lines in Africa's most populous nation.

Even before preliminary tallies were recorded, the opposition All Progressives Congress (APC) rejected the outcome in Rivers state, headquarters of Africa's biggest oil industry, and denounced the vote there as "a sham and a charade".

The INEC election commission said the first results collated from 120,000 polling stations nationwide should be available on Sun-

day evening although this failed to materialize.

Turnout among the 56.7 million registered voters appears to have been high.

The tension in Rivers state raises the prospect of a disputed national outcome and a repeat of the violence that erupted after the last election in 2011, when 800 people were killed and 65,000 displaced in the mainly Muslim north.

The APC reported

violence in Rivers and blamed it on "armed militias" backed by the ruling People's Democratic Party (PDP). "Whatever trash will (be) announced as the result of today's election is not acceptable to us," it said.

The PDP did not respond to requests for comment.

An hour later, hundreds of sympathisers chanted "APC" outside the electoral commission office in the oil city of Port

Harcourt, prompting police to fire warnings shots. One group stoned a car they thought carried ballots.

"There was no election in Rivers," APC polling agent Achinike William-Wobodo said, calling for a re-vote.

In a sign the opposition will challenge results elsewhere, the APC governor of the southern Imo state, Rochas Okorocha, denounced on television the conduct of the election in his region and accused the military of meddling in the result.

INEC chairman Attahiru Jega said he was concerned about the Port Harcourt complaints, which alleged that opposition agents were kicked out of vote-tallying meetings, and had launched an investigation.

In Kaduna, the northern city worst-hit by the 2011 post-election violence, the streets were virtually devoid of traffic and many shops were shuttered.

Reuters

Clashes with Taliban halt supply of power in south Afghanistan

KABUL, 30 March — Clashes between Afghan forces and the Taliban have cut off the main supply of power to Afghanistan's Helmand and Kandahar provinces, according to residents and the chief of the national power company.

Both areas are militant strongholds and major centres of opium production, which partly funds the insurgency. Key drug smuggling routes cross both provinces, making them a strategic priority for both Taliban and coalition forces.

The two provinces rely on the Kajaki plant in Helmand for the bulk of their already severely limited supply of electricity, but intense fighting in the area has halted around 90 percent of power.

"I don't think it is sabotage," said the company's chief commercial officer, Mirwais Alami. "Otherwise they would be cutting off electricity to their own villages. The lines could have been cut by government bul-

lets." It was difficult to say when power supplies would resume because clashes made it difficult to repair the lines, he added.

Efforts to control the restive southern provinces have cost hundreds of coalition lives and clashes in Helmand have intensified since Afghan forces launched an offensive there in mid-February. Most foreign forces withdrew last year.

Improving the supply of power to areas like Kandahar, where the Taliban movement began, was a top US counter-insurgency priority as Washington pursued its policy of winning hearts and minds.

Expensive diesel subsidies were to fill in until the power grid reached Kandahar and third turbine was built at Kajaki, but both projects are years from completion.

USAID is now looking at solar power as a cheap source of alternative energy for the time being, according to Alami.—Reuters



An electoral commission worker takes a fingerprint of a voter in a polling station during elections in Kano on 28 March, 2015.—REUTERS

Abe says he will no longer refer to SDF as “our military”

TOKYO, 30 March — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Monday he will no longer use the term “our military” in reference to the Self-Defence Forces.

Responding to a question by an opposition party lawmaker at the House of Representatives Budget Committee, Abe said, “I still think it is no problem (to refer to the SDF as the military). But I will not use such a word if the precious time of the Budget Committee is going to be spent on such exchanges” during questions and answers.

In a 20 March session of the House of Councilors Budget Committee, Abe said joint drills between the SDF and foreign forces “have been producing significant results in raising the transparency of our military.”

In subsequent com-

ments, Abe referred to the organization as the SDF.

He reiterated on Monday he used the term to compare the SDF to foreign forces with which it carried out joint exercises.

Opposition parties have criticized Abe’s reference to the SDF as a military. Last week, Yukio Edano, secretary general of the Democratic Party of Japan, said, “There is no way to explain (Abe’s reference to the SDF) when the Constitution says Japan will not maintain forces.”

Article 9 of the Constitution, drafted by the United States during its occupation of Japan after World War II, says the Japanese people “forever renounce war” and that “land, sea and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained.”

Kyodo News

Australia imposes cockpit ‘rule of two’ after Germanwings crash

SYDNEY, 30 March — The Australian government imposed a requirement on Monday that its airlines have two crew members in the cockpit at all times as a safety precaution following the Germanwings crash that killed 150 passengers and crew last week.

Australian Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss said the mandatory “rule of two”, which means a flight attendant must stand in whenever the pilot or co-pilot leaves the cockpit, would be effective immediately.

The rule will apply to all domestic and international flights by Australian operators carrying 50 or more passengers. The carriers include Qantas, Jetstar, Virgin Australia and Tigerair Australia.

“The airlines will be acting immediately to implement this change and we’d expect to see this policy in place within hours

on our major airlines,” Truss told reporters in Melbourne.

US airlines had the rule in place before the Germanwings crash, in which investigators believe the co-pilot locked out the captain when he visited the toilet and deliberately steered the plane into the French Alps.

Regulators in Canada and New Zealand introduced the rule within 24 hours of the Germanwings crash and the European aviation authority has also recommended the change.

Truss consulted with the airlines to ensure the change would not open up other potential safety concerns. He said the government and the aviation regulator, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA), were considering other changes to improve cockpit security.

Mental illness is believed to have played a part



A French rescue worker inspects the remains of the Germanwings Airbus A320 at the site of the crash, near Seyne-les-Alpes, French Alps on 29 March, 2015.

REUTERS

in the Germanwings crash. German authorities said they had found torn-up sick notes showing that co-pilot Andreas Lubitz, 27, was suffering from an illness that should have grounded him on the day of the crash.

Australian pilots are subject to annual medical reviews, including a psy-

chiatric assessment.

“There is a need to balance the fact that people with proper treatment can recover from mental illness and be able to undertake normal careers with the critical priority of ensuring that aircraft are always safe,” Truss said.

Reuters

Air Canada plane landed short, hit antennas in Halifax accident

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia, 30 March — An Air Canada plane that suffered heavy damage in an accident in the east coast city of Halifax on Sunday landed short of the runway and hit an antenna array, losing its landing gear, safety officials said.

No one was killed in the accident that sent more than 20 passengers and crew to hospital. All but one of those treated had been released by later in the day, the airline said.

“They touched down 1,100 feet (335 metres) short of the runway, so I’d say they’re pretty lucky,” Mike Cunningham, an official with the Transportation Safety Board (TSB) of Canada, told a news conference.

He said when the plane landed short it hit an antenna array and “this caused considerable damage to the aircraft and the main landing gear came off at that point.”

Cunningham, who noted one of the plane’s engines had also detached, said it was too early to draw any conclusions about the accident. He also said it was too soon to rule out weather as factor.

The accident happened shortly after midnight. Air Can-

ada said the Airbus A320 flying from Toronto was carrying 133 passengers and five crew members.

“We at Air Canada are greatly relieved that no one was critically injured. Yet we fully appreciate this has been a very unsettling experience,” Air Canada Chief Operating Officer Klaus Goersch said in a statement.

Air Canada also said the weather was appropriate for a landing. It was snowing heavily at the airport at the time of the accident.

Passengers interviewed by local media described a “big flash” before landing and speculated the flight may have struck a power line.

Cunningham said he believed a power line had been severed near the airport, which lost power after that.

Photos posted online by the TSB showed the nose of the airline broken off and one wing badly damaged.

Earlier this month, a Delta Air Lines Inc jet landing during a snowstorm at New York’s LaGuardia Airport also slid off the runway and struck a fence.

Reuters

Ministers from Iran, six powers meet to end impasse in nuclear talks



Officials from the P5+1 and the European Union wait for a meeting at the Beau Rivage Palace Hotel in Lausanne, Switzerland on 29 March, 2015.—REUTERS

LAUSANNE, Switzerland, 30 March — The foreign ministers of Iran and six world powers met on Monday in a final push for a preliminary accord less than two days before their deadline to outline a deal to end Teheran’s nuclear standoff with the West.

For days Iran, the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China have been holding marathon negotiations in the Swiss city of Lausanne to break an impasse in nuclear negotiations, but officials cautioned that attempts to reach a framework accord could yet fall apart.

In addition to US Secretary of State John Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, Germany’s Frank-Walter Steinmeier, Russia’s Sergei Lavrov and China’s Wang Yi gathered at a 19th-century hotel overlooking Lake Geneva to try to end the deadlock in the talks.

The six powers want more than a 10-year suspension of Iran’s most sensitive nuclear work. Teheran, which denies it is trying to develop a nuclear weapons capability, demands in

exchange for limits on its atomic activities a swift end to international sanctions that are crippling its economy.

While some issues being discussed in the negotiations have been resolved, there are several differences on which the two sides have been unable to reach agreement. Both Iran and the six have floated compromise proposals in an attempt to make an accord possible.

One sticking point concerns Iran’s demand to continue with research into newer generations of advanced centrifuges that can purify uranium faster and in greater quantities than the ones it currently operates for use in nuclear power plants or, if very highly enriched, in weapons.

Another question involves the speed of removing United Nations sanctions on Iran. A senior US official said on Sunday there were other unresolved issues, but expected those would fall into place if the big sticking points could be worked out.

Even if Iran and the six powers reach an agreement by their end-March deadline, officials close to the talks say it could still fall apart when the two sides attempt to agree on all the technical details for a comprehensive accord by 30 June.

Reuters

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MV HOANG PHUONG VIGOR VOY NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HOANG PHUONG VIGOR VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T-2 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (134) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (4) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MV SC SUNNY VOY NO (1502)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SC SUNNY VOY NO (1502) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.3.2015 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.

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
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Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO (952N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MV BLUE MOON VOY NO ()**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BLUE MOON VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (074N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (074N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES**

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV NINOS VOY NO (1031W)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY NO (1031W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.3.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV VEGA FYNEN VOY NO (1511)**

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
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Phone No: 2301185

WEATHER REPORT

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

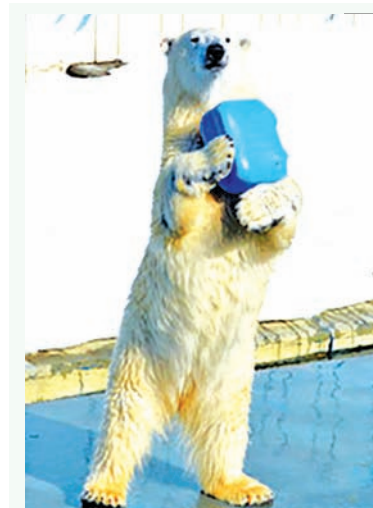
FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 31st March, 2015: Rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan and Mon States and weather will be partly cloudy in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

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Milk, a polar bear at the Kushiro City Zoo in Hokkaido, northern Japan, holds a plastic container on 11 Feb, 2015. Milk has become a popular attraction at the zoo as she sometimes walks upright like a human.
KYODO NEWS

Polar bear at Kushiro zoo luring visitors with humanlike walking

KUSHIRO, (Japan), 30 March — A polar bear has become a great attraction at a zoo in Kushiro, Hokkaido, grabbing attention with her playfulness and bipedal ability.

The 2-year-old bear, named Milk, was born at Oga Aquarium GAO in Oga, Akita Prefecture, and was transferred to Kushiro City Zoo in January last year. She immediately

gained fame for her antics that were televised and shown online.

Milk, who is around 180 centimetres tall and weighs about 200 kilograms, swims in her pool like a sea otter, throws her plastic container in the air and stands with a gas pipe on her head as if it were a chimney.

Visitors are particularly impressed when Milk

walks on her hind legs, sometimes taking nearly 20 steps. "Milk appears triumphant and looks like she's gauging the audience reaction," said Hiroyuki Kubono, a 60-year-old handler, adding, "I've never seen such a bear."

Misae Murata, 41, a company employee in Kushiro, visits the zoo to see Milk two to three times a month. "She is growing

rapidly and developing her play and I just don't want to close my eyes," she said.

Miyuki Takahashi, 34, who took care of Milk at the aquarium in Oga, said, "I'm happy to hear that she is loved by lots of people as she was in Akita."

"We would like more people to come and see our idol," said a public relations official at the Kushiro zoo.—Kyodo News

Hugh Jackman's run as Wolverine to end?



"Wolverine... one last time," Jackman, 46, captioned a photo of his fists, clutching the claws of his famous mutant character.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 30 March — Hollywood star Hugh Jackman has hinted in an Instagram post that his iconic character Wolverine would be ending.

"Wolverine... one last time," Jackman, 46, captioned a photo of his fists, clutching the claws of his famous mutant character.

While bloggers and social media users debated the actor's meaning, an individual familiar with the situation said that he was referring to a planned sequel of the 2013 standalone hit "The Wolverine", reported *TheWrap*.

The character could feasibly appear in Bryan Singer's forthcom-

ing ensemble "X-Men: Apocalypse" or in Ryan Reynolds' spin-off "Deadpool", but the insider said Jackman is pointing to the forthcoming follow-up that also has director James Mangold returning.

Representatives for Jackman and 20th Century Fox have not comment so far.

Jackman made his debut as Wolverine in 2000's "X-Men" and is arguably the franchise's biggest star.

He has played the character six times thus far, most recently in "X-Men: Days of Future Past" alongside Jennifer Lawrence, Michael Fassbender and James McAvoy.—PTI

I made the right decision: Zayn Malik on quitting One Direction



Zayn Malik on quitting One Direction: I've never felt more in control in my life.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 30 March — Music sensation Zayn Malik feels he made the right move by leaving the hugely popular boy band One Direction even as his fans mourn his decision. Malik took the music world by storm when the singer announced his departure from the band saying he wanted "to be a normal 22-year-old."

He said the past

week—which saw him leave the band's tour, return home to London and subsequently quit the group has left him "feeling quite interesting." "It is crazy and wild and a bit mad. But at the same time I've never felt more in control in my life. And I feel like I'm doing what's right — right by myself and right by the boys, so I feel good," he said.—PTI

Angelina Jolie wins favourite villain trophy at Kids' Choice Awards

LOS ANGELES, 30 March — Actress-director Angelina Jolie has bagged the favourite villain trophy for her fearsome portrayal of a witch in Disney's "Maleficent" at the 28th Kids' Choice Awards.

Jolie, 39, beat Cameron Diaz ("Annie"), Donald Sutherland ("The Hunger Games"), Jamie Foxx ("The Amazing Spider-Man 2"), Lee Pace ("Guardians of the Galaxy") and Meryl Streep ("Into The Woods") to receive the award.

The actress was also the executive produce of the movie.

Nick Jonas, who hosted the event, has won the best singer (male) award and Selena Gomez bagged

the best female singer trophy, said *The Hollywood Reporter*.

"Dance Moms" has been declared the favourite reality show, while "The Voice" has got the honour of the favourite talent competition show.

Song of the year award went to "Bang Bang" by Jessie J, Ariana Grande, and Nicki Minaj. Boy band One Direction got the favourite music group award.

Oscar-winning movie "Big Hero 6" received the best animated film award. Jennifer Lawrence has become the best female action star, while the best male action star award went to Liam Hemsworth.

Ben Stiller has bagged



Angelina Jolie has bagged the favourite villain trophy for her fearsome portrayal of a witch in "Maleficent" at the Kids' Choice Awards.—PTI

the favourite movie actor and Emma Stone has won the favourite movie actress trophy.

Lawrence's "The Hunger Games: Mockingjay — Part 1" has been declared the favourite movie.

Ross Lynch has got the

best TV actor award and Laura Marano has won the best TV actress.

"Austin & Ally" has bagged the best favourite kids TV show and "Modern Family" has been named as the best family TV show.

PTI

Josh Duhamel celebrates wife Fergie's 40th birthday

LOS ANGELES, 30 March — Josh Duhamel has posted a gorgeous photo of his wife Fergie celebrating her 40th birthday.

The "Glamorous" singer looked amazing as she blew out her birthday candles at her bash in a silver one-shoulder dress and a bold red lipstick, reported *Us* magazine.

The couple — married since January 2009 — were joined by 100 of their closest friends and family.

They drank up and noshed on the tasty dessert, which was covered in



Josh Duhamel has posted a gorgeous photo of his wife Fergie celebrating her 40th birthday.—PTI

strawberries and blueberries. Fergie and Duhamel welcomed son Axl in August 2013.—PTI

Jess Glynne, James Bay top British music charts

LONDON, 30 March — British singer songwriter Jess Glynne notched up her first solo number one single in Britain with "Hold My Hand", the Official Charts Company said on Sunday, saying she had racked up sales of over 97,000.

Glynne dethroned last week's number one, "Lay Me Down", from Sam Smith and John Legend, which fell to number six. English songwriter James Bay took the second spot with his single "Hold Back the River", while Years & Years took the third spot with "King."

In the album charts, Bay's debut album "Chaos And The Calm" went straight to number one, achieving combined sales of over 64,000. Last week's number one, "To Pimp A Butterfly", by US rapper Kendrick Lamar, slipped to fifth place.

Reuters

Miss S Africa 2015 Pageant and Celebration held



The First Prize Winner Liesl Laurie (C), the First Princess RefilweMthimunye (R) and the Second Princess NtsikiMkhizeduring pose for photos during the Miss South Africa 2015 Pageant and Celebration in Sun City, South Africa, on 29 March, 2015. The Miss South Africa 2015 Pageant and Celebration was held here Sunday. Liesl Laurie from Johannesburg, 23, was crowned Miss South Africa 2015, and the runners-up are RefilweMthimunye from Bronkhorstspuit (1st Princess) and NtsikiMkhize from Kliprivier, Midvaal (2nd Princess).—XINHUA



Singer Jess Glynne arrives for the BRIT music awards at the O2 Arena in Greenwich, London, on 25 Feb, 2015. REUTERS

GENERAL

Local favourite

Walker wins Texas Open

SAN ANTONIO, 30 March — Hometown favourite Jimmy Walker became the first multiple winner on the PGA Tour this season by claiming a four-stroke victory over Jordan Spieth in the Texas Open at TPC San Antonio on Sunday.

Walker, who stormed to a nine-shot win at the Sony Open in Hawaii in January, began the day with a four-shot lead and was never seriously threatened as the San Antonio area resident shot a two-under 70 for an 11-under-par 277 total.

"It's at home and it's cool and you can feel the support," Walker, 36, said. "It doesn't happen very often to win in your hometown."

Spieth, who struggled on the front nine with three bogeys, put on a late charge to whittle Walker's seven-shot lead down to four.

Texan Spieth, who won his last tour start two weeks ago at the Valspar Championship, made four birdies in a row from the 14th but Walker held off Spieth's charge with birdies of his own at 16 and 17 to retain his lead.

FedExCup champion Billy Horschel finished third at 284 after a final-round 71.

"It plays hard, sometimes it's hard to make pars," Walker said of the fast-running, wind-blown TPC San Antonio, which played to an average of two-over 74 on Sunday.

"I felt like I was leaking a little oil there, wasn't putting very good, and I finally smoothed out the putting stroke a little bit and started making some."



Jimmy Walker holds up the championship trophy after winning the Valero Texas Open at TPC San Antonio, AT&T Oaks Course, San Antonio, TX, USA on 29 March, 2015.—REUTERS

Despite his big lead, Walker admitted that playing partner Spieth was hard to ignore.

"But Jordan, holy cow. I'm going to have nightmares about that guy," said Walker.—Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(31-3-2015 07:00 am~ 1-4-2015 07:00 am) MST

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- * Family of Toys
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- * The Man and The Elephant (Part- I)
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- * Wholesale Fish
- * News
- * Aye Aye Soe: Myanma Pioneer Female Bodybuilder
- * Civic Duty
- * Culture Shows: Theatrical Art
- * News
- * YUFL
- * All About Orchids
- * Sticky Shan Snack

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(31-3-2015, Tuesday)

- 6:00 am**
 - Paritta by Venerable Min Gun Sayadaw
- 6:25 am**
 - Physical Exercises
- 7:00 am**
 - News/ Weather Report
- 7:35 am**
 - Socio Economic Scenes
- 8:30 am**
 - Head Line News
- 9:35 am**
 - MRTV's Youth Programme
- 10:00 am**
 - News / International News
- 11:35 am**
 - Documentary
- 12:00 noon**
 - News / International News / Weather Report
- 12:35 pm**
 - Hluttaw Image
- 1:30 pm**
 - Sing & Enjoy
- 2:35 pm**
 - Mono Classical Songs
- 3:00 pm**
 - News / International News
- 4:35 pm**
 - University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Second Years (Zoology)
- 5:00 pm**
 - News / Weather Report
- 6:35pm**
 - Money Talk Myanmar
- 7:00 pm**
 - News
- 7:35 pm**
 - People's Talks
- 8:00 pm**
 - News / International News / Weather Report
- 9:00 pm**
 - News / International News / Weather Report
- 9:30 pm**
 - Monthly Weather Report
- 10:00 pm**
 - Hluttaw Image
- 10:30 pm**
 - TV Drama Series

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(31-3-2015, Tuesday)

- 6:00 am**
 - Mono Classical Song
- 6:20 am**
 - Teleplay
- 7:20 am**
 - Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than
- 7:30 am**
 - TV Drama Series
- 8:20 am**
 - TV Drama Series
- 9:00 am**
 - Musical Programme
- 9:10 am**
 - Radio Teleplay
- 9:55 am**
 - ASEAN CULTURAL FAIR (2014)
- 10:20 am**
 - Myanmar Video
- 12:00 noon**
 - Close down

MONS, (Belgium), 30 March — It is fitting tribute to the role the Belgian coalfield around Mons played in Van Gogh's emergence as an artist that the city has made a rare show of his early works a focus of its year as European Capital of Culture.

From the clumsy sketches with which the 25-year-old Dutch lay preacher began to drawings flowing with the energy that marked his later painting, "Van Gogh in the Borinage: Birth of an Artist" at Beaux Arts Mons is a treat for the academic and casually curious alike. It ought, too, to inspire perseverance in

Digging deep, Belgian coalfield shows where Van Gogh emerged

any would-be creator — even Van Gogh started out with dross. "I can see it is not any good yet," Vincent wrote to his art dealer elder brother Theo Van Gogh in a letter accompanying two small pencil drawings showing the weary lives of the miners of the Borinage coalfield among whom he lived from 1878 to 1880.

"But," he added, "It is starting to come."

Alongside letters scratched out from the colliers' cottages where the well-born Van Gogh lodged, the show traces progression in technique, in pencil and paint. Largely early work, it does culminate in the sumptuous, sunlit Impressionism of "Street in Auvers-sur-Oise", painted in the weeks before his death aged 37.

Van Gogh drew the

pitheads, the simple homes, the miners' potato patches, even, after an underground visit, the coalface itself. In the grip of the youthful religiosity that later gave way to suicidal despair, he wrote: "Those who work in the shadows, in the belly of the earth, like the miners deep in the black coalworkings, are very touched by the word of the Gospel."

Also on display are works by others who inspired him as well as versions he made of them, notably Jean-Francois Millet's paintings of peasant life such as "The Sower" and "The Angelus".

From hesitant copyist to inspired original, the Van Gogh at Mons labours as hard as those he saw around him in the Borinage.

In a final touch to encourage today's amateur, the last room shows how he returned in his last months to studying the human form from a bestselling textbook of his day. Hung next to the clean Classical lines of the printed models, Van Gogh's figures are no accurate copies. Yet they leap from the wall with life.



Visitors view the exhibition 'Van Gogh in the Borinage: Birth of an Artist' at Beaux Arts Museum in Mons on 29 March, 2015.—REUTERS

Reuters

Scotland smash Gibraltar, but a new 'Rock star' emerges



Steven Fletcher celebrates after scoring the second goal for Scotland during their Euro 2016 qualifier soccer match at Hampden Park in Glasgow, Scotland on 29 March, 2015.—REUTERS

GLASGOW, 30 March — Gibraltar could at least savour the consolation of unearthing a policeman-turned-footballing 'Rock star' as they reprised their new role as the whipping boys of the Euro 2016 qualifiers with a 6-1 hammering by Scotland in Glasgow on Sunday.

A hat-trick from Steven Fletcher, the first by a Scottish international striker since Colin Stein in 1969, decorated the romp and ensured that UEFA's new boys have now conceded 27 goals in their first five pointless competitive internationals.

Yet still nothing could deflect from the pure joy of the moment at Hampden Park when, after 379 minutes of trying, Lee Casciaro, an officer with the Royal Gibraltar Police force, scored the part-timers' first ever goal in qualifying ties.

Very good it was too. Scotland had just gone ahead after 18 minutes through a Shaun Maloney penalty, courtesy of a rash challenge on Maloney from Gibraltar's keeper Jamie Robba.

Just a minute later, though, Aaron Payas, a lawyer, slipped a lovely ball on the counter attack to Casciaro, who fired low into the corner of the net to the delight of 500 travelling fans from the Rock.

At that point, the visitors were dreaming furiously. Until then, the side managed by a Scot, Davie Wilson — splendidly dubbed the "Jock of Gibraltar" — had been every bit the equal of the home side.

Even Scotland's manager Gordon Strachan con-

ceded in an interview with the BBC: "All the credit should go to Gibraltar. They made my life a misery for periods of that game and a long game for me as a coach."

He also reckoned that, unlike his goalkeeper David Marshall, his two reserve keepers were thankful to have been on the bench.

"Allan McGregor and Craig Gordon now love me and think I'm the best manager in the world for not picking them; they're not in the history books!"

The Tartan Army's early fears of a familiar embarrassing struggle against a minnow — think Costa Rica, San Marino and Liechtenstein — only evaporated when Sunderland striker Fletcher, who had not scored for six years for Scotland, put them ahead after 29 minutes with a looping header.

Six minutes later, hero Casciaro turned villain, a rash foul in the box leading to Maloney's second penalty conversion before Steven Naismith made it four after 39 minutes.

In the second half, Gibraltar resisted stoutly until Fletcher's second headed goal after 78 minutes and a cool hat-trick strike in the final seconds.

Strachan revealed he had also been at Scotland's game at the same Hampden venue against Cyprus in 1969 when Stein scored four.

The victory leaves Scotland on 10 points in Group D, alongside Germany, who won 2-0 in Georgia, and a point behind leaders Poland, who drew 1-1 with Ireland.—Reuters

Aung Phyto becomes best body-builder in novice class 2015

MANDALAY, 30 March—The 2015 Novice Body-building Contest, organized by Mandalay Region Body-building Subcommittee, took place at Bahtoo Gymnasium in Mandalay on 29 March, with 29 body-builders from clubs in Mandalay, Mogok and PyinOoLwin in contest.

Aung Phyto of Planet Gym secured the first prize, Wai Phyto of Planet Gym second, Htet Aung of My Life Gym third, Ko Win Min Tun of Golden Key Gym fourth and Aung Hlaing Soe of MY Gym sixth in the contest.

Deputy Director of



Region Sports and Physical Education Department

U Wai Zin and officials presented medals and cash

awards to the winners. Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Reus, Mueller on target as Germany ease past Georgia

TBILISI, 30 March — World Cup winners Germany eased past hosts Georgia 2-0 in their Euro 2016 qualifier on Sunday with two goals in five minutes from Marco Reus and Thomas Mueller enough to get their Group D campaign back on track.

Reus scored after 39 minutes and Mueller soon doubled their lead as the Germans, who had an erratic start to qualifiers last year and lost in Poland, were never threatened by their weaker opponents.

The win lifted Germa-

ny to 10 points from five games, as many as leaders Poland, who take on Ireland later on Sunday. Scotland are also on 10.

"A look at the table before the game was enough to see the urgency of the situation," Germany coach Joachim Loew told reporters. "We played a dynamic game, we then controlled it in the second half but did not have the same drive towards goal." Loew said their conversion rate would need to improve after again spurning several good chances and hitting

the woodwork twice. "We again missed some good chances. We had good combinations but failed to score a third or fourth goal."

Georgia have had a tough start in Group D, recording four defeats and a win in Gibraltar to stay on three points.

It did not take long for Germany, with several World Cup winners back in the squad including captain Bastian Schweinsteiger, to threaten with Reus' powerful drive palmed on to the crossbar by keeper Giorgi

Loria after five minutes.

With coach Loew reverting to a four-man defence from a three-player experiment against Australia in a friendly on Wednesday, the Germans were in and around their opponents' box for most of the first half.

Mueller fired at goal from a corner only to see the ball fly just wide and Mesut Ozil missed another big chance as the visitors had the hosts firmly on the backfoot.

Reus did better in the 39th when Mario Goetze charged into the box and was lucky to scramble the ball to the winger, who drilled home for his second goal this week, after also scoring in their 2-2 draw against Australia.

Mueller then fired in another on the stroke of halftime to firmly put them in the driving seat.

New Georgia coach Kakhaber Tskhadadze added a forward after the break but it was Reus who came close again, rattling the bar for a second time on the hour with another powerful shot.

"We are not yet fully on track and still have to improve," said Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer. "But there is sufficient time and I am very confident."

Reuters



Germany's Thomas Mueller (R) fights for the ball with Georgia's Kakhi Makharadze during their Euro 2016 qualifier soccer match in Tbilisi on 29 March, 2015.—REUTERS