

Our goals are to achieve peace and stability, economic development, to move forward to a future of political and economic growth

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan—The conferment of the Honorary Doctorate Degree in Philosophy by Pusan National University on President U Thein Sein was held at the Thabin Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, on Friday evening.

President of the Pusan National University Mr Ki Seoh Kim made a speech.

The university president conferred Honorary Doctorate Degree in Philosophy and certificate to President U Thein Sein.

After that, President U Thein Sein spoke words of thanks. He said: I am greatly honoured to accept this Honorary Doctorate Degree and honestly grateful for the appreciation received for our hard works, remarkable contributions and strenuous efforts on all out reform process in our country, Myanmar.

During the past four years, we strived for reforms in the country. Due to those efforts and cooperation from departments, organizations and individual concerned, the positive and dramatic changes have been made and the international and regional communities therefore demonstrated a remarkable recognition, encourage-



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with President of Pusan National University Mr Ki Seoh Kim and party.

MNA

ment and support for our reforms in various fields.

Actually, during my presidency, we have faced and been still facing with several challenges on our way but we succeeded to overcome them and gained outstanding experience. Since the assumption of my duty with my newly elected government in 2011,

while laying foundation for Myanmar's economic development and flourishing democracy, we strived for the reforms in the field of politics, economics, social and administration wave by wave. With the cooperation of Hluttaws, political parties and far-sighted public, transformation process to democracy, economic

and social reform process, administrative mechanism and privatization development process have been smoothly completing phase by phase.

All of you may aware that democratization is steadily moving forward with its momentum, our economy has been growing in several sectors. We are

also striving for the betterment of social standards. We are putting our efforts for the capacity building and development of human resources as well. Today, we are advancing on the road to democracy with strategic goals to build a new modern develop democratic nation.

As a president, I am

leading my country at a crucial time as our country re-emerges on the world arena. We are taking a prominent role and have served as a chairman of BIMSTEC and ASEAN recently. Friendly relations with the countries have been promoted and mutual beneficial cooperation with

(See page 3)

Myanmar's National Electrification Project set to begin in September



With help from the global sustainable energy for all initiative, Myanmar is preparing a national electrification plan which includes recommended a geospatial, least-cost grid rollout plan for achieving universal access to electricity by 2030.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 30 Jan — The implementation of Myanmar's national electrification project is set to begin in September 2015 following the approval by the World Bank Board's board of executive directors in July, said World Bank Myanmar on Friday.

The information was released at a consultative meeting organized by the World Bank Myanmar with the presentation highlighting the World Bank's commitment towards a national electrification coverage target for all households by 2030 and environmental and social safeguards in the NEP.

(See page 9)

90 Korean student volunteers join construction of basic education school in Hlegu Tsp

Byline: Khin Yadana,
Photo: Tin Soe (Myanma Alinn)

YANGON, 30 Jan— Preparations are being made for the opening of a new school building at the basic education primary school in Chante Village, Hlegu Township.

Volunteers from Happy Move Global Youth philanthropic team formed with students of various universities in South Korea assist in preparatory tasks for opening of the new school building.

“Our team has over tens of thousands of members. We submitted applications to the team to have the opportunity to volunteer in Myanmar. When the team chose me as a volun-

teer, I studied facts about Myanmar and the nature of people online. I am satisfied with my relationship with the Myanmar people. When I arrive back home, I will recount my experiences, including Chante BEPS, to my friends,” said Kyung Seok Lee, 24, who is studying polymer engineering at Busan National University.

After opening its showroom in Myanmar, the South Korea-based KIA automobile company chose Chante BEPS in Hlegu Township for construction of a one-storey building worth \$50,000 as its corporate social (See page 9)

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw receives international recognition for its four-year commitment to legislation: Speaker

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan — Parliament has written success stories in passing legislations and practising check and balance policies over the past four years with recognition at home and abroad, the speaker told the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on its fourth anniversary here on Friday, officials said.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw could introduce 133 laws in its 11 sessions in four years, with 15 laws in 2011 including the Private Schools Registration Law and the Peaceful Gathering and Demonstration Law.

In 2012, it passed 24

laws, some of which included the Union National Planning Law, the Union Budget Law, the Foreign Investment Law, the Foreign Currencies Management Law and the Farmland Law.

The parliament succeeded in passing a legislation that approved K30,000 of monthly benefits each to all government workers in its third regular session and K20,000 in 2013 and 2014.

There were 37 laws passed in 2013, some of which were the Anti-corruption Law and the Myanmar Investment Law, with

two additional approvals for the announcement of emergency state in Meiktila and the formation of a joint study commission for employers and employees rights.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw formed the Myanmar Parliamentary Union in a bid to facilitate its cooperation and coordination with Region/State parliaments, as well as an investigation commission on land seizures in a bid to do justice to affected people.

In 2014, the parliament enacted 57 laws including the Myanmar Spe-

cial Economic Zone Law, and formed a committee to draft a law on constitutional amendment.

Regarding international relations, the speaker said Myanmar joined the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) in 2011 and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Asia-Europe Parliamentary Partnership in 2012.

According to the speaker, 94 visits to seminars and parliamentary sessions abroad alongside training courses and workshops at home boosted the capacity of Myanmar

parliamentarians and staff and widened their scope of knowledge.

He called for strenuous efforts to implement remaining tasks of drafting bills and passing laws in the interest of the entire population.

Members of Union-level commissions briefed on the national planning bill for the 2015-2016 fiscal year and the union budget bill for 2015.

The Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Mines, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Office

of the Attorney-General of the Union elaborated on their budget spending.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved a proposal returned by the President U Thein Sein for a loan of 24.678 billion yen from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for the Ministry of Electric Power.

The Hluttaw had a report read out of the findings on development funds of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for 2013-2014 FY, which was returned by the Office of the Auditor-General of the Union.—MNA

Luncheon served in celebration of fourth parliamentary anniversary

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan — The Hluttaw in Myanmar served a luncheon in celebration of their fourth anniversary here on Friday, officials said.

Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw, and U Khin Aung Myint, Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, attend-

ed the luncheon.

Speaking at the celebration, U Khin Aung Myint said MPs are writing a parliamentary history of Myanmar and as a result

need to set an excellent example to posterity, urging them to improve the parliament's image.

He called for parliamentary committees to

make speedy efforts to finish what remains to be done in sync with the time left before the parliament is in recess until the preparatory period for the coming general elections.

In his speech, Thura U Shwe Mann spoke of the parliament's remarkable achievements in passing, amending and repeal laws in the past four years, stressing that the ongoing parliamentary session will be a decisive factor to the parliament's efforts con-

cerned with constitutional amendments in its tenure left.

He called for parliamentarians to give priority to the interests of the nation and the people.

After the luncheon, Thura U Shwe Mann gave a press conference and responded to queries raised by the editors and reporters from 23 local new agencies, loca-based foreign news agencies, newspapers and journals.

MNA



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint and deputy speakers attend laucheon of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaws.—MNA

Financial statement of Ministry of Information in 2015-16 FY

The financial situation of Ministry of Information in 2015-16 fiscal year was elaborated at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 28-1-2015.

The ministry submitted a budget proposal for over K52.571 billion as ordinary expenditure and over K29.313 billion as capital expenditure, totalling over K81.884 billion in 2015-16 FY. The team led by vice president scrutinized and approved the budget with over K59.992 billion as ordinary expenditure and over K11.225 billion as capital expenditure, totalling over 71.271 billion.

Over K 88.414 billion of budget was allotted to the ministry in 2014-15 FY and over K71.271 billion in 2015-16 FY. As such, the ministry decreased K17.197

billion budget proposal in 2015-16 FY.

The ministry set over K41.023 billion income proposal in 2015-16 FY. Therefore, the budget deficit will be over K30.194 billion. The budget deficits are office expenditures for Myanma Radio and Television and Information and Public Relations Department.

News and Periodicals Enterprise gained over K3.5 billion profit in 2013-14 FY and expected to get over K4 billion in 2014-15 FY. Printing and Publishing Enterprise fetched over K700 million profit in 2013-14 FY and expected to secure over K140 million profit in 2014-15 FY.

Ministry of Information

Public Announcement for remonstrations

The Kokang Democracy and Unity Party headquartered at No. (Hta/19/764), Huemon Street, west of Mansu Shan Monastery, Region-19, Ward-12, Lashio, Shan State, registered by the Union Election Commission as a political party under the Article 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law, submitted applications to change its seal.

It is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party's seal they may submit a complaint along with the strong evidences within seven days starting from assurance of this announcement in line with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rule.

Seal of Kokang Democracy and Unity Party



Union Election Commission

NATIONAL

Our goals are to achieve . . .

(from page 1)

countries of the world has been enhanced during my tenure.

During the assumption of ASEAN Chair, implementation of national interests focused on peace, stability and prosperity of our country which strongly contributed regional peace, stability and development, have been made. By leading ASEAN as a dutiful member state, I strongly feel that we performed our

duty perfectly and demonstrated national dignity.

For our people they have common desire to enjoy peace, stability and development. Likewise, I strongly believe that peace and prosperity are intertwined each other. Without long lasting peace in the country, we could not be able to create developments and build prosperity for the peace process and all political and party leaders have been participating

willingly at each and every negotiation rounds. Political and negotiation leaders' views and concepts are considered to be good fundamental principles for the future of our country. Every organization and individual concerned for peace process is desirous and since they are cooperating with political goodwill, the peace process can be succeeded in the near future.

Actually, this award could not have been achieved without the coop-

eration from the members of government. Our goals are to achieve peace and stability and economic development and our country to move forward to a future of political and economic growth.

Moreover, I firmly believe that cordial relations and mutual beneficial cooperation between Myanmar and Republic of Korea will be further enhanced in the future and that PNU will play a pivotal role in researching about and teaching Myanmar studies

and its language. Henceforward, I am looking forward to cooperate with other universities in Korea as well.

I wish Pusan National University further success in every field and I also hope for the enhancement on the mutual beneficial cooperation between PNU and Universities in Myanmar. Your valuable support and contribution for education sector development is really important for capacity building and human resources develop-

ment for present and future generations.

In conclusion, I thank you again in receipt of this Honorary Doctorate Degree which is recognition and appreciation for endeavours, contributions and dedications to our country and people. I profoundly value this Honorary Doctorate Degree conferred by Pusan National University.

After that, the President hosted a dinner to the guests.

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Vice President U Nyan Tun discusses implementation of Dawei SEZ project in Thailand

BANGKOK, 30 Jan— Vice President U Nyan Tun attended the Third High Level Joint Committee Meeting on Comprehensive Development of Dawei Special Economic Zone and Related Projects held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Bangkok on Friday.

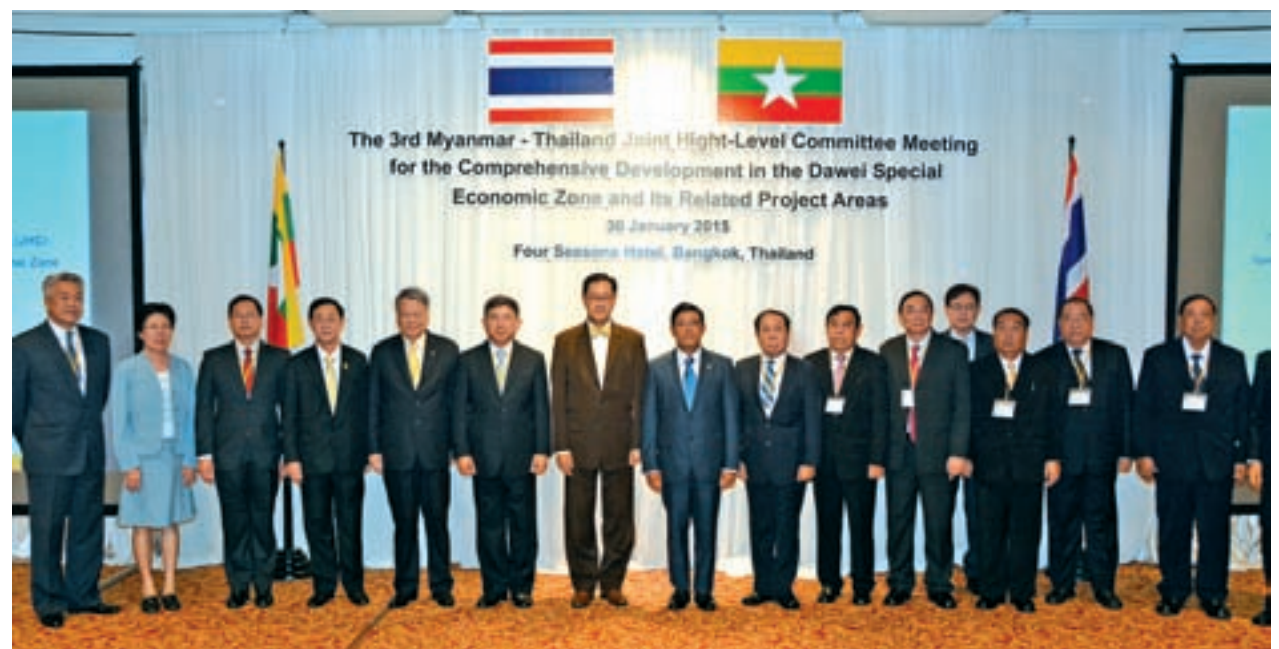
Present at the meeting were Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Aye Myint, the chief minister of Taninthayi Region, deputy ministers, the deputy governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar, Deputy Prime Minister Mr Pridiyathorn Devakula and ministers of Thailand.

The vice president delivered a speech at the meeting. In his speech, he said signing of the new framework agreement between the Dawei Special Economic Zone Management Committee and Special Work Machinery (1) on 21 November 2013 is the outcome of the cooperation between the two countries. The special work machinery (2) to be formed soon will be registered in Myanmar and it will become a joint-venture company to run Dawei Special Economic Zone and

related projects, the vice president added. The initial stage of the project will start with a two-lane road, a small port, an industrial estate, a water supply system, an electricity supply system, an urban development plan and a landline telephone network, according to the vice president. In conclusion, the vice president said that the project will contribute to development of both countries as well as that of the India-southern economic corridor.

Afterwards, the deputy prime minister of Thailand delivered a speech. In his speech, he said that the relations between the two countries is at its highest stage at present with the recent visit of the prime minister of Thailand to Myanmar and that of other high ranking officials. Successful implementation of the SEZ project will promote the cooperation of the two countries to a new stage and the project will benefit the entire region, he said.

The meeting focused on implementation of the project in three phases, adoption of rules for Myanmar Special Economic



Vice President U Nyan Tun poses for documentary photo with Thai dignitaries at Third High Level Joint Committee Meeting on Comprehensive Development of Dawei SEZ and Related Projects.—MNA

Zones Law, provisions of the exemption agreement and possibility for public investment.

After the meeting, the vice president and the deputy prime minister held a joint press conference and issued a joint statement. According to the statement, a master plan for the SEZ will be drawn with the assistance of Cooperation Agency for Development of Neighbouring Countries of Thailand, an infrastructure

project for an expressway from the SEZ to Thailand and a deep seaport will be built for the SEZ project, Thailand will provide financial assistance for construction of a two-lane road connecting the SEZ and Myanmar-Thailand border, and the two governments

support and pledged to successfully implement the project.

Earlier in the morning, Myanmar Thailand Joint Committee was held and Union Minister U Aye Myint and the deputy minister of transport of Thailand took part in the dis-

cussions. In the afternoon, Myanmar-Thailand-Japan three-party meeting was held as part of the Third Myanmar-Thailand High Level Joint Committee. Japan offered financial and technical assistance for the SEZ project at the meeting.—MNA

Ma-de Island Crude Oil Unloading Terminal and SEA crude oil pipeline commissioned into service

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan— Ma-de Island Crude Oil Unloading Terminal and SEA crude oil pipeline were constructed with US\$ 2.4532 billion foreign investment and US 1.204 billion investment of the State, Union Minister for Energy said at the commissioning of the terminal and pre-commissioning of crude oil pipeline in Ma-de Island in Kyaukpyu Township, Rakhine State, on Monday.

The terminal accepts 300,000-ton oil tankers for unloading of crude oil. The 770 kilometres long oil pipeline stretches four regions and states from Ma-de island to Namkham. During the 30-year term of

project, the pipeline will provide crude oil not only to China but to local consumption. International level fire preventive measures have been taken along the pipelines. While implementing the project, a dam was constructed for the local people for water supply on the island. As of 2012, the companies have spent US\$ 13.26 million on undertakings of health, socio-economic and infrastructure sectors in four regions and states.

Chairman of China National Petroleum Corporation-CNPC Mr Laio Yongyan spoke on the occasion. Union Minister U Zeyar Aung, Rakhine State

Chief Minister U Maung Maung Ohn, Deputy Minister for Energy U Aung Htoo, the Chinese Ambassador, the CPNC Chairman and vice president Madam Wong Li Hua of Petro-China Company launched the crude oil unloading terminal of the island.

The union minister and party turned on the valve of pumping out crude oil.

The union minister and party planted saplings in commemoration of the launching ceremony. Also present on the occasion were Union Ministers U Khin Maung Soe, U Nyan Tun Aung, U Wni Tun and U Khin Yi.

MNA



Oil tanks to restore crude oil on Ma-de Island in Kyaukpyu Township.—MNA

Rural people get electricity in Myanaung Tsp



MYANAUNG, 30 Jan— 29 January attended the launching of self-reliant power lines for Ngapi-seik, Thayettaw, Shwegyin and Thabyegon villages in Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Region.

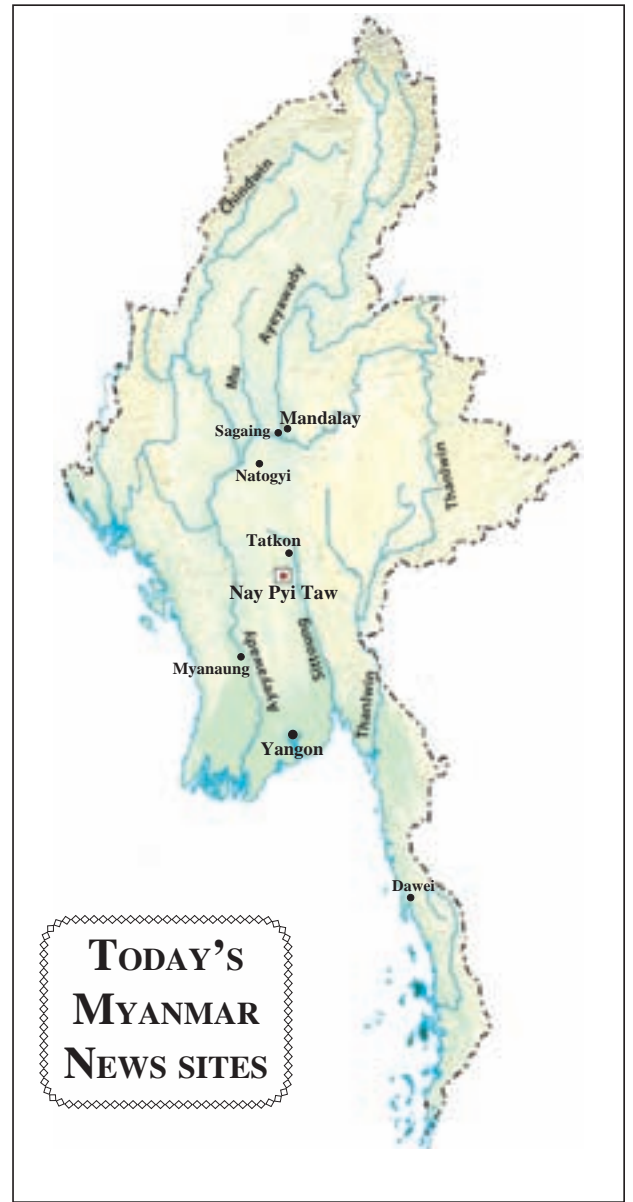
Ayeyawady Region Minister for Electricity and Industry U Saw Mya Thein, Head of Region Water Resources Utilization Department U San Paw and Region Hluttaw representative U Aung Myo Nyunt formally launched the power lines.

The region chief minister met local people and attended to needs of village-tract.

Region Minister U Saw Mya Thein, Ayeyawady Region electrical engineer U Than Tun Aung and Region Hluttaw representative U Aung Myo Nyunt launched Thabyegon-Ngapiseik power line.

The chief minister fulfilled the transformer installation for Thabyegon Station hospital and donated 100 dozens of notebooks to Thabyegon Basic Education High School.

Win Bo (Township IPRD)



Football ground of YTU under renovation



YANGON, 30 Jan—The football ground of Yangon Technological University is being repaired for enabling the football teams to take training and holding the football tournaments.

President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw and officials on 29 January met officials of the university and held discussions on development of football sports of the YTU and holding football tournaments at the university's football ground.

The president of the federation will provide assistance for the renovation of the university's football ground.

MFF

Wall magazine, photo show hail Union Day



NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan — As a gesture of hailing the 68th Anniversary Union Day, Ottara District Information and Public Relations Department held the wall magazine, photo and book show at its office in Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on 29 January.

Township level officials and staff viewed works from Ottara Alinn wall magazine and photos.

The department sets an aim to widen scope of people.—*Shwe Ye Yint*

Petrified wood booth to show beauty of natural items to foreigners

NATOGYI, 30 Jan — Natogyi-based Tree Jade petrified wood company plans to open a booth to display natural beauty of petrified woods at a single place in Natogyi Township, Mandalay Region, U Myint Shwe of the company told media.

As Natogyi Township is located at the junction of roads and a level crossing, it becomes a tourist destination. The arrangements of opening the petrified

booth are to enable the people at home and abroad to know Myanmar's petrified wood. The company wishes to show natural beauty of rare natural resources to the world, he added.

At present, over 100 items of Myanmar's petrified wood are being displayed at the booth. Some of them were imported from China. Especially, the company is eager to show beauty of Myanmar's petrified wood to the foreigners, U Myint Shwe said.

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Htay Myint Maung



LOCAL NEWS

Physics team champions in Sagaing University Rector's Cup football tourney

SAGAING, 30 Jan—Physics team claimed champion with a 2-0 victory over Zoology team in the Sagaing University Rector Cup Inter-subject Football Tournament for 2014-15 academic year at Sagaing District sports ground in Sagaing on 29 January afternoon.

The rector and officials presented medals to second and first prize winning teams and best player award for the tour-

namment to Aung Ko Lin (Physics).

Sponsor of the tournament Minister for Construction (Rtd) Thiri Pyanchi U Khin Maung Myint and football subcommittee chairman Professor (Dean) of History Department Dr Yaw Han Tun presented K50,000 each to joint third teams, K150,000 to second prize winning Zoology Department and K200,000 and trophy to Physics team.—*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*



MCDC to organize vegetables and fruit show and contest



MANDALAY, 30 Jan—The 13th Mandalay Mayor's Cup Vegetables and Fruits Show and Contest will be held at Kandawgyi People's Park in Chanmyathazi Township as of 12 February.

It will comprise flowers, fruits and vegetables

and flower arrangements. Those wishing to take part in the contest may send entries to the administrative office of Kandawgyi People's Park, not later than 4 pm on 11 February.

For further information, may dial 02-59170 of Parks and Playgrounds De-

partment of Mandalay City Development Committee.

First prize winner will secure K150,000, second prize winner K100,000 and third prize winner K70,000 in addition to K30,000 each for three consolation prize winners.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Fire breaks out at fuel station in Mahaangmye Tsp

MANDALAY, 30 Jan — A fire broke out at Aung Myitta fuel station on 39 Street in Mahaangmye East Ward, Mahaangmye Township, Mandalay, at 4 pm on 29 January.

The fire started from sparks of fueling to oil tank from the light truck bows-er.

A total of 200 gallons of octane petroleum, 300 gallons of diesel and property of the house worth K240,000 lost in the fire. U Tun Paw, 58, suffered from injury at hands and fire Sgt Win Thein at his head.

A total of 75 firefighters of Township Fire Ser-

vices Department and 175 local firefighters put out the fire with the use of 55 fire trucks and three man-

agement vehicles within 15 minutes.

Mahaangmye Township police station No 9

opened a file of lawsuit against outbreak of fire under the law.—*Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)*



INRD to issue citizenship cards to locals in Taninthayi Region from 1 Jan to 30 June

DAWEI, 30 Jan — A clarification on issuance of citizenship scrutiny cards to local people under Special Moe Pwint Plan was

held at the city hall in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, on 29 January.

Chairman of the region CSC issuance supervisory

committee Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Zaw Lwin made a speech.

Chairman of the district supervisory committee Deputy Commissioner U Thein Aung reported on formation of the supervisory committee and its duty and functions.

Head of Dawei District Immigration and National Registration Department U Yin Htwe explained plans of field trips to Dawei

District from implementation of Moe Pwint Special Plan from 1 January to 30 June. Commander of Region Police Force Police Col Kyi Lin elaborated on measures of rule of law and security in the region.

Speaker of Region Hluttaw U Htin Aung Kyaw and officials viewed equipment and lists of Norwegian Refugee Council-NRC for issuance of the cards to the local people.

The ceremony was attended by local authorities and staff, totalling over 400.

Po Shwe Thun-Dawei



Football referees representing Mandalay Region to attend referee conference

MANDALAY, 30 Jan—A meeting to select representatives from Mandalay Region to the Myanmar Football Referee Conference was held at the hall of Mandalay Region Sports and Physical Education Department in Mandalay on 28 January.

As the conference will be held in Yangon on 13 February 2015, representatives of Mandalay Region football referees will attend it.

Vice Chairman of the organizing committee

for the conference U Tin Aung, Director of Referee Department U Tun Hla Aung, referee supervisor U Khin Maung Than and media U Zaw Zaw Latt met with officials of Mandalay Region Referee Supervisory Committee and referees.

The meeting selected U Tin Thein, U Maung Maung, U Khin Maung Thein, U Tun Aye and U Hla Win to represent Mandalay Region for attending the conference.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Malaysia completes a third of undersea search for MH370

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 Jan — The undersea search for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 has covered almost a third of its target area, Malaysian authorities said on Friday, adding that they were confident the aircraft is in the zone.

The Boeing 777 aircraft disappeared on 8 March last year, carrying 239 passengers and crew shortly after taking off from the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur, bound for Beijing.

Months of searches have failed to turn up any trace.

Malaysia, along with China and Australia, has been searching for the plane in the southern Indian Ocean, off the coast of Perth, Australia.

“Based on the available data, this is the place,” Mior Nor Badrishah Mohamad, an official of Ma-

laysia’s civil aviation department, told a news conference on Friday, at a presentation that showed 31.04 percent of the search area had been covered.

Authorities reiterated that they expect the undersea search of an area of 60,000 square km (23,000 square miles) to be completed by May.

“If we cannot find MH370 within this area, we need to sit down again and decide what’s the best way forward, based on the data we have,” said Mior, adding that poor weather after May would make the search more difficult.

Malaysia on Thursday declared the disappearance an accident, clearing the way for the airline to pay compensation to victims’ relatives.

The country’s civil aviation authorities plan to release an interim re-



Children write messages of hope for passengers of missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 at Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) outside Kuala Lumpur on 14 June, 2014. REUTERS

port on the investigation on 7 March, a day before the first anniversary of the

flight’s disappearance. Malaysia Airlines’ crisis worsened on 17 July

when its Flight MH17 from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur was shot down over

Ukraine, killing all 298 people on board.

Reuters

Indonesian president supported to address people’s interests

JAKARTA, 30 Jan — Indonesian President Joko Widodo, also known as Jokowi, has received supports from senior figures who advised him to address people’s interests rather than accommodating demands of political parties supporting his government.

The president met with Prabowo Subianto, his arch rival in last year’s presidential election, on Thursday when Prabowo conveyed his support to the government.

“We have the same notion to develop, advance and reduce poverty in the nation,” Prabowo said at a joint Press conference after his meeting with the president. Also on Thursday, the president met with former president Baharuddin Jusuf Habibie in the presidential palace. Habibie said that the president should take correct decision for the sake of people’s interests.

“Because he was elected by people, not political parties. So, don’t let them

down,” Habibie said.

On Wednesday, the president was advised to escape from pressures raised by supporters from his party. The advice came from Syafii Maarif, the head of a special team recently set up to address disputes between the country’s anti-graft commission and police.

Syafii Maarif said that the president would regain people’s support should he prioritize public interests in his policies.

The president from the PDI-P party who was sworn in last October sustained a sharp drop in public support in a fresh survey, which many saw is closely related with the disputes. “Compared to results of survey data in August last year, people’s hope and satisfaction to Jokowi has dropped by 25 percent, from 71.73 percent to 42.29 percent,” said Adjie Alfary, a researcher from the Indonesian Survey Circle that carried out

the survey from 26 to 27 January in 33 provinces, involving 1,200 respondents.

The president’s nomination earlier this month of Budi Gunawan, a close aide to former president Megawati Soekarnoputri who is also PDI-P chairperson, as national police chief was widely criticized as the three-star general had been named as a suspect by the country’s Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK). The KPK also said it will question Gunawan

on Friday, for the first time since commission declared him a graft suspect on 13 January. On 23 January, the national police arrested a KPK deputy chairman, accusing him of ordering a witness to commit perjury at the Constitutional Court in 2010. Many suspected the arrest was a direct response to the KPK’s move the name Gunawan a graft suspect and thus an attack against the nation’s anti-corruption drive.

Xinhua

Pakistan opposes UN Security Council’s permanent seat to India

ISLAMABAD, 30 Jan — Pakistan on Thursday reiterated its opposition to grant permanent UN Security Council’s seat to India and insisted on reforms to make the forum more democratic.

Pakistan contested the Indian move after US President Barack Obama announced support for India to seek permanent Security Council’s seat during his recent visit. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Tasnim Aslam said India does not “qualify to become a permanent member of UNSC because of its violations of UN resolutions”. “India is in violation of the UN Security Council resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir and the right of people of Kashmir to self-determination,”

the spokesperson said at her weekly press briefing.

The spokesperson, however, said Pakistan supported reforms in the United Nations as “it is in the interest of everyone to seek more democratic, effective and credible mechanism of the maintenance of international peace and security through a comprehensive reform of the Security Council.” To a question about the nuclear agreement between the United States and India, Aslam said Pakistan has shown serious concerns over the deal as it would badly affect the stability in the region. “On the conventional side, India’s massive acquisition of weapons further complicates the regional strategic stability,” she said.—Xinhua



Photo taken on 29 Jan, 2015 shows a view of the Beating Retreat ceremony in New Delhi, India. The ceremony is held every year on 29 Jan by the three wings of the Indian military, marking the end of Republic Day festivities.—XINHUA

WORLD

EU wins Greek backing to extend Russia sanctions, delays decision on new steps

BRUSSELS/KIEV, 30 Jan — European Union foreign ministers extended existing sanctions against Russia on Thursday, holding off on tighter economic measures for now but winning the support of the new left-leaning government of Greece, whose position had been in doubt.

The ministers agreed to extend until September travel bans and asset freezes imposed last year that had been due to expire. They also agreed to list the names of additional people who could be targeted with sanctions when they meet again on 9 February.

They dropped language, however, about drawing up “further restrictive measures” that had appeared in a pre-meeting draft. The bloc’s foreign policy chief said a decision



Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras (R) and European Parliament President Martin Schulz hold a joint statement to media in the Greek Premier's office in Athens on 29 Jan, 2015. —REUTERS

on such measures would be left to EU leaders meeting next month.

Germany said that decision would depend on the situation on the ground, with any major new rebel advance demanding tough-

er sanctions.

Thursday’s emergency meeting had been called after rebels launched an advance last week, disavowing a five-month-old ceasefire. On Saturday, suspected rebel forces shelled

the major port city of Mariupol, killing 30 people. Since then, there has been intense fighting along the frontline, although the rebels appear to have held back from an all-out assault on Mariupol.

Washington, which has coordinated sanctions moves with Brussels in the past year, said it was not planning an immediate new announcement itself.

“Certainly, we welcome it; it’s a positive step,” State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki told a regular news briefing. “This is just a further sign that the actions of the last several days and weeks are absolutely unacceptable and that there will be new consequences put in place,” she said.

Psaki noted that the EU and the US sanctions lists had not targeted exactly the same people, firms, or sectors, and added: “We’ll continue to consider others that we could add, but ... I don’t think there’s anything to expect today.”

The run-up to the

Brussels talks was dominated by Greece, whose new prime minister, Alexis Tsipras, took power on Monday and complained that his government had not been consulted before tighter sanctions were threatened.

But at the meeting, colleagues said new foreign minister Nikos Kotzias had swiftly dispelled suggestions that Greece would automatically torpedo any sanctions effort.

According to Italy’s foreign minister, Kotzias announced to the meeting: “I am not a Russian puppet.” He signed up to a sharply worded statement that declared Moscow responsible for the violence in eastern Ukraine and demanded it halt its backing for the separatists.

Reuters

US offers talks with N Korea ahead of envoy’s China trip

SEOUL, 30 Jan — The United States has made an offer to North Korea to hold bilateral talks shortly before the US top official on North Korea policies was to visit Beijing, a Seoul daily reported on Friday.

“Ahead of Special Representative for North Korea Policy Sung Kim’s visit to China, the US made a proposal to make a bilateral contact,” the DongA Ilbo quoted a source on North Korean affairs as saying. The proposal was conveyed to the North through a channel in New York but North Korea has not yet sent a reply, the source reportedly said. After talks with counterparts from Japan and South Korea on North

Korea’s denuclearization on Wednesday in Tokyo, Kim arrived in Beijing on Thursday for similar consultations with Chinese officials.

Ties between North Korea and the United States became further tense after US President Barack Obama said in a recent interview on YouTube that North Korea is likely to collapse and information shared by North Koreans via the Internet can play a role in the possible end to the “authoritarian” regime.

“North Korea is the most-isolated, the most-sanctioned, the most cut-off nation on Earth,” Obama said. The authoritarianism under Kim Jong Un cannot be duplicated “an-

nywhere else,” Obama continued. Earlier this month, Obama also imposed economic sanctions on North Korea in retaliation for the country hacking into Sony Pictures Entertainment Inc.’s computer systems.

The US government has blamed the massive cyberattack on North Korea after Pyongyang slammed Sony Pictures’ movie, “The Interview,” a comedy about an assassination attempt on the country’s leader Kim. North Korea has denied any involvement in the attack, which led to the online leakage of a trove of embarrassing materials, including unpublished movie scripts and private e-mails.

Kyodo News

Japan set to secure nonpermanent seat on UN Security Council

NEW YORK, 30 Jan — Japan is ensured of a non-permanent seat on the UN Security Council as the Asia Pacific group comprising 54 countries decided at a meeting on Thursday to endorse Tokyo as their candidate for an election in October.

The two-year post starting January next year will be the 11th time for Japan to serve on the most powerful body of the international organization, returning after holding a seat in the 2009-2010 period.

Speaking to reporters, Japanese Ambassador to the United Nations Motohide Yoshikawa said, “In the roughly one-year

window given us, we hope to prepare ourselves so that we will be able to speak up for Japan on issues when we join the Security Council in January.”

He also said joining the Security Council will help a bid by a group of countries including Japan to push for a reform of the United Nations’ top decision-making body, which they believe has become outdated since its inception 70 years ago.

The Security Council comprises five permanent members — Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States — and 10 nonpermanent members.

The Asia Pacific region, which also includes

countries in the Middle East, has a quota of two seats.

Africa has three, while Latin America has two. Two spots are available for the Western European and other group, and one for Eastern Europe.

In the October election, one of the Asia-Pacific seats, currently held by Jordan, will be up for grabs. With no contenders in sight, it will be a “vote of confidence” for Japan.

In the Asia Pacific group, Bangladesh had also shown interest in the seat but it withdrew its bid in September and expressed support for Japan’s candidacy.

Kyodo News

US lawmakers seek to end restrictions on travel to Cuba

WASHINGTON, 30 Jan — Eight Republican and Democratic U.S. senators will introduce legislation

on Thursday to end restrictions on US citizens’ travel to Cuba, the first effort in Congress toward ending the

US embargo since President Barack Obama moved to normalize relations last month.

The bill would end legal restrictions on travel to the island by US citizens and legal residents, according to a statement about the senators’ plans.

It would also end restrictions on banking transactions related to that travel.

The Obama administration announced some loosening of restrictions on travel last month, but Congress must vote to end the laws that put them in place.

The senators backing the bill include Republicans Jeff Flake, Jerry Moran, Michael Enzi and John Boozman, as well as Democrats Patrick Leahy, Richard Durbin, Tom Udall and

Sheldon Whitehouse.

A companion bill will be introduced in the US House of Representatives next week by Republican Representative Mark Sanford and Democratic Representative Jim McGovern.

Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro announced on 17 December they would work toward normalizing relations between their two countries, more than half a century after Castro’s brother Fidel took power and began implementing communist rule in the island nation.

There has been vocal opposition toward the plan in the US Congress, led

by staunchly anti-Castro Cuban-American lawmakers including Republican Senator Marco Rubio and Democratic Senator Robert Menendez.

Opponents of Obama’s plans have so far not announced any legislation seeking to stop them. There will be hearings on Cuba next week in both the Senate and House.

Castro set a tough tone on relations with the United States in a speech on Wednesday, warning that any US interference in Cuba’s internal affairs would make rapprochement between the two countries meaningless. —Reuters



Tourists ride in pedicabs in Havana, on 23 Jan, 2015. — REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 31 January, 2015

Squatters are humans

By Myint Win Thein

WITH high property rental prices, low income and urban migration, the problem of squatters' slums has become a headache in cities. They settle on large land plots owned by others or by some government agencies or companies, especially near their workplaces such as industrial zones, con-

struction sites and work for their living from there. Their houses are small ones built of bamboo and thatched roof with narrow footpaths in front of them.

When the land owners complain about their illegal settlement, authorities have to evict them. Some landowners evict them by themselves, hiring people to scare away them. Some of them are often forcefully evicted from settlement, resulting in clashes with authorities and injuring both sides. Such scenarios have become very common in cities, but squatters are always at one place or another as they do not have anywhere else to live.

It is clear that eviction alone cannot solve the problem in the long run. Although it is true that they trespass on the place of another or illegally

settle in a place, they should be treated with empathy as they are the same humans as others who deserve a shelter over their heads. They should at least be provided with temporary shelters even if permanent homes for them cannot be arranged immediately. Only then, can the problem of squatters be solved once and for all.

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.

ICT in brief and pragmatic application of E-Governance in Singapore

By Sayar Mya

IT was a soft cool winter morning at Yangon International Airport on Monday 12 January 2015.

I and my better-half flew from Yangon to Singapore on MAI flight 8M 231 to stay for a month with our loving daughter who is working in Singapore.

The running of the international airline really did not radically change until 2010 when the KBZ group acquired an 80% share of MAI bringing in a new era of the sector and route changes. Since then, MAI has been expanding its fleet and currently the flag carrier has a total of 5 Airbus A320s and 2 Airbus A319s. It also leased Airbus A321s from Air Méditerranée in the winter of 2010-2011 and deployed them on Bangkok-Singapore services. Non-hub routes between Bangkok-Singapore and Siem Reap-Phnom Penh were successfully inaugurated in 2010 and 2011 respectively.

In 2013, MAI received IOSA certificate, the only recipient in Myanmar of the IATA Operational Safety Audit Program (IOSA) Operator. In 2014, MAI is the complete member of Kan-bawza (KBZ) Group. With the KBZ group acquiring 100% of MAI the future of the airline is definitely optimistic and encouraging.

The main purpose of our visit to Singapore is to have fun with our grandchildren from Campbelltown of New South Wales in Australia, as our son and family are visiting Singapore during the kids' school holidays.

Since my retirement from the government ser-

vice in 2003, I have engaged myself in working as Freelance Consultant, writing some booklets on "English for You" series for students and junior staff members and contributing English articles for the Global New Light of Myanmar English dailies. I have the pleasure and honor in writing English articles.

Since my arrival in Singapore, I have written two English articles entitled [Significant features of "Singapore Expo" and "John Little Mega Expo Sale" in Singapore: January 2015] and [National University of Singapore: A University stands and shines top in Asia] in the Global New Light of Myanmar in January 2015.

Over the years back in Yangon, we the pensioners and like-minded persons were usually sitting at local tea stall in our neighborhood on Sunday evening for a round of "Sunday Evening Talk". We discussed on random light topics with positive attitudes. Ironically, there were times that we talked about E-Government without knowing the subject exactly or its pragmatic application.

Short news reports were printed in our local newspapers and journals, but we are not aware of its efficacy and value for the country that employs e-governance.

One morning while in Singapore, my daughter told me and my better-half that Singapore is one of the top countries in the application of e-governance at the breakfast table over a plate of homemade fried rice and a cup of coffee.

The topic attracted me strongly and I felt an urge to

write an article. Therefore, I searched some relevant information of ICT and E-Government.

In the ADB reports October 2014 issue number 61; Knowledge Showcases section had presented an article entitled "Quickening e-governance in Myanmar".

The report goes as follows.

Emerging in 2011 from decades of isolation, Myanmar is undergoing an economic, social, and political renovation. With a young population, fertile lands, a plentiful endowment of natural resources, and a strategic location in Southeast Asia, its government can lay the foundations for a prosperous future. The economic agenda is ambitious with immediate focus on growth and poverty reduction.

Notwithstanding fast progress, however, much remains in the areas of macroeconomic policy, trade, investment, and small- and medium-sized enterprise development to complete the transition to a market economy.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) reengaged Myanmar in 2012. Understandably, it targets for (a) inclusive growth, access and connectivity, and (b) human and institutional capacities. The third thrust is to enhance systemic development in core sectors, which underpins the first two. Moreover, a skilled workforce is necessary for sustained growth and poverty reduction.

Information and communication technology (ICT) powers new value chains and impacts entire industries. In view of that, the Ministry of Science and Technology is implement-



(Photo from Google)

ing an ICT master plan covering 2011-2015. This is the country's second such plan following that of 2005-2010, which helped raise Myanmar's telephone density from 1% to 5.4% only. It is still very low, two-thirds of which from mobile lines.

The latest plan addresses much the same five areas as the first scheme such as (1) ICT infrastructure, (2) ICT industry, (3) ICT human resource development, (4) e-education, and (5) ICT legislation. But, a key ingredient is missing. That is only 8,000-10,000 students graduate in computing-related degrees each year. Ways must be found to boost this number, just as the education system must be reformed to equip Myanmar's workforce with the ICT skills needed in the emerging global knowledge-based economy.

Toward this, persistent gaps in access, quality and relevance, and system efficiency in ICT academic institutions must be addressed.

At this juncture, the author of this article searched some simple explanation on

the e-government on the Google search machine with a view to simplify the ICT terms. There are many new terms in connection with the e-governance that are not familiar with the general public. The explanations are found as follows.

E-government is also known as electronic government, e-gov, Internet government, digital government, online government, or connected government. It consists of the digital interactions between a citizen and their government (C2G), between governments and government agencies (G2G), between government and citizens (G2C), between government and employees (G2E), and between government and businesses/commerce (G2B). Essentially, e-government delivery models can be briefly summed up as follows.

- G2G (government to governments)
- G2C (government to citizens)
- G2E (government to employees)
- G2B (government to businesses)

This digital interaction consists of e-citizens at all levels of government (city, state/province, national, and international), governance, information and communication technology (ICT), and business process re-engineering (BPR).

Defining about E-Government

E-Gov Strategies or Digital Government is defined as "The employment of the Internet and the world-wide-web (www) for delivering government information and services to the citizens."

Electronic Government or e-Government essentially refers to "The utilization of Information Technology (IT), Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs), and other web-based telecommunication technologies to improve and/or enhance on the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery in the public sector."

In other words, e-Government promotes and improves broad stakeholders' contribution to national and community development, as well as deepens the governance process.

(To be continued)

Authority to be shared to region and state governments

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan—The Schedules 1 and 2 of Constitution Assessment Committee held a meeting at the President Office Ministry, here, on Friday.

Chairman of the committee Union Minister U Soe Thane explained hand-over of authority related to Schedules 1 and 2 of the constitution to the region and state governments for enabling union government to emphasize development tasks.

Vice Chairman Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein said that handover of authority of regions and states are related to Schedules 1 and 2. Organizational setups of the ministries are amended for changing administrative machinery. The president emphasizes handover of authority for investment to regions and states as of coming fiscal year, he said.

Vice Chairman Union Minister U Hla Tun said that the government issued orders to ease some restrictions over authorities of regions and states. He stressed the need to seek the best way in reviewing Schedules 1 and



Union Minister U Soe Thane highlights easing restriction for authority of region and and state government.—MNA

2 of the constitution.

Union ministers, deputy ministers and departmental officials reported on amended laws, new laws and revoked laws, duty and

functions of Union, regions and states, legislation and sharing of authority in accord with the Schedules 1 and 2 of the constitution.

Union Ministers U Soe

Thane, U Tin Naing Thein and U Hla Tun reviewed the discussions of union ministers and reports of region and state governments.—MNA

Interview date announced for scholarship candidates

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan—A total of 142 candidates of President's scholarship are to enter the interview for the first batch on 17 February in Yangon.

They may download CV forms from the Ministry of Education website www.myanmar-education.edu.mm and send the updated CV forms of pdf format to scholarmm2015@gmail.com not late than 5 February. The timetables and location of the interview will be announced through the same website and email.

Candidates are to bring

original citizenship scrutiny card, original degree certificate, original document of examination marks, a scholarship essay with 450 words on education aim, interest, future plans in English and updated CV form to the interview.

MNA

Myanmar's National Electrification...

(from page 1)

The World Bank stated it is considering investing \$300 or 400 million in the country's national electrification project.

According to its target of achieving universal access to electricity by 2030, Myanmar needs to supply power to about 7.2 million households which makes up 67 per cent of the total population in the next 15 years.

Statistics showed about 200,000 households get access to electricity yearly but power consumption in Myanmar has increased by 33 per cent, an increase from about 2.4 million households equivalent to 72 percent of the country's total households in 2011 to about 3 million households in 2014.

With the current electrification rate, it would take 35 years to meet the goal of ensuring universal access to electricity by 2030. So, it is required for the country to double current efforts to reach its target.

The World Bank said

that Myanmar's electricity access is expected to improve in the first five years from 2015 to 2019, adding that it is feasible to implement about \$1.7 million additional grid connections that will cost \$700 million in which capital investment will be \$670 million and technical assistance \$24 million.

A roadmap to achieve universal access to electricity in Myanmar indicated that more than 517,000 connections have to be made each year after 2019 to meet the 2030 national electrification target, stating that the country's electrification challenge is immense.

The World Bank recommended that dense areas that require shorter distribution lines and lower cost per connection will be connected first and remote communities that call for longer lines and higher costs connected later. Due to highest cost per connection, Chin, Shan, Kachin and Kayah will see the last phase of grid rollout. On

off-grid pre-electrification, 3 or 4 per cent of the villages in the final phase are recommended and the four states represent major areas for pre-electrification.

On environmental and social impact management framework in the NEP, the World Bank said that poverty and social impact analysis, assessment of potential sub-project impact and preparation of draft ESMF is scheduled to be conducted from January to April this year, followed by confirmation of ESMF and inclusion in legal NEP project documents with national consultations on draft PSIA and ESMF in May.

The national electrification project in Myanmar is being undertaken by the Ministry of Electric Power and the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development with the World Bank support. The total cost of grid connections for 2030 universal electricity access goal is estimated at \$5.8 billion, in addition to investments required for generation and transmission.

GNLM

MYANMAR GAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Jan—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has confirmed the appointment of following heads of service organizations on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) Daw Hla Hla Kyi	Managing Director Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise Ministry of Energy
(b) Professor Dr Myint Han	Director-General Food and Drug Administration Ministry of Health

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Deputy Director-General U Chit Ko Ko of Directorate of Road Administration under the Rail Transportation Ministry as Director-General of the same directorate on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Union FM attends ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat

YANGON, 30 Jan—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin arrived back in Yangon after attending the ASEAN foreign Ministers' Retreat held in Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia.

ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat was held at the Magellen Sutura Harbour Resort in Kota Kinabalu on 28 January 2015. The Meeting was chaired by the current Chair of ASEAN, Dato' Sri Anifah Haji Aman, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Malaysia and was

attended by ASEAN Foreign Ministers and ASEAN Secretary-General Mr. Le Luong Minh. The meeting discussed issues on the remaining action lines of the implementation of the ASEAN Community Blueprints, follow-up of the declaration on the strengthening of the ASEAN Secretariat and reviewing the ASEAN organs, follow up of the Nay Pyi Taw Declaration on the ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision, and Malaysia's Priorities as Chair of ASEAN in 2015 among others. The Ministers also discussed issues on streamlining of ASEAN meetings, the ASEAN Centrality, establishment of ASEAN Common Time Zone and they also exchanged views on regional and international issues. At the end of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Retreat, ASEAN Foreign Ministers issued the "Statement on the Violence and Brutality committed by Extremist Organizations in Iraq and Syria".

Following the retreat, the Union Minister met with General Thanasak Patimapragorn of Thailand, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and Dato' Sri Anifah Haji Aman, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Malaysia on separate occasions and discussed matters on bilateral relations. On his return journey, Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin visited the Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and gave guidance to Myanmar Ambassador to Malaysia and Embassy's staff on works of the Embassy and to safeguard the interests of Myanmar citizens in Malaysia.—MNA

90 Korean student volunteers...

(from page 1)

responsibility, CSR, activity. Happy Move Global Youth takes responsibility for voluntary services for the construction.

"The school will be opened on 4 February. We rush in construction tasks. This is my first trip to Myanmar. We are ready to give voluntary services to anyone regardless of in Korea or Myanmar," Kyung added.

A total of 90 members from the team are working at the school. They are excited to enjoy the opening ceremony for the school.

"Thanks to the voluntary service of Korean university students, the school

will give better learning facilities to 67 students," advertising manager Ko Zaw Ye Naing of KIA Automobile said.

"We are very happy in volunteer tasks. Smiles of students relieve us from the tiredness of work. When they grow up, I think they would join voluntary services actively," said Jimin Hem, 21, who is student in Leisure Tourism Management.

Ninety South Korean volunteer students are now making utmost efforts for the timely completion of construction so as to hand over it to the Ministry of Education on 4 February.



Korean students participate in construction of school building.

Italy votes for president after Renzi shrugs off Berlusconi

ROME, 30 Jan — Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi's choice of a senior judge as his presidential candidate appears to have unified his fractious party, but it may spell an end to a reform pact sealed with rival Silvio Berlusconi.

After an inconclusive first round ballot on Thursday, the 1,009 parliamentarians and regional officials eligible to pick the new president began a new round on Friday.

The result is likely to be same because a two-thirds majority is needed to seat a president until the fourth round, expected on Saturday, when a simple majority

raising the spectre of an early national election.

With newly elected Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras facing tricky negotiations with German-led European partners on renegotiating Greece's debt, a political crisis in Italy would compound uncertainty in the euro zone.

Adding to tension is Berlusconi's anger at Renzi for betraying what the media tycoon said was a promise to give him a role in choosing the candidate as part of a pact the two leaders made last year to draft institutional reforms together.

"Renzi took Berlusconi off guard psy-



A general view of the Chambers of Deputies as it begins voting for a new president in Rome on 30 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

ty is enough and Renzi should be able to muster the numbers to win.

Renzi's Democratic Party (PD) and a handful of allies pledged on Thursday to back Sergio Mattarella, 73, a constitutional court judge and a veteran centre-left politician.

The process of voting by secret ballot has a history of intrigue and unpredictability similar to a papal conclave. Just two years ago, two candidates ostensibly backed by the PD fell short because of anonymous defections from within party ranks.

Failure for Renzi, who has been in office less than a year, to seat Mattarella in the fourth or fifth round would mean his authority over his party is wavering,

chologically," Clemente Mastella, a former justice minister politically close to Berlusconi, said in an interview on La7 television. "It will be hard for the centre-right to recompose itself."

While Berlusconi told his party members to vote blank ballots through the fourth round, he could reverse his order at the last minute and back Mattarella, a former Christian Democrat who resigned as education minister in 1990 to protest a decree that favoured Berlusconi's media empire.

That would keep institutional reforms on track and give Berlusconi a political role as he completes a tax-fraud sentence, for which he is doing public service, later this year.—Reuters

Babies found alive in rubble after truck blast rips through Mexico hospital



Rescue workers are seen at the site of an explosion at a maternity hospital in Mexico City, on 29 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

MEXICO CITY, 30 Jan — A gas truck explosion ripped through a maternity hospital on the western edge of Mexico City on Thursday, killing one woman and two children and injuring dozens, authorities said, with several babies found alive in the rubble.

A nurse and a child died after the blast, which destroyed around 70 percent of the hospital, Mexico City Mayor Miguel Angel Mancera said.

Speaking on national television, Mexico City's health minister said another child had died and

more than 70 people were injured.

Several babies were found under the rubble. Scores of rescue workers dug through the concrete and twisted metal for survivors.

People seeking information on family members gathered around police lines that were set up to keep bystanders away from the chaotic scene earlier in the day. Some of the injured were evacuated by helicopter, and aerial footage showed firefighters scrambling over the skeletal wreckage of the building.

"I am so worried about my sister. She's supposed to have given birth. We brought her in yesterday," said Monserrat Garduno, a 32-year-old nurse. "They won't let us pass. I want to know how she is."

Ambulances were at the scene to treat survivors. Around 100 people were in the hospital at the time of the explosion, according to a city official.

A leak in a hose from the truck, which was fueling the hospital's tanks, was believed to have triggered the explosion, officials said.

"They tried to stop the leak, but it was not possible," Mancera said. Three people had been detained and two had been hospitalized, he added.

Many areas of Mexico City have no mains gas supply, and rely on deliveries from gas trucks. Mancera said the gas truck company involved had been working in Mexico City since 2007.

President Enrique Pena Nieto gave his condolences on Twitter, while Pope Francis urged his Twitter followers to pray for the victims and their families.—Reuters

Death toll mounts in intense clashes in east Ukraine

KIEV, 30 Jan — Five Ukrainian soldiers and three civilians have been killed as a result of fighting in Ukraine's separatist eastern regions in the past 24 hours, Kiev authorities said on Thursday, reporting no let-up in violent

clashes with rebels.

A separatist advance launched last week appears to have buried the frequently violated truce, leading to a sharp increase in casualties in a conflict that has already killed over 5,000 since it erupted last April.



Ukrainian servicemen fight at their position near Lysychansk, in Luhansk region on 29 Jan, 2015. German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said on Thursday that a fresh offensive by rebels in Ukraine would warrant more sanctions on Russia, while acknowledging that the new Greek government had not made discussions with EU peers easier.—REUTERS

The Kiev military said separatists shelled Ukrainian army positions in more than 100 separate attacks in the past day, describing the situation across the conflict zone as "tense."

It said fighting was particularly fierce at the strategic town of Debaltseve, where government troops are defending their positions from rebels who have vowed to encircle it to safeguard their main strongholds.

"Information that Debaltseve can be encircled does not correspond to the facts: the frontline (there) has been stabilised," military spokesman Andriy Lysenko said in a televised briefing. The interior ministry said three civilians had been killed by "continuous" rebel shelling of the town and surrounding areas

in the past 24 hours.

On the other side, the rebels said Ukrainian forces had attacked their positions near Donetsk airport and Debaltseve 10 times since Wednesday, separatist-run DAN news agency reported.

Local volunteers helping those afflicted by the fighting in Debaltseve described a worsening humanitarian situation in the town, which they said had been pounded by near-constant shelling for days.

"Everything is bad in Debaltseve, people are living full-time in shelters without fresh air," said Nathalia Voronkova, who has been helping residents escape the area, where most power and water supplies have been cut off.—Reuters

WORLD

Moscow-hosted Syria talks end, sides agree only to meet again

MOSCOW, 30 Jan — Representatives of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and opposition figures agreed at talks on Thursday to hold another round in Moscow, moderator Vitaly Naumkin said on Thursday, but no date was set.

The talks, a Russian initiative to revive stalled peace efforts in Syria's four-year-old civil war, were shunned by the main Syrian political opposition, and participants came together to adopt a series of points that largely represent Russia's own position on the violence. Moscow is a key backer of Assad.

Naumkin, an academic, said the sides agreed to join forces over the threat of terrorism in Syria, where Islamic State insurgents have taken over wide swathes of territory, though Moscow has described numerous other anti-Assad groups fighting in the country as "terrorists".

"The issue of fighting terrorism was one of the key themes discussed. This is exactly what brings the sides together as a key challenge to Syria's territorial integrity and unity,"

said Naumkin.

He said the talks offered the best chance at reaching another round of peace negotiations between the government and opposition in Geneva. The latest round of Geneva talks, the Geneva II conference, was held early last year.

Russia, whose stance on Syria has protected Assad from Western sanctions in the UN Security Council, pushed through with the conference despite a lack of support from Europe or the United States, where Moscow's ties are in tatters over Ukraine.

Naumkin said the majority of participants agreed to a series of points known as the Moscow principles which largely adhere to the talking points Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and other diplomats have tirelessly adhered to during the conflict.

They include maintaining the sovereignty and unity of Syria, the rejection of foreign interference, combating terrorism and settling the country's civil war through peaceful means.

Reuters

US-led air strikes hit Islamic State targets in Syria and Iraq

WASHINGTON, 30 Jan — The United States and coalition partners launched six air strikes against Islamic State targets in Syria, and 12 more in Iraq as they kept up pressure on the insurgent group, the US military said on Thursday.

Among the strikes, which occurred between 8 am local time on Wednesday and 8 am on Thursday, were five near Kobani, striking an Islamic State fighting position, three tactical units and a large unit, the Combined Joint Task Force said in a statement.

The Pentagon said this week the militants had been driven out of 90 percent of Kobani, a city near the border with Turkey where fighting has raged for four months.

Reuters

Canada spy agency given more powers to disrupt terror attacks

TORONTO, 30 Jan — Canada's main spy agency will get new powers aimed at disrupting potential terror attacks under security legislation to be unveiled on Friday, Canadian media said on Thursday.

The Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS), which currently only gathers information and then hands it over to police for action, will be given powers to act itself to prevent potential attacks, Canadian media said.

Under the new law, which will be presented in Parliament, CSIS will be able to block financial transactions, stop people from travelling abroad to join extremist groups and intercept material that can be used in an attack. It would need to obtain a judicial warrant first.

"The goal is for CSIS to move from an intelligence-gathering service to an agency that will have the power to disrupt or diminish potential terrorist threats under appropriate judicial oversight," CBC News quoted an unnamed source as saying.

The agency will not be allowed to detain or arrest people.



A vehicle passes a sign outside the Canadian Security Intelligence Service (CSIS) headquarters in Ottawa on 5 Nov, 2014. — REUTERS

The new law will also let police detain potential terror suspects for longer periods without charge, the reports said, and make it easier to track and monitor suspects.

Security officials have been on alert since a gunman attacked Canada's Parliament in October, fatally shooting a soldier at a nearby war memorial.

The attack by a so-called "lone wolf" Canadian citizen came two days after another Canadian convert ran down two soldiers

in Quebec, killing one.

After the Parliament attack, the Canadian government introduced a bill to enhance CSIS. It said at the time it would bring other legislation designed to pre-empt threats and crack down on hate speech.

Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper, whose ruling Conservatives are trailing in polls heading into a federal election this year, said this week that the new law would not infringe on constitutionally protected rights to free speech, as-

sociation and religion.

Experts, including constitutional lawyers, have noted that law enforcement agencies already have wide-ranging powers at their disposal and could use rarely tapped provisions under Canada's 2013 Anti-Terrorism Act.

Lawyers have said the fact that these options have been rarely tapped by authorities is a sign that more regular techniques and procedures are sufficient for now.

Reuters

Japan, Jordan seek news on fate of Islamic State captives

AMMAN/TOKYO, 30 Jan — Japan and Jordan were working closely on Friday to find out what had happened to two of their nationals being held by Islamic State, after a deadline passed for the release of a would-be suicide bomber being held on death row in Amman.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said every effort was being made to secure the release of journalist Kenji Goto. "We are gathering and analysing information while asking for cooper-

ation from Jordan and other countries, making every effort to free Kenji Goto," he told a parliamentary panel.

Jordan said on Thursday it was still holding the Iraqi woman prisoner as a deadline passed for her release set by Islamic State militants, who threatened to kill a Jordanian pilot unless she was handed over by sunset. An audio message purportedly from Goto said the pilot would be killed if Jordan did not free Sajida al-Rishawi, in jail for her

role in a 2005 suicide bomb attack that killed 60 people in the Jordanian capital Amman. The message extended a previous deadline set on Tuesday in which Goto said he would be killed within 24 hours if al-Rishawi was not freed. Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said late on Friday that Tokyo was doing everything it could, but declined to answer whether negotiations had stalled and if there was any progress.

"We are doing the things we have to, one after the other, steadily," he told a news conference.

The hostage crisis comes as Islamic State, which has already released videos showing the beheadings of five Western hostages, is coming under increased military pressure from US-led air strikes and by Kurdish and Iraqi troops pushing to reverse the Islamist group's territorial gains in Iraq and Syria.

About an hour before the new deadline was due to pass on Thursday, government spokesman Moham-

ad al-Momani said Jordan was still holding al-Rishawi.

"We want proof ... that the pilot is alive so that we can proceed with what we said yesterday; exchanging the prisoner with our pilot," Momani told Reuters.

The pilot, Muath al-Kasaesbeh, was captured after his jet crashed in north-eastern Syria in December during a bombing mission against Islamic State.

Momani said separately that Jordan was coordinating with Japanese authorities in an effort to secure the release of Goto, a veteran war reporter. Goto's wife urged both governments to work for her husband's release, saying she feared this was his last chance. In the latest audio recording purportedly of Goto, he said that Kasaesbeh would be killed "immediately" if al-Rishawi was not at the Turkish border by sunset on Thursday, Iraq time, ready to be exchanged for the Japanese hostage.

That was some time around 1430 GMT on Thursday.

The implication that the

pilot would not be part of an exchange deal has left Jordan in a difficult position.

Protests have erupted in Karak, home town of the pilot, who is from an important Jordanian tribe that forms the backbone of support for the Hashemite monarchy.

In Japan, the hostage crisis is the biggest diplomatic test for Abe since he took office in 2012 pledging to play a bigger role in global security.

Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida told journalists that Tokyo had asked Jordan to beef up protection of its diplomats in the country on Friday, the birthday of Jordanian King Abdullah.

Jordanian comments have raised concerns in Japan that Goto might not be part of any deal between Amman and Islamic State.

"I hope the negotiations materialize," Goto's mother, Junko Ishido, told reporters at her Tokyo home late on Thursday. "I don't want to think about it," she said, when asked what she would do if negotiations failed.

Reuters



Junko Ishido, mother of Kenji Goto, who is a Japanese journalist being held captive by Islamic State militants, holds letters from her supporters as she speaks to reporters at her house in Tokyo on 28 Jan, 2015. — REUTERS

UNICEF makes record appeal to help 60 million children in crisis

LONDON, 30 Jan — The UN Children's Fund launched a record \$3.1 billion appeal on Thursday to enable it to help children caught up in a "new generation" of conflicts and disasters round the world, \$1 billion more than it sought in 2014.

A series of more complex and destructive crises, natural disasters and emergencies such as the Ebola epidemic, are putting some 60 million children in extraordinary danger of violence, hunger, disease and abuse, UNICEF said.

"From deadly natural disasters to brutal conflicts and fast-spreading epidemics, children across the world are facing a new generation of humanitarian crises," Afshan Khan, UNICEF director of emergency programmes, said in a statement.



Children displaced as a result of Boko Haram attacks in the northeast region of Nigeria, sit in a row to eat a meal at a camp for internally displaced persons (IDP) in Yola, Adamawa State on 13 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

"Whether in the headlines or hidden from view, emergencies sparked by social fracture, climate change and disease are stalking children in ways we have never seen before."

Khan stressed later in an interview with the Thomson Reuters Foundation that

UNICEF was committed to protecting children regardless of whether or not the crisis that affected them was attracting widespread attention.

More than one in 10 children now live in countries or regions affected by armed conflict, UNICEF

said in the report Humanitarian Action for Children that accompanied the appeal.

The biggest amount in the appeal, \$903 million (596.46 million pounds), was for Syria and the region around it, followed by \$500 million for West African countries affected by the Ebola epidemic.

More than 5.6 million children need support in Syria, as do 1.7 million who have fled the five-year-old conflict for neighbouring countries, UNICEF said.

"For the past four years, these children have been witnessing violence and death daily and have been missing out on the very basics in life," Khan said in the statement.

"This appeal will help secure a future for not only the children of Syria but all children around the world who are impacted by hu-

manitarian crises."

Money raised for Ebola-affected areas will be used to isolate and treat new cases and prevent new outbreaks, UNICEF said.

UNICEF also appealed for \$32 million for Ukraine, where it said 5.2 million people, one third of them children, were living in conflict zones and 600,000 were displaced.

As well as drawing attention to the growing number of emergencies, the UNICEF report highlighted the increasing interdependence of humanitarian and development work.

UNICEF said the funds raised would also help strengthen national preparedness systems against future disasters.

The appeal, which covers 71 countries and a total of 98 million people, includes underfunded and

forgotten crises, including Afghanistan, the Palestinian Territories and Niger.

"It's peak time just after the election (in Afghanistan) and we do want to make sure that there is some restoration of basic services for kids there," Khan told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in a phone interview from Geneva.

In the Palestinian Territories UNICEF wants to restore access to education for some 30,000 children and provide them with psycho-social support for trauma, she said.

The agency also wants to reach half a million children there with mine-risk education and awareness programmes. In Niger, UNICEF will focus on malnutrition and measles vaccinations and on Ebola prevention programmes, Khan said.—Reuters

Three US contractors killed in 'insider attack' in Afghan capital

KABUL, 30 Jan — An Afghan soldier killed three US contractors and wounded a fourth on Thursday at Kabul's military airport, an Afghan air force official said.

"It is unclear yet why he shot these advisers and no one else was there to tell us the reason," the official told Reuters on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. "An investigation has been opened."

The international force in Afghanistan confirmed the shooting took place on Thursday evening.

A rise in so-called "insider attacks" in Afghanistan has eroded trust between Afghan and international troops in the final years of the combat mission that ended in 2014, prompting foreign forces to scale

back interaction with their allies.

Despite the introduction of new measures, including a requirement that coalition forces be armed at all times and stricter vetting procedures for Afghan security members, incidents continue to occur sporadically.

One of the worst attacks took place last August, killing US Major General Harold Greene, who became the most senior American military official to die in action overseas since the war in Vietnam.

The new international "Resolute Support" mission involving a small contingent of around 12,000 mostly US troops started on 1 January and is to focus on training Afghanistan's national security force.

Reuters

African Union backs plan for regional task force to fight Boko Haram

ADDIS ABABA, 30 Jan — The African Union has endorsed a West African plan to set up a regional task force of 7,500 to fight Islamist Boko Haram militants, a senior official said on Thursday, a vital step towards securing UN Security Council backing.

Neighbours Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger, Chad and Benin agreed earlier this month to call on the African Union (AU) to seek UN Security Council support for their plan to take on insurgents who are fighting to create an Islamic state in northern Nigeria.

Boko Haram has made incursions into neighbouring Cameroon and threatens the stability of a region that includes Niger and Chad. Benin lies on Nigeria's western border.

"We are thinking of a force of 7,500 women and men. The next step is to submit (approval) to the UN Security Council," Smail Chergui, the commissioner of the AU's Peace and Security Council, told reporters on the sidelines of an African summit in Addis Ababa. Tackling Boko Haram was top of the agenda at the meeting of African leaders and officials. "Hopefully now with this concept, this force will be better organized and we can achieve the goal that we are looking for, that is to really stop the killing and these barbaric acts of Boko Haram," Chergui said.

A UN mandate could help draw international assistance for the African regional force.

The African group plans to meet next week in Came-



A leader of militia hunters helping the army to fight the Boko Haram insurgency in the northeast region of Nigeria, holds a magazine of bullets in his hands during an interview in Yola, Adamawa State on 14 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

eroon to draw up a "concept of operations" to cover strategy, rules of engagement, command and control, and related issues, Chergui said.

Senior officials have told Reuters that each of the

five nations would contribute a battalion and each contingent would be based within its national borders with operations coordinated from Chad's capital N'Djamena.

Reuters

Korean Air chief says he scolded daughter over nut rage

SEOUL, 30 Jan — Korean Air Lines (003490.KS) Chairman Cho Yang-ho said on Friday he had scolded his daughter for expelling a crew member from a flight over the way she was served nuts in first class.

The nut rage incident, as it has become known, has stirred public outrage and ridicule in South Korea and raised questions about the power of the country's "chaebol" conglomerates.

Heather Cho, the former head of in-flight service before she resigned over the nut case, is on trial for breaking aviation laws and conspiring with other company executives to force crew members to lie about the 5 December incident.

"It was wrong to get a crew member off the flight no matter what the reason," Cho told the court in his first appearance in the case.

"I have scolded her for

not controlling her emotions and expelling the crew member," he said as his daughter appeared to wipe away tears.

Cho apologized to the crew chief who was forced off the flight and promised to ensure that he would not face reprimand from the company.

Heather Cho had demanded the crew chief removed from the flight at John F Kennedy airport in New York after a flight

attendant served her macadamia nuts in a bag, not on a dish. The plane, already moving to taxi, returned to the gate.

Cho later resigned from her posts at the airline and subsidiaries in the face of public anger over her behaviour.

The flight crew member, Kim Do-hee, testified that Cho had become abusive as she confronted the crew about service, shouting at them as they kneeled

on the floor.

Later, airline executives tried to pressure her and the crew chief to lie to government authorities about the incident and they pressed her to accept Cho's apology with an offer of a job as a professor at a school affiliated with the airline. "I didn't want to accept her apology. I didn't go home for four days trying to avoid Cho," Kim said.

Cho apologized to

Kim in court in her only comments on Friday. "I sincerely apologize to you. I am sorry."

Cho's lawyers told the court at a previous hearing that she felt sorry for her action and she did not merit legal punishment.

Heather Cho is the oldest of Cho Yang-ho's three children. Her siblings are also executives with the airline. She has been in detention since 30 December.

Reuters

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

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MV UBC CANADA VOY NO (33)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV UBC CANADA VOY NO (33) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.1.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S THALAMAR
SHIPPING AG**

Phone No: 2301186

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ROYAL 88 VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ROYAL 88 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.2.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-4 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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AGENT FOR: M/S G LINK EXPRESS
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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV E.R TURKU VOY NO (064W)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R TURKU VOY NO (064W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.1.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HANJIN SHIPPING LINES**

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**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV VEGA FYNEN VOY NO (1504)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VEGA FYNEN VOY NO (1504) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.1.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
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Consignees of cargo carried on MV TAUNG GYI STAR VOY NO (1003N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.1.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD**

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**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
HOLIDAY NOTICE**

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 12th FEBRUARY 2015 (Union Day), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 31st January, 2015: Rain are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthayi Region and Chin State and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

Asia-Pacific business leaders call for inclusive growth

HONG KONG, 30 Jan — Business leaders attending the APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC) said on Friday that improving both inclusiveness and resilience should be high priority for the APEC agenda.

"Not everyone is equipped to take advantages of opportunities in the increasingly seamless global market ... so our goal is really to be able to offer those benefits to as many people as possible," ABAC chair 2015 Doris Ho said after a council meeting. Ho said the sustainability of this new prosperity is threatened by constraints to resources like food, energy and other natural resources and by the impact

of disasters both natural and otherwise.

The ABAC is pleased to see the progress being made toward the Free Trade Area of the Asia Pacific (FTAAP) and that progress needs to be matched by attention to the health of global value and supply chains and the services sector, she noted.

Ho added that the vitality of small, medium and micro sized enterprises (SMMEs) is key to ensuring no-one is left behind as is the inclusion of women. ABAC will be developing recommendations to enhance SMMEs access to ideas, markets, financing, technology and entrepreneurial skills.—Xinhua

Oversight body proposed for foreign job trainees in Japan

TOKYO, 30 Jan — The government on Friday proposed establishing an oversight body to tackle human rights abuses against foreigners working in Japan as trainees as it seeks to expand the programme to fight growing labour shortages.

The programme, introduced in 1993, has been criticized as being a cover for employing low-cost labourers from less developed countries. There have been reports of harsh working conditions, low wages and rights abus-

es such as trainees being confined and banned from contacting other people or forced to return to their countries.

The programme supervisory body will be empowered to search domestic organizations placing trainees as well as their employers, the government proposed in a report compiled by a panel of experts.

The oversight unit will also provide various forms of support to trainees not available now.

Legislation to enhance oversight will be intro-

duced to the current Diet session.

Most trainees are sent to Japan under contracts between overseas recruitment groups and domestic recipient organizations. They are then hired by businesses contracted by the recipient bodies.

The recipient organizations would be licensed and employers that are found to be engaged in irregularities would be subject to fines or being publicly named, according to the proposal.

The oversight body

would also have a consulting office with staff capable of speaking trainees' languages and provide temporary asylum and look for alternative employers if necessary, according to the report.

Around 155,000 people — many from China and Vietnam — received skills training in late 2013 under the programme.

The report proposes that employers recognized to have good practices would be allowed to hire trainees for up to five years from the maximum three years now.

It also cited the need for flexibility in adding job categories to suit demands that differ from one region to another. A total of 68 categories including textiles, machinery and metalworking are currently covered, effectively helping businesses in regional areas.

The government is hoping to extend the training period and add nursing care amid growing worker shortages in the sector.

Kyodo News



An Indonesian child swims on a wood board off the Enemawira beach in the islands of Sangihe, North Sulawesi, Indonesia, on 29 Jan, 2015.
XINHUA

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'Terminator Geneisys' trailer to be revealed during Super Bowl



Major film studios have booked spots for their various upcoming films.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 30 Jan — Official trailers of 'Terminator Geneisys', 'Tomorrowland', 'Jurassic World' and 'Ted 2' among others will be released during Super Bowl XLIX. The sports event will take place on 1 February. Major film studios have booked spots for their various upcoming films, reported *Deadline*.

Other films such as 'Jurassic World', 'Ted 2', 'Kingsman: The Secret Service' and 'SpongeBob Movie' will also get a TV spot during the major sports event. Paramount has reserved spot for 'Geneisys' and 'The SpongeBob Movie: Sponge Out of Water'.

Seattle Seahawks is facing off the New England Patriots at the game which takes place at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona.

Singer Katy Perry will perform during the halftime show, while musician Lenny Kravitz will serve as one of her special guests.—PTI

Justin Bieber apologizes to fans for being arrogant

LOS ANGELES, 30 Jan — Pop sensation Justin Bieber took to Facebook to share a video of him apologizing to his fans for his arrogant behaviour in the past year.

The 20-year-old 'Never Say Never' singer posted the video after tapping an appearance on 'The Ellen DeGeneres Show', reported *Ace Showbiz*.

He captioned the video, "Here we go." "So, I just wanted to make a video because I wanted to express how I feel right now. So today, I was on 'Ellen' and it was a lot of fun. She's amazing. It was her birthday.

Happy Birthday, Ellen! But I was really nerv-

ous because I'm just, I was afraid of what people are thinking about me right now."

"It's been a minute since I've done a public appearance and I didn't want to come off arrogant or conceited or basically how I've been acting the past year, year and a half," he added.

"And I was, I'm not who I was pretending to be. Why I say pretending is often, we pretend to be something we're not as a cover up of what we're truly feeling inside. And there were a lot of feelings going on in there.

"Um, just being young and growing up in this busi-



Pop sensation Justin Bieber

ness is hard. Growing up in general is hard, but um, yeah, I just felt awkward up there. I felt people were judging me and I really want people to know how much I care, how much I care about people, and how I'm not that person to say 'I don't care' you know? I'm not that kid."

"I'm a person who genuinely cares and although what's happened in the past has happened, I just want to make the best impression on people and be kind and loving and gentle and soft and although people can call me a 'softy,' that's how my mom raised me," he continued.—PTI

"Akira" creator Katsuhiro Otomo wins top prize at French festival

PARIS, 30 Jan — Katsuhiro Otomo, the creator of the "Akira" manga series, won top prize at France's renowned Angouleme international comics festival on Thursday, becoming the first Japa-

nese to receive the event's top honor.

The science fiction manga features a "Neo-Tokyo" built after the city's destruction by a blast that triggered World War III.

Akira was first serialized in 1982 and has been

translated into English and French. It was also adapted to the screen in 1988.

The 60-year-old Otomo expressed surprise at the award and said he would "treasure the prize as encouragement and continue to create good

manga."

The festival also awarded a special Grand Prix to cartoonists of the French satirical newspaper *Charlie Hebdo* who were shot dead by Islamist gunmen in Paris on 7 January.

The festival will be held through Sunday. It is expected to attract roughly 200,000 visitors.

Kyodo News

Katy Perry's Super Bowl promise: lion, sharks and live singing

LOS ANGELES, 30 Jan — Pop singer Katy Perry on Thursday teased a lion, sharks and at least some live singing during her Super Bowl halftime performance, the most-watched dozen minutes annually on US television.

The "Roar" singer wouldn't divulge much about her Sunday gig at the NFL title game but did say to expect an unnamed "old school" female singer as a surprise performer in addition to rocker Lenny Kravitz.

"I think I'm going to play on my strengths, which are humour, incredible joy. ... I just hope at the end of the day that over 100 million people are smiling in unison," Perry told a news conference at the Phoenix Convention Centre.

The 30-year-old pop star, known for her colourful costumes and songs about female empowerment, would not say how much of her singing would be pre-recorded, often an

issue that has earned criticism for singers performing at big events.

"I think a lot of it will be live," said Perry, who boasts Twitter's largest following.

Two years ago, the run-up to Beyonce's halftime performance was overshadowed by her lip-synched performance at President Barack Obama's inauguration.

Perry will perform her hits at University of Phoenix Stadium in Glendale, Arizona, at the Super Bowl match-up of the New England Patriots and the Seattle Seahawks.

Last year's halftime show, headlined by singer Bruno Mars and Red Hot Chili Peppers, attracted a record 115.3 million TV viewers, slightly more than the game itself averaged.

A performance at the Super Bowl is considered the music industry's top promotional platform.

Reuters

Taylor Swift patents lyrics of her songs

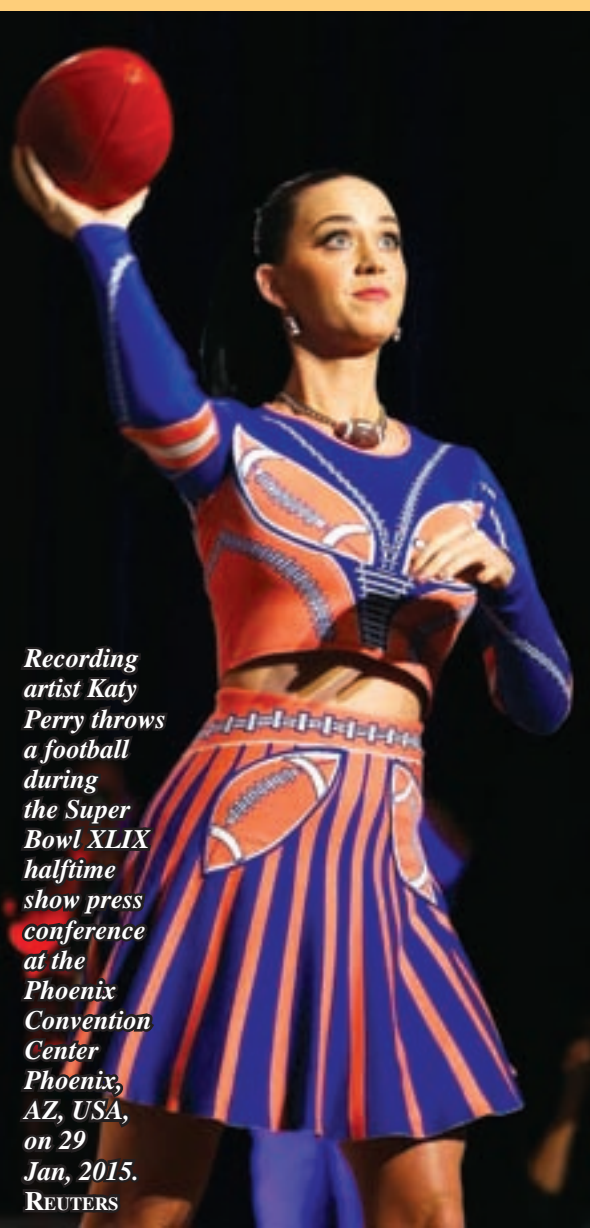


Singer Taylor Swift

LOS ANGELES, 30 Jan — Singer Taylor Swift has patented lyrics from her latest album '1989', prohibiting others from using them on various items including T-shirts and printed publications without her consent. Swift, 25, has trademarked 'This Sick Beat' from her single 'Shake It Off' and also phrases like 'Cause We Never Go Out of Style', 'Party Like It's 1989', 'Nice to Meet You' 'Where You Been?' and 'Could Show You Incredible Things', from '1989', reported *Aceshowbiz*.

People cannot use these lines on everything from T-shirts, mugs, removable tattoos, stickers and stationary to 'paper products, printed products and printed publications'.

The news came just a day after Swift's social media accounts were hacked. The hackers sent several posts convincing the singer's 51 million Twitter followers to follow other Twitter users. Swift then responded to the hack on Tumblr. "Twitter is deleting the hacker tweets and locking my account until they can figure out how this happened and get me new passwords. Never a dull moment," she wrote.—PTI



Recording artist Katy Perry throws a football during the Super Bowl XLIX halftime show press conference at the Phoenix Convention Center Phoenix, AZ, USA, on 29 Jan, 2015. REUTERS

GENERAL

Four A-bomb survivors recognized as radiation-related disease sufferers

OSAKA, 30 Jan— The Osaka District Court on Friday recognized four of seven plaintiffs from Hyogo and Kyoto prefectures as sufferers of radiation-related diseases, invalidating government decisions that turned down their applications for such recognition. The plaintiffs were not recognized under revised standards set in 2013 that expanded eligibility for the government's special medical allowances for sufferers of

atomic bomb radiation-related diseases.

Presiding Judge Takahiro Nishida said the 2013 guidelines appear to have "underestimated exposed dose and other factors, including the fact that they didn't take internal exposure into consideration."

"This ruling marks the first case that clearly rejects the new standards," said a lawyer for the plaintiffs. The seven plaintiffs, in-

cluding 81-year-old Hiroo Kawakami, were exposed to radiation in the Hiroshima or Nagasaki atomic bombings by the United States in August 1945, developing conditions such as hypothyroidism and cataracts, according to the complaint.

Regarding the four plaintiffs suffering from hypothyroidism, "It is reasonable to think (their condition) stemmed from exposure to radiation and they are in

need of medical treatment. The rejection was illegal," the ruling said.

But the court rejected the plaintiffs' demand for 3 million yen each in damages. The state set the new standards in late 2013 after easing the requirements for certification in 2008 as many atomic bomb survivors had been recognized as sufferers of radiation-related diseases in a series of lawsuits.

Kyodo News

Asia-Pacific commits to ending AIDS by 2030, endorses post-2015 framework

BANGKOK, 30 Jan — Asia-Pacific countries endorsed a regional framework for action on HIV and AIDS beyond 2015 at an intergovernmental meeting here on Friday, pledging to end the AIDS epidemic in the region by 2030.

The framework includes a move towards sustainable financing of AIDS response and ensuring affordable access to life-saving medicine and diagnostics.

During the three-day Asia-Pacific Intergovernmental Meeting on HIV and AIDS, government delegates and civil society organizations reviewed measures to enhance financial sustainability and effectiveness of the region's HIV response and to strengthen regional cooperation.

The meeting was organized by the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), in cooperation with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Development

Programme (UNDP), and other UN entities.

Participants focused in particular on addressing legal and policy barriers to accessing services for key populations at higher risk of HIV and persons living with HIV, which include discrimination in employment, health care, education, travel and insurance.

An estimated 6 million people are living with HIV in Asia and the Pacific and only 33 percent of them are receiving treatment, often due to legal and policy barriers in accessing HIV services.

"We must promote laws, policies and practices that are evidence-based and firmly grounded in human rights. We must continue to identify and remove legal and policy barriers to universal access to HIV services," said Dr Shamshad Akhtar, UN Under Secretary General and ESCAP Executive Secretary.

Xinhua

Ginola denies FIFA presidency bid is over

LONDON, 30 Jan — Confusion surrounded David Ginola's unlikely bid for the FIFA presidency on Thursday when his campaign website said all financial donations would be returned, but the former France international denied he was pulling out.

It appeared that Ginola's attempt to oust FIFA president Sepp Blatter had run its course when he issued a statement saying donations to his campaign would be refunded.

"A huge thank you for supporting Team Ginola. The funding page is now closed. All donations will be returned to those that have pledged," the former France international said on www.teamginola.com.

"The fight is not over. Football still needs to change. I urge you to continue to vocalise your craving for change in football in whatever way you can.

"Let it be known that no matter how small you think your voice may be alone, if we speak together we will be heard. Whilst FIFA may



Former footballer David Ginola from France speaks at a press conference where he announced his campaign to stand for the FIFA presidency in London, on 16 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

not be an open democracy for the footballing public, our opinions will be heeded, only if we persist."

Ginola, however, later said on Twitter that his bid was still alive. "Not giving up, still in the race to reboot football! Will not give up... final nomination results might not be known before 8th February," he said.

Ginola launched his shock presidency bid two weeks ago, assuming the role of the "fans' champion" under the slogan of "Re-booting Football".

Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(31-1-15 07:00 am~ 1-2-15 07:00 am) MST

- | | |
|--|--|
| * Local News | * A Life In The Ring |
| * Great Shwedagon "Historic and Mysterious Places" | * Local News |
| * World News | * Distinct People, Different Lifestyles (Pan-Pack Village) |
| * Sagaing: Gold Leaf | * World News |
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| * World News | * Myanmar Delicate Artistic Creations - Gem Stone Painting |
| | * World News |
| | * Traffic Police |

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(31-1-2015, Saturday)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 6:00 am | 3:35 pm |
| • Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw | • Amazing World |
| 6:25 am | 4:00 pm |
| • Physical Exercise | • News / Weather Report |
| 7:00 am | 4:35 pm |
| • News/ Weather Report | • Game for Children |
| 7:35 am | 5:50 pm |
| • Hyper Sport | • 68 th Anniversary Union Day Programme |
| 8:30 am | 6:35 pm |
| • Head Line News | • MRTV's Youth Programme |
| 9:35 am | 7:00 pm |
| • Documentary (ASEAN) | • News |
| 10:00 am | 7:30 pm |
| • News /International News | • Head Line News |
| 11:35 am | 7:35 pm |
| • Current Affairs | • Business News |
| 12:00 noon | 8:00 pm |
| • News / International News / Weather Report | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 12:35 pm | 9:00 pm |
| • Hluttaw Image | • News |
| 12:50 pm | • Montly Weather Report |
| • Round Up of The Week's TV News | • Cultural Show (Part-2) |
| 2:00 pm | • Gitadagale Phwintbarohn |
| • Round Up of The Week's Hluttaw News | |

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(31-1-2015, Saturday)

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| 6:00 am | 7:05 am |
| • Travelogue Programme | • Teleplay |
| 6:20 am | 7:50 am |
| • Honour Song of Alinka Kyaw Swar Myoma Nyein | • Teleplay |
| 6:40 am | 9:10 am |
| • Myanmar Series | • Dramatic Arts |
| 6:55 am | 10:20 am |
| • Fashion Show | • Myanmar Video |
| | 12:00 noon |
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Mattek-Sands and Safarova claim women's doubles title



(from L to R) Bethanie Mattek-Sands of the US, Lucie Safarova of the Czech Republic, Zheng Jie of China, and Chan Yung-Jan of Chinese Taipei pose with their trophies after their women's doubles final at the 2015 Australian Open tennis tournament at Melbourne Park in Melbourne, Australia, on 30 Jan, 2015. Bethanie Mattek-Sands and Lucie Safarova won 2-0. —XINHUA

MELBOURNE, 30 Jan — American Bethanie Mattek-Sands and her Czech partner Lucie Safarova won their first grand slam women's doubles titles at the Australian Open on Friday with a 6-4, 7-6(5) victory over China's Zheng Jie and Taiwan's partner Chan Yung-jan.

The unseeded Mattek-Sands and Safarova beat five seeded pairings to win the title on Rod Laver Arena, the first of the titles to be decided at this year's Australian Open.

It was also the first time the 29-year-old Mattek-Sands and 27-year-old

Safarova had played together in a tournament, and they are the first new pairing to win the women's doubles title at Melbourne Park since 2005.

Mattek-Sands won the mixed doubles title at Melbourne Park with Romania's Horia Tecau in 2012.

The victory makes up for a disappointing singles campaign for Safarova, who entered the season opening grand slam as the 16th seed but lost in the first round to Yaroslava Shvedova. Mattek-Sands made the third round of the singles, losing to third seed Simona Halep.— *Reuters*

UAE beat Iraq to finish third at Asian Cup

NEWCASTLE, (Australia), 30 Jan —The United Arab Emirates overcame a 10-man Iraq 3-2 in an action-packed Asian Cup third-placed playoff on Friday to complete an impressive tournament for Mahdi Ali's side.

Ahmed Khalil netted twice before Ali Mabkhout converted a second-half penalty for his fifth of the tournament to take him top of the scorers' charts with only Saturday's final between hosts Australia and South Korea to come in Sydney.

UAE playmaker Omar Abdulrahman was again at the heart of his side's good play, with two brilliant assists for Khalil, who stepped in as skipper with goalkeeper Majed Naser rested after the 2-0 semi-final loss to Australia.

The opener came in the 16th

minute when Abdulrahman controlled a long ball from deep and played a one-two with Mabkhout before sliding an inviting pass for Khalil to slot home under the on-rushing Mohammed Hameed in the Iraq goal.

The neat counter-attack goal had a negative effect on the UAE, who knocked out holders Japan in the last eight, with Iraq taking a grip of the game and the lead just before the halftime break.

Careless defending in the 28th minute allowed fullback Waleed Salim to break into the UAE penalty area and his right foot shot deflected home off Khamis Esmael. The 2007 champions, beaten 2-0 by the Koreans in the semis, had already hit the post via talismanic striker Younis Mahmoud and they deservedly took the lead three minutes before



UAE's Ali Mabkhout (L) is fouled by Iraq's Ahmed Ibrahim in the penalty box during their Asian Cup third-place playoff soccer match at the Newcastle Stadium in Newcastle on 30 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

the break. A powerful drive by Ahmed Yaseen Ghani was parried by debutant UAE keeper Khalid

Eisa with Amjed Kalaf on hand to divert home into an unguarded net. The match in Newcastle,

watched by FIFA President Sepp Blatter and AFC head Salman bin Ebrahim Al Khalifa, turned on its head, though, early in the second half.

A brilliant lofted ball by Abdulrahman put Khalil clear of the Iraq defence and he shifted past Hameed and slotted a second in the 51st minute to tie the game at 2-2. A sloppy clearance from the keeper four minutes later went straight to Mabkhout, who was bundled over by defender Ahmed Ibrahim in the penalty area.

The Iraq centreback was rightly sent off as last man with Mabkhout stepping up to roll in the spot kick. The UAE, Asian Cup runners-up in 1990, failed to press home the numerical advantage with Iraq threatening an equaliser as the Emiratis sat deep.—Reuters

Rusty Woods delivers good, bad and ugly

SCOTTSDALE, (Arizona), 30 Jan — Tiger Woods mixed the good and bad with a fair dose of the ugly on the way to an opening two-over-par 73 at the Waste Management Phoenix Open on Thursday in his first PGA Tour start of the season.

Playing in only his second tournament in five months after enduring back problems for much of last year, the former world number one looked rusty as he struggled with his short game under leaden skies at the TPC Scottsdale. Woods sprayed his drives, under-hit several approaches and was a frustrated figure after duffing a few chip shots from just off the green before ending the day a distant eight strokes off the early lead.

"It was just about trying to be so committed to the swing change and do it," Woods, who has been working with new consultant Chris Como, told reporters after hitting only five of 14 fairways and reaching 10 of 18 greens in regulation. "I struggled with it at the very beginning. I saw a lot of balls go to the right, then I started to fix it on the back nine.

"I just need tournament rounds like this where I can fight, fight through it, turn it around, grind through it and make adjustments on the fly." The highlight of his round was an eagle at the par-five 13th where he struck a four-iron from 226 yards to within a foot of the cup and knocked in the putt to spark loud roars from the massive galleries watching his every move. Woods also thrilled the crowds with his tee shot at the par-four 17th, driving the green from 342 yards and then two-putting from 18 feet for birdie. But the bad and ugly components cost him dearly, particularly on his first 11 holes, as he recorded four bogeys, a birdie and a double at the par-three fourth where he failed to reach the green off the tee and then fluffed his second shot.

The galleries were lined six deep on either side of the fairway when Woods arrived on the tee at the par-four first to a rapturous welcome, one fan shouting out: "Good luck Tiger" and another yelling: "It's your year, baby". However, Woods missed the fairway to the right on the opening hole and ended up short of the green with his approach at the second as he set the tone with consecutive bogeys.—Reuters



Tiger Woods plays from the rough on the 15th hole during the first round of the Waste Management Phoenix Open at TPC Scottsdale, AZ, USA on 29 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

Win or lose, Australia benefits from reaching Asian Cup final

SYDNEY, 30 Jan — Australia, perhaps more than most countries, know the benefits that winning in sport brings to a nation. And few Australians know that better than the country's long suffering soccer fans.

For years, soccer has been regarded as a fringe sport in Australia, overshadowed by cricket, rugby league and Australian Rules Football.

Right now though, soccer is the sport on every Australian's mind with the country hosting South Korea in Saturday's Asian Cup final.

A sellout crowd of more than 80,000 people will pack into Sydney's Olympic stadium while millions more will watch on television as the Socceroos try to win their first major international title.

But for head coach Ange Postecoglou, a man on a mission to get Australians to fall in love with soccer, winning the championship is secondary to his bigger goal.

"It would certainly help because with success comes all sorts of other benefits, but it's not the be all and end all either," he told a news conference on Friday.

"Just as important is the manner in which we've played and the manner in which we're performed in these games, because I think it's got people excited about watching a game of football.

"In a country like ours, that's really important because the game is still growing and it'll only grow when people come to the grounds or turn on their TVs and watch the spectacle."

True to his word, Poste-

coglou has encouraged the Australian players to attack at every opportunity, knowing that is the only way to win over a sceptical nation.

And his strategy is paying off. The Socceroos have scored more goals (12) than any other team in the tournament and have Australians tuning in like never before.

"Obviously we're pleased to be in the final. As the host-nation, we knew it was important that we got there, to make the tournament a success," he said.

"We know it's going to be a great challenge against a great opponent and a sell out crowd.

"It should be a great occasion... and my pride comes from the fact the game in this country has got a real big kick in the last month." A victory would also cap a remarkable decade for Australian soccer. In 2006, Australia made its first appearance at the World Cup finals in 32 years,

and left Oceania to join the Asian Football Confederation, dreaming of bigger things.

The Socceroos qualified for the 2010 and 2014 World Cups and also made the final of the Asian Cup in 2011 but the trophy cabinet remained bare.

In 2013, Australia suffered humiliating, successive 6-0 losses to Brazil and France and public interest in the team was dipping. That was when Postecoglou was appointed head coach. Born in Greece but raised in Australia, he set about transforming the team. Unpopular at first and heavily criticized, even during the Asian Cup, he has succeeded in winning over a country and is now on the verge on delivering Australian soccer the shot in the arm it needs.

"It's not supposed to be smooth," he said.

"Rollercoasters go up and down, that's why they're exciting."—Reuters



Asian Cup Final



Korea Republic

15:30 MST (31.1.2015)



Australia

Asian Cup Australia 2015 3rd/4th Result

Iraq

2 - 3

UAE