President U Thein Sein vows not to lose an inch of Myanmar’s territory, honours military personnel who fight against Kokang renegades

NAY Pyi Taw, 16 Feb — President U Thein Sein gave honoraria to injured military personnel and families of soldiers killed during fights against Kokang renegades in Laukkai area, Shan State.

The President comforted dozens of government troops at PyinOoLwin Military Hospital Monday, together with Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Ministers Lieutenant General Wai Lwin, U Thein Nyunt, U Soe Than, U Ye Htut and Dr Than Aung.

Honouring their courage, head of State and senior government officials provided K 90 million to the families of fallen soldiers and K 10 million to the injured personnel from the funds collected with 25 percent salaries of President and union ministers.

In meeting with injured military personnel and their family members, the President vowed not to lose an inch of Myanmar’s territory owned by the successive generations.

UEC, CSOs break deadlocks between them

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 16 Feb — The Union Election Commission and civil society organizations have gained an understanding of each other as both sides have relaxed some strict rules for observing the upcoming General Elections, breaking some deadlocks between them.

During the meeting between UEC and CSOs Monday in Yangon, the UEC has agreed that the election observers should submit their reports on election observation to the commission instead of the requirement to submit their reports, said U Han Shin Win, an advocate of Bade Dha Moe, who participated in the meeting.

CSOs have felt that the UEC have abolished some strict rules and has removed burdens from the CSOs during the meeting, said Chan Nyein Aung, a participant from the Charity Oriented Myanmar.

Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye has pledged that the UEC will make utmost efforts for holding the free and fair general elections which is slated to be held in last week of October or in first week of November 2015.

He also called on political parties to cooperate with the UEC and to do check and balance each other so that the election can become a free and fair one.

In his opening address at the meeting, the chairman has also invited the CSOs to cooperate in voters’ registration, voter training and voter education in accordance with the rules and regulations of the general election law and instructions of the UEC. U Tin Aye has urged the CSOs to be free from party bias as they have been permitted to observe from voters registration to objection to voting.

Representatives from 55 CSOs and 11 international non-governmental organizations attended the meeting with the Union Election Commission.

President U Thein Sein comforts an injured military personnel at Military Hospital in PyinOoLwin. — MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Press Release Team Notification (6/2015) 16 February, 2015 13th Waning Day of Tabodwe, 1376 ME Myanmar will continue to maintain stability and security of border areas

Recent attacks by Kokang renegade group and other armed groups in Kokang region directly affected the life and property of local people.

In order to protect the life and property of local people and to safeguard the security, law and order, Tatmadaw (defence services) has been taking measures to maintain peace and stability in Kokang region.

The Union Government and Tatmadaw (defence services) will be carrying out necessary measures to protect the life and property of people and to maintain peace, stability, law and order in Kokang region.

Myanmar will continue to maintain the stability and security of border areas in accordance with provisions of the Five Principles of Peaceful Co-existence.

Press Release Team

Religious and higher learning institutions issue statements on current situation in Myanmar

YANGON, 16 Feb — A number of organizations and institutes of higher learning issued statements on current situation in Myanmar, including Organization for Protection of Race and Religion (Central), Sitagu International Buddhist Missionary Centre, University of Veterinary Sciences, University of Agriculture (Yezin) and University of Forestry on Monday.

The Organization for Protection of Race and Religion issued a statement requesting the new generation students who are taking part in student demonstrations (See page 3)
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw condemn individuals and armed groups affiliated with Kokang renegades and honours the Tatmadaw

"The Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw read out the verdict of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union that remarked white cardholders are ineligible to vote in referendum on amendment of State Constitution as per Section 4, sub-section (a) of Section 38 and Section 391. As a conclusion, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw discussed Report of Planning and Financial Development Joint Committee about the first six months of 2014-2015 fiscal year. MNA"

MPF extends many branches and enhances capacity

"Deputy Minister U Zin Yaw of Myanmar Police Force and security forces and upgrading them to be able to prevent and control terrorism and destructive acts for ensuring life security of the people. The Hluttaw approved it. Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint explained that MPF extended many branches from 2011 to 2014 and conducts capacity enhancement courses for the police and community policing courses with the assistance of European Union-EU for ensuring safety of people. —MNA"

Endangered hardwood tree plantation to be established in Yangon

"By Khaing Thanda Lwin

Yangon, 16 Feb—With the aim of protecting endangered species of hardwood trees in Myanmar, the Wood-based Furniture Association, a local non-governmental organization, plans to establish a hardwood tree plantation in Yangon or nearby areas. The plantation will be established with more than 20 native rare hardwood species, including “Leik The”. The project is expected to start in late 2015 and planting in June 2016, U Myint Thein, joint secretary of the association, said. The association is planning to ask for the permission from the government to use 50 acres of land for establishment of the plantation. The secretary said, “Cooperation among government departments, entrepreneurs, associations and local people is crucial for successful implementation of this project”. Myanmar has more than 1,300 wood species, only 74 of which are identified. Of them, about 20 kinds of species are commonly used for various purposes. There are many local entrepreneurs in the wood-based furniture industry. But (only a few) entrepreneurs run hardwood production as it is not economically viable,” a local entrepreneur said at the first Myanmar International Furniture Expo in Yangon. The production costs of teak and other hardwoods are not so different, but teak gets a better price. Although the price for furniture made of other hardwoods is one-third of teak furniture, people still prefer teak rather than other woods. "We need to change people’s fixed ideas of using teak rather than other woods that is the vital role in expanding the hardwood market,” said U Wai Lwin, a proprietor of a wood-based furniture store. The extensive use of other hardwoods would amount to conserving other precious type of wood and enable people to use it at lower costs, U Myint Thein said. According to an expert, the use of other hardwoods can maintain the environment in the cool season and alleviate heat in the hot season. —GNLM"

Representatives of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw highlight armed groups and honour government military personnel.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

"Nay Pi Taw, 16 Feb—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw strongly criticized and expressed disapproval of individuals and armed groups affiliated with Kokang renegade groups which are launching attacks in Laukkai area, Shan state, honouring the government contractors in Laukkai area and sovereignty and territory of the country. The bicameral supported a proposal of U Stephen, an MP from Kengtung Township constituency, to object Kokang renegade groups which are also attacking civilians, security forces and government troops with the supports of other armed groups. U Stephen said Kokang renegades led by U Phom Kyaw Shin launched attacks to a military base in Konekan area, headquarters of Kokang Self-Administered Zone, Se-aw detention centre, police station in Yan than territory of the country. The statement acknowledged President’s role in expanding the hardwood market, said U Wai Lwin, a proprietor of a wood-based furniture store. The extensive use of other hardwoods would amount to conserving other precious type of wood and enable people to use it at lower costs, U Myint Thein said. According to an expert, the use of other hardwoods can maintain the environment in the cool season and alleviate heat in the hot season. —GNLM"
The three masked men have taken U Aung Zaw Tun, the technician-3 of the MRTV, away while he is at his wife’s house in Monepaw Village around 10.30 pm. Local authorities is probing into the case.

Out of seven retransmission stations in Muse zone, staff from three stations have moved to the Muse retransmission station. The MRTV has informed the staff from the remaining four stations to move to the Muse station due to security conditions.— MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb — Tatmadaw military columns have been combing Lauckkal area for insurgents to restore stability in the area since fighting started on 9 February. From 9 to 16 February, the Tatmadaw columns seized 71 M-22s, 7 M-21s, one M-16, one carbine, 16 M-20 pistols, one 303 rifle, one GSG rifle, two homemade guns, two .22s, two RPGs, 395 rounds of .25 millimeter, 150 rounds of .380 millimeter, 12,843 rounds of M-22, 81 rounds of .5, 97 rounds of M-20, 93 rounds of M-14, 220 rounds of 5.56, 108 grenades, 8 landmines, 30 soft blocks of gun powder, one string of gun powder, 6 detonators for landmines, 67 landmine detonators, 126 cartridges, ephedrine powder 200 gm, heroin powder 5 gm, ice 5 mg, solid opium 0.5 kg, powder used in producing stimulant tablets 5 kg, and 30 visses of paraphernalia and two molds for tablets from the renegade groups.—Myawady

In-charge of MRTV’s retransmission station in Monepaw abducted

NATI ONAL

Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits Mawlamyine

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb — Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham inspected the development of Mawlamyine in motorcade Monday.

The vice president and his entourage were welcomed by Union Minister U Kyaw Hsan, Chief Minister of Mon State U Ohn Myint, Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Tin Maung Win and officials.

The vice-president also visited Zina Pagoda, a Buddha statue woven with bamboo stripes and Kyeikthan Pagoda in Mawlamyine and donated cash to the fund of the pagodas.

During the visit, Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham gave instructions to local authorities on development of Mawlamyine.

GNLM

Vice President

Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits Mawlamyine

MNA

Cash and kind donation invited for military servicemen

Those wishing to donate cash and kind for military services discharging military operation duty in North-East Command area and for officers and other ranks injured in clashes in Laukkai region may contact Lt-Col Thant Zaw, 09-73206699 and 031-259260 (Yangon) and Lt-Col Win Naing Htwe, 09-5250995 and 033-360033 (Lashio).

In-charge of MRTV’s retransmission station in Monepaw abducted

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb — An in-charge of the retransmission station of Myanmar Radio and Television in Monepaw Village in Monekoe Township, Muse District, has been abducted by three masked men on 14 February.

Drugs, weapons and ammunition seized from Kokang renegade groups

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb — Tatmadaw military columns have been combing Laukkai area for insurgents to restore stability in the area since fighting started on 9 February. From 9 to 16 February, the Tatmadaw columns seized 71 M-22s, 7 M-21s, one M-16, one carbine, 16 M-20 pistols, one 303 rifle, one GSG rifle, two homemade guns, two .22s, two RPGs, 395 rounds of .25 millimeter, 150 rounds of .380 millimeter, 12,843 rounds of M-22, 81 rounds of .5, 97 rounds of M-20, 93 rounds of M-14, 220 rounds of 5.56, 108 grenades, 8 landmines, 30 soft blocks of gun powder, one string of gun powder, 6 detonators for landmines, 67 landmine detonators, 126 cartridges, ephedrine powder 200 gm, heroin powder 5 gm, ice 5 mg, solid opium 0.5 kg, powder used in producing stimulant tablets 5 kg, and 30 visses of paraphernalia and two molds for tablets from the renegade groups.—Myawady

Religious and higher learning . . . .

(form page 1)

to return to their parents and teacher to sit for examinations peacefully, saying that the students have achieved a historic victory as their demands were fulfilled by the officials at the four-party talks.

Another statement of the organization said that it was proud of the soldiers who are sacrificing their lives to defend the people and the country in the northeastern part of the country. It also said that it empathize with all those who have suffered due to the fighting.

Situag International Buddhist Missionary Centre issued a request urging the government to make efforts at its best for the development of modern education for children of the country and to forgive them as the own children of the government by fulfilling their demands.

The statements of the Institute of Veterinary Science said that none of its students involves in the demonstration while the statement of the Institute of Agriculture said that it condemned their activities that can cause instability.

The statement of the Institute of Agriculture said that it is natural that difference people have different opinions but the common wish of all is to adopt a better education system. The government by fulfilling their demands. The statement urged all to grasp the common wish as an opportunity for talks, saying that the national education law is just an initial step. As it is a long way to go for a better education system, placing emphasis on emotion rather than on wisdom will make the goal farther, the statement urged.—MNA
Local News

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb — With the aim of enhancing capacity of staff, the Capacity Building Course No 1/2015 kicked off at the training school of Information and Public Relations Department (Head Office) in Pyinnmana on Monday morning.

Director-General U Ye Tin made a speech.

Altogether 31 trainees are attending the course up to 13 March.

It was also attended by departmental officials of the IPRD Head Office and Deputy Director Daw Thin Thin Zin of Nay Pyi Taw IPRD.

Tun Tun Win
(Pyinnmana)

Staff attend capacity building course

Three asphalt streets commissioned into service in Nay Pyi Taw

The council member, the MP and the committee member formally opened the streets.

Three asphalted streets are 4,500 feet in total length, constructed with the aim of enabling local people to get smooth access to one place to another. The council member inspected progress of placing asphalt on the road in Aungchantha Village and explained purpose of asphaltning the street for smooth transport of local people.

At Nay Pyi Taw Myoma market, he met with shopkeepers and urged them to carry out sanitation inside and outside the market to sell goods to the customers systematically.

Shwe Kokko

Futsal champion club wins K100,000

Mandalay, 16 Feb — Mahaaungmye Township Sports and Physical Education Committee Chairman’s Cup Inter-Ward invitational Futsal tournament was held at the township sports ground from 6 to 15 February with participation of 44 Futsal clubs.

Shwe Gyogyar emerged champion with a 3-1 victory over Hein Htet San in the final.

Commander of Township Police Force Police Major Khin Maung Yi and Chairman of Township Administration U Myint Oo presented prizes to the winners.

Tin Maung
(Mandalay)

Thai specialists give free healthcare in Bahan Township

U Tin Shwe, a patient, recounted experiences that specialists from the team gave special treatment to patients carefully.

The patients thanked them for their better medical treatment and requested them to come to Myanmar next times. They also expressed thanks for venerable Bhaddanta Nimala for his arrangements in giving free healthcare, he said.

Maung Maung Thant
(Kyemon)
Singapore premier’s prostate cancer surgery “successful”

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong

SINGAPORE, 16 Feb — Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong underwent “successful” surgery to remove his cancerous prostate gland on Monday, his office said in a brief statement.

The surgery in Strouf Singapore General Hospital was carried out by the operation was quoted in the statement as saying, “The surgery went very smooth and expected to recover fully.”

The doctor confirmed the possible Australian tourist arrival drawdown.

Over one million Australians visited Indonesia last year and it was expected to rise to 1.2 million this year. Yahya said. The minister said the dispute is between the two governments, which may not impact on the people to people exchange. Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumar have been on death row, being convicted to death penalty in February 2006 for involving in plot to smuggle over eight kg of heroin to Australia from Bali in 2005. Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott has pleaded clemency for the pair to Indonesian President Joko Widodo.

Indonesia plays down Australia’s rage over drug pair execution

BOGOR, (Indonesia), 16 Feb — The Indonesian government shrugged off the tourism backlash threat by Australia, as Indonesia is going ahead with the execution of two Australian drug smugglers, a minister said here on Monday.

“It is no problem,” Indonesian Tourism Minister Arief Yahya said when asked about the impact of the possible Australian tourist arrival drawdown.

Over one million Australians visited Indonesia last year and it was expected to rise to 1.2 million this year. Yahya said. The minister said the dispute is between the two governments, which may not impact on the people to people exchange. Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumar have been on death row, being convicted to death penalty in February 2006 for involving in plot to smuggle over eight kg of heroin to Australia from Bali in 2005. Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott has pleaded clemency for the pair to Indonesian President Joko Widodo.

China’s foreign minister pushes Iran on nuclear deal

BEIJING, 16 Feb — A deal with Iran on its controversial nuclear program would help it escape from sanctions and allow more efforts to be spent on economic development, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said during a trip to Teheran.

Negotiations between Iran and the United States, Russia, China, France, Germany and Britain face an initial deadlock for a basic framework agreement at the end of March, and a 30 June deadline for a final settlement. US and Iranian officials suggest those deadlines are unlikely to change. US President Barack Obama said last week extending the March deadline would not be useful if Iran did not agree to a framework assuring world powers it is not pursuing nuclear arms capability through its enrichment of uranium.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi

“Millions of Australians are feeling sickened by what might be about to happen in Indonesia.” It was unclear what measures Abbott was considering, but Australia and Indonesia have long history of diplomatic tension, which has periodically complicated cooperation on regional issues, including people smuggling and intelligence.

Indonesia recalled its envoy and froze military cooperation in 2013 after reports that Canberra had spied on top Indonesian officials, including former president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono’s wife.

Full diplomatic cooperation was restored last May, but Foreign Minister Julie Bishop last month refused to rule out following Brazil and the Netherlands in withdrawing its ambassador from Jakarta if the executions went ahead.

Those two countries withdrew their ambassadors last month after two of their citizens were among six people executed for drugs offences.

Australia outlawed capital punishment in 1973 and public opinion staunchly opposes the death penalty for any crime.

The last Australian citizen executed by a foreign government was Nguyen Van Tuong Van by Singapore in 2005, also on charges of smuggling heroin. That incident had little effect on bilateral relations. But the execution of two Australians for drug offences in Malaysia in 1986 saw relations plummet.

In Sydney, more than 150,000 people signed a petition for clemency handed to the families of the prisoners at the weekend.

A survey released by the Sydney-based Lowy Institute think tank on Monday showed strong public disapproval for the execution, with 62 percent of the 1,211 people surveyed opposing the move.

“At the time the executions of Andrew Chan and Myuran Sukumar appears to draw closer, Australian public and political opposition is crystallizing,” Michael Fullilove, executive director of the Lowy Institute, said in a statement.

A boycott campaign has been building on social media, where Australians have been using the Twitter hashtag #BoycottBali to announce the cancellation of their holiday plans.

International pressure is also mounting over the executions.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appealed to Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi on Thursday not to go ahead. — Reuters

Australian death row prisoners Andrew Chan (C) and Myuran Sukumar (L) are seen in a holding cell waiting to attend a review hearing in the District Court of Denpasar on the Indonesian island of Bali this 8 Oct, 2010 picture taken by Antara Foto.— Reuters

Sydney PM Abbott threatens repercussions over Indonesia executions

SYDNEY, 16 Feb — Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott has warned Indonesia of the potential for diplomatic fallout if Jakarta goes ahead with the looming execution of two Australian citizens on death row for drugs charges.

Indonesia has harsh penalties for drug trafficking and executed executions in 2013 after a five-year gap. Five foreigners were among six people executed last month, the first executions since President Joko Widodo took office in October.

Australia has been pursuing an eleven-hour campaign to save the lives of Myuran Sukumar, 33, and Andrew Chan, 31, two Australian members of the so-called Bali Nine, convicted in 2005 as the ringleaders of a plot to smuggle heroin out of Indonesia.

The case has enormous resonance as a domestic political issue in Australia, and Abbott ratcheted up the rhetoric at the weekend amid a growing campaign to boycott travel to Bali, one of the most popular destinations for Australian tourists.

“We will be finding ways to make our displeasure felt,” Abbott told Australia’s Channel Ten on Sunday.

“Millions of Australians are feeling sickened by what might be about to happen in Indonesia.” It was unclear what measures Abbott was considering, but Australia and Indonesia have long history of diplomatic tension, which has periodically complicated cooperation on regional issues, including people smuggling and intelligence.

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International pressure is also mounting over the executions.

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appealed to Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi on Thursday not to go ahead. — Reuters
S Korean parliament endorses President Park’s choice for premier

SEOUL, 16 Feb — South Korea’s parliament on Monday approved President Park Geun Hye’s nomination of Lee Wan Koo as prime minister on a vote by the ruling party after weeks of friction over his eligibility for the job. The controversy centered on allegations that Lee, the former floor leader of the ruling Saenuri Party, was unfit for the job due to various ethical issues, including his apparent attempts to stop the press from carrying negative reports about him, Yonhap News Agency said. Park named Lee as prime minister on 23 January, but the National Assembly held up a vote as the opposition New Politics Alliance for Democracy demanded that he withdraw from the nomination.

In South Korea, executive power rests mainly with the president, with the prime minister serving primarily as coordinator of the Cabinet. Chung Hong Won, the former prime minister, resigned following a storm of criticism that the government bungled in rescue efforts after a ferry sank in April last year that left more than 300 people dead. The victims were mostly students on a school excursion. — Kyodo News

Hundreds of Jewish tombs damaged in northern France

PARIS, 16 Feb — Several hundred Jewish tombs have been damaged in a cemetery near the northeastern French city of Strasbourg, the French interior minister said on Sunday. Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve confirmed the incident, which took place at the Jewish cemetery of Sarre-Union near the German border, and said in a statement that police had opened an inquiry.

“Everything will be done to identify, arrest and judge the perpetrator or perpetrators of this ignominious act,” Cazeneuve said.

News of the desecrated graves came a day after a deadly shooting at a Danish synagogue, which took place at the Jewish cemetery of Sarre-Union near the German border, and said in a statement that police had opened an inquiry.

Desecrated tombstones are seen at Sarre-Union Jewish cemetery, eastern France on 15 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

Abe condemns Copenhagen shootings as “despicable” terror attacks

TOKYO, 16 Feb — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Monday condemned the fatal shootings in Copenhagen that killed two people over the weekend as “despicable act of terrorism.”

“I am infuriated by such despicable act of terrorism which attacked the freedom of expression and pluralistic values and I resolutely condemn it,” Abe said in a message sent to Danish Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt.

Abe offered condolences to the families of the victims, saying “Japan stands with Denmark during this difficult time” and Tokyo will work with Copenhagen and the international community in the fight against terrorism. A gunman killed two people in separate attacks in the city, first at a debate on free speech and then near a synagogue.

Attended by a Swedish artist who has caricatured the Prophet Muhammad, the debate had been organized to discuss freedom of expression following the terrorist attack on the offices of satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo in France in January. — Kyodo News

Better Palestinian living standards vital for peace, Blair says

Gaza, 16 Feb — Any Israeli-Palestinian peace deal must lead to improved living conditions for Palestinians to prevent violence between the two from erupting again, Middle East peace envoy Tony Blair said on Sunday.

“The last conflict left Gaza devastated and its people more downtrodden and impoverished,” Blair said in Gaza, the site of the July-August war between the territory’s Islamist militants and Israel.

“I am extremely concerned that, if we leave Gaza in the state it is in, you have another eruption in violence and then we are back into a further catastrophe,” Blair added.

He said a successful peace drive required “a broad and a profound improvement in the daily life of Palestinians ... unified Palestinian politics ... (and) an enhanced role for the region in alliance with the international community.”

Blair said Hamas, the Palestinian faction that runs Gaza, had to declare whether it wanted a peace deal with Israel. The group calls for the destruction of Israel and has rejected any peace accords with Israel signed by the western-backed Palestinian Authority led by President Mahmoud Abbas.

“The international community needs clarity from Hamas. Are they a Palestinian nationalist movement dedicated to the achievement of a Palestinian state ... are they prepared to accept the Palestinian state within the 1967 borders or not?”

Some Hamas leaders have said they would accept a Palestinian state on land Israel occupied in a 1967 war in return for a long-term truce. But they would continue to refuse to recognize Israel’s right to exist.

Blair, envoy of the United Nations, the European Union, Russia and the United States — the so-called Quartet — said that only with a unified Palestinian political stance could the international community “promote reconciliation alongside reconstruction.”

Japan closes embassy in Yemen due to worsening security situation

CAIRO, 16 Feb — Japan closed its embassy in Yemen on Sunday due to the worsening security situation in the country, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said on Monday.

Japanese Ambassado to Yemen Katsuyoshi Hayashi and four embassy officials have already left the Middle Eastern country, the ministry said.

Some of the embassy staff will conduct operations from the Qatari capital of Doha, it said.

The Houthi militant group declared on 6 February that it had seized power. It captured Yemen’s capital Sanaa in September 2014.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a press briefing in Tokyo that the “security situation there is extremely severe,” adding that other countries are also taking similar steps. Japan’s Self-Defense Forces members have been dispatched to Djibouti for an anti-piracy mission in waters off Somalia, but the top government spokesman said their operations will not be affected. — Kyodo News
Heavy shelling as rebels keep pressure on Ukraine’s Debaltseve

The conflict in eastern Ukraine has become increasingly intense, with heavy shelling continuing to plague the town of Debaltseve. According to Ukrainian officials, the shelling is part of a broader strategy by separatists to keep up attacks on the city, which remains under government control.

Merkel’s conservatives suffer blow in state vote, eurosceptics gain

In Germany, the state elections in Hamburg have seen the conservative Christian Democrat (CDU) party suffer a significant loss, with the nationalist Alternative for Germany (AfD) party seeing its support grow. This is seen as a blow to the CDU, which has been facing strong competition from the AfD in recent elections.

France will stay on high alert after Copenhagen attacks: PM

French Prime Minister Manuel Valls has announced that France will remain on high alert following the Copenhagen attacks. The government has deployed troops and increased security measures in response to the threat.

Italy’s Renzi defies opposition over Senate reform

Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi has pushed ahead with constitutional reforms, despite opposition from the opposition parties. The reforms are aimed at reducing the size of the Senate and making the government more stable.

Danish police charge two with aiding Copenhagen shooter

Two people have been charged by Danish police for assisting the gunman who attacked a Copenhagen synagogue. The police are now investigating whether there was a wider network of support.

Rome, 16 Feb — Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi has moved a step closer to shifting the political landscape with his constitutional reforms, which he hopes will create a more stable government, according to sources familiar with the negotiations. The reforms are expected to be approved by the Senate on Thursday, despite opposition from the opposition parties.

“The two men are charged with helping through advice and deeds the perpetrator in relation to the shootings at Krudttonden and in Krystalgade,” the police said in a statement, referring to the location of the two attacks.

The police had fired only when coming under attack, Stelmakh said.—Reuters

French Prime Minister Manuel Valls said two attacks in the country remained “particularly high” and that exceptional security measures would remain in place as long as needed after attacks in Copenhagen.

Renato Brunetta, lower house floor leader of Berlusconi’s Forza Italia party, accused Renzi of a “slide into authoritarianism.” The anti-establishment 5-Star Movement said Italy was on the verge of a “bloodless coup”.

“There is only one way out: to dissolve parliament and go to new elections,” the party leader, Beppe Grillo, said on his blog.

Renzi himself defended the decision to proceed with the vote and promised to work on a reform agenda. “We did everything we could to make sure the opposition was at the nego- tiating table,” he told Rai state television. “What can we do if they go off?”

In the Senate, Renzi has a smaller majority. He also faces not just opposition parties but also a significant number of dissidents in his Democratic Party. A final vote is ex- pected in early March, but the proposals, which Renzi said would be put to a refer- endum, are not expected to pass unless there is at least at the end of the year.
Opium poppy cultivation must be eliminated

By Myint Win Thein

Cultivation of opium poppy and manufacturing of narcotic drugs have been a great problem in Myanmar which damages the image of the country. Although the practice of opium poppy cultivation was brought into the country by colonialists about a century ago, it can still have a negative impact on the history of the country enormously. Another problem at the border areas is the manufacturing of stimulant tablets by illegal groups. As a result, stimulant tablets are available in a number of places in the country as well as in other countries.

On the other hand, successive governments of the country internationally vowed a number of times to eliminate cultivation of opium poppy and manufacturing of narcotic drugs at the particular time with success. Actually, the problem of drugs not only affects Myanmar but also hurts the entire world.

In addition, Myanmar is put into danger not only but narcotic drugs itself but also from the money generated from drug trafficking. Recently, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said that the problem of opium cultivation and narcotic drugs must be eliminated once and for all since the problem is putting the mankind into danger. It high time the problem were addressed once and for all.

A quick fascinating glimpse inside the library of the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies in Singapore

(By Sayar Mya)

Due to a range of reasons and complex circumstances over the past decades, my loving son first went to Japan and then to Australia to pursue further education. After obtaining two diplomas in Canberra, Capital of Australia, he came back home in Yangon in quest of a suitable and sustainable career. Despite his devoted and dedicated efforts to engage in an honest business in Yangon for a certain length of time, it was futile and pointless.

When there was no scope and space for a decent and proper livelihood back in our beloved country in those years of uncertain and unclear economic environment, he and his family migrated to Australia.

During the school holidays of our grand children, they visited us in Yangon once every two to three years.

In January 2015, my son and his family members visited Singapore on vacation. The rendezvous point was at the condominium of our loving daughter Thuzar at Taman Serasi, just across the Singapore Botanical Gardens. Thuzar is on government assignment for three years in that country. I and my better half have had a good time and full of fun with our grand kids for two weeks in Singapore. They went back home in Sydney on 31 January 2015.

Since my arrival in Singapore on 12 January, I have written five English articles entitled (1) [Significant features of “Singa-

Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS) in Singapore: January 2015]; (2) [National University of Singapore: A University stands and shines top in Asia]; (3) [ICT in brief and pragmatic application of E-Governance in Singa-

• Identification/Guided Tours.

• Brief training on the use of online database and microfilm/fiche readers (Microfiche Scanner);

• Retrieval of collections from open and closed stack/repository;

• Value-added services conducted by the Reference Librarian;

• Bibliographical search at Singapore $50.00 per hour (minimum charge);

• Identifying and locating items from the above bibliographical search at Singapore $2.00 per item.

• Material cost (such as print outs, photocopies etc.) are charged in ad-

• Interlibrary Loan (ILL)

Books not available in the ISEAS Library may be borrowed on “Interlibrary Loan (ILL)” from other li-

• Orientation/Guided Tours.

Brief training on the use of online database and microfilm/fiche readers

The Library’s collections, including new acquisitions can be looked up in the online database SEA LiOn. Staff on duty will serve users who need assistance in using the online database and audio-visual equipment.

Retrieval of collections from open and closed stack/repository

Selected titles of new arrivals are displayed at the Circulation Desk. Researchers may reserve a title on display by filling in a Reserve Slip and returning it to the Circulation Desk. Request for closed access materials such as back issues of jour-

Value-added services conducted by the Reference Librarian:

• Copyright Act. This requires the Library to obtain a signed copyright declaration from the requesting person before obtaining a photocopy of the requested material. The copy right declaration has been incorporated in the “document delivery request form” and must be completed by the requesting person.

To submit an article or a book for consideration for publication, please send to: cly@seas.org.my or call: +65 65163516.

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(to be continued)
Inter-Club Sepak Takraw tournament wraps up

Mandalay, 16 Feb — In commemoration of the opening of a Sepak Takraw court of Nyaungbinyeik Sepak Takraw club, the inter-club Sepak Takraw tournament was organized at the court on 86th street in Mahauangmye Township.

President of Myanmar Chinlone Federation U Soe Naing opened the tournament on 10 February and on 14 February, Khaing Tan Myat (B) stood first in the tournament with a win over Khaing Tan Myat. Altogether 64 clubs participated in the tournament starting from 10 February.

The president of MCF donated K700,000 to Nyaungbinyeik Club. Tin Maung (Mandalay)

GAD offers Buddha images to locals in Natogyi Tsp

Mandalay, 16 Feb — Tatmadaw columns engaged with Kokang renegade groups in Laukkai region, northern Shan State, as of 9 February.

People from Pyawbywe, Yamethin and Meiktila townships in Mandalay Region and those from Magway, Natmauk, Mothit, Hsinpyanywe, Aunglan and Taungdwingyi townships in Magway Region who arrived in Laukkai, Monex and Monezi areas to carry out export and import of products came back to Mandalay Pyigyimyetshin highway bus terminal and Chandmya Shwepey highway bus terminal from Laukkai to native areas via Lashio.

Under the arrangements of Mandalay Region government, Region Minister for Transport U Kyaw Hsan and departmental officials presented foodstuffs to them and provided transport assistance to them. Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Tourists visit downtown Myaung

During the trip from Mandalay to Yangon along Ayeyawady River, the tourists stopped over at Myaung for their visits. The tourist team comprised 22 British, one German and one French.

Win Bo (Township IPRD)

People get potable water thanks to tube-well, water tank donations

Mahlaing, 16 Feb — DaPunt (Myanmar) Co Ltd donated a well, pump and tank to Basic Education Middle School Branch in Theingon Village, Mahlaing Township, on 13 February.

Managing director Mr Sittideeh Sripattho and responsible persons also donated stationery for 150 students to headmistress Daw Win Myint. The company spent K3 million on a four-inch diameter tube-well and one 11 feet long, five feet wide and six feet high water tank. Thanks to water facilities, over 800 local people in Theingon Village get potable water.

Aung Htay (Mahlaing)

Israeli representation at Culture Festival in Myanmar Convention Center

Yangon, 16 Feb — The Israeli Booth was managed by the staff of the Embassy of Israel in Yangon together with students and teachers from Horizon school, who presented the audience with Israeli traditional food as Falafel, Pita bread and Humus, and also the Israeli popular drink – Sweet Lemonade.

The participants could also find pictures of famous attractions in Israel, an enjoyable screening of a two minutes film about Israel and different symbols and souvenirs from Jewish and Israeli tradition.

The two days Festival was officially opened after a ribbon cutting ceremony in the presence of the Ambassador of Israel, together with the heads of other diplomatic mission and representatives from Hluttaw, Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and International Community.

GNLM
Bahrain sends warplanes to Jordan to fight Islamic State

DUBAI, 16 Feb — Bahrain has deployed warplanes to Jordan to conduct air strikes against Islamic State strongholds in Syria and Iraq. Bahrain has taken a leading role in conducting air strikes against Islamic State fighters in Iraq since the militants killed a Jordanian pilot, Muath al-Kasaesbeh, who was captured by the group after his plane crashed in Syria in December.

“A group of Bahraini Royal Air Force planes have landed in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to participate in the international effort to annihilate terrorism,” BNA said.

It did not say how many aircraft or what kind were sent.

The United Arab Emirates last week sent a squadron of F-16 jet fighters to Jordan to conduct air strikes against Islamic State alongside Jordanian planes.

The UAE had earlier joined a US-led coalition conducting air strikes against Islamic State suspended flights. But it had suspended flights, citing concerns about search and rescue capabilities, after the Jordanian pilot was downed.

Jordan’s King Abdullah has vowed to avenge Kasasbeh’s killing and ordered his commanders to prepare for a stepped-up military role in the US-led coalition against Islamic State.

Many Jordanians fear being dragged into a conflict that could trigger a backlash by hardline militants inside the kingdom. But support for the military campaign has grown since Kasasbeh’s killing.

Jordanian military experts say the ability of the kingdom to sustain its air attacks would soon come under strain, given the 40 mid-life F16 jets the air force has at its disposal. US officials have told Reuters the United States was preparing plans to re-supply Jordan with munitions.

UN council demands Houthis withdraw, end Yemen violence

UNITED NATIONS, 16 Feb — The United Nations Security Council on Sunday demanded Iranian-backed Houthi militia in Yemen withdraw from government institutions, called for an end to foreign interference and threatened to impose sanctions after seizing the capital Sanaa in September and expanding across Yemen, which borders oil giant Saudi Arabia.

The council, comprising energy-rich Gulf states, had urged the Security Council to adopt a resolution under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, which allows decisions to be enforced with economic sanctions or force. The approved UN resolution is not under Chapter 7.

The council declared its readiness to take “further steps” if the violence does not stop.

The United Nations has warned that Yemen is collapsing. Shi’ite Muslim Houthi fighters have sidelined the central government after seizing the capital Sanaa in September and expanding across Yemen,

Egypt says it bombed Islamic State targets in Libya: state television

CAIRO, 16 Feb — Egypt’s military said in a statement on state television it had carried out an air strike against Islamic State targets in Libya at dawn on Monday, a day after the group released a video appearing to show the beheading of 21 Egyptians.

The attack focused on Islamic State camps, training sites and weapons storage areas in Libya, where Islamist militants have thrived amid chaos.

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi has repeatedly said militants based in Libya pose a serious security threat to Egypt, a strategic ally that is fighting insurgents in the Sinai who have pledged allegiance to Islamic State.

The 21 Egyptian Christians, who had gone to Libya in search of jobs, were marched to a beach, forced to kneel, then beheaded, the video showed.

Westerners join Iraqi Christian militia to fight Islamic State

Westerners who have joined the Iraqi Christian militia Dwekh Nawsha to fight against Islamic State militants sit together at the office of the Assyrian political party in Dohuk, northern Iraq on 13 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

Bahrain sends warplanes to Jordan to fight Islamic State

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Morrison's cuts prices on 130 grocery staples like milk, eggs

LONDON, 16 Feb — British grocer Morrisons said on Monday it had cut prices on items like milk, cheese and cornflakes in the latest salvo in a supermarket price war.

Morrisons, the smallest of Britain’s “Big Four” supermarket chains, said it was reducing the price of 130 shopping basket staples by an average of 22 percent.

The price war and lower commodity prices pushed food prices down 1.9 percent in December, their biggest fall since June 2002.

Britain’s largest supermarkets — Tesco, Wal-Mart owned Asda, and J Sainsbury — have been cutting prices on essentials to compete with discount grocers Aldi and Lidl.

The fall in grocery bills has coincided with a steep drop in the oil price, resulting in the annual rate of inflation halving to 0.5 percent in December from 1.0 percent in November.

Morrisons said four pints of milk had been cut to 1.00 pound, from 1.39, for example, while the price of 500 grammes of Kellogg’s cornflakes was reduced by a quarter to 1.09 pounds.— Reuters

Swine flu kills over 500 in India so far this year

NEW DELHI, 16 Feb — Swine flu or H1N1 has killed over 500 people in India this year, doubling the figure of death from the epidemic of the whole year of 2014, officials said on Monday.

Twelve more people were killed recently in the western state Gujarat while 11 people were lately the victims of the deadly virus in the western state Rajasthan, raising the death toll in the country to over 500 since the beginning of this year, said health officials.

At least 6,300 cases of the swine flu were reported in the past one and a half months in India.

However, additional Secretary of the Ministry of Health AK Panda told media that there is no reason for panic and there are enough medicines in stock, adding that there were usually more H1N1 cases in winter. According to the official, the number of reported swine flu cases in 2014 was 937 while the death toll stood at 218. The government on Sunday said it was “closely” monitoring the spurt in swine flu cases in the country, with the Health Ministry claiming that the countrywide toll from swine flu had reached 485 till 12 February.

“We are monitoring the situation very closely and are in touch with the health officials of the states most affected by the disease,” said a senior Health Ministry official.— Xinhua

Australian food company recalls berries after hepatitis A outbreak linked to China

SYDNEY, 16 Feb — An Australian company has recalled its frozen berry products following a hepatitis A outbreak linked to poor hygiene and water supplies in a Chinese packaging plant, reigniting fears about the safety of the Asian giant’s food exports.

Australian authorities were investigating on Monday after as many as nine people were diagnosed with the disease after eating the Patties Foods Ltd berries, which were grown in Chile and China before being packaged at the Chinese factory.

“We do expect to see more cases,” Sonya Bennett, senior director of Queensland state’s communicable diseases unit, told reporters.

Food safety has long been an issue in China, where pollution from rapid industrialization has exerted a heavy toll on soil and water. Poor hygiene and packaging plants has also been a problem.

Contamination scanned the lethal outbreak and serious illnesses have increased the popularity in China of imports of European infant formula, New Zealand milk and Japanese rice.

More than 11,000 school children in Germany were laid low in October 2012 by diarrhea and vomiting that authorities linked to frozen strawberries imported from China. Chinese authorities refuted those claims.

Australia’s Victoria state government said the contamination in the latest case had been traced back to China.

“The particular risk that we’ve identified here is that a country that has endemic hepatitis A, that is China, has been involved with packing these berries,” Fink said.

The health department’s senior medical adviser, told Australian Broadcasting Corp radio, “clearly there’s strong evidence that there may have been a contamination during the packing process as they are fully sealed and then transported to Australia.”

It was not immediately known what other products, if any, the Chinese supplier produced for export, he added. — Reuters

Fortunes of UK workers diverge as many miss out on pay rises

LONDON, 16 Feb — Two fifths of British workers landed significant pay rises last year but a similar number endured stagnant market report showed 40 percent of employees enjoyed pay rises of 2 percent or more while 39 percent saw their pay frozen and 3 percent suffered pay cuts.

Another 18 percent received a pay rise between 0.1 percent and 2 percent in the year to December.

The findings suggest that a large part of the British workforce is still feeling the pinch ahead of national elections in May, even though the average wage increase has outpaced inflation in recent months.

“The figures show a clear gap between employees that have comfortably exceeded the current inflation rate in their pay packets and those who haven’t seen any increase at all,” CIPD analyst Gerwyn Davies said.

That may help explain why Prime Minister David Cameron’s Conservative Party is still narrowly trailing the opposition Labour Party in most polls, despite the UK’s headline economic performance being among the strongest in Europe.

The CIPD survey showed public sector workers were hit the hardest, with 54 percent of public employers saying their wages were frozen.

The Bank of England said on Thursday it expected below-zero inflation in coming months.

Manufacturing firms were among the strongest performers with 54 percent reporting pay hikes of 2 percent or more, but more than a third of manufacturing and production firms froze pay.

Davies said firms across all sectors were more likely to have awarded large pay increases if their strategy was to maximise value rather than trim costs.

“Therefore, the role for government is ... to understand the level that can help more firms increase their workplace productivity and move up the quality chain,” he said. — Reuters

Workers cross the road in Whitehall in central London on 20 Oct, 2010.— Reuters

Department stores beef up service for Chinese ahead of Lunar New Year

TOKYO, 16 Feb — Major department stores in Japan have been beefing up their service for Chinese customers ahead of the Lunar New Year holiday season starting on Wednesday, in a bid to attract big-spending tourists amid a slump in domestic spending.

To cope with rising Chinese visitor numbers, which have been further boosted by a weaker yen and an expansion of duty-free items, some department stores have been giving Chinese lessons to their workers or providing them tablet computers to aid communication.

According to the Japan Tourism Agency, the average spending per Chinese tourist last year including accommodation fees and shopping amounted to 231,753 yen (about $1,955), up about 10 percent from the previous year.

Daimaru Tokyo Store near Tokyo Station has offered lessons of simple Chinese conversations for its employees. The store also plans to have workers able to understand Chinese and English language schools from April as it expects the number of foreign customers will rise over the long term.

Kyodo News

Daimaru Tokyo store

Australian tourist last year in shopping

231,753 yen (about $1,955)

2014

231,753 yen

Daimaru Tokyo Store

Australian food company recalls berries after hepatitis A outbreak linked to China
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</th>
<th>MV LINDAUNIS VOY NO (1503)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Consignees of cargo carried on MV LINDAUNIS VOY NO (1503) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.2.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.</td>
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| SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE) PTE LTD |
| Phone No: 2301185 |

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<tr>
<th>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</th>
<th>MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO (949N)</th>
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<td>Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO (949N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.2.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.</td>
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| Phone No: 2301185 |

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| SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES |
| Phone No: 2301185 |

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<th>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</th>
<th>MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (070N)</th>
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<td>Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (070N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.2.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.</td>
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| SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES |
| Phone No: 2301185 |

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<th>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</th>
<th>MV PHUONG NAM 69 VOY NO (+)</th>
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<td>Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NAM 69 VOY NO (+) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.2.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W 5 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.</td>
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| SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S G LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD |
| Phone No: 2301191/2301178 |

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<th>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE</th>
<th>MV MARCLOUD VOY NO (0001S)</th>
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<td>Consignees of cargo carried on MV MARCLOUD VOY NO (0001S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.2.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.</td>
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| Phone No: 2301185 |

Cambodia bans drone cameras in country’s capital

Kyodo News — Phnom Penh, 16 Feb

Cambodian authorities on Monday banned the use of drone cameras to capture footage in the country’s capital over concern that it violates people’s privacy and public security.

The Phnom Penh municipal office decided to ban the use of the cameras “to ensure respect for the rights of the people and to maintain security, safety and public order,” according to a directive issued on Monday. But in case such use is necessary, users must seek prior permission from the municipal government, it said. Violators, if found, will be punished according to the law, but the authorities did not specify the possible extent of punishment. Police sources told Kyodo News that the move came after a German man was found flying a remote-controlled drone camera over the Royal Palace in the capital on Saturday afternoon when Queen Mother Monique Shahnouk was taking exercise. The palace is the residence of both King Norodom Sihamoni and his mother. The man was detained on Saturday for questioning by local authorities soon after a Royale Palace security official made a complaint and was released the same day, the sources said.

Som Chhayya, deputy director general of the Cambodian Broadcasting Service, an umbrella of three local TV channels CNC, CTN and MyTV, said his staff began using drone cameras about two years ago, adding that aerial footage taken by the devices have been very popular.

But he said the ban was “appropriate” as long as there are concerns about security and public order.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>Tender No</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Remark</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>IFB-147(14-15)</td>
<td>Cement Additives (5 items)</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>IFB-148(14-15)</td>
<td>Mud Chemicals (4 items)</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>IFB-149(14-15)</td>
<td>Class “G” Cement (500 Ton)</td>
<td>US$</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>IFB-150(14-15)</td>
<td>30 Ton Mobile Hydraulic Crane (Wheel Type)</td>
<td>(1 Unit)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>IFB-151(14-15)</td>
<td>2900 Series Well Head Equipments &amp; Spares</td>
<td>(7) Sets US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>IFB-152(14-15)</td>
<td>900 Series Well Head Equipments &amp; Spares</td>
<td>(2) Sets US$</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>IFB-153(14-15)</td>
<td>Truck Mounted Double Drum Well Servicing Unit</td>
<td>(1 Unit) US$</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>IFB-154(14-15)</td>
<td>30 Ton NGV Tractor (1 Unit) &amp; 30 Ton Cascaded (2 units)</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>IFB-155(14-15)</td>
<td>GM 6V 71 Engine Assy</td>
<td>(1 Unit) US$</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>IFB-156(14-15)</td>
<td>Fire fighting Truck</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>IFB-157(14-15)</td>
<td>Welding Electrode (E6011) (50)</td>
<td>Ton US$</td>
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<td>(2) Items US$</td>
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<td>IFB-159(14-15)</td>
<td>Mobile Welding Machine with Accessories</td>
<td>(3) Sets US$</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>IFB-160(14-15)</td>
<td>Portable Welding Machine with Accessories</td>
<td>(4) Sets US$</td>
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<td>IFB-161(14-15)</td>
<td>Pressure Gauge (6 items)</td>
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<td>IFB-162(14-15)</td>
<td>Assorted Sizes of Steel Line Pipes (3 items)</td>
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<td>IFB-163(14-15)</td>
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<td>IFB-165(14-15)</td>
<td>13 5/8&quot; 5K Double Ram Blow Out Preventers</td>
<td>(2) Nos US$</td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>DMP/L-035(14-15)</td>
<td>MUD Testing Equipment (10 items)</td>
<td>Js</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>DMP/L-036(14-15)</td>
<td>Telephone Cable (4 items)</td>
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<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>DMP/L-037(14-15)</td>
<td>Electronics Private Branch Exchange</td>
<td>128 Lines Capacity, 8 CO Trunk Line with Phone (3) Sets</td>
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<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>DMP/L-038(14-15)</td>
<td>50 HP Electric Motor (400 V, 3 Phase, 50 Hz, 1500 RPM)</td>
<td>(2) Sets</td>
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<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>DMP/L-039(14-15)</td>
<td>Transformer Welding Set with Accessories</td>
<td>(Dry Type) (5) Lots</td>
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<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>DMP/L-040(14-15)</td>
<td>Centrifugal Pump with Motor (5 HP)</td>
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<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>DMP/L-041(14-15)</td>
<td>315 KVA and 500 KVA Transformer (2 items)</td>
<td>KS</td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>Container (1/2015)</td>
<td>Container</td>
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</table>

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

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Sam Smith tops Britain’s album chart after Grammys win

LONDON, 16 Feb — Sam Smith’s “In The Lonely Hour” returned to the top of the British album chart on Sunday, a week after the 22-year-old won four Grammy awards including record and song of the year, the Official Charts Company said.

The British soul singer’s million-selling debut, which climbed from back to the top of the rankings, has yet to leave the top 10 since it was released in May 2014. Ed Sheeran’s “X” was in second place, while the third and fourth spots were new entries: “If You’re Reading This You’re Too Late”, a surprise release by Canadian rapper Drake on Friday, and the Irish quartet Kodaline’s second studio album, “Com摆 Up For Air”.

The Barfita judges took aim at a film — dubbed “Dis-Grace of Monaco” — where “a plucky woman fights to stop the super-rich having to pay their taxes. We almost miss Diana.”

Last year, the biopic of Princess Diana swept the boards, winning worst film and worst actor for Naomi Watts in the lead role. Worst British film went to ‘Pudsey the Dog: The Movie’. Simon Pegg, who starred in the “frankly creepy” ‘Hector and the Search for Happiness’ won worst actor for his “frankly baffling accent in the frankly baffling” ‘A New York Winter’s Tale’.

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16-yr-old boy nabbed for allegedly creating lethal air gun

KONOS, 16 Feb — A 16-year-old boy in Hyogo Prefecture was arrested on Monday on suspicion of creating an air gun capable of killing a person and possessing three such weapons, police said.

The first-year high school boy has admitted to the charges, the police said. The boy’s name has been withheld because he is a minor.

The boy allegedly created and possessed a 2.08-metre-long air gun that can shoot through a steel can with a metal bullet from a distance of around 1 metre at his home then located in the western Japan city of Itami during the period from last June to November.

He is also suspected of possessing two quasi air guns — 1.18 metres long and 1.4 metres long — less powerful than the regular air gun but still capable of causing injury, the police said.

The guns are designed to shoot a metal bullet by using the power of explosion of inflammable gas, and they were created using commercial vinyl chloride pipes based on production methods available online, the police said.

The police confiscated a steel can with a hole, believed to have been used for test-shooting. No shooting of human beings or animals with the guns have been confirmed.

Kyodo News

Oscar nominees to get USD 20K worth mind reading sessions

Los Angeles, 16 Feb — Stars nominated in acting and directing categories at the 87th Academy Awards will be gifted USD 20,000 certificate for a session of mind reading techniques.

The session is a part of the Oscar nominee gift bag, which also includes a train ride through the Rockies and a year’s worth of All-Audi A4 rentals reported TMZ.

Author Olessia Kanfor, the woman behind the mind-reading session, said she will fly out to the celebrities’ location and analyse their dreams/horoscopes.

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I have grown up in last one year: Taylor Swift

Los Angeles, 16 Feb — Singer Taylor Swift says she has matured over the last one year and has become more confident about herself now.

The 25-year-old star said she feels unapologetic about her opinions and does not think what others feel about her, reported Vogue magazine.

“This last year has felt very different than any other year of my life. I’ve felt more settled and unapologetic about who I am and what I stand for,” she said.

PTI

China to abolish temporary residence permits

SHANGHAI, 16 Feb — China plans to abolish temporary residence permits as part of a broader reform of the country’s household registration system, the official Xinhua news agency reported, in a move that could boost consumer spending.

Citing a public security reform plan released on Sunday, Xinhua said that temporary permits for migrant workers will be replaced by permanent residency, which offers many of the same privileges as those enjoyed by locals, such as permission to buy flats and cars as well as social security.

Temporary permits are held by hundreds of millions of Chinese workers, who have to obtain the permits before they can live or work in a new city.

The system has been criticized for creating instability and China’s leaders have pledged to loosen their grip on residence registration, known as hukou, to try to speed the country’s urbanization drive.

The government is also keen to stem any further slowdown in the economy, which in 2014 recorded its weakest growth in 24 years.

Reuters

Benedict Cumberbatch marries Sophie Hunter on Isle of Wight

LONDON, 16 Feb — Oscar nominee and “Sherlock” star Benedict Cumberbatch and theatre director Sophie Hunter were married on the Isle of Wight on Valentine’s Day, his publicist said on Sunday.

“Benedict and Sophie were married yesterday surrounded by their close friends and family. It was a magical day,” publicist Karan Maskill said in a statement.

The couple announced in January that they were expecting their first child.

Cumberbatch, 38, and Hunter, 36, formally announced their engagement in the UK newspaper The Times last November. Cumberbatch received his first Academy Award nomination this year, for best actor, for his portrayal of mathematician Alan Turing in “The Imitation Game,” which was also nominated for best picture.

He won an Emmy last year for his lead role in the British TV miniseries “Sherlock,” a show that built a devoted following for the English actor. —Reuters

Modern Pentathlon: Japan pulls out of World Cup meet in Cairo over safety fears

TOKYO, 16 Feb — The Modern Pentathlon Association of Japan said on Monday it will not send a team to a World Cup meet next month in Cairo in light of the recent killings of Japanese hostages by the Islamic State militant group.

The 19-23 March World Cup in the Egyptian capital is the second of a four-legged competition that is part of the qualifying campaign for the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

Japan was planning to send eight pentathletes to Cairo but canceled the trip due to safety concerns.

Since the killings of the two hostages by the militants, the Japanese federation of table tennis and wrestling have pulled out of competitions in the Middle East.

Kyodo News
MADRID, 16 Feb — Lionel Messi marked his 300th La Liga appearance with a record-equalising hat-trick and an assist for Neymar as Barcelona stayed hard on the heels of leaders Real Madrid with a 5-0 romp at home to Levante on Sunday.

While Messi continued to rewrite the record books with another masterclass, third-placed Atlético Madrid’s hopes of a second straight title were dealt a blow when the champions were beaten 2-0 at mid-table Celta Vigo.

Atletico were missing creative midfield pair Koke and Arda Turan and looked a shadow of the side that thrashed Real 4-0 at the Calderon last weekend.

Their reverse at Celta’s Balaidos stadium in Galicia left them six points behind Barca and seven adrift of Real, who won 2-0 at home to promoted Deportivo La Coruña on Saturday.

Messi has been on electric form in recent weeks and his pinpoint cross set up Neymar to put Barca 1-0 ahead in the 17th minute at the Nou Camp.

The Brazil forward skewed his close-range volley but the ball looped up over Levante goalkeeper Diego Marino into the net.

Barca doubled their lead seven minutes before halftime when centre back Marc Bartra won the ball near the Levante penalty area and threaded a pass through to Messi for the Argentina captain to score with a low shot.

Barca were utterly dominant against their 19th-placed opponents and Messi made it 3-0 in the 59th minute after neat work from Sergio Busquets and Pedro.

Messi completed his 23rd La Liga hat-trick from the penalty spot in the 65th minute, giving him a share of the record set by Real’s Cristiano Ronaldo earlier this season.

Messi has 31 trebles in this season and if we win titles it will be great,” added the former Barca and Spain midfield. "I’d say it is the best in the world."