

## President U Thein Sein opens refresher course for senior gov't officials



**President U Thein Sein delivers speech at opening ceremony of refresher course for senior government officials, including directors general and managing directors of state departments and enterprises.—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan — President U Thein Sein delivered speech at the opening ceremony of a refresher course for senior government officials, including directors general and managing directors of state departments and enterprises, in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

In his opening speech, U Thein Sein said that the special course is aimed to promote management skills of senior government officials who are key drivers in implementing the national vision strategically and tactically in line with laws and bylaws while keeping up democratic practices.

He also noted after adopting a policy of Clean Government and Good Governance, both the government and Hluttaws had to review reform processes at institutional structures of central bodies of the government, as well as at

union-level and regional-level agencies after one year of taking office. The government made

efforts to develop systematic collaboration between state and regional governments and the Union government in accordance with democratic practices, said the president.

U Thein Sein also remarked some laws and bylaws still need amendments to meet democratic norms, while many others have been modified with the help of local and foreign experts.

Only the strong political will of the higher level cannot make achievements in reform process but strong commitment of all levels especially of the officer level to the reform process will lead to the success of the reform.

The president suggested mimicking good practices of developing and developed countries in

adopting appropriate policies for the country.

Locals and international experts, as well as the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, have pointed out Myanmar needs development of human capital, institution capital, social capital and physical capital for the development of the country.

He said efforts are to be made for promoting institutional structure, human resources management, data collection, and investments in education, health and training programmes.

He also advised to motivate their staff members through welfare programmes while fighting against corruption, adding that the government needs structural reforms in the

government during the period of Third Wave reform plan.

The president informed senior officials that the government will make “restructuring and reengineering” at the ministries by the end of 2014-2015 fiscal year to develop administrative sectors when 2015-2016 fiscal year starts in April this year.

U Thein Sein also highlighted the government, under this reform plan, will shut some departments; some departments will be merged; the role of senior government officials such as directors general will have to take more responsibilities for finance and management sectors during a possible cabinet reshuffle; facts and data will be collected by using

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## New bird species found in Myanmar

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 19 Jan — Bird observers on Saturday announced a number of new recorded bird species of Myanmar to the media, planning to forward their

new sightings to the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry within this month.

A research study was jointly conducted by both

local and foreign agencies—Myeik University, Myanmar Bird and Natural Society (MBNS), Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Bird Tour Asia, Wildlife Sanctuary (Putao)

and Flora and Fauna International (FFI).

The 29 species of birds including Black-headed Bunting (*Emberizo melanocephala*), White-browed Crane (*Porzana cinerea*) and Little Curlew (*Numenius menutus*) were identified as new species.

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# 12<sup>th</sup> regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw commences

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan— The 12<sup>th</sup> regular session is final chance for representatives of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to scrutinize the bills in the first term of the Hluttaw so as to serve the interests of the State and citizens, the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw told the opening of

12th regular session of the Hluttaw in the afternoon of Monday.

In the 12th regular session, the speaker continued to say that the Union government and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw are to cooperate in scrutiny and approval of the national

planning bill, the union budget bill and the union taxation bill.

He added that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw needs to carry out amendment of the 2008 constitution in the regular session, approval of bills and other important tasks of the Hluttaw.

The speaker urged all to spend the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw funds on development tasks in respective townships in line with laws, procedures and financial regulations during the designated period.

The Hluttaw put the referendum bill on record

to approve the bill amending the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Constitution (2008).

Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw submitted the 2015-16 fiscal year national planning bill and Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein, the 2015 union taxation bill to the Hluttaw.

Joint Bill Committee member U Khin Maung Yi read the report of the committee on the billing amend the emoluments and salaries of representatives of Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw, Region or State Hluttaw and members of Leading Committee for Self-Administered Zones and Division.

MNA

## Pyithu Hluttaw

### Finance Ministry prepares to designate TA, DA, overtime pay

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan — Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) has carried out amendment of 55 laws, enactment of 26 new laws, substitution of 27 laws, revocation of 14 laws and promulgation of 11 project, budget and taxation laws in its tenure, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura Shwe Shwe Mann told the first day of the 12th regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw on Monday.

The speaker said that representatives of the Hluttaw elected by the people are to dutifully undertake their tasks in practising authority entrusted by the people in line with the law, rules and procedures. He recounted that he fulfilled the requirements of the people as much as he can during his tour while the Hluttaw adjourned.

The Hluttaw put the foreign trips of the speaker and MPs on record and establishment of a coordination committee for establishment of rule of law centres.

Daw Mi Myint Than of Ye Constituency asked whether there is a plan to set up lawyers associations and bar councils in townships, districts and regions and states. Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo replied that advocates and higher grade pleaders are allowed to serve as lawyers in Myanmar. Action is taken against those lawyers under the advocate council act and lawyers act for breaking the ethics. Depending on the complaints, the Supreme Court of the Union Management Committee takes action against the advocates who broke

the ethics. The Advocate Council has authority to form lawyer associations in respective regions under the organizations registration law for improvement and unity of lawyers.

Dr Tin Maung Kyaing of Kyangin Constituency asked a question whether there is a plan to fix an appropriate travel allowance instead of K1,700 per day for service personnel. Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Lin Aung replied that the Ministry of Finance raised the travel allowance for personnel to K1,100 per day dated 30 September 2010 and to K1,700 per day dated 1 April 2013. At present, the ministry is making arrangement for designating travel allowance, daily allowance and overtime pay in conformity with the present time.—MNA

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

## Amyotha Hluttaw

### Amyotha Hluttaw commences first day of 12<sup>th</sup> regular session

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan — Representatives are to make concerted efforts in carrying out tasks in the 12<sup>th</sup> regular session of the Amyotha Hluttaw, the Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) said at the opening of the Hluttaw session, here, on Monday morning.

U Nu of Yangon Region Constituency No 10 asks a question that whether or not apartments have been allotted to the original owner in line with the disciplines of the contract agreement in construction No 2 Basic Education Primary School in Latha Township.

Deputy Minister for Education U Thant Shin said that the former Yuteik Chinese Middle School at the corner of Kyongyi and 23rd streets in Latha Township were nationalized on 31 March 1966. Since its hand-over, the agreement included

living of the family that carried out tasks of the temple, U Tun Khin and family, U Hla Wai and family, U Shwe Maung and family and the ward administrative office. No 3 Basic Education Department took the land plot grant from Yangon City Development Committee on 3 September 2003. According to the agreement of Yangon City housing supervisory committee meeting 2/2003, the department and Myanmar Mya Hsu Co undertook the construction tasks through 20:80 ratio. Due to the ratio, the agreement stated the company must give one apartment to the family that carried out tasks of the temple, three apartments to them from its ratio.

Before construction, notices were given to the families to move from their apartments. If they move from the apartments for construction, the company will

bear the cost for move of families and buy apartments for them. As they did not move from the apartments, the company expelled them under the law. After completion of construction tasks, the department submitted new trade ratio as 40:60 to Myanmar Investment Commission. As the company has sold its all apartments and given three apartments to No 3 BED and handed over these building to Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development. Therefore, Ministry of Education does not have any apartment to be given to families of U Tun Khin and U Hla Wai.

After that, a question and answer session emphasized upgrading of a bridge to a bailey one, a laterite road to the concrete one and upgrading of basic education schools.

MNA

## Amyotha Hluttaw speaker meets Speaker of the National Assembly of ROK



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint holds talks with ROK Speaker Dr Chung Ui-hwa.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan — Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) U Khin Aung Myint received Speaker of the National Assembly Dr Chung Ui-hwa and party of the Republic of Korea at the Amyotha Hluttaw hall, here, on Monday afternoon.

They discussed cooperation between Hluttaws of two countries and promotion of bilateral relations.

Also present were Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein, chairmen of Hluttaw affairs committees and officials of the Amyotha Hluttaw office.

MNA

## Union Health Minister attends launching of mass immunization of measles and German measles

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan — The Ministry of Health is implementing the plans on mass immunization of measles and German measles to children across the nation including remote areas, Union Minister for Health Dr Than Aung told the launching ceremony of mass immunization of measles and German measles to children at Nay Pyi Taw Thingaha Hotel, here, on Monday morning.

The resident representatives of WHO and UNICEF explained purposes of immunization of measles and German measles.

Union Ministers Dr Than Aung, U Aye Myint Kyu and Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin and officials presented gifts to the children and visited the exhibition on the mass immunization.

The ceremony was also attended by officials of GAVI Vaccine Alliance and social organizations.

The mass immunization will be given to children from the aged 5 to 15 years up to 27 January and children from the aged 9 months to five years from 19 to 28 February.

MNA

# Myanmar, ROK to further strengthen bilateral relations

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan — President U Thein Sein received Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea Dr Chung Ui-Hwa and party at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, on Monday.

They discussed further strengthening of bilateral relations, successful implementation of the new village projects being undertaken by the two countries, development of technology, and cooperation in nurturing scouts.

Also present at the call were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U

Tin Naing Thein, U Kyaw Hsan, U Myint Hlaing, U Ohn Myint, and U Maung Myint and officials. The Korean speaker was accompanied by the Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Lee Baek-soon and party.—MNA

*President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea Dr Chung Ui-Hwa.*

MNA



## President U Thein Sein opens refresher course ...

(from page 1)

e-government and IT systems.

The refresher course will cover public policy, public administration and leadership skills by the local and foreign experts,

as well as union ministers through the knowledge-sharing methodology of 'Cross Fertilization of Ideas, Experience, and Knowledge'.

As a conclusion, the president urged all the

trainees to develop themselves as efficient and skillful leaders of their respective departments through organizing capacity, knowledge about the administrative sector, and initiatives in sustainable development during the last 2015-2016 fiscal year of this administration.

The opening ceremony

of the refresher course was also attended by Vice President U Nyan Tun, union ministers, deputy ministers and senior government officials.

The four-week course from January 19 to February 16 is attended by 57 senior government officials from various ministries.

MNA

## U Ko Ko Latt concurrently accredited as Ambassador to State of Qatar

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Jan—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Ko Ko Latt, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, currently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the State of Qatar.—MNA

## UEC Chairman meets experts from The Richardson Center, American Council of Young Political Leaders



*Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye receives experts from The Richardson Center and the American Council of Young Political Leaders.—MNA*

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye received experts from The Richardson Center and the American Council of Young Political Leaders at his office, here, on Monday.

The guests asked compilation of voter list, pro-

gress of voter education and participation for civic social organizations in the respective sectors.

In his replies to the queries, the chairman explained progress of compiling the voter list, procedures for the 2015 general elections, cooperation of CSOs in the election pro-

cess and needs to clear party politics.

Also present at the call were members of the commission U Myint Naing, U Aung Myint, Dr Daw Myint Kyi, U Win Kyi, U Nyunt Tin, U Win Ko, Secretary U Tin Tun and officials.

MNA

## Rakhine State Chief Minister holds talks with UN SG's Special Adviser

SITWAY, 19 Jan—Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Maung Maung Ohn together with State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Htein Lin and Commander of Rakhine State Police Force Police Col Nay Myo received Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General Mr. Vijay Nambiar at his office in Sittway, Rakhine State, on 17 January.

They discussed harmony and peaceful co-existence in two communities in Rakhine State.

The chief minister and officials viewed placing of asphalt concrete on local roads in Sittway and left necessary instructions to officials.

Rakhine State IPRD

## New bird species found ...

(from page 1)

Seven species out of 29 were identified as new species for South East Asia, 13 for Myanmar and nine for region, Daw Thiri Dae We Aung, an ornithologist, said.

Those birds were discovered in three regions—Yangon, Mandalay, Sagaing, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi—and four states—Kachin, Chin, Kayah, Shan, Mon and Rakhine in Myanmar in the previous five years (2010-2014).

Lists of Myanmar's total bird species will reach 1,114, including new species. Up to now, Myanmar has 49 globally threatened species, six endemic species and seven near-endemic species classified by the experts.

According to the 2014 IUCN Red List's reports, there are nine critically endangered species, 12 endangered species and 28 vulnerable species around the world.

GNLM



*Black-headed Bunting (Emberizo melanocephala) is identified as a new species of bird in Myanmar which found in Bagan in Mandalay Region and central Myanmar by Birdtour Asia.*

## Blood donors celebrate seventh anniversary of association



MYANAUNG, 19 Jan— Myyittashin blood donors association held the 7<sup>th</sup> anniversary at the Dhammay-

Region, on 18 January.

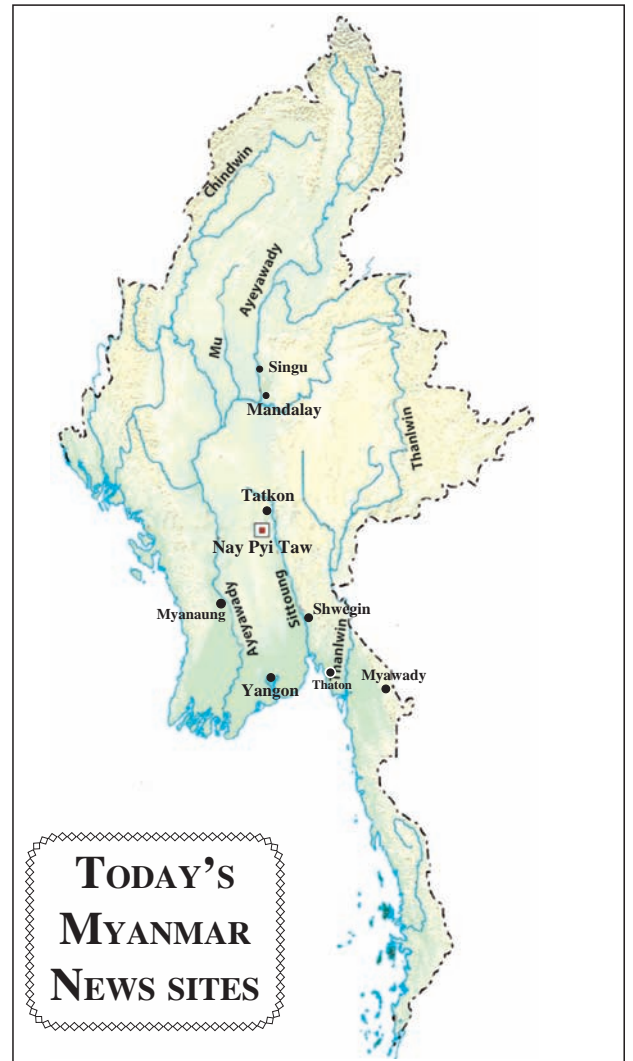
Patron of the association Kanhla Monastery Sayadaw gave words of advice. Township administrator U Min Min Tun made an opening speech, and the township medical officer explained advantages from donating blood.

The chairman of the association explained tasks of his association.

Officials presented gifts to blood donors who had donated first to third times in 2014.

A total of 18 members donated thrice in 2014, 75 members twice and 199 members once in 2014, an official of the association told media.

*Nay Win Zaw (Myanaung)*



## Maha Muni Buddha Image board of trustees invites donors for tiles



MANDALAY, 19 Jan— Posts of Shwekyaugdawgyi where Maha Muni Buddha Image is being kept is renovated with substitution of red brown tiles with jade tiles in Mandalay.

The building has 132 large and medium posts and 32 small posts. A plan is underway to substitute the red brown tiles with jade tiles. Wellwishers may donate installation of new tiles for an large post worth K6.5 million, a medium post K4 million and a small post K2.5 million, according to the pagoda board of trustees.

Priority will be given to the wellwishers who had donated red brown tiles at the posts in donating the new tiles at the posts. Only if the original wellwishers have no wish to donate new tiles, will new wellwishers have the opportunity to donate jade tiles at the posts, U Phone Kyaw of the finance section under the pagoda

board of trustees told media.

“We will give first priority to original wellwishers of tiles. Information has been given to them residing in all parts of the nation through newspapers. The announcement reported that original wellwishers are to contact the pagoda board of trustees, not later than 31 January whether they would like to donate new tiles or not. The announcement was attached to telephone numbers. Beyond the target date, new wellwishers will be allowed to donate jade tiles for the posts,” he said.

Even though original wellwishers will not donate new tiles, their names will be expressed at the posts together with new wellwishers. As such, old and new wellwishers are to contact the pagoda board of trustees in time by dialing 09-259095166.

*Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)*

## Development tasks gaining momentum in Singu Township

SINGU, 19 Jan—Mandalay Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Myint Than together with departmental officials inspected progress of rural development tasks

being undertaken by Department of Rural Development and Department of Irrigation in Madaya and Singu townships on 18 January.

The region minister

and party looked into construction of the road linking Mandalay-Mogok Road and Yetkansin Hill being constructed by Department of Rural Development. He gave instructions on con-

struction of the road with adequate width and dredging drains.

He inspected the land situation for construction of a small dam near Yetkansin Hill and instructed officials to coordinate with geologists for construction of the dam.

The minister viewed Inmagyi Inma Dam in Singu Township and dredging of Nyaunglaybin drain being undertaken by Department of Irrigation in Singu Township.

He instructed officials to complete construction of tasks by the end of February 2015 and urged the township administrator and the staff officer of Department of Irrigation to supervise progress of tasks.

*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*



## Nay Pyi Taw IPRD conducts office work management course

NAY PYI TAW, 19 Jan—With the aim of enhancing capacity of office works for staff from Information and Public Relations Department in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, the office work management course kicked off at the hall of the Nay Pyi Taw IPRD on 19 January.

Deputy Director Daw Thin Thin Zin of Nay Pyi Taw Information and Public Relations Department delivered a speech while Assistant Director U Soe Paing explained the purpose of conducting the training course.

A total of 26 staff from Dekkhina and Ottara districts and eight township IPRDs are attending the course up to 25 January.—*Tun Tun Win (Pinyinana)*



LOCAL NEWS

## Religious association honours outstanding youths in Abhidhamma examinations



SHWEGIN, 19 Jan — A ceremony to award outstanding persons in the

of Religious Affairs and Dhammabyuha Sasana Mamaka Organization, was held at the training school of the organization in Chaydawya Village in Shwegyin Township, Bago Region, on 17 January.

Officials presented prizes to two outstanding winners in the Abhidhamma exam at the region level and second prize to a winner in the Abhidhamma examination of Dhammabyuha Sasana Mamaka Organization and other winners.

Under the guidance of chief instructor Dhammabyuha Daw Khin Hla Tin (Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja) of the Yangon Dhammabyuha Sasana Mamaka Organization, the organization was set up in Shwegyin-Madauk in 2003. The organization conducts training courses for the students and children in summer holidays yearly.

Nay Lin  
(Nyaunglebin)

## Health staff vaccinate students against measles, German measles

MYANAUNG, 19 Jan— Mass immunization of measles and German measles 2015 was launched in Myanaung, Ayeyawady Region, on 19 January.

Health staff led by Head of Township Health Department Dr Maung Maung Chit with the assistance of social organizations vaccinated children from Basic Education Primary School in Magyisu, Ward.

In Myanaung Township, health staff will give vaccinations to students between aged 5 to 15 years against the diseases up to 27 January for the first time.

The second time immunization will be conducted for children between aged nine months to five years from 19 to 28 February, according to the Township Health Department.

Win Bo (Myanaung IPRD)



## Economists give business talks in Mandalay City

MANDALAY, 19 Jan— HUB Myanmar organized a business talk on Better Future, Better Myanmar 2015 at Hotel Mandalay in Mahaangmye Township on 18 January.

It was aimed at broadening horizon of Mandalay businessmen with

economic opportunities in a developing nation.

It was attended by businessmen, students of Institute of Economics and company staff.

Professor Dr Aung Tun Thet, economic adviser to the president and U Tin Zan Kyaw of De-

vice Business Management Academy gave talks on promoting entrepreneurship and salient points for achievement in works.

A similar talk will be held at the National Theatre in Mandalay on 25 April 2015.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



MANDALAY, 19 Jan — Mandalay-based Mandalay Alinn daily newspaper launched its publishing at Oriental House in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, on 17 January. Chief Executive Officer U Zaw Min Aye of Moe Hsan Pan Media explained the purpose of publishing the newspaper.

Mandalay Their Zaw and artistes presented songs to the accompaniment of Myoma Band.

The newspapers will have 20 pages carrying Mandalay news, Yangon news, international news, articles, crime, interview, fine arts and sports news and cartoons. It is sold at K100 per copy. Directorate of Public Relations

## Mandalay Alinn daily introduced to readers



and Psychological Warfare under the Ministry of Defence publishes Yadanabon Daily while

Mandalay City Development Committee also issues Mandalay Nayzin Daily. They sell K30 per

## Hsaungda Weaving and Vocational Institute opens printing and dyeing course

MANDALAY, 19 Jan— Mandalay Region Department of Trade Promotion Department and Saungda Weaving and Vocational Institute jointly conducted the printing and dyeing course

at the institute in Amarapura, Mandalay Region, on 17 January.

Mandalay Region Minister for Planning and Economy U Aung Zan delivered an address.

Mandalay Region government gave assistance for conducting the course to alleviate poverty in the rural areas and develop small-scale industries.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)



copy each. Moreover, State-run the Mirror and Myanma Alinn dailies are printed

and published by Mandalay Sub-printing House to the people at K50 per copy each. These newspapers

are inserted with Mandalay supplement on Sunday. Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

# Cambodia's Prince Ranariddh elected as president of his old party

PHNOM PENH, 19 Jan — Cambodia's Prince Norodom Ranariddh was elected on Monday as president of the royalist FUNCINPEC party, nine years after he was toppled as its leader.

The election was made at the party's congress held in Phnom Penh, with participation of 2,200 members.

The 71-year-old prince, a son of the late King Norodom Sihanouk, led FUNCINPEC from 1993 until 2006 when he was toppled, prompting a split in the party.

He announced his re-

tirement from politics in August 2012 but reversed that decision in June last year, saying he was returning "to mobilize royalists, to protect royalists and to serve the nation."

Speaking at Monday's party's congress, the prince said he cannot "stay idle and ignore" matters of critical importance to the nation as well as the social problems being faced by the Cambodian people, while he also vowed to do what he can to help safeguard the country's territorial integrity and bring it prosperity.

The prince's half-sis-



Cambodia's Prince Norodom Ranariddh

ter, Princess Arunrasmeay, was elected as FUNCINPEC's first vice president and Nhek Bunchay was elected as its second vice

president.

Princess Arunrasmeay, who prior to the election was the party's president, said bringing Prince Ra-

nariddh back into the party fold is intended to reunite the country's divided royalists and promote "monarchism, Sihanoukism and nationalism."

On 2 January, Nhek Bunchay, who prior to the election was the party's secretary general, revealed that the deal to restore the prince to his position was actually brokered by Prime Minister Hun Sen, who he said seeks reconciliation among the royalists.

In the 2013 election, the Cambodian People's Party of Hun Sen won 68 seats in the 123-seat legislature, while opposi-

tion Cambodia National Rescue Party, led by Sam Rainsy and Kem Sokha, won the remaining 55 seats. FUNCINPEC's fortunes have declined since it won 58 seats in the 1993 election, winning only 43 in 1998, 26 in 2003, two in 2008 and none in 2013. The next election will be held in 2018.

Prince Ranariddh was "first prime minister" in a dual-premier, power-sharing arrangement with Hun Sen after the 1993 general election, only to be ousted by the latter in a bloody military coup in 1997.

Kyodo News

## S Korea to conduct joint military drills with US as planned

SEOUL, 19 Jan — South Korea will conduct joint military exercises with the United States this year as scheduled despite the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) call for suspension, the Defence Ministry said on Monday in a report to President Park Geun-hye. The "Key Resolve" command post exercise and the "Foal Eagle" field training drill will be staged in early March as planned, together with the "Ulchi Freedom Guardian (UFG)" computer-assisted simulation exercise, which tends to kick off in mid-August. The announcement came after Pyongyang proposed to temporarily suspend nuclear tests if Washington halts its annual war games with Seoul this year,

but the United States has rejected the proposal.

President Park said a unified Korea should be pursued based on firm security, stressing the need to expand military capability while soundly maintaining the "South Korea-US allied defence posture."

Park said South Korea should urge the DPRK to "strategically" abandon its nuclear programme when she received a briefing from four ministries in charge of unification, defence and foreign affairs. The South Korean military also plans to participate in this year's Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) scheduled to be conducted in September in New Zealand to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.—Xinhua

## Thai PM: I have not ordered legislators to ban Yingluck

BANGKOK, 19 Jan — Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said on Monday he had not ordered his military-dominated legislature to vote against ousted former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra when her impeachment hearing concludes this week.

Yingluck's supporters and former members of her cabinet say the National Legislative Assembly (NLA) will vote against the former premier in a bid to try to end the political influence of her powerful family, including her brother, former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Prayuth denied those allegations. "I have never sent any signal. Never. There has never been an order," Prayuth told reporters in Bangkok.

All 220 members of the NLA were hand-picked by the junta, known as the Na-

tional Council for Peace and Order. Around 100 of them are former or currently-serving military officers.

A decision to ban Yingluck from politics would require three-fifths of the vote.

The hearings, which began on 9 January, concern Yingluck's role in a controversial rice subsidy scheme. The NLA will vote on 23 January whether it finds Yingluck guilty of negligence over the scheme, a flagship policy of her administration.

If found guilty, Yingluck would be banned from political office for five years.

Yingluck, Thailand's first female prime minister, came to power in a landslide election in 2011, backed by farmers mostly in the north and northeast of the country.

She was removed from office in May, after a court found her guilty of abuse



Ousted former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra

of power, days before the military staged a coup after months of street demonstrations in Bangkok aimed at ousting her government.

A day after she was removed, Thailand's National Anti-Corruption Commission found her guilty of mishandling the rice scheme. The scheme paid farmers well above market rates for their crops and caused losses of more than \$15 billion to

the state.

Thailand has been convulsed by bouts of political turbulence ever since Thaksin was removed in a previous putsch in 2006. It remains divided between supporters of Yingluck and Thaksin and the royalist-military establishment which sees Thaksin, a populist former telecommunications tycoon, as a threat.

Reuters

## Bangladesh rape laws need overhaul to ensure justice, campaigners say

NEW DELHI, 19 Jan — Bangladesh must reform its archaic laws on rape to help boost convictions and instill confidence in victims who are often too afraid to seek justice, a legal aid group said on Monday.

Over the last decade, the South Asian nation has implemented programmes to help support victims of sexual violence, said the Bangladesh Legal Aid and Service Trust (BLAST), but rape laws, which date back to the British colonial era, remain unchanged.

"There is every reason for an overhaul and com-



Bangladeshi women wearing masks stage a silent protest against rape in Dhaka on 6 March, 2002.

REUTERS

prehensive review of rape laws to take place, given the reality in Bangladesh of rape survivors not being

able to get redress in these cases," said Sara Hossain, supreme court lawyer and BLAST's honorary executive director.

The narrow definition of rape as vaginal intercourse, the fact that marital rape is legal, and recognition within the law that there must be proof of force in rape cases were some areas which needed to be reviewed, said Hossain.

Following the fatal gang rape of a young woman on a bus in neighbouring India in December 2012, New Delhi set up a commission to review laws around

violence against women.

The findings of the commission, headed by former Chief Justice of India JS Verma, led to the government broadening the definition of rape, extending jail terms for gang rape, and making acid attacks, stalking and voyeurism specific offences.

Hossain said Bangladesh needed a similar commission to revamp laws to make them more gender sensitive.

Bangladeshi police classify rape and many other sexual offences under the category of women

and child repression. There were 21,291 crimes reported in that category in 2014, compared to 19,601 the previous year, according to police figures.

There are no official statistics on the annual number of rapes in the country.

A 2013 United Nations survey on violence against women found that 10 percent of urban men and 16 percent of rural men in Bangladesh who were interviewed reported perpetrating some form of rape against a woman or girl in their lifetime.

Reuters

## Pope finishes Asian tour after huge, rain-soaked Mass in Manila



Catholics hold candles during a holy mass by Pope Francis at Rizal Park in Manila on 18 Jan, 2015. Huge crowds converged on a Manila park on Sunday to see Pope Francis wrap up his Asian trip with an outdoor Mass expected to draw one of the largest crowds in Philippine history.—REUTERS

MANILA, 19 Jan — Pope Francis left the Philippines on Monday, ending a week-long trip to Asia that cul-

minated with a rain-soaked Mass for about seven million people in the capital of Asia's most populous Catho-

lic nation, the largest-ever crowd for a papal event.

Vatican officials have said between six million

and seven million people attended Sunday's Mass in Manila's Rizal Park and surrounding areas, eclipsing the roughly five million worshippers who flocked to a Mass by Pope John Paul II in the same park 20 years ago.

The Pope's plane took off from Manila at about 10 am local time (0200 GMT) in clear blue skies, a stark contrast to the stormy weather since he arrived on Thursday.

Huge crowds greeted Francis at all his stops in the Philippines despite the bad weather. Thousands lined the streets along the papal route to the airport on Monday, some shouting "Viva Santo Papa!" and "Pope

Francis, we love you!"

About a thousand schoolchildren danced and sang as he boarded the plane taking him back to Rome.

Several of Francis's scheduled events in the Philippines were cut short by torrential rains and high winds, particularly on Saturday when he went to comfort survivors of Typhoon Haiyan that killed at least 6,300 people in the central Philippines in November 2013.

The Pope and the millions of faithful wore plastic ponchos during Sunday's rain-soaked Mass.

As well as comforting typhoon survivors in the Philippines, Francis urged the government to tackle

corruption and poverty, and pleaded for the world to hear the cries of poor, hungry, homeless and abused children.

Francis also took another swipe at the government's population control efforts, saying the family was under threat from "insidious attacks and programs contrary to all that we hold true and sacred".

Before the Philippines, the Pope spent two days in Sri Lanka, where he preached reconciliation between different religions after the predominantly Buddhist country's 26-year civil war that ended in 2009 and killed up to 100,000 people.

Reuters

## Japan, Israel PMs announce cooperation in cybersecurity

JERUSALEM, 19 Jan — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his Israeli counterpart Benjamin Netanyahu said on Monday the two countries will strengthen cooperation in countering cyberattacks and promote exchanges between defence officials.

The prime ministers,

making the announcement at a joint press conference before a summit meeting in the Israeli capital, also reaffirmed close cooperation regarding peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific and Middle East regions.

In their summit talks, the two leaders are expected to discuss a wide range

of issues such as security, economy and response to cyberattacks. They met for a second day after holding talks on Sunday.

Israel has been pursuing human resource development in the cyber arena, and last November the two countries held their first cybersecurity talks in Tokyo.

The Abe administration is keen to enhance Japan's ability to combat cyberattacks in the run-up to the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

In the economic field, Abe and Netanyahu are expected to confirm that the two countries will try to soon begin preparatory talks for signing an investment accord, according to Japanese government officials.

In their meeting on Sunday, the two leaders agreed to jointly enhance anti-terrorism measures amid a heightened threat of terrorism around the world.—Kyodo News



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (L) and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu shake hands before their talks in Jerusalem, Israel, on 18 Jan, 2015. They agreed to work together to enhance anti-terrorism measures.—KYODO NEWS

## Canak: Those naming Vucic dictator know not what it is

NOVI SAD, 19 Jan — Nenad Canak, leader of the League of Social Democrats of Vojvodina (LSV) and member of the Assembly of the Serbian province of Vojvodina, has said that anyone who may call Serbia's Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic a dictator is obviously ignorant of what dictatorship is.

In a statement for Novi Sad-based daily Dnevnik, Canak warns of a possibility of the political landscape in

Serbia being taken over by extremists once the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) loses the majority.

In the meantime, other political actors have been pushed to the margin in various ways, Canak said, and this space could be taken over by "extremist, patriotic dictatorship hard-liners, supported from the outside and also by part of the Church and unreformed security services." The LSV leader said

that the parliament should be protected from being a mere spittoon, the integrity of the institutions should be preserved and individuals should be prevented from reducing them to mere appendages of government.

Pointing to the necessity of protecting the right to be different, Canak stressed that we had to set ourselves a clear goal of where Serbia should be in 10, 20 and 30 years from now.—Tanjung

## US Marine arrested over trespassing in Okinawa

NAHA, 19 Jan — Police arrested a 22-year-old US Marine on Monday on suspicion of trespassing at an apartment building in the southern prefecture of Okinawa.

Johnathan Darby, a petty officer 2<sup>nd</sup> class stationed at the Marine Corps' Camp

Schwab, allegedly entered two unlocked apartments in the building in the city of Nago at around 5:30 am, according to the police.

The police quoted the suspect as saying that he was drunk and entered the apartments to ask for directions.

Residents of the two

apartments called police and told them that "a black man" was in their living quarters.

Darby fled from the building and police arrested him after an officer found him walking in a street about 100 meters away some 30 minutes later, the police said.

Kyodo News

## Bangladeshi police arrest 4 alleged IS militants

DHAKA, 19 Jan — The Dhaka Metropolitan Police said they arrested four militants of Islamic State, a Middle East-based terrorist group, including its 'Bangladesh coordinator,' early

Monday in the capital's Jatrabari and Khilkhet areas.

Masudur Rahman, deputy commissioner of the DMP, confirmed that the arrests took place. Police also seized a laptop and related

leaflets from them, investigative sources said.

The alleged militants were identified as Shakawatul Kabir, Anwar Hosain, Rabiul Islam and Nazrul Islam.—Kyodo News

## Indonesia investigators say no evidence so far of terrorism in AirAsia crash

JAKARTA, 19 Jan — Indonesian investigators said on Monday they had not found any evidence so far that terrorism was involved in the crash of an AirAsia passenger jet last month that killed all 162 people on board.

Andreas Hananto told Reuters that his team of 10 investigators at the National Transportation Safety Committee had found "no threats" in the cockpit voice recordings to indicate foul play during AirAsia Flight QZ8501.

The Airbus A320-200 vanished from radar screens on Dec. 28, less than halfway into a two-hour flight from Indonesia's second-biggest city of Surabaya to Singapore. There were no survivors.

When asked if there was any evidence from the recording that terrorism was involved, Hananto said:



Rescue team members walk as they carry the wreckage of a seat of the AirAsia Flight QZ8501 airliner at Kumai port in Pangkalan Bun, on 19 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

"No. Because if there were terrorism, there would have been a threat of some kind."

"In that critical situation, the recording indicates that the pilot was busy with the handling of the plane."

Investigators said they had listened to the whole of the recording but transcribed only about half.

"We didn't hear any voice of other persons other than the pilots," said Nurcahyo Utomo, another investigator.

"We didn't hear any sounds of gunfire or explosions. For the time being, based on that, we can eliminate the possibility of terrorism."—Reuters

## PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 20 January, 2015

## Business partners

By Myint Win Thein

**T**he Minimum Wage Law has been enacted by the Hluttaws since March 2013 and its rules were approved by the government in July the same year. Therefore, it is nearly two years since the law and rules were approved.

Meanwhile, efforts were exerted for the law

to be enforced by collecting data for household expenses of workers across the country by employee organizations with the help of the International Labour Organization, and the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security has asked the organizations to send their data for setting the minimum wage by 31 January, according to news reports, which even suggested that the minimum wage can be enforced in 2015. It is sure that the law will be beneficial for workers as well as employers as the data are collected in the entire country.

It can be said that the minimum wage for workers has come closer to reality with some employer and employee organizations sending their suggestions on minimum wage to the Ministry of

Labour, Employment and Social Security. It is important that the set minimum wage is acceptable for both employers and employees as they are depending on each other. When both sides see each other as business partners rather than employers and employees, their workplace will be a nicer place to work in.

## 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.

## Striving for success

U Kyi Mun

In striving for success, we will need the following factors of success :

- Desire
- Will
- Effort
- Progress

To strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield.

-Poet Tennyson

## \* DESIRE

**DESIRE means** : a strong wish to have or do something; DESIRE also means a passion or a passionate want to have or to do somebody or something; DESIRE can also mean a heart's longing for somebody or something. DESIRE can be in forms of sensual or carnal desires for form, sound, smell, taste or touch/contact. DESIRE can be in the forms of HUNGER or THIRST. DESIRE can be POSITIVE or NEGATIVE. To be positive or constructive, a desire should be carefully bred with awareness or heedfulness and wisdom or insight. Some motivational authors like Napoleon Hill are very fond of describing desire as a BURNING DESIRE or a TREMENDOUS DESIRE in relation to a very strongly chosen GOAL or OBJECTIVE. In such a very passionate case, DESIRE is usually preceded by a strong adjective like COMPELLING DESIRE, CONSUMING DESIRE. The most important point in desiring to have or to do somebody or something is that **the object of the desire MUST be very DEFINITE, CLEAR-CUT AND ACHIEVABLE**. In other words, the OBJECT of the DESIRE must be SMART:

- S for Specific
- M for Measurable
- A for Achievable
- R for Realistic
- T for Time-bound

## \* WILL

**WILL, here means** : the ability to control your thoughts and actions in order to achieve what you want to do; a feeling of strong determination to do something that you want to do; to have a strong will, to have an **iron will / a will of steel**, i.e., *her decision to continue shows great strength of will; in spite of what happened, he never lost the will to live; the meeting turned out to be a clash of wills; she always wants to impose her will on other people to get what she wants*. WILL is, here, used as WILLPOWER.

A strong will can be described as : **Indomitable spirit; undefeatable mind, unremitting effort; unrelenting resolve; relentless fight**, etc. **A strong will never gives up and never gives in; a iron will always goes all-out; a winning will is always strong inside; it permits no defeat, and it fights all it can**. A strong will is the master of its fate and the captain of its soul. A passionate will is never a quitter; it is always a winner. The test of a strong will is the fight it makes and the grit that it daily shows.

## \* EFFORT

**EFFORT means** : (1) the physical or mental energy that you need to do something; something that takes a lot of energy; e.g. *you should put more effort into your work; a lot of effort has gone into making this event a success; It's*

a long climb to the top but well worth the effort; (2) an attempt to do something especially when it is difficult to do : **a determined/real/special effort; to make an effort; I didn't really feel like going out, but I am glad I made the effort to do something** : the company has laid off 150 workers in an effort to save money; the local clubs are **making every effort** to interest more young people; we need to **make a concerted effort** to finish on time; I spent hours cleaning the house, but there isn't **much to show for all my efforts; with an effort of will**, he resisted the temptation; the project was a **joint/group effort** : (3) a particular activity that a group of people organize in order to achieve something : the Russian space effort, the United Nations' peace keeping effort (4) the result of an attempt to do something; I'm afraid this essay is a poor effort. Synonyms are ENDEAVOUR, DILIGENCE.

In order to urge people to make an effort, it is usually said : **"No pain, no gain."** Nowadays, it is more proactive to say : **"More pains, more gains"**. It is usually said to encourage people to make more effort : **"Going beyond the call of duty;" "Doing over and above due diligence"; "To have a habit of going the extra mile" ; "To have a Can-Do-Spirit", "Do or Die", "Swim or Sink", "A quitter never wins and a winner never quits"**.

## \* PROGRESS

**PROGRESS means** : (1) the process of improving or developing or of getting nearer to achieving or completing something : **to make progress ; slow/ steady/ rapid / good progress ; we have made great progress in controlling inflation; economic / scientific / technical pro-**

gress ; They ask for a **progress report** on the project. (2) Movement towards a place; movement forwards ; *We watch his slow progress down the steep slope : there wasn't much traffic so we made good progress.*

There are a few modern words usually used in the matter of progress in the quality of the products or services, such as KAIZEN, DANTOTSU, TQM, WOW or WOWOW Factor, Six Sigma, etc.

**KAIZEN means** : Continuous Quality Improvement ; or in plain language : **Everybody can improve anything at anytime.**

**DANTOTSU means** : You can better the best. You can be best of the best.

**WoW or WoWoW Factor means** : The quality something has of being very impressive or surprising to people. *If you want to sell your house quickly, it needs a WoW Factor.*

**Six Sigma or Sigma Six means** : Error or defect is allowed only 3.4 per million.

**TQM - Total Quality Management - means** : **Error-free ; Zero Defect ; Right First Time and Right Every Time.**

## \* CONCLUSION

Striving for Success will usually require :

- A Burning Desire
- An Indomitable Spirit
- An Unyielding Effort
- Insight Wisdom

And, every striving for success should be done in the following manner :

- Drive, Strive, Thrive, Arrive, Revive.

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

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Press Release Team  
Press Release (1/2005)

19 January, 2015

15<sup>th</sup> Waning day of Pyatho, 1376 ME

Press release on response of the president to the important motion of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on six-party talks

1. On 26-11-2014, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker sent a letter informing of the president that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the important motion put forward by Representative U Myint Tun of Bago Region Constituency (10) after submission and debates in support of it at the 33rd day of the 11th regular session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held on 25-11-2015 to the president for consideration.

2. Concerning the important motion, the president sent a reply to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker on 17-1-2015. Following is unofficial translation of the reply.

Reference: Letter No.1/Pahta(meeting)8/2014-153 sent to the president by the speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw dated 26-11-2014.

1. The following important motion submitted at and approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw was sent to the president for consideration.

"The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw urges the president to hold

talks among the president, the speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, the speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, the chairperson of the National League for Democracy, a Hluttaw representative from national races group and the commander-in-chief of the defence services as soon as possible for the emergence of the state constitution conforming with the times and the political system and for paving way for favourable conditions for nation building tasks for present and future Myanmar.

2. The government led by the president has been taking measures for various stages of reform for the stability and economic development of the country since it took office. The government has placed an emphasis on dialogues for all-inclusiveness of the reform and equal rights of all citizens based on the state constitution. In doing so, the government has successfully adopted, through dialogues, a new political culture, in which cooperation is made for common points of view and further negotiations are held to find solutions for disagreements. It is obvious that one of the outcomes of the negotiation is the participation of representatives of the National League for democracy in the Hluttaws. Moreover, in order to build national unity that is essential for building the future nation, a 14-party talks including the president, vice presidents, the speaker of

(See page 9)



## Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham arrives in Gaya, Bihar State



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon offer lights to Buddha image at Maha Bodhi Pagoda in India.—MNA

YANGON, 19 Jan—A goodwill delegation led by Vice President Dr Sai

Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon left Yangon for India via Thailand on Monday morning.

The vice president and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe, Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint, officials of Indian Embassy and Yangon Region government office.

The delegation includes Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin, Deputy Ministers U Thant Kyaw, Dr Win Myint and Daw Sanda Khin, Chin State Minister for Transport U Ngun Hsan Aung and Sagaing Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein and officials.

At Suvarnabhumi Airport, the vice president was welcomed by Myanmar Ambassador to Thai-

land U Win Maung and officials.

The vice president and party arrived in Gaya, Bihar State of India at 2 pm local time.

They were welcomed by Myanmar Ambassador to India U Aung Khin Soe and officials. The vice president and party proceeded to Royal Residency Hotel.

In the afternoon, the vice president paid homage to Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja abbot Bhaddanta Naninda of Budh Gaya Myanmar monastery and donated a marble Buddha image.

The vice president offered Shwekyar robe and gold foils to Maha Bodhi Pagoda and Bo tree.

The vice president, wife and party visited the Satha Sathaha religious places.

MNA

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker receives ROK National Assembly speaker

NAY PYI TAW 19 Jan—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received the speaker of South Korea's National Assembly, Dr Chung Ui-hwa and party at Hluttaw Building Monday.

During the meeting, Thura U Shwe Mann said cooperation between Myanmar and South Korea has improved and seen development of bilateral ties between the two countries.

He also said Myanmar

has achieved success in political reform processes, while economic and social sectors are still lagging behind many regional countries as democratization process is facing with many challenges.

Thura U Shwe Mann invited more investments of Korean businesses and promotion of trades, noting that the importance of human resource for the development of country, while Myanmar has abundant natural resources.

Dr Chung Ui-hwa said he has witnessed Myanmar as 'a rising star of Asia' during his visit, adding that the two countries have possessed certain historical and cultural identities, with 40 percent of Korean population are Buddhists.

Korean speaker said the three fundamentals for the development of South Korea are parents' encouragement to their children for education, self-motivation of Korean people for works, and abilities of state leaders.

He finally remarked that democratization processes of Myanmar after 2015 general election is believed to gain momentum, promising to help in agricultural sector, science and technologies as Korean people are still grateful to humanitarian assistance of Myanmar people while the former were facing with difficulties in the past.

Thura U Shwe Mann then served the Korean delegation with luncheon.

MNA



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann cordially greets Speaker of South Korea's National Assembly, Dr Chung Ui-hwa.—MNA

### Press release on response ...

(from page 8)

the Pyithu Hluttaw, the speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, the commander-in-chief of defence services, the chairman of the Union Election Commission, the deputy commander-in-chief of defence services and political parties of national races was held on 31-10-2014, taking the example of the Panglong Conference organized by Bogyoke Aung San, and adopted frameworks to hold further dialogues which are under way. On 12-1-2015, a meeting participated by political leaders, ethnic affairs ministers and representatives was held. The government welcomes the request for six-party talks as it is a fine political practice in conformity with the government's new political culture and is based on the principle of finding solutions through negotiations.

3. According to the letter referred to, the objectives of the six-party talks are found to be as follows.

- (a) Emergence of a state constitution conforming with the times and the political system
- (b) Paving way for favourable conditions in building the present and future Myanmar

4. Concerning one of the objectives of the six-party talks for emergence of a state constitution conforming with the

times and the political system, as it is impossible for any country to possess a state constitution that is completely in conformity with the times and the political system, the state constitution (2008) cannot be said to be fully in conformity with the times and the political system. However, it is known to all citizen who abide by the state constitution that the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is the most constitutionally responsible institution to amend the state constitution so that it is in conformity with the times and political system. Ways and means to amend the state constitution are stipulated under Section 433, 434, 435, 436 of Chapter 12 of the state constitution when it is necessary to amend the constitution. Amendment of the state constitution is to be carried out step by step at the Hluttaw by abiding by the provisions of the state constitution and at some points, it is to be done and approved with the will of the citizens through a national referendum. The president is ready to abide by the decision of the Hluttaw if the constitutional amendment is carried out in accordance with the 2008 state constitution. It should be careful that the state constitution is amended by breaching the provisions, it is against the rule of law.

5. The second objective of paving way for favourable conditions for the present and future Myanmar is a compre-

hensive task that is concerned with the entire nation and all national races. It is advisable that in addition to Hluttaw representatives, the government and the Tatmadaw, others people, who should participate in such a task that has a national impact, should be invited. As for the matter, the decisions of Yangon Region Hluttaw and Sagaing Region Hluttaw and desire of the people in Shan State and Chin State and other national races should be taken into consideration.

6. The points of the request sent are just the titles of each points and it is necessary to send the frameworks and details for each title for preparations.

7. The letter referred to calling for the six-party talks led by the president is a fine practice. However, it is advisable that it would be better if arrangements are made for representation of all national races, social organizations and political forces, framework acceptable to all and transparency. Therefore, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is required to inform the government of how such a dialogue should be held.

3. The press release is issued for the public so that they may know the response of the president to the important motion of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw calling for the six-party talks.

Press Release Team

## Belgium requests extradition of Greek suspect after attacks foiled

ATHENS, 19 Jan — Belgian prosecutors said late on Sunday they had asked for a person arrested in Greece to be extradited over a possible link with a foiled Islamist plot to attack Belgian police.

“Further analysis of the elements of our investigation gave us enough reasons to ask for the extradition of one of the persons that were arrested yesterday by the Greek authorities,” the federal prosecutors’ office said in a statement.

Earlier a spokesman had said no connection had been established between events in Belgium, where police killed two gunmen during raids in the east Belgian town of Verviers, and the detention in Greece of more than half a dozen people.—Reuters



A Belgian soldier guards the entrance of the Jewish museum in central Brussels on 18 Jan, 2015. REUTERS

## UK’s Cameron defends free speech ‘right to cause offense’

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan — British Prime Minister David Cameron said there was “a right to cause offense about someone’s religion” in a free society, drawing a distinction between himself and Pope Francis in their response to the deadly Islamist attacks in Paris. “I’m a Christian. If someone says something offensive about Jesus, I might find that offensive. But in a free society, I don’t have a right to sort of wreak my vengeance on them,” Cameron said in an interview with CBS’ Face the Nation programme aired on Sunday. “In a free society, there is a right to cause offense about someone’s religion,” he said in the interview. It was taped on Friday during a visit by Cameron to Washington for talks with President Barack Obama.

The previous day Pope Francis said it was wrong to provoke others by insulting their religion and that one could “expect” a reaction to such abuse.

“You can’t provoke, you can’t insult the faith of others, you can’t make fun of

faith,” the Pope said aboard a flight to the Philippines while on his Asian tour. In Paris this month, 17 people, including journalists and police, were killed in three days of violence that began with a shooting attack on the political weekly *Charlie Hebdo*, known for its satirical cartoons lampooning Islam and other religions.

The attacks triggered a massive security response in Europe and caused policymakers around the world to reconsider their strategies for combating radical Islamic groups and their approach to possible limits to free speech when it provoked



British Prime Minister David Cameron

## US penetrated North Korean networks years ago — New York Times

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan — The US National Security Agency began tapping into North Korean computer networks in 2010, an effort that ultimately helped provide evidence to persuade the Obama administration that Pyongyang was behind the cyber attack on Sony Pictures, the *New York Times* reported on Sunday. Citing former US and foreign officials and a National Security Agency document, the *Times* said the spy agency was able to penetrate North Korean systems with the help of South Korea and other US allies after first tapping into Chinese networks that connect North Korea to the rest of the world.

The newspaper quoted officials as saying the pro-

gramme grew into an effort to place malware that could track many networks and computers used by hackers in North Korea.

Such activity ultimately proved crucial in persuading President Barack Obama to implicate the North Koreans in the Sony attack, the officials told the paper.

It was the first time the United States directly accused another country of a cyber attack of such magnitude on American soil.

Obama “had no doubt” in this case, a senior US military official told the *Times*.

North Korea has described the accusation as “groundless slander.”

Sony’s network was crippled by hackers in No-



A student looks at a screen in the Grand People’s Study House in the North Korean capital of Pyongyang on 27 Oct, 2008.—REUTERS

member as the company prepared to release “The Interview,” a comedy about a fictional plot to assassinate North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The attack was followed by online leaks

of unreleased movies and emails that caused embarrassment to executives and Hollywood personalities.

US officials could not immediately be reached for comment.—Reuters

## Argentine prosecutor who accused Fernandez of Iran plot found dead

Buenos Aires, 19 Jan — The Argentine prosecutor who had accused President Cristina Fernandez last week of trying to whitewash Argentina’s worst ever bombing has been found dead in his flat, local media reported on Monday.

Alberto Nisman, the state prosecutor investigating the 1994 blast at a Jewish community centre in Buenos Aires that killed 85 people, said last Wednesday that Fernandez had opened a secret back channel to a group of Iranians suspected of planting the bomb.

He had said the scheme intended to clear the suspects so Argentina could start swapping grains for much-needed oil from Iran.

Ambito Financiero and other Argentine dailies reported Nisman was found dead in his bathtub in his flat in the luxurious Buenos Aires district of Puerto Madero. Lawmaker Patricia Bullrich told television channel TN that



Argentine prosecutor Alberto Nisman

members of parliament would meet on Monday morning to discuss the situation. Nisman had been due to appear in front of lawmakers on Monday afternoon to explain his accusations against the president.

The security ministry could not be immediately reached for comment.

Argentine courts have accused Iran of sponsoring the 1994 bombing, a charge Iran denies.

In 2013, Fernandez tried to form a “truth commission” with Iran to joint-

ly investigate the bombing. She said at the time that the pact would reactivate the probe, but Israel and Jewish groups said it threatened to derail criminal prosecution of the case.

The truth commission pact was later struck down by an Argentine court.

Nisman had said the truth commission was intended to help get Interpol arrest warrants dropped against five Iranian suspects as a step toward normalizing bilateral relations.

Reuters

## Poroshenko rejected peace proposal made by Putin, Putin’s spokesman says

Moscow, 19 Jan — Ukraine’s President Petro Poroshenko rejected a peace plan proposed to him last week by his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, Putin’s spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Sunday

evening, according to Russian media.

Peskov said the plan, contained in a letter sent by Putin on Thursday evening, proposed a ceasefire by both government forces and separatist militiamen

in southeastern Ukraine, as well as the withdrawal of heavy artillery by both sides.

“In recent days, Russia has consistently undertaken efforts as an intermediary in regulating the conflict,”

Peskov said in comments quoted by the *ITAR TASS* news agency.

“In particular, on Thursday night a written address was sent by the president of Russia to the president of Ukraine, in

which a concrete plan was proposed to both sides in the conflict to withdraw heavy artillery.”

A copy of the letter was published by the Russian television channel NTV. In it, Putin pro-

posed “urgent measures for the cessation of mutual shelling, and also the rapid withdrawal by the sides in the conflict of means of destruction with a calibre higher than 100 mm”.

Reuters

## Suspected Boko Haram fighters kidnap around 80 in Cameroon

YAOUNDE, 19 Jan — Suspected Boko Haram Islamist fighters from Nigeria kidnapped around 80 people, many of them children, and killed three others on Sunday in a cross-border attack on villages in northern Cameroon, army and government officials said.

The group, which has killed thousands and kidnapped hundreds in its bid to carve out an Islamic state in northern Nigeria, has also targeted Cameroon and Niger over the past year as it seeks to expand its zone of operations.

Sunday's kidnappings, among the largest abductions on Cameroonian soil, came as neighbouring Chad deployed troops to support Cameroon's forces in the area. "According to our initial information, around 30 adults, most of them herders, and 50 young girls and boys aged between 10 and 15 years were abducted," a senior army officer de-

ployed to northern Cameroon told *Reuters*.

He said the early-morning attack had targeted the village of Mabass and other villages along the porous border. Soldiers intervened and exchanged fire with the raiders for around two hours, he added. Government spokesman Issa Tchiroma confirmed the attack, in which he said three people had been killed, as well as the kidnappings. He was not able to say with certainty how many people had been taken in the raid.

"There was a Boko Haram attack on several localities in the Far North region. The assailants burnt down about 80 homes and kidnapped several inhabitants including women and very young children," he said. In an attack that gained worldwide attention last year, its fighters kidnapped around 200 schoolgirls from the town



A man holds a sign that reads "Stop Boko Haram" at a rally to support Chadian troops heading to Cameroon to fight Boko Haram, in Ndjamena on 17 Jan, 2015.

REUTERS

of Chibok, in northeastern Nigeria.

It has stepped up attacks in the region as Africa's biggest economy prepares for a 14 February presidential election.

## Yazidi girl who escaped Islamic State now searches for missing relatives

DOHUK, 19 Jan — Adebba Shaker, a 14-year-old from Iraq's minority Yazidi sect, recalled the day when she smiled again for the first time since her abduction by Islamic State militants. It was October, 2014, when she was reunited with her younger sister who had also been kidnapped and sold in a market.

Shaker and 13-year-old Chenar found each other at a camp for internally displaced people just outside Dohuk, in northern Iraq, where Chenar came after being freed by a Sunni Muslim family who paid to save her from Islamist fighters.

"I can't describe how I felt, I was so happy," Shaker told the Thomson Reuters Foundation at the camp. "Now we need to find everybody else." Sixteen of Shaker's relatives are still being held by Islamic State fighters who control large swathes of Iraq and Syria. They were abducted from their village in the Yazidi heartland of Sinjar in northwestern Iraq, and separated. Islamic State has hounded ethnic and religious minorities in northern Iraq since seizing the city of Mosul in June, killing and displacing thousands of Christians, Shi'ite Shabaks and Turkmen who lived for centuries in one of the most diverse parts of the Middle East.

Hundreds of Yazidi women and girls have been captured, raped and tortured, and forced to convert to Islam and marry Islamic State followers, according to rights groups. Shaker was trafficked to the Syrian border and was given as a "gift" to fighters on the frontline. She was converted to Islam and forcibly married to one of them. Young Chenar was sold at the local market. Just hours before the bidding started, a Sunni man noticed her. "He said I was too young," Chenar said.

He paid \$1,500 for her and brought her to his home. "As soon as I stepped in the house, he allowed me to call my family." Although she was told she would be released, the man told her to be patient. "The Daesh (an Arabic acronym used for the Islamist group) were watching all our moves, it was a very dangerous situation for everybody," she said. Chenar was held in the man's house for 55 days. "I wasn't asked to do anything in the house. I would just eat and sleep. They were kind to me, although I was not permitted to go out." The sisters told their story while sitting in their tent in the Shariya refugee camp that opened in mid-November. They live with two brothers, two cousins and an uncle.

"We know other mem-

bers of our family are still alive, some of them called us, but they have not been able to escape," said Sal, one of the brothers. The Yazidi are a religious sect whose beliefs combine elements of several ancient Middle Eastern religions. Tens of thousands have fled Islamic State fighters, who say the Yazidi must embrace their radical version of Islam or die.

Shaker escaped from a house in Raabia, Iraq, in late August when her Islamic State captors received a phone call and stormed out. She took the chance to escape, running towards the Syrian border and to safety with Kurdish fighters. She is now focused on finding her mother and sisters and leaving Iraq for good. "Nowhere is safe here for us. I want to go away. I want to go to America." In the meantime, the family faces harsh, wintry conditions in the camp, where water seeps into tents when it rains. And fear remains. Some of the nearly 3,000 families sheltering at Shariya are Sunni, the branch of Islam followed by Islamic State, and Shaker, like many others, fear further violence. "They are scared to be harmed again and, as a result, there is constant tension," said Stefano Nanni, who works at the camp for Italian aid group Un Ponte Per.—*Reuters*

In a video posted online this month, a man claiming to be Boko Haram leader Abubakar Shekau threatened to step up violence in neighbouring Cameroon unless it scraps

its constitution and embraces Islam.

Faced with increased violence along the border, Yaounde has deployed thousands of additional troops, including elite sol-

diers, to the area.

A convoy of troops from Chad arrived in Maroua, the main town in Cameroon's Far-North Region, to support the fight against Boko Haram, late on Saturday, Cameroon defence ministry spokesman Colonel Didier Badjeck said on Sunday.

Chad has a reputation as one of the region's best militaries and helped French forces drive al-Qaeda-linked Islamists from northern Mali in 2013. Government officials in N'Djamena say the deployment to Cameroon includes around 2,000 soldiers, armoured vehicles and attack helicopters. Ghana's President John Mahama, who currently heads West African bloc ECOWAS, told *Reuters* on Friday that regional leaders will seek approval from the African Union next week to create a new force to fight Boko Haram.—*Reuters*

## Israeli strike in Syria kills senior Hezbollah figures

BEIRUT, 19 Jan — An Israeli helicopter strike in Syria killed a commander from Lebanon's Hezbollah and the son of the group's late military leader Imad Moughniyah, Hezbollah said, in a major blow that could lead to reprisal attacks.

The strike hit a convoy

spond. Shi'ite Muslim Hezbollah, which is backed by Iran and fought a 34-day war with Israel in 2006, has been fighting alongside President Bashar al-Assad's forces in Syria's four-year war. Iran's semi-official Tabnak news site said several of its Revolutionary Guards had also

confirmed to *Reuters* that the Israeli military had carried out the attack. It was not immediately clear what role Jihad Moughniyah, in his 20s, was playing in the fighting in Syria. Hezbollah accused Israel in 2008 of assassinating his father, Imad Moughniyah, who was implicated in high-profile attacks on Israeli and Western targets and wanted by the United States. Israel denies any involvement in that killing.

Nabil Boumonsef, a columnist at the Lebanon newspaper *an-Nahar*, said he believed the strike was a direct response to Nasrallah's speech and could lead to a backlash. "Killing the son of Moughniyah is dangerous. I do not think that the group can be quiet now, now that the father and the son are killed. I expect that it will do something," he said.

UN peacekeepers intensified their patrols on the border between Lebanon and Israel on Sunday night, local sources said.—*Reuters*



Jihad Moughniyah (R), son of Lebanon's Hezbollah late military leader Imad Moughniyah, sits beside Hezbollah Deputy Secretary General Naeem Kassem during a ceremony marking his father's 40th death in Beirut's suburbs in this on 24 March, 2008 file photo.—REUTERS

carrying Jihad Moughniyah and commander Mohamad Issa, known as Abu Issa, in the province of Quneitra, near the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, killing six Hezbollah members in all, a statement from the group said. It comes just days after Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said frequent Israeli strikes in Syria were a major aggression, that the group was stronger than before and that Syria and its allies had the right to re-

been killed in the attack, without giving further details. State-run Iranian television said the identity of the "martyrs" could not be confirmed. The Hezbollah-run al-Manar news channel said the Israeli attack suggested "the enemy has gone crazy because of Hezbollah's growing capabilities and it could lead to a costly adventure that will put the Middle East at stake". Israel's military declined to comment, but an Israeli security source



Jihad Moughniyah, son of Lebanon's Hezbollah late military leader Imad Moughniyah

## European Union looks to respond to threat of radical Islam

BRUSSELS, 19 Jan — EU foreign ministers pledged on Monday to counter radical Muslims returning from Syria and Iraq with a better strategy at home and abroad, but ruled out sweeping new laws in the wake of the 7 January Paris attacks.

Following the deadliest assault by militant Islamists on a European city since suicide bombers targeted London's transport system in 2005, Europe is seeking a united response without new legislation or a prolonged military presence on its streets.

"We are determined to do what is necessary to keep Europe safe from the terrorist threat," British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said as he arrived for the meeting, adding that better sharing of airline passenger data was one way to do that.

Foreign ministers, in their first decision of the day, agreed to appeal against a European Union court ruling that the Palestinian Islamist



**Britain's Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond leaves Downing Street after a meeting in London on 16 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS**

group Hamas should be removed from the bloc's terrorist list. Ministers will lay the groundwork for a string of meetings culminating in an EU leaders' summit on 12-13 February in Brussels to set out the bloc's strategy to deal with Muslims heading to Middle East war zones or returning radicalized from the region. Priorities include a crackdown on arms trafficking, support for police in the Middle East and North Africa, trying to stop EU cit-

izens leaving to fight abroad and seeking to curb radical Islam on the Internet to stop EU citizens from bringing violence back home.

"You have to send to prison only those jihadis who have blood on their hands. The others (should go) into a disengagement system," said Gilles de Kerchove, the EU's anti-terrorism coordinator, who was at Monday's meeting.

"The key point is to control the Internet and

social networks," he told France's Europe 1 radio.

Before chairing the meeting, the EU's foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini discussed the issues with the secretary-general of the Cairo-based Arab League, Nabil El-Araby.

"The threat is not only the one we faced in Paris but also spreading in many parts of the world, starting in Muslim countries," Mogherini said. "We need to share information more, we need to cooperate more."

In the next few days, interior ministers will consider a plan to withdraw the travel documents of EU citizens looking to go to Syria or Iraq, or of those seen as a threat in Europe.

The rules underpinning the EU's passport-free Schengen zone, which removes border controls among most EU countries, could be used to empower guards on external borders to undertake systematic checks of EU citizens arriving from a third country.

"In Shengen, we need to be more systematic and effective with regard to frontiers," de Kerchove said.

Reuters

## Ghana's navy frees hijacked tanker, arrests pirates

ACCRA, 19 Jan — Ghana's navy has freed a tanker ship hijacked off the coast of Nigeria and arrested eight pirates believed to be responsible for seizing it, a military spokesman said on Sunday.

Pirate attacks have increased in West Africa in recent years, jacking up insurance costs for shipping companies. Experts say gangs based in the waters off Africa's top oil producer Nigeria are extending their reach across the region's Gulf of Guinea.

Colonel Aggrey Quarshie would not say when the MT Mariam was seized by pirates. The small tanker's owners, using an onboard tracking device, informed Ghanaian authorities of its position in Ghanaian waters on Saturday.

"The Ghana Navy responded swiftly with a pa-

trol team to the area and they were able to overpower the pirates and free the ship. But when they got there, the cargo had already been transferred to another vessel," Quarshie told Reuters.

It was not immediately clear what cargo the ship was transporting. Its crew members were unharmed, Quarshie added.

The pirates, armed with weapons including AK-47 rifles, were arrested and handed over to Ghana's Bureau of National Investigations. Cash was also recovered during the operation.

"They are all suspected to be Nigerians," Quarshie added.

He said Ghana's navy and other forces from Togo, Benin and Nigeria had launched a search for the ship carrying the stolen cargo.—Reuters

## Korean Air chairman's daughter denies 'nut rage' charges

SEOUL, 19 Jan — The daughter of the chairman of Korean Air Lines on Monday denied conspiring with airline executives to force flight attendants to lie about her first class outburst over the way she was served nuts.

Heather Cho, a former executive of the airline and head of in-flight service before she resigned, appeared in court

in Seoul on Monday after her arrest on 30 December.

Cho had demanded the crew chief removed from the flight at John F Kennedy airport in New York after another flight attendant served her macadamia nuts in a bag, not on a dish.

The plane, already taxiing to the runway, had to return to its gate.

The incident, widely referred to as "nut rage",

stirred public outrage and ridicule, leading Cho to resign from her posts at the airline and subsidiaries.

Defence lawyers denied Cho violated aviation security laws by changing the flight's route or conspired with airline executives to coerce crew members to lie about the incident to investigators.

Cho, wearing a light green prison uniform, did

not speak during the hearing. Her lawyers told the court that Cho felt sorry for her actions, but that they did not merit punishment by law. They also denied that she used violence toward the chief steward. The steward and prosecutors had said he was forced to kneel down and Cho poked his palm several times with a folder. "As information that no one except inves-

tigators could know was disclosed to the press, the defendant, her husband and 19-month-old twin boys wound up in a condition where they cannot mentally recover," defence lawyer Yoo Seung-nam said.

Heather Cho is the oldest of Korean Air chairman Cho Yang-ho's three children. Her siblings are also executives with the airline.—Reuters



**Cho Hyun-ah, also known as Heather Cho**

## Iran, powers make "limited" progress at nuclear talks, to meet in February

GENEVA, 19 Jan — Iran and major powers will meet again next month to try to narrow differences over Teheran's nuclear programme after making limited progress on Sunday, as Washington lobbied to stave off fresh sanctions, diplomats said.

All sides agreed to step up efforts to reach a political understanding by the end of March with a view to clinching a full-blown deal by their self-imposed deadline of 30 June.

"The mood was very good, but I don't think we made a lot of progress," France's negotiator Nicolas de la Riviere told reporters as he left the European Union mission in Geneva.

Iranian deputy foreign minister Abbas Araqchi said that discussions had been "good" and "extensive".

"We reviewed all subjects on the table and we had very serious and business-like negotiations," he told reporters.

"We are still trying to bridge the gap between the two sides."

The negotiations, held at the level of political directors, capped five days of diplomacy in Geneva and Paris, including lengthy meetings between US Secretary of State John Kerry and Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

"Substantive progress is limited, experts will con-



**US Secretary of State John Kerry sits with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif before a meeting in Geneva on 14 Jan, 2015.**

REUTERS

tinue tomorrow (Monday) morning. It is fair to say that everybody is committed to stepping up efforts,"

a diplomat told Reuters.

EU political director Helga Schmid chaired the talks among officials

from Iran, Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States. Acting Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman declined comment.

US President Barack Obama warned lawmakers on Friday not to trigger new sanctions against Iran over its nuclear programme, saying such a move would upset diplomatic talks and increase the likelihood of a military conflict with Teheran. "Time is running short," China's envoy Wang Qun told reporters. All parties must "adopt a pragmatic and a flexible approach" and reach "resolute political decisions," he said.

Negotiators failed in November to meet a

self-imposed deadline for clinching an elusive agreement seen as crucial to reducing the risk of a wider Middle East war.

Under a late-2013 accord with the six powers, Iran halted its most sensitive nuclear activity and took other steps in exchange for some easing of economic sanctions.

It was negotiated to buy time for talks on the final settlement of a dispute over Iran's nuclear programme that is more than a decade old.

Teheran says it is peaceful but the West fears may be aimed at developing a capability to produce nuclear weapons.

Reuters

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

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**Ministry of Construction  
Public Works**

**(Invitation for Open Tender)**

1. Open tender is invited (only Indian Companies) by the Public Works of the Ministry of Construction of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for Feasibility Report and Detail Project Report of the following road upgradation projects under Grant assisted by the Republic of India.

Sr.	State	Name of Work
1.	Kachin	Myitkyinah-Swamprabwon-Putaoh Road (218 mile)
2.	Rakhine	Kanyintan-Alathankyaw-Ahngumaw Road (49 miles 6 furlongs)

2. Selling period of Tender Documents - (26.1.2015) to (30.1.2015)

3. Last Submission Date of Tender Documents - 12:00 noon on 11.2.2015

6. Opening Date of Tender - 13:00 hours on 24.2.2015

7. Tender Documents can be purchased with fifty thousand kyat (50000 Ks.) at the following address and for the detail information, please contact the office within office hours.

Tender Selection Committee, Public Works  
Road Department, Office No.(11), Nay Pyi Taw  
Tel: 067-407468, 407578, 407603, 407583, 407380

**Legally divorced declaration**

We, U Aung Moe Myint (12/Ya Ka Na(N) 006981) and Daw Aye Aye Maw (12/Ba Ha Na(N)060416) hereby declared that with the consent of both parties, we have legally divorced with effect from July 11, 2012 in front of the Affidivit Officer of the Yangon Region Court.

The Letter No.(644/12) dated July 11, 2012 issued by the Affidivit Officer of the Yangon Region Court refers.

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**WEATHER REPORT**

**BAY INFERENCE:** Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 20<sup>th</sup> January, 2015:** Rain are likely to be scattered in Shan State, isolated in Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States and generally fair 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) m.p.h. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

**Shots fired near Vice President  
Biden's Delaware residence**

WASHINGTON, 19 Jan — Gun shots rang out from a passing vehicle near US Vice President Joe Biden's residence in Delaware on Saturday night, but the vice president and his wife were not at home, the US Secret Service said on Sunday.

The shots were fired on a public road several hundred yards from the house, outside a security perimeter, at about 8:25 pm EST (0125 GMT). Secret Service personnel at the residence heard the reports and saw the vehicle speeding away.

Biden and his wife, Jill, were in Delaware when the shooting occurred but were out for the evening, the Secret Service said. The home, near Wilmington, is not visible from the road, and it was not clear whether the gunfire was random or aimed in the direction of the residence.

The incident occurred as the Secret Service tries to recover from a series of security lapses, including an incident in September when a knife-carrying man jumped the White House fence and ran into the president's official residence.



*Vice President Joe Biden and Dr. Jill Biden smile onstage while speaking about community college education during a visit to Pellissippi State College in Knoxville, Tennessee on 9 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS*

Biden, 72, who served as a US senator from Delaware for more than three decades, has residences in New Castle County and in Washington, DC.

The Bidens, and President Barack Obama, were briefed about the incident on Saturday night.

Officials declined to discuss the Bidens' location on Sunday for security reasons. Authorities said they would search the area to determine whether the Biden home or other nearby residences were hit by bullets.

About half an hour after

the shooting, local police arrested an individual in a vehicle that attempted to pass an officer who was securing the area. The individual is not currently tied to the incident but the Secret Service said the person would be questioned about the shooting. The Secret Service is charged with protecting the president and vice president. The agency announced last week it would remove four senior officials from their jobs and retire a fifth, as part of a shake-up intended to address problems in the organization.—Reuters

**Man sues women's college for rejecting application**

OKAYAMA, 19 Jan — A man seeking entrance to a women's university in Fukuoka, southwestern Japan, filed a damages lawsuit on Monday, arguing the public college's rejection of his application amounts to gender discrimination and is unconstitutional.

In the complaint filed with the Fukuoka District Court, the man in his 20s is demanding Fukuoka Women's University accept his application and pay 660,000 yen in compensation.

It is the first time in Japan that a lawsuit has been filed against a national or public women's university questioning its constitutionality, according to the man's lawyer.

The complaint says the man, who wants to be a dietitian and managerial dietitian, submitted an application in November last year to take an entrance exam for the college's department of nutrition and health science.

But the college refused to accept his application, saying it only admits entrance of women, according to the complaint.

Fukuoka Women's University is the only national or public university in Fukuoka Prefecture that offers courses to obtain certification for a nutritionist and qualification to receive an exam to become a managerial dietitian. "A public university is a public entity that is being maintained by tax," the man said in his complaint. "If my application is rejected, the path to become a dietitian would be narrow as I will be forced to go to a university outside the prefecture or a private college."—Kyodo News



*Winter fishing kicked off at Bosten Lake, China's largest inland freshwater lake in northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 18 Jan, 2015. XINHUA*

## Dylan McDermot, Maggie Q are engaged?

LOS ANGELES, 19 Jan — ‘Practice’ star Dylan McDermott has reportedly got engaged to his ‘Stalker’ co-star rumoured girlfriend Maggie Q.

The 53-year-old actor actually proposed Maggie, 35, months ago, only recently gifting her with a ring while spending time in

Hawaii, reported *Us* magazine.

“No wedding date has been set yet,” a source said.

The couple is yet to comment on their relationship. McDermott was previously married to actress Shiva Rose for 14 years until their split in 2009. The exes share daughters

Colette, 18, and Charlotte, 9. This will be the first marriage for the ‘Nikita’ album.—PTI

*‘Practice’ star Dylan McDermott has reportedly got engaged to his ‘Stalker’ co-star rumoured girlfriend Maggie Q.—PTI*



Kevin Hart

## I can't play gay roles

LOS ANGELES, 19 Jan — ‘Think Like A Man’ star Kevin Hart will not play a gay character on screen because the actor feels he cannot do justice to the role.

The 35-year-old actor, however, said he has immense respect for the gay community, reported *People* magazine. “I can’t. Not because I have any ill will or disrespect, but because I don’t think I’m really going to dive into that role 100 per cent, because of insecurities about myself trying to pay that part,” he said, when asked if he will play any gay character on screen. “To the gay community, I respect and appreciate everything you do,” he said. “As people, I love you.” When asked whether he’d play any other gay roles, Hart said no. “I can’t,” Hart said.—PTI

## Eastwood’s ‘American Sniper’ wins big in US box office battle

NEW YORK, 19 Jan — Oscar-nominated war film “American Sniper” led US and Canadian box office charts over the weekend with a record-smashing \$90.2 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates.

The film, which broke the record for a January weekend as well as for any drama opening ever, was directed by Clint Eastwood and stars Bradley Cooper.

“American Sniper” virtually doubled industry expectations after widely expanding to some 3,500 screens from just a handful of theatres the day after scoring six Oscar nominations, including best picture and best actor for Cooper, who plays a Navy SEAL sharpshooter.

R-rated comedy “The Wedding Ringer” finished second with \$21 million for three days through Sunday during the US Martin Luther King Day holiday

weekend. Another new release, family film “Paddington” based on the series of classic children’s books about a loveable bear, was third with \$19.3 million, but could move up to second after Monday when schools are closed.

Dan Fellman, head of domestic distribution at the Time Warner Inc unit Warner Bros, which distributed “American Sniper,” said it had become “an instant cultural phenomenon.”

“People in small towns, big and small cities, in the heartland, in both red and blue states, people who go to the movies once every year or two, they all came out,” Fellman said.

The film, expected to add another \$15 million on Monday, set records in IMAX theatres, unusual for a drama, and far surpassed Eastwood’s “Gran Torino” which opened at \$29.5 million in 2008.

“The Wedding Ringer” stars Kevin Hart and Josh Gad in a buddy comedy about a for-hire best man, played by Hart. It also set a record, for an R-rated comedy January opening.

“We definitely succeeded alongside it,” said Rory Bruer, president of worldwide distribution for Sony Corp’s studio, speaking to “Sniper”’s success which did not hurt other top films. “It’s been a fun weekend to watch.”

The family-friendly “Paddington,” which won rave reviews with 98 per cent of critics on website Rottentomatoes giving it a fresh rating, chronicles

the adventures of the bear, voiced by Ben Wishaw, who travels to London from Peru seeking a home. Hugh Bonneville, Sally Hawkins and Nicole Kidman star.

Rounding out the top five, Liam Neeson thriller “Taken 3” took in \$14.1 million, according to tracking firm Rentrak, while civil rights drama and Oscar nominee “Selma” earned \$8.3 million.

“Paddington” was released by The Weinstein Company. “Taken 3” was distributed by Fox, a unit of Twenty-first Century Fox. “Selma” was distributed by Paramount Pictures, a unit of Viacom Inc.—PTI



Bradley Cooper stars in “American Sniper.”

## Greg Plitt, fitness model and TV actor, killed by train

BURBANK, (California), 19 Jan — Fitness model and television actor Greg Plitt was struck and killed by a commuter train in Burbank, California, on Saturday while filming on the tracks, police said on Sunday.

Plitt, who starred in Bravo network shows “Work Out” and “Friends to Lovers,” was hit by a Metrolink passenger train and pronounced dead at the scene, said Burbank Police Sergeant Chris Canales.

Plitt, 37, was among three people doing the filming, but no one else was hurt, Canales said. Suicide was ruled out, he said.

“This is a very sad tragedy,” Bravo said in a statement on Twitter. “Our thoughts and deepest sympathy are with Greg’s family and friends.”

Plitt had done previous filming on railroad tracks doing pushups and other fitness routines, according to promotional videos posted online.

The rail line where he was filming on Saturday is partly fenced and is supposed to be off-limits to the public, Canales said.

Plitt was described on his website as an “actor, model, entrepreneur and motivational speaker” who had appeared on more than 250 fitness magazine covers. He had sponsored many fitness-related products, the website said.

Plitt was an actor on the “Days of Our Lives” daytime TV drama and was seen in several movies, including “The Good Shepherd” and “Terminator Salvation,” according to the website.

PTI

Reuters

## ‘Star Wars 7’ is made by fans: Mark Hamill

LONDON, 19 Jan — Actor Mark Hamill has suggested that the major difference between ‘Star Wars: The Force Awakens’ and the original trilogy is that the new film is being made by “fans”.

Hamill, who starred in the first trilogy as Luke Skywalker, has explained that he has been intrigued by the sequel’s development without the influence of George Lucas, reported *Digital Spy*.

“The most interesting aspect from my point of view is that (Star Wars) is now in the hands of the generation who were fans. It’s the next generation of

filmmakers who were sort of weened on these pic-

*Actor Mark Hamill has suggested that the major difference between ‘Star Wars: The Force Awakens’ and the original trilogy is that the new film is being made by “fans”.*

PTI

tures,” Hamill said.

The actor went on to

joke about the increased security on the ‘Star Wars:

The Force Awakens’ set.

“It’s a whole different era now. When we made the original films, you had the odd reporter hanging around the studio bribing people to give them stories.

“Now, I said to them, ‘Do I really have to wear this robe and this hood that covers my entire head to go from the trailer to the sound stage?’ They said, ‘Yeah, there’s drones.’ Seriously! There’s drones flying over the studio trying to get pictures of whatever they can get pictures of,” he added.

‘Star Wars: The Force Awakens’ is due for release on 18 December, 2015.



GENERAL

## Fifth seed Ivanovic bundled out by Hradecka

MELBOURNE, 19 Jan—Fifth ranked Ana Ivanovic led a parade of women's seeds knocked out of the Australian Open first round on Monday after the Serb was upset by doubles specialist Lucie Hradecka 1-6, 6-3, 6-2.

Former French Open champion Ivanovic joined double grand slam winner Svetlana Kuznetsova (27<sup>th</sup>), Swiss teen Belinda Bencic (32<sup>nd</sup>) and Sabine Lisicki (28<sup>th</sup>) as seeded casualties in early first round action.

Ivanovic, a former Australian Open finalist, had roared through the first set in 21 minutes on Rod Laver Arena and looked set to follow third seed Simona Halep into the second round after the Romanian's 6-3, 6-2 win over Italy's Karen Knapp in the first game on the showcourt.

However, Hradecka, who played only three WTA level events in 2014, raced

through the next two sets in just over an hour to send the Serb packing and set up a second-round encounter with Slovenia's Polona Hercog or China's Wang Qiang.

"I played okay in the beginning. Just I felt second and third set I really dropped my level," said Ivanovic, whose only other first round exit at Melbourne Park was to Ekaterina Makarova in 2011.

"It was really tough for me to find rhythm a little bit.

"It's really disappointing. It's probably the worst thing (that) could happen."

"But still, the year is young and I really have to now sit and work on few things and just maybe try to have a different approach to this kind of event and try to see what was lacking."

Czech Hradecka, who plays with an unorthodox double handed grip from both sides of the court, is ranked 142<sup>nd</sup> in the world



Ana Ivanovic of Serbia hits a return to Lucie Hradecka of Czech Republic during their women's singles first round match at the Australian Open 2015 tennis tournament in Melbourne on 19 Jan, 2015.

REUTERS

and has had most of her success as a doubles player with compatriot Andrea Hlavackova.

Ivanovic's exit was the biggest upset in the early stages of the first round, though three other seeded women were also knocked out.

Bencic was hammered

6-2, 6-1 by Julia Goerges in just over an hour, while Kuznetsova, the 2004 US Open and 2009 French Open champion, lost 6-4, 6-2 to France's Caroline Garcia, and German Lisicki was beaten 4-6, 6-4, 6-2 by Kristina Mladenovic, also of France.

Reuters

## Ronaldo, Messi keep Real and Barca motoring



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo (L) kicks the ball next to Getafe's Roberto Lago during their Spanish first division soccer match at Coliseum Alfonso Perez stadium in Getafe, outside Madrid, on 18 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

MADRID, 19 Jan—Real Madrid ensured top spot in La Liga at the midway point of the season when Cristiano Ronaldo struck twice in a 3-0 win at Getafe on Sunday before Lionel Messi's hat-trick helped Barcelona to a 4-0 victory at Deportivo La Coruna.

The world's two best players were again in scintillating form but champions Atletico Madrid ensured they stayed in the hunt with a 2-0 success at home to bottom club Granada that lifted them back into third place.

Real, who have a game in hand, have 45 points from 18 of 38 matches, with Barca on 44 and Atletico on 41 in third.

Sevilla (39 points) climbed back into fourth

above Valencia (38), 3-2 winners at home to Almeria on Saturday, thanks to a 2-0 win against Malaga in the Andalusian derby.

"We have performed very well in this first part of the league," Real coach Carlo Ancelotti told a news conference.

"We started with the odd problem but then we had a very good run," added the Italian. "We are very well positioned and we have to carry on in the same way."

Despite Ronaldo's latest scoring feat, it was hardly a vintage performance from Real, who have stumbled at the start of 2015 and were dumped out of the King's Cup by Atletico on Thursday.

The European cham-

pions failed to score in the opening half of a La Liga game for the first time this season, although Toni Kroos came close when he rattled the crossbar with a left-foot piledriver moments before the break.

Ronaldo, who beat Messi to win his third FIFA Ballon d'Or award on Monday, broke the deadlock in the 63<sup>rd</sup> minute, clipping the ball in from close range after good work from Karim Benzema.

Gareth Bale made it 2-0 four minutes later when he finished cleverly after a swift break and Ronaldo grabbed his second 11 minutes from time with a powerful header, the Portugal forward's 28<sup>th</sup> goal of the campaign in his 17<sup>th</sup> appearance.

Getafe battled bravely against their glamorous city neighbours and almost pulled a goal back four minutes from time but a shot from Alvaro Vazquez bounced away off a post.

Fatigue has been suggested as one reason for Real's recent stutter but Iker Casillas insisted Ancelotti's men were not feeling the effects of a packed calendar.

"We are not tired but after a week of holiday it is tough to get back to the routine," the Spain keeper told Spanish TV.

"Unfortunately we lost in the Cup, where we were the holders, but there are no excuses," he added.

Reuters

## Olympics: 15 billion yen minimum set for domestic sponsors

TOKYO, 19 Jan — A 15 billion yen minimum (about \$127.5 million) will be set for any company wishing to become a top domestic sponsor for the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games, *Kyodo News* learned on Sunday.

The period of the contract for "Gold Partner" sponsorship will extend after the Olympics until the end of 2020. Tokyo organizers will aim to raise total revenues of at least 150 billion yen through the sponsorship programme.

Sponsors will be di-

### MYANMAR TV

(20-1-2015, Tuesday)

- 6:00 am**
  - Paritta By Venerable Min Gun Sayadaw
- 6:25 am**
  - Physical Exercise
- 6:35 am**
  - Documentary
- 7:00 am**
  - News/ Weather Report
- 7:30 am**
  - Head Line News
- 8:00 am**
  - News/ International News
- 9:35 am**
  - Documentary (ASEAN)
- 10:00 am**
  - News / International News
- 11:35 am**
  - Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)
- 12:00 noon**
  - News / International News / Weather Report
- 1:40 pm**
  - Sing & Enjoy
- 2:30 pm**
  - Head Line News
- 3:35 pm**
  - Weekly Entertainment
- 4:00 pm**
  - News
- 4:35 pm**
  - University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (History)
- 5:40 pm**
  - People Talks
- 6:00 pm**
  - News / Weather Report
- 6:35 pm**
  - Documentary (Education Talk) (Part-1)
- 7:00 pm**
  - News
- 7:30 pm**
  - Head Line News
- 8:00 pm**
  - News / International News / Weather Report
- 9:00 pm**
  - News / International News
  - Hluttaw Image

### MITV MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(20-1-15 07:00 am~ 21-1-15 07:00 am) MST

- \* Local News
- \* Insight Myanmar "Trafficked Children Protection Cases"
- \* World News
- \* Myanmar Masterclass "Caricature"
- \* Local News
- \* A visit to Htam Hsan Cave A Miraculous Place
- \* World News
- \* Traditional Snack
- \* Local News
- \* Choral Dance (Duel)
- \* World News
- \* Porcelain and Glass
- \* Local News
- \* Food Trip (Ep-3)
- \* World News
- \* Photographer: Kyaw Win Hlaing
- \* Local News
- \* Traditional Handicrafts from the Golden land
- \* World News
- \* Sticky Shan Snack
- \* Local News
- \* History And Mystery Behind The Caves
- \* World News
- \* School for the Blind
- \* Local News
- \* Chef Life "Kyi Soe"
- \* World News
- \* Myanmar Railways City Circular Train
- \* Local News
- \* "Young Talent" Animator
- \* World News
- \* In The Studio

vided into three ranks and in principle only one company will be selected per category.

According to a source, the rank following Gold Partner will be "Official Partner" in which a floor of 6 billion yen will be established for companies wishing to participate. "Official Supporter" sponsors will be required to pay from 1 billion to 3 billion yen to take part.

The amount could be lower than the targeted figures depending on the details of the contracts. Tokyo

organizers have already begun negotiations with a number of companies and, at the earliest, could decide on their first sponsor this month.

Through the Japanese Olympic Committee's own sponsorship programme that concluded at the end of last year, seven companies including Asahi Breweries Ltd, NTT Docomo Inc and the Toyota Motor Corp. were top sponsors with each company contributing 600 million yen over four years.

Kyodo News

# Tactical change reaps reward for new-look, solid Arsenal



Arsenal's Santi Cazorla (L) shoots to score a goal from a penalty during their English Premier League soccer match against Manchester City at the Etihad stadium in Manchester, northern England on 18 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

LONDON, 19 Jan — A change of tactics reaped rewards as a new, more subdued but more solid Arsenal arrived at Manchester City on Sunday, saw less of the ball than usual yet still masterfully outplayed the champions.

Arsenal registered just 35 percent possession — their lowest total since these statistics were first compiled 11 years ago — yet produced perhaps their finest performance in recent seasons to end their away-day woes against the

Premier League elite with a 2-0 win.

At the same Etihad venue last season, Arsenal commanded 48 percent of the ball but in attempting to go toe-to-toe with City were thumped 6-3.

They were similarly humbled 6-0 and 5-1 at Chelsea and Liverpool respectively, with continued criticism of manager Arsene Wenger suggesting he was stubbornly refusing to learn lessons or demonstrate tactical progression.

Against City, though, after Arsenal had taken only seven points out of the last possible 48 against Manchester City, Manchester United and Chelsea, it seemed the penny had finally dropped.

Wenger's masterclass was reminiscent of his old foe Jose Mourinho's recent raids with Chelsea on fortress Etihad where resolute, disciplined defence is routinely combined with ruthless, swift counter-attacking.

"It is important to get that (away win) out of the way, to show we can win away in the Premier League, and that will make us stronger," Wenger told the BBC.

"I think we carried that a while, everybody questioning our defensive solidity, and to get that

today is very important."

Except for a 15 minute period at the start of the second half when Arsenal reverted to a bolder attacking style, Wenger's men looked secure and untroubled.

Wenger deployed Francis Coquelin and Aaron Ramsey as a defensive shield in front of their back four and it took City 36 minutes to eke out their first shot.

Alexis Sanchez and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain curbed their attacking instincts to defend with energy and protect the full backs as Santi Cazorla, scorer of the first goal and maker of the second for Olivier Giroud, proved the game's pivotal figure.

Wenger made it sound like a turning point. "We looked in control away from home and finally got a big win in a big game away," he said.

"What is pleasing is that reinforces the belief of the team. To feel that you can do well is very important. "Sometimes, the fact that you have to find solutions internally is a blessing."—Reuters

# Late goal sends Iran to top of Group C in Asian Cup

MELBOURNE, 19 Jan — A stoppage-time winner from substitute Reza Ghoochannejhad sent Iran to the top of Group C in the Asian Cup with an entertaining 1-0 victory over the United Arab Emirates in Brisbane on Monday.

Needing nothing but a win to qualify for the quarter finals on top of their group, Iran were made to wait for the moment they soared above their opponents, with Ghoochannejhad coming off the bench to nod home a close-range winner and send the Team Melli fans into ecstasy.

In the coinciding fixture, a late goal from Sayed Ahmed Jaafar ensured Bahrain would end the tournament in a positive fashion, beating a disappointing Qatar side 2-1 in Sydney. But that was merely a dead rubber, with the night's meaningful action occurring up north in Brisbane. Even though they only needed a draw to progress on top of Group C, the United Arab Emirates would not rest on their laurels. Khamis Esmael lined up a swerving 30-yard effort and had Iranian goalkeeper Alireza Haghighi scrambling, but the shot flew narrowly wide.

In an entertaining contest with a nice flow, Iran would be the next to go forward. Soroush Rafiei's threaded pass sent Sardar Azmoun through on goal, only for the striker to be foiled by the onrushing Majed Naser.

Iran was on top, peppering the United Arab Emirates goal, but finding it difficult to beat Naser. Their next chance occurred soon after, when Alireza Jahanbakhsh met Vahid Ameri's cross, only to head straight at the keeper.

In Sydney, there might have been less riding on the contest,

but it was still an intriguing battle, with both sides looking to finish the tournament with a flourish.

Qatar's Mohammed Tresor got on the end of Hasan Al Haydos's cross, only to crash his effort against the upright. However, it was the less fancied Bahrain doing the majority of the early running, with Sayed Shubbar also striking the post following Abdulwahab Al Malood's inch-perfect cross.

Shubbar wouldn't live to regret the missed chance, giving Bahrain the lead moments later. The winger produced a calm finish on the turn to reward Faouzi Aaish's fine individual run.

There was plenty happening in Brisbane, also, with both Iran and the United Arab Emirates having their moments in the final third. Iran nearly claimed the lead late in the first half when Azmoun's far-post header seemed destined for the back of the net, only for Emirati defender Mohanad Al Enezi to make a desperate last-ditch block on the line. It meant both sides went to the interval scoreless, with the United Arab Emirates still sitting atop of Group C for the time being. In Sydney, Qatar was slowly working their way back into the match and twice should have had an equalizer early in the second period. Both Ali Asadalla and Mohammed Muntari missed golden chances, as Bahrain's lead began to look all the more insecure.

Eventually, the pressure paid, with Qatar finding a deserved lever through Al Haydos. The impressive winger curled a 20-yard free kick beyond the lunging Hamed Al Doseri to make it 1-1 with just over 20 minutes remaining.

On another night, Qatar, and in particular Muntari, could have

scored a bundle. The striker was sent through on goal again moments later, but spurned the opportunity to the frustration of his manager.

Ultimately, Bahrain would make Qatar lament their profligacy, when Jaafar stole a winner against the run of play.

It was a sensational goal from the midfielder, lobbing Qatari goalkeeper Qasem Burhan with a memorable long-range effort as Bahrain sealed a 2-1 win to end their Asian Cup campaign in third place on the Group C table.

It was more of a grinding affair in Brisbane, with a much-changed Iran side finding it increasingly difficult to break down a stern Emirati defence.

With diminutive playmaker Omar Abdulrahman controlling the match for the United Arab Emirates, the group leaders going into the match even had the better of the chances throughout the second half.

Omar's vision created a great chance for Ali Mabkhout, who powered his effort over the bar from the edge of the area, before



Qatar's Mohammed Muntari (R) reacts after missing a goal scoring chance during their Asian Cup Group C soccer match against Bahrain at the Stadium Australia in Sydney on 19 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

the gifted No 10 set up another chance for Ahmed Khalil, who shot straight at Haghighi.

But, deep into stoppage time, Iran would ensure a piece of late drama as Ghoochannejhad shot Team Melli to the top of Group C.

The ball had bobbed around inside the area, with the United Arab Emirates unable to clear be-

fore the Iranian striker ghosted in and nodded past a helpless Naser.

It was the final meaningful moment of the match, with Iran now likely to face Iraq in the next phase of the competition, while the United Arab Emirates could be forced to play tournament favorites Japan.

Xinhua



## Asian Cup Australia 2015

	15:30 Local (20.1.2015)	
Japan		Jordan
	15:30 Local (20.1.2015)	
Iraq		Palestine

### Asian Cup Australia 2015 Result

Iran	1 - 0	UAE
Qatar	1 - 2	Bahrain