**Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends 12th ACDFIM**

**Yangon, 9 Feb —** The second negotiation meeting on resumption of four-party talks on amendment of the national education law was held at the meeting hall of the Department of Higher Education (Lower Myanmar) on Thaton Street in Yangon on Monday afternoon.

Participants led by Deputy Minister for Education U Thant Shin, Dr Thein Lwin of the National Network for Education Reform, Ko Aung Hmine San of the Leading Committee for Democracy Education Movement discussed resumption of the four-party talks as soon as possible and details for agendas of the talks.

Agreements reached today include (1) the talks shall resume on 11 February (2) the venue of the talks shall be the Hluttaw Building of Yangon Region (3) the talks shall start at 9.30 am (4) each party shall be represented at the talks by 20 representatives (5) the talks shall be moderated by one representative from the government and the Hluttaw on one hand.

Four-party talks on amendment of national education law to resume on 11 February

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**Manipur boosts Indo-Myanmar trade zone project**

By CL Thanga (GNLM 005)

The state government of Manipur is making a feasibility study to set up a trade zone at the border village Behiang on the boundary of Myanmar’s Chin State and India.

Agreement on the establishment of the zone was signed by the two countries in 2012 to promote trade. Govindas Konthoujam, Manipur’s commerce and industries minister, said, “The state government has been seeking opportunities to promote border trade since 2006 in cooperation with the central government.”

The trade zone, which will be on 2,500 hectares in the Churachanpur district, also includes a customs office to facilitate exports and imports.

An official of the Ministry of Commerce in Myanmar said, “The project includes two phases of border market and trade zone.” Ribi-Zokawthar is the only official border trade zone between India and Manipur, and the new trade route will be 200 kilometre shorter than Moreh-Imphal-Silchar highway.

Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai said the proposed area for new border trade zone is the most appropriate for trade sector between the two countries, shortening about 70 miles of the route between the two countries. Behiang trade zone will be funded by the central government of India, while the Manipur government will construct the road.

Myanmar is exporting agricultural products to Manipur to promote bilateral trade.

By CL Thanga

**Press Release Team issues statement on second preliminary discussions of National Education Law**

**Yangon, 9 Feb —** Press Release Team of the government issued a statement that Ministry of Education will include agreements in four-party talks on Monday into the amendment bill on the National Education Law, urging the students to stop their protests and honour the agreements signed on January 28.

Representatives from the government, the Hlutaw, students and National Network for Education Reform held second preliminary talks in Yangon. The statement said the government is doing its best for peace and stability, the rule of law and taking the safety measures for protest students, with reiterated suggestion on Saturday to the parents to recall school children away from student protesters.

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**Fighting breaks out between Tatmadaw, Kokang renegade troops**

**Yangon, 9 Feb —** Fighting between the Tatmadaw and renegade troops of Kokang broke out Monday.

The clashes broke out for two times at Nyanlha-warn Village located north-west of Laukkai and for one time near Taikshwile Village, south-west of Laukkai, in the morning and afternoon.

Meanwhile, some renegade troops of Kokang attacked outpost of the Tatmadaw near Mawhtike Town. The troops of the Tatmadaw continued to comb the areas so that insurgents cannot camp there. While the State is making all-out efforts for reaching a nation-wide ceasefire, the renegade groups of Kokang have ambushed the troops of the Tatmadaw, making the local people worries for recurring fighting there.
Amyotha Hluttaw approves motion on effective prevention of drug abuse

**Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Feb**—Amyotha Hluttaw Session on Monday discussed the motion calling for the government to implement projects for establishing educative training centres for drug addicts in every township to prevent them from choosing wrong course of life in association with civil society organizations, government departments, INGOs and NGOs submitted by Representative U Pe Thaung.

The motion was seconded by four representatives who proposed to form bodies made up of teachers and town elders to expose drug addicts and give treatment to them as well as to take action against traffickers, to restructure current rehabilitation centres for effective measures, and to educate young people in townships on drug abuse and to expose drug traffickers regardless of their statuses.

In response to the motion, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun said that Myanmar is a signatory to three UN conventions on prevention of drug abuse and has formed a central body to combat drug abuse and trafficking under which rehabilitation centres for drug addicts are treating drug addicts who offer themselves to the centres and those who are sent there by their parents without taking legal action against them. Educative measures are also being taken at township level while the anti-drug squad is being expanded by adding 50 more anti-drug teams, according to the deputy minister. He added that the ministry is also cooperating with local and international organizations to treat and rehabilitate drug addicts.

The session approved the motion.

Other topic discussed at the session included raising travel allowance for government employees and amendment of the law translation bill. Deputy Minister for Finance Dr Lin Aung said travel allowance for government employees would be raised starting from 2015-16 fiscal year while the speaker agreed to discuss the law translation bill.

**Amyotha Hluttaw**

*Representatives of Amyotha Hluttaw debate effective prevention of drug abuse.*

**MNA**

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***Environmental conservation, sustainable forestry development discussed***

**Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Feb**—Amyotha Hluttaw Session on Monday discussed Myanmar’s efforts for Myanmar’s economic growth, progress of the country’s reforms, economic development of Myanmar in the next 10 years, programmes for achieving sustainable growth of environment, ministry’s implementation of green economy or green growth.

Both sides also discussed Myanmar’s efforts to enlist a member of Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) to manage and conserve natural resources and investment opportunities for development of wood-based industries.—MNA

**MNA**

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**Cultural delegates visit parks, gardens, museum, Hluttaw complex, Uppatasanti pagoda**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Feb**—Secretary of 68th Anniversary Union Day Organizing Management Committee and member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myo Nyunt fulfilled requirements of cultural delegations from regions and states in smooth transport for excursion tour at No 7 Transit Centre, here, on Monday.

The delegates from Kachin, Kayah, Chin and Rakhine States and Bago region visited Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden, Safari Park, Planetarium, Thatta Thattaha Pagoda, Uppatasanti Pagoda and water fountain garden.

Those from Kayin, Mon and Shan States and Tanintharyi region toured the National Landmarks Garden, Defence Services Museum, Hluttaw complex, Myanmar International Convention Centre-1 and Myoma Market.

MNA

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**Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission**

**Nay Pyi Taw**

**Notification No. (5/2015)**

6th Waning Day of Tabodwe, 1376 ME

(9th February, 2015)

**Mro National Democracy Party allowed to register as political party**

The Union Election Commission announced that Mro National Democracy Party headquartered at No. 144, Buddhagaya Street, Myothit area, Aungtat Ward, MraukU Township, Rakhine State, has been allowed to register as a political party as of 9 February, 2015 in accord with the Section 9 of the Political Parties Registration Law.

The party’s registration number is 80.

By Order,

(Tin Tun)

Secretary

Union Election Commission

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**Manipur boosts Indo-Myanmar trade zone . . .**

(from page 1)

India through a border crossing in Behiang village, although it has not officially been opened. Bilateral trade volume between the two countries is targeted to reach $3 billion in 2015, while ASEAN-India trade is expected to hit $100 billion in the same period.—GNLM
Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends ...

(from page 1)

Brunei, the Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos and Malaysia who are in Kuala Lumpur to attend the 12th ACDFIM from February 9 to 11. Myanmar delegation enjoyed dinner hosted by General Tan Sri Dato’ Sri (Dr.) Zulkifeli Bin Mohd Zin, Chief of Malaysian Armed Forces at the Sarawak Room of Shangri-La Hotel. Lieutenant General Mya Tun Oo from Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and senior military personnel also attended the 12th AMIM and the 5th AMOIM held in the Malaysian capital from February 7 to 9. Myanmar was a host country of the 11th ACD-FIM from March 4 to 6 last year.—Myawady

Stake driven for cold storage to produce export products

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Feb—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing and Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint attended a ceremony to drive stake for construction of a cold storage near Kyi-in village in Pyimana Township on Monday.

The 2000-ton-capacity cold storage project will be implemented by Myanmar-based Myanmar Agri Foods Company and Japan Investment Company in connection with Japan Wholesale Market.

Chairmen and agriculturists of Kyoka Shokuhin Company, Raitai Branding Company, Myanmar Agri Foods Company explained their plans to join hands with Myanmar farmers to export agricultural produce, and market prospects.

The union ministers and officials drove stakes for the cold storage of the project.

Four-party talks on ...

(from page 1)

and another representative from the NNER and the students on the other hand (6) student representatives shall represent all active student columns (7) the lists of the representatives shall be sent ahead and only the representatives in the list shall participate in the talks (8) each party shall be allowed to call in people to cover the talks proportionately and (9) one spokesperson from each party shall release news at a press conference during the talks.

Also present at the meeting were ministers of Yangon Region ministers Col Tin Win and Dr Myint Thein, Rector Dr Aung Min of Yangon University of Education, U Soe Tun of the NNER and Ko Aung Hmine San, Ko Ye Zarri Tun and Ko Chit Win Maung of the Leading Committee for Democracy Education Movement, according to the Ministry of Education.

Union Ministers and officials drive stake for construction of 2000-ton cold storage.—MNA

A map shows a fighting in Laizikhi region

UNION Min Aung Hlaing meets Commander-in-Chief of Royal Thai Armed Forces General Worapong Sanganetra.—MNA

CESR experts, department partners meet

YANGON, 9 Feb—Experts from Comprehensive Education Sector Review-CESR and international development partners held a meeting on drawing a bill amending the National Education Law at the hall of Department of Myanmar Education Research Bureau, here, on Monday, with an address by Union Education Minister Dr Daw Khin San Yi.

Experts from CESR and those from international development partners organizations namely Australian Embassy, British Council, DANIDA, DFID, Diplomatic Missions of Finland, Embassy of Denmark, Embassy of Israel, Embassy of the United States, EU, JICA, MEDG, Open Foundation Society, Save the Children, Swiss Agen- cy, UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF, World Bank, and World Education cordially exchanged views on 10-point demands of students over the National Education Law and points of amendment.

The development partner organizations said they will assist in amending the law. They welcome the meeting with students and understanding will come out from the meetings.

A map shows a fighting between Tatmadaw and renegade troops of Kokang. (News on Page 1)—Myawady

Union Minister for Education Dr Daw Khin San Yi speaking at meeting between Comprehensive Education Sector Review-CESR and international development partners.—MNA
Month, 9 Feb — As a gesture of hailing the Myanmar Children’s Day which falls on 13 February, contests and funfairs were held at Huakkyant School for the Girls under the Social Welfare Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement on 6 February. Girls of the school opened the ceremony by reciting the poems in commemoration of Bogyoke Aung San. Chinlone demonstrator Daw Myint Sanda showed off playing Chinlone skills on the occasion. The girls played the traditional Chinlone sports. The school girls participated in the funfair by singing songs and performing dances.

A sports contest is being held at Kyaukwaing Youth Training School with participation of the trainees from philanthropic homes and sections conducted by Social Welfare Department from 7 to 12 February. Officials will award the winners in the sports contests at the hall of Basic Education High School No 4 in Ahlon on 13 February. — Ko Ko Yupa

Magway Region’s deputy commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo and officials inspect sanitation and fire preventive measures at staff quarters in Myawady.

Invitational badminton championship wraps up in Mandalay

Mandalay, 9 Feb — Myanmar invitational badminton championship was organized at Sports and Physical Education Institute (Mandalay) in Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay, on 8 February. After the final matches, Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing presented medals and cash awards to winners in the senior men’s and women’s events, best player award winner Arkar Phone Myat (Aung Club) and Thet Htar Thuzar (Hnget Khar Club).

The championship was mainly sponsored by Aung Thamadi Goldsmith and New Cherry trading from 4 to 8 February.

At the presentation ceremony, officials presented prizes worth K6.5 million to the winners.

Myawady District’s deputy commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo and officials inspect sanitation and fire preventive measures at staff quarters in Myawady.
Mandalay General Hospital honours blood donors

Mandalay, 9 Feb — Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint delivered an address at the ceremony to honour blood donors organized by National Blood Bank of Mandalay General Hospital for the 38th time in Chanayet-hazan Township on 8 February.

Medical Superintendent Dr Maung Win spoke words of thanks for blood donors.

Mandalay Region Minister for Social Welfare Dr Win Hlaing and officials presented medals and certificates of honour to blood donors and blood donation associations.

Mandalay Region Health Department received 36,620 blood units from donors in 2014 across Mandalay Region and delivers blood units to hospitals in the region and Sagaing Hospital.

Kho Hlon Yar foundation vaccinated blood donors against hepatitis B free of charge as of November 2014.—Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Students perform dancing hailing Myanmar’s Children Day

Mandalay, 9 Feb — A variety of dance in commemoration of the Myanmar Children’s Day was performed at the National Theatre on 66th Street in Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay, on 8 February.

The dancing concert will be held up to 13 February. Students from basic education schools participate in the dancing on 14 points agenda.

The dances were enjoyed by officials of Mandalay Region government, the region education director, school heads of Aungmyethazan, Chanayet-hazan, Mahaungmye, Chanmyathazi and Pyigyidagun townships, teachers and students.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Pobbathiri Township MCWA refreshes tailors in advance course

Nay Pyi Taw, 9 Feb — Under the supervision of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, Pobbathiri Township MCWA conducted the advanced tailoring course 1/2015 at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Pobbathiri Township on 7 February.

Joint Secretary-2 Daw Ahmar, CEC members of MMC-WA and officials presented prizes to outstanding trainees and gifts to two trainers.

They viewed clothes in various designs made by trainees.—Ko Ko Yupa (Nay Pyi Taw)

MCDC implements new system of sanitation in Mahaungmye Tsp

Mandalay, 9 Feb — Mandalay City Development Committee changes its sanitation system of collecting garbage from residences.

Garbage vans daily collected garbage from urban areas by beating bells to remind local people to carry out sanitation of their residences.

As of 1 February, the vans turn on a speech of urging the people to systematically throw garbage onto the vans in Mahaungmye Township according to the new sanitation system. Sanitation Department of MCDC carries out sanitation tasks with the use of 10 vans as a pilot project in Mahaungmye Township. Within one month, a plan is be implemented to cover sanitation tasks in the entire Mandalay City.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

University of Medical Technology (Mandalay) turns out graduates

Mandalay, 9 Feb — University of Medical Technology (Mandalay) held the 13th convocation at the convocation hall of Mandalay University on 8 February.

Rector Dr Theingi Hlaing presented certificates of degrees to master and bachelor graduates and delivered an address.

The university has turned out 10 master’s degree dentists and 1,349 bachelor degree dentists.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

A farmer ploughs farmlands irrigated by Kunchaung Dam with the use of power-tiller for cultivation of summer paddy on 8 February near Yaynikwint village in Myanmar Township, Ayeyawady Region. Nay Win Zaw (Myanaung)
**Regional**

**Tokyo, 9 Feb —** Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Thai Prime Min-ister Prayut Chan-o-cha held a meeting on Monday in Tokyo at which they are expected to affirm in-creased bilateral coopera-tion in the economic and security areas. Abe and Prayut are likely to agree to pro-mote defence exchanges through opportunities such as the Cobra Gold mili-tary exercise, an annual multilateral drill that be-gan on Monday in Thai-land and brings together the two countries and the United States, among oth-ers, and affirms cooper-ation in the fight against terrorism, according to a Japanese official. Abe plans to urge Prayut, who seized power in a military coup last May, to restore democratic civilian rule in Thailand. “(Abe) will urge (Prayut) to restore a civil-ian-led government at an early date, saying a return to democratic rule will be extremely important to ensure long-term stability in Thailand,” the official said.

On the econom-ic front, Abe and Prayut are expected to discuss Japan’s cooperation in railway and other infra-structure development in Thailand, including a possible introduction of Japan’s shinkansen bullet train technology.

Abe is expected to affirm Japan’s coopera-tion in de-velopment of the Dawei Special Economic Zone in southern Myanmar, a joint project between Thailand and Myanmar, according to the official. Abe also plans to request that Thailand promptly lift its restrictions on Japanese food imports imposed after the 2011 nuclear disaster in Fukushima over concerns about radioactive contamination. Among other issues, the two leaders are expected to discuss territorial disputes between China and some Southeast Asian countries in the South China Sea, North Korea’s nuclear and missile programs, as well as reform of the UN Secu-rity Council.

**Seoul, 9 Feb —** The Seoul High Court on Monday sentenced a former head of the state intelligence organization to three years in prison for meddling in the South Korean presidential elec-tion, held in December 2012 and won by current President Park Geun-hye.

Won Sei Hoon, 64, was immediately impris-oned as the ruling over-turned a lower court de-cision.

The agents tried to taint main opposition candidate Moon Jae In as holding a too soft stance on North Korea and hav-ing the possibility of en-dangering the nation’s national security if elect-ed, prosecutors said.

The high court rec-oognized that 274,800 messages had been unlawfully posted online by the agents.

The lower court had sentenced Won to two years and six months in prison with a four-year stay of execution.

Agents from the intel-ligence agency involved in the smear campaign were then found guilty of post-ing some 110,000 mes-sages on online bulletin boards and social media platforms prior to the elec-tion, according to Yonhap.

Prosecutors had ar-gued that these comments were aimed at swaying public opinion in favour of Park, violating a law ban-ning public officials from taking part in election campaign activities.

**Tea ceremony held at World Heritage site Gangoji Temple**

**Singapore, 9 Feb —** The number of babies born to teenage girls in Singapore dropped to a record low in two dec-ades in 2014, the Strait Times reported on Monday, citing a report from the country’s Immigration and Checkpoints Authori-ty.

Last year, 404 babies were born to girls aged 19 and below, almost halved from the high of 953 in 2000.

The declining trend is mainly because young people are using contra-ception such as taking pills, and have used alter-native sex acts, the report said.

The number of abor-tions among girls below 20 also dropped signif-icantly to 578 in 2013 from 1,483 a decade ago, it added.

“Compared to past generations of teens, what has changed now is that there is more awareness about contraception be-cause community groups are running more outreach programmes.

In the past, sex ed-ucation was left mostly to parents and schools,” Carol Halbetchet, senior director for youth servic-es at the Singapore Chil-dren’s Society, said, quoted by the news paper.

Another reason that stopped youngsters from getting pregnant is the fear of reproach.

According to a recent survey among undergraduates conducted by the Nanyang Technological University, about half of the 591 respondents who are between 18 and 25 years old admitted that they would feel ashamed and embarrassed in their community if they get pregnant.

“Pregnant teens avoid talking about it because they will be the subject of gossip and ostracism,” 23-year-old Leung Yan Wah, who is among the 591 surveyed, said.

**Number of teenage births hit 20-year low in Singapore**
Bruised Australian PM Abbott survives leadership challenge

SYDNEY, 9 Feb — Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott survived a challenge to his leadership on Monday after his ruling Liberal Party voted down a motion to unseat him amid weeks of infighting, but the attempted revolt appears likely to weaken his grip on power.

In a secret party room ballot, a vote to declare the positions of party leader and deputy leader vacant was defeated by 61 votes to 39, a party official told reporters. In a short televised statement following the vote, Abbott insisted the turmoil was over and called for unity within the conservative party and the country.

“The Liberal Party has dealt with the spill motion and now this matter is behind us,” Abbott said.

“I think that when you elect a government, when you elect a prime minister, you deserve to have a chance to change your mind.”

Still, a consensus appeared to be forming that the large number of votes against Abbott indicated a lack of support so damaging as to potentially render him a lame duck.

“It does suggest to me continuing instability, because 40 percent of your party has just expressed no confidence in you,” Rod Tiffen, an emeritus professor of political science at the University of Sydney, told Reuters.

“I think that it means leadership speculation will be on the agenda in Australian politics until it’s resolved by Abbott’s exit, really.”

Following the vote, online gambling site Sportsgbet.com.au had Communications Minister Malcolm Turnbull as the favorite to be prime minister at the next election, with a 61-60. Abbott was at odds of $2.75, while Foreign Minister Julie Bishop was $6.50, an indication of the damage done. The motion was brought on Friday by an MP from Western Australia after mounting criticism of Abbott’s leadership, culminating in his appointment of an Australian knighthood to Queen Elizabeth’s husband, Prince Philip.

No member of the government had indicated a direct challenge to Abbott. Tony Abbott survived a challenge to his leadership on 9 Feb, 2015. — Reuters

Abe to attend UN disaster conference in Sendai in March

TOKYO, 9 Feb — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told a senior ruling party lawmaker on Monday that he plans to attend the five-day UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held from 14 March in Sendai, northeastern Japan.

Abe said in a separate meeting with Margareta Wahlstrom, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s special representative for disaster risk reduction, that he would like to use the conference as an opportunity to bring international attention to Japan’s disaster reconstruction efforts, according to government officials.

In his meeting with lawmaker Tadamori Osaka, Abe spoke of the importance of exhibiting Japan’s rehabilitation from the disaster, said Oshima, who heads the ruling Liberal Democratic Party’s team to promote reconstruction of areas devastated by the 11 March, 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

Sendai is one of the cities hit hard by the 2011 disaster.—Kyodo News

Army ordinance explosion injures five in Thailand

BANGKOK, 9 Feb — Five army technicians were injured in an accidental explosion at the Thai Army Ordnance Department in Bangkok on Monday, army spokesman Winthai Suwanee said.

The explosion happened at around 10 am local time (0300 GMT) when the technicians were disassembling a rocket-propelled grenade launcher in which a grenade was stuck, Winthai was quoted by the Thai media as saying. But Director-General of the ordnance department Tharee Wuthipanich said there was no grenade in the launcher, and it was the propellant that exploded during a regular repair.

The technicians, who suffered head and chest injuries, were rushed to a hospital, according to Winthai. It was an incident inside a military unit with no impact on the outside, he said.—Xinhua

Seoul, 9 Feb — US Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Monday no decision has been made on deploying a US advanced anti-missile system in South Korea.

“The question of THAAD is very clear. There is no decision, no active discussions on that,” Blinken told reporters after talks with South Korean Vice Foreign Minister Cho Tae Yong.

He expressed hope, however, the United States will have “full consultations” with South Korea on the system, saying the system, known as Terminal High Altitude Area Defense, is “purely defensive and it is aimed at exclusively dealing with the threats posed by North Korea.”

His remarks were made at a time when the THAAD system has become a major issue after Chinese Defence Minister Chang Wanquan voiced concern to his South Korean counterpart Han Min Koo at talks in Seoul last Wednesday over the possible deployment of the system in South Korea.

In response, Han said the United States remains undecided on the matter and has not yet asked South Korea to host THAAD, adding, “Thus no consultations between South Korea and the US are under way,” according to a South Korean Defence Ministry official.

Blinken arrived in Seoul on Sunday for a three-day visit, the first leg of a three-nation trip to Asia that includes China and Japan. THAAD is a land-based anti-ballistic system that can shoot down short-, medium- and intermediate-range ballistic missiles inside and just outside the atmosphere.

The possible deployment of the system in South Korea has triggered concerns here that it would turn the country into a US front-line missile defence base, causing diplomatic friction with Beijing and forcing Seoul to bear the brunt of intensified China-US rivalry.

Touching on pressures exerted by the international community to halt North Korea’s nuclear weapons programme, Blinken stressed North Korea should return to “credible and authentic talks” to discuss its denuclearization.

“It has to decide whether it is serious about getting back to denuclearization and having credible and authentic talks,” he said.

“Until North Korea demonstrate they are serious, we’re going to sustain pressure on them and sustain international solidarity,” he added.

The six-party talks aimed at denuclearizing North Korea have been deadlocked since late 2008. The talks involve the two Koreas, the United States, China, Japan and Russia.

US Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken (L) and South Korean Vice Foreign Minister Cho Tae Yong shake hands before their talks in Seoul on 9 Feb, 2015. After the meeting, Blinken said no decision has been made on deploying a US advanced anti-missile system in South Korea. Kyodo News

No decision yet on deploying missile system in S Korea: US official
Never lose sight of the real world
By Myint Win Thein

Today in Myanmar, it is common to see people of different ages sitting in a teashop or on a public bus or at an office or somewhere else and tapping the screen of their smartphones, which are more available than ever in the history of the country. This is because a lot of people have fled to social networking sites where they can choose friends they like, read news they want, and look at what they want to see.

It is quite a difference for them as they have to befriended everyone they like or not, read news they want to read or not and see they want to see or not in the real world. This has become a great opportunity for propagandists to exploit social networking sites for their own purposes. It is cheaper and easier for them to use social networking sites as they can reach more people there at the same time.

Although many people will never lose sight of the real world and will not believe such propaganda, some of them might. This can still brew trouble for society. Therefore, it is important for the general public not to lose sight of the real world and to verify the post with it as there is no one to edit posts on social networking sites.

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Education in Singapore: Universities and International Schools

By Sayar Mya

Education system. While English is the first language and the medium of instruction in schools, most students are required to take a "Mother Tongue" subject, which could be one of the three official languages: Standard Mandarin, Malay or Tamil.

In recognition of Singapore’s linguistic and cultural pluralism, another stated objective of the bilingual policy is to educate students with their "mother tongues" so that they can learn about their culture, identify with their ethnic roots, and to preserve cultural traits and Asian values.

Financial assistance for education

Education policy in Singapore is designed to ensure that no child is being disadvantaged because of his or her financial background. Therefore, school fees in public schools are heavily subsidized. There is no school fee for 6 years of compulsory education in primary school although students still need to pay standard miscellaneous fees of Singapore $6.50 per month. Moreover, schools may optionally charge second-tier miscellaneous fees of up to the maximum of Singapore $6.50 per month.

The Ministry of Education established the "Financial Assistance Scheme" (FAS) to provide financial assistance for education to low income families with gross household income of Singapore $2,500 or a per capita income of less than Singapore $625. Students eligible for FAS receive a full waiver of miscellaneous fees, and partial subsidy on national examination fees. They may also enjoy full or partial fee subsidy if they are in Independent Schools.

Each year, the "Edusave Merit Bursary" (EMB) is given out to about 40,000 students, who are from lower-middle and low-income families and have good academic performance in their schools. Individual schools also have an "Opportunity Fund" to provide for their own needy students. In addition to these, there are many other assistance schemes from either the government or welfare organizations to help students cope with finances during their studies.

Special Education in Singapore

Singapore was one of only two countries in ASEAN that was not a signatory to the "Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities". The convention mandates that persons with disabilities should be guaranteed the right to inclusive education.

However, in Singapore, "any child who is unable to attend any national primary school due to any physical or intellectual disability" is exempted from compulsory education, and there are no public schools for such children. Instead, they may attend "special education schools" built largely by the Ministry of Education and run by voluntary welfare organizations. These schools receive more than 80% of their funding from the Ministry of Education.

Academic Appointments at National University of Singapore

Full-Time Appointments

Tenure Track

Faculty members interested in and with the potential for sustained excellence in both teaching and research. Assistant Professors are appointed on term contracts, while Associate Professors and Professors may be appointed either with tenure or on term contract.

Research Track

They are the Staff members with focus on conducting fundamental research of high international quality. Appointments on this Track include Research Assistants, Research Fellows, Senior Research Fellows, Associate Professor (Research) and Professor (Research). They are on term contracts of 1 – 3 years in the first instance.

Teaching Track

They are the Staff members with focus and passion for teaching excellence, student learning, and pedagogical research and innovation. They may be engaged in the teaching, research or review of specific programs of strategic importance. They are on term contracts, with duration to be mutually agreed upon before the visit.

(See page 9)
Motivation means: Making somebody want to do something, especially something that involves hard work and effort. It is, in the final analysis, the spirit of the entire duty of the team leaders as well as the team members as they are the rewards for some outstanding achievements. There are generally two kinds of incentives, both kinds of incentives from within as well as without. But, the more dynamic and more sustainable are the rewards for some outstanding achievements.

Offering Incentives

The greatest good you can do for someone is not to share your riches, but to reveal to him his own.
- Benjamin Disraeli

Motivation can be more widely understood in the following manner:

M for Making Others to be Interested, Excited or Enthusiastic
O for Offering Incentives
T for Tactfully Selling Motives & Opportunities
I for Inspiring Ideas & Actions
V for Vision & Values
A for Audacity
T for Thinking Big
I for Integrity
O for Objectives
N for Networking with People

Making Others to be Interested, Excited and Enthusiastic

In making things happen and getting things done, it is imperative to get other people involved in the action. Usually, it is the concerted effort of the members of a team that generates maximum effectiveness and efficiency. It is the duty of the team leaders as well as the team members to motivate and inspire the entire team to strive for the greatest effect and impact. Every collective achievement should be measured by its outreach, impact and sustainability. It is, in the final analysis, the spirit of the entire team as a whole that counts.

Offering Incentives

Incentives mean something that encourages you to do something. There are generally two kinds of incentives, intrinsic and extrinsic. In other words, there are inside-out incentives and outside-in incentives. Interest, excitement, enthusiasm, etc. are the inside-out incentives that arise from the heart, and monetary, material rewards, recognition and fame and being an outside-in incentives that are the rewards for some outstanding achievements.

People need both kinds of incentives from within as well as without. But, the more dynamic and more sustainable incentives are inside-out ones such as a burning desire, an indomitable spirit, an unwavering effort and insight wisdom. “The test of a man is the fight he makes, and the grit that he daily shows”.
- Anonymous

Tactfully Selling Motives & Opportunities

A good manager or a leader usually has an impelling force that drives them to stand out from the crowd. Such a compelling, dynamic energy cannot but motivates other people. A really motivated mind sees a vivid picture of the future and he or she strongly concentrates his or her whole mind and energy on it. One of the Eight Principles of War is the Principle of Concentration or Mass. A motivated mind is a courageous mind that is very single-pointed in its vision and strategy. A single-minded focus is indispensable for the achievement of a great purpose. And a person would surely need to be audacious to be successful with an enduring sustainability.

Thinking Big

Small minds need small motivation and big minds need big motivation. Low aim is crime, it is said. I am not sure if we have a divine nature; but I am positive that we should have “simple living and high thinking”. We should try if we have a Big-Sky-Mind. We should think big, aim high and go all-out. We should give all we have got; we should give every bit of ourselves, holding nothing back. When we say think big and aim high, we mean we should think big and aim high for the People; Planet and Peace - the Triple Bottom Line of the present day world.

Integrity

Without integrity, motivation is no avail. Every form of motivation and inspiration must be seamlessly integrated with honesty, unselfishness, sincerity and goodwill. Nobody could live alone like Robin Crusoe on an island. Everybody has to live and move and has his or her being with the people, through the people, for the people and among the people. Hence, the importance of being honest and unselfish. At the end of the day, when all is said and done, nothing remains but the name. Integrity alone could save the NAME.

Objectives

Ships have ports to anchor, trains have stations to arrive at and buses have terminals to stop at. So also, a person must have a particular, individual journey. An example of GOAL & OBJECTIVE is: you want to reduce weight. This is your goal. You aim to reduce your weight 5lbs. a month. That is your objective. Generally, goal, objective, aim or object or target are synonymous.

Networking with People

For motivation, we have got to mix with winners for positive examples and also meet with losers for negative examples. We have got to learn from both achievers and those who failed.

Conclusion

Be awake, alert, and agile! Be vigilant!

Kyin Mun

Education in Singapore: ... (from page 8)

Part-Time Appointments at National University of Singapore

Adjunct Extra Scheme

Staff members are qualified and experienced individuals from industry needs for teaching staff. Appointments may be up to 1 academic year at a time.

Crises over Singapore Education

Critics of the Singapore education system, including some parents, state that the education system is too specialized, rigid, and elitist. Often, these criticisms state that there is little emphasis on creative thinking, unlike education systems in other societies, such as those in the United States. Those defending the current education system point out that Singaporean students have regularly ranked top when competing in international science and mathematics competitions and assessments. Detractors believe this is more an indication of students’ “skills in usingrote” to prepare for a certain style of competition or examination than of their ability to think critically.

[Note: “Rote learning” is a memorization technique based on repetition. The idea is that one will quickly recall the meaning of the material the more one repeats it.]

In response to such concerns the Ministry of Education has recently introduced a greater focus on creative and critical thinking and on learning for lifelong skills rather than simply learning to excel in examinations. However, this is still not the case and many children are pressured on by their parents and teachers to do well in studies.

Conclusion

At a time when people in Myanmar, especially those in the educational sphere have great expectations for better educational reform, the writer of this article has the pleasure and honor to present in plain and simple term an article entitled “Education in Singapore: Universities and International Schools” for the esteemed and valued readers of the Global New Light of Myanmar and also for the interested persons in the field of education in Myanmar.
Labour Party pledges to double paternity leave if elected

Britain's opposition Labour Party leader Ed Miliband gestures as launches his party's 2015 election campaign, at the Lowry Theatre in Salford, north west England on 5 Jan, 2015.— Reuters

London, 9 Feb — The Labour Party said on Monday it would double the length of paid paternity leave for new fathers to a month if it wins a national election on May 7, a pledge that drew criticism from some business leaders.

Labour, neck-and-neck with Prime Minister David Cameron’s Conservatives in many opinion polls, said it would also boost paternity pay by more than 100 pounds a week to at least 260 pounds, equivalent to the minimum wage.

Only around 55 per cent of British fathers take up the current allowance of two weeks paid leave, Labour said.

“More fathers want to play a hands-on role in childcare particularly in those first crucial weeks of a child’s life but are frustrated by out-dated laws and the critics of the party from other business people who have accused it of running an anti-business agenda.”

“Although well-meaning, proposals such as this create very real costs for businesses, which can in turn lead to reduced productivity, reduced growth and fewer jobs,” he was quoted as saying in the Daily Telegraph newspaper. — Reuters

French Socialists cling on to parliament seat ahead of Le Pen party

France — A major ground assault on Islamic State mainly by Iraqi forces is likely to start “in the weeks ahead,” a US co-ordinator for the international coalition against the extremist group said Sunday, according to Jordan’s Petra news agency.

The coalition will provide “major firepower” to the Iraqis, while “multiple advisory teams” on the ground are already guiding the troops, John Allen said in an interview with Petra. US President Barack Obama has approved the dispatch of 3,100 US troops to train Iraqis but has ruled out involving Americans in ground operations.

The US government says the coalition’s air attacks targeting the Islamic State militants have been conducted around 3,000 times over the last six months. The Associated Press said 7,000 militants have been killed in the air raids. — Kyodo News

Munich, 9 Feb — The leaders of Russia, Ukraine, Germany and France agreed to meet in Belarus on Wednesday to try to broker a peace deal for Ukraine amid escalating violence there and signs of cracks in the transatlantic consensus on confronting Vladimir Putin.

The four leaders held a call on Sunday, two days after Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande travelled to Moscow for talks with Putin that produced no breakthrough in the nearly year-long conflict that has claimed over 5,000 lives.

After the call, Ukraine President Petro Poroshenko said progress had been made and that he was hopeful the meeting in Minsk would lead to a “swift and unconditional ceasefire” in eastern Ukraine, where pro-Russian separatists have stepped up a military offensive in recent weeks, seizing new territory.

But Putin warned in a newspaper interview that Kiev must stop its military operation in east Ukraine and stop exerting economic pressure on rebel-held regions.

“Kiev’s attempts to exert economic pressure on Donbas (region of east Ukraine) and disrupt its daily life only aggravates the situation. This is a dead-end track, fraught with a big catastrophe,” Putin told Egyptian state newspaper Al-Ahram, according to an English transcript provided by the Kremlin.

A Ukraine military spokesman said on Sunday that intense fighting was continuing around the rail junction town of Debaltseve, with rebel fighters making repeated attempts to storm lines defended by government troops.

At a high-level security conference in Munich over the weekend, Merkel said it was uncertain whether further negotiations would lead to a deal with Putin but argued that all opportunities for a diplomatic solution should be pursued.

She came under sharp criticism from US Senators Lyndsey Graham and John McCain, both Republican hawks, for opposing the sending of defensive weapons to the Ukraine army to help it fight the separatists.

The Ukrainians are being slaughtered and we’re sending them blankets and meals,” McCain said in Munich. “Blankets don’t do well against Russian tanks.”

US Secretary of State John Kerry sought to play down the differences with Europe.

“Will we remain united? The answer is absolutely, positively, unequivocally we are united, we will remain united,” Kerry told the conference on Sunday, describing any differences as tactical rather than strategic.

Members of the Obama administration are also believed to be sceptical about arming Ukraine but the president faces intense pressure from a Republican-led Congress to act.

The Germans believe sending weapons to a depleted Ukraine army would not improve its chances against separatists armed with “unlimited” supplies of Russian military equipment.

They also fear that delivering arms would internationalise the conflict, playing into the hands of Putin, who has painted the crisis as a Western plot to weaken Russia.

The secretary-general of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe told Reuters in an interview he was worried direct Western military support for the Ukrainian government would fan the flames of the conflict.

“It may even lead down the line to more direct intervention of Russia in this conflict,” Lambert Zannier said at the Munich Security Conference. — Reuters

Leaders scramble to avert ‘dramatic spiral’ in Ukraine

Strasbourg, (France), 9 Feb — President Francois Hollande’s ruling Socialists won a hotly-contested parliamentary by-election in eastern France on Sunday, narrowly beating a National Front rival after the conservative UMP candidate was eliminated in a first round.

Hollande has seen his popularity ratings double from record lows in the wake of last month’s Islamic militant attacks in Paris. Underlining the stakes of the election, senior Socialists including Prime Minister Manuel Valls travelled to the Doubs to support their candidate.

Still, Marine Le Pen’s far-right, anti-immigrant National Front has seized on dissatisfaction with mainstream parties in industrial or rural areas where unemployment is higher. It hopes to see gains in departmental elections in just over a month.

Socialist Frederic Barrier won 51.4 per cent of votes, just ahead of National Front candidate Sophie Montel in the industrial north of the Doubs department.

The win of the seat last vacant by Pierre Moscovici, a Socialist deputy appointed as an EU commissioner, will be a relief for Hollande’s party whose control of the National Assembly was weakened by the defection last month of one of its lawmakers to the far-left.

In the first round, the National Front’s Montel came out ahead with 32.6 per cent, while Barrier came in second with 28.9 per cent, ahead of the UMP candidate.

Hooded gunman fire on French police in Marseille: source

Marseille, (France), 9 Feb — Hooded gunmen armed with Kalashnikov rifles fired on police in the French city of Marseille, where Prime Minister Manuel Valls was paying a visit on Monday, a police source said.

Elite police troopers were being sent to the scene, in the northern suburbs of the Mediterranean port city, after the shots, the source said by telephone.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius (R) and US Secretary of State John Kerry (L) arrive for the chairman’s debate during the 51st Munich Security Conference at the ‘Bayerischer Hof’ hotel in Munich on 8 Feb, 2015.—Reuters
US delivers arms to Lebanon, says fighting ‘same enemy’

BEIRUT, 9 Feb — The United States delivered more than $25 million worth of military aid to the Lebanese army on Sunday to help it fight jihadist groups which have repeatedly battled with security forces near the Syrian border.

The US ambassador to Beirut, David Hale, said in a statement the weapons would be used to “defeat the terrorist and extremist threat from Syria.”

“We are fighting the same enemy, so our support for you has been swift and continuous,” Hale said at an event marking the delivery of the weapons in Beirut.

The Lebanese army has fought regular battles with armed groups including militants linked to Islamic State and the al-Qae-de-affiliated Nusra Front in areas near the Syrian border, most recently late last month when six soldiers were killed.

Hale said Lebanon was the fifth biggest recipient of US military aid. It received more than $100 million last year. Lebanese officials have warned of plans to seize territory in Lebanon by burning him alive has galvanized an anti-Islamic State coalition.

“Despite the importance of these weapons, the US has made up for the big shortfall from which the country is suffering,” he told Reuters, adding that helicopters were vital.

Drone kills veteran Afghan militant with suspected IS links

LASHKAR GAH, (Afghanistan), 9 Feb — A drone strike in Afghanistan killed six people on Monday including a veteran militant suspected of having defected to Islamic State from the Taleban, senior Afghan officials in Helmand province told Reuters. A former Guantanamo Bay detainee, Mullah Abdul Rauf has been influential in Afghanistan’s jihad movement for more than a decade. The US-led coalition in Afghanistan did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

The police chief and the deputy governor in Afghanistan’s southern province of Helmand both said Rauf was killed. Police chief Nabi Jan Mullakhel said Rauf was travelling in a car when the drone attacked. The other casualties included his brother-in-law and four Pakistanis, Mullakhel said.

Two bombs in Baghdad kill 15 civilians

BAGDAD, 9 Feb — At least 15 people were killed in two bombings in and around Baghdad on Monday, police and medical sources said, the latest in a string of deadly attacks to hit the Iraqi capital in the last two weeks.

A suicide bombing at a security checkpoint in the Shia’ite neighbourhood of Kadhimiyaa killed 13 civilians and wounded more than 30 others, the sources said.

The neighbourhood is home to one of the holiest shrines in Shia’ite Islam and is the regular target of such attacks. Two people were later killed when a bomb went off on a main street in a northern suburb, police and medical sources said.

No person or group immediately claimed responsibility for the bombings.
**UK needs to take urgent action over anti-Semitism, lawmakers say**

**London**, 9 Feb — Urgent action is needed to tackle a “disturbing” rise in anti-Semitism in Britain including measures to deal with growing “cyber hate” on social media, a group of senior lawmakers said on Monday. Last week, the body which advises Britain’s estimated 260,000 Jews on security reported that the number of anti-Semitic incidents in Britain had risen to a record level last year.

Many of those incidents were sparked by the 50-day conflict in Gaza that ended in August. Israel launched its Gaza offensive with the declared aim of halting rocket attacks by Hamas. More than 2,100 Palestinians, most of them civilians, were killed, along with 73 mostly Israeli soldiers. The rise in incidents prompted a parliamentary inquiry into anti-Semitism.

“Whilst the Jewish community is diverse and multi-faceted there is a palpable concern, insecurity, loneliness and fear following the summer’s rise in incidents and subsequent world events,” the report by the cross-party group of lawmakers said.

A more sophisticated understanding of anti-Semitism is needed, together with better defined boundaries of acceptable discourse.”

Across Europe, Jews have warned of a growing undercurrent of anti-Semitism, fueled by anger at Israeli policy in the Middle East and social tensions over immigration and increasing economic hardship under austerity policies that have helped far-right movements gain popularity.

Those fears have been exacerbated after an Islamist militant gunman killed four people in a Jewish super-market in Paris last month. The British lawmakers said the government, police and prosecutors needed to take action “to ensure Jewish communities have the necessary protection from the continued terrorist threat they face”. Amongst their 34 recommendations was a call for a governmental fund to pay for security at synagogues and an independent council to be created to monitor trends in anti-Semitism.

They also said prosecutors should review possible action to prevent the spreading of hate online, noting that “Hitler” and the “Holocaust” were amongst the top 35 key words used on Twitter during the summer months of 2014. **Reuters**

**TransAsia pilots face test on dealing with engine failure**

**Taipei/Singapore**, 9 Feb — Pilots at Taiwan’s TransAsia Airways are being tested on how they handle an engine failure and subsequent emergency, days after the fatal crash of one of the airline’s ATR 72-600s, an official from the country’s aviation regulator said.

Initial data from the flight recorders indicates the plane lost power in one engine just after take-off from Taipei’s Songshan airport, Taiwan’s Aviation Safety Council (ASC) said on Friday.

The crew then shut down the other engine, which was working, and attempted to restart it shortly before the aircraft crashed into a river killing at least 40 people.

Commercial aircraft can fly with just one working engine, and the authorities have not released any information from the recorders that indicates why the pilots shut down the working engine.

They said on Friday, however, that a combined loss of thrust caused the almost new aircraft to stall soon after take-off. The aircraft then lurched over buildings and banked sharply to the left before crashing upside down in the shallow river.

Officials in Taiwan and industry analysts say evidence presented so far raises questions over whether the crew may have accidentally cut the wrong engine.

“There must have been something wrong with what the crew did,” said a Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) official, who did not want to be identified due to the sensitivity of the matter.

“It’s a very big deal to turn off one engine after take-off. It needs to be double checked by the crew.”

It was the second TransAsia ATR crash in seven months, and the fifth involving the airline since 1995, raising questions about safety standards at Taiwan’s third largest carrier.

The CAA said the flight tests would only involve TransAsia’s 71 ATR pilots, and not those who fly its Airbus aircraft. Pilots from Chinese Airlines and EVA Air, Taiwan’s two largest airlines, were not being tested.

The CAA official said the test results would be released on Wednesday.

“The CAA and the ASC can’t just jump to a conclusion like that,” said Lee Ping-chung, secretary general of the union. “It could be functional, the weather, the condition of pilots and how tired pilots are.”

TransAsia said on Sunday it would cancel 52 flights on Monday and Tuesday, in addition to the 90 already canceled following the crash.

Rescuers have recovered 40 bodies, with three still missing. Fifteen people survived.

A fuller preliminary report on the crash will be available in the next 30 days, with a final one expected in the next three to six months. **Reuters**

**Iran’s Khamenei says could accept fair nuclear compromise**

**Dubai/Munich**, 9 Feb — Iran’s supreme leader said on Sunday he could accept a compromise in nuclear talks and gave his strongest defence yet of President Hassan Rouhani’s decision to negotiate with the West, a policy opposed by powerful hardliners at home.

As his foreign minister met counterparts in the talks at a conference in Munich, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said he “firmly” backed a fair nuclear deal.

“I would go along with any agreement that could be made. Of course, if it is not a bad deal. No agreement is better than an agreement which runs contrary to our nation’s interests,” Aya-tollah Ali Khamenei told Iranian air force personnel, according to official news agencies.

In a speech that still underlined his suspicions about Western nations that he characterized as “bul-lies”, Khamenei backed Rouhani’s negotiations with them and said any workable deal would mean both sides easing their de-mands.

“As the president said, negotiations mean reaching a common point. There-fore, the other party — should not expect its illegal expectations to be ma-terialized. This means that one side would not end up getting all it wants.”

“I am for achieving a good settlement and the Iranian nation too will certainly not oppose any deal to uphold its dignity and integrity,” Khameini said, an apparent warn-ing to hardliners that they shouldn’t expect to reach a deal with powers including the United States, commonly known in Iran as “the Great Satan”.

In Israel, Prime Min-ister Benjamin Netanya-hu, who will address the US Congress on 3 March — to the annoyance of the Obama administra-tion — said: “We will do everything and will take any action to foil this bad and dangerous agreement.”

“World powers and Iran are charging ahead to an agreement that would allow Iran to arm itself with nuclear weaponry, some-thing that would imperil the existence of the State of Israel,” Netanyahu told his weekly cabinet meeting.

“The CAA and the ASC can’t just jump to a conclusion like that,” said Lee Ping-chung, secretary general of the union. “It could be mechanical, the weather, the condition of pilots and how tired pilots are.”

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**Iconic soy sauce bottle, bullet train designer Ekuan dies at 85**

Supplied photo shows “Komachi” high-speed trains running on the Akita Shinkansen Line designed by Kenji Ekuan. His office said on 9 Feb, 2015, that Ekuan died of a heart rhythm disorder at a Tokyo hospital in the early morning of the previous day.

He was 85. **Reuters**

Ekuan in 1957 founded GK Industrial Design Associates, which later became GK Design Group, and in 1961 designed a soy sauce dispenser for Kikokuman Corp that found en-during success worldwide.

The Tokyo native was also behind the distinctive shape of the “Komachi” high-speed trains running on the Akita Shinkansen Line, and the Narita Express connecting Narita airport with Tokyo. He also designed motorcycles for Yamaha Motor Co.

Ekuan worked on several expositions, serving as co-general producer for the World Design Exposition 1989 held in Nagoya. In 1979 Ekuan was awarded the International Council of Societies of Industrial Design’s Colin King Grand Prix. The Japanese government honored him with the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, in 2000.

**Kyodo News**
Two injured in small plane crash near US Army base in Maryland

WASHINGTON, 9 Feb — A small, single-engine plane crashed on Sunday in a wooded area near Fort Meade, a US Army base in Maryland, injuring two men, state police said.

The plane, identified as a 1970 Grumman American AA-1, crashed around 2 pm EST shortly after tak- ing off from an airport in nearby Odenton, Maryland. The victims are iden- tified as Jeffrey P Barnett, 57, of Glen Burnie, and Thomas L Cline, 82, of Silver Spring.

Emergency respond- ers found the plane upside down on the edge of Fort Meade, which is located between Baltimore and Washington.

Japanese man thought to be victim of fatal shark attack in Australia

SYDNEY, 9 Feb — A Japanese man is believed to be the victim of a fatal shark attack at Australia’s Shelly Beach near the town of Ballina in New South Wales, local reports said on Monday.

The incident occurred around 10 am near Balli- na, which is 750 kilometres north of the state capital Sydney.

“First aid was adminis- tered, however, the man died,” police said in a state- ment without providing any details about the man’s identity. The man is be- lieved to have been in his 20s and has lived in the area for several years, according to local media.

According to the Sydney Morning Herald, Balli- na Shire Mayor David Wright said the man was sitting on his surfboard when the shark came up be- neath him, took both of his legs and pulled him off his surfboard. “For a shark to take the board and the per- son sitting on it, it’s got to be very big,” Wright said.

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Weather Report

FORECAST VALID UNTIL THE EVENING OF THE 10th Febru- ary, 2015: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Kachin State, weather- er will be partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangoon and Ay- eyawady Regions and Shan State, generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA:
Strong easterly winds with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Mon-Tanin-

Tuesday, 10 February, 2015
‘Boyhood’ scoops best film and director prizes at BAFTAs

LONDON, 9 Feb — Coming-of-age drama “Boyhood” scooped three prizes including best film and director at Britain’s biggest film awards on Sunday, while “The Grand Budapest Hotel” took five gongs but missed out on the most prestigious awards.

“The Theory of Everything” garnered three gongs for the leading actor at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts awards ceremony and received the special citation for its portrayal of a linguistics professor grappling with Alzheimer’s disease in “Still Alice”.

“The Grand Budapest Hotel”, the story of a legendary concierge and his young protege, won the awards for original screenplay, costume design, production design, makeup & hair and original music.

JK Simmons won the supporting actor category for his portrayal of a domineering jazz teacher in “Whiplash”. The film, shot by American director Damien Chazelle in just 19 days, also picked up the awards for editing and sound.

Mexican Emmanuel Lubezki won the cinematography award for his work on “Birdman,” but the show business satire failed to pick up the big prizes that some commentators had closely supported the film.

Presenting Tom Cruise (L) celebrates with (2nd L-R) Jonathan Sehring, Ellar Coltrane, Caleb Landry Jones, Patricia Arquette Ethan Hawke, and John Slattery after they won the best film award for “Boyhood” at the British Academy of Film and Arts (BAFTA) awards ceremony at the Royal Opera House in London on 8 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

“Citizenfour”, the story of US government whistleblower Edward Snowden directed by Laura Poitras, won the documentary award.

“The Lego Movie” won the animated category, and Polish film “Ida” took the award for best film in a language other than English.


The BAFTAs are the major awards in the British film industry, and are among a series of such events culminating in the Oscars, the top prizes in the movie world, due to be handed out in Los Angeles on 22 February.

Singing of heartbeat, newcomer Sam Smith wins big at Grammys

LOS ANGELES, 9 Feb — Heartbreak paid off handsomely for soul singer Sam Smith, a newcomer who won four Grammy awards on Sunday including record and song of the year for his anthem “Stay With Me.”

The 22-year-old was also named best new artist and his debut album “The Lonely Hour” won best pop vocal album. But rocker Beck robbed Smith of a sweep in the top three Grammy categories by winning album of the year for “Morning Phase.”

“I want to thank the man who records this about, who I fell in love with last year,” Smith said as he accepted his gramophone-shaped trophy for record of the year. “Thank you so much for breaking my heart because you got me four Grammys.”

The music industry’s biggest night took on a somber note with a powerful message against domestic abuse delivered by President Barack Obama by video, a survivor’s testimony and by a Katy Perry performance.

While Smith was favoured to win big, Beck pulled off the surprise of the night in album of the year, beating out Smith, Pharrell Williams, Beyonce and Ed Sheeran. “Morning Phase,” an album with a laid-back vibe, won three Grammys on the night, including best rock album.

“We made this record at my house for the most part, so I would like to thank my kids for letting me keep them awake a little bit longer,” Beck said as he accepted his trophy from R&B star Prince.

Other notable winners were Pharrell and Beyonce, who won three Grammys each and delivered some of the most popular performances of the night.

Smith’s win echoes that of fellow British soul singer Adele, who swept the Grammys with six wins in 2012 with her heartbreak album “21” and song “Someone Like You,” also about a failed relationship.

Smith has found his audience by being himself and encouraging people to discover his music through social media and online streaming, one of the few growth segments in an industry of declining record sales.

“Before I made this record, I was doing everything to try and get my music heard,” Smith said. “I tried to lose weight and I was making awful music and it was only until that I started to be myself that the music started to flow and people started to listen.”

Obama delivered a pointed speech in a video message urging artists at the Grammys to help end domestic violence, saying “It’s not OK and it has to stop” and urging artists to tell their fans to make a pledge to help stop it.

Survivor Brooke Astell shared her own story of domestic abuse in an emotional speech on stage, before introducing Perry on a white stage. Perry sang her inspirational survival anthem “By the Grace of God,” dressed in a simple white caped dress as shadows of dancers were projected behind.

Backstage, Astell said she teared up during Perry’s song. The performance was a study in contrasts with Perry’s vibrant, lively and prop-filled spectacular at the Super Bowl a week ago.
Ivory Coast win African Nations Cup on penalties

Ivory Coast’s players and officials celebrate with the trophy after winning the African Nations Cup final soccer match against Ghana in Bata, on 8 Feb, 2015. (AFP/REUTERS)

Ivory Coast received the African Nations Cup trophy after beating Ghana 10-2 on penalties after the match ended at 1-1. The game approached 90 minutes with a scramble in the Ghana goalmouth and the Embarkation could only parry the ball, gave Ivorian substitute Seydou Doumbia a half-chance but he was thwarted by a quick defensive recovery. Doumbia missed another half-chance at the start of the second half of extra time when striker Gervinho fouled a second wind and the game had to go to penalties to separate the teams.

African Cup of Nations: Ghana v Ivory Coast, Sunday, 8 February 2015

After Edmond’s error, the ball could not go in and was ruled as a corner and the same happened twice, but the second corner was played in the wrong position, not close to the box. Finally, the Ivorian forward was blocked and then fed Max Gradel with a clear chance. Gradel hit the post after 26 minutes. It’s a fantastic chance for the Ivorian, who had tested the Ivorian defence three times in the first 26 minutes. The Ivorian goalkeeper was then again tested by the Ivorian forward, who had a fantastic chance to score in the 39th minute, but the Ivorian forward averted the ball into the penalty area before feeding Atsu, whose first time shot hit the upright before bouncing back into play.

A third Ivorian mistake gave Ghana the first chance of the second half with Atsu speeding away before passing into Asamoah Gyan, who was off target with his effort. Gyan had been doubtful for the final with a pelvic injury but passed a late fitness test.

Mubarak Wakaso blasted over the top with a strong effort from well outside the penalty area midway through the second half as the midfield stranglehold kept chances to a minimum. However, Atsu’s strong running down the right tested the Ivorian defence again when he provided Gyan with another chance after 72 minutes but it was blocked. As the game approached 90 minutes with a scramble in the Ghana goalmouth and the Embarkation could only parry the ball, gave Ivorian substitute Seydou Doumbia a half-chance but he was thwarted by a quick defensive recovery.

Media

Ivory Coast coach Hervé Renard said the distinction of becoming the first coach to win the Nations Cup with different countries after success with Zambia in 2012, when they edged the Ivorians in a shootout.

“With a team of fighting spirit and we rode our luck a little,” said Renard. An exhausted Yaya Toure looked more relieved than elated, saying: “I just want to go home and celebrate with my family and friends. It’s taken a long time for us to get here.”

Two hours of action delivered few chances as the tired-looking teams fought out an error-strewn midfield battle, although Ghana’s Christian Atsu hit the post with a low shot from inside the penalty area midway through the second half as the midfield stranglehold kept chances to a minimum.

However, Atsu’s strong running down the right tested the Ivorian defence again when he provided Gyan with another chance after 72 minutes but it was blocked. As the game approached 90 minutes with a scramble in the Ghana goalmouth and the Embarkation could only parry the ball, gave Ivorian substitute Seydou Doumbia a half-chance but he was thwarted by a quick defensive recovery.

One of the tensest penalties in history was finally decided when Ghana’s Asamoah Gyan missed with just minutes remaining to hand hosts a 10th successive African Cup triumph.

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Doumbia missed another half-chance at the start of the second half of extra time when striker Gervinho fouled a second wind and the game had to go to penalties to separate the teams.

African Cup of Nations: Ghana v Ivory Coast, Sunday, 8 February 2015

After Edmond’s error, the ball could not go in and was ruled as a corner and the same happened twice, but the second corner was played in the wrong position, not close to the box. Finally, the Ivorian forward was blocked and then fed Max Gradel with a clear chance. Gradel hit the post after 26 minutes. It’s a fantastic chance for the Ivorian, who had tested the Ivorian defence three times in the first 26 minutes. The Ivorian goalkeeper was then again tested by the Ivorian forward, who had a fantastic chance to score in the 39th minute, but the Ivorian forward averted the ball into the penalty area before feeding Atsu, whose first time shot hit the upright before bouncing back into play.

A third Ivorian mistake gave Ghana the first chance of the second half with Atsu speeding away before passing into Asamoah Gyan, who was off target with his effort. Gyan had been doubtful for the final with a pelvic injury but passed a late fitness test.

Mubarak Wakaso blasted over the top with a strong effort from well outside the penalty area midway through the second half as the midfield stranglehold kept chances to a minimum. However, Atsu’s strong running down the right tested the Ivorian defence again when he provided Gyan with another chance after 72 minutes but it was blocked. As the game approached 90 minutes with a scramble in the Ghana goalmouth and the Embarkation could only parry the ball, gave Ivorian substitute Seydou Doumbia a half-chance but he was thwarted by a quick defensive recovery.

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United rely on Blind faith to snatch point at West Ham.

LONDON, 9 Feb — Manchester United’s Daley Blind stuck in stoppage time to rescue a 1-1 draw at a determined West Ham United on Sunday but Louis van Gaal’s team missed a chance to move up to third place in the Premier League.

With Southampton grabbing a late winner at Queens Park Rangers and Tottenham Hotspur beating local rivals Arsenal on Saturday, United needed all three points to climb back into the top three.

But West Ham dominated the early stages at Upton Park and Cheikhhou Kouyate’s neat second-half volley looked to have given the Londoners victory, only for Blinder to fire home from the edge of the area after a poor clearance.

United stayed fourth on 44 points from 24 matches, one behind Southampton and one ahead of Spurs. West Ham remained eighth with 37 points.

Chelsea lead the way with 56 points after winning 2-1 at Aston Villa on Saturday, seven ahead of Manchester City who were held 1-1 at home by struggling Hull City.

“We played very badly in the first half and showed a lot of spirit in the second half,” United manager Louis van Gaal told Sky Sports.

“We gave away that goal and then played football but you have to do it from the first minute. But what spirit after the goal and I thanked my players for that.”

Earlier, West Bromwich Albion came from two goals down to draw 2-2 at fellow strugglers Burnley and claim what could prove to be a crucial point in the fight for survival.

In a mid-table battle at St James’ Park, Peter Crouch’s late equaliser earned Stoke City a 1-1 draw against Newcastle United and kept Mark Hughes’s side in the top 10.

West Ham made the better start against United at Upton Park and Enner Valencia forced two smart saves from David De Gea as the home side looked to expose the defensive frailties that have hindered United this season.

James Tomkins was the next West Ham player to test De Gea when the defender’s header from a free kick called the Spanish keeper into action.

But Kouyate fired the Hammers in front soon after the break when he neatly juggled the ball in the box before twisting his body and volleying past the stranded De Gea.

United struggled to create chances but striker Radel Falcão squandered an opportunity when through on goal before Robin van Persie had a shot well saved by Adrian.

The Manchester side showed their battling qualities as West Ham failed to clear Marcos Rojo’s ball forward and Blind struck to earn his team a point. United were forced to play the final stages with 10 men when defender Luke Shaw received a second yellow card.

Burnley’s Ashley Barnes and Danny Ings provided the early spark at a wet and gloomy Turf Moor as they each scored headers to give the hosts a 2-0 lead.

But Chris Brunt earned West Brom a lifeline towards the end of the first half when he nodded in from a corner and substitute Brown Ideye completed the comeback for Tony Pulis’s side when he powered in a header from Brunt’s corner.

On their Facebook page, the club announced the arrest of the leaders of the Zamalek supporters group, Ultras White Knights, after Sunday’s incident, official media reported.

Relations between security forces and fans groups known as Ultras have been tense since the 2011 popular uprising that ended the rule of autocrat Hosni Mubarak, in which the Ultras played a key role. “Huge numbers of Zamalek club fans came to Air Defence Stadium to attend the match ... and tried to storm the stadium gates by force, which prompted the troops to prevent them from continuing the assault,” the interior ministry said.

The public prosecution ordered the arrest of the leaders of the Zamalek supporters group, Ultras White Knights, after Sunday’s incident, official media reported.

On their Facebook page, the Ultras White Knights described the 22 dead as “martyrs” and accused security forces of a “massacre”.

Despite the violence, the match went ahead and ended with a 1-1 draw. The Egyptian Football Federation said it had reversed an earlier decision to allow fans to return to the stadiums by the start of the second half of the season. The original decision had been taken only a few days ago.

 Shortly after that, the Cabinet said in a statement that the national league championship would be postponed indefinitely.

Chile’s Roberto Jiménez scored the only goal in the 90th minute when he powered in a header from Geoff Cameron’s pinpoint cross. Stoke remained 10th with 33 points and Newcastle are two points behind in 11th spot. — Reuters

Twenty-two people killed outside Cairo soccer stadium.

CAIRO, 9 Feb — Twenty-two people were killed outside an Egyptian soccer stadium on Sunday when security forces banned fans from entering, the public prosecutor’s office said.

Most of the dead were suffocated when the crowd stampeded after police used tear gas to clear the area, but security forces and fan groups known as Ultras have been tense since the 2011 popular uprising that ended the rule of autocrat Hosni Mubarak, in which the Ultras played a key role.

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Chile’s Roberto Jiménez scored the only goal in the 90th minute when he powered in a header from Geoff Cameron’s pinpoint cross. Stoke remained 10th with 33 points and Newcastle are two points behind in 11th spot. — Reuters

Williams sisters see US through in Fed Cup promotion bid.

BUENOS AIRES, 9 Feb — A persistent, nagging cough bothering world number one Serena Williams since her Australian Open victory gave Argentina a chance at light in their one-sided Fed Cup tie against the United States on Sunday.

However, Argentine number one Paula Ormaechea’s 6-4, 6-4 win over Coco Vandeweghe, standing in for Williams, was a minor setback on the Americans’ way to a 4-1 victory in the World Group II tie at Pilara outside Buenos Aires.

“It was a great atmosphere, we played well and I’m proud of the win,” said Venus Williams on Saturday, told reporters.

Williams sisters had put their team 2-0 up on Saturday with wins over world number 121 Ormaechea and number 197 Irgbison whose country were seeded and had a choice of court, opting for clay, despite the huge gap in world rankings favouring the Americans. — Reuters

Paula Ormaechea of Argentina celebrates after defeating Coco Vandeweghe of the US in their Fed Cup World Group II first round tennis match in Buenos Aires on 8 Feb, 2015. — Reuters

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