

Reform of the education system is one of the most important tasks of government's all-sector reforms

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March—*The following is the full text of the monthly radio address delivered by President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein.*

My fellow citizens,

I wish to begin this month's radio address with remarks about the Deed of Commitment for Peace and National Reconciliation that was signed on Union Day this year.

Union Day is celebrated each year to commemorate the signing of the Pinlon Agreement by national leader General Aung San, and other political and ethnic leaders, a few months before the country achieved independence. The Agreement symbolizes the leaders' desire for the establishment of a Union built on the spirit of ethnic and religious equality for all citizens.

This year's Union Day celebrations were more remarkable and meaningful than before because the government, Parliament, the Election Commission, leaders of political parties, representatives of ethnic groups and Tatmadaw, and leaders of ethnic armed groups were able to sign the Deed of Commitment for Peace and National Reconciliation. Ethnic leaders advised me that to prevent the public's loss of confidence in the peace process at a time when the complexities of the peace process are being resolved, leaders involved in the peace process would need to give a firm commitment to the process. After giving the ethnic leaders' advice careful consideration, I undertook to jointly work towards achieving this Deed of Commitment. This Deed of Commitment is a firm pledge by leaders involved in the peace process, in the spirit of responsible action, transparency

and accountability, on completing the important steps of concluding the nationwide ceasefire agreement, drafting a political dialogue framework, and promptly commencing political dialogue during 2015.

I signed the Deed not because the conditions were perfect, but because I want to take any and every opportunity I can to encourage the process, build trust, and demonstrate clearly that my government truly committed to a negotiated end to the armed violence that has plagued our country.

To further these efforts, the Union Peace Working Committee and the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team are planning to meet again in the middle of March.

The nation also celebrated several ethnic national days in February. The holding of dignified celebrations to showcase ethnic customs and distinctive symbols is one of the positive outcomes of the reform process.

I would now like to explain the situation in the Kokang Self-Administration Region. Tatmadaw and security forces had to quickly respond and defend against violent attempts to undermine national sovereignty, public safety, property, and national unity.

The government is giving priority to protecting lives and property in the fighting zone. I would like to especially recognize the assistance provided to affected local residents by citizens and civil organizations. I am also heartened to see the outpouring of public compassion, support, and encouragement to the soldiers risking their



lives in the line of duty. Tatmadaw soldiers are dutifully defending our nation, and they have my utmost respect. I also applaud the Myanmar Red Cross Society for their humanitarian efforts.

Myanmar and the People's Republic of China have held discussions regarding the clashes in the Kokang Region. The two nations have already agreed to cooperate in accordance with the Five Principles of Peaceful
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Businesspeople, public gain chance to help shape modernization of investment law



Photo of under-construction buildings being developed by foreign investors in Yangon.

PHOTO: YE MYINT

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 28 Feb — Businesspeople and members of the public can provide input on new legislation aimed at modernizing Myanmar's rules and regulations on investment, the Directorate of the Investment and Company

Administration (DICA) said Saturday.

The Investment Law of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, currently in draft form, will supersede two existing laws governing domestic and foreign investment, and is being developed in cooperation with the International

Finance Corporation (IFC), the DICA said.

The draft Myanmar Investment Law (2015) has been uploaded in English on the DICA website, with a Myanmar language version coming soon, it added.

The Myanmar Investment Law (draft) consolidates and replaces the My-

anmar Citizens Investment Law and the Foreign Investment Law, and is comprised of seven parts with 25 sections.

The DICA invited comments and feedback on the draft law, by 26 March, by email at policylegal.dica@gmail.com or by post or fax to the Yangon Of-

Government demands halt to student protest march to Yangon

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Feb — The Ministry of Home Affairs said in its statement issued on 28 February that the government has demanded that students should halt their protests as the hearing for changes to the National Education Law is in progress in parliament in accordance with the law.

Student protesters are reported marching toward Yangon, mobilizing more recruits. The government has described the persistent protest march as more of a hindrance to national stability than of a help to facilitating the amendment to the education law, warning that action will be taken if they failed to impede their protest march.

The bill to amend the National Education Law was brought before the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) by the Ministry of Education on 16 February, following an agreement reached at the four-party talks involving the Government, the Parliament, the Leading Committee for Democracy Education Movement and the National Network for Education Reform.

The Amyotha Hluttaw announced the hearing for the proposed education bill on 24 February.—GNLM

Office at No.1 Thitsar Road, Yankin Township, Yangon (Fax: 01 658135), Nay Pyi Taw Office at Building No. 32, Nay Pyi Taw (Fax: 067 406306), Mandalay Office at the corner of 26th and 84th Street, East Zay Cho Market, 2nd Floor, Chan Aye Thar Zan Township, Mandalay Region (Fax:

02 686660), Shan State Office at No. 139, Sat San Tun Road, Zay Pine Yut, Taungyi, Shan State (Fax: 081 2124974) and Mon State Office at No. 401, Toe Chae Kan Nar Road, Mayangone Quarter, Mawlamyine Township, Mon State (Fax: 05 7 23385).

GNLM

Thura U Shwe Mann discusses development programmes in Phyu Township



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann meets local officials and dignitaries in Phyu Township.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Feb— Thura U Shwe Mann met local administrative officers, people and parliamentarians of Phyu Township, Bago region, Saturday. The meeting was at-

Displaced people reoccupy their places in Laukkai as security improves

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Feb — Displaced people are starting to reoccupy their places in Laukkai, where clashes broke out between government troops and Kokang rebels in early February, causing locals to leave their property behind.

Their reoccupation has begun since 22 February, as security improved, according to officials.

The town is said to have returned to normal as the army is making endeavours to secure the area.

Currently, local military personnel have taken a leading role in cleaning up the mess, joining hands with local people, social organizations and departmental staff in a bid to improve

the appearance of the town.

On 27 February, military columns on patrol raided a building and found ownerless narcotic drugs worth K279 million.

In another incident on Saturday, the military columns seized stimulant tablets worth K32.7 million hidden in a dell near a purified water plant.

The security troops stopped two suspects and found thousands of WY-inscribed stimulant tablets on them. The seizure of narcotics was valued at K13.9m.

Regarding local students of grade one to ten, the Department of Myanmar Examinations has announced that arrangements have been made for them to

take examinations in nearby centres after informing education officers of their whereabouts.

As for matriculation students, an examination centre will be opened in the town of Kunlon. In addition, arrangements will be made for students to sit the examination in places where they are now living. The matriculation examinations are scheduled for 11 March. For further information contact U Myo Myint Aung at phone numbers (01) 653 509, and mobile phone (09) 506 1776 and Dr Myat Soe Aung at phone numbers (067) 430168 and mobile phone (09) 256 088 521.

Myawady

tended by responsible persons of Hluttaw affairs committee, Bago region government, township development committees, members of political parties and social organizations.

During the meeting, Thura U Shwe Mann urged local officials to insert more efforts in development programmes.

He also said all the citizens are responsible for safeguarding and protecting the sovereignty of the country in accordance 2008 State Constitution, adding that, civil service employees must take responsibility and accountability for their duties in accordance with civil service rules.

Thura U Shwe Mann said that not only the government and Hluttaw, but people are obliged to implement market-oriented economic system.

Later, Bago region government officials explained the development programmes in respective areas.—MNA

Protesting student representatives observe Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Feb— According to the announcement issued by the Office of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 27 February, the bill committee of the Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) met nine representatives of the protesting student column on 27 February and explained to them the functions and procedures of the legislature.

Nine student representatives requested Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann to let them observe how the parliament functions. They observed parliamentary sessions in progress and witnessed their functions and procedures.

The democratically elected legislative assemblies are responsible for making and passing laws that protect the interests of the people and the country and adhere to international conventions and treaties.—GNLM

Myingyan mass rally calls for national stability and peace

MYINGYAN, 28 Feb — A mass rally was staged in Myingyan, Mandalay Region, on Saturday, calling for national stability and peace, according to reports.

The demonstrators gathered in front of a primary school in Myingyan and marched to the sports ground, carrying placards and banners reading “Stability is our concern”, “Flourishing of democracy is our concern”, “Let’s pressure ceasefire”, “Sta-

bility for national solidarity”, “National stability for peaceful workplaces”, and “National stability for farming communities”.

At the sports ground, a leading participant explained the objective of the rally. The rally dispersed peacefully when they got back to the school.

According to reports, the mass rally sought permission from the administrative bodies concerned.

Zaw Min Naing



A mass rally in Myingyan calls for national stability and peace.—MNA

Myanmar’s first Cardinal urges Tatmadaw, armed groups to solve armed conflicts through negotiation

By Aye Min Soe

NYAUNGLEBIN, 28 Feb — Charles Maung Bo, Myanmar’s first Roman Catholic Cardinal, has called on the Tatmadaw (Myanmar Armed Forces) and armed groups to meet for negotiations to end their ongoing armed conflicts.

He urged the Tatmadaw to begin negotiations with armed groups including the KIA and Kokang renegade group, saying it is important to meet face-to-face to end armed conflicts in the country.

“People suffer from wars. The Tatmadaw, considering itself as parents, should lead negotiations,” said Bo during an interview at a Catholic church in Nyaunglebin town where the 113th annual National Marian Pilgrimage is being celebrated.

At his first meeting as a cardinal with more than 50,000 people from the Roman Catholic community from different parts of Myanmar during the celebration of the pilgrimage, he has also reaffirmed his commitment to work towards peace and recon-

ciliation between different religious groups in Myanmar.

He has become a voice of not only for Myanmar’s Catholic community but also for the peoples of the country including those with no voice and will work for building a more friendly relationship between leaders of different religions and for reduction of conflicts based on religions, Bo said.

He will also work for the establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar and the Vatican.—GNLM



Cardinal Charles Maung Bo (centre), Bishops and Priests release doves for peace at the 113th annual National Marian Pilgrimage in Nyaunglebin.

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

NATIONAL

Reform of the education system is one of the most important...

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Coexistence. These include recognizing our long-standing friendly relations, mutual respect, and the understanding that one nation will not allow the use of its territory to damage the interests of the other nation. I stress here that I will not tolerate any country or group infringing on the sovereignty of Myanmar. The situation in the Kokang Region is being contained and efforts are underway to restore normalcy.

Turning now to education, reform of the education system is one of the most important tasks of my government's all-sector reforms. It is to be expected that attempts to fix a system that has deteriorated over the years would face difficulties and challenges. The Ministry of Education consulted with student groups and civil society, and facilitated the amending of the National Education Law. Parliament is now considering these changes.

I urge all the groups involved to act with vision, and through dialogue to nurture an education system that will improve the lives of citizens, strengthen democratic reforms, and build an open and peaceful society.

Setting a minimum wage is a key aspect of workers' rights in Myanmar, and the government is working with workers' organizations, and businesses in this effort. The process will involve careful analysis, consultations, and systematic implementation to ensure a minimum wage that is fair for all concerned. I urge everyone involved in the process to be inclusive, pragmatic and act with patience. Most importantly, direct confrontation and use of force must be avoided. During

the past four years, there have been many examples of addressing labor issues peacefully through negotiations. This must continue, and the government is facilitating negotiations between businesses and workers to resolve disagreements that currently exist.

I would now like to address questions the public has concerning temporary identification cards, also known as White Cards. Some White Cards have been issued temporarily during the citizenship verification process as a form of identification because there have been some difficulties verifying the citizenship of the cardholders. The citizenship verification process is ongoing. As officially announced earlier, White Cards will expire at the end of March. Various government departments will ensure that the legitimate rights of the cardholders are maintained during the citizenship verification process.

When my government took office, we decided to launch reforms based on citizens' desire for these reforms. First, we initiated liberalization. We carefully considered the roles of youth – the future generation of leaders – because we acknowledge their roles in the history of our nation. Therefore, instead of ignoring youths during this reform process, we have supported their participation and encouraged youth-led activities. In this more liberalized environment, youths are free to do what they believe in. Although youths were once isolated from the rest of the world due to conditions at that time, reforms currently underway are allowing them to freely interact with the wider world in an unprecedented manner. These connections are promoting new concepts, perspectives and knowledge, and are contributing to the development of a future generation of leaders. Youths should firmly grasp the opportunities created by the liberalization and equip themselves with these new skills

to ensure our society develops from generation to generation.

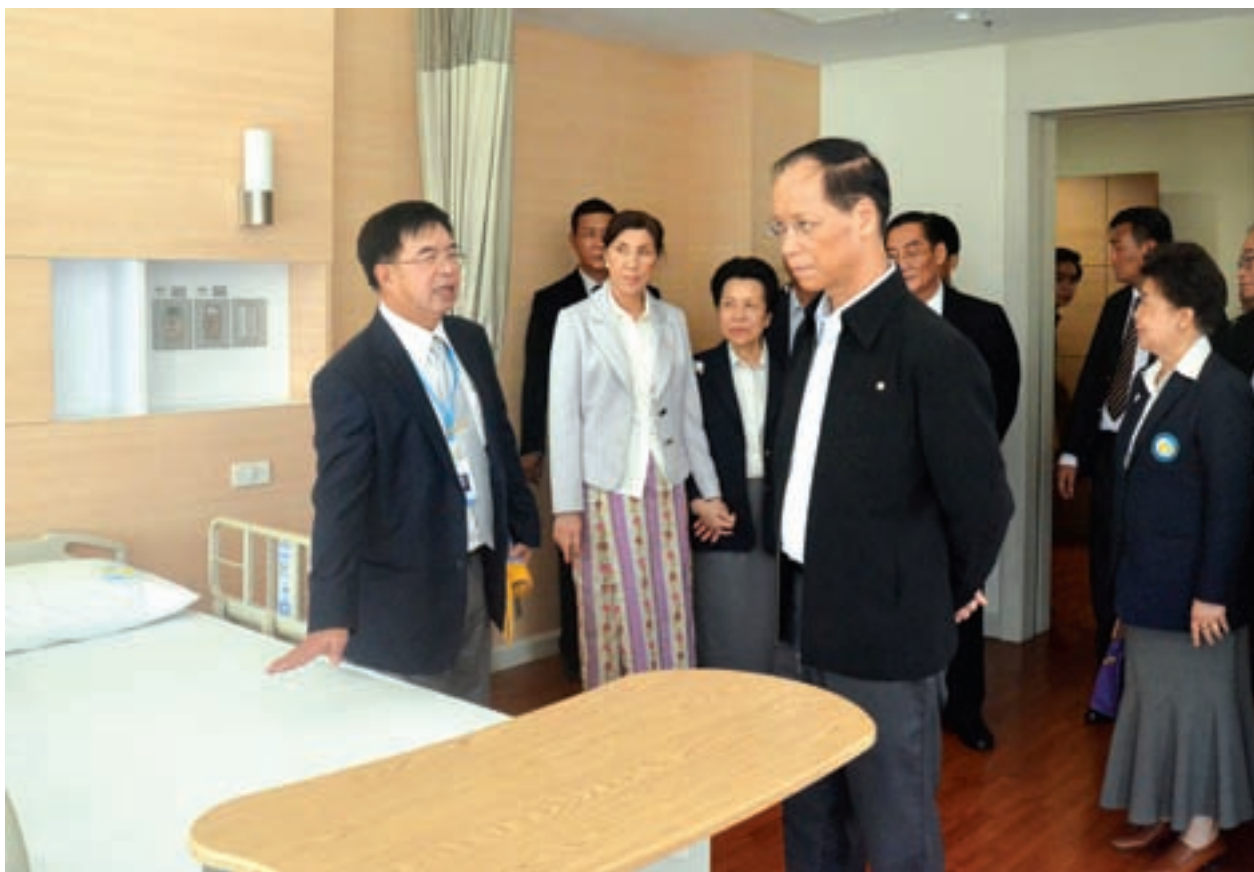
This February was also noteworthy because it marked the 100th anniversary of national leader General Aung San's birth. I was proud of our remembrance, and praise of him and his achievements. At the same time, we should not be content with just praising his speeches, leadership and patriotism. Each of us must act on the messages of his speeches and strive for the democracy, equality, and Union he envisioned. Only then will we have served our duty as citizens and repaid our debts to General Aung San. I encourage today's youth to strive to become leaders who will be respected, and emulated one hundred years from now, just as General Aung San is respected and emulated today.

I am working hard to achieve successful outcomes for the peace process, democratic reforms, and livelihoods. We are now at an important period in time that will decide if these efforts will succeed. Success in one area will energize in other areas. Therefore I urge political leaders, and each and every citizen to work together to achieve our common goals. In particular, the first all-inclusive elections to be contested since independence will be held in November. It is to be expected that political parties will hotly contest this democratic exercise. In doing so to achieve their political goals, I strongly urge the contestants to show mutual respect, understanding and magnanimity.

I would like to conclude by reaffirming my commitment to achieving peace, promoting economic development and building a better future for future generations.

I wish you all good health and happiness.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham back home



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and Myanmar delegation visit Bumirajanagarindra Kidney Institute.—MNA

YANGON, 28 Feb — A Myanmar delegation led by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham who paid a goodwill visit to Thailand arrived back in Yangon on Saturday evening.

The Vice-President and party were welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U

Myint Swe and wife, ministers, Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Pisanu Suvanajata and wife and official.

Before going back home, the Vice-President accompanied by Kayah State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo and Deputy Ministers U Tin Oo Lwin, Dr

Win Myint, U Htin Aung and Dr Sai Kyaw Ohn and officials paid homage to the Emerald Buddha and visited the Grand Palace.

On his arrival at Bumirajanagarindra Kidney Institute, officials conducted the Vice-President and party around the hospital and explained

healthcare services being provided to patients.

In the evening, the Myanmar delegation led by the Vice-President was seen off at Suvarnabhumi Airport by Myanmar Ambassador to Thailand U Win Maung, Military Attaché Brig-Gen Chit Swe and officials.

MNA

President sends message of felicitations to Bosnia and Herzegovina

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March— U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Mladen Ivanic, Chairman of the Presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina on the occasion of the Independence Day of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which falls on 1 March 2015.

MNA

Union FM sends message of felicitations to Bosnia and Herzegovina

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March— U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Zlatko Lagumdžija, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina, on the occasion of the Independence Day of Bosnia and Herzegovina, which falls on 1 March 2015. — MNA

U San Myint Oo presents his Credentials to Timor-Leste President

NAY PYI TAW, 1 March— U San Myint Oo, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Taur Matan Ruak, President of the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste, on 17 February 2015 in Dili.

MNA

MCDC invites applications for construction of water throwing pandals



MANDALAY, 28 Feb— Myanmar people enjoy water throwing festival in Maha Thingyan period in mid-April every year.

The Revenue Department under the Mandalay City Development Committee announced it will

accept applications to construct water throwing pandals in Mandalay City from 23 February to 6 March.

Applicants are to pay K500,000 fee to the department for construction of the pandals around moats of the city. The applica-

tions without payment of K500,000 fee will be cancelled from the list.

“Last year, a total of 36 water throwing pandals around four sides of moats, nine in downtown, nine at Kandawgyi Lake and 13 decorated pandals mush-

roomed in city Mandalay. Fees of applicants went to the fund of the MCDC and cost of water supply. Those of pandals from downtown Mandalay do not need to pay a fee to the committee,” said an official of Revenue Department.

Moreover, those allowed to build the pandals around the moats must pay K2 million each as a deposit to the committee. If anyone violates the prescribed rules of Maha Thingyan festival, the MCDC will punish them with fines and cut out the deposits, he added. “The committee will release the deposits to responsible persons from the pandals if they did not offend any discipline,” he said.

Construction of the pandals will be allowed as of 12 March and the buildings must be completed on 9 April.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Military servicemen, well-wishers donate cash and kind for soldiers

MYAWADY, 28 Feb— In honour of military servicemen discharging defence and security duties in Laukkai region, which shares border with China, a cash and kind donation was held at the hall of local military station in Thingyan-nyinaung, Myawady Township, Kayin State, on 27 February.

Commander of No 12 Operations Control Command Brig-Gen Myo Moe Aung and Tactical Operations Commander

Col Myo Khaing accepted K16,257,000 donated by commanders of regiments and units and wellwishers.

They donated packets of instant noodle, soft drinks, garments, tinned fish and assorted snacks and cash which amounted to over K29 million.

Officials plan to share the donations with families of fallen and injured military servicemen in the Laukkai region.

Tun Tun Oo (Myawady Town)



Mingalar Mandalay garden city opened for dwellers



MANDALAY, 28 Feb—Mingalar Mandalay garden city, a new residential and commercial precinct, officially opened in Chanmyathazi Township on 26 February.

The new garden city is located on 73rd street between Thazin and Ngu Shwe Wah streets.

Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint unveiled the signboard of the city.

Afterwards, Professor Dr. Aung Tun Thet, economic adviser to the President, Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs U Aung Mung and managing director U Kyaw Kyaw Win of New Star Light construction company cut the

ribbon to open the Aungmingala Mandalay housing project and showrooms.

The chief minister and party viewed around the housing and visited the showrooms.

The 47-acre garden city project was carried out by Mandalay City Development Committee, New Star Light Construction Company Ltd. and CAD Construction Company Ltd in September 2012.

The project includes apartments, a supermarket, car parks, a three star hotel, condominiums, an office tower and a shopping mall for residents.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Upgrading of road section to contribute towards rural development

MYINGYAN, 28 Feb—The Department of Rural Development is placing asphalt on a 24-mile long Myohta-Natogyi road section on Myingyan-Natogyi-Myohta-TadaU-Mandalay road with the assistance of DNPP Company. Three groups of skilled workers led by engineers are upgrading the road section in Natogyi Township.

Upon completion, local people will have faster and more convenient access to Mandalay.—*Htay Myint Maung*

Folklorists may find tradition of rural people at Buddha Pujaniya festival

MOHNYIN, 28 Feb—The 146th Buddha Pujaniya of Shwe Myinzu Pagoda, located in mid-stream of Indawgyi Lake, is being held in Mohnyin Township, Kachin State, as of 25 February.

Vendors from four corners of the nation arrived at the festival to sell their prod-

ucts to visitors. Traditional foods, textiles and cultural works are available from the vendors. Rural people sell goods and products at reasonable prices to the pilgrims.

Departmental booths are kept open for public observation at the festival of the Buddha Pujaniya.—*GNLM-001*



Officials explain environmental conservation activities at Indawkyi Lake sanctuary to a German tourist at the booth.—GNLM-001

REGIONAL

Indonesia ends AirAsia search operation: official

JAKARTA, 28 Feb — A senior Indonesian official said on Saturday that the search operation for bodies and wreckage of the AirAsia QZ 8501 has come to an end, as evacuation of the crashed plane's mangled wreckage was underway at the moment on Saturday, expecting to arrive in Jakarta on Sunday.

Speaking on the sidelines to commemorate the 43 anniversary of Indonesia's National Search and Rescue agency (Basarnas), chief of the agency F Henry Bambang Soelistyo said the search team has engaged maximum efforts to search for more bodies from the ill-fated flight during the operation.

"We found no more bodies in search areas over the last two weeks," Bambang told reporters.

Bambang said efforts to lift up and evacuate the mangled wreckage of the Airbus A320-200 jet from the seabed of the Karimata Strait started three days ago.

Bambang said the meeting with representatives of the ill-fated plane's passengers is planned as part of the closure of the operation.

The Basarnas carried out the operation since late last month after the military pulled out from the activities in 27 January. Besides Indonesia, the operation was joined by several countries including Singapore, Malaysia, Australia, Russia, the United States, China, Japan and South Korea.

Air Asia QZ 8501 was crashed in Karimata Strait enroute from Indonesia's city of Surabaya for Singapore on 28 December, killing all 162 people onboard.

The search team has retrieved 103 bodies of passengers and crews with some of the bodies were found in waters about 1,000 km away from the crash site.

Xinhua



Members of China's peacekeeping infantry battalion of the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) arrive at the airport in Juba, South Sudan, on 27 Feb, 2015. This marks the successful deployment of the whole detachment sent in advance. And it also shows China's peacekeeping infantry have had the ability of self keeping and self guarantee in the logistics support system of the UNMISS. —XINHUA

Over 1,700 teachers, experts from 33 countries gather in Cambodia for English teaching conference

PHNOM PENH, 28 Feb — More than 1,700 teachers and experts from 33 countries around the world took part in a two-day conference on English Language Teaching (ELT) here on Saturday, Cambodian Education Minister Hang Chuon Naron said.

Speaking at the opening of the conference held at the Institute of Technology of Cambodia, the minister said the event

provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and dissemination of information on good practices within ELT.

"It is also a platform to strengthen and broaden the network of ELT teachers and all those involved in the ELT sector in Cambodia and the world," he said.

He said Cambodia has seen remarkable rise in using English language

among its population.

"The ministry strongly supports professional development opportunities to empower English teachers so that they can teach English at international standard," he said.

According to a Press release from organizer IDP (International Development Programme) Education-Cambodia, speakers from universities in Singapore, the United States,

Australia, Indonesia, and Malaysia will share their experiences and expertise on the topic at the event.

In addition, 35 local and international exhibitors will also be showcasing the best in ELT resources, materials, associations, institutions and services at the conference. It is the 11th year that the Southeast Asian country organizes the event.

Xinhua

Largest Chingay parade to celebrate Singapore's 50th birthday

SINGAPORE, 28 Feb — Coincided with 50th anniversary of Singapore's independence, the largest Chingay parade was launched at F1 Pit Building on Friday evening.

Although it's an annual event to celebrate Chinese New Year, this year's parade is very special because it also celebrate the city state's Golden Jubilee, said Nah Juay Hng, chairman of the Chingay 2015 EXPO. "That is why this year's Chingay is the grandest Chingay, the biggest Chingay that we have in history," he said.

It is estimated that 160 performing organizations participate in this year's parade while 3,000 parade volunteers and 11,000 volunteer performers are also involved.

The word "Chingay" is phonetically borrowed from the dialect in Hokkien or Fujian, China, meaning the art of costume and masquerade. It evolved from celebrations in the southern part of China

during the Spring Festival, and has been held in Singapore each year since 1973.

Traditionally, Chingay parade is about color, song and dance. The theme of this year's event is "We Love Singapore." Beautiful site display of 600,000 "We Love Singapore" flowers, which are made from recyclable plastic bags, and eye-catching floats with performance from both local and overseas contingents highlight this year's celebration.

Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean led 100 representatives from performing contingents, as well as religious, grassroots sectors and international groups, and 25,000 audiences to do the "We Love Singapore" gesture, lighting up the carnival atmosphere.

Four segments, namely Celebration Singapore, Memories Singapore, We Love Singapore, Dreams and Hope Singapore, composed

the main parade on Friday evening. The "We Love Singapore" part converged good wishes from Singaporeans, ethnic communities, and overseas friends.

Just as Singapore's founding prime minister Lee Kuan Yew said about "a multi-racial nation" on 9 August, 1965, Chingay has acted as an important platform for Singapore to bring people together, with 17 international contingents from 14 countries and regions taking efforts to specially choreograph their performance to wish Singapore "Happy Birthday" Friday evening, while showcasing their own culture at the same time.

The Indonesian contingent brought a colorful parade with 470 performers themed "Ethnature" — ethnic diversity and nature, while the Thailand contingent conveyed their best wishes to Singapore as the two countries have established diplomatic ties for 50 years. Four contingents

from China and one art troupe from China's Taiwan showed their own colorful culture.

The costumes of Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city (SSTEC) contingent featured energy-efficient LED lights, which will "dance" to the rhythm of the music. According to He Congchao, leader of SSTEC contingent, they specially designed three adorable mascots to convey the message of eco-development in a modern urban city. Three youths from the SSTEC contingent dressed up as the mascots and roller-skated alongside their float. The contingent of Sino-Singapore Suzhou Industrial Park brought an 18-metre-long float to show the marvelous city of Suzhou. A group of 80 performers from the Suzhou Ballet Theater and the Chinese Dance Group of National University of Singapore presented elegant dance with traditional Chinese musical instruments.—Xinhua

Number of Japanese studying abroad in 2012 up for 1st time in 8 years

TOKYO, 28 Feb — The number of Japanese who studied abroad in 2012 rose 2,637 from the previous year to 60,138, marking the first rise in eight years, an education ministry tally showed on Friday. Although the figure stayed at a three-quarter level of the peak of 82,945 in 2004, the ministry attributed the rise to the expansion in scholarships for students who study for a short term at colleges and other schools overseas. The number of Japanese who study abroad is expected to continue rising, according to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology.

Among destinations for studying abroad, China accounted for the largest number at 21,126 students, up 3,165, followed by the United States at 19,568 and Britain at 3,633. The numbers of students who went to the United States and Britain fell from the previous year. According to the Japan Student Services Organization, the number of foreign students at colleges and Japanese-language schools in Japan as of 1 May, 2014, increased 16,010 from a year earlier to 184,155.—Kyodo News

India unveils budget aimed at energizing country's growth

NEW DELHI, 28 Feb — India on Saturday unveiled its budget, pledging to energize the economy by cutting down corporate tax and announcing a universal social security system for all its citizens. Indian Finance Minister Arun Jaitley presented before the parliament the first full-fledged budget of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government, saying that "India is about to take off and it is time for a quantum leap on reforms."

"The corporate tax will be reduced from 30 percent to 25 percent," the finance minister said, as part of measures by the government to project an investor-friendly image. Stating that India's economy has been growing at a strong rate, he said, "Inflation is down and foreign exchange reserves are high. These are all good signs of an economy that's restored its credibility.—Xinhua

Russian politician Boris Nemtsov shot dead in Moscow



A man lays flowers on the murder site of Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov in Moscow, Russia, on 28 Feb, 2015. People came to the murder site of Boris Nemtsov for mourning on Saturday. Boris Nemtsov was shot and killed near the city center on 27 Feb, 2015.—XINHUA

MOSCOW, 28 Feb — Russian opposition leader Boris Nemtsov was shot and killed near the city center, according to local law enforcement agency.

“An unknown person killed Nemtsov with four shots using a handgun on the slope near St Basil’s Cathedral in the Red Square,” *Tass* news

agency quoted a law enforcement spokesman as saying.

“An investigative team is working at the site,” the spokesman said, adding that the manhunt of the murderer is underway.

Anatoly Yakunin, head of Moscow City Department of the Interior Ministry, was head-

ing to the murder site and Russian Interior Minister Vladimir Kolokoltsev was also informed of the criminal case.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that President Vladimir Putin was “immediately informed of the murder” and “instructed the Investigative Committee, Interior Ministry and Federal Security Service to establish an investigative group.”

“The head of state personally controls the investigation course,” Peskov said. “Putin noted that the violent murder indicates a contract killing and is purely provocative.”

The incident happened almost one day before the opposition anti-crisis march “Spring”, which is planned on 1 March.

As an outspoken critic of Putin, Nemtsov once served as Russia’s deputy premier.

Xinhua

US diplomat voices hope for Japan-China-S Korea summit

WASHINGTON, 28 Feb — A senior US diplomat expressed hope on Friday that a foreign ministerial meeting between Japan, South Korea and China to take place possibly next month will lead to their first trilateral summit despite tensions in the region.

“Plans are afoot for a three-way ministerial to be held in Korea next month with the expectation of a summit to follow,” Undersecretary of State Wendy Sherman told an event in Washington.

Sherman said that when she visited the three Asian countries in November, she was “impressed” by the efforts that officials of each country are making to realize trilateral foreign ministerial talks, “some in public, and some behind the scenes.”

On disputes over territory and history involving Japan, South Korea and China, Sherman indicated

the tensions are regarded as an obstacle to enhancing cooperation among the three countries by them and the United States.

“All this is understandable but it can also be frustrating,” Sherman said.

Bilateral relations between Japan and South Korea, both close US allies, have been strained due mainly to disputes over history related to Japan’s colonial rule over the Korean Peninsula before and during World War II.

The issues include the use of so-called “comfort women” from the area in wartime Japanese military brothels and sovereignty over a pair of South Korean-controlled islets in the Sea of Japan, called Takeshima in Japan and Dokdo in South Korea. Japan also has disagreements with China over wartime history and Beijing’s claim to the Japan-administered Senkaku islets in the East China Sea, called Diaoyu

in China.

Sherman warned against fueling nationalism by lashing out at other countries.

“It’s not hard for a political leader anywhere to earn cheap applause by vilifying a former enemy but such provocations produce paralysis, not progress,” she said.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping, who took office in 2012 and 2013, did not hold one-on-one talks until November due to the disputes between their countries.

Abe and South Korean President Park Geun-hye, who was inaugurated in 2013, have yet to meet bilaterally though their deputies have been working on realizing a meeting. Abe and Park met in March last year in a trilateral summit in The Hague that was brokered by US President Barack Obama.

Kyodo News

Ukraine’s military reports significant fall in fighting

KIEV, 28 Feb — Ukraine’s military said on Saturday there had been a significant decrease in attacks by separatists in the east overnight, but said rebels had fired GRAD missiles at the town of Avdiivka despite a two-week-old ceasefire deal.

On Friday, Ukraine reported the first deaths among its servicemen in three days, underscoring the fragility of the truce meant to have taken effect on 15 February, as government troops and rebels pulled back heavy weapons from the frontline.

Overnight there was a “significant decrease in attacks in general and a full ceasefire in certain parts of the conflict zone,” the military said on its Facebook page.

It said the truce had been most fully observed around the rebel-controlled city of Luhansk and near government-held Mariupol on the Sea of Azov.

Kiev feared the port

city and industrial hub could become the next rebel target after they humiliated government troops by seizing the strategic town of Debaltseve after the truce was meant to have come into force.

The Ukrainian military reported isolated attacks by rebels on government posi-

tions, including strikes from GRAD missiles around government-held Avdiivka, north of rebel-held Donetsk and home to one of Europe’s largest coke plants.

Fighting in Ukraine’s industrialized east has devastated the steel sector, which before the conflict erupted last April accounted

for 15 percent of the economy.

Both government troops and separatists said they continued withdrawing heavy weapons from the front line, “point two” of the peace agreement aimed at ending the conflict which has killed more than 5,600.

Reuters



An armed man with the separatist self-proclaimed Donetsk People’s Republic army salutes from the top of a mobile artillery cannon as his convoy starts pulling back from Donetsk on 28 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

Iran, six powers to hold nuclear talks in Switzerland on 5 March — EU



Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif speaks during a news conference with Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari (not pictured) in Baghdad, on 24 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

BRUSSELS, 28 Feb — Senior officials from Iran and six powers negotiating with Teheran over its nuclear programme will hold more talks in Montreux, Switzerland, on 5 March, the European Union said on Friday.

The talks between political directors will be preceded by a series of bilateral meetings between Iran and some of the six powers — the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany — starting on Monday, 2 March.

“The EU is making every effort to facilitate the negotiations: we cannot miss the opportunity of a

good agreement,” EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said in a statement.

The US State Department announced on Thursday that US Secretary of State John Kerry would meet with Iranian nuclear negotiators in Montreux next week.

The six powers are seeking to negotiate an agreement with Teheran to address concerns that Iran is seeking nuclear weapons technology, something it denies.

Negotiators hope to meet a self-imposed 31 March deadline for an initial political deal.

Reuters

Two US Marines held for allegedly trespassing in Okinawa

NAHA, (Japan), 28 Feb — Two US Marines were arrested on Saturday for allegedly trespassing the previous day in Okinawa Prefecture, police said.

The two Marines —

Sergeant Richard Hart and Lance Corporal Justinkainoa Kealanahale — are suspected of entering a balcony of an apartment in the town of Kin in Okinawa Prefecture around 10:45 pm on

Friday.

According to the police, a 46-year-old resident in the apartment alerted them that the two were standing on his balcony. They fled from the scene but were soon appre-

hended by police.

The suspects told the police they had sought to enter the apartment to take care of a Japanese drinking buddy who was with them.

Kyodo News

WORLD

EU and Cuba to restart talks after cultural dispute

BRUSSELS, 28 Feb — Cuba and the European Union will hold a third round of talks in Havana next week aimed at increasing trade, investment and political dialogue after overcoming a dispute that delayed the negotiations, an EU official said on Friday.

The round on Wednesday and Thursday follows normalisation talks this week between Cuba and the United States, was due to take place in January.

It was postponed because Havana was upset over a cultural event organized by the EU in Washington in March last year.

The EU is always Cuba's top foreign investor. EU officials say the proposed accord would give Brussels a bigger role in Havana's market-oriented reforms, position EU companies for Cuba's transition to a more open economy and allow the Europe to press for political freedoms

US, Cuba say progress made in talks; no date for diplomatic ties

WASHINGTON, 28 Feb — Cuban and US officials held a second round of talks on Friday towards normalizing ties and both sides said they made good progress, although they did not set a date for renewal of diplomatic relations that Washington severed 54 years ago.

Going into the talks, Communist-ruled Cuba pushed to be removed from a US list of state sponsors of terrorism. But Washington said that while it was reviewing Cuba's place on the list, the designation should not be linked to the negotiations on renewing relations and opening embassies.

The head of Cuba's delegation to the talks, Josefina Vidal, said removal from the terrorism list was not a pre-condition for renewal of diplomatic ties, but she added that it was a "very important issue" and a priority for Cuba.

The talks in Washington stemmed from the historic decision announced by the two Cold War era foes last December to work to normalise relations, including opening embassies in each other's countries, and to exchange prisoners.

Reuters

on the Communist-ruled island.

EU officials suspect that Havana may not have felt ready for a third round last year because they were due to discuss human rights, which is always a sensitive topic for Cuba, a one-party state that represses dissent and controls the media.

"We will only go when they feel they are ready to receive us," said an EU official on condition of anonymity.

It was unclear how ready Havana is now willing to discuss human rights this time but the EU official said Cuba is aware that the issue is an essential demand for Europe.

"That has been accepted by our Cuban counterparts. The Cuban side has been aware that these issues will have to be integrated into the agreement," the official said.

The EU and Cuba began the negotiations in



European Union's Ambassador to Cuba Herman Portocarero speaks to the media during a news conference in Havana on 10 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

April last year to improve relations, part of a significant deepening of ties since the bloc lifted diplomatic sanctions in 2008.

The talks remain delicate. People involved in preparing the talks told Reuters last year that Cuba was upset by an exhibition of photos of Cuba by

a Lithuanian artist that had Havana's backing.

The exhibition was shown in Washington but Cuba did not approve of some of the people who attended its inauguration there, sources said.

Human rights remain the biggest stumbling block for an EU-Cuba accord. Diplomats say any serious violation of human rights during negotiations would also interrupt the talks.

EU officials say the recent rapprochement in ties with the US government, Cuba's longtime foe that has kept an embargo against the Caribbean island since 1962, have not had any direct impact on the talks.

"It is too early to say how it will play into our negotiating process," the EU official said, referring to the decision on 17 December by the United States and Cuba to work to normalise relations severed 54 years ago.—Reuters

China questions US threat of UN sanctions on South Sudan

UNITED NATIONS, 28 Feb — China on Friday questioned the logic behind a US push to create a United Nations sanctions regime for South Sudan while warring parties there negotiate a power-sharing deal to end the conflict in the country, the world's newest state.

The United States circulated a draft UN Security Council resolution on the measure to the 15-member body on Tuesday but stopped short of proposing an arms embargo or placing specific individuals on a blacklist.

"The question arises as to what is the best way to facilitate (the political) process — whether at this moment, when the two sides are negotiating for a solution, you talk about imposing sanctions," Chinese UN Ambassador Liu Jieyi told reporters. "Frankly I don't see the logic behind this."

"Sanctions are a punitive thing to do ... it intends to punish," he said. "To apply a punitive measure now would send out what kind of a message — a right message or wrong message?"

China is a Security Council veto-wielding member, along with Russia, the United States, France and Britain.

Thousands of people have been killed and more than a million have fled their homes since fighting erupted in South Sudan in December 2013 between soldiers allied to President Salva Kiir and those loyal to his former deputy Riek Machar.

The core of the US draft resolution, obtained



China's Ambassador to the United Nations Liu Jieyi speaks during a meeting of the Security Council at the United Nations in the Manhattan borough of New York on 17 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

by Reuters, is a threat to impose an asset freeze and travel ban for anyone undermining security or interfering with the peace process after 5 March and 1 April deadlines set by the eight-nation East African IGAD bloc.

IGAD has so far been unsuccessful in its attempts to mediate an end to the civil war in the impoverished oil producing state. China is a major investor in South Sudan's oil industry.

"The highest priority either for the Security Council or the international community is to encourage in a constructive way negotiations with the hope that they would reach agreement at an early date and actually implement the agreement," Liu said.

An advance party of Chinese peacekeepers arrived in South Sudan in January and the rest of a 700-strong contingent is due to arrive by early April to join a United Nations mission protecting civilians in the country.

Reuters



Servando 'La Tuta' Gomez is escorted by police officers during a media conference about his arrest in Mexico City on 27 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

Mexico captures most wanted drug kingpin, former teacher 'La Tuta'

MEXICO CITY, 28 Feb — Mexico captured its most wanted drug lord on Friday, former primary school teacher Servando "La Tuta" Gomez, delivering a boost to a government battered by gang violence.

The 49-year-old gang boss was the prime target of President Enrique Peña Nieto's effort to regain control of Michoacan, a western state wracked by clashes between Gomez's Knights Templar cartel and armed vigilantes trying to oust them. Peña Nieto has been trying to quell public outrage in Mexico after the late September abduction and appar-

ent massacre of 43 trainee teachers by corrupt police in league with gang members. That incident triggered Peña Nieto's deepest crisis. Attorney General Jesus Murillo, under fire over his handling of that investigation, stood down on Friday and was appointed agrarian and urban development minister. After months of intelligence work, federal police said they captured Gomez and some people with him early in the morning at a house in the Michoacan state capital of Morelia. Police said no shots were fired.

Gomez was frogmarched in front of media

cameras on Friday evening, his head shoved down by masked federal police officers grabbing the scruff of his neck and leading him to a helicopter to be flown to prison. Officials said there were eight arrest orders for Gomez, including for murder, drug and arms trafficking, extortion and kidnapping. Hitting the campaign trail ahead of local elections, Peña Nieto on Friday paid tribute to Mexico's security forces for capturing "a criminal who was so wanted and who had generated an atmosphere of uncertainty and immense criminality."

Reuters

Obama to host Afghan President Ghani at White House in March

WASHINGTON, 28 Feb — US President Barack Obama will host Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, Afghanistan's chief executive officer Abdullah Abdullah and other members of the Afghan government for meetings in Washington next month, White House spokesman Josh Earnest said.

The leaders will meet 24 March at the White House to discuss security, economic development and US support to the Afghan-led reconciliation

process that seeks to resolve hostilities within Afghan society, Earnest said in a statement on Friday.

The following day Ghani will address a joint meeting of Congress, House of Representatives Speaker John Boehner said in a separate statement.

During their 22 March to 25 March visit, Ghani and his delegation will also meet with US Secretary of State John Kerry at Camp David in nearby Maryland, the White House statement said.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 1 March, 2015

Greener pastures not always sunnier for migrant workers

By Aung Khin

Most of us love our homes, for it is here that love begins. Few wish to leave their home or family, as the warmth of this environment is one of life's greatest gifts. Even among those who, for whatever reason, must venture away, home is rarely far from the heart or mind.

Those who move from their native lands often do so due to an unsafe environment or a lack of employment prospects. A move to greener

pastures is undertaken with hopes of promising opportunities. While challenges may be unavoidable, a fair and humane working environment is a reasonable expectation for internal or foreign migrants.

Some migrant workers encounter hostility in their new environments. Many work for low pay and with uncertain futures, but have no option of returning home due to the limited opportunities there.

Recent studies have estimated the global population of internal and external migrants as between 750 million and one billion, with those numbers continuing to grow. Some economies are largely dependent on low-cost migrant labour to keep their industries competitive in the marketplace.

The movement of people from less-developed areas to business hubs is a worldwide trend. Within this context, female-headed households in many less-developed countries are twice as likely

to be reliant on remittances as the main household income source as those with a male head.

Therefore, ensuring safety and security for both internal and external migrant workers is vital. Their families in deprived areas depend on their remittances as a major income source. The sunshine of opportunity may make certain pastures greener and brighter, but it is important that those moving toward them are not kept out of the light.

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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.

GOAL AND ROLE

Kyι Mun

GOAL means: Something that you hope to achieve, Synonym is AIM. e.g. **to work towards a goal**. To achieve or attain a goal. e.g. **You need to set yourself some long-term goals**. Our ultimate goal must be the preservation of the environment. Synonym at TARGET.

- Oxford Dictionary

ROLE means: The function or position that somebody has or is expected to have in an organization, in society or in a relationship: the role of the teacher in the classroom. *She refused to take on the traditional woman's role. In many marriages, there has been a complete role reversal (change of role) with the man staying at home and the woman going out to work.*

Now, let's explore to discover the analytical meanings of the words GOAL & ROLE as follows:

G for Going All-out for Growth
O for Objective & Strategy
A for Action Plan
L for Live, Love & Learn to Grow &
R for Resourceful Strategist
O for Outstanding Tactician
L for Leader
E for Emulator

GOING ALL-OUT FOR GROWTH

The word GROW means: (1) INCREASE — to increase in size, number, strength or quality: *The company's profit grew by 5% last year; She is growing in confidence all the time; The company is growing bigger all the time.* (2) **Develop skills**: To develop and improve particular qualities or skills; e.g. *She continues to*

grow as an artist. (3) **BUSINESS**: To grow something to increase in size, quality or number of something. e.g. *we are trying to grow the business.*

- Oxford Dictionary

So, going all-out for growth means: Trying, striving, struggling with all one's mind, heart and soul, unremittingly, never giving up, and never giving in, tremendously focusing on becoming:

- ❖ Bigger
- ❖ Stronger
- ❖ More Mature
- ❖ More Focused
- ❖ Wiser
- ❖ Better
- ❖ Faster
- ❖ Greater
- ❖ More Consolidated
- ❖ More Successful

OBJECTIVE & STRATEGY

Objective means: Something that you are trying to achieve, synonym being GOAL; the **main/ primary/ principal/ strategic objective**; to meet and achieve your objectives (aims): e.g. *you must set realistic aims and objectives for yourself. The main objective of this meeting is to give more information on our plans.* For example, if your goal is to be slim and elegant, your objective will be to reduce weight (say, 5lbs) a month until you become an ideal figure in your estimation. Strategy is: HOW TO GET WHAT YOU WANT. Strategy is the ways and means that you deploy to achieve your objective. Strategy can be understood as the PLAN OF ACTION. In common language, strategy is the JOURNEY to a certain DESTINATION which is the objective or Target or aim and object. A simple example is: *To have lunch is your objective; CHOOSING A PARTICULAR RESTAURANT is YOUR STRATEGY, and choosing the dishes in the menu is your tactic.*

ACTION PLAN

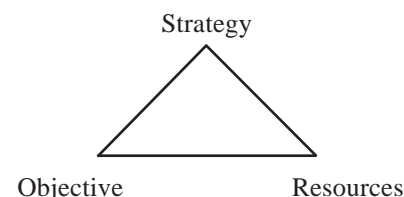
It is said: "Actions are ours; consequences belong to heaven." It is also said: "You reap what you sow"; "Your action is your karma/ kamma which means fate".

The meaning of action is: The pro-

cess of doing something in order to make something happen or to deal with a situation. e.g. *The time has come for action if these beautiful animals are to survive. Firefighter took action immediately to stop the blaze spreading. What is the best course of action in the circumstances? She began to explain her plan of action to the group.*

And the meaning of PLAN is: Something that you intend to do or achieve.

There are three separate elements in a plan of action:



After you have set an objective, you have to determine the means which are the resources in the forms of:

- ❖ Human Resource
- ❖ Financial Resource
- ❖ Technological Resource
- ❖ Material Resource
- ❖ Information Resource

Without adequate, comprehensive resources, no strategist can achieve a lasting, worthwhile result.

As the formulation of a SMART strategy is important, the effective execution of the PLAN OF ACTION is equally important. SMART means: To be- **SPECIFIC, MEASURABLE, ACHIEVEABLE, REALISTIC, AND TIME-BOUND.**

LIVE, LOVE AND LEARN TO GROW

To grow, you have got to live and move and have your being in growth. You must certainly breathe growth, and live, love and learn to grow proportionately. You have to grow under all circumstances sustainably, lastingly and you would be able to grow only if you have updated, upgraded, up-managed and up-led comprehensive resources. This means you have got to learn to continue growing. The mighty Napoleon Bonaparte was roundly defeated at Waterloo battle by Wellington because Napoleon failed to learn to upgrade his resources adequately to be relevant with the time. So, live, love

and learn to grow continuously, with adequate resources continuously upgraded wisely.

Now, let's also explore the wider meanings of ROLE as follows:

RESOURCEFUL STRATEGIST

You must certainly play the role of a resourceful strategist. You have got to take charge, to take command, to be in charge or to be in command, with a masterful mind of a brilliant strategist.

OUTSTANDING TACTICIAN

As a resourceful strategist you have got to perform on the actual (battlefield) business as an unconquerable tactician. You have got to out-perform your opponent. In achieving victory decisively, you have got to go all-out, you have got to give all you have got — you must give every bit of your resources and strengths; holding nothing back.

LEADER

If you don't lead dynamically, mighty forces will not come to your aid. As the hands-on, mind-on and heart-on leader, you must dare to move heaven and earth upside down. You must do or die. You must dare to burn all your boats. You must bear in mind that you have absolutely no retreat or defeat, but only triumphant victory. You must not despair or lose hope under any circumstances. You have got to remember, as a true leader, that courage is your sword, hope your shield, and wisdom your chariot!

EMULATOR

Even if you have become a triumphant strategist and a courageous leader, you have got to remember and continue to practice TQM & TQL — Total Quality Management, and Total Quality Leadership. You can't afford to be complacent and myopic. For renewing your vitality and virility, you must emulate the great heroes and the brilliant minds of the past as well as those of the contemporary times.

CONCLUSION

First, have a daring dream, and then strategically translate it into reality without fail.

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

ARTICLE

To Geneva as an ILO delegate

Tin Shein

Introduction: how I have learnt English the hard way

Though I have finished my high school studies at the State High School in a small town where English was taught only from the 5th standard on, I have taken a very keen interest in English and directed my efforts to its serious study since then. I must confess that what was taught then just scratched the surface of the basic grammatical structure of the English language, and that good books on the English language were hard to come by in those days, especially in such a backwater town. So I had to improve my knowledge of English as best I could by reading outside books aside from the prescribed textbooks. In spite of my efforts to master that language over the years, its mastery still evades me. So my knowledge of English still leaves much to be desired. In writing it there is many a sentence that I can, in no way, straighten out to my complete satisfaction. Thus I have to write as I can, not as I wish.

Anyhow, the English language and literature has become my first love and accounting I have followed as my profession was forced upon me by the circumstances of life that fate had thrown me into. Later in life when I came down to Yangon to work and I had acquired a sufficient knowledge of English, both in reading and writing, I had had the opportunity of reading books of fiction and non-fiction that were available at very low prices at the bookshops in the city. Thus I read all the books in English that I could lay my hands on. What is more, there were the USIS library and the British Council library that I could tap for the books I wanted to read by borrowing on free membership cards. I was then inspired by Dr. Htin Aung, Dr. Maung Maung and Daw Khin Myo Chit, Saya Tet Toe, who had written books and articles in excellent English as well as native-born writers. As a matter of fact, I wrote an essay titled "A Journey by Train" in English soon after the Matriculation Exam back in 1957. I had sent it off to the "Students' Review", which was published by Saya Tet Toe. That essay saw print in the June, 1957 issue of the "Students' Review", which proved to be of great help to High School students in their English studies back in those days. To be frank and open,

I have, practically speaking, learnt the art of writing English, not through contact with English-speaking people, of which I have had very little, but from reading books written in English of fiction and non-fiction. Even now, I don't understand what is being spoken in English if it is very fast with poor articulation and in an accent unfamiliar to me. Now I have come to the conclusion that to write English well is one thing, and to speak it fluently and understand it when spoken to is another. What they call four skills in English—speaking, reading, writing and listening—are difficult enough to acquire perfectly, unless, of course, we have had the opportunity to study it under native-speakers of English. I had been denied this chance, and was thrown upon my own resources to learn English the hard way—that is, by studying the writings of English and American authors over the years.

Later on, while working at the Directorate of Commercial Audit and working my way through college, I had developed a habit of writing letters to the Editor in English on various subjects of general interest during my leisure time. Most of my letters were published in the then English Language Working People's Daily back in the 60s and late 70s. Again, while working at the Office of the Auditor-General, I had written a number of articles both in Myanmar and English for the Public Accountant Journals. I retired as director from the Office of the Auditor-General (OAG) in 1997 about 4 years shy of the official retirement age of 60. But in retirement, I still have an itch to write in English, not on technical topics of which I have had enough during my public service career, but only on subjects of general interest. The reason why is that I now have neither the energy nor the time to dig up the materials I may need for my articles on technical themes. Moreover, these days, developments in the technical fields are rather too extensive and rapid for me to catch up on. Though the spirit is willing, the flesh is weak, as the saying goes.

During my public career of about 30 years, I have had the opportunity of going abroad on official business four times: to Japan in 1983 to attend a seminar on Government auditing; to Switzerland in 1992 as a delegate to attend the International Labor Organization (ILO) Conference; to the USA in 1994 to undergo a 2-month training course in

operational auditing; and lastly to Egypt in 1995 to attend the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI) Congress. On my first trip to Japan I had written an article titled "My 30-day Sojourn in Tokyo" which was published in the Public Accountant Journal. I have already written about my journeys abroad in English for my own pleasure, except the trip to Geneva, Switzerland—the only one I have not written about as I have been a bit too busy recently. Only now can I find the time to write about it.

The Trip to Geneva:

If I remember right, one day in the first week of May, 1992, I was called by the Director-General of OAG into her office room. She said: "I am going to send you to Geneva as an ILO delegate. This year they are going to wrap up the discussions on workers' entitlements when their employers go bankrupt for passing a convention thereon. I have already recommended you to the Ministry of Labor in this regard." Thus I was nominated as a member of the Myanmar Delegation to attend the 79th Conference to be held in June of 1992 in Geneva, Switzerland.

It is the practice of ILO to select the theme, on which it intends to pass a convention for all its members to adopt. The ILO Secretariat will prepare an exposure draft of the proposed Convention, which is then sent to all member countries for comments. It will revise the draft in the light of comments received thereon from member countries. The revised draft will serve as the basis for discussions at the Conference. At least 2 years of discussions on the draft are needed before a convention on any theme can be passed at the Conference. So the convention will not be passed at the Conference where the first draft is presented for wide-ranging discussions by the delegates of the member countries. The ILO will rework the draft based on the results of the first year's discussions at the Conference and submit the revised draft to the Conference in the following year when the final discussions will be held and the final draft worked out. The Convention will be passed with the majority vote of the delegates in the last session of the Conference.

The theme of the Convention of the Conference that I attended was: "Workers' Compensation in the event of their Employers going Insolvent", i.e. being unable to pay

their debts in full. It was discussed at the 1991 Conference which our Director-General attended. It was at the 1992 Conference I was going to attend that final discussions will be wrapped up and the Convention passed for all member countries to adopt.

As a matter of principle, the ILO always insists on the selection of delegates on a tripartite basis, i.e. a representative each of employees, employers and the Government. As a matter of fact, I was going there as a representative of the employers, to which "they" raised objections, as I was not really a representative of the employers, only a Government official. However, thanks to the diplomatic maneuvering skillfully executed by the Myanmar Permanent Mission in Geneva, the objections against were finally dropped and I was allowed to attend the Conference. Otherwise, I would have to pack up and return home the and there—a prospect that would be most unwelcome and embarrassing to me.

The ILO Conference was held in the Palais des Nations about 20-minute bus ride from the Residence Mont Blanc. We had each brought a season ticket for SF 60, which was valid for the whole duration of the Conference. The buses have twin bodies joined in the middle, with the covered passages in between for passengers to pass through. We had to walk some distance to reach the bus stop where we took the bus to the Palais des Nations, which has an admirable auditorium with ear phones at every seat and interpreters are assigned to cope with any UN or other languages. In fact, it is a massive, spectacular building with large halls well equipped for the conduct of any type of international meetings and conferences. The Palais des Nations, an outstanding testimony to twentieth century architecture, is situated in a beautiful park in Geneva overlooking Lake Geneva, with a splendid view of the Alps and, on a clear day, the Mont Blanc.

As the Residence Mont Blanc is situated in the business center of the city, all the shops and department stores are clustered around us. What a pleasant big time we had had going around there looking at the world-famous Swiss watches—Rolex, Omega, Longines, Breitling, etc.—displayed in glassed showrooms! Also we had had no difficulty doing our shopping for the things we need to cook our meals with. One distin-

guished feature of Geneva is that there are hardly any high-rise buildings or sky-scrapers that are usually found in New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, etc. in the US. (However, these days such skyscrapers dwarfing even those in the West have sprung up all over the Middle-East, South-east Asia, and China.) It may be because Geneva lies at about 1,000 feet above sea level. Mountains rise on all sides and the snow-covered top of Mont Blanc, the tallest peak in Western Europe at 15,721 feet is visible from all parts of the city. So it happened that they saw no need for any high-rise buildings or skyscrapers, simply because they would be dwarfed by the towering mountains all around them. But this is only my humble opinion and I may, of course, be wrong. Another reason is that they may wish to preserve the medieval architectural designs of their age-old buildings intact as a heritage for posterity.

On one week-end the Ambassador took us for a visit to Interlaken, a town about 3-hour drive by car from Geneva. It is a tourist resort famous for mountain climbing and skydiving. We reach Bern, a city about mid-way between Geneva and Interlaken, about 8 am and spent nearly an hour seeing the sights there.

From Bern we continued our trip to Interlaken, which we reached about 9:30 am. Towering mountains rose all around the city. We could see skydivers sailing smoothly around the mountain peaks, which were partly covered with clouds. On the way back we stopped at a grave yard fenced with iron rods in a space between two lanes of the highway. We were in for a surprise. It was at that graveyard that we found the world-famous actor, Richard Burton, husband of Elizabeth Taylor, one of the most beautiful actresses, lain buried in a obscure, lonely place.

Now that I saw this world-famous actor buried in a out-of-the-way place, far away from the glittering lights of the Hollywood movie world, I turned my thoughts to the profound teachings of our Lord Buddha, who taught that everything, including all living things, is impermanent, transitory, always in a state of flux. Once born, man has to grow old, suffer, decay and finally die. When he dies, he has to leave everything be-

hind him. There is nothing he can take with him into the after-life, except the good merits he has earned through "dana" (giving away his wealth to charity), "thi-la" (high morality), practice of "vipassana" meditation, and other meritorious deeds or the bad deeds that he has done in his life. Only the force of these good merits can help him to be reborn in the abode of "Nats" and "Brahmas" but that of the bad ones will drag us into the lower planes of existence. There need be no doubt about it. All of us are too steeped in the worldly affairs and ignorance of the 4 noble truths to make enough time to take up vipassana meditation on a serious level in the present life in order to see the ultimate truth or gain true wisdom—the insight knowledge that enables us to see things as they really are, i.e. all things arise and then pass away lasting only momentarily and are never everlasting. At that moment these deep reflections pass through my mind, and the truth of the Buddha's "dhamma" dawned on me. That is what fate has in store for man, after all. Only the practice of "vipassana" meditation alone can save man from going down into the lower planes of life after death. As Minbu Sayadaw who we paid our respects to on our pilgrimage to Shwesetaw Pagoda way back in the early 1970s said, all is reduced to ashes in the end and nothing left. It is noted that only noble ones, who have reached the stage of stream-winners—sotapanna—through vipassana meditation alone, will not go down to the lower planes of existence, but be reborn in the abodes of Nats and Brahmas after death and that they would for sure reach the peaceful, dead-less state of nebbana after passing through the next seven higher existences. That is the goal we all Buddhists have to strive for, in order to escape from the circle of births and rebirths—the fate that would have fallen to the majority of mankind unless they have gained wisdom in the present life, as taught by the Buddha. It was driven home to me that it was high time I practiced vipassana meditation seriously during the twilight years that remain to me, especially as the time was running out. However, I have found out that it was easier said than done. But it is up to us to redouble our efforts as best we can to gain the "wisdom" before death claims us.

The author of this article is a retired director of the Office of the Auditor-General, and now working as CEO of the Myanmar Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA).

UAE and Kuwait to reopen embassies in Yemen's south, backing Hadi

DUBAI, 28 Feb — The United Arab Emirates and Kuwait will reopen their Yemeni embassies in the southern city of Aden instead of the capital Sanaa, the two countries' state news agencies said on Friday.

Sanaa was captured in September by the Shi'ite Muslim Houthi militia, which placed President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi under house arrest and forced him to announce his resignation. Arab and Western states this month evacuated their Sanaa embassies.

Parliament never approved the resignation, and on Sunday Hadi fled to Aden where he has set up a new seat of power.

An aide to Hadi said on Thursday that Yemen's neighbour Saudi Arabia, the Sunni-ruled main Gulf Arab power, was moving its ambassador to Aden.

UAE Minister of State



Protesters show support for Yemen's President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi during a demonstration in the southwestern city of Taiz on 27 Feb, 2015. — REUTERS

for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash said the UAE had made its decision "in order to entrench constitutional legitimacy in Yemen, embodied by President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi and his government", according to WAM news

agency. The ascendancy of the Houthis is viewed with alarm by the Gulf's mostly Sunni Muslim rulers.

The Gulf Cooperation Council has denounced the Houthi takeover as a coup and fears Shi'ite Iran may gain influence on the

peninsula by backing the group.

The prospect of rival centres of power competing for control of Yemen has raised fears that the impoverished and heavily-armed country may be heading for civil war.—Reuters

Cameron vows to hunt down 'Jihadi John'

LONDON, 28 Feb — British Prime Minister David Cameron vowed on Friday to use all means at his disposal to hunt down militants such as "Jihadi John" after the killer was identified as a Kuwaiti-born computer programming graduate from London.

The black-clad militant brandishing a knife and speaking with an English accent was shown in videos released by Islamic State (IS) apparently decapitating hostages including Americans, Britons and Syrians.

"When there are people anywhere in the world who commit appalling and heinous crimes against British citizens, we will do everything we can with the police, with the security services, with all that we have at our disposal to find these people and put them out of action," Cameron said.

Cameron refused to comment on the identification of "Jihadi John" as 26-year-old British mili-

tant Mohammed Emwazi, but said that people should get behind the security services, which he praised as impressive and dedicated to defending Britain.

Emwazi was known to the security services, which had tried to recruit him, according to prisoners' group Cage. The case has sparked debate about whether the security services let him slip through their grasp to join IS in Syria.

Dressed entirely in black, a balaclava covering all but his eyes and the bridge of his nose and a holster under his left arm, Jihadi John became a menacing symbol of Islamic State brutality and one of the world's most wanted men.

He used videos to threaten the West, admonish its Arab allies and taunt President Barack Obama and Cameron before petrified hostages cowering in orange jump suits.

Reuters

US begins vetting Syrian rebels for military training — Pentagon



A rebel fighter aims his weapon at an area controlled by forces loyal to Syria's President Bashar al-Assad, from a rebel-controlled area in the northwestern Homs district of Al Waer on 18 Feb, 2015. — REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 28 Feb — The US military has begun vetting a group of Syrian rebels eligible for training and assistance in the fight against Islamic State militants, a step that paves the way for training to begin in weeks, the Pentagon said on Friday.

Rear Admiral John Kirby, the Pentagon press secretary, said about 100 moderate Syrian rebels had been vetted to participate in the training and assistance effort, with no derogatory information uncovered to weigh against their involvement.

Kirby said 1,500 other potential candidates had been identified and were

awaiting more rigorous screening before being admitted to the programme.

"Our assessment is we could be ready sometime within the next four to six weeks to begin actual training," Kirby told a Pentagon briefing, noting that the vetting was "an important first step."

A week ago, the United States and Turkey signed an agreement to use a site in Turkey for the effort. Turkey agreed to provide a new facility for the training, which would be conducted by an equal number of US and Turkish troops.

The site is one of four where US and coalition

partners may offer training to Syrian rebels to fight against Islamic State militants. Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Qatar also have offered sites, a US official said recently.

The Pentagon spokesman said the training was to prepare Syrian rebels to fight Islamic State militants who overran parts of Syria and Iraq last year, not to join the civil war aimed at toppling President Bashar al-Assad.

"The goal for this programme is to get them to ... defend their communities, protect their own neighbours and then go on the offence against ISIL," Kirby said, using an acronym for Islamic State.

"Nothing has changed about the policy that there is not going to be a US military solution to Assad."

Kirby said the process would begin small, with some 200 to 300 trainees per group at the outset. The aim is still to eventually train 5,000 to 5,500 per year, he said.

Asked what kind of assistance the United States would provide once the trainees return to their homes, Kirby said no decision had been made.

Reuters

Islamic State fighters attack Samarra ahead of army offensive

BAGHDAD, 28 Feb — Islamic State suicide bombers and fighters struck targets on Saturday in the northern Iraqi city of Samarra, where security forces and their Shi'ite militia allies have been gathering for an offensive against the radical militants.

Security sources and residents said the attack on Samarra was launched at 5.30 am (0230 GMT) when two Islamic State suicide bombers blew up their cars in the northern area of Sur Shnas.

At the same time a man drove a Humvee

rigged with explosives into the south of the city and detonated it, while Islamic State fighters attacked security forces to the west with sniper fire, mortars and rocket propelled grenades.

Thousands of troops and fighters from Shi'ite militias known as Hashid Shaabi (Popular Mobilization) have gathered around Samarra for a campaign to drive Islamic State out of nearby strongholds on the Tigris River, including the city of Tikrit 50 km (30 miles) to the north.

Medical sources said

Samarra hospital had received the bodies of three Hashid Shaabi fighters, and was treating six wounded people.

Residents reported seeing black smoke over parts of the city and hearing powerful explosions, as clashes continued.

In the town of Ishaqqi, about 20 km (10 miles) southeast of Samarra, snipers shot dead two Hashid Shaabi men as they tried to set up a sand barrier on the main highway linking Samarra to the capital Baghdad.

Reuters



Iraqi security forces guard during the building of a new road between Diyala Province and Samarra on 21 Dec, 2014.—REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Ajinomoto to make coffee products maker AGF wholly owned unit

TOKYO, 28 Feb— Ajinomoto Co said on Friday it will acquire all shares of Ajinomoto General Foods Inc held by US snacks company Mondelez International Inc to make it a wholly owned subsidiary and expand its beverage business.

Ajinomoto said it will buy a 50 percent stake in AGF held by Mondelez for about 27 billion yen (\$226 million) by the end of April.

After the acquisition, the company name and brands as well as the current management structure of AGF will be retained, according to the leading Japanese food maker.

“We want to boost product development at AGF by leveraging our technology of making powdered items,” Ajinomoto President Masatoshi Ito said at a Press conference.

Established in 1973, AGF has manufactured

and sold coffee products as well as other beverages under brands including Maxim and Blendy. In recent years, the company’s sales have expanded due partly to the popularity of its stick-type instant coffee products.

The Tokyo-based company logged roughly 145 billion yen in sales in fiscal 2013 through last March, and generated around 1.6 billion yen in net profit.—*Kyodo News*

Mitsubishi Motors to build new vehicle assembly plant in Indonesia

TOKYO, 28 Feb— Mitsubishi Motors Corp and trading house Mitsubishi Corp. said on Friday they will form a joint venture in Indonesia with a local partner to construct a new vehicle assembly plant in the growing Asian market.

The Mitsubishi group firms will establish the joint venture with PT Krama Yudha in March and start operations of the new

plant, located east of Jakarta, in April 2017.

Total investment will be about 60 billion yen (\$502.8 million). Mitsubishi Motors and the trading company will take a 51 percent stake and a 40 percent stake, respectively, in the joint venture, while the Indonesian partner will take the rest. The new plant, with a production capacity of 160,000 units per year,

will assemble brand-new small multipurpose vehicles, all-new Pajero Sport sport-utility vehicles and other models.

A portion of the vehicles will also be exported to the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, according to the Japanese firms.

The three-firm partnership has produced and sold vehicles in Indonesia since 1970.—*Kyodo News*

WHO highlights threat of recreational noise for hearing loss



GENEVA, 28 Feb — Some 1.1 billion teenagers and young adults are at risk of hearing loss due to the unsafe use of personal audio devices and exposure to damaging levels of sound at noisy entertainment venues such as nightclubs, bars and sporting events, the World Health Organization (WHO) warned here Friday, ahead of the 3 March International Ear Care Day. “As they go about their daily lives doing what they enjoy, more and more young people are placing themselves at risk of hearing loss,” said Dr Etienne Krug, WHO director for the Department for Management of Non-communicable Diseases, Dis-

bility, Violence and Injury Prevention. He added that taking simple preventive actions would allow people to continue to enjoy themselves without putting their hearing at risk. A recent study in middle and high-income countries analyzed by WHO indicate that among teenagers and young adults aged between 12 to 35 years, nearly 50 percent are exposed to unsafe levels of sound from the use of personal audio devices and around 40 percent are exposed to potentially damaging levels of sound at entertainment venues. WHO recommends that the highest permissible level of noise exposure in the workplace is 85 dB up to a maximum

of eight hours a day. For places like nightclubs, bars and sporting events whose noise level usually being about 100 dB, one’s hearing is only safe for no more than 15 minutes. Teenagers and young people can better protect their hearing by keeping the volume down on personal audio devices, wearing earplugs when visiting noisy venues, and using carefully fitted, and, if possible, noise-canceling earphones.

They can also limit the time spent engaged in noisy activities by taking short listening breaks and restricting the daily use of personal audio devices to less than one hour, WHO suggests. To mark this year’s International Ear Care Day, WHO is launching the “Make Listening Safe” initiative to draw attention to the dangers of unsafe listening and promote safer practices, so as to alert young people and their families about the risks of noise-induced hearing loss and advocate towards governments for greater attention to this issue.—*Xinhua*

US, Liberia kick off trial of Ebola drug ZMapp

CHICAGO, 28 Feb — US and Liberian researchers have started a clinical trial to test the safety and effectiveness of Mapp Biopharmaceutical Inc’s Ebola drug ZMapp, an experimental treatment that has already been tried in a handful of Ebola patients, including two US missionaries.

The trial, a joint effort by the Liberian government and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID), will be conducted in Liberia and the United



Anthony Fauci,
Director
of the
National
Institute
of Allergy
and
Infectious
Diseases

States among adults and children infected with Ebola, NIAID said on Friday.

Although ZMapp has been used on a humanitarian basis in nine infected patients, there was no way

to tell whether the treatment offered a statistically significant benefit, Dr Anthony Fauci, director of the NIAID, said in a statement.

Fauci said the randomized trial should pro-

vide the scientific evidence needed to show whether ZMapp is safe and effective, and whether it can be used in the current outbreak in West Africa and in future outbreaks. The trial will enroll adults and children admitted to Ebola treatment units in Liberia, health care workers infected with Ebola virus in West Africa who have returned to the United States for treatment, and adults and children who may have acquired Ebola in the United States through secondary trans-

mission.

Everyone in the study will receive the highest standard of care for treating Ebola. In addition, a portion of participants will also receive three doses of ZMapp. People in the study will be followed for up to a month after discharge.

The US Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority is funding the production of ZMapp, a cocktail of antibodies made in tobacco plants.

If ZMapp proves ef-

fective, it will become part of the standard of care and a new treatment will be randomly assigned to portion of the patients.

Other drugs to be tested include a treatment from Canadian drugmaker Tekmira, the antiviral Favipiravir from Japan’s Toyama Chemical Co, blood plasma collected from Ebola survivors, the drug BCX4430 from North Carolina-based BioCryst, and a treatment called AVI-7537 from Sarepta of Massachusetts.

Reuters

Three infected with measles at Las Vegas seafood restaurant

LAS VEGAS, 28 Feb — Three new cases of measles have been confirmed in Las Vegas, in people believed infected by a contagious worker at an upscale MGM Grand Hotel and Casino seafood restaurant, Nevada public health officials said on Friday.

The newly diagnosed patients, two staff members and a patron of Emeril’s New Orleans Fish House at the MGM Grand, bring to nine the total number of measles cases reported in Clark County, Southern Nevada Health District spokeswoman Jennifer Sizemore said.

None of those cases are believed linked to an outbreak of measles that began at Disneyland in December, she said.

All told, more than 150 people across the United States have recently been diagnosed with measles, 126 of them in California.

Nevada public health officials believe the Emeril’s worker was infected by an infant who was too young to

have been immunized against the highly contagious disease.

Sizemore said none of the newly diagnosed patients was hospitalized, but one visited a Walgreens drug store and Chili’s restaurant in Las Vegas while infectious.

“The Health District is advising anyone who was at these locations during these times to review their immunization status against measles if they have not already had the disease,” Nevada health officials said in a prepared statement.

“In addition, they should contact their health care provider if they develop rash with fever or other symptoms consistent with measles within 21 days after their visit,” the statement said.

Authorities believe the Disneyland outbreak began when a contagious person from out of the country visited the Anaheim theme park in late December.

California health officials say the source may never

be identified, despite a finding that the same strain of virus had led to a wave of illness in the Philippines.

The outbreak has renewed a debate over the so-called anti-vaccination movement, in which fears about potential side effects of vaccinations, fueled by now-debunked research suggesting a link to autism, have prompted a small minority of parents to refuse them for their children.

Measles was declared eliminated in the United States in 2000 after years of intensive childhood vaccine efforts. But in 2014 the country had its highest number of cases in two decades.

There is no specific treatment for measles and most people recover within several weeks. But in poor and malnourished children and people with reduced immunity, measles can cause serious complications including blindness, encephalitis, severe diarrhea, ear infection and pneumonia.—*Reuters*

China hails UN resolution on commemorating WWII 70th anniversary

BEIJING, 28 Feb — China on Saturday applauded the UN resolution on the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, urging countries to explore effective ways to maintain international peace and security.

The resolution was adopted unanimously at the 69th session of the 193-member UN General Assembly on Thursday.

“China hopes various parties take the opportunity to reflect on history and reaffirm their commitments to the purposes and principles of the UN Charter,”

said Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hong Lei in a statement.

“This is also an important consensus from the UN Security Council open debate held on 23 February, which was chaired by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in the capacity of the council’s rotating president,” Hong said.

According to the resolution, the assembly asked its president to hold a special meeting in the second week of May 2015 in commemoration of war victims.

Xinhua

China’s sea level rise higher than world average

BEIJING, 28 Feb — China’s coastal regions recorded an annual sea level increase of three millimeters between 1980 and 2014, higher than the world average, the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) said in its annual report on Saturday.

“Rising sea levels along China’s coasts have been evident since 1990,” said SOA spokesperson Shi Qingfeng.

Experts said the situation was caused by climate change and global warming, which increased the temperature of China’s coastal regions.

The accumulated rise of sea levels will cause “aggravated coastal erosion, salt tide, seawater encroachment and soil salinization”, according to the SOA report.

Dispelling public worries, SOA official Qu Tanzhou said the speed “was not as bad as people had imagined.”

Qu said experts were analyzing the impact of the rise and the possibility of marine disasters.

Shi said the sea level rise should be weighed as a factor in the development of coastal regions.—*Xinhua*

Subsidized firm’s donations to ministers’ chapters higher than admitted

TOKYO, 28 Feb — The ruling Liberal Democratic Party local chapters headed by the environment and justice ministers received 6.2 million yen (\$51,800) more in donations than previously admitted from a logistics firm subsidized by the state, in potential violation of political funds law, sources close to the matter said on Saturday.

The revelation comes as the two Shizuoka Prefecture-based chapters of the LDP, headed by Environment Minister Yoshio Mochizuki and Justice Minister Yoko Kamikawa, are under fire for receiving a total of 2 million yen in donations from the logistics firm, Suzuyo & Co, also based in the prefecture.

The political funds control law bans a company from making political donations within a year of receiving a subsidy from the state.

At issue is whether the ministers knew about the government’s decision to subsidize the

company, a key factor in deciding the legality of the donations.

The logistics company was approved to receive subsidies for the promotion of environmentally friendly leasing operations in September and December of 2011 from an association affiliated with the Environment Ministry.

The local chapter headed by Mochizuki received 1.4 million yen in donations from the company in November 2011, and 3.9 million yen in October 2012 while Kamikawa’s chapter obtained a total of 900,000 yen in donations between September 2011 and November 2012, according to the sources.

The two ministers said on Friday the chapters they head had received a total of 2 million yen in donations in 2013 from the company, which received subsidies under the programmes of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, and the Environment Ministry.

Kyodo News

Danish police arrest man suspected of links to 14-15 February shootings

COPENHAGEN, 28 Feb — Danish police said they arrested a young man on Friday and charged him with complicity in the shootings in Copenhagen on 14 and 15 February in which two people were killed and five police officers wounded.

Police had no further comments. Danish media reports

described the man as personally connected with the gunman, Omar El-Hussein, who was shot dead by police on 15 February.

Two other men have also been detained on charges of aiding Hussein. State-owned DR TV reported that all three men charged with complicity in the shootings knew each other, and lived in the same

neighbourhood as Hussein.

Authorities say Hussein was the man who fired on an event promoting free speech, killing movie director Finn Norgaard, and at a synagogue, killing volunteer Jewish guard Dan Uzan.

A preliminary legal hearing for the newly arrested man is to take place on Saturday.—*Reuters*



Investigative personnel work at the scene of a cafe shooting in Oesterbro, in Copenhagen on 15 Feb, 2015.—*REUTERS*

Russia, China help stabilize global situation

MOSCOW, 28 Feb — International cooperation between Russia and China contributes to global stability and the formation of new world order, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Friday.

“In general, Russia’s cooperation with China on foreign issues...is an important stabilizing factor in the current complicated international situation,” Lavrov said here in a speech at the Diplomatic Academy.

The minister highlighted the two countries’ joint efforts in promotion of noninterference foreign policy and peaceful settlement of international disputes.

The two countries’ coopera-

tion reflects similar global stances and the common need for a more democratic, impartial global order, Lavrov said.

While praising the economic interdependence and respect for mutual interests between Russia and China, Lavrov noted that western partners should take into account the balance of interests and “legal framework” during cooperation with Moscow.

“Problems also occur when we cooperate with China...Each party defends its economic and financial interests...But the final agreements are strictly implemented by both sides,” an online statement released by Foreign Ministry

quoted Lavrov as saying.

Alongside humanitarian cooperation and cultural exchanges, Russia and China work together to promote negotiations and expand multilateral cooperative mechanisms in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), as well as G20, G7 and the BRICS, the minister said.

“Russia and China are interacting within the SCO,” Lavrov said. “Preparation is under way for the SCO summit in Ufa city, where deepening bilateral cooperation and more joint projects will be discussed. The organization’s expansion will also be on the agenda”.

Xinhua

Nearly half of Greeks would back Syriza in new election

ATHENS, 28 Feb — Nearly half of Greeks would back the governing leftist party of Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras if elections were held this week, a Metron Analysis poll to be published on Saturday showed.

Altogether, 47.6 percent of respondents said they would back Syriza, up sharply from the 36.3 percent that the radical party won in elections barely a month ago, based on those who said they would be sure to vote.

Support for the centre-right New Democracy party, which pushed through unpopular reforms as part of Greece’s 240 billion euro bailout programme, fell to 20.7 percent from the 27.8

percent who supported the party on 25 January.

The poll, conducted after Greece gained a four-month extension to the country’s aid programme, appears to show the government holding the support of a large chunk of Greeks despite being accused of having performed a climbdown on its pledge to end the unpopular bailout.

More than two in three Greeks said they were satisfied with the way the government was negotiating with EU partners while 76 percent were positive about its overall performance so far, according to the survey for *Parapolitika* newspaper.—*Reuters*



Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras is seen before his meeting with the member of the European Parliament for The Greens Ska Keller (not pictured) at this office in Athens on 27 Feb, 2015.—*REUTERS*

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WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 1st March, 2015: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing Region, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated light rain in the extreme Southern Myanmar areas.

“World’s poorest president”

Mujica wraps up term in Uruguay

MONTEVIDEO, 28 Feb — Jose Mujica, Uruguay’s beloved outgoing president, is leaving office in his characteristically unique fashion.

Later Friday, two days before his successor’s swearing-in ceremony, “I will be giving a symbolic hug to all of the Uruguayan people,” Mujica, 79, wrote on his website (www.pepemujica.uy).

“I will be saying thank you to all our fellow countrymen, for having accompanied me these past five years and I will be asking for their utmost cooperation for the incoming government,” he told a ceremony at the Independence Plaza of the capital Montevideo that day.

Arguably the “world’s poorest president” who is known in Uruguay simply as “Pepe”, the former guerrilla-turned-president has built a reputation as an “authentic public servant” since he took office in March 2010.

Throughout his tenure, Mujica donated 90 percent of his salaries to a government social housing programme, while he and his wife, also a former leftist activist, have continued to live on their modest farm on the outskirts of the capital.

“I’m not poor. Poor are those who need a lot to live, those are the real poor. I have enough,” Mujica said in a May 2013 interview with *Xinhua*. One of Mujica’s most important reforms that sparked controversy was to decriminalize the marijuana trade and place it under state supervision, a scheme that is still underway. His argument, which convinced lawmakers, was that Latin America’s long-time policy

of waging an anti-drug war had failed and it was time to try a different approach. The president also spearheaded the legalization of gay marriage.

However, he was unable to secure the much-needed investment for infrastructure projects such as reviving the country’s aging railways or building a planned deep-sea port on the Atlantic coast. He was also unable to push through his proposed education reforms.

Nevertheless, observers agree that the president has managed the economy responsibly, allowing it to grow at rates above 3 percent. His policies also cut poverty by 11.5 percent and slashed unemployment by 6.6 percent. He also led an energy diversification program that established wind farms. Mujica came to power as the candidate of the left-leaning Broad Front (FA) coalition, but has maintained dialogue with the opposition. Under his rule, once-isolated Uruguay has also forged closer ties with regional neighbours, notably Argentina, with which it had frosty relations due to an environmental dispute. Mujica, who leaves office with a 65-percent approval rating, will continue to be active in politics, being elected senator in the October general elections that brought the Broad Front to power once again. “If my body allows, there will be no retirement,” he told radio station Oceano FM. “Not because I’ll be in the Senate, but because I’m addicted to militancy. I began as a militant at the age of 14 and now I can’t stop.”

Xinhua

Young elephants donated by Laos on display in Kyoto zoo

KYOTO, 28 Feb — Four young elephants donated last year by Laos went on public display on Saturday at a Kyoto zoo ahead of Laotian Prime Minister Thongsing Thammavong’s visit to Japan from Wednesday.

The young Asian elephants aged 3 to 7 — three females and one male — were delivered to the Kyoto City Zoo in November ahead of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Japan and Laos this year.

“The four have been waiting to see you all while craning their noses,” zoo-keeper Narito Akihisa told visitors before the appearance of the elephants. The four elephants appeared in front of visitors while walking closely side by side, drawing a roar.

Kids who were invited from a nearby nursery school appeared impressed, saying, “They’re so cute!” and “They’re so big!”

A part of a new rearing facility for elephants was also opened to the public, allowing visitors to observe the animals through glass screens.

The Laotian prime minister is scheduled to meet with Japanese Emperor Akihito and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during his four-day visit.—*Kyodo News*



Photo taken on 27 Feb, 2015 shows a Press conference held by Macao Customs and Public Security Police Force in south China’s Macao. A ferry carrying 19 people capsized Friday off China’s Macao. According to the press conference, overload caused the capsizing.—XINHUA

Gov’t sounds out ruling bloc about SDF rescue operations abroad

TOKYO, 28 Feb — The government proposed on Friday to the ruling coalition that Japan should develop a legal framework to enable the Self-Defence Forces to rescue captive Japanese nationals abroad.

During a meeting of senior lawmakers from the Liberal Democratic Party and Komeito, the government sounded them out about allowing greater use of weapons by the SDF, which currently can only use force in self-defence.

Still, Komeito lawmakers called the government proposal “unrealistic” and stressed the need for steps to ensure the safety of SDF members engaged in rescue operations.

A recent hostage crisis that saw two Japanese men held captive and killed by the Islamic State group has raised calls within the LDP for giving a legal basis to such rescue operations. Under the existing law,

the SDF can only transport those who have been rescued.

The government said, however, the SDF cannot be dispatched to rescue Japanese citizens in cases like the recent hostage crisis in which the captives could not be located, according to ruling coalition lawmakers.

A landmark Cabinet decision made in July only allows the SDF to be dispatched when they can gain consent from a country involved, and their operations should be confined to areas under government control.

The LDP-Komeito coalition is expected to hold rounds of talks to reach an agreement on an outline of security-related legislation. The government plans to submit bills to the current Diet session through June to put into effect the Cabinet decision to rework the country’s security policy.

The lawmakers also discussed enabling the SDF to conduct ship inspections beyond “areas around Japan” on condition that approval by the UN Security Council or from the flag state exists.

They also exchanged views on a government proposal to expand the scope of SDF operations with foreign militaries within the framework of so-called acquisition and cross-serving agreements.

Japan has such agreements with the United States and Australia, enabling the SDF to conduct joint exercises and international relief operations.

The government hopes to expand operations under the agreement to include information gathering and surveillance activities as well as defence against ballistic missiles and antipiracy missions, the ruling coalition lawmakers said.

Kyodo News

Lupita Nyong'o's \$150,000 Oscar gown returned by thief via TMZ

LOS ANGELES, 28 Feb — The \$150,000 Oscar gown worn by actress Lupita Nyong'o that was stolen two days ago was returned on Friday by the thief, who tipped off celebrity news site TMZ.com after learning the pearls on the dress were fake, according to officials and the website.

TMZ said the thief took the Calvin Klein dress from Nyong'o's hotel room on Wednesday after finding the door ajar.

The Kenyan actress

had worn the dress adorned with 6,000 pearls to Sunday's Academy Awards in one of the most commented looks of the night.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Lieutenant Michael White told reporters at a Friday news conference that they received a call around 3 pm local time from a media outlet who reported hearing from an anonymous caller that the dress had been returned to the London Hotel.

The media source said the thief removed two pearls from the dress and took them to the Garment District in downtown Los Angeles where they were told they were not real, according to White.

Nicole Nishida, a spokeswoman with the department, later confirmed that the media source was TMZ. The thief then took the dress back to the London West Hollywood hotel and said it was in a garment bag inside a trash bag in a bathroom, White said.

TMZ then tipped off the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in West Hollywood, which was investigating the theft. The website shows grainy footage of an unidentified person opening the bag and finding a white dress.

White said the investigation into the theft would continue whether the jewels were authentic or fake.

"If we found out that they were not real, we still have a burglary and we still have a grand theft," White said.—Reuters



Actress Lupita Nyong'o wears a Calvin Klein gown and Chopard diamonds as she arrives at the 87th Academy Awards in Hollywood, California on 22 Feb, 2015.

REUTERS

Scarlett Johansson's pop band hits with legal issue

LOS ANGELES, 28 Feb — Scarlett Johansson's band The Singles has not even been around for a week, but they are already facing legal issues.

Just a few days after the all-

girl band premiered their first single, another LA-based band with the same name issued a cease-and-desist order to the actress' reps, alleging copyright infringement.



"I woke up one morning and learned from the news that our band name was literally just taken by someone else as their own," The Singles' Vincent Frederick wrote in a Press release.

"It's hard to believe that any musician would do something like that to another band. The Singles has been my life for the past 16 years. We have worked so incredibly hard to make it a success," it read further.

Johansson formed her own The Singles with Este Haim of HAIM, Holly Miranda, Kendra Morris and Julia Haltigan.

The statement came along with their debut single 'Candy'. The song was produced by TV on the Radio's Dave Sitek who previously worked with Johansson on her 2008 Tom Waits cover album, 'Anywhere I Lay My Head'.—PTI



Kanye West apologizes to Beck over Grammy Awards 2015

LOS ANGELES, 28 Feb — Rapper Kanye West has apologized to Beck for blasting the singer at the Grammys.

During the Grammy Awards earlier this month, West, 37, almost interrupted Beck when he took the stage to accept Album

of the Year for 'Morning Phase', beating out Beyonce.

"I would like to publicly apologize to Beck, I'm sorry Beck," West tweeted.

West also decided to hand out a public apology to Bruno Mars for calling him out at the 2013 MTV

Video Music Awards. Now, apparently, West wants to collaborate with Mars a new song he produced. "I also want to publicly apologize to Bruno Mars, I used to hate on him but I really respect what he does as an artist," he added.

PTI

Brit Awards tumble leaves Madonna with 'little bit of a whiplash'

LONDON, 28 Feb — Madonna said she suffered whiplash when she was pulled by her cape causing her to fall and hit her head during a performance at the Brit Awards this week.

The 56-year-old pop star said during a Thursday taping of "The Jonathan Ross Show" on Britain's ITV that her gasp-inducing plunge was a little cosmic comeuppance and not a publicity stunt.

"I had a little bit of a whiplash and I smacked the back of my head, so there was a man standing over me with a flashlight until about 3 am making sure that I was still conscious," Madonna said in an episode of the show that will air on 14 March.

She was performing her new song "Living for Love" at the British music industry awards on Wednesday when she failed to loosen the cape from her matador costume before her dancers pulled it away.

A little dazed, Madonna rose to her feet before finishing the song. The fall overshadowed the awards and video of the plunge immediately circulated online. "I didn't hurt my butt, I hurt my head," Madonna said of the tumble down three stairs that were stage props.

"Honestly the universe was, I don't know, trying to teach me a lesson I guess, I don't know," she added.

Reuters

Drew Barrymore writing book about her life

LOS ANGELES, 28 Feb — Actress Drew Barrymore has signed a deal with Dutton to publish a collection of autobiographical essays.

Barrymore, who recently turned 40, is expected to pen

down her challenging times of growing up in the public eye, reported *People* magazine.

But the book is not meant to be a heavy memoir. Rather, she wants it to be bright and funny.

"I love stories that are humorous, emotional and welcoming, and that is my goal in writ-



Actress Drew Barrymore

ing this book," Barrymore said in a statement.

The book, which is not yet titled, will include stories about Barrymore "living on her own at 14, getting stuck in a gas station overhang on a cross-country road trip, saying goodbye to her father in a way only he could have understood, and many more adventures and lessons that have led to the most important thing in her life, which is motherhood," Dutton said.

Ben Sevier, publisher of Dutton, said, "We are thrilled to welcome Drew Barrymore, a true American icon, to the Dutton list, and can't wait to help bring her wonderful writing to the world."

The actress has two daughters with husband Will Kopelman.—PTI

Sam Smith still waiting for his Grammy trophies

LOS ANGELES, 28 Feb — British pop star Sam Smith has revealed that he has not received the trophies he won at the Grammy awards earlier this month.

The 22-year-old British sensation won in four different categories including Best New Artist and Song of the

Year for his hit 'Stay With Me' at the ceremony, reported *Ace Showbiz*.

In an interview during the BRIT Awards, Smith said he is getting annoyed that he still has to wait longer for the golden gramophones.

"I haven't got them yet. It takes, like, a month to get them

and it's annoying," he said.

The BRITs took place at London's O2 Arena on Wednesday night. At the event, Smith performed his newest single 'Lay Me Down'. He also won big as he bagged two awards for British Breakthrough Act and Global Success.

PTI



Pop star Sam Smith

GENERAL

Nadal crushes Delbonis to reach Argentine Open semi-final



Spain's Rafael Nadal plays a shot during his tennis match against Argentina's Federico Delbonis at the ATP Argentina Open in Buenos Aires, on 27 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

BUENOS AIRES, 28 Feb — Rafael Nadal, working his way back to top form after wrist problems last year, screamed with delight on reaching the Argentine Open semi-finals with a 6-1, 6-1 rout of Federico Delbonis

on Friday.

Nadal, who went down to a first defeat in 53 consecutive semi-finals on clay at the Rio Open last weekend, pumped his fist after winning a superb rally in the fifth game of the second set and again when the Argentine hit the ball wide on second match point. "It was very important for me to reach the semi-finals here in Argentina," said Nadal, who overwhelmed Delbonis in an impressive battering lasting one hour and four minutes.

"Now the next step is to reach the final to improve on ... Rio de Janeiro last week

and I hope to do it," he added in a courtside interview after the quarter-final at the Buenos Aires Lawn Tennis Club.

The Spaniard, who dropped to world number four with his loss to Italian Fabio Fognini in Rio de Janeiro, meets Argentine Carlos Berlocq in Saturday's second semi-final with a 65th title and Guillermo Vilas's record of 46 claycourt crowns in his sights.

Juan Monaco, tournament winner in 2007, faces 2011 champion Nicolas Pietrangeli in the other Argentine-Spanish semi-final.

Reuters

UK to stop bilateral aid programme for Vietnam since 2016

HANOI, 28 Feb — The United Kingdom (UK) will stop aid programme for Vietnam from March 2016, according to a press release out here on Friday.

The cease of the aid program is to recognize Vietnam's progress in fulfilling the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, said the press release posted on the website of the Vietnamese foreign ministry.

Other assistance

sources of the UK through the European Union and other multilateral mechanisms including World Bank and United Nations will still be continued, said the press release of the fourth strategic dialogue between Vietnam and the UK.

According to statistics by the World Bank, a country with gross national income (GNI) per capita ranging between 1,000 US dollars and 12,000 US dollars is considered a middle income country.

In 2011, Vietnam posted a GNI per capita of 1,260 US dollars, becoming a middle income country. In late 2013, Sweden announced to stop Official Development Assistance for Vietnam.

During the Vietnam-UK dialogue, held in Hanoi, the two sides focused on discussions of issues of international economic integration, defence, security and global developments.

Both sides reaffirmed their commitments to soon

conclude negotiations of a Free Trade Agreement between them.

The two sides agreed to further strengthen cooperation in areas of education, civil nuclear energy, anti-corruption and climate change, among others.

Both sides discussed the issue of human rights and urged the design of a Vietnam-UK 2015 Action Plan. Vietnam and the UK established diplomatic ties in 1973.—Xinhua

Djokovic and Federer to renew rivalry in Dubai

DUBAI, 28 Feb — Novak Djokovic and Roger Federer renew their great rivalry when they meet in the final of the Dubai Championships on Saturday with both players fighting fit and ready for battle. A few months ago they were had been supposed to bring the curtain down on the ATP Tour with a blockbuster at London's O2 Arena, only for Federer to withdraw injured.

This time, the world's top-ranked players have arrived in the final in great form and their 37th career meeting has organisers of the \$2.5 million hard court event grinning.

They have 10 Dubai titles between them and while Federer leads 19-17



Novak Djokovic of Serbia speaks with Roger Federer of Switzerland after defeating him in their men's singles finals tennis match on Centre Court at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships in London on 6 July, 2014.

REUTERS

in head-to-heads, Djokovic prevailed in the one that really mattered last year to win the Wimbledon title.

"When you play Roger, it's always a great challenge,"

Djokovic, 27, told reporters after beating fourth seed Czech Tomas Berdych 6-0, 5-7, 6-4 in Friday's semi-final. "If you want to win you have to play your best

tennis against Roger in the finals of any event, but here particularly because I feel this is the kind of surface and conditions that suit his game best." Three of their matches have been in Dubai, Federer winning last year's semi-final and a quarter-final against a teenage Djokovic in 2007, while the Serb won their 2011 final clash.

"I look forward to it," added Djokovic, who has reasserted his hold over the men's game by winning Wimbledon and the Australian Open in the past seven months and should be favourite to prevail on Saturday.

"It's always a tough match. I need to be ready for the battle. I need to stay focused throughout the whole match."—Reuters

UN urges centralized energy system to reduce carbon emission

NAIROBI, 28 Feb — The world's mega cities and rural towns should invest in centralized energy systems to reduce fossil fuels consumption during cooling or heating in buildings, said a United Nations (UN) report launched on Friday.

According to the District Energy in Cities Re-

port authored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), cities are responsible for 50 percent of green house gas emissions that can be reduced through a centralized system to heat and pipe water to households.

"Our ability to keep the world within a two degrees scenario has led us to focus on district energy in cities.

This approach is practical, benefits consumers and will enhance our response to climate change," said UNDP Executive Director Achim Steiner.

He said the District Energy Systems that have been adopted in many cities globally focus on a centralized approach to pipe steam, hot or cold water in a bid to

cut fossil fuels consumption.

The UN report noted that this system will boost energy efficiency, air quality, and savings in cities.

"We need to enlighten decision makers, mayors and leaders at community level on the importance of District Energy Systems to promote a transition to green," Steiner said.

mitv Myanmar International

(1-3-2015 07:00 am~ 2-3-2015 07:00 am) MST

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MRTV Entertainment Channel

(1-3-2015, Sunday)

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|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| 6:00 am | 7:05 am |
| • Alinka Wutyi Music Troupe | • Myanmar Video |
| 6:20 am | 8:25 am |
| • Fashion Show Play | • Sing & Enjoy |
| 6:50 am | 9:10 am |
| • Musical Programme | • Pyi Thu Ni Ti |
| | 9:30 am |
| | • Myanmar Movie |



Models wait backstage during the Indonesian Fashion Week 2015 at Jakarta Convention Centre in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 26 Feb, 2015. Indonesian Fashion Week 2015 is held from 26 February to 1 March. — XINHUA

Kandeh Yumkella, CEO of UN Secretary General's Sustainable Energy for All Initiative.

Experts emphasized that modern and energy efficient heating and cooling systems in cities will cushion nations from economic shocks and extreme weather events, the UN official said.

Xinhua

Vice-President U Nyan Tun urges athletes to bring glory to nation through Union Spirit

Medal tally in 4th National Sports Festival 2015 on 28-2-2015

State/Region	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total	Standing
Yangon	89	62	51	202	1
Mandalay	50	56	65	171	2
Bago	30	35	36	101	3
Magway	21	14	18	53	4
Ayeyawady	20	19	45	84	5
Nay Pyi Taw	18	9	24	51	6
Kayah	15	14	17	46	7
Kayin	15	9	8	32	8
Mon	14	30	36	80	9
Shan	14	15	35	64	10
Rakhine	13	23	33	69	11
Kachin	13	15	16	44	12
Sagaing	11	18	24	53	13
Taninthayi	10	18	39	67	14
Chin	5	2	2	9	15



Vice President U Nyan Tun delivers speech at closing of 4th National Sports Festival.—MNA



Flag bearers from the Ministry of Sports carrying National Sports flag from Wunna Theikdi stadium.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Feb — Vice-President U Nyan Tun graced the closing ceremony of the 4th Myanmar Sports Festival and presented trophies winning teams at Wunnatheikdhi Stadium on Saturday.

In his closing speech, the Vice-President stressed the need of intensive training for achieving success in the upcoming 28th SEA Games and the 8th ASEAN Para Games as the purpose of organizing the sports event was to meet success there. He also wished athletes would bring glory to the country through the Union Spirit gained at this festival.

Accompanied by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Mya Thein, Chairman of the Union Election Commission, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Union ministers, deputy ministers, senior military officers and officials, the Vice-President enjoyed the men's football final match between Mandalay Region and Kayin State.

Next, the Vice-President presented Myanmar Sports Festival's championship trophy to Yangon Region, and Union Ministers U Tint Hsan and U Thein Nyunt awarded Mandalay Region and Bago Region who stood second and third respectively.—MNA

Tottenham's Kane has two big fans in Chelsea's defence

LONDON, 28 Feb — Chelsea's John Terry and Gary Cahill will be determined to keep Tottenham Hotspur's Harry Kane quiet in Sunday's League Cup final but have already seen enough of the young striker to back him for an England call-up.

The central defensive duo got a close view of 21-year-old Kane's qualities when he scored twice in Tottenham's surprise 5-3 Premier League win at White Hart Lane on New Year's Day.

Kane also scored two goals against Arsenal and grabbed a last-gasp equaliser versus another London side West Ham United last week to maintain his team's pursuit of a top-four finish and take his goal tally this season to 24 in all competitions.

Such is the local lad's form since breaking into the first team

that he is now Tottenham's leading striker, ahead of Spain's Roberto Soldado and Togo's Emmanuel Adebayor.

"He is a very good player, his movement is fantastic and he is in great goalscoring form," Chelsea skipper Terry told reporters in the build-up to the Wembley final — a repeat of the 2008 clash which Tottenham won 2-1 after extra time. "He has got to be able to do that year after year, and for England I hope he does," added former England defender Terry.

"It's great to see young players coming through and getting their opportunities and staying in the squad so if he keeps scoring there's no reason why he can't stay in."

"But there's still a long way to go."

Cahill said Kane has deservedly pushed his name into the frame for an England call-up when Roy Hodgson picks his squad for next month's Euro 2016 qualifier at home to Lithuania and friendly away to Italy.

"This season he has been terrific and obviously he's pushing for an England place now," said the England centre back.

"He's been very good and he's been consistent this season. I'm sure he's looking to do that consistently over the next few years. I thought in (the 5-3 league defeat) he played really well as did a lot of their players."

While his goals have been impressive, Kane's attitude has made him a dream to play alongside, according to his Tottenham team mate Christian Eriksen.

"Harry is a worker as well

and that's what people like and what he does, he works for the team, he's not a striker who just waits for the ball," said the Dane

this week.

"He wants it and sometimes he comes and takes it."

Reuters



Harry Kane scores the second goal for Tottenham Hotspur against West Han United during their Barclays Premier League soccer match at White Hart Lane, London on 22 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

Nishikori reaches Mexico final, seizes career-high No 4 ranking

ACAPULCO, (Mexico), 28 Feb — Japan's Kei Nishikori advanced to the final of the Mexico Open with a 6-2, 3-6, 6-3 semifinal victory over South Africa's Kevin Anderson on Friday, seizing a career-high world No 4 ranking.

Top seed Nishikori appeared

to be cruising to an easy victory before the fifth-seeded South African rallied midway through the second set. After suffering an early service break in the third set, Nishikori broke back before sealing victory in 2 hours, 2 minutes.

"My opponent was strong

and it became a tough match in the second set, but in the end I was able to get back on my game and grab the victory," said Nishikori, who will play Spaniard David Ferrer in the final. A Nishikori title in Acapulco will make him Japan's career wins leader

with his ninth championship. He is currently tied at eight with Kimiko Date-Krumm.

If Nishikori wins the final and Rafael Nadal fails to claim a title in Buenos Aires, Nishikori would rise to No 3 in the world.

Kyodo News