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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits injured personnel and IDPs from Laukkai area

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb — As Defence Services Personnel are waging the just war to defend the sovereignty of the state, monks and people are supporting them, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing told the injured personnel and their families at PyinOoLwin Station Military Hospital on Sunday while visiting officers and other ranks who had sustained injuries in Laukkai area.

The senior added that on behalf of the Tatmadaw

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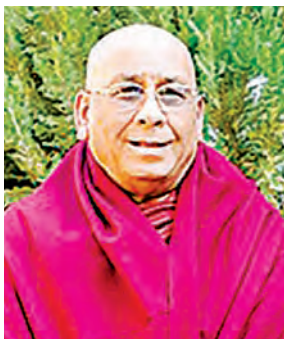
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing comforts a soldier who sustains injuries in the fight against Kokang renegade troops.—MYAWADY

Sitagu Sayadaw requests student protesters to return to bosom of families and universities

YANGON, 15 Feb — The chancellor of the Sitagu International Buddhist Academy has requested student protesters to return to the bosom of their respective families, teachers and universities by basking in their triumph, according to a statement issued by SIBA on Sunday.



Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nyanissara expressed his belief that the four-party talks would come up with fruitful results and called for the continuation of unity and harmony in negotiations to come.

Students should play peacemakers in various movements and urged them to try to become good sons and good daughters the country and the Sasana can rely on, the Sitagu Sayadaw insisted in the statement.—*GNLM*

SMBC to open Myanmar branch in 2015

YANGON 15 Feb — Japan's Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corp. is preparing to open a branch in Myanmar in 2015, according to the report of Nikkei website on Sunday.

SMBC won licence for banking services in Myanmar last year together with other eight foreign banks, including two Japanese rivals of Mitsubishi UFJ Financial Group and Mizuho Financial Group. According to the report, the Japanese bank will have 30 to 40 employees and engage in deposit and lending services for Japanese and other companies operating in the country.

The banks will also open its branch in Manila, the Philippines, this summer to provide loans and trade financing with 40 to 50 employees for financial services to Japanese manufacturers and Philippine companies affiliated with big conglomerates.

Myanmar's economy is expected to grow 7.75 percent in the 2014-15 financial year from 7.3 percent last year, International Monetary Fund data shows.

A United Nations study released in last year showed that only 4 percent of Myanmar citizens surveyed had savings accounts in their own names, while a 2013 report by the International Finance Corporation estimated that less than 20 percent of the population has access to financial services.

Banking services of SMBC include deposits, loans, foreign currency trading, trade financing and cash management services.

SMBC's outstanding balance of loans to Asia outside Japan stood at $70 billion at the end of 2014, up about 80 percent during the past four years or so, the report said.

GNLM

Myanmar, India eye trade promotion

YANGON, 15 Feb — The joint Trade Committee of Myanmar and Inida will hold its fifth meeting in Nay Pyi Taw on 16 and 17 February to promote trade, investment and economic cooperation between the two countries. The meeting will be organized by Myanmar's Ministry of Commerce and the preliminary meeting was held on 31 January under the auspice of Directorate of Trade.

Our correspondent from Chin State, CL thanga (GNLM-005), interviewed Dr Nandakumar, Consul General of Indian Consulate to Myanmar, on the meeting of the Joint Trade Committee, and the following is the questions and answers. Ed

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MTE to sell more than 31,00 tonnes of hardwood

The government has suspended the export of timbers in April, 2014.
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

YANGON, 15 Feb — Myanmar Timber Enterprise (MTE) will sell more than 3,100 tonnes of hardwood logs in US dollars through a competitive bidding system on 20 February, 2015.

The hardwood which will be sold under the special open tender sale at Tawwin Hall of MTE in Gyogon, Insein Township, include Padauk logs with domestic quality grade, Kanyin logs with first quality grade, Pyinkado logs with second quality grade, Thingan logs with first quality grade and Sagawa logs with first quality grade, according to the recent announcement of MTE.—*GNLM*

Birthday Reception: ***His Excellency Mr Kim Sok Chol, Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, welcomes Deputy Director General Daw Yin Yin Oo of Strategic and Policy Studies Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the reception to mark the 73rd birthday of the leader of DPRK H.E. Mr Kim Jong Il on 14th February.*—MNA**

Indian Home Minister visits Indo-Myanmar border to promote bilateral trade and to facilitate border issues

Yangon, 15 Feb — Union Home Minister of India visited Moreh trade zone project in Manipur State bordering with Chin State of Myanmar, on Friday, according to the reports.

Rajnath Singh, accompanied by his deputy minister Kiren Rijiju, visited the 'Friendship Bridge' that connects the two countries on the banks of Lokchao River.

He remarked that the trade centre could help resolving border issues with Myanmar, saying that India-Myanmar border offers unique opportunity to open links and routes for trade and commerce with East Asian countries.

A Manipur government official said, "Rajnath Singh along with Kiren Rijiju and home ministry officials visited Moreh along the India-Myanmar border," adding that they supervised the integrated check post which is under construction to promote bilateral trade and to facilitate border issues.

Agreement on the establishment of the zone on 2,500 hectare in the Churachanpur district was signed by the two countries in 2012 to promote trade which is expected to reach US$3 billion in 2015.

GNLM

Japan grants US$ 507,094 for four projects in Kanpetlet, Mindat, Matupi Tsps

Yangon, 15 Feb — The Japanese Government, under its Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme, has extended the assistance of US$507,094 for four humanitarian assistance programmes.

It allotted US$ 153,379 for construction of Kyindwe Village Basic Education High School in Kanpetlet Township, Chin State; US$ 121,939 for construction of five schools in Mindat Township, Chin State; US$ 114,015 for construction of No.1 Basic Education High School in Matupi Township, Chin State; and US$ 117,761 for upgrading medical facilities in Matupi Township, Chin State.

The handover and opening ceremonies of the above four projects took place in Kanpetlet, Mindat and Matupi Townships, Chin State from 3 to 5 February 2015 respectively. In the ceremonies of Kyindwe school and Mindat schools, Mr. Kei MAEDA, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Japan, Dr. Ba Maung, Minister for Social Welfare of Chin State Dr Ba Maung, officials and local residents attended. In the ceremonies of Matupi school and Matupi hospital, Mr. Kei MAEDA, Second Secretary of the Embassy of Japan, U Ohn Lwin, Chin State Hluttaw Deputy Speaker, officials and local residents attended.

GGP/GNLM

***Opening ceremony of new school building in Matupi Township, Chin State, built by contribution of Japanese Goverment.*—GGP/GNLM**

Graduates from the Rule of Law Centre Pilot Project

Mandalay, 15 Feb — A group of eighty people, made up of civil society representatives, lawyers and law teachers Sunday received certificates upon the completion an intense training on rule of law, provided as part of a UNDP project being piloted in Lashio and Mandalay.

The certificates were handed over to the graduates by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Chairperson, Pyithu Hluttaw, Chair of the Coordinating Body for the Rule of Law Centres in the presence of Members of Parliament, representatives of the Hluttaw Speaker's Commission and the Hluttaw Office, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Country Director Toily Kurbanov, and the trainers involved in the project.

"All people must be equal before the law. Rule of law is not just for lawyers and judges, it is for the whole country. Only when we have rule of law can we enjoy peace of mind and security," said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

The three month training covered broad rule of law principles and local justice issues. It was offered through a comprehensive and interactive curriculum that wove together international standards and Myanmar law and practice. The pilot project also focused on building links with local communities, through community forums on local justice issues and mock trials. At least 188 people joined the community outreach activities. "UNDP has heard repeatedly from judges, law officers, lawyers, police, law teachers and community members, that there is a need for training on rule of law for justice actors. This is a fundamental first step to building public trust in the justice system. The Rule of Law Centre Pilot Project has taken important early steps to meet this need in Mandalay and Lashio,"said UNDP Country Director, Toily Kurbanov.—*GNLM*

Myanmar, India eye trade promotion

(from page 1)

Question: During the 5th JTC what are the main proposals/discussions on India side or both country side?

Answer: India and Myanmar hold regular consultations under the mechanism of Joint Trade Committee to discuss bilateral trade and commercial matters. The 4th JTC meeting was held in September 2011 in New Delhi. The 5th JTC meeting will be hosted by Myanmar and is scheduled for 16-17 February 2015 at Nay Pyi Taw. The entire gamut of bilateral trade and commercial matters will be reviewed in the 5th JTC including the measures required for further promoting investment and strengthening trade through both land and sea borders between the two countries.

***Q*:** On JTC, officials from Union Ministry of Commerce will only attend and discuss or any other association such as concerned government officials, companies and business associations will also attend (please mention detail)?

***A*:** The Indian delegation for the Joint Trade Committee will be headed by Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Government of India. The meeting is multisectoral in nature involving number of ministries/departments of GoI.

***Q*:** Kindly mention about the overall view of the Consul General, the agreements and implementation of 4th JTC and the preparation of 5th JTC.

***A*:** India and Myanmar are friendly neighbours with deep historical and cultural ties. The two countries also have regular high level exchanges. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi visited Myanmar for the 12th India-ASEAN summit and 9th East Asia Summit in November 2014. HE Dr. Sai Mauk Kham, Vice President of Myanmar visited Indian in January 2015. On 16-17 February 2015, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Hon'ble Minister of State for Commerce and Industry will be visiting Myanmar for the Joint Trade Committee Meeting.

The two countries have formal interactions at various levels. Both the countries have regular discussions through the mechanism of Joint Trade Committee (JTC) for strengthening bilateral trade and commerce. Considering the fact that Indian has a vibrant and mature economy and Myanmar is a country with rich natural and human resource there is a natural complementarity. However, bilateral trade is below potential irrespective of the positive growth experienced since the 4th JTC. The upcoming 5th JTC will provide a valuable opportunity to discuss some of these issues and various initiatives taken by both sides.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits . . .

(from page 1)

and the country, he was proud of officers and other ranks who fought in Laukkai area bravely, saying that the injured were carried to hospital by helicopter and car as soon as possible and they will be given best treatments until they completely recover while food and accommodation for visiting family members will be provided.

The senior general, together with wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Chief of Staff (Army, Navy and Air) Gen Hla Htay Win and senior military officers and their wives and Commander of Central Command Maj-Gen Soe Htut, arrived at the hospital and visited injured personnel in Laukkai area one by one while the wife of the senior general presented cash award and food items to them.

Then, the senior general attended to the need of the hospital. Afterward, the senior general and party met with the families of the injured at the hall of the hospital and presented cash and food.

The senior general and party, together with Commander of Northeast Command Maj-Gen Aung Soe, proceeded to Lashio Station Military Hospital and visited injured personnel in Laukkai area before presenting cash award and food for them. Then, the senior general met with families of personnel who sacrificed their lives in Laukkai area and presented cash awards. The senior general expressed his word of empathy for those who sacrificed their lives in the area.

Lt-Gen Aung Than Htut and Commander Maj-Gen Aung Soe reported to the senior general on the fighting in the area at the command, and the senior general attended to the needs of operations.

The senior general and party, then, went to Thirimingalar Mansu Shan Monastery in Lashio and met with internally displaced persons taking refuge there before presenting K 10 million, 100 bags of rice and food donated by Defence Services (Army, Navy and Air). The senior general also presented cash award and food for police officer Soe Aye Tun, who sacrificed his life in Laukkai before paying homage and donating offertories for the abbot of the monastery.

Defence services personnel had to defend bravely by sacrificing their lives as Kokang renegade groups launched military operations in Laukkai with the aim of disrupting administrative and government mechanism. As the fighting were fierce, some Tatmadaw lost their lives while some others were injured and they were transported to military hospitals by helicopter and car immediately. The bone pots of those who lost lives in the fighting were aslo buried at military headquarters concerned properly, according to sources.

Myawady

Government troops seize arms, ammunitions in effort to secure Laukkai

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Feb — Government troops encountered engagements with Kokang renegade groups in Laukkai on Saturday throughout their attempt to comb the town for security reason, reports said.

Sporadic fighting continued all day long, with the army seizing 100 small arms, ammunitions, eight walkie-talkies, four laptops and narcotic drugs, killing 18 and capturing eight others, all of whom were seriously wounded.

The captured Kokang defectors all died of wounds they had suffered amid medical treatment given by the government troops, who still keep on securing the town and its vicinity.—*Myawady*

Well-wishers donate cash and kind for soldiers

***Major General Hsan Oo accepts SkyNet receiver from Shwe Thanlwin Media.*—MNA**

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Feb — As a gesture of honouring soldiers who are safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes at the risk of their life and limbs, well-wishers donated cash and kind through senior military officers on 14 February in Nay Pyi Taw. The well-wishers handed over K 283.2 million to Adjutant-General Major Hsan Oo and other top military officers at the ceremony. In memory of their late father, Chairman U Kyaw Win of Shwe Thanlwin Media also showed their generosity towards the soldiers by donating K 97 million in cash and 1000 sets of TV worth K 217 million including permission to watch the TV free of charge for one year. On other occasion, Yangon Command Commander Major Tun Tun Naung accepted over K 337 million and USD 200 and food worth K 6 million from wellwishers.—*MNA*

Myanmar has great potential to become a major rice producer

Yangon, 15 Feb — Myanmar has great potential to become a major rice producer in near future, according to Thai traders and experts.

Annual rice produce in the country is around 12.6 million tonnes, while export volume is slightly over 1 million tonne. The government has targeted 2 million tonnes of export in 2015 and 4 million tonnes 2020.

Vichai Sriprasert, honorary president of the Thai Rice Exporters Association who was on a working visit in Myanmar in early February, said that up to 8.5 million acres of land in Myanmar — in addition to the existing farmland used for rice — could be developed.

The Myanmar Rice Miller Company, as a part of the Myanmar Rice Millers Association, has entered an agreement with China CAMC Engineering Company Limited to construct modern rice mills in the country. According to the agreement, both sides have agreed to build two 200-tonne rice mills in Myanmar by 2017.—*GNLM*

People raise voices over continuous negotiations and peaceful schooling

Yangon, 15 Feb — Students in Yangon on Sunday staged a demonstration in support of student protesters bound to Yangon, officials report.

The students gathered at the Thamaing junction at noon and walked to the Myenigone traffic light, with police urging them to seek permission from the police stations of townships they went past.

"We haven't got a full guarantee despite progress in negotiations," said Aung San Hmaing, a member of the Leading Committee for Democratic Education Movement, who took part in the march.

The protest drew around 250 students and the demonstrators dispersed at 2.30pm.

Another protest took place in a township here the same day, with demonstrators carrying placards that read "No closure of factories due to disruption", "We prefer stability and peace", "No hindrance to exams", and "Solution through negotiation". There were about 120 people in the protest in support of the four-party talks.

The four parties include the government, the parliament, the National Network for Education Reform and the Leading Committee for Democratic Education Movement. They reached agreement in their third meeting held in Yangon on Saturday. According to the agreement, the education bill will be submitted to the parliament for approval on 16 February.

Despite the agreement, student protesters are en route to Yangon instead of calling off their strike. The continuing student demonstration is of great concern to people, parents and students who prefer peaceful schooling.

Tamwe, a township in Yangon, also saw a mass demonstration that voiced its preference to peaceful learning. People, parents and students participated in the protest.

"The exam is drawing near. I can't let this student strike hinder their education," a participant said.

A student from Dagon University said he wanted the demonstration come to an immediate halt, adding "I don't want it to distract matric students from the exam."

The mass demonstration in Tamwe attracted 1,600 people.—*GNLM*

***Protesters holding placards that read "We support President's action for stability of the State.", "No hindrance to exams".*—MNA**

Inter-University/College Body-building and Physical Culture Contest shows health and fitness of students

MANDALAY, 15 Feb— The Inter-University/College Body-building and Physical Culture Contest 2015 took place at the city hall in Mandalay.

On 13 February, the pageants in senior and junior classes showed off their skills and postures.

After the contests, Yazar Than Win of Lashio University won the first prize, Wai Yan Paing (Yadanabon University) second and Zaw Myo Thet of Monywa University third respectively.

Mandalay Region Minister for Development Affairs Mayor U Aung Moung and officials awarded the winners.

Ma Ei Shwe Sin (Monywa University) stood first, Ma Su Nanda Tun (Sagaing Education University) second and Ma Thinza Moe (Mandalay University) third in the senior class.

Deputy Director-General of Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar), rectors and pro-rectors presented prizes to the winners.—*Tin Maung (Mandalay)*

Self-reliant village library commissioned into service

NYAUNGLEBIN, 15 Feb — To mark the centenary of General Aung San, a ceremony to put self-reliant Zabu Yadana Library into service was held at the library building in the compound of Basic Education High School Branch in Zigongyi Village, Nyaunglebin Township, on 13 February.

Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department Daw Ni Ni Win explained the advantages of opening the library for the local people.

Writer Dr Myint Than gave talks on Children's Day and centenary of general Aung San.

Headmaster U Win Aung explained the purpose of opening the library.

The township administrator and wellwishers donated cash and books to the library through headmaster.

Township IPRD allotted K 1 million and local people donated K4.8 million to construction of the library which is 24 feet in length and 12 feet in width.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)

Military medics give medical treatment to people

TAUNGTHA, 15 Feb—A 115-member mobile medical team led by surgical specialist Lt-Col Kyaw Sein Tun gave health care services to 1,595 people from Zagyan, Kanmye and surrounding villages at Zagyan Station Hospital in Taungtha Township, Mandalay Region, on 13 February.

The military medical team performed medical checkup at the local people with the use of modern hospital equipment.

Moreover, they chlorinated wells and demonstrated use of pesticides to the local people.

The team stations at Zagyan Station Hospital and provides health care services to the local people till 15 February.

Kyaw Myo Naing (Taungtha)

Mandalay Education College marks centenary of General Aung San and Myanmar Children's Day

MANDALAY, 15 Feb — A ceremony to mark the centenary of General Aung San and Myanmar Children's Day was held at Mandalay Education College on 13 February.

Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint spoke on the occasion.

The chief minister and officials enjoyed entertainments of children from pre-primary school.

They presented prizes to winners in the essay contest in commemoration of centenary of General Aung San and Myanmar Children's Day and gifts to school children from pre-primary schools.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Wellwishers donate cash and kind to U Hla Tun Hospice Cancer Foundation

MANDALAY, 15 Feb— Myitta Yaysin health service association donated a calcium purifier worth K350,000 and various sorts of snacks, Hsu Yi Mon Thant K100,000 to mark her 11th birthday, Daw San San Thwe and family K100,000 in memory of late U David Thaung Lwin, and Ye Lin Aung K100,000 in commemoration of his birthday to U Hla Tun Hospice Cancer Foundation.

Shwe Wah restaurant K70,000 for one-day meals in memory of late Daw Tin Tin Win to officials.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Singapore PM Lee has prostate cancer, to take medical leave

Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

SINGAPORE, 15 Feb — Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has been diagnosed with prostate cancer and will undergo surgery to remove his prostate gland on Monday, his office said in a statement on Sunday.

Lee, 63, will be on medical leave for one week and during this period Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean will head the government, the statement appearing on Lee's Facebook page said.

Lee decided on the surgery option on the advice of a panel of doctors and is expected to recover fully, the statement said.

The elder son of Singapore's founding father Lee Kuan Yew, Lee was previously diagnosed with lymphoma in 1992 but the cancer went into remission after successful chemotherapy.—*Reuters*

Photo taken on 14 Feb, 2015 shows a scene of the Jatigede Dam in Sumedang in West Java, Indonesia. Jatigede Dam is the first water conservancy project cooperated by Chinese and Indonesian governments. The project is jointly constructed by China's Sinohydro and Indonesia's four largest state-owned construction companies.
XINHUA

'Nut rage' prompts S Korea to consider law against high-handed conduct

SEOUL, 15 Feb — Resentment has mounted so much in South Korea against what has come to be known as "gabjil", high-handedness by the rich and powerful, that parliamentarians are proposing legislation to punish some of the worst abuses.

A bill to be presented in the national assembly this month is formally called the "Conglomerates Ethical Management Special Law" but has been nick-named the Cho Hyun-ah law.

Cho, also known as Heather Cho, is the daughter of the chairman of Korean Air Lines and was sentenced last week to a year in prison for an outburst on a Korean Air plane while on the ground in New York. It was considered a severe sentence by some legal experts.

The bill proposes to ban members of the powerful business families known as chaebol from working at their companies for at least five years if convicted of a crime. In earlier cases, some high-profile offenders were pardoned, serving little or no jail time, although recently-convicted chaebol executives have found it harder to avoid prison.

In February, the Supreme Court confirmed a four-year embezzlement sentence for SK Holdings Chairman Chey Tae-won, who has been in prison since January 2013, among the longest terms served by a chaebol boss.

In 2007, Hyundai Motor Chairman Chung Mong-koo was given a three-year jail term for fraud but the sentence was suspended in exchange for community service and a $1 billion charity donation as the court deemed he was too important to the economy to be jailed.

Cho, who has appealed against her sentence, was Korean Air's head of in-flight service at the time of the 5 December episode, which has come to be called the "nut rage" case. A court found she had violated the law by ordering the plane she was in to return to the gate after it started to taxi.

Cho had demanded the flight crew chief be expelled from the flight after she was served macadamia nuts in a bag, and not on a dish.

"I hope the recent case involving Cho has created the right environment to pull together consensus on this," said ruling Saenuri Party lawmaker Kim Yong-nam, the sponsor of the bill. Another parliamentarian from an opposition party has proposed an amendment along similar lines.

"There have been calls to put in place a systematic tool to police heavy-handedness by chaebol family members, and stop them from being able to participate in management just because they are relatives," Kim said in an interview.

Cho's lawyer Suh Chang-hee declined to comment on the proposed legislation.

It is not clear whether the legislation will be approved by a parliament controlled by the business-friendly Saenuri Party.

Cho Hyun-ah, also known as Heather Cho

Shin Seuk-hun, head of corporate policy at the Federation of Korean Industries, a lobby group for chaebol, said improving corporate transparency and ethical standards was positive, but the proposed legislation appeared to regard a corporation as a public interest group.

"It's almost like trying to supervise a company by getting the public involved and treating it as if it's a group of holy clergymen," he said. "It seems excessive."

Reuters

India lags behind in implementing connectivity projects with ASEAN

NEW DELHI, 15 Feb — India has extended the deadline for its connectivity projects with Myanmar and Thailand up to 2019, delaying the building of two transport projects linking India's northeast state Manipur to Mae Sot in Thailand through Myanmar, said the *Times of India* on Sunday.

This could affect negatively the implementation of Delhi's "Act East" policy aimed at increasing economic and trade ties with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), said the newspaper.

Both of Kaladan multi-modal transport project and the trilateral highway with Myanmar and Thailand are under the responsibility of the Ministry of External Affairs. The first is to build or upgrade some 70 bridges on the Tamu-Kyigone-Kalewa road section and upgrade Kalewa-Yargyi stretch.

On the trilateral highway, Thailand has completed its part and Myanmar is also making progress in the field along the 132 km line, while the 30 km road project in India remains to be done yet.

Budget shortage and lack of coordination among various ministries are blamed for the failure of delivery on the Indian side, said the report.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has renamed India's "Look East" policy to "Act East" to highlight engagement with ASEAN countries.—*Xinhua*

Japan's SDF holds evacuation drill for Japanese nationals in Thailand

UTAPAO, (Thailand), 15 Feb — The Japanese military staged an evacuation drill on Sunday at a military airfield in central Thailand for Japanese nationals to test evacuation procedures if the country is stricken by a major earthquake.

The exercise, conducted as part of a major multilateral military exercise in Southeast Asia, involved mainly personnel of Japan's Self-Defence Forces and Japanese Embassy staff.Officials said about 170 people took part in the exercise held at Utapao Royal Thai Navy Airfield, 140 kilometres southeast of Bangkok.

The drill involved land transport from nearby Japanese communities and a Japanese Air Self-Defence Force C-130 cargo aircraft on standby at the airfield, according to Japanese officials.

Japan is currently taking part in the Cobra Gold military drills sponsored jointly by Thailand and the United States.

This year, about 10,000 military personnel from 24 countries are taking part in the exercise, which began on 9 February and lasts through 20 February. Cobra Gold has taken place every year since 1982.—*Kyodo News*

China to require police to film all interrogations

SHANGHAI, 15 Feb — China will require police to film and record all interrogations in criminal cases to ensure that law enforcement is carried out fairly and that suspects' rights are protected, the official *Xinhua* news agency reported on Sunday.

The requirement, approved by the Ministry of Public Security, includes a plan to improve evidence gathering and the accountability of police officers handling cases.

Public discontent over wrongful punishment in China has been growing.

In December, the parents of a teenager executed 18 years ago for a rape and murder he did not commit were compensated after the Inner Mongolia High Court overturned his conviction.

In another case, a former food stall owner who was on death row was acquitted of poisoning two children. Nian Bin said he was tortured into confessing during police interrogations.

The ministry said the credibility of the police had been damaged by instances of police accepting bribes and bending the law to serve themselves, *Xinhua* reported. —*Reuters*

Russia's railroad-based missile system to be equipped with Yars missiles

Moscow, 15 Feb—Russia's future railroad-based Barguzin missile system will be equipped with the RS-24 Yars intercontinental ballistic missiles, no other missiles are planned to ne created for it, a Russian defence industry source told *TASS* on Thursday.

"We have the RS-24 Yars modern missile, which is small enough to be placed in a regular car of a special train and at the same time has high combat power. So, no other missiles are planned to be created for the Barguzin so far," said the source. He said that the most important task is creating the railroad-based missile system based on new technology and testing it with the Yars missile in the next three to four years.

According to the source, Barguzin's development may be completed in 2018. After that it will take two years to test it. "If everything goes normally and on schedule, then Barguzin with due financing may be adopted for service at the turn of 2019-2020," he said.

Another defence industry source told *TASS* previously that one Barguzin train, equalled to a regiment, will be able to carry six Yars intercontinental ballistic missiles. According to him, one Barguzin division will comprise five regiments. Barguzin is being developed at the Moscow-based Institute of Thermal Engineering. A former Strategic Missile Force chief of staff, Viktor Yesin, told *TASS* previously that Barguzin is Russia's response to the United States' deployment of the anti-ballistic missile defence. Russia withdrew railway-based inter-continental ballistic missiles from operation in 2005. At the moment research and development work is in progress on Barguzin, which is expected to remain in active service at least till 2040.

Itar-Tass

Railroad-based missile system

Indian defence minister calls on navy to remain superior force in Indian Ocean

New Delhi, 15 Feb — Indian Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar has called on the Indian navy to remain a "superior force " in the Indian Ocean region as well as turn itself into a truly blue water navy, said local media on Sunday.

Addressing sailors and officers of aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya on the western coast state of Goa on Saturday, Parrikar said the Indian navy is facing a difficult task of ensuring safety and security of the nation, said local daily the *Pioneer*.

He also witnessed an on-going large scale navy exercise called Theatre Readiness Operational Level Exercise, in which the navy conducted multiple facets of operations involving two carriers, 40 warships, hundreds of aircraft and its sole nuclear submarine on both east and west coasts of India.

Xinhua

UN plan eyes targets to reduce disaster-induced losses by 2030

Tokyo, 15 Feb— A new global framework to be adopted at the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction next month in northeastern Japan is setting targets to sharply reduce the number of deaths, economic losses and infrastructure damage during disasters by 2030, a draft plan showed on Saturday.

If realized, it would be the first time that the United Nations has unveiled specific targets and a timeline on decreasing the risks posed by disasters. However, delegates are still studying whether to include numerical targets, with the draft plan showing both proposed texts that put reduction targets and alternative texts that are more general without mentioning any figure. The delegates gathering at the UN conference in Sendai, Miyagi Prefecture, which was one of the cities hit hard by the 2011 earthquake-tsunami disasters, will be discussing the new framework to replace the 10-year Hyogo Framework for Action.

The Hyogo framework was adopted at the previous UN conference held in 2005 in Kobe, Hyogo Prefecture, and it did not contain numerical targets for disaster reduction. While sticking to the basic policy of urging nations and local governments to prioritize disaster prevention measures and establish early warning systems, the post-2015 framework also identifies seven global targets in view of recurrent natural hazards worldwide since 2005, according to the draft, a copy of which was obtained by *Kyodo News*.

Apart from decreasing disaster-induced deaths, economic losses and damage to infrastructure such as health and educational facilities, the draft also called for reducing the number of people affected by the disasters per capita, either by 20 percent or 30 percent, and for the provision of aid to developing countries.

The global targets also included ensuring public access to early warning systems, and significantly increasing the number of countries with disaster risk reduction strategies. For an indicator on substantially reducing economic losses, the draft identified such losses in relation to gross domestic product. As for aid to developing nations, one proposal is for developed nations to provide a certain level of funding, while another proposal merely stresses the importance of international cooperation and global partnership, according to the draft plan. The draft noted urgency in reducing disaster risks as a way to eliminate poverty, and called reductions in disaster risk an effective investment in preventing future losses.

The delegates to the five-day UN conference from 14 March are also expected to issue a political declaration. In a draft statement, a copy of which was also obtained by *Kyodo*, they underlined the need for discussions on disaster reduction so the subject will be reflected in the post-2015 Development Agenda.

The agenda is aimed at building upon the UN Millennium Development Goals, which laid out eight objectives to be achieved by 2015, including eradicating extreme poverty and combating diseases such as HIV/AIDS. —*Kyodo News*

Some Chinese tourists visit the Grand Palace in Bangkok, capital of Thailand, on 15 Feb, 2015. —Xinhua

Sri Lanka, India release detained fishing boats ahead of president's visit

Colombo, 15 Feb— Sri Lanka and India have decided to release fishing boats taken into custody from both countries ahead of the visit of Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena to India on Sunday, a government minister said here.

Sri Lanka's State Minister of Fisheries Dilip Wedaarachchi said that the Sri Lankan government has already taken measures to release 86 Indian boats in its custody.

The boats were seized when Indian fishermen were arrested on several occasions in Sri Lankan waters.

The fishermen had already been freed and Wedaarachchi said that the government had now decided to free the boats as a goodwill measure to mark Sirisena's first visit to India since taking oaths as president last month.

He also said that 24 Sri Lankan boats in Indian custody and six fishermen are to be set free by India when Sirisena heads to India.

Sirisena is scheduled to leave for India on Sunday, his first overseas visit after assuming office since last month's presidential elections. During his talks with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Sirisena is expected to discuss the fishermen issue and ask Modi to stop Indian trawlers from entering Sri Lankan waters.

Xinhua

Guns mostly fall silent in east Ukraine as ceasefire takes hold

DONETSK/ARTEMIVSK, 15 Feb — Guns fell abruptly silent at midnight across much of eastern Ukraine in line with a ceasefire agreement, although periodic shooting near a frontline railway junction showed that the truce was fragile.

Reuters journalists in Donetsk, the main rebel stronghold, said artillery bombardment halted at midnight and they heard no firing overnight, after intense final hours before the ceasefire when shells had exploded every few seconds. A single explosion could be heard in the morning from an outlying suburb. A *Reuters* photographer in government-held territory also said constant bombardment had halted overnight, although he heard a volley of artillery around 7 am from the direction of Debaltseve, a strategic railway hub town where Ukrainian forces have nearly been surrounded by advancing rebels.

Members of the armed forces of the separatist self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic stand guard at a checkpoint near Donetsk, on 15 Feb, 2015. —REUTERS

Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko talks to military staff in Kiev on 14 Feb, 2015. —REUTERS

The Ukrainian government said on Sunday morning that the ceasefire was being "generally observed". Its forces had been shelled 10 times in the hours since the truce took effect, but it described those incidents as "localized" rather than regular. None of its soldiers were killed in the last 24 hours.

"Yesterday and the day before were hot, they were shooting from here and from there. But today is quiet and calm. All is good," said Donetsk resident Rodion Biralyan, 50.

A Ukrainian staff officer stationed near Debaltseve said: "The general level (of attacks) has decreased, although there are violations." Washington accused Moscow of sending armoured columns of troops into action in the final days before the ceasefire to help pro-Russian rebels score territorial gains before the truce took effect.

Nevertheless, the ceasefire restored some semblance of calm for the first time since pro-Russian rebels spurned a previous ceasefire last month and launched an advance that had alarmed Western countries. Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko, wearing the uniform of the armed forces supreme commander, said in a midnight televised address in the capital Kiev that he had ordered troops to stop firing in line with the truce.

He said there was still alarm over the situation around Debaltseve.

The ceasefire, negotiated in four-power talks on Thursday, foresees creation of a neutral buffer zone and withdrawal of heavy weapons. More than 5,000 people have been killed in a conflict that has caused the worst crisis in Russia-West relations since the Cold War. Russian President Vladimir Putin denies Moscow is involved in fighting for territory he calls "New Russia". Western officials cite overwhelming evidence to the contrary and Washington and its allies have imposed economic sanction on Moscow.

Poroshenko said that if Ukraine were slapped once, it would not offer the other cheek. But, seated alongside armed forces chief of staff Viktor Muzhenko, he added: "I very much hope that the last chance to begin the long and difficult peaceful process for a political settlement will not be wasted."

Reuters

Dutch ruling coalition continues slide in opinion poll

Netherlands' Prime Minister Mark Rutte

AMSTERDAM, 15 Feb — The centre-right government of Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte slid further in opinion polls ahead of a March provincial election that could see his fragile Liberal-Labour coalition lose the Senate.

Provincial elections are important in the Netherlands because they indirectly determine the composition of the upper house of parliament, where Rutte relies on the backing of three smaller parties to form a majority. A poll published on Sunday by pollster Maurice de Hond showed the coalition losing a further 3 seats in the 150-seat parliament, largely due to a sharp fall in support for Labour, which has hit its lowest support level ever.

Sunday's poll did not specifically project the outcome of the 18 March provincial vote, but is seen as a good indicator of what Dutch voters will do.

Rutte's coalition, which nearly collapsed in December when an important health bill was shot down in the Senate, is increasingly shaky and the government could face political deadlock if the polls hold true.

If a parliamentary election were held now, the coalition would see its majority in the lower house wiped out, dropping from 79 seats it won in 2012 to just 29, down three from a week ago, the Sunday poll found. Three right-wing parties, the anti-Islam Party for Freedom of Geert Wilders, Rutte's Liberals and the centrist Democrats 66 are vying to become the largest party but none will win enough votes to rule outright.—*Reuters*

Danish police say kill suspect in Copenhagen attacks

COPENHAGEN, 15 Feb — Danish police shot and killed a man in Copenhagen on Sunday they believe was responsible for two deadly attacks at an event promoting freedom of speech and on a synagogue.

The prime minister described the first shooting, which bore similarities to an assault in Paris in January on the office of weekly newspaper *Charlie Hebdo*, as a terrorist attack.

Two civilians died in Saturday's attacks and five police were wounded.

One man died in the first shooting, in a cafe hosting Swedish artist Lars Vilks, who has been threatened with death for depicting the Prophet Mohammad in cartoons. Another died in an attack on a synagogue close by.

Islamist gunmen attacked a Jewish supermarket in Paris two days after the *Charlie Hebdo* attack.

Danish police had launched a massive manhunt with helicopters roaring overhead and an array of armoured vehicles on the usually peaceful streets of Copenhagen.

By 0500 GMT, police said they had fired shots and later confirmed they killed a man in Norrebro, an area in Copenhagen not far from the sites of the two attacks.

"We assume that it's the same culprit behind both incidents... that was shot by the police," Chief police inspector Torben Molgaard Jensen told reporters. French ambassador Francois Zimeray attended the cafe event and praised Denmark's support for freedom of speech following the January attacks in Paris. Witnesses said the envoy had barely finished an introduction to the meeting when up to 40 shots rang out, outside the venue, as an attacker tried to shoot inside. Police said they considered Vilks, the main speaker, to have been the target. A 55-year-old man died as a result of that shooting, police said early on Sunday.

"We feel certain now that it was a politically motivated attack, and thereby it was a terrorist attack," Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt told journalists, speaking on Saturday close to the site of the cafe. Hours later, during the night, shots were fired at a synagogue in another part of the city, about a half hour's walk away from the cafe. A man was shot in the head, and was later confirmed to have died. Two police officers were wounded.

In Paris on 17 January, brothers Cherif and Said Kouachi burst into the office of the *Charlie Hebdo* newspaper and opened fire in revenge for its satirical images of the Prophet Mohammad. In all, 17 people were killed over three days of violence in France.

European Council President Donald Tusk called Saturday's attack "another brutal terrorist attack targeted at our fundamental values and freedoms, including the freedom of expression."

Reuters

Forensic investigators are seen at the site of a shooting in Copenhagen on 14 Feb, 2015. —REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 16 February, 2015

The past cannot repeat forever

By *Myint Win Thein*

Traditionally, a password is a secret word or phrase that one needs to know in order to be allowed into a place. For some time, people have been using passwords to enter a secret place where not everyone is allowed to come in. In the past, those who did not need to go to such places were not required to worry about passwords and there were only a few people who needed passwords. Now, passwords have come into everyone's life as early as their teens since they come to use computers, smartphones and other various electronic devices where their personal data are stored. In addition, they have to keep complicated passwords for their email and social media sites accounts Facebook, Twitter, Linkedin, and so on or they have to keep passwords for their internet bank accounts and ATM cards. As a result, people have to worry about their passwords being forgotten or stolen or hacked as they can lose access to their devices or accounts or their personal data or money can be stolen. Such worries have led to the use of finger prints which was applied for illiterate people in the past. Now, the finger print identification method is available on some electronic devices. Other places where passwords are required may follow suit sooner or later. This time, finger print experts are not needed and the identification can be conducted more easily and accurately due to advanced electronic technology. It can be seen from the phenomenon that people have to repeat something they did in the past but it is not in the same way as in the past.

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FUDDY-DUDDY, HOITY-TOITY, JIGGERY-POKERY PERSONS — THE IMPEDIMENTS TO PROGRESS AND HARMONY IN SOCIETY

BY *Tommy Pauk*

Life is being consumed by time. Within the life span we humans have passed through the different era or age due to the efforts of the same race. We need to live or deal each other with the current flow of age and era in harmonious way. Gradually the old ones are being replaced with the new ones in human society. Here old ones and new ones stand for both animate and inanimate things. This inevitable event is regarded as a natural process. When we see from human perspective, humans always want to change for their betterment of life or survival. Homo sapiens are doing their duties of nature i.e. reproducing new generation. There is a generation gap between the old and the new generation. There are different aspects, ideas, attitude and practice between the elderly and the youths in the life of modern age. The elderly usually disagree with the youths of their ideas, aspects, attitude and practice in social situations. They never ever compromise with the youths in solving the human problems such as life style, superstitious beliefs, modernity and human rights. We must bear in mind that we should not neglect or discard Myanmar customs but we must not impede the current flow of age by any means. However, the fuddy-duddies even argue whatever the youth discuss or propose something or ask for approval from them. They usually want to grip their old-fashioned ideas and principles firmly. The youths pay due respect to them, but unfortunately fuddy-duddies do not take interest in the endeavor or modern concepts or outlook of the youths. They never compromise nor understand the wish or aspiration of the youths. So the youths are reluctant to discuss with them or to consult with fuddy-duddies as they never consider the comments, criticism, opinions and attitude of others about the topic pertaining to social issues. They are always stubborn to work together with youths for making social progress and political reform. They do not wish to harmonize with socio-economic evolution, but try to disrupt the potential progress. Apparently, their mindsets are rather out- of- date. Besides, they are so cussed that they always do the opposite of what the youth ask for something. Their opinions are always opposite. Due to these negative attitude and perverted behaviors of fuddy-duddies, the youths are frustrated bitterly and eventually the fuddy-duddies are neglected for further tasks or future plan of the society. Instead of cooperating with the youths in striving for the sake of progress and harmony in the society, fuddy-duddies firmly hold their mindsets which are no longer suitable or appropriate with the modern age or new era of a certain society. Actually, the youths are energetic, honest, frank and obliging to make progress of their society.

The manner and behavior of hoity-toity persons are absolutely disgusting .The simple people do not want to deal with them. In human society, such type of people must be dissociated in social dealing. Every decent person dislikes these manner and behavior of hoity-toity persons. A hoity-toity person is hated by the majority people in the society. However, those subservient people around him or her can tolerate his or her haughty behavior because the subservient people gain some benefits from him or her for themselves. Naturally, this type of bad disposition can be found in the minds of aristocrats or despots or corrupt officials indeed. They treat simple or ordinary people arrogantly and selfishly in the society. They have authority and they try to dominate general public those who are of their under administration in the society. The hoity-toity persons undertaking public service or public affairs behave as if they are benefactors of the general public and they do despise the public concerned.

Reciprocally, the public concerned express disgust at the hoity-toity administrators. Thus, the relations between general public and the hoity-toity administrators become discordant. The attempt or efforts for the progress and harmony are totally impossible for a certain society. Obviously, this impediment is caused by the hoity-toity officials indeed. Consequently, this situation undermines the public credibility. Because of their stupidity, mindsets and malpractice, they lose the trust of general public. If they wish to make progress of the society, they ought to get rid of their mindsets. They should realize that their bad behavior is doing harm to the interest of the society and the public concerned. They pessimistically view the endeavor of the youths.

The act of jiggery-pokery can be seen or heard in the political fields. It is a dirty trick among the politicians. The scoundrels usually try to take shelter of politics as their last refuge. The persons who act jiggery-pokery, intend to gain some unjust or unfair winning over others. Since having no ability or no qualification or no public support to compete or participate in contest, they use this technique to trick among the contestants in order to convince the general public that the race is free and fair.This situation can be seen in both developed and developing countries in the world. The gullible people are indeed cheated by the act of jiggery-pokery. This kind of trick is especially used for the contestation in political field. e.g In some countries, the elections for Presidency or Parliament members or Multi- Parties were being rigged. So this act or trick may be called jiggery-pokery. This kind of malpractice can be seen in the corrupt administration or in political race of ideologies. Consequently, due to unfair and unjust contestation, the majority people are really not happy about the outcome or result and disagreement or conflicts arise within that society.

Likewise, in the business fields, the businessmen are competing each other for gaining more opportunities and doing more business. In this circumstance, some businessmen use the technique of jiggery-pokkery among themselves to win the award of business licence or permit from the authorities concerned. This means that the cunning businessmen cheat and knock the simple businessmen out in the business fields or business contest. Moreover, the cunning businessmen bribe the corrupt higher rank officials into issuing permit or license or franchise of specific business ownership. E.g. some dishonest tycoons rig prices or rig financial markets for attaining great or huge profit. Actually, the act of these persons is an unjust way of winning other fellow businessmen around them. The acts of cheating, deceiving and exploiting are commonly seen or heard in the business competitions in the world nowadays. Particular businessmen seem greedier and more selfish than before so they use this kind of trick, known as jiggery-pokery indeed.

Jiggery-pokery is going on even among the service personnel for gaining the higher positions which provide them with more benefits, better facilities and authority. Some service personnel dare to deceive fellow staff if they have chance to get promotion as well. These situations have a detrimental effect on particular society's progress and harmony among fellow citizens. It can be inferred that jiggery-pokery is a fraud committed by the dishonest persons. Normally the act of jiggery-pokery is a deception practiced by crooked persons, who intend to take advantage or to exploit other people in some societies in the world. The virtuous people or the honest people regard this act as abhorrence.

In clear conclusion, the aforesaid persons are the ones who impede or hinder the progress and harmony in a certain society as they are being selfish, stubborn, pessimistic and crooked. Such persons should not be included in any nation building tasks in any society on earth. Certainly they will never change their mindsets and stupidity and never admit that they are out of society!!!!

Tommy Pauk is the pseudonym of U Thein Swe, who is B.A (English) and (Registered Law) R.L I. degrees holder. He has English Teaching experience at Yangon University English Department and Workers' college in Yangon, and now is working as freelance writer and English Teacher cum Translator/Interpreter for foreign firms.

ARTICLE

The Outcomes of 3rd MDCF and New Resolution: towards Sustainable Development Goals after Millennium Development Goals

Nanda Hmun
Director-General
Ministry of Culture

(continued from 15-2-2015)

For those Cooperations with Development Partners, their advice, shared accountability and shared learning and experiences to support the implementation of principles that form the foundation of effective development co-operation have been done under the topics like : ownership by developing countries; a focus on results; inclusive development partnerships; and, transparency and accountability to one another.

It is also pointed out by the international organizations and development partners that Inclusive, equitable, and sustainable growth could help to reduce devastating levels of poverty and lay the foundations for longer-term prosperity. Key obstacles to development and economic growth are conflict and the threat of disasters from natural hazards, and sufficient levels of predictable, good- quality aid are essential to meet immediate humanitarian needs and to build resilience. The international community and the aid it provides can be key catalysts, but to be effective there must be coordinated public and private investment, including: investment in essential services and social protection in order to build the capacity of people to be economically active and develop their resilience to shocks; development of fairer tax policies that can reduce inequality and poverty and guarantee sustainable financing for core services such as health, education, and social protection; responsible private sector investment that supports small-scale farmers and especially women in the agricultural sector to benefit from new economic opportunities, respecting their rights to natural resources, and providing secure and decent jobs Clear regulations and standards to ensure that government and businesses act in ways that protect and respect human rights, and empower poor people to influence policies and gain fair access to markets; support for active citizenship to allow poor people to influence policies and participate in investment decisions; targeted actions to reduce risk for marginalized and disadvantaged people –including disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and humanitarian response to ensure that no one is left behind and that prosperity is shared.

The Government of Myanmar has shown leadership in taking the first step towards good quality aid by agreeing the Nay Pyi Taw Accord for Effective Development Cooperation, a commitment that sets out how the government will ensure that development cooperation is accountable, democratic, and targeted towards reducing poverty and inequality. Despite the strong rhetoric in the Nay Pyi Taw Accord, the commitments are both ambitious and wider ranging, making it difficult for the government to prioritize implementation. While some efforts have been made, the involvement of civil society in consultations on their design has been very limited and participation restricted to a handful of working groups. In addition, key policy processes, such as the Framework for Economic and Social Reforms and the National Comprehensive Development Plan, have been, and continue to be, developed with insufficient engagement of civil society. Given the limited democratic space in Myanmar, this lack of sufficient engagement with civil society is a huge missed opportunity to systematically strengthening people's engagement in strategic decision making.

The traditional division between humanitarian and development aid makes it difficult to achieve aid effectiveness. Critically, the development of Myanmar's aid architecture offers a unique opportunity to bridge this gap and facilitate the building of resilience to shocks, stresses, and uncertainty. Kick start equitable growth, build resilience and promote responsible investment Myanmar's new wave of political reforms has set a direction for unprecedented economic expansion.

Those key obstacles to development and economic growth are conflict and the threat of disasters from natural hazards, and sufficient levels of predictable, good quality aid are essential to meet immediate humanitarian needs and to build resilience.

The Government of Myanmar should embrace aid effectiveness principles and ensure aid serves as a catalyst for democratic reform. In particular it is advisable to make consultation with development partners, civil society and the Assembly of the Union, a plan to monitor progress on the Nay Pyi Taw Accord for Effective Development Cooperation. Publicly endorse the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standard and strongly encourage all development partners to report aid flows in accordance with this standard. Urgently consult with civil society on the rollout of the Framework for Economic and Social Reforms and the development of the National Comprehensive Development Plan; ensure meaningful participation in the lead up to and during the review of progress following the first National Development Cooperation Forum. Ensure that aid coordination mechanisms are fully inclusive by formalizing civil society participation at all levels and encouraging dialogue among government, development partners, and civil society.

Increase the transparency of development processes by implementing the commitments on budget transparency set out in the Framework for Economic and Social Reforms. Ensure that aid coordination mechanisms support resilience building by facilitating coordinated or integrated work across traditional humanitarian and development boundaries. Good quality aid can play a key role in supporting transformative development in Myanmar if it is accountable, transparent, and owned by the people it aims to support; f it expands the space for the democratic voice of the people to be heard by decision makers; and if it helps to deliver equitable growth. Both the government and development partners must take action to ensure that this path is as inclusive and sustainable as possible. How aid can catalyse democratic reform through promoting domestic accountability, increasing transparency in government processes, and strengthening accountability in core government functions have to be reviewed.

To deepen the democratic reforms, by supporting democratic accountability can empower the government and people to fight poverty and inequality. Aid can strengthen this democratic relationship, making it more accountable through supporting active citizens and effective states by: supporting civil society organizations (CSOs) and the public to put up their concerns to government. In this regard, the assistance of Development Partners can help in several sectors like to increase transparency in government processes, build the capacity of CSOs to monitor budgetary and other government processes, strengthen government functions and ensure a fair distribution of growth and prosperity. Moreover it can support to strengthen the role of citizens too.

The role of effective aid in catalyzing the growth of democratic space and make convince of governments that international aid effectiveness principles to set out how aid could be better targeted to support people and countries to paths to be out of poverty and into democratic prosperity are also essential for the Development Partners and Government. By studying the following Chart, it is seen that with the Alignment of Aid effectiveness and NCDP, there are about more than 700 hundred activities and among them 84 % of them are ongoing.

In her Recommendations, Deputy Minister for MNPED highlighted the following points:

- Myanmar has substantial progress in the field of development cooperation in a very short period of time.
- Strong and effective partnerships with the development partners have been forged and built a solid foundation that should ensure continued success.
- Development cooperation efforts are asked to be redoubled in 2015 in an inclusive and open manner, ensuring that progress is jointly monitored.
- With the soon-to-be launched NCDP, development projects and programmes remain aligned and harmonized are to be ensured. Initial analysis suggesting a degree of alignment is already in place.
- The assistance of the development partners is to be ensured to strengthen country systems with a view to channeling aid resources through these systems in future.

Moreover, in his presentation on the Progress Report of Implementation of the Framework of Economic and Social Reforms, 2013-15, President's Economic Advisor Dr Zaw Oo also pointed out on institutional innovation to sustain better results, technological leapfrogging to attain higher results and capacity building and human resource development.

After holding the 3rd MDCF, which was participated by the Stakeholders included the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Members of Parliament, and representatives from political parties, international development partners, representatives of international and local civil society, the private sector and academia, the joint commitments expressed within the Nay Pyi Taw Accord for Effective Development Cooperation, the localization of global development effectiveness principles in Myanmar were recalled and reaffirmed. The Joint Statement for 3rd MDCF was issued and committed to **looking toward the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation and seek to remain a committed partner, both sharing and receiving lessons learned as progressed upon the development effectiveness journey of Myanmar.**

If we look back the last 20 years, the international development debate has been dominated by two trends: reducing poverty in developing countries in its various dimensions and sustainability of development. Both agendas have a lot in common, but in contrast to the MDGs, the proponents of SDGs see poverty as merely one of a number of global issues to be addressed. At present, **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** with 17 goals and 169 targets, which is expected to be adopted by September 2015, as part of a broader post-2015 development agenda, replacing **the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)** which was targeted to be achieved by 2015 with its 8 Goals.

Myanmar is not only committed to move forward to its destiny for **"New Myanmar"** with its "People-centered Approach" but also to fulfill the global commitments. From 2011, we have tried to speed up as it was on its half way to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which is a landmark global agreement to be attained by 2015. Those Poverty Alleviation Plan of Action and Strategic Thrusts on reducing poverty and related deprivations at the national level were laid down. At the same time for our regional commitment, we have tried to be in line with our ASEAN Member states on ASEAN Community Building to be achieved by 2015 too. Last but not least, we have made resolution to focus on sustainable development which embraces the bottom line approach to human wellbeing as it will be constructive contribution for Post 2015.

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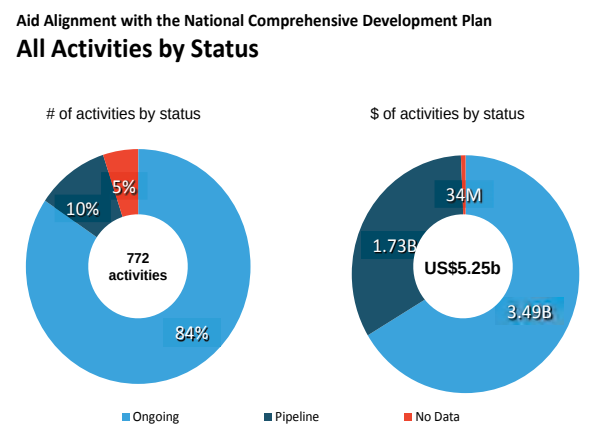

Source : MNPED

Scores dead in intensified fighting in southern Syria

Beirut, 15 Feb — Intense clashes in southern Syria have killed scores of pro-government and insurgent fighters in the past week, a group monitoring Syria's war said on Sunday, forecasting even fiercer violence to come as the weather clears.

Syria's army and allied combatants from Lebanon's Hezbollah launched a large-scale offensive in the region last week against insurgent groups including al-Qaeda's Syria wing Nusra Front and non-jihadist rebels. The battle is significant because it is one of the last areas where mainstream rebels opposing President Bashar al-Assad have a foothold. Such groups have lost ground to hardline Islamist militants in the four-year conflict.

More than 50 rebels have been killed in the fighting, the head of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. Rami Abdulrahman said 43 members of the Syrian army and allied groups had also died, including 12 officers.

"Now the weather is better there will be Syrian air strikes. With the air strikes they will move forward," he said.

Syrian state media and Hezbollah's al-Manar channel have reported on the battles in the south during the week, saying the army had been reclaiming territory from "terrorists".

State media have said that a number of enemy fighters had been killed. Syrian officials were not immediately available for comment on Sunday.

Abdulrahman, who tracks the war using sources on the ground, said around 5,000 pro-government troops were taking part in the offensive which aims to take a triangle of rebel-held land from rural areas southwest of Damascus to Deraa city to Quneitra.

He said there were reports that 10 members on the government side had been executed after being accused of passing information to the enemy. He also said Nusra Front fighters had been killed in battles but exact numbers were not yet known.

Winter weather had limited fighting in the past few days and prevented air strikes, one of the army's most potent weapons against insurgents. Abdulrahman said the army and allied groups planned to eventually involve 10,000 fighters in the offensive.

The southern rebels, often described as the best organized of the mainstream armed opposition, see themselves as the last hope for a conflict dominated by Islamist militants. They have been seeking a higher profile and more aid.

But Nusra Front also has a presence in the region, complicating their efforts. Sunni Islamist insurgents including the ultra hardline Islamic State also control wide expanses of Syria's north and east. —*Reuters*

A Pakistani policeman examines a Shia Muslims mosque after militants attack in northwest Pakistan's Peshawar on 14 Feb, 2015. At least 19 people were killed and over 40 others injured in a twin suicide attack at a mosque of Shia Muslims in Peshawar on Friday afternoon, officials said. —Xinhua

Islamic State targeted in 13 airstrikes in Iraq, Syria — joint task force

Washington,15 Feb — The United States and its allies staged nine airstrikes on Islamic State targets in Iraq and four in Syria, the Combined Joint Task Force said in a statement on Saturday.

The attacks in Iraq hit Islamic State tactical units, buildings, fighting positions, a rocket system and a facility where improvised explosive devices were made, the statement said. The strikes in Iraq were near the city of Al Raqqa and destroyed tanks and a bunker. The airstrikes were carried out from early Friday to early Saturday.—*Reuters*

Turkish court remands 17 policemen to face wiretapping trial

Istanbul, 15 Feb — A Turkish court remanded 17 policemen in custody to face trial as part of an investigation into the illegal wiretapping of politicians, civil servants and businessmen, Turkish media reported on Sunday. Raids were carried out a week ago in 12 cities to enforce a court order in President Tayyip Erdogan's campaign against supporters of his ally turned arch-opponent, US-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen. Twenty-one police officers were detained in the operation, of whom 17 were placed under formal arrest in preparation for trial, while the other four were freed temporarily but banned from leaving the country. All 21 policemen are suspected of trying to overthrow the government or obstruct its duties by wiretapping, recording of private data, breaching the right to privacy and forming a terrorist organization, the *private Dogan* news agency said. "This ruling was not made in this courthouse, it was made in dark tunnels, and these judges and prosecutors are just playing their role, as if in a theater," said Omer Turanli, a lawyer for the policemen.

Prosecutors were not immediately available for comment. Scores of police officers have been detained as part of the investigation since the mid-2014.

Erdogan accuses Gulen of setting up a "parallel state" within the Turkish administration and of trying to topple him, blaming Gulen's supporters within the police and judiciary for a corruption inquiry that rocked the government late in 2013. In the course of the scandal, wiretap recordings of senior officials leaked onto the Internet. Thousands of police officers, judges and prosecutors have since been removed from their posts.

Reuters

Egyptian court puts ousted president Mursi on trial over Qatar link

Former Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi

Cairo, 15 Feb — An Egyptian court put ousted Islamist president Mohamed Mursi on trial on Sunday on charges of endangering national security by leaking state secrets and sensitive documents to Qatar, furthering a state crackdown on his outlawed Muslim Brotherhood.

Mursi, who was toppled by the army in 2013 after mass protests against his rule, remained defiant, insisting he was Egypt's legitimate president despite facing several court cases.

"This court does not represent anything to me," said Mursi, who was on trial with 10 other people.

The maximum penalty if convicted is death. Relations between Qatar, a Gulf Arab state, and Egypt have been icy since July 2013, when Egypt's then-army chief Abdel Fattah al-Sisi overthrew Mursi and then launched a tough security crackdown against Islamists. Qatar had supported Mursi, who is already in jail along with thousands of Brotherhood members, many of whom have been sentenced to death on separate charges.

The public prosecutor had said Mursi's aides were involved in leaking to Qatari intelligence, documents which exposed the location of and weapons held by the Egyptian armed forces and detailed the country's foreign and domestic policies.

Reuters

Iraq's Sunni blocs halt parliament activities after sheikh's killing

Baghdad, 15 Feb — Iraq's two main parliamentary lists including Sunni lawmakers suspended their activities on Saturday in protest at the killing of a prominent Sunni tribal leader and the kidnapping of a Sunni member of parliament the night before.

Sheikh Qassem al-Janabi and his son were shot dead along with at least six guards after gunmen stopped their convoy in south Baghdad. The sheikh's nephew, parliamentarian Zayed al-Janabi, was detained but later released. The Interior Ministry said it would investigate the incident, which raised questions about the government's control over security in the capital, where safety measures were eased last week despite the proliferation of rival armed groups.

The attack also threatened to exacerbate the sectarian tensions that have undermined Iraq's response to Islamic State insurgents who seized large swathes of territory in the country's north and west last year. "The Iraqiya Alliance and the National Coalition announce they are suspending their participation in sessions of the Council of Representatives as from today," lawmaker Ahmed al-Massari said in a statement broadcast on local television.

Lawmakers said the boycott would include all of the roughly 75 lawmakers in the two lists, including some Shi'ite members.

The statement blamed Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and his ministers of defence and interior for "the breakdown of security and letting loose killers and outlaws to commit crimes of ethnic cleansing".

Sunni politicians and tribal leaders have accused Shi'ite militias organized under the government-run Hashid Shabi, or popular mobilisation committee, of killing civilians and destroying their homes in Sunni districts recaptured from Islamic State, which itself has blown up and booby-trapped areas it once controlled. Abadi, a moderate Shi'ite Islamist who has sought reconciliation between Iraq's Shi'ite and Sunni communities, and Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, Iraq's most senior Shi'ite cleric, have denounced such actions. Abadi promised an investigation into the allegations.

No group has claimed responsibility for Friday's attack, but Deputy Prime Minister Saleh Mutlaq called for the eradication of the Shi'ite militias, which operate freely in much of Iraq and have spearheaded the battle against Islamic State insurgents since the army nearly collapsed last summer.

"We must get rid of the militias, and weapons must be in the hands of the state," he told reporters before the victims were buried on Saturday.

"They want to bring down ... the voice of every patriot. This is a message we must understand: to take a stand against the militias and the outlaws."

Reuters

Tesco to cut up to 10,000 jobs — Sunday Telegraph

London, 15 Feb — Britain's biggest supermarket Tesco could cut up to 10,000 jobs as part of its attempts to halt a slide in profits, a newspaper reported.

The Sunday Telegraph said up to 6,000 positions would be cut from Tesco's head offices and the stores it has said it plans to close. The rest would come from an overhaul in the way it runs its stores, including eliminating managerial roles.

Tesco said in late January that up to 2,000 people could lose their jobs with the closing of 43 stores.

Tesco recently returned to sales growth, albeit marginally, for the first time since January 2014, a boost for its new boss Dave Lewis, who is trying to compete in an industry price war.

A spokesman for Tesco was not immediately available for comment on the newspaper report.

Reuters

A woman walks past a Tesco supermarket in central London, on 9 Dec, 2014.—Reuters

LG Electronics appliances chief indicted over damaged Samsung washers

LG Electronics' company logo is seen at a shop in central Seoul, on 23 July, 2013.—Reuters

Seoul, 15 Feb — South Korean prosecutors have indicted the chief of LG Electronics Inc's home appliances business on the charge of deliberately damaging Samsung Electronics Co Ltd washing machines, LG said on Sunday.

The indictment comes after months of investigation following a complaint filed by Samsung in September. Jo Seong-jin and other LG employees were accused of deliberately damaging Samsung washers at retail stores in Germany.

An LG spokeswoman confirmed that Jo and two other employees have been indicted by prosecutors. Samsung Electronics declined to comment, and the prosecutors could not be immediately reached for comment.

"It is questionable whether there is sufficient evidence to prove that the president of a global company deliberately destroyed the machines where employees of the competing company were present," said Ham Yoon-keun, a lawyer who will be defending Jo in court, in a statement provided by LG.

"The truth will be revealed in the courts."

People familiar with the matter told *Reuters* that representatives of Samsung Electronics and LG Electronics met recently in an ultimately unsuccessful mediation attempt by prosecutors.

The cross-town rivals compete on several fronts, especially televisions and home appliances, and have a history of feuding.

They have quarrelled publicly over whose refrigerator could hold more, and who had a bigger share of the domestic air conditioning market, and current and former workers say they routinely spy on each other at trade shows.—*Reuters*

Shanghai GM recalls 22,508 Cruze cars

Beijing, 15 Feb — Shanghai General Motors has decided to recall 22,508 2015 Chevrolet Cruze cars due to defective vacuum boosters, according to China's top quality watchdog.

The recall involves vehicles manufactured from 16 April, 2014 to 12 December, 2014, said the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine.

Long-time use of the boosters could result in cracks on the shell and pose potential safety hazards, the watchdog said.

Shanghai General Motors has offered to replace the defective parts free of charge.

Xinhua

China considers taking more actions about steel pipe trade dispute

Beijing, 15 Feb — An official of China's Ministry of Commerce (MOC) said on Saturday that the ministry will consider taking possible actions in response to a ruling by the World Trade Organization (WTO) panel about a steel pipe trade dispute.

"China will seriously evaluate the WTO panel report and consider taking possible actions," a written statement on the MOC website cited an official as saying.

In December of 2013, the MOC decided to impose provisional anti-dumping measures on imported high-performance stainless steel seamless tubes from the European Union (EU), Japan and the United States for "substantial damage" to Chinese industry.

The remarks of the official, who is in charge of the treaty and law department of the MOC, came one day after the WTO panel made public its rulings over the trade dispute.

The panel supports China's standpoints on issues such as the concrete analysis about price reduction and price impact, the official said.

However, China has reservations on the panel's rulings about issues such as the dumping margin and fair comparison, the official added.

High-performance stainless steel seamless tubes are used mainly for super heaters and reheaters of super-critical boilers in power stations.—*Xinhua*

GM recalling 81,000-plus vehicles over steering problem

Washington, 15 Feb — General Motors Co on Saturday recalled 81,123 cars because of concerns about their electric power steering systems.

The recall is an expansion of one last year that recalled 1.3 million vehicles for steering problems. Saturday's recall covers 2006 and 2007 Chevrolet Malibu, Malibu Maxx and Pontiac G6 cars.

GM said about 69,633 of the recalled vehicles were in the US market and the rest in Canada, Mexico and export markets.

The automaker said the recall was initiated because of concerns about possible sudden loss of steering. One accident but no injuries or fatalities had been attributed to the steering issue, GM said.

Reuters

50 H7N9 human cases reported in Guangdong

Guangzhou, 15 Feb — The number of H7N9 human cases in south China's Guangdong Province has climbed to 50, with one new case reported on Friday, local health authorities said on Saturday.

A 45-year-old man from Meijiang District in Meizhou City was diagnosed with the disease on Friday. He was in critical condition, the provincial health and family planning commission said in a press release.

Bird flu is most likely to strike in winter and spring.

In Guangdong Province, H7N9 human cases have been reported in 15 of all the 21 prefecture-level cities and 12 people have died. Thousands of chickens have been culled and live poultry trade has been banned in several cities.

Though the disease could be fatal, experts say patients could suffer less if they take the anti-viral drug oseltamivir in time.

"We found patients who took oseltamivir on the first day they had flu-like symptoms often recovered quickly, while those who waited until the seventh day often ended up on the critical list," said He Jianfeng, a chief specialist with the provincial disease prevention and control center.

He said all flu patients are advised to take oseltamivir, which cuts most flu symptoms and can help some patients avoid hospital treatment and complications.

Local health authorities have demanded all hospitals to stockpile the anti-viral, as flu outbreak is likely to last until May.

Other Chinese localities including Shanghai, Fujian, Jiangxi, Guizhou and Zhejiang have also reported human cases of H7N9 this winter.

H7N9 is a bird flu strain first reported to have infected humans in March 2013.

Xinhua

Hong Kong's flu death toll reaches 196

Hong Kong, 15 Feb — Another 15 people have died of severe flu, bringing the death toll this year to 196, said Hong Kong health officials on Saturday afternoon.

The Centre for Health Protection said 16 new cases have been reported from Friday noon to Saturday noon among which 15 patients died. None of them is under the age of 18.

The number of elderly people being admitted to hospital with flu has eased, but the number of children under five went up slightly in the past week, according to health authorities.

The H3N2 outbreak started on 2 January and has led to the hospitalization of over 280 patients thus far. That compares with 266 cases including 133 deaths registered during the same period of last year.—*Xinhua*

Customs offices in computerized transit system

Belgrade, 15 Feb — All customs offices in Serbia have been integrated in a New Computerized Transit System (NCTS) and Serbia should join the system of joint EU transit as of October this year, the Customs Administration authorities released.

This was made possible thanks to the project 'Modernization of the Customs System of Serbia' which was funded by the EU with EUR 2.2 million as part of the European assistance package to the Serbian government aimed at modernization of state administration and strengthening of administrative and operative capacities of the customs service.

The transit procedure has so far been based on paperwork which caused long delays of goods and increased transport costs while the use of NCTS starting from 21 January should also improve the risk analysis on border crossings, the authorities stated at the press conference on Thursday.

The computerized transit system will reduce the costs and accelerate the transit process, minimise delays and make it possible for the Serbian economy to become more competitive on the global market, Director of the Customs Administration Milos Tomic said.

Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Serbia Oscar Benedict said that the project lasted 27 months and that apart from the financial assistance, Serbia had experts who placed their experiences at its disposal.

Serbia is aware of its obligations and it has made considerable progress in terms of customs cooperation with neighbouring countries, alignment of laws with EU regulations and implementation of the laws, Benedict said.

Recalling that the EU has so far donated over EUR 8 million for projects that contribute to the modernisation of Serbia's customs administration, he announced that a new project worth EUR 6 million would begin in several months' time which will be aimed at improvement of the border management system, construction of the Bajmok border crossing and implementation of automatised control systems for imports and exports.

Underscoring the importance of introducing the computerised transit system, Deputy Director of the Customs Administration Dusko Marinkovic said that without such a system, Serbia would have soon become a bottleneck and faced the danger of redirecting the transit in the region to other traffic lines which could result by a EUR 30-50 million worth of losses in the budget.

At this point, 100 transport companies are submitting their NCTS transit declarations by electronic means, and according to this information, over 55,000 trucks have passed through Serbia from 21 January to this date.

Tanjug

Former Shanghai health deputy jailed for 19 years

Shanghai, 15 Feb — A Shanghai court sentenced a former deputy director of the city's health and family planning commission to 19 years in prison for corruption on Sunday.

The Shanghai No 1 Intermediate People's Court convicted Huang Fengping, 50, of taking bribes, embezzlement and possessing a huge amount of assets with unclear sources.

The court found that Huang accepted cash and gold bars worth about three million yuan (about 480,000 US dollars) from salespeople and executives from pharmaceutical and medical equipment companies when he worked as deputy head in a Shanghai hospital and head of another from 2003 to 2013.

From 2009 to 2013, when Huang headed the neurosurgery branch of Shanghai's medical association, he embezzled about 1.4 million yuan of sponsorship money for the branch's events.

Huang also failed to explain the sources of his assets worth over 11 million yuan. The court will recover all assets and fine him five million yuan.

He was arrested in December 2013 and stood trial in August 2014.

Xinhua

S African envoy protests Japanese newspaper column praising apartheid

Tokyo, 15 Feb — South Africa's ambassador to Japan sent a letter of protest to the Sankei Shimbun daily over a column by well-known author Ayako Sono praising apartheid as a model for Japan's immigration policy, according to the newspaper's publisher.

Sankei Shimbun Co said Ambassador Mohau Pheko took aim at the column published in Wednesday's editions in which Sono said it is better for people of different races to live separately as they did under South Africa's former policy of racial segregation.

The ambassador was quoted as saying apartheid was a crime against humanity and cannot be justified in the 21st century, adding discrimination on the basis of skin color is unacceptable in any country.

Sono said in her column that, based on her knowledge of the situation in South Africa 20 to 30 years ago, she came to believe whites, Asians and blacks should live separately. She made the argument as she discussed the need for Japan to accept immigrants, particularly to care for the increasing elderly population, on condition they live separately from Japanese.

"Humans can do everything together from business, research to sports. But it is better to separate living quarters," Sono said.

Takeshi Kobayashi, a Sankei Shimbun executive, said in a statement on Saturday that the company published the column as Sono's personal view. He also said its position has always been that racial or all other forms of discrimination, including apartheid, are intolerable.—*Kyodo News*

3.3 billion yen in cash among lost items in Tokyo in 2014

Tokyo, 15 Feb — Unclaimed cash taken to the police in Tokyo during 2014 totaled about 3.34 billion yen ($29 million), the Metropolitan Police Department said Sunday. Of this amount, 74 percent has been claimed by owners, it said. About 3.56 million unclaimed items were found during the same year, hitting an all-time high for the third straight year, according to the department.—*Kyodo News*

Italian coastguard goes to rescue of at least 600 migrants

Rome, 15 Feb — Two merchant ships and an Italian coast guard vessel went to the rescue of more than 600 migrants who sent emergency calls for help from their packed rubber boats near the Libyan coast on Saturday. The rescue operation is the second of its kind in two days, and closely follows the deaths last week of more than 300 people who were trying to make the crossing to Europe.

The Italian coast guard in Rome said the rescue vessels had located six boats drifting about 50 miles from the coast of Libya, after receiving calls for help by satellite telephone. The coast guard ship Peluso has started the rescue operation, a spokesman for the coast guard said, a day after about 700 other migrants were plucked from overcrowded boats. An improvement in the weather last week encouraged migrants to make the perilous journey from North Africa which the United Nations refugee agency UNHCR says claimed 3,500 lives last year. Last week's deaths reignited criticism of Italy's decision to close its full-scale search and rescue mission last year. The "Mare Nostrum" operation was replaced with an EU border control operation called Triton, which has fewer ships and covers a smaller area.

Reuters

Migrants sit on the "Fiorillo" Coast Guard vessel as they arrive at the Porto Empedocle harbour on 14 Feb, 2015.—Reuters

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MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(3 / 2015)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-147(14-15)	Cement Additives (5) Items	US$
(2)	IFB-148(14-15)	Mud Chemicals (4) Items	US$
(3)	IFB-149(14-15)	Class "G" Cement (500) Ton	US$
(4)	IFB-150(14-15)	30 Ton Mobile Hydraulic Crane (Wheel Type) (1) Unit	US$
(5)	IFB-151(14-15)	2900 Series Well Head Equipments & Spares (2) Sets	US$
(6)	IFB-152(14-15)	900 Series Well Head Equipments & Spares (2) Sets	US$
(7)	IFB-153(14-15)	Truck Mounted Double Drum Well Servicing Unit (1) Unit	US$
(8)	IFB-154(14-15)	30 Ton NGV Tractor (1) Unit & 30 Ton Cascade(2) Units	US$
(9)	IFB-155(14-15)	GM 6V 71 Engine Assy (1) Unit	US$
(10)	IFB-156(14-15)	Fire fighting Truck (1) Unit	US$
(11)	IFB-157(14-15)	Welding Electrode (E6011)(50) Ton	US$
(12)	IFB-158(14-15)	Heat Shrinkable Sleeves & Closure Patches (2)Items	US$
(13)	IFB-159(14-15)	Mobile Welding Machine with Accessories (3)Sets	US$
(14)	IFB-160(14-15)	Portable Welding Machine with Accessories (4)Sets	US$
(15)	IFB-161(14-15)	Pressure Gauge (6) Sets	US$
(16)	IFB-162(14-15)	Assorted Sizes of Steel Line Pipes (3) Items	US$
(17)	IFB-163(14-15)	Assorted Sizes of Steel Ball Valves (2) Items	US$
(18)	IFB-164(14-15)	Assorted Sizes of Pipe Fittings (1) Lot	US$
(19)	IFB-165(14-15)	13 5/8" 5K Double Ram Blow Out Preventers (2) Nos	US$
(20)	DMP/L-035(14-15)	MUD Testing Equipment (10) Items	Ks
(21)	DMP/L-036(14-15)	Telephone Cable (4) Items	Ks
(22)	DMP/L-037(14-15)	Electronics Private Branch Exchange 128 Lines Capacity, 8 CO Trunk Line with Phone (3) Sets	Ks
(23)	DMP/L-038(14-15)	50 HP Electric Motor (400 V, 3 Phase, 50 Hz, 1500 RPM) (2) Sets	Ks
(24)	DMP/L-039(14-15)	Transformer Welding Set with Accessories (Dry Type) (5) Lots	Ks
(25)	DMP/L-040(14-15)	Centrifugal Pump with Motor (5 HP) (1) Lot	Ks
(26)	DMP/L-041(14-15)	315 KVA and 500 KVA Transformer (2) Items	Ks
(27)	Container(1/2015)	ရန်ကုန်ဆိပ်ကမ်းများမှ သာကေတကမ်းလွန်ရေနံအခြေစိုက် စခန်းသို့ Container သယ်ယူပို့ဆောင်ခြင်းလုပ်ငန်း (၁-၄-၂၀၁၅ မှ ၃၀-၉-၂၀၁၅ ထိ)	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 16-3-2015, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 16th February, 2015 at the Finance Department , Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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*A couple poses for photos inside a snow hut with a heart-shaped entrance, made especially for Valentine's Day on 14 Feb, 2015, in Yokote, Akita Prefecture.—*KYODO NEWS

Oldest tiger in Japan dies at 22 years old

YAMAGUCHI, 15 Feb — Japan's oldest captive tiger has died of natural causes at an animal park in the country's west at age 22, or equivalent to more than 90 human years, the park said on Sunday.

The female tiger, named "Meru," was born in May 1992 at the Akiyoshidai Safari Land in the city of Mine in Yamaguchi Prefecture. Meru is believed to have been part Bengal tiger and was known for her easy-going nature, park officials said.

The tiger died on Friday after losing her appetite late Thursday afternoon.

"She was a very beautiful tiger and I thought she would live much longer. Now, I want to tell her that she did a good job and that I thank her," Yusuke Ikebe, head of the park, said.

Kyodo News

Michele Ferrero, owner of Nutella empire, dies at 89

MILAN, 15 Feb — Michele Ferrero, Italy's richest man and the owner of a global chocolate and confectionery empire, died on Saturday aged 89, the company said.

His death opens the question of succession and potential tie-ups at the family-controlled Ferrero group, which has sales of around 8 billion euros ($9 billion) and continued to grow through Italy's longest recession since World War Two.

Ferrero dreamt up the chocolate-hazelnut Nutella spread, Ferrero Rocher pralines, Kinder eggs and Tic Tac sweets, turning a provincial chocolate factory into what is widely seen as Italy's most valuable privately-owned company.

The billionaire died at home in Monaco after months of illness, the group said in a statement.

Italian President Sergio Mattarella said he was deeply touched by Ferrero's death, calling him a "born entrepreneur".

Twitter was flooded with messages from people who thanked Ferrero for "sweetening up" their lives.

Ferrero's son Giovanni became chief executive of the chocolate empire after his older brother Pietro, the chosen heir, died of a heart attack in 2011 while cycling in South Africa.

In late 2013, Giovanni denied suggestions that the company had been approached by the Swiss-based multinational Nestle, saying Ferrero was not for sale. But industry insiders say he is less interested than his brother was in running the company. Ferrero senior was a man of few words who shunned publicity, turning a local business from the Piedmont region into a global giant. He had a reputation as a forceful leader, but also as one who maintained generous working conditions and gave back to his community.

Until a few years ago, Ferrero commuted by helicopter every day from his Monte Carlo villa to company headquarters in Alba, northwest Italy, to taste and help design new products.

He never let outsiders buy into the company, which his father set up in 1946. The group, which toyed with the idea of making a bid for its British rival Cadbury a few years ago, is present in 53 countries. Forbes magazine described Ferrero as "the richest candyman on the planet", putting him and his family in 30th place on their list of the world's wealthiest people, with a net worth of $23.4 billion.—*Reuters*

A woman spreads Nutella on a slice of bread in Milan on 20 Nov, 2009.— REUTERS

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WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 16th February, 2015: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing and Taninthayi Regions and Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in Lower Sagaing Region, Shan and Chin States 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.

Banned Iranian director Panahi's 'Taxi' wins Berlin's Golden Bear

Hana Saeidi, the niece of Iranian film director Jafar Panahi appears on stage with jury members and prize winners after accepting the Golden Bear for Best Film on her uncle's behalf, during the awards ceremony at the 65th Berlinale International Film Festival in Berlin on 14 Feb, 2015.—Reuters

Berlin, 15 Feb — Banned Iranian director Jafar Panahi's "Taxi," which shows a cabby driving an odd assortment of people around Teheran but is really a condemnation of censorship, won the Golden Bear for best film on Saturday at the Berlin International Film Festival.

The award, which the director was not in Berlin to accept, was hailed by German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier in a statement as "an important sign for the freedom of art."

On an Instagram account said to be Panahi's, Iranian journalists at a post-awards news conference said he had posted a message in Farsi saying: "This is an important artistic and political acknowledgment of the film that makes me very proud."

At the news conference, the Golden Bear was placed on its own for cameras, with no one holding it.

The apparently whimsical but ultimately profound look at life and filmmaking in Iran, shot from the interior of a taxi with the director at the wheel, was shown despite Teheran's ban on Panahi.

"He created a love letter to cinema, his film is filled with love for his art, his community, his country and his audience," director Darren Aronofsky, head of the prize jury, said in presenting the award.

It was accepted on Panahi's behalf at the awards ceremony by a girl identified on the Berlin festival's website as Hana Saeidi, who cried as she stood in front of the glittering audience.

Saeidi appears in the film and, according to the website, is Panahi's niece. But, because of sensitivities surrounding the film, the people appearing in it are not listed in the credits.

Other films by Panahi have been shown at the festival since 2010, when he was banned from making films for 20 years and sentenced to six years in prison for "propaganda against the system".

He was later released into house arrest but still banned from leaving the country, shooting films or scriptwriting.

His latest film was smuggled out of Iran by means that have not been specified by festival director Dieter Kosslick.

"I think it is important that we had these films, these political films, because they actually reflect what happens there," Kosslick said.

Scott Roxborough, film critic for the *Hollywood Reporter*, said the choice of Panahi's film "wasn't a surprise."

"I had it up top before the festival even started just because of Panahi's record," he said, "and also, of course, the political aspect of the film, the fact that he shot it in secret, the fact that he's been banned from filmmaking by the Iranian government and Berlin always likes to celebrate political films if they have a chance."

Two other films with political messages also received top prizes.

The Chilean film "The Club" directed by Pablo Larrain, about defrocked Roman Catholic priests, won the Silver Bear Grand Jury Prize.

"This is an important artistic and political acknowledgment of the film that makes me very proud," Larrain said, adding that the award should assure the film a wider audience.

"Ixcanul" (Volcano), a Guatemalan film directed by Jayro Bustamente about the hard life of Mayan coffee growers, won the Silver Bear Alfred Bauer Prize.

Although the film focuses mostly on indigenous women whose lives are complicated by an unwanted pregnancy, Bustamente said "we avoided being folkloristic."

"I hope we were able to help the people in Guatemala realise what culture they have there," he said.

The award for best director was shared by Radu Jude of Romania for "Aferim!" and Polish director Malgorzata Szumowksa for "Body."

Tom Courtenay received the award for best actor for his performance in Andrew Haigh's "45 Years" and Charlotte Rampling received the best actress award for the same film.

The award for best script went to Chilean director Patricio Guzman for "El Boton de Nacar" (The Pearl Button).

The awards were decided by a seven-person jury headed by Aronofsky. The 65th edition of the 11-day festival saw more than 400 films screened, 19 of them competing for the main prize.

Reuters

Ahead of Oscars, Boyhood's Linklater reflects on evolving family unit

Los Angeles, 15 Feb — After 12 years of filming "Boyhood" and a year promoting it, director Richard Linklater is finding it hard to fathom saying goodbye to a project that he calls deeply personal in its reflections of the modern American family.

"This film and the way we shot it for so long, I don't think it even feels like it's over, and it won't maybe until we quit all being together," Linklater told *Reuters*.

Up for six Oscars on 22 February and a front runner for the best picture top prize, "Boyhood" has been lauded for doing what has never before been done in cinema — filming the story of a boy as he grows into a man, using the same cast over 12 years.

Released in theatres last July, "Boyhood" captures the coming-of-age of Mason (Ellar Coltrane) from age six to 18, as he and his sister are raised by their single mother (Patricia Arquette) and see their father (Ethan Hawke) on occasion.

"I think 'Boyhood' hits a lot of people as it's similar to the way they grew up, so many people have families that aren't by-the-textbook perfect," said Linklater, the writer-director of films including "Dazed and Confused" in 1993 and "Before Sunrise" trilogy between 1995 and 2013.

"It does say a lot about the ever-changing family unit and the notion of family."

"Boyhood" has so far made $44 million worldwide after being made for a budget of $4 million, according to movie tracker BoxOfficeMojo.com. Both Arquette and Hawke are nominated in the Oscars' best supporting acting categories while Linklater is up for best director and screenplay.

"Boyhood" won three categories at Britain's BAFTA awards including best film earlier this month, and also received the coveted Golden Globe for best drama in January.

"You can't make a film like this and expect it to be so widely embraced," Linklater said. "We feel very fortunate that audiences and critics have appreciated what went into it and what it's about."

Director Richard Linklater poses backstage with his Best Director award for "Boyhood" during the 20th Annual Critics' Choice Movie Awards in Los Angeles, California on 15 Jan, 2015. —Reuters

The film has put its distributor, AMC Networks-owned IFC Films, in the spotlight for taking a chance on Linklater's arduous project.

"It's been a banner year for us," said Jonathan Sehring, "Boyhood" producer and president of IFC Films and Sundance Selects, which has an additional two Oscar nominations in the best actress and foreign language film categories.

Oscars talk for "Boyhood" began right after the film's premiere at the Sundance Film Festival in January last year, where critics raved about the story, Sehring told *Reuters*.

Working with Academy Award strategists, Sehring decided to release the film in July rather than fall, when a lot of award contenders hit the big screen, in order to allow "Boyhood" to grow through positive reviews and filmmakers' guild screenings.

The success of "Boyhood" has also sparked an interest in IFC Films' production arm, which financed Linklater's film but closed around 2006 as the studio put its focus into distribution.

"We're exploring whether or not to get back into the production business," Sehring said.

"AMC Networks is working with great storytellers, be it something like 'Breaking Bad' or 'Mad Men' or 'Walking Dead,' so will we get back into it? We're looking at it seriously."—*Reuters*

Plastic surgery pushed like crack in Hollywood: Halle Berry

Los Angeles, 15 Feb — Halle Berry says she has so far resisted going under the knife despite the pressure to get plastic surgery done in Hollywood.

Berry, 48, told Yahoo! Beauty that people are always coming up with plastic surgery suggestions.

"It is pressure. When you see everybody around you doing it, you have those moments when you think, 'To stay alive in this business, do I need to do the same thing?'," she said.

Halle Berry

"I won't lie and tell you that those things don't cross my mind because somebody is always suggesting it to me.

'You know if you just did a little bit of this and that, lift this up, then this would be a little bit better.'

It's almost like crack that people are trying to push on you. That's what I feel like," Berry said.

The mother of two, however, wants to age gracefully.

"I just have kept reminding myself that beauty really is as beauty does, and it is not so much about my physical self.

Aging is natural, and that's going to happen to all of us," she said "… I just want to always look like myself, even if that's an older version of myself.

I think when you do too much of that cosmetic stuff, you become somebody else in a way."— *PTI*

GENERAL

Sherwood given job of rescuing Aston Villa

London, 15 Feb — Tim Sherwood is the man tasked with preserving Aston Villa's ever-present Premier League status and igniting their misfiring attack after being confirmed as the struggling club's new manager on Saturday.

Former Tottenham Hotspur manager Sherwood, 46, replaces Paul Lambert who was sacked by the Midlands club after they were beaten 2-0 against fellow strugglers Hull City on Tuesday, their fifth successive league defeat.

Goal-shy Villa, who have hit the net only 12 times in 25 Premier League games this season, are 18th in the table having won none of their previous 10 games.

"It is a great honour to manage one of the biggest clubs in English football. I can't wait to get started and I'm really looking forward to the challenge," Sherwood, given a three-and-a-half year contract, said in a statement on the club website.

Tim Sherwood reacts during an English Premier League soccer match at Upton Park in London, on 3 May, 2014. —Reuters

Villa will hope Sherwood, who stepped up from Tottenham's backroom staff to replace the sacked Andre Villas-Boas, can have the same impact on their misfiring forwards as he did with Emmanuel Adebayor at Tottenham.

The appointment of Sherwood coincided with the revitalisation of the often-maligned Togo forward who scored 14 goals in 25 games in all competitions last season, having been left out by Villas-Boas.

In Christian Benteke Villa boast a similarly talented yet erratic forward who scored 23 goals in all competitions in his first season at Villa but has netted only three times this campaign.

In his six-month spell at Tottenham, which ended with a 3-0 victory over Villa in May, Sherwood boasted a win ratio of 59 percent yet left after six months of an 18-month contract and was replaced by Mauricio Pochettino.

Tom Fox, Aston Villa's chief executive, said: "Randy (Lerner) and I are really pleased that Tim has decided to join the club.

"He had a fantastic career at Tottenham, not only in his brief spell as first-team manager but, just as importantly, in the role he played in developing young talent.

"We are determined to build a football operation with a long-term vision and a commitment to youth development.

"We strongly believe Tim has the qualities to get the best out of our current squad and help us build for the future."

Villa, who have 13 games to preserve their record as an ever-present in the Premier League, host bottom-of-the-table Leicester City in the FA Cup on Sunday.

Reuters

Nishikori 1 win away from three-peat at Memphis

Memphis, (Tennessee), 15 Feb — Top seed Kei Nishikori survived another marathon at the Memphis Open on Saturday, coming from behind to win two tiebreaks against Sam Querrey to reach the final.

Two-time defending champion Nishikori beat the 41st-ranked Querrey 5-7, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5) in a match that lasted 2 hours, 41 minutes, setting up a date with second seed Kevin Anderson of South Africa in Sunday's final. Querrey had the edge in the matchup, having won three of five past meetings. The hard-serving American blasted 27 aces for the match, and broke Nishikori in the last game to take the first set.

"His serve was really good and he had a lot of aces, which made it hard to make returns," said Nishikori, who is aiming for his eighth ATP Tour title.

Querrey was up 6-5 in the second set but Nishikori, who was bothered by his left ankle, held serve to force the tiebreak before going on to make it 1-1.

The third set was more of the same, going back and forth with Nishikori taking a 6-5 lead.

The world No 5 had match point at 40-15 in the next game but had it saved by Querrey to invite the tiebreak.

Querrey fended off match point again at 6-4, but failed to return Nishikori's serve as the Japanese advanced to his third consecutive final in Memphis.

"With few chances, I was somehow able to win the tiebreaks one point at a time for the victory," said Nishikori.—*Kyodo News*

Bomb explodes in crowded northeast Nigerian bus station — witnesses

Damaturu, (Nigeria), 15 Feb— A bomb exploded in a crowded bus station in the northeast Nigerian city of Damaturu on Sunday, causing casualties in a region that has been frequently attacked by Islamist militants, witnesses said.

Witness Adamu Muhammad said he heard a loud blast and the people at the Damaturu's central motor park "descended into panic."

He said there were many casualties, though he did not know how many. The Nigerian military was not immediately available for comment. No one claimed the attack, which bore the hallmarks of Islamist insurgent group Boko Haram.

On Saturday, heavily armed Boko Haram militants attacked and attempted to overrun the northeastern Nigerian city of Gombe but were later repelled.

Boko Haram's violent uprising for an Islamic state has killed thousands, destabilised the northeast of Africa's biggest economy and is increasingly doing the same to neighbours Cameroon, Chad and Niger. They are now fighting back in a regional effort to crush the militant group.

The insurgency has also cast doubt over the leadership of Oresident Goodluck Jonathan, who is seen as not having done enough to contain it or protect civilians, hundreds of whom have been kidnapped.

Nigeria has postponed for six weeks a presidential election that had been due to be held on 14 February, citing the security threat from Boko Haram.—*Reuters*

Air France's Boeing 737 makes emergency landing in Russia's Yekaterinburg

Moscow, 15 Feb — An Air France's Boeing 737 plane carrying over 300 passengers was forced to make an emergency landing Sunday in Russian city of Yekaterinburg, *Tass* news agency reported.

The landing was safe and successful, and experts are considering further actions, head of the Koltsovo airport's strategic communications department Dmitry Tyukhtin said.

According to the report, the airplane was en route from Seoul to Paris and the emergency happened due to an engine failure.—*Xinhua*

mitv Myanmar International

(15-2-2015 07:00 am~ 16-2-2015 07:00 am) MST

* News
* The Iron Rider
* Lady Pilot
* News
* Continuation In Rural Tradition
* News
* Sagaing: Gold Leaf
* Sagaing: Pe Kwel Kone Nat Festival
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* Htan Taw Drums "Osi"
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* Pride of Myanmar — Bagan arts and handicrafts
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* Pa O in the Union
* In the Studio "Zaw Lin Oo"

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(16-2-2015, Monday)

6:00 am
- Sandaya Kun Zaw Music Troupe

6:25 am
- TV Drama Series

6:50 am
- TV Drama Series

7:20 am
- Fashion Show

7:40 am
- Myanmar Series

8:00 am
- TV Drama Series

8:45 am
- TV Drama Series

9:30 am
- Musical Programme

9:40 am
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

9:55 am
- 40th Years of ASEAN-Japan Friendship and Corporation (Phillipines)

10:00 am
- Colours of ASEAN (Phillipines)

10:05 am
- ASEAN Cultural Fair 2014 (Phillipines)

10:00 am
- Myanmar Video

12:00 noon
- Close Down

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(16-2-2015, Monday)

6:00 am
- Paritta by venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:40 am
- Documentary

7:00 am
- News/ Weather Report

7:35 am
- National Sports Games

8:00 am
- News/ International News

9:35 am
- Documentary (ASEAN)

10:30 am
- Head Line News

11:35 am
- MRTV's Youth Programme

12:00 noon
- News / International News / Weather Report

12:35 pm
- Tasty Trip

1:45 pm
Teleplay

2:35 pm
- Musical Programme

3:35 pm
- People's Talks

4:35 pm
- University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Third Year (Botany)

5:35 pm
- Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)

6:35 pm
- Socio Economic Scenes

7:00 pm
- News

7:30 pm
- Head Line News

7:35 pm
- Documentary

8:00 pm
- News / International News / Weather Report

9:00 pm
- News
- Hluttaw Image
- National Sports Games

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Monday, 16 February, 2015

Pardew's dream of FA Cup repeat ruined by Liverpool

London, 15 Feb — Alan Pardew's dream of reprising a celebrated 25-year-old FA Cup triumph was scuppered by Liverpool as the seven-times champions came from behind to book a place in the quarter-finals with a 2-1 win at Crystal Palace on Saturday.

This year's shock-laden competition had continued with second-tier Blackburn Rovers' 4-1 thrashing of Premier League Stoke City.

Yet Liverpool were determined not to become the latest illustrious victims as two second-half goals in nine minutes from England internationals Daniel Sturridge and Adam Lallana turned their fifth round tie around.

At Selhurst Park, the home fans had unveiled a vast banner of Palace manager Pardew in his playing heyday when the midfielder's most famous goal had knocked out the then mighty Liverpool in the 1990 Cup semi-final.

Once Frazier Campbell had put Palace ahead after 15 minutes, it even seemed as if their new boss might pen another high-flying Eagles' story.

But a volleyed strike from Sturridge after a perfect chipped cross from Jordan Henderson four minutes after the break — a goal described by Pardew as "almost unstoppable" — levelled affairs.

Then substitute Mario Balotelli, who scored his first Premier League goal for Liverpool in midweek and again made an impact here after coming on at half time, both earned a free kick and then struck it fiercely through Palace's defensive wall.

Goalkeeper Julian Speroni could only parry it, allowing the alert Lallana to swoop and sweep in the rebound. "We changed it around at half time and it worked quite well," Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers told BT Sport. "We had to show character and the character in the team has been immense in the last few months."

Even Pardew, with his big day ruined, conceded that the best team had prevailed. "I'm not too disappointed but I do think it is an opportunity missed. Liverpool had a grip of the game from the off. I think they deserved to win."

Earlier, record signing Brown Ideye scored twice as West Bromwich Albion also progressed to the quarter-finals with an emphatic 4-0 victory against West Ham United at the Hawthorns.

So it was left to Championship side Blackburn to follow up the fourth round shocks, which saw Chelsea beaten by Bradford and Manchester City defeated by Middlesbrough, with a Josh King hat-trick inspiring their win over Stoke.

Peter Crouch gave Stoke a 10th minute lead but Blackburn restored parity with King's header after 36 minutes.

After Stoke's Geoff Cameron was dismissed for a last-man tackle, Rudy Gestede gave Blackburn the lead on the verge of halftime.

King fired home his second and Blackburn's third in the 50th minute before he raced clear of a lumbering Stoke defensive line to complete his hat-trick in the 55th minute.

Nigerian Ideye, signed from Dynamo Kiev in July but yet to shine, applied a simple finish to give West Brom a 20th-minute lead against West Ham and James Morrison added a second before the break with a stunning long-range strike.

Ideye headed his second in the 57th minute and Saido Berahino completed the rout with his fifth goal in three FA Cup appearances this year after West Ham substitute Morgan Amalfitano, brought on in the 60th minute, was dismissed for a poor challenge and a shove to the face of Chris Brunt.

Reading joined Blackburn as the other non-Premier League team in the last eight so far with a 2-1 defeat of fellow Championship side Derby County.

Liverpool are among the Premier League's 'big three' now most fancied to lift the trophy, with favourites Arsenal hosting Championship hopefuls Middlesbrough on Sunday and Manchester United visiting third tier Preston North End on Monday.

Reuters

Adam Lallana celebrates after scoring the second goal for Liverpool, FA Cup Fifth Round, Selhurst Park on 14 Feb, 2015.—Reuters

Craig Gardner (L) of West Bromwich Albion challenges Alex Song of West Ham United during their FA Cup fifth round soccer match at the Hawthorns in West Bromwich, England, on 14 Feb, 2015.—Reuters

Real fail to dispel doubts despite beating Depor

Madrid, 15 Feb — Real Madrid returned to winning ways after last weekend's drubbing at Atletico but failed to convince and were whistled by their own fans during a drab 2-0 victory at home to Deportivo La Coruna on Saturday.

La Liga leaders Real were looking for an inspiring performance before Wednesday's Champions League trip to Schalke 04 and were fortunate not to drop points with another insipid display following the humiliating 4-0 defeat at the Calderon.

Cristiano Ronaldo, criticised this week for throwing a 30th birthday party hours after the Atletico game, and Gareth Bale each struck efforts against the crossbar at the Bernabeu before Isco curled a shot into the corner of the net to fire the hosts ahead in the 23rd minute.

However, Deportivo, who are 13th in the table after coming back up from the second division at the end of last season, refused to capitulate and should have levelled four minutes into the second half.

Midfielder Celso Borges thumped a shot against the post when well placed in the penalty area and Oriol Riera forced a fine save from Real goalkeeper Iker Casillas with a glancing header moments later.

Some disgruntled Real fans, who whistled when the names of coach Carlo Ancelotti and captain Casillas were read out before kickoff, were growing increasingly restless before Karim Benzema dinked a shot over onrushing Deportivo keeper Fabri and into the net 17 minutes from time.

The victory, in which Real's new signing Lucas Silva made his debut 20 minutes from time, put the world and European champions four points clear of second-placed Barcelona ahead of their game at home to struggling Levante on Sunday.

Atletico are three points further back in third before Sunday's trip to Celta Vigo.

"It has been a tough week and it was very important to get the victory today," Real centre back Nacho, who with Raphael Varane is standing in for the injured Sergio Ramos and Pepe, told Spanish television.

"We played poorly at the Calderon and it was necessary to analyse what went wrong," he added. "The team is very united and today we showed that."

Sevilla climbed above Valencia into fourth spot, five points adrift of Atletico, thanks to a 3-0 win at home to Cordoba earlier on Saturday.

Both sides had a man dismissed in the second half, with Cordoba midfielder Patrick Ekeng seeing red in the 54th minute and Sevilla midfielder Grzegorz Krychowiak sent off 19 minutes later.

Sevilla had lost three of their last four La Liga games before Saturday, including a 3-1 reverse at Valencia, who will reclaim fourth if they avoid defeat at home to Getafe on Sunday.

Coach Unai Emery said he was relieved to see a solid performance before the Europa League holders host Borussia Moenchengladbach in the last 32 of Europe's second-tier club competition on Thursday.

"Today we needed to recover a sense of resolve and control and the team delivered on that," Emery told a news conference.

Athletic Bilbao missed a chance to climb up the table when they were held to a 0-0 draw at Granada, who climbed off the bottom above Cordoba.

Reuters

Real Madrid's Karim Benzema (R) fights for the ball with Deportivo Coruna's Alberto Lopo during their Spanish first division soccer match at Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on 14 Feb, 2015.
Reuters

Editorial Section — (+95) (01)8604529
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