

Rays of peace coming to Kayah State

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan— *The following message was sent by President Agga Maha Thayay Sithu, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Sein on the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of Kayah State Day, which falls on 15 January 2015.*

I would like to extend my heartiest greetings to all the esteemed national brethren in Kayah State by saying it is an auspicious day.

It is a great pleasure that I am privileged to send a message of honour to the ceremony to mark the 63rd Anniversary Kayah State Day, which falls on 15 January.

Kayinni State was included into Kayin State in accordance with Sub-section (1) of Section 180 of the State Constitution 1947, and Section 8 of the Constitutional Amendment Act 1951 (Act No. 62, 1951) stipulated that all the terms “Kayinni State” shall be substituted with “Kayah State”. It has been 63 years since the first Kayah State Day was organized on 15 January 1952 when Kayinni State was renamed as Kayah State.

Since independence was regained, we have experienced armed conflicts resulting from political instability. Drawing lessons from such undesirable experiences, it is an opportune time for national brethren to cooperate for putting an end to conflicts and live side by side.

National brethren in Kayah State have been undergoing hardships for a long time and because of armed conflict resulted from differences among national brethren, development of Kayah State was delayed. Today, peace have been enjoyed in Kayah State and potential for development has been retained. Moreover, a sound foundation for stability and development of the state has been laid. Grasping the opportunities, national brethren in the state are required to make concerted efforts in cooperation with the government for stability and development of the state

and for lasting peace that can be enjoyed by future generations.

Participation of all national brethren on equal terms is of utmost importance in building the Republic of the Union of Myanmar into a peaceful, modern and new democratic nation. The government has been taking various measures for all-round development of Kayah State in various sectors, including transportation, education, human resources development, availability of electricity, socioeconomic development of local people and healthcare. In my message, I would like to urge national brethren in Kayah State to cooperate in unison in moving forward to peaceful, modern and new democratic nation by grasping the sound foundations for unity and development already achieved.

President U Thein Sein delivers speech at financial commission meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan—In addition to taking necessary measures for economic stability of the State, targeted economic growth has been achieved as the fiscal and monetary policies were correctly adopted in implementing the national planning policy, President U Thein Sein said at Meeting (1/2015) of the Financial Commission held at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw

on Wednesday.

Since taking office, the government has been taking reform measures to modernize the management system of public finance so that it matches with changing political landscape and the project for development of the management system of public finance has been implemented, resulting in establishing the treasury department under the Ministry of Finance to

strengthen finance and debt management system, increased budgets for states and regions and adoption of medium term fiscal framework in 2015-16 fiscal year, the president added.

Then, the president pointed out that in the management of public finance, more measures are being taken year by year for budget transparency and communicating the budget



President U Thein Sein delivers speech at Meeting (1/2015) of Financial Commission.—MNA



Vice Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham (R) and U Nyan Tun (L) participate in discussions at financial commission meeting.—MNA

Four prominent persons at debate agree weakness of reforms at lower level

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 14 Jan— Despite achievement in strategies and legislation for

Myanmar’s reforms, there are still barriers to implementation of the reforms at lower level, said prominent persons in debate Tuesday.

Whether the country’s reforms are near to the people or not was open to debate conducted by the People’s Age weekly

with the public in a simple and clear form, saying that the Citizen’s Budget will be published in 2015-16 for the public.

The president also admitted that there were achievements as well as challenges in drawing and implementation of the state budget, especially in pay increase for government employees, increase in emolument of Hluttaw representatives, rising education and health budgets and expenses for investment in infrastructure development on one hand and impact of falling international oil prices on the income from natural gas, fall in license fees from telecommunication companies, setting

journal in Yangon.

Four prominent persons, namely U Ye Htut, Union Information Minister and spokesman for the president, U Win Myint, a member of the Central Executive Committee of (See page 9)

electricity prices appropriately for the public amidst rising cost for electricity generation and foreign trade deficit on the other hand.

However, the government is exerting efforts to serve the interests of the people at its best by taking measures for increase

in revenue, the estimate of which has reached over K 6 trillion in 2014-2015, according to the president.

The president noted that the government is responsible for taking measure to increase the salaries because government employees are entitled to (See page 3)

New OECD report released, providing in-depth analysis and recommendations to support Myanmar’s reform efforts

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 14 Jan— The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, a forum of 34 countries working together to address economic, social and environmental challenges of globalization, Wednesday released a new OECD report, the second volume of the OECD’s Multi-dimensional Review of Myanmar making a

number of recommendations, including a structural transformation towards a modern economy.

The in-depth phase of Multi-dimensional Review of Myanmar providing analysis and recommendations follows the 2013 Initial Assessment that identified the key challenges to Myanmar’s development. The report was developed through an (See page 9)

UN Special Rapporteur calls on Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, UEC Chairman, deputy ministers



Ms Yanghee Lee calls on Chairman U Mya Thein of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan — Ms Yanghee Lee, UN Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar, called on Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Mya Thein, Chairman of Union Elec-

tion Commission U Tin Aye, Deputy Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Htin Aung, Deputy Minister for Immigration and National Registration U Win Myint, Deputy Minister for Education U Thant

Shin, Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint, and members of the Land Utilization Management Central Committee, here, on Wednesday.

They discussed raising human rights in Myanmar, legal affairs on

the constitutional tribunal, amendment of the election rules, compilation of voter list and rights to cast vote, free expression in election, voting process for a free and fair election and land utilization management.—MNA

Second Myanmar-US Human Rights Dialogue kicks off

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan— The Second Myanmar-US Human Rights Dialogue is being held at Park Royal Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw on 14 and 15 January 2015. The Deputy Foreign Minister H.E. U Thant Kyaw and U.S. Assistant Secretary of the State, H.E. Mr. Tom

Malinowshi delivered the opening statements for the dialogue in the morning of 14th January 2015.

For Myanmar, representatives, high level officials and experts from the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Land Confiscation Investigation Commission, Myanmar

National Human Rights Commission, Ministry of Home Affairs, Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Border Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Information, Ministry of President Of-

fice (4), Ministry of Religious Affairs, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Ministry of Immigration and Population, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Mines, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, Ministry of

Labour, Employment and Social Security, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Rakhine State Government, Union Attorney-General's office and Myanmar Investment Commission participated in the dialogue.

For US, high level officials including the Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, the Deputy Commander of

US Pacific Command, and experts from the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labour and the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations of the State Department, Department of Defence, USAID Asia Bureau and the US Ambassador to Myanmar, and the officials from the US Embassy in Yangon took part in the discussion.

MNA

Myanmar Payment Union and JCB sign MOU for First International EMV Debit Cards in Myanmar

YANGON AND TOKYO, 14 Jan (ACN Newswire)— Myanmar Payment Union (“MPU”), the national payment network of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar founded by the Central Bank of Myanmar, and JCB International Co., Ltd. (“JCBI”), the international operations subsidiary of JCB Co., Ltd., are pleased to announce that MPU and JCBI have signed an MOU in regard to MPU member bank issuing of JCB debit cards to residents of Myanmar. The initial timeframe of the MOU anticipates the launch of MPU/JCB co-branded card issuing in 2015.

The scope of the MOU, signed January 9 2015, is for MPU member banks in Myanmar to issue MPU/JCB co-branded debit cards

linking to their customer's saving accounts. The cards will be accepted on the JCB international network which includes about 27 million JCB merchants in 190 countries and territories around the world.

MPU and JCBI have been developing their partnership since entering into the Master License Agreement for merchant acquiring in July 2013, and are committed to expanding JCB card acceptance in Myanmar. Now JCB cards may be used at most MPU accepting locations through MPU's national payment network.

This card issuing initiative would be a valuable addition to MPU and its member bank's domestic payment scheme portfolio. At the same time, the use of

J/Smart, JCB's EMV-compliant chip program, will also help in implementing EMV acceptance in Myanmar.

Mr. Koremitsu San-nomiya, President & COO of JCBI, said, “Myanmar's payment card market has high potential for the future as the nation has opened to the world and the economy and consumer affluence continue to grow. With the strong leadership of MPU in the financial industry in Myanmar, JCBI has been able to offer the benefit of our international experience and flexible approach to help to grow financial institution businesses and build a win-win proposition for all.”

Mr. Mya Than, Chairman of MPU, commented, “MPU would be proud

to issue co-branded cards with JCB. Currently, MPU has opened most of the 3,000 MPU accepting POS for JCB card members from outside of Myanmar. A card issuing partnership would provide our member banks the opportunity to expand their product portfolio and allow consumers to reach the global market and also the international E-commerce market with one single card. JCBI offers us a unique opportunity to share their global knowledge and best practices in the international payment industry. Our local understanding of the payment landscape and JCBI's global outlook are bound to open up new vistas of innovation and collaboration in Myanmar.”

GNLM

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Jan — The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of H.E. Mr Qaley Aliyevich Allahverdiyev as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Kuala Lumpur.

Mr Qaley Aliyevich Allahverdiyev was born in 1950. He studied at the Faculty of Oriental Studies of Baku State University in Azerbaijan. He obtained Candidate of Sciences in 1985 and Ph.D. in Sciences in 1993 respectively. He served as interpreter in Iraq, Syria and Libya as well as scientific researcher in National Academy of Sciences from 1973 to 1994. In 1994, he became the First Secretary in OIC Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Azerbaijan. Then he served in various capacities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and at the Embassies of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Egypt, Turkey, Indonesia and Qatar from 1995 to 2009. Since May 2013, he has been serving as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Malaysia and also concurrently accredited as Ambassador Ordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Brunei Darussalam since March 2014.

He is married and has three children.—MNA

Labour, Employment and Social Security, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Rakhine State Government, Union Attorney-General's office and Myanmar Investment Commission participated in the dialogue.

For US, high level officials including the Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration, the Deputy Commander of

US Pacific Command, and experts from the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labour and the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations of the State Department, Department of Defence, USAID Asia Bureau and the US Ambassador to Myanmar, and the officials from the US Embassy in Yangon took part in the discussion.

MNA

First big food fair to be held this month in Yangon

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 14 Jan — Organized by MyLann, an online restaurant directory guide, the first big food fair will be taken place on 24 and 25 January at public square and people's park on Pyay Road here with the aim of enabling youths and people to enjoy a wide variety of foods at a single place happily.

The event organizer expects about 100 restaurants to take part in the event, in which more than 70 restaurants including YKKO restaurant have joined it as an exhibitor so far, most of them in Yangon, according to Ye Naung Kham, public relations and event executive at MyLann.

The exhibition booth fees are K400,000 per 10x10 feet booth and K600,000 per 16x16 feet

booth, he added.

During the two-day event, popular singers including Phyu Phyu Kyaw Thein, Nyan Linn Aung and other performers will entertain the fans with their songs and dances, with the organizer expects to attract around 15,000 visitors.

The company has arranged to distribute 10,000 flyers to the target audiences to enjoy the programmes free of charge. It also scheduled to conduct many food-related contests.

Plan is underway to conduct the “second food fair” in the coming year based on the success of this event, the official said, adding MyLann usually conducts local food contests each month in partnership with Yangon-based restaurants.—GNLM

Govt discuss National Planning Bill for FY 2015-2016

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan — President U Thein Sein attended the meeting Wednesday to discuss the National Planning Bill for 2015-2016 fiscal year, which will be enacted into law to implement the projects in the final stage of the first-five year national development plan.

The meeting was the sixth of its kind during the present administration and the first one in 2015 to continue the remaining development programmes of the government.

President said the National Planning Commission has already held five meetings since 2012, adding that the first meeting in 2012 focused on implementation of the National Planning Bill for the first five-year plan, sector-wide projects and regional development programmes.

The second meeting discussed reform processes, conceptual plan for rural and urban development, master plan and land use policy and close cooperation among

union ministers and state/region ministers.

The third meeting highlighted creation of job opportunities, providing people with information about rule of law, efforts to ensure a clean government and fundamental framework for socio-economic reform.

The fourth meeting laid foundations for implementation of seven prioritized projects of electricity, drinking water, agriculture, employment, tourism, monetary policy and investment in 30 months.

The fifth meeting agreed on the long and short term plans for people, profit shares from the benefits of natural resources for the public,

President also urged for practical actions in the implementation of the first five-year plan which will end in 2015-2016 fiscal year as it will be a transition period for the second five-year plan to be carried out by the next administration.

The first five-year plan

underlined 'People-centred Development' and has targeted to realize nationwide stability and peace, a modern democratic nation, clean government and good governance, UN's Millennium Goals, secure lives for all the people, adequate electricity and drinking water, smooth transportation and reduction of poverty rate.

U Thein Sein noted the plan for 2015-2016 fiscal year is based on the four economic policies of the state, with the allocation of more budgets for health and education sectors, as well as electricity supply for 50 percent of the country's total households. This upcoming plan will prioritize the projects which will have obvious benefits to the people in the short-term in line with the Public Finance Management system.

President continued there are still some challenges to overcome while many achievements have been gained in politics, economy and social issues,



President U Thein Sein highlights project implementation at National Planning Bill for 2015-2016 fiscal year.—MNA

calling for cooperation of union government and state/region governments.

He also reiterated the four economic plans of the establishment of industrialized country through promoting of agricultural

sector and the sector-wide developments among states and regions; the growth of socio-economic sectors; and improving quality of facts and figures.

U Thein Sein reminded the importance of cooperation in facing with challenges of internal or external affairs from administrative sector, saying that the lateral and vertical collaboration plan is important for implementing the projects with fruitful results.

Later, Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw reviewed completions of the first-five year plan from 2011-2012 FY to 2014-2015 FY, followed by explanation of National Planning Bill for 2015-2016 FY. Chief ministers of state/region and chairmen of self-administered areas presented their preparations to implement the projects in 2015-2016 FY. Union

ministers also elaborated the plans and processes in the bill. President U Thein Sein then remarked the government has already adopted fixed plans for the levels of Union and state/region to be able to finalize the first five-year plan.

He also said that the officials concerned are to make more efforts in promoting Human Development Index as it is more fundamental than gross domestic product for the growth of national economy, without losing concentration on the final stage as the general elections will be held in November 2015.

As a conclusion, President urged the participants to check and adjust the balance on allocated budgets and the cost of projects which must be finalized in the remaining one year term of current administration.

MNA



President U Thein Sein delivers . . .

(from page 1)

appropriate salaries and benefits as they are striving to make the administrative mechanism better by performing responsibilities with accountability, saying that he has talked about it at opportune times.

However, the government has to take everything into account to do so, instead of just thinking about the salaries of government employees in a short term, the president added, saying that the salaries will be increased to an appropriate level.

In addition to pay rise,

the government employees will be able to enjoy education, health, social and housing benefits including stipends, scholarships, social security, free healthcare and affordable housing, according to the president, who later added that a government will be a people's government only when it considers the long-term interests of the people and takes necessary measures.

In conclusion, the president said that the government will lay a sound financial foundation for the next government so that the

incumbent will not leave economic woes to the latter including debt burdens, financial crises, economic instability, inflation, unemployment, corruption and falls in local and foreign trade and investment.

After the president's speech, Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham explained the measures taken for drawing budget for this year in accordance with the medium term fiscal framework adopted by international community, reduction of hiring new employees, travel allowances, reception, maintenance, construction and other costs.

Then, Vice President U Nyan Tun reported on budget process including allocation of K 45 billion for rental housing projects and K 10 billion for farmland development.

The meeting concluded with remarks by the president who urged the participants to collect revenues beyond the target and spend them effectively in accordance with laws, rules and regulations.

Present at the meeting were members of the financial commission and chief ministers of states and divisions.—MNA

Education development partnership organizations emphasize drawing of national education rules

YANGON, 14 Jan — A seminar on education development partnership organizations to draw national education rules was held at Comprehensive Education Sector Review Office on Pyay Road on Wednesday, with an address by Deputy Minister for Education Dr Zaw Min Aung.

Experts discussed basic education, technical and vocational education, higher education and teachership education.

Responsible persons of education development partnership organizations expressed their views and experiences.

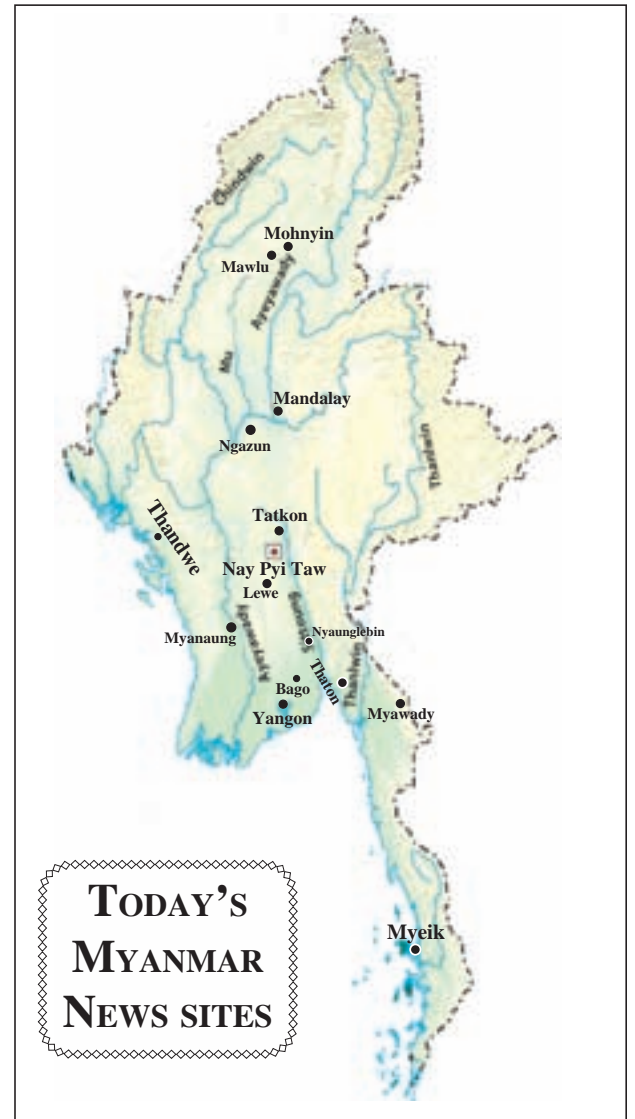
The seminar was attended by rectors, officials of CESR, departmental officials of Ministry of Education and Office of the Attorney-General of the Union, and representatives from education development partnership organizations such as ADB, UNESCO and UNICEF.—Khin Cho Win

Village library under construction in Mohnyin Tsp

MOHNYIN, 14 Jan — The Ministry of Information cooperates with Myanmar Libraries Foundation in building village libraries, providing books and publications and furniture to the libraries and conducting librarian courses to enthusiasts for broadening horizon of rural people.

Long-term development of village libraries depends on cooperation of local authorities and social organizations.

Mohnyin Township Information and Public Relations Department in Kachin State and local people jointly construct a village library in Myaing Village formed with about 100 houses.—GNLM-001



Farmers get compensations for farmlands on which detour passed



LEWE, 14 Jan — The government gave compensation to farmers who lost farmlands for construction of Lewe-Pyinmana detour as of 28 December 2014. On 13 January, all compensations have been given to the farmers.

Lewe Township Administrator U Hla Shaung, Head of Township Settle-

ment and Land Records Department U Nyi Nyi Latt and Assistant Engineer Daw Naw Zizawah of Public Works coordinated with local authorities in giving compensations to local farmers.

They delivered K407.11 million to 217 farmers from seven villages.—*Min Min Latt (Mandalay University)*

Election sub-commissions emphasize collection of eligible voters

MYEIK, 14 Jan — Taninthayi Region Election Sub-commission and Township Sub-commissions held a coordination meeting on compilation of voter list in respective townships at the hall of Myeik District General Administration Department in Myeik on 13 January.

Chairman of the region sub-commission U Than Sein and Region Election Commission Officer U Htin Lin Oo explained collection of eligible voters in the townships.

The chairman of the region sub-commission reviewed the discussions of township officials.—*Zaw Myo Naing (Myeik District IPRD)*



Myanmar archers taking training together with Korean archers

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan — Archers from Myanmar archery team are taking a joint training together with those of Gawando archery team of the Republic of Korea as of 2 January.

On 13 January, the both teams held a friendly archery contest at Wunna Theikdi sports complex in Nay Pyi Taw, attended by Vice Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Deputy Minister for Sports U Zaw Win, General Secretary of MOC Direc-

tor-General U Myo Hlaing and officials.

Before the contest, the deputy minister stressed the Myanmar archers to make utmost efforts in training sessions by studying the techniques of gold medalists in the Asian Games.

A total of four Recurve archers and two Compound archers from the Korean team and 10 Recurve archers and eight Compound archers from Myanmar team participated in the contest.—*SPED*



LOCAL NEWS

Villagers join construction of concrete road in Thaton Tsp

THATON, 14 Jan — A rural road is being upgraded to a concrete facility linking Winpa and Ywathit villages in Thaton Township, Mon State.

Thanks to concerted efforts of local people and officials, the road has been completed by 90 per cent.

“We voluntarily participate in construction of a concrete road by collecting gravels and sand from the creek so as to save money,” local U Thein Than said on 13 January.

Local authorities allotted K12 million for construction of the road in 2014-15 fiscal year. Local people participate in construction tasks of a 1500-foot-long and

12-foot-wide road. Two 50 feet long bridges will be constructed across two bridges on the road.

“When we harvested fruits and crops, brokers purchased the products but they gave lower prices than the actual prices. They gave reasons that they came to the village along the road in poor transport. We were also difficult to sell our products to the market directly. So, we accepted the prices they gave. Upon completion of the road, we can send our crops and products to the market directly and get good prices,” said abbot U Pañña of Winpa monastery.

Thet Oo (Thaton)



Villagers under training of agricultural mechanization driving course

NYAUNGLEBIN, 14 Jan — Farmers need skills in driving agricultural machinery when the farming system is being transformed from manual to

mechanized farming.

In accord with the instructions of the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, a basic agricultural machinery driving course was opened



at Pyuntaza agricultural educative farm in Nyaunglebin Township, Bago Region, on 12 January.

Head of Bago District Agricultural Mechanization Department U Aung Thaung made an opening address.

Head of Township AMD U Kyaw Min Oo explained the conducting the training course.

A total of 30 farmers from villages are attending the course under Head of Township AMD U Kyaw Min Oo and skilled workers from 12 to 23 January.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)

Lewe Township opens upgraded BEMS



NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan — A ceremony to open upgraded Basic Education Middle School was held in Kyaukkaungsu Village, Lewe Township, on 12 January.

Nay Pyi Taw Council members U Myint Swe and

U Phone Zaw Han, Nay Pyi Taw Education Director U Soe Win and officials were in attendance.

Council members U Myint Swe and U Phone Zaw Han made speeches on the occasion.

Council member U Myint Swe met local people from Paytonhmyaung Village-tract and fulfilled requirements of water and power supply, upgrading of school and transport sectors.—*Township IPRD*

Telenor to erect communication towers in railway station yards

MAWLU, 14 Jan — Officials of IGT Company, a subordinate of Telenor (Myanmar), chose the site for erection of a communication tower in the Mawlu railway station yard in Indaw Township, Sagaing Region, on 10 January.

“We together with officials of Myanmar Railways choose the sites for erection of communication

towers in Lashio, Sagaing and Mandalay railway stations in addition to railways stations from Kanbalu to Mawlu stations in Sagaing Region. Officials of Myanmar Railways have permitted us to build the towers on the lands of station yards. The towers will be 35 meters, 45 meters and 72 meters depending on the land situations to be able to

link with towers from MPT and Ooredoo communication companies,” U Thein Htaik Aung of IGT company told media.

Respective communication companies will put investment in building communication networks across the nation so as to give better mobile communication service to the people.—*Khin Maung Swe*



Pope says Sri Lanka should seek truth over civil war

COLOMBO, 14 Jan — Pope Francis called on Sri Lanka to uncover the truth about its long civil conflict and bring religious communities closer together, as he began a visit to the island nation whose wartime leaders were voted out of power only days ago.

Francis, 78, looked tired at an evening meeting of Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim and Christian leaders, and earlier on Tuesday he cancelled a meeting with bishops after a long flight from the Vatican and a sun-baked ride in a jeep along packed roads from the airport. Soon after landing in Buddhist-majority Sri Lanka, he appeared to make the case for a truth commission to investigate the 26-year civil war, an election pledge of the government voted into office on Thursday.

“The process of healing also needs to include



A gust of wind blows the mantle of Pope Francis (L) as he stands next to Sri Lanka's newly elected president Mithripala Sirisena at the Colombo airport on 13 Jan, 2015. —REUTERS

the pursuit of truth, not for the sake of opening old wounds, but rather as a necessary means of promoting justice, healing and unity,” he said, draped in a long garland of yellow and white roses.

The Pope's comments chimed with his readiness

to address contemporary political and economic issues. The Vatican played a key role in the recent breakthrough in US-Cuban relations, and, in comments made before he began his trip to Asia, Francis also said he was keen for North and South Korea to resume

their dialogue.

Francis spoke first at Bandaranaike international airport, where he was met by President Maithripala Sirisena, troupes of dancers and a children's choir. Sirisena said the visit was a blessing for his new government.

The pontiff departed past a long line of costumed elephants, reaching their trunks towards his white jeep, which briefly came to a halt surrounded by crowds lining the road. The motorcade's slow progress through the tropical heat took its toll.

“Due to the hot sun he could not go,” Sri Lankan Church spokesman Cyril Gamini said of the bishops' meeting. The Pope later met the president as scheduled. Francis is the first pope to visit Sri Lanka in 20 years.

Fighting between the mainly Hindu Tamils and

the mostly Buddhist Sinhalese majority ended in 2009 with a crushing defeat for the Tamils. A 2011 UN estimate put the death toll from the final army assault at up to 40,000 civilians.

Pope Francis had firsthand experience of civil strife as a priest in his native Argentina during its “Dirty War”.

A subsequent 50,000-page truth report revealed shocking details of kidnappings, rape and torture by the military junta. On Thursday, Francis will head to the Philippines as part of a trip aimed at shoring up the Church's presence in developing nations. The week-long tour is his second to Asia.

The Pope carried a message of inter-faith dialogue, chiming with the new government's push for religious harmony.

“My government is promoting peace and

friendship among our people after overcoming a cruel terrorist conflict,” Sirisena said. However, Meenakshi Ganguly, South Asia director of Human Rights Watch, was doubtful the new government would agree to a UN inquiry into the end of the war, preferring a domestic-led probe. Sirisena was acting defence minister as the war wound up. “Sirisena has also said he is not going to back an international investigation,” said Ganguly.

About 70 percent of Sri Lankans are Buddhists. Hindus make up about 13 percent and Muslims 10 percent. Catholics are about 7 percent, split between ethnic Sinhalese and Tamils.

Francis will canonize Sri Lanka's first Catholic saint on Wednesday, and visit a pilgrimage site that was shelled in 1999.

Reuters

Indonesia investigators hope to get clues to AirAsia crash in days

JAKARTA, /SURABAYA, (Indonesia), 14 Jan — Indonesian investigators began examining on Wednesday the black box flight recorders from an AirAsia passenger jet that crashed more than two weeks ago, and hope to unlock initial clues to the cause of the disaster within days.

Divers retrieved the flight data and cockpit voice recorders this week from the sunken wreckage of Flight QZ8501, which lost contact with air traffic control halfway into a two-hour flight from Indonesia's second biggest city Surabaya to Singapore. All 162 people on board were killed.

The recorders were lifted from the bottom of the Java Sea and sent to the capital, Jakarta, for analysis. Both were found to be in relatively good condition. “In one week, I think we will be getting a reading,” Mardjono Siswosuwarno, head investigator for the National Transportation Safety Committee, told Reuters.

The so-called black boxes — which are actually orange — contain a wealth of data that will be crucial for investigators piecing together the sequence of



Indonesian soldiers hold the cockpit voice recorder of AirAsia QZ8501 at Iskandar Airbase in Pangkalan Bun, Central Kalimantan on 13 Jan, 2015. —REUTERS

events that led to the Airbus A320-200 plunging into the sea.

The flight data recorder took only 15 minutes to download, but investigators will now need to analyse up to 25 hours of data and several thousand flight parameters covering things such as flying speed, altitude, fuel consumption, air pressure changes and inputs to the aircraft's controls.

“We are feeling relieved but there is still a lot of work ahead of us to analyse it,” said Siswosuwarno. Investigators were expected later on Wednesday to begin downloading data from the cockpit voice recorder, which retains the last two hours of conversations on the flight deck and

between the pilots and air traffic controllers.

As is standard procedure, the NTSC will file a

S Korea urges DPRK again to respond to dialogue offer

SEOUL, 14 Jan — South Korea on Wednesday urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) once again to respond to its dialogue offer, saying the government will deliver voices of concern to civic groups about their plans to scatter anti-DPRK leaflets.

The South Korean military said it will sternly retaliate against any DPRK provocations though the provocations are caused by the leaflet dispersion.

Unification Ministry spokesman Lim Byeol-

preliminary report, which will be made public, to the International Civil Aviation Organization within 30 days. A final report on the crash is not expected to be published for at least a year, Siswosuwarno said.

After the recovery of the two black boxes, Indonesia is expected to scale back search and rescue operations in the Java Sea.

But government officials sought to reassure victims' families that efforts to retrieve the remains of their loved ones would continue.

Reuters

China, Indonesia pledge cooperation against terrorism

BEIJING, 14 Jan — China and Indonesia pledged to cooperate on counterterrorism in Beijing on Tuesday.

The pledge was made during a meeting between Meng Jianzhu, head of the Commission for Political and Legal Affairs of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee; and Saud Usman Nasution, Indonesia's National Counterterrorism Agency chief.

Counterterrorism cooperation is an important component of the China-Indonesia comprehensive strategic partnership, said Meng, also a member

of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee. Both countries should deepen counterterrorism cooperation to play a constructive role in maintaining bilateral and regional security and stability, given the complex changes in international and regional landscape in anti-terrorism, Meng said.

As both countries had been victims of terrorism, Saud said, Indonesia understands and supports China's effort to combat terrorist forces and is willing to increase communication and cooperation with China. — Xinhua

talks in January.

Top DPRK leader Kim Jong Un said in his New Year's speech on 1 January, that there is no reason not to hold summit with South Korean President Park Geun-hye if a right atmosphere is formed.

In her New Year's Press conference, Park said in response that she can hold summit with Kim if it promotes inter-Korean relations, but she noted that the DPRK should show sincerity toward resolving issues through dialogue.

South Korea has called for the holding of reunion event of Korean families, separated during the 1950-53 Korean War, around the Lunar New Year's holiday that fell in mid-February this year.

The DPRK has demanded that South Korea prevent civic groups from floating anti-DPRK leaflets across the border and said it would temporarily suspend nuclear tests if the United States halts joint annual military exercises with South Korea. — Xinhua

Obama pledges to work on use of force order for Islamic State

WASHINGTON, 14 Jan — US President Barack Obama on Tuesday pledged to work with Republican and Democratic lawmakers on a formal authorization of the use of military force against Islamic State militants after taking a go-slow approach to the topic last year.

The agreement came during a White House meeting with bipartisan congressional leaders during which Obama sought to develop a better working relationship with Congress for the year after the partisan bickering that has marked much of his presidency.

The Obama administration has argued that its five-month-long campaign of air strikes in Iraq and Syria against Islamic State militants is legal, based on authorization passed in the early 2000s under President George W Bush for the Iraq

War and fighting al-Qaeda and associated groups. But several members of Congress have said it would be preferable to debate and pass a new authorization

for combating Islamic State fighters, who have killed thousands of people while seizing swaths of territory in Iraq and Syria. The White House had set the

issue aside until now.

“The president committed to working with members of both parties on text for an AUMF (authorization of military force)



US President Barack Obama hosts a bipartisan meeting of Congressional leaders in the Cabinet Room of the White House in Washington on 13 Jan, 2015. Pictured (L to R) are House Majority Leader Kevin McCarthy, House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House John Boehner, Obama, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Senate Minority Whip Dick Durbin.—REUTERS

that Congress can pass to show the world America stands united against ISIL,” the White House said, using an acronym for Islamic State.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell welcomed the step, telling reporters later that a good starting place for Obama is “for him to tell us what he wants, and to provide the initial document.” He said he expected it in the near future.

Obama, who has been criticized by both Republicans and Democrats for not developing closer relationships with lawmakers, brought in 16 congressional leaders to the White House to take stock of what is possible this year now that both houses of Congress are led by Republicans.

Obama enters the new year in a stronger political position due to improved economic growth.

Despite a Republican rout in November mid-term elections, Obama has seen a slight rebound in his job approval numbers, and he and his aides say he has six to nine months to achieve

major priorities before the country turns its attention to the campaign to replace him in 2016.

In his opening remarks to the congressional leaders, Obama mentioned cybersecurity, trade and tax reform as three areas where agreement might be found.

“We’re in a position to make sure that 2015 is an even stronger year. And relative to our competitors, we are holding much better cards. The key now is for us to work as a team to make sure whether we build on this progress,” Obama said.

Boehner, however, raised the prospect of constructing the long-stalled Keystone XL pipeline. Obama has pledged to veto legislation that would require him to approve construction of the Canada-to-Texas pipeline.

Boehner also made clear the House would push ahead with a funding bill for the Homeland Security Department that would cut funds for use in carrying out Obama’s executive action late last year to relax US policy toward illegal immigrants.—Reuters

Japan, S Korea, US to meet in late January on N Korea issues

TOKYO, 14 Jan — Japan, South Korea and the United States are arranging for their chief delegates to long-stalled six-party talks on ending North Korea’s nuclear weapons programme to meet in Tokyo on 28 January at the earliest, according to sources close to the multilateral talks.

The trilateral meeting plan emerged amid high tensions between the United States and North Korea after Washington accused Pyongyang of being involved in the cyberattack against Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc.

Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a Press conference on Wednesday that the three countries are in the process of scheduling a meeting in Tokyo to discuss North Korean issues.

“It’s extremely important for the three countries to strengthen policy coordination toward North Korea,” the top government spokesman said. “Nuclear testing by North Korea is unacceptable as it runs counter to the spirit of the UN resolution, the Japan-North Korea Pyongyang Declaration and the six-party agreement.”

Earlier this month, US President Barack Obama endorsed economic sanctions against entities and individuals in North Korea in reaction to the alleged hacking by Pyongyang.

North Korea said last week it will suspend nuclear tests if the United States and South Korea cancel joint military drills. The multilateral nuclear negotiations involving the two Koreas, China, Japan, Russia and the United States have been deadlocked since 2008.

In Washington, Sung Kim, who will represent the United States if the six-nation talks resume, told a congressional session on Tuesday that he will be visiting Tokyo for the trilateral talks late January.

The special representative for North Korea policy told the House of Representatives’ Foreign Affairs Committee that he will also travel to Beijing during his trip to Asia to enhance bilateral cooperation over the nuclear issue.—Kyodo News

Al-Qaeda in Yemen claims responsibility for Paris attack

DUBAI, 14 Jan — Al-Qaeda in Yemen claimed responsibility for the attack on French satirical newspaper *Charlie Hebdo*, saying it was ordered by the Islamist militant group’s leadership for insulting the Prophet Muhammad, according to a video posted on YouTube.

“As for the blessed Battle of Paris, we, the Organization of al-Qaeda al

Jihad in the Arabian Peninsula, claim responsibility for this operation as vengeance for the Messenger of God,” said Nasser bin Ali al-Ansi, a leader of the Yemeni branch of al-Qaeda (AQAP) in the recording.

Gunmen killed a total of 17 people in three days of violence that began when they opened fire at *Charlie Hebdo* in revenge for its past publication

of satirical images of the Prophet.

Ansi, the main ideologue for AQAP, said the “one who chose the target, laid the plan and financed the operation is the leadership of the organization”, without naming an individual.

He added without elaborating that the strike was carried out in “implementation” of the order of

overall al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahri, who has called for strikes by Muslims in the West using any means they can find.

AQAP itself is led by Nasser al-Wuhayshi, who is also Zawahri’s number two in the network’s global hierarchy.

“We did it in compliance with the command of Allah and supporting His Messenger, peace be upon Him,” Ansi added.

It was not immediately possible to verify the authenticity of the recording, which carried the logo of the al-Qaeda’s media group al-Malahem.

The first edition of *Charlie Hebdo* published after last week’s attacks sold out within minutes at newspaper kiosks around France on Wednesday, with people queuing up to buy copies to support the satirical weekly.—Reuters



Gunmen gesture as they return to their car after the attack outside the offices of French satirical weekly newspaper *Charlie Hebdo* (seen at rear) in this still image taken from amateur video shot in Paris on 7 Jan, 2015.

REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 15 January, 2015

Agro-industry vital for development in MyanmarBy *Aung Khin*

A large number of Myanmar people depend on agricultural sector in terms of food security and jobs, while the country has a lot of potentials for full productivity and development in this sector.

Myanmar has seen a new wave of political reforms to boost economic expansions. In this effort, the agricultural sector remains a backbone of the country's economy. Political leaders need to adopt new policies and regulations for the agricultural sector to generate equitable growth at the core of the democratic reform agenda.

The National Strategy on Rural Development and Poverty plan of the previous government aimed to reduce the poverty rate of Myanmar by half from 32 percent in 2005 to 16 percent by 2015. Assessment would be needed to examine strategies and policies under this plan.

Economic growth and poverty alleviation for the whole country will depend on improvements in productivity and growth of agricultural crops. Nobel Prize-winning economist Professor Joseph Stiglitz suggested five years ago that a focus on agriculture is absolutely essential for Myanmar to meet the Millennium Development Goals.

The cost of credit should be effective for Myanmar farmers to be able to avoid high interest. The Paris-based Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) released a report titled Multi-dimensional Review of Myanmar, urging to address the problems of poor rural infrastructure, inadequate farming skills, insufficient government services in promoting exports and lack of access to finance in the

agricultural sector.

It also said that increasing access to finance in rural areas and improving farming skills will be vital to boosting farm productivity, freeing up workers for manufacturing services, pointing out that resolving ambiguity over land rights, improving infrastructure and reforming the financial system would help create the right conditions for the wider economy to flourish.

Myanmar should sustain the momentum of the reform process, with the promotion of rural lives through agricultural sector.

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.

Knowledge and Education**U Khin Maung (a retired diplomat)**

Now, a new era, a new age is upon us. It is, as we all know, "Knowledge-age". So, in this day and age, we have such terms as "knowledge-based economy", "knowledge-driven world", "knowledge exploration", "constant learning society" etc, so widely used that they become catch words. To keep pace with the current trend, the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has laid down its own education policy and vision. I think state education policy and vision may be mentioned as follows:-

"To create an education system that can generate a learning society, capable of facing the challenges of the knowledge age."

To win the public support and appreciation in the state education policy, our daily newspapers and our state schools carry the state's motto. "Let's build a modern and developed nation through education."

To be in line with the state education policy and to be able to respond to the globalization challenges, and to suit the changing needs of the society and rapid development of technology. I, as a former magistrate, would like to sincerely and yet strongly advise the judicial officers to pursue eagerly and earnestly a constant learning goal.

In this connection, I would like to present my views on education. It is my sincere views and firm belief as well that "no educative process is ever the end; it is always the beginning of more education, more learning, more living. "In other words, I would like to say that we should learn and grow as the years go by. Why? Simply because learning is a never ending process and simply because we can't afford to be left behind the rapidly changing world. Concerning the light of knowledge and education, I would also

like to recite to you a short poem from memory.

Well, if freely and loosely translated, I think it would read as follows:

"Of the lights, fire light, moon light and sun light.

Moon light is brighter than fire light, Sun light is brighter than moon light.

Ah, the light of knowledge is the brightest of all. No light is there brighter than the light of knowledge. As such, Lord Buddha, has preached."

Therefore, all and sundry, each and everybody should strive to acquire knowledge.

A good knowledge is just like a *Badeithabin* tree—a tree of plenty, an inexhaustible store.

Let's now see what the western philosophers had said on knowledge and education.

Greek Philosopher Aristotle said, "Only the educated are free."

Benjamin Franklin pointed out, "An investment in knowledge pays the best interest."

Henry Adams had this

to say, "They know enough who know how to learn."

Well, there is a widely accepted and highly appreciated old saying which simply and yet effectively goes "knowledge is power."

Now in this knowledge age where will we stand if we don't get ourselves involved in it?, and if we are not keen on learning constantly and expanding our horizons? Well, we will be left behind, we will be sidelined. It is simple as that. Therefore, another question is, why should judges participate in judicial education programmes?

As regard this particular question, I think, I can't do any better than to quote the salient points from an article written by Justice R.D. Nicholson, Judge of the Federal Court of Australia, who gave the reasons as follows:

* In the case of educa-

tion relating to the law, the judiciary is required to keep up with changes and further its understanding of the existing law.

* In the case of administration, the judges need to be working in tandem with court registries to progress cases and achieve the best within limited budgetary provisions.

* Public and professional confidence in the courts is maintained and enhanced by the display of willingness to learn. So the principle of judicial independence is enhanced.

Here, I would also like to emphasize a principle from the same article: "the cardinal principle of judicial education, for it to be successful, is that it must be judge-managed."

And another one more question is: what should be the content of judicial education? Judicial education may be delivered in relation to:

Improving a judge's knowledge of the law;

Improving a judge's skills in judicial administration, and

Contributing to a judge's understanding of the society in which he or she is administering justice.

In conclusion, I would like to advise you, on the strength of the following words of wisdom, to keep on learning and get better every day.

"Knowledge is not static. It is accumulating and expanding all the time. In the quest for knowledge there must be a strong will and perseverance."

"We should create a desire and dedication to update and upgrade ourselves continuously."

"Knowledge is power" seems to have quite a following these days."

The object of education should be to increase the usefulness of man, usefulness to himself, and usefulness to others."

Thai delegation visits MMCWA

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan—A delegation led by Mrs Nuchattra Chansubanich, wife of the Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Navy visited Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday.

They met President of MMCWA Daw Thazin

Nwe, vice presidents and CEC members.

The president extended greetings, and the secretary explained visions of the association, organiza-

tional setup, duty and functions and tasks for maternal and child development.

They exchanged gifts at the meeting.—MNA

Mrs Nuchattra Chansubanich and officials of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association exchange gifts at the association's hall.—MNA



NATIONAL

Four prominent persons at debate...

(from page 1)
the National League for Democracy and Secretary of the Rule of Law and Peace and Stability Committee of Pyithu Hluttaw, U Ko Kyo Gyi of 88 Generation Peace and Open Society, and U Kyaw Win, an

economist, took part in the debate. Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut opened the debate, reaffirming the commitments of the government to settling issues as much as the government can and to

make stronger institutions than persons while carrying out reforms and building infrastructures for the country's future.

NLD's CEC member U Win Myint has called on the government to have a strong desire and diligence for achieving success in reforms, stressing the importance of building trust between the people and the government and mindset of people who have taken big duties in the country.

U Ko Ko Gyi stressed the importance of public credibility for an administrative sector to gain trust from the people as the sector plays an important role in implementing reforms.

Regarding reforms at low level, he said, whether regional and state parliaments can do checks and balance to respective governments is the answer to the situation of reforms at lower level.

U Kyaw Win stressed the importance of listening to the voice of the people to build trust between the people and the government since reforms cannot meet with success without participation of the people.

U Ye Htut said the parliament is a platform for building trust between political parties, the Tatmadaw, the national people and the armed groups.

GNLM



U Ye Htut, Union Minister for Information, participates in debate.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

KIA abducts three policemen, releases transport minister after interrogation

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan— Three policemen were abducted by KIA troops while they were escorting Kachin State's transport minister Wednesday during his tour of inspection of Mogaung-Karmaing-Hpakant Road.

A KIA armed group comprising about 25 troops shot in the air and stopped U Kamann Du Naw, the transport minister of Kachin State, and security personnel led by SIP Myint Soe near Hwaylone Village in Hpakant Township around 11.25 am while the minister was travelling along with others along the Hpakant-Seikmu-Hwaykar-Nyaungpin-Loneton-Hopin Road.

After interrogating the minister and his entourage, KIA armed troops allowed the minister to proceed to his tour but abducted the policemen with arms and ammunition.

Authorities has informed a conflict negotiation team in Sitapu Ward, Myitkyina, and has worked together with U Naw Di who is at the rank of Lt-Col and a member of the team and U La Mai Kun Ja, an adviser to a technical group to get back the abductees.

A local column of the Tatmadaw is in hot pursuit of the KIA troops—MNA

MNHRC makes a statement on Letpadaungtaung riot

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Jan — Myanmar National Human Rights Commission issued a statement Wednesday on riot that broke out at Letpadaungtaung copper mine project in Salingyi Township, Sagaing region, on 22 December 2014.

The commission made the following recommendations in its statement:

- (a) Action should be taken for the case number 4/2014 filed with manslaughter at Salingyi police station in accordance with the law.
- (b) Actions should be taken against responsible persons from the team who failed to take necessary security measures for erecting fence at the Let-

padaungtaung project of in the area of the office of the commander of Sagaing region police force.

- (c) In accordance with regulatory procedures of Myanmar Police Force, actions should be taken against police members who failed to strictly follow instructions in taking security measures while the area was being fenced off.
- (d) Measures should be taken to prevent further clashes and losses after reviewing security measures thoroughly while implementing Letpadaungtaung copper mine project.

The details of MNHRC's findings can be browsed at www.mnhrc.org.mm.—MNA

New OECD report released, providing...

(from page 1)
inclusive process which involved extensive consultations with government officials, academics and Myanmar-based businesses and donors and gathered data and information from OECD, UNESCAP and UMFCFI Myanmar Business Survey 2014 as well.

The report provided three policy recommendations, calling for a structural transformation towards a more manufacturing and service-based economy, filling the skills gap and financing development.

The report highlighted that Myanmar's agriculture sector has considerable op-

portunities for expansion and diversification but faces structural constraints. The OECD found that agricultural per capita is about \$200 per year, the lowest among its Asian neighbours.

The agriculture sector accounts for nearly 32 per cent of GDP and 20 per cent of export earnings. Its

share of employment, at 60 per cent, is much higher.

The report stressed the need to boost agricultural productivity to generate more incomes in rural areas and raised concerns over rice production which is low.

Research and innovation as well as extension services can help overcome the outdated methods of farming that are holding Myanmar's agriculture back, said the report.

It describes security of land tenure and freedom in crop choice as the two of the most important unresolved issues.

The report called for setting up a special portal for agri-food products to disseminate information on importing country's food safety regulations and market information, thereby facilitating trade.

On filling the skills gap, the OECD stressed the need to align education and skills policies to the needs of the labour market, allocating greater resources to technical vocational education and training (TVET) and putting in place incen-

tive for workplace training.

The report pointed out that young people are often not "work ready" by the time they complete their initial education, or even after graduation from university, and workers instead tend to acquire skills on the job. It said more than half of all firms in Myanmar do not spend anything on training for employees.

Myanmar's potential could be realized through effective mobilization and allocation of financial resources to support its development needs, said the report calling for the transformation of the financial system.

The report pointed out that the rural sector is the most underserved by the formal financial system revealing that only about 2.5 per cent of total loans go to the rural sector even though it accounts for 30 per cent of GDP and two-thirds of employment. It added that less than one-fifth of the total population has access to formal financial services.

Calling for significant relaxation of bank regu-

lations in certain areas in the near term as well as the beginning of reform to convert the state-owned banks into more effective commercial entities, the report said that conservative lending practices that include officially specified rates for bank deposit and lending rates as well as strict collateral requirements have contributed to the limited access to formal credit by much of the private sector.

It also encouraged stock market development in Myanmar that should be regarded as a long-term project. A first focus on interbank and bond markets is imperative for the country's financial and capital market development, it added.

In its conclusion, the report highlighted the importance of getting the country's reforms on track, urging to sustain this drive for improving the conditions for development and well-being of its citizens.

The third phase of the Multi-dimensional Country Review will conclude in 2015 with a final report.

GNLM



The second volume of OECD Multi-dimensional Review of Myanmar released in Yangon on Wednesday says the country's agriculture sector has the potential to become a major agri-food produce and trade hub in the region if it can increase its productivity and modernize.

PHOTO: CREDIT TO MYANMAR RICE FEDERATION

Mexican mayor faces charges in kidnapping of 43 students



Media take pictures of mugshots of Jose Luis Abarca, former mayor of Iguala, and his wife Maria de los Angeles displayed on a screen during a news conference in Mexico City on 7 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

MEXICO CITY, 14 Jan — The former mayor of the southwestern city of Iguala has been charged with last year's kidnapping of 43 students who are feared to have been killed, a top security official said on Tuesday.

Tomas Zeron, director of criminal investigations at the federal Attorney General's office, said that prosecutors had obtained an arrest warrant for former mayor Jose Luis Abarca and 44 others on charges of kidnapping the 43 students.

President Enrique Pena Nieto is facing his deepest crisis over the government's handling of the

investigation. Anger over the case spurred sometimes violent demonstrations around the country late last year.

Zeron did not specify when the warrant was obtained, but it appeared to be the first charges filed against Abarca that are directly related to the students' disappearance even though authorities have said the mayor and his wife were the masterminds of the kidnappings since October.

Zeron spoke to reporters after meeting with family members of the missing students.

The students were al-

legedly abducted by police working with a local drug gang in the southwestern city of Iguala on the night of 26 September. On Monday, the federal courts authority said a judge had ruled Abarca's wife will stand trial for links to organized crime.

Abarca and his wife, Maria de los Angeles Pineda were captured by federal police in Mexico City in November.

Abarca was already facing charges of links to organised crime as well as kidnapping and murder charges related to other cases besides the students.

Reuters

Haiti enters uncertain political phase as parliament dissolved

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 14 Jan — The Haitian parliament was dissolved on Tuesday after the failure of last-ditch negotiations for a deal to extend the terms of its members to avert a political crisis in the Caribbean country.

Haiti has not held legislative or municipal elections for three years, and the lack of a working parliament effectively leaves President Michel Martelly to rule by decree.

Martelly launched last-minute negotiations, but failed to convince a group of opposition senators to approve a U.S.-sanctioned plan to extend parliamentary terms for several months until new elections can be held.

On Tuesday, the United Nations "Core Group," which includes countries working closely with Haiti, such as the United States, Brazil, Canada, and the



Haiti's President Michel Martelly addresses the audience during a memorial held for the victims of the 2010 earthquake in Titanyen, on the outskirts of Port-au-Prince on 12 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

European Union, issued a statement saying it "deplores the fact that the Haitian parliament has become dysfunctional," while offering its support for Martelly.

"In these exceptional circumstances, the 'Core Group' trusts that the Executive and all the political actors will act with respon-

sibility and restraint," it added.

Martelly, whose term in office runs out next year, last month tried to calm opposition critics by appointing former Port-au-Prince Mayor Evans Paul as the new prime minister, but the parliament shunned his pick and refused to ratify him.

"I was expecting to be invited by the parliament. It did not happen, but it's not me who refused to introduce myself," Paul said in an interview. Now as de facto prime minister, he said he still planned to try to form a new government.

"I've started consultations with political parties to compose my government, but the consensus is not easy to get," he said.

For weeks, opponents to Martelly have mounted street protests in the capital accusing the president and his family of corruption. The demonstrations took a more aggressive turn in recent days, with some protesters calling for a civil war.

On Monday, Haiti marked the fifth anniversary of a devastating earthquake that killed tens of thousands of people in the capital. Many Haitians are still homeless.—Reuters

UN aid chief suggests more intervention in humanitarian emergencies



United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos holds a news conference to launch of the Global Humanitarian appeal for 2015 at the United Nations European headquarters in Geneva on 8 Dec, 2014. —REUTERS

UNITED NATIONS, 14 Jan— UN aid chief Valerie Amos on Tuesday suggested more intervention in humanitarian emergencies as she said some states were aggressively asserting sovereignty rights to stop action being taken to protect civilians.

Amos cited Syria as an example after the United Nations Security Council had to adopt two resolutions to authorise the delivery of cross-border humanitarian aid in a bid to reach millions of people in need as a result of the country's civil war.

"I don't think that the Syrian government has ever forgiven me. They see me as personally responsible for pushing the Security Council to agree to those resolutions," Amos told the Council of Foreign Relations in New York.

Amos, who will step down in March after more than four years, also said the conflict in Syria has

been her low point. More than 12 million people in Syria need help, while another 3.2 million have fled the conflict that has killed some 200,000 people.

"Perhaps we could have pressured the Security Council earlier to get the resolutions that we did," she said.

Amos said there was not enough accountability at the United Nations and that while the Security Council has recognised flagrant violations of international humanitarian law around the world, "there is no action after that."

"As millions of people are forced to flee, as there is abuse on an unprecedented scale of girls and women in many countries ... and action is not being taken in relation to this, I ask the question: should we not be more interventionist?" she said. But Amos said she did not necessarily mean "boots on the ground" intervention.—Reuters

Iran's Rouhani says countries behind oil price drop will suffer

DUBAI, 14 Jan— Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on Tuesday that countries behind the fall in global oil prices would regret their decision and warned that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait would suffer alongside Iran from the price drop.

"Those that have planned to decrease the prices against other countries will regret this decision," Rouhani said in a speech broadcast on state

television as oil plunged to near six year lows on international markets.

"If Iran suffers from the drop in oil prices, know that other oil-producing countries such as Saudi Arabia and Kuwait will suffer more than Iran," he added.

Oil prices have fallen 60 percent from their June 2014 peaks, driven down by rising production, particularly of US shale oil, and weaker-than-expected demand in Europe and Asia.

Earlier this month, Iran described Saudi Arabia's inaction in the face of the six-month price slide as a strategic mistake, but hoped that the kingdom, Teheran's main rival in the Gulf, would respond.

On Tuesday, Rouhani singled out Kuwait and Saudi Arabia's budget dependency on oil exports.

Data showed that 80 percent of Saudi Arabia's budget is based on oil sales, while in Kuwait the figure

stands at 95 percent, he said in a speech in the city of Bushehr.

In 2013, oil accounted for roughly 90 percent of Saudi Arabia's overall budget income and Kuwait at 92 percent, according to Reuters' calculations based on official data.

On the other hand, only one-third of Iran's budget is based on oil sales, with an estimated 60 percent of the country's exports tied to oil, Rouhani said.—Reuters

US brands as 'terrorist' Pakistani Taleban head behind massacre



An army soldier stands in the Army Public School, which was attacked by Taleban gunmen, in Peshawar, on 17 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 14 Jan — The United States on Tuesday declared Pakistani Taleban leader Mullah Fazlullah a “global terrorist,” making it a crime to engage in transactions with the man behind the 16 December attack in which 134 children at a Peshawar

school were killed.

The State Department said in a statement the formal designation also allows the US government to seize any of his property or interests in the United States, including those under the control of US citizens.

Fazlullah and the Tale-



A child supporter of political party Pakistan Awami Tehreek (PAT), hold sign with others to condemn the attack by Taleban gunmen on the Army Public School in Peshawar, during a rally in Lahore on 21 Dec, 2014. REUTERS

ban claimed responsibility for the school attack that resulted in the deaths of “at least 148 individuals, mostly students,” the department said.

Fazlullah also was behind the 2012 assassination attempt on Pakistani schoolgirl activist Malala

Yousafzai, who last year was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Fazlullah was elected leader of the Taleban in 2013.

The Pakistani Taleban was designated a terrorist organization by the United States in 2010.

Reuters

US trial starts over PLO role in Israel attacks



A Palestinian man wearing a T-shirt with the picture of late Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat holds a flower planted in a spent tear gas canister that he said was fired by Israeli troops during clashes with Palestinian protesters, at Manger Square, ahead of Christmas, in the West Bank city of Bethlehem on 23 Dec, 2014. REUTERS

NEW YORK, 14 Jan — A US trial to decide the liability of the Palestine Liberation Organization and Palestinian Authority for several attacks in Israel began on Tuesday, as a lawyer for victims called the defendants’ alleged involvement “standard operating procedure” and a defense lawyer blamed others for the “horrific” violence.

Six men and six women were chosen as jurors to decide whether the defendants should pay up to \$1 billion for what the plaintiffs’ lawyer Kent Yalowitz said was support for six shootings and bombings in the Jerusalem area from 2002 to 2004. The attacks killed 33 and wounded more than 450.

The trial before US District Judge George Daniels adds a new dimension to the long-running Middle East conflict.

Yalowitz told jurors in the Manhattan civil trial that “time and time again,” the late PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and other Palestinian leaders would approve payments that they knew would further such attacks, to coerce acceptance of Palestinian goals.

“Killing civilians was standard operating procedure,” Yalowitz said in his opening statement. “If you want to intimidate a civilian population, killing randomly selected civilians is pretty effective.”

Mark Rochon, a law-

yer representing the defendants, countered that jurors should not hold liable a government that employs more than 100,000 for attacks conducted by a few people who acted on their own, or at the behest of groups such as Hamas or the al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades.

The US government has designated those groups as terrorist organizations. Neither is a defendant.

“These acts were horrific,” Rochon said in his opening statement. “Nobody defends what happened. But the people who did it aren’t here.”

Rochon also rejected Yalowitz’s argument that the defendants rewarded people convicted of murder with pay, promotions and “glorification.”

He said the Palestinian Authority routinely made payments to thousands of people hurt or involved in the Middle East conflict, but not as a reward for terrorism.

The plaintiffs accused the defendants of violating the US Anti-Terrorism Act, and are seeking triple damages that could reach \$3 billion. Any award may be subject to appeals.

The trial before US District Judge George Daniels adds a new dimension to the long-running Middle East conflict. It began

less than a week after the United Nations confirmed that Palestinians will formally join the International Criminal Court on 1 April.

That decision clears the way for that body to potentially open probes into alleged Israeli crimes on Palestinian lands.

Palestinians are seeking to form a state in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem, lands Israel captured in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war. —Reuters

Australia’s Victoria Police wants bail revoked for alleged IS sympathizer

MELBOURNE, 14 Jan — Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott has questioned a court’s decision to grant bail to an alleged sympathizer of Islamic State (IS).

On Wednesday, it emerged that the Victoria Police had formally requested prosecutors consider revoking the bail for a man accused of threatening police and supporting IS militants.

Kohdr Mustafa Taha, 35, was charged with threatening police officers on a Twitter account that also allegedly contained messages supporting the rogue IS.

He was released on bail last week by the state’s deputy chief magistrate Jelena Popovic despite police arguing Taha was “an unacceptable risk” to the com-

Up to 5,000 European fighters in Syria pose risk: Europol

LONDON, 14 Jan — The head of Europe’s police organization Europol said on Tuesday the continent was facing its greatest security threat in more than a decade, with as many as 5,000 Europeans who have joined fighting in Syria posing a risk to their homelands.

Europol Director Rob Wainwright also echoed warnings from spy chiefs and some political leaders in the wake of last week’s deadly attacks by Islamist militants in Paris that European security agencies faced a “capability gap” which could leave their countries at risk.

“It is certainly the most serious terrorist threat Europe has faced since 9/11,” Wainwright told a British parliamentary committee, referring to the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the United States.

Many European countries are on high alert following last week’s attack by Islamist gunmen on a satirical journal and a kosher supermarket in Paris which killed 17, with France planning to deploy 10,000 soldiers.

European security officials have long warned that radicalized fighters returning from Syria pose a threat and Wainwright said 3,000-5,000 EU nationals could come back with the intent to carry out operations sim-

ilar to the Paris attacks.

He told British lawmakers his agency had collated a database of 2,500 suspects.

Wainwright also warned of a risk of sleeper cells, noting that the two attackers who carried out the shootings at the Charlie Hebdo weekly, brothers Cherif and Said Kouachi had traveled to Yemen in 2011 for training.

“The problem we are dealing these days is not just about Syria and Iraq it is about other terrorist networks around the world, in Africa, in the Arab peninsula for example, that have franchise movements of the al-Qaeda brand,” he said.

He said Europol had passed “60 urgent intelligence leads” to French police following the attacks.

British Prime Minister David Cameron has promised to give security and intelligence services powers to monitor Internet communications, responding to calls from spy chiefs.

Wainwright said highly encrypted online communications were for now effectively out of reach of law enforcement agencies. “The reality is today the security authorities don’t have the necessary capability, I think, to fully protect society from these kind of threats,” he said.

Reuters

munity.

Police alleged they received messages from Taha via the social media platform saying “I’m going to hurt your officers”.

Police also allegedly found ammunition and three swords after raiding his home, yet failed in their bid to stop him being released on bail. “It does seem a very questionable bit of judicial judgment,” Abbott told Melbourne radio station 3AW on Wednesday. “You really want to see a bit of common sense on the bench.”

Police alleged that they found evidence on his computer that he runs various Twitter accounts that support IS, including one that uses an al-Qaeda flag as its profile picture.

Victoria Police Association secretary Senior Sergeant Ron Iddles told News Ltd. that he welcomed the police move. “You can have a condition of bail where they report at a police station, but for 23-and-a-half hours of a day they can do as they please,” he said.

On Monday, Victorian Attorney-General Martin Pakula told the ABC the justice department would “examine the case”.

“The government’s primary concern is the safety of our community, particularly given recent events,” Pakula said.

Taha is due to reappear in court on 22 January, where he will also face child exploitation material possession charges.

Xinhua

Jewish victims of Paris attacks buried in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, 14 Jan — Four French Jews killed in the attack on a kosher supermarket in Paris were buried in Jerusalem on Tuesday before thousands of French and Israeli mourners, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu saying they had been returned to their “true home”.

In an emotional ceremony at a hillside cemetery amid tight security, Netanyahu denounced the “terrorism of extremist Islam” behind Friday’s assault on the grocery and the deadly shootings on Wednesday at the offices of the *Charlie Hebdo* weekly.

Netanyahu, who joined world leaders for a rally of over a million people in Paris on Sunday, said Jews around the world

were always welcome to migrate to Israel. “Our president was right in saying that Jews have the right to live in many countries,” Netanyahu said, delivering his homily in Hebrew after Israeli President Reuven Rivlin had spoken.

“Today, more than ever, Israel is the true home of all of us, and the greater our number and the more united we are in our land, the stronger we will be in our one and only country — and that is the hope of the entire Jewish people,” he said. Despite many of the mourners having travelled from France and not speaking Hebrew, none of the Israeli politicians who delivered addresses at the ceremony used any French.

Reuters

Venezuela rejects Chilean offer to broker talks with opposition

CARACAS, 14 Jan — The Venezuelan government Tuesday rejected an offer from Chile to help resume talks between the ruling socialist party and the conservative opposition, whose ties were battered by last year’s protests.

The offer by Chilean Foreign Minister Heraldo Munoz was rejected as intervention in Venezuela’s domestic affairs, Venezuela’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

The ministry called on Munoz “to refrain from offering his opinions on Venezuela’s internal affairs” and asked for an official explanation of the matter via Chile’s embassy in Caracas. On Monday, Munoz said Chile was “very interested” in reactivating

political dialogue between Venezuela’s two camps.

Following violent anti-government protests at the beginning of 2014, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro invited the opposition to various rounds of talks in April to help diffuse social tensions.

Right-wing leaders later suspended the talks, blaming the government for a lack of commitment. The ranks of the opposition were also splintered over whether to negotiate with the authorities.

The three-month protests left 43 people dead and more than 800 people injured, and cost more than 10 billion US dollars in economic losses, according to the Venezuelan government. —Xinhua

US says Nigeria vote a factor in Boko Haram attacks



A woman sits beside an electoral poster of Nigeria’s President Goodluck Jonathan during the flag-off for his campaign for a second term in office, in Lagos on 8 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 14 Jan — Nigeria’s election next month is a factor behind the sharp increase in attacks by Boko Haram Islamist militants in the north of the country, the US State Department said on Tuesday.

Spokeswoman Marie

Harf said, however, that the 14 February presidential election should go forward despite the violence, which the United Nations and human rights groups say has forced about 20,000 Nigerians to flee to neighbouring countries in recent

weeks.

“There has been a sharp escalation in the number of reported casualties,” Harf told a daily briefing. “We do believe the election is a factor.”

Harf said Boko Haram previously used events

such as elections to stir up tensions. The election is expected to be a close contest between President Goodluck Jonathan and his leading challenger Muhammadu Buhari.

“Boko Haram has tended to, particularly around something like an election, use political issues or sensitivities to try to enflame tensions,” she said. “We have seen that as one of their tactics and that is why it is so important to move forward with the election, because we believe it’s important.”

Boko Haram’s insurgency began in 2009, but the number and scale of the attacks has risen sharply since last year after the government imposed emergency rule in three worst-hit states in northern Nigeria.

Amnesty International has said Boko Haram may have killed some 2,000 people around 3 January in Baga in northern Nigeria. Harf said it was hard to independently verify that figure.—Reuters

‘Five Eyes’ countries to meet on anti-terrorism fight — Canada

OTTAWA, 14 Jan — The five nations that make up the world’s leading intelligence-sharing network will meet in London next month to confer on strategies to fight terrorism in the wake of the Paris attacks, Canada said on Tuesday.

Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney said the so-called Five Eyes — the United States, Australia, Canada, Britain and New Zealand — had scheduled a meeting for 22 January.

A Canadian government official later said the five would actually meet in London some time in Feb-

ruary. Blaney’s comments were unusual, since members of the Five Eyes network rarely talk about its activity.

“We’re going to have a meeting with our Five Eyes allies in London ... and this is serious stuff. Terrorism will be there” on the agenda, he told CTV television.

US intelligence officials have shared with their French counterparts information related to the travel history of those suspected of involvement in the Paris attacks, in which a total of 17 people died, a White House spokesman said on

Tuesday.

Blaney gave no more details of the London meeting, save to say that U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson would be present.

Separately, the Canadian government official said the London event had been scheduled before the Paris attacks.

“The Five Eyes regularly meet to discuss shared concerns and approaches,” he said. The official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, added that the fight against terrorism would be “a major focus”



Canada’s Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney

of the meeting but declined to give more details.

The five nations that comprise the group divide the world into eavesdropping target sectors and share the results.—Reuters

Sri Lankan opposition files graft complaint against former president

COLOMBO, 14 Jan — Sri Lanka’s Marxist opposition filed a corruption complaint on Tuesday against former President Mahinda Rajapaksa and his relatives and asked the anti-graft body to prevent them from leaving the country.

Rajapaksa was defeated in an election on Thursday after a campaign that focused on misuse of public funds, and on his powers and those of his family

members, many of whom held public office during his decade in power.

Having lost his presidential immunity along with his bid for a third term, Rajapaksa has also been asked to appear in court on a separate matter, a request that would have been unthinkable just a few days ago.

The Janatha Vimukthi Peremuna’s (JVP) complaint includes allegations that he mishandled state

funds in his capacity as finance minister in an administration seen as rife with graft and nepotism.

“The main objective of the complaint is to prevent them leaving the country. The head of the Bribery Commission has the authority to temporarily impound their passports until they investigate the charges,” JVP lawmaker, Vijitha Herath, told Reuters.

The JVP also filed a

complaint against former Central Bank Governor Ajith Nivard Cabraal for managing public funds in an arbitrary manner in number of instances including investing in Greek bonds before the financial crisis in that country.

“This is all rubbish. All these cases have been heard and dismissed by the Supreme Court. They just want to harass us,” Cabraal told Reuters.

Many of the decisions

by the Supreme Court, led by a Rajapaksa ally, have now been questioned.

Neither Rajapaksa nor any members of his family were immediately available for comment. Anura Priyadharshana Yapa, the Secretary of the former leader’s Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) said he has been unaware of the allegations.

Reuters

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**INVITATION TO OPEN
PREQUALIFICATION OF BIDDING**

The Irrigation Department (ID), Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, announces the PREQUALIFICATION of International Competitive Bidding for "Procurement of Construction Machineries for ID" under the Irrigation Development Project in Western Bago Region based on the Loan Agreement (Loan No.: MY-P7) signed on 5th September, 2014 between the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Ministry.

The procurement works shall consist of equipment supply, site assembling, test-run, training and commissioning for the construction machineries, Please note that Joint Ventures are acceptable.

Sr.No.	Bidding No.	Description	Qty:	Remarks
1.	ITP-ID-01	Procurement of Construction Machineries for ID	1 lot	

A complete set of prequalification documents is available in Myanmar kyat (50,000/-) from 10:00 to 12:00 and 14:00 to 16:00 in the working days from 13th to 19th, January, 2015 at Procurement Director Office of Irrigation Department, Building No. (43), Nay Pyi Taw and closing date will be 27th, January, 2015 during office hours. Submission of the Documents later than closing date will not be considered.

Contact: Director, Procurement branch.
Telephone: +95-67-410019

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(1/2015)**

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-133(14-15)	BOP Control Accumulator Unit (1) Lot	US\$
(2)	IFB-134(14-15)	6" x 8" R HSB Pump without Motor (3) Lots	US\$
(3)	IFB-135(14-15)	6" x 8" R SB Pump without Motor (3) Lots	US\$
(4)	IFB-136(14-15)	Shore Water Pump with Motor (1000 gpm x 200 ft hd) (2) Lots	US\$
(5)	IFB-137(14-15)	Skid Mounted Water Transfer Pump with Motor (400 gpm x 400 ft hd, 100 HP) (1) Lot	US\$
(6)	IFB-138(14-15)	Skid Mounted Water Transfer Pump with Motor (250 gpm x 600 ft hd, 100 HP, 400 V) (1) Lot	US\$
(7)	IFB-139(14-15)	Skid Mounted Water Transfer Pump with Motor (200 gpm x 350 ft hd, 50 HP) (1) Lot	US\$
(8)	IFB-140(14-15)	Solid Control Unit (1) Lot	US\$
(9)	IFB-141(14-15)	Derrick Shaker Unit (Flow Line Mud Cleaner) FLC-504 (2) Sets	US\$
(10)	IFB-142(14-15)	Spares for Rotary Table Drive Group Ex GEFCO Drilling Rigs (4) Items	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time – 9-2-2015, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 12th January, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph.+95 67-411097/411206

**MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER**

- Open Tender is invited for supply of the following items in Euro:

Sr.No.	Tender No	Description
1.	12(T)52/MR(ML) 2014-2015	In-service Electric Tram Car (3 Cars/Sets)-(2)Nos and Electricfication Line and Equipments-(1)Lot

Closing Date & Time -26.2.2015(Thursday)(12:30) Hour.
- Tender documents are available at our office starting from 12.1.2015 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone:95-1-291985, 291994,

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV UBC CHILE NO (68)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV UBC CHILE VOY NO (68) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.1.2015 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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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CEMENT SHIPPING
CO LTD.**

Phone No: 2301186

**INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER
(Tender No. 2(T)MPE/HSD(1)/2015-2016)**

- Open Tender is invited for the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of High Speed Diesel (470,000 Bbl±10%).
- Tender Closing Date : 26 - 1 - 2015 at (12:00) noon.
- Tender Opening Date : 26 - 1 - 2015 at (13:00) hrs.
- Delivery Time : February 2015 to March 2015
- Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing 15-1-2015 on payment of the Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.
- Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director

Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

Contact Phone no. 067-411108/411193

Nuclear decommissioning costs to be passed to all power users

TOKYO, 14 Jan —The industry ministry on Wednesday decided that the cost to nuclear plant operators of decommissioning reactors should be passed on to all electricity users in principle even after Japan's electricity market is fully opened to newcomers in 2016. The controversial scheme is aimed at making sure plant operators can recoup the massive expenses and facilitating the scrapping of aging reactors. Observers, however, say the plan could undermine fair competition by compelling new entrants with no nuclear power generation to share the cost of decommissioning.

The cost is expected to be included as part of the usage fee of power grids, and will be charged by power transmission and distribution companies to be spun off from regional electric companies following the planned opening up of the electricity market.

The Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry is expected to revise a related ministerial ordinance by the end of March. But it will also consider whether to allow exceptions to the new scheme as some members of a panel of experts under the ministry have opposed the system as it is seen as favoring nuclear power generation.—*Kyodo News*

WEATHER REPORT

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 15th January, 2015: Weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthayi Region, Kachin, Kayin and Mon States and rain are likely to be isolated in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).
STATE OF THE SEA: Strong easterly winds with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (30) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Two injured after 5.0-magnitude quake in SW China

BEIJING, 14 Jan — At least two people were injured after a 5.0 magnitude earthquake hit southwest China's Sichuan Province on Wednesday, according to local medical personnel.

The quake struck Jinkouhe District in Leshan city at 1:21 pm on Wednesday. The epicenter was monitored at 29.3 degrees north latitude and 103.2 degrees east longitude with a depth of 14 km, said the China Earthquake Networks Center (CENC).

The People's Hospital in Jinkouhe received two calls for assistance, with both sustaining slight injuries, said a spokesman with the hospital.

Many Leshan residents have rushed to the street and students gathered at school playgrounds. "I felt strong tremor and then ran out of the office," said Peng Tao, a tobacco company employee in downtown Leshan, about 68 km away from the epicenter.

Tremors were also felt in many other parts of Sichuan, including the provincial capital of Chengdu, Ya'an, Yibin, Suining as well as Mount Emei, a famous scenic spot.

Traffic in the quake-hit region has been disrupted as falling rocks from the mountain and cave-ins threaten passing cars.

Railway authorities have ordered four passenger trains and 10 cargo trains running near the region to stop in safe sections and railway workers are checking equipment on the rail.

Covering an area of 598 square kilometers in southwestern Sichuan, Jinkouhe District is home to about 60,000 people, including many of the Yi ethnic minority.—*Xinhua*

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‘Boyhood’ gets Linklater nominated for Directors Guild Award

LOS ANGELES, 14 Jan — Richard Linklater’s 12 years of toiling on coming-of-age tale “Boyhood” reaped a coveted nomination on Tuesday for the top Directors Guild Award, which has correctly predicted the best director Oscar for 10 of the last 11 years.

Two-time DGA winner Clint Eastwood, 84, earned his fourth nomination for outstanding directorial achievement for his Iraq war film “American Sniper,” while Alejandro G. Inarritu was nominated for “Birdman,” his second nod from the Directors Guild of America for a feature film.

Rounding out the list of five were first-time DGA nominees Morten Tyldum for “The Imitation Game” and Wes Anderson



Director Richard Linklater

for “The Grand Budapest Hotel.”

“Boyhood,” which follows a boy and his family and used the same actors over a dozen years, won the 54-year-old Linklater his first Golden Globe for best director on Sunday. The film also won the coveted best drama Golden Globe, making it a frontrunner for the Oscar best picture.

Inarritu, 51, was also considered a strong con-

tender for director awards for his first comedy, a surreal satire of show business that appears to be filmed in one long take in the cramped confines of a Broadway theatre.

But the Mexican filmmaker’s awards season fortunes took a blow when Anderson’s “The Grand Budapest Hotel” was a dark-horse winner of the Golden Globe for best comedy or musical, boosting the Oscar potential of the colourful period caper.

The surprise of the DGA list is Tyldum for “The Imitation Game,” the British biopic of World War Two code breaker Alan Turing, played by Benedict Cumberbatch. The Norwegian director is known for his 2011 thriller “Headhunters.”

The Academy Awards

will be held on 22 February and nominations will be announced on Thursday. The DGA award will be handed out 7 February, before Oscar voting concludes on 17 February.

Since 1948, there have been only seven occasions when the DGA award winner has not gone on to win the corresponding Academy Award. “Argo” director Ben Affleck won the DGA in 2013 but was not nominated for the best director Oscar award, which was given to Ang Lee for “Life of Pi.”

One notable omission from the DGA list was “Selma” director Ava DuVernay, a relative newcomer to directing whose work on the civil rights drama made her the first African-American woman to be nominated for a best director award at the Golden Globes.—Reuters



‘Supergirl’ is a passion project: CBS president

LONDON, 14 Jan — CBS president Nina Tassler has described the upcoming ‘Supergirl’ series as a “passion” project for the network.

‘Supergirl’ is being developed for CBS by Greg Berlanti, who also currently produces ‘Arrow’ and ‘The Flash’ for The CW, reported Digital Spy.

Tassler said that she has been tremendously impressed by the writing on ‘Supergirl’.

“We heard the pitch and realised she embodied so many of the qualities and characteristics of the classic female heroines on the network,” the network executive explained.

“It’s a story and coming-of-age opportunity for us. We fell in love with the pitch.”

Tassler went on to discuss how ‘Supergirl’ will fit in with CBS’s procedural dramas like ‘Scorpion’, ‘CSI’ and ‘Blue Bloods’.

‘Supergirl’ will also feature DC Comics characters Jimmy Olsen, Cat Grant and Toyman, with hints that a crossover with ‘Arrow’ and ‘The Flash’ could be possible.—PTI



Workers pour molten bronze into molds during a media event to display the production of the bronze statuette awards for the 21st annual Screen Actors Guild (SAG) Awards in Burbank, California, the United States on 13 Jan, 2015. The statuette, known as “The Actor”, was originally designed by Jim Heimann and Jim Barrett, and sculpted by Edward Saenz. It is 16 inches (40.6 cm) tall and weighs 12 pounds (5.4 kg). Since the 1st SAG Awards in 1995, the awards have been produced by the American Fine Arts Foundry in Burbank. The 21st SAG Award ceremony will be held in Los Angeles on 25 January, this year.—XINHUA

Nothing will be as big as ‘Friends’: Perry

LOS ANGELES, 14 Jan — Actor Matthew Perry, best known for his role of Chandler Bing in ‘Friends’, says it is a difficult task to match up to the popularity of the hit sitcom.

The 45-year-old actor, who currently stars in a new sitcom ‘The Odd Couple’, said the success of ‘Friends’ still amazes him, reported E! News. “I didn’t envision living past 2000 so I had no idea. I never really thought about the future and I had no idea I would ever be involved in something as big as Friends and I will never be involved in anything as big as Friends ever again because TV is so different now,” the actor said while promoting ‘Odd Couples’.

Perry has previously tried to find success with ‘Go On’ and ‘Mr Sunshine’ but the shows did not work that well but the actor is

confident about ‘Odd Couple’.

“With the time slot we have for The Odd Couple, it’s ideal.

It’s exactly where we want to be, after the biggest comedy on television; our premiere episode is after The Big Bang Theory and before the final episode of Two and a Half Men. I couldn’t ask for anything better than that.”

Perry knows he owes a lot to Friends, including the ability to reboot a classic sitcom on a major network.

“Being on Friends has allowed me to have my pick of a lot of TV shows I want to do. I try to choose things that are generally off the beaten path. But [The Odd Couple] is straight down the line, just an attempt to be funny on a big hit show.—PTI

Women find little change off camera in Hollywood

LOS ANGELES, 14 Jan — The number of women working behind the camera in Hollywood’s top-grossing films has changed little over the past decade despite a slight uptick last year, an annual study released on Tuesday has found.

The “Celluloid Ceiling” study from San Diego State University’s Centre for the Study of Women in Television and Film said 7 percent of the top 250 films at the US box office in 2014 were directed by a woman, a 1 percentage point increase from 2013.

“It’s not really moving much one way or the other,” said study author Martha Lauzen, who added that the number of films directed by women in 2014 has declined to 7 percent from 9 percent since the study began 1998.

Seventeen percent of key off-screen figures — which includes directors, writers, producers, executive producers, editors and cinematographers — were women last year, the study found, also a 1 percentage point rise from 2013 but unchanged from 1998.

“This is clearly an industry-wide problem that requires and industry-wide solution,” Lauzen said. “As an industry, film has not taken on this issue of women’s



Director Angelina Jolie arrives to promote her film “Unbroken” in Berlin on 27 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

chronic underemployment.”

The study comes as Hollywood’s awards season revs into high gear following Sunday’s Golden Globe Awards and the upcoming Academy Awards nominations on Thursday.

Ava DuVernay’s historical drama “Selma” is the only early Oscar favourite this year to be directed by a woman, while Angelina Jolie’s World War Two biopic “Unbroken” is the only film by a woman to crack the top 100 at the US box office in 2014. Only one woman, Kathryn Bigelow in 2010 for “The Hurt Locker,” has won the best director Oscar in 86 years of Hollywood’s top honours.

The study considered 2,822 behind-the-scenes workers and found women

were most highly represented as producers at 23 percent and executive producers at 19 percent.

Women comprised 18 percent of editors, 11 percent of writers while cinematographers were the lowest represented job at 5 percent.

Lauzen said one issue facing women is a greater emphasis in Hollywood on ethnic diversity as opposed to gender diversity.

“The sex of the director is incredibly important because the research shows that the sex of the director is related to the percentage of female characters that we seen on screen,” Lauzen said. “This is a very complex industry and a very complex problem,” Lauzen added. “There isn’t a magic bullet here.—Reuters

GENERAL

PETER ELLERICH

Age 69 (SALES DIRECTOR) HACO-MYANMAR, HESSE, ANDRE & CO husband of Dr. Saw Thein Shwe ELLERICH Managing Director HACO-MYANMAR peacefully passed away on Saturday 20th December 2014 in Germany, Hamburg. Funeral Services held on 9th January 2015 in Hamburg Germany.

Dr. Saw Thein Shwe Ellerich.
Germany.thein.ellerich@gmail.com

Fears of mosquito diseases after drenching Australian rains

SYDNEY, 14 Jan — Bushfires devastated communities in three Australian states last week but on Tuesday it was flooding rains causing havoc instead.

Health authorities issued warnings of the risk of mosquito-borne diseases for inundated areas.

Normally parched areas of the vast Central Australia area have been hit by monsoon rains for the past four days, with more than 200 millimeters of rain causing flash flooding in the area's only city of Alice Springs, and remote outlying townships which rarely receive rain.

Rain has fallen in most populated areas of Australia in recent days, including flooding in parts of South Australia which were just recovering from bushfires which destroyed more than 25 homes last week.

Environmental health officers have also begun

preparing for a spike in the number of mosquitoes, warning of an increased risk of contracting a rare and potentially fatal mosquito-borne encephalitis virus.

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported Central Australia was at risk, according to local director of Medical Entomology Nina Kurucz.

"People really need to protect themselves from getting bitten from mosquitoes by using insect repellent," she said.

"And (also) by covering up, wearing long sleeves and light-coloured clothing, and staying away from mosquito-prone areas, especially at night because the mosquito that can carry Murray Valley encephalitis and also the Ross River (virus) is active at night." The Ross River virus causes sustained flu-like symptoms including aching joints.

Xinhua

Chipotle suspends pork sales at a third of its US restaurants

NEW YORK, 14 Jan — Chipotle Mexican Grill Inc said it would suspend pork sales at about a third of its US restaurants, following a routine audit that revealed one of its suppliers was not complying with its animal-welfare standards.

The inspection of the undisclosed supplier exposed some inconsistencies in protocol, communications director Chris Arnold said. Suppliers must raise pigs with access to the outdoors or in deeply bedded barns

to improve their comfort. They cannot use antibiotics. "We could fill that shortfall with conventionally raised pork, but the animal welfare standards fall well short of our requirements, and (we) simply aren't willing to make that compromise."

Chipotle will not serve "carnitas" at some of these restaurants, rather than use conventionally raised pork, said Arnold.

Instead, the burrito seller is looking at a host of options to address the

shortfall, including procuring additional pork from existing suppliers or finding more suppliers. Meanwhile, Chipotle could resume its relationship with the suspended supplier, if they become compliant with the company's standards, he added.

Denver-based Chipotle, known for serving antibiotic-free meat and organic produce, posted third-quarter same-store sales growth of nearly 20 percent.

Reuters

Brazil bans third party ownership in line with FIFA rules



A boy plays soccer on a street in Porto Alegre on 16 June, 2014.

REUTERS

SAO PAULO, 14 Jan — Third-party ownership of footballers will become illegal in Brazil from May 1, the country's domestic governing body CBF said in new transfer regulations published on Tuesday.

The move aims to bring Brazil into line with a FIFA ban on the practice that comes into effect on the same day.

Third-party ownership

occurs when the transfer rights of players are wholly or partially owned by the player or a company, instead of only the player's club.

The practice is already illegal in some European leagues but common in Portugal, Brazil and other South American countries, where investors buy up players in the hope of making a profit when they are

sold to big name clubs.

Brazilian football is bankrupt with the top 20 teams owing more than five billion reais (\$1.89 billion) and clubs and investors say the practice keeps clubs alive by injecting cash into the game.

Some fund managers have said they will seek a way around the ban, perhaps by buying small clubs who loan their best players out to give them a shop window.

Existing contracts will be recognised but any deals signed between now and 1 May involving a third party will only be valid for one year, the Brazilian Football Confederation said.

Reuters

Long-serving Zheng bids to guide China out of 'dark years'

MELBOURNE, 14 Jan — Of all China's players at the Asian Cup, captain Zheng Zhi may be the most tired of hearing his nation described as the "sleeping giant" of world soccer.

The 34-year-old midfielder first made his mark in the national team as it surfed a wave of optimism in the wake of their first and only World Cup appearance at the 2002 finals in South Korea and Japan.

More than 12 years later, Zheng's dreams of playing in soccer's global showpiece are all but extinguished, with a succession of Chinese teams failing to deliver on the expectations brought by the country's economic might and 1.3 billion people.

China claims modern-day soccer is derived from a Han dynasty sport played over 2,000 years ago, but is less inclined to boast about its current standing

in the game. Chronic underachievement has been married with a string of match-fixing scandals in its professional leagues. Doz-

ens of players, referees, club officials and senior administrators have been jailed for corruption in recent years.

China's President Xi

Jinping, an avowed soccer fan like hundreds of millions of his compatriots, has bemoaned the corruption-blighted local game as

a national embarrassment.

Through it all, Zheng has soldiered on.

Raised in China's northeastern rustbelt province of Liaoning, Zheng is the only player left from the squad that made the final of the 2004 Asian Cup on home soil where they lost to bitter rivals Japan.

The Beijing defeat was the trigger for a night of anti-Japan rioting by Chinese fans and a preview of the turmoil to follow.

Months later, China, coached by Dutchman Arie Haan, would crash out of qualification for the 2006 World Cup. Zheng would play a central role in the team's failure.

Needing to score two more goals than Kuwait to advance to the final round of Asian qualifying, China had to score eight in a match against Hong Kong after Kuwait trounced Malaysia 6-1.—Reuters



Saudi Arabia's Naif Hazazi is challenged by China's Mei Fang (bottom) and Zheng Zhi during their Asian Cup Group B soccer match at the Brisbane Stadium in Brisbane on 10 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

MRTV
Entertainment
Channel

(15-1-2015, Thursday)

- 6:00 am
 - Travelogue Programme
- 6:30 am
 - Honour Song of Alinka Kyaw Swar Shwe Pyi Aye
- 6:50 am
 - TV Drama Series
- 7:15 am
 - Fashion Show
- 7:35 am
 - TV Drama Series
- 8:20 am
 - TV Drama Series
- 9:10 am
 - Musical Programme
- 9:25 am
 - Pyi Thu Ni Ti
- 9:50 am
 - ASEAN-China Cultural Show (Vietnam)
- 10:00am• Myanmar Viedo

MITV

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(15-1-15 07:00 am~ 16-1-15 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Amazing "U Nyein Chan Aung"
- * World News
- * Today Myanmar "Rice Export"
- * Local News
- * U Kyaw Thu: From Artist to Philanthropist
- * World News
- * Hip-Hop and Design
- * Local News
- * Gold: King of All Metals
- * World News
- * The dawn of development
- * Local News
- * The World's Largest Book
- * World News
- * In the Studio: Aw Thada
- * Local News
- * Kyaikhteeyoe: Mountain Drivers
- * World News
- * Fortune Teller: "Yan Moe Aung"
- * Local News
- * Director: Thiha Kyaw Soe
- * World News
- * Creations of a Designer
- * Local News
- * Chef Life: Thanakrit Chamnongbutr"
- * World News
- * Thanakha Product
- * Local News
- * Htan Taw Drums (Part-I) "Dobat"
- * World News
- * Writer

Keeper Adrian the West Ham hero in Cup thriller



West Ham United's goalkeeper Adrian celebrates after scoring the winning penalty in a shoot out against Everton during their FA Cup third round replay soccer match at Upton Park in London on 13 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

LONDON, 14 Jan — West Ham United goalkeeper Adrian converted the decisive spot-kick in a penalty shootout against 10-man Everton to send the Londoners into the FA Cup fourth round

China stun Uzbekistan 2-1 at Asian Cup

BRISBANE, 14 Jan — China scored twice in 13 minutes to come from behind and upset Uzbekistan 2-1 at the Asian Cup on Wednesday to book themselves a spot in the quarter-finals.

China started the tournament as an outsider for the title but after winning their first two Group B matches in dramatic fashion, they are now assured of finishing top of their pool with a game to spare.

Trailing 1-0 at halftime against the group favourites, China drew level after 55 minutes when Wu Xi scored then

snatched the lead with a spectacular solo strike from substitute Sun Ke. Uzbekistan, who took an early lead through an opportunist goal from Odil Ahmedov, could not find a late equalizer and now face Saudi Arabia in their final group game in Melbourne on Sunday to decide the pool runner-up.

As Group B winners, China will play the runner-up in Group A, either Australia or South Korea. The Group B runners-up will play the Group A winners.

The Saudis, beaten 1-0 by China on the weekend, stayed in

after a pulsating replay at Upton Park on Tuesday.

Adrian fired past opposite number and Spanish compatriot Joel Robles immediately after the Everton keeper had crashed his spot kick against the crossbar as West Ham won 9-8 on penalties.

The match had finished 2-2 after extra time following a highly entertaining 120 minutes at Upton Park.

“What a game. It’s a long time since I’ve experienced so many highs and lows in one game of football,” West Ham manager Sam Allardyce told reporters.

“All the players gave everything, it really was a fantastic cup tie and we got a little bit of the magic of the cup going our way tonight.”

Everton, who have a fantastic record against West Ham, particularly in London, had to play

more than half the game with 10 men after Aiden McGeady was sent off for a second yellow card after 56 minutes.

The visitors had fallen behind six minutes after the break when Enner Valencia slotted past Robles from a tight angle after running on to Andy Carroll’s pass.

Everton’s task got harder when McGeady was dismissed for bringing down Mark Noble but Kevin Mirallas curled in a superb free kick from the edge of the box after 82 minutes to make it 1-1 and send the game into extra time.

Romelu Lukaku fired Everton ahead six minutes into the extra period, dedicating his goal with a skywards salute to fellow Belgian and former VfL Wolfsburg midfielder Junior Malanda, who was died in a car accident in Germany on Saturday.

Substitute Carlton Cole,

however, sent the tie to penalties when he stabbed home from a corner with seven minutes of extra time remaining and just over a minute after coming on.

“It was a great cup tie, I am very proud of the team and it’s one of those things when you lose on penalties,” Everton boss Roberto Martinez told reporters.

“I thought it was a terrific performance, we played with vitality, and I think our fans appreciated our dynamic play and for them to give us a standing ovation at the end was great.”

West Ham visit Bristol City in the next round after the third-tier side overcame Doncaster Rovers 2-0 in another replay.

Also on Tuesday, Fulham edged Wolverhampton Wanderers 5-3 in a penalty shootout, after the game finished 3-3 following extra time, to seal a trip to Premier League Sunderland.

Reuters

Atletico focused on third place in La Liga, Simeone says

MADRID, 14 Jan — La Liga champions Atletico Madrid are improving all the time and the club are focused on finishing third and securing a lucrative place in the Champions League again for next season, coach Diego Simeone said on Tuesday.

Simeone has done a fine rebuilding job following the departure of key performers like top scorer Diego Costa and goalkeeper



Atletico Madrid's Diego Simeone from Argentina, one of three nominees for 2014 FIFA World Coach of the Year, attends a news conference prior to the Ballon d'Or awards ceremony in Zurich on 12 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

Thibaut Courtois and Atletico won the Spanish Super Cup in August by defeating city rivals Real Madrid. Sunday’s 3-1 La Liga defeat at Barcelona, however, left them four points adrift of leaders Real and three behind second-placed Barca, denting their chances of last year’s success when they won the Spanish title for the first time in 18 years.

They also reached the Champions League final in which they came within seconds of beating Real before running out of steam and losing 4-1 after extra time.

“Obviously what happened last year was unbeatable,” Simeone told Spanish television broadcaster Canal Plus.

“This season we have made great progress and we are in good shape but we can improve and the team is getting better,” added the former Argentina captain.

“The truth is that I don’t know what the limit is. Our goal is to finish third because the club needs that and it’s important to continue growing as an institution.” Further proof of Atletico’s

credentials is that they are on the verge of knocking holders Real out of the King’s Cup with a 2-0 advantage ahead of Thursday’s last 16, second leg at the Bernabeu. They are also through to the Champions League last 16 where they face Bayer Leverkusen over two legs at the end of February.

“Atletico is getting closer all the time to where it wants to be,” Simeone told Canal Plus.

“I think we have more possession this year and that is something that all coaches like.

“But possession also let’s the opponent settle and I like it if it serves to unsettle. But if it makes you lethargic then I don’t like it so much.”

Atletico added Spain striker Fernando Torres to their squad this month, the 30-year-old returning on loan to his boyhood club after stints at Liverpool, Chelsea and AC Milan.

Someone said the extra competition for a place in the forward line was positive and he was confident Torres would make a useful contribution.—Reuters



China's Sun Ke celebrates his goal with team mate Jiang Zhipeng (L) during their Asian Cup Group B soccer match against Uzbekistan at the Brisbane Stadium in Brisbane on 14 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

Asian Cup Australia 2015

 Bahrain	13:30 MST (15.1.2015)	 UAE
 Qatar	15:30 MST (15.1.2015)	 Iran

Asian Cup Australia 2015 Result

DPR Korea	1 - 4	Saudi Arabia
China PR	2 - 1	Uzbekistan