Myanmar, Thailand to further strengthen bilateral relations

Laukkai Regional Control Commander to assume administrative and judicial powers

India-Myanmar trade can cross $10 billion mark by 2020, Indian Commerce & Industry minister says

MAEA plans to end foreign black market in agarwood
Ministries officially allowed three more minutes for explanations

**Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives focus on extension of explanation time.—MNA**

**NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb** — Government ministries have got three more minutes for explanations at Pyithu Hluttaw beginning at the 18th day of 12th regular session despite only three minutes in the past.

**Pyidaungsu Hluttaw**

**Measures being taken to prevent Ebola, says deputy health minister**

**NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb** The Deputy Minister for Health said the ministry is taking measures to prevent the spread Ebola virus which was found in Guinea in West Africa, in March 2014. In reply to the question of U Khin Maung Yi, an MP of Ayeayawady region constituency 6, the deputy minister said according to the statistics of World Health Organization on February 8, 2015, a total of 22,894 people in six countries of West Africa, as well as in Spain and the United States, were infected with Ebola virus, with a death toll of 9,177.

The deputy minister also said the Ministry is cooperating with WHO, International Air Transport Association, International Civil Aviation Organization, international airlines and World Courier Service to be able send blood samples of Ebola suspected patients as the establishments of laboratories with the highest biosafety level 4 (BSL-4) are very expensive.

Detection of Ebola virus is being carried out at airports and border checkpoints, while training programmes for treating infected persons are conducted for healthcare staff. U Khet Huei Nhan, an MP of Kachin State constituency 1, urged Union Government during the session to set up a sports institute target of $3 billion within 2015, Myanmar and India are seeking possibilities to enhance trade and investment between the two countries. India is the fifth largest trading partner for Myanmar at $1637.10 million after China, Thailand, Singapore and Japan. Total trade volume between the two countries is expected to reach higher than the projection of $25.7 billion at the end of the 2014-2015 FY. In the 2013-2014 FY, the total trade was $1637.10 million. India’s investment in Myanmar in 14 existing projects in agriculture, manufacturing and oil and gas is $378.196 million.

**MAEA plans to end ...**

(from page 1) The ministry has encouraged commercial plantations of agarwood in Myanmar in an attempt to protect Aquilaria agallocha and Aquilaria malacensis, which produce agarwood, as many Aquilaria agallocha and Aquilaria malacensis trees naturally grown in forests have been cut down by poachers.

 Farms registered at the ministry and which have paid the tax on agarwood are allowed to export the wood, one of the most expensive forest products in the world. It is highly valued in the making of perfume. According to agarwood farmers in Myanmar, 1 viss (1.63 kg) of first-grade agarwood can fetch from K20 to K30 million, but a tree that is less than 50 years old cannot produce quality agarwood.

Since 1995, Aquilaria malacensis, the primary source, has been listed as a potentially threatened species by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

There are about 50 million agarwood trees are growing on 50,000 acres of private agarwood plantations, according to the MAEA.

**Amyotha Hluttaw**

**Indo-Myanmar trade can ...**

and Investment Forum will be held in Chennai, said the Indian minister who has been here the last two days in connection with the 5th meeting of the India-Myanmar Joint Trade Committee in Nay Pyi Taw.

The next Joint Trade and Investment Roadshow which is expected to be held before April in India.

The next Joint Trade Investment Forum will be held in Chennai, said the Indian minister who has been here the last two days in connection with the 5th meeting of the India-Myanmar Joint Trade Committee in Nay Pyi Taw.

Setting a bilateral trade volume between the two countries is expected to reach higher than the projection of $25.7 billion at the end of the 2014-2015 FY. In the 2013-2014 FY, the total trade was $1637.10 million. India’s investment in Myanmar in 14 existing projects in agriculture, manufacturing and oil and gas is $378.196 million.

**Press Release (01/2015)**

**Myanmar Red Cross Volunteers wounded in Shan State Fighting**

17 February 2015

Two Myanmar Red Cross volunteers from Kunlong Township, northern Shan state, were wounded on Tuesday when they were on a mission to displaced families by vehicles in came under fire. The incident occurred between Launtki and Chinswithe. One volunteer suffered head wounds and the other abdominal wounds. They are both in Kunlong public hospital and one volunteer underwent surgery overnight. Their medical condition is described as stable. Red Cross branch leadership and volunteers from Hopang will travel to Kunlong on 18 February to gather further information and to provide support to the wounded.

Prof. Dr. Tha Hla Shwe, President of the MRCs responded to the attack by saying “It is very sad to hear that our Red Cross Volunteers were wounded while carrying out a strictly humanitarian function to help the victims of fighting. They should be respected and not be made the object of attack.” The volunteers were wearing Red Cross vests. It was remain unclear who was responsible for the incident, however the location of the incident was not proximate to Myanmar army units. The Myanmar Red Cross is providing assistance to more than three thousand people who have been displaced by intense fighting which broke out in north-eastern Shan State in early February. Large numbers of displaced families have arrived in Lashio, PyinOoLwin and Mandalay, due to the lack of transportation many walked to points where assistance can be provided.

MRCS volunteers are donating blood to the injured people in PyinOoLwin and MRCS will deploy blood donors from Mandalay if it is needed. In addition, household items and family kits are also being provided to needy families as well as special first aid kits for dealing with weapon wounds, Red Cross flags and armons for the volunteers’ protection.

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Myanmar Red Cross Society
Laukkai Regional Control
Commander to assume...
(from page 1)
individual or a body au-
torized by the command-
er will perform the admin-
istrative duties including
security, social trade and
transportation in the area.
Justice for criminal
offences during the mil-
itary administration will
be administered by courts
martial set up during the mili-
tary administration.
Justice at courts mar-
tial may be administered
under summary proceed-
ings and the death sen-
tence, the prison sentence
for unlimited period or
the prison sentence not
less than three years or
prison sentence not less
than three years with fine
can be given for high trea-
son (Section 122 of the
Penal Code), libel against
the government (Section
124-a of the Penal Code),
murders, manslaughters,
rapes, mugging, robberies,
corruption and offences
under the Unlawful As-
sociation Act, under The
Weapon Act, under the
Narcotic Drugs and Psy-
cotropic Substances Law
(1993), under the Public
Property Protection Act,
under the Public Property
Protection Act 1963, un-
der the Emergency Provi-
sion Act (1950), under the
Media Law and under the
Printing and Publishing
Law.
The order also au-
thorizes the commander to
form an advisory board for
military administration.
MNA

Norwegian, Austrian ambassadors
call on Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham cordially greets Thai Ambassador to
Myanmar Mr. Pisanu Suvanajata. (News on page 1)—MNA

Public advice invited for amendment bill of national education law
The public may send their advice on the amendment bill of the National Educa-
tion Law stated in the Myanmar Alinn and the Kyemon on 18 February 2015, to the
following addresses:
(1) myanmaparlament.gov.mm (the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw)
(2) pyithuhluttaw.gov.mm (the Pyithu Hluttaw)
(3) amyothahluttaw.gov.mm (the Amyotha Hluttaw)
(4) Joint Bill Committee, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Office No. 20, Nay Pyi Taw
(5) Bill Committee, the Pyithu Hluttaw, Office No.20, Nay Pyi Taw
(6) Bill Committee, the Amyotha Hluttaw, Office No.20, Nay Pyi Taw

Laukkai Regional Control
Commander to assume...

Norwegian, Austrian ambassadors call on Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with Bangkok-based Austrian
Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Enno Drofenik.—MNA

Fighting continues between Tatmadaw personnel and Kokang renegade groups

Fighting continues between Tatmadaw personnel and Kokang renegade groups

A map shows clashes between military columns and Konang renegade groups in
Laukkai Region.—Myawady
Muskmelon plantations in Tatkon Tsp expect much profit

TATKON, 18 Feb — Organic muskmelon plantations are thriving in Kinmundan Village in Tatkon Township, beside Tatkon-Pobbathiri concrete road. Local growers cultivate various species of muskmelon such as yellow and green long and round fruits. Farmers send fruits to Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay cities. It was reported that the muskmelon of Myanmar is marketable in China. Muskmelon can be grown twice a year. Farmers can cost K17 million per acre for the first cropping. The second crop cultivation cost will be on decrease.

Last year, farmers sold 4-5 yuans per kilo of fruit in the Chinese market and K1500-K2000 per fruits in the domestic market. Agricultural technology will be shared to local farmers, said grower U Han Tun Yin. Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myint Shwe and officials viewed thriving muskmelon plantation on 16 February and urged local farmers to grow quality strains of muskmelon in their farms.

Maung Pu (Tatkon)

District Election
Sub-commission focuses on electoral process and voter list

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Feb — Ottara District Election Sub-commission held a coordination meeting at its office in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on Tuesday.

Chairman of the District Sub-commission U Aung Lwin explained electoral process. Members of the sub-commission discussed progress of works. Secretary U Thein Zaw Oo gave an introductory speech and Assistant Director U Thant Sin Soe explained basic voter list.

Chairmen of the sub-commissions in Tatkon, Pobbathiri and Zeyathiri townships reported on electoral process in their respective townships. Officials presented gifts to U Thihia Tun who discharged duty of secretary at the district election sub-commission.

Shwe Ye Yint

Physics champion in women’s football at Mandalay University

MANDALAY, 18 Feb — Physics team clinched the title with a 2-1 victory over Combine team (2) in the final match of women’s football tournament on 16 February.

At Mandalay University sports ground, the inter-subject men’s and women’s football tournament for 2014-15 academic year was organized by Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar) in Mandalay.

The final match in the women’s event ended with penalty decision.

In the afternoon, Combine team routed Betye in Kyangin Tsp to get concrete road

BETYE, Kyangin, 18 Feb — Betye Town Administrator U Zaw Myo Htet and local authorities carry out placing of a concrete road under the supervision of Kyangin Township Administrator, Ayeyawady Region, as of 10 February.

Tentatively selected U-22 team to take training in Japan

YANGON, 18 Feb — A tentatively selected players of Myanmar U-22 team is under training to take part in the AFC U-23 Championship qualifier and Singapore SEA Games.

The team is being headed by manager U Than Toe Aung and chief coach U Kyi Lwin, together with assistant coaches U Kyaw Lwin (Magway) and U Myint Ko (Yadanabon), goalkeeper coach U Aung Thet (Hanthawady), medical officer Dr Aung Kyaw Oo, physiotherapist U Sa Lwin Oo Ko and media officer U Zaw Min Htai.

India’s Modi wants more technology transfer from global defence firms

Bangkok, 18 Feb — India’s Prime Minister Narendra Modi has asked global defence contractors to transfer more technology to the country as part of lucrative deals that they win to modernise its armed forces.

The country’s offsets policy, which requires contractors to invest a percentage of the value of the deal in India, will be tweaked to encourage more technology transfer, and less simple assembly or production, Narendra Modi said at the opening ceremony of the Aero India airshow at Yelahanka air base in Bengaluru.

“We have the reputation as the largest importer of defence equipment. This may be music to the ears of some of you. But this is an area where we do not want to be number one,” Modi said before an air display of Indian military planes.

“It will no longer be enough to buy equipment and say, ‘We got it here.’”

India is forecast to spend $250 billion over the next decade to upgrade its military, which still largely relies on Russian equipment it bought from the 1960s to the 1980s, and catch up with strategic rivals like China.

Defence contractors such as Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Airbus and Dassault Aviation have made a beeline to India in recent years in search of deals worth billions of dollars.

Modi, however, added that India should aim to cut defence imports from 60 to 30 percent in the next five years. It can double its defence output and create hundreds of thousands of skilled jobs as a result, he said. He called for a level playing field between the private sector and public sector firms such as Hindustan Aeronautics, the main beneficiary of India’s defence offset requirements, and asked both to step up to the task of meeting India’s requirements.

Tata Sons (TATAS.UL), Reliance Group, Mahindra & Mahindra and Bae Systems are some of the larger private sector firms that have made forays into the defence production market in recent years.

They are also likely to benefit after the government in 2014 hiked the foreign investmentlimit in the domestic defence industry to 49 percent from 26 percent. This has drawn greater interest from international arms suppliers.

“The companies need “to do much better than they are now”, Modi added.—Reuters

Thai cabinet approves $154 million budget for drought-hit areas

Bangkok, 18 Feb — Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said on Wednesday that his government has approved a 5 billion baht ($154 million) budget to alleviate drought in the country.

Thailand is battling drought in eight of 76 provinces. Earlier this month the irrigation department warned that the country will suffer its worst drought in more than a decade this year.

“The cabinet approved a 5 billion baht budget to use for water management,” said Prayuth.

“The funds are left over from 2014 and some will come from the 2015 budget. It will be used in drought-hit areas and for other water-related emergencies in all 77 provinces of Thailand.”

The funds will be used to provide mobile water tanks and to install water pumps in affected areas, he added.

According to the latest report from the Office of Agricultural Economics, drought will cut major rice exporter Thailand’s 2015 off-season crop by over 30 percent.

The off-season rice is grown between November and April after the main crop is harvested. It needs irrigation as there is little rain during that period.

Prayuth said aid for drought-hit areas would focus on the agricultural sector of Thailand. The country will need water for its hot season.

—Reuters

Muslim rebels hand over some police weapons in Philippine south

Manila, 18 Feb — The largest Muslim rebel group in the Philippines handed in 16 assault rifles taken from police commandos killed in a January firefight that has jeopardized milestone peace talks, in what the group said on Wednesday was a show of goodwill.

The 25 January firefight on the southern island of Mindanao between the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) and members of the police Special Action Force has thrown the talks into doubt and left President Benigno Aquino facing a political crisis.

Forty-four police commandos were killed in the fighting, the first clash between Philippine security forces and the MILF in about four years.

The 12-hour firefight, the result of a botched operation to capture an al-Qaeda-linked bomber, left embarrassing questions for Aquino to answer about why a police officer survived, over corruption allegations was involved in planning and executing the raid.

A public outcry over the deaths of the commandos heaped pressure on Aquino to abandon a peace deal with the MILF and seek retribution for their deaths.

On Tuesday, international peace monitors and peace negotiators from the government and the MILF went to a marshland village in the heartland of the insurgents’ stronghold area in Mindanao for the return of the weapons.

Mohagher Iqbal, head of the MILF peace negotiating team, said the MILF had tracked down the weapons and returned them to show its sincerity and commitment to the peace process.

“We are partners in this process,” Iqbal told a news conference at a southern army base.

He said he hoped it would also convince legislators to pass a law setting up a new Muslim autonomous government in the area. Congress has suspended deliberations on the bill until an inquiry into the deadly raid is finished.

Aquino’s peace adviser Teresita Quinto Deles described Tuesday’s ceremony as “a gesture of trust and goodwill”.

“The peace process has been disrupted, but not beaten back,” she said.—Reuters

Singapore premier discharged from hospital after cancer surgery

Singapore, 18 Feb — Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong was discharged from hospital on Wednesday, two days after he underwent surgery to remove his cancerous prostate gland, his office said in a brief statement.

The 63-year-old Lee is expected to make a “full re-

covery,” his surgeon Chris-

tian Cheong was quoted as saying.

“The disease is small but potentially significant. We are very glad we are able to detect and remove it in time,” he said.

Lee was diagnosed with lymphoma in 1992, after which he underwent chemotherapy and the cancer was said to be in remis-

sion. Lee, the elder son of former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, became prime minister in 2004.

In an upbeat Facebook post earlier Wednesday, Lee wrote that he looks forward to being home for Chinese New Year, which starts Thursday.

—Kyodo News

Cambodia rescues 17 trafficked Cambodians from Thai fishing boats in Indonesia

Pном Penh, 18 Feb — Cambodia has rescued 17 Cambodian labourers, who were trafficked to work as illegal fishermen on Thai fishing boats, in a joint operation with the Cambodian authorities.

“With the cooperation from the Cambodian authorities, the Cambodian Embassy to Indonesia has saved 17 Cambodian labourers, who had been cheated by ring leaders to work illegally on Thai fishing boats,” he said in a press statement.

“The victims had been rescued when the boats illegally fished over Indonesian maritime terri-

ory,” he said. The victims will be repatriated to Cam-

bodia soon.

Trafficked fishermen are frequently forced to work long hours and physically and psychological-

ly abused. They are often unpaid and forced to serve on voyages for months or even years. As they have no documentation, they are often unable to seek protec-

tion from the authorities in Thailand or abroad.

In October, Cambodia also rescued 20 trafficked labourers from Thai fishing boats in Indonesia.

—Xinhua

Indonesia hits back after Australian PM’s comments on planned executions

Jakarta, 18 Feb — Indonesia’s foreign ministry reacted sharply on Wednesday to comments by Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott linking the past provision of aid to the imminent execution of two Australian convicts, saying “no one responds well to threats”. “I hope the statement made [by Abbott] does not reflect the true colours of Australians,” Foreign Ministry spokesman Armanah Nasir told reporters.”... Threats are not part of diplomatic language and no one responds well to threats.”

Abbott had said Indonesia owed it to Australia not to execute two Australian drug offenders, Myuran Sukumaran and Andrew Chan, on death row.—Reuters
E Asia needs reconciliation to form EU-style community

**Tokyo, 18 Feb** — A member of the European Parliament on Wednesday called on Japan and other East Asian nations to take steps toward reconciling their historical grievances to build a regional community like the European Union, saying they already have the potential to form such an entity.

Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida is also considering holding bilateral talks with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and South Korean President Park Geun-hye.

Kalniete, vice-chair of the European People's Party, the largest group in the European Parliament, said in an interview with Kyodo News, “I think that the example of the reconciliation of European nations could be a great lesson in how to proceed (in East Asia).”

“Already, trade relationships are highly developed between the member states of the (East Asian) region, and people-to-people contacts are ever-increasing, and that is a good basis (for reconciliation),” said the parliamentarian, who formerly served as Latvian foreign minister. Kalniete heads the Reconciliation of European Histories group, a nonpartisan body in the parliament to recognize atrocities committed in Eastern Europe and the Baltic nations in the Soviet era.

“No one can ever undo the injustices committed towards individuals, but one of the tasks of politicians is to bring us as close as possible to reconciliation,” Kalniete said.

On Monday, she met with Minoru Kiuchi, senior vice foreign minister, and told him EU policymakers hope to get to the final phase of negotiations on a Japan-EU free trade agreement during this year, or the first half of next year at the latest.

— Kyodo News

Australia ratchets up pressure on Indonesia over executions

Prime Minister Tony Abbott
JAKARTA/SYDNEY, 18 Feb — Indonesia owes it to Australia not to execute two Australian drug offenders on death row, Prime Minister Tony Abbott said on Wednesday, ratcheting up a diplomatic war of words that is threatening to sour relations between the neighbours.

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 ring-leaders of a plot to smuggle heroin out of Indonesia.

Indonesia has harsh penalties for drug trafficking and resumed executions in 2013 after a five-year gap.

Abbott urged Indonesia to remember the devastating 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, saying Australia would feel “grievously let down” if the executions proceeded despite the roughly A$1 billion in assistance it rendered after the disaster that killed hundreds of thousands of people in Indonesia’s Aceh Province.

Indonesian Foreign ministry spokes-
man Armanan Nasir told reporters in Jakarta he hoped Abbott’s statement did not “reflect the true colours of Australians”.

— Reuters

In Afghanistan’s deadliest year, battles, not bombs, top killer of civilians

KABUL, 18 Feb — Battles between the Taleban and government forces were responsible for the most Afghan civilian casualties in 2014, the war’s deadliest year, surpassing roadside bombs as the leading killer for the first time, the United Nations said on Wednesday.

A total of 3,699 Afghan civilians were killed and 6,849 wounded in the war last year, as fighting intensified in tandem with the sharp drawdown of US and allied foreign troops who formally ended their combat role in December after 13 years.

The 22 percent rise in civilian deaths and injuries — the highest total since the UN began keeping records in 2009 — came despite US generals’ assessment that the newly trained Afghan army and police are winning the war.

“Mortars, IEDs, gunfire and other explosives destroyed human life, stole limbs and ruined lives at unprecedented levels,” said Nicholas Haysom, the UN special representative in Afghanistan.

Ground battles killed 1,092 civilians and accounted for 34 percent of civilian deaths and injuries, compared to 28 percent caused by roadside bombs known as improvised explosive devices (IEDs).

Assassinations by the Taleban and their allies made up 11 percent of the overall toll, and insurgent suicide attacks accounted for 15 percent.

Explosives left on battlefields caused 4 percent of casualties and the rest were classified as “other”. The United Nations recorded 511 civilian deaths in December alone as the Taleban, who were ousted from power by a US-led coalition in 2001, launched waves of attacks to coincide with the official end of the NATO-led combat mission.

The report attributed 72 percent of all civilian deaths and injuries last year to the Taleban and their allies, who seek to re-establish radical Islamic rule.

Government forces were responsible for 14 percent of casualties, international forces’ air strikes accounted for 2 percent and the fault could not be determined in 10 percent of cases.

The Taleban have in the past strenuously denied being responsible for the vast majority of civilian deaths, calling the United Nations biased.

Since the UN began tracking civilian casualties in 2009, 17,774 civilian deaths and 29,971 injuries have been recorded.

Afghanistan’s national army and police have also suffered record losses last year, with nearly 5,000 killed.

Since 2001, nearly 3,500 foreign soldiers from 29 countries have been killed in Afghanistan, including about 2,200 Americans. Reliable insurgent casualty numbers are not available.

— Reuters

Japan, China, S Korea eye foreign ministerial talks 21-22 March

Tokyo, 18 Feb — Japan, China and South Korea are planning to hold a foreign ministerial meeting on 21-22 March in Seoul, sources familiar with preparations said on Wednesday.

A major focus of the meeting, which would be the first since April 2012, will be whether the three countries set the stage for a trilateral summit involving Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and South Korean President Park Geun-hye.

The trilateral session has been suspended due to deterioration in Japan-China relations over the Senkaku Islands, a group of uninhabited islets in the East China Sea administered by Japan but claimed by Beijing and Taipei.

But following a meeting between Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping in November in Beijing, Park proposed a trilateral summit after she, Abe and Li attended a regional summit later that month in Myanmar.

— Kyodo News
Some pro-government forces start pulling out of besieged Ukrainian town

Kiev, 18 Feb — Some pro-government forces began on Wednesday to pull out of the east Ukrainian town of Debaltseve which is under siege from Russian-backed separatists, commanders of pro-government paramilitary units said.

“The withdrawal of forces from Debaltseve is taking place in a planned and organized way,” said Serhiy Zakharchenko, who heads the pro-government paramilitary battalion, Donbass.

“The enemy is trying to cut the roads and prevent the exit of the troops,” he said on Facebook.

Another pro-government paramilitary leader, Mykola Kolesnyk, said in a telephone interview on 112 television channel: “We have pulled out. We have saved people’s lives.” But he said not all troops were pulling out.

“We are talking only about units which are surrounded in populated areas and around the town,” said Kolesnyk who heads the Krivbas battalion.

Separatist forces, who the pro-Western government in Kiev say are supported and armed by Russia, fought their way into the key railway junction on Tuesday despite a ceasefire which came into effect on Sunday but has been under pressure from the start.

Rebels say the ceasefire, negotiated by Ukraine, Russia, Germany and France at a summit in Belarus late last week, does not apply to Debaltseve, a strategic transport hub which links the two rebel-controlled regions of eastern Ukraine.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, whom Kiev and Western countries accuse of directing the rebels’ tank and artillery assault on the town, told Kiev in Budapest on Tuesday that it should let its soldiers surrender.

Semenchenko, who is also a parliamentary deputy, said: “This war will not end in Debaltseve. Under cover of the Minsk agreements, Putin will destroy more and more of our people and seize our positions.” The Ukrainian Defence Ministry, in an early morning statement, said fighting was going on in the town but it was not clear if this was still going on while government forces were withdrawing. (Reuters)

US establishes policy for exports of armed drones

WASHINGTON, 18 Feb — The US government on Tuesday established a policy for exports of military and commercial drones, including armed ones, and said it plans to work with other countries to shape global standards for the use of the controversial weapons systems. The State Department said it would allow exports of lethal US military drones under strict conditions, including that sales must be made through government programmes and that recipient nations must agree to certain “end-use assurances.” The policy, the details of which are classified, comes after a two-year review amid growing demand from US allies for the new breed of weapons that have played a key role in US military action in Afghanistan, Iraq and Yemen. It could help US companies boost sales of military and commercial drones in an increasingly competitive global market.

Privately held General Atomics, maker of the Predator and Reaper drones, Northrop Grumman Corp, Textron Inc and other arms makers have been urging Washington for years to loosen strict export curbs, which they say have caused them to lose orders to Israel and others in the growing market.

Ideally, the policy would help industry better understand the current complex review process for drone exports, said Remy Nathan, vice president of the Aerospace Industries Association. He said AIA had asked for a classified briefing on the policy.

The shift came just days after US aviation regulators proposed rules that would lift some restrictions on drone use for commercial purposes, but would still limit activities such as inspections of pipelines. The change also follows stern warnings by top US officials about rapid advances in weapons technology by China, Russia and other potential foes, including unmanned systems.

China has its own ambitious drone programme and has exported drones to at least nine countries, including Pakistan, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, while it is also in talks with Saudi Arabia and Algeria for sales, according to Chinese state media. (Reuters)

Poland will comply with ruling in CIA prisons case

WARSAW, 18 Feb — Poland will comply with a European Court of Human Rights ruling that the country had hosted a secret CIA jail, foreign minister Grzegorz Schetyna said on Wednesday.

“We will comply with the ruling. We have to do it. It’s a question for the coming weeks,” Schetyna told public radio.

On Tuesday, the European Court of Human Rights refused to reconsider its ruling that Poland had hosted such a jail, a decision that will now oblige Warsaw to swiftly hold to account Polish officials who allowed the jail to operate. The original ruling in July last year included a demand that Poland swiftly conclude a criminal investigation into the jail and pay compensation totaling 230,000 euros ($262,000) to two men who were held there. (Reuters)

Argentina asks US to include 1994 bombing in Iran nuclear talks

BUENOS AIRES, 18 Feb — Argentina wants the United States to help it get to the bottom of a deadly 1994 bombing at the heart of a current political scandal by including the crime in the US nuclear talks with Iran, its foreign minister said on Tuesday.

Argentine courts have accused a group of Iranians of planning the attack on the AMIA Jewish community center that killed 85 people.

The unresolved crime was the backdrop for the 18 January death of the prosecutor who headed the AMIA investigation, a mystery that has damaged confidence in Argentina’s justice system and thrown the government into turmoil.

Foreign Minister Hector Timerman released a letter to his US counterpart John Kerry in which he said Argentina had made the request before.

“I am asking you again that the AMIA issue be included in the negotiations with the Islamic Republic of Iran,” it said.

Days before being found shot dead, Alberto Nisman had accused President Cristina Fernandez of conspiring with Iran to whitewash the crime in order to clinch a grains-for-oil deal.

The death shocked Argentina as election season approaches and the economy teeters on the brink of recession. Pressure is mounting on Fernandez to find a way out of the scandal in time to help allied candidates in the October general election.

The United States and its partners in the nuclear negotiations with Iran have sought to keep talks strictly focused on concerns over Iran’s atomic programme. In Washington, US State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said she was not aware of any plans to raise the AMIA issue in the negotiations.

The Iranian suspects, facing Interpol arrest warrants, deny any involvement in the bombing. (Reuters)
When the sun cannot be filtered…
By Aung Khin

The sun brings light into the world through its beams. It is a source of energy and can drive the world with its infinite power from the centre of the solar system. It is the best source of light for the world.

When the moon passes between the sun and the earth, partially or totally, it is termed a solar eclipse in which the light of the sun is blocked temporarily. Although all creatures require the sun, it is a natural phenomenon that the sun disappears in some parts of the world and night falls.

However, the sun rays also have harmful effects if not filtered by the atmosphere, especially by the ozone layer. Harmful effects of ultraviolet radiation include sunburn. Chronic effects of UV exposure can be much more serious, with life threatening, premature aging of the skin, suppression of the immune system, damage to the eyes and skin cancer.

On one hand, the sun is useful for humans, but on the other, it also packs tremendous danger. The atmosphere of the earth blocks more than 90 per cent of the sun’s UV radiation from penetrating through the atmosphere. With the ozone layer damaged, this radiation from the sun could eventually kill much of the life on land and near the surface of oceans and lakes, and disrupt the food chain.

Therefore, the sun is a benefactor for creatures. Meanwhile, it is also a predator for the earth if it is allowed to directly strike the planet.

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 tuw@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.

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

(The opinions expressed here are those of the author.)

By Sayar Mya

(Continued from yesterday)

Q: How do I apply for the membership?

A: A first time user is required to fill up a simple registration form. Alternately, a copy of the registration form can be requested at the library service counter. First time users will need to bring along one of the following items below for completion of their registration.

- Student card
- Staff Pass
- Passport

Operating Hours

Q: Will the Library be closed during lunch hour?

A: No. ISEAS Library is open from 8.30am to 5.45pm on Mondays to Thursdays and from 8.30am to 5.15pm on Fridays.

Photocopying of Library Materials

Library users are allowed to photocopy published materials found in ISEAS Library in accordance with the Singapore Copyright Act. For unpublished materials, such as private papers, conference documents and academic papers/theses, the citation and copying of such materials (including digital scanning and capturing) is subject to the respective deposit agreements.

Use of Library Facilities

Food and Drinks

There are water dispensers for users on each floor of the Library. Food and soft drinks are not permitted in the reading area of the Library as any accidents spillage could attract insects, including ants that may harm the collections.

Handling original documents

The Library seeks users’ cooperation to wear lint-free cotton or latex gloves when handling original documents (including private papers) and photographs/color slides. This is to prevent fingerprints, body oil from fingers, nail polish, residual chemicals from hand cream, sweat, etc from being transferred onto the materials while handling them with one’s bare hands. Paper-based materials are sensitive to such materials as these materials can cause physical deterioration to the fabric structure and ink on the paper.

Library Organization

The ISEAS Library is headed by Mr. Pitt Kuan Wah since January 2013. Mr. Pitt oversees the management and running of the ISEAS Library and also co-ordinates activities in collection development, acquisitions, private archives, systems development, and reference and information services. He is assisted by a team of 5 professional staff and 10 support staff.

The ISEAS Library was reorganized in mid February 2013, along with core functions of acquisition, preservation and ac-
Mandalay Region government arranges transport for returnees from Laukkai region to homes

Mandalay, 18 Feb — Under the arrangements of Mandalay Region government, transport service was given to those coming back from Laukkai region to their native areas by 12-down Mandalay-Yangon train on 17 February morning. Mandalay Region Minister for Transport U Kyaw Hsan saw off 409 people at Mandalay station on 17 February morning.

“We have contacted respective region and state governments to transport the people to their native areas. We gave foods to them and provided health care services. Vehicles of both government and wellwishers transported them to their respective regions,” said the region minister.

On 17 February, 248 people from Yangon Region, 71 from Ayeyawady Region and 43 from Bago Region went back home.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Flower growers in Tatkon Tsp to get good prices for aster

Tatkon, 18 Feb — Aster flower plantations are thriving in Ywaysu, Thayawhan, Hsinthay and Chongyi villages in Tatkon Township.

This year, local flower growers could save cost of pesticide. Hence, they can earn more income, said locals.

Local customers and vendors buy flowers from the farms. Moreover, flower brokers purchase a large number of flowery plants from the growers to sell them at markets in Tatkon and Pyinmana and send them to Toungoo, Bago and Yangon.

Farmers can cost K1 million per acre for inputs and cultivation cost but they can earn K1 million to K1.2 million profit per acre, said a local farmer who grows four acres of aster plants.

Tin Soe Lwin (IPRD)

Myanaung Tsp joins second time nationwide measles and rubella immunization

Myanaung, 18 Feb — The measles and rubella immunization was given to children under 15 years throughout the nation for the first time from 19 to 27 January. The second time immunization will be carried out from 19 to 28 February.

The first immunization was carried out in Myanmar to vaccinate 30,694 children at basic education schools. In the second time, 24,297 children will accept vaccination, according to the Township Health Department.

As of 19 February, the vaccination of measles and rubella will be given to children in wards and villages. Township Medical Officer Dr Maung Maung Chit urged local authorities to provide necessary assistance for immunization programme at the meeting on 17 February.

Win Bo (Myanaung)

Rakhine State authorities destroy illegal liquor, beer

Sittway, 18 Feb — A ceremony to destroy illegal liquor and beer confiscated from the criminal cases was held at the ground in front of Wethali Sports Ground in Sittway, Rakhine State, on 17 February.

Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Maung Maung Ohn made a speech and Chief Justice of the state high court U Kyauk explained provisions on prevention of illegal liquor under the law.

Township Judge of Sittway Daw May Tun Tun Aye reported plans to destroy the illegal liquor and beer.

The chief minister and party viewed destruction of illegal liquor and beer by roller.

Various kinds of beer worth K27,849,000 and 34 bottles of liquor were destroyed at the ceremony.

Rakhine State IPRD
Syria willing to suspend Aleppo air strikes for six weeks: UN

UNITED NATIONS, 18 Feb — The Syrian government is willing to suspend its aerial bombardment and artillery shelling of the northern city of Aleppo so that a local ceasefire can be tested, the United Nations mediator on Syria said on Tuesday.

Aleppo is at the forefront of clashes between pro-government forces and a range of insurgents, including Islamist brigades, al-Qaeda’s hardline Syria wing, Nusra Front, and Western-backed units.

The Syrian army, backed by allied militia, has captured several villages near Aleppo in battles aimed at encircling the northern city and cutting off insurgent supply lines, a monitoring group said.

UN mediator Staffan de Mistura said opposition forces would be asked to suspend mortar and rocket fire. “The government of Syria has indicated to me its willingness to halt all aerial bombing ... and artillery shelling for a period of six weeks all over the city of Aleppo from a date which we will be announcing from Damascus,” de Mistura told reporters after briefing the UN Security Council.

He said he would travel to Syria as soon as possible. “I have no illusions because, based on past experiences, this will be a difficult mission to be achieved,” de Mistura said. “Facts on the ground will prove if the freeze holds and can be replicated elsewhere.”

Syria’s UN ambassador, Bashar Ja’afari, declined to comment.

The Western-backed opposition Syrian National Coalition said it awaited a detailed proposal from de Mistura.

“De Mistura’s compliance with any such proposal will be judged by actions, not words,” said the coalition’s special representative to the United Nations, Najib Ghadbian. “And thus far, his actions have been only brutality and terror.”

De Mistura, who has been working since October on his plan to negotiate “local freezes” that would start with Aleppo, told the Security Council he had had a long meeting with President Bashar al-Assad during a recent visit to Syria, diplomats said.

“Every time there is a proposal of a ceasefire ... history has proven that there is some type of acceleration in order to take a better position,” de Mistura said. “I fear that could be the case.”

More than 210,000 people have died in the Syrian conflict, which will enter its fifth year next month. Peaceful protests against Assad in March 2011 degenerated into an armed insurgency following a fierce security crackdown, Reuters

Bin Laden told of al-Qaeda suspect’s plot in ‘chilling’ letter: US prosecutor

NEW YORK, 18 Feb — A US prosecutor told jurors at the terrorism trial of accused al-Qaeda Operative Abid Naseer that his plan to bomb a shopping centre in England was described in a “chilling” letter recovered during the military raid that killed Osama bin Laden.

In an opening statement at trial in federal court in Brooklyn, New York, prosecutor Celia Cohen said the letter from al-Qaeda’s head of Western operations updated bin Laden on plans by Naseer and others to carry out attacks in New York, Copenhagen and Manchester, England.

“You will see that chilling reminder in the letter to Osama bin Laden that al-Qaeda’s goal was to attack infidels in their home territories,” Cohen said.

Jurors were not told that the letter came from the May 2011 raid in Abbottabad, Pakistan that killed bin Laden. But before the trial, Cohen said it was recovered in that operation.

Naseer, who was extradited from Britain in 2013, is representing himself at trial. With Loretta Lynch, the US Attorney for Brooklyn who is President Barack Obama’s nominee for attorney general looking on, Naseer proclaimed his innocence.

“The evidence will not show the defendant was a member of al-Qaeda,” Naseer said.

Naseer, 28, faces up to life in prison if convicted of providing and conspiring to provide material support to al-Qaeda and conspiring to use a destructive device.

The trial would be the first in the United States to feature evidence from the raid on bin Laden’s hideout. The raid ended a nearly 10-year hunt following the 11 September, 2001, attacks on the United States using hijacked jetliners.

Prosecutors say Naseer was leader of an al-Qaeda cell plotting an attack on Manchester and that another cell conspired to bomb the New York City subway system, while a third planned to attack a Copenhagen newspaper that had printed cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad.

Two men, Najibul-lah Zazi and Zarein Ahmedzay, pleaded guilty to charges stemming from the New York plot.

A third, Adis Medunjanin, was convicted at trial and sentenced in 2012 to life in prison. Zazi was the first witness called on Tuesday.

Cohen said Naseer like Zazi coordinated his plans through a Pakistan-based al-Qaeda facilitator, “Sohaib,” using email addresses intended to disguise his identity and describing the attack as a “wedding” or marriage.“— Reuters

Warplane strikes at western Libyan town

Zintan: official

Tripoli, 18 Feb — A war plane carried out air strikes on a western Libyan town allied with the internationally recognized government on Tuesday, in what officials charged was an attack by the rival government controlling Tripoli.

Libya is increasingly divided, with Prime Minister Abdullah al-Thinni’s recognized government and his allies locked in a conflict with a rival faction that took over the capital and established its own self-declared government.

The United Nations is negotiating a deal between the factions to stop the North African country’s slide into wider civil war, four years after the uprising that toppled leader Muammar Gaddafi.

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The military jet attacked, hitting the airport

in the western town of Zintan in the mountains near the Tunisian border, airport officials from Zintan said.

Limited damage was caused near the runway and there were no casualties. But an air strike by the rival Tripoli government would be an escalation of its war with Thinni’s forces which have been operating out of the east.

“A warplane conducted an air strike on the airport of Zintan while passengers were about to depart,” Zintan airport said in a statement. “Two flights were canceled for security.”

Defence officials from Thinni’s government accused the Tripoli faction of carrying out the attack. There was no immediate response from the Tripoli authorities.

Four years after the NATO-backed war toppled Gaddafi, Western governments fear Libya is sliding deeper into war as the rival factions battle for control and the country’s oil wealth.

The release of a video showing the massacre of 21 Egyptian Christians by militants linked to Islamic State in Libya has heightened international worries over instability.

UN peace talks among key factions have made little concrete progress. But negotiations are expected to continue this month in an attempt to form a united government and end hostilities.— Reuters

Fists fly as Turkish MPs debate bill on violent demonstrations

ANKARA, 18 Feb — Turkish parliamentarians threw punches and two were taken to hospital late on Tuesday after a debate over a bill aimed at cracking down on violent demonstrations descended into a brawl, local media reported.

Five people were injured in the evening session debate, Dogen news agency reported.

It said Ertugrul Kurkcu of the pro-Kurdish Peoples’ Democratic Party (HDP) suffered a head wound and a photo showed him with a dressing on his head.

Four Republican People’s Party (CHP) deputies were hurt, and two of them were taken to hospital, after clashing with members of the ruling AK Party, Dorgan added.

“This is the first time I’ve seen a stretcher brought into parliament. Water glasses were flying through the air, people were rolling on the ground, someone was wielding a gavel,” CHP deputy Melda Omur told Hayat TV.

The legislation, which would bolster the powers of the authorities to control protests, has been widely condemned by the opposition, who accuse the AKP of trying to create a police state in the NATO member nation.

Reuters
Tokyo, 18 Feb — Japan Post Holdings Co said on Wednesday it will purchase Toll Holdings Ltd, Australia’s largest logistics services provider, for about A$6.5 billion ($6.1 billion) in a move to expand its overseas business ahead of its stock listing later this year.

In its largest-ever overseas takeover, Japan Post, one of the biggest financial institutions in Japan, offered a 7.7 percent premium on Toll’s Tuesday closing price. The Melbourne-based company announced it will accept the Japanese state-owned company’s proposal.

“Given our global expansion, it is the best partner,” Taizo Nishumuro, president of Japan Post Holdings, told a Press conference in Tokyo. The Japan Post group may be betting on the market potential of logistics services in Australia and in Asia, at a time when its postal and delivery services unit is struggling with falling mail volumes and rising personnel costs in Japan, where the population is aging and shrinking and the economy is struggling to recover.

Last year, Japan Post announced a capital and business alliance with a subsidiary of major French courier Geodis SA to boost its presence in the fast-growing Asian market.

The postal giant is expected to go public on the Tokyo Stock Exchange this fall. It is widely seen as trying to encourage investor confidence before the listing by devising a growth strategy, in which overseas expansion would be a main pillar.

The Toll group has a solid distribution network in Asia, The Japanese company is hoping to tap into rising demand for home delivery services in the region.

Japan Post is offering A$5.04 per Toll share, against its Tuesday close of A$6.08.

The envisioned acquisition, which comes despite the yen’s weakness making overseas acquisitions by Japanese firms relatively expensive, would increase Japan Post’s competitive edge in Asia by speeding up deliveries and improving other aspects of services in the face of competition from European and US rivals.

“In partnership with Toll, we are starting a new chapter of looking outward and becoming a leading global player,” said Toru Takahashi, president and chief executive officer of Japan Post Co, the mail-delivery unit of the holding company, in a statement released by Toll.

In the same statement, Toll Chairman Ray Horsburgh said: “Together, this will be a very powerful combination and one of the world’s top five logistic companies.”

The acquisition will boost the Japan Post group’s annual logistic support services sales, including mail-delivery revenues, some 50 percent to about 2.5 trillion yen ($21 billion), raising its global ranking in the industry to No 5 from No 8.

Kyodo News

Tokyo, 18 Feb — Health-conscious consumers are driving a boom in fresh produce developed specifically with enhanced nutritional qualities, with growers eager to expand their ranges of so-called “functional vegetables” that command a higher price than ordinary strains.

Dole Japan Inc has launched nationwide sales of functional broccoli containing antioxidative and antioxidant elements three times more than conventional broccoli. Function- al broccoli are “gradually arousing attention especially from health-conscious elderly people,” a Dole official said at an outlet in Tokyo’s Meguro Ward of the Tokyo Store chain on a recent afternoon, selling them for 398 yen each.

“We have already released functional grape tomatoes and will expand our product lineup,” the official said, referring to the popular salad ingredient that is technically a fruit.

Functional vegetables are richer in nutrients than ordinary vegetables, such as carrots and bell peppers with antioxidative properties considered effective in preventing adult diseases. Takii & Co in Kyoto is a major supplier of seeds of functional vegetables, offering 13 kinds under the brand of “Phyto Rich” to professional and weekend growers.

Among the 13 kinds of functional vegetables are “Kyo Kurenai” carrots having a balanced content of antioxidative lycopene and carotenoids. Others include mild-tasting “Kodomo Piman” (bell peppers for children), with twice the normal carotene, and “Be- nhuitive” (Chinese mizuna greens), which have 10 times or more anthocyanin considered effective in preventing arterial stiffening. Takii, which has more than 300,000 varieties of seeds, takes at least 10 years to develop one variety.

While seeds for tasty, long-life or high-yield vegetables are used to be in strong demand, nutritional components have become a new yardstick for selection these days, a Takii official said. In a related development, a research team at the agronomic faculty of Tama- gawa University is developing functional vegetables by means of light-emitting diode technology. It has already developed leaf let- tuces and salad rockets containing 2.6 times more vitam- in and other antioxidative components, selling them at department stores and other retailers for around 200 yen each through its project partner Nishimatsu Construction Co.

The water-culture operation in a plant within the university campus in Tokyo, uses exposure to different types of LEDs to enhance particular attributes of the produce. For example, red LEDs increase the sweetness and vitamin content of leaf lettuces while blue light strengthens antioxidant content. LED technology thus makes it possible to change the taste and nutritional value of vegetables based on consumer needs.

The sensor-controlled plant automatically moni- tors vegetables and grows them with no use of agricultural chemicals. The application of LED light enables harvesting in as little as two weeks.

Professor Hiroyuki Watanabe boasted about the research team’s “deli- cate know-how to change the taste and nutritional content of each vegetable by adjusting the color and irradiation time of light.”

Kyodo News

Singapore’s external trade up 4.3 pct in January

Singapore’s 18 Feb— Singapore’s non-oil domes- tic export (NODX) rose by a key gauge of the export performance of the small and highly open econ- omy, rose by a key gauge of the export performance of the small and highly open econ- omy, rose by 4.3 percent in January, compared to the 0.2 percent decrease in December. On a yearly basis, electronic exports expanded by 5.0 percent in January, after the 0.4-percent growth in the previous month. The increase was largely due to parts of ICs, diodes and transistors and disk media products. Non-electronic exports expanded by 4.0 percent on-year in January, following the 3.2-percent rise in the previous month, led by petrochemicals, pumps and non-electric en- gines and motors. NODX to all of the top 10 markets, except the EU 28 and Ma- layasia, rose in January. The top three contributors to the NODX increase were Chi- na, Hong Kong of China and Taiwan of China.

NODX to the Chinese mainland rose by 4.3 percent in January, overcoming the 7.8-percent decline in the preceding month, mainly due to pumps, ICs and heating and cooling equip- ment, the agency said.

Some parents also opt not to have their children vaccinated for religious or other reasons.

The California Depart- ment of Public Health said that with spring school hol- idays approaching many Californians were planning trips abroad and that inoc- ulations were especially important.

“Measles is extremely contagious and can be very serious. The best way to protect yourself and your family against measles is with the Measles Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vacci- nation, which is 97 percent effective after two doses,” Dr. Gil Chavez, the state’s chief epidemiologist, said in a written statement.

“Vaccination is espe- cially important for those who plan to travel interna- tionally, which places them at high risk of getting the disease and spreading it to others after they come home,” Chavez said.

Reuters

Los Angeles, 18 Feb — California public health officials, grappling with a measles outbreak that has already sickened 113 people statewide, urged resi- dents on Tuesday to vac- cinate themselves and their children before traveling internationally over spring school break. More than 150 people have been diag- nosed with measles across the United States, many of them linked to an outbreak that authorities believe be- gan when an infected per- son from out of the country visited Disneyland in late December. The measles outbreak has renewed a de- bate over the so-called anti-vaccination movement, in which fears about poten- tial side effects of vaccines, fueled by now-debunked research suggesting a link to autism, have prompted a small minority of parents to refuse inoculations for their children.

A measles vaccine is seen at Venice Family Clinic in Los Angeles, California on 5 Feb, 2015.— Reuters

California health officials urge measles vaccine before spring travel

Thursday, 19 February, 2015 | 11

11
Thursday, 19 February, 2015

The Government of the Republic of Union of Myanmar
Ministry of Rail Transportation
Myanmar 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 Myanmar has been identifying the economic potentials to contribute to the country’s economic development. As our endeavors for national development, Myanmar 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, Myanmar Railways, Corner of Thein Phyu Street and Kon The Street, Bo Ta Hlaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar, Phone +95 1 291991, fax +95 1 291994 starting from 18th February, 2015.

Enquiries can be 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, Myanmar Railways, Corner of Thein Phyu Street and Kon The Street, Bo Ta Hlaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar, Phone +95 1 291991, fax +95 1 291994 not later than (14:00Hr) 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
Myanmar Railways.

Ministry of Rail Transportation

Tokyo, 18 Feb — Police believe a deceased Japanese man could be a potential suspect in a 1995 supermarket shooting in which a woman and two teenage girls were killed in suburban Tokyo, based on a fingerprint match, investigative sources said on Wednesday. Investigators have found that part of a fingerprint left on sticky tape used to tie up two high-school-age girls discovered shot in the head in a supermarket in Hachioji, Tokyo, at night in July 1995 is similar to that of the man, who used to live near the scene, the sources said.

The man died about a decade ago apparently due to illness, they said.

In the unsolved shooting, two teenage girls and a 47-year-old part-time worker at the store were shot point-blank and killed during what seemed to be an attempted robbery. One of the students had a part-time summer vacation job at the store while the other was her friend. Police are investigating the man’s living conditions at the time as a key lead to elucidate the triple murder case, although the fingerprint taken from the scene does not fully meet the requirement for identification with that of the man left in police data, the sources said.

Kyodo News

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Ph: 951-291317, 202921, 09-8627489

Haiti cancels last day of Carnival after 16 die in float accident

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 18 Feb — At least 16 people were killed and 78 injured early on Tuesday when a singer on a Carnival float hit an overhead power line in Port-au-Prince, setting off a stampede by bystanders, officials said.

The tragedy in Haiti’s capital prompted the government to cancel the last day of Carnival — the raucous celebrations preceding the start of Lent — and to declare three days of national mourning.

Amateur video of the nighttime accident posted on YouTube showed a large flash as the high-voltage power line caught a popular singer known as Fantom atop the float as it passed near the presidential stand, which was packed with spectators.

Most of the victims were trampled to death in the ensuing panic after the singer struck the power cable, witnesses said.

Fantom, part of the hip-hop band Bankid Crew, was among the injured and was in stable but serious condition in a hospital, according to one of his friends.

Prime Minister Evans Paul held a news conference to announce the cancellation of Carnival and three days of mourning.

“We are telling the people of Haiti that we must be in solidarity,” said Paul, who was accompanied by government ministers, artists and first lady Sophia Martelly.

“We are all Haiti.”

President Michel Martelly expressed his “sincere sympathies” to the victims in a Twitter message and Sophia Martelly visited hospitals that were treating the injured.

They later joined cabinet ministers as well as prominent artists and carnival organizers at a silent parade to remember the dead, with marchers dressed in white carrying candles as a sign of mourning.—Reuters
Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.No</th>
<th>IFB-no</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<td>IFB-147</td>
<td>Cement Additives (5 ) Items</td>
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<td>Mud Chemicals (4 ) Items</td>
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<td>GM 6V71 Engine Assy (1 Unit)</td>
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<td>Fire fighting Truck (1 Unit)</td>
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<td>Pressure Gauge (6 Sets)</td>
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<td>Assorted Sizes of Steel Line Pipes (3 Items)</td>
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<td>Assorted Sizes of Steel Ball Valves (2 Items)</td>
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<td>Assorted Sizes of Pipe Fittings (1 Lot)</td>
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Tender Closing Date & Time: 16-3-2015, 16:30 Hr

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

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph. +95 67 - 411097 / 411206

WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 19th February, 2015: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaray and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin State and weather will be partly cloudy in Bago and Yangon Regions, Chin, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

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

Foreign passenger arrivals in Japan hit January record of 1.22 mil

TOKYO, 18 Feb — The estimated number of foreign passenger arrivals in Japan soared 29.1 percent in January from a year earlier to 1,218,400, hitting a record high for the month, due partly to the popularity of skiing and snow-related leisure activities, government data showed on Wednesday.

The Japan National Tourism Organization said relaxed visa requirements for visitors from Southeast Asia, the yen’s depreciation and expansion of a list of duty-free products for foreign tourists also contributed to the increase.

Among countries and regions, the largest number of visitors came from South Korea, with the number jumping 40.1 percent from a year before to 358,100 in January, due to expanded service of low-cost carriers linking the country with Japan. —Kyodo News

Canada imposes sanctions on Russian oil firm Rosneft, Rostec CEO

OTTAWA, 18 Feb — Canada is imposing sanctions against top Russian oil firm NK Rosneft OAO and the head of conglomerate Rostec, among others, in response to the actions of Russian-backed militants in Ukraine, Ottawa said on Tuesday. In all, Canada — which said it was acting in coordination with the European Union and the United States on Tuesday. In all, Canada — which said it was acting in coordination with the European Union and the United States — imposed sanctions against 37 Russian and Ukrainian individuals as well as 17 Russian and Ukrainian entities.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who has taken a hard line in public against President Vladimir Putin over what he calls blatant Russian interference in Ukraine, said Canada was ready to take more steps if needed. This comes after the country had for many months resisted pressure to slap any punitive measures on either Rosneft or Rostec, which both have Canadian business interests. Canadian officials have previously said the goal of any measures was to sanction Russia rather than penalizing Canadian companies. —Reuters
Son of California ex-governor Schwarzenegger involved in road run-in: police

LOS ANGELES, 18 Feb — The eldest son of California’s ex-governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and journalist Maria Shriver was struck in his car in Los Angeles during a confrontation with another driver, but was not hurt, police said on Tuesday.

The bizarre incident involving Patrick Schwarzenegger, 21, a model who is dating singer Miley Cyrus, occurred on 10 February, in the San Fernando Valley section of the city and was first reported by celebrity media on Tuesday.

A man behind the wheel of another car threw what appeared to be water out of the window, striking Schwarzenegger’s vehicle, police said. Later, Schwarzenegger decided to stop following the other driver and began making another U-turn, Herrara said. At that point, the other driver turned around and struck the left rear side of Schwarzenegger’s car and then drove off, she said.

Schwarzenegger was unhurt, and he called police to report the incident, Herrara said. It was unclear what might have motivated the other driver to hurl water toward Schwarzenegger at the beginning of the incident, she said.

Miley Cyrus was not in the car with Schwarzenegger during the chase and collision, police said.

Patrick Schwarzenegger’s manager could not immediately be reached for comment.

He is one of four children of Arnold Schwarzenegger, the actor and former bodybuilder who from 2003 to 2011 served as California’s governor, and Maria Shriver. After Arnold Schwarzenegger admitted to fathering a child out of wedlock, Shriver filed for divorce from him in 2011.— Reuters

Justin Bieber sparks Naomi Campbell dating rumour

NEW YORK, 18 Feb — Pop sensation Justin Bieber has sparked dating rumour with Naomi Campbell after they were spotted walking hand-in-hand backstage at her Fashion for Relief Charity Fashion Show.

Bieber, 20, wore a blue jeans and black boots. He looked nervous as Campbell, 44, who donned a black tee that read ‘Fashion Against Ebola’, put her arm around his shoulder while posing for a picture.

The fashion show was held to raise money for the Ebola crisis.

Some Hollywood stars like Paris Hilton, Michelle Rodriguez, Tyson Beckford, Kelly Osbourne, Brad Goreski and NeNe Leakes showed their support by walking the runway. A second show will be held during London Fashion Week in March.— PTI

Madonna to appear on ‘The Jonathan Ross Show’

LONDON, 18 Feb— Pop diva Madonna has been confirmed to appear on a special edition of ‘The Jonathan Ross Show’. The ‘Living for Love’ singer will be interviewed by Ross for the first time since 2003 in March, reported Digital Spy. The special edition of the chat show will focus exclusively on Madonna, as she sits down to discuss her new album Rebel Heart.

She will also perform two songs from her forthcoming record on the show. “Madonna is remarkable. A bold, daring, uncompromising superstar who shot to the top back in the ’80s and has remained there ever since,” Ross said.

“I am hoping this interview will be as memorable and revealing as the first time I sat down with her over 20 years ago,” Ross added.— PTI

Gwyneth Paltrow spotted again with Chris Martin

LOS ANGELES, 18 Feb — Oscar-winning actress Gwyneth Paltrow spent her Valentine’s Day with her estranged husband Chris Martin.

The “Mortdecai” actress and the Coldplay frontman were seen walking together on the beach in Malibu along with their children, son Moses and daughter Apple.— PTI

David Tennant to return to stage

LONDON, 18 Feb — Former ‘Doctor Who’ star David Tennant has suggested that he will return to the stage later this year.

The star, who won a What’s On Stage Award for his turn in Richard II, said that there are a number of Shakespearean roles he would still love to play, reported Digital Spy.

Tennant confirmed that he is currently in talks for his next project.

When asked if he knows when he will next appear on stage, Tennant said, “We don’t exactly, but hopefully something this year with a bit of luck.”

‘Timbuktu’ wins French Academy’s producer prize

SYLVIQUE PIALAT, producer of Oscar-nominated film ‘Timbuktu’ has been awarded the French Academy’s top producers’ prize.

PTI

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One of Tennant’s next projects will be Marvel and Netflix’s AKA ‘Jessica Jones’, which will see him play a villain known as ‘Purple Man’. — PTI

Gwyneth Paltrow and her estranged husband Chris Martin were seen walking together on the beach in Malibu along with their children, son Moses and daughter Apple.— PTI

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In some photos, Paltrow could be seen linking arms with her husband, who is also the father of their children. In the pictures, Paltrow is seen on the sand with their daugh-
In memoriam
Family shares merits gained
Maha Thayay Sithu
Lt-Gen Tin Oo

In memory of benefactor Phay Phay Gyi Lt-Gen Tin Oo who suddenly left us fourteen years ago, we have family members made donations and offered ‘soon’ and provisions to members of the Sangha today on 19-2-2015. We family members share with you the merits gained.

Wife - Daw Khin Than Nwe
Sons and daughters - U Maung Maung Kyaw
- Daw Cho Loh Oh
- Phyu Phyu Tin Oo
- Dr Myat Noe-Yin Mar Oo
- Zaw Tun Oo-Khin Thida
- Nay Tun Oo
- Hein Htet, Yin Myat Noe,
- Phyu Ngon Kyaw,
- Thant Thi Han Zaw (Po Thila)
Grandchildren

Global CO2 emissions to grow at slightly slower rate to 2035

London, 18 Feb—Global carbon emissions from energy use will grow at 2.5 percent between 2013 and 2035, a slightly slower rate than previously estimated, BP said on Tuesday, but still above the rate scientists say would avoid the worst effects of climate change.

Emissions are expected to increase at an average rate of 1 percent per year from 2013 to 2035, BP said in its annual report Energy Outlook 2035. Last year, BP said in its report that global carbon emissions from energy use would increase by 29 percent to 2035, or an average 1.1 percent a year.

This year’s projections show a slower rate of growth in CO2 because the share of natural gas and renewables in the energy mix is increasing and their energy intensity will decrease. “Despite improvements in energy efficiency and energy intensity going forward, the path is quite a bit higher than what scientists would say is needed to keep temperature rise within 2 degrees (Celsius) so more needs to be done,” Spencer Dale, BP group chief economist, said in a webcast.

Carbon emissions in 2035 will still be nearly double the 1990 level, the report added. World governments are working towards signing a global deal in Paris by the end of this year to curb the growth of emissions, which have been blamed for global warming.—Reuters

Laudrup weighing Japan job, to decide on future in May

Lekhwiya’s soccer head coach Michael Laudrup gestures during a news conference in Doha on 2 July, 2014.—Reuters

Tokyo, 18 Feb — Former Barcelona star and current Qatari club Lekhwiya manager Michael Laudrup has said he knows the Japan Football Association is targeting him for the Japan national team job and will make a decision on his future at the season’s end.

In an e-mail to Kyodo News, Laudrup, addressing the issue of potentially taking over the four-time Asian champions with Japanese media for the first time, mentioned the possibility of leaving Qatar, but said he will weigh his options only after the 23 May Emir Cup final.

The former Danish international said he wants to focus on Lekhwiya for the time being as his side are thick in the Qatar Stars League title race, just one point behind leaders Al Sadd with nine games left. “In a week we will also start the group stage of the (Asian) Champions League so there will be a lot of games in the near future,” Laudrup said.

“I am aware of the interest from Japan but as I just said, we have a lot of games coming up and they have, absolutely, first priority at the moment. Then when the season finishes in May, I will think about my future.”

“It could be here in Lekhwiya or somewhere else.” Laudrup is one of around five candidates the JFA is believed to have shortlisted to succeed Javier Aguirre, who was sacked 3 February after being named as a defendant in a criminal complaint against match-fixing in Spain.

Former Swansea City coach Laudrup was also linked with the Queens Park Rangers job in the Premier League and the sports director’s role at Barcelona, where he won four straight La Liga titles from 1991 to 1994. The JFA has said it wants to decide on the new national coach by the start of the J-League season on 7 March for him to have the time to scout domestic players ahead of the two home friendlies on 27 March and 31 against Tunisia and Uzbekistan, respectively.

Japan start their 2018 World Cup qualifying campaign in June. The JFA, though, has not ruled out the idea of going with a caretaker for the Tunisia and Uzbekistan games and if it settles on Laudrup as its man, Olympic team coach Makoto Te- guramori — who was also an assistant to Aguirre on the full national side — has been tipped for the interim role.—Kyodo News

Uber files second complaint against French law

Paris, 18 Feb — Uber has filed a second complaint to the European Commission against a French law that the online taxi-booking service says favours regular taxis at its expense, the company said on Tuesday.

Uber filed a complaint with the Commission last November, the first of a series of challenges to EU member states reluctant to open their markets to the U.S. firm. A spokesman for Uber confirmed a report by French business daily Les Echos, which says it has seen a copy of the complaint that aims to put pressure on the European Commission to open an investigation quickly.

“Yes, we confirm this,” the spokesman said. “The information published by Les Echos is fully accurate.” Launched in California four years ago, the service has rapidly become popular in a number of countries because it often undercut established taxi and minicab services.—Reuters

A striking Paris taxi takes part in a demonstration over the Paris ring road on 15 Dec. 2014. —Reuters

Thursday, 19 February, 2015
Fourth National Sports Festival 2015

Group matches of football tourney in MSF continue

Nay Pyi Taw, 18 Feb — Magway Region won over Yangon Region 2-0 in the group (A); Kachin State beat Sagaing Region 1-0 in the group (B); and Mandalay Region thrashed Mon State 2-1 in the group (C) in the men’s football tournament of the 4th National Sports Festival 2015 at Wunna Theikdi gymnasium No 1. Kachin State trounced Kayah State 6-0 while Nay Pyi Taw Council Area routed Shan State 4-2.—MNA

Glory and more awaits Europa League winners

LONDON, 18 Feb — The race to become the first club to qualify for the Champions League by winning the Europa League heats up on Thursday when Europe’s secondary competition restarts with 32 teams chasing glory in Warsaw in May. UEFA’s decision to reward the winners with a place in at least the playoffs for next season’s Champions League should spice up the knock-out stage, which includes the eight teams who have dropped down from Europe’s top tier. There are six former European champions taking part with two of them — Celtic and Inter Milan — facing each other with the opening leg in Glasgow on Thursday before the return on 26 February.

Celtic famously became the first British team to be crowned European champions when they beat Inter 2-1 in Lisbon in 1967 but the Scottish champions have had a miserable time against Italian sides more recently and are without a win in seven games with defeats in their last four.

Liverpool, European champions five times, will also renew acquaintance with an old foe in Turkish side Besiktas, who have painful memories of their last visit to Anfield in November 2001 when they were beaten 0-1, a record defeat since the Champions League was reformed in 1992.

Liverpool will be all too aware of the danger posed by Besiktas striker Demba Ba, who has five Europa League goals this season.

Ba, with Chelsea last April, took advantage of Steven Gerrard’s famous slip on the Anfield turf to score the opening goal in a 2-0 win that effectively cost Liverpool the chance of a first English title for 24 years.

Gerrard, currently out with a hamstring injury, is the only survivor from Liverpool’s 8-0 win and also from their last European title success in 2005.

He would love nothing more to end his last season at the club before moving to the MLS by winning another European trophy.

Rafa Benitez, who led Liverpool to that success a decade ago, is seeking to become only the second man after Giovanni Trapattoni to win the trophy for a third time after victories with Valencia in 2004 and Chelsea in 2013.

His Napoli side take on Trabzonspor with the first leg in Turkey on Thursday.

Three times winners Sevilla face Borussia Moenchengladbach, who won the trophy twice in the 1970s and are unbeaten in eight European fixtures this season.—Reuters

Liverpool’s Markovic gets four-match ban for red card

LONDON, 18 Feb — Liverpool’s Lazar Markovic has been suspended by UEFA for the next four European matches after being sent off in the Champions League group stage match against Basel in December.

He will miss both legs of the Europa League last-32 tie against Besiktas and both Round of 16 matches if Liverpool advance.

The 20-year-old Serbian midfielder was handed an extra match ban because he was sent off playing for Benfica against Juventus in last season’s Europa League semi-final when he was red-carded after rowing with the referee following his late substitution.—Reuters