

President U Thein Sein enjoys competitions in National Sports Festival



President U Thein Sein views semifinal match of men's football tournament at Wunna Theikdi Stadium.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb—President U Thein Sein watched sports events of National Sports Festival 2015 at Wunna

Theikdi Gymnasium (B) and Wunna Theikdi Stadium, here, on Wednesday. At Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium (B), the Pres-

ident enjoyed the final match between Mandalay Region and Rakhine State in the Sepak Takraw men's regu event. In the

match, Rakhine State secured champion by winning over Mandalay Region. The President also

watched the semifinal matches between Kayin and Chin States and Mandalay and Bago regions at Wunna Theik Stadium.

Kayin State and Mandalay Region cruised into the final by winning over their opponent teams. *MNA*

Hanthawady International Airport to be ready one year later than schedule

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 25 Feb — Hanthawady International Airport Project will be commissioned into service in 2020, one year later than its target due to some delays in implementation process, according to the Department of Civil Aviation.

Myanmar will borrow ODA loan from Japan for the project in Bago Region and the ODA loan with low interest rate from Japan is estimated to be around US\$700 million which is equivalent to about 50 per cent of the value of the project, said U Win Swe Tun, Director-General of the department Wednesday.

Besides, loans from development banks will also be injected into the project, he added.

A committee for supervising the implementing Hanthawaddy International Airport led by Deputy Min-

ister for Transport U Zin Yaw held its second meeting with the consortium of Yongnam and Changi Airport Planners and Engineering (CAPE) from Singapore and Japan's JGC Corporation who won the tender for the contract to build Hanthawaddy International Airport.

The \$1.4 billion project will be constructed on more than 9,000 acres of land where the Japanese army built an airport during World War II.

The Hanthawaddy International Airport project is the largest of three airport projects being undertaken to accommodate the growing numbers of foreigner travelers to Myanmar.

The number of tourist arrivals has also increased year by year, reaching 0.79 million in 2010, 1.06 million in 2012 and 2.04 million in 2013.

(See page 2)

FMI Air commences new flight services to Mandalay with own jet

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 25 Feb—FMI Air, a Nay Pyi Taw-based airline that has until now flown between Yangon and Nay Pyi Taw, commenced a new daily service to Mandalay with a 50-seat Bombardier CRJ-200 regional jet on Wednesday.

With a second aircraft scheduled to arrive in the

third week of next month and a third in late April, the airline will be able to offer more scheduled services to an expanding network of airports in the country, FMI Air's Chief Executive Officer Bruce Nobles told The Global New Light of Myanmar on Tuesday.

Since 2012, FMI Air has been flying passengers on an ATR 72 leased from

local carrier Air KBZ, operating a thrice-daily service from Yangon, the country's commercial and old capital, to Nay Pyi Taw, the new capital situated 400km north of Yangon.

With its move from a charter operator to a scheduled operator after receiving an Air Operators Certificate (AOC) from the Myanmar's Department of

Civil Aviation recently, the airline plans to phase out its charter operations and instead provide all services with its own jets, he added.

According to FMI Air, the airfare from Yangon to Mandalay via Nay Pyi Taw is priced at US\$65 and from Nay Pyi Taw to Mandalay at \$45 during the special offer period.

GNLM



FMI Air, which currently offers a Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw service, starts commercial and daily flight services to Mandalay with its own jet on Wednesday.— PHOTO CREDIT TO FMI AIR

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**Vice President
Dr Sai Mauk
Kham visits
Thailand**

PAGE-3

**Heineken
Company
delegation calls
on Vice President
U Nyan Tun**

PAGE-3

**Myanmar,
ROK to further
strengthen
bilateral relations**

PAGE-2

**State Pariyatti
Sasana University
gives advice on bill
amending national
education law**

PAGE-9

**Let the
Educational
Wave Rage
On**

PAGE-8

**Motherly
love:
Boundless
heart for
offspring**

PAGE-8

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves borrowing of loans from China Exim Bank for rural people

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb — The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued for the 18th day session, here, on Wednesday.

Deputy Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Kyaw Nyunt that Myanmar's Defence Ministry and Serbia plan to sign an agreement on bilateral cooperation in defence sector. The agreement is aimed at cooperating in defence and security

policy, military business, science and technology, military education and training courses, military medical education and veterinary science and other sectors.

Five MPs discussed borrowing of US\$300 million from China Exim Bank to disburse loans to farmers and people so as to reduce poverty rate to 16 percent, disbursement

of loans to rural people to spend it as capital in their works, contribution of cooperative business to development of State economy, and prospects of disbursing loans to rural people for enhancement of agriculture sector and their livelihoods.

Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan explained that borrowing of US\$300 million

from China Exim Bank will not be burden for the nation and it is not loans for the State to the Hluttaw. Members and cooperative societies are to pay back the loans to the China Exim Bank. Moreover, loans will be disbursed to the people depending on their businesses.

Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Lin Aung said that Ministry of Coopera-

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

tives has submitted plans on borrowing the loans, paying back it to the lender and arrangements not to lose the loans to the Hluttaw. The ministries need to implement all projects by spending loans borrowed from China Exim Bank under arrangements of Cooperatives Ministry.

Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Daw Lei Lei Thein said that Cooperatives Ministry

adopted plans for 2014-15 fiscal year to give microfinance services to the people, and the ministry will supervise the people to systematically pay back the loans.

The Hluttaw approved borrowing of US\$300 million from China Exim Bank.

Principals and projects of 2015-16 FY national planning bill will be discussed at the Hluttaw tomorrow.—MNA

Adjudication at special appeal court needs approval of Chief Justice of the Union

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb — Supreme Court Judge U Soe Nyunt said the Union Judiciary Law's paragraph 20 has defined that except the case adjudicated by the Special Appeal Court of the Full Bench, if the Chief Justice of the Union

considers that any problem on which action should be taken for the benefit of the public has arisen in any case finally adjudicated by the Supreme Court of the Union, he may cause the retrial of such problem by the special Appeal Court or

by the Full bench.

U Sai Mya Maung, an MP of Amyotha Hluttaw from constituency 2 of Kachin State, urged the Hluttaw for thorough investigation on civil case No. 10/2011 happened in Bhamo District, Kachin State.

U Soe Nyunt replied that the Chief Justice of the Union has not decided to adjudicate the case as it has not reached to his office.

To get a way near the fence of PTTEL in Ye Phyu Township, Dawei district of Taninthayi region, U

Maung Sein, an MP of Taninthayi region constituency 5, sought the help of Ministry of Energy.

Deputy Minister U Myint Zaw said a total of K1, 688,462,225 have been compensated to land owners in 2011 for 75.04 acres, and MOGE and PTTEPI have a plan to construct a road beside the fence of company,

while the investigation team on this issue recommended a 10-ft road.

He also said that the construction will be started after it has been approved by Taninthayi Region government.

Amyotha Hluttaw than approved bill on the rights of disabled persons.

MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw

Road safety campaign through cartoon competition launched

By Kyaw Htike Soe

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb — Jointly organized by APB Alliance Brewery Co, Ltd, one of subsidiaries of the Netherlands-based HEINEKEN Co and the Road Transport Administration Department under the Ministry of Rail Transportation, Workshop on Making Myanmar's Roads Safer: Changing behavior through cartoons was held at the Lake Garden Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 25 February.

First, Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Than Htay made an opening remarks. Then, Mr. Jean Todt, President of the Fed-

eration International de Automobile (FIA), Mr. Roland Kobia, EU Ambassador to Myanmar and Mr. Mark Campbell, Regional Corporate Relations Director of HEINEKEN Co extended greetings. After group photo session, panel discussion 1 titled "Cross-ministerial perspectives on road safety" followed. The participants from the Ministry of Rail Transportation, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Information and Ministry of Construction took part in the discussion. Professor Dr Thit Lwin also gave talks about bridging the gap between government and

society. Road safety is a complex issue that involves driver training and licensing, road safety education, driver impairment due to alcohol misuse, infrastructure issues concerning the state of roads and bridges, road signage and vehicle maintenance, said John Clarke, the Director of Global External Communications at HEINEKEN. HEINEKEN is collaborating with the governments, NGOs and consumers to tackle drink driving, he continues. People are advised to abide by the traffic rules that lead to accidents and fatalities said Police Col Kyaw Htwe of Myanmar Traffic Police Force.

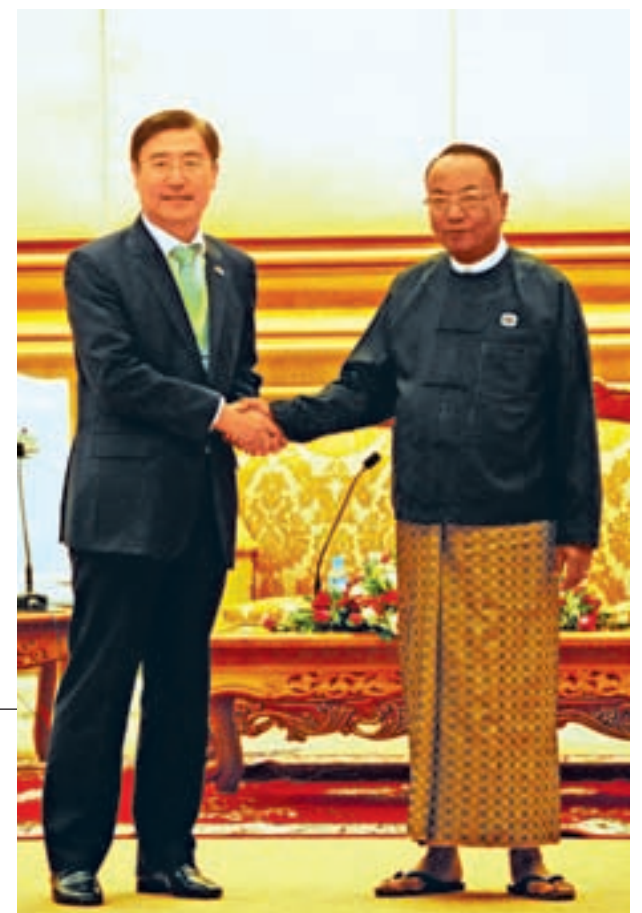
Myanmar, ROK to further strengthen bilateral relations

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb — Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint received Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Mr Lee Baek-soon at the hall of Amyotha Hluttaw building, here, on Wednesday morning.

They held talks on further strengthening of bilateral relations between Myanmar and ROK.

Also present at the call were chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw International Relations, Parliamentarian Friendship and Cooperation Committee U Nyunt Tin and officials of the Amyotha Hluttaw Office.—MNA

Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint greets Ambassador of the Republic of Korea Mr Lee Baek-soon.—MNA



Hanthawady International Airport...

(from page 1)

Located in the Bago region about 48 miles north east of Yangon, the international airport is projected to handle up to 12 million passengers a year.

It takes about 90 minutes for passengers by car from Bago to Yangon.

GNLM



A conceptual design of the Hanthawaddy International Airport submitted by Yongnam CAPE-JGC Consortium.—PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY DCA

Yangon Region authorities urge striking workers to go back negotiation table

YANGON, 25 Feb — Yangon Region Labour Disputes Settlement Negotiation Committee has urged striking workers to contact the committee and to sit at a negotiation table with employers.

In the committee's

statement released today, workers from some factories in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone and Hlinethaya Industrial Zone demanded the better payment during their strikes and the committee has made efforts since 17 February as

a moderator between the workers and employers and has achieved good results.

Most of the workers has agreed with the offer of their employers and have gone back to their jobs, the statement said.

GNLM

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits Thailand

BANGKOK, 25 Feb — Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, together with Chief Minister of Kayah State U Khin Maung Oo, deputy ministers U Tin Oo Lwin, Dr Win Myint, U Htin Aung and Dr Sai Kyaw Ohn and departmental officials, left Yangon for Thailand to pay an official visit on Wednesday morning.

The vice president and party were seen off at the airport by Chief Minister of Yangon Region U Myint Swe and wife, region ministers, Ambassador of Thailand to Myanmar Mr

Pisanu Suvanajata and officials.

On arrival at Suvarnabhumi International Airport, the vice president and party were welcomed by Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Win Maung, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Chit Swe and staff.

Then, the vice president met cordially with Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha at the government guest house in Bangkok.

They frankly discussed promotion of diplomatic relations and cooperation between the two countries,

education, health, opening border gates, affairs of Myanmar migrant workers and tourism before having lunch at the Dusit Thani Hotel.

In the afternoon, the vice president and party visited Wat Paknam Monastery in Phasi Charoen and paid homage to the presiding monk and donated offertories to him.

In the evening, the vice president met with families of Myanmar Embassy and students at the house of the ambassador and presented gifts to them.

MNA



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham holds talks with Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha at the government guest house in Bangkok.—MNA

Heineken Company delegation calls on Vice President U Nyan Tun



Vice President U Nyan Tun receives Mr. John Clarke, Global Director of External Corporate Relations of Heineken Company of the Netherlands and party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb — Vice President U Nyan Tun received Mr. John Clarke, Global Director of External Corporate Relations of Heineken Compa-

ny of the Netherlands and party at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, on Wednesday.

They exchanged views on raising investment

in Myanmar.

Also present at the call were Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun, U Thant Kyaw and U Chan Maung.—MNA

Myanmar-Japan business communities explore potential to boost economic cooperation



Attendees to 11th Joint Meeting of Myanmar-Japan CCI Business Cooperation Committees pose for documentary photos in Yangon on Wednesday.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

YANGON, 25 Feb — The two leading business communities from Myanmar

and Japan held a meeting in Yangon on Wednesday, with officials making

By Ye Myint

presentations of business opportunities and sharing ways and means to boost economic cooperation between the two nations.

The 11th Joint Meeting of Myanmar-Japan CCI Business Cooperation Committees kicked off with messages sent to the meeting by Myanmar President U Thein Sein and Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe.

Next, expert briefings on the business potential of the agro-food industry

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb — Myanmar Air Force has commissioned K-8W training planes and ATR-42 and BEECH-1900 De transport planes into service at Ground Training Base of Meiktila Wednesday.

Ceremony on introduction of these airplanes was attended by Command-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and his wife, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lieutenant General Thet Naing Win, Commander-in-Chief(Navy) Admiral Thura Thet Swe, Commander-in-Chief(Air) General Khin Aung Myint and senior military officials.

At the ceremony, Senior General Min Aung

Hlaing said installation of modern military wares plays crucial role for building up capacity of defence services and the new airplanes will strengthen the power of air force.

K-8W training aircrafts were assembled in Myanmar in cooperation with China National Aero-Technology Import and Export Corporation (CATIC) and the Air Force now has a total of 18 K-8 W airplanes. BEECH 1900 D and ATR 42 airplanes can be used for transport purposes and rescues.

He quoted General Aung San at Yangon City Hall on July 13, 1947, as saying that, “[We] have just started to set up air force.

Normally, air force of our country will need at least 500 airplanes for the first line planes. When these fighter planes are in operations, each must be backed up with three or four plane.”

The Senior General was then saluted by air planes and helicopters in the Fly Past demonstration.

Lieutenant General Thein Htay also gave presents to the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and Vice-chairman Mr Liu Jianhai of CATIC Company.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, his wife and military officers attended consecration of Mya Lay Yin Pagoda in Meiktila township.

Myawady

in Myanmar, Myanmar’s SME potential, and human resources development for SME development by officials from the two sides followed.

The presentation on the agro-food industry in Myanmar revealed that Myanmar still has 14.06 million acres of land for reclamation and it has a large market for farm machinery manufacturers and services providers. It highlighted the country’s production of rice with an annual surplus of about 2 million metric tons and described manufacturing agricultural inputs and related support products, the fertilizer industry, pesticide industry and seed industry as potential supporting industries.

Agriculture in Myanmar accounts for 60 percent of the country’s gross domestic product, 65 percent of employment and 17 percent of total export earnings, it said. Regarding the SME sector which is positioned as the main driver for the country’s economic growth, the presentation pointed out the needs for financial capital, skilled human resources and market access to ensure the development of the SMEs in the country.

During the joint business cooperation meeting, a 30-member Japanese business delegation led by Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Tateshi Higuchi and Mr. Yoichi Kobayashi, chairman of the Japan-Myanmar Chamber

of Commerce and Industry Business Cooperation Committee (JMBCC), held business talks with officials from the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) led by Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan and RUMFCCI President U Win Aung at the RUMFCCI building.

Japan is Myanmar’s third-largest trading partner. From 1-4-2013 to 10-1-2014, Myanmar’s exports to Japan was at \$391.445 million while its imports from Japan was \$1,007.727 million. Up to 31 January 2015, Japan’s investment in Myanmar in 46 projects totalled \$284.728 million.

GNLM

Local growers place farmlands under watermelon plants in Nawngkhio Tsp

NAWNGKHIO, 25 Feb— Watermelon plantations are thriving in Nawngkhio, northern Shan state, according to the local watermelon growers.

Local people grow 40 acres of watermelon near Gangaw village in Nawngkhio Township and 210 acres in central agricultural farm in Wundwin Township. They cost K4 million per acre of watermelon but they have some difficulties in export of fruits to China under some manipulation in Muse market, said a owner from Sein Lan Shwin watermelon plantation.

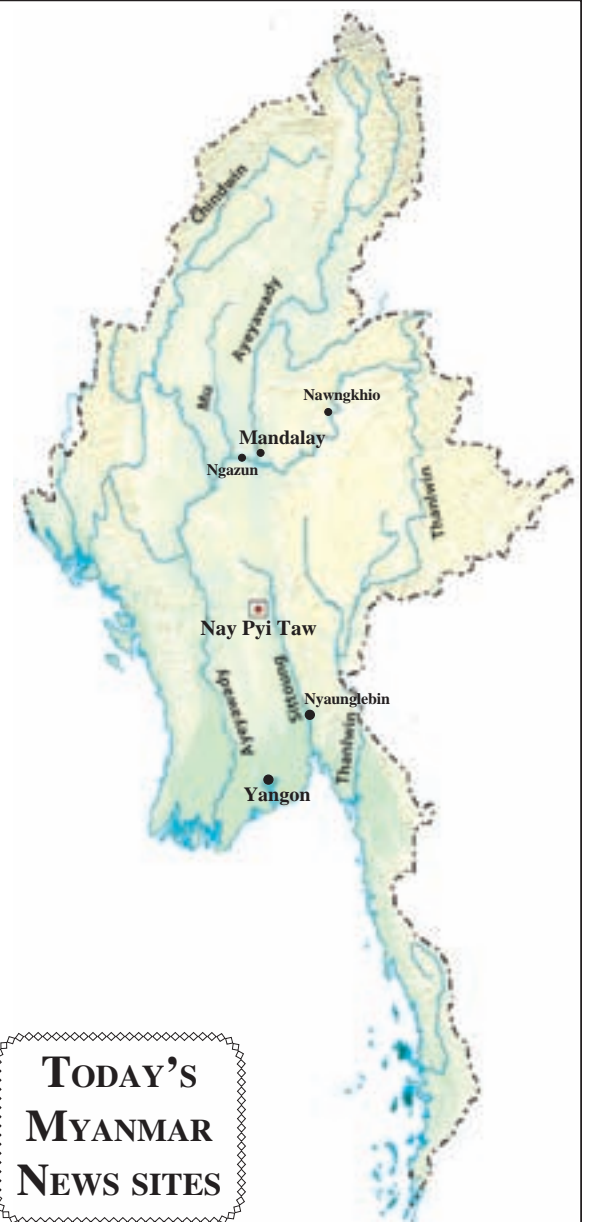


He added that farmers can harvest fruits of watermelon within three months.

Brokers in Muse manipulate the watermelon prices so growers and farming

workers face some difficulties in their livelihoods.

Kyaw Kyaw (Mahlaing)



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WAO officials recount experiences in annual general meeting of MWAF



NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb— A clarification on annual general meeting of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation was held at Nay

Pyi Taw Council Office on 25 February, with an address by patron of the Nay Pyi Taw WAO Daw Kyin Khaing.

Chairperson of Nay Pyi Taw WAO Daw Myat Myat Moe explained the assessments and suggestions from MWAF annual general meeting and member Daw Mi Mi Khaing future tasks of MWAF adopted by the annual general meeting.

On behalf of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Patron Daw Kyin Khaing presented K 5 million for the MWAF to Chairperson of Nay Pyi Taw WAO Daw Myat Myat Moe. Officials presented cash assistance for fourth year student Ma Yu Yu

Nyein Zaw of Lewe Township at Myanmar Maritime University and first year student Ma Myat Eindra at University of Medical Technology through Chairperson of Lewe Township WAO Daw Cho Cho.

Tun Tun Win (Pynmana)

Rural people in Ngazun Tsp to get sufficiency of drinking water from Natkhayaing Lake

NGAZUN, 25 Feb—Natkhayaing Lake in Chinthaylet Village in Ngazun Township, Mandalay Region is being re-dredged for storage of more water.

It will cost about K13.2 million for dredging of the lake, Head of Township Irrigation Department U Khin

Maung Oo told media.

A plan is underway to dredge the lake for sufficiency of water for local consumption and irrigation to about 70 acres of farmlands.

Myingyan District's deputy commissioner U Myint Thin Aung, Township Administrator U Tin

Win and officials supervised dredging process at the lake and instructed officials to maintain the bunds and proper flow of water into the lake. Thanks to dredging, local people can get sufficiency of water from the lake.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)



MFF announces formation of Myanmar U-23 team



YANGON, 25 Feb — Myanmar Football Federation announced the list of players from the Myanmar U-23 football team on 24 February.

Under the supervision of manager U Than Toe Aung of Ministry of Construction and head coach U Kyi Lwin of Magway FC, the coach team was formed with assistant coaches U Kyaw Lwin of Ayeyawady United FC and U Myint Ko of Yadanabon FC, goal-keeping coach U Aung Thet of Hanthawady FC, together with medical officer Dr Aung Kyaw Oo of MFF, physiotherapist U Tun Zaw

of MFF and information officer U Zaw Min Htaik of MFF.

The football team is formed with goalkeepers Kyaw Zin Phyo, Zaw Zaw Naing and Yan Aung Lin, defenders Kyaw Zin Lin, Zaw Win, Taung Phwet Thang, Ko Ko Hein, Zaw Ye Tun, Phyo Ko Ko Thein, Sithu Aung and Hein Thiha Zaw, midfielders Nay Lin Tun, Chit Su Moe, Hlaing Bo Bo, Aung Show Thar Maung, Ye Ko Oo, Zun Moe Aung and Myo Min Zaw and forwards: Kaung Hset Naing, Shine Thura, Than Htet Aung, Dway Ko Ko Chit and Thiha Zaw.

Myanmar U-23 is included in the Group (F) in the qualifier of the AFC U-23 Championship 2016. It will play against Taipei U-23 on 27 March, Hong Kong U-23 on 29 March and Australia U-23 on 31 March.

As part of preparations not only for the qualifier but for 2015 SEA Games, Myanmar U-23 team will go to Japan and Republic of Korea for playing tune-up matches. Myanmar will meet with Japan U-23 in Chiba of Japan on 11 March and some clubs on 13 and 15 March in Republic of Korea.—MFF

Former outstanding students hold talks on leadership capacity of new generations

MANDALAY, 25 Feb —The roundtable discussions of outstanding students (1964-1988) was held at the hall of Myanmar Medical Association at the corner of 31st and 70th streets in Mandalay on 23 February.

Chairman of the outstanding student group Dr Than Win made a speech. Mandalay Region Advocate-General U Ye Aung Myint (outstanding student from Mawlamyine District in 1966) gave talks on youth leadership, future State and leadership capacity of new generations.

The discussion was also attended by Secretary of Mandalay Region Women's Affairs Organization Daw Thanda Phone Win, Chairperson of Myan-



mar Retailers Association (Mandalay) Daw Khin San Yi, U Khin Maung Cho of KMC private school, officials of Save the Children, Shwe Min Thar Foundation, Woman Network, the Art of Living Myanmar, philanthropic associations and entrepreneurs.

Outstanding student project was implemented from 1964 to 1988. In 2014, the group was formed with not only former outstanding students but present outstanding students to be able to serve the interest of the State.

They open a clinic

in Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region for providing health care services to the people. Moreover, the group organizes talks on health knowledge and gives assistance to needy persons.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Knowledge shared about security measures in election

MANDALAY, 25 Feb—The security course for elections 2015 kicked off at the hall of Mandalay Region Police Force on 23 February.

Commander of Mandalay Region Police Force Police Col Han Tun spoke on the occasion. Chairman of Region Election Sub-commission U Aung Htut highlighted matters related to electoral process.

A total of 25 police officers are attending the course up to 27 February. Deputy Commander of the region police force Police Col Thet Naing gave lectures on security measures for election 2015.

Arrangements are being made for conducting the multiplier courses for police at different levels.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

ADB to disburse loans for development of urban area

MANDALAY, 25 Feb — Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint received a delegation led by Ms Eri Honda of Asia Development Bank at his office in Mandalay

on 23 February.

They discussed a plan of disbursing loans for urban development project in Mandalay City.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Mandalay City dwellers to get more water supply with assistance of AFD

MANDALAY, 25 Feb — A ceremony to sign the agreement on improvement of water supply in Mandalay City between the France Development Agency (AFD) and Mandalay City Development Committee was held at Mandalay Hill Resort in Aungmyethazan Township, on 24 February, attended by Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Ye Myint.

The chief minister stressed the need to contribute to urban development in water and sanitation, transport and energy sectors.

Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs Mayor U Aung Moun explained availability of drinking water for development of Mandalay City, and building the city as a green city.

French Ambassador

Mr Thierry Mathou briefed those present on cooperation in economic, trade and cultural sectors between Myanmar and France.

Officials from MCDC and the France Development Agency (AFD) signed the agreement.

Later, the France-Myanmar Forum on Mandalay Urban Development was held on the schedules.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Villagers in Nawngkhio Tsp focus on cultivation of wheat

NAWNGKHIO, 25 Feb — Villagers in Shwekyia-in village-tract in Nawngkhio Township, northern Shan State, are engaged in cultivation of paddy, wheat, maize and sugarcane in

their villages.

“Our farmlands yield 100 baskets of wheat per acre. But we worked supply of water to the farmlands regularly and fed fertilizers. We can harvest

it in April and May. We spend K150,000 per acre of wheat plantation and earn K5,000 per basket,” said a local farmer.

Kyaw Kyaw (Mahlaing)

Writers share knowledge on literary affairs to locals

NYAUNGLEBIN, 25 Feb — A literary talk in commemoration of the Sarsodaw Day 1376 ME was held at Thiri Yadana Hall on Arzarni Road in Myoma Ward 1, Nyaunglebin Township, on 22 and 23 February.

Chairman of the Township Writers Association Dr Myint Than (Nyaunglebin) read the message sent by Myanmar Writers Association (Central).

Writers Ko Lay (Inwagonyi), Saya Phone (Chemistry), Nyi Min Nyo and Than Myint Aung gave literary talks.

After the talks, offi-

cial presented gifts to the writers.

On 21 February, writers Ko Lay (Inwagonyi) and Saya Phone (Chemistry) also gave talks in commemoration of the

1st memorial ceremony of writer-cum-journalist Ludu U Hla in Pazunmyaung model village in Nyaunglebin Township.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)



Australia pleads for mercy for drug traffickers to be executed in Indonesia

SYDNEY, 25 Feb — Australia's foreign minister appealed to Indonesia's president on Wednesday to show mercy for two Australian drug traffickers due to be executed in Indonesia, expressing disappointment that their latest legal appeal had been rejected.

President Joko Widodo has denied clemency to 11 convicts on death row, including the Australian nationals, ratcheting up diplomatic tensions amid repeated pleas for mercy.

Indonesia's attorney general said on Wednesday the executions, to be carried out by firing squads, would not be delayed or cancelled in the face of diplomatic pressure, but declined to specify a date.

"No matter how much pressure we face, we will keep going. I have said previously, this is about enforcing the law consistently," Attorney General HM Prasetyo told reporters.

About 90 percent of the preparations for the executions were completed, he

said. Officials just needed to coordinate the prisoner transfers and prepare the firing squads, Prasetyo said, adding that the executions would be carried out as soon as possible. Widodo, who took calls from Brazil, France, and the Netherlands this week — who have nationals on death row in Indonesia — has warned these nations against interfering in Indonesia's sovereign affairs. Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop told Sky News Australia respects Indonesia's sovereignty and legal system.

"What we are asking is that President Widodo show mercy to these two young Australians," she said. "He is a generous and forgiving man."

Indonesia has harsh penalties for drug trafficking and resumed executions in 2013 after a five-year gap. On Tuesday, a court in Jakarta threw out an appeal by the two Australians, Myuran Sukumaran, 33, and Andrew Chan, 31, against Widodo's rejection



Indonesian students hold placards during a protest against Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott in front of the Australian embassy in Jakarta on 25 Feb, 2015.

REUTERS

of their request for presidential clemency.

Lawyers for the members of the so-called Bali Nine group of Australians, convicted in 2005 as the ringleaders of a plot to smuggle heroin out of Indonesia, have said they plan

to appeal. They have two weeks to file an appeal.

The Australian government has stressed that Sukumaran and Chan have been rehabilitated in prison, where they mentor younger inmates.

"They are making a

contribution to the Indonesian prison system and in fact the story of their rehabilitation is something of which Indonesia can be proud," Bishop said.

"We believe their lives should be spared and they should be given a second

chance." Bishop has previously said Australia would consider recalling its ambassador to Indonesia in protest if the executions are carried out. Brazil and the Netherlands have already withdrawn their ambassadors after Indonesia executed their citizens on drug offences last month.

Reuters

Cambodia has 513,759 establishments: final results of survey

PHNOM PENH, 25 Feb — Cambodia currently has some 513,759 establishments, up 11 percent compared with 463,363 in 2011, according to the final results of the inter-censal economic survey released Wednesday. "Those establishments employ 1.87 million people," the survey said.

Five most populous business areas are capital Phnom Penh with 97,200 businesses, Kampong Cham province with 54,231, Kandal Province with 38,679, Siem Reap province with 37,622 and Takeo province with 32,780, it said. "The five provinces are located in the plain areas, occupying more than 50 percent of the total number of establishments in Cambodia," said the survey, which was conducted in March last year.

Speaking at the official release of the results, Minister of Planning Chhay Than said the survey covered all establishments in Cambodia, except street businesses.

Xinhua

Xinhua

Bangladesh issues arrest warrants for opposition chief in graft cases



Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia

DHAKA, 25 Feb — A Bangladesh court issued arrest warrants on Wednesday for former prime minister and opposition leader Khaleda Zia, action likely to escalate tension fuelling anti-government protests in which more than 100 people have been killed over the past month.

A special anti-corruption court issued the warrants after declining her lawyers' plea for more time in two graft cases.

"The court issued warrants against her ... There is no justice," Khaleda's lawyer Sanaullah Miah told reporters.

Khaleda is accused of embezzling \$650,000 in two

corruption cases involving charitable funds during her last term as prime minister from 2001 to 2006.

She has failed to appear in court for hearings citing security concerns.

She and leaders of her party have denied the charges saying they are politically motivated.

Khaleda's Bangladesh Nationalist Party refused to take part in a general election a year ago, saying it was rigged.

It stepped up protests last month in a bid to force Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to step down and hold a new vote under a neutral caretaker administration.

Bangladeshi politics

has been mired for years in rivalry between Hasina and Khaleda. Both women are related to former national leaders, and they have alternated as prime minister for most of the past two decades.

More than 100 people have been killed and hundreds injured in political violence over the past month, most in petrol bomb attacks on vehicles, amid opposition transport blockades and strikes aimed at toppling the government.

Khaleda, 69, is also facing charges of instigating the violence.—Reuters

Air China flight makes emergency landing after explosive claim

CHONGQING, 25 Feb — An Air China flight was forced to make an emergency landing in southwest China's Chongqing Municipality on Wednesday due to a bomb scare.

Flight CA1336 left Nanning City in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region for Beijing at 12:24 pm. It was forced to land in Chongqing airport at 1:59 pm, after a passenger claimed that an explosive device

was onboard, said sources with the Chongqing branch of Air China.

Witnesses said emergency services were at the airport.

As of 5 pm, three passengers were taken away by police for questioning. The remaining passengers continued the journey on to Beijing after a security check.

The investigation continues.

Xinhua

Xinhua

Senior LDP lawmaker urges Abe to stick to past war statements

TOKYO, 25 Feb — A senior lawmaker of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party urged Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Wednesday to adhere to previous statements by Japanese leaders, as the premier prepares to issue his own for the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II.

"The more (the prime minister) clarifies that he inherits the statements for the 50th and 60th war anniversaries, the better he can cast a spotlight on the

future of Japan" to be presented in his upcoming statement, LDP Vice President Masahiko Komura told reporters.

"Japan's path itself for the past 70 years since the end of the war clearly reflects the country's remorse, which goes without saying," Komura said. "I hope (the new statement) will put emphasis on how we are going to contribute to global peace and stability."

The new statement is

expected to come under close scrutiny by Asian countries, especially China and South Korea, which suffered under Japan's wartime brutality.

One focus is on whether Abe will reiterate the crucial aspects of the statement issued on the 50th anniversary by Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama who offered apologies and used the terms "colonial rule" and "aggression."

A 16-member panel of scholars, business lead-

ers and other experts will hold its first meeting on Wednesday to exchange views on the statement to be issued by Abe. After a series of meetings, the panel is expected to report to the prime minister by summer.

Abe has said he will mention Japan's remorse over the war, its postwar history as a pacifist state, and future contributions to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.—Kyodo News

WORLD

Fifty hurt when Southern California train slams into truck

OXNARD, (California), 25 Feb — A Los Angeles-bound commuter train slammed into a truck apparently stuck on the tracks at a Southern California railroad crossing before dawn on Tuesday, injuring 50 people in a fiery crash, four of them critically.

The truck driver, who was not hurt, left the scene of the destruction in Oxnard on foot and was found walking and talking on a cell phone in “some sort of distress” more than 1.6 miles (2.6 km) away, Assistant Police Chief Jason Benites said.

Jose Alejandro Sanchez-Ramirez, 54, was taken into custody on felony hit-and-run charges for leaving the scene of the accident, Benites said.

While no one was killed, the force of the impact overturned three double-decker Metrolink rail cars and derailed two others, ripped the truck apart and left burned chunks and twisted wreckage still smouldering hours later.

Benites said it appeared that the driver of the heavy-duty Ford pickup, who was towing a trailer full of welding equipment,

had taken a wrong turn in the pre-dawn darkness and ended up on the tracks, where the rig became stuck as the train approached at 79 miles per hour (127 km per hour).

Benites declined to say what led police to arrest Sanchez-Ramirez, other than he had left the scene of the accident. He said the driver had undergone unspecified tests at a hospital and that investigators were looking into the possibility that drugs or alcohol were involved in the crash.

“I believe it is safe to say it was not a deliberate

act,” Benites said. But in a move that may have helped avert a more catastrophic accident, the locomotive used an emergency braking system moments before impact, and the rail cars had safety features that helped absorb the energy of the crash, Metrolink spokesman Jeff Lustgarten said. “I think we can safely say that the technology worked. It definitely minimized the impact. It would have been a very serious collision. It would have been much worse without it,” Lustgarten said.

Reuters



An aerial view shows the scene of a double-decker Metrolink train derailment in Oxnard, California on 24 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

Kishida-Kerry talks set for Tokyo in mid-March: source

TOKYO, 25 Feb — Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and his US counterpart John Kerry are planning to meet in Tokyo in mid-March to prepare for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s US visit, a diplomatic source said on Wednesday. They are also expected to discuss antiterror measures after Islamic State

militants recently killed two Japanese citizens, as well as Japan’s planned security legislation and the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement negotiations.

Abe is due to travel to the United States during Japan’s holiday-studded Golden Week from late April through early May

for a summit with President Barack Obama.

In his remarks at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Tuesday, Kerry suggested he would tour East Asia including Japan in March and said Obama’s Asia pivot policy remains unshaken. Noting that Deputy State Secretary Antony Blinken and Un-

dersecretary Wendy Sherman toured Japan, China and South Korea after the turn of the year, he said he would visit within a month.

He said the Obama administration has been proceeding with TPP trade negotiations and talks on enhancing defence cooperation with Japan and South Korea.—Kyodo News

Five nations seek ‘exploratory’ talks on N Korea denuclearization: Yonhap

SEOUL, 25 Feb — Five of the six countries involved in the stalled talks aimed at ending North Korea’s nuclear programme see the need to hold “exploratory” talks to measure Pyongyang’s willingness to denuclearize, Yonhap News Agency

reported on Wednesday, citing South Korea’s chief delegate to the talks.

“The five countries have built consensus about the need to have ‘exploratory talks’ to gauge whether North Korea is serious about denuclearization before reopening the six-par-

ty forum,” Hwang Joon Kook was quoted as telling South Korean correspondents in Moscow.

“Six-way exploratory dialogue involving the North can be also taken into account,” he said.

Hwang, who is on a three-day visit to Moscow

through Wednesday, held talks on Tuesday with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov, the country’s chief delegate to the six-way talks, to discuss methods for resuming the multilateral dialogue. The six-party talks involving the two Koreas, the United States, China, Japan and Russia have been stalled since late 2008.—Kyodo News

N Korea’s 4th nuclear test forecast to be more powerful: Yonhap

SEOUL, 25 Feb — North Korea’s fourth nuclear test, if carried out, is forecast to be much more powerful both in scale and yield than previous ones, Yonhap News Agency reported on Wednesday, citing a South Korean intelligence official.

“Should the North conduct a fourth round of nuclear test, its explosion would have a yield of at least 10-15 kilotons with a larger scale compared with the previous ones,” the official was quoted as saying.

The official also said North Korea has continued high-explosive detonation tests at a test site in Pyongyang to secure technology for weapons miniaturization and stronger explosive power.

As for the timing for a nuclear test, the official said North Korea has been

ready to conduct one whenever it wants although no unusual signs have been seen in and round its nuclear test site of Punggye-ri in North Hamkyong Province.

North Korea pushed ahead with its third nuclear test in February 2013 in defiance of warnings from the international community, following its previous ones in 2006 and 2009.

The nuclear tests triggered a storm of international condemnation and the imposition of sanctions aimed at curbing the North’s nuclear weapons programme.

Since the last nuclear test, South Korean officials have said they believe North Korea is ready to conduct another test at any time, pending a political decision to go ahead with it.—Kyodo News

South African spooks red-faced from latest spy data leak

JOHANNESBURG, 25 Feb — A mass leak of South African espionage secrets will cause many foreign agencies to think twice before sharing information with Pretoria, hampering its efforts to walk a delicate diplomatic tightrope between East and West, experts said on Tuesday.

Britain’s *Guardian* paper and Gulf TV channel Al Jazeera said they had obtained hundreds of dossiers, files and cables from the world’s top spy agencies to and from South Africa, dubbing it “one of the biggest spy leaks in recent times”.

The biggest revelation so far is an assessment by Mossad that counters Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu — backed by a cartoon picture of a bomb — asserting at the United Nations in 2012 that Iran was a year away from making a nuclear device.

Iran was “not performing the activity necessary to produce weapons”, the Israeli agency said in one report that outlined its understanding of Teheran’s attempts to produce enriched uranium, the main ingredient for a nu-

clear bomb.

More seriously for South Africa, a prominent ‘non-aligned’ state reluctant to take sides in international disputes, another cable reveals how Washington coerced Pretoria into spying on Iran, with which it enjoys firm diplomatic and commercial ties.

Even though the National Intelligence Agency stressed it did not see Teheran as a threat, it still set up a covert operation to compile the names, addresses and personal habits of every suspected Iranian agent in South Africa.

Suggestions South African spooks scouted out Persian carpet shops in the belief they were a front for Iranian spies were easy fodder for newspapers, with the *Times* reporting the leaks under the front page headline “Ali Baba and the forty spies”.

Besides the immediate embarrassment, experts said the security breach meant foreign cooperation with South African agencies would be likely to come under review for fear of other potentially more damaging secrets being unearthed.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 26 February, 2015

Motherly love: Boundless heart for offspringBy *Aung Khin*

Maternal kindness is an essential requirement for a peaceful world. Infinite benevolence and forgiveness are characteristics of typical mothers toward their offspring. A mother can forgive her child even it insults her physically or verbally. The more a mother can develop loving-kindness for her

child, the happier her offspring.

In some cases, whether a mother is nurturing, negligent, or not around, she will have an enormous impact on her children. A mother's touch and physical closeness have much influence on the development of her child's heart, brain, and emotional behaviours. A mother protects her child with her life, with her boundless heart. A child of a neglectful mother tends to learn from whatever social structures are around him.

All living beings expect kindness. Humility and contended desire can help someone develop benevolence. Discrimination and aggressiveness are the root causes of conflicts. Peace, calmness, wisdom and understanding are desirable for all human beings. Not to deceive another or despise any being in any state are fundamentals for eternal peace. Anger and ill-will can fuel differences

between the groups concerned. No one should hold any grudge.

Speaking gently, with kindness, truthfulness and for the benefit of others is required in daily life to make the world more active and expressive. Developing a mother's love for the welfare of the world could make all human beings safe and sound.

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.

(The following is a translation of an article about the amendment of the National Education Bill. Opinions expressed here are those of the author. Ed)

Let the Educational Wave Rage On

Under the reign of President U Thein Sein, "Three Waves" of reform have been introduced to transform the nation. The attempt won some support at home and abroad but work remains to fulfill the requirements of the majority of people. As an old adage goes, "Rome wasn't built in a day", it is crystal clear that damage and loopholes cannot be repaired within just five years. In January 2015, the student demonstration based on the National Education Law intensified and it has been posing a barrier to the government. The education system of the country has been subjected to various attempts and tests for its betterment but have been to no avail. In the time of President U Thein Sein, under the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No. 41 on 30th September 2014, the National Education Law was enacted.

Students demanded to amend the law as it is not to their liking. Later they staged protests. They gave a 60-day ultimatum to amend the law but the government showed no response. This resulted in marching protests by students from Mandalay to Yangon on 20 January 2015.

Student protesters started their march from

Mandalay, passing through towns and villages while the government blocked and warned them. Nevertheless the students continued their marching. Some people showed their support to the students but some closed to the government circle warned them by trying to block the march at various towns. Finally the government showed a compromise. The government of President U Thein Sein emerged from the elections held in 2010. Although observers at home and abroad criticized the election as controversial, no one can deny the fact that the government emerged through an electoral process. The government, sticking to the old way of thinking by neglecting the 60-day ultimatum, might thoroughly consider the consequences that may result from the marching protesters entering Yangon. Negotiations were made.

On 28 January, President Office's Minister U Aung Min met with leaders of the student protesters and agreed to hold a meeting on the National Education Law among the government, the Hluttaw, the National Network for Education Reform and the Leading Committee for Democracy Education Movement on 1 February. Through the meeting of the four parties, the government

finally ceded to the demands of the students with just one request: the student protesters do not enter Yangon. It seemed that the students had no trust in the government and thus they continued their march but hesitantly, and announced that they would stop their march till 28 February.

Opinion of the law

The students are demanding democracy education while the country is on her way to democracy. One of my friends asked me "Is the democracy education a separate education system?". I replied to him that democracy education is based on independence according to the nature of democracy. Readers criticized the national education bill as it was published in the government-owned dailies. Some are pleased with the bill but others are not. Some said it is excellent but some said it is terrible. As the government's papers invite opinion, some, with their mighty pens, show their skills from various points of views. As the country had to live under a tight grip for many years, the government including those from the education sector felt worried while the students showed their will independently. They dealt with the students with great care as the country is no longer un-

der military rule. It is important for the government to leave its posts properly as its tenure will be ended in a year. So, the government let the people be exposed to the loopholes of the bill through the dailies.

Let the educational wave rage on! I think President U Thein Sein's government prefers the word "WAVE". I would like to express my opinion by stating that it is an educational wave in which attempts are made to amend the National Education Law through boycotts. The nature of a wave is strong and dangerous. It can get someone safely ashore but on the other hand it can drag someone into a trench ending in ruin. No matter what is going on, I would like to let the educational wave rage on for just one time.

University students and leaders of the student protesters want betterment of education. They don't want central control, they don't want conservative ways without reforming anything but instead want to march towards a free society. They want to ride a big educational wave for once. In the bill, they demand the independent pursuit of education (that is, choice of subject and university). It is not wrong but there will be a tough road ahead. The previous bill

stipulated that free education shall be introduced at the primary level and then be expanded step by step. It would be good to say precisely that a free education system shall be introduced at the middle level.

It is found that views on the emergence of different faiths is clearly stipulated in Article 4 (m) which states that education shall be free from the influence of religious organizations, political beliefs, and shall pay respect to human dignity. There may be some loopholes although all out efforts are being made for the law to be perfected. The onus is on all to amend the law to be better. No matter who – the government, the Hluttaw, NNER or the students - amend the law, the goal shall be betterment of the law. It is encouraging to see that the law was amended by the four parties. It is certain that all people will welcome any activities that are done for the betterment of the country and its education.

Much work remains to be done by President U Thein Sein's government during its remaining tenure. The peace process is ongoing, the amendment of the 2008 constitution is pending, the country's economy is growing slowly. Activities being implemented are loaded with new problems day

**Myo Tha Htet**

after day. Therefore, a breakthrough between the government and the students will bring a good result. The successive governments oppressed the students. The students at their young age are doing their best for the country and the future. There may be some faults as activities are carried out by very young people. If there is a fault there also is a truth. Something that should be amended should be amended for the prosperity of the nation and its people. The student protests are not coming to an end. They are watching the situation.

The worrying points in the bill are to be settled among the four parties or in the parliament. There will be no mistakes if all who are serving the nation's good are upholding the interests of the nation and its people. Let the educational wave rage on! It is time to overcome all the difficulties through goodwill and wisdom for the betterment of the nation.

(Journalist Myo Tha Htet is a presenter of the DVB Debate TV programme with a 15-year career in news agencies at home and abroad.)

Tatmadaw columns occupy a hill near mile post 23 on Laukkai-Kongyan road

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb — Kokang insurgents and servicemen of local battalion in Kongyan, northern Shan State exchanged fires on 24 February evening, but there was no casualty at the local battalion.

On 24 February afternoon, a military column seized one M-22, 26 bullets and one magazine from Kokang insurgents in a clash, two miles west of Laukkai.

Kokang insurgents tried to undermine peace and stability in Laukkai. On 25 February, Kokang insurgents opened fire at Laukkai from Siaw village. Shells exploded in the residence of Kokang Self-Administered Zone Leading Body Chairman U Pei Sauk Chein. One member of Kokang security troop was dead and four injured.

As of 24 February morning, Tatmadaw columns are combing the Laukkai-Kongyan road for safety of people. On 25 February morning, the columns occupied Point 2175 where Kokang insurgents temporarily stationed near mile post 23.

Myawady



A map shows clashes between government's troops and Kokang insurgents in Laukkai region. MYAWADY

State Pariyatti Sasana University gives advice on bill amending national education law

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb — State Pariyatti Sasana University issued a statement on its advice on the bill amending the national education law on Wednesday saying that placing too much emphasis on freedom at schools, for students, in curriculums, languages and ideology will lead to lack of discipline.

A total of 67 faculty and management member Sayadaws met on 20 and 21 February to discuss the bill at the convocation hall of the university, according to the statement.

The statement also said that assessment of teachers by students is against Myanmar culture and this amounts to parents being taught by their offspring and teachers should stay away from politics as they are government employees.

Using mother tongues at schools will lead to teaching foreign languages at schools and this in turn will lead to exerting religious

influence, extinction of Myanmar language and weakened Buddhism. It also pointed out that students need to place emphasis on English to catch up with the world.

It also said that nature of learning includes rote learning and abolishing the world's longest examination of Buddhist scripture, which takes 30 days, will result in weakened Buddhism.

The bill amending the national education law allows followers of other religions and extremists to interfere with the education system and will result in extinction of official Myanmar language, according to the statement.

In conclusion, the statement said that the bill should be drafted with the aim of preservation of the nation and race and more time should be taken for drafting the bill in accordance with the voice of the majority.

MNA

Locals return to Laukkai as stability has been restored

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb — Locals in Laukkai area had to take refuge from fighting between Tatmadaw columns and Kokang insurgents starting from 9 February in Lashio and in the other country.

As Tatmadaw columns have combed the area for the insurgents, stability can be restored in Laukkai and a total of 518 people from 234 households resettled in Laukkai. They were warmly welcomed back to town by Commander of

Laukkai Regional Control Command Col Saw Myint Oo, Laukkai District Deputy Commissioner U Kyaw Swe, District Police Officer Police Lt-Col Kaung Htet Naing and town-elders and were provided with noodles, soft drinks and snacks.

A total of 1,314 people including 1,057 people from 389 households and 257 migrant workers came back to Laukkai between 22 to 24 February.

Myawady

ASEAN-UN Workshop: Regional Dialogue II on Political-Security Cooperation held

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb — The opening ceremony of ASEAN-UN Workshop: Regional Dialogue II on Political-Security Cooperation (AURED II) was held at Grand Amara Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw, on 24 February.

U Aung Lynn, Director-General of ASEAN Affairs Department and Mr Levent Bilman, Director of the Policy and Meditation Division of the UN addressed the opening remarks.

Participants will share their views on topics in-

cluding objectives of the ASEAN-UN Regional Dialogue II, peace and reconciliation, UN and its work on preventive diplomacy, and lessons learnt from other parts of the world, peace and security challenges facing Southeast Asia, efforts to address challenges in the region, challenges

and lessons from the establishment of the Myanmar Peace Centre, development of the AIPR, case studies, identification of sources of conflict and external coordination in support of the AIPR, and identification of concrete AIPR-UN collaborative activities for 2015.

The director-general

and the director of Policy and Meditation Division of the UN replied to questions raised by media.

The workshop in joint collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the UN will be convened for three days from 24 to 26 February 2015.

MNA



U Aung Lynn, Director-General of ASEAN Affairs Department and Mr Levent Bilman, Director of the Policy and Meditation Division of the UN hold press conference after ASEAN-UN Workshop: Regional Dialogue II on Political-Security Cooperation (AURED II).—MNA

Myanmar Investment Summit disseminates opportunities to UK's entrepreneurs

YANGON, 25 Feb — The Myanmar Investment Summit took place at Allen & Overy LLP head office in London on 25 February with the aim of flowing more investment from the United Kingdom into Myanmar and enabling investors to know Myanmar's investment law and procedures.

Minister for Intellectual Property Baroness Nev-

ille-Rolfe of the UK made a speech. Professor Dr Aung Tun Thet explained economic reform process in Myanmar, Deputy Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Set Aung, financial progress in Myanmar and Secretary of Myanmar Investment Commission U Aung Naing Oo investment law and procedures and progress.

Participants exchanged views on investment opportunities of international businessmen in energy and electricity sectors, and emergence of responsible businesses.

Thanks to the summit, entrepreneurs from UK are interested in progress of Myanmar and investment opportunities in the nation.—MNA

Hillary Clinton highlights gender pay gap ahead of likely presidential bid

SANTA CLARA, 25 Feb — Hillary Clinton lamented the pay gap between men and women to a crowd of female technology executives on Tuesday, in a speech that showed she may make gender inequality a main theme in her likely 2016 presidential bid. It was the first of three speeches the former US secretary of state plans to give to predominantly female audiences in the coming weeks, ahead of her presumed but officially undeclared second attempt to run for president. She is the favourite to win the Democratic nomination by a large margin. With repeated references to breaking “glass ceilings”, Clinton noted that less than a quarter of software developers are women, and partly blamed technology companies for fostering a loutish culture.

“It’s been almost a Wild West environment,” she said of Silicon Valley’s boom in recent decades. “I think a lot of women find that distasteful, to be in a situation sort of resembling



Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

a locker-room.”

She was warmly received by thousands of women and a smattering of men at a convention centre in the heart of Silicon Valley, where women commandeered many of the men’s bathrooms during the course of the day. Teams from Oracle Corp, Ericsson and Intel Corp were among those in attendance.

They laughed knowingly as Clinton made her practiced non-committal noises about whether she will run. Although she did not drift from previous positions, it seemed clear she hoped to emphasize her interest in gender inequality.

In her unsuccessful run for the Democratic presi-

dential nomination in 2008, Clinton’s campaign tended to downplay her gender and the historic nature of the prospect of a woman being elected president for the first time. She now appears to have fewer qualms, and has recently relished describing herself as a grandmother.

Next month, Clinton is due to speak at the annual conference of Emily’s List, the political action committee that helps to elect women who support abortion rights. Later in March, she addresses the Toner Prize award ceremony, named for the late Robin Toner, the first woman to become a *New York Times* national political correspondent.

Taking questions after her speech, she criticized the National Security Agency, which a whistleblower revealed was secretly gathering data on millions of Americans, as not transparent enough. “People felt betrayed,” she said. “You didn’t tell us you were doing this and now we’re reading this on the front page.”—*Reuters*

Netanyahu declines US Democrats’ invitation for meeting during visit

WASHINGTON, 25 Feb — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declined on Tuesday an invitation to meet with US Senate Democrats during his trip to Washington next week.

“Though I greatly appreciate your kind invitation to meet with Democratic Senators, I believe that doing so at this time could compound the misperception of partisanship regarding my upcoming visit,” Netanyahu wrote in a letter to Senators Richard Durbin and Dianne Feinstein obtained by *Reuters*.

Durbin and Feinstein, two senior Senate Democrats, invited Netanyahu to a closed-door meeting with Democratic senators in a letter on Monday, warning that making US-Israeli relations a partisan political issue could have “lasting repercussions.”

Republican congressional leaders broke dip-

lomatic protocol by consulting neither the White House nor Democrats in Congress before inviting Netanyahu to address a joint meeting of the House of Representatives and Senate.

Netanyahu has faced criticism at home and abroad for his decision to address the US Congress two weeks before Israeli elections and at a sensitive point in international negotiations on Iran’s nuclear programme.

In his letter, Netanyahu said he agreed “wholeheartedly” that strong ties between the United States and Israel have been built on bipartisan support. “I also fully understand the importance of bipartisan support for ensuring that our alliance remains strong in the future,” he wrote.

He expressed appreciation for the opportunity to address lawmakers from both parties on Tuesday and said he regretted



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu

that the invitation has been perceived by some as partisan.

“I can assure you my sole intention in accepting it was to voice Israel’s grave concerns about a potential nuclear agreement with Iran that could threaten the survival of my country,” Netanyahu wrote.

He said he would be glad to address a bipartisan meeting of senators during a future visit to Washington. Spokesmen for Durbin and Feinstein could not immediately be reached for comment.

—*Reuters*

Cuba honours five spies who served long prison terms in US

HAVANA, 25 Feb — Cuba President Raul Castro on Tuesday pinned medals on five spies, declaring them national heroes for infiltrating right-wing exile groups that plotted against Havana and for then enduring long prison terms in the United States. The final three of the “Cuban Five” returned home in a prisoner exchange on 17 December — the same day the United States and Cuba announced they would restore diplo-

matic ties and seek to end more than half a century of confrontation.

The two others had been previously released.

All five received a standing ovation from Cuba’s top political leaders, military officers and hundreds of dignitaries gathered in parliament.

Besides being named Heroes of the Republic, the Cuban government’s highest honour, they also received the Order of Playa

Giron, the Cuban name for the Bay of Pigs invasion, in which Cuba defeated a US-organized exile force in 1961. While US President Barack Obama’s reversal of Cuba policy dominated US headlines following the 17 December announcement, in Cuba, the government emphasized the release of its intelligence agents, which became a cause célèbre after their 1998 arrest and 2001 conviction in US courts. Absent from Tues-

day’s ceremony was former President Fidel Castro, 88, who has not appeared in public in more than a year, but was honored in a video presentation and in speeches. “Commander in chief, this decoration that we proudly receive today belongs to you as well,” said Gerardo Hernandez, 49, the leader of the spy network who had received a double life sentence. Hernandez called on fellow Cubans to support government

attempts at modernizing the socialist economy and re-establishing ties with the United States. “The honour that we receive today also demands that we rise to the challenges facing the revolution,” he said.

The Cuban Five were convicted for spying on Cuban exile groups in Florida at a time when the anti-Castro extremists were bombing Cuban hotels and staging acts of sabotage meant to destabilize the Commu-

nist government.

Hernandez and two others were freed on 17 December in an exchange for a Cuban man who had been jailed nearly 20 years for spying on his own country for the Americans.

That same day Cuba released American aid worker Alan Gross in a humanitarian gesture after he had been held five years for bringing banned telecommunications equipment into Cuba.—*Reuters*

Ukraine separatists show weapons pullback; Kiev rejects ‘empty words’



An armed man stands near trucks of the separatist self-proclaimed Donetsk People’s Republic army towing a mobile artillery cannons, as they pull back from Donetsk on 24 Feb, 2015. — *REUTERS*

MAKIYVKA, (Ukraine) 25 Feb — Separatists brought reporters on Tuesday to witness the withdrawal of heavy weapons from the front line in east Ukraine under a ceasefire deal, but Ukraine said the rebels were using the cover of the truce to reinforce for another advance.

Fighting has eased in eastern Ukraine in recent days, raising hope that a ceasefire due to start on 15 February can finally take effect after the rebels initially ignored it to storm a government-held town last week.

The prospect that the ceasefire will fail has fuelled a rout in the Ukrainian hryvnia, which plunged 11

percent to close at 31.63 to the dollar. The currency has already lost half its value since the start of this year after halving during the whole of 2014. Dollar bonds issued by Ukrainian companies sold off heavily after authorities tightened currency controls. A feud over natural gas, which appeared to have been settled for the winter by an agreement late last year, has also resurfaced, with Moscow threatening to cut off Kiev’s supplies in two days unless Kiev pays more money. Since taking the railway hub of Debaltsevo in one of the worst defeats of the war for Kiev, the Moscow-backed rebels have indicated they now want to

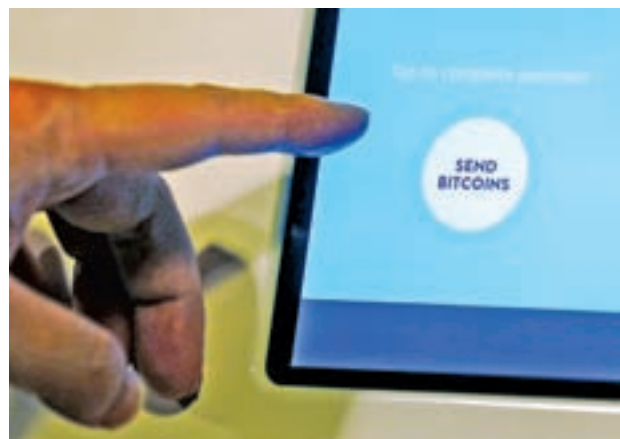
abide by the truce. Kiev says the rebels are still shooting, which they deny.

Reuters journalists in rebel-held territory watched 10 trucks carrying howitzers roll through Makiyvka, near rebel-held Donetsk. Rebels said the guns were on their way from Donetsk toward Amvrosiyvka, a town far from the front and close to the Russian frontier. Near Amvrosiyvka, *Reuters* journalists saw a second convoy carrying 14 howitzers, also heading toward the Russian border.

Rebel commander Eduard Basurin said there were no plans for any further military advances. “That’s it. We are going no further,” he said.—*Reuters*

WORLD

Islamic State militants likely using bitcoin for funds



Bitcoin is an online payment system invented by Satoshi Nakamoto, published in 2008 and introduced as open-source software in 2009.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 25 Feb — Islamic State is likely using the bitcoin virtual online currency as a tool to secretly raise funds and settle transactions, a diplomatic source said on Tuesday, quoting officials in the US-led coalition against the group.

Members of the coalition worry that the use of bitcoin, which is harder to monitor than bank accounts,

would make it even more difficult to choke off the funds and defeat the group, according to the source.

The suspicion about use of bitcoin reinforces speculation that the social media-savvy group is using cyberspace not only to recruit new members but collect and secure money to fund their activities.

The extremist group

has been apparently securing funds through trade in commodities such as petroleum and natural gas, but questions have remained about how its members transfer money and make payments, the source said.

It is widely believed that militants mostly exchange cash and jewelry but this traditional way of exchanging assets faces the risk of being tracked down by enhanced monitoring by the coalition, including US regulators.

Using bank accounts to funnel funds can also be monitored by financial authorities even if the money is dispersed into plural accounts, the source said.

These circumstances have apparently encouraged the extremists to rely on the bitcoin system as an alternative electronic transaction method, the source said.

The virtual currency in general provides users with greater secrecy and enables

them to exchange it with major currencies such as the US dollar and the yen online even though doing so is not authorized by governments or central banks.

US President Barack Obama's administration convened a ministerial meeting last week on how to contain the militants. Participants from more than 60 countries confirmed the need to cooperate in non-combat fields such as severing money flows to the extremists.

The source said Islamic State is a sophisticated user of information technology and that the coalition increasingly needs new approaches to defeating it.

The suspected use of bitcoin may be a sign, however, that the group has difficulties securing funds as demand for cheap oil it provides in the black market is declining amid a global fall in crude oil prices, the source said.—Kyodo News

Tokyo venture firm growing rapidly on info service for fresh fish



Photo taken on 19 Jan, 2015 shows Masanari Matsuda, president of Hachimenroppi Inc, introducing a tablet terminal installed with his company's app enabling restaurants to order fresh fish. KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 25 Feb —Hachimenroppi Inc, a Tokyo-based venture business, is growing rapidly thanks to its tablet computer-based platform for the distribution of fresh fish.

The company provides tablets to restaurants free of charge allowing them to order fish based on the prospects of the arrival of fish at Tokyo's Tsukiji market, the largest in Japan, and catches at ports across the country.

As orders for fish are usually placed by telephone or fax, the conventional system "lacks a sense of speed and cannot meet needs among restaurants willing to create attractive menus every day," Masanari Matsuda, president of Hachimenroppi, said.

Information is provided via an app developed by Hachimenroppi, and is updated on a daily basis. It includes data on fish that used to be consumed only locally, such as "Akaisaki" pink maomao caught in Nagasaki Prefecture and "Sumagatsuo" wild bonito in Oita Prefecture.

Users of the service can place their orders after examining photos of the fish, where they were

caught, the price and other data, and their orders are delivered the following day.

Demand for the service has increased sharply over the past year because it is convenient and enables users to buy fish rarely available through conventional distribution networks.

Hachimenroppi now has some 1,700 clients mainly in the Tokyo metropolitan area and plans to expand the service to restaurants in regional cities.

Matsuda worked at a logistics company and learned that fresh fish is delivered to restaurants and other end-users through a number of dealers. To make things more convenient and efficient, Matsuda began the tablet-based information service in April 2011.

Matsuda initially provided tablets to fish wholesalers on a commission basis. But as the business proved unsuccessful, he changed the format of the venture to the current one and Hachimenroppi has recently started handling vegetables and meat as well because of strong demand from clients.

Kyodo News

UN report finds torture still widespread in Afghan jails

KABUL, 25 Feb — Afghan authorities tortured or mistreated more than a third of nearly 800 suspected Taliban-linked detainees who human rights investigators were able to interview, the United Nations said on Wednesday.

Afghanistan, which last year took over full responsibility for efforts to end the Taliban insurgency with the withdrawal of most foreign troops, has made progress in the treatment of detainees but a failure to prosecute security forces for torture allowed it to persist, the United Nations said.

"The government of Afghanistan's efforts to prevent torture and ill-treatment have shown some progress over the last two

years," the top UN envoy to Afghanistan, Nicholas Haysom, said in a statement. "More remains to be done, however."

Torture is prohibited by Afghan law but widely used as a tool for extracting information, the United Nations said, adding that the judiciary was over reliant on confessions as the basis for prosecution.

The United Nations said in a survey on torture that it issues every two years that there had been a 14 percent decrease in incidents compared with the previous reporting period, but torture in custody was a persistent problem. The United Nations found that 35 percent of 790 detainees accused of belonging to the



Nicholas Haysom

Taliban-led insurgency had been tortured or mistreated, but just one incident of abuse had been prosecuted since 2010. There were "credible reports" of secret detention sites operated by Afghan authorities in several regions, which the United Nations said should be urgently identified and closed.

The government said in

a response to the report that it accepted some of the UN concerns but it disagreed "in many cases" with the contents which were statistically misleading. Despite the reservations, the government acknowledged torture was a problem and said it was committed to developing a plan to eliminate it.

Reuters

Yemen Houthis take over special forces army camp in Sanaa

SANAA, 25 Feb — Armed men from Yemen's newly dominant Houthi group took over a special forces army camp in Sanaa early on Wednesday after overnight fighting, sources in the camp said. Houthi militiamen seized the capital Sanaa in September and laid siege to President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi's residence last month, prompting his resignation and leading to a political vacuum.

But Hadi escaped to

Aden in southern Yemen last week after a month under house arrest and on Tuesday officially retracted his resignation.

The clashes in the army camp in Sanaa, which lasted around six hours, started late in the evening on Tuesday when Houthis shelled the camp with heavy weaponry, soldiers from the camp said.

At least ten people died in the clashes. The leadership of the camp left after midnight when Houthis took over most of the

vital areas of the camp, the soldiers said. The power struggle between the Muslim Shi'ite Houthis in Sanaa and Hadi in Aden casts more doubt on United Nations-sponsored talks to resolve Yemen's crisis peacefully, and exacerbates sectarian and regional splits which may plunge the country into civil war. The Houthis said on Tuesday that Hadi had lost his legitimacy as head of state and was being sought as a fugitive from justice.—Reuters



Houthi militiamen stand outside an entrance of the Republican Palace in Sanaa on 16 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

**REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES — FIRMS SELECTION)**

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Electric Power Project
Credit No.: IDA-53060-MM

Assignment Title: Implementation Consultant of CCGT
power plant at Thaton, Mon State, Myanmar
Reference No.: MEPE-CS-8

The Ministry of Electric Power has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Electric Power Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services plans to build a 105 MW Combined Cycle Gas Turbine (CCGT) Power Plants at Thaton, Mon State, Myanmar. MEPE invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. The consulting services ("the Services") include the following scopes:

1. Project Management
2. Design Audit and Construction Supervision
3. Testing and Commissioning
4. Training and Capacity Development
5. Environment and Social Management
6. Contract Administrative/Financial management

The Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise (MEPE) now invites eligible consulting firms ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing the Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services.

The shortlisting criteria are:

1. The firm should have the general experience in power plant engineering and construction management for at least twenty five (25) years.
2. The firm should have provided consulting services involving design audit and construction supervision for at least two CCGT projects with the capacity of 100MW or over that the firm has successfully competed in the last 10 (ten) years; and
3. The firm should have experience of working in the Client's country or similar country environment.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's Guidelines: *Selection and Employment of Consultants [under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants] by World Bank Borrowers January 2011 ("Consultant Guidelines")*, setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

Consultants may associate with other firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality Cost-based Selection (QCBS) method set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours [09:30 to 16:30 hours].

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail or by e-mail) by the close of business of **16th March, 2015**.

Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise (MEPE)
Attn: U Win Myint, Chief Engineer,
Thermal Power Department
Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise
Ministry of Electric Power
Building No. 27, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Telephone: +95 67 410443, 410557
Email: gtceoffice@gmail.com

Man shoots three people to death, kills self in S Korea

SEOUL, 25 Feb — A 50-year-old man shot three people to death in Sejong, central South Korea, on Wednesday morning before apparently killing himself, according to South Korean media reports.

The suspect fired a shotgun at a 50-year-old man, his father and a convenience store manager, aged 52. The three victims were taken to nearby hospitals where they were pronounced dead, *Yonhap News Agency* reported.

The suspect, identified by police as a former boyfriend of the 50-year-old victim's younger sister, fled but was later found dead in Gongju, about 46 kilometres south of Sejong, from a head wound sustained from apparently shooting himself, the report said.

Neighbours said the suspect had lived with the woman before she moved in with the convenience store manager, *Yonhap* reported, citing the police.

Kyodo News

**Toronto police baffled by mystery tunnel
with rosary nailed to wall**

Rosary beads and a poppy are shown at a news conference in Toronto, Ontario on 24 Feb, 2015.

REUTERS

TORONTO, 25 Feb — A mysterious tunnel discovered in Toronto near one of the venues for this summer's Pan American Games contained a rosary with a crucifix and poppy, and did not appear to be linked to criminal activity, police said on Tuesday.

Police said they had no idea who built the tunnel or why, saying "there's nothing illegal about digging a hole" as they appealed for information from the public. While the discovery of the tunnel initially led to speculation about possible terror links, police downplayed the risk and public focus quickly turned

to jokes about Toronto's overheated housing market and failed efforts to expand its subway.

The hand-dug tunnel, which ran for about 10 metres (33 feet) and was large enough for an adult to stand in, was discovered on 14 January in a wooded area near Rexall Centre, a tennis stadium at York University that will be used for the Pan Am Games in July.

"If you built a tunnel near the Rexall Centre in #Toronto give us a call, k?" Toronto Police Sergeant Chris Boddy tweeted.

Reinforced with wooden walls and ceiling supports, the tunnel had

electricity supplied by a generator, a sump pump to remove water and a pulley system to remove dirt. Toronto police said it likely took more than one person to build.

Police found the rosary with crucifix and a poppy nailed to one of the wooden supports. Such synthetic red poppies are widely distributed in Canada in November as an annual symbol of remembrance for soldiers lost in combat.

While media speculated the tunnel could be used to store weapons or explosives, or to give attackers access to the Pan Am site, Toronto police Deputy Chief Mark Saunders was dismissive.

"I was not overly concerned that 'Oh my goodness this is going to be something horrific'," Saunders told a news conference. "My concern is that I don't know why this is here."

Canada has been on heightened alert for terrorist activity since a gunman attacked the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa in October after fatally shooting a soldier at the nearby National War Memorial. The

attack by a so-called "lone wolf" Canadian convert to Islam came two days after another Canadian convert rammed two soldiers in Quebec with his car, killing one.

Saunders said there is nothing to suggest the tunnel, which he noted was "very comfortable inside", was used as a drug lab.

"It's not your everyday find," he said.

Twitter users, using the hashtag #terrortunnel, quickly offered up such possible explanations as a stunt by engineering students and the act of a Catholic wartime ghost. Others objected to the implicit bias in relaxing vigilance because a rosary was found rather than a Koran.

"(Islamic State) was hoping every Canadian would fall in and twist our ankle," wrote one Twitter user.

Saunders said the tunnel had been used during the winter and construction appeared to be ongoing when it was discovered. Once forensic evidence had been removed, the tunnel was filled in to protect public safety, police said.

Reuters

Prince William to highlight illegal wildlife trade on E Asia visit

LONDON, 25 Feb — Britain's Prince William will use a visit to East Asia this week to raise awareness about the illegal wildlife trade as well as praise the work of conservationists in the region.

Environmental campaigners are hoping the prince's visit will help to further efforts to clamp down on the illegal trading of wildlife products, particularly ivory, in both China and Japan.

The second-in-line to the British throne will discuss the issue with young people in Xishuangbanna, Yunnan Province, after visiting projects designed to conserve China's dwindling population of Asian elephants.

The trip, starting with his arrival in Tokyo on Thursday, will also take him to China on Sunday. It will be his first visit to either country.

A combination of time spent in Africa and the influence of his father and grandfather has made com-

bating the world's fourth largest illegal trade one of the prince's top priorities.

The 32-year-old prince is a royal patron of Tusk, a charity working to conserve endangered species in Africa, and its chief executive, Charlie Mayhew, will be accompanying the prince on the trip.

Mayhew told *Kyodo News*, "He (the prince) just feels incredibly passionately that we must not be the generation that allows some of these iconic species to disappear on our watch.

"I think what brought it into sharp focus was when Prince George (William's son) was born. Whilst he has been interested in conservation for many years, I think he suddenly realized the awful truth that by the time Prince George is 25, we could be in a world where African elephants, lions and rhinoceroses have all but disappeared.

"I am sure he will encourage China to take a lead role on conservation

and help prevent the illegal wildlife trade."

He added that the prince has managed to shine a "global spotlight" and push the illegal wildlife trade higher up the global political agenda.

Despite an international trade ban being introduced in 1989, ivory has still found its way into the markets of China and Japan. Organized crime groups and terrorists are increasingly linked to the poaching and smuggling

businesses.

Criminals use a variety of methods to launder the illegal ivory once inside China and Japan in order to pass it off as legitimate to customers and the authorities. It is hard to be precise on the scope of the problem but the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), an international activist group, estimates that as much as 90 percent of the ivory in China has been sourced illegally.

Kyodo News

Supplied photo shows Britain's Prince William (L) with Charlie Mayhew, chief executive of conservation charity Tusk, while visiting a conservation project in Botswana in June 2010. The prince is hoping to use his visit to China and Japan to highlight the illegal wildlife trade.
KYODO NEWS



ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

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Dated 26 February 2015

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Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thein Phyu Road,

Botahtaung Township, Yangon,

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U Zar Ni Bo, LL.B, LL.M, H.G.P

For KT & G Corporation,

C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,

Level 8A, Union Financial Centre

(UFC), Corner of

Mahabandoola Road & Thein

Phyu Road, Botahtaung

Township, Yangon,

The Republic of the Union of

Myanmar.

znb@kcyangon.com

Dated 26 February 2015

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (133)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (133) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.2.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (6) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO LTD.**

Phone No: 2301186

Russian, South Korean nuclear envoys hold talks in Moscow

Moscow, 25 Feb — Hwang Joon Kook, South Korea's top negotiator for six-party talks on North Korea's nuclear programme held talks with his Russian counterpart Igor Morgulov, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday.

The officials exchanged views on ways to resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula and agreed to continue efforts at resuming the multilateral negotiations, according to

the ministry. The six-party talks, which also involve China, Japan and the United States, have been stalled since late 2008 after North Korea walked away from them.

Meanwhile, North Korea's Foreign Trade Minister Ri Ryong Nam visited Khabarovsk in Russia's Far East. He discussed economic cooperation in agriculture and other fields in a meeting with Vice Gov Sergei Schetnev, according to the local government.—*Kyodo News*

Earthquake measuring 6.2 magnitude strikes off southern Japan

SYDNEY, 25 Feb — An earthquake measuring 6.2 magnitude struck off southern Japan on Wednesday, the US Geological Survey said.

The quake, with its epicentre around 290 kms (175 miles) southeast of Hachijo-jima, Izu Islands, struck at a depth of 65 kms (38 miles).—*Reuters*



**INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND
INTERPRETER/TRANSLATOR
MYANMAR — ENGLISH
ASSIGNMENTS IN MYANMAR**

The International Monetary Fund is seeking Myanmar-based **interpreter/translators** to work under short-term contracts for its missions to Yangon and/or Nay Pyi Taw as well as under long-term contracts for its technical assistance (TA) experts in Nay Pyi Taw. Candidates must be professional interpreters with knowledge of economic terminology, capable of interpreting **into Myanmar and English** and producing final written translations into both languages in electronic format. Assignments with TA experts may also involve office support and administrative duties. Short-listed candidates will be interviewed and asked to take interpretation and translation tests in Yangon.

Please send your CV listing your qualifications, interpretation and translation experience, and your complete contact information **by March 20, 2015** to languagecandidates@imf.org.

Attn: Mrs. Susana Eri, Chief Interpreter
(Subject line should contain MMR-missions, "MMR-long-term projects", or both)

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

1. Open Tenders are invited for supply of the following items in Euro:

Sr No.	Tender No	Description
1.	15(T)5/MR(E) 2014-2015	Raw Materials for Concrete Sleeper Production (13) Items
2.	12(T)52/MR(ML) 2014-2015	In-service Electric Tram Car (3 Cars/Sets)-(2) Nos and Electricification Line and Equipments-(1) Lot

For Sr No(1) Closing Date & Time - 23.3.2015 (Monday) (12:30) Hour.
For Sr No(2) Closing Date & Time - 26.3.2015 (Thursday) (12:30) Hour.

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 23.2.2015 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-291985, 291994.

**WEATHER
REPORT**

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 26th February, 2015: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Generally fair weather in the whole country.

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Chris Brown's Canada concerts cancelled after singer denied entry

LOS ANGELES, 25 Feb — R&B singer Chris Brown, whose California probation stemming from a 2009 plea to assaulting singer Rihanna was revoked last month, said on Tuesday he was denied entry into Canada for concerts in Montreal and Toronto.

Concert promoter Live Nation said “due to immigration issues” Brown’s Tuesday show in Montreal with R&B artist Trey Songz and rapper Tyga was cancelled as well as their Wednesday performance in Toronto.

“The good people of the Canadian government wouldn’t allow me entry,” Brown, 25, wrote on Twitter.

It is unclear where and when Brown, whose pro-

bation was revoked by a judge last month for leaving Los Angeles County without court permission, was denied entry into Canada. He has a court date on 20 March and could face jail time.

Messages left with Canada’s Border Services Agency were not immediately returned, and Brown’s publicist and attorney did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment.

It is not uncommon for performers with legal troubles to be denied entry to foreign countries. Brown postponed a British tour in 2010 after he was denied a visa.

The “Turn Up the Music” singer has been on probation since 2009 following



Singer Chris Brown arrives at the 57th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California on 8 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

his guilty plea to assaulting Rihanna, who was his girlfriend at the time. He was jailed for 2-1/2 months last year for violating the terms of his probation.

In 2013, a four-concert festival in Canada that

Brown was set to headline was cancelled due to the singer’s health concerns. Prominent sponsors had also pulled out of one of the festival dates because of Brown’s inclusion.

Reuters

Nicolas Cage joins film on Edward Snowden

LOS ANGELES, 25 Feb — Hollywood star Nicolas Cage will star as a former US Intelligence official in the upcoming biographical film about American whistleblower Edward Snowden.

The thriller titled ‘Snowden’ will be directed by Oliver Stone, reported Variety.

Principal photography on ‘Snowden’ is currently underway in Munich and will continue in various locations around the world until mid-May.

The film stars Joseph Gordon-Levitt in the title role alongside Shailene Woodley, Melissa Leo, Zachary Quinto, Tom Wilkinson, Rhys Ifans, Joely Richardson and Timothy Olyphant.

Stone, Pathe Films and producing partner Moritz Borman acquired the rights last year to two books—‘Time of the Octopus’, a novel written by Snowden’s Russian lawyer Anatoly Kucherena, and Luke Harding’s ‘The Snowden Files, The Inside Story of the World’s Most Wanted Man’— as sources for the film’s screenplay.—PTI



Bastille play intimate London gig for war charity



Bastille perform to a room full of fans at a gig in a house in north London on 23 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

LONDON, 25 Feb — Just over a hundred lucky fans gathered in a London flat on Monday night to sing along with British electro-pop quintet Bastille at a special gig for the War Child charity.

The intimate show was part of the Sofar Sounds events — small, exclusive gigs that are held in carefully selected spaces in more than 50 cities worldwide.

The band, winners of the BRIT awards 2014

breakthrough act, played such hits as “Things We Lost In The Fire”, “Laura Palmer” and “Pompeii”.

“We haven’t done anything like this for a long time. It’s been very special for us and it’s a pleasure to do something different,” singer-songwriter Dan Smith said after the show.

“It is nice that we all live in London, we can walk into a tube and come to a gig.”

Bastille and Sofar

joined forces to raise funds for War Child, which aids children affected by conflicts and war across the world. Fans made donations to enter a ticket lottery. “The big part of that was our contribution to War Child, of course, because, you know, our job is completely ridiculous and is a bit of a joke, so anything that we can do to get involved with something serious like that is nice,” Smith said.

Bastille played one of their first shows with Sofar in 2011, when the band was starting out. This time they were supported by emerging band To Kill a King, which played an acoustic set. Bastille’s debut album “Bad Blood” was released in 2013 and brought them international recognition. They were nominated for the Best New Artist at the 2015 Grammys but the award went to a fellow Brit, Sam Smith.

“We kind of still see ourselves as a new band and it is probably quite sad that we are not seen as one anymore,” Dan Smith said.

With the Sofar gig closing the Bad Blood tour, the band is planning to return to the studio to record a new album.

“We want to make a record that is completely different from the last one,” Smith said. “We hope it will be an evolution of what we have done before.”

Bastille will headline a dozen festivals across Europe and Latin America this summer, including German’s Rock im Park.

Reuters

Guinness brands Nepal’s 7-year-old as youngest film director

KATHMANDU, 25 Feb — This year, the tiny landlocked Himalayan country of Nepal was able to notch another distinct honour in the Guinness World Records.

This was made possible by an extraordinary feat of Saugat Bista, a Nepali kid who, at the age of seven, became the world’s youngest movie director.

Saugat was given this recog-

nition by Guinness World Records this week for professionally directing a full feature film at the age of seven. Born in January 2007, Saugat’s directorial debut, Love You Baba, was released on 12 December, 2014, when he was only seven years and 340 days old.

Generally, a 7-year-old kid only wants to play, sing, dance or study. But Saugat has surprised the

whole world by doing something really creative and extraordinary. Nepal’s film wizard has replaced the former record-holder Kishan Srikanth of India, who directed a movie, Footpath, in 2006 at the age of nine.

“I am very happy to get this recognition. It’s a result of my immense interest and passion and faith of my parents,” Bista told

Xinhua in an interview.

The boy appeared to be smart and articulate. According to Saugat, he spent a total of 27 days in shooting the movie in different parts of Nepal. When asked about what motivated him to do the movie, he said he has always been interested in movies and acting. He added that his father was his inspiration.—Xinhua

China’s holiday box office booms



Poster of movie “Dragon Blade”

BEIJING, 25 Feb — Chinese cinemas’ box office reached a record high during the week-long Spring Festival holiday, official sources said on Wednesday.

The State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television said in a statement that between 19 and 24 February, total box office topped 1.73 billion yuan (282 million US dollars).

The figure for last year’s Spring Festival holiday was 1.39 billion.

Cinema ticket in-

come on 19 February, the first day of Spring Festival, reached over 360 million yuan, registering a new daily record in the Chinese film market, the statement said.

Audience feedback was generally positive. According to a survey jointly conducted by the China Film Art Research Centre and Chinese showbiz consultancy EntGroup, festival moviegoers gave an average rating of 80.3 out of 100 to the films they watched.

Xinhua

GENERAL

IOC chief 'very satisfied' with progress for Rio 2016

RIO DE JANEIRO, 25 Feb — International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach has said he is "very satisfied" with Rio de Janeiro's preparations to host South America's first Olympic games in 2016.

Bach's upbeat comments came just 10 months after IOC vice-president John Coates described Brazil's organisation as the "worst ever".

That prompted the IOC to create a task force to more closely oversee preparations.

"I am very satisfied,"

Bach told reporters in Copacabana on Tuesday.

Bach flew to the Brazilian capital Brasilia to meet President Dilma Rousseff on Tuesday afternoon and will return to Rio for meetings of the IOC's executive committee.

Although local officials are concerned that the planned new metro line is behind schedule — as well as the fetid state of the water where the sailing events will take place — the Rio state governor brushed off those worries.

"Some delays are normal and they always happen with



International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach smiles during a news conference as part of the IOC Executive Board meeting in Monaco on 6 Dec, 2014.— REUTERS

the Olympics but they are nothing to worry about,"

Luiz Fernando Pezao said.—Reuters

Djokovic wins first round match at Dubai open

DUBAI, 25 Feb — Serbian tennis ace and world's number one Novak Djokovic won here on Tuesday against Canada's Vasek Pospisil clearly in two sets 6-4, 6-4, marking his initial victory match in the first round of this year's Dubai duty free tennis championships.

The match duration was 1 hour and 18 minutes as the sunny weather returned to Dubai after the emirate was hit by winds, clouds and some sandstorms in the last three days. Trained since December 2013 by German tennis legend Boric Becker, Djokovic seeks in Dubai to become the 12th player in the

Open Era to win 50 titles, a record which Becker holds.

The 27-year old Serbian player is playing for the ninth year in Dubai. If Djokovic wins the Dubai title, which his arch rival Roger Federer from Switzerland won last year, it would mark his fifth title in the Gulf Arab sheikhdom's

annual tournament.

Federer, currently the world's number two won on Monday his open match against Russian player Mikhail Youzhny in two sets 6-3, 6-1. The Swiss is seeking to win his seventh title in Dubai, one his favourite open tournaments, as he said. —Xinhua

Bomb-sniffing elephants trained in South Africa



A ranger rides an elephant during a demonstration of the art of 'bio-detection', to see if it can be used to sniff out explosives, at the Adventures with Elephants game ranch, in Mabula, northwest of Johannesburg, on 20 Feb, 2015. —REUTERS

MABULA, (South Africa) 25 Feb — In the South African bush, elephants are being trained in the art of "bio-detection" to see if they can use their exceptional sense of smell to sniff out explosives, landmines and poachers.

Supported by the US Army Research Office, the project looks promising.

During a recent test run, a 17-year-old male elephant named Chishuru walked past a row of buckets.

A swab laced with TNT scent had been stapled to the bottom of one.

Sticking his trunk into each bucket, Chishuru stopped and raised a front leg when he came across the one with the swab.

He got the bucket right each time. And like a sniffer dog, he was rewarded with a treat: marula, a fruit that elephants love.

"An elephant's nose is amazing. Think about mammoths, which had to find food through the ice," said Sean Hensman, operator of

Adventures with Elephants, the game ranch 180 km (110 miles) northwest of Johannesburg where the training is being conducted.

The project has a number of roots.

Elephants in Angola, which suffered decades of civil war, have been observed avoiding heavily-mined areas, suggesting their trunks were warning them to stay away.

In Hensman's case, he said his father was startled in the 1990s while watching a herd of elephants in Zim-

babwe to discover that a female member of the herd had tracked him.

Inspired, his father trained 12 elephants for anti-poaching patrols in Zimbabwe but in 2002 the family lost their three farms to President Robert Mugabe's land seizures and came to South Africa.

US army researchers, who have been involved in the project for five years, say unlike in Hannibal's day, elephants will not be staging a return to the theater of combat.

"We could bring scents from the field collected by unmanned robotic systems to the elephants for evaluation," said Stephen Lee, chief scientist of the US Army Research Office.

And who has the better nose, the dog or the elephant?

"In our work I don't believe we have a firm conclusion. We would like to better quantify this," Lee said.

But the old adage about an elephant never forgetting seems to have some basis in truth.

"Dogs require constant training while the elephants seem to understand and remember the scent without the need for constant training," Lee said.

Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(26-2-2015 07:00 am~ 27-2-2015 07:00 am) MST

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|---|---|
| * News | * News |
| * Novicehood in Myanmar | * Craft Blacksmithing |
| * News | * Crocodile Keeper |
| * The Stories of The Great Souls (U Pyae Son) | * News |
| * News | * Product of Myanmar - Power Ring |
| * The Beauty of Stylish Myanmar Dress | * News |
| * All About Orchids | * The Writer: Chit Oo Nyo (Part - II) |
| * News | * News |
| * Rakhine Tourist Area | * Serene and Happy Rural Life in Myanmar |
| * News | * We'll Leave After 12 Passengers are on Board... |
| * Moe Ne' Keeps Its Tradition Alive | * News |
| * Today Myanmar "Myanmar Timber Exports" | * Kayin Child Boxer |
| | * Made of Jade |

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(26-2-2015, Thursday)

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| 6:00 am | 7:45 am |
| • Wut Hmone Music Troupe | • TV Drama Series |
| 6:20 am | 8:35 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • TV Drama Series |
| 6:45 am | 9:20 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • Myanmar Video |
| 7:10 am | 12:00 am |
| • Myanmar Series | • Close Down |

Juve overcome Chiellini blunder to edge Dortmund

TURIN, (Italy) 25 Feb — Juventus overcame a blunder by defender Giorgio Chiellini and a first-half injury to playmaker Andrea Pirlo to beat Borussia Dortmund 2-1 in a fast and furious Champions League tie on Tuesday.

Carlos Tevez tapped in from close range to give the Serie A champions a 13th-minute lead in the last 16 first leg, only for Chiellini's nightmare moment to let Marco Reus in for a clinically-taken equalizer five minutes later.

The Italy defender slipped and fell over as he went to make a simple interception, lost the ball to Reus and did not even try to get up, instead remaining sprawled on the turf as the Borussia player planted the ball past Gianluigi Buffon.

In a passionate atmosphere, Juventus suffered another blow when Pirlo went off injured just after the half hour but a superbly-taken goal by Alvaro Morata just before halftime left the tie on a knife-edge.

Reuters



Juventus' Alvaro Morata shoots to score against Borussia Dortmund during their Champions League round of 16 first leg soccer match at the Juventus stadium in Turin on 24 Feb, 2015.— REUTERS

Women's and men's hurdle events held at Wunna Theikdi Stadium



An athlete taking part in pole vault event at Wunna Theikdi Stadium.—MNA



An athlete seen at weightlifting event at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Feb — Track and field sports took place at Wunna Theikdi Stadium on Wednesday.

Director of Supply and Transport of the Ministry of Defence presented the first prize to Ma Moe Moe Myint of Mandalay, second to Mahnin Wutyi of Mandalay and third to Ma Myint Myint Win of Ayeyawady in the women's 100-m hurdle event.

Chief of No 3 Special Operations Bureau

Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win of the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) awarded the first prize to Soe Moe Win of Magway, second to Kyaw Myo Min of Yangon and third to Zwe Htet Naung of Magway.

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan visited the triple jumping, women's football, Sepak Takraw, weightlifting, martial arts and Bando attack events.—MNA

Medal tally in 4th National Sports Festival 2015 on 25-2-2015

State/Region	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Yangon	73	50	35	158
Mandalay	41	43	53	137
Bago	22	21	26	69
Magway	17	11	14	42
Nay Pyi Taw	15	7	15	37
Rakhine	12	14	24	50
Ayeyawady	12	13	27	52
Kayin	12	7	7	26
Mon	9	20	21	50
Kachin	7	9	12	28
Sagaing	6	13	12	31
Taninthayi	5	11	20	36
Kayah	5	9	11	25
Shan	3	13	23	39
Chin	2	1	1	4

Suarez puts Barca on top as Messi misses penalty

MANCHESTER, 25 Feb — Manchester City suffered from déjà vu as Luis Suarez's double gave Barcelona a 2-1 first leg lead in a Champions League last 16 tie at the Etihad although Lionel Messi's late penalty miss left the door ajar on Tuesday.

In a repeat of last season's round of 16 first leg at the Etihad, Barcelona were too slick for the hosts in a mesmerizing opening period with Uruguay forward Suarez firing them in front in the 16th minute and doubling the lead after half an hour. Sergio Aguero rewarded City for a vastly improved second half showing with a clinical strike 20 min-

utes from time.

But with City down to 10 men after Gael Clichy's red card for a second booking, the majestic Messi had the chance to restore Barcelona's two-goal lead but his penalty was saved by Joe Hart and the Argentine headed the rebound wide.

"We are very happy with the result and even if it was 3-1 the tie would still be open," Barca coach Luis Enrique said.

City midfielder Samir Nasri said in the build-up that while Messi played football from a different galaxy, the rest of Barca's squad shared the same planet as City's.

It did not look like it

in a horribly one-sided first half in which Barcelona's entire ensemble were light years ahead in speed and movement.

Messi, rejuvenated since his reported spat with manager Luis Enrique at the start of the year, was at the heart of Barca's rapier thrusts. But it was Suarez, whose goals, bites and misplaced words made his time at Liverpool nothing if not compelling, who returned to cast his spell over English football.

It was his brace for Uruguay in June that all but banished England from the World Cup and this time his predatory instincts left City staring at another early exit

from Europe.

In the 16th minute Messi's ball in hit City skipper Vincent Kompany on the back and dropped at the feet of Suarez to drill a low shot past the stranded Hart.

The England keeper must be sick of the sight of Suarez and he was beaten again after 30 minutes when Messi mesmerised countryman Pablo Zabaleta and dinked a pass to Jordi Alba whose low cross was touched in by the sliding Uruguayan.

Dani Alvez clipped the crossbar before the halftime whistle offered stunned City a few minutes to clear their heads.

However, Barca were



Barcelona's Lionel Messi has his penalty saved by Manchester City's Joe Hart during UEFA Champions League Second Round First Leg at Etihad Stadium, Manchester, England on 24 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

caught snoozing at the start of the second half and Javier Mascherano had to make a superb tackle to deny Nasri before unmarked City striker Edin Dzeko headed straight at Marc-Andre ter Stegen. City's endeavour

was rewarded when Ague-ro, whose hat-trick against Bayern Munich in the group stage helped City mount a great escape into the last 16, clipped a shot past ter Stegen after brilliant work from David Silva.—Reuters