Ma-de oil port to create job opportunities for locals and contribute to development of education and health sectors

Vice President U Nyan Tun delivers an address at commissioning of Ma-de Crude Oil Unloading Terminal and pre-commissioning of South-East Asia crude oil pipeline.—MNA

YANGON, 28 Jan.—Ma-de oil port in Rakhine State, jointly built by Ministry of Energy and South East Asia Pipeline, will accept unloading of crude oil from Middle East by tankers, Star oil port, a wharf, 12 oil tanks and project buildings started in 2011 and were completed in early 2015. He continued to say that a crude oil pipeline, 32 inches in diameter and 771 kilometres long was laid to send crude oil to China from the port, passing Rakhine State, Magway and Mandalay Regions and Shan State (North).

The vice president noted that the project was implemented with US$2.4532 billion capital investment including US$1.204 billion of the State. During a 30-year project period, about 22 million tons of crude oil will be shared to People’s Republic of China and local consumption.

Oil tankers of about 300,000-ton can moor at the port where 12 oil tanks have been built to store 22 million gallons of crude oil. Moreover, the port has a 150 metres long work boat wharf to accept 5000-ton vessels, he said.

Environmental conservation plans have been adopted for the port and one fresh water dam and water supply system have been constructed for local people, he added.

The vice president said that the project will increase income of the State and provide crude oil for the nation. In addition, it will create job opportunities for the local people and contribute to development of education and health sectors of the island.

While implementing the project, a total of US$ 13.26 million have been spent on school, dispensary, lake, electrification and communication and other infrastructures in four regions and states from 2021 to date. Chairman of China National Petroleum Corporation-CNPC Mr Lao Yongyu also spoke words of thanks.

(See page 3)

Three developers to compete for Yangon Railway Complex Project

Vice President U Nyan Tun in Yangon Central Railway Station.—MNA

YANGON, 28 Jan.—Three developers have submitted proposal documents to Myanmar Railways to compete for the Yangon Central Railway Station comprehensive development project, according to an announcement by the Ministry of Rail Transportation.

The ministry has not disclosed the names of the three companies that will compete for the project. The nine developers were selected from the 28 shortlisted companies that sent Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the project. Those included Shwetaung and Shwethaum-Lwin companies from Myanmar, one Japan-Myanmar joint venture company, one Vietnam-China-Myanmar company, one Myanmar-Singapore company and companies from Singapore, Japan, China, Canada, Taiwan and Myanmar, according to the announcement of Myanmar Railways last October.

Investment in the Yangon Central Railway Station area comprehensive development project will reach $2.5 billion, according to Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Myint Thein.

Myanmar Railways invited Expressions of Interest (EOI) in April for the project that is to be implemented over more than 62 acres of Myanmar Railways land and urged local and international or joint venture developers/investors to bid.

(See page 2)

Bankers, telcos, solution providers and technology vendors gather at Mobile Money + E-Commerce Summit 2015 to tap into opportunities in new financial services

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 28 Jan.—Mobile network operators and service providers, experts, mobile financial services technology enablers and equipment vendors on Wednesday came together at the 6th Annual Asia/Myanmar Mobile Money + E-Commerce Summit 2015 to tap into opportunities in new financial services market in Myanmar.

This year’s summit, with a special focus on mobile payment and e-commerce business, which is about to boom in Myanmar that has now become one of the most sought-after countries among newly emerging economies.

(See page 9)
Union ministers highlights budgets for projects in 2014-15 and 2015-16 FY

Nav Pi Taw, 28 Jan —The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw continued for the seventh day, here, on Wednesday.

With regard to Japanese Yen 24.678 billion loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA, Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe explained that the ministry will borrow Yen 24.678 billion from JICA for construction of two 500KV power stations in Meiktila and Toungoo with 0.01 percent interest per year. The loan must be paid back in 40 years. The power station project will supply more electricity to the nation and contribute to economic development of the State. It will be a part of electricity network in ASEAN and Greater Mekong Subregion.

The speaker invited MPs to enlist for discussion of loans. Regarding the projects in the 2015-2016 national planning bill and the 2015 union budget bill, Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut explained the budget proposal for changing analogue to digital system and extension of new TV channels of Myanmar Radio and Television, responsibility of Information and Public Relations Department for public relations and supervising laws and rules related to the Ministry of Information, promotion of Myanmarmar motion picture aera, publishing of aesthetic and general knowledge books in Myanmar and English languages, and process of News and Periodical Enterprise to practise public service media, reasons for lower budget proposal and profits of News and Periodicals Enterprise announced in 2013-14 and 2014-15 FY.

Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung reported on foreign loans and assistance for development of aviation sector, the plans of the ministry to cooperate with private investors through JV, BOT and PPP systems, financial reports of departments under the ministry in 2015-16 FY, maintenance of waterways, upgrading of jetties and ports, monitoring of natural disasters and airport projects.

Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu explained implementation of projects and financial reports, budget proposal for implementation of policy and aims, budget affairs in 2014-15 and 2015-16 fiscal year and plans to spend capital expenditure on projects.

Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Aye Myint Maung elaborated on projects in 2015-16 FY, budget and loan affairs, cooperation with international community to develop forestry sector, plans for establishment of forest plantations, tasks for University of Forestry and greening the dry zones.—MNA

Women service personnel enjoy maternity leave under rules and law

Chairman of Union Civil Services Board U Kyaw Thu.—MNA

Nav Pi Taw, 28 Jan—At the eighth day session of Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) on Wednesday, U Khin Maung Soe, Secretary of Union Constituency raised questions on maternity leave for female workers under the civil service law and rules and whether there is a plan to manage permission for maternity leave of woman staff at Mintha Station Hospital in Myothit, Tamu District.

Chairman of Union Civil Services Board U Kyaw Thu replied that any woman service personnel in service can enjoy maternity leave under rules 101 and 102 of civil service law. The woman staff at the station hospital needs to submit applications with documents referring to the civil service law to the ministry concerned for enjoying the maternity leave with full salary.

Daw Khin San Hlaing of Pale Constituency asked whether Myanmar Police Force controls criminal activities in Yangon Region or not. Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint replied that police are discharging duty of security and rule of law in Yangon Region through a 1:1228 police to people ratio as population of the region reaches over 7.3 million. Police in 44 townships of the region led by the commander of Yangon Region Police Force emphasize prevention of 10 major criminal cases under the law. Police prosecuted 146 murder cases of 155 and 32 robbery cases of 47 in 2011, 156 murders of 164 and 26 robbery cases of 30 in 2012, 121 murders of 130 and 25 robbery cases of 33 in 2013 and 172 murders of 186 and 35 robbery cases of 48 in 2014. Police also arrested all suspects in five cases of mob violence in 2013 and three in 2014. If all law-abiding people get existing laws and cooperate in preventive measures of crime, police can ensure prevalence of law and order and control of criminal cases.

U Thein Swe of An Constituency submitted a proposal calling for drawing of one midwife for two-three rural and urban areas in health care services. Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint said that a total of 20 midwifery training schools and 46 nursing and midwifery training schools are turning out midwives. As of 2015-16 academic year, the ministry will open two midwifery schools and two nursing schools. That is why the ministry will assign one midwife for two-three villages in 2020 when over 23,000 midwives will be turned out across the nation.

The Hluttaw approved the proposal.—MNA

Government helps tea farmers and merchants: Deputy Minister

Min Aung, who said that transfers and promotion of teachers in basic education sector are being carried out in a transparent manner by announcing vacancies on notice boards at township, district and region/state education offices when applications are invited for transfers and promotions.

Dr Aung Tun, a representative discussed the religion conversion bill and the speaker decided to discuss the bill at the next session.

The speaker reported to the Amyotha Hluttaw on measures taken by the government concerning the construction works that fall short of building standard.—MNA

President’s economic advisor holds talks in Mandalay

Mandala, 28 Jan —President’s economic advisor Professor Dr Aung Tun Thet held talks on the importance of mutual trust between public and private sectors on Tuesday.

Dr Aung Tun Thet said civil society groups have taken a crucial role in addition to public and private sectors for the development of the country, while harmony and balance of the trio are important to be able to set up a trust for the people.

He added civil service staff need to develop “ac-
Ma-de oil port to . . .

(Vice President U Nyan Tun, Union Minister U Zeyar Aung, Chinese Ambassador Mr Yang Houlan and the chairman of CNPC launched the port and the chairman of CNPC Zeyar Aung, Chinese Ambassador Mr Yang Houlan and the chairman of CNPC U Tin Aye presented gifts to the vice president. Later, those present were served with dinner.—MNA)

Gov’t takes step to administrative machinery reforms

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan — As part of efforts for administrative machinery reforms, the government has allowed ministries to check and hand over their financial accounts, annual auditing and foreign loans till end of March.

In his address at a coordination meeting on transition period for reforms of the government’s administrative machinery in Nay Pyi Taw Wednesday, Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein said the government is planning to decrease the number of enterprises and departments of ministries to 20 as part of stepping up efforts for the third-wave reforms as the government is restructuring and reengineering its administrative machinery. After checking financial, accounts, annual audit and foreign loans of the ministries, 136 universities, degree colleges and colleges would be separated from respective ministries and they would be run with autonomy in accordance with the National Education Law as from next academic year, he said.

The reason why the departments and enterprises are dissolved or restructured is that the employees including from the rank of a director-general to lowest-level staff are to carry out their duties more effectively, he added. He also stressed the need to restructure organizational set-ups of union ministries’ institutions in region and states so that their duty and function can represent the respective ministries and provide public services.

Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein also called for promoting monitoring and evaluation skills for management, planning and financial management and land management of government staff in districts and townships.—MNA

A vessel docks at already-commissioned Ma-de crude oil unloading terminal in Kyaukpyu Township, Rakhine State. The project of the terminal with oil tanks contributes to development of health, social and economic sectors of local people.

(News on page 1)—MNA

UEC Chairman meets election sub-commissions, political parties, departmental officials, CSOs

Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye meets election sub-commissions at different levels, CSOs and departmental officials in Lashio.—MNA

Government, Hluttaw representatives, students issue joint declaration on amendment of national education law

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Jan — Representatives of the government, the Hluttaw and students of the Leading Committee for Democracy Education Movement met at the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday morning and issued a joint declaration.

According to the declaration, the participants agreed to hold four party talks among the government, the Hluttaw, students and the National Network for Education Reform on 1 February in Yangon, to discuss the eleven demands of the students and find out solutions though dialogue, to discuss positively to reach agreements and continue to find solutions for differences through negotiations and to stop student protests on the day the talks begin.

Present at the meeting were Union Minister at the President Office U Aung Min, Deputy Minister U Thant Shin, Hluttaw representatives and representatives of the Leading Committee for Democracy Education.

Students who spent last night in Taungtha continued their journey and proceeded to Popa by car at mile post 423.—MNA

UEC members meet members of Open Myanmar Initiative

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Jan — Member of Union Election Commission U Myint Naing received 13 members of Open Myanmar Initiative and 27 trainees at the commission office, here, on Tuesday.

Commission members U Win Kyi, U Nyunt Tin and U Win Ko explained basic voter list compilation, casting vote and voting in advance, invitation to local monitoring groups, voter education, voting system, election law, rules and political parties registration law. It was also attended by UEC members, the secretary and commission officials.—MNA
MYANMAUNG, 28 Jan — A ceremony to hand over a school building to Ministry of Education was held at Basic Education High School Branch in Hanthongbin Village-tract in Myanmar Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 27 January. Township Administrator U Min Min Tun, Township Education Officer U Win Myint and Manager of European Commercial Ltd (EAC Foundation) U Saw Aung formally opened the new school building.

The manager explained the purpose of construction for the school building. Officials presented a certificate of honour to the company. European Commercial Ltd (EAC Foundation) donated a 60 feet long, 20 feet wide and 12 feet high school building.

The ceremony was also attended by Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw representative U Aung Win Swe, the township education officers and local people.

Nay Win Zaw (Myanmaung)

**BEHS branch gets new building in Myanaung Tsp**

First line-up players of Myanmar U-20 team seen in a group photo before playing against German club in Turkey.

Yangon, 28 Jan — Myanmar U-20 team played a tune-up match with BAK (Berlin) FC in the third division of Germany in Turkey on 27 January.

**IPRD gives mobile library service to rural people**

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 Jan — Head of Zeyathiri Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Mya San Yi and staff made a trip to Sibingyi Village on 27 January for giving mobile library service to the rural people. They lent various subjects of books and publications to the local people for broadening their knowledge scope.

The mobile library allowed local people to borrow over 200 books for a week.

Soe Thu Aung (Zeyar)

**Myanmar youth win over Germany’s third division club on wide margin**

Yangon, 28 Jan — Myanmar U-20 team thrashed the German team with a 4-1 result. Captain Nanda Kyaw scored an opening goal in 25th minute for Myanmar U-20 team through a penalty kick. Striker Than Paing added one more goal for the Myanmar team in the 68th minute, followed by third goal that came from striker Aung Thu in the 88th minute.

Myanmar team grasped one more great chance of penalty kick in the 91st minute. Midfielder Nyein Chan Aung could translate the chance into the fourth winning goal for Myanmar.

Myanmar U-20 lost to Iran U-22 in a tune-up match in Turkey on recent day. In the match, Iran routed Myanmar 3-1.

Maung Maung Soe of Myanmar scored only one goal into the net of Iran through a header in the 83rd minute.

At present, Myanmar youth players are taking training in Turkey as part of preparations to par in the coming U-20 World Cup.

The mobile library allowed local people to borrow over 200 books for a week.

Soe Thu Aung (Zeyar)

**Farmer representatives discuss uplift of living standard of rural people**

Mandalay, 28 Jan — As part of efforts to beef up the third wave reform process of the nation, a meeting on uplift of socioeconomic life of farmers was held at the hall of Mandalay Education College in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, on 26 January.

Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint made a speech. Farmer representatives from Mandalay, PyinOoLwin, Kyaukse, Meiktila, Myingyan, NyaungU and Yamethin districts participated in discussions. Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Khin Maung Aye explained plans to sell agricultural machinery to farmers through installment for uplift of their living standard and Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing explained plans to distribute quality paddy strains and agricultural techniques to local farmers.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)
Religious association honours winner novices in religious examination

Mandalay, 28 Jan — Mandalay Pariyatti Sasan-ahita Association offered certificates to winners in the 66th novice religious examination at its hall on 85th street in Chanayethazan Township on 27 January. Officials of the association presented certificates to 579 novices. Abbot of Shwewawhin monastery in Myaung Taik Sayadaw Bhadanta Sasanabhivamsa gave words of advice.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Village library extends building for readers’ convenience

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 Jan — A library identified “Meik Swe Kaung” was commissioned into service in Setkon Village, Pobbatthiri Township, on 28 February 2012 with over 3,000 books and publications.

Thanks to the village library committee, the librarian and townsenders, number of books rose to over 10,000 as a knowledge bank of local people from Setkon and its surrounding villages.

At present, the library officials could organize wellwishers to donate books and journals monthly and weekly to the library. Due to increasing number of books and readers, the library needs to extend its building for convenient reading of local people.

Wellwisher U Kyi Soe-Daw Yadana Win and family of Pyinnmana donated a 40 feet long and 30 feet wide building for the library.

Deputy Director of Nay Pyi Taw Information and Public Relations Department Daw Thin Thin Zin and Head of Township IPRD Daw Theint Theint Myo inspected progress of construction tasks on 27 January.

The same day, a readers’ discussion was held at the library between IPRD officials and local readers. Deputy Director Daw Thin Thin Zin explained advantages of literature and an important role of village library and Daw Theint Theint Myo of Pobbatthiri Township IPRD, purpose of holding the readers’ discussion.

Shwe Kokko

WRUD sinks tube-wells in Tatkon Township to irrigate farmlands

Tatkon, 28 Jan — Water Resources Utilization Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation sank two tube-wells in Shaukkon Village-tract in Tatkon Township in 2013-14 fiscal year.

The department planned to sink eight wells in 2014-15 fiscal year. It has so far sunk one tube-well each in the fields of Daw Khin Myint, Daw Thay, U Ni and U Myint Aung in the village-tract.

Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myint Shwe and Township Administration at its hall on 85 street, flower wholesaler Daw Nyo Khing told reporters.

“Thiri Marlar flower is the largest flower market in Mandalay, but vendors are engaging in trading of flowers at the flower market near Sakkyathiha Pagoda,” a vendor Ma Thet said. At present, vendors sell K150 per small bundle of aster flower, K350 per gladiola, K500 per chrysanthemum, K3,000 per carnation and K10,000 per pehot flowers.

Most of the aster flowers are sent by Ywathit, Kalar, Hsinat and Baythaung villages in Ngazun Township to Mandalay’s market. Chinese companies export its best species of flowers to Mandalay’s market.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Grows good price on sales of aster flower

Mandalay, 28 Jan — Less yield of aster flowers gets good prices in the flower market in Mandalay, according to the flower wholesalers at Thiri Marlar flower market on 26th street in Aungnyethazan Township, Mandalay.

“I have been selling flowers as my livelihood for 20 years. This year, bad weather caused decline to yield of flower but flower growers get good prices. From November to March, growers send flowers to this market in the morning, and we distribute them to Madaya, Kyaukse, Sagaing and Meiktila. As retail sales, we sell flowers to local vendors from 4 pm to 9 pm daily in Mandalay. Vendors sell flowers at Hombutans market on 30th street,” flower wholesaler Daw Nyo Khing told reporters.

“Thiri Marlar flower is the largest flower market in Mandalay, but vendors are engaging in trading of flowers at the flower market near Sakkyathiha Pagoda,” a vendor Ma Thet said. At present, vendors sell K150 per small bundle of aster flower, K350 per gladiola, K500 per chrysanthemum, K3,000 per carnation and K10,000 per pehot flowers.

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Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Fire engulfs shed in Patheingyi Tsp

Pathingyi, 28 Jan — A fire broke out at a shed in the compound of U Naing Zaw Oo (a) Ar Ti near Aungchantha Pagoda in NanUwin Village in Pathingyi Township, at 10.25 pm on 26 January.

Personnel of Township Fire Services Department and auxiliary fire brigade members put out the fire within five minutes. Pathingyi Myoma police station opened a file of lawsuit over outbreak of fire. — Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)
Indonesian president rules out reprieve for Australians on death row

SYDNEY, 28 Jan — Indonesian President Joko Widodo has indicated two Australians convicted of drug offences will not receive a reprieve from execution, a refusal to pardon that is likely to strain already fragile ties between the two neighbours.

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott has personally asked for clemency for the two members of the so-called Bali Nine who were arrested at Bali’s Denpasar airport in August 2005 for attempting to smuggle 8 kg (18 lb) of heroin to Australia. But Widodo, who took office in October, pledged to continue Indonesia’s hardline approach to drug traffickers, which saw executions resume in 2013 after a five-year gap.

“I imagine every day we have 50 people die because of narcotics, in one year it’s 18,000 people because of narcotics,” Widodo told CNN. “We are not going to compromise for drug dealers. No compromise, no compromise.”

Abdott had said Myuran Sukumaran, 33, and Andrew Chan, 31, were reformed characters who had assisted others in prison as he stressed Australia’s opposition to the death penalty. Widodo said the decision rested with the court.

“They can ask for amnesty to the president but I tell you there will be no amnesty for drug dealers,” he said. He was asked: “So no relief for the Australians?”

He responded by shaking his head.

It was not immediately clear when the executions might take place.

Indonesia’s resumption of the death penalty has drawn criticism from human rights activists both at home and abroad. Australia’s Foreign Minister Julia Bishop said last week she would not rule out calling her country’s ambassador should the executions be carried out. Brazil and the Netherlands recalled their ambassadors from Jakarta, while Nigeria summoned the Indonesian ambassador in Abuja to protest against the execution of their citizens earlier this month.

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 Jan — Malaysia will release an interim report on MH370 on 7 March, a day before the one-year anniversary of the disappearance, deputy transport minister Aziz Kaprawi said on Wednesday.

“It will have details on the technical investigation,” Aziz told Reuters.

This is to abide by a requirement from the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) for Malaysia to release an interim report on the anniversary of the incident, said Aziz.

The flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing carrying 239 passengers and crew went missing on 8 March.

The findings of an international investigation team set up in April 2014 will also be included in the report. The international team consists of the US National Transportation Safety Board, Britain’s Air Accidents Investigations Branch, China’s Aircraft Accident Investigation Department, France’s Land Transport Accident Investigation Bureau, the Australian Transport Safety Bureau, aircraft manufacturer Boeing and British satellite communications company Inmarsat.

The airline’s crisis worsened on 17 July when another jet, Flight MH17, was shot down over Ukraine, killing all 298 people on board.

Rounding out a bad year for Southeast Asian carriers, an AirAsia flight from Indonesia’s second-biggest city of Surabaya to Singapore crashed in December, killing all 162 people on board.

Thailand warns US to mind its own business over politics

BANGKOK, 28 Jan — Thailand has expressed concern to the United States about meddling in its political affairs, which ended months of political unrest.

The ban and the legal case against her are the last twist in 10 years of turbulent politics that have pitted Yingluck and her brother Thaksin, himself a former prime minister, against the royalist-military establishment that sees the Shinawatra as a threat and reviles their populist policies.

Yingluck will face criminal charges in the Supreme Court next month, and if found guilty faces up to 10 years in jail.

Southeast Asia grouping again ponders common time zone

KOTA Kinabalu, (Malaysia), 28 Jan — Foreign ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations have revisited a proposal for a common time zone among the group’s 10 member countries in order to boost business linkages, Malaysian Foreign Minister Anifah Aman said here on Wednesday.

“With ASEAN forming an integrated and cohesive community by the end of the decade, Malaysia is proposing that a common time zone for ASEAN capitals is an idea worth considering,” Anifah said at a press conference at the end of the ASEAN foreign ministers’ two-day retreat in Kota Kinabalu, the capital of Malaysia’s Sabah state in Borneo island.

The retreat set the pace for a series of meetings that Malaysia will host as this year’s chair of ASEAN.

Anifah said the proposal for a common time zone was first mooted as early as 1994 and then in 2004.

In his press statement, he listed several benefits of a common time zone, including enhancement of business and banking linkages and airline operations.

There are currently four time zones among the group’s 10 member countries — Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Malay- sia, Myanmar, the Philip- pines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Malaysia, Singapore, the Philippines and Brunei are on GMT +8.00 hours while Thai- land and the other Indochina countries are on GMT +7.00 hours. Malaysia is on GMT +6.50 hours. Indo- nesia, an archipelago with thousands of islands, cov- ers three time zones from GMT +7.00 hours to +9.00 hours.— Kyodo News

Thai deputy foreign minister Don Pramudwinai

Thai deputy foreign minister Don Pramudwinai has said while the coup last May, and the junta says a general election is at least a year away.

Relations between the two sides have deteriorated sharply since the coup, with Washington freezing aid and cancelling some security engagements.

In an address to students at a Bangkok university on Monday, Assistant US Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific Daniel Russel called for more inclusive politics and the end of martial law.

The comments from Russel, the highest-level US official to visit Thailand since the coup came a few days after ousted Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra was banned from politics for five years and indicted on criminal charges over a state rice buying scheme.

“We don’t agree with the Assistant Secretary of State talking about politics at Chulalongkorn University. It hurt many Thais,” Thai deputy foreign minister Don Pramudwinai told reporters after summoning the US charge d’affaires, Patrick Murphy.

“If we comply with (Washington’s wish) and lift martial law and it leads to problems, how will those people who are asking for the lifting of martial law take responsibility?” he said. “In reality, Thais don’t even know there is martial law.”

Russel had said while Washington did not take sides in Thai politics, it was for the Thai people to determine the legitimacy of the political and legal processes. He expressed concerns that the political process did not seem to represent all elements in Thai society.

Russel met with representatives of the military government, but did not meet Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, who took power after leading the coup.

Prayuth said he hoped that the latest flare-up would not affect bilateral trade, adding that economic ties were continuing as normal.

“It saddens me that the United States does not understand the reason why I had to intervene and does not understand the way we work, even though we have been close allies for years,” Prayuth told reporters.

In the diplomatic tit-for-tat, the Thai deputy foreign minister said Washington did not understand the complexities of the local political scene.

“The US does not understand Thai politics,” Don said. “Yingluck’s impeachment was not a political matter.”

Washington downgraded diplomatic ties after the coup, blocking $4.7 million of security-related aid as well as suspending high-level engagements and some military exercises and police training programs.

Thailand’s military government has promised reforms and an eventual return to democratic rule, but critics say the army has stifled free speech.

Yingluck, the country’s first female premier, was removed from office for abuse of power last May, days before the coup which ended months of political unrest. Nearly 30 people died in street protests.

The ban and the legal case against her are the latest twist in 10 years of turbulent politics that have pitted Yingluck and her brother Thaksin, himself a former prime minister, against the royalist-military establishment that sees the Shinawatra as a threat and reviles their populist policies.

Yingluck will face criminal charges in the Supreme Court next month, and if found guilty faces up to 10 years in jail.
China Voice: Judicial system must regain people’s trust

BEIJING, 28 Jan — Clearing up the “bad influence” left by Zhou Yongkang is necessary to restoring the people’s trust in the judicial system. Zhou is only one of the more than 60 high-ranking officials nailed since November 2012. His case is special because he once led the nation’s top independent police authorities. He was a member of the standing committee of the political bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) central committee, in charge of political and legal work.

Zhou failed to abide by precisely those laws that he was sworn to uphold. His conduct damaged the political and legal work.

Four killed in military chopper crash in southern Vietnam

Hanoi Times

Ho Chi Minh City, 28 Jan — Four people were killed after a military helicopter crashed in Vietnam’s southern Ho Chi Minh (HCM) City on Wednesday, local online VNextpress reported.

Lt Gen Vo Van Tuan, deputy chief of staff of the Vietnam People’s Army, was quoted as saying that news from Regiment 917, Air Division 917, was quoted as saying that there were four soldiers on the chopper.

The military Air Defence, reported that four people aboard all died.

Tuan said the military helicopter UH 1 departed from Tan Son Nhat Airport in HCM City at 7:00 am local time on a training mission, but eight minutes later it lost contacts in Binh Chanh district of HCM City. Search and rescue work was underway, he added.

Cambodian PM’s participation in Davos forum paves way for new investments

PHNOM PENH, 28 Jan — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen’s participation in the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, last week provided a good opportunity for the country to promote its potential to new investors, a senior government official said on Wednesday.

Hun Sen, accompanied by economy, commerce, and investment ministers, took part in the forum for the first time last week and returned to Cambodia on Wednesday.

“At the forum, the prime minister had underlined Cambodia’s investment potential and opportunities to business leaders from across the globe in an attempt to attract new investments to Cambodia,” Kao Kim Hourn, minister attached to Prime Minister Hun Sen, told reporters at Phnom Penh International Airport. He said the forum was a good chance for Cambodia to promote its investment potential because some of the investors at the forum had never been to Cambodia.

“Many investors had expressed their interest in business opportunities in Cambodia,” he said.

According to the official, Hun Sen’s participation in Davos forum had also further strengthened Cambodia’s diplomacy on international arena.

More than 40 heads of states and governments attended the four-day forum featuring 280 sessions and workshops. Besides, the annual forum drew 2,500 participants from over 140 countries representing businesses, governments, international organizations, academia, civil society and the media.

Embattled Australia PM Abbott vows to consult more after Prince Philip furore

SYDNEY, 28 Jan — Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said on Wednesday he would take criticism of his decision to grant Britain’s Prince Philip a knighthood “on the chin”, promising greater consultation as speculation about his future as leader mounted.

Abbott, an avowed monarchist who was born in England, bestowed Australia’s highest honour on Queen Elizabeth II’s husband earlier this week, provoking widespread criticism, including some from within his party.

“In the end this is my call and I’m happy to take these things on the chin,” Abbott told reporters in Melbourne. “Obviously there are some lessons in these things and the lesson that I learn is that there does need to be wider consultation about these sorts of awards in the future.”

Australian-born media baron Rupert Murdoch, a staunch supporter of Abbott and his conservative Liberal-National government, was quoted as saying the prime minister’s powerful chief of staff should quit. “Abbott again. Tough to write, but if he won’t replace top aide Peta Credlin she must do her patriotic duty and resign,” Murdoch said on his Twitter feed. “Forget fairness. This change only way to recover team work and achieve so much possible for Australia. Leading involves cruel choices.”

Credlin has been a lightning rod for much of the criticism of the Abbott leadership after a series of perceived missteps and a souring economy that have seen its popularity plummet in recent months.

Based on chats with folks this AM, for the 1st time (& I can’t believe I’m saying this) I now don’t think PM can make it to the next election,” Peter van Onselen, political commentator and contributing editor at Murdoch’s The Australian newspaper said on Twitter. Abbott’s surprise reintroduction of knights and dames in the former British colony’s honours system last year drew criticism that he was out of touch with national sentiment. At the time he said they were intended to recognise “pre-eminent Australians”.

Kevin Rudd has said Abbott’s furore could be the “first shot to the heart” of the Liberal-National government. Rudd the former prime minister also has tipped Tony Abbott to be the first Coalition leader to“The meeting aimed at signing a TPP, which would cover some 40 percent of the global economy, has already rounded a fifth year due to lingering gaps over thorny issues such as market access, intellectual property and reforms of state-owned enterprises.”

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Kydoo News
Any problem, when solved eagerly, can be solved really

By Kyaw Thura

Thursday, 29 January, 2015

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Problem solving is an unavoidable part of human society and all organizations. This makes it clear that solving problems is not just limited to people at the top. Most adults are under the illusion that they know better and do better than younger people. In reality, age has nothing to do with maturity. It is necessary for people from all social strata to realize their roles as problem solvers and solution finders, since everybody hurts as long as a problem remains unsolved.

Naturally, daunting challenges undermine every confidence in our abilities to tackle difficult situations. It is imperative to note that problems can be difficult to solve when we only know the issue and fail to work out the steps to fix it.

The most difficult step is trying to understand the problem and figure out what it is really about before making up how to solve it. We are under the impression that every problem should be looked at broadly, which for sure will lead us to a wrong conclusion. All we need to do is to take actionable steps to approach the problem and move on to actually solve it.

Aplomb, Self-possession and Dogged determination act like the propulsive power to success

By Tommy Pauk

W

E humans cannot attain success easily in life. Success of an individual mainly depends on a person’s morale and attitude. Success of the community or a success of the society depends on solidarity of the people concerned. A successful person always attempts with aplomb, self-possession and dogged determination properly. A successful person here means a person who has completely succeeded in education, politics, business, innovation, invention, adventurous exploration and medical science etc. These are the human characteristics for struggling or striving to achieve something in life. Unless a person has aplomb, he or she cannot succeed in some attempts or reach personal goal. When we have an ambition or dream or aspiration, we are obliged to strive hard by ourselves. Don’t expect any help or contribution from others. We must culture self-reliance and self-confidence or self-possession in our minds firmly. Self-reliance is in the sense that we must use our own effort to fulfill our ambition or intention completely indeed. Self-confidence is that we must confide in our own ability and skill to achieve success strongly. So we must show great aplomb in dealing with the endeavor for success. This morale acts like a propulsive power to gain success in life. It is a common knowledge and not a secret key to success in life. If we always want to depend on others and to expect assistance, our capability and efficiency will be faded away. In other words, we will become wally or oaf or inert persons as we do not make our own efforts. The lazy bones and wally will never succeed in life due to their habit and behavior indeed. When we do not have self-confidence, we cannot overcome obstacles and barriers in life. This is the driving force or propulsive power to success indeed. We need to use this power constantly and adventurously. On the contrary, as a human nature, we sometimes feel downright and despondent when we face or encounter great barriers in the life struggle. Frequently, we are inclined to surrender or give up our own attempts for gaining some achievements or success. In this situation, we ought to control our mends to be stable in striving with aplomb carefully. Psychologically, downrightness and despondence induce man to fail in any attempt to success or progress in life. The downright-nature and denopard–nature cause miserable and desperate human life. However, aplomb conduces man to win over difficulties and achieve success straight. For example; the inventors, the benefactors for great and modern achievements of human beings, had-struggled with aplomb to gain success in inventing airplane, electricity, telephone etc. The inventors had sacrificed and dedicated their lives to find or invent new things which could contribute or help humans enjoy convenient, easier and comfortable life with sincere and genuine goodwill. As a proverbial saying goes; ‘Where there is a will, there is a way’, we should not have thought before using the right way and to implement or materialize the will. Even then, we must have correct guideline and timeline to strive or make efforts with aplomb. Otherwise, our attempts will be in vain. In other words, aplomb can fulfill our strong will and burning desire. If a person wants to possess prowess, he or she must attempt to attain it with great aplomb.

Dogged-determination is closely associated with self-possession in characters. If a person’s morale is made up of dogged-determination and aplomb, he or she could achieve a successful life in human society. Dogged determination motivates a person concerned to succeed in attempting something in life. A person who strives doggedly, becomes a successful man in any endeavor in life. So, dogged-determination acts like a propulsive power to win the victory in life or achieve success certainly. First and foremost, each and every person has to determine and commit to carry out their plans. Afterwards, they carry out the tasks with their capacity and skill. However, they need to do their tasks doggedly so that they can achieve their own independent success in doing the tasks. We should know that the hesitant – nature or wavering – nature is the hindrance to dogged-determination. Therefore, we must get rid of hesistant-nature from our minds totally so as to cultivate dogged-determination in life. The dogged-determination brings us victory or success in life. This is indeed a high morale which pushes us to step forward to reach our aims or goals. In here, self-possession is vitally important to gear up the aims and objects to be achieved.

When we have determination to do something for our life, we normally look for the most suitable way to implement it or to accomplish it or to execute it. In this case, the firm determination is to be utilized so that we can achieve success. We should not deviate from our aim or goal in implementation process. If a man without dogged determination is like a boat without rudder or like a dullard. Since he or she has neither particular direction nor dogged determination to reach some goal, the aimless life leads him or her to a sub-standard life. Some world prominent figures or people have attained great life or great life by struggling with dogged determination. For example; General Aung San of Myanmar, who founded Myanmar Armed forces and fought against the British colonialists to regain Myanmar’s own independence heroically. His dogged determination and self-possession led him to that the British must be overcome certainly and Myanmar’s own independence from British colonialists. His dogged determination aiming at regaining Myanmar’s own independence was trusted by the entire people of Myanmar. His noble morale, spirit of patriotism, aplomb motivated and unified the entire people of Myanmar to drive out the British colonialists from Myanmar’s soil unitedly and unanimously.

Another example is about the man’s attempt to reach and land on the moon. It was a heroic success in space exploration. Unless the space scientists and space astronaut attempted with self-confidence or aplomb or dogged determination, man could not reach the moon. NASA’s program, experiment, survey and practical training for reaching and landing on the moon were based on dogged determination with aplomb. As a result, the man named Neil Armstrong, an American astronaut, had walked on the moon. Neil Armstrong became the first man to walk on the moon and he accomplished the feat on July 20, 1969. He was also convinced of the NASA’s program with dogged determination, self-possession and aplomb. This remarkable feat declared that man is capable of using space technology to reach and land on the moon with space-craft among the celestial beings in the solar system. This breakthrough was significantly recorded in human history. So, it is obvious to learn that the dogged determination, self-possession and aplomb act like the propulsive power to success.

Developing human civilizations and the technology of modern civilization are created by man’s dogged determination and struggle on the earth. We humans aspire to the tasks for the development of human society so we decide to upgrade it firmly. Then we make concerted efforts to uplift the standard of humanity. Our dogged determination motivates us to implement the aims ardently. Eventually we reach our goals. It is an honorable success indeed. The high morale of technologists also invent or innovate things for modern civilization with dogged determination in the same way as human civilization development. It is convinced that the evolution of human civilization is generated by aplomb, self-possession and dogged determination. These characteristics or distinguishing qualities in human minds among people...
Coordination focuses on presentation of President’s Excellent Award

NAV Pyi Taw, 28 Jan—The President’s Excellent Award scrutiny committee held the second coordination meeting at the President Office Ministry, here, on Wednesday.

Chairmen of the work committee deputy ministers Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, U Thein Aung, Dr Win Myint and Dr Zaw Min Aung discussed extension of members at respective work committees, designation of awards, rules for point system, and field trips for assessment.

Region and state ministers participated in discussions on competition of candidates from respective regions and states and selection of winners in the awards through video conferencing.

Chairman of the scrutiny committee Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein reviewed discussions of participants.

They also focused on releasing information, making medals, transport and preparations for awarding ceremony. Secretary of the committee deputy minister U Kyaw Kyaw Win urged all to actively carry out the tasks to have better result in this year’s ceremony.

DHSID, KOICA agree establishment of Yangon-Hanthawady-Bago Corridor and Yangon Southwestern Regional Development

NAV Pyi Taw, 28 Jan—The signing ceremony of the Record of Discussions (ROD) between Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development, Ministry of Construction, on the Project for establishment of master plans for Yangon-Hanthawady-Bago Corridor and Bankers, telcos, solution providers...

(from page 1)

"It is not too soon for Myanmar’s telecom and banking communities to embrace mobile banking initiatives and e-commerce possibilities, U Khin Maung Nyo, an economist, told The Global New Light of Myanmar. But he stressed the importance of trust and security paving the way to a safe environment in which to send money online."

"From my point of view, late movers will be given the advantage of not sustaining the risks," said U Than Sein of United Amara Bank Ltd, adding not to worry about security risks. He highlighted advantages of choosing ones that are proven to minimize security concerns and being provided by international technology vendors dealing with security of mobile banking and payments for many years.

In Myanmar, some domestic banks, including CB Bank and Inwa Bank, that have recently launched mobile banking services and telcos are about to race to get a slice of the new market. The financial services aiming to reach out to a large unbanked population in rural areas are expected to boom in the country.

Student protester Ko Nanda Sit Aung.

MNA

"When we promised to hold four-party talks and set the time and venue, students agreed to suspend their protests as their demand was met," Union Minister U Aung Min told Myanmar News Agency.

Government officials and leaders of student protesters agreed to hold talks as demanded by student protesters.

As the president has often said, solution can be reached through dialogues. We are now on the path to talks, the union minister added.

A little misunderstanding between the government and students caused the protests and arrangements of the government and the Hlutaw were explained to students at the meeting, according to the union minister.

U Min Ko Naing of 88 Generation Peace and Open Society hailed the agreement between the government and the students, saying that it was a good step forward and both the government and the students were required to keep the promise.

Ko Zayar Lwin of Yangon Institute of Economics agreed that the meeting was important and it was a rare meeting in the history of student movement.

He believed that the four-party talks of the strike committee, the leading committee for democracy education movement, the national network for education reform and the government will solve the national education law crisis.

Other demands of the students will be discussed at the talks, he added.

The talks will begin on 1 February and the protests will also be suspended as soon as the talks begin, according to Ko Nanda Sit Aung of All Burma Federation of Student Unions (Central Working Committee).

Union Minister U Aung Min replies to queries at media at the ceremony to issue four points agreement.—MNA

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Aplomb, Self-possession and...

(from page 8)

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Don’t hesitate and deviate when you have dogged determination for the good faith of mankind!

Cynthia Law, head of virtual banking & payments of Maybank, shares experience in mobile banking and mobile transfers at the 6th Annual Asia/Myanmar Mobile Money + E-Commerce Summit 2015 in Yangon on Wednesday.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

Aung Min told Myanmar News Agency, student protesters agree to hold four-party talks

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Brazil’s Rousseff urges cabinet to back belt-tightening

Brazil’s President Dilma Rousseff

BRASILIA, 28 Jan — Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff urged her cabinet on Tuesday to embrace fiscal belt-tightening and other measures aimed at restoring business confidence and growth in her second term.

Rousseff stressed the need to rein in wasteful spending and to do more with less, a policy that investors want to see but that has caused frictions within the ruling Workers’ Party.

“We need a fiscal rebalancing to recover economic growth as soon as possible so we can bring down inflation and interest rates and, thus, guarantee jobs and incomes,” she said at her first cabinet meeting since being sworn in on 1 January for a new term.

She vowed to preserve social programmes that have reduced poverty, but said pension and unemployment benefits will have to be trimmed.

Labour unions plan protests on Wednesday against the policy changes, a first show of opposition to the belt-tightening from within the ranks of traditional allies of her Workers’ Party.

The leftist leader said the adjustment will be “gradual” and started with budget cuts for all ministries. Steps will be taken to cut red tape and encourage investment by expanding private concessions in infrastructure projects.

Taxes will be simplified to ease the burden on companies and make them more competitive to boost exports, she said. Rousseff’s new finance minister, hawkish banker Joaquim Levy, has already raised taxes on fuel, imports and cosmetics to make up for a widening fiscal shortfall that has soured the mood of investors.— Reuters

Venezuelan president rejects crime accusation against socialist leader

CARACAS, 28 Jan — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro on Tuesday rebuffed media reports that accused his top party aide of drug trafficking, calling it a new “maneuver” by the opposition.

In a TV broadcast, Maduro said the charge against Diosdado Cabello, his top aide from the United Socialist Party, is a new “campaign to discredit” the country’s most important revolutionary leader just after the head of state.

“I want to take this opportunity to reject this new plan against Diosdado Cabello. He has all my support,” said the president.

Two Spanish-language newspapers reported on Tuesday that Cabello, who is the bodyguard, Leamsy Salazar, had fled to the United States where he’s allegedly cooperating with the Drug Enforcement Agency.

According to the reports, Salazar has documents that indicate the implication of the socialist leader in crimes as head of a drug cartel made up of political and military officials.

“This a very vulgar campaign against Cabello,” behind which is the “imperial hand” of the US government, said Maduro.

Meanwhile, Cabello responded on Twitter to the allegations. “Every attack against me strengthens my spirit and resolve,” he said, thanking people for support at a time of “infamy and intrigue.”

Socialist legislators also rejected the accusation as a “desperate action” by right-wing groups, although they recognized that Salazar belonged to Cabello’s security team.— Xinhua

Spying program leaked by Snowden is tied to campaign in many countries

Former US National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden

San Francisco, 28 Jan — A program used by British and US spies to record computer keystrokes was part of sophisticated hacking operations in more than a dozen countries, security experts said on Tuesday, after former NSA contractor Edward Snowden reportedly leaked the source code for the program.

On Tuesday, researchers at security software firm Kaspersky Lab said that much of that code, published this month by German magazine Spiegel, matched what they previously found in machines infected by Regin, a major suite of spying tools exposed in November.

Overall, the malicious software has been discovered at more than two dozen sites in 14 countries, including Russia, India, Germany and Brazil. Targets included government agencies, financial institutions and multilateral bodies.

“The NSA did not respond to a request for comment. After past Snowden disclosures, it has avoided discussing specific operations but said it complies with US law, which allows broad surveillance over the course of a decade,” the magazine reported.

Multiple attacker groups are using the Regin platform, which is a new conclusion for us,” Rau said to Reuters.

Spiegel and other publications reported earlier that Regin had been used in the hacking of Belgian telecom communications provider Belgacom, which slides provided by Snowden was targeted to enable spying on mobile phones in Europe.

Overall, the malicious software has been discovered at more than two dozen sites in 14 countries, including Russia, India, Germany and Brazil. Targets included government agencies, financial institutions and multilateral bodies.

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Reuters

Greece PM Tsipras names anti-austerity cabinet, port sale halted

ATHENS, 28 Jan — Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras named a cabinet of anti-austerity veterans and halted privatization of Greece’s biggest port on Tuesday, signaling he aims to stick to election pledges despite warning shots from Eurozone and IMF creditors.

Promising to reverse budget cuts and renegotiate Greek’s huge debts, Tsipras’ leftist Syriza party stormed to power in Sunday’s snap election on a wave of anger against the German-backed austerity policies that have driven up poverty and left one in four Greek workers out of a job.

Among a team spanning the radical and more pragmatic wings of Syriza, Tsipras named academic economist Yanis Varoufakis as his finance minister. The defence portfolio went to Panos Kammenos, leader of the right-wing Independent Greeks party which is the junior partner in the Syriza coalition.

One of the first decisions announced by the new government was stopping the planned sale of a 67 percent stake in the Piraeus Port Authority (OLPA). Agreed under its international bailout deal for which China’s COSCO Group COSCO.UL and four other suitors had been shortlisted.

“There is no deal.外界 should be told the sale of state assets, a plan of the 240 billion-euro bailout agreement. Stakes in the port of Thessaloniki (OLT-AT), the country’s second biggest, along with railroad operator Trainose and screaming stock operator ROSCO are also slated to be sold.

In a separate step, the deputy minister in charge of administrative reform, George Katrougalos said the government would reverse some layoffs of public sector workers, rolling back another key bailout measure.

“It will be one of the first pieces of legislation that I will bring in as a minister,” he told Mega TV.

Vavoufakis has railed against the bailouts of struggling euro zone states as “fiscal waterboarding”. But after being sworn in, he said the government would be constructive.

“We are about to begin negotiating with our partners,” he told reporters. “It is a great challenge, but the challenge is how to minimize social costs that were unnecessary throughout Europe,” he said.— Reuters

By AP-Times, Reuters, AFP.
Too soon to say ‘mission accomplished’ in Kobani — US official

WASHINGTON, 28 Jan — Kurdish fighters’ expulsion of Islamic State forces from the Syrian town of Kobani helped stop the momentum of the Islamist group but is not a significant turning point in the overall campaign, a senior State Department official said on Tuesday.

The setback for Islamic State in the war-ravaged town near the Turkish border did not mean “anyone is declaring mission accomplished” in the international campaign against the group, that has taken over parts of Syria and Iraq, the official said.

US air strikes in liaison with Kurdish ground troops and Iraqi Kurd reinforcements allowed in from Turkey tipped the battle the Kurds’ way, and the Islamic State’s appetite for the fight had been undermined by heavy death tolls.

“About 90 percent of the town has been retaken and ISIL, whether on order or the fact that they are just breaking ranks, are withdrawing from the town,” the official told reporters, employing a frequently used acronym for the al-Qaeda offshoot.

“The entire notion of this organization that is on the march and the inevitable expansion and inevitable momentum has been halted at Kobani,” added the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Afghans arrest commander of group that claimed killing Swedish journalist

KABUL, 28 Jan — Afghanistan’s main intelligence agency said on Wednesday it had arrested a commander of a militant group known as the “Suicide Front”, that claimed responsibility last year for the execution-style killing of a Swedish journalist.

Nils Horner, 51, who worked for Swedish Radio and held dual British-Swedish nationality, was shot dead in the capital’s diplomatic quarter in last March. The killing compounded fears of deteriorating security ahead of the withdrawal of most foreign troops.

The militant group had separately claimed responsibility for the killing of the governor of the province of Logar the previous year.

“The National Directorate of Security detained a militant commander for the terrorist group Mazar-e-Fedaiyan... with two pistols, two time bombs and a silencer,” said Hasib Sediqi, a spokesman for the agency, referring to the group.

The militants, who described themselves as a Taleban splinter faction, said the radio journalist was a spy for Britain’s intelligence agency.

Britain’s mission in Afghanistan said it did not comment on such allegations. At the time, a Western diplomat dismissed the militants’ accusation as “complete nonsense”.

The Taleban denied any link to the militants who claimed Horner’s killing. The Swedish mission in Afghanistan said details of the arrest had been passed onto investigators in Sweden, but that it was too early to reach any conclusions. “The investigation in Sweden is still ongoing,” said deputy mission chief Anders Skold, adding that Swedish investigators working closely with the Afghan spy agency had been to Afghanistan last year and could return.

Frenchman, American among those killed in Tripoli hotel attack

TRIPOLI, 28 Jan — A Frenchman and an American national were among the foreign victims killed when gunmen stormed a Tripoli hotel on Tuesday, a Libyan security official said.

Triplı security spokesman Essam Naas said the French had been identified by his employee identification badge. He did not give further details, but said the other foreigners were Asian without giving any nationality.

The attack on the luxurious Corinthia Hotel was still under investigation and details remain unclear. But Libyan officials said two gunmen set off a car bomb before storming the hotel, killing four foreigners, a security officer and three guards.

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Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Katsunobu Kato told a Press conference that the video is likely credible, when the government believes the 24-hour period started, senior government officials only said Tokyo confirmed the existence of the video around 11 pm on Tuesday, Japan time.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe meets with reporters on 28 Jan, 2015, at his office in Tokyo, following a ministers’ meeting to deal with the hostage crisis.

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Spy agency employee was flying drone that crashed at White House

WASHINGTON, 28 Jan — An employee of a US spy agency had confessed to operating a small drone that crashed on the house of the White House on Tuesday. The employee was sentenced to home confinement for 30 days.

Mexico not planning to extradite drug kingpin Guzman

MEXICO CITY, 28 Jan — Mexico is not planning to extradite the United States to Mexico. Guzman, the most wanted drug kingpin in Mexico, was sentenced to 10 years in prison for drug trafficking.

Blizzard hits Boston and New England, spares New York despite forecasts

BOSTON / NEW YORK, 28 Jan — A powerful blizzard struck Boston and New England on Tuesday, leaving snow blankets up to 10 inches thick. The blizzard was expected to last through Wednesday, with more than 500 flights canceled.

Indonesia’s search for AirAsia crash victims could end in days

JAKARTA, 28 Jan — Indonesia’s search for the missing AirAsia flight QZ8501 has been ongoing since December 28. The search has been hampered by rough seas and rough weather, but recent advances in technology may allow for a faster resolution.

Global New Light of Myanmar
Food crisis in southern Iraq worsening, UN agency says

Singapore launches projects to commemorate “Battle for Singapore” from Japanese

AirAsia to cancel fuel surcharges

NPA leader nabbed in N Philippines

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INERENCE: Weather is generallyfair in the North Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 29TH JANUARY, 2015: Rain are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagraing Region and Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthyri Region and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of isolated light rain in the extreme in the Northern Myanmar areas.
Emma Stone ‘uncomfortable’ with paparazzi attention

NEW YORK, 28 Jan — Actress Emma Stone has revealed that she finds paparazzi attention “uncomfortable” outside her home.

The 26-year-old actress, who is dating her “Amazing Spider-Man” co-star Andrew Garfield, said she will never enjoy seeing people outside her house snapping photographs of her, reported the New York Times.

“It’s uncomfortable to have photographers outside of your home. That’s never going to feel good, and I don’t think that’s OK. Yet there’s also a goal to live life normally. So, if they photograph you walking to the same restaurant every morning, like you do when you live in a neighbourhood. Honestly, I try not to think about it any longer than when it’s happening,” she said.

Stone said she feels incredibly “protective” of her personal life.

“For me, I value privacy so much and I understand why I need to talk about the work, the films and all of that but it’s incredibly hard to reveal stuff about my life, so it makes me feel pretty boring and very protective.”

Taylor Swift says Twitter, Instagram accounts were hacked

LOS ANGELES, 28 Jan — Pop star Taylor Swift said her Twitter and Instagram accounts were hacked on Tuesday, but the rogue posts were quickly removed from the social media services.

The 25-year-old “Shake It Off” singer, whose album “1989” has been atop the charts for the past three months, has built a following of young fans through social media and has the fourth-most popular Twitter account with 51.4 million followers.

“My Twitter got hacked but don’t worry, Twitter is deleting the hacker tweets and locking my account until they can figure out how this happened and get me new passwords,” said a statement posted on Swift’s personal Tumblr page. “Never a dull moment.”

The statement added before another posting said that Swift’s Instagram account had been hacked as well.

Celebrities are frequent targets of hackers who have posted personal and embarrassing information online in previous high-profile hacks.

Swift’s publicist did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Twitter Inc and Facebook Inc-owned Instagram did not immediately respond to requests for comment on whether Swift’s accounts had been hacked.

The Grammy winner was back to tweeting two hours after the hacking, in which users were asked to follow two accounts that Twitter now lists as suspended.

“Cause the hackers gonna hack, hack, hack, hack, hack …,” Swift tweeted, mimicking the lyrics to her hit “Shake It Off.”

The apparent hacking of Swift’s accounts came as Facebook, the world’s largest social network, experienced a wide outage on Tuesday. A hacker group sought to claim responsibility, but the company said the outage was its fault.—Reuters

Amitabh Bachchan justifies title of R Balki’s ‘Shamitabh’

LONDON, 28 Jan — Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan dismissed suggestion that his name has been incorporated in his upcoming movie ‘Shamitabh’ for creating some kind of sensation and described the film as a “never before seen” plot.

Amitabh Bachchan, who is in London to promote the film along with co-stars Dhanush and Akshara Haasan, said, “A lot of people have been intrigued by the title and feel that my name has been incorporated for some kind of sensation. That is quite untrue.” “The title actually comes out of the script of the film. It’s a story of two individuals who have different exceptional qualities and what happens when they come together. I give my voice to the character of Dhanush…an aspect of the film which was a first for me,” explained Big B.

The actor described the film as a “never before seen” plot. Writer-director R Balki’s ‘Shamitabh’ will hit the screens around the world on 6 February.

“Balki has a very intellectual, sensitive mind. He thinks differently and has always made stories that have not been the regular escapist fare that you see in Hindi cinema. And I can say with certain amount of confidence that this is a plot that has never been seen before at least in Indian cinema, even may be true for cinema worldwide. “It’s been a great joy to be able to live with his thought process.” said the 72-year-old actor, who has worked with Balki on two previous critically-acclaimed films — ‘Cheeni Kum’ and ‘Paa’.—PTI

From Oscars to Sundance, Sharma and Revolori discuss India’s ‘Umrika’

PARK CITY, (Utah) 28 Jan — In the midst of the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, actors Suraj Sharma and Tony Revolori found themselves comparing notes on Hollywood's awards season, both having made their breakthrough in films that stormed into the Oscars race.

Indian actor Sharma, the lead of 2012’s Oscar-nominated “Life of Pi,” and Hispanic American actor Revolori, the star of this year’s quirky Oscar-nominated “The Grand Budapest Hotel,” joked about etiquette required at the Oscars as they discussed their role in “Umrika,” which premiered at Sundance last week.

“Umrika,” the Hindi word for America, follows Ramakant (Sharma), a rural Indian boy whose older brother Udayi mysteriously vanishes after he embarks for a new life in America.

But soon, detailed letters come from Udayi, through which Ramakant and his sheltered rural community learn and vicariously about “Umrika,” a foreign land that embodies the notion that anyone can make their dreams a possibility.

“The story for Rama is about finding this identity which is set apart from the identity that is put upon him, so it’s overshadowing what is the truth,” Sharma told Reuters. “Umrika” is the only Indian entry at this year’s Sundance Film Festival, where it is competing in the world drama competition.

“I was confronted with a lot of cliches growing up abroad, so I wanted to playfully turn that around and create a portrait of America as an exotic place through the eyes of these villagers,” said writer-director Prashant Nair.

While Sharma had the benefit of having Hindi as his native language, Revolori learned the Hindi dialect of Bundeli from scratch for “Umrika,” in which he plays Ramakant’s best friend Laloo.

“I’m Hispanic and I don’t have a lot of those head movements. It’s a lot of those things you’ll see in the film which you won’t even notice, but I had to get it right,” he said.—Reuters

Actors Tony Revolori (L) and Suraj Sharma pose at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah on 24 Jan, 2015.—Reuters
Author Macdonald’s ‘H is for Hawk’ takes top Costa book prize

LONDON, 28 Jan — British author Helen Macdonald’s searing memoir about how she coped with the grief of her father’s sudden death by training a goshawk won the 2014 Costa Book of the Year award on Tuesday.

Macdonald’s book “H is for Hawk”, which has received almost universal critical praise and garnered the prestigious Samuel Johnson Prize for Non-Fiction in November, won on the first ballot by the panel of nine judges, jury president and novelist Robert Harris said.

Macdonald said she hadn’t expected to win, and hadn’t expected the book to have the cathartic effect that it did.

“When I finished it and literally wrote the last sentence a weight fell off me that I was, so it was cathartic about the person that I was writing...” Harris said.

Helen Macdonald, nominee in the 2014 Costa Book Awards and winner of the Costa Biography Award category, poses with her book “H is for hawk” prior to the announcement of the overall winner in London on 27 Jan, 2015.— Reuters

Dates of 2018 Asian Games in Indonesia decided

JAKARTA, 28 Jan — The Olympic Council of Asia and the Indonesian Olympic Committee have agreed to hold the 2018 Asian Games from 18 August to 2 September, 2018, in the country, the Indonesian committee chairman said on Wednesday.

“It was decided during our meeting yesterday (Tuesday),” Rito Subowo, chairwoman of the Indonesian Olympic Committee, told Kyodo News. According to Subowo, however, the OCA has requested Indonesia to renovate some venues of the games, as well as to build new venues for events such as swimming and cycling.

“A total of 34 sports are expected to be featured (in the games),” Subowo said, adding that four sports proposed by Indonesia have yet to be approved by the OCA.

The proposed sports, expected to improve Indonesia’s medal prospects in the quadrennial games, are rock climbing, bowling, paragliding and roller skating.

The OCA, Subowo added, approved the country’s traditional martial art “penca kila,” which will be making its debut in the next Asian Games.— Kyodo News

Sisterly advice to help Serena prepare for Keys

MELBOURNE, 28 Jan — Serena Williams will turn to her sister for advice for her all-American semi-final against Madison Keys, the teenager with designs on the throne of US women’s tennis.

An injury-hampered Keys defeated Venus Williams in three sets on Wednesday to continue her fairytale run at Melbourne Park and now faces the ultimate test against top seed Serena.

Williams has previously suffered defeat at the hands of a US prodigy at Melbourne Park, beaten by teenager Sloane Stephens in the 2013 tournament, but has never been thrown off the top of the heap by year’s end.

Into her first semi-final at Melbourne Park in five years after Wednesday’s 6-2, 6-2 rout of Dominika Cibulkova, Williams will be on her guard against Keys, long touted as the future standard-bearer for the women’s game in America.

“She’s playing great. I told her I was really happy that she did well,” Williams told reporters of Keys. “She’s in the semi. It’s good to see another American, another African American, in the semi-finals playing so well. “Regardless, there’s going to be an American in the finals, that’s so great.

“It’s also great for me and Venus because we know that finally there’s other Americans that are constantly playing well and playing better, showing that they want to be the world’s greatest. “For sure I’ll ask (Venus). (I will) also ask my coach, who has been steering me these last two weeks. I’m really excited to be in the semis.”

Williams has complained of a cold in recent days at Melbourne Park and said it was getting “worse and worse”, but there was little evidence of that as she broke her pattern of slow starts to rout last year’s finalist Cibulkova in just over an hour.

Breaking the Slovak 11th seed twice in each set, Williams gave nothing on serve and closed out the match when Cibulkova double faulted in past the baseline.

The American grinned broadly as she smiled and waved at the Rod Laver Arena crowd on a sunny, breezy day.— Reuters

mivt Myanmar International

(29-1-15 07:00 am – 30-1-15 07:00 am) MST

• Local News
• Amazing May Phoe
• World News
• Today Myanmar (Seafood Export)
• Local News
• Ambassador’s View
• Myanmar China
• Friendship Tour
• Local News
• Mogok: The Colourful Land of Rubies
• World News
• Kay Tu Mar Lar
• The Decision
• Local News
• The Precious Lands of Myanmar (Mandalay)
• World News
• Not Just a Bridge

News Channel in Brief

(29-1-2015, Thursday)

1:35 pm • Pyi Thu Ni Ti
3:35 pm • Documentary
4:00 pm • News / Weather Report
4:35 pm • University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — First Year (Law)
4:50 pm • 68th Anniversary Union Day Programme
6:35 pm • One Vision (Part-1-A)
7:00 pm • News
7:30 pm • Head Line News
8:00 pm • News
12:00 noon • News / International News / Weather Report
12:35 pm • Hlutaw Image

Entertainment Channel

(29-1-2015, Thursday)

8:05 am • TV Drama Series
8:50 am • Musical Programme
8:55 am • Pyi Thu Ni Ti
9:10 am • (40+) Years of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Corporation (Cambodia)

9:10 am • Fashion Show
7:20 am • TV Drama Series
Ivanovic heads Chelsea into League Cup final

Nishikori loses quarterfinal rematch with Australian Open champion

Postecoglou keeps high key ahead of South Korea clash