Myanmar, Finland focus on peace process, anti-human trafficking issues

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb—President U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Mr Erkki Tuomioja, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland, at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 11 a.m. on Tuesday to hold talks on cooperation in education, trade, investment and development tasks.

They also exchanged views on natural resources management, peace process and prevention of trafficking in persons.

Also present at the call were Union Ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Aung Min, U Khin Yi, Dr Myint Aung and U Ye Htut. The guests were accompanied by Finish Ambassador to Myanmar Ms. Kirsti Westphalen.—MNA

(see page 2)

UEC agrees to extend poll campaign period to 60 days

The Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye said on Tuesday the UEC and the political parties agreed Tuesday to extend the election campaign period from 30 days to 60 days, according to politicians who attended a co-ordination meeting among the UEC and the political parties.

The chairman of the UEC has pledged to legalize the extension of the poll campaign period as soon as possible, said U Kyaw, secretary of the New National Democracy Party. During the meeting with the UEC, representatives from the political parties expressed their voices for deciding which voting system would be practiced in the upcoming 2015 election by next month.

In November last year, the Electoral System Review Commission of the Pyithu Hluttaw objected the Electoral System Reform Bill of 2015 (see page 2)

Declaration of State of Emergency


2. However, tension has escalated in the area and it was found that Article 144 of Criminal Procedure alone is not effective to control chaos and to manage administration sector amidst lives and property of civilians are under threat from conflicts. By means of this, the State of Emergency in Kokang Self-Administered Zone is declared as per Sub-Section (a) of Section 412 of The Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

3. This ordinance will take effect 90 days from today.

S/d/ Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Military Administrative Order issued

1. In order to bring back normalcy in Kokang Self-Administered Zone where a state of emergency is declared under the Ordinance No. (1/2015), military administrative order is issued under Sub-section (b) of Section 413 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

2. The executive powers and duties and judicial powers and duties concerning community peace and tranquility and prevalence of law and order in Kokang Self-Administrative Zone are conferred on the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services.

3. The Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services may exercise the said powers and duties himself or empower on any suitable military authority to exercise thereof.

S/d/ Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Military Administrative Authority empowered on BC 20830

Colonel Saw Myint Oo, Commander of Regional Control Command (Laukkai) Under paragraphs 2 and 3 of Ordinance No. (2/2015) issued by the President Office of the Republic of Union of Myanmar on Tuesday, 14th Waning Day of Tabogwe, 1376 ME (17 February 2015) as per Sub-Section (b) of Section 413 of State Constitution, I, the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services, exercising the authority conferred on me, empower BC 20830 Col Saw Myint Oo, Commander of Regional Control Command (Laukkai) to exercise the executive powers and duties and judicial powers and duties concerning community peace and tranquility and prevalence of law and order in Kokang Self-Administrative Zone where military administrative order is announced, as of Tuesday, 14th Waning Day of Tabogwe, 1376 ME (17 February 2015).

S/d/ Min Aung Hlaing
Senior General
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(see page 2)
MPs seek clear instructions of central committee on land reallocation processes

Representatives of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw debate land allocation processes. — MNA

UEC agrees to extend . . .

(from page 1)

representation (PR) system, deciding that a “first-past-the-post” (FPTP) voting system is best suited in Myanmar.

The issue will be put to the vote at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Regarding the issue of temporary national registration card or “white cards” holders who have been disfranchised, U Tin Aye, chairman of the UEC, said those who are eligible under the 1982 Citizen Law can apply for a national citizenship registration card at respective national registration offices, according to the participants in the meeting.

A next co-ordination meeting between the UEC and the political parties is expected in April, according to the participants. Representatives from 62 political parties and two international non-governmental organizations participated in the meeting with the UEC.

At UEC branch in Yangon, the chairman of UEC and party discussed voter education with the chairman of Myanmar Press Council (Interim) and officials. — GNLM

Collective efforts imperative to achieve Myanmar’s National Plan of Action for food and nutrition

Launch of the Scaling Up Nutrition Civil Society Alliance (SUN CSA) hosted by the Save The Children in progress at Summit Parkview Hotel in Yangon on Tuesday. — PHOTO: SAVE THE CHILDREN

Nay Pyi Taw, 17 Feb — Land Utilization Management Central Committee clarified the body's progress to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw after listening to the investigation report of Joint Bill Committee on business permits for coastal and inland transport which is a conflict issue between the two Hluttaws.

Deputy minister Brigadier General Kyaw Zan Myint, secretary of Land Utilization Management Central Committee, presented the progress of land reallocation schemes with the supporting sub-committees at respective areas.

The central committee has implemented the instruction of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to return the confiscated lands to the owners after informing public through media.

Brigadier General Kyaw Zan Myint also said the committee handed over the lands released by government ministries and private firms to original owners, and they have been informed to reclaim the lands with ownership documents.

U Khaiing Maung Yi, a member of Yangon Region Farmland Investigation Commission, suggested Pyidaungsu Hluttaw’s investigation commission and Land Utilization Management Central Committee should meet to solve remaining problems.

U Kyaw Myint, a member of Yangon Region Farmland Investigation Commission, also said mis-management of land investigation bodies at village and township levels, asking clear instructions of central committee.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw kept the records secretory of Land Utilization Management Central Committee.

MNA

Deputy Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker meets Swedish Red Cross officials

Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa meets officials of Swedish Red Cross. — MNA

U Tha Aung Nyun presents Credentials to President of South Africa

Nay Pyi Taw, 18 Feb — U Tha Aung Nyun, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of South Africa, presented his Credentials to His Excellency Mr Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa, on 6 February 2015 in Pretoria. — MNA

They focused on further strengthening relations between Myanmar and Swedish Red Cross societies and cooperation.

MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 17 Feb — Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa received Legal Adviser and International Director to Swedish Red Cross Mr Dick Oskar Anders Clomen and Ms Eva Ingela Holmertz and party at the hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, on Tuesday.

Dr San San Myint added The Scaling Up Nutrition (SUN) Movement is a global movement led by countries for bringing different groups of people together – governments, civil society, the United Nations, donors, business and scientists – in a collective action to improve nutrition. Myanmar government in May 2013 signed up to the SUN Global Movement, clearly demonstrating high-level ownership and responsibility for delivering sustainable solutions for addressing the nutrition problems.

GNLM/Save the Children Myanmar
Government strives with all its might for rural development and poverty alleviation: Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb—Myanmar has set its hope on reducing poverty to 16% in 2015 in a bid to meet the United Nations Millennium Development Goals, with Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham saying that the country’s poverty index was 32% in 2005 and it was down to 26% in 2010.

An event took place in Mawlamyine, Mon State, on Tuesday, focusing on rural development and higher on Tuesday, focusing on rural development and higher.

According to the vice president, Mon State saw 22% of poverty rate in 2005, which dropped to 16% five years later. Poverty rate must be brought down to 11%, he said, referring to the UN MDG.

He called for collective cooperation of the local government and people with the Union Government in the struggle, describing regional stability as essential to regional prosperity.

He explained how the government is striving with all its might for rural development and poverty alleviation and how agricultural machinery will be sold in installments.

He stressed the need to replace ancestral farming equipment with modern machinery for a nation to be prosperous.

As part of developing the cooperative sector and boosting the agricultural sector, the government has pledged thousands of millions of kyats as agricultural spending for farmers to purchase machinery in installments, including agricultural loans, reports said.

The vice president expressed his belief that such sales would enable farmers to save time, money and energy and as a result earn more income so as to afford health, education and social expenses.

Technical skills and capital are major concern for urban and rural people, he said, adding that cooperative associations are disbursing low-interest loans in a bid to help them stand on their own feet.

He admitted the need to reclaim new farmland and distribute farming techniques that ensure high yields.

The Ministry of Cooperatives, in partnership with Korea’s Daedong Industrial Co., has introduced the installment plan for purchase of agricultural gear.

On the occasion, Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan presented loans of over K864m for 33 cooperative associations in Mawlamyine township, over K711m for 40 associations in Mudon township, over K379m for 44 associations in Chaungzon township, and over K132m for 29 associations in Thanbyuzayat township.

Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint presented over K295m for 32 associations in Ye township, over K783m for 40 associations in Thaton township, over K596m for 43 associations, over K858m for 79 associations in Bilin township, and over K682m for 44 associations in Kyaukto township.

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham in a meeting at Yangon General Hospital here on Tuesday urged officials to be frank about what has hindered the speedy completion of the extension and renovation of the hospital, which had been expected to complete last October.

The vice president stressed the need for the speedy completion of the buildings for an emergency unit and a five-storey block, pledging the government’s assistance to overcoming the obstacles encountered during construction.

He heard reports on major and minor repair works, installation of two elevators and a 1000KVA transformer, provision of affordable healthcare to patients and organizational restructuring plans.

He was given a guided tour of the hospital, where he comforted patients and their families. —MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker meets Finland Minister for Foreign Affairs

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb—Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received Mr Erkki Tuomioja, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Finland and party at the Hluttaw Building, here, on Tuesday.

Also present at the meeting were chairman and member of Hluttaw committee and commission. The Finland’s minister was accompanied by Finland Ambassador Ms Kirsti Westphalen.

Vice President U Nyan Tun meets Minister of State for Commerce & Industry Ms Nirmala Sitharaman of India.

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb—Vice President U Nyan Tun held talks with a delegation led by Minister of State for Commerce & Industry Ms Nirmala Sitharaman of India at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, on Tuesday afternoon.

They discussed Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Project, smooth flow of commodities between Myanmar and India, promotion of marine transport and trade between port cities in eastern coast of India and Myanmar, implementation of transport projects like Impal-Mandalay bus service for smooth transport of peoples from two countries, systematic establishment of border trade camps and promotion in increasing trade volume in 2015.

Also present at the call were Deputy Ministers U Thant Kyaw, U Myo Aung and Dr Pwint Hsan. The Indian Minister was accompanied by Indian Ambassador Mr Gautam Mukhopadhyaya. —MNA

Myanmar, India to promote marine transport, trade between port cities

Vice President meets Minister of State for Commerce & Industry of India

Myanmar and India to promote marine transport, trade between port cities

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Mandalay Region authorities, wellwishers transport people coming back from Laukkai

MANDALAY, 17 Feb — The people who left Laukkai region arrived at Chanmya Shwepyi (Kywe-hsegan) highway bus terminal in Mandalay as of 13 February.

Mandalay Region government and social organizations gave foods and transported them to their native regions. On 16 February, a total of 3,307 people have been transported to their native areas free of charge.

“Under the arrangements of the region government, we gave accommodation to them at first. Moreover, we served them with breakfasts, meals and purified water. Not only departmental officials but social organizations give a helping hand to them. Health Department provides health care services to the ailing people. Both departmental vehicles and that of wellwishers are used in transport of those people to their native regions free of charge.” Head of Mandalay Region Transport Department U Zaw Win Naing told media.

A motorcycle taxi team from Kywe-hsegan bus terminal said that they are ready to give foods to the people who returned from Laukkai.

The people from central Myanmar worked at sugarcane plantations and construction sites in Laukkai. Up to 16 February, local authorities and wellwishers transported the people who came back from Laukkai to their homes with the use of 115 vehicles.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Israel medical delegation “Eye from Zion” arrives in Myanmar

Dr. Shmuel Levartovski (in the Photo) at his sixth time in Myanmar, leading eye operations and training sessions.

Yangon, 17 Feb — As part of the programme, the Israeli medical team led by Dr. Shmuel Lavertovski, MD, Head Department of Ophthalmology, Barzilai Medical Center, Ashkelon and specialists in Ophthalmology, Dr. Nir Shoum Hazan and Dr. Eyal Aloni, MD, Head of Neuro-opthalmology service, Department of Ophthalmology, Barzilai Medical Center, Ashkelon and Dr. Elna Landa MD, Pediatric Ophthalmology unit, Western Galilee Medi-cal Center, Naharia who ar-rived in Yangon on February took the lead at complicated eye surgeries of adults and children with unique cases that were chosen by the staff of North Okkalapa General Hospital. The surgeries involved a live training sessions and demonstration for interns and doctors from the different eye departments.

Following the surgeries and training sessions, the Is-raeli doctors held a two day medical seminar for doctors and interns from different eye departments at Myanmar Medical Association Hall on 12 and 13 February 2015. The seminar was attended by over 50 members of the medical association, headed by the president of the Myanmar Medical Association.

This year is the 6th year of Eye from Zion’s project in Myanmar, which marks the long term cooperation between the two countries in the field of health and specifically Ophthalmology.

Indian Industrial Expo in Mandalay

27 Feb-1 March

Mandalay, 17 Feb — Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Mandalay-based Indian Consulate General will jointly stage the Indian Industrial Expo at the city hall in Mandalay from 27 February to 1 March.

Over 70 industrial companies from northeast India and Kolkata will display small- and medium-scale industrial equipment, agricultural machinery, construction materials, electronic equipment and foodstuff production machines at the expo.

The expo will be the first in its kind in Manda- lay. A similar expo was held in Yangon in 2014.

India allows 96 per-cent of tax exemption over Myanmar products. Myanmar and India trade is increasing year by year. In 2013-14 fiscal year, both countries’ trade reached US$ 2.1 billion.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Homeless to get apartments under plans of MCDC

Mandalay, 17 Feb

— Basic workers such as those from freight-handling works are living at Chawseik, Gawwun, My- anchan, Kyauktarbeik and Nyaung jetties along Ayesewady river bank in Mandalay.

Under the arrangements of Mandalay Region government, the Mandalay City Development Committee plan to build the housings for them to have clean and hygienic envi- rons in the city.

It will be the first pro-ject for homeless in Myan- mar and the project will be implemented in 2015.

About 8,000 from about 1,000 temporary sheds are residing from Chaw Jetty in Channyn- azai Township to Nyaungkwe in Aungmyethazin Township.

The MCDC will build the rental housings for them and allot the apart-ments depending on their daily incomes, according to an official of MCDC.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)
Mandalay, 17 Feb — Mandalorian athletes bagged 15 gold, 11 silver and seven bronze medals in the men’s and women’s events of Wushu sports in the 4th National Sports Festival, head coach U Kyaw Aye told media on 16 February.

Head of Mandalay Region Health Department Dr Than Win and Leprosy project in-charge Dr Tin Shwe gave speeches. Leprosy elimination national adviser Dr Kyaw Kyaw Lin and leprosy disease medical officer Dr Maung Maung Htoo explained plans to search suspected patients and give the combine medicines to them.

The number of leprosy patients is on decrease in Mandalay Region.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Mandalay, 17 Feb — Victorious Wushu athletes of Mandalay Region selected to take training in China

Hnin Thiri Maung won three gold in the Taolu event, Thura Tun two gold and one silver, Hsaung Hnin Phyu and Thanzin Naung one gold, one silver and one bronze, Thet Naing Win, Myat Noe Ein, Thiha Ko Ko and Hnin Wutyi Aung one gold and one silver, and Khaing Kyi Phyu one gold and two bronze.

In the Sanshou event, Than Naing Soe, Wai Lin Tin and Yu Yu Naing secured one gold each. Myanmar Wushu Federation chose gold medalists Hnin Thiri Maung, Thet Naing Win, Hsaung Hnin Phyu, Myat Noe Ein, Thiha Ko Ko, May Thanzin Naung, Yu Yu Naing and Ye Yint Thaik Tun as selected players to take training in China.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Mandalay, 17 Feb — War veterans donate cash to military personnel

Myanmaung, 17 Feb — Myanmar Township War Veterans Organization of Ayeyawady Region donated cash for military personnel at frontier areas.

Chairman of the Township WVO Captain Myo Kyi (Rtd) accepted K150,000 donated by Township WVO.

The cash donation will be handed over to military servicemen who are discharging security and defence duties at frontier areas.

Win Bo (Township IPRD)

Mandalay, 17 Feb — Firefighters show brilliant skills in firefighting and rescue drill

— Organized by Upper Myanmar Fire Brigade Supervisory Office of Fire Services Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Mandalay District Fire Drill was held in front of the Mandalay Region FSD on 29th Street in Chanayethazan Township, on 15 February.

Firefighters participated in the firefighting and rescue drill with the use of fire extinguishers and modern equipment.

Director of Upper Myanmar Fire Brigade Supervisory Office U Kyi Win presented the first prize to Chanmyathazi Township, second to Upper Myanmar Fire Brigade Supervisory Office and third to Mahnaungmye Fire Brigade respectively.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Mandalay, 17 Feb — Traditional cultural performances attract tourists in Mandalay

Mandalarian athletes bagged 15 gold, 11 silver and seven bronze medals in the men’s and women’s events of Wushu sports in the 4th National Sports Festival, head coach U Kyaw Aye told media on 16 February.

Head of Mandalay Region Health Department Dr Than Win and Leprosy project in-charge Dr Tin Shwe gave speeches. Leprosy elimination national adviser Dr Kyaw Kyaw Lin and leprosy disease medical officer Dr Maung Maung Htoo explained plans to search suspected patients and give the combine medicines to them.

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Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)
**Regional**

**Japanese earthquakes**

JAKARTA, 17 Feb — Indonesian police named the head of the anti-graft agency a suspect in a corruption case on Tuesday, the latest twist in a tit-for-tat feud between the rival law enforcement agencies that has presented the new president with his biggest challenge to date.

Hostilities between the police and Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) have gone unacknowledged by President Joko Widodo, whose perceived indecisiveness has dented his popularity and raised questions about his anti-graft credentials in one of Asia’s most corrupt countries.

The two most senior KPK officials have now been identified by police as suspects in different criminal cases, casting doubt over the future of the agency. After questioning more than 20 witnesses, police said they had enough evidence to name KPK head Abraham Samad as a suspect in the falsification of a passport back in 2007.

“Abraham Samad has been named a suspect for falsifying a document,” Endi Setundu, spokesman for South and West Sulawesi police, told reporters.

Widodo, the popular former governor of the capital, narrowly won a July election with the promise to jaded voters of bringing clean, effective government.

But a survey published by a local pollster reached for comment.

The moves against the KPK are widely seen as retaliation for the agency’s four most senior commissioners as suspects in various criminal cases. Under Indonesian law, police can name individuals as suspects without detailing charges.

KPK officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

The attack triggered a 24-hour strike at regular intervals since the last month. The fresh wave of violence has left scores of people dead and hundreds of others injured.—Xinhua

**Earthquake**

*Photo taken by Kyodo on 17 Feb, 2015.—Kyodo News*

**Tokyo, 17 Feb —** Earthquakes with a preliminary magnitude of 6.9 and 5.7 struck the Pacific off northeastern Japan on Tuesday, with slight tidal waves observed in some coastal areas following the first temblor.

The first quake occurred at 8:06 am in the Pacific Ocean about 210 kilometres east of Miyako, Iwate Prefecture, at a depth of around 10 km and registered 4 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7 in parts of Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi and Akita prefectures.

Before a tsunami advisory was lifted later in the morning, a 20-centimetre wave was observed at the Onagawa nuclear power plant in Miyagi Prefecture and the Hagishidori power plant in Aomori Prefecture after the quakes, according to their operator, Tohoku Electric Power Co.

Japan Nuclear Fuel Ltd said it has not experienced anything out of the ordinary at its nuclear fuel reprocessing plant in Rokkasho, Aomori.

A power outage following the first quake temporarily halted service on the Tohoku Shinkansen Line, according to its operator, East Japan Railway Co. The operation of Sanriku Railway Co’s entire coastal line in Iwate was also suspended temporarily.

The coastal areas of Aomori, Iwate, Miyagi and Fukushima prefectures were devastated on 11 March, 2011, when a magnitude-9.0 earthquake struck the Pacific off the northeastern Japan areas, and caused a massive deadly tsunami.

**Bangladesh opposition**

DHAKA, 17 Feb — Executive minister Khaleda Zia’s 20-party opposition alliance announced on Tuesday to extend its ongoing 72-hour nationwide strike till Friday morning in protest against political repression.

Khaleda Zia’s Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) spokesperson Salaruddin Ahmed made the announcement in a press release on Tuesday, saying the alliance decided to extend its ongoing 72-hour strike by 48 hours protesting what it said killing party members in the name of shootouts, mass arrest of leaders and activists, controls on media and the “government interference in judiciary”.

The BNP and its allies have been observing strike at regular intervals since the last month. On top of its blockade campaign, the BNP and its 19 allies including key Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami party have been observing strike at regular intervals since the last month.

The fresh wave of violence has left scores of people dead and hundreds of others injured.—Xinhua

**Indonesia’s Widodo tested as anti-graft chief named suspect in tit-for-tat feud**

Jakarta, 17 Feb — Indonesian police named the head of the anti-graft agency a suspect in a corruption case on Tuesday, the latest twist in a tit-for-tat feud between the rival law enforcement agencies that has presented the new president with his biggest challenge to date.

Hostilities between the police and Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) have gone unchecked by President Joko Widodo, whose perceived indecisiveness has dented his popularity and raised questions about his anti-graft credentials in one of Asia’s most corrupt countries.

The two most senior KPK officials have now been identified by police as suspects in different criminal cases, casting doubt over the future of the agency. After questioning more than 20 witnesses, police said they had enough evidence to name KPK head Abraham Samad as a suspect in the falsification of a passport back in 2007.

“Abraham Samad has been named a suspect for falsifying a document,” Endi Setundu, spokesman for South and West Sulawesi police, told reporters.

Widodo, the popular former governor of the capital, narrowly won a July election with the promise to jaded voters of bringing clean, effective government.

But a survey published by a local pollster reached for comment.

The moves against the KPK are widely seen as retaliation for the agency’s four most senior commissioners as suspects in various criminal cases. Under Indonesian law, police can name individuals as suspects without detailing charges.

KPK officials could not immediately be reached for comment.

The attack triggered a 24-hour strike at regular intervals since the last month. The fresh wave of violence has left scores of people dead and hundreds of others injured.—Xinhua

**Major quakes hit northeastern Japan, minor tsunami observed**

Local resident evacuees are seen at the gymnasium of Kamaishi elementary school after an evacuation warning was issued for coastal towns in Iwate prefecture in northeastern Japan after a tsunami warning was broadcast following a 6.9 magnitude earthquake, in Kamaishi, Iwate prefecture, in this photo taken by Kyodo on 17 Feb, 2015.—Kyodo News

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**Bangladesh opposition extends nationwide strike till Friday morning**

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The fresh wave of violence has left scores of people dead and hundreds of others injured.—Xinhua

**Afghanistan**

KABUL, 17 Feb — Four suicide attackers on Tuesday stormed a provincial police headquarters in eastern Afghanistan, killing 22 police, an official said. Taliban insurgents immediately claimed responsibility.

The attack in Logar Province outside the capital, Kabul, was the latest to target Afghan security forces following the withdrawal of most foreign combat troops at the end of last year.

In neighbouring Pakistan, another Taliban suicide attack on a provincial police headquarters killed at least seven people in the eastern city of Lahore, in what militants called a revenge bid for the recent hangings of their colleagues.

The Afghan and Pakistani Taliban are separate organizations, the Taleban insurgents immediately claimed responsibility. The Afghan and Pakistani Taliban are separate organizations, the Taleban insurgents immediately claimed responsibility. The Afghan and Pakistani Taliban are separate organizations, the Taleban insurgents immediately claimed responsibility. The Afghan and Pakistani Taliban are separate organizations, the Taleban insurgents immediately claimed responsibility. The Afghan and Pakistani Taliban are separate organizations, the Taleban insurgents immediately claimed responsibility. The Afghan and Pakistani Taliban are separate organizations, the Taleban insurgents immediately claimed responsibility. The Afghan and Pakistani Taliban are separate organizations, the Taleban insurgents immediately claimed responsibility. The Afghan and Pakistani Taliban are separate organizations, the Taleban insurgents immediately claimed responsibility. The Afghan and Pakistani Taliban are separate organizations, the Taleban insurgents immediately claimed responsibility.
Abe eyes legislation for SDF to rescue Japanese citizens abroad

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks during a news conference at the Prime Minister's official residence in Tokyo, Japan January 20, 2015. The government's refusal to grant clemency to Myuran Sukumaran and Andrew Chan, two Australian convicted drug traffickers on death row in Indonesia, is a “serious blow” to Japan's relations with the Southeast Asian nation, Abe said on Tuesday.

Abe, speaking to reporters after meeting with the foreign minister, said Japan might see this as the first step towards shelving, or diluting, a report they have long feared they would never see. He said a senior official of the US State Department visited Indonesia on Monday, for the new government to demonstrate its willingness to cooperate on human rights issues.

The official, who did not want to be identified by name, said the United States was “encouraged that a way forward has been agreed upon that satisfies the concerns of all parties” and the delay would “allow space for the new government to demonstrate its willingness to cooperate on human rights issues.”

A Sri Lanka Foreign Ministry official welcomed the deferral. “This is timely and coincide with the new government’s move to establish democratic process for accountability issues,” the official said. “This will give space for the domestic investigation process. Sri Lanka had said it needed the delay to give it time to establish a new judicial mechanism to deal with the allegations.” In a letter to Zeid seen by Reuters on Monday, Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera set out reforms the government planned to implement within 100 days, including ensuring justice for war crimes.

The cabinet decision says Japan should be allowed to use weapons to rescue its nationals abroad provided it can gain consent from host countries and “a state or a quasi-state organization does not appear as the adversary.”

During Tuesday’s question and answer session, Abe said SDF’s rescue operations will be “within the limits of the law, ‘lively activities’ and should not be interpreted as use of force.” The Constitution bans the use of force to settle international disputes. Using weapons against a state or a quasi-state organization could be interpreted as use of force by Japan.

The Islamic State militant group killed the two Japanese hostages — 42-year-old Haruna Yukawa and 47-year-old Kenji Goto — despite days of diplomatic efforts to win their release. Abe said Japan needs to review its anti-terror “laxness,” as the government has launched a probe into its handling of the hostage crisis, with a report likely to be compiled as early as April. —Kyodo News

Indonesia delays transfer of two Australian drug offenders for execution

Jakarta, 17 Feb — Indonesia has postponed the transfer of five convicts, two Australian drug offenders among them, to another prison for execution, promptly by medical concerns and families’ requests for more time with the prisoners, authorities said on Tuesday.

Australia has been pursuing an eleventh-hour campaign to save the lives of Myuran Sukumaran, 33, and Andrew Chan, 31, two members of the so-called Bali Nine, convicted in 2005 as the ringleaders of a drug trafficking syndicate, which is the basic charter for inter-Korean relations,” the Unification Ministry said in a statement. With that in mind, the ministry said, the two sides should resolve pending issues between them, such as reunions of families separated by the 1950-1953 Korean War, through dialogue and negotiations, as agreed in 1992.

It urged the North to “show a responsible attitude to overcome inter-Korean division” by responding “without hesitation” to its 29 December offer for high-level talks.

Through such talks, Seoul had earlier hoped to arrange another meeting between war-separated families before the Lunar New Year holidays, which have already started.

The government reattributes all the agreements reached between North and South, including the Basic Agreement, and reiterates its consistent stance of building trust by abiding by and implementing them, ” it said.

The last high-level talks between the two sides were held in February 2014, covering a wide range of issues including family reunions.

Last month, at a New Year Press conference, South Korean President Park Geun-hye similarly urged the North to “come to the table without further hesitation.”

“I hope the South and North will be able to open the door to unification to get, by jointly seeking a fundamental solution to the issue of separated families, and discussing ways to improve the quality of life for the North Korean people and recover the sense of common identity between South and North Koreans,” she said.—Kyodo News
Wednesday, 18 February, 2015

Our word is our worth

By Kyaw Thura

We are supposed to hold to our promises when it comes to our daily social interactions. Nothing can build confidence more than ill-kept promises can. In the same way, nothing can dent our reputation faster than broken promises. Every promise we make can spell doom or boon for us. That is why our word is our worth.

Our commitment to practising as we preach is vital to our success. We are prone to fall into an easy trap of jumping to conclusions when our emotions run high. To avoid this, we need to develop the habit of taking into consideration beforehand whether we can meet the obligation.

More often than not, we have a tendency to regard small promises as trivial in the thought that they would not harm our reputation even if we failed to take them seriously. In reality, a promise, either small or big, is a promise. Naturally, we must take them seriously to believe that those who cannot be trusted with small things, nobody will be foolish enough to trust such promise breakers with important things either. Trust, once lost, is hard to be earned again. That is why our word is our life.

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

(Photographed by GooGle.com)

By Sayar Mya

(Continued from yesterday)

Prepayment procedures

For overseas requests, payment should be in the form of bank draft drawn in Singapore currency made payable to “Institute of Southeast Asian Studies”.

Orientation/Guided Tours

From time to time, the Library professional staff members are available to brief individual or group visitors on the Library’s collection and services. Interested persons may write to the Head, ISEAS Library.

Networking Training and Attachments

Practical training and attachments of professional staff of libraries in the region and elsewhere are provided upon request. The duration may be from one day to one month at a stretch. Some are from training programs organized by the “National Library Board” (NLB) for developing countries under ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) sponsorship. Institutions and individuals may write to the Head, ISEAS Library to make a request.

Collections

The ISEAS Library has more than 600,000 items in a multilingual and multi-format collection. The collection, with emphasis on current and contemporary library information resources in the applied social sciences on Southeast Asia, is closely tied to the research programs of the Institute. As a research library, it also holds a large archival collection on the region. Collections: A Gateway to Southeast Asian Affairs

The General Collection comprises books on Southeast Asia. Titles published after the 1950s will be available for loan.

Reference

The Reference Collection consists of various reference tools, including dictionaries, encyclopedias, directories, indexes, handbooks and guides.

Statistics

Statistical works of Southeast Asian countries are major components of this collection classified according to countries.

Documents

The Documents Collection consists of pamphlet-type materials, articles and other items of less than a hundred pages. These are mainly “grey” or “fugitive” literature.

Note: “Grey literature” is generally defined as academic literature that is not formally published. It is an expanding field in library and information science that deals with the supply and demand side of publications not controlled by commercial publishing. “Fugitive literature” is the research findings that have not been published in archival sources, dissertations, papers presented at meetings, papers either not submitted or rejected for publication and technical reports.

Current Periodicals

The Library subscribes to about 2,000 current serial titles, both in English and in the vernacular languages.

Map Collection

The Map Collection which comprises contemporary maps of Southeast Asia is located at the Reference Area. From time to time, an old or antiquarian map which has research value is acquired.

Microform Collection

The Microform Collection includes published and unpublished materials, including back issues of selected newspapers, journals, theses, rare books and retrospective newspaper clipping files.

Library Office Collection

“Library Office” (LO) Collection consists of unpublished dissertations and other semi-restricted publications.

Rare Books

The Library’s collection of pre-1900 rare books on the region that have been acquired based on their high research value. Most have been converted into microform or digital format to facilitate user access. The Library has compiled a list of rare books ranging from 1688-1930.

Private Papers

A number of prominent individuals have deposited their private papers at the Institute. The private papers provide vital historical perspectives. Library users are welcome to refer to the papers.

Cultural Collection

“The Southeast Asian Cultural Collection” (SEACC) of multimedia mainly on documentation of the region’s ethnic, anthropological and cultural norms comprises a core collection of color slides, black and white negatives and photographs.

The materials collected from time to time either through the depositions by researchers, or library acquisitions. The material is described and document the cultural traditions of Southeast Asia. Apart from photographs, color slides, and negatives, the SEACC also has audiotapes, video recordings, prints and postcards.

Journals/Newspapers/Databases

The ISEAS Library subscribes to a number of electronic resources in support of the research needs of our staff and researchers.

Newspapers & Magazines

The Asahi Shimbun AJW (IP Access) Business Times (Available at the Library)

Financial Times (Available at the Library)

The Edge Markets (Available at the Library) Malayssakini (Available at the Library)

Straits Times Online (Available at the Library)

South China Morning Post (Available at the Library) Time (Available at the Library)

The Wall Street Journal (Available at the Library)

Zaobao (Available at the Library) Note: Some magazines in Singapore have been discontinued.

The English archive goes back to July 1989 while the Chinese archive starts from January 1994.

Overall, we should all build our reputation as trustworthy people. After all, keeping our word to ourselves and others can be seen as an important measure of how much we care about our commitment. Then we will find our life much more fulfilling. That is why our word is our worth.

Write for us

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

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Entrace at the front of ISEAS Complex

Borrowing/Loan Fees

Q: Why the Library does need to charge a refundable deposit of Singapore $200 for certain type of users?
A: For loan of books outside the Library, a refundable (subject to loan items returned without damages) security deposit of Singapore $200 might be required according to the loan policy available at the Library.

This is to cover the cost of repairing or replacing the borrowed books should the borrower lose or damage them. It also acts as a financial reminder for the borrower to take proper care when using the books.

Library Membership

Q: Is there any payable membership/annual fee?
A: No
Q: I am from a private company, if I wish to make use of the facilities at the Library, how much is the annual membership fee?
A: Effective from June 2014, corporate users no longer needs to pay an annual/maximum/weekly subscription fee to access ISEAS Library and consult its reference materials on site.

Upon completing registration, the user can proceed to browse the Library collections on open shelves.

To be continued
UEC explains 2015 electoral process to Italian delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb — Union Election Commission member U Myint Naing received Italian delegation led by Mr Benedetto Della Vedova, Italian Deputy Foreign Minister at the office of electoral body on Tuesday.

At the meeting, U Myint Naing explained to the visitors the plans for the 2015 general election. Benedetto Della Vedova also offered to send observers from EU and Italy for the upcoming election.

Population survey on Baer’s Pochard in Myanmar postponed to next year

YANGON, 17 Feb — The Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association (BANCA), a local non-governmental organization, has postponed its plan to conduct a population survey of Baer’s Pochard (Aythya baeri) in Myanmar to next mid-winter season (January, baeri) in Myanmar to next year.

Solar Impulse-2 in Myanmar on 8 March

YANGON, 17 Feb — Solar Impulse-2 from Switzerland will arrive in Mandalay on 8 March. The plane built with solar cells and carbon plates three time lighter than paper will start its journey from the Gulf and it will pass through Arabian Sea, India, Myanmar, China, Pacific Ocean, the United States, the Atlantic Ocean and southern Europe or northern Africa.

Striking workers, employers warned of legal action if they break the law

YANGON, 17 Feb — Yangon Region Government has issued a statement warning striking workers and employers in the northern district of Yangon Region that it will take actions against those who breaks the law. The statement said striking workers demanding better payment in Shwepyitha Industrial Zone and Hmienyathaya Industrial Zone have blocked the entrance to factories, prevented other workers who want to go to their jobs not to enter factories, not allowed employers and staff to go outside of the factories and stopped tainter vehicles of the factories, causing losses to both the workers and the employers.

First batch called for interview for presidential scholarships

YANGON, 17 Feb — The first batch of applicants for presidential scholarships was called for personal interview in separate places here on Tuesday, according to officials.

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

Photo shows Solar Impulse-2 from Switzerland in the air.—MNA

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First batch called for interview for presidential scholarships

YANGON, 17 Feb — The first batch of applicants for presidential scholarships was called for personal interview in separate places here on Tuesday, according to officials.

A total of 138 candidates were called for the interviews, 27 in bachelor’s degrees, 44 in master’s degrees and 22 in doctorates to attend the interviews, with specializations in medicine, engineering, arts, science, information technology, law, hotel and tourism, computing, livestock breeding and vaccination, economics, pedagogy, English and linguistics.

The interviews for the second batch of 172 candidates are reported to follow soon. Nearly 800 candidates will be interviewed. Discussions are underway for eligible candidates to study in the United States, England, Australia, Germany, Italy, Singapore, China, Japan and Korea.—MNA
US set to deploy littoral combat ship to NE Asia

SINGAPORE, 17 Feb — The US Navy will deploy a littoral combat ship to Northeast Asia for the first time since it began sending LCSs to Asia in 2013, a senior US military official said on Tuesday.

Rear Adm Charles Williams, commander of the Logistics Group Western Pacific that manages logistics for the US Navy’s 7th Fleet from Singapore, said the USS Fort Worth will leave Singapore this week for Northeast Asia where it will take part in a military exercise with South Korea later this year and make port visits to Japan.

The USS Fort Worth is the second LCS the navy has deployed to Singapore. It arrived in Singapore at the end of last year for a 16-month mission as part of the 7th Fleet, taking over from USS Freedom, the first LCS sent to Singapore.

Unlike the USS Freedom, which operated mainly in Southeast Asia during its 10-month mission in 2013, USS Fort Worth, which is on a 16-month rotational deployment, will also operate in Northeast Asia. LCS vessels are home-ported in San Diego in the United States, but use Singapore as their central logistics and maintenance hub in Asia.

In Northeast Asia, Fort Worth will take part in the annual Foal Eagle military exercise with South Korea.

“We are deploying the LCSs throughout the 7th Fleet instead of just here in Southeast Asia,” Williams told reporters on board the ship berthed at Sembawang wharves in Singapore. “The role of the US navy in both Northeast Asia and South-east is all about presence, it’s being where it matters and when it matters, and establishing and maintaining partnerships with other countries...working together to maintain maritime security at sea.”

“We are expanding the reach of LCS,” said Clay Doss, the US Navy’s public affairs officer based in Singapore.

Since its arrival, Fort Worth had taken part in multinational search efforts in the Java Sea after the crash of an AirAsia flight.

The navy expects to have four LCSs in the region in 2018.

Singapore is a key US ally in the region and has close ties with the United States. In 1990, the two governments signed an memorandum providing US fighter planes and warships access to Singapore’s military facilities.

In 2012, Singapore and the United States announced Singapore had agreed in principle to a US request to deploy up to four LCSs to Singapore on a rotational basis.

The littoral combat ship is a new and technologically advanced vessel designed for operating close to shore in support of land-based operations. Meant to be flexible, it has the capability to thwart obstacles such as underwater mines, cope with multiple attacks from smaller and swifter boats and detect diesel submarines.

Denis Pushilin

DONETSK, (Ukraine), 17 Feb — Pro-Russian separatists cannot “morally” stop fighting for control of a town in east Ukraine where they have encircled government troops despite a peace deal, a senior rebel representative said on Tuesday.

Denis Pushilin also told Reuters before a scheduled conference call on implementation of the agreement that the rebels could not withdraw heavy weaponry, as set out in the deal, unless Ukrainian forces did so as well.

Fighting subsided in many parts of eastern Ukraine under the ceasefire that came into force on Sunday but not around the town of Debaltseve, which sits on a railway junction.

“We do not have the right (to stop fighting for Debaltseve). It’s even a moral thing. It’s internal territory,” Pushilin said in the rebel stronghold of Donetsk.

“We have to respond to fire, to work on destroying the enemy’s fighting positions.”

Asked about plans to carry out the agreement to withdraw big guns, he said: “We are ready at any time, we have everything ready for a mutual withdrawal. We will not do anything unilaterally — that would make our soldiers targets.”

The Ukrainian military said on Monday its forces could not carry out the agreement to pull back big guns unless fighting stopped.

The Kremlin said the leaders of Russia, Germany and Ukraine had discussed the situation around Debaltseve, the role played by monitors from the OSCE security watchdog and the planned withdrawal of big guns by phone. It gave no details.

Separatists to battle on for east Ukraine town — senior rebel

Suspect package found at Copenhagen shooting cafe: police

COPENHAGEN, 17 Feb — A suspect package has been found outside a cafe in Copenhagen, the scene of an attack during a free speech event on Saturday, and the area has been evacuated, police told a Reuters television reporter on Tuesday.

The suspected gunman in that attack and another on a synagogue was shot dead on Sunday but Copenhagen has been on high alert since and two people were arrested on Monday, accused of helping the attacker.

Sniffer dogs and about 25-30 police officers were present at the cafe while vans with more officers were arriving, the TV reporter said. They were waiting for a bomb disposal team, police told the witness.

A 22-year-old gunman opened fire on a cafe hosting a free speech debate on Saturday, killing one. He then attacked the synagogue, killing a guard. The shootings sent shockwaves through the country, proud of its open society.

Police later shot dead the man, suspected of the killings in a shootout in his neighbourhood of Norrebro, a largely immigrant part of the city with a reputation for gang violence.

Police have still not named the shooter but media outlets have widely reported that he was Omar Abdel Hamid El-Hussein, a son of Palestinian immigrants known to the police due to his weapons violations, an assault conviction and membership of a gang.

On Monday, police confirmed that the shooter visited an internet cafe where later they detained the two men accused of aiding him. —Reuters
Nigerian troops recapture two towns from Boko Haram

Maiduguri/Maroua, 17 Feb — Nigerian soldiers recaptured two towns from Boko Haram on Monday as US and regional troops began war games in neighboring Chad in a growing international campaign to counter the Islamist group.

But militant attacks from Boko Haram, which has killed and kidnapped thousands in a six-year-old insurgency in Africa’s most populous nation, still managed to attack a military camp near Waza in northern Cameroon, killing five soldiers.

After coming under fire, the soldiers in Cameroon, where 100 people were massacred in a Boko Haram border raid two weeks ago, hit back in an intense battle lasting hours, army sources said.

“Five soldiers killed, seven wounded and over 80 Boko Haram assailants (were) killed in the waves of attacks,” Colonel Didier Badjekka said in Maroua, a town just south of the Lake Chad region where Nigeria, Niger, Chad and Cameroon meet. Monday’s strike beyond Nigeria’s borders is typical of Boko Haram’s recent tactics, hitting troops gearing up for a coordinated campaign against its effort to build an Islamic caliphate in northeastern Nigeria. In Nigeria itself, where the insurgency was cited as the main reason for postponing a 14 February election by six weeks, the military said it was going on the offensive after months of criticism that its response has been insufficient and inefficient.

Troops backed by air strikes recaptured the northeastern town of Monguno, on the shores of Lake Chad, it said in a statement. Monguno was seized by Boko Haram in an offensive last month that also targeted Maiduguri, the regional capital.

“The air and land operation is continuing with aggressive advancement towards other designated communities and locations meant to be cleared in the ongoing offensive against the terrorists,” defence spokesman Major-General Chris Olukolade said.

The army had also seized the nearby town of Mairi, the statement said.

In a sign of growing regional solidarity in the face of Boko Haram, presidents from the 10-nation Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAC) pledged on Monday to create an emergency fund of 50 billion CFA francs ($63.6 million) to meet humanitarian needs.

The funds would go towards military, medical and logistical support, members said in a statement.

Japan to extend $15.5 m in antiterrorism aid

Tokyo, 17 Feb — Japan unveiled a set of measures on Tuesday to help tackle terrorism including financial aid of $15.5 million, or 1.83 billion yen, to build counterterrorism capacity in Africa and the Middle East where Islamic State and other terrorists are active.

Japan will outline the measures during an international antiterrorism meeting slated for Thursday in Washington, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida told reporters.

The aid, of which $7.5 million was already pledged by Kishida during his visit to Brussels in January, is aimed at strengthening border control and investigation capabilities in recipient countries, according to the minister.

Along with the aid, to be channeled through international organizations, Japan will implement $200 million in nonmilitary aid that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged in January to countries contending with Islamic State.

Japan will consider further expanding humanitarian assistance, Kishida said.

In the wake of the recent killing of two Japanese men by Islamic State militants and other cases involving the terrorist group, Kishida said Japan will increase communication with other countries at the leaders and foreign ministerial levels in tackling extremism.

Japan will increase people-to-people exchanges with the Middle East, including inviting regional leaders to Japan, he said. Japan will also boost cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in the fight against terrorism.

Yasuhide Nakayama, who is Kishida’s deputy, will represent Japan at the Washington meeting.

Syrian army advances north of Aleppo, blocks road

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said five people had been killed and 18 others wounded in “terrorist” rocket attacks in Aleppo neighbourhoods.

The pro-government al-Watan newspaper reported on Monday that government forces aimed to completely surround the city this week in a major offensive against insurgent groups.

Recent Syrian army progress in the area has reduced the chances of a truce between the government and disparate insurgent groups, diplomats say.

An actor in the costume of Super Mario throws candies during the traditional Rose Monday carnival parade in the western German city of Mainz on 16 Feb, 2015.—Xinhua

Children walk on the debris of a damaged building at al-Myassar neighbourhood of Aleppo on 16 Feb, 2015.—Reuters

Syrian army advances north of Aleppo, blocks road

The Syrian army backed by allied militia has captured several villages north of Aleppo from insurgents and blocked a main supply route leading into the northern city amid heavy fighting, a group monitoring the war said on Tuesday.

Government forces had long been expected to encircle Aleppo completely by advancing into insurgent areas from Syria’s second city and block their main supply road. A UN mediator has been struggling to broker a ceasefire deal there.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said pro-government forces had blocked a road leading north from the city towards the Turkish border and heavy clashes continued. They took villages including Bashkawa and Sifat, while battles raged in Hardain, the Observatory said.

Aleppo is at the heart of clashes between pro-government forces and a range of insurgents which include al-Qaeda’s Syrian wing the Nusra Front, Islamist brigades, foreign fighters in other groups and Western-backed rebels.

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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FROM CONSULTING FIRMS FOR OPTICAL FIBER CABLE PROJECT

In line with the National Development Plan, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has been identifying the economic potentials to contribute to the country’s economic development. As our endeavors for national development, Myanma Railways (MR) is committed to establish potential Rail Concerned Businesses.

MR has built over 6,000 km route length of Rail Lines from North to South, East to West and over 900 Railway Stations to cater rail operation throughout The Country and average distance for railway station is about 8 km. MR is planning to install Optical Fiber Cable (OFC) along railway lines. MR is the Executing Agency for OFC Project and is responsible for the implementation of OFC Project and selecting a short-list of eligible applicants for Consulting Services for Optical Fiber Cable Project.

To form the short-list, MR now invites consulting firms or joint venture entities who are interested in the Project to submit Expression of Interest (EOI) for the above mentioned Consulting Services.

Expression of Interest (EOI) Document of the above said works could be obtained from Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Thein phyu Street and Kon The Street, Bo Ta Haung Township, Yangon, Myanmar, Phone +95 1 291991, fax +95 1 291994 starting from 18th February, 2015.

Enquiries can be also made by contacting, Project Office (Yangon) +95 1 246939, (Nay Pyi Taw) +95 67 77070, +95 67 77155, (Project Director, Senior General Manager) +95 9 8300073, (Deputy Project Director, Assistant General Manager) +95 9 5066197, (Project Engineer) +95 9 5066191.

The Expression of Interest (EOI) in one original and two duplicates, copies shall be submitted to the Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Thein phyu Street and Kon The Street, Bo Ta Haung Township, Yangon, Myanmar, Phone +95 1 291991, fax +95 1 291994 not later than (14:00H) 2.00pm, on Friday 20th March 2015 and be clearly marked “Expression of Interest for “Consulting Service for Optical Fiber Cable Project” The Bidder must also submit three electronic copies of the EOI Documents in the CD ROMs. No submission by e-mail shall be entertained.

Managing Director
Myanma Railways,
Ministry of Rail Transportation

French anthropologist awarded for study on Amazonian people

Tokyo, 17 Feb — Philippe Descola is the winner of the 2014 International Cosmos Prize for his research on the Jivaroan Achuar indigenous people in the Ecuadorian Amazon, a group whose life was unknown to the rest of the world.

“I was an opening discovery when I witnessed their activities in interacting with nature, completely different from the Western view of nature that dichotomizes humans and nature,” the 65-year-old professor at the Collège de France in Paris said during a visit to Tokyo. Descola, who studied under renowned anthropologist Claude Levi-Strauss, created a forest with much more varieties of plants than those found in surrounding areas. Descola said. He also explained that the Achuar people communicate with animals in dreams and have a unique relationship with nonhumans. In awarding the Cosmos Prize, the Osaka-based Commemorative Foundation for the International Garden and Greenery Exposition, also known as Expo ’90 Foundation, said Descola’s achievements are “deemed to have universality that can be applied to various parts of the world in addressing environmental challenges.” The foundation also said that Descola has explored the “fundamental relationship between humans and nature as the ‘anthropology of nature,’ from a global perspective, thereby establishing a new model regarding nature and culture.” Descola first studied philosophy but developed a desire to experience how other people live life. “Life (in the Achuar communities) was hard but I never felt intimidated by the people,” Descola said. “I was much more afraid of being lost in the deep forest.” Regarding Japanese people’s view of nature, Descola said, “Japanese people should have their own way to interact with nature and I believe diversity is more important than anything else on Earth today.”

French anthropologist Philippe Descola

TOKYO, 17 Feb — Recoiling against cold gripping the eastern United States on Monday while an icy winter storm crippled the nation’s central states and then plowed into the mid-Atlantic, dumping snow ahead of Tuesday’s morning commute.

Heavy snowfall and ice moving from the Southern Plains eastward pounded Missouri, Arkansas, southern Illinois, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio, the National Weather Service said. With the storm headed east and sleet and freezing rain expected to also take a swipe at the South, states of emergency were declared in North Carolina, Virgina, Mississippi, Georgia, Kentucky, Indiana and Ohio, the National Weather Service said.

The storm, which staged a two-front show split between the East and Midwest, dumped 10 inches (25 cm) of snow on Wednesday and Thursday, the National Weather Service said.

Icy storm paralyzes central US, pummels nation’s capital

BOSTON, 17 Feb — Record-breaking cold gripped the eastern United States on Monday while an icy winter storm crippled the nation’s central states and then plowed into the mid-Atlantic, dumping snow ahead of Tuesday’s morning commute.

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CLAMS DAY NOTICE
MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (093N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (093N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.2.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses 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.

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

CLAMS DAY NOTICE
MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7JO25R)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (7JO25R) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.2.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM LINE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (RSU-431)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (RSU-431) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.2.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses 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.

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

Suicide attackers kill 11 at Afghan provincial police headquarters

KABUL, 17 Feb — Four suicide attackers killed 11 policemen at a provincial police headquarters in eastern Afghanistan on Tuesday, provincial spokesman Din Mohammad Darwish said.

The attack in Logar Province outside of Kabul was the latest to target Afghan security forces in the wake of the withdrawal of most foreign combat troops at the end of last year.

Reuters

Pillar supporting Tokyo station for 100 yrs removed

TOKYO, 17 Feb — East Japan Railway Co on Tuesday removed one of 14 cast-iron pillars that have been supporting Tokyo station since its opening in 1914.

The 3-metre-tall column, at the station’s platform No 5-6 bears relief art on the upper part, reminiscent of the days a century ago when the station opened as a focal point of the capital in the early stages of Japan’s modernization.

The pillar, which helped the station survive the Great Kanto Earthquake in 1923 and also survived wartime bombing, is to be reinstated as a monument on the same platform.

The 13 other columns will also be removed in stages, with one of them scheduled for reinstatement as another monument.

Kyodo News
Dragons, robots, trolls run tight race for animation Oscar

Johnny Depp forms band with Alice Cooper

The newly formed band will be joined by other tapped performers, which among others include System of a Down, Queens of the Stone Age, and Faith No More. “Confirmed! #RockInRio announces Debut Of #TheHollywoodVampires. #TheSupergroup, featuring #AliceCooper, #JohnnyDepp and #JoePerry plays on the same night as #QueensOfTheStoneAge and #SystemOfADown,” Cooper posted on Instagram. The Hollywood Vampires actually is the name of a famous band in the 70s. Cooper fronted the music act alongside the likes of John Lennon, Harry Nilsson, Keith Moon, and Ringo Starr. —PTI

Rebecca Ferguson performs new single ‘Get Happy’

London, 17 Feb — Singer Rebecca Ferguson has unveiled a live performance of her new single. The 28-year-old singer has recorded ‘Get Happy’ for her third studio album Lady Sings The Blues, which pays tribute to Billie Holiday, reported Digital Spy.

Ferguson’s new project is a song-reinterpretation of Billie Holiday’s classic album of the same name, marking the artist’s centenary year.

Carrie Underwood donates guitar to save police dog

Los Angeles, 17 Feb — Pregnant country singer Carrie Underwood has donated a signed guitar to help raise funds to save a police officer’s canine partner.

Underwood, 31, donated the autographed guitar to help pay the medical bills of Kevin Branscum’s German shepherd named Gino. Underwood is a native of the Oklahoma city of Checotah, reported Fox online.

Gino has already cost his master around USD 4,000 since December (14) after being infected with heartworms but the animal needs further treatment in May. Officials plan to auction the guitar but haven’t set a venue or date. Branscum said he was surprised by Underwood’s donation and is incredibly grateful.

PTI

Wednesday, 18 February, 2015
In Japan, women amputees step out of the shadows

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"Woman wearing prosthetic legs participate in a public photo session at the Hasselblad and Profoto booth, during the CP+ camera and imaging equipment trade fair in Yokohama south of Tokyo, on 14 Feb, 2015.

Women wearing prosthetic legs participate in a public photo session at the Hasselblad and Profoto booth, during the CP+ camera and imaging equipment trade fair in Yokohama south of Tokyo, on 14 Feb, 2015.\n\n"It would be great if people felt that prostheses could be fashion items," Sato added.

There are an estimated 80,000 people in Japan using prosthetic limbs. Some 7,000, including Paralympians, have been fitted for prostheses by Usui and his workshop, part of an organization set up in 1932 to help injured railroad workers.

Usui also founded a sports club to help amputees train for competition and last year teamed up with photographer Takao Ochi to produce "Amputee Venus," a collection of photos featuring 11 young women who have each lost a leg.

"They make you forget about disability," Usui said on the sidelines of the fashion show featuring the women profiled in the collection. "You don’t notice it."

The only words in the book, just out in English, are the phrase "Ability not Disability" and brief biographies. The rest is just photos of women: running, snowboarding, snowkilling or posing in a black bustier — all with artificial legs, sometimes painted with flowers or butterflies, on proud display.

"Amputee Venus" and the fashion event are attempts to change attitudes towards the disabled in Japan, which remains behind much of the West in terms of accessibility and acceptance.

Onlookers at the event were initially surprised to see prosthetic legs on the catwalk, but there were signs Usui’s efforts to give amputees a new lease of life may bear fruit.

"I had never been in contact with people with prosthetic legs," said Katuyuki Aoki, an office worker. "But my impression about prostheses has become positive."

Reuters

Athens, 17 Feb — Tucked away in a corner of Athens’ historic Plaka district is a small museum showing that there is more to Greek music than “Zorba’s Dance” and “Never on Sunday.”

In fact, the Museum of Greek Folk Musical Instruments, or MELMOKE, contains barely any bouzoukis, the quintessential Greek instrument that often accompanies the smashing of plates in Overseas Greek restaurants.

Instead, visitors are treated to rows of wood and bone flutes, pottery drums called toombekeli, and gaida — bagpipes made of sheep or goat skins.

On a recent Saturday, the basement was echoing to the sounds of students learning to sing and play old-style, including using a santouri, a type of hammer dulcimer.

"Traditional music was live until recently," said Petros Moustakas, a musicologist at MELMOKE, which is designed to protect the heritage and keep the old way going. Modern Greek music is very popular in Greece and unlike many European countries the local fare tends to outnumber English and American imports in music shops.

It is more like pop and disco, but Moustakas says it still uses the “modes” of traditional music, albeit in a far more urban way.

Other forms of Greek music do too, such as rembetika, nearly always called “Greek blues” because it was first played by the poor around the Piraeus docks.

But the MELMOKE is primarily about raw, rural sound from Greek’s mountainous mainland and scattered islands.

Most of the roughly 1,200 items owned by the museum come from the collection of critic and musicologist Fivos Anoyanakis, who died in 2003. They date from the 18th century to the present day, although there is scant sign of anything commercial — and certainly not electric.

Reuters

A visitor looks at bells displayed at the Museum of Greek Folk Musical Instruments (MELMOKE) in Athens on 15 Feb, 2015. — Reuters

Berlusconi says not selling control of AC Milan

Bangkok / Milan, 17 Feb — Former Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi said on Monday he was not interested in selling control of AC Milan, following reports of an offer being made for the football club by a Thai businessman.

Earlier on Monday local media had said Bee Tae-chaubol, executive director of southeast Asian private equity group Thai Prime Company Limited, had offered 1 billion euros ($1.14 billion) for a controlling stake in AC Milan.

Thai Prime is also a co-owner of the Global Legends Series (GLS) Bangkok series of charity matches that feature famous veteran football players.

The Bangkok Post said Bee wanted at least a 50 percent stake in the seven-times European champions but not complete ownership.

Bee was confident of completing a deal within a month, the report added. The businessman could not immediately be reached for comment by Reuters.

But Fininvest, the Berlusconi holding company that owns AC Milan, said in a statement there were no talks about selling the club, which Berlusconi has owned since the 1980s.

"Fininvest reiterates it is not interested in selling a majority stake in AC Mi-
lan," it said.

"Various parties have shown interest in a partnersh in selling control of AC Milan but, having said that, Fininvest categorically denies the existence of talks of any substance and of any pre-agreement or decision meetings on the agenda," it added.

One of Italian football’s most prestigious clubs, Mi-
lan has struggled since last win-
ing the country’s Serie A premier league title in

Reuters

Tuesday, 17 February, 2015

Museum shows there’s more to Greek music than bouzoukis

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Reuters
Man United to face Arsenal in FA Cup quarter-finals

REUTERS

London, 17 Feb — Joint record FA Cup winners Manchester United and Arsenal will meet in the quarter-finals of this season’s competition following the draw on Monday.

United beat League One Preston North End 3-1 to set up the last-eight clash with holders Arsenal who beat them in the 1979 and 2005 finals. Both clubs have won the famous trophy 11 times.

Giants-killers Bradford City of League One, who caused one of the biggest ever FA Cup upsets by beating Chelsea in the fourth round before seeing off Premier League Sunderland in the fifth, got the home tie their manager Phil Parkinson wished for.

The third-tier side will face Reading, struggling in 16th place in the Championship (second tier) and have a good chance of reaching the last four for the first time since 1911 when they won their only FA Cup.

The draw was also kind to Liverpool, who were paired with mid-table Championship side Blackburn Rovers. England manager Roy Hodgson, who helped make the draw and has managed both clubs, said Liverpool the bigger favourite.

Brendan Rodgers’ side are in a rich vein of form after a sluggish start to the season and will be favourites to reach the semi-finals for the first time since they lost the 2012 final to Chelsea.

However, Blackburn have beaten Premier League Swansea City and Stoke City in the last two rounds after coming from behind in both matches.

New Aston Villa manager Tim Sherwood will be looking for two victories in four days over local midlands rivals West Bromwich Albion as his side battles relegation and seek a place in the last four.

Villa and West Brom, who contested three FA Cup finals between 1887 and 1895, will meet at Villa Park on 3 March in the Premier League before the Baggies make the short trip back to the cup.

The quarter-finals will be played on the weekend of 7-8 March.—Reuters

Real expect return to top form against Schalke

MADRID, 17 Feb — Holders Real Madrid do not expect another goal bonanza at Schalke 04 in Wednesday’s Champions League Round of 16 first leg after their big win last season, with midfielder Toni Kroos warning not to underestimate the Germans.

Coach Carlo Ancelotti will be hoping his normally formidable attacking trident of Cristiano Ronaldo, Gareth Bale and Karim Benzema, known collectively in Spain as ‘BBC’, return to top form in time for the trip to Germany.

The trio each scored twice in the 6-1 victory at Schalke in last term’s Round of 16 first leg but Ronaldo, in particular, has been off colour since winning a third FIFA Ballon d’Or award last month.

The Portugal captain again failed to score in Saturday’s unconvincing 2-0 win at home to promoted Deportivo La Coruna in La Liga and has managed only four goals this year.

In that time, Real have been knocked out of the King’s Cup by Atlético Madrid while a 4-0 drubbing at their city rivals in La Liga this month cut their lead over second-placed Barcelona to a point.

“We are top of La Liga and the reigning champions in Europe,” Ancelotti said on Saturday. “It’s true that we have not been brilliant in 2015, but I hope the return of the Champions League will bring out the best in us again.”

Another reason for Real’s stumble has been injuries to regular centre backs Pepe and Sergio Ramos.

Pepe should be available but Ramos is not due to return for about a month and their replacements, Raphael Varane and Nacho, have looked far from convincing.

“What was important was picking up confidence, and now we have to focus on Schalke,” Real fullback Álvaro Arbeloa said.

Improving Schalke, fourth in the Bundesliga, are desperate to make amends for last season’s drubbing and hope Dutch striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar, who missed training last week with a virus, will be fit.

“He is an ice cold striker and I am happy if we have him as an option against Real,” team mate Tranquillo Barnetta told reporters.

“We have nothing to lose. If we continue to play as we have done recently and stick to our plan then we have the chance to win against Real. Our aim is to win at home and we firmly believe that,” said the Swiss international.

Coach Robert Di Matteo will need to see whether keeper Fabian Giefer recovers from injury in time or else hand 19-year-old Timon Wellenreuther his Champions League debut.—Reuters

Wigan’s Honduran defender Garcia diagnosed with leukaemia

LONDON, 17 Feb — Wigan Athletic’s Honduran defender Juan Carlos Garcia has been diagnosed with leukaemia, club manager Malky Mackay said on Monday.

Championship team Wigan, who are in the last 16 of the FA Cup, have been knocked out of the Capital One Cup by Premier League side Arsenal and are struggling in 20th place in the league.

Garcia, 26, who joined Wigan on a free transfer from Barcelona’s youth team last season, with midfielder Juan Carlos in the Christie Hospital in Manchester,” Mackay told reporters.

“It’s something that is obviously a real blow for Juan Carlos’ family and everybody connected with the football club. We’re going to make sure he gets the best care possible. “I went to see Juan Carlos and he was incredibly upbeat and his spirits were strong. Everybody at the club is wishing him all the best and I’m sure all our fans are,” said Mackay.

Garcia, who joined Wigan on a free transfer in 2013 but has made just one appearance for the club, recently returned from a loan spell with Tenerife in Spain.—Reuters

Switzerland’s Granit Xhaka (L) is challenged by Juan Carlos Garcia of Honduras during their 2014 World Cup Group E soccer match at the Amazonia arena in Manaus on 25 June, 2014.—Reuters

Former Italian coach Arrigo Sacchi

Sacchi makes ‘coloured’ comment, denies being racist

MILAN, 17 Feb — Arrigo Sacchi has been widely quoted as saying there are “too many coloured players” in Italian youth teams but the AC Milan coach said he was not being racist when he made the comment.

“Italy has no dignity or pride, it can’t be right to see teams with 15 foreigners,” Italian media quoted the 68-year-old as saying during an awards ceremony in Montecatini Terme, Sacchi, whose memora- ble AC Milan career included a Ruud Gullit and Frank Rijkaard, Dutch players of Surinamese heritage, said his observation was based on the annual Viareggio international youth tournament, held annually in Tuscany. “I’m certainly not racist and my coaching history shows that, starting from (Frank) Rijkaard, but watching the Viareggio tournament brings me to say that there are too many coloured players, also in the youth teams,” he said.

Sacchi later told Gazzetta dello Sport: “I only wanted to underline that we are losing our national pride and identity. “I’ve been misinterpreted, can you imagine that I’m really racist? All I said was I saw a game featuring a team who fielded four coloured players,” he added. “My history speaks for itself. I’ve always coached teams with great players from every colour and I’ve brought in a lot, whether to Milan or (Real) Madrid.”

Sacchi won successive European Cup titles with AC Milan in 1989 and 1990 and also led Italy to the 1994 World Cup final. He is regarded as one of Italy’s most influential coaches, even though his career was relatively short. He was also director of football at Real Madrid for one season.

Italian football has struggled to cope with its image at the highest level. Last year, Carlo Tavecchio, a candidate for the Italian federation (FIGC) presidency, caused an outcry when he made a comment about a fictitious African player, he named Opti Poba, ‘eating bananas’. “It’s what we do at home, but at the international level and an FIGC investigation found he had no case to answer. However, he was later given a six-month ban from UEFA and FIFA activities.

Sampdoria president Massimo Ferrero was banned for three months in December for referring to Inter Milan’s Indonesian owner Erick Thohir as ‘that Filipino’.—Reuters