The New Light of Myanmar
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Federal President of Germany to pay official visit to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 6 Feb—At the invitation of His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, His Excellency Mr. Joachim Gauck, Federal President of the Federal Republic of Germany and Mrs. Daniela Schadt will pay an official visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in the near future.—*MNA*

Myanmar expresses willingness to cooperate with Human Rights Watch

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Feb — President U Thein Sein held talks with a Human Rights Watch delegation at the Presidential Palace, here, this morning, expressing his government's willingness to cooperate with the organization.

In meeting with the delegation led by Mr. David Matthison (Asia Division, Myanmar), Mr. Brad Adams (Asia Division, London) and Mr. Phil Robertson (Asia Division, Bangkok), the President said Myanmar has established closer relationships with the United Nations as well as the Human Rights Commission and the Human Rights Council since the formation of the new government. Myanmar government has a willingness to build cooperation with the independent Human Rights Watch organization, he added.

President U Thein Sein receives Human Rights Watch delegation members at Presidential Palace.—MNA

The Human Rights Watch delegation replied that their organization is working in around 90 countries. They continued that they are very pleased to see significant human rights progress in Myanmar since two and a half years ago, showing the organization's willingness to work together with the government in Myanmar's sweeping reforms.

Also present at the call were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Aung Kyi and U Soe Thane and officials.— *MNA*

Plan for development of rural areas, improvement of socio-economy launched for farmers in Shan State

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits booths on agricultural machinery.
MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Feb — Ministry of Cooperatives has sold transportation vehicles, farming machinery and machines in installments to the people in rural areas in Shan State today.

The sales of vehicles and machinery under the cooperative system and dissemination of knowledge on modern farming methods would benefit the farms and help them transforming from their traditional farming system to the modern farming system, said Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham at a ceremony to bring about development of rural areas and improvement of the socio economy in Taunggyi, Shan State, today.

The Union Government is working together with respective region and state governments to carry out the tasks of development of rural areas and improvement of socio economy of the people in rural areas.

The 26 percent of the country's total population is living in poverty, according to the survey conducted by the UN.

The farmers could not produce high yield due to their conventional farming methods though the population in rural areas is increasing, causing poverty in rural areas.

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LOCAL NEWS

Plans underway to build eight bridges in Chin State, Kalay Tsp

Officials inspect progress of creek crossing bridge in Kalay region.

KALAY, 5 Feb—Ministry of Construction and Township Development Affairs Committee will start construction of eight bridges in Chin State and Kalay Township of Sagaing Region spending the fund allotted by the Union government.

The bridges were damaged in the natural disasters caused in the last rainy season.

The list of the bridges consists of one bridge in Chin State, one concrete bridge in urban area of Kalay and six more bridges in Kalay Township. As Chin State and Kalay region will not be difficulties in transportation in coming summer, the construction of bridges must be completed in the open season, said an official of Kalay Township Development Affairs Supportive Committee.

The plans are adopted to build Natdaga Bridge in Tiddim of Chin State spending K 62.50 million and seven bridges in Kalay Township, K 498.62 million.

As bad weather causes in upper Chin State and Kalay region and upper Sagaing Region in rainy season yearly, torrent rains and floods become natural barriers in the region, causing break of bridges and difficulties of transport.

MMAL-Chindwin Thar

Business

Chin State to get new border trade camp soon

THANTLANG, 5 Feb—A new border trade camp will be built near Hmaungtalan Village of Thantlang Township of northern Chin State, west of the nation, said Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint on his inspection tour of Chin State.

While meeting with local people and departmental officials, the Union Minister disclosed plans of construction for the new border trade camp.

It will be a gate to link Thantlang-Lonler-Bonkhwa gate. The training course will be conducted to local merchants in Haka. It is necessary to export value-added crops of domestic products to other nation. The Union government is making arrangements to hold the agricultural seminar and workshops. Technology on cultivation elephant yam will be shared to the local farmers in meeting with experts, he said.

The Union minister continued that the ministry will allow importation of heavy machinery for development of Thantlang Township. He stressed the need to develop not only border trade but also the trade opportunities in line with the trade policy.

The Union minister then inspected the axis for construction of the road to the border trade camp.

India is standing third in trade partner of Myanmar after China and Thailand. The border trade camps such as Kalay-Tiddim-Reed, Haka-Falam-Reed and Haka-Thantlang-Hsihsichauk border gates have been opened in Chin State. In addition, plans are underway to open Tiddim-Tunzang-Kyikha, Thantlang-Vanzan-Talanlo, Gangaw-Rezwa-Lailinthe and Thantlang-Lonlre-Bonkhwa border camps.—*MMAL-Nay Su (Chin Hill)*

Myathida Park to get People's Square in Singaing

SINGAING, 5 Feb—Mandalay Region government has given instructions to respective township administrators to build people's squares at each townships in 2014.

"Some members of Township Development Supportive Committee and the commander of Township Police Force gave suggestions to build the square near Shwekyeena Pagoda, but it was cancelled due to the fact that it is so close to the monastery. We have chosen the Myathida Park for the people's square. It will be built meeting international standard," said township administrator U Myint Thein at a reception.—*MMAL-Aung Min (Singaing)*

National Sports

Meiktila minimarathon on 12 Feb

MEIKTILA, 5 Feb—With the assistance of ICE ACE purified drinking water, Duwun Shwehti purified drinking water and Thukha Htila Hospital in Meiktila, Mandalay Region, the third Meiktila Marathon will be held on the Union Day.

The minimarathon will comprise three-metre family race and 21-km race.

Those wishing to take part in the race are to enlist at Township Sports and Physical Education Department and Thukha Htila Hospital with K 1000 fee.

The race will be launched in front of the Meiktila Basic Education High School at 5 am on 12 February.

The entrance fee will be donated to social organizations.

NLM-017

Telecommunications

Low-cost SIM cards distributed to Union Day cultural troupe delegates

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Feb—Under the instructions of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Secretary of Union Day Celebration Management Committee Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myo Nyunt and officials presented low-cost 296 SIM cards to 296 Union Day cultural troupe delegates from States and Regions who arrived here to perform entertainments and traditional dances at the ceremony to mark the 67th Anniversary Union Day, at No 7 Transit Centre in Ywadaw of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 4 February.

The leaders of the delegates shared the SIM cards to members of the cultural troupes from States and Regions respectively.

The members of the delegations are so pleased for better communications through the SIM cards.

Dekkhina District IPRD

An official presents low-priced SIM cards to members of cultural delegates of States and Regions.

WORLD

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (C) shares a laughter with former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton (L) and her daughter Chelsea during a photo opportunity at the UN headquarters in New York, on 4 Feb, 2014. 2015, the target year of the Millennium Development Goals, will be a crucial year for the future of development and for the future of women and girls, Ban said here Tuesday. —Xinhua

Tokyo governor candidates visit typhoon-devastated island

Tokyo, 5 Feb — Candidates in the upcoming Tokyo gubernatorial election have been visiting Izu Oshima Island, scarred by typhoon-triggered deadly mudslides last October, raising hopes among residents that the would-be governors' attention to their needs will stretch beyond the campaigning period.

The island, administratively part of Tokyo and located around 120 kilometers south of the capital, only has about 6,900 voters, or 0.06 percent of the electorate in the country's largest metropolis.

Since mid-January, the island, which lost 39 people in Typhoon Wipha, has been visited by Kenji Utsunomiya, 67, the former head of the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, former health minister Yoichi Masuzoe, 65, former Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa, 76, and Former Air Self-Defence Force chief Toshio Tamogami, 65.

All four — the best known among the 16 candidates — expressed willingness to place priority on disaster mitigation measures in their meetings with local residents.

"I don't remember an election like this," said Hitoshi Kurata, 67, a local taxi driver. He said he has never seen candidates either for national or Tokyo gubernatorial elections visiting the island. "I appreciate that they came to look at the current situation of the island, and I'm also glad to be able to hear directly what they have to say about their policies," he said.

In an attempt to clean up the debris left by mudslides, dump trucks are still busily passing up and down roads on the island.

Piles of rubble and damaged homes remain in some districts. Many islanders say there is still much to be done for reconstruction. "The disaster happened recently, so I want to choose someone who can give priority to reconstruction and to disaster mitigation," said Fukiko Maeda, 78, who is in the tofu making business and was listening to the speech of a candidate. "I'm here to see whether candidates are just giving a performance or not."

Hitoshi Kono, 65, an unemployed man, was asked about phasing out nuclear power, a key issue for some of the candidates in the race. "Grand things had better be left to the state. I want to pick someone who solves Tokyo's problems one by one." In late January, temporary housing estates for 46 households were completed on the grounds of an elementary school that has been closed.

Kyodo News

2 Koreas start preparatory talks on family reunions

Seoul, 5 Feb — North and South Korea started preliminary talks on Wednesday on arranging another round of reunions of families separated since the 1950-1953 Korean War, according to the South's Unification Ministry.

Three officials from each side are attending the talks that began at around 10 am at the border village of Panmunjeom.

According to observers, the key point is whether the two sides can reach an agreement despite tensions over South Korea's annual joint military exercises with the United States scheduled later this month.

South Korea and the United States, however, dismissed the North's claims, saying the exercises are defensive in nature and will be held as scheduled.

Wednesday's preparatory talks had been set after South Korea last week proposed talks on holding the reunions on 17-22 February. at the North's Mt Kumgang, a resort on its east coast near the border with the South.

Earlier last month, South Korean President Park Geun Hye proposed the two Koreas hold the reunions around the Lunar New Year, which fell on 31 January.

The North then offered to resume the reunions at Mt Kumgang, "at a convenient time" after the Lunar New Year.

Family reunions are a highly emotional issue on the divided Korean Peninsula as most of the separated family members are in their 70s and 80s and have expressed a strong wish to see their relatives before they die.

The two Koreas first arranged temporary reunions for separated family members after the landmark inter-Korean summit in 2000.

They have so far held 18 reunions, bringing together more than 20,000 family members who had not seen each other since the war.

The last round of family reunions was held in 2010.

Kyodo News

Railroad fans flock to see a steam locomotive that drives the Ginga (Milky Way) train unveiled on 2 Feb, 2014, at JR Morioka Station in Iwate Prefecture ahead of the planned start of its service in April mainly in the northeastern Japanese prefecture.
Kyodo News

New Zealand navy Pacific disaster drill to involve 14 nations

Wellington, 5 Feb —Five military ships and about 600 military personnel from 13 nations will join New Zealand forces this month in an exercise to test New Zealand's readiness to help its Pacific neighbors after a natural disaster, the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) announced on Wednesday.

The exercise to be held in Auckland and the Hauraki Gulf, in the upper east of the North Island, from 17 February to 7 March and would include forces from Australia, China, France, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Singapore and the United States, said a statement from the NZDF.

The Royal New Zealand Navy was organizing the Western Pacific Naval Symposium (WPNS), which would be the largest naval exercise hosted by New Zealand in decades, it said.

The training scenario was set in the fictional and remote South Pacific island nation of the Barclay Islands after a devastating 8. 9-magnitude earthquake and a powerful tsunami.

Key shipping channels into the capital would be cut off and mines and explosive remnants dating from World War II would litter coastal waters.

The scenario would see a multinational task force led by New Zealand personnel deployed to create new shipping routes to undamaged coastal areas so that humanitarian aid and disaster relief supplies could be delivered.

Xinhua

Seventeen South African gold miners trapped a mile underground

Johanesburg, 5 Feb — South African gold producer Harmony Gold launched a rescue operation on Wednesday to free 17 miners trapped a mile underground after a fire at its Doornkop mine near Johannesburg.

The company said it had made contact with eight miners, who had managed to flee to a refuge bay at a depth 1,700 meters. The whereabouts of the remaining nine miners was unknown, a company spokesman said.

Rescue teams had been sent underground but access to the affected area has being hampered by smoke and a subsequent rock-fall, the spokesman added.

South Africa's gold mines are among the deepest in the world.

Xinhua

Car bombs near Baghdad's Green Zone kill nine

Baghdad, 5 Feb — Three car bombs exploded near Baghdad's heavily-fortified "Green Zone", home to the prime minister's office and several Western embassies, killing nine people early on Wednesday, security sources said.

The blasts came a day after two rockets were fired into the Green Zone, and are likely to heighten concerns about Iraq's ability to protect strategic sites as security deteriorates across the country.

Two of Wednesday's car bombs were parked opposite the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and killed five people, the sources said.

The other car was driven by a suicide bomber who blew himself and the vehicle up outside a restaurant close to a checkpoint one street away from the Green Zone, killing four people, the sources added.

Another explosion near Khullani Square in central Baghdad left four others dead.

Reuters

A man inspects derailed compartments of a train at the attack site near southern Pakistani port city of Karachi, on 4 Feb, 2014. At least four people were killed and 14 others including two kids and eight women injured when seven compartments of a train derailed following a bomb blast on a railway track in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi on Tuesday night, local media reported.
Xinhua

The New Light of Myanmar

New Zealand FM pushing case for UNSC seat in New York

WELLINGTON, 5 Feb — Foreign Affairs Minister Murray McCully will be stepping up New Zealand's lobbying for a seat on the United Nations Security Council in a trip to New York this week.

McCully said in a statement Wednesday that he would host a Waitangi Day —New Zealand's national day on 6 February — reception at New Zealand's permanent mission.

McCully would also hold meetings with a range of permanent representatives at the UN headquarters.

"Securing a seat on the Security Council for 2015-2016 is the government's top foreign policy priority," McCully said.

"In the lead up to the election it is important to take opportunities in New York to outline our credentials as a fair- minded and independent small state."

McCully would present the African Union Handbook, a joint project by New Zealand and the African Union Commission, to a meeting of the 54 African permanent representatives in New York.

Xinhua

A child reaches out to touch falling snow in Tokyo's Ginza District on 4 Feb, 2014. It rarely snows in Tokyo.—KYODO NEWS

US intelligence chief warns of global crises, threats

WASHINGTON, 5 Feb —Director of US National Intelligence James Clapper said on Tuesday that the nation has never been beset by more crises and threats from around the world than it now faces. The long list of global threats included terrorism, sectarian violence and radical extremism, Clapper said during a House hearing on worldwide threats.

"And there are many other crises and threats around the globe to include the spillover of the Syria conflict into neighboring Lebanon and Iraq, the destabilizing flood of refugees in Jordan, Turkey and Lebanon — now about 2.5 million people, essentially one of the largest humanitarian disasters in a decade," he said.

Clapper also mentioned the implications of the drawdown in Afghanistan, the deteriorating internal security posture in Iraq, the growth of foreign cyber capabilities, the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and aggressive nation-state intelligence efforts against the United States.

The intelligence community was also threatened by the fallout from leaks by former contract employee Edward Snowden, Clapper said. Though he did not want to dwell on the debate about Snowden's motives, the US intelligence chief said he did want to address the damage caused by his disclosures. "As a consequence, in my view, this nation is less safe and its people less secure," he said.

"What Snowden has stolen and exposed has gone way, way beyond his professed concerns with so-called domestic surveillance programmes. As a result, we've lost critical foreign intelligence collections sources, including some shared with us by valued partners."—*Xinhua*

Japan faces "disadvantages" without collective self-defence

TOKYO, 5 Feb—Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Wednesday Japan faces "disadvantages" through refraining from exercising the right of collective self-defence, expressing a strong desire to lift the self-imposed ban on its exercise.

He told a Diet committee the country can exercise the right "if the government comes out with a new constitutional interpretation. It does not necessarily require us to revise the Constitution." Japan has said it has the right to come to the defence of an ally under armed attack but cannot exercise it because of constraints under the pacifist Constitution that forbids the use of force as a means to settle international dispute.

"We have faced disadvantages" through being unable to exercise the right, Abe said at the House of Councillors' Budget Committee. Abe has underscored his intention to enhance Japan's defence capabilities with an eye on beefing up the security alliance with the United States amid threats such as North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile development programmes.

A government panel of experts is now discussing the issue and is expected to take the position that engaging in collective self-defence does not go beyond the nation's right to defend itself. Such a conclusion could be submitted to Abe as early as April before the government determines by the end of June whether to change its current interpretation of the Constitution, some officials said.

Kyodo News

Yemenis gather at the blast site in Sanaa, Yemen, on 4 Feb, 2014. A bomb blast struck a military bus in the Yemeni capital on Tuesday, killing at least two soldiers.—XINHUA

Argentina's President Cristina Fernandez looks at the attendees during the announcement of the increasing of jubilations and assignment for school aid, in the Government Palace, in Buenos Aires City, capital of Argentina, on 4 Feb, 2014.—XINHUA

US Senate approves five-year farm bill

WASHINGTON, 5 Feb — The US Senate gave final congressional approval on Tuesday to a long-delayed five-year farm bill that provides food for the needy and subsidies for farmers and sent it to President Barack Obama for his expected signature.

The Senate voted 68 to 32 to pass the legislation which is more than a year overdue after the Republican-led House of Representatives approved it by 251 to 166 last week. The sweeping bill would cost the federal government about 96 billion US dollars a year, and about 80 percent of the money would go to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programme (SNAP), commonly known as food stamps.

Among the most significant changes to farm subsidies in the new farm bill would be the elimination of a long-standing federal program called direct payments, which are paid to farmers 5 billion dollars a year whether they grow crops or not.

The bill also strengthens crop insurance as an essential risk management tool to protect farmers from weather disasters and market volatility and make up for the loss of those payments. The approval of the farm bill was believed as a bipartisan achievement for a divided US Congress, which made some important reforms for the future development of US agriculture.—*Reuters*

Jordan cares about outcomes in Palestinian-Israeli peace talks

AMMAN, 5 Feb — Jordanian Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour on Tuesday voiced the country's concern of possible surprises to Jordanians when it comes to the outcomes of peace talks between the Palestinians and Israel, the state-run *Petra* news agency reported.

"Until the moment, Jordan is informed about the peace talks and the Palestinians voiced commitment to continue to keep us informed in this regard," the Premier said.

"There is nothing to be afraid of at present, but there have been concerns lately that there might be surprises to Jordanians," he said.

It is of great importance that the Palestinians continue to inform Jordan about all proposals discussed, said Ensour, adding that Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas pledged to keep Jordan informed in this respect.

Meanwhile, the premier said Jordan will not accept any violation of the rights of Jordanians of Palestinian origins, saying they have the right for return and compensation.—*Xinhua*

St Petersburg NGO becomes latest victim of Russian foreign agent law

ST PETERSBURG, 5 Feb —A foreign NGO in Russia's northern capital St. Petersburg was forced by local authorities to register as a 'foreign agent' Tuesday under the terms of a controversial federal law brought into force in 2012.

The Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI)' s Russian partner, Freedom of Information Foundation, has been asked to register as a foreign agent after evidence was gathered by local prosecutors concerning the foundation's foreign funding sources and alleged political activities, including "attempting to shape public opinion," local media reported. The IDFI spokespeople rejected the decision and promised to appeal.

As of July last year, 22 NGOs across Russia were officially registered as foreign agents, and the number has grown since September after a number of NGOs were suspected of sharing sensitive information concerning Russia's internal affairs with visiting G20 delegates in St Petersburg, including US President Barack Obama, local media reported.

Russia's foreign agent law is designed to prevent NGOs from pursuing the agendas of foreign governments on Russian soil. Although not initially enforced, President Vladimir Putin made it clear in a speech on Valentine's Day last year that the law was to be taken seriously.—*Xinhua*

WORLD

Canadian politicians charged with expenses fraud

Ottawa, 5 Feb — Canadian police have laid charges against one suspended senator and another former senator with fraud and breach-of-trust over their living and travel expenses.

The two senators—Patrick Brazeau and Mac Harb — will appear in court at a later date to face the charges, Gilles Michaud, assistant commissioner of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) told reporters at a news conference here on Tuesday.

Brazeau, suspended from Senate last November, was found to have improperly claimed nearly 50,000 Canadian dollars (about 45,085 US dollars) in housing expenses.

He was Canada's youngest-ever senator when Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper appointed him to the unelected upper chamber at the age of 34 in late 2008.

Meanwhile, retired senator Harb, had repaid 231,000 dollars (208,296 US dollars) of improperly claimed expenses to the Senate before his resignation in August last year.

Harb's lawyer Sean said Harb is prepared to respond to "any and all allegations" in court and will plead not guilty, while Brazeau told local media last November that he would have preferred to have been charged so that he could offer an answer to the allegations that had swirled around him for months.

The RCMP began last year its investigation into the Senate spending scandal, which has rocked Parliament Hill and touched the Prime Minister's Office.

Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Assistant Commissioner Gilles Michaud delivers a statement at the RCMP National Division in Ottawa, Canada, on 4 Feb, 2014. —Xinhua

Brazeau and Harb are among the four senators that police have investigated regarding improper housing and travel expenses claims.

The other two senators — former television news broadcasters Pamela Wallin and Mike Duffy — were also suspended from Parliament's Red Chamber along with Brazeau last November.

The RCMP has not laid charges against them yet.

A Senate committee determined each of the four had claimed tens of thousands of dollars in expenses that they were not entitled to, and then passed its files to the RCMP.

Charlie Angus, ethics critic of the New Democratic Party, the official opposition party, called the RCMP's announcement a "very sobering day for Canadian political life."

"It raises questions about the political judgment of the prime minister of this country who appointed Patrick Brazeau despite numerous red flags being raised about him," Angus said.

Xinhua

Hokkaido reactor needs construction work to satisfy new regulations

Tokyo, 5 Feb — Nuclear regulators said on Tuesday that one of the reactors owned by Hokkaido Electric Power Codoes not satisfy Japan's new nuclear regulations, prompting the operator to decide on additional construction work for the facility.

The work required for the No 3 unit at the Tomari nuclear power plant "will not finish in several months," the utility said, indicating that the Nuclear Regulation Authority's ongoing safety assessment process could be prolonged and resumption of the reactor significantly delayed.

The No 3 unit is one of 16 reactors for which applications for NRA safety checks have been submitted since new safety requirements were introduced in July last year reflecting the lessons learned from the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster.

The problem with the No 3 reactor relates to the emergency system that cools the interior of the reactor's primary containment vessel by spraying water from a ring-shaped pipe. The No 3 reactor only has one pipe, but the NRA said in a meeting with officials of the utility in December that they should be prepared for cases in which the pipe breaks and cannot function.

Hokkaido Electric Power has insisted that such an event is extremely unlikely. But the NRA rejected the utility's claim, saying the new safety criteria "should be strictly applied."

The No 3 unit is a pressurized water reactor and is the only one of the PWRs undergoing safety checks that does not have double-layered spray pipes, according to the NRA.

All 48 commercial reactors in Japan are currently offline amid lingering safety concerns in the wake of the Fukushima nuclear crisis. To resume operation, reactors have to first satisfy the new regulations.

Kyodo News

International court to decide future of Kenyan president trial

Amsterdam, 5 Feb — The fate of the politically fraught trial of Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta could be decided on Wednesday, when prosecutors at the International Criminal Court plead for more time.

Kenyatta's lawyers hope the case will be thrown out, putting an end to a trial that has driven a wedge between African countries — which criticize the ICC for targeting their continent — and the court's Western backers.

The Kenyatta trial is crucial to the ICC, which has secured only one conviction and suffered a string of collapsed cases since it was set up 11 years ago. Kenya says the court risks destabilizing east Africa if it presses on with the charges.

Western countries, while keen to back the ICC, are also anxious to maintain relations with Kenya, seen as a key ally in the battle against militant in neighbouring Somalia.

Kenyatta is charged with crimes against humanity during the violence that swept Kenya six years ago, when 1,200 died and thousands were driven from their homes. He denies the charges.

ICC prosecutors say he orchestrated the clashes, but their case has been weakened by the withdrawal of a string of witnesses since charges were first brought four years ago.

The trial had been due to start on Wednesday, but was postponed for a fourth time last month when prosecutors said another witness had withdrawn, and requested more time to gather evidence.

Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta attends an Extraordinary Summit of Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) Heads of State during the African Union summit in Ethiopia's capital Addis Ababa, on 31 Jan, 2014. —Reuters

Prosecutors say their witnesses have been blackmailed or intimidated into withdrawing.

In a 31 January court filing, prosecutors said a "climate of fear" had weakened their case against Kenyatta, and said judges should rule that Kenya was in breach of its obligation to help the court's investigators.

"Several individuals with information relevant to the case refused to agree to be included on the prosecution's witness list due to fears that they or their family members would be targeted," prosecutors said in the filing.—*Reuters*

Tunisian police stand guard near a house in Raoued, a northern suburb of the capital Tunis, on 4 Feb, 2014. Reuters

Tunisia police kills suspected assassin of opposition leader

Tunis, 5 Feb — Kamal al-Qadqadi, the main suspect of last year's political assassinations, has been killed by Tunisian security forces during a police raid that targeted a house in the northern suburb of Raoued, announced interior minister Lotfi Ben Jeddou on Tuesday.

According to the ministry of interior, security forces launched intensive operations Monday afternoon in Raoued, killing six other "terrorist elements."

A national guard officer died during the armed clashes while another one was injured and transported to a hospital to receive medical treatment.

Mohamed Ali Aroui, spokesperson for the ministry of interior, said during a press conference Tuesday that the militants who were killed by the security forces are among the most dangerous terrorist elements of Ansar al-Sharia, a group the government categorized as a banned terrorist organization last August after Tunisian authorities accused it of involvement in the assassination of parliament member Mohamed Brahmi last July and prominent leftist politician Chokri Belaid in early February.—*Xinhua*

EU plans to offer visa waiver for Colombians

Bogota, 5 Feb — The European Union (EU) confirmed on Tuesday it plans to waive visa requirements for Colombian citizens who want to visit the 26 member countries of the Schengen Area.

"Today's decision reaffirms the political will of the EU to remove the visa requirement for Colombians and it is the green light to start the legislative process that will allow (the measure) to be implemented soon," EU Ambassador to Colombia Maria Antonia van Gool said on Tuesday on the website of the EU delegation in Colombia.

"It is an illustration of the mutual trust and willingness to continue working together. Unfortunately we cannot give an exact date yet as to when (those citizens) will be able to enter without a visa to the Schengen countries because it is still necessary to carry out legislative and institutional measures," Van Gool added. As European Parliament elections are coming up on 22-25 May, " there will be some months when the parliament does not meet, which could affect the speed of the process ahead of us," said Van Gool.

Schengen Area visas are valid for a total of 26 countries, including EU and non-EU states. —*Xinhua*

The New Light of Myanmar

Toyota says expects record annual profit, maintains outlook

Tokyo, 5 Feb — Toyota Motor Corp (7203.T) raised its operating profit forecast for the financial year by 9 percent to a record 2.4 trillion yen ($23.7 billion) as the yen, which has fallen against the dollar by some 9 percent this financial year, buoys profits of the export-oriented car maker. The world's best-selling automaker said on Tuesday it now expects to post 2.4 trillion yen in annual operating profit, up from its previous forecast of 2.2 trillion yen and higher than its pre-Lehman crisis record of 2.27 trillion yen from six years ago.

The revision was almost in line with the 2.44 trillion yen estimated by 23 analysts. For the October-December third quarter, Toyota posted 600.5 billion yen in operating profit, above the average estimate of 575.9 billion yen and nearly five times what it posted a year ago.Toyota kept its crown as the world's best-selling auto maker for two years in a row in 2013, beating rivals General Motors (GM.N) and Volkswagen AG (VOWG_p.DE) after having sold 9.98 million vehicles together with group companies Daihatsu Motor Co (7262.T) and Hino Motors Ltd (7205.T). In 2014, it plans to sell 10.32 million vehicles globally.—*Reuters*

A man looks at Toyota Motor's cars at the company's showroom in Tokyo on 6 Nov, 2013. Reuters

A man is silhouetted against a video screen with the Microsoft logo in the background as he poses with a Nokia Lumia 820 smartphone in this photo illustration taken in the central Bosnian town of Zenica on 3 Sept, 2013.—Reuters

New Microsoft CEO faces challenges in mobile, investor relations

Seattle, 5 Feb — As Microsoft Corp prepares to unveil insider Satya Nadella as its new chief executive, investors and analysts are weighing how effective the 22-year veteran will be in re-igniting the company's mobile ambitions and satisfying Wall Street's hunger for cash.

The world's biggest software firm faces a slow erosion of its PC-centric Windows and Office franchises and needs to somehow challenge Apple Inc and Google Inc in the new realm of mobile computing. At the same time, some investors are campaigning for retrenchment and a bigger cut of the company's massive cash pile.

Most agree that Nadella's background in creating Microsoft's Internet-based — or 'cloud' — computing services makes him a safe pair of hands to take the company forward, but there remains a question over his ability to make Microsoft a hit with consumers, or with impatient shareholders. "He is the right person to drive safe, right down the middle of the fairway, and continue Microsoft's strengths," said Rajeev Chand, managing director and head of research at tech investment bank Rutberg & Co. "What we don't know is will Nadella help with the consumer revival, or with the mobile revival. Mobile is an open hole in his background."

Reuters

Ten rivals join with NIH to search for new drugs

Bangalore, 5 Feb — Ten big rival drug companies have formed a pact to cooperate on a government-backed effort to accelerate the discovery of new drugs, *the Wall Street Journal* reported.

The companies and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) will share scientists, tissue and blood samples, and data, to identify targets for new drugs for diseases such as Alzheimer's, Type 2 diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis and lupus, the Journal said.

The collaboration, called the Accelerating Medicines Partnership, will cost about $230 million and involves drugmakers such as Bristol-Myers Squibb Co, Johnson & Johnson, GlaxoSmithKline, Takeda Pharmaceuticals and Sanofi.

The agreement prohibits participants from using any discovery for their own drug development until the project makes data public on that discovery.The NIH, GlaxoSmithKline, Bristol-Myers, Sanofi, Takeda, and Johnson & Johnson could not be immediately reached for comments by *Reuters*.

Reuters

Burton and Shellie Goldstein of Gaithersburg, Maryland hold their therapy Shih Tzu dogs ''The Bear'' and ''Emma'' outside the gates of the US Government's National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, on 4 Oct, 2013. Reuters

FDA launching major anti-tobacco campaign aimed at youth

Washington, 5 Feb —A major new anti-tobacco campaign will be launched in the United States next week aimed at vulnerable teenagers at risk of becoming addicted to cigarettes.

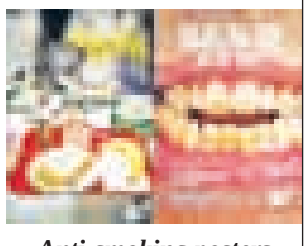
The $115 million campaign by the Food and Drug Administration will target the 10 million people aged 12 to 17 who are open to trying cigarettes or who are already experimenting with them and are in danger of becoming regular smokers, the FDA said.

The campaign is the first of several scheduled to be launched over the next two years that will target at risk, rural, gay, African American, and American Indian youth. The goal of the campaigns is to reduce the number of youth cigarette smokers by at least 300,000 within three years, the FDA said. The first, called "The Real Cost" campaign, will launch on 11 February and targets marginalized youngsters who may be starting to turn to tobacco as a way of coping with poor or stressful lives, Mitch Zeller, head of the FDA's tobacco products division, said at a media briefing on Monday.

The ads will appear in print and on TV and radio as well as on billboards and at bus stops, addressing typical teenage issues such as concerns with appearance and the desire to strike out and become independent. One series of ads features a bully who demands money.

A print ad shows a small, greasy-haired bully standing inside a school locker yelling, "Outside Now, Punk." The tag line says: "You wouldn't take it from a tiny bully, but when you're hooked on tobacco, you're taking it from a cigarette." Another series of ads focuses on the cosmetic damage cigarettes can cause, especially to the skin and teeth.

Reuters



Anti-smoking posters being issued by the FDA. A major new anti-tobacco campaign will be launched in the United States next week aimed at vulnerable teenagers on the cusp of becoming addicted to cigarettes.—Reuters

Lockheed launches civil version of C-130J military transport plane

Workers can be seen on the moving line and forward fuselage assembly areas for the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter at Lockheed Martin Corp's factory located in Fort Worth, Texas in this on 13 Oct, 2011 handout photo provided by Lockheed Martin.—Reuters

Washington, 5 Feb — Lockheed Martin Corp (LMT.N) on Monday launched the civil variant of its *C-130J* Super Hercules military transport plane, the *LM-100J*, saying it expected to sell about 75 of the planes to mining and energy companies, and other commercial and government customers in coming years. Lockheed said it had asked the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to certify the *LM-100J*, which will mirror the four-engine *C-130J* military workhorse, but without military avionics and communications equipment.

"The significance of that kickoff is that we're expanding the capability of the *C-130* enterprise into the commercial arena. That opens up a different market to us," said Jack Crisler, vice president of business development for Lockheed's air mobility, special operations and maritime programmes. Crisler told *Reuters* that Lockheed hoped to land an initial order for the new *LM-100J* aircraft this summer but declined to provide more details. He said the turboprop plane, aircraft would be priced in the mid-$60-million range.

Lockheed, the Pentagon's No 1 supplier, is looking to adjacent markets and foreign orders for its weapons to offset weaker US and European defence spending.

Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Sharp lifts forecast on orders from Chinese smartphone makers

TOKYO, 5 Feb— Sharp Corp lifted its full-year earnings forecast on Tuesday after receiving strong orders from Chinese makers for smartphone panels, putting it on firmer footing to secure the full-year net profit it needs as a condition for a $4.6 billion bank rescue. Japan's largest display maker raised its full-year operating forecast for the year to 31 March to 100 billion yen ($988 million), up from a previous forecast of 80 billion yen, although it left its net profit forecast unchanged at 5 billion yen.

The net forecast compares with expectations of 8.82 billion yen, the average of the most accurate analysts' expectations according to *Thomson Reuters* Starmine. The company, which also makes solar cells and TVs, cited strong orders for its small to midsize panels used in smartphones and tablets as it reported a 5.8 percent rise in operating profit for the October-December quarter to 47.6 billion yen, exceeding expectations of 35.42 billion yen, according to the average of five analyst estimates on *Thomson Reuters* Starmine.

Sharp, which racked up a net loss of 545 billion yen in the year through March 2013, has been trying to diversify its client base away from Apple Inc, which it supplies with small and midsize panels for the iPhone and iPad. The company said it had achieved high run rates at its display plants in Japan during the last quarter - a key operating target in its recovery efforts — and managed to boost the proportion of small to midsize panels at its Kameyama 2 factory in Japan to 30 percent of capacity as it shifts away from larger panels used in the struggling TV sector.—*Reuters*

A man rides an escalator past Sharp Corp's advertisements at an electronics retail store in Tokyo on 31 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

A DuPont Logo is pictured on the research center in Mayrin Geneva on 4 Aug, 2009—REUTERS

DuPont adds weather, new trading to precision farming programme

KANSAS CITY, 5 Feb — DuPont Pioneer, the agricultural seed unit of DuPont, said on Tuesday that it signed a deal with DTN/The Progressive Farmer to provide weather and market information to farmers, along with new grain trading capabilities, all accessed through mobile devices. "Our customers are running small businesses. Production in the field is really important as well as the business side. So this is just another step to being able to address key needs," said DuPont Pioneer Director of Services Joe Foresman.

Foresman said financial terms of the deal are not being released. Branding, packaging and pricing decisions for the offerings are still being determined, he said. DuPont Pioneer customers will have access to an exclusive network of weather stations, including those positioned on growers' farms, for real-time local information, as well as environmental conditions in other regions and forecast data, said Foresman. DuPont and DTN also will combine technologies from both companies to offer farmers electronic grain trading capabilities, officials with both companies said.

The announcement comes three months after DuPont inked a deal with farm machinery company Deere & Co that provides farmers a wireless transfer system for their data. DuPont is racing rival Monsanto Co. to capture market share in the burgeoning "precision agriculture" arena, turning farm-related data into new profit streams by incorporating analytics on an array of data points, including soil types, fungicide application timing, weather patterns and pest management.

Monsanto on 1 November completed its nearly $1 billion acquisition of The Climate Corp, a weather data and modeling technology company. That followed Monsanto's purchase in 2012 of Precision Planting Inc.

Reuters

Aussie teens receive top science award

CANBERRA, 5 Feb — How dangerous is texting or making calls on your mobile phone while driving? Thanks to 14-year-old Conroy Cheers from Melbourne we may all soon know. Australia's top science body, the Commonwealth of Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO), announced on Tuesday that Conroy was named as one of the winners of the BHP Billiton Science and Engineering Awards in Melbourne.

Conroy's first place in the Investigations category of the awards was for developing a method to measure the risks of texting while driving, and also making hands-on and hands-free voice calls. Using a readily available driving simulator, Conroy 'drove' the streets texting friends, calling his family and measured how his driving was affected.

Conroy hopes the process will allow people to experience firsthand the dangers of texting while driving. "I have loved science and engineering in any size or shape, for as long as I can remember," Conroy said.

"I always get excited at the prospect of 'making stuff', and also enjoy riding my bike and reading.

My ambition is to become a scientist or an engineer, perhaps in the field of nanotechnology." Winner in the Engineering section was 18-year-old Ethan Buston from Wollongong, New South Wales. Ethan created the SMART (Stroke Management with Augmented Reality Technology) system — a camera-based augmented reality system that aims to aid the recovery and increase the safety of stroke patients. By manipulating what they can see, a clearer visual picture is provided to the patient.

Xinhua

Sony in talks to sell PC business to investment fund

Logos of Sony Corp. are seen at an electronics store in Tokyo on 31 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

BANGALORE, 5 Feb — Sony Corp is in talks to sell its poorly performing personal computer business to investment fund Japan Industrial Partners for up to 50 billion yen ($490 million), the Nikkei daily reported. Under the plan being discussed, Sony would sell its PC business to a new company to be established by the fund and have a small stake in the new firm, the *Nikkei* reported.

The sale of the PC business would result in disposal losses that would push Sony into a net loss for the first time in two years for the year ending on 31 March, the *Nikkei* said. Japanese broadcaster NHK reported on Saturday that Chinese technology company Lenovo Group was in talks about a possible joint venture to take over Sony's loss-making Vaio PC business overseas.

Sony said the NHK report was inaccurate but acknowledged that it was looking at various possibilities for Vaio. Lenovo declined to comment. Sony has said it plans to revise the product and manufacturing strategy for the Vaio unit as smartphones and tablets chip away at it PC business.

Reuters

Lenovo shares dive on Sony PC buy report, downgrades

HONG KONG, 5 Feb — Shares in Lenovo Group Ltd slumped more than 16 percent on Tuesday after a weekend media report said the Chinese personal computer maker was in talks with Sony Corp about a possible joint venture to buy Sony's loss-making Vaio PC business outside Japan.

Speculation about the Sony joint venture comes after a hectic two weeks of deal making by Lenovo, with the Chinese company launching $5.2 billion worth of overseas acquisitions, partly funded by its own stock. Lenovo's announcement last week that it will buy Google Inc's Motorola Mobility handset unit for $2.9 billion surprised some investors and triggered a raft of analyst downgrades. Lenovo declined to comment on Tuesday. Sony has said the media report is inaccurate, but acknowledged it was looking at various possibilities for Vaio.

Reuters

People walk past a Lenovo shop in Hefei, Anhui Province, on 18 Oct, 2013.—REUTERS

NATIONAL

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 6 February, 2014

Promises for better services

Myanmar has granted telecom licences to two international telecom firms while the government-run Myanma Posts and Telecommunications, which has been the only telecom service provider in our country, is preparing to switch to a public corporation. More competitions are expected to be seen in the market, hopefully with far better services.

Qatar-based Ooredoo and Norway-based Telenor emerged winners in the hotly contested tender last year. They have made different promises since they entered the promising Myanmar market. Less than five years ago, a mobile SIM card was a privilege. The situations have changed now, but not much. Only one-digit percent of the population can only have access to telecommunications services.

Expecting any telecom services with specific promises is day-dreaming in the country where most industries are ruined by the lack of competition. Now, the competition comes from abroad. The companies have promised better services at relatively lower rate. They do not become the reality yet, but the progress is the promises.

We were total strangers to promises. It is the positive turning point. We expect more promises in various sectors of the country. We expect promises from service providers, promises from politicians and others. We will wait and see whether they fulfill their promises or not and we decide which one or whom to choose.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Election Commission
Nay Pyi Taw
Announcement No. (7/2014)
6th Waxing of Tabodwe, 1375 ME
(5 February, 2014)

Chin National Party allowed to change its name as Chin National Democratic Party

1. The Chin National Party that has already registered at the Union Election Commission under the Section 9 of Political Parties Registration Law, submitted its application to change Chin National Party to Chin National Democratic Party. Its registration number is 21.
2. The UEC allowed to change the Chin National Party to the Chin National Democratic Party as of 5-2-2014 after scrutinizing it in conformity with the law.

By order,
(Tin Tun)
Secretary
Union Election Commission

Plan for development…

(from page 1)

During the ceremony, the Vice-President has called on the farmers for using the vehicles and machinery right and for working hard to be able to keep up the installments.

Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan reported that the ministry is implementing rural development, enhancement of social economy and poverty alleviation. At the ceremony, K 1478.243 million loans would be disbursed to people for cultivation of cold season crops and 926 items of agricultural machinery worth K 1799.74 million and 340 items of machinery such as sewing machines and tuk-tuk worth K 141.78 million will be sold through installment. In January, K 50111.794 million as microfinance was disbursed to people for cultivation of cold season crops, he said. The Chief Minister of Shan State submitted reports on rural development and enhancement of social economy in the state.

The Union minister and the chief minister presented microfinance to officials from micro-credit cooperative societies. CB Bank and Central Cooperative Union Chairman U Khin Maung Aye presented farming machinery to officials.

Managing Director U Kyaw Soe of News and Periodicals Enterprise gave 10822 set top boxes free of charge to Shan State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myo Tun. At the ceremony, officials provided K 1941.52 million for 1266 items of agricultural machinery to 14319 members of 213 basic cooperative societies from 20 townships of six districts in Shan State.

MNA

Vice-President U Nyan Tun calls for participation …

(from page 16)

He also called for cooperation of the local people in ensuring the rule of law in Rakhine State.

Short-term and long term plans are implementing to effectively prevent the illegal migration and recognizing those who are eligible for citizenship, he said.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun also stressed the need for issuing press releases timely to fight the fabricated news and instigations which are intended to cause hate and conflicts.

He also has urged international organizations which are working in Rakhine State under the title of working for humanitarian aids to gather information from reliable sources in attempts to win trust from both local communities and not to cause complications in the state.

In the evening, Vice-President U Nyan Tun visited the Kaladan River transportation project at Sittway Port.

The Sittway Port is being upgraded to handle a 20,000-ton vessel.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets French Ambassador,…

(from page 16)

Also present on the occasion were Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee Chairman U Hla Myint Oo, commission member Daw Aye Aye Mu and officials from the Hluttaw Office, and US Ambassador Mr Derek Mitchell.

MNA

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann shaking hands with French Ambassador Mr Thierry MATHOU.—MNA

Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union leaves for Japan

YANGON, 5 Feb—At the invitation of Vice-President of Nagoya University of Japan Law Professor Aikyo Masanori, Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Mya Thein and party left here for Tokyo to attend the meeting on exchange of knowledge and experience in Nagoya University of Japan.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by member of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Mya Thein and officials.

The Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union was accompanied by members Daw Hla Myo Nwe and U Myo Chit.

MNA

Development of Capital Market in Myanmar on 14 Feb

YANGON, 5 Feb—Jointly organized by Japan's Daiwa Securities Group and the Ministry of Finance, a meeting on "Development of Capital Market in Myanmar" will be held at UMFCCI, here, on 14 February from 9 a.m. to 12 noon.

The meeting will focus on creating the stock market in Myanmar according to recently-enacted security exchange law, the rules for the public companies to sell and buy shares and making presentation on current work procedures. The scholars from Daiwa Securities Group, Daiwa Research Institute and JPX from Japan will take part in discussion highlighting the points to set up Yangon Stock Exchange, rules and regulations of Yangon Stock Exchange, and preparatory works for companies to sell their shares in Yangon Stock Exchange.

Those interested may dial 01-214344 of UMFCCI and 01-387032 of MSEC, visit msecbod@gmail.com. The seats are limited.

MNA

Legal actions underway…

(from page 16)

Township, U Sithu Soe, 22, of Pyapon Township, U The Yazar Oo (a) Yazar Oo (a) Ko The, 28, of Hlinethaya Township and U Aung Thura (a) Paing Thet Kyaw, 25, of North Okkalapa Township.

The period of detention had not been over 24 hours. In accord with Article 167 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, four people including U Tin Hsan were brought to Pazundaung Township Court and police requested the Court for the remand of the suspects from 1 to 14 February. U Lu Maw Naing (a) Lin Kyaw Oo (a) Lu Maw was remanded in custody till 14 February by Pauk Township Court. On 4 February, Ma Lwin Lwin Myint, 38, wife of U Lu Maw Naing, was detained and she was released on bail by Pakokku Township Judge Daw Swe Swe Win in accord with Article 497 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

According to the Ministry of Home Affairs, investigation is ongoing and suspects have been allowed to meet their families in accord with the law.

MNA

Gold foils offered to Yanaungmyin Pagoda in Kaleinaung Sub-Township

KALEINAUNG, 5 Feb—A ceremony to offer gold foils to Yanaungmyin Pagoda was held at the pagoda in Ward 2 of Kaleinaung Sub-Township of Dawei District in Taninthayi Region on 2 February.

Wellwisher U Kin Sein (Pyithu Hluttaw representative), Maj-Gen Aung Soe, Commander of North-East Command, Commodore Nay Win (Commander of Mawrawady Naval Region Command Headquarters), Brig-Gen Win Moe-Daw Zin Zin Moe (Commander of No 8 Operations Control Command), Commander of Work Engineers Company Major Kyaw Thu Win and wellwishers U Nyan Tun-Daw Nwe Yi and family, U Tun Shwe and fmaily offered gold foils to the pagoda and encircled zesis.

On behalf of the wellwishers, Commandore Nay Win shared merits gained for meritorious deeds.

MMAL-Kaleinaung Sub-Township IPRD

Agricultural machinery driving course opened

Trainees at Agricultural machinery driving course in practical works in Kawkareik Township.

KAWKAREIK, 5 Feb—The agricultural machinery driving course was conducted for 30 trainees from 12 wards and village-tarcts of Kawkareik Township of Kayin State on 2 February.

The course was opened at the township agricultural mechainzation station.

Deputy Commissioner of Kawkareik District U Than Shwe made a speech.

Head of Kayin State Agricultural Mechanization Department U Aung Lwin explained the purpose of training course.

The training course will be run 10 days to provide training to the trainees for driving of tractors, power-tillers, paddy transplanting machine and combine harvesters theorectically and practically.

One more training course will be conducted in Meiktila.—*MMAL-Soe Htet Aung (IPRD)*

National Objectives of 67th Anniversary Union Day 2014

- For all the national races to cultivate the Union Spirit to perpetuate the Union
- For all the national races to live in unity and harmony
- For all the national races to build up the prevailing national recon-ciliation
- For all citizens to participate in tasks for tranquility and the rule of law
- For all the national races to join efforts for modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation

Students of Kyaukse University donate blood

KYAUKSE, 5 Feb—As a gesture of hailing the 67th Anniversary Union Day, 19 students of Kyaukse University (Tawma) and 11 YaunggyiU youth group of Tawma Village, totalling 30 donated blood at Kyaukse Township General Hospital (200-bed) on 2 February.

Yatha social organization of Tawma Village gave assistance for the students to donate blood.

"Blood donators will donate blood at the hospital once for two months. Members of the association who are yet to turn 18 are keen to donate blood," an official of the blood donors association.—*MMAL-Aung Min (Singaing)*

Health Care Services

Health worker course concludes, medical kits handed over

MOGOK, 5 Feb—Mogok Township Health Department and Township Red Cross Society held the concluding of health worker course and distribution of medical kits at the hall of Township Hospital (100-bed) in Mogok on 3 February.

Under the Myanmar Red Cross Society's public-based health development plan, township level departmental officials made speeches and presented medical kits to them.

A trainee, U Aung Yin expressed his emotional feeling that he was pleased for attending the health worker course thanks to lectures of trainers. Deputy Township Administrator U Myint Tun, departmental officials, Medical Superintendent Dr Toe Toe and health staff, members of Township Red Cross Society, members of social organization and trainees attended the training course.

Altogether 31 trainees from 20 villages attended the one-month course.

MMAL

Water Supply Facility

Water supply facility for Kalay dwellers

KALAY, 5 Feb—Kalewa in upper Sagaing region is home to over 5000 people of 1500 houses.

It is the second largest port city among the townships along Chindwin River.

Under the leadership of town's elders and K 2,450,000 donated by Chiko Komatsu of Nunnery of Osaka of Japan, the township authorities built 50000-gallon-capacity water tank installed it with 28-HP engine to supply water to the local people.

After holding a coordination meeting, the town's elders and officials of Township Development Affairs Committee funeded K 2.7 million to substitute four inches diametre pipeline with six-inch diametre water pipelines.

In addition, the water taps were added with more taps to 921 taps to supply 200,000 gallons of water, said Town's elder U Chit Than. Water supply bill is charged as K 3000 per water tap for local consumption and K 6000 per works, he added.

MMAL-Shin Nay Min

WORLD

US discusses Afghan troop levels; Kabul holds talks with Taleban

WASHINGTON/KABUL, 5 Feb— US President Barack Obama met his senior military commanders to discuss the American presence in Afghanistan as officials in Kabul confirmed President Hamid Karzai's government has been holding secret talks with Taleban insurgents.

The United States said it welcomed any talks that would bring peace to Afghanistan. "It's important to note here that we've long strongly supported an Afghan-led reconciliation, which would, of course, be Afghans talking to Afghans," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said. "So the notion that we wouldn't support that dialogue is inaccurate."

She added that the United States was not in discussions with the Taliban. In Kabul, Karzai's spokesman confirmed a *New York Times* report that the government was holding talks with the Taleban in the hope of persuading them to make peace.

"I can confirm that ... Taleban are willing more than ever to join the peace process," Aimal Faizi said. "Contacts have been made and we are also in touch with them." A member of Afghanistan's High Peace Council also confirmed that talks had taken place, but was measured in his assessment of their success.

"Talks took place in Dubai three weeks ago between government officials and Taleban who flew from Doha, but we are still waiting to see the result," he told *Reuters*.

Western and Afghan officials speaking to the Times also said the talks had borne little fruit so far. The contacts had not even progressed as far as opening negotiations for a tangible peace agreement, the paper said.

Obama's talks with US military commanders focused on whether US troops will remain in Afghanistan after this year, as they end their 13-year mission in the country that began shortly after the 11 September, 2001 attacks. US troops helped oust the Taliban regime from power after the militants refused to hand over al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, and have since been helping the Kabul government fight the group.

No decisions on troop levels were made at the meeting.—*Reuters*

Afghan President Hamid Karzai speaks during a news conference in Kabul on 25 Jan, 2014. **REUTERS**

Two rockets hit Baghdad's Green Zone, car bombs kill 10

BAGHDAD, 5 Feb — Rockets hit Baghdad's heavily fortified "Green Zone", home to the prime minister's office and several Western embassies, on Tuesday and car bombs elsewhere in the capital killed 10 people, police and medical sources said.

One soldier was killed in the rare attack on the Green Zone, which is likely to heighten concerns about Iraq's ability to protect strategic sites as security deteriorates.

The car bombs struck mostly Shi'ite districts, including Shurta, in the southwest of Baghdad, where four people were killed in a crowded market, the police and medical sources said.

A car bomb in south Baghdad's al-Maalif neighbourhood killed two people and three died in a blast in the Bayaa quarter.

In Taji, north of the capital, an explosion near a police patrol claimed another life, police said.

Xinhua

Women of the Miao ethnic group pick spring tea at Jiangzhu Village in Rongshui Miao Autonomous County, southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 4 Feb, 2014. A ceremony of starting to pick tea was held by local people in Rongshui County on the day of "Lichun", literally meaning the beginning of the spring according to the traditional Chinese calendar, which falls on Feb. 4 this year. **—XINHUA**

Iran strives to restore normal condition to snow-hit area

TEHERAN, 5 Feb — Iran's troops, relief workers and governmental organs are struggling to restore normal condition to northern part of the country which has encountered unprecedented heavy snowfall and cold weather in the past days.

The governmental administrative organs, Red Crescent workers and armed forces have been dispatched to the north of Iran to help people who have been cut off power and water supply following the heavy snowfall in the past few days, Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani-Fazli told reporters after a meeting of Iran's Supreme Council for Management of Crisis on Tuesday.

So far, power current has been restored to about 95 percent of the cities in the north of the country, Rahmani-Fazli said, adding that relief efforts are continuing in Gilan and Mazandaran Provinces in the littoral Caspian Sea.

Also, oil ministry is planning to supply fuel for the region in the face of natural gas shortage, he said.

Farmers and herders who have undergone loss and damage to their properties will be compensated after an assessment of their damages, he added.

The Iranian minister did not elaborate on the casualties and fatalities of the snowfall which started five days ago, but the locals expressed concerns about entrapped people on the roads, far- off villages and remote areas.

Xinhua

US sharply curtails drone strikes in Pakistan

WASHINGTON, 5 Feb — The United States has cut back sharply on drone strikes in Pakistan after the Islamabad government asked for restraint while it seeks peace talks with the Pakistani Taleban, *the Washington Post* reported on Tuesday.

The Post quoted a US official as saying, "That's what they asked for, and we didn't tell them no." The newspaper said there had been a lull in such attacks since December, the longest break since 2011.

The newspaper said the Obama administration indicated it would continue carrying out strikes on senior al-Qaeda officials if they were to become available or to thwart any immediate threat to Americans.

Reuters was not immediately able to confirm the report. *The Post* quoted a senior Obama administration official as denying an informal agreement had been reached, saying, "The issue of whether to negotiate with the Pakistani Taleban is entirely an internal matter for Pakistan."

While some Pakistanis welcome the strikes, saying they kill fewer civilians and are more effective against Taleban militants than traditional military operations, others argue the strikes still cause civilian casualties, terrify residents and violate Pakistani sovereignty.

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has said he wants the drone strikes to end.

The Post said the current US pause came after a November strike that killed Pakistani Taleban leader Hakimullah Mehsud.

That attack took place a day after Pakistan's foreign policy chief Sartaj Aziz was quoted as saying the United States had promised not to conduct drone strikes while the government tries to engage the Taleban in peace talks.—*Reuters*

Undated file photo courtesy of the US Navy shows a RQ-4 Global Hawk unmanned aerial vehicle conducting tests over Naval Air Station Patuxent River, Maryland. **REUTERS**

Firefighters try to put out a forest fire on the Fenghuang Mountain at Dachang Village in Jinning County, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 4 Feb, 2014. About 310 firefighters and service men have been mobilized to extinguish the forest fire. **XINHUA**

China passenger plane tumbles on landing gear fault, no casualties

ZHENGZHOU, 5 Feb —A passenger plane with 44 people aboard nose-dived to the ground during taxiing due to a landing gear fault in central China's Zhengzhou city, airport sources said on Tuesday. All the 37 passengers and seven crewmen were safe, authorities said.

The home-made *Xinzhou-60* plane tumbled at around 6:29 pm on Tuesday as it was landing at the Xinzheng International Airport in Zhengzhou, capital of Henan Province.

Flight Joy1533, operated by Joyair, was flying in from Taiyuan, capital of north China's Shanxi Province. It was to fly to Hefei in Anhui Province after the stop in Zhengzhou.

All people aboard were evacuated after the accident. The airport was closed after the accident and resumed operation at around 10:30 pm. A total of 114 inbound and outbound flights were delayed, said an airport source.

The front landing gear withdrew accidently as the aircraft was sliding, causing the nose of the plane to touch the ground, but all people aboard were safe, said an official with the Civil Aviation Administration of China, central and south China bureau.

Work safety authorities have launched an investigation into the accident.

Xinhua

REGIONAL

Volcanic ash from Mount Sinabung to reach southwest Malaysia

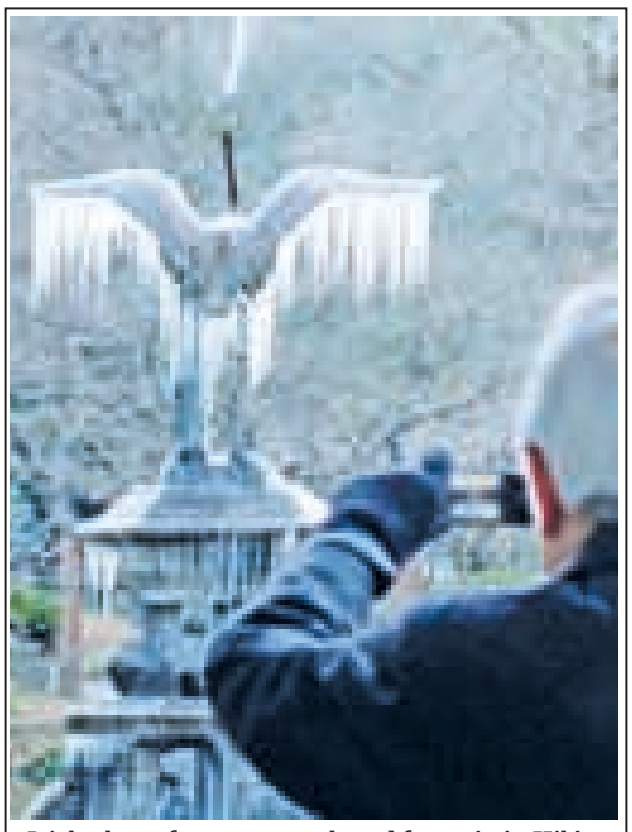
Kuala Lumpur, 5 Feb — A thin layer of ash from Mount Sinabung, a volcano in the western island of Sumatra, is expected to arrive in parts of south-west peninsula Malaysia by Wednesday morning, local media reported on Wednesday. The affected areas could include coastal regions of Negri Sembilan, Malacca as well as Muar, Batu Pahat, Pontian and Kulaijaya in Johor, said Muhammad Helmi Abdullah, director of National Weather Forecast Centre.

He said currently there was not too much ash and it may cause a little haze. An advisory about the volcanic ash had been sent to the aviation industry, he added. The Meteorological Department said in a statement on Monday that volcanic ash from Mount Sinabung could be blown towards the southern states due to a northwesterly wind that is expected to persist until Thursday.

It said the flight operations may be affected and the visibility could be reduced. An official from the Department of Civil Aviation said that flight operations throughout Malaysia were currently unaffected, and the standard operating procedures would be implemented if the visibility would be reduced.

According to Mokhtar Abdul Majid, director of Johor Baru's state Department of Environment, the air quality there will be closely monitored and they had found no problem with the air quality as of 5:30 pm on Tuesday. Fifteen people have been killed by impacts of Sibanung volcano eruption that has been ongoing since four months ago. All of those killed were hit by hot clouds following the eruptions in locations already declared unsafe zones by the authority. The latest eruption happened over the weekend.

Xinhua



Icicles hang from a crane-shaped fountain in Hibiya Park in Tokyo on the morning of 5 Feb, 2014.
Kyodo News

Long-awaited bus service runs on one-month trial in Cambodian capital

Phnom Penh, 5 Feb — A fleet of 10 buses began on Wednesday a one-month public transport service trial along a single road on Monivong Boulevard in capital Phnom Penh.

The daily service, which costs passengers 1,500 riel (about 0. 37 US dollars) for a single trip, will run from 5:30 am to 8: 30 pm from the Old Stadium roundabout in the north to Chbar Ampov terminal in the south, stopping 36 times along the 7-km route, according to an announcement.

Each bus can accommodate 35 passengers.

Phnom Penh Governor Pa Socheatvong said the operation of the bus service would help ease traffic jams and improve public order.

"The bus service will reduce increasing traffic congestion in the city and contribute to better public service,"he said at the introductory ceremony of the bus service Wednesday. "People will get benefit from this service because the fare is cheaper than other transport services."

The public transit system has been initiated by the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Such service was operated on trial in Phnom Penh Municipality for the first time in 2001, but caught no public interest.

Xinhua

*Soldiers attend a celebration for the 66th anniversary of Sri Lanka's independence in the central town of Kegalle on 4 Feb, 2014. Sri Lanka on Tuesday commemorated the 66th anniversary of its independence from British rule. —*Xinhua

Japanese awarded Bhutan medal for agricultural contribution

New Delhi, 5 Feb — Bhutan has awarded a medal to Yuichi Tomiyasu, an agricultural expert sent to the country from the Japan International Cooperation Agency, for his contribution to increasing incomes of local farmers, a diplomatic source said on Tuesday.

King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck on Monday visited a research center in the eastern region where Tomiyasu, 64, works and handed him the medal, the source said.

Tomiyasu has offered agricultural assistance in Bhutan and Nepal for more than 30 years.

For the last 14 years, he has been in Bhutan, working to promote the cultivation of fruits and vegetables suitable for local climate, such as pear and persimmon, in the country keen on exporting produce.

In Nepal, he is known for the Tomiyasu daikon, a type of radish he introduced as a cash crop.

Kyodo News

S Koreans nabbed for illegal gambling in Philippines

Manila, 5 Feb — Operatives of the Philippine National Police (PNP) arrested on Tuesday 10 South Korean nationals suspected to be involved in an illegal online gambling operation in the Philippines, a police official said on Wednesday.

PNP Anti-Cyber Crime Group chief Senior Supt. Gilbert Roa said the suspects were nabbed after police raided a posh condominium in Taguig City in the Philippines' capital region of Metro Manila.

Roa said police recovered assorted passbooks, assorted mobile phones, identification cards, assorted documents, laptops, network devices, telephone sets, desktop computers and assorted cards believed to be used in their illegal activities.

He said the suspects are believed to be operating an illegal online gambling business patronized by Korean bettors who make payments online or via credit card.—*Xinhua*

Moro rebels in S Philippines deny links with Al-Qaeda

Cotabato, (Philippines), 5 Feb — The rogue group Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) on Tuesday denied that it is working with foreign terror group Al-Qaeda as it gears up to launch attacks against government troops in southern Philippines.

BIFF spokesman Abu Misry Mama said there is no evidence supporting the claim of the Philippine military that two Al-Qaeda members were captured in their camp in Maguindanao Province.

Based on its intelligence report, the military said the BIFF was coddling a terrorist, Malaysian Zulkifli Bin Hir, who is also known as Marwan.

There is a bounty of 5 million US dollars on Zulkifli over his involvement in the 2002 bombing in Bali, Indonesia, which left 110 foreign nationals dead.

"We don't have foreigners in our organization. That's a big lie. I think (the military) keep on telling we have foreigners to justify the use of their intelligence funds," said Mama.

The Philippine military launched "Operation Darkhorse" against the Moro rebels on 26 January to arrest BIFF members involved in various crimes such as kidnapping and murder. The military operation left 52 BIFF members dead and 49 others wounded.

Soldiers also overran four BIFF camps and a makeshift improvised explosive device factory in the towns of Ganta, Shariff Saydona, and Mustapha in Maguindanao.

The BIFF, which broke away from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), has opposed the ongoing peace talks between the Philippine government and the MILF.

Xinhua

Residents work in front of their house at Naeseongcheon Village in Yeongju, on 4 Feb, 2014. Water surrounds three sides of the villages, making the village look like an island. The village has silvery-white sand beach along the river and low hills with many pine and spindle trees surrounding the river from the other side. There is a stable bridge across the river to connect the village to the neighbouring village.
Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(3/2014)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Qty	Remark
(1)	IFB-181(2013-2014)	30 Ton (6x4) NGV Tractor (1) No with 30 Ton Cascade Trailer (3) Nos	(1) Lot	US$
(2)	IFB-182(2013-2014)	Skid Mounted Engine Driven Air Compressor	(1) No	US$
(3)	IFB-183(2013-2014)	Cummins Engine with Gear Box	(1) Set	US$
(4)	IFB-184(2013-2014)	Assorted Sizes of Seamless Casings	(10) Items	US$
(5)	DMP/L-058(2013-2014)	Spares for CAT D 3512 Engine Ex D 3 T 2 SR-I & II Rigs	(4) Items	Ks
(6)	DMP/L-059(2013-2014)	Spares for FA 1600 Triplex Pump Ex Emsco Rig	(1) Lot	Ks
(7)	DMP/L-060(2013-2014)	500 KVA Trasformer and Dual Transformer	(2) Items	Ks
(8)	DMP/L-061(2013-2014)	1.5 HP Air Conditioner Split Type and Floor Standing Type Air Conditioner	(2) Items	Ks

- Tender Closing Date & Time - 5-3-2014,16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 5th February, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV HOANG ANH 26 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HOANG ANH 26 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MALACCA HIGHWAY VOY NO (170S)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MALACCA HIGHWAY VOY NO (170S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S K LINE SHIPPING LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PHUONG NAM 69 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NAM 69 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W 2 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S G LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MONTREAL VOY NO (4)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MONTREAL VOY NO (4) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S E.C.L (S'PORE) PTE LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

Nine injured in China plant explosion

HARBIN, 5 Feb — At least nine people were injured Wednesday in an explosion at a corn processing plant in northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, local authorities said.

The explosion hit the Heilongjiang Longfeng Corn Development Co., Ltd. in Qinggang county at about 9:40 a.m. Wednesday, the county's publicity department said in a statement.

The injured, including three in critical conditions, have been sent to hospitals in the cities of Daqing and Harbin.

Fire fighters were working at the site to eradicate risks of more accidents.

Xinhua

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
(CONSULTING SERVICES- FIRMS SELECTION)

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Myanmar Electric Power Project
Credit No.: 5306-MM

Assignment Title: Myanmar Power Sector Financial Analysis and Viability Action Plan
Reference No,: MEPE-CS-2

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Electric Power Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The consulting services ("the Services") include the following scope:

1. Review recent financial, commercial, and relevant operational performance of Myanmar's electricity enterprises;
2. Review recent budgetary arrangement and budgetary statistics of Myanmar's Ministry of Electric Power and electricity enterprises in recent fiscal years. This includes the sources of revenues and financing, key expenditures, and net budgetary positions;
3. Review Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise's existing financial model and develop an integrated financial model(s) for forward-looking financial analysis of the power sector, covering generation, transmission and distribution subsectors. Where necessary, the financial model(s) will also cover natural gas *and* other energy sources as inputs for power generation;
4. Prepare draft financial viability action plan, facilitate consultations on the draft plan, and help finalize the plan.

The Services are expected to be carried out over a period of nine months, starting in May 2014.

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

1. The interested consultingfirms should have previous experience in the area of power utilities financial advisory, analysis and modeling in developing countries;
2. A minimum of 10 years of experience in carrying out Consulting Services as a consulting firm in the field of assignment;
3. At least 3 contracts of similar nature and complexity, or more complex and relevant, that the firm has successfully completed in the past 5 years; and
4. Experience of working in the Client's country or similar country environment.

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

A Consultant will be selected in accordance with the Quality- and Cost-Based Selection methodset out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information can be obtained at the address below during office hours *10:00 to 15-00 hours.*

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by February 21, 2014.

Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise
Attn: Daw Zaw Zaw Than, General Manager for Finance
Building-27
Ministry of Electric Power
Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Te1: 095-067-410-064
Fax: 095-067-410-076
E-mail: mepefin@moep.gov.mm

ADVERTISEMENT & ENTERTAINMENT

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Myanmar Electric Power Project
Credit No: 5306-MM

Assignment Title: international Procurement Specialist
Reference No.: MEPE-CS-6

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the Electric Power Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services. The Services of the above assignment is expected to be carried out over a period of twelve months, starting in April 2014. More information can be found on MEPE website **moep.gov.mm** and UNDB website

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by February, 17th, 2014.

Material Planning Department
Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise (MEPE)
Office Building No.27
Nay Pyi Taw
Myanmar
Email: polar barli76@gmail.com
Phone : 067: 410282,
Fax: 067: 410391

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (839)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (839) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGSAKAO VOY NO (19)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSAKAO VOY NO (19) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MARIA STAR VOY NO (003/13)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MARIA STAR VOY NO (003/13) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S TEDA BRIGHT SAIL TRANSPORTATION SERVICES CO LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

The trio of Priyanka, Ranveer and Arjun is promoting their upcoming movie Gunday extensively.

Priyanka Chopra: Ranveer Singh, Arjun Kapoor are true friends

MUMBAI, 5 Feb — Actors Ranveer Singh and Arjun Kapoor, who act as friends in their forthcoming film Gunday, are also good friends off screen, says co-star Priyanka Chopra.

The movie, set to release on 14 February, is directed by Ali Abbas Zafar.

"It's amazing to see their friendship. I have done a lot of two-hero films and you can make out whether it's true friendship or just show off," the 31-year-old, accompanied by Ranveer and Arjun, said on a dance reality show.

"But these two are actually good friends which is nice to see, especially in a two-hero film, made the film for Ali also very easy," she added.

However, Priyanka says the two are poles apart in real life.

"They are poles apart, very different people. They are completely opposite to their characters in the film. Ranveer is instinctive, Arjun is calm and steady and thinks before doing something. But they both know how to have a lot of fun," she said.—*PTI*

Justin Bieber gets March trial date in drunk driving case

MIAMI, 5 Feb — Justin Bieber has a trial date next month in Miami for his recent arrest on charges of driving under the influence, resisting arrest and driving with an invalid license.

The 3 March date for the three misdemeanors was set on Tuesday (February 4) by an automated court system. Justin Bieber's attorneys have filed a written plea of not guilty. Initial trial dates are often delayed.

The 19-year-old pop star was arrested on January 23 in Miami Beach after what police called an illegal drag race between two sports cars driven by Justin Bieber and R&B singer Khalil Amir Sharieff. Sharieff was arrested on a charge of driving under the influence.

Breath tests showed Justin Bieber's blood alcohol content below the .02 threshold for underage drivers. Police say a toxicology test detected marijuana and Xanax in his system.

PTI

Justin was previously released after being arrested on a bond of $2500.

For 'Monuments Men,' George Clooney gets surprise German gift

LOS ANGELES, 5 Feb — For the most ambitious of his five films as director, George Clooney assembled a top-shelf cast of fellow actors to play art experts tasked with retrieving artistic treasure stolen by the Germans during World War Two.

There is one person, though, who is not a Hollywood A-lister, not listed in the credits and who may play a big role in the box-office success of "The Monuments Men": an elderly German recluse who hoarded more than 1,400 artworks stolen by the Nazis and valued at 1 billion euros ($1.3 billion).

When actor Bill Murray heard the news in November of the vast trove art discovered in the Munich apartment of Cornelius Gurlitt, he was glad the release of "The Monuments Men" had been delayed by a few months to February.

"This story has had time to resonate and travel around the world, so more people will be aware of the situation," said Murray, who plays a Chicago architect recruited late in the war for a middle-aged Allied unit on a mission sanctioned by US President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The film opens in North America on Friday and will make its international premiere Saturday at the Berlin International Film Festival.

Co-star Matt Damon calls the real-life, contemporary illustration of the 70-year-old problem of Nazi-looted art "fortuitous for the film," but hardly surprising.

"I wasn't surprised at all given what I learned making the movie about all the artwork that is out there that has not been recovered," said Damon, who plays a New York museum director.

Clooney, who also co-wrote and stars in "The Monuments Men," says "it's great that it came out."

German authorities found Gurlitt's cache in 2012, and Clooney calls the recent disclosure of the priceless paintings and drawings, which include works by modernist masters Chagall and Matisse, "interesting timing," without elaborating.

For Clooney, "The Monuments Men" is "by far, by far" his most ambitious project in a career directing smaller films like "The Ides of March" and "Good Night, and Good Luck."

"I guess it is probably double the budget of any film I have ever worked on, and certainly in scope and size it is a lot bigger," said Clooney.

The film cost $70 million to make, shared by Sony Corp and 21st Century Fox, and is forecast to bring in $24 million in its first weekend in Canada and the United States.—*Reuters*

Cast members (L-R) Bob Balaban, George Clooney, John Goodman, Bill Murray, Cate Blanchett, Matt Damon and Grant Heslov are pictured during a photo call for the film "The Monuments Men" held in Beverly Hills on 16 Jan, 2014.
REUTERS

SPORTS

Malaysia fines 17 players for match-fixing

Kuala Lumpur, 5 Feb — Malaysian soccer authorities have found an entire lower league team guilty of match-fixing in the latest scandal to blight the country's corruption-riven competitions.

The Football Association of Malaysia (FAM) on Wednesday confirmed a report in the Star that said 17 players from Kuala Lumpur FA, competing in the country's third-tier FAM league, had been fined 5,000 Malaysian ringgit for match-fixing.

Another five players and three team officials from Kuala Lumpur were handed life bans and fined in December.

The 17 were given lighter punishment because they had been "victims of circumstance," *the Star* quoted FAM disciplinary committee chairman Taufek Abdul Razak as saying.

"Our investigations revealed that the players had no option ... they were threatened with physical harm by the bookies," Taufek said.

"The players have pleaded guilty and appealed for leniency. So, we decided to fine them because they fixed the matches under duress.

"The players wanted to report to the authorities but feared for their safety. In fact, some of the players were beaten up for not following the orders of the bookies."

The Star said another five officials at the club, which has suffered back-to-back relegations from the top and second-tier leagues, were expected to be charged with match-fixing.

The paper did not say which games had been fixed. FAM declined to comment further when contacted by *Reuters* on Wednesday.

Malaysia, like much of Southeast Asia, has fought a long battle with match-fixing in sport with poorly paid players and officials routinely punished for wrongdoing.—*Reuters*

A giant helium-inflated soccer ball flies over the jet d'eau, or water fountain, at the Lac Leman in Geneva on 29 April, 2008.—Reuters

Fulham suffer extra-time FA Cup loss to Sheffield United

London, 5 Feb—Fulham's abject season reached a new low as third-tier Sheffield United snatched a last-gasp winner in extra time to dump the Premier League side out of the FA Cup 1-0 in a fourth round replay on Tuesday.

United, who are second-bottom in League One, struck through substitute Shaun Miller's header in the 119th minute at Craven Cottage to set up a fifth round home tie with Preston North End or Nottingham Forest who meet in a replay on Wednesday.

Fulham, who prop up the standings and are four points adrift of the safety zone, made wholesale changes to the team that slumped 3-0 at home to Southampton in the league on Saturday but the reshuffle did not pay off on a rainy night in west London.

United, who beat top flight Aston Villa 2-1 away in the last round, just about deserved their win over a lacklustre Fulham side whose new signings were ineligible to play because they were not at the club before the first match.—*Reuters*

Sheffield United goalkeeper David Stockdale (C) punches the ball clear during their English FA Cup soccer match against Fulham at Craven Cottage in London on 4 Feb, 2014.—Reuters

Swansea sack manager Laudrup after league slump

London, 5 Feb — Swansea City have sacked their Danish manager Michael Laudrup with the Welsh club having dropped into a Premier League relegation battle after a dramatic slump in form that has left them two points above the drop zone.

Laudrup, who said that winning the League Cup last season ranked among his proudest moments because Swansea are such a small club compared to the European giants like Real Madrid and Juventus he once played for, now finds himself out of a job.

"It is a decision we have taken reluctantly," said Swansea chairman Huw Jenkins. "But it's a decision made in the best interests of Swansea City Football Club and our supporters.

"It is the first time in nearly 10 years that the club has parted with a manager in this way, but we had to remove the constant uncertainty surrounding the club and Michael's long-term future with us," he said on the club website (www.swanseacity.net).

Swansea's 2-0 defeat at West Ham United on Saturday was their sixth in eight league games, a run which has left the 12th placed team battling to avoid the drop as they prepare to host fellow strugglers and local rivals Cardiff City on Saturday. Swansea said their club captain Garry Monk, who came on as a substitute in their League Cup triumph against Bradford City at Wembley, will take over as head coach alongside first team coach Alan Curtis for the foreseeable future.

The 49-year-old Laudrup's departure will come as a surprise to many pundits with the promising coach having continued the precise passing game championed by Roberto Martinez and then Brendan Rodgers, who the Dane replaced as manager in June 2012.

Reuters

Swansea City's manager Michael Laudrup reacts during a Europa League soccer match against St Gallen in St Gallen on 12 Dec, 2013.
Reuters

Nadal recovering well from back complaint, tests show

Madrid, 5 Feb — Rafa Nadal is recovering well from the back problem that wrecked his Australian Open final last month and plans to start training again on Thursday in his native Mallorca, his team said on Tuesday.

World number one Nadal lost to Swiss Stanislas Wawrinka in the Melbourne final, preventing the Spaniard drawing level on 14 grand slam singles titles with American Pete Sampras.

Nadal had more tests in Barcelona on Monday and his team said in a statement they were "satisfactory and showed favorable progress".

"The player began gym work today and a decision on when he is able to start competing again will depend on his adaptation on the court in coming days," they added. Nadal is due to play in a clay event in Buenos Aires starting on 10 February, followed by a tournament in Rio de Janeiro, also on clay, and the hardcourt Masters events at Indian Wells and Miami.

Reuters

Rafael Nadal of Spain

Mickelson eyes record-tying fifth Pebble Beach win

Los Angeles, 5 Feb — Phil Mickelson returns to one of his favourites venues for this week's Pebble Beach National Pro-Am, bidding for a record-equalling fifth victory before taking a short break from the PGA Tour for family time. The American world number four claimed the most recent of his four titles in the picturesque surrounds of Pebble Beach Golf Links in 2012, and has been largely encouraged by his form so far this year. He tied for second at the European Tour's Abu Dhabi Championship in his first start of 2014 and, though he withdrew after the second round of the Farmers Insurance Open the next week due to back pain, believes he is close to his best. "My game is not far off, even though the score says that it is," Mickelson told reporters, referring to his closing level-par 71 at last week's Phoenix Open where he tied for 42nd.

"It was just a fraction off. My irons were what I struggled with but I drove the ball well, short game wasn't bad, putting wasn't bad. I have to go back to work on my iron play. "The back feels great and I'm looking forward to Monterey (this week)."

Two years ago, Mickelson charged to victory by two shots at Pebble Beach after firing a flawless eight-under-par 64 in the final round and he has long relished competing in the pro-am celebrity event staged on the beautiful Monterey Peninsula.

"It's one of my favourite places to play golf," said the five-times major champion. "It's just a special week. We play three of the most amazing golf courses on tour and all combined in one week."

The $6.6 million event will be played on three courses: the hosting Pebble Beach Golf Links and its sister venues Spyglass Hill and Monterey Peninsula Shore.

Reuters

Phil Mickelson hits his tee shot from the ninth hole during the first round of the Farmers Insurance Open golf tournament at Torrey Pines Municipal Golf Course.—Reuters

GENERAL

A woman takes pictures for others among tulips at a flower show in Xinjin County of Chengdu City, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 3 Feb, 2014. Many local citizens come to the flower show during the the seven-day break for Spring Festival, or the Chinese Lunar New Year, which began on 13 Jan, 2014.—Xinhua

US continues urging Cambodian ruling, opposition to resume talks over row

Phnom Penh, 5 Feb— The United States renewed Wednesday its call for Cambodia's ruling and opposition parties to resume talks over post-election dispute, spokesmen for both sides said.

Scot Marciel, visiting Principal Deputy Assistant to the US Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, made the push during a meeting with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Hor Namhong. "Again, the US encouraged both parties — the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) and the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP)— to return to the negotiating table and talk about how to begin implementing reforms that are necessary for the benefit of the Cambodian people,"Sean McIntosh, spokesman for the US Embassy in Phnom Penh, told reporters after the meeting.

According to spokesman for the Cambodian Ministry of Foreign Affairs Koy Kuong, Scot Marciel told Hor Namhong that the US did not side with any party and always supported nonviolent demonstrations in Cambodia. "Scot Marciel urged both sides to resume negotiations in order to seek a peaceful solution to the issue,"Koy Kuong told reporters."He also encouraged the two parties to settle their differences by themselves."

Hor Namhong said the ruling CPP's door is still open for negotiations with the opposition over the dispute. He reiterated that the opposition CNRP should join the National Assembly if it really wanted to debate towards an electoral reform or a re-election.

According to the nation's constitution, the National Assembly cannot be dissolved before a five-year term ends, Hor Namhong said, adding that the opposition's demand for a re-vote or an early election needs to be amended in the constitution. "If there is any amendment to the constitution, it is necessary for both sides to sit down and debate in the National Assembly," he said."So the opposition should join the National Assembly to debate on these matters." Political row between Prime Minister Hun Sen's ruling CPP and the CNRP, led by longtime opposition leader Sam Rainsy, has persisted since July's election results showed that the CPP won 68 parliamentary seats and the CNRP got 55. Claiming serious irregularities, the CNRP refused to accept the results and has boycotted parliament and held many protests — some of them turned violent — to demand the resignation of Hun Sen and a re-vote.

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(6-2-2014, Thursday)

6:00 am
1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:30 am
2. Physical Exercises

6:30 am
3. Songs of Yester Year

6:45 am
4. Documentary

7:00 am
5. News/Weather Report

7:20 am
6. People Talks

7:30 am
7. Teleplay

8:00 am
8. News/ International News

8:25 am
9. India Drama Series

9:00 am
10. News/ International News

9:25 am
11. Shwe Yin Chone Than

10:00 am
12. News

10:15 am
13. TV Drama Series

11:10 am
14. Sing & Enjoy

12:00 pm
15. News/International News/Weather Report

12:25 pm
16. Myanmar Video

2:20 pm
17. Fine Arts-Bosom of Dramatic Performance

3:00 pm
18. News

3:15 pm
19. TV Drama Series

4:00 pm
20. News

4:15 pm
21. Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than

4:30 pm
22. 2014 University Entrance Examination (Physics)

5:00 pm
23. News

5:15 pm
24. 67th Anniversary Union Day Programme

5:30 pm
25. India Drama Series

6:00 pm
26. News/Weather Report

6:20 pm
27. Approaching Science Discovery World

6:40 pm
28. TV Drama Series

7:00 pm
29. News

7:25 pm
30. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
31. News/International News/Weather Report

8:35 pm
32. Pyi Thu Ni Ti

8:45 pm
33. Documentary (Hluttaw Image)

9:00 pm
34. News
35. Current Affairs
36. Clever
37. TV Drama Series

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

6-2-14 07:00 am ~ 7-2-14 07:00 am) MST

* Local News
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Mourinho hails rallying call by Chelsea masseur McCulloch

London, 5 Feb — Jose Mourinho hailed a pep talk given to the players by masseur Billy McCulloch after Chelsea wrecked Manchester City's 100 percent home record in the Premier League this season with a 1-0 win at the Etihad Stadium.

Manager Mourinho was widely praised for his tactical masterplan after Branislav Ivanovic's first-half goal secured maximum points for his side on Monday night but the Portuguese was quick to salute the contribution of the masseur.

The wise-cracking McCulloch joined the club in 2001. He is popular with the players, providing a constant source of entertainment behind the scenes at Stamford Bridge, and issued a rallying call before the game against City.

"I didn't speak. It was Billy the masseur," Mourinho told reporters after third-placed Chelsea joined City on 53 points, two behind leaders Arsenal.

"He was screaming ... so much I didn't understand him. The players were clapping - okay, let's go. It was Billy's team talk.

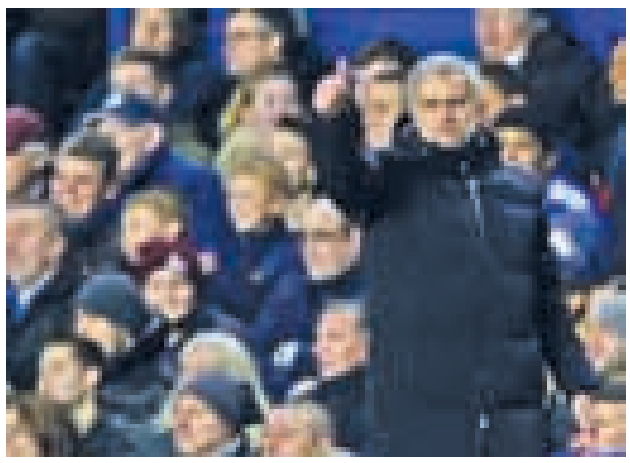
"The last time I spoke to the players was at midday," said Mourinho. "I'm serious, Billy was fantastic. I didn't understand but it looks like the players understood."

Chelsea ended City's run of scoring in 61 consecutive home league games since 2010 as Manuel Pellegrini's team failed to find the net at the Etihad for the first time this season.

The Londoners stifled midfield dangermen David Silva and Yaya Toure with their pressing approach and were also dynamic on the counter attack with Eden Hazard, Willian and Ramires leading the way.

Belgian international Hazard was a constant threat and showed why he is starting to draw comparisons with world greats like Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo.

"He needs to keep his feet on the ground," Mourinho said of the 23-year-old Chelsea winger. "He still has to improve but he is probably the best young player in the world with legs to go there (to the level of Messi and Ronaldo).



Chelsea's manager Jose Mourinho gestures during their English Premier League soccer match against Manchester United at Stamford Bridge in London, on 19 Jan, 2014.—Reuters

"Give him time and Willian, (Andre) Schurrle, (Mohamed) Salah too. Give them time. They need good results and this result is very important for them."

Gary Cahill, who shone in central defense alongside captain John Terry, described it as a "huge performance" by Chelsea.

"We worked hard. In the second half everyone put in a shift and that's what you need to do when you go there," said the England international.

"Everybody's aware of their home form this season but we put in a great performance and overall I felt we deserved to win the game.

"Obviously they put pressure on us at times. They started the game really well, in the first 10-15 minutes we had to weather the storm but then we came into the game and our attacking players created a lot," said Cahill.

"We hit the woodwork three times, had a few flash across the box and could have had more."

Reuters

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Gmail thenewlightofmyanmar@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/thenewlightofmyanmar

7th Waxing of Tabodwe 1375 ME

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Thursday, 6 February, 2014

Vice-President U Nyan Tun calls for participation of local people in ensuring rule of law

Nay Pyi Taw, 5 Feb— Vice-President U Nyan Tun clarified the efforts of the government to cease the armed conflicts in the country, to transform the country to a democratic nation and to build the market-oriented economic system.

At the meeting with local people in Sittway yesterday, he also called on local authorities and townelders for building a good governance system which can ensure the stability, transparency, accountability, the rule of law and performing duty without bribery.

Accountability and responsibility and transparency in a governance system would ensure the getting rid of bribery in the system and the rule of law in a country, he said. He said Rakhine State is rich in natural resources and located in the strategic region for economy.

The resource rich state would become a trading corridor of east and west countries as it is located in the strategic region, possessing prospects for foreign and local investment and for job opportunities, he said. The Vice-President also stressed the need for improving the education and living standard of the local people through the development of the economy of the state.

(See page 8)

Vice-President U Nyan Tun views progress of Kaladan River transportation project at Sittway Port.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw hears clarifications on National Planning Bill

Nay Pyi Taw, 5 Feb — Pyidaungsu Hluttaw heard clarifications of the members of Union-level organizations on National Planning Bill for 2014-2015 FY at its tenth-day session today.

Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe clarified projects to be implemented in electricity sector during the 2014-2015 FY, saying that some state-funded projects have been scheduled to be carried out in 2015-2016 FY. He added that additional budget will be submitted to the Hluttaw for implementation of much-needed projects during 2014-2015 FY, but they will be implemented if foreign loans are available.

Action Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Myint said arrangements are being made to add literatures, cultures, arts, traditions and customs of all national races to the basic education curricula. He explained construction of new school buildings in Ayeyawady region and Rakhine state in upcoming fiscal year.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Daw Su Su Hlaing vowed to provide assistance to prioritized areas in regions and states including Rakhine State.

Likewise, Union-level organization members of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development and the Central Bank of Myanmar made respective clarifications at the today's Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session.

Next, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced Hluttaw representatives will hold discussions on projects stated in Appendix (2) of the Bill tomorrow.

Then, the secretary of Public Accounts Joint Committee submitted the report (3/2014) regarding the findings of the office of the Auditor-General of the Union to the Hluttaw.—*MNA*

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets French Ambassador, US Senior Adviser for Myanmar

Nay Pyi Taw, 5 Feb— Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann separately received French Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Thierry MATHOU and the US delegation led by US Senior Adviser for Myanmar Ms Judith Cefkin at the hall of Hluttaw building, here, today.

(See page 8)

CIT Ministry, Telenor Myanmar sign MoU

Nay Pyi Taw, 5 Feb— A signing ceremony for the Nationwide Telecommunications Licence between Telenor Myanmar Limited and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, took place at the ministry, today.

The ceremony was attended by Union Ministers U Soe Thane, U Myat Hein and Dr Kan Zaw, Chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw Transport, Communications and Construction Committee U Thein Swe, Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar Ms. Ann Ollestad, Executive Vice President and Head of Telenor Asia Mr. Sigve Brekke and staff, guests and officials. On the occasion, Union Minister U Myat Hein made an opening remark and the Head of Telenor Asia delivered a keynote speech.

On behalf of the CIT Ministry, Director General of the Posts and Telecommunications Department U Khin Maung Thet and CEO of the Telenor Myanmar Limited Mr. Petter Furberg signed the documents. Afterwards, the Telenor Myanmar CEO spoke words of thanks.

Telenor Myanmar Ltd is committed to launch world class telecommunications services all over the Myanmar eight months after they receive licence. They plan to deploy mobile networks using modern technologies and increase mobile penetration rate significantly. At the initial stage the plan to provide both voice and data services.—*MNA*

Signing ceremony for Nationwide Telecommunications Licence in progress.
Kyaw Thura (Nay Pyi Taw)

Legal actions underway in connection with Unity Journal's article about secret chemical weapon factory

Nay Pyi Taw, 5 Feb— As the department concerned on 30 January filed lawsuits against the reporters who wrote and sent the story and the in-charge of Unity Journal for printing a news report about No (24) Defence Industry under the headline "Secret Chemical Weapon Factory" with photos in the Unity Journal, Vol. 3 No 4, issued on 25 January and disclosing State secrets, trespassing on the restricted area of the factory, taking photographs and the act of abetting, Pauk Myoma police station opened a case under Myanmar Secret Act Section 3 (1) (a).

Five people including U Tin Hsan of the Unity Journal were detained and interrogated under the Section 3 (1) (a) on 1 February.

As it is a cognizable offence agreed with Myanmar Secret Act Section 12, First Information Report was filed in accord with Article 154 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, examination of witnesses carried out by investigation officers in accord with Article 161 of the Code of Criminal Procedure and five people including Chief Executive Officer U Tin Hsan of the Journal who are suspected of getting involved in the case detained and interrogated in accord with Article 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Those who are under police custody are U Lu Maw Naing (a) Lin Kyaw Oo (a) Lu Maw, 24, of Pauk Township, U Tin Hsan, 52, of Dagon Myothit (South)

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