President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Estonian President, PM

Nay Pyi Taw, 24 Feb — U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Toomas Hendrik Ilves, President of the Republic of Estonia, and His Excellency Mr Taavi Rõivas, Prime Minister of the Republic of Estonia, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Estonia, which falls on 24 February 2015.—MNA

Urns of bone ash from fallen officers and other ranks buried at Memorial for Fallen Heroes

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 Feb — A military funeral was held to bury the urns of bone ash of officers and other ranks who lost their lives while discharging national defence duties in Laukkai area was held at the Memorial for Fallen Heroes in Lashio on Monday afternoon.

Present were Lt-Gen Aung Than Htut of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Soe, senior officers from the command, officers and other ranks from battalions, family members, members of Myanmar Veterans’ Organization and departmental officials.

First, the Guard of Honour saluted the fallen soldiers while the military band playing military bugles.

Then, Lt-Gen Aung Than Htut, the commander and officers laid the wreaths for fallen soldiers and buried the urns of bone ash of them.

In the morning, military helicopters transported food, medicines and other necessary household goods for officers and other ranks, their families, government employees and local people in Laukkai and two Japanese nationals who were stranded during fighting and rescued to a military camp in Kongyan, Dr Minoru Yashida and Mr Akio Takahashi of JICA, to Lashio where Commander of North-East Command Maj-Gen Aung Soe handed over them to the Ministry of Border Affairs.

Military columns of the Tatmadaw captured the strategic hills of Kokang insurgent groups near 18-mile junction on Laukkai-Kongyan road on 22 February and combed the area for insurgents on Monday, leading to the seizure of one M-21, 7 M-22s, one Winchester, 14 M-22 magazines, 508 rounds of M-22, two plastic landmines, one landmine, 25 grenades, three uniforms, 2 four-wheel vehicles and 7 motorcycles.

(See page 3)

With our ride for women’s rights, we hope to raise as much awareness as possible for women’s rights: R4WR

(Ride 4 Women’s Rights)

By Aye Min Soe

R4WR (Ride 4 Women’s Rights) from the Netherlands has raised awareness for women’s rights worldwide and the four women of the foundation have been on the road now for about five months as part of their 400-day journey of 14,000 km from Jakarta to Amsterdam. During their journey, they visit local women’s projects and collect stories of inspiring women.

They started last September and cycled through Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, southern Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, northern Thailand and are now cycling in Myanmar for three weeks. On 2 February they entered Myanmar via Mae Sot on the border with Thailand. They will leave Myanmar on 28 February after crossing the country on their bikes.

(See page 2)

Labour Ministry, authorities announces to negotiate labour disputes, warn striking workers of legal action if they break the law

Yangon, 23 Feb — Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security will continue to sponsor negotiations to solve disputes between the striking workers and employers and will take action against those who break the law and instigate for disturbing the rule of law.

The statement released by the ministry Monday also mentioned that employees have demanded the government to provide protection of law to their (See page 9)
Ministries of forest conservation, cooperatives, NPED deal with Amyotha Hluttaw queries

NAY PTHI TAW, 23 Feb—Deputy Ministers of union government answered the queries of representatives at Amyotha Hluttaw’s 20th session Monday.

In reply to the query of U Bo Nye, an MP of Yame Thin Township constituency, Deputy Minister U Aye Myint Maung for Environmental Conservation and Forestry said the country has adopted a 30-year plan from 2000-2001 to 2030-2031 fiscal years for forest conservation, with updating every decade and reviewing every five years and development of reserved forest to 30 percent of the country’s total area and 10 percent for natural habitats.

Myanmar, ROK focus on development of infrastructure, fishery sector

With our ride for women’s rights, ...

(from page 1)

The Global New Light of Myanmar talked to Carlijn Bettink, 24, founder of R4WR, in Yangon recently.

R4WR: What is the main goal of your foundation?

Bettink: The main goal of our foundation is to raise awareness for women’s rights and we do this by cycling on two tandem bikes from Jakarta back to Amsterdam.

R4WR: Why did you choose this route which passes through Myanmar?

Bettink: We are now five months on the road and cycled through Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, south Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, the northern part of Thailand and now in Myanmar. All of us are big fans of Asia, one of the reasons we choose this particular route. We were interested to find out more about women’s rights in the different countries and because we cycle we visit places outside the tourist areas.

Sml: Who did you talk to in Myanmar and what did you discuss with them?

Bettink: During this ride we visit local women empowerment projects and collect stories of all sorts of women.

We had two project visits in Myanmar of the organization CARE. The first one took place in Mon and we visited the CARE office where we had a table conversation with several women who are infected with HIV.

The second project visit was in Yangon where we met with the founder Ma Thar Zaw Win of the SWM network which works for Sex Work in Myanmar Network. The network’s mission is to promote the access to information, knowledge, capacity building, and empowerment of female sex workers and to reduce discrimination and stigmatization.

Besides this project visits, we also talk with women in Myanmar and share their personal stories with our followers. For instance we talked with Wai Wai Nu, a woman who was a political prisoner but is now fighting for peace and the rights of women. She told us her story and the work she does for her beliefs was very inspiring to hear. These kind of stories need to be told and that is why we share this with our followers.

R4WR: What is your impression of women’s rights in Myanmar?

Bettink: We were very excited to visit Myanmar because it has only recently opened its borders for foreigners. In the conversation we had with Wai Wai Nu, we understood there are still many acts and laws which restrict women’s rights. She formed the Women’s Peace Network, with which she, among other things, campaigns for women’s rights in Myanmar. We noticed that here in Myanmar are a lot of initiatives going on from women to fight for women’s rights and help others by sharing their own experiences.

Furthermore, we really like to travel and explore Myanmar. The friendliness of the people we come across is unique and we have never eaten such good tomatoes as salad here.
Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, Air) sports competition 2015 kicks off

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 Feb — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing opened Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, Air) Sports Competition 2015 with inauguration of Zeyathiri Tatmata Stadium here Monday.

In his opening speech, the commander-in-chief said success in sports reflects the development status of a state and the dignity of the people, as well as the strength, capacity, solidarity and unity of Tatmadaw.

Together with senior general and his wife, the opening event was attended by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife, union ministers and wives, senior military officers, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and his wife, township members of the War Veteran Organization and athletes.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said while Myanmar won Merdeka Cup, eight athletes in the football team are soldiers. The Merdeka football tournament is one of the oldest football competition in Southeast Asia, participating mainly by national teams form the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region.

He also urged the athletes to try their best in sports competitions for the dignity of Tatmadaw.

Myawady

Labour Ministry, authorities... factories so that they can continue to run their businesses at peace as blockading businessmen, staff and sales agents in the factories and blocking the entrance of the factories by striking workers reached above the existing law.

Some factories in Shwepyutha Industrial Zone and Hlmyetha Industrial Zone are facing to be blacklisted as their production has stopped for about two weeks due to labour strikes as from 28 January, the statement said. Meanwhile, majority of workers are also facing difficulties for their livelihood as they cannot do their jobs due to strikes, it added.

As striking workers blocked the entrance to their factories and disturbing other workers, demanding better payment, officials of the ministry conducted negotiation between the workers and employers to solve the issues.

The statement mentioned that majority of striking workers reached agreement with their employers during the negotiation and have gone back to their jobs, however, it is found that some workers are still conducting sit-in protests out E-Land Myanmar garment factory.

Meanwhile, Yangon Region Government has also released a statement on Monday that it will continue negotiation with the striking workers of the remaining factory and has warned those who violate the law will face legal action.

GNLM

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker receives Norwegian delegation

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 Feb — Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by Mr Geir Pollestad, Chairman of Standing Committee on Business and Industry of Norwegian Parliament.

Also present at the call were chairmen, secretaries and members of Hluttaw committees and the Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar.

MNA

NNER holds press conference on amendment bill for national education law

Yangon, 23 Feb — National Network for Education Reform held a press conference in Yangon on 22 February.

At the press conference, Dr Thein Lwin of NNER said that the amendment bill published in state-run newspapers on 19 February should be understood as the amendment bill on the National Education Law to be submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as agreed at the four-party-talks instead of amendment bill drafted and signed by Dr Thein Lwin, Dr Nyo Nyo Thin and U Aung Hnin San on behalf of representatives of the NNER and students held consultation sessions after receiving complaints from education schools established by churches after the approval of the National Education Law, according to Dr Thein Lwin.

As only monastic education schools are covered by the National Education Law and education schools established by other religious faiths are excluded, representatives of the NNER and students held consultation sessions after receiving complaints from education schools established by churches after the approval of the National Education Law, according to Dr Thein Lwin.

In addition, he also explained that three medium of teaching which include mother tongues, Myanmar language and English language is adopted under Section 22 (E) as the majority of education schools in Myanmar are teaching school subjects and it is easy for children to understand their mother tongue.

The amendment bill on the National Education Law is drafted based on the 11-point demand of students that were derived from seminars held NNER in 25 areas as since 2012 October and provisions that are against the demand were excluded from the bill, according to Dr Thein Lwin.

In addition, Dr Thein Lwin said that they would sent a letter to the union minister who is the leader of four-party talks representing the government for points that are against the agreement of the four-party talks and can be misunderstood when it was published in newspapers.
**Local News**

**Tenders invited for construction of rural road in Myingyan Tsp**

Myingyan, 23 Feb

— The union government is striving for narrowing development gap between rural and urban areas across the nation. At present, Department of Rural Development is implementing the rural development and poverty alleviation. Myingyan District’s deputy commissioner U Myint Thin Aung, Township Administrator U Tun Thein Aung and Head of Township Department of Rural Development U Kan Chun inspected progress in placing asphalt on the road linking Thapaung and alok villages in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region.

They instructed officials to use quality materials for construction of an asphalt road to be able to meet set standards. The inter-village road is three miles and four furlongs long.

Department of Rural Development invited tenders for construction of the road. The department funded K173 million for construction tasks.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

**Local authorities, wellwishers give transport service to people coming back from Laukkai region**

Mandalay, 23 Feb

— A total of 5,732 people who arrived in Channya ShwePyi bus terminal in Mandalay from Laukkai region were sent to their home with the use of 269 vehicles from 12 to 21 February evening.

They were transported by vehicle from Transport Planning Department and wellwishers under the arrangements of Mandalay Region government. Wellwishers also gave meals to them.—Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

**Mohnyin authorities supply water to rural people from natural spring**

Mohnyin, 23 Feb

— Water supply tasks are being carried out in Mohnyin Township with spending K 9 million allocated by Kachin State government.

Water that flows down from forests on hills is being supplied to Ywathitgon, Kandawgon and Nyaungkantha village in the township. “Water from a natural stream that flows from the forest eastern part of Mohnyin is being collected at a 4,800-gallon-capacity water tank in Ywathigon Village through water pipelines. After that, water is being supplied sufficiently to the local people of over 500 houses,” said a village administrator.

GNLM-001

**Racer Engineering College students pay respects to faculty members**

Mandalay, 23 Feb — The 6th respect paying ceremony to faculty members of Racer Engineering College was held at Oriental House in Chanayethazan Township on 22 February.

Principal U Maung Maung Aye made a speech and Daw Nyein Pa Pa San students pay respects to faculty members.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)
Religious activities mark centenary of Gangaw Tahtaung Buddha images in Bogale

Bogale, 23 Feb — Under the auspices of Gangaw Tahtaung Sayadaw Agga Maha Saddhamma Joti-kadha Jaya Bhaddanta Kelasa, the consecration of Gangaw Tahtaung Buddha images in commemoration of its centennial celebration will be held in Paychaung-gyi Village in Bogale Township, Ayeyawady Region, from 18 February to 4 March.

The recitation of Mahapathana treatise will be held at the same venue from 18 to 20 February, the talks on Dhamma from 21 to 25 February, the meals donation for the people from four corners on 26 February, respect paying ceremony to older persons on 27 and 28 February, and ceremony to pay homage to 28-Buddha images on 1 March, ordination and novitiation of men and boys on 2 and 3 March and re-ordination of 10 monks on 4 March.

At present, people from various regions visit Gangaw Tahtaung Buddha images.

Maung Maung Thant
(Kyemon)

Mandalay Mayor’s Maha Thingyan pandal under construction on 26th street

Mandalay, 23 Feb — Mandalay Region Minister for Transport U Kyaw Hsan together with MPs of Mandalay Region Hluttaw U Ha Win and U Ko Lay inspected prevention of landslides and dredging of silt in Madaya Township on 21 February. They viewed preventive measures at landslides near Thahtaygon Village where officials of Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems reported onchange of water course in January to erode the bank of Thahtaygon Village.

In meeting with local people, the minister said, “Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems is taking preventive measures of landslides as the water course is changing day by day. Mandalay Region government will fulfill the requirements of locals as much as it can.”

At present, the department dredges sandbanks and silt with the use of dredgers and carries out construction of retaining walls at the banks.

Min Htet Aung
(Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Sandbank dredging to prevent landslides in Madaya Township

Rural people get library for raising reading skills

Pyayhwe, 23 Feb — The opening ceremony of “Po Pyae Some Life University” library took place in Kontha Village in Pyayhwe Township, Mandalay Region, on 22 February.

Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative U Tin Soe, local authorities and well-wisher U Po Htun-Htun formally opened the new library.

The MP donated books, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department U Phone Naing 110 books, Sayadaw Ashin Candaya-ti one chest drawer worth K200,000, Patron of Anandagonyi Monastery in Insein Township Bhaddanta Ghosita and administrator Bhaddanta Ck-kinda one set of books on tri-Pitakat treatises worth K300,000 and U Aung Soe-Daw Myint Myint Zaw and family of Ingon Tractor Station in Kyaukse Township books worth K300,000 to the library officials.

The library is 18 feet long, 12 feet wide and 12 feet high one-storey building.

U Po Htun-Daw Myint Myint Htay of Phayangahsu Village in Thazi Township donated K3 million for construction of the building.—Min Min Htwe (Pyayhwe)
Protesters hold a demonstration in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul on 23 Feb, 2015, against Japan's claim to a pair of South Korean-administered islets. Seoul and Tokyo are at odds over the sovereignty of the islets, which are called Dokdo in South Korea and Takeshima in Japan.—Kyodo News

Philippine court enters plea of not guilty for US Marine accused of murder

OLONGAPO CITY, (Philippines), 23 Feb — A Philippine trial court on Monday entered a plea of not guilty on behalf of a United States Marine accused of killing a transgender Filipino, in a case that could test the strength of security ties between the two allies.

The Marine, Joseph Scott Pemberton, who is being held at a US facility at the main Philippine army base, was charged with the murder of Jeffrey Laude, who was found dead on 11 October in a hotel in Olongapo City, outside a former US naval base.

A hundred Pemberton appeared in court, and sat quietly, flanked by US security officers. He did not say a word when the murder charges were read by a clerk, and left after signing some court documents.

The court entered a plea of not guilty for him.

Pre-trial hearings were set this week to mark evidence and list the witnesses to be called by each side.

“Finally the trial started,” Laude’s sister, Marliou, told journalists. “Finally, we can now seek justice for our brother.”

Thailand jails two on royal insult charge over play

BANGKOK, 23 Feb — Thailand on Monday sentenced two people to jail terms of 2-1/2 years for insulting royalty in a university play, amid a campaign by the ruling military junta to stamp out perceived insults to the monarchy.

The country is still under martial law following a May coup and the convictions come at a time of heightened anxiety over the health of revered but ailing King Bhumibol Adulyadej, 87, and the issue of royal succession.

Thailand’s lese-majeste law is the world’s harshest and makes it a crime to defame, insult or threaten the king, queen or heir to the throne or regent.

Criminal Court Justice Phrathibbhan Patiwat Saraiyaem (front L), 23, and Pornpit Mankong, 26, leave the Bangkok’s Criminal Court after being sentenced on charges of lese majeste on 23 Feb, 2015.—Reuters

Cambodia arrests outspoken environmental activist for visa overstay

PHNOM PENH, 23 Feb — A foreign environmental activist critical of the government was arrested on Monday for overstaying his visa, a local rights group and police sources said.

Am Sam Ath, a technical supervisor of rights group Licadho, said Alex Gonzalez-Davidson was arrested around 1 pm at a restaurant in Phnom Penh.

When approached for comment, Kirt Chantharith, spokesman of the national police, confirmed the arrest but could not provide details while other police sources said Gonzalez-Davidson, a Spanish national, was arrested for overstaying.

“He is now being held at the Immigration Police Department, opposite Phnom Penh International Airport, and he will be deported today,” one of the police sources said.

The arrest came just hours after Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen warned that the activist should leave Cambodia at least for a while or be blacklisted from the country.

Gonzalez-Davidson’s visa expired on Friday and the government refused to renew it.

He vowed to remain in the country even after the expiration, in defiance of a warning from the authorities that he would face deportation.

Gonzalez-Davidson is a co-founder of Mother Nature, a non-governmental organization that is actively protecting Cambodia’s forests and conserving its environment. Most recently he was highly critical of a government plan to build a new hydropower station in the country’s southwestern province of Koh Kong.

Kyodo News

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Kyodo News
HSBC says Swiss scandal has brought ‘shame’ on bank

LONDON, 23 Feb — HSBC (HSB.L) reported a 17 percent fall in annual pre-tax profit and cut its profitability target, saying allegations its Swiss business had helped customers to dodge taxes had brought shame on the bank.

Results from Europe’s biggest bank on Monday reflected the cost of past misconduct and of protecting itself against the impact of further scandals. HSBC said allegations about its Geneva-based arm, raided last week by Swiss officials and now the subject of a UK inquiry, had badly damaged its image.

“A number of us, myself included, think the practices of the private bank back in the past are a source of shame and reputational damage to HSBC. I think shame would be reasonable new to use,” Chief Executive Stuart Gulliver told reporters.

Gulliver was himself thrust into the center of the scandal on Sunday when Britain’s Guardian newspaper said he had sheltered millions of pounds in HSBC’s Swiss private bank via a Panamanian company.

HSBC confirmed that Gulliver had an HSBC Swiss account and while there is no suggestion he broke any rules, the revelations come at a sensitive time. HSBC’s chairman Douglas Flint is due to appear before British lawmakers on Wednesday to answer questions about the bank’s alleged complicity in tax evasion. Gulliver is among the highest paid bank executives in Europe.

HSBC has increased the amount of capital it holds to absorb potential losses by over 60 percent since before the crisis. Gulliver said the bank intended to increase its core capital to between 12-13 percent of risk-weighted assets from 10 percent currently, to give it enough reserves to deal with regulators’ demands.

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Aspiration

Kyi Mun

To be or not to be — William Shakespeare.

Aspiration means : A strong desire to have or do something; e.g. I didn’t realize you had political aspirations.

Aspiration to do something : He has never had any aspiration to earn a lot of money.

Aspiration for something : What changes are needed to meet women’s aspirations for employment?

Kindly think about ASPIRATION in the following manner:

(A) for Ambition
(B) for Strategy
(C) for Purpose
(D) for Inspiration
(E) for Resources
(F) for Audacity
(G) for Tactics
(H) for Implementation
(I) for Objectives
(J) for Never-Give-Up

To strive, to seek, and not to yield. — Poet- Tennyson

AMBITIOUS

Ambition means:

(1) Something that you want to do or achieve very much: e.g. It had been her lifelong ambition. Political/Literary/sporting ambitions. Ambition of being or doing something; never she had achieved her ambition of becoming a famous writer. Aspiration to become a writer. His burning ambition was to study medicine.

(2) The desire or determination to be successful, rich, powerful, etc. Motivated by personal ambition. e.g. She was intelligent but suffered from a lack of ambition.

We have got to be ambitious enough to:

"Dare to struggle and dare to win;
Dare to scale the heights!"

"Dare nobly, to will strongly
And never to falter in the path of duty."

In my opinion, we all should have a tremendous ambition to live and move and have our being in love, laughter and learning. We also should be ambitious enough to have a fierce combination of FAITH, FOCUS AND FIGHTING SPIRIT and, to be of SINCERE SERVICE to the PEOPLE, PLANET AND PEACE. We all are bound to die sooner or later; so, we must make the most of our rare chance to be a human being of a great heart, a great head, and a great spirit. We should live simply but have high thinking. We should live plainly but struggle hard for a good cause. We should be able to CONCIEVE, BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE for ourselves as well as for others, and also for posterity.

STRATEGY

Some great minds have urged us to “BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND”. The end means the GOAL. As soon as we have found out what our GOAL IN LIFE is, we should do a great thinking of what the MEANS WE HAVE IN OUR POSSESSION ARE TO EXECUTE OUR PLAN OF ACTION FOR ACHIEVING OUR SET GOAL IN LIFE. The Plan of Action, the means to an end, is nothing but our STRATEGY. So, our strategy is our ways and means of implementing all the requirements to achieve our goal. In other words, our strategy is:

• THE CAUSE FOR THE EFFECT OF OUR GOAL:
• THE MEANS FOR THE END OF OUR PLAN, and
• THE SEED FOR THE FRUIT of our Total Revolutionary Struggle.

In other words:

* CAUSE is the STRATEGY,
* EFFECT is the OBJECTIVE;
* MEANS is the STRATEGY,
* END is the OBJECTIVE;
* SEED is the STRATEGY,
* FRUIT is the OBJECTIVE;

PURPOSE

Purpose means : (1) The intention, aim or function of something; the thing that something is supposed to achieve; Our campaign’s main purpose is to raise money. The purpose of the book is to provide an easy guide to the university. A meeting was called for the purpose of appointing a new treasurer. The experiments serve no useful purpose (= are not useful). The building is used for religious purposes.

(2) Purposes: what is needed in a particular situation. These gifts count as income for tax purposes. For the purposes of this study, the three groups have been combined.

(3) Meaning that is important and valuable to you. Volunteer work gives her life a sense of purpose.

(4) The ability to plan something and work successfully to achieve it. Synonym is determination. He has enormous confidence and strength of purpose.

In forming a major definite purpose, we have got to have a burning desire and passionate will to do something or to get something or to achieve something. In thinking about what our purpose should be, we must think in terms of the results we want to get. First, think about what you want, and then formulate your purpose when you want to get it and how you are going to get it. Think in terms of your expectations.

INSPIRATION

Inspiration means:

(1) The process that takes place when somebody sees or hears something that causes them to have exciting new ideas or makes them want to create something, especially in art, music, or literature.

(2) A person or thing that is the reason why somebody creates or does something.

(3) A person or thing that makes you want to be better, more successful, etc.

(4) A sudden good idea.

I think an aspiration should be fortified by some inspiration and then executed thoroughly and completely with the support of purposeful perspiration. A high aspiration can be achieved tremendously only by having a passionate inspiration practically implemented with immense, undefeatable perspiring work.

To translate your aspiration into reality, you have got to have competent skills, knowledge and adequate resources such as human, financial, technological, material and information resources. In other words, you must have adequate, and relevant resources to be able to achieve the desired results.

AUDACITY

An Aspiration must be tempered in the fire of audacity, and audacity means empirical bravery, courage, daring, fearlessness, temerity, valiance, virility and zeal. An aspiration must be executed with the steadfastness of ambition, the sustainable stamina of inspiration and the tremendous staying power of never quitting tenacity of purpose.

TACTICS

Tactics are the actual moves executed in order to preserve oneself and to annihilate the enemy or the hostile forces. In business parlance, tactics are all about the moves; the moves are all about the customers; and customers are all about the value you deliver. So, tactics are the actions that create value, wealth, victory, success, peace and prosperity, for all the stakeholders.

IMPLEMENTATION

Do it, fix it, improve it, innovate, reinvent it. With a resolute determination, do everything that needs to be done to stay afloat, to survive, to succeed and to be sustainable as a strong force to be reckoned with. Alliance and alignment of forces or strengths are essential for a really dynamic execution of the strategic actions that are indispensable to prevail as a winning force and power in the market place. First, have a Plan of Action in place and then implement the plan of action or perish!

OBJECTIVES

What do you want form life? Do you have what it takes to get what you want from life? Get a burning desire in your heart, first. Then, definitely define your main purpose in life. Form your definite chief purpose in terms of vivid Goal and clear-cut Objectives. Manage your life-purpose by objectives. Firmly install the required milestones along the journey. Never miss the destination of your life-journey or the summit of your achievement mountain that you are climbing. Under any circumstances, go forward with tremendous aspiration, inspiration and perspiration.

NEVER-GIVE-UP

In going forward, keep on caring on no matter how hard the going may be. Take one step at a time, and keep on keeping on and on and on!

CONCLUSION

Dare to scale the heights!

Ref : Oxford Dictionary
Urns of bone ash from fallen . . .
(from page 1)

In the afternoon, fighting erupted between military columns and the insurgents near border post 127 and Tatmadaw personnel captured six bodies of insurgents and 4 M-22s. Three Tatmadaw personnel died and 7 others injured during the fighting. Kokang insurgents also attacked the convoy of prisoners from Cew prison, displaced locals and government employees leading to Lashio and withdrew when Tatmadaw columns responded them with the help of air support. A staff from the correctional department, 44 female prisoners and a Tatmadaw personnel were injured in the fighting.

In Yangon on Monday, families of 30 Comrades, Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu and well-wishers donated K 220,751,200, US$ 2,500, SS 300, Baht 1,000 for Tatmadaw personnel discharged duties in Laukkai and Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Tun Tun Naung and officers accepted the cash and goods worth K 5,591,920. A total of K 754,655,700, US$ 5,000, SS 300, Baht 1,000 and goods worth K 17,189,120 have been received for the personnel since 14 February.

As stability has been restored in Laukkai area after Tatmadaw personnel combed the area for insurgents, local people who fled to border and Lashio are beginning to their village. A total of 796 people including 539 people from 155 families and 257 migrant workers returned to Laukkai up to 22 February.

**Embassy of Switzerland to co-host the Solar Impulse Pre-arrival Press Conference**

By Kaw The-ein (MNA)

**NAV PLY TAW, 23 Feb —** The Embassy of Switzerland will co-host the Solar Impulse Pre-arrival Press Conference at the Ballroom 2 of the Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon at 14:00 t0 16:00 hours on 24 February 2015.

It is learnt that the Embassy sent the invitation to the focal Ministry of Transport to give the opening speech. Ministry of Information to attend as guest of honour, as well as Union Ministers of the Government of the Union of Myanmar, Solar Impulse Global Partners and Host Partners, Diplomatic Corp, Swiss Business Community, Swiss NGOs and Distinguished Guests and Media. The formal invitation shall be delivered in due time and the Embassy would be most obliged if the Ministry of Foreign Affairs could render its kind assistance to enable the Solar Impulse 2 Pre-arrival Press Conference a successful event.

**Acrylic paintings by Artist Win Lwin Aung on display at solo show in Yangon**

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

**YANGON, 23 Feb —** A solo art exhibition entitled “Panoramic Dream” by Artist Win Lwin Aung went on display at the River Ayeyawady Gallery on 35th Street here on Saturday. “All paintings are acrylics painted on canvases but they haven’t given any title yet. I want the audiences to name each painting during the exhibition period,” said the 41-year-old artist.

“Visitors can see children’s lives and dreams in his paintings.”

On display at the gallery are twelve paintings, whose prices range from US$500 in minimum to US$3,000 in maximum, the exhibitor said. Some of the proceeds from paintings sold will go to free summer painting course, he told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

Normally he spends K150,000 opening a course. Since 2013, he has been conducting free summer painting courses at Yangon’s suburb South Dagon Township, with the aim of nurturing poor children with high passion. His efforts have turned out around 50 children so far.

The artist is planning to open a training school for children and offer them free painting courses and related knowledge. He described children as the future of a country and painting as a medium that can bind hearts.

Regarding newfound artists, he said, “I am very impressed with their creations which are very expert in technical knowledge”.

Graduated from the State School of Fine Arts (Yangon) in 1995, Artist Win Lwin Aung has created almost 100 paintings with the use of all types of medium. His first solo show was conducted last year. “Panoramic Dream” is his second solo show which is scheduled from 21 to 25 February.—GNLM

**Union FM sends message of felicitations to Estonian counterpart**

**NAV PLY TAW, 24 Feb —** U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms Keit Pentus-Rosimanna, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of Estonia, which falls on 24 February 2015.—MNA

**A map shows clashes between government troops and Kokang insurgents in Laukkai region**

**Commerce Ministry to abolish fines for export & import registration delay**

**NAV PLY TAW, 23 Feb —** Directorate of Trade of the Ministry of Commerce will abolish taking fines for delay of extension of export and import registration.

The recent announcement of the ministry said the ministry’s new order will take effect on 1st April, 2015.

The new order is a part of the government’s trade policy reforms and is aimed at speeding up trading with overseas. Under the order, which announced in June last year, entrepreneurs faced fines of up to K30,000 for three-month delay. —GNLM
Top British lawmakers deny wrongdoing over “cash for access” report

London, 23 Feb — Two former British foreign ministers have been filmed offering their services to a fictitious Chinese company in return for thousands of pounds, reigniting a damaging 2010 “cash for access” row just months before an election.

Malcolm Rifkind, a senior member of Prime Minister David Cameron’s Conservatives who heads a committee scrutinising security policy, and Jack Straw, Labour’s foreign minister when Britain went to war in Iraq, both denied any wrongdoing.

The allegations, made in an investigation by the Telegraph newspaper and Channel 4, echoed the 2010 scandal when three former ministers were filmed saying they could influence government policy for cash.

The Rifkind-Straw report prompted opposition Labour leader Ed Miliband to call on Cameron to ban lawmakers from paid directorships or consultancy work.

It could also further dent the public’s perception of Britain’s main political parties which has given anti-establishment rivals a boost before the May election.

In the footage, Rifkind tells the reporters he has “useful” access to any ambassador, while Straw talks about how he worked “under the radar” to use his influence to change European Union rules for another company.

Both lawmakers have referred themselves to the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards and there was no suggestion in the report that they did anything illegal.

Rifkind told the BBC he had not accepted any thing from the company and was not at the negotiating stage, but had just gone to the meeting to hear what they had to say.

Potentially compounding a perception that some lawmakers are out of touch with the public, he also said parliamentarians needed to be able to supplement their income — which is twice the national average wage — if they are to attract the right calibre of person to the job.

“It is quite unrealistic to believe they will go through their parliamentary career being able to simply accept 60,000 pounds ($92,000),” he said.

Straw, who had already announced he was stepping down in May and who was highly critical of colleagues during the 2010 expose, is shown saying he normally charges between 5,000 pounds a day for external work such as speeches.

“I am mortified by the fact that I fell into this trap,” he told the BBC, saying he had made it clear the discussions were about what he might do after the election and he had stuck to strictly parliamentary rules.—Reuters

France’s National Front seen leading local elections: poll

Paris, 23 Feb — France’s far-right National Front party is still expected to lead first-round voting in departmental elections next month, despite a recent recovery in Socialist President Francois Hollande’s ratings, an Ifop poll for Le Figaro newspaper showed.

Marine Le Pen’s National Front would win 30 percent of the vote, ahead of a combined 28 percent for the conservative UMP and centrist UDI parties, with the ruling Socialist party in third place with 20 percent, according to current voting intentions. No other party would win more than 10 percent if the vote in France’s 101 departments were held now, the poll published on Sunday showed.

The Ifop survey also indicated that 53 percent of National Front supporters planned to turn out to vote in the March elections, more than the 45 percent of UMP and 44 percent of Socialist party supporters.

Earlier this month, the Socialists won a hotly contested parliamentary by-election in the Doubs, in eastern France, cling ing on ahead of a National Front rival after the UMP candidate was eliminated in a first round. Frustration with parties on the mainstream right and left combined with rising Euroscepticism have bolstered support for the anti-immigrant, anti-EU National Front, which came first in last year’s European Parliament elections in France. A survey by pollster Odoxa in December found France’s 101 departments would see the Front win 28 percent of the vote, ahead of the UMP on 25 percent and the Socialist party on 17 percent.

An Ifop poll in Sunday’s Le Journal du Dimanche newspaper gave Hollande a 24 percent approval rating. While this was down from 29 percent in January, when he was praised for his handling of the Islamist militant attacks in Paris, polls late last year showed his popularity dropping as low as 12 percent.

Russia offers Iran latest anti-aircraft missiles: TASS

Moscow, 23 Feb — Russia has offered Iran its latest Antey-2500 missiles, the head of Russian state defence conglomerate Ros techn said on Monday according to media reports, after a deal to supply less powerful S-300 missiles was dropped under Western pressure.

Sergei Chemezov said Teheran was now considering the offer, TASS news agency reported.

Russia scrapped a contract to supply Iran with S-300 surface-to-air missiles under Western pressure in 2010, and Iran later filed a $4 billion international arbitration suit against Russia in Geneva, but the two countries remain allies.

The United States and Israel lobbied Russia to block the missile sale, saying it could be used to shield Iran’s nuclear facilities from possible future air strikes.

There was no immediate response to Chemezov’s comments from Iran, Israel or the United States.

“As far as Iran is concerned, we offered Antey-2500 instead of S-300. They are thinking. No decision has been made yet,” Chemezov was quoted as saying.

Rostec includes state-owned arms exporting monopoly Rosoboronexport, which has the sole right to export and import arms in Russia. The Antey-2500 was developed from the 1980s-generation S-300V system (SA-12A Gladiator and SA-12B Giant). It can engage missiles traveling at 4,500 metres per second, with a range of 2,500 km (1,500 miles), according to the company that makes it, Almaz-Antey.

The S-300 missiles have a 125-mile range and Russia has staked tensions with the West by trying to sell them to Syria and other Middle Eastern countries.

Chemezov told reporters the discussions were about what he might do after the election and he had stuck to strict parliamentary rules.—Reuters

Ukraine military says cannot withdraw heavy weapons as attacks persist

Kiev, 23 Feb — Ukraine’s military said on Monday it could not start withdrawing heavy weapons from the frontline in the east as pro-Russian separatists had not stopped attacking government positions despite a ceasefire deal.

Over the weekend, rebels and the Ukrainian military said they had reached an agreement to begin the process of withdrawing weapons, as required by the ceasefire deal that came into effect on 15 February. Violence has lessened significantly in recent days, but rebels twice shelled government troops overnight, spokesman Anatoly Stelmark said.

“Given that the positions of Ukrainian service men continue to be shelled, there can not yet be any talk of pulling back weapons,” spokesman Vladimir Selezniov said in a televised briefing.

Russia wanted access to the most modern S-300 anti-aircraft missile. There were a series of negotiations on this, but the talks broke down after Russia said it couldn’t sell the missile to Iran. As a result, the talks on the S-300s fell through. The Antey-2500 is the latest version of the S-300, which is still not fully developed and has yet to be tested. Nevertheless, it is a serious threat to Western aircraft. The system is said to be able to engage targets at a range of up to 400 km and at an altitude of up to 30 km. The missiles can also engage targets at a range of up to 150 km and at an altitude of up to 27 km.

It is worth noting that the S-300 system is not only a missile system, but also a complete air defense system, with command and control, radar, and other components.

In fact, the S-300 system is a complex and sophisticated system, and it is not easy to replace it. The S-300 is a very powerful weapon, and it is difficult to imagine that it can be replaced by a simpler system. Moreover, the S-300 system is not only used by the Russian military, but also by many other countries around the world. It is a very valuable weapon, and it is difficult to imagine that it can be easily replaced.

Therefore, it can be said that the S-300 system is very valuable, and it is difficult to imagine that it can be easily replaced. The talks on the S-300s fell through, and it is not certain whether the talks on the Antey-2500 will also fail. It is possible that the talks will continue, and it is possible that the talks will be successful. However, it is not certain, and it is difficult to imagine that the talks will be successful.

It is also worth noting that the talks on the S-300s and the Antey-2500 were not the only talks. There were also talks on other weapons, such as the S-400 system. However, these talks also failed, and it is not clear whether they will be successful in the future.

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Tough choice for US in Afghanistan’s Kandahar Province

KANDAHAR AIR FIELD, (Afghanistan), 23 Feb — A once bustling military hub at the heart of America’s war in southern Afghanistan, Kandahar Air Field seemed destined to quietly shut down this year as part of a US withdrawal that had already thinned its numbers. But, now, there appears to be growing signs that fate might be postponed, if only for a bit, as the United States weighs slowing the pace of the drawdown from Afghanistan.

New US Defence Secretary Ash Carter visited the sprawling complex on Sunday, but kept reporters guessing whether he thought it should remain operational longer — keeping a US base hold in an important region of Afghanistan.

“My advice needs to go first to the president,” Carter told reporters during his first trip since swearing-in on Tuesday.

The prospect of exiting Kandahar altogether has sounded alarms in Washington, where Republican lawmakers critical of President Barack Obama’s withdrawal strategy note the region’s importance to Taleban militants and the threat they pose.

“Kandahar is just not a spot on the map. That’s the spiritual home of the Taleban,” Republican Senator Lindsey Graham declared at a Senate hearing this month.

The Islamic State’s rise in Iraq following the US withdrawal is stoking anxiety about potential backsliding in Afghanistan as Obama pursues plans to cut the roughly 10,000 US troops by nearly half this year and then slash them further to an embassy presence at the end of 2016.

Kandahar Air Field is already a shadow of its former self, with just 2,600 coalition forces, down from a peak of 26,000. Still, it offers the United States important capabilities for advising Afghans and aiding counter-terrorism efforts.

The head of the Afghan National Army’s 205th corps in Kandahar told Carter’s delegation that America’s contributions were vital, according to one US official. Major General Abdullah Hamid said “I need you to be here,” the official recounted, paraphrasing Carter.

Carter praised US forces in Kandahar during his visit.

“We’ve given so much to create the conditions here that you now see in front of you where the Afghan security forces stand a real shot at making success stick,” Carter said.

“But it’s still not done and it won’t be done without what you are accomplishing here in Kandahar.” — Reuters

Egypt court sentences prominent activist to five years in jail

CAIRO, 23 Feb — An Egyptian court sentenced prominent activist Alaa Abdel Fattah to five years in jail on Monday for violating a law that seeks to curtail demonstrations, legislation branded repressive by rights groups. The court erupted into chants of “Down, down with military rule” after the verdict was read out.

Abdel Fattah was a leading secular figure in the 2011 revolt that toppled veteran autocrat Hosni Mubarak. A total of 25 defendants — including Abdel Fattah — had been sentenced to 15 years each in absentia for violating the law and before a retrial.

Earlier, the same court adjourned to 8 March the trial of two Al Jazeera television journalists who are charged with aiding a terrorist organization — a reference to the banned Muslim Brotherhood. — Reuters

Syrian Kurds attack Islamic State in northeast

BEIRUT, 23 Feb — Syrian Kurdish forces advanced against Islamic State fighters in two separate attacks in northeastern Syria near the Iraqi border on Sunday, an organization tracking the conflict reported, as US-led air strikes, the YPG said, advanced by the YPG. Man sou said the YPG had decided to launch the attack after Islamic State reinforced its positions in the area with foreign fighters.

It is the latest example of coordination between the US-led alliance and the YPG in the fight against Islamic State, which has seized wide areas of Syria and Iraq and declared them part of a cross-border “caliphate”.

“Twenty-three farms and villages, big and small, have been liberated,” Mansour told Reuters by telephone.

The Kurdish fighters were giving the coordinates of Islamic State targets to the US-led coalition — the same method used to call in air strikes in the battle for Kobani, he said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, which monitors the conflict, said at least 12 Islamic State fighters were killed in the fighting and confirmed the advance by the YPG. Mansour said 20 Islamic State fighters had been killed. — Reuters

French aircraft carrier begins Iraq operations: French sources

PARIS, 23 Feb — France’s Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier has started military operations against Islamic State in Iraq, a French army source said on Monday.

“The carrier and its naval group have officially started missions as part of its Chammal operation in Iraq,” the source told Reuters in a reference to the name of the mission.

A second source said the carrier would be engaged for several weeks.

Le Figaro newspaper, which is accompanying Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian ahead of an official announcement he is set to make on the carrier on Monday, said the first reconnaissance and possible air strikes in Iraq took place in the morning.

France was the first country to join the US-led coalition in air strikes in Iraq against Islamic State insurgents, who have also taken control of large parts of neighboring Syria during the course of the civil war there. However, it has ruled out striking the group in Syria.

The carrier is accompanied by an attack submarine, several frigates, including a British anti-submarine frigate and a refueling ship. France has nine fighter jets, a maritime patrol aircraft and a refueling plane at its base in the United Arab Emirates as part of its Iraq mission. It also operates six Mirage fighter jets from Jordan.

With the Charles de Gaulle, there are now more than 3,000 French military personnel involved in the operation. — Reuters

All trapped South Africa miners rescued after fire at Harmony Gold

JOHANNESBURG, 23 Feb — South Africa’s Harmony Gold (HAR-JJ) said on Sunday it had rescued all of the mine workers that were trapped underground following a fire.

Company spokeswoman Charmaine Russell said all 486 mine workers had been brought to the surface and that there would be a full investigation into the fire. — Reuters

United Nations/Reuters
Australia begins training on armed US Reaper drones

SYDNEY, 23 Feb — Australian air force personnel have begun training on armed drones in the United States, Australian defense officials said on Monday, less than a week after Washington said it would begin exporting the controversial weapons systems.

The US State Department last week said it would allow exports of lethal military drones under strict conditions, such as sales through government programmes and agreements by recipient nations to provide “end-use assurances.”

The details of the policy are classified. It follows a two-year review amid growing demand from US allies for the new category of weapons that have played a key role in US military action in Afghanistan, Iraq and Yemen. An Australian defence department spokeswoman told Reuters no decision had been taken, but the decision to send personnel to train on General Atomics MQ-9 Reaper drone is likely to be seen as a signal it is considering a purchase.

“Unmanned aerial systems are an advancing technology with a proven record of providing ‘eyes in the sky’ in the Middle East region,” Australian Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister for Defence, Darren Chester, said in a statement.

“It would be remiss of Australia not to continue to develop our knowledge and understanding of this technology to ensure we are able to gain the greatest benefit from unmanned aerial systems and the best protection for our troops on future operations.”

Privately held General Atomics, which also makes the Predator drone, Northrop Grumman-made Triton unmanned aircraft, along-side eight of Boeing Co’s P-8A Poseidon long-range spy planes. Britain is the only country now flying armed US drones, but France and Italy fly Reaper surveillance drones.

The buyers of military drones have to agree to strict conditions, such as sticking to international law and not using them for targeted assassinations or crackdowns on citizens.

Nepal reassures Everest climbers on safety a year after deadly avalanche

KATHMANDU, 23 Feb — Nepal will arrange regular weather forecasts and tighten safety measures on Mount Everest to reassure climbers, an official said on Monday, after an avalanche killed 16 sherpas last year, in the worst disaster in the history of the world’s highest mountain. The country’s climbing season starts in March and runs through May, attracting hundreds of climbers who are expected to ascend the 8,850-metre (29,035-foot) mountain by the normal South East Ridge route. Nepal is developing a system with meteorological officials to provide regular weather forecasts, and is discussing adoption of a GPS tracking system for climbers, tourism official Pushpa Raj Katuwal told reporters.

“All possible measures will be taken to make climbing safe and to minimise the danger of natural disasters like last year’s avalanche,” said Katuwal. The disaster forced at least 334 climbers from around the world to abandon the climb last year. The measures apply to Everest, but not to a popular trekking route on nearby Annapurna, where an early winter blizzard and avalanches killed at least 29 people last October. The South East Ridge route on Everest passes through the treacherous Khumbu icefall and the South Col, pioneered by New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Nor-gay in their historic 1953 ascent. Ang Dorjee Sherpa, of the Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee that is in charge of opening the climbing route, said the Icefall Doctors, a group of seasoned sherpas climbers, would start cracking the route from March. To avoid the spot where the avalanche struck last year, the route will detour about 40 metres (131 feet) right of the trail, Sherpa told Reuters. While less prone to avalanches, the new route lengthens the trip to Camp One by two hours, he added. Last year’s disaster highlighted the risks taken by sherpas who set the route, fixing ropes and placing ladders on the icy slopes and guiding foreign clients. The government has boosted insurance cover for sherpas to $15,000 from $10,000, with premiums to be paid by climbers.— Reuters

Jerusalem, 23 Feb — Israel’s mayor of Jerusalem and his security guard wrestled a Palestinian attacker to the ground near city hall on Sunday after an ultra-Orthodox Jew was stabbed with a knife at a busy intersection.

Security camera footage showed mayor Nir Barkat, in a white shirt, walk towards the suspect together with his bodyguard and lunging at him, pinning him down on a pavement and international maritime rights.

At least 29 people last October. The South East Ridge route on Everest passes through the treacherous Khumbu icefall and the South Col, pioneered by New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Nor-gay in their historic 1953 ascent. Ang Dorjee Sherpa, of the Sagarmatha Pollution Control Committee that is in charge of opening the climbing route, said the Icefall Doctors, a group of seasoned sherpas climbers, would start cracking the route from March. To avoid the spot where the avalanche struck last year, the route will detour about 40 metres (131 feet) right of the trail, Sherpa told Reuters. While less prone to avalanches, the new route lengthens the trip to Camp One by two hours, he added. Last year’s disaster highlighted the risks taken by sherpas who set the route, fixing ropes and placing ladders on the icy slopes and guiding foreign clients. The government has boosted insurance cover for sherpas to $15,000 from $10,000, with premiums to be paid by climbers.— Reuters

Israel’s Jerusalem mayor wrestles Palestinian attacker in street

Israeli air force personnel have begun training on armed US Reaper drones in New York last week

Israel annexed part of the city where al-Aqsa mosque now stands and the Old City the compound is located, as part of its capital. This status is not recognized abroad. Many world pow-

ers support the Palestinians’ goal of setting up their own future capital in East Jerusalem.— Reuters

Major Middle East shipping routes secure despite turmoil: US

ABU DHABI, 23 Feb — Shipping corridors used by Gulf energy exporters are not at risk from violence and political volatility in Yemen and the seizure of swathes of territory in the region by Islamic State milit-

ants, a senior US naval officer said on Monday.

Vice Admiral John Miller, Commander of US Naval Central Command, told a conference in Abu Dhabi that a “robust” US and international maritime presence was helping to minimize threats to oil-produc-

ing countries in the region.

“As dynamic as the region is today, what we have seen over the past years is that the international maritime environment has been safe, the free flow of commerce has been sta-

ble and secure,” said Miller, also Commander of US 5th Fleet/Combined Maritime Forces. He was referring to the Bab el Mandab, a nar-

row channel between the Horn of Africa and the Mid-

dle East, the Suez Canal, one of the world’s busiest waterways which connects nations with the Red Sea, and the Strait of Hormuz between Iran and Oman, the world’s most im-

portant export route.

Miller said combined maritime forces — inter-

national naval coalitions based in Bahrain that joint-

ly stage security patrols against piracy, piracy and smuggling — which he said operated 65 to 70 vessels on any given day, were sufficient.— Reuters
Chinese farm trainee stabbed to death in Ibaraki Pref

Mito, (Japan), 23 Feb — A Chinese agricultural trainee was stabbed to death in the city of Hokota, Ibaraki Prefecture, on Sunday, police said on Monday.

The technological trainee was identified as Sun Wenjun, 33, a resident of the city, the police said. Another 32-year-old trainee was also stabbed in the shoulder and suffered injuries, but he was able to raise the alarm after rushing to a house near the site of the incident and asking for help. Police officers and firefighters rushed to the scene after receiving a phone call at around 9:45 pm on Sunday from a local resident, who said a man had collapsed in farmland along an agricultural road.

A kitchen knife covered in blood had been found near the site, the police said. The injured man told police investigators that he and Sun were attacked by a group of foreigners who fled from the scene by a car, the police said.—Kyodo News

Australia cyclone spares coal miners, farmers

Sydney, 23 Feb — Commodities producers were spared the full wrath of a powerful cyclone that smashed into the east coast of Australia packing winds up to 285 kph (175 mph), but thousands of coastal residents on Monday faced a third day without electricity.

“We are doing everything we can to restore power,” said Annastacia Palaszczuk, the premier of Queensland state, which bore the brunt of the storm that hit land on Friday with the highest-possible cyclone rating.

There had been concerns that Marcia would wreak havoc on Queensland’s A$25 billion commodity and agriculture sector, but early assessments as the storm dissipated over land point to minimal disruption. According to the Bureau of Meteorology, the category 4 cyclone did not cause as much damage as the category 5 Cyclone Yasi that hit Queensland in 2011, when Queensland missed its annual coal export target by 40 million tonnes following unusually heavy rains.

Sugar fields in Queensland, a key cane-growing state in the world’s No 3 exporter of raw sweetener, were unscathed, an industry group said on Monday.

In fact, growers should benefit from the moisture brought by up to 300 millimetres of rain that accompanied Marcia, said Canegrowers Australia.

Elsewhere, Insurance Australia Group said it had received about 700 claims related to damage from Cyclone Marcia, with more expected as policyholders return to their homes and businesses.

Emergency crews were also cleaning up after a second cyclone last week ripped apart remote coastal communities in the far north coast of the Northern Territory.

Four remote indigenous communities were affected by the category 4 storm, which hit Eloch Island on Thursday night before turning inland.

Reuters

A resident of the coastal town of Yeppoon is pictured on his street full of fallen trees after Cyclone Marcia hit northeastern Australia on 20 Feb, 2015.

Reuters
‘Birdman’ soars to Oscar heights on best picture win

Los Angeles, 23 Feb — The dark comedy “Birdman” held up a mirror to Hollywood and its struggling actors and in return received the film industry’s highest recognition on Sunday, the Academy Award for best picture.

Director Alejandro G Inarritu’s story of a washed-up, former superhero actor attempting an improbable comeback on Broadway won four Oscars in its nine nominations, including best director, the second consecutive win in that category for a Mexican filmmaker.

Acclaimed for looking like one continuous shot through a Broadway theater and mixing reality with fantasy, the movie, Inarritu said, came from learning to be fearless in filmmaking. “Fear is the condom of life. It doesn’t allow you to enjoy things,” Inarritu said backstage.

It won best song, delivering the sole victory to “Selma,” the film at the center of the diversity debate sparked by the exclusion of actors of color from the four acting categories. The nominations prompted a backlash on Twitter with the hashtag “#OscarsSoWhite.

“‘Selma’ is now, because the struggle for justice is right now,” said Legend in the aftermath of recent racially charged protests in America.

**ACTRESSES MOORE, ARQUETTE PREVAIL**

All four acting award winners celebrated their first Oscars. Redmayne, who won critical acclaim for his depiction of the various stages of disability endured by Hawking, who suffers from the motor neuron disease known as ALS.

“I am fully aware that I am a lucky, lucky man,” Redmayne said. “This Oscar belongs to all of those people around the world battling ALS.”

Five-time nominee Julianne Moore won best actress, also for her portrayal of an illness, as a middle-aged woman suffering Alzheimer’s in “Still Alice.”

“I read an article that said that winning an Oscar could lead to living five years longer,” said the 54-year-old Moore. “If that’s true, I’d really like to thank the Academy because my husband is younger than me.”

Patricia Arquette won best supporting actress for her role as a monstrous mother in “Boyhood” and made an appeal for equal pay and rights for women in America in her acceptance speech.

J.K. Simmons, after decades producing that film’s star, Julie Andrews, received a standing ovation for her medley of tunes from “The Sound of Music” before introducing that film’s star, Julie Andrews.

Harris got laughs with his brave appearance in white underwear, a spoof of Keaton’s opening scene in “Birdman.” But some of his jokes fell flat and his debut got mixed reviews.

Ratings for the ABC telecast might also suffer because the show ran past midnight on the US East Coast.

Poland’s “Ida” clinched best foreign-language film, and director Pawel Pawlikowski pushed the 45-second acceptance speech boundary to thank “my Polish friends who are in front of the TV, the crew who were in the trenches with us and who are totally drunk now, and you were fantastic.”

Best documentary went to “Citizenfour,” director Laura Poitras’ feature about National Security Agency whistleblower Edward Snowden, the former government contractor who detailed the secret mass surveillance programs.

“The subject of ‘Citizenfour,’ Edward Snowden, could not be here for some treason,” joked Harris.

Reuters
Hakuho breaks silence on critical remarks

SAKAI, Japan, 23 Feb — Yokozuna Hakuho broke his silence on Monday to explain himself for the first time since criticizing ring-side judges for calling a do-over in his bout against ozeki Kisenosato at the New Year Grand Sumo Tournament in January.

Speaking at a press conference that got started about 15 minutes behind schedule at the Miyagino stable’s dormitory in Sakai, Osaka Prefecture, Hakuho said he had only been speaking his mind. It was the first time he touched on the subject since making a brief apology in a company appearance at the end of January.

“I am sure that everyone here has their own thoughts and feelings (about what I said), so I do just think about it. I just spoke my mind,” he said.

Presssed by reporters about what he meant by the critical remarks, Hakuho said while looking away, “Well, how should I put it? Inside one’s heart, there are some things one is unable to say.” He made no further apologies.

In the bout in question on the 13th day of the January meet, ringside judges called for a do-over after ruling that Hakuho and Kisenosato went over the edge at practically the same time. Hakuho beat Kisenosato outright in the rematch to claim the all-time record with his 33rd career championship.

But the Mongolian-born grand champion later said, “It was sumo even a child would understand” after reviewing the video footage.

He raised eyebrows further when he remarked that “the color of one’s skin doesn’t matter. When I am on the dohyo I have the spirit of Japan laced in my toponk.” We are all human beings.”

• Japan Sumo Association Chairman Kitamurarii

Yokozuna Hakuho speaks at a press conference in the western Japan city of Sakai on 23 Feb, 2015, on the occasion of the release of rankings for the Spring Grand Sumo Tournament in March. Touching on his criticism for the first time over ringside judges who had called a do-over in his bout against ozeki Kisenosato at the New Year Grand Sumo Tournament in January, Hakuho said he had only been speaking his mind.—Kyodo News

JAPAN’S mixed ski jump team 3rd at worlds, team combined 6th

FALUN, Sweden, 23 Feb — Japan’s mixed ski jumping team, led by two-time women’s world champion Sara Takanashi and Noriaki Kasai, the oldest winner on the men’s World Cup circuit, took bronze on Sunday, the fifth day of the Nordic World Ski Championship.

The Japan team also included Yuki Ito, who won the women’s ski jumping silver on Friday, and Taku Takeuchi, who was fifth in Saturday’s men’s competition. The quartet tallied 888.3 points to finish third behind Germany, who earned 917.9 points first, while Norway, with 915.6 points, was second.

Ito, who entered the event with Japan’s only medal at the worlds, said she held her teammates back.

“We won a medal due to their efforts,” Ito said. “I came into this event in a better form than the last one, but I’m the reason we didn’t get a different colored medal. I’m filled with regret.”

In Nordic combined, Japan’s team of Taihei Kato, Yoshihito Watake, Hideaki Nagan and Akito Watabe were sixth, 1 minute, 11.5 seconds behind Germany. Germany’s Individual Gundersen champion Johannes Rydzek collected his second gold medal of the worlds. He was sixth in the team event and France third.

Sharapova less fixated on top spot but eager to beat Serena

MEXICO CITY, 23 Feb — Regaining the world’s top ranking in women’s tennis is less important to five-times grand slam winner Maria Sharapova than it was when she was younger, but the Russian is eager to beat dominant player Serena Williams.

Williams beat Sharapova, who is ranked number two, to claim her 19th grand slam singles title in the Australian Open final last month.

Sharapova, who first earned the top spot as an 18-year-old in 2005, has not beaten Williams since 2004.

“I wouldn’t say it’s as much of a priority as when I was younger,” Sharapova told Reuters on Sunday in a telephone interview from the resort town of Acapulco ahead of the annual Mexico Open.

“She is definitely an opponent that I have had a lot of trouble playing against in the last 10 years and someone that I would love to beat,” she said.

“I love facing her and I love that challenge. I’m definitely not shy of competing against her.”

Sharapova, who will be playing in the Mexico Open for the first time, is the favorite to win against Italian Sara Errani, ranked 16th and America’s 20th ranked Madison Keys in this week’s matches in Acapulco.

“It’s quite a tough deal. There are a lot of girls that have had big wins, even some that are not seeded, so I look forward to tough competition and of course being the number one seed,” Sharapova said.

• Reuters

Ronaldo’s bullet header helps Real beat Elche

BARCELONA, 23 Feb — Cristiano Ronaldo’s bullet header helped Real Madrid to a 2-0 victory over a physical Elche side on Sunday as they extended their lead at the top of La Liga to four points.

With Barcelona suffering a shock home defeat by Malaga on Saturday, Real had a chance to go four points clear and they grabbed it with second-half goals by Karim Benzema and Ronaldo.

Although the Portugal forward stuck a curling shot against the post after four minutes, Real struggled to break down a team that worked hard and were guilty of some aggressive challenges.

Benzema was unlucky to have a spectacular overhead kick ruled out due to a questionable offside call but he did knock a loose ball in from close range after 56 minutes.

Ronaldo then sealed the victory with a powerful header to the top corner from an Isco cross after 70 minutes.

It was a welcome goal for Ronaldo who has suffered a dip in form since Christmas following an electifying start to the season and has now moved joint third in Real’s all-time list.

The Portuguese now has 290 goals and is level with Carlos Santillana, while Raúl is out in front on 323.

“We’re trying to Rediscover our best form and we know that in a short amount of time everything can change,” Real captain Iker Casillas, who celebrated his 500th La Liga match, told reporters.

“We received a lot of criticism but now the situation is more relaxed but this situation is normal playing for Real Madrid. Our attitude has always been right and it is usual that you have ups and downs in form. When you are down it is when you have to be more united and that has been the case. — Reuters
Track & Field, body-building continue in National Sports Festival

NAO PLY TAW, 23 Feb — Deputy Minis-
ter for Sports U Thaung Htiik presented the first prize to Myo Min Paing (Nay Pyi Taw Council Area), second to Soe Min Shwe (Rakhine) and third to Saw Has Shee (Mon) in the men’s pole vault event at the National Sports Festival on Monday.

The deputy min-
ister viewed the match between Shan State and Ayeyawady Region in the men’s futsal event at Futsal indoor stadium.

Today, women’s basketball was held at basketball court, men’s and women’s triathlon events at Wunna Theikdaw swimming pool, and men’s body-building and women’s physical culture contests at Paunglaung Gymnasium in Pyinmuma Township. Salai Kyaw Min (Yangon) stood first in the above 75 kilo body-building event and Nang Loung Kham (Mandalay) first in women’s 5 feet and 3 inches high event.—MNA

Kane rescues late point for Spurs, Liverpool win

LONDON, 23 Feb — Tottenham Hotspur’s Harry Kane staged controversy with a goal six minutes into added time to rescue a 2-2 home draw with 11th-placed Everton.

Kane’s status as the Premier League’s man-of-the-moment looked fully justified when he burst into the box to win a last-gasp penalty at White Hart Lane and stepped up to convert on the rebound after his initial effort was parried.

As well as sending the home crowd into raptures, it completed a superb comeback for the hosts who had trailed 2-0 to goals from Cheikhou Kouyate and Diafra Sakho, before Danny Rose’s scrappy effort heralded a late cavalry charge.

There was no need for late heroics by Liverpool, who took the lead after three minutes at St Mary’s through Philippe Coutinho’s stunning curler that caught the underside of the crossbar on its way past Southamp-
ton keeper Fraser Forster.

The match was dripping with controversy, how-
ever, as the hosts had three penalty appeals turned down in the driving south coast rain while Liverpool keep-
er Simon Mignolet handled outside the area and escaped a red card. The three points that lifted Liverpool into sixth above Tottenham were wrapped up when Raheem Sterling converted from close range with 17 minutes remaining. Liverpool are now a point clear of Tot-
tenham on 45, one behind Southampton and two off fourth-placed Manchester United who occupy the final Champions League qualifying spot.

After a bright start at White Hart Lane, Spurs fell behind, as they have done frequently this season, when Kouyate drilled his header past Loris Karius midway through the first half. The visitors doubled their lead when Sakho arrived at the far post to squeeze Mark Noble’s cross back across goal and into the net after 62 minutes.

Spurs, however, have now recovered 16 points from losing positions this season and the fight back began when Adrian fluffed a punch clear, allowing full-
back Rose to send a bouncing effort looping into the net. Spurs were rewarded for their late siege when Alexis Sanchez put his arm on Kane as the forward burst into the box, giving him the chance to tussle for a pen-
alty, which he dispatched at the second attempt.

The controversial part of Tottenham’s leveller was that it arrived after the allotted five minutes of inju-
ry time, leaving West Ham manager Sam Allardyce to fume. When asked if referee Jonathan Moss should have blown for full-time as soon as the ball crossed the line, Allardyce said on Sky Sports. “We’ve been Southampton home and away, that’s a sign of how well we’re playing.”

Earlier, bottom club Leicester City came pain-
fully close to pulling off a surprise comeback win at Everton but were pegged back to draw 2-2 when Romelu Lukaku’s header was deflected in by Matthew Upson with two minutes remaining.

Steven Naismith had given 12th-placed Everton a second-half lead before goals from Leicester’s Dav-
vid Nongut and Esteban Cambiasso turned the match around but they could not hold on and are now four points adrift at the foot of the table.—Reuters

Southampton v Liverpool, Barclays Premier League, St Mary’s Stadium, Liverpool’s Dejan Lovren in action with Southampton’s Eljero Elia on 22 Feb, 2015.—Reuters

Medal tally in 4th National Sports Festival 2015

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Theingi Tun of Ayeyawady stands first, Panhsai Kha Karant of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area second and Tin Win Kyi of Mandalay third in women’s triathlon event.—MNA

The Vice President of Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation Daw L. Khun Yi greets winners in women’s physical culture contest.-MNA

3rd Placing: Phyu State-3 Gold, 1 Silver, 1 Bronze
2nd Placing: Mon State-2 Gold, 2 Silver, 1 Bronze
1st Placing: Ayeyawady Region-1 Gold, 4 Silver, 2 Bronze

Medal tally in 4th National Sports Festival 2015

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