

## President U Thein Sein meets Kayin delegation



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo together with Saw Mutu Sae Po, Chairman of the Karen National Union (KNU) and party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb—President U Thein Sein on Tuesday met a Kayin delegation, which is here to attend a commemorative dinner for the 68th

anniversary of Union Day, officials said.

President U Thein Sein had a cordial discussion with Saw Mutu Sae Po, Chairman of the

Karen National Union (KNU), focusing on adding new momentum to ongoing peace talks and the speedy realization of public desires for stability

and peace.

The president was accompanied by Union Ministers U Aung Min, U Khin Yi, U Than Htay and U Ye Htut, and Union

Peace Making Work Committee Vice Chairman U Thein Zaw.

Also present at the call together with the KNU chairman were Pado

Saw Kwe Htoo Win, Saw Isaac, Saw Htoo Htoo Lay, and Saw Damular.

Group photos were taken after the meeting.

MNA

## Electric Power Ministry, JICA celebrate partial completion of Biluchaung No-2 Hydropower Station Rehabilitation Project

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 10 Feb—Myanmar's Ministry of Electric Power and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) on Monday celebrated partial completion of the Biluchaung No-2 Hydropower Station Rehabilitation Project at the plant in Loikaw, Kayah State, in eastern Myanmar.

Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe, JICA President Dr Akihiko Tanaka and officials formally opened the ceremony that marked the completion of first stage in which three machines with installed capacity of 28 megawatts each have now been rehabilitated.

After 55 years of establishment, an all-round rehabilitation of the Biluchaung No-2 Hydropower Station began in July last year with the use of 6,669 million yen from Japan's ODA grant. The rehabilitation project includes main-

tenance and replacement of turbines, generators, penstock and 48 related parts. Following the completion of the first stage, the sec-

ond stage of the project is scheduled to begin at the start of this rainy season.

Upon completion of the rehabilitation pro-

ject, the station, 14-mile southeast of Loikaw, will be able to restore its original strength of (See page 2)



Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe, JICA President Dr. Akihiko Tanaka and officials cut ribbons to open partial handover ceremony of Biluchaung No-2 hydropower Plant rehabilitation project in Loikaw on Monday.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

## Military columns hunt Kokang renegade troops

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb—Military columns continued fighting Tuesday against Kokang renegade

troops who ran away on the second day of clashes, while chasing them out.

(See page 9)

## Myanmar's trade deficit hits more than \$4 billion in first 10 months

YANGON, 10 Feb—Myanmar's trade deficit reached more than US\$4 billion in first 10 months (from April 1, 2014 to Feb. 6, 2015) of the fiscal year 2014-2015, according to statistics released by Ministry of Commerce on Tuesday.

During the period, trade volume totalled \$23,506.756 million, with exports amounting to \$9,649.922 million and imports \$13,856.834 million.

Of the total export, normal trade accounted for \$6,068.588 million, down \$1057.992 million from

normal trade for the same period of the 2013-2014 fiscal year. Border trade made up \$3,569.334 million, up \$116.105 from the same period last FY.

Of total imports, normal trade accounted for \$11,909.495 million; border trade accounted for \$1,947.339million.

Myanmar mostly exports agricultural produce, animal by-products, fishery products, mining and forest products. The Southeast Asian country imports mostly consumers products, raw materials and investment goods.—GNLM





## Pyithu Hluttaw

## Land management to be reformed for urban development



**Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than.**—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb — Deputy Ministers of the government explained Pyithu Hluttaw Tuesday about land management systems under urban development programmes.

Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Khin Maung Nyo of Pauk Township constituency, Magwe region, asked about the plan to relax restrictions and red tapes on land utilization management.

U Ohn Than, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation, said except changing farm lands into other projects, Department of Land Records Office in townships are issuing permits within one-month to valid application for grant lands and mine exploration

### Electric Power Ministry, JICA . . .

(from page 1)  
generating 168 megawatts. As of 2015-2016 FY, it can also thereby contribute to supply of electricity to 255 villages in Kayah State where 112 of 521 villages have had electricity so far. The state is expected to see 90 percent electric power coverage at the end of next



**Deputy Minister U Aung Thein of President Office.**—MNA

across the country excluding in the Nay Pyi Taw council areas and major cities of Yangon and Mandalay.

U Khun Thein Pe, MP of Hopong Township constituency, asked the government plan to demarcate road areas across the country, while people are settling and squatting at roadsides, even erecting walls illegally for compounds.

U Soe Tint, Deputy Minister for Construction, said clear lines will be drawn for demarcation between road areas and residential places, and legal actions will be taken against squatting in road areas.

In response to question of U Thein Nyunt, MP

fiscal year.

Based on the historic post-war agreement of the two governments, the station with installed capacity of 84 megawatts was originally built by Japan in 1954 and its operation started supplying electricity to Yangon in 1960 and Mandalay in 1971. Three more installations

of Thingangyun Township constituency, Deputy Minister U Aung Thein at President Office answered that members of Yangon City Development Committee, MPs of Yangon Region Hluttaw, representatives of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers and Commerce, senior officials of respective ministries held workshops at Yangon City Hall in June and December 2013 and March in 2014 to lay down the rules for Floor Area Ratio (FAR) and Building Coverage Ratio (BCR) under urban development programmes.

U Aung Thein said YCDC has instructed reconstruction and rehabilitation of the buildings which do not meet urbanization standards in Yangon city.

U Kim Sein, MP of Thayetchaung Township constituency, discussed offshore fishing industry is declining, and is likely to collapse in the long term, with suggestion to Union government to prohibit fishing from June 1 to August 31.

Pyithu Hluttaw also accepted three starred questions, one proposal, two bill and invitation to MPs for their proposals.—MNA

with installed capacity of 84 megawatts were completed in 1974. The plant serves as one of main electric power sources, generating around 10 percent of electricity in Myanmar.

Despite blessing with several sources for generating electric power, more than 70 percent of the population, or over 7.1 million households still lack access

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb — Dr Myat Nyana Soe, MP of Yangon Region constituency 4, asked whether the government has a pragmatic and sound plan with systematic use of budget for Nay Pyi Taw development programmes as budget allocation for the new capital is higher than any other major cities of the country.

The previous administration founded it and regarded as the capital, as per 2008 Constitution.

U Kan Chun, member of Nay Pyi Taw Council, said there is no waste of budget for the capital with the Town Plan to meet international standards to become a clean and tidy 'green city' after the capital has been developed with sustainable infrastructural sectors to promote social lives of residents, business and human resources.

Replying to the question of U Paw Htan Tai, MP of Chin State about preparations of Union Election Commission for 2015 general elections, a member of the electoral body said transparent advance voting system has been stipulated in electoral bylaws for respective Hluttaws.

to electricity in Myanmar which has more than nine million households.

The Myanmar government has committed to achieving a national electrification coverage target for all households by 2030 in cooperation with international organizations including the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). —GNLM

## Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

## Detention and Contrition Act amendment bill put on record

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb — The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session on Tuesday placed on record a bill that amends the Detention and Contrition Act of 1961 which is assumed to be approved by

The two parliaments hold different opinions on a bill concerned with the protection of the rights for national races, which came under discussion and sought the approval of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. —MNA

*Representatives of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw debate amendment of detention and contrition act.*—MNA

## Amyotha Hluttaw

## No waste of budget in Nay Pyi Taw development plan, says council member



**Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Kan Chun.**—MNA

He also said advance voting system will be explained in the election management courses.

Under the electoral law the eligible voters, except those who have cast advance vote, will have to cast votes at poll station in person, and no one is allowed on behalf of them.

He assured that UEC has adopted a 12-point



**Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region constituency 4.**—MNA

five-year strategic plan from 2014 to 2018, including preparations for holding 2015 general elections successfully.

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw decided question and answers of this issue will be described in Myanmar Gazette in accordance with Amyotha Hluttaw Rules 122.

MNA

## Appointment of ambassador agreed on

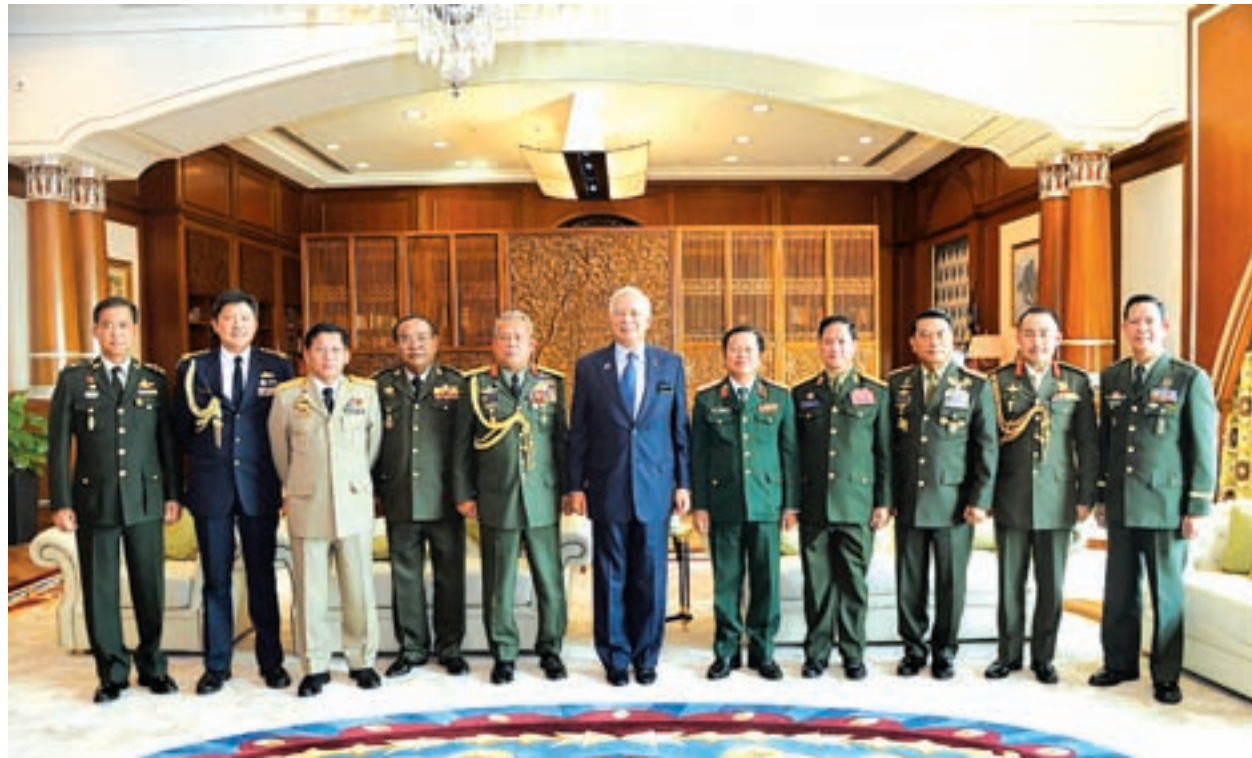
NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb — The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Nicholas Coppel as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Australia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Yangon.

Mr. Nicholas Coppel was born on 13 March 1958. He graduated with Bachelor of Economics from the Australian National University and Master of Business Administration from London Business School. From 1986 to 2013, he served in various capacities at the Australian Embassies in Washington, Manila and Port Moresby and also at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Since November 2013, he has been serving as Assistant Secretary of the People Smuggling Taskforce at the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.—MNA



NATIONAL

## Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends 12<sup>th</sup> ACDFIM in Kuala Lumpur



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for documentary photo with military chiefs of ASEAN countries.—MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb—World nations are striving to enable their people to enjoy higher social status, security and stability, working together with

regional countries, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing told the 12<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting (12<sup>th</sup> ACDFIM) on Tuesday in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Service Senior General Min Aung Hlaing recalled ASEAN's success stories in cooperation with international organizations and dialogue partners in maintaining peace and sta-

bility, enhancing security, building mutual trust and stepping up counter-terror-

## President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Iran

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Hassan Rouhani, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the occasion of the National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which falls on 11 February 2015.—MNA

ism efforts.

“The spread of terrorist networks across the world has propelled us into the exchange of information through effective teamwork,” he said, stressing the need to counter terrorism by honing human capacity to strengthen economic growth.

ASEAN should come together to establish a united regional community and ensure its people stability, peace and security, he urged.

The army chiefs at the 12<sup>th</sup> ACDFIM signed a joint statement, following

a meeting on a two-year project to be implemented by the defence forces of the Southeast Asian bloc from 2015 to 2017.

The 13<sup>th</sup> ACDFIM will take place in Laos.

In the evening, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing paid a courtesy call on Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Tun Razak and discussed regional affairs.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing also attended a press conference relating to the 12<sup>th</sup> ACDFIM and responded to queries raised by the media.

Myawady

## Union FM sends message of felicitations to Iran

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Feb—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Mohammad Javad Zarif, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on the occasion of the National Day of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which falls on 11 February 2015.—MNA

## Myanmar's first low-head hydropower plant in Mandalay Region



Union Ministers attend launching of Deedok (lower head) hydropower project.—MNA

MANDALAY, 10 Feb—A low-head hydropower project was started on Tuesday in an area 12 miles off the Yeywa power plant in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region, officials said.

Speaking at the ceremony, Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe said top priority is given to the power supply sector alongside the energy sector.

According to the union minister, Myanmar sees a 15 percent increase of power demand every year, which he expects will hit

4,531 megawatts in 2020 and 8,020 in 2025 and 14,542 in 2030.

The country has 43 power plants, whose actual generation is 4,987 megawatts but this year they can produce only 2,232 megawatts. He stressed that measures are being taken to ensure less effect on the environs of the project.

Myanmar mainly relies on its rich water sources to generate electricity.

Upon completion, Deedok, the low-head hydropower project, is expected to produce 279.6

kilowatt hours a year.

Myanmar signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Australia on 7 May last year. According to the agreement, Australia will provide loans to Myanmar for the construction of the low-head power project with the help of Swiss engineers, which will take four years to complete.

The ceremony was attended by Union Ministers U Soe Thane, U Win Tun, U Zeyar Aung, U Ohn Myint, Dr Myint Aung and Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint.—MNA

## Myanmar, Japan discuss natural disaster management

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb—Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and also Chair of the National Disaster Preparedness Work Committee, accepted a Japanese delegation led by Mr Kenichiro Ueno, Parliamentary

Vice Minister for Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, here on Tuesday.

Their discussions involved measures being taken in line with the law and regulations on disaster preparedness, philanthropic services, the opening of a disaster management train-

ing school, issues related to the third UN conference on natural disaster risks reduction to be held in Japan, and technical cooperation with Japan. Myanmar will have its first natural disaster management school in Hinthata, Ayeyawady Region.—MNA



Union Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin receives Mr Kenichiro Ueno, Parliamentary Vice Minister for Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan.—MNA



## Faculty members, researchers join Research and Knowledge Sharing Forum

MANDALAY, 10 Feb — Medical Research Department (Upper Myanmar) of the Ministry of Health and University of Medicine (Mandalay) jointly organized the Research and Knowledge Sharing Forum at Aungpinle Hall at the corner of 73<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> streets in Mandalay on 9 February, with an address by Rector of Mandalay University of Medicine Dr Tin Maung Han.

Faculty members and researchers of Mandalay University of Medicine and the department submitted nine papers at the forum.



They made posters and presentations and scientific talks on medical research.

It was also attended by Director-General Dr Yi Yi Myint of Medical Research

Department (Upper Myanmar) and officials.  
*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

## Tatkon Township commissions two upgraded roads



TATKON, 10 Feb — As a gesture of hailing the 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Union Day, a new gravel road and a new asphalt road were commissioned into service in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on Tuesday.

The gravel road and

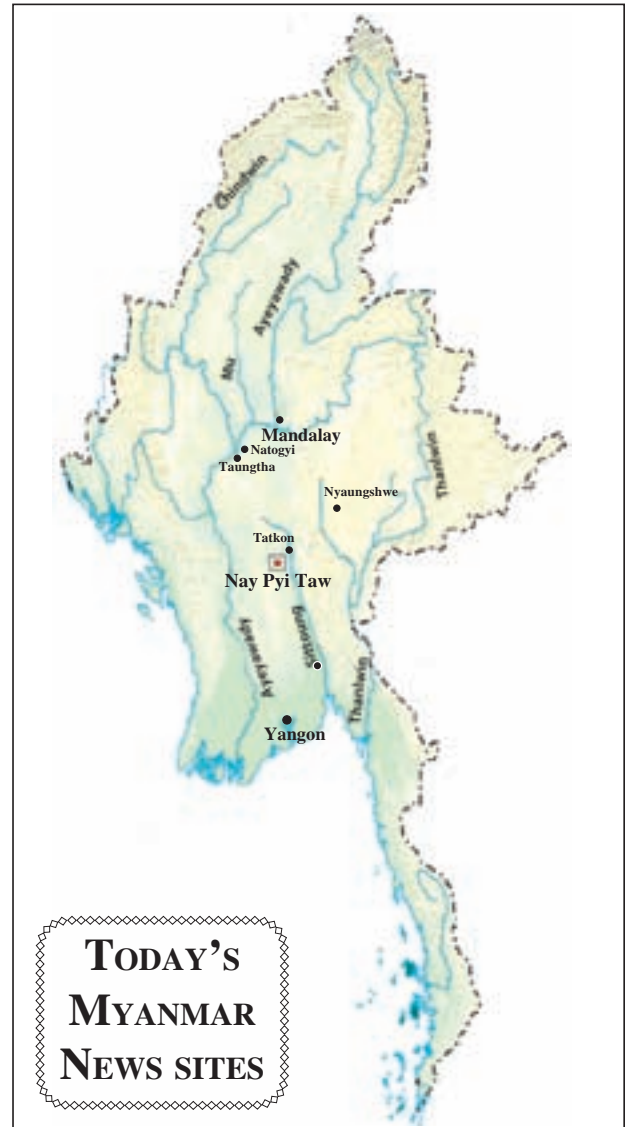
asphalt road are 7,920 feet long and 10 feet wide each. The gravel road links Yangon-Mandalay Highway and Kyathay-aing Village. The asphalt road connects with Yangon-Mandalay Highway and Nweyit Village.

Nay Pyi Taw Council allotted K218.558 million budget for construction of the two roads in 2014-15 fiscal year. Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee constructed the both roads.

Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myint Shwe and

officials formally opened the roads. Thanks to new roads, local people in Nweyit, Zayatgyi and Layeinsu villages enjoy fruits of better transport.

*Tin Soe Lwin (IPRD)*



**To mark Myanmar Children's Day which falls on 13 February 2015, Kyaikwaing Youth Training School of Social Welfare Department organizes sports contests. On 10 February, Myanmarpyi Chitchin Myitta team played against Ahnaingme Parahita Home in football tournament.**  
KHIN ZAW (MINGALA)

## Dredging of lake help supply drinking water to locals

NATOGYI, 10 Feb — Mandalay Region Agriculture and Livestock Breeding Minister U Myint Than inspected Kyaungbon Mingala Lake being dredged by Township Irrigation Department at Pyinsi Village in Natogyi Township, Mandalay Region, on 9 February.

Assistant Director U

Maung Lwin of Myingyan District Irrigation Department and officials reported on progress of the dredging works.

Director U Htay Oo of Mandalay Region Irrigation Department and officials submitted reports on maintenance of bund, and dredging of drains, to Myitta Lake in Pyinsi Village,

plans to maintain the lakes in Myingyan and NyaungU Districts and hiring of heavy machinery from private companies for timely completion of dredging works.

Upon completion, the lake will supply water to Pyinsi Village and its surrounding villages.

*Htay Myint Maung*

## Local farmers get good price for cold season groundnut

NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb — Local farmers in Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, cultivate cold season groundnut in their croplands.

This year, the growers

get good price for groundnut. Cold season groundnut yields about 75 baskets per acre, said farmer U Myint Maung of Kyathaungtaung Village in Lewe Township.

Farmers from Kyaytanku, Pinnahmyaung, Thitpokpin, Chaungtein and Chaungkhwa villages in Lewe Township cultivate cold season groundnut.—*Township IPRD*

## Departmental exhibition hails Union Day, centennial birthday of General Aung San

MYAWADY, 10 Feb — As a gesture of hailing the 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Union Day and centennial birthday of General Aung San, the departmental exhibition and market festival were opened at the Mya Sandi

Park in ward 4, Myawady, Kayin State, on 9 February. District's deputy commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo, Commander of District Police Force Police Lt-Col Moe Nyo, Chairman of Township Development

Affairs Committee U Than Shwe and Chairman of Township Development Supporting Committee U Myint Kyaw formally the exhibition and visited there.

*Tun Tun Oo (Myawady)*





LOCAL NEWS

## Agriculturists demonstrate nurturing of summer paddy saplings

NYAUNGSHWE, 10 Feb — The systematic cultivation of summer paddy was demonstrated in Mongpyo Village-tract in Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State on 8 February, aimed at developing the agriculture sector and alleviating poverty of local farmers.

Head of Township Agriculture Department U Zaw Win Tun discussed enhancement of agriculture sector and good agriculture patterns adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation to the farmers. Staff of the department demonstrated

nurturing of saplings on small dykes.

It was also attended by Shan State Hluttaw Representative U Aung Kyi Win, Head of Township Agriculture Department U Zaw Win Tun and over 100 local farmers.

*Nay Myo Thurein*



## Wall magazine, photo and book shows widen horizon of students



NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb — Dekkhina District Information and Public Relations Department and Zabuthiri Township Basic Education

High School No 6 jointly conducted the wall magazine, photo and book shows in commemoration of the 68<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Union Day and centennial birthday of General Aung San at the school's hall on Tuesday morning.

Headmaster of the

school U Myint Thein explained biography and admirable activities of General Aung San and Staff Officer of District IPRD Daw Thida Aye, Union spirit.

Deputy Director Daw Thin Thin Zin and officials presented prizes to winners in the essay, extempore talks and poem recitation contests in commemoration of the Myanmar Children's Day.

The wall magazine depicts biography and political activities of General Aung San, excerpts from speeches of the general, and biographies of representatives who signed the Panglong Agreement. Students viewed the wall magazine and documentary photos.

*Tun Tun Win (Pinyinmana)*

## Wellwishers donate cash to fund for upgrading of libraries

NYAUNGSHWE, 10 Feb — With the aim of contributing to widening scope of knowledge of the people, U Khun Ba Htwe and party of Kangyi Ward in Taunggyi, Shan State, donated K1.5 million to the fund for upgrading Nyaungshwe Township Library of Information and Public Relations Department and K 3 million

to Sao San Tun Library on 7 February.

Head of Township IPRD U Nay Myo Threin and library chairman U Kyaw Tun Aye accepted the cash donations.

Shan State Hluttaw representative Dr Tun Aung and library committee members were in attendance.—*Township IPRD*



## Health officials share health knowledge for pregnant women



NAY PYI TAW, 10 Feb — A health knowledge talk and roundtable discussion was held at Basic Education Middle School in Nyobin Village, Lewe Township, on 8 February.

Director of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Health De-

partment Dr Hla Hla Kyi explained awareness for TB, dengue haemorrhagic fever and health knowledge for pregnant women.

About 150 people joined the age-wise health discussions.

*Township IPRD*

## IPRD staff issue citizenship scrutiny cards to eligible citizens

TAUNGTHA, 10 Feb — Taungtha Township Immigration and National Registration Department, Mandalay Region, made field trips to the grassroots level for issuance of citizenship scrutiny

cards to the eligible people, while implementing Moe Pwint Special Plan.

On 9 February, staff of the department led by Head of Township INRD U Kyaw Kyaw Khaing

delivered the cards to 126 people in Thamakku Village-tract.

The department has issued the cards to 1,102 people from 1 January to date.

*Kyaw Myo Naing (Taungtha)*

*Old students pay respects to 44 retired teachers at Myawady Hall of Basic Education High School No 1 in Myawady, Kayin State, on 8 February. TUN TUN OO (MYAWADY TOWN)*





## Thailand, Japan sign MoI on railway cooperation

BANGKOK, 10 Feb — Thailand and Japan have signed a Memorandum of Intent (MoI) on cooperation in developing Thailand's rail system, said a statement posted on the Thai government's site on Tuesday.

The two countries have signed the MoI "on the study and development of 3 rail routes (urgent phase) in Thailand which would connect both East-West and North-South Economic Corridors," the statement said.

The document was signed in Japan, witnessed by visiting Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha and his Japanese counterpart Shinzo Abe.

Prayut left for Japan on Sunday and is scheduled to return to Thailand on Tuesday evening.

On Tuesday morning, Prayut was briefed on Japan's rail routes and

rail system development at Tokyo Station and then visited Shinkansen Control Centre at the station before taking on a Shinkansen ride to Osaka, according to the statement.

Thailand has planned to develop 1,435-metre rail tracks at an initial stage, while Shinkansen will be a future option, Prayut was quoted by the statement as saying.

While in Japan, Prayut and Abe also talked about Dawei Special Economic Zone in Myanmar, which is the largest economic project in Southeast Asia to connect the Greater Mekong Sub-region with South Asia, the statement said.

Special economic zones along the border areas adjacent to Thailand's four neighbouring countries were also discussed.

"These projects would provide great economic op-



*Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) and Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha end their joint Press conference following their talks at Abe's office in Tokyo on 9 Feb, 2015.—KYODO NEWS*

portunity to the Japanese private sector with Thailand as production base, connecting point, and product distribution hub of the region," it said.

On Thailand's political situation, Prayut said in Japan that the constitutional drafting process is about to complete, and a general

election is expected to be held early next year.

Prayut ensured that Thailand has been making its utmost effort in resolving problems in a comprehensive manner, and would soon become a country with sustainable and strong democracy, the statement said.—Xinhua

## Australia's defence chief moves to clarify gov't stance on submarine contract

CANBERRA, 10 Feb — Australia's Defence Minister Kevin Andrews has dampened hopes that an Australian company might yet win the contract to build Australia's next generation of submarines.

Prime Minister Tony Abbott last week gave South Australian company, Australian Submarine Corporation, renewed hope it would win the lucrative construction contract but Andrews on Tuesday moved to clarify the government's position, saying the decision would now be subject to a "competitive evaluation process."

Speaking at a media conference on Tuesday, Andrews said: "We have to evaluate this, we have to do it in a way which is methodical and cautious ... And obviously there has to be a competitive element to that." "I am the defence minister, I am deciding the way in which we go forward this and the way we are going forward with this in a competitive evaluation process."

This would seem to be at odds with Abbott's comments at the weekend, when the prime minister said: "You would expect Australian suppliers to get a fair go."

Andrews' intervention caught South Australian members of parliament by surprise. South Australia Liberal Senator Sean Edwards said the term "competitive evaluation process" had not been mentioned until now, and he was disappointed at the apparent about-face.

"When I spoke to the

prime minister and I said 'let me be very clear, does that mean ASC would be able to participate in this process?' And he confirmed that they would," Edwards said.

The debate surrounding the submarine contract is the latest in a string of controversies which has marked the tender process.

In October 2014, Abbott explained that Australian companies would not be given preferential treatment, for fear the Australian Defence Force was left with "substandard" submarines.

The following month, the then Defense Minister Senator David Johnston lashed out at the Adelaide-based ASC, saying he would not trust it to "build a canoe." Until this recent debate, the leading contenders for the contract were Japanese shipbuilders, with the Japanese government ready to sign a deal to build a new fleet of Soryu-class submarines.

On Tuesday, the federal opposition accused the prime minister of renegeing on that deal in a cheap attempt to gain votes before the Liberal Party's leadership spill motion on Monday, which was voted down 61 votes to 39.

Labour Senator David Feeney said he was shocked the prime minister would use the contract as a bargaining tool for holding office.

"How can it possibly be that a project of this significance is bandied across the Liberal Party's factional maneuverings like a bargaining chip? It is a desperate outrage," he said.

Xinhua

## Philippine rebels to return guns of commandos killed in deadly raid

MANILA, 10 Feb — The Philippines' largest Muslim rebel group has promised to return weapons seized from police commandos killed in a deadly clash, the chief negotiator for the guerrillas said on Tuesday, in a bid to save a peace process with the government.

President Benigno Aquino faces his biggest political crisis over a botched operation to capture a wanted militant, amid revelations that a suspended police general who is a close friend played a central role in the raid.

The risky mission to arrest Zulkifli bin Hir, an

al-Qaeda-linked bombmaker with a \$5-million US bounty on his head, went wrong when commandos from the Philippine police's Special Action Force (SAF) were ambushed and 44 were killed. A public outcry has heaped pressure on Aquino to abandon the peace deal signed in March with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), the largest Muslim rebel group in the mainly Catholic country, and seek retribution for the troopers' deaths.

"The MILF has decided to return the firearms and any retrievable personal effects of the fallen SAF in

deference to the peace process," the negotiator, Mohagher Iqbal, said in a letter to Senator Grace Poe, who is holding a public inquiry on the raid.

The MILF was still accounting for all the weapons "to pave the way for their return," Iqbal said. The rebels also promised to appear at the hearing to show their sincerity over the peace process.

Lawmakers had been deliberating a measure to set up a new autonomous government for Muslims in the south, known as the Bangsamoro, a key component of the peace deal. They had

earlier promised to enact the law in March and hold a referendum in May.

But the law would not pass if a vote were held now, said one lawmaker, senator Francis Escudero, as emotions are running high after the raid.

Support for the measure has waned, said Rufus Rodriguez, head of a special panel in the House of Representatives that is considering the law.

"I have to admit that there is an erosion of support within the ad hoc committee and members of Congress," he added.

Reuters

## Malaysia's Anwar loses appeal against sodomy conviction, faces jail



*Malaysia's opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim speaks at a rally in Kuala Lumpur on 9 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS*

KUALA LUMPUR, 10 Feb — Malaysia's highest court rejected on Tuesday an appeal by opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim against a 2014 sodomy conviction and upheld a five-year prison term that will likely end a political career marked by controversy.

Anwar, the ruling party's rising star in the mid-1990s before he fell out with then Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, denied the charge that led to his second conviction for sodomy and said it was politically motivated.

"I will walk again for

the third time into prison but rest assured that I will walk in with my head held high," Anwar said in a statement he read out in court.

"I maintain my innocence. This to me is a complete fabrication coming from a political conspiracy to stop my political career."

The charismatic Anwar, who heads a three-party opposition alliance, has for years been the greatest threat to Malaysia's political establishment. Prime Minister Najib Razak's government has rejected any suggestion of interference in the case.—Reuters



*Workers walk through floodwater at Cipulir textile market in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 10 Feb, 2015. Floods have paralyzed business in parts of Jakarta and forced residents to take shelters.—XINHUA*



## G20 pledges decisive monetary, fiscal action if needed

ISTANBUL, 10 Feb — The Group of 20 (G20) leading economies will pledge to act decisively on monetary and fiscal policy if needed to combat the risk of persistent stagnation, according to a draft communique obtained by Reuters on Tuesday.

The communique, intended for adoption by G20 ministers later on Tuesday at a meeting in Istanbul, pointed to the risk of prolonged low inflation, sluggish growth and demand weakness in some advanced economies.

“Accordingly, we will continuously review our monetary and fiscal policy settings and act decisively, if needed,” the draft document said.

The draft welcomed the favourable outlook in some key economies but

gave a gloomy assessment of the global economy as a whole, saying growth was uneven and trade growth slow.

“In some countries, potential growth has declined, demand continues to be weak, the outlook for jobs is still bleak, and income inequality is rising,” it said.

It noted slow growth in the euro area and Japan and said some emerging market economies were slowing down, while some low-income developing countries were seeing continued strong growth but with some recent moderation.

The draft communique welcomed the European Central Bank’s (ECB) quantitative easing — despite German concern about the policy — and said the move would further support recovery in the euro area.



OECD Secretary General Angel Gurría casts his shadow on the podium as he speaks during a news conference in the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors meeting in Istanbul on 9 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

In a nod to expectations that the US Federal Reserve will raise interest rates, the draft said some advanced economies with stronger growth prospects

were moving closer to “policy normalization”.

But it cautioned: “In an environment of divergent monetary policy settings and rising financial market

volatility, policy settings should be carefully calibrated and clearly communicated to minimize negative spillovers.”

It said the sharp de-

cline in oil prices would provide some boost to global growth but noted that the outlook for prices remained uncertain and said the G20 would monitor commodity markets closely.

G20 members will keep fiscal policy flexible to reflect near-term economic realities, a nod to fiscal doves, while also pledging to put debt as a share of output on a sustainable path, a nod to hawks, the draft said.

It made passing reference to the need for flexible exchange rates, pledging to “stick to our previous exchange rate commitments”. The draft also said G20 members were disappointed with the continued delay in IMF quota reform and urged US action to enable it to move ahead.

Reuters

## Japan launches probe into Islamic State hostage crisis



Photo taken on 10 Feb, 2015, at the prime minister’s office in Tokyo shows the first meeting of a government panel to examine the hostage crisis, in which two Japanese men were killed by Islamic State militants. Discussing how to deal with international terrorism and how to protect Japanese citizens abroad, the panel will compile a report probably in April.

KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 10 Feb — A committee investigating the government’s handling of the recent hostage crisis in which two Japanese were murdered by Islamic State militants held its first meeting on Tuesday.

The committee, chaired by Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Kazuhiro Sugita, a former police bureaucrat, plans to compile a report as early as April, but the information to be released will likely be limited due to the sensitivity of the issue.

The committee will examine the government’s

response after Haruna Yukawa, one of the slain Japanese hostages, was captured in Syria last August, and intends to use the investigation to protect Japanese citizens from terrorism.

“I ask all of you to consider measures to protect Japanese nationals abroad from terrorism,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said during the meeting.

“It’s extremely important for resource-poor Japan to ensure the safety of our citizens as we continue to promote the overseas op-

erations of companies,” he said.

Top security officials such as Yasuhiko Nishimura, Shotaro Yachi and Shigeru Kitamura also attended the meeting, along with senior officials from the Foreign Ministry, the Defence Ministry and the National Police Agency.

The committee will hear from experts on crisis management and the Middle East.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s speech in Egypt will also be subject to scrutiny. Some critics have said his speech might have triggered the hostage crisis.

The crisis erupted on 20 January, a few days after Abe pledged \$200 million in aid for countries affected by conflict with the Islamic State during his Middle East tour.

The Islamic State threatened to kill Yukawa and Kenji Goto unless Japan paid a ransom of \$200 million, eventually killing both after proposing a hostage swap.

Japan has denied the Islamic State’s allegation that Tokyo donated money to kill the extremist group’s people, saying the aid is “humanitarian and non-military” in nature.

Kyodo News

## Hong Kong woman found guilty of abusing Indonesian maid

HONG KONG, 10 Feb — A Hong Kong mother of two was found guilty on Tuesday of abusing her Indonesian domestic helper in a landmark case that triggered outrage over mistreatment of maids and shed light on abuse that many women face in overseas jobs.

Former beautician Law Wan-tung, 44, sobbed as the judge remanded her in custody after finding her guilty of 18 of 20 charges laid against her.

The charges included grievous bodily harm and violence against Erwiana

Erwiana, wearing a black T-shirt with “Justice” on the front and “End slavery” on the back, was in court and clapped, along with scores of supporters, after the verdict.

“I’m very happy I won the case ... because I will get justice from Hong Kong,” a smiling Erwiana said afterwards as supporters thronged around her.

Rights workers say Hong Kong’s policies on migrant workers often make domestic helpers reluctant to report abuse for fear of being deported.



Supporters hold portraits of Indonesian domestic helper Erwiana Sulistyaningsih (R) and other abused maids during a protest calling for better protection of migrant workers outside a magistrate’s court in Hong Kong on 20 May, 2014.—REUTERS

Sulistyaningsih and two other maids, also from Indonesia.

Law had pleaded not guilty to the 20 charges but had admitted to one of not buying insurance cover for her maid.

“The guilty verdict is a damning indictment of the government’s failure to reform the system that traps women in a cycle of abuse and exploitation,” said Norma Kang Muico, a researcher for the rights group Am-

nesty International.

The court had heard how Erwiana was beaten and denied food and also had her passport confiscated. Law was also accused of failing to pay wages and not allowing Erwiana days off.

Law had threatened to kill her domestic helpers’ relatives if they disclosed abuse, the court heard.

A police investigator said Law could face up to 7 years in prison.

Judge Amanda Woodcock said a psychiatric report on Law had to be taken into account before a sentence could be handed down.

Erwiana, who arrived in Hong Kong in 2013, returned to Indonesia in January last year where doctors said burns on her body were caused by boiling water.

Photographs of a battered Erwiana posted online sparked outrage and Indonesia’s then president, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, described her treatment as torture.

Hong Kong has about 300,000 foreign domestic helpers, most of them from the Philippines and Indonesia.

A Hong Kong couple was jailed in 2013 for torturing their Indonesian maid, who said they once dressed her in a nappy and tied her to a chair for five days while they went on holiday.

Reuters



## PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 11 February, 2015

## Low intelligence is the root cause of all problems

By *Kyaw Thura*

It is worth stating in the first place that the education we receive at schools and universities is not all we need to grapple with challenges that lie in store when we enter the real world. This will be manifested in the assumption that learning is a lifelong process. It would thus be wrong if we are content with our academic success.

The fact that our degrees and certificates

give us a sense of achievement in education is beyond question. A few moments of quiet contemplation will convince us that educated people still get involved in conflict. This means that education alone cannot stop controversy since people, when driven by jealousy, will always have something to fulminate against one another.

There is a great difference between education and intelligence. It should, however, be important for us to bear in mind that there is no intelligence if there is no education. In other words, we need to educate ourselves to become intelligent.

In this respect, education is reactive and intelligence, proactive. Reactive management is a situation in which we react to problems after they arise and as a result we are always a step behind. In contrast, proactive management is a situation in which we plan ahead to avoid or manage problems rather than waiting for them to happen and

reacting to them. Either way, it is intelligence that can distinguish between illusion and reality.

The point is that the educated always think that they have learned a lot, whereas the intelligent always consider that they still have a lot to learn. It is a fact of life that educated people will always outnumber intelligent people. Anyway, where there is life, there is hope.

### 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.

## Physical Exercise for mental health

YEI HTUT TIN

Almost every human being living in the twenty-first century accept that physical exercise is beneficial to health.

Because, nowadays "Total Fitness is defined as the optimal functional state, that can react efficiently to the demands made upon the human mechanical body".

But currently, people come to realize that physical fitness alone cannot fulfill the take to achieve total fitness.

Moreover, researchers from the field of fitness, have generally assumed that physical fitness and mental health were related, although no hard evidence can be found to support the relationship in early 1970's. Later, emotional stress became one of the major factors in the atherosclerosis (narrowing of the arteries) disease and some anecdotal evidence revealed that cases of angina pectoris (severe chest pain), voodoo death

resulting from severe emotional strain. Since then, scientists had carried out extensive researches and revealed the ways to cope with stress, such as the tranquilizer effect of exercise and stress-reducing effect of non-cultural meditation. But there had been any scientific studies in the field of stress physiology which might bridge the gap between cognitive and somatic intervention strategies till late 1970's.

Nearly 30 years ago, exercise treatment became more evident as it is the potent method of reducing psychological and physiological response to the acute emotional of stressor. Few scientific experiments support for the hypothesis that aerobic exercise are the effective ways to cope with psychological stress. Researchers found out that physical activity is associated with anxiety tolerance. Carefully supervised exercise therapy and relaxation training have been used for

the prevention of cardiovascular disease and also the reduction in anxiety.

Many therapists feel that, meditation and progressive relaxation are long-term effectiveness in coping with stress, although it may vary greatly, depending on the responses of the individuals. Because of their differences in beliefs, expectations, preferred coping style, individuals probably differ greatly in profiting psychological values from fitness training.

Nowadays, people are more, likely to accept in general as highly active persons show much less response to stress than inactive ones because of the exertion burns up energy, which might either wise go into needless anxiety and new findings also stated that physical exercise is one of the ways to relieve and attenuate the stress.

Some studies revealed that mostly aerobic type chronic exercises seem beneficial to those who experi-

ence anxiety at the somatic level whereas; meditation will cope much better to those who are over-burdened by cognitive anxiety.

Considerable portion of 2000 high school athletes subjects tested in America had high blood pressure. That alarming results indicated that regular physical activities among school children are needed for the prevention of heart and lungs diseases and also lessening mental disorders.

Consequently, the following fitness and health assessment methodologies performed on youth showed that American children were less fit than most of the European and even to those of South African and Japanese counterparts of the twentieth century.

As a matter of fact, the majority of children currently schooling in Myanmar are becoming less healthier compare to the students of a few decades ago. One of the main reasons for that is physical education and

POEM:

### The Immortal

- \* He was not among men, tall yet his stature surpassed them all.
- \* He led the Country in a period dark, yet his path was on the mark.
- \* Nearing his goal, he was smitten down, by assassins, envious of his renown.
- \* To his beloved Country, his worth, has endured a century after his birth.
- \* For none can equal his fame, Bogyoke Aung San is his name.

Lokethar

health related exercise programmes are little or nothing in school educational curriculum.

It's been sometime that not only the lengthy school periods are tormenting the students but also the homework which usually keeps them fully occupied for many hours after. Because of that nothing is left for the school children to enjoy leisure time relaxation activities and exercises which would elevate their fitness level and also can enhance their intellectual prowess considerably.

For that matter, Myanmar needs competent people in the field of health and fitness who could able to give proper, sound and precise exercise prescriptions to the people of all ages individually for them to achieve op-

timal physiological and psychological benefits.

At the present time, most of the citizens of Myanmar exercising in their local fitness centres under the guidance of uncertified instructors are more to be pitied, as many of them are negated in strength related exercise regimens rather than health related exercises and physical activities of an aerobic nature such as hiking, brisk walking, jogging in the parks or woods, depending on their tastes and moods. These aerobic exercises would free momentary especially the city dwellers, particularly for geriatrics who are adapted to the modern day life style, living in hazardous atmosphere mostly suffering from some kind of hypokinetic diseases.

## Free epilepsy treatment to be available in three townships

By *Khaing Thanda Lwin*

YANGON, 10 Feb—The Ministry of Health and the World Health Organization (WHO) plans to extend their epilepsy project to three townships in Mon State and the Ayeyawady Region this year, aiming to promote awareness of epilepsy.

"Under the project, people with epilepsy from Kyaikto and Thaton townships of Mon State, and Nyaungdon Township of Ayeyawady Region will

have easy access to medical treatment," said Prof Dr Win Min Thit, project manager of Myanmar Epilepsy Initiative.

It also aimed to reduce the huge gap in treating epilepsy patients in the country and raise epilepsy care in the country.

The project was initiated in 2013. Up to now, patients only in the project areas—Hlegu, Hmawby, Thanlyin and Kawhmu townships in Yangon and

Lewe Township in Nay Pyi Taw—have received free treatment.

The Ministry said at a day to mark International Epilepsy Day 2015 that plans are underway to extend coverage nationwide during the four year programme.

According to the doctors, epilepsy is a non-contagious, chronic disorder of the brain which can affect anyone: it is the most common serious brain disorder worldwide. The disease can easily and af-

fordably by treated with inexpensive daily medicine.

"About 70 to 80 per cent of those people will lead a normal life with the use of inexpensive medications prescribed at a primary health care level," said an expert.

According to the WHO survey, around 50 million people worldwide have epilepsy. It is estimated that there are about 500,000 patients in Myanmar.

GNLM

### GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (10-2-2015)

#### Yangon Gold Price

Buying K688,900 per tical: Selling K689,900

#### Mandalay Gold Price

Buying K688,900 per tical: Selling K689,900

#### FE RATE

USD Buying K 1030: Selling K1035

SGD Buying K 763: Selling K770

Euro Buying K 1,155: Selling K1,180



NATIONAL

YANGON, 10 Feb — The 12<sup>th</sup> Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Forum on Regional Cooperation was held at Sedona Hotel, Yangon, on Tuesday.

The theme chosen by Myanmar for the 12<sup>th</sup> BCIM Forum was Cooperation for the Development of BCIM. Delegates will discuss enhancing links for the economic corridor, poverty alleviation through development programmes, and people to people cooperation in the BCIM region. They will read 12 research papers at the forum.

After the forum on 11 February, heads of dele-

gations will sign the joint statement.

According to the press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar conference began in 1999 in Kunming, Province of Yunnan and further conference was held in turn. Myanmar hosted the 4<sup>th</sup> meeting of BCIM Forum on regional economic cooperation in Yangon, Myanmar, in 2003 and the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the BCIM Forum on regional economic cooperation in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, 2009. Although the 12<sup>th</sup> BCIM Forum on regional cooperation was scheduled to hold in 2014,

## 12<sup>th</sup> Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Forum kicks off

Myanmar proposed to hold the forum at the beginning of the year 2015 as Myanmar took the rotating chair of ASEAN in 2014.

The forum was also attended by ambassadors from Bangladesh, China and India to Myanmar, diplomats, officials of ministries concerned, Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, and Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies.

MNA



Deputy Minister U Thant Kyaw delivers speech at 12<sup>th</sup> Bangladesh-China-India-Myanmar (BCIM) Forum.—MNA

### Military columns hunt Kokang renegade. . . .

(from page 1)

Army forces faced with the Kokang renegade troops after the tip-

offs of local people.

Fighting occurred four times in Nyankhwam and Tashwehtan villages

of Laukkai Township in the morning and afternoon of Tuesday as military forces are still combing the posts of Kokang renegade troops.

Myawady

## A map shows a fighting between Tatmadaw and Kokang renegade troops in Laukkai region



## Revision of MoU on Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance cooperation discussed at meeting

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 10 Feb — Myanmar on Sunday hosted a Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance Board (MBDS) meeting in Yangon to discuss key factors to revise the current MoU on MBDS and prevention and control of infectious diseases, according to the Ministry of Health.

Ebola preparedness in MBDS, its current activities and future plans, and hand-over of the chairmanship from Myanmar to Thailand are the main objectives of the meeting.

At the meeting, the participating countries also carried out the tasks of revising and finalizing the MoU on MBDS cooperation.

The MoU will be signed among the health

ministers of the six Mekong basin countries—Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam—at the World Health Assembly in May in Geneva, the health ministry said.

The new MoU will include action plans for Ebola, which is one of the prioritized activities of MBDS, as well as special training programmes.

MBDS countries have been working together since 2001 to collaborate on infectious disease surveillance and control and response to any public health emergency of international concern.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Health Minister Dr Win Myint said, “Information sharing among the MBDS countries pro-

vides the key platform for rapid response and containment of communicable diseases especially at the cross border areas.”

Dr Pasakorn Akarasevi of the Thai Ministry of Public Health, said, “We also focused on upgrading the diagnostic capacity at laboratories, developing human resources and ICT and responding to outbreaks collaboratively through information and joint outbreak investigation.”

This year’s meeting also focused on the prevention of viruses transmitted to humans from animals. According to researchers, about 75 percent of recently emerging infectious diseases affecting humans are of animal origin, Dr Win Naing, director (Epidemiology), the Department of Health, said.—GNLM



Deputy Health Minister Dr Win Myint, delegates from the MBDS countries, Rockefeller Foundation and Skoll Foundation, who attend the Mekong Basin Disease Surveillance Board meeting, in group photo.

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN



# Obama readying request to use force against Islamic State

WASHINGTON, 10 Feb — The White House will ask Congress by Wednesday for new authority to use force against Islamic State fighters, congressional aides said on Monday, paving the way for lawmakers' first vote on the scope of a campaign that is already six months old.

The United States is leading an international coalition against Islamic State, and President Barack Obama launched an air campaign in August against the militant fighters, who have killed thousands of people while seizing swaths of territory in Iraq and Syria.

The administration's

failure so far to seek a formal Authorization to Use Military Force for the campaign has caused some members of Congress to express concern that it overstepped the president's constitutional authority.

Others have said that lawmakers should weigh in on an issue as important as the use of military force.

The administration has said the campaign is legal, based on authorization passed under President George W Bush in 2002 for the Iraq War and in 2001 for fighting al-Qaeda and associated groups.

Nancy Pelosi, leader of the House of Representatives' Democrats, told re-

porters last week the White House would seek an authorization that would last three years. She said there had not yet been decisions about the geographic scope of an authorization or what limits would be placed on combat troops — "boots on the ground."

That issue is expected to be a major sticking point in debate. Many Democrats want to bar sending in US combat forces, but several Republicans have insisted it would be inappropriate to limit military commanders.

Senator Bob Corker, the Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said

hearings on the administra-

tion's request would start quickly.

The Obama administration had been in close consultations with lawmakers before making its formal request, which could make the approval process move more quickly, he said.

"There have been serious consultations, and there will be more serious consultations," he told reporters at the Senate.

Obama is also expected to seek a repeal of the Iraq war authorization, but not the 2001 authorization, which passed days after the 11 September attacks.

Congressional aides told Reuters on Monday



US President Barack Obama

that was still the expectation for Obama's request, given discussions between the administration, lawmakers and congressional staffers. They requested anonymity because they

were speaking about private consultations.

The White House has declined to comment on the timing or details of the request.

Reuters

## Ahead of election, UK's Cameron calls on businesses to boost worker pay



Britain's Prime Minister David Cameron

LONDON, 10 Feb — Businesses must respond to Britain's strong economic growth and low inflation by boosting pay, Prime Minister David Cameron will say on Tuesday, seeking to address his election opponents' argument that many are yet to feel the benefit of recovery.

With less than three months until what is set to be a closely fought vote, Cameron's Conservatives have put the economy at the centre of their campaign to remain in government, hoping to capitalise on strong economic competence ratings. Last year the British economy grew at its fastest rate since 2007. Official data showed the wages of British workers grew by more than inflation in November for a third month in a row, having previously lagged it for five years. But with earnings in real terms still well below pre-financial crisis levels, the opposition Labour party have argued the recovery has been uneven and that many Britons are suffering from what it calls 'a cost of

living crisis'.

"As the economy continues to grow it's important ... that everyone benefits," Cameron will say in a speech to the British Chambers of Commerce on Tuesday, according to extracts released in advance by his office. "Put simply, it's time Britain had a pay rise," he will say, echoing a line often used by the trade unions, financial backers to the opposition Labour party. British inflation plunged to its lowest level since May 2000 in December, reflecting a slide in global oil prices. Cameron will say these lower costs must be passed on. "Economic success can't just be shown in the GDP figures or on the balance sheets of British businesses ... but in people's pay packets and bank accounts and lifestyles," he will say.

"Now that your costs are falling and it's cheaper to do business, I'm confident that more businesses will pass on that good economic news to their workers, in rising pay cheques and higher earnings."—Reuters

## US Airways flight makes emergency landing at Houston airport

HOUSTON, 10 Feb — A US Airways plane made an emergency landing without nose gear at Bush Intercontinental Airport in the US city of Houston on Monday night, local media reported.

The pilot of the Houston-bound Flight 1825 from Philadelphia noticed a problem with the nose gear before landing late Monday night, according to the *Hou-*

*ston Chronicle* newspaper.

The plane, carrying 53 passengers and a four-member crew, made a couple of passes so that controllers in the tower could take a look.

David Hebert, spokesman for the Houston Airport System, told the media that officials found the nose gear wasn't functional.

The pilot and the airline officials then made the

decision to land without the nose gear being deployed. Hebert said the plane landed safely and no injuries were reported.

A photo of the aircraft showed its nose on the ground. Officials confirmed the plane landed with smoke and fire in the cabin, which was swiftly extinguished.

In a separate report, local KPRC TV said pas-

sengers had to deplane using chutes and one of them was sent to hospital with unknown injuries. Authorities have not confirmed the injury.

It's not immediately clear what caused the malfunction of the nose gear. Federal and state officials have begun an investigation.

Xinhua

## Greek defence minister says Greece has Plan B if EU rigid on deal



An European Union flag (L) and a Greek national flag flutter as people make their way past the headquarters of Bank of Greece in Athens on 9 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

ATHENS, 10 Feb — Greek Defence Minister Panos Kammenos said that if Greece failed to get a new debt agreement with

the euro zone, it could always look elsewhere for help.

"What we want is a deal. But if there is no deal

— hopefully (there will be) — and if we see that Germany remains rigid and wants to blow apart Europe, then we have the obligation

to go to Plan B. Plan B is to get funding from another source," he told Greek television show that ran in to early Tuesday. "It could be the United States at best, it could be Russia, it could be China or other countries," he said.

Kammenos is the leader of Independent Greeks, a nationalist anti-bailout party that is the junior coalition partner of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' radical left Syriza party.

Greece is seeking a new debt agreement with the euro zone that will allow it to shake off much of the austerity that has been imposed by a European Union/International Monetary Fund bailout since 2010. The euro zone, particularly Germany, has shown no willingness to ease its requirement that Greece make deep budget cuts and economic reforms.—Reuters



## WORLD

# Netanyahu considering changes to Congress speech after criticism

JERUSALEM, 10 Feb — Israeli officials are considering amending the format of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's planned address to the US Congress next month to try to calm some of the partisan furor the Iran-focused speech has provoked.

Netanyahu is due to address a joint session of Congress about Iran's nuclear programme on 3 March, just two weeks before Israeli elections, following an invitation from John Boehner, the Republican speaker of the house.

Boehner's invitation has caused consternation in both Israel and the United States, largely because it is seen as Netanyahu, a hawk on Iran, working with the Republicans to thumb their noses at President Barack

Obama's policy on Iran.

It is also seen as putting Netanyahu's political links to the Republicans ahead of Israel's nation-to-nation ties with the United States, its strongest and most important ally, while serving as a pre-election campaign booster.

As a result, Israeli officials are considering whether Netanyahu should speak to a closed-door session of Congress, rather than in a prime-time TV address, so as to drain some of the intensity from the event, a source said.

Another option is for the prime minister to make his speech at the annual meeting of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee in Washington the same week, rather than in Congress.



*Israeli's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu attends the weekly cabinet meeting in his office in Jerusalem on 8 Feb, 2015.*

REUTERS

"The issue has been under discussion for a week," said a source close to the prime minister's office. "(Netanyahu) is discussing it with Likud people. Some say he should give up on the speech, others that he

should go through with it."

But Netanyahu told voters from the Russian speaking community on Monday evening that he was determined to discuss Israel's objections in Washington to an emerging deal with Iran but he did not say if that meant a public speech in Congress.

"I am ... determined to go to Washington to present Israel's position to the members of Congress and the American people," Netanyahu said, repeating that nuclear weapons in Iran's hands would constitute an existential threat to Israel.

An opinion poll by Israel's Army Radio on Monday said 47 percent of people think Netanyahu should cancel the address, while 34 percent say he should go ahead with it.

Since the issue arose, there are signs it is having an impact on his poll ratings ahead of the 17 March election.

Obama said his decision not to meet with Netanyahu followed basic protocol of not meeting with world leaders before an election.

"Some of this just has to do with how we do business, and I think it's important for us to maintain these protocols because the US-Israeli relationship is not about a particular party," Obama said at a joint news conference with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Washington.

A poll by the Times of Israel on Monday said Netanyahu's Likud would win 23 seats in the 120-seat Knesset, four fewer than

the centre-left opposition. Earlier polls showed Likud and the opposition alliance neck-and-neck on 24 seats.

Speaking on radio last week, Israel's deputy foreign minister suggested Netanyahu had been "misled" about the speech, believing it to be bipartisan when the Democrats were not entirely on board.

While that may have created some room for Netanyahu to get out of it if the pressure at home and from Washington becomes too great, it may be too late.

If he withdraws now it may make him look weak with core voters. Furthermore, he needs an opportunity to play up his tough-on-Iran credentials before election, with national security an overriding issue for voters.—Reuters

## Haiti faces more anti-government protests as Carnival nears

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 10 Feb — Anti-government street protesters shut down Haiti's capital on Monday as the country plunged deeper into political and economic crises even as many prepared for the annual Carnival, normally a time of peaceful revelry.

The usually congested streets of the capital were largely deserted after opposition parties and a minibus drivers' union called a two-day general strike to protest high fuel prices.

Protest organizers

warned residents to stay off the streets, saying those who ventured out would risk their lives.

Only minor incidents were reported. Police said they arrested 20 people and used tear gas to disperse a small group of university students.

In downtown Port-au-Prince young men played football on some streets, while barricades were erected in several suburbs to try to block motorcycle taxi drivers who did not observe the strike action.



*Women offer food for sale at a bus station in Port-au-Prince on 7 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS*

One policeman was wounded by a stabbing in the Cité Soleil slum while trying to remove burning tires placed by strikers.

Prime Minister Evans Paul called on state workers to show up for work but few did and most government offices in the capital were closed.

The impoverished Caribbean nation is in the midst of a political crisis after the previous prime minister was forced to resign in December and parliament was dissolved over the failure to hold municipal and legislative elections.

For three months, President Michel Martelly has faced radical government opponents calling for his removal, with students joining the protests last week.

Haiti's government badly needs to raise cash from the sale of gasoline to pay off its mounting fuel debt with Venezuela's preferential PetroCaribe programme, which has ballooned to about \$1.5

billion.

The government "cannot lower the price of gas. It's not that we do not want to, it's because we are not able to," Paul said in a statement.

"We are poor, we cannot live anymore," said Loédon Gaspard, who drives a colourful pickup-turned-minibus, known locally as "tap-tap," the Caribbean nation's main form of public transport.

"Gasoline prices are falling worldwide, so it should be the same here in Haiti," he added.

After a one-day fuel strike last Monday, the government announced lower fuel prices, reducing gasoline to 195 gourdes (\$4.25) per gallon from 215 gourdes (\$4.62).

The US State Department and the United Nations peace-keeping force in Haiti have so far stood by Martelly, praising his efforts at compromise, and urging all sides to agree to hold the overdue elections.—Reuters

## Libyan army says has retaken main camp in Benghazi



*Members of Libyan pro-government forces, which is backed by the locals, look on in an army camp, in Benghazi on 1 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS*

BENGHAZI, 10 Feb — Libyan special forces said on Monday they had retaken the main military base in Benghazi from Islamist fighters that they have been battling since October, part of a wider struggle four years after the ousting of autocrat Muammar Gaddafi.

Special forces commander Wanis Bukhamada told Reuters by telephone that his troops had seized the army camp, on a road to the airport outside Libya's second biggest city, as well as nearby offices belonging to state cellphone operator al-Madar.

A video posted on social media websites appeared to show Bukhamada at the camp's gate.

Backed by troops led by general Khalifa Haftar, special forces launched their offensive against Islamists in the city in mid-October aiming to retake the city seized by Islamists last summer. They have

regained control of central parts of the city, the airport and several military camps.

But there was no end to heavy fighting near Benghazi's port, residents said. The port, the main gateway for food imports, has had to close.

Army forces in eastern Libya, including Benghazi, are loyal to the internationally recognised prime minister, Abdullah al-Thinni, who had to flee the capital Tripoli in August after a rival faction seized it.

The new Tripoli rulers have reinstated the old parliament, which set up its own administration and appointed a chief of staff commanding forces also calling themselves the Libyan army.

Libya has failed to build up a national army and efficient state institutions since the end of Gaddafi's one-man rule, and the country is now effectively controlled by former rebel brigades.—Reuters

## Syria gets information on US-led air strikes via Iraq: Assad

BEIRUT, 10 Feb — Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said third parties including Iraq were conveying information to Damascus about a US-led campaign of air strikes against the Islamic State militant group in Syria.

In an interview with the BBC broadcast on Tuesday, Assad said there

was no direct cooperation with the United States, whose air force has been bombing Islamic State in Syria since September.

Asked if there was indirect cooperation, he said: "That's true, through third parties, more than one party, Iraq and other countries, sometimes they convey message(s), general mes-

sage(s), but there is nothing tactical."

Assad said the Syrian government had known about the US-led campaign before it started but didn't have details. Asked if there was ongoing dialogue via third parties, he said: "There is no dialogue. There is, let's say, information, but not dialogue."—Reuters



*Syria's President Bashar al-Assad*



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For SANOFI

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Email address: [myanmar@tilleke.com](mailto:myanmar@tilleke.com)

Dated: 11.2.2015



Photo taken on 10 Feb, 2015, in the central Japan city of Tsuruga shows many cars held up due to heavy snow on Route 8. While more than 200 cars became stuck, no injuries have been reported so far.—KYODO NEWS

## Chinese firm files for compensation over suspended Mexico rail project

MEXICO CITY, 10 Feb — The China Railway Construction Corporation (CRCC) has filed for compensation following the suspension of a high-speed rail project it won in a bidding in Mexico, Mexican media reported on Monday.

The firm submitted the relevant paperwork “at the end of January,” confirmed Pablo Suarez Coello, director-general of rail transport at the Communications and Transportation Ministry, according to Mexico’s state news agency *Notimex*.

Suarez made the remarks when interviewed by reporters at the inauguration of Expo-Rail 2015, being held in the Caribbean resort of Cancun by the Mexican Association of Railroads.

Mexican officials have yet to negotiate such compensation with the Chinese firm, said Suarez.

The “indefinite suspension” of the rail project was announced on 31 January, as part of a package of spending cuts due to a reduced national budget.

The announcement marked another dramatic twist of the event since bidding process started for the Mexican high-speed rail project, which is expected to cost 3.75 billion US dollars. CRCC led a consortium of some five firms that entered the only bid to win the project back in November, but the Mexican government later abruptly annulled the result citing domestic reasons.

Reuters

Xinhua

## Last officer from Pearl Harbour battleship USS Arizona dies at 100



Joann Olsen (L) shares a light hearted moment with USS Arizona survivor Joseph Langdell (R) after the internment ceremony of her husband, USS Arizona survivor Vernon J Olsen, aboard the USS Arizona Memorial during the 70th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbour at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument in Honolulu, Hawaii on 7 Dec, 2011.—REUTERS

SACRAMENTO, (Calif), 10 Feb — The last surviving officer of the USS Arizona, the ship that was bombed in the 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Har-

bour, has died at 100 at a nursing facility in Northern California, his son said on Facebook.

Joseph Langdell was a 27-year-old ensign who

was sleeping in quarters on shore when bombs rained down on the Arizona on 7 December, 1941, an attack that would draw the United States into the Second

World War, according to a biography posted on a historical website honouring those who served aboard the ship.

“Rushing outside, he witnessed the Arizona sink in just nine minutes,” the website said.

Langdell immediately began working to rescue his shipmates, 1,177 of whom died in the attack, the website said.

Ultimately named a Lt Commander in the US Naval Reserve, Langdell ran a furniture business in the Northern California community of Yuba City, north of Sacramento, until his retirement.

He and his wife Libby raised two sons, John Mark, a retired Navy Commander, and Ted, who posts regularly about his father on Facebook and co-wrote the biography on the USS Arizona website.

Ted Langdell wrote on Facebook that his father died on 4 February.

“He was 100 years,

three months and 24 days old,” Ted Langdell wrote. “A long-time listener to classical music, Beethoven’s Symphony No 3, the ‘Eroica’ played him off this life’s stage.”

Ted Langdell held his father’s hand as he died, the son wrote on Facebook. Joseph Langdell’s wife died two years earlier.

“During his 100 years, Joe Langdell had seen many things and changes,” his son wrote.

“His skills ranged from the use of wood stoves and outhouses in cold, New Hampshire winters, milking cows in his father’s barn, guiding horse-drawn buggies and driving early motor cars, building crystal radio sets and cranking party-line, operator-connected telephones, to using cell phones, e-mailing and surfing the Internet.”

Langdell’s ashes will be interred aboard the Arizona, his son said.

Reuters

## Boston-area transit, schools to shut Tuesday after record snowfall

BOSTON, 10 Feb — A record-setting run of snowstorms that has pounded the US Northeast over the past two weeks has taken a heavy toll on Massachusetts, prompting officials to shut Boston’s mass-transit service through Tuesday to allow time to clear the rails.

Following a day that saw 48 commuters stuck on a snowbound train during the morning rush hour, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority said all train service would shut down at 7 pm EST (2400 GMT) on Monday due to the snow and remain shut on Tuesday.

The closure of Boston’s transit system, as well as its schools, came after officials said 73.9 inches (1.9 metres) of snow had fallen on the city so far this season, making it the 10th snowiest winter on record.

At least four buildings collapsed around Boston under the snow’s weight, the National Weather Service said, though no injuries had been reported as a result of those incidents.

Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, who has expressed frustration through the day at the woes of the independent transpor-

tation agency, said it was critical to keep the trains running.

“The most important thing people are looking for today, and I don’t blame them, is a little predictability and dependability,” Baker told reporters. But given the magnitude of the snowfall, he added, “if they don’t think they can run the service tomorrow, I’m glad they said so today.”

The repeated disruption to the city’s transit system, which has included aging trains freezing up during extreme cold, has also exasperated commuters.

“I’m kind of surprised that we aren’t all better prepared for this since we live in the north,” said Nzuekoh Nchinda, 22, as she struggled to find a bus for her commute home from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge. “We’re frustrated at Mother Nature but we can’t shake our fists at Mother Nature so we shake our fists at the MBTA.” Others were angry that the transit agency gave only three hours’ notice of its planned shutdown.

“It is absolutely not OK. Three hours, for a major metropolitan cosmopolitan city,

Faith Danglo shovels out her family’s car during a winter snowstorm in Cambridge, Massachusetts on 9 Feb, 2015. REUTERS



is not enough. Especially not for non-blizzard conditions that were preexisting,” said Evan Gutride, 36, who works in technology. “They

should have had a plan.”

MBTA officials said “extremely limited” bus service would run on Tuesday.

Reuters



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

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

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

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

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD**  
Phone No: 2301185

**THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR  
MINISTRY OF ENERGY  
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE  
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)  
(2/2015)**

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-143(14-15)	Spares for Kenworth Oil Field Truck (14) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB-144(14-15)	1500 Series Well Head Equipment & Accessories (2) Sets	US\$
(3)	IFB-145(14-15)	Spares for Down Hole Equipments (8) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB-146(14-15)	273 KW Gas Engine Driven Generating Set (1) Set	US\$
(5)	DMP/L-030(14-15)	Portable Fire Pump with Engine and Fire Assembly (3) Lots	Ks
(6)	DMP/L-031(14-15)	33 KV GCB Complete Set and 33 KV Current Transformer (2) Items	Ks
(7)	DMP/L-032(14-15)	Motor for SAFE and Intermech Compressor (2) Nos	Ks
(8)	DMP/L-033(14-15)	185mm <sup>2</sup> , 4 Core, XLPE Cable (50) Meter	Ks
(9)	DMP/L-034(14-15)	SAE 15 W 40 Diesel Engine Oil (API-CF4) (1) Lot	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 9-3-2015, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 9<sup>th</sup> February, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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

**Ministry of Energy  
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise  
Invitation for Opened Tender (1/2015)**

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United State Dollars (CIF Yangon).

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Qty	Remark
(1)	MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/7 (2014-2015)	Petroleum Products Testing Equipment (Brand New) (ASTM Standard) For Mobile Fuel Lab	1 Lot	USD
(2)	MPPE/MCY/CAP/T/8 (2014-2015)	120 IGPM Fuel Transfer Centrifugal Pump (Engine Driven)	3 sets	USD

(2) Tender Closing Date & Time - 10-3-2015, 12:00Hrs

(3) Tender documents are available at our office starting from 11-2-2015 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Phone : 067-411487.

Planning Department  
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise  
Ministry of Energy, No (6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw

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M/S. DABUR INDIA LIMITED,** a company incorporated in and existing under the laws of India and having its registered office at 8/3, Asaf Ali Road, New Delhi - 110 002, and its office for correspondence at Balsara House, 43 Nagindas Master Road, Fort, Mumbai 400 001, India, is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademark:



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For M/S. DABUR INDIA LIMITED**

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Win Mu Tin  
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L  
for **MYANMAR VENEER & PLYWOOD PRIVATE LIMITED**  
P. O. Box 60, Yangon  
Dated: 11 February 2015

**32 children died at hospital in Bangladesh**

DHAKA, 10 Feb — 32 children admitted to Osmani Medical College Hospital in northeastern Sylhet city in Bangladesh died allegedly for wrong treatment since last night till 8:00 am local time in the morning on Tuesday.

The Principal of the Hospital Morshed Ahmed Chowdhury told *Xinhua* that he has talked to the director of the hospital, but the director said the death of the children were normal causes. He did not elaborate. But the relatives of the children alleged that the children died following wrong treatment.—*Xinhua*

**Mother arrested on suspicion of killing daughters, ages one and four**

CHIBA, 10 Feb — A 36-year-old mother was arrested on Monday for allegedly killing her two daughters, ages 1 and 4, after police officers found the children dead at their home

in Kashiwa, Chiba Prefecture following an emergency call in the afternoon, police said.

The police quoted the mother, Rika Makino, as saying she was tired of tak-

ing care of Reisa, 1, and Renoa, 4, and was going to commit suicide after killing the children. Rika called her office worker husband and told him that she had killed their daughters, and the hus-

band alerted the police after coming home, the police said.

Police officers found the two bodies were lying on a futon mattress in a bedroom of the home where the four

lived. Renoa, a kindergartener, had a scar on her neck from having been strangled, the police said, adding that the mother confessed to strangling her with a piece of cloth.—*Kyodo News*

**WEATHER REPORT**

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 11<sup>th</sup> February, 2015:** Light rain are likely to be isolated in Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Chin and Rakhine States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).



## It would be great to play Indian Jones: Chris Pratt



'Guardians of the Galaxy' star Chris Pratt says he would love to play the lead role in 'Indiana Jones' franchise.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 10 Feb — 'Guardians of the Galaxy' star Chris Pratt says he would love to play the lead role in 'Indiana Jones' franchise, reacting on a report suggesting that he would star in its next instalment.

Pratt, 35, commented on the rumour during the Hasty Pudding Man of the Year award, reported Ace-showbiz.

He said it would be an 'awesome opportunity' to portray the role of archaeologist Dr Henry 'Indiana' Jones, which was previously made famous by Harrison Ford.

It was reported last month that Pratt was wanted to play the character in 'Indiana Jones V'.

Pratt was at that time asked about the story at an airport, shortly after it broke out. "I don't know, I just got back from the woods killing a bunch of stuff," he said while gesturing to his luggage.—PTI

## Obama, Katy Perry team up against domestic abuse at Grammys

LOS ANGELES, 10 Feb — A powerful trio formed by President Barack Obama, pop star Katy Perry and a survivor took their fight against domestic abuse to the Grammy Awards on Sunday and exhorted artists to use their power to stop violence against women and girls.

Obama appeared at music's biggest night via a pre-recorded video stating that nearly one in five women in America has been a victim of rape or attempted rape and one in four women has experienced domestic violence.

"It's not OK and it has to stop," Obama said. "Artists have a unique

power to change minds and attitudes and getting us talking and thinking about what matters."

Obama asked the millions of viewers of the CBS telecast to go to the site ItsOnUs.org to make a pledge to stop violence.

"And to the artists at the Grammys tonight, I ask you to ask your fans to do it too," he added. The hashtag #ItsOnUs began trending within minutes on Twitter.

Obama was followed by a survivor of domestic violence, Brooke Axtell, who took the Grammy stage and explained how her ex-boyfriend had threatened to kill her and

how she made excuses for his anger and abuse.

"If you're in a relationship with someone who does not honour or respect you, I want you to know you are worthy of love. Please reach out for help," Axtell said.

Katy Perry then appeared on stage in an austere white gown to perform her inspirational survival anthem "By the Grace of God."

Her performance stood in contrast to her headlining act at last Sunday's Super Bowl half-time show, which was high on spectacle but made no reference to domestic abuse, the polemical issue

that plagued the National Football League last year.

The Grammys were once famously overshadowed by a startling case of domestic abuse.

On the eve of the 2009 Grammys, R&B singer Chris Brown, who was nominated for three Grammys this year, beat up then-girlfriend and singer Rihanna. Both were in attendance on Sunday, with Rihanna performing shortly after Perry. The NFL, which has become the public face of domestic violence after a spate of arrests among players, aired during last week's Super Bowl a public service announcement of a woman's



Katy Perry performs "By The Grace of God" at the 57th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California on 8 Feb, 2015.

REUTERS

emergency call in an effort to draw attention to the cause.—Reuters

## Mirren stars in 'Woman in Gold' spotlighting Nazi-looted art

BERLIN, 10 Feb — Actress Helen Mirren said on Monday her portrayal of a Jewish woman's struggle to get back paintings confiscated when her ancestors fled Austria to escape Nazi rule throws a spotlight on the slow pace of restitution of looted Jewish property.

In "Woman in Gold", being shown at the Berlin International Film Festival, Mirren plays the late Maria Altmann, who battled all the way to the US Supreme Court in her ultimately successful battle to get the Austrian government to turn over extremely valuable paintings by Gustav Klimt.

Among them was the Klimt 1907 portrait from his "gold period"



Director Simon Curtis, actors Max Irons, Helen Mirren, Ryan Reynolds and Daniel Bruhl (L-R) pose during a photocall to promote the movie 'Woman In Gold' at the 65th Berlinale International Film Festival, in Berlin on 9 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

of Altmann's aunt Adele Bloch-Bauer that gives the film its title. It was reportedly sold in 2006 to cosmetics magnate Ronald S. Lauder for \$135 million (88.69 million pounds), at

the time the highest price ever paid for a painting.

"So many people from that particular conflict did not receive any justice whatsoever... and so to have one little tiny

moment of justice, it is a great thing," Mirren said at a news conference.

She was joined by co-stars including Daniel Bruhl, Max Irons and Ryan Reynolds, who plays Ran-

dol Schoenberg, the young lawyer who helped her win her near decade-long case.

Anne Webber, co-chair of the Commission for Looted Art in Europe, said there were as many as 100,000 looted art works still unaccounted for, and qualified that as a "vague estimate".

"I can tell you that 90 percent of the thousands and thousands of works of art people are searching for still can't be found today. So that gives you an indication of how hard it is to obtain restitution," she said.

The film, is being shown in the Berlin Special forum at the festival and will open in the United States and Britain in April.

Reuters

## Chilean defrocked priests, hardluck farmers make waves in Berlin

BERLIN, 10 Feb — A Chilean film showing defrocked priests protected by the Catholic Church and a Guatemalan film about the hard lives of Mayan coffee farmers are making waves at the Berlin film festival.

Chilean director Pablo Larrain made "The Club" after he realized some paedophile priests had collaborated with the dictatorship of Augusto Pinochet or were ordinary criminals, and had never paid for their misdeeds.

"The Catholic Church for decades really has been spiriting away those priests, hiding them, shielding them from the public sphere," he told a news conference on Monday to loud applause.

"That's how we came up with this 'club', the idea of a club of lost priests."

The film focuses on four priests living in a fishing village whose cozy lifestyle is shattered by the arrival of a priest trailed by a tramp who proclaims from the street that the cleric had forced him to have sex with him.

The accused priest commits suicide with a gun another house resident gives him to scare away the intruder. This leads to a visit from Father Garcia, a Jesuit interrogator, who wants to know what happened and threatens to close down the retreat.

The film is cleverly plotted, with lots of dark humour, and shows the

Church still protects its own.

"The judiciary has not been able to act, it is as drastic as I say," said Alfredo Castro, who plays one of the priests. "I think all of the world wishes that people in this situation be judged on a par with anybody else in civil courts."

"Ixcanel" — "Volcano" in English — shows a Kaqchikel Mayan family living under the shadow of a volcano. The only child Maria (Maria Mercedes Coroy) is set to marry the wealthy Ignacio who loves farm worker Pepe, with whom she plans to elope to the United States.

When Pepe jilts her and leaves her pregnant, the family must deal with

Actor Alfredo Castro, director Pablo Larrain and actor Roberto Farias (L-R) pose during a photo call to promote the in-competition film "El Club" (The Club) at the 65th Berlinale International Film Festival in Berlin on 9 Feb, 2015.

REUTERS

the unwanted pregnancy as well as a plague of snakes that makes their farm unusable.

"It is a story of a woman that could happen anywhere, but this one is set



in Guatemala, in a very particular Mayan culture," director Jayro Bustamente said.

"And it is a good thing that the story of this culture and its people gets to be

known better worldwide," he added.

"Ixcanel" and "The Club" are among 19 films vying for the festival's top Golden Bear honour.

Reuters



GENERAL

## Uruguay soccer star Diego Forlan denies cheating taxes



Uruguay's Diego Forlan watches the ball during their 2014 World Cup Group D soccer match against Costa Rica at the Castela stadium in Fortaleza on 14 June, 2014.—REUTERS

MONTEVIDEO, 10 Feb — Uruguayan soccer player Diego Forlan on Monday denied evading taxes by hiding money in Swiss accounts with the British bank HSBC Holdings PLC.

Forlan was among a list of rock stars, Holly-

wood actors, royalty and arms dealers named by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) as having been helped by HSBC to dodge taxes and conceal millions of dollars in assets.

The ICIJ said Forlan

became an HSBC client in 2006 while playing in Spain for Villarreal. The report said Forlan was connected to two client accounts that together listed four bank accounts, and which held as much as \$1.4 million in 2006/7.

"I want to make clear that my finances are and have always been in order, in a way that complies with all the tax jurisdictions of the different place in which I have worked, lived and have assets," Forlan said in a statement on his website [www.diegoforlan.com](http://www.diegoforlan.com).

Having a Swiss bank account is not illegal and many are held for legitimate purposes.

Late on Sunday, HSBC acknowledged "past compliance and control failures."

The HSBC client data were supplied by Herve Falciani, a former IT employee of HSBC's Swiss private bank, HSBC said. HSBC said Falciani downloaded details of accounts and clients at the end of 2006 and early 2007.

French authorities have obtained data on thousands of the customers and shared them with tax authorities elsewhere, including Argentina.

Forlan's name was one of 61 revealed by the ICIJ, a strategy the former Manchester United and Atletico Madrid player said was aimed at creating headlines.

"I am not part of this alleged investigation ... my name was simply used as a 'hook'," Forlan said.

Reuters

## David Beckham launches '7' fund for kids in danger around the world

LONDON, 10 Feb — Footballing legend David Beckham pledged to change the lives of millions of children on Monday as he launched "7", a new fund with UNICEF to protect the world's most vulnerable youngsters.

"Over the coming years I am going to work with UNICEF to raise millions and speak out for children all over the world," said Beckham.

The fund — named after Beckham's lucky number on his England and Manchester United shirts — will focus on children at risk of violence, abuse or disease. "Today, the need to help children has never been greater and since retiring I have more time and I want to do so much more," said Beckham, who is marking 10 years as a

good will ambassador for the UN Children's Fund.

"Everything I have done, my football career, my family, has led to this point — this is the moment for me to do what I can to help children in every corner of the world. This is something I want my own children to be proud of," added Beckham, a father of four.

Beckham also asked his fans to back his call to world leaders to put children first as they negotiate new global development goals.

The launch of "7" comes after one of the worst years for children on record, UNICEF said.

More than 15 million children were exposed to extreme violence in conflicts in 2014 and millions more were hit by natural



David Beckham attends at a Press conference to mark his 10 years as a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador, at Google's headquarters in central London, on 9 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

disasters. The Ebola epidemic in West Africa has also left thousands orphaned and many more out of school. Worldwide, some 168 million children

are engaged in child labour and many others are victims of sexual violence, trafficking and female genital mutilation, UNICEF said. — Reuters

## California confirms 107 cases of measles, 39 from Disneyland outbreak

LOS ANGELES, 10 Feb — A total of 107 cases of measles have been confirmed in California, more than a third of them linked to an outbreak that began in Disneyland in late December, state health officials said on Monday.

More than three dozen additional cases of the highly infectious disease have been reported in 19 other states and in Mexico, including three new cases diagnosed in Cook County, Illinois. Seven of the eight cases so far found in Cook County are associated with a daycare center in the city of Palatine.

Georgia health officials reported that an infant arriving in Atlanta from outside the United States was confirmed to have measles, marking the state's first reported case of the disease since 2012.

The Georgia case is unrelated to a California outbreak that health officials believe began with a person from outside the United States who visited the Disneyland theme park in Anaheim in late December.

Georgia health officials are working with the US Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention to identify anyone who may have been exposed to measles from the infant, the Georgia Department of Public Health said.

According to the California Department of Public Health, 39 of the state's 107 confirmed cases have been linked to the Disneyland cluster.

The measles outbreak has renewed a debate over the so-called anti-vaccination movement in which fears about potential side effects of vaccines, fueled by now-debunked research suggesting a link to autism, have led a

small minority of parents to refuse to allow their children to be inoculated.

Some parents also opt not to have their children vaccinated for religious or other reasons.

Measles was declared eliminated in the United States in 2000 after decades of intensive childhood vaccine efforts. But last year, the country had its highest number of measles cases in two decades.

Most people recover from measles within a few weeks, although it can be fatal in some cases.—Reuters

## mitv Myanmar International

(11-2-2015 07:00 am~ 12-2-2015 07:00 am) MST

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## MRTV Entertainment Channel

(11-2-2015, Wednesday)

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>6:00 am</b>                 | <b>7:30 am</b>  |
| • Sandaya Kun Zaw Music Troupe | • TV Drama Series   |
| <b>6:20 am</b>                 | <b>8:10 am</b>  |
| • TV Drama Series              | • TV Drama Series   |
| <b>6:45 am</b>                 | <b>8:50 am</b>  |
| • TV Drama Series              | • (60 <sup>th</sup> ) Myanmar-Japan Symphony Orchestra-2014 |
| <b>7:10 am</b>                 | <b>9:00 am</b>  |
| • Myanmar Series               | • Myanmar Movie   |

## Scottish gov't gives fund to help cities become "smarter"

EDINBURGH, 10 Feb — The Scottish government announced on Monday it will fund Scottish cities and make them "smarter" by using new technology to accelerate and transform the delivery of public services.

A 15-million-euro (16.99 million US dollars) fund has been set aside within the Scottish European Regional Development Fund Programme for the period between 2014 to 2020.

The fund will enable the Scottish Cities Alliance to develop a programme of projects across Scotland's seven cities to ensure they can compete internationally and boost economic growth, Keith Brown, secretary of the Scottish Infrastructure, Investment and Cities, told a conference on core cities in Glasgow.

He stressed that positioning the seven cities — Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Perth and Stirling — as hi-tech economic hubs was

"being smart about how we use data and technology to improve services, promote innovation and empower people and communities."

Cities and their regions account for 53 percent of Scotland's population and provide two thirds of its exports and 68.7 percent of Scotland's total gross value added, according to Brown.

Brown called on every local authority in Scotland to use "a wide-ranging discretionary power" in the way it was intended, to listen to their communities, understand their priorities and use their power effectively to promote well-being.

Addressing the delegates, British Chief Secretary to the Treasury Danny Alexander outlined his future vision of ever-greater devolution to boost growth, emphasizing empowering cities and regions and putting in place the policies that they judge will work best for them.—Xinhua



# FIFA U-20 World Cup groups revealed

## Myanmar drawn together with host New Zealand

YANGON, 10 Feb — The draw for the FIFA U-20 World Cup New Zealand 2015 has taken place in Auckland, mapping out the group-stage challenge for each of the 24 teams involved.

Group A consists of host New Zealand, Ukraine, USA and Myanmar.

Group A will play in Auckland. The tournament opener will pit New Zealand against Ukraine in Auckland on 30 May, before 52 matches take place across six cities over three weeks.

Myanmar will play against USA 10:30 MST (30 May 2015), Ukraine 07:30 MST (02 June

2015), New Zealand 13:30 MST (05 Jun 2015).

The African qualification tournament starts next month and the draw will be completed on 22 March following the tournament.

### Group A - Auckland

New Zealand

Ukraine

USA

Myanmar

### Group B - Wellington

Argentina

Panama

CAF 3

Austria

### Group C - Hamilton

Qatar

Colombia

Portugal

CAF 4

### Group D - Dunedin

Mexico

CAF 2

Uruguay

Serbia

### Group E - New Plymouth

CAF Champion

Brazil

Korea DPR

Hungary

### Group F - Christchurch

Germany

Fiji

Uzbekistan

Honduras

GROUP A		GROUP B		GROUP C	
A1	NEW ZEALAND	B1	ARGENTINA	C1	QATAR
A2	UKRAINE	B2	PANAMA	C2	COLOMBIA
A3	USA	B3	CAF 3	C3	PORTUGAL
A4	MYANMAR	B4	AUSTRIA	C4	CAF 4
GROUP D		GROUP E		GROUP F	
D1	MEXICO	E1	CAF CHAMPION	F1	GERMANY
D2	CAF 2	E2	BRAZIL	F2	FIJI
D3	URUGUAY	E3	KOREA DPR	F3	UZBEKISTAN
D4	SERBIA	E4	HUNGARY	F4	HONDURAS

GNLM

## Fabregas poised for Chelsea recall against Everton

LONDON, 10 Feb — Chelsea playmaker Cesc Fabregas is likely to be back for the home game with Everton in the Premier League in midweek after missing two matches with a hamstring problem.

“I think he plays on Wednesday because on Saturday it was a decision to protect him,” manager Jose Mourinho told the club website (www.chelseafc.com).

“We didn’t want to

when Fabregas limped off midway through Chelsea’s League Cup semi-final second leg victory over Liverpool at Stamford Bridge two weeks ago.

The Londoners sprinted seven points clear at the top of the league after defender Branislav Ivanovic grabbed the second-half winner with a ferocious shot at Villa.

“Every striker in the world would be proud to score that magnificent



Chelsea’s Cesc Fabregas celebrates after scoring the second goal during their English Premier League soccer match against Stoke City at the Britannia Stadium in Stoke-on-Trent, northern England on 22 Dec, 2014. —REUTERS

risk two players at the same time. We risked Willian and to start two players with a risk is a big gamble,” added Mourinho in reference to the 2-1 victory over Aston Villa at the weekend.

Fabregas’s expected return will present the manager with something of a dilemma because Brazilian Ramires has excelled as his midfield deputy after a season plagued by injury.

“The best Ramires is back and the best Ramires played against Liverpool, Manchester City and Aston Villa,” said Mourinho. “He is a different profile of player but a fantastic player for us.” Ramires came on

goal,” said Mourinho. “For a right back whose left foot is not his best it is an amazing goal. “He is a great guy and what he is doing for us is unbelievable with the foot injury he had against Liverpool when he still played the rest of the game, and he also played against City and Villa. “He is one of the best signings. He came immediately after I left Chelsea and after that he made a fantastic contribution for this club.”

Serbian international Ivanovic, who can also play in central defence, joined Chelsea from Lokomotiv Moscow in 2008, just after Mourinho’s first spell at the club ended.—Reuters

## Liverpool offer Sterling ‘incredible deal’ to stay at Anfield

LONDON, 10 Feb — Liverpool’s exciting young forward Raheem Sterling has been offered “an incredible deal” to stay at Anfield for the foreseeable future, manager Brendan Rodgers said on Monday.

Sterling, 20, who has made 112 appearances for the club, is now a regular starter with nine goals in 33 appearances this season, but there has been considerable speculation he is being courted by Real Madrid and Barcelona. “He has been offered a wonderful deal, an incredible deal for a young player of 20 who is still developing,” Rodgers told reporters on Monday ahead of the Premier League game against Tottenham Hotspur on Tuesday. “He has made some great strides in the last couple of years and he should now get the reward for that and I hope his representatives can find agreement with the club.

“I know the player is very happy and wants to continue working the way he has been. I have spoken to him a number of times — he is happy here and you can see that in his game. “It is



Liverpool’s Raheem Sterling celebrates after scoring during their FA Cup fourth round replay soccer match against Bolton Wanderers at the Macron Stadium in Bolton, northern England on 4 Feb, 2015. —REUTERS

not just a case of giving any player what they want. I am saying we want to reward our best talents — they are a big part of our future and I am confident that will all be agreed very soon.”

Rodgers also hopes that 19-year-old winger Jordan Ibe, who made his first Premier League start for Liverpool in the goalless Merseyside derby against Everton on Saturday, will

sign a new deal at Anfield.

Liverpool start the match four points and two places behind a Spurs side who are on a high after their pulsating 2-1 win over Arsenal in the north London derby. Liverpool are likely to be without Brazilian midfielder Lucas Leiva who faces a scan on an abductor muscle injury he picked up against Everton.

However, Adam Lalla-

na should be fit after missing the derby with a groin injury, while Philippe Coutinho (knee) and Sterling (foot) are expected to feature despite taking knocks at Goodison. Tottenham will be hoping to improve on a poor recent record against Liverpool having lost their last four matches against them, with the last three ending in 5-0, 4-0 and 3-0 wins for Rodgers’s side.

Reuters

## FIFA presidential candidates pass integrity checks



Former Portugal forward Luis Figo smiles as he attends a Figo Football Academy training session in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou on 4 Feb, 2015. —REUTERS

ZURICH, 10 Feb — The four candidates for the FIFA presidency have passed integrity checks

and have been formally declared eligible for the election on 29 May, soccer’s governing body said

on Monday.

FIFA confirmed that incumbent Sepp Blatter, who will be standing for a fifth mandate, former Portugal forward Luis Figo, Dutch FA president Michael van Praag and Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein of Jordan had all been accepted.

“Each of them underwent an integrity check by the investigatory chamber

of the independent ethics committee,” read a statement.

“Upon receipt of the results of the integrity checks, the ad-hoc electoral committee convened at the home of FIFA to validate that each of the candidatures fulfilled the requirements as stipulated in the FIFA statutes and regulations.”— Reuters