Myanmar, Japan to enhance communication network, market and financial affairs

NAV PI NYAW 13 Jan—President U Thein Sein held talks with President of KDDI Corporation Takashi Tanaka of Japan at the hall of Presidential Palace, here, on Tuesday morning.

They discussed cooperation between Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications and KDDI Corporation in communication sector, conducting of training courses for human resource development so as to create job opportunities, enhancement of communication network, market and financial affairs, economic benefits in cooperation tasks and matters related to benefiting the State.

Also present at the call were union ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Tin Naing Thein, U Myat Hein, Dr Kan Zaw and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Tateshi Higuchi.

MNA

Myanmar’s planned first stock exchange on track for October

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 13 Jan — With the announcement for service providers to seek licenses for underwriting, trading, brokerage and consultancy services, Myanmar’s capital market plan is progressing on schedule to meet the target in October.

Speaking in defence of the Yangon Stock Exchange (YEX), Deputy Finance Minister Maung Maung Thein refuted critics who said the first stock exchange in Myanmar is likely to fail, is only to show off, and is politics aimed to be timed with 2015 general elections.

He pointed out that only nine of 198 countries in the world lack a stock exchange, adding six of nine are island states and the remaining three are Myanmar, North Korea and Brunei.

“We will be able to exit the list of countries with no stock exchange soon”, the deputy minister said in fact it is too late to start establishment of the YEX.

On criticism of possible failure, he asked how one would determine the success of the first stock exchange in Myanmar, citing the target, which is going to be met, in October one measure of success.

“Our aim is clear to lay a solid foundation for the next generation with a single step before stepping (further) forward”, he said.

He also insisted it is not just to show off.

Every democracy needs to have a stock exchange, he said.

As to politics and the 2015 general elections in late October or early November, he said the establishment is a business, not a political decision.

During his talks on Yangon Stock Exchange & Career Opportunities at the Republic of The Union Of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, the deputy minister, who is also the chairman of Securities and Exchange Commission of Myanmar, said more talks to raise the public awareness of the stock market are planned to be held in Yangon and Mandalay.

Following the enactment of the Securities and Exchange Law at the end of August, Myanmar Economic Bank, owned by the Ministry of Finance and holding a controlling share of 51 percent, signed a joint venture agreement with Daiwa Institute of Research with a share of 30.25 percent and Japan Exchange Group with 18.75 percent to set up the Yangon Stock Exchange Joint-Venture Company Limited last month.

Physiotherapy council law (draft) to be forwarded to Health Ministry soon: MPA

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 13 Jan — The Myanmar Physiotherapists Association (MPA) has already drafted its physiotherapy council law that will be forwarded to the Ministry of Health after coordination on chapters has been made with legal experts, a source has reported.

The law also includes a chapter that can punish physiotherapists who fail to abide by it, said a spokes-person of the association, adding the enactment of the law will help create a favourable condition for local physiotherapists.

The law aimed at giving better protection to professional physiotherapists can ban charlatans who do not follow prescribed rules, U Tin Myint of the association said.

“Nowadays, a majority of students come to choose this field as they can find more job opportunities” (See page 2)
Sports Medical Course kicks off

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 Jan
—Athletes in today’s sports training need international level sports facilities and medical assistance under skilled trainers, Chairman of Myanmar National Sports Committee Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan told the opening ceremony of Sports Medical Course (Physiotherapy) course 1/2015 at the Nay Pyi Taw Sports Training Centre on Monday.

He continued to say that medical assistance is to be provided to the athletes for their recovery from injuries, systematic food service, betterment of physical building, and uplift of mentality.

Director Dr Daw Mya Lay Sein of Sports Medical Branch explained the purpose of training and subjects in the course.

Altogether 19 trainees are attending the course up to 16 January.

MNA

Union Minister U Soe Thane highlights plan of Myanmar to join Open Government Partnership.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 Jan
—To join the Open Government Partnership, a country must meet four requirements, namely fiscal transparency, access to information, public officials asset disclosure and citizen engagement alongside clean government and good governance, said U Soe Thane, Union Minister at President Office, at a coordination meeting on Tuesday.

“Our government is making strenuous efforts on all fronts of the reform process to shape a clean government and good governance, with noticeable achievements in place in a short time,” U Soe Thane said.

“All the processes cannot be accomplished in a single day, but with the union minister citing a saying that goes “A journey of a thousand steps begins with a single step”."

U Tin Naing Thein, Union Minister, spoke of measures being taken for the implementation of e-government, which he said is an important factor for a country to be eligible for the membership of Open Govt Partnership.

A leading committee and a working committee has been formed to ensure Myanmar’s participation in OGP.—MNA

Kanbawza, CUB to disburse US$80 million to local businesses

Yangon, 13 Jan

Kanbawza Bank and Cathay United Bank (CUB) signed an agreement on monetary cooperation at Sedona Hotel on Tuesday.

Executive Director Daw Nang Leng Kham of Kanbawza Bank Ltd and General Manager Mr Aaron Hung of CUB Bank signed the agreement. It was also attended by Chairman of Kanbawza Bank Ltd U Aung Ko Win and Chairman of CUB Mr Tsu Pei Chen.

According to the agreement, two banks will disburse US$80 million to local private businesses.

Kanbawza Bank plans to disburse loans to local businesses in cooperation with international banks, monetary and investment organizations.—MNA

MNA

Deputy Minister Daw Lei Lei Thein explains plan to conduct MPLCS

Nay Pyi Taw, 13 Jan

—Myanmar plans to reduce a half of poverty rate for those who earn less than 2 US dollars of daily income from 1990 to 2015, Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Daw Lei Lei Thein told the ceremony to introduce Myanmar Poverty and Living Conditions Survey (MPLCS), jointly organized by Ministry of NPED and World Bank, at the ministry, here, on Tuesday.

She noted that the ministry and UNDP cooperated in survey on Integrated Households Living Condition Assessment-IHLCA-I and II in 2009-2010 and could collect 32% and 26% of poverty rate in the nation. The deputy minister said that the World Bank will conduct the pilot survey for the poverty rate. Depending on the pilot survey, the ministry and WB will conduct the IHLCA-III. WB Resident Representative Mr Abdolaye Seck explained ways to conduct the Myanmar Poverty and Living Conditions Survey and survey period.

The survey will be conducted at 3,648 households from 203 townships and 16 towns in regions and states from 20 January to 10 April 2015.—MNA

Myanmar, WB to conduct Myanmar Poverty and Living Conditions Survey

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Physiotherapy council . . .

(from page 1)

both at home and abroad,” said a faculty member from the Universities of Medical Technology, which trains more than 100 students at bachelor degree courses each year.

Some professionals are interested in finding work overseas, especially in Japan, Singapore and India, June Kyaw Wai Thet, a physiotherapist from Retired Service Personnel’s Hospital in Nay Pyi Taw, said.

The country has more than 1,300 physiotherapists and around 300-400 physiotherapists are appointed to local hospitals, U Tin Hlaing Soe, a spokesperson of the MPA said, adding this number is relatively low when compared with the country’s population.

Established in 2013, the Myanmar Physiotherapy Association is trying to list as a member organization of the World Confederation for Physical Therapy (WCPT) to promote the role of physiotherapists and the standards of their services.

There are more than 100 physiotherapy organizations and about 400,000 physiotherapists worldwide.

GNLM
Vice President says government prioritizes protection of farmer rights and promotion of their welfare

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan — A work coordination meeting took place at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation here on Tuesday to discuss how to protect the rights of farmers and promote their interests, with Vice President U Nyan Tun addressing the meeting.

In his speech, the vice president said that the government has given priority to promoting the socioeconomic welfare of farmers in rural areas, with special emphasis on ensuring more job opportunities and increased incomes, as well as easy access to education, health, potable water, better transportation networks as part of measures designed for rural development and poverty reduction.

The Protecting Rights and Enhancing Economic Welfares of Farmers law is central to speeding up the laying down of rules and regulations needed to carry out the processes. The law focuses on the provision of agricultural loans, technical assistance for increased productivity, sales of agricultural products at reasonable prices, protection of the rights of small-holder farmers and promotion of their welfare, and aids to damages caused by natural disasters.

According to the vice president, the law was written with the participation of agriculturalists, legal experts and departments concerned through a series of meetings and seminars.

Ethnic rights protection bill discussed before second debate in Pyithu Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan — Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw, Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw, chairman of lower house committee and ethnic affairs ministers discussed ethnic rights protection bill Tuesday.

In his opening speech at the meeting attended by 29 ethnic affairs ministers, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann said the discussion will be helpful for national unity, reconciliation and peace-making efforts as the bill was drafted as per the Constitution.

The proposal for ethnic rights protection bill was submitted by Pyithu Hluttaw representative U T Khun Myat to the parliament and it was discussed by ethnic affairs ministers and legal experts from attorney-general office to draft a bill.

Amyotha Hluttaw has discussed the bill and was handed to Pyithu Hluttaw with suggestions. After the latter discussed it again, it is meant that Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has approved. The final stage is to send the bill to the President.

If Pyithu Hluttaw did not accept the suggestions of Amyotha Hluttaw, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will discuss it.

Thura U Shwe Mann also received delegation of Czech Republic lead by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr Martin Tlapa at the Hluttaw Building in the evening.—MNA

Central Committee meets to celebrate 68th Union Day

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan — The Central Committee for Organizing 68th Anniversary Union Day held a coordination meeting here on Tuesday, with an address by Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

As chair of the central committee, the vice president said that respective committees and subcommittees are to work closely to ensure a successful observation of the 68th Anniversary of the Union Day, which falls on 12 February every year.

He urged them to dutifully carry out their measures for security, information, dinner, messages of felicitations, billboards, reception, transportation, accommodation and communication.

Committees and subcommittees briefed the vice president on their preparatory measures for the successful celebration of the Union Day.—MNA

Union FM receives Executive Director of South Centre, Dy FM of Czech Republic

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan — Mr Martin Khor, Executive Director of the South Centre based in Geneva, Switzerland called on U Winna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs at the ministry, here, on Tuesday.

They discussed existing relations and possible areas for future cooperation with the South Centre. The union minister also received Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic Mr Martin Tlapa and party at his office on Tuesday to exchange views on promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries. —MNA
Myawady District observes School Family Day 2015

Myawady, 13 Jan—Myawady District in Kayin State held the school family day 2015 at the hall of No 1 Basic Education High School in Myawady on 11 January. Deputy Commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo, Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Tin Htut and member of the school board of trustees U Nyunt Sein of BEHS No 1 formally opened the festival.

The deputy commissioner made a speech. Township Education Officer Daw Aye Aye Myint and headmistress Daw Yin Yin Shein explained purpose of holding the school family day. Officials presented prizes to outstanding teachers and students and certificates of honour to wellwishers.—Hein Lin Aung (IPRD)

Accident claims driver’s life at Pinlaung junction

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—A traffic accident happened at Pinlaung junction traffic light in Zeyathiri Township on Tuesday.

A Nissan diesel driven by Ye Min Tun (a) Moe Gyi of Tagaygi Village in Kyaukpadaung Township from Mandalay to Yangon hit a stationary truck at the traffic light between mile posts 251/4 and 251/5 on Yangon-Mandalay Highway and then hit the traffic light post again due to out of control. Driver Ye Min Tun died on the spot due to serious injuries.

Police Captain Ye Lwin and party of Nay Pyi Taw Traffic Police inspected the incident and cleared the traffic congestion. Yezin police station opened a file over the traffic accident under the law.

Ko Myo (Shwe Paukkam)

Chief Minister of Bago Region inspects development undertakings in Gyobingauk Tsp

BAGO, 13 Jan—Chief Minister of Bago Region U Nyan Win inspected progress of buildings being constructed by Zwe Myanmar Company at People’s Hospital in Gyobingauk Township, Bago Region, recently.

He viewed round the place where a 16-bed traditional medicine hospital will be built by Thaw Kabar construction and engineering company.

The chief minister attended the opening ceremony of Thabeyoey Bridge constructed by Aroma Rose Co Ltd. He met local people at Thabeyoey Basic Education Primary School. In Shwepandaw village, he joined the ceremony to open the upgraded Shwepandaw Basic Education High School where the deputy speaker of region Hluttaw and officials cut the ribbon to open the ceremony.

The chief minister formally opened Alegon Bridge built in Aroma Rose Co Ltd in Gyobingauk. He viewed medical treatment being given by specialists from Thayawady People’s Hospital to local people at KanU Mahasi meditation centre in KanU Village.

Fishermen sell various species of fish at markets for food sufficiency

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Jan—Local fishermen led by senior fisherman U Tin Nyunt at Pein Lake in Letpadan Village in Lewe Township are easy to earn income in fish breeding.

The fish breeders released species of fish into the lake in June and July. They can breed about 80,000 fingerlings in the lake. They can catch fish at about seven months. Fishermen catch above one viss of fish only.

They caught about 5,500 viss of fish last year and estimated to get about 7,000 viss of fish this year.

They sell fish at markets both in urban and rural areas for public consumption.—Township IPRD

Bago

Bago Region

Mohnyin

Nay Pyi Taw

Mandalay

Tatkon

Nyaunglebin

Yangon
**Free medical services for eye patients in Thandwe, Rakhine State**

**Rural people consumes potable water thanks to tube-well**

**Schools in Tatkon Tsp to get seven buildings**

**Basic education schools in Tatkon Tsp**

**Bago Region WAO gets new office**

**Talks on crime reduction given in Thaton Tsp**
JAKARTA, 13 Jan — Divers retrieved the cockpit voice recorder from the wreck of an AirAsia passenger jet on Tuesday, an Indonesian investigator told Reuters, a key step towards determining the cause of the crash that killed 162 people.

Indonesia AirAsia’s Flight QZ8501 lost contact with air traffic control in bad weather on 28 December, less than halfway into a two-hour flight from Indonesia’s second-biggest city of Surabaya to Singapore. There were no survivors.

The cockpit voice recorder, which retains the last two hours of conversation between the pilots and with air traffic controllers, was found close to where the flight data recorder was recovered from the bottom of the Java Sea on Monday.

When asked if the so-called black box was found, Santoso Sayogo, an investigator at the National Transportation Safety Committee, told Reuters: “We can confirm.”

Together the black boxes, which are actually orange, contain a wealth of data that will be crucial for investigators piecing together the sequence of events that led to the Airbus A320-200 plunging into the sea.

The cockpit voice recorder was on board an Indonesian navy vessel and expected to be sent to the capital, Jakarta, for analysis, MetroTV said, quoting a transport official.

Investigators may need up to a month to get a complete reading of the data. The AirAsia group’s first fatal accident took place more than two weeks ago, but wind, high waves and strong currents have slowed efforts to recover bodies and wreckage from the shallow waters off Borneo island.

Dozens of Indonesian navy divers took advantage of calmer weather this week to retrieve the black boxes and now hope to find the fuselage of the Airbus.

Fransis Lioni, a victim of the plane crash, “If they can find the victims,” Fransis Lioni, who lost four family members in the plane crash. “If they can find even one (of my family members), we would feel a little bit relieved.”

Reuters

**JAKARTA, 13 Jan —** Forty-eight bodies have been plucked from the Java Sea and brought to Surabaya for identification. Searchers believe more bodies will be found in the plane’s fuselage.

“Our main task is to find the victims,” Fransis-kus Bambang Soesatyo, head of the National Search and Rescue Agency, told reporters before heading to Surabaya to meet families of the victims.

“Even if both (black boxes) are found, it doesn’t mean that our operation is over.”

Relatives of the victims have urged the authorities to make finding the remains of their loved ones the priority.

“Even if the search has to last for a month, we are still hoping to find them,” said Li, who lost four family members in the plane crash. “If they can find even one (of my family members), we would feel a little bit relieved.”

Reuters

**Tokyo, 13 Jan —** South Korea should not attach preconditions for holding a summit with Japan, top Japanese officials said on Tuesday.

The officials were responding to remarks on Monday by South Korean President Park Geun-hye that she is open to a summit with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe but referred to the former South Korean “comfort women” who worked for the country and that it hopes to “promote bilateral relations in a future-oriented fashion”.

South Korea “should not attach preconditions for a meeting between the leaders of neighboring countries,” Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a news conference. Citing the “comfort women” issue, Suga said, “Japan maintains the basic position that it should not be made into a political and diplomatic issue. We would like to explain this to South Korea.”

Speaking to reporters separately, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said Japan “considers South Korea the most important neighboring country” and that it hopes to “promote bilateral relations in a future-oriented fashion and from a broader perspective.” Kishida said Japan has made “maximum efforts” to address the “comfort women” issue, indicating Tokyo is unlikely to take further measures.

Japan has maintained that all compensation issues were settled under a 1965 bilateral treaty that normalized diplomatic ties. Despite that official position, Japan provided money in a form of atonement to former “comfort women” through the Asian Women’s Fund, a pool of private donations set up at Tokyo’s initiative in 1995 and run through 2007.

Kyodo News

**Seoul, 13 Jan —** South Korea and the United States plan to carry out their annual spring military exercise in early March, Yonhap News Agency reported on Tuesday, citing a military source.

The Key Resolve command post exercise “is scheduled to take place in early March to check and boost their joint readiness posture,” the source was quoted as saying.

Last year, Key Resolve took place between 24 February and 6 March. The Hankook Ilbo, a local daily, reported earlier Tuesday that the two countries have agreed to delay the Key Resolve exercise by about a week.

Defence Ministry spokesman Kim Min Seok rejected speculation that the exercise was delayed to avoid provoking North Korea following Seoul’s offer to Pyongyang to hold a new round of reunions of separated families around Lunar New Year’s Day, which falls on 19 February.

“The schedule for the exercise was fixed a long time ago and has nothing to do with family reunions,” Kim told reporters, without confirming the exact date of the exercise.

In a Press conference on Monday, South Korean President Park Geun-hye proposed to the North the holding of a new round of family reunions.

In previous years, the official announcement of the date for the joint exercise has typically drawn a sharp response from North Korea.

Meanwhile, North Korea last week it had proposed to the United States temporarily suspending its nuclear tests if Washington halts its joint military drills with South Korea.

In response to the North’s offer, the two countries dismissed such a call, saying the joint exercises are defensive in nature.

Kyodo News

**Manila, 13 Jan —** The Philippine government said on Tuesday that flying schools across nation are barred from conducting training during Pope Francis’ visit here.

Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) Deputy Director General for Operations Rodante Joya said a notice to airmen was issued grounding the operations of these flying schools starting 6:00 am on 15 January to 11:00 am on 19 January.

The CAAP earlier also issued notice to airmen that during the Papal visit, a no fly zone would be declared in certain areas from three nautical miles radius from surface up to 18,000 feet where the Pontiff will visit and hold activities.

Xinhua

**S Korea, US to hold annual military exercise in early March**

**Philippines bars flying schools from training during Papal visit**

**Japan calls for summit with S Korea without preconditions**

**Divers retrieve crashed AirAsia jet’s cockpit voice recorder**

**Koh Kong Province, Cambodia, on 12 Jan, 2015. The hydroelectric dam, Cambodia’s largest hydropower station so far, commenced operation on Monday after it had been constructed for nearly five years.—Xinhua**

**Johor Bahru, 14 Jan —** The formal investigation on the crashed AirAsia QZ 8501 will be published at least one year later, an Indonesian official said here on Tuesday.

“A final report containing all the results of the probe into the crash will be released one year later,” Tatang Kurniadi, Chairman of Indonesian Transport Safety Committee, told a Press conference in Pangkalalan Bun city, central Kalimantan.

The formal investigation will commence after the release of a preliminary report, said Kurniadi, adding that the preliminary factual report, which has no analysis, will be released within one month.

Tatang Kurniadi said a draft of the final report will be delivered to countries including France, Singapore and United States for evaluation.—Xinhua

**Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen (C, front) cuts the ribbon to inaugurate the Chinese-built 338-megawatt Russel Chrum Krom River hydropower dam in Koh Kong Province, Cambodia, on 12 Jan, 2015. The hydroelectric dam, Cambodia’s largest hydropower station so far, commenced operation on Monday after it had been constructed for nearly five years.—Xinhua**
One dead, dozens injured after Washington subway filled with smoke

WASHINGTON, 13 Jan — A woman died and more than 80 passengers were injured, two seriously, in the Washington subway system on Monday after smoke filled a train and station, US reports said.

The incident occurred on an area in the center of the US capital close to a number of government buildings and the Smithsonian museums. The Federal Investigation Bureau said there was no sign of foul play, according to The Washington Post.

According to the report a Yellow Line train started to fill with smoke shortly after it left L’Enfant Plaza for Pentagon around 3 pm. Passengers were advised to remain on the train after the incident, but many of them had difficulty breathing, the reports said.

The operator of the subway, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, did not make public the estimated cause of the accident, simply saying the National Transportation Safety Board is conducting an investigation.

Japan PM Abe to make Middle East trip from Friday

AMMAN, 13 Jan — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is scheduled to visit Egypt, Jordan, Israel and Palestine between Friday and 21 January, the government said on Tuesday.

Abe will forge new relations with Egypt, which holds the key to stability in the Middle East, and urges Israel and Palestine to work for peace, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a Press conference.

The premier will also pledge strong support for Jordan, which is facing a mounting refugee problem amid the international fight against Islamic State militants, the top government spokesman said.

Abe will be making his first visit to Egypt since May 2007 and will be the first Japanese prime minister to visit Jordan, Israel and Palestine since Junichiro Koizumi did so in July 2006.

Charlie Hebdo print run could hit three million after attack

PARIS, 13 Jan — Up to 3 million copies of “Charlie Hebdo” could hit newsstands this week, dwarfing its usual print run of 60,000, in response to soaring demand for the first edition of the satirical weekly since last week’s deadly attacks by Islamist militants.

Seventeen people, including journalists and police, were killed in three days of violence that began on 7 January when militants burst into Charlie Hebdo’s office during a regular editorial meeting and shot dead five of its leading cartoonists. Liberation newspaper, now temporarily housing Charlie Hebdo operations, revealed the front page of the 14 January edition via Twitter late on Monday — an image of the Prophet Mohammad holding a sign saying “JE SUIS CHARLIE” (I am Charlie) below the headline “TOUT EST PARDONNE” (“All is forgiven”).

An initial batch of 1 million copies will be available on Wednesday and Thursday, said Michel Salcon, a spokesman for MPL, which distributes Charlie Hebdo. A further 2 million could then be printed depending on demand.

“We have requests for 300,000 copies throughout the world — and demand keeps rising by the hour,” Salcon said, adding that the newspaper usually had just 4,000 international clients.

“The million will go. As of Thursday, the decision will probably be taken to print extra copies,” he said. “So we’ll have one million, plus two if necessary.”

On Sunday, at a jubilant event people took part throughout France in marches of support for Charlie Hebdo and freedom of expression. World leaders and politicians sent messages of support to Charlie Hebdo and free expression.

Two editions of Charlie Hebdo were normally printed, with only 30,000 generally sold. The first edition of the new edition of Charlie Hebdo, known for its satirical attacks on Islam and other religions, will include cartoons featuring the Prophet Mohammad and also making fun of politicians and other religions, its lawyer, Richard Malka, told France Info radio earlier.

Salcon said 60,000 copies of Charlie Hebdo were normally printed, with only 30,000 generally sold.

Afghan policeman kills commander, district governor

LASHKAR GAI, 13 Jan — An Afghan policeman shot and killed his commanding officer and a district governor in Helmand Province in southern Afghanistan, officials said on Tuesday, in an attack claimed by Taleban insurgents, who said the policeman had defected to their movement.

The Taleban have stepped up attacks to undermine the Afghan security forces and government after the withdrawal of most foreign combat troops 13 years after a US-led intervention force toppled a former Taleban government.

Sayed Murad Salat, chief of Helmand’s Nawzad district, and police commander, Shamsullah, were killed in the attack during a meeting on Monday, said Mohammad Jan Rasoulyar, deputy provincial police chief.

“A police officer was himself shot dead after the attack. Taleban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid claimed responsibility on his official Twitter account. ‘A police infiltrator killed all officials in Nawzad district of Helmand yesterday evening,’ Mujahid said.

The Taleban also claimed responsibility for a car bomb that killed two people in the capital, Kabul, on Tuesday.

The magnetic bomb attached to a civilian vehicle detonated in front of a mosque in western Kabul, said Hashmat Stanekzai a spokesman for Kabul’s police chief.

Ceasefire holds key to talks on Ukraine crisis, says Russia

MOSCOW, 13 Jan — Talks on the Ukraine crisis can advance only when both sides fully observe a ceasefire in the country’s east to open the way for the full implementation of a four-month-old peace deal, Russia said on Tuesday.

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said after meeting ministers from Germany, France and Ukraine in Berlin on Monday that all had agreed that only a strict observance of the ceasefire could pave the way for the countries’ leaders to meet in the Kazakh capital Astana.

“Talks on the Ukraine crisis can advance only when both sides fully observe a ceasefire in the country’s east to open the way for the full implementation of a four-month-old peace deal,” Russia said on Tuesday.

Lavrov’s comments put an end to plans for talks in Astana on Thursday, to which Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko had invited the Russian, French and German leaders.

“According to the minute that has been signed, the two sides could not consider lifting sanctions against Russia until all elements of the 12-point agreement signed in September in the Belarussian capital Minsk were fully implemented,” he said.

“The conflict has pushed relations between Russia and the West to their lowest ebb since the Cold War ended. But now Moscow and Kyiv have agreed the need for strict observance of the ceasefire was underlined,” Lavrov said in a statement, adding that there would be another meeting of the so-called Contact Group — Russia, Ukraine, Europe’s OSCE security watchdog and rebels — to find ways to implement the ceasefire deal.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said last week that Europe could not consider lifting sanctions against Russia until all elements of the 12-point agreement signed in September in the Belarussian capital Minsk were fully implemented.

The conflict has pushed relations between Russia and the West to their lowest ebb since the Cold War ended.

Riyad al-Malki, head of the rebel delegation, said in a statement that talks would be rescheduled.

Separatists from the Chechen “Death!” battalion walk during a training exercise in the territory controlled by the self-proclaimed Donets People’s Republic, eastern Ukraine, on 18 Dec, 2014.

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Separatists from the Chechen “Death!” battalion walk during a training exercise in the territory controlled by the self-proclaimed Donets People’s Republic, eastern Ukraine, on 18 Dec, 2014.
Optimism is a reason for higher achievement
By Aung Khin

Optimism is linked to higher achievement. Pessimists have an underlying attitude that their experiences will usually or always be negative, whenever their efforts ended in failure. In many cases, pessimistic thinking is linked to depression. Psychologists have remarked the more pessimistic someone is, the more likely they are to suffer from depression.

As a result, pessimism is also bad for health and makes people more liable to die of heart disease once they have it.

Optimism has a strong effect on physical and mental health. Therefore, optimists are generally positive thinkers. It is important to have thoughts with a positive content and attribute good and not bad events to one’s self.

A good sense of humor is a necessity for a happy life as those with humorous sense can make bad things seem good.

Most people have a positive view of the world, but some have a more positive view than others. Most people believe they have far more control and more skills than they actually do have. For instance, the majority of drivers consider themselves more skilful than the average driver.

Pessimism is connected with a belief that an event is beyond control. Perceptions of helplessness and poor coping are also associated with the inability to attribute any real meaning or purpose to the conflict or problem situations. Such a perception is associated with a high distress factor, a predisposition to depression, and a wide diversity of health risks.

Taking control of how we respond to our thoughts and what we focus on can make all the difference between happiness and unhappiness.

The most successful individuals from all walks of life have optimistic attitudes. Not only do optimists imagine a rosy future, they remember their successes more vividly, and recall their failures. They dwell on the pleasant. They skip over, although they don’t forget, their weakness.

We can develop a habit of focusing on the negative through habit. Only by avoiding that can we possess the powers needed for the betterment in commerce, politics and society.

Write for us
We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

Faces on Facebook
By Myo Myint

At one time, the radio and the transistor were devices that entertained us and kept us in touch with the outside world. Then, the TV was initially introduced in developed countries during the 1940s and captivated people with not only sound but also sight. Now, it is joined by the Internet that not only informs, and entertains, but also allows us to keep connected with whoever we wish to be connected to, wherever they may be. The emergence of Facebook on the Internet in 2004, and later, the widespread use of mobile phones, have greatly assisted in keeping us connected not only with the people we know – our relatives, friends, colleagues and acquaintances, but also in making new friends from among the vast unknown, wherever we are, and wherever they are. Whenever we access Facebook, new faces keep popping up daily on the screen requesting to be friends. This is because anyone who is at least 13 years and has a valid e-mail address can become a registered user. To give an idea of the number of users, there were 864 million daily active users on average for September 2014 according to Wikipedia.

Why is Facebook so popular with people of all ages including those over 65? Its use is so widespread, because as explained by Wikipedia, it can be used to exchange messages, post status updates and photos, share videos and receive notifications when others update their profiles. Facebook has come to serve as an alternative media for people of all walks of life, to inform and to be informed about such minor matters as where you are at the moment to major events in the country.

Facebook has been created as a social media platform and true to its aim, it connects people and maintains friendships, and in some cases, it reconnects old friends. Since, apart from posting messages, one can also upload photographs and videos, it allows people to share one’s memories, thoughts, and feelings as well as one’s current activities. It also permits messages to be posted to specific persons. In addition, it enables Facebook users to share what they have come across in life and books, and through other media and websites, those that are entertaining, comical, unique, inspiring, instructional, sad, disturbing, etc. For those who enjoy playing games, it can also be used to play games with their cyberpals. Moreover, it is utilized to educate others regarding politics, health, morals, etc and it is used for positive actions, such as, to raise social awareness and responsibility, to give advice to those facing problems, to raise funds for the needy, to provide comfort and sympathy for those in distress, and to congratulate those who have achieved success.

Facebook may also be used indirectly to promote oneself, such as, to boast about one’s triumphs, or to flaunt one’s latest acquisitions of persons and things. Besides, its popularity is exploited for commercial purposes, such as, to promote certain products, or to sell certain items.

In this Age of Globalization, people say that the world has shrunk to become a village. This may be true from technological, knowledge sharing, commercial, and social perspectives. But from a social perspective, many people have become less connected to their roots. Particularly due to increasing urbanization, industrialization and migration in search of better education and job opportunities, many people now live far away from their families and peers, and some are slowly drifting away from their relatives and old friends. For the increasing number of people who have the financial means to own a cell phone and use the Internet, faces on Facebook, both old friends in the outside world, and new friends made on Facebook, and other similar social platforms, have become their cyberfriends to share their woes, wants, and yearnings and fill the social vacuum. The cyberfriends are close enough to be reached within seconds, but far enough to maintain privacy. This probably suits cyber-relationships, as it is difficult to harmonize one’s free time with another person’s free time in the extremely busy real world. On the other hand, the anonymous nature of some of the interactions serve as a licence for people who do not agree with other persons to use hate speech, hurl verbal abuse, express biased opinions and make false accusations, which can sometimes be more painful than physical abuse. Similarly, not everyone who sees photographs of people posing in front of exciting places, lounging in luxurious hotels, and enjoying exotic cuisines, finds them delightful, like the persons concerned. In fact, one Internet article says that in some people, it causes Facebook envy and negative effects of loss of self-esteem and dissatisfaction with their own lives, after seeing photographs of people travelling, or enjoying family happiness, on Facebook. So, people should be prepared for the barrage of negative comments and sarcastic reviews, and not just ’likes’, when they boldly grace the cell phone screen like film or photo-stars.

Nevertheless, few will disagree that apart from being useful in many ways, Facebook relieves us of boredom, and helps to kill time waiting in long queues, and your sleep.

Maubin (south) natural gas field produces more than 10 million cubic feet of natural gas

By Nay Pyi Taw, 13 Jan—Maubin (South) natural gas well No 1 launched its test production in April 2007 in Maubin (South) natural gas land, 1.5 miles south of Maubin, Ayeayawady Region.

At present, four wells produce 68 barrels of condensate and 10.803 million cubic feet of natural gas daily.

Deputy Minister for Energy U Aung Htoo views production of natural gas in Maubin (South) natural gas field.—MNA
UEC chairman, UK officials discuss preparations for Myanmar’s upcoming election

UN Special Rapporteur meets union ministers, attorney-general of the union, deputy minister

Ethnic affairs ministers issue a statement
Apparent Islamic State backers hack US military Twitter feed

WASHINGTON, 13 Jan — The Twitter and YouTube accounts for the US military command that oversees operations in the Middle East were hacked on Monday by people claiming to be sympathetic towards the Islamic State militant group being targeted in American bombing raids.

“American soldiers, we are coming, watch your back, ISIS,” the hackers posted on the US Central Command Twitter feed, using an acronym for the hardline Islamist group, which has taken control of parts of Syria and Iraq.

US officials acknowledged that the incident in which the accounts were “compromised” for about 30 minutes was embarrassing but played down the impact. The FBI said it was investigating.

Pentagon spokesman Army Colonel Steve Warren said the Defence Department “views this as little more than a prank, or as vandalism.”

Mexico to try wife of mayor linked to student disappearances

MEXICO CITY, 13 Jan — The wife of a Mexican politician suspected of helping to plot the apparent massacre of 43 trainee teachers in September will be tried for engaging in organized crime, the federal courts authority said on Monday.

The event rocked the government, which says the students were abducted and corrupt police in the southwestern city of Iguala on the night of 26 September, then probably incinerated by members of local drug gang Guerreros Unidos.

The remains of only one of the 43 students have been identified, and the government blames former Iguala mayor Jose Luis Abarca and his wife Maria de los Angeles Pineda for masterminding their disappearance, along with the gang.

Later on Monday, security forces in Iguala clashed with students from the same teacher training college and other protestors trying to break into a local military base, a police spokesman said.

Four people were injured, media reports said.

The courts authority said it believed Pineda had been working with Guerreros Unidos since at least 2005, and accused her of engaging in crimes against health, which includes drug trafficking, and managing illicit funds.

Her lawyers could not immediately be reached for comment.

The statement made no specific reference to Iguala.

President Enrique Pena Nieto is facing his deepest crisis over the government’s handling of the investigation.

A federal judge found evidence that Pineda acted as a financial intermediary for Guerreros Unidos and helped protect the gang, the courts authority said.

Between 2009 and 2014, she took its probably originating with the drug gang worth about 13.7 million pesos ($936,016) in four bank accounts, the court said. Pineda and Abarca fled Iguala a few days after the abduction of the students, and were captured in November by police.—Reuters

Obama, Netanyahu discuss Iranian nuclear programme

WASHINGTON, 13 Jan — US President Barack Obama on Monday reassured Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of Washington’s commitment to preventing Iran from obtaining a nuclear bomb.

Obama made the pledge hours after US Secretary of State John Kerry failed to reach a comprehensive deal, under which Teheran would suspend its nuclear programme in return for billions of dollars in sanctions relief, by the November 24th deadline.

Obama expressed doubts about the negotiators’ ability to close a deal, saying it was “premature” to declare victory.

Netanyahu, who has opposed a nuclear deal, has repeatedly said he considers a nuclear-armed Iran an existential threat to Israel.

In his opening remarks, Obama said the talks had made “tremendous progress” since June, when talks were suspended for six months as a result of leaked information about the US military operation to destroy a secret Iranian nuclear site.

The planned bilateral engagement would be followed by talks on Sunday between Iran and the six world powers of Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States.

Negotiators have so far failed to reach a comprehensive deal, under which Teheran would suspend its nuclear programme across the board, and the West would loosen or lift economic sanctions.

Israel has long been skeptical of the negotiations, arguing that Iran is adamant and that it is merely exploiting the temporary mitigation of US sanctions.

Maradona says got letter from Fidel

CARACAS, 13 Jan — Fidel Castro sent a letter to Diego Maradona, Venezueulan-based TV reported in an interview with the Argentine soccer great on Monday, quashing rumours that the former Cuban leader had died.

The elder Castro had not been heard from nor seen in public since his brother Raúl’s historic US-Cuba rapprochement last month, and the silence has re-ignited speculation about his health.

“Fidel is doing very well,” Maradona told the regional Telesur station, as he held up the letter. “Here’s the signature... I’m showing it to you so you can show it to the world.”

Chatter about his demise has dogged Castro periodically since the 1959 Cuban revolution, but became more frequent in recent years because of health problems that forced him to step down from power in favour of his younger brother.

The last public word from Fidel Castro was an 17 October communiqué in state media.

Set up to counterbalance Western-based TV networks like CNN and the BBC, Telesur is financed by leftist governments in Latin America, Venezuela in particular.—Reuters

Global Newlight of Myanmar World

A computer screenshot shows the US Central Command Twitter feed after it was apparently hacked by people claiming to be Islamic State sympathizers on 12 Jan, 2015.—Reuters

A computer screenshot shows the US Central Command Twitter feed after it was apparently hacked by people claiming to be Islamic State sympathizers on 12 Jan, 2015.—Reuters
Egypt’s Sisi scores early success with smart cards for bread subsidies

CAIRO, 13 Jan — The successful roll-out to far of a new “smart card” system to distribute subsidized bread has been a major achievement for Egypt’s government, saving money while earning praise from families who no longer have to wake early to fight for loaves.

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi appears to be succeeding where predecessors Hosni Mubarak and Mohamed Mursi both failed in the delicate task of reforming a system that has drained the state’s finances while angering the population.

While the government still has a long way to go to roll out the new system countrywide, success so far marks an important civilian achievement for the president, a former army chief mainly known for security issues, including a harsh crackdown against Mursi’s Muslim Brotherhood followers. “In the time of Mubarak and Mursi, there was no organization at bakeries. People fought each other. Now we all take what we need and there’s bread for all,” said Bakhta Ibrahim, a Cairo resident at a bakery in the Sayyeda Zeinab district. For generations, Egypt’s government has fed the public by distributing subsidized flour to bakeries, which sell bread for as little as 5 piastres a loaf, less than which sell bread for as little as 5 piastres a loaf, less than which sell bread for as little as 5 piastres a loaf.

After the new system, families are issued plastic cards allowing them to buy five loaves per family member per day. Buyers no longer have to queue. Bakers are paid for the subsidized loaves they sell, rather than being given a fixed allotment of cheap flour, making it harder to siphon off subsidies. The cards have so far been introduced in 17 of Egypt’s 29 provinces and consumption in those areas is already down between 15 to 35 percent. Supplies Minister Khaled Hanafi, who has led the reforms, told Reuters.

The system turned Egypt into the world’s biggest importer of wheat, draining the government’s foreign currency reserves: Cairo spends 5 billion a year on imports for it. But it has pleased the public. Bread has been sold on a “first come, first served” basis, forcing people to queue up for hours in the morning to get it before it runs out, and sometimes leading to violence.

Those who arrive at the bakery early sometimes buy extra bread to feed to their livestock. Meanwhile, those who arrive too late can get nothing. And bakers are widely accused of siphoning off flour to sell on the black market, profiting while running the population. No organization at bakeries.

The delegation included the AL Secretary General Nabil al-Atti and Mauritanian’s Foreign Minister Ahmed ad Takdi, who met with Speaker Nabih Berri. And following the meeting Sabah stressed that “all Arab states are ready to support Lebanon.”

He said “the Arab summit, Kuwait hosted, and Arab Ministerial Councils both concluded to support Lebanon’s defence capabilities, its counter-terrorism efforts as well as to ease the burden of the Syrian refugee crisis.”

The delegation later met with Prime Minister Tammam Salam and Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil.

In a joint Press conference with Bassil, Sabah reiterated “the need to support Lebanon, and Arab states’ preparedness to offer all necessary aid.”

Bassil said that “the meeting was an opportunity to discuss terrorism,” noting that “the war on terrorism in the region leads to diversity of religious fabric.” —Xinhua

Arab states vow to help Lebanon with refugee and security problems

BEIRUT, 13 Jan — An Arab delegation headed by Kuwaiti Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Sabah al-Khaled al-Hamad as-Sabah vowed Monday to help Lebanon with its refugee and security problems.—Xinhua

Paris attacks suspect entered Syria on 8 January, Turkey says

ISTANBUL, 13 Jan — The suspected female accomplice of Islamist militants behind attacks in Paris was in Turkey five days before the killings and crossed into Syria on 8 January, Turkish officials said on Monday.

France launched a search for 26-year-old Hayat Boumeddiene after police killed her partner Amedy Coulibaly while storming a Jewish supermarket in what they said was a satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo on Wednesday, on 7 January, and ended with a hostage-taking at a kosher supermarket on Friday when four hostages were killed.

Three gunman were killed and there was some confusion at first about whether Boumeddiene had been present in the supermarket when police stormed it and had escaped. Footage from security cameras posted on the Haberturk news website showed a woman it identified as Boumeddiene walking with a man to passport control at Istanbul’s Sabiha Gokcen Airport after flying in from Madrid.

The woman is wearing a long dress and winter coat and her head is covered with a white head scarf. Her companion has a short pony tail. She is seen briefly conversing with a Turkish immigration officer before the undated footage ends.

An official French police photograph shows Boumeddiene as a young woman with long dark hair hatched back over her ears. French media released photos purporting to be of a fully-vested Boumeddiene, posing with a cross-bow, in what they said was a 2010 training session in the mountainous Cantal region. French media described her as one of seven children whose mother died when she was young and whose delivery-man father struggled to keep working while looking after the family. As an adult, she lost her job as a cashier when she converted to Islam and started wearing the niqab.

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, speaking at a Press conference in Berlin with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, said Turkey could not be blamed for allowing Boumeddiene to travel through its territory because it had not been asked to bar her.

“Is it Turkey’s fault that it has borders with Syria?” Davutoglu said, adding Turkey has kept its 900-km-long border with Syria open to allow in more than 1.6 million refugees since the conflict there began in 2011. —Reuters

Kuwaiti Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Sabah al-Khaled al-Hamad as-Sabah (2nd R) meets with Lebanon’s parliament speaker Nabih Berri (1st R) in Beirut, Lebanon, on 22 Dec, 2014. An Arab delegation headed by Kuwaiti Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Sabah al-Khaled al-Hamad as-Sabah vowed Monday to help Lebanon with its refugee and security problems.—Xinhua

Hayat Boumeddiene, the suspected female accomplice of Islamist militants behind attacks in Paris, is seen upon her arrival to Turkey in this still image taken from surveillance video at Sabiha Gokcen airport in Istanbul on 2 Jan, 2015.—Reuters
Sydney, 13 Jan — A call by an Australian wildlife welfare body for locals to help in the recovery of animals injured in wildfires which ravaged parts of Australia last week has been met with an unprecedented international response on Tuesday, thanks to social media.

The affected native koala bears which normally live in trees were first given drinks from water bottles by caring humans to keep them alive, but those rescued had badly burnt paws after clinging to burning branches.

The solution was simple. Treat the burns with medications, then place glove-like mittens over the burnt paws.

**Cuba has freed all 53 prisoners as agreed in US deal — US officials**

Washington, 13 Jan — Cuba has completed the release of all 53 prisoners it had promised to free, the Obama administration said on Monday, a major step towards detente with Washington.

The release of the remaining detainees overcomes one of the last major hurdles for historic talks next week aimed at normalizing ties after decades of hostility.

The list of 53 is part of last month’s breakthrough US-Cuba agreement and includes many known to international human rights groups as “prisoners of conscience.”

The United States welcomed Cuba’s action as a milestone, but senior US officials said Washington would keep pressing Havana to free more people they consider political prisoners.

Lifting the secrecy around the freed dissidents, the Obama administration provided the full list to congressional leaders. According to a copy obtained by Reuters, they include members of prominent Cuban protest groups including the Ladies in White.

There had been questions whether Havana would release all those it had pledged to free as part of the deal that Presidents Barack Obama and Raul Castro announced on 17 December to restore diplomatic ties, which Washington severed more than 50 years ago.

The mystery that sur-rounded the 53 had played to Obama’s critics who say he has not pressured Havana enough on human rights in return for normalization.

The United States exchanged three convicted Cuban spies for an agent who had spied for the Americans. Washington also received Alan Gross, a US aid worker jailed in Cuba.

Cuba informed the Obama administration over the weekend that the last of those on the list had been released, according to the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

But one of the officials said: “We’re going to be wanting to raise the cases of different individuals who may be detained in Cuba for exercising their universal rights.”

Cuba denies that it holds political prisoners.

Australian govt’ announces that fourth vessel to join MH370 search in Indian Ocean

Canberra, 13 Jan — A new vessel has been brought in to help the international search for missing Malaysian Airlines flight MH370 — after a 10-month operation has so far found no remains of the aircraft.

Acting Australian Prime Minister Warren Truss said on Tuesday that the Fugro Supporter was on its way to the West Australian coast to join three other vessels in the search, after it had recently completed trials in Bali.

Fugro Equator, Fugro Discovery and GO Phoenix have already been tasked with the job of searching for remains of the missing Boeing 777 which went down last March.

Speaking to the Australian Broadcasting Commission on Tuesday, Truss said the Fugro Supporter was expected to arrive in the search area in the southern Indian Ocean and join the operation in late January.

Truss insisted he was still confident the plane would be found, despite the time that has passed since the accident.

“It’s a huge search area, it’s in very deep water, it’s a long way from the coast, but we’re still optimistic that we’re searching in the right place and we’ve got good enough equipment to be able to identify this wreck,” he told ABC Radio.

When asked what would happen if MH370 was not located when this phase of the search wrapped up in May, Truss said there would have to be a new “round of assessments”.

“We’re putting in the best effort and if it’s not possible to find it, I’m confident we can do it,” he said.

The latest vessel, to be jointly funded by Australia and Malaysia, is equipped with a Kongsberg HUGIN 4500 autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV).

“The AUV will be used to scan those portions of the search area that cannot be searched effectively by the equipment on other vessels,” Truss said.

As of last Wednesday, over 14,000 square kilometres of the sea floor has been searched, with about 208,000 square kilometres surveyed.

Without significant interruptions, search crews still hope to have completed their effort by May.

Flight MH370 left Kuala Lumpur bound for Beijing last March when it disappeared, with 239 people on board, including six Australians.

Three ice climbers die in ‘catastrophic’ fall in W Canada

Vancouver, 13 Jan — Three ice climbers were found dead in a wilderness region of British Columbia after likely falling about 2,000 feet (610 meters) in a “catastrophic” accident as they neared the top of their ascent, local police said on Monday.

The bodies of a man and a woman in their mid-30s from the Vancouver region and a female foreign national in her late 20s were recovered on Monday some 300 meters below Joffre peak, about a three-hour drive northeast of Vancouver, police said.

The foreign climber is believed to be from Germany, based on reports from two skiers who were part of the climbing group, Whistler-Pemberton Royal Canadian Mounted Police spokesman Steve LeClair said.

The skiers found the body of one of the climbers on Sunday night and then alerted police that two others were missing.

“It looks like they made it almost to the top of the central couloir, and then fell approximately 2,000 vertical feet... It looks like a catastrophic slip and fall accident,” LeClair said.

The climbers had been tied together with climbing ropes, LeClair said.

Reuters

Panama’s President Juan Carlos Varela (C) presents a wreath during a rally in memory of the 17 persons that were killed during the three days of attack in France, in Panama City, capital of Panama, on 12 Jan, 2015.

Xinhua
INVITATION TO OPEN PREQUALIFICATION OF BIDDING

The Irrigation Department (ID), Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, announces the PREQUALIFICATION of International Competitive Bidding for “Procurement of Construction Machineries for ID” under the Irrigation Development Project in Western Bago Region based on the Loan Agreement (Loan No.: MY-P7) signed on 5th September, 2014 between the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the Ministry.

The procurement works shall consist of equipment supply, site assembling, test-running, training and commissioning for the construction machineries. Please note that Joint Ventures are acceptable.

A complete set of prequalification documents is available in Myanmar kyat (50,000/-) from 10:00 to 12:00 and 14:00 to 16:00 in the working days from 13th to 19th, January, 2015 at Procurement Director Office of Irrigation Department, Building No. (43), Nay Pyi Taw and closing date will be 27th, January, 2015 during office hours. Submission of the Documents later than closing date will not be considered.

Contact: Director, Procurement branch.
Telephone: +95-67-410019

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ENERGY MYANMAOIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (1/2015)

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No.</th>
<th>Tender No.</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Qty.</th>
<th>Remarks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(1)</td>
<td>IFB-133(14-15)</td>
<td>BOP Control Accumulator Unit (1) Lot</td>
<td>US$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(2)</td>
<td>IFB-134(14-15)</td>
<td>6” x 8” R HSB Pump without Motor (3) Lots</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>(3)</td>
<td>IFB-135(14-15)</td>
<td>6” x 8” R SB Pump without Motor (3) Lots</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<td>(4)</td>
<td>IFB-136(14-15)</td>
<td>Shore Water Pump with Motor (1000 gpm x 200 ft hd) (2) Lots</td>
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<td>(5)</td>
<td>IFB-137(14-15)</td>
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<td>(6)</td>
<td>IFB-138(14-15)</td>
<td>Skid Mounted Water Transfer Pump with Motor (250 gpm x 600 ft hd, 100 HP, 400 V) (1) Lot</td>
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<td>(7)</td>
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<td>(8)</td>
<td>IFB-140(14-15)</td>
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<td>(9)</td>
<td>IFB-141(14-15)</td>
<td>Derrick Shaker Unit (Flow Line Mud Cleaner) (2) Sets</td>
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<td>(10)</td>
<td>IFB-142(14-15)</td>
<td>Spares for Rotary Table Drive Group Ex GEFCO Drilling Rigs (4) Items</td>
<td>US$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Tender Closing Date & Time: 9-2-2015, 16:30 Hr
Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 12th January, 2015 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph:+95 67-811974/411206

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV MOROTAI VOY NO (YF 254R)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (YF 254R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.1.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject by 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: MS CMA CGM
Phone No: 2301185

Vietnam considers major bank mergers in 2015: central bank

Ho Chi Minh City, 13 Jan — More than six to eight major banks in Vietnam would likely merge with each other in 2015 in an effort to strengthen the industry, according to sources with the State Bank of Vietnam, or the central bank. The Joint Stock Commercial Bank for Foreign Trade of Vietnam, the country’s biggest bank by market value, could merge with unlisted Saigon Bank for Industry and Trade, while the Hanor-based Joint Stock Commercial Bank for Industry and Trade (VietinBank) may join with unlisted OceanBank, local Tuo Tren (Youth) daily reported on Tuesday, quoting central bank sources.

The Bank for Investment and Development of Vietnam could take similar steps with the Mekong Housing Bank, and VietinBank could also merge with the Petrolimex Bank.

Other mergers would include the Maritime Bank with the Mekong Development Bank, and the Saocombank with the Southern Bank, for which preparations began in 2014.

Vietnam is trying to clean up its finance sector which has 42 local banks, many of which are burdened with non-performing loans after a decade of rapid expansion, and many economists consider the sector as overcrowded, with too many small and under-capitalized operators, said the report.

Icebreaker Shirase docks at Antarctic base for 2nd straight year

Tokyo, 13 Jan — The Japanese icebreaker Shirase has docked near the Showa Base in Antarctica for the second year in a row after failing to do so the previous two years due to snow and thick ice, the science ministry said on Tuesday. The 12,650-ton vessel, which last year collided with a reef when leaving the base, made headway in roughly 6-metre-thick ice from 29 December and arrived at the docking point off the base Monday evening, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology said.—Kyodo News

USJ draws 10 million visitors since April with Harry Potter attraction

Osaka, 13 Jan — Universal Studios Japan in Osaka said on Tuesday it has attracted more than 10 million visitors since last April, reflecting the popularity of a new attraction based on the Harry Potter film series. The number of visitors in the current business year through March is expected to exceed the previous record of around 11 million logged in fiscal 2001 shortly after the park’s opening, according to USJ Co. The park operator has seen record visitors each month since the Harry Potter attraction was opened on 15 July.—Kyodo News

Flames emanate from a vehicle during a protest in front of the 35th Military Zone in Chilpancingo, capital of Guerrero State, Mexico, on 12 Jan, 2015. According to local press, the parents of missing students, with support of the members of the State Coordinator of Education Workers of Guerrero (CETEG in Spanish), burnt an official vehicle in front of the main door of the 50th Infantry Battalion of the 35th Military Zone, demanding the presentation of results in the search for 43 missing students abducted in Guerrero State in September 2014.—Xinhua
Stephen Colbert’s ‘Late Show’ set for September debut, CBS says

**Los Angeles, 13 Jan** — Stephen Colbert will debut as the new host of CBS Corp’s “Late Show,” on 8 September, the US broadcast television network said on Monday.

Colbert, 50, takes over the late-night TV talk show from David Letterman, who will retire after his final broadcast on 20 May.

“I have nine months to make a show, just like a baby. So first, I should find out how you make a baby,” Colbert said in a statement.

I like Indian jewellery: Jennifer Aniston

**New York, 13 Jan** — ‘Cake’ star Jennifer Aniston has revealed that her eight-carat diamond ring from fiance Justin Theroux is not of her kind. Aniston, 45, who has been engaged to Theroux for two years, said she is not a diamond girl and might not have picked it for herself, reported the New York Post. “It’s a rock. I know. He rocked it up. It took me a while to get used to it. I’m not a diamond girl. I’m more Indian jewelry and stuff,” she said. Aniston said she considers Theroux a blessing sent to her by her first love, who died of a brain tumour when they were young.

“He would have been the one. But I was 25, and I was stupid. He must have sent me Justin to make up for it all,” she said.—PTI

Golden Globes television audience dips to 19.3 million

**Los Angeles, 13 Jan** — The television audience for Sunday’s 72nd Golden Globe Awards dipped to 19.3 million as comedians Tina Fey and Amy Poehler hosted the Hollywood awards show, for the third and final time, NBC said on Monday.

The three-hour show, which Fey and Poehler helped reach a 10-year high last year, declined nearly 8 percent in total viewers compared with last year’s 20.9 million viewers, and was down about 11 percent in the 18-49 age group, according to data compiled by Nielsen Media Research.

This is the final year Fey and Poehler planned on hosting the Golden Globes, the first major awards show leading up to the Academy Awards on 22 February. The duo rose to prominence together on Comcast Corp-owned NBC comedy show “Saturday Night Live.”

Their first time hosting in 2013 drew 19.7 million viewers.

The night’s big winners were coming-of-age chronicle “Boyhood,” which won best drama picture, and Wes Anderson’s period caper “The Grand Budapest Hotel,” which won best comedy or musical. Fey and Poehler’s brand of roasting celebrities with an impish smile helped prop up the show’s appeal among younger viewers over older host, acerbic comedian Ricky Gervais. The Golden Globe Awards are organized by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association.

My daughters won’t be actresses: Nicole Kidman

**London, 13 Jan** — Nicole Kidman says she doesn’t see her daughters becoming actresses. The Australian star, who won the Best Actress Oscar in 2002 for her role in ‘The Hours’, said whilst acting is her passion, she doesn’t think her daughters Sunday Rose, six, and Faith Margaret, four, will follow in her footsteps, reported Hello! magazine.

“I think they would actually run the other way!” said Kidman when quizzed on whether her youngsters would be interested in acting. “Acting was just my desire and my motivation, and I don’t see that in Sunday or Faith. They’d like, ‘Nope, we’re not interested’,” she said.

Kidman, 47, who also has two adopted children called Connor and Isabella from her 11-year marriage to Tom Cruise, said she has already heard Rose voice her desire for a multitude of other careers. “Sunday wants to be a vet right now. And a party planner. Then she says she wants to be a stay-at-home mom and have eight children. I think that’s her way of saying to me, ‘Stay at home!’,” she added.—PTI
Murray and Dimitrov to play at Queen's

LONDON, 13 Jan — Andy Murray will warm up for this year’s Wimbledon by playing in the Aegon Championships at Queen’s Club, organizers said on Monday.

The British world number six, bidding to win the tournament for the fourth time, will be joined in the draw by defending champion Grigor Dimitrov.

“I’ve had some great moments on those grass courts,” Murray said in a statement.

“It’s where I won my first professional match and my first title in Britain. The year I won Wimbledon, it came a few weeks after winning at Queen’s, and it’s perfect preparation.”

Powell tries new regime to win elusive gold

Kingston, 13 Jan — Jamaica’s Asafa Powell, who has struggled to produce form his best at major championships, believes a change in coach and a new approach to training will improve his fortunes.

The sprinter who held the 100m world record between 2005 and 2008 before compatriot Usain Bolt lowered it to 9.58 seconds believes he can rediscover his form and improve his personal best of 9.72.

“Anything is possible. Justin Gatlin surprised me last year… he ran his personal best of 9.77 & 19.68) at age 32,” said Powell who is eying gold at the 2015 Hopman Cup in Perth.

“If I can do that, I’m just trying to stay healthy, put in all the hard work and make sure I’m smarter now, I know what it takes to do it. It’s just to put myself out there and do what I’m supposed to do,” added the man posed to do,” added the man.

“I feel a lot stronger, 32 is the year you really get to training will improve his form and improve his personal best of 9.72, said Powell who is eying gold at the 2015 Hopman Cup in Perth.

“I feel a lot stronger, 32 is the year you really get to put everything together,” he told Reuters.

“We are doing different things… He’s really working hard to achieve the 9.7 he ran a few years ago and I personally think if he keeps focussed and remains healthy, he can do it,” he said.

The fifth fastest man in history is set to run three 60m outdoors before bidding for the elusive 100m world title.

“The main focus is the� trials first because that is like a world championships by itself and then the world championships in China,” said Powell, in reference to training will improve his form and improve his personal best of 9.72.

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“They include Bolt, Yohan Blake, Nesta Carter, Kemar Bailey-Cole and Nickel Ashmeade.

Powell, who is eying gold at the 2015 Hopman Cup in Perth.

Asafa Powell of Jamaica runs on his way to winning his 100m heat round 1 during the London 2012 Olympics at the Olympic Stadium on 4 Aug, 2012. —Reuters

Blood-red sea as underwater volcano erupts off Tonga, ash delays flights

Sydney, 13 Jan — An underwater volcano off Tonga was spewing ash high into the air on Tuesday, causing several carriers to suspend air travel to the South Pacific island nation and turning the surrounding ocean blood red, residents and officials said.

The Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha’apai underwater volcano, located about 65 km (40 miles) north of the capital Nuku’alofa, was sending volcanic ash up to 4,500 meters (14,765 feet) into the air, the Wellington Volcanic Ash Advisory Centre (VAAC) said.

The volcano, which first erupted in 2009, had been rumbling in recent weeks before exploding violently in the past few days, The New Zealand Herald newspaper reported.

An Air New Zealand flight between Auckland and Nuku’alofa on Monday was diverted to Samoa and later returned to New Zealand because of the volcano, the airline said in a statement.

A return service had been scheduled to fly on Tuesday, the airline said, but had been canceled because of volcanic activity. The volcano was not disrupting flights to other regions, it said.

Film series brings major art exhibitions to US theaters

New York, 13 Jan — Filmmakers are bringing major art exhibitions featuring the works of Henri Matisse, Vincent van Gogh and Rembrandt from museums around the globe to US theaters with a series of movies that will take audiences on a guided tour of the shows.

The first film, “Matisse from MoMA and Tate Modern,” will be screened up to 350 selected theaters across the United States on Tuesday. It details the acclaimed “Henri Matisse: The Cut-Outs,” exhibition, which attracted more than 650,000 visitors to London’s Tate Modern, making it the museum’s most popular show ever.

With 100 works from private and public collections, drawings, textiles and stained glass made during the final years of Matisse’s life, the exhibition transferred to New York’s Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), where it will run through early February.

Like performances by New York’s Metropolitan Opera broadcast live to movie theaters, the art films are designed to bring the exhibitions to a larger audience.

“For the 95 percent of our audience that can’t get to the exhibition, we want to give them the next best thing,” said Phil Grabsky of UK-based Seventh Art Productions, the producer of the “Exhibition on Screen” series.

“We also want to show them, behind the scenes, how these things are put together. It is fascinating to be with the curators when they are deciding how to hang the works, what color the walls should be,” he added in an interview.

The 80-minute film, directed by Grabsky, includes a tour of the exhibition, biographical information, commentary and interviews with the curators and a former assistant to Matisse.

It will be followed in the series by “Rembrandt from the National Gallery, London, & Rijksmuseum Amsterdam,” which will be screened on 24 February, and “Vincent van Gogh - A New Way of Seeing from the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam,” on 14 April.

Both of those films will be screened during the summer.

“We want to encourage people to go to the exhibition if they can. More to the point, we want to encourage people to go to their local gallery, no matter how big or small, and to look at any artwork,” Grabsky added.

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Ronaldo wins another Ballon d’Or award

BENNE, 13 Jan — Cristiano Ronaldo won the FIFA Ballon d’Or award for the second year running and the third overall on Monday and said he wanted to become “one of the greatest players of all time.” The Real Madrid forward polled more than double the number of votes as his bitter rival Lionel Messi who only just edged Bayern Munich and Germany goalkeeper Manuel Neuer into third place. Anacleoti won the Coach of the Year of the award after leading Germany to the World Cup title in Brazil, finishing ahead of Real Madrid’s Carlo Ancelotti and Atletico Madrid’s Diego Simeone in the poll.

Colombia’s James Rodriguez won the Puskas award for the best goal, a spectacular volley on the turn for Colombia in their World Cup match against Uruguay. Nana Kessie of VfL Wolfsburg and Germany won the women’s Player of the Year award. Ronaldo was forgiven for a disappointing World Cup, with Portugal going out in the first round. Instead, the voters — the coaches and captains of the 209 national teams plus one journalist for each country — were swayed by his prolific goal-scoring.

Messi says he ‘doesn’t know’ where he will be next year

ZURICH, 13 Jan — Barcelona forward Lionel Messi raised eyebrows when he said in passing on Monday that he did not know where he would be next year. Messi was asked during a Press conference ahead of the Bal- lon d’Or Player of the Year cer- emony if he wanted to finish his career at Barcelona or at Argen- tina’s Newell’s Old Boys in his hometown of Rosario.

“I’m not sure what’s going to happen, whether I’d go to Newell’s,” he said. “I don’t know where I’ll be next year although I’ve always said I want to end my career at Barcelona but...nobody knows what the future holds.”

Messi said on Sunday night that he had denied asking for coach Luis Enrique to be replaced or that he is seeking an exit from his boyhood club. “I haven’t asked for anything to stay here because I have never wanted to go anywhere else,” Messi told Barca’s TV channel after Sunday’s 3-1 La Liga win over champions Atletico Madrid.

The Argentina and Barca cap- tain was responding for the first time to widespread reports of a falling out with Luis Enrique, who took over from Messi’s compatriot Gerardo Martino at the end of last season.—Xinhua

Nan Tae-Hee scores to give South Korea knockout berth

Kuwait’s Fahed Al-Ebrahim (R) and South Korea’s Lee Keun-ho jump for the ball as South Korea’s Lee Myung-joon (C), Kuwait’s Amer Almutag Aljafudel and Kuwait’s Sultan Alenezi (L) look on during their Asian Cup Group A soccer match at the Canberra stadium in Canberra on 13 Jan, 2015.—Reuters

Canberra, 13 Jan — South Korea defeated Kuwait 1-0 thanks to Nan Tae-Hee’s sole goal of the game at the AFC Asian Cup’s group match here on Tuesday.

South Korea had secured a place for the quarterfinalers after snapping their second triumph in the group. The other team reaching the last eight is Australia as the hosts smashed Oman 4-0 in Sydney.

South Korea pitched seven new players in the starting line- up from the group opener in the match.

Nan’s header in the 36th min- ute was decisive for the game after he received Cha Du-Ri’s comfortable pass to the penalty area from the right side.

“I hate to admit it but Kuwait were the better team in many as- pects,” South Korea’s coach Uli Stielike said in his post-match press conference at Canberra Stadium.

“They battled hard for the ball and made better passes. We were quite lucky.”

“We’re going to have a lot of trouble if we played like we did today. Expectations at home are quite high, and I hope the players can overcome that pres- sure. They will need to work on their ball control and passes,” added Stielike.

Stielike said he expected that Kuwait would play a simi- larly defence-oriented match as what they had against Australia in the tournament opener last Friday. But Kuwait played an aggressive attack in the match. To him, the losers were actually the better team.

Australia’s victory in Syd- ney means South Korea and the hosts both reached to the knock- out stage irrespective of the re- sult between the two teams. The clash between South Korea and Australia on 17 January will de- cide the leaders in Group A.

As Stielike revealed that midfielders Son Heung-min, Koo Ja-cheol and goalkeeper Kim Jin-hyeon all got flu and he hopes to see these sick players come back in action soon.

Del Potro wins comeback, ill Halep withdraws

MELBOURNE, 13 Jan — Former US Open champion Juan Martin del Potro made a successful return to the tennis circuit on Tuesday, winning his opening match at the Sydney International.

Playing for the first time in 11 months after undergoing surgery to his left wrist, the Argentine beat Ukraine’s Sergiy Stakhovsky 6-3, 7-6(4).

“It’s time to get back on the train again,” del Potro told reporters. “This tournament is very spe- cial to me.”

Del Potro won the Sydney In- ternational last year and is among dozens of competing players fine-tuning their preparations for the Australian Open, starting on Monday.

Romania’s Simona Halep was among the high-profile en- trants but she pulled out on Tues- day, saying she was suffering from gastroenteritis. The world number three told organizers she was un- able to take her place after falling ill in China, where she won the Shenzhen Open. “During the tour- nament in China I got this problem in my stomach,” she said. “I didn’t play for three days. I was waiting until today to see if I was ready to play again, but I feel like I cannot play. “It’s tough to play a tourna- ment like this so unfortunately I decided to withdraw.”—Reuters