The New Light of Myanmar

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
(Order No.4 /2014)
14th Waxing of Tabodwe, 1375 ME
(13th February, 2014)

Appointment of Union Minister

Under the Section 232 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 12 of the Union Government Law, Dr Daw Khin Sann Yi has been appointed as the Union Minister for Education.

Sd/ Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
(Order No. 5/2014)
14th Waxing of Tabodwe, 1375 ME
(13th February, 2014)

Deputy Minister reshuffled

Under the subsections (a) and (d) of Section 234 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Para (9), subsection (b) under the Section 16 of the Union Government Law, Deputy Minister for Education Dr Sann Lwin has been transferred to the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development as the Deputy Minister.

Sd/ Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Myanmar to become new ASEAN investment frontier following establishment of Special Economic Zones

Vice-President U Nyan Tun delivers address at coordination meeting of central work committee for Myanmar Special Economic Zones.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Feb—In his address at a work coordination meeting at the Presidential Palace, here, today, Vice-President U Nyan Tun stressed the need to take advantages of special economic zones during the term of Myanmar's ASEAN Chairmanship, without failing to grab the economic opportunities that will be brought about by the country's economic reforms and regional economic integration connectivity.

The chairman of the central work committee for Myanmar Special Economic Zones highlighted the importance of special economic zones as long-term investments being made for ensuring job creation and the rapid economic growth in the country. With the emergence of new Myanmar SEZ Law approved by the President on 23 January, 2014, implementation of three special economic zones—Dawei SEZ, Thilawa SEZ and Kyaukpyu SEZ—are taking place with momentum, he added.

He called for a comprehensive strategy in order to deal with advantages and disadvantages of the establishment of SEZs. He pointed out the importance economic, social and environmental harmony for ensuring sustainable development of special economic zones. It is necessary to set up integrated economic zones at the places where SEZs are not possible to establish, he urged.

Being an ASEAN member country, investors in Myanmar are allowed to enjoy rights given by ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement-ACIA and ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement. As Myanmar will be seen as a new investment frontier in ASEAN following the establishment of SEZs, it is required to grasp the golden opportunities without fail. So, effective measures are needed to attract more investment inflows, he added.

Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Special Economic Zone Central Working Group Union Minister Dr Kan Zaw explained matters on work progress of the project and expenses and Secretary U Myo Aung on decisions and undertakings of the central working group.

Chairman of Dawei Special Economic Zone Management Committee Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein said that the committee is carrying out framework agreement signed between Dawei SEZMC and Dawei Special Economic Zone Development Co Ltd (SPV-1) on 21-11-2013. Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV-1) was formed in Bangkok to invite international investors and developers in the project and plan is underway to set up SPV-2 in Myanmar, he said.

SPV-2 will be registered in Myanmar and it will become an operational level company linking Dawei SEZ and related projects as a joint venture company, he added.

Chairman of Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone Management Committee Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Myint Thein said that the committee will implement the project through transparent approach and accountable approach.

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LOCAL NEWS

Dredging of Uru Creek helps maintain proper flow of water in Phakant Township

Heavy machinery at work to dredge water course in Uru Creek.

PHAKANT, 13 Feb—Kyaing International, Super Sein, Lon Hai, Shwe Hein Htet, Myanmar Seinle Aung, Sein Thura Sein, Hsin Gaung Taung, Myint Shin, Jade Power, Yadana Sein, Kaung Mon (Hsu Htoo Pan) and Yadana Aung Companies are carrying out dredging of Uru Creek in Hmawsisar and Htwehsanyang regions of Phakant Township in Kachin State.

They are participating in the Uru Creek dredging part (1) project with the use of heavy machinery as of 10 February morning.

The tasks were inspected by Kachin State Hluttaw representative U In Pharwng Ham, Director U Shwe Lin Maung of Jade Department of Myanma Gems Enterprise, Deputy Director U Maung Maung Shein, member of Township Development Supportive Committee U Po Htu, townselders and officials of the churches.

MMAL-064

Winners awarded in chess tournament

GANGAW, 13 Feb—The prize presentation of the chess tournament took place at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Gangaw of Magway Region on 11 February.

U Sithu of Magway secured the first, U Tin Tun Zaw of Yangon second and U Aung Myo Hlaing of Yangon third.

Assistant Director Daw Nwe of Sports and Physical Education Department of Gangaw District awarded the winners. A total of 25 contestants took part in the tourney.—*Kyemon-465*

Mongyu 105th-Mile Village gets new administrative office

MUSE, 13 Feb—The opening ceremony of administrator office of Mongyu 105th-Mile Village was held at the village in Muse Township in Muse District in Shan State (North) on 9 February morning.

At first, Township Administrator U Ko Ko Zaw and Village Administrator U Maung Hsai opened the new office and the village administrator made a speech.

Officials presented certificates of honour to wellwishers who contributed to construction of the administrator office.

The village administrator reported on completion of the office.

It was attended by departmental officials, NGOs and townselders.

MMAL-L Soe

Library building handed over in Monywa Tsp

MONYWA, 13 Feb—Alinyaung Library building was donated by U Kyaw Nyunt (Rtd Captain)-Daw Khin Hla Mon of PyinOoLwin of Mandalay Region in Hnawbin Village of Monywa Township.

Recently, Staff Officer of District Information and Public Relations Department Daw Aye Mya Mon, Chairman of Township Development Affairs Committee U Nyunt Soe and officials formally opened the building.

The wellwisher donated the building and books. The wellwisher had donated various buildings in religious affairs and development tasks worth K 43.3 million.

The library is now storing over 700 copies of books and publications donated by U Kyaw Nyunt-Daw Khin Hla Mon and family and local people.

The library building is 24 feet long, 16 feet wide and 10 feet high, worth K 2.8 million.

Kyemon-District IPRD

Construction

New school building handed over in Monywa Township

MONYWA, 13 Feb—Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye attended the opening ceremony of two-storey building "Pyinnya Yadana" of Basic Education Middle School Branch in Payitkon Village of Monywa Township, Sagaing Region, on 10 February.

Region Minister Dr Myint Thein, Region Education Officer U Phone Kywe and wellwisher U Kyaw Htay formally opened the school building.

At the ceremony, the Chief Minister made a speech. Wellwisher U Kyaw Htay presented documents related to the building to the region education officer. The Chief Minister presented one colour TV, exercise books, 1200 dozens of pencils and sports gear to officials of the school.

The new school building is 168 feet long, 32 feet wide and 26 feet high. It cost K 175,536,000.

Kyemon-Region IPRD

Fine tradition

Myanmar traditional cow contest organized

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Feb—Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Livestock Breeding and Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department jointly organized the first Myanmar traditional bullock cart and cow contest in Shansulay Village of Pyinmana Township of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 11 February.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council Member Col Myint Aung Than and officials formally opened the contest.

Bullock carts and cows were shown in the contest.

A total of 36 cows, bulls and oxen took part in the contest. The contest was aimed at preserving the Myanmar fine traditions and culture.

News and Photo: Ko Myo (Shwepaukkan)

WORLD

Blast aimed at Pakistani police bus kills 11, wounds 33

ISLAMABAD, 13 Feb — An explosion targeting a bus full of Pakistani policemen killed 11 and injured 33 near the southern port city of Karachi on Thursday, officials said, in the latest incident of violence while the government and the Taleban are engaged in peace talks.

Many of the wounded policemen were badly hurt and in critical condition, said Dr Seemin Jamali, head of the emergency department at the city's Jinnah Medical Centre.

It was unclear whether the blast was set off by a suicide bomber or a roadside bomb, said senior police officer Rao Anwar.

The bombing follows an attack on the home of a slain policemen that killed nine members of a pro-government militia on Wednesday, and a grenade attack on a cinema on Tuesday that killed 13. Both attacks were in the northern city of Peshawar. None of the attacks has been claimed by the Taleban. The violence comes amid peace talks between government and Taleban representatives aimed at trying to end Pakistan's violent insurgency. Both sides are supposed to refrain from major attacks during the talks.

But many question whether the Taleban, who have repeatedly said they reject democracy and want Pakistan ruled according to a strict brand of Islamic law, will be able to strike a compromise with the government.

Others worry that there are too many militant groups in Pakistan to negotiate with. Several such groups, not included in the talks, have carried out bloody bombings of markets, churches, and mosques.—*Reuters*

A security official uses a tape to cordon off a site of a damaged police bus after an explosion in Karachi on 13 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

Swiss immigration vote shows loss of trust in business elite

Swiss Economy Minister Johann Schneider-Ammann follows the debate of the 'Minimal Salary' initiative in the National Council in Bern on 27 Nov, 2013 file photo. —REUTERS

FRANKFURT, 13 Feb — A loss of trust in Switzerland's business and political elite may be one of the reasons the alpine nation voted in favor of putting strict limits on immigration, Swiss Economy Minister Johann Schneider-Ammann said on Wednesday.

Pointing to a "culture of excess", Schneider-Ammann said pursuit of profit sometimes at the expense of the common good had turned off ordinary people from political and business leaders. Swiss voters on Sunday narrowly backed an initiative "against mass immigration," following a successful campaign by the populist right-wing Swiss People's Party, which blamed an influx of foreigners for higher crime, rising rents and congested streets.

The Swiss government and business lobby groups had urged a vote against the proposal, emphasizing that it would make it difficult for businesses to recruit qualified staff on whom the Swiss economy and the banking and pharmaceutical industries depend.

"The Swiss government failed in its dealings with the people to convince them of the merits of the system," Schneider-Ammann told a small gathering organized by the Swiss Consulate in Frankfurt, Germany. "It's as if our citizens believe that free markets do more damage than good."

In the past, arguments put forward by lobby groups had held greater sway, Schneider-Ammann said. "There is a break in trust between business, citizens and the political elite," he said. Although the rational arguments in favor of preserving the free movement of people had failed to trump more emotional and xenophobic sentiments, the Swiss government would continue to lobby for greater openness, he said.—*Reuters*

Italian government in crisis as PM Letta fights calls to go

Italy's Interior Minister Angelino Alfano speaks during a news conference in Lampedusa 9 Oct, 2013.
REUTERS

ROME, 13 Feb—Italian Prime Minister Enrico Letta faces a showdown with his own centre-left party on Thursday that could lead to his resignation and the appointment of Democratic Party leader Matteo Renzi as head of a new government within days.

Letta, a low-key moderate appointed to lead the cross-party coalition patched together after last year's deadlocked elections, is fighting for his political future after growing criticism from Renzi over the slow pace of economic reform.

A meeting of the 140-strong leadership committee of the Democratic Party at 3 p.m. (1400 GMT) will decide whether he has the backing of his party to continue, or will be forced to stand aside less than a year after taking office.

The latest bout of turmoil in Italy, the euro zone's third-largest economy, has so far had little impact on financial markets, in contrast with the volatility seen during previous crises, such as the deadlock after last year's election.

However, the continual uncertainty has held back any radical effort to revive an economy struggling to emerge from its worst slump since World War Two and cut levels of unemployment not seen since the 1970s.

If Renzi succeeds in ousting Letta, as most media and political commentators expect, he would be Italy's third unelected prime minister in succession after the technocrat Mario Monti and Letta, named as premier after weeks of fruitless wrangling between rival parties.

Renzi, an ambitious 39-year-old whose main experience of government has been as mayor of Florence, is not a member of parliament and has never stood in a national election.

Reuters

US Congress approves debt limit increase after Senate drama

WASHINGTON, 13 Feb— The US Congress approved an increase in the country's debt limit through March 2015, bowing to President Barack Obama's demands to extend federal borrowing authority without conditions, but only after a dramatic Senate vote on Wednesday.

Final action in the Senate followed an hour-long nail-biting procedural tally forced by the objections of Republican Ted Cruz, a conservative Tea Party favourite. It appeared at first there would not be enough Republicans to join the Democratic majority and advance the bill.

A decision by Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell and Senate Republican Whip John Cornyn, who are both up for re-election this year, to vote to advance the measure appeared to kick the procedural tally over the needed 60 votes.

After a few more tense minutes of huddling on the Senate floor, several other Republicans changed their votes to follow their leadership. In the end, 12 Republicans joined Democrats in advancing the bill, on a vote of 67-31. The measure, which then passed the Senate on a final, party-line vote of 55-43, now goes to Obama to be signed into law. The House of Representatives, where Republicans hold a majority, passed the measure in a close vote a day earlier, after Republicans dropped the confrontational tactics they had used in similar votes over the past three years.—*Reuters*

The Capitol Building stands in Washington on 17 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Abe aims to resolve territorial row with Russia in his term

TOKYO, 13 Feb — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Thursday he wants to resolve the nearly seven-decades-long territorial dispute between Japan and Russia before he leaves office.

"I am determined that I have somehow to resolve this problem while prime minister," Abe told a Diet committee, referring to the dispute over four Russian-administered islands off Hokkaido that has prevented the two countries from signing a peace treaty following World War II.

Abe took office in December 2012 for a second time. The reiteration of his strong desire to settle the issue came after Abe met with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday in Sochi, Russia.

The leaders agreed to accelerate talks on the issue that stems from the seizure of the isles by the Soviet Union in 1945 when Japan surrendered in the war. "I'll make full efforts to address the serious challenges of resolving the question of which country the four islands belong to and concluding a peace treaty," Abe said.—*Kyodo News*

WORLD

Egypt's Sabahi calls for release of 'prisoners of conscience'

CAIRO, 13 Feb — Egyptian politician Hamdeen Sabahi on Wednesday called for the release of what he termed "prisoners of conscience," days after he announced he would run for president.

Egypt is preparing for presidential and parliamentary polls due within six months under a political transition plan set out after the army ousted President Mohamed Mursi in July following mass protests against his rule.

Since Mursi was deposed, hundreds of his Islamist supporters have been killed and thousands arrested in a crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood. Some well-known secular dissidents have also been jailed in recent months for protesting without permission.

"At the moment there are real prisoners of conscience in Egypt," Sabahi said in an interview with a privately-owned television channel. He was referring to young people involved in the 2011 uprising that swept autocrat Hosni Mubarak from power and the 2013 protest movement against Mursi. "I demand that those leave in freedom in the style appropriate for a country under the rule of law," he said.

Sabahi, 59, came in third in 2012's presidential elections, won by Mursi. At the time, the leftist candidate built a large following, using a popular touch among voters to top candidates with better-funded campaigns.

Field Marshal Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, the army chief who ousted Mursi, has yet to announce his candidacy, but is widely expected to win the presidency easily. The interim government has declared the Brotherhood a terrorist organisation.

Secular activists arrested last month on the third anniversary of the revolt against Mubarak have told relatives and lawyers that they have been tortured, some with electric shocks.

Reuters

Leftist leader Hamdeen Sabahi speaks during an interview with Reuters in Cairo, on 29 April, 2013.—REUTERS

Pakistani women hold placards during a protest rally against terrorism in eastern Pakistan's Lahore on 12 Feb, 2014. At least 10 people were killed when some unknown militants stormed the house of a local peace militia commander in Pakistan's northwest Peshawar city, local media reported on Wednesday morning.
XINHUA

Gov't may delay sales tax hike to 10% if economy stalls

TOKYO, 13 Feb — The Japanese government will postpone the planned sales tax hike to 10 percent from 8 percent in October 2015 if the economy faces a downturn, economic and fiscal policy minister Akira Amari suggested on Thursday.

"If the economy stalls, it would be difficult to decide" to carry out the second round of the two-stage consumption tax increase following the 3-percentage-point hike from the current 5 percent in April, Amari said during a parliamentary session. "The economic situation would be a major criterion in making the decision," Amari added, indicating the government will make a final judgment on the tax hike by the end of this year after assessing various economic indicators through December, including the July-September gross domestic product data.

Amari also said that if the tax increase is delayed, the government would review its current fiscal rehabilitation plan "in a drastic manner," as the plan is based on the sales tax being raised to 10 percent. The sales tax hike is aimed at covering swelling social security costs for Japan's graying population, as the nation's fiscal health is the worst among major developed economies with public debt equivalent to more than 200 percent of GDP.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said during the same Diet session, "We will make a judgment (on the next tax increase) while assessing whether the economy will return to a growth path."

"We have yet to decide whether to raise" the consumption tax rate to 10 percent, Abe added.

Kyodo News

Japanese troops in S Sudan yet to resume infrastructure work

JUBA, 13 Feb — Japanese troops involved in a UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan do not see any prospect of resuming their original task of infrastructure building, despite a ceasefire deal signed last month, their leader said on Wednesday.

The Ground Self-Defence Force engineering unit will instead continue helping displaced people in the fledgling African country's capital Juba, Col Kenichi Igawa told *Kyodo News.*

Although South Sudan's government and rebels that had been fighting since December signed a ceasefire deal on 23 January to end what a UN official said was effectively a civil war, sporadic fighting has taken place in some parts of the country.

Noting that "A full-scale peace has yet to be attained," Igawa said the troops' current work is meant to "support the nation-building in a broad sense."

The GSDF unit has suspended its activities outside the PKO compound in Juba, where it is based, and is engaged in construction work to improve the living circumstances of tens of thousands of people taking refuge at the compound.

According to Igawa, the security situation in the capital has stabilized and the troops are secured, although gunshots are sometimes heard at nighttime.

As for the ammunition returned to the GSDF from South Korean PKO troops in South Sudan amid criticism in South Korea about the supply's political implications, the Japanese colonel said, "It shows that the South Korean troops we are working with have been secured, which pleases us."

Kyodo News

Col Kenichi Igawa, who leads a Ground Self-Defence Force engineering unit in South Sudan, is interviewed by Kyodo News in the capital Juba on 12 Feb, 2014. —KYODO NEWS

Obama to make Asia trip including Japan, S Korea in April

WASHINGTON, 13 Feb — US President Barack Obama will make a trip to Asia including Japan and South Korea in late April in a bid to promote his administration's commitment to the region, the White House said on Wednesday.

Obama's trip to Japan, during which he will meet with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, was arranged as Japan is seeking to demonstrate close bilateral ties in order to better deal with regional issues.

Obama and Abe will discuss how to deepen their security and economic ties including through the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade agreement and "expand our cooperation on a range of diplomatic challenges in Asia and globally," the White House said.

Details about Obama's visit to Japan such as the date and whether he will be accommodated as a state guest as proposed by Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida have not been decided, a White House official said.

Tokyo and Washington are working on realizing Obama's visit, which will be the first such in three and half years, on 22 and 23 April, a Japanese government official said.

In South Korea, Obama will meet with President Park Geun Hye and discuss recent developments in North Korea and efforts to promote denuclearization as well as the bilateral free trade pact, the White House said.

Obama will also visit Malaysia to meet with Prime Minister Najib Razak and then go to the Philippines to meet with President Benigno Aquino, it said.

Obama is set to visit Japan as Japanese officials are struggling to minimize the impact of a disagreement over Abe's controversial visit to a war-related shrine in December despite objection by the US side, including Vice President Joe Biden.

The US president pledged in 2011 to focus on the Asia-Pacific region describing US mission there as "a top priority."

Kyodo News

US lawmaker sues Obama over NSA data collection

WASHINGTON, 13 Feb — A US lawmaker on Wednesday officially filed his class-action lawsuit against the Obama administration over National Security Agency (NSA) data collection, joining with two prominent tea party leaders to make the announcement.

Rand Paul, a Republican senator from Kentucky, inveighed against NSA surveillance and promised a "historic" lawsuit. He and his allies hope to take the case, which focuses on the NSA's gathering of telephone metadata, to the Supreme Court. The suit challenges US President Barack Obama, Director of National Intelligence James Clapper and NSA Director Keith Alexander.

There's a huge and growing swell of protest in this country of people who are outraged that their records are being taken without suspicion, without a judge's warrant and without individualization, according to the statement made by Paul to a news conference. Ken Cuccinelli, Virginia's former attorney general, is serving as lead counsel for the case. Paul was also joined by Matt Kibbe, the president and CEO of the tea party-tied group FreedomWorks. The men stressed they wanted to make sure the NSA was not going beyond the boundaries of the Constitution.

The senator also argued that there's "no evidence" that NSA surveillance of phone data has stopped terrorism, even as the agency's proponents say it plays an important role in keeping the country safe. Reports over the weekend indicated that the NSA takes information only from 20 percent of American calls, or less — a lower figure than previously thought.

But Paul noted that the point is not how many percent NSA took, but whether or not you still collect millions of people's information with a single warrant.

Xinhua

WORLD

Panel urges Japan to promote physical education in developing nations

TOKYO, 13 Feb— Members of a government panel tasked with strengthening Japan's "sports diplomacy" on Thursday urged the country to increase measures to help developing nations train people through sports, according to the Foreign Ministry.

One member told the inaugural meeting of the 10-member panel that Japan's physical education system is highly advanced so it means a lot for Tokyo to introduce it and even export it to other countries, the ministry said in a news release.

Another member said Japan should promote cooperation with recipient countries in building sports-related infrastructure there and assisting athletes in brushing up their skills, it said.

Other members said Japan should make the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics in Tokyo an event that will contribute to world peace.

Members urged the government, the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the private sector to join hands in effectively promoting sports diplomacy in the run-up to the 2020 games, the ministry said.

The panel plans to meet once in two months or so before compiling a set of proposals for Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida by the end of the year. The next meeting is slated for March 10, with the theme of development and sports.

Headed by Kazuo Ogura, adviser to the Japan Foundation, the panel includes Yuko Arimori, who won the silver medal in the women's marathon at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, and Daichi Suzuki, men's backstroke gold medalist at the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Kyodo News

The CP+2014 camera and photo imaging show begins in Yokohama, near Tokyo, on 13 Feb, 2014. The four-day event is one of Asia's biggest camera exhibitions.
KYODO NEWS

Members of a paramilitary troop head for earthquake-stricken areas in Yutian County, Hotan, northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, on 12 Feb, 2014. A total of 260 paramilitary troop members have been dispatched to Yutian County for disaster relief work, after a 7.3-magnitude earthquake struck the county at 5:19 pm Wednesday.—XINHUA

No casualties reported in quake-hit Xinjiang

URUMQI, 13 Feb— Sections of railways were temporarily suspended after a 7.3-magnitude quake hit northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on Wednesday afternoon, according to local authorities. The railway administration of Urumqi suspended a section from Hotan to Moyu on the Kahe Railway, which links Kashgar and Hotan, for safety reasons. A total of 531 passengers were stranded at Moyu.

Service resumed at 6:52 pm after safety and security checks. The earthquake struck Yutian County in the prefecture of Hotan at 17:19 pm, according to the China Earthquake Networks Centre. The epicentre, at a depth of 23 km, was monitored at about 36.1 degrees north latitude and 82.5 degrees east longitude, the center said.

An ensuing 5.7-magnitude quake hit the same area at 5:24 pm at a depth of 5 km, followed by several quakes below 5-magnitude. So far, no casualties have been reported. The quake was felt strongly by residents in Hotan, Yutian and Moyu.

The epicenter was in a sparsely populated area with an average altitude of 5,000 meters. It was more than 50 km away from the nearest settlement, Aqqan village in Yutian County, and more than 900 km away from the regional capital of Urumqi.

Local residents said the houses near the epicenter are all earthquake-resistant and nomads are less likely in the mountainous areas where the epicenter was located during winter.

Xinhua

Top US anti-drug official pledges support for Honduras

TEGCIGALPA, 13 Feb — A top US government anti-drug official on Wednesday pledged his country's continued support for Honduras' fight against drug trafficking, local media reported.

William Brownfield, the US State Department's Assistant Secretary for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, told a radio station in the Honduran capital Tegucigalpa, "there are many areas in which we are going to continue collaborating in the future."

Brownfield arrived in Honduras on Tuesday from Guatemala for a two-day visit to meet with newly-instated Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernandez and his top aides, and consolidate the US collaboration in fighting crimes.

He described his meeting with President Hernandez Tuesday night as "positive, serious and frank."

In his interview with Radio America de Tegucigalpa, Brownfield said officials were working to find a solution to the problem of drug-trafficking in Honduras.

Regarding Honduras' request for a radar to beef up its anti- drug fight, Brownfield said, "the radar is only one element of a whole package, a part of the solution."

"It would be a mistake to talk about the radar as the solution, " he said, adding "if you have the radar, but not the capacity to respond to the coordinates indicated by the radar, then it's not much help."—*Xinhua*

Photo released by the Turkish Presidential Palace shows Turkish President Abdullah Gul (R) welcoming visiting Afghanistan President Hamid Karzaiter to attend the 8th Turkey-Afghanistan-Pakistan Trilateral Summit in Ankara, Turkey, on 12 Feb, 2014.
XINHUA

S Korean military confirms staging military drills with US as scheduled

SEOUL, 13 Feb — South Korean military confirmed on Thursday that it will stage the joint military drills with the United States as scheduled because it is an exercise of defensive nature. "The 'Key Resolve' and 'Foal Eagle' military exercises are carried out annually and are defensive in nature. Those are very important to defend the Republic of Korea and the Korean Peninsula,"Defence Ministry spokesman Kim Min-seok told a routine Press briefing.

Kim said that it was not appropriate to link the humanitarian event of family reunion to the military exercises for national security, noting that the scale and schedules of the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle drills were already agreed on last year between Seoul and Washington.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) called for South Korea to delay the joint military exercises until after the agreed family reunion during the senior-level talks, the first in seven years, held on Wednesday at the border village of Panmunjeom.

Seoul and Pyongyang agreed last week to hold reunion of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War from 20 to 25 February at the DPRK's scenic resort of Mount Kumgang.

The Defence Ministry said on Monday that combined forces of South Korea and the United States will conduct the Key Resolve and Foal Eagle war games from 24 February to 18 April, dates that overlap for two days with the family reunion event.—*Xinhua*

Ex-South Sudan political detainees to join peace talks in Ethiopia

NAIROBI, 13 Feb — Seven South Sudan detainees released to Kenya in January are set to join the second round of negotiations on a comprehensive and political agreement between the warring parties.

The seven political leaders, including Rebecca Garang, widow of the late revered South Sudanese leader John Garang, met Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta in Nairobi on Wednesday to thank him for Kenya's generosity and interest in ensuring that peace and stability was restored to South Sudan.

"We cannot thank you enough for the role Kenya has played in ensuring that we can start on the path of peace and political settlement," Rebecca told President Kenyatta, according to statement issued after the meeting.

The political leaders flew to Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa on Wednesday to join all-party talks aimed at resolving the political crisis in Africa's youngest nation. The talks resumed in Addis Ababa on Tuesday.

"It was important to put pressure as you did, that our brothers in South Sudan agree to a cessation of hostilities. Now they must work to ensure people in camps can be allowed to return home, and that the remaining political detainees are freed so they can play their rightful role in the search for a lasting settlement," Garang added.

The rebels have called for the release of the four remaining political detainees and the removal of Ugandan troops in South Sudan before the talks can begin. The rebels say that unless their demands are met, they will boycott the negotiations. The talks however resumed on Tuesday.

The two sides signed a ceasefire last month following peace talks mediated by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), leading to a relative lull.—*Xinhua*

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Britain to ban smoking in cars carrying children

LONDON, 13 Feb — Smoking will soon be banned in cars carrying children in Britain, the government said on Tuesday, under new laws aimed at reducing the effects of passive smoking on young people.

The move comes after lobbying from health campaigners and the opposition Labour party, who cited research showing that smoking in cars exposed children to more concentrated smoke and caused health problems.The government confirmed it would seek to implement a ban before an election in May next year, after lawmakers voted on Monday to give ministers the power to bring in the measure.

"The intention is for the secondary regulations to be in force ahead of May 2015," Prime Minister David Cameron's official spokesman said on Tuesday. "There is a particular issue around vehicles being a particularly confined space and the associated public health concerns."

A man smokes in his car in London on 16 Nov, 2011. REUTERS

The ban has been criticized by some parliamentarians and lobbyists as an intrusion on individual freedoms. British American Tobacco said it agreed that children should not be exposed to cigarette smoke in confined spaces like cars, but said it would be concerned if the ban were ever extended to affect smoking when children were not present.—*Reuters*

SoftBank CEO: 'No comment' on Sprint's reported talks to buy T-mobile

TOKYO, 13 Feb — SoftBank Corp Chief Executive Masayoshi Son on Wednesday declined to comment on reports that his company's subsidiary Sprint Corp is looking to buy US rival T-Mobile US.

Son also declined comment on US regulators' reported skepticism about the potential merger between Sprint and T-Mobile.

Speaking at a news conference to brief on SoftBank's financial results, Son, who is also chairman of Sprint, said he could not comment on "rumors in the industry."—*Reuters*

Softbank Corp's logo is pictured at its branch in Tokyo on 11 June, 2013.—REUTERS

FDA to review possible heart risks with AstraZeneca's diabetes drug

BANGALORE, 13 Feb — The US Food and Drug Administration said it will review possible heart risks associated with AstraZeneca Plc's widely-used diabetes drug saxagliptin, marketed as Onglyza and Kombiglyze XR.

The health regulator said it requested for data from clinical trials after *the New England Journal of Medicine* published data that showed a small rise in hospitalizations for heart failure among patients using saxagliptin.

The data was published by *NEJM* in September and was based on a study supported by AstraZeneca and Bristol-Myers Squibb Co, with whom AstraZeneca co-developed the drug before buying all rights in a deal completed earlier this month. That study did not find an increase in the rate of deaths or other major cardiovascular risks, including heart attacks or strokes, in patients who received saxagliptin, the FDA said on its website on Tuesday.

The FDA said it asked for the trial data to be submitted by early March, after which it would analyze and publicly report the findings.

The FDA said it considers the information in the NEJM study to be preliminary and that healthcare professionals should continue to prescribe the drug according to the recommendation on the drug's label.

AstraZeneca's shares were up 0.8 percent at $64.93 in morning trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

The review of the saxagliptin trial data was part of a broader evaluation of all type 2 diabetes drugs and cardiovascular risk, the FDA said.

Heart-related problems, such as ones seen with GlaxoSmithKline's Avandia pill, are a concern with diabetes drugs, especially as diabetics also have an increased risk of heart troubles.

Saxagliptin is used along with diet and exercise to lower blood sugar in adults with type 2 diabetes. It works by increasing the amount of insulin produced by the body after meals, when blood sugar is high. Type 2 diabetes is a disease in which there is a high level of sugar in the blood as the body does not make or properly use the insulin hormone.—*Reuters*

Alibaba share sale values the China e-commerce firm at $128 billion

An employee walks past a logo of Alibaba Group at its headquarters on the outskirts of Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, in this on 17 May, 2010 file photo. REUTERS

BEIJING, 13 Feb — A rare sale of a stake in Alibaba Group Holding (IPO-ALIB.N) values China's dominant e-commerce company at around $128 billion, *Reuters* calculations show.Alibaba is expected to go public later this year in the world's biggest listing since Facebook Inc's (FB.O) debut in 2012 and the potential value of the firm and its IPO are a key focus for investors keen to cash in on China's booming online retail market.

A recent *Reuters* poll of eight analysts had put Alibaba's market value at around $140 billion and the value of the IPO at $15 billion. Chinese video game company Giant Interactive Group (GA.N) said on Tuesday it is selling a stake in Alibaba to a Tiger Global fund for roughly $199 million but did not disclose further details.

Giant Interactive bought a $50 million stake in Alibaba in 2011 through Yunfeng Capital, a China-based private equity firm co-founded by Alibaba Executive Chairman Jack Ma.Around that time, Alibaba was valued at around $32 billion after a private equity consortium led by Silver Lake SILAK.UL, Yunfeng Capital and DST Global bought a 5 percent stake for $1.6 billion.

Assuming that Giant's stake has not changed since 2011, it is now worth roughly four times its original amount and Alibaba's value would have correspondingly increased to $128 billion. The IPO has suffered some delay as Alibaba has struggled to reach an agreement with Hong Kong regulators over a partnership structure it hopes to use as part of the IPO. The location of the listing has yet to be decided.

Giant Interactive said it is selling its holdings in Yunfeng E-Commerce Funds to a fund owned by Tiger Global Management LLC.Tiger Global also owns a 22.1 percent stake in Alibaba's main Chinese e-commerce rival JD.com, according to a JD.com filing. JD.com, China's second-largest e-commerce company formerly known as Jingdong and 360Buy, filed for a US listing in January.

Reuters

Kids may suffer in gap between haves and have-nots

NEW YORK, 13 Feb — In US counties where personal incomes cluster on opposite sides of the rich and poor spectrum, children might endure more neglect and abuse, according to a new US study. Based on the analysis of data from the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System and the US Census Bureau's American Community Survey, the effect appears strongest in counties with high poverty. Approximately every minute, about six maltreatment referrals are given to state and local agencies in the US, according to the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention.

It's not possible to say income inequality actually causes child maltreatment, but, "we know the reverse hypothesis is not true," John Eckenrode said. "Child maltreatment does not cause income inequality."Ekenrode, a psychologist at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, led the study."Also we have ruled out some possible alternate explanations in our study, such as level of education, public assistance levels, child poverty rates and state-level variations in rates of maltreatment," he told *Reuters Health*." Given what we already know, it makes sense that income inequality could create a social context where child maltreatment happens," said Kate Pickett, a social epidemiologist at the University of York in the United Kingdom.

"This adds to past evidence that greater income inequality harms us all," she said. Researchers looked at data on 3,142 US counties between 2005 and 2009. They found that rates of child maltreatment ranged widely, from 0.2 percent to 3.1 percent of children. Using statistical methods to gauge income inequality, they found a steep rise in the rate of child maltreatment with rising inequality. The relationship held after researchers adjusted for poverty itself, and other factors such as the racial and ethnic makeup of regions, education levels and the number of people receiving public assistance income.

Where inequalities are most extreme, communities may become more polarized, with the affluent group influencing where public aid money goes, or what programmes are made available in the community, said Dr Ruth Gilbert, a clinical epidemiologist at University College London in the UK."—*Reuters*

ARTICLE

Industry-based Training for Occupational Skills Development

The Demand for Manpower

With the advent of the new Government in Myanmar in 2011, and the subsequent increase in local as well as Foreign Direct Investments, the demand for manpower is also increasing. Myanmars' labour force is estimated at around 30 million. Many young persons with basic education, or technical high school, Government Technical Institute, college, Institutes of Technology or university qualifications in various fields are in the labour market. Thus there is an ample supply of manpower. The labour market situation reveals that the demand for manpower is related to the different types of employees/workers in the organization.

The different types of employees/workers, starting with the highest are, higher level executives, professionals, technical and related workers, administrators and managers, office staff and clerical workers, supervisors, skilled workers of different levels, semi-skilled workers, general workers and apprentices/ helpers.

On the part of employers there may not be much difficulty in hiring the executives, professionals, administrators, managers, technicians, etc. at the upper end or hiring the general workers at the low end of the employee/worker chain. However, for many employers getting the 'right' workers may be difficult for most of the categories of skilled workers in between. Employers say that there can be a *skills gap between levels of skill required for the job* and the actual skills possessed by many of the skilled workers in the labour market.

Role of Industry-based Training

In the first place the *specific skilled worker needs* of industry are many and varied. Where demand for a particular type of skilled worker is high, there may not be a 'pool' of such workers available in the labour market to meet the *specific skill needs* of the job/occupation concerned. The alternative for the enterprises/employers is to hire workers with the required basic qualifications/ skills and to get them trained, either 'on-the-job' and/ or 'off-the-job' or both according to the *specific skill needs of the jobs/occupations.* Such training should be carried out periodically within the industry/enterprise, throughout the entire working life of the workers, to upgrade or update their skills and enable them to keep up with changes in technology and also for them to acquire qualifications to advance in their careers.

The training of workers by the employers within the industry/enterprise or entrusting parts of such training to training providers is a common practice in most countries. In many countries, *laws on skilled worker development,* promotes industry-based/enterprise-based/ in-plant training through various systems of incentives. Many organizations or enterprises establish skills training centers to train their workers according to their specific needs.

According to the Human Resources Development Recommendation of the ILO (2004), there is a need for workers to develop their competencies through a system of 'lifelong learning' and enterprises need to train their workers/employees to remain competitive in the globalized market. Also, according to the recommendation, the competencies of existing workers, irrespective of how they acquired them, need to be recognized (Recognition of Prior learning) to enable the workers to advance in their careers and improve their status in life.

The Employment and Skills Development Law

In Myanmar the Employment and Skills Development Law was enacted by the Pyithu Hluttaw in August 2013. Under the law a Central Employment and Skills Development Body (CESDB), headed by the Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security and comprising of representatives of the concerned ministries and the private sector is to be formed by the Union Government. The CESDB is to form under it, with the approval of the Union Government, an Employment Promotion Body (EPB) and a Skills Development Body (SDB) each headed by a deputy minister and comprising of representatives of the ministries concerned and the private sector. The SDB's function is to lay down policy and standards for promoting the systematic development of occupational skills of the workforce by employers and authorized training providers.

There are provisions in the law to form, under the SDB, Skills Standards and Training Committees according to industry sectors as well as Skills Testing and Certification committee for National Level Certification of Skills. Their functions are to set competency standards for occupations, to oversee training of skilled workers according to the competency standards and supervise testing and certification by authorized testing centres for the workers' competency to be certified at the national level. Employers can also train according to their own skill standards and curricula. However, these standards and curricula need to be approved by the Skill Development Body (SDB) for the workers to be eligible for national level certification.

Besides, the law empowers the Skills Development Body to set up a Skills Development Fund (SDF) with the approval of the Union Government, to help support systematic training of workers by employers, in line with the policy of the Skills Development Body. Employers of industries/ enterprises covered by the SDF are to pay contributions to the SDF of at least 0.5% of the payroll of their employed workers up to the supervisory levels.

Those employers or groups of employers conducting of providing occupational skills training for workers according to their needs and in line with the policy of the SDB, can be reimbursed the cost incurred, from the SDF by the Skills Development Fund Management Committee according to the rules and regulations for such reimbursement.

Occupational Skills Training of Workers

Production workers and operators who need to have a *limited range of specific job skills* are in demand by most labour intensive manufacturing industries like food processing, garments, shoes, leather goods, electronic component assembly, machinery component assembly, etc. They are required to perform jobs which involve repetitive tasks such as operation of production machines, assembly of parts, manipulation of tools and materials, control of material moving machinery within the worker area, etc. production workers and operators form the largest part of the workforce of the manufacturing industry.

Training of production workers and operators, can be met by 'structured' (as opposed to informal) training on-the-job within the enterprise/plant itself. The more complex operations with the required level of 'knowledge' to perform the job, can be trained through a mix of off-the-job instruction and on-the-job practice under supervision. Training of the production workers and operators can usually be carried out within a period of about two/three weeks to two/three months depending on the complexity of the job.

Kyaw Win (Labour)

Skilled workers are in demand by production as well as service sectors. They are the workers with a *wide range of skills and knowledge* required for adequate performance in the occupation concerned. These skilled workers may have basic, intermediate or high levels of skills according to the requirements of the ranges of jobs/tasks to be performed. Skilled workers such as welders, electricians, machinists, fitters, mechanics etc. form the backbone of maintenance crews in the production and service industries.

For training of skilled workers *with a wide range of occupational skills* a similar approach of structured on-the-Job training supplemented by off-the-job training of a longer duration to cover the range of knowledge required by the worker can be resorted to. Many large private and public sector enterprises, private sector employer groups or private training providers have training schools/centres for training of skilled workers according to *industry specific needs.* Various types of training courses including basic, upgrading, updating or occupational retraining can be conducted in these training centers. Many types of occupational training can also be conducted using the modular system. There could be period of employment after each module is completed before the worker is qualified to take on the next module.

For small and medium enterprises that may not have the capacity to conduct effective off-the-job training, group training centres for training in the required occupations could be established by groups of employers or the employers associations concerned or authorized training providers. These training centers could also be equipped to impart the basic skills of the occupations concerned. Alternatively the enterprises could send their workers for periods of off-the-job training to public or private training providers in the occupation concerned. The cost of training could be reimbursed, as mentioned above, from the Skills Development Fund.

Under the Employment and Skills Development Law, employers may also undertake training of 'apprentices' or 'trainees' of age 16 years and above, in accordance with rules under the law and based on prescribed or approved competency standards. These apprentices, may also take skills tests at appropriate periods, in line with the various levels of skills standards and obtain National Level Certification for the level concerned. Apprentices or trainees may, by contractual obligations, work for the enterprise that trained them. Alternatively some may also be allowed by the training enterprise to take up employment in enterprises of their choice or go into self-employment. In-fact many young persons from the rural areas can be taken on as apprentices by the public and private industries and trained as skilled workers. The cost of training could be reimbursed from the Skills Development Fund. After their apprenticeship, the workers could be self-employed in their villages or towns in the repair and maintenance of agricultural machinery and equipment, as electricians and in other jobs occupational skills.

Training of Curriculum Developers, Trainers and Assessors of Skills

Industry-Based/Enterprise-Based/In-plant Training should be conducted, in accordance with prescribed or recognized ***Competency Standards*** so as to be ***quality assured*** to meet the requirements of the Occupation or Job and at the same time to be Certifiable for recognition at the National Level. Certification at the national level would help in comparing with equivalent levels of certificates of other countries, for mutual recognition of competencies, at least within the ASEAN.

The National Skills Standards Authority formed with Cabinet approval in 2007 and which is the forerunner of the Skill Development Body under the new Law, had already begun the process of drawing up competency standards for some (130) priority occupations by the Occupational Standards Committees formed with Professionals, Technicians and Instructors of Training Centres of the Ministries concerned and the private sector NGOs. The Standards are at four levels of skills, namely basic, intermediate, higher skill and supervisory levels. These levels of Competency/Skills could subsequently form the lower part of the National Qualification Framework when it is established.

The Department of Labour of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, beginning 2012, with assistance of the Temasek Foundation of Singapore and with technical assistance of the Singapore Polytechnic, has so far trained some (90) Competency Standards and Curriculum Developers among whom are (30) Master Trainers who will train other CS&CD. Also (80) instructors (including on-the-job Instructors) have been trained in competency based training methods. About (30) Master Instructor Trainers, who will train other instructors are also being trained. All the persons trained are from the private

(See page 9)

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 14 February, 2014

Be honest, work hard to fulfill General Aung San's wishes

The date of birth of our national leader General Aung San was 13 February. When we were young, we had to recite a poem dedicated to General Aung San in the classrooms. General Aung San who became a great statesman in the history of Myanmar later was born to U Pha, a lawyer, and his wife, Daw Suu, in Natmauk in Taungdwingyi district in Magway Region on 13 February, 1915.

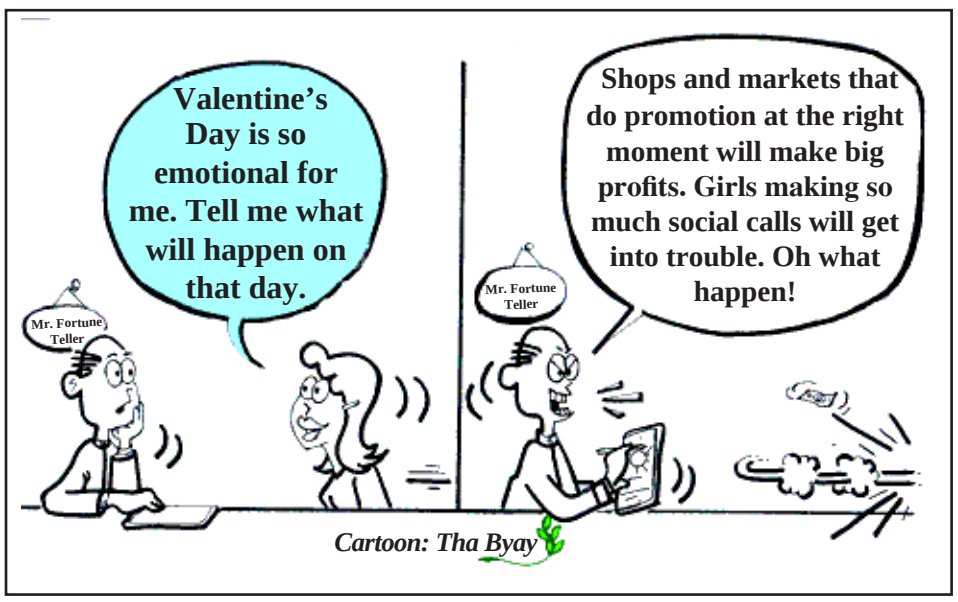
Every year, people celebrate his birthday. It is not enough to remember him. A matter of the greatest importance to the entire people is to follow the policies he laid down and admire wishes he wanted to happen and his contributions to the country.

General Aung San inspires the nation's youth with his honesty, efforts, courage, self-discipline, diligence and selfless service to the country. He truly deserves to be an inspirational role model for young Myanmar people.

"A young man who does publicity stunts is nothing," said General Aung San while addressing the country on 17 April 1947. He stressed the importance of a good reputation and called on the nation's youth to work in the countryside, rather than living in the cities, pointing out that working in the countryside is good for the country.

It is absolutely right. It is important to earn a good reputation. Whatever works does, success and trust are impossible if the actions cannot be trusted. Making a publicity stunt for your own interest cannot benefit others. Work in the countryside means the youth are to have a hand in improving the socioeconomic life of rural people.

Understanding and promoting the life of 70 percent of the total population who live in rural areas is in the interest of the country and its entire people. So, the today's government is striving for implementation of rural development undertakings. Everyone is required to be honest and hard-working citizens as a gesture of remembering our national independence architect General Aung San. Only focusing on the national interest, rather than own interests, could fulfill General Aung San's wishes.



Cartoon: Tha Byay

MMCWA donates cash to expectant mothers

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Feb— A ceremony to donate cash to expectant mothers took place at the office of Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association in Dekkhinathiri Township, here, this morning.

Honorary Patron Daw Khin Khin Win of MMCWA extended greetings on the occasion and President Dr Mon Mon Aung accepted the well-wishers' donations.

Afterwards, the Secretary of MMCWA explained the activities of the association for 2013-14 fiscal year.

The ceremony was also attended by Honorary Patrons of MMCWA Daw Nan Shwe Hmon and Daw Khin Aye Myint, Union Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, deputy ministers and officials.

MNA

Honorary Patron of MMCWA Daw Khin Khin Win extends greetings at cash donation ceremony.

MNA

Join hands in harmony, Look to prosperity

Acting Director-General U Htin Lin of International Organizations and Economic Department.

Myanmar is making preparations to host the third Summit of Bay of Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) and related meetings in Nay Pyi Taw from 1 to 4 March. Our news crew interviewed Acting Director-General U Htin Lin of International Organizations and Economic Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the BIMSTEC Summit.

Q: May I know the brief history of BIMSTEC and Myanmar's participation in the BIMSTEC?

A: On 6 June 1997, a new sub-regional grouping was formed in Bangkok and given the name BIST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, and Thailand Economic Cooperation). Myanmar attended the inaugural June Meeting as an observer and joined the organization as a full member at a Special Ministerial Meeting held in Bangkok on 22 December 1997, upon which the name of the grouping was changed to BIMST-EC. Nepal was granted observer status by the second Ministerial Meeting in Dhaka in December 1998. Subsequently, full membership has been granted to Nepal and Bhutan in 2004.

In the first Summit on 31 July 2004, leaders of the group agreed that the name of the grouping should be known as BIMSTEC or the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation.

The forum is unique as the only link between South Asia and Southeast Asia, bridging South Asia's "Look East policy" with Thailand's "Look West policy". BIMSTEC's objectives stretch from creation of economic and social prosperity based on equality, to enhancement of mutual benefits in economic, social and technological aspects.

The first Summit was held in Bangkok of Thailand on 31 July 2004. And the 2nd BIMSTEC Summit was held in New Delhi of India on 13 November 2008. India handed over BIMSTEC's chair to Myanmar at the 12th ministerial-level meeting held on 11 December 2009. Myanmar hosted 13th Ministerial-level meeting on 22 January, 2011. Plans are under way to host the 3rd BIMSTEC Summit and related meetings in Nay Pyi Taw from 1 to 4 March. Heads of States and the governments and high-ranking officials from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand will attend the summit. The subjects and the matters pertaining to the summit and related meetings have been discussed at a preparatory meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw on 27- 28 January, 2014.

Q: May I know Myanmar's role in the BIMSTEC?

A: BIMSTEC covers 14 priority sectors led by member countries in a voluntary manner; namely: trade and investment, science and technology, energy, transport and communications, tourism, fisheries, agriculture, cultural cooperation, environment and natural disaster risk management, public health, people to people contact, poverty alleviation, counter-terrorism and transnational crime and climate change. Among them, Myanmar takes a leading role in energy and agricultural sectors.

Q: What are Myanmar's expectations for the 3rd BIMSTEC summit and related meetings?

A: Memorandum of Association on the Establishment of the BIMSTEC Permanent Secretariat, Memorandum of Association on the Establishment of the BIMSTEC Centre for Weather and Climate and Memorandum of Understanding on the Establishment of the BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Commission-BCIC and BIMSTEC Cultural Industries Observatory-BCIO) would be signed at the summit. And the summit will confirm the appointment of Sri Lankan Ambassador Mr. Sumith Nakandala the first-ever Secretariat of BIMSTEC and opening of BIMSTEC Secretariat's Office in Dhaka of Bangladesh. A joint statement including the recognition of progress in cooperation will be issued at the summit.

Like the 27th SEA Games (2013) and the ASEAN Summit to be held in 2014, Myanmar's hosting the BIMSTEC Summit could bring a glory to the government and the people.

***Trs*: MT**

News Crew

Myanmar to become...

(from page 1)

Chairman of Thilawa Special Economic Zone Management Committee Vice-Governor of Central Bank of Myanmar U Set Aung said that Myanmar Japan Thilawa Development Lt will make investment in the project. Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Lt will sell out its shares to the people in Myanmar currency Kyat in the near future.

Then, the deputy ministers and officials discussed work programmes to be cooperated in the projects.

The Vice-President called the officials to make public known on work progress of the SEZs by releasing news and holding press conference by the information team.

MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing ...

(from page 16)

Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Aye and senior military officers.

The Myanmar delegation arrived at Wattay International Airport in Vientiane of Laos at 3.35 pm local standard time.

They were welcomed by Director-General Colonel Kenchan Nanthalangsy of Foreign Relations Department of the Defence Ministry of Laos and wife, Myanmar Ambassador U Kyaw Soe Win and wife, Myanmar Military Attaché (Army, Navy and Air) Col Tin Tun Aung and wife and officials.

During the visit, the Senior General will meet families of the Myanmar Embassy and the Military Attaché Office, hold talks on military affairs between the two armed forces with the Laotian President and the Minister of National Defence and pay visits to the significant places in Vientiane City and Luang Praban Province.

Myawady

Three-month licence ...

(from page 16)

Regarding the reviews of Employee and Employer Rights Observation Joint Commission, Deputy Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security U Htin Aung replied that employment agreement (draft) was sent to employers, employees and relevant ministries for their suggestions. Works for setting up a minimum wage as soon as possible are underway in accord with minimum wage law, bylaw and rules and regulations, he said.

Labour organization law and bylaws have been enacted to allow workers to form labour organizations freely, to address disputes and to ensure a good relationship between employers and employees, he added.—*MNA*

Vice-Senior General Soe Win attends Singapore Air Show 2014

***Vice-Senior General Soe Win and party pose for documentary photo together with officers of No 3 Division in Singapore.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Feb—Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win took the salute of the Guard of Honour together with Major-General Ravinder Singh, Chief of Singaporean Army, at the Ministry of Defence of Singapore on 10 February.

The Vice-Senior General met with the chief of Singaporean Army, Chief of Defence Force of Singapore Lt-Gen Ng Chee Meng and Minister of Defence Dr. Ng Eng Hen separately. They exchanged views on training matters between the two armed forces, strengthening relations and security and defence issues. He raised question on Singapore army work plan clarified by an officer through video projector at the ministry and attended a luncheon hosted by the chief of Singaporean army at Swissotel Hotel.

They then went to No (3) Division where they were welcomed by Commander Colonel Ong Tze Chin. Officials explained formation of the division, duties and functions and training and administrative matters.

The Vice-Senior General arrived at Marina Bay Sands Ballroom where Singapore Air Show 2014 will be held. Deputy Prime Minister, Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs Mr. Teo Chee Hean addressed the opening ceremony of the air show.

Myawady

Committee for Scrutinizing Excellent Performance Award of the President holds coord meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Feb—Committee for Scrutinizing Excellent Performance Award of the President held its coordination meeting at the hall of the President Office, here, this afternoon, with an address by Committee Chairman Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein.

The Union minister said that the committee is to review and scrutinize formation of the committee, saying 16 prizes are set to award to the winners in this year although 12 prizes were presented to the winners in the past.

Committee Members Deputy Ministers Brig-Gen Kyaw Zan Myint, U Paik Htwe, Dr Pwint Hsan, Dr Lin Aung and Daw Su Su Hlaing explained matters related to scrutinizing the award. Those present took part in the discussions and Union Ministers U Soe Thane and U Tin Naing Thein coordinated the essentials.

The committee chairman in his concluding remark said the award scrutinizing disciplines and award assessment table are important. He highlighted that all participation are vital for successful holding the ceremony based on the previous experience.—*MNA*

Special rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar arrives in Yangon

YANGON, 13 Feb — Mr. Tomás Ojea Quintana, special rapporteur on the human rights in Myanmar, arrived in Yangon by air this morning. He was welcomed at Yangon International Airport by departmental officials.

In the afternoon, Mr. Tomás Ojea Quintana met U Win Mra, Chairman of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, and members at the commission's office on Pyay Road in Hline Township and U Min Ko Naing and party at the office of the 88 Generation (Peace and Open Society) in Thingangyun Township in Yangon.

MNA

Toungoo Myoma market reduced into ashes

TOUNGOO, 13 Feb—A fire broke out at Myoma Market in Ward 16 of Toungoo at 6 pm today.

The fire engulfed all shops of the market and the shops on the southern wing near 6th Street.

Six fire engines from Toungoo, Ottwin, Yedashe and Pyu townships together with water bowsers put out the fire. At 8.30 pm, the fire fighters put the fire under control.

NLM

Industry-based Training...

(from page 7)

and public sector enterprises and training centres. The German Development Cooperation (GIZ) is also assisting the Department of Labour of the Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security under a Technical Cooperation Project, in the development of rules and regulations regarding the skills development provisions of the law.

The Future of Industry Based Training

Industry Based Training has been a practice with a long tradition in Myanmar. Many enterprises, large, medium and small, have resorted to informal on the job training to as the primary means of training workers to gain knowledge and specific skills of the job.

For the Small and Medium Enterprises/Industries, which at present form over 90% of all industries, taking on young persons as ' learners' and letting them acquire job skills by working as 'helpers' to the skilled workers has been the only means of training their workers according to their specific needs. For some of these 'learners' to become wage earning skilled workers can take a long time depending on the size of the enterprise.

The informal system has its drawbacks in that the training is not systematic and the knowledge component of the occupation is not properly imparted. Besides, the worker's skills are not recognized outside the Enterprise or Industry he/she is working in. Due to lack of systematic methods of training and the fact that the period served as a trainee or apprentice may be unduly prolonged, there exists the possibility of the apprentices or trainees being exploited.

Modern Apprenticeship, is practiced in many countries of the world, including developed and developing countries. In fact, for training of skilled workers in a wide range of skills of an occupation, Apprenticeship is a cost effective method as it can be undertaken on-the-job, with existing machinery or equipment. The knowledge content could be provided in a class room situation off-the-job, or the apprentices could be sent to public or private group training centres/schools for certain periods of time to be imparted the necessary knowledge component.

The recently enacted Employment and Skills Development Law has provisions requiring Employers to conduct Industry Based Training including Apprenticeship or training of 'Trainees' according to their need and the policy of the SDB. The enactment of the new law has laid down the grounds for systematic development of an *Industry/ Enterprise Based Training Culture* as a means of continuously developing the work force. This augers well for the future of Industry Based Training in the Republic of the Union Myanmar.

LOCAL NEWS

Concrete sleepers placed on Gangaw-Kalay railroad

GANGAW, 13 Feb—A total of 3000 concrete sleepers have been laid along Gangaw-Kalay railroad in Gangaw Township section.

In 2013-14 fiscal year, a plan is underway to place 5000 concrete sleepers along the railroad section.

Moreover, the railroad section is being carried out with tunnel shape works on the hillock sections.

On completion, the Gangaw-Kalay railroad section will be smoother than the past.

Kyemon-465

Crime

Theft of cut jade stone, jade bracelet exposed through CCTV

MANDALAY, 13 Feb—While Ko Zaw Naung, 23, in-charge of sales from Myanmar Yishwin Gems Trading Co was counting money at the Htinkhon Gems Showroom at A-2/144 on 69th Srteet between Manawhari and Seinpan Streets in Myothit Ward 5 of Chanmyathazi Township on 6 February morning, three persons arrived there by car and entered the showroom.

The in-charge could not meet with them immediately as he was busy. The persons left there after asking the prices of gems and said they will visit there again. One of them went to the car and came back to the showroom. So, the in-charge checked the CCTV due to their suspect acts.

In the records of the CCTV, one of three men picked up one cut jade piece and hid it his arm-pit. Another one took one cut jade piece and put it into the pocket of shirt.

One of the cut jade piece weighed one kilos worth K 200,000 and another, K 100,000, totally amounting to K 300,000.

Due to complaint of Ko Zaw Naung, the local police station investigated the case to expose the suspects under the law.

Police of the No 11 local police station conducted the investigation and arrested the suspects namely Soe Niang (a) Fatty, 44 and Kyauk Thurein Min, 36 at 11.40 pm on 9 February along with the evidences in the case a light truck.

The last one Sa Laung (a) Thein Zaw, 40, managed escape.

The police is conducting investivation to arrest the suspect.

Kyemon-Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Stimulant tablets drugs seized in Hpa-an

HPA-AN, 13 Feb—Police from No 31 Anti-Drug Squad (Hpa-an) raided the house of suspect Kyaw Zeya on Lokthar Street in Ward 6 of Hpa-an in Kayin State on 8 February.

They seized 865 stimulant tablets weighing 86.5 grams worth K 3,027,500. After confession, Kyaw Zeya said that he bought 400 stimulant tablets worth K 700,000 from Kayin (a) Hti Kha Lein of Khalauknoh Village in Hpa-an Township on 27 January and 600 stimulants worth K 1,050,000 on 5 February.

Hpa-an Myoma Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against Kyaw Zeya, 37 of Ward 6 in Hpa-an Township under the law.

MMAL-Tun Tun Htwe (Hpa-an)

ACTIVITIES MARK 67TH ANNIVERSARY UNION DAY:

Agricultural equipment exhibition opened in Monywa

MONYWA, 13 Feb—The 67th Anniversary Union Day Commemorative Booths were opened at the sports ground in Monywa of Sagaing Region on 10 February.

Chief Minister of Sagaing Region U Tha Aye and wife Daw Wai Wai Khaing, Speaker of Region Hluttaw U Thin Hlaing, regional level officials and guests attended the ceremony.

Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein, Head of Region Information and Public Relations Department Daw Khin San and towns' elder U Hla Han formally opened the booths.

The Chief Minister and party visited the booths. A total of 14 departments showcase their products at 27 booths.

Kyemon-Region IPRD

Book and photo show presented to students

TATKON, 13 Feb—Tatkon Township Information and Public Relations Department of Ottara District in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area organized the 67th Anniversary Union Day commemorative wall magazine, photo & book show at the hall of No 2 Basic Education High School on 11 February.

Head of Township IPRD Daw Tint Tint Khaing explained displays of the works at the show and donated books and publications for the school library to the headmistress.

Township Librarian Daw Than Than Nwe made librarian membership cards to teachers and students and explained book borrwing system.

The wall magazine, photo & book show diaplayed documentary photos of 23 participants who signed the Panglong Agreement and their signatures, facts about the Union, articles, cartoons, facts about ASEAN, flags and cultural heritages of ASEAN member countries, and public service media's docu-mentary photos.

Over 500 students and teachers viewed round the display of documentary photos and books of the show.

The book and photo show will last up to 14 February.

Tin Soe Lwin

30 elephants checked with microchip readers in Wema elephant camp in Bhamo

BHAMO, 13 Feb—A team led by Bhamo District Timber Extraction Region Manager U Htay Lwin of Myanma Timber Enterprise inspected 30 elephants installed with microchip readers at Wema elephant camp in Bhamo timber extraction area of Myanma Timber Enterprise 11 February.

Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) installed microchips at elephants of the enterprise on 6 April, 2013 for prevention against illegally killing the elephants, smuggling the elephants and easy identification between wild elephants and enterprise-owned ele-phants. Ten months after installation of the chips, the elephants were checked and officials confirmed them.—*Kyemon-Moe Chaint Nyan Hein*

Officials check elephants installed with microchips of Myanma Timber Enterprise at Wema elephant camp in Bhamo.

Visitors taste Japanese food at an event held at the Japanese Embassy in London on 10 Feb, 2014, to promote Japanese cuisine. KYODO NEWS

Indonesia to deploy army troops to beef up security in elections

JAKARTA, 13 Feb — Indonesian armed forces would deploy a total of 14,000 troops to help police in securing the country's upcoming elections, a high-ranking official of the Indonesian army said here on Wednesday.

Indonesian Armed Forces Commander General Budiman said that troops serving at all levels of territorial units have been told to help police in providing security for people during the legislative and presidential elections slated for April and July this year. They've asked to back up police in controlling situation should unrest occur during the elections.

He said that the number of troops in the territorial units to be deployed would be in line with police's jurisdiction areas.

"At sub district level, we have troops serving in Koramil who would help police. At district level we would engage some 35 troops or equivalent of a platoon, meanwhile at municipal level we would deploy a unit similar to a company level, served by 130 troops," Budiman said, adding that some 400 troops would be deployed at the provincial level. At headquarters level, the army would deploy troops as strong as three battalions and a brigade unit.

"The brigade unit would be in standby position, anticipating possible worse situation in the elections. They would be from the Army's Strategic Command (Kostrad) unit," he said, referring to one of the special troop units operated by the army. Indonesia will have a new government as President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who have served two five-year terms in a row, is not allowed to run for president as per the country's constitution.

Xinhua

Philippines lowers alert level for Yemen

MANILA, 13 Feb — The Philippine government announced Wednesday that it has lowered the alert level in Yemen to 2 (restriction phase) from 3 (voluntary repatriation).

The Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs said Yemen's improving security and political situation prompted the lowering of the alert level.

Under Alert Level 2, Filipinos with existing labor contracts may go back to Yemen. The deployment of newly-hired overseas Filipino workers, however, will remain suspended.

The Philippine government advised Filipinos in Yemen to restrict "non-essential movements" and avoid public places.

Crisis Alert Level 3 was raised by the Philippines in Yemen last December following a suicide bomb attack on its Defence Ministry which resulted in 53 deaths, including seven Filipinos.

Xinhua

Metro Manila university suspends classes, work due to bomb threat

MANILA, 13 Feb — A university in Quezon City in the Philippines' capital region of Metro Manila suspended work and classes on Wednesday due to a bomb threat.

"The Guidon," a student publication of the Ateneo de Manila University said on its Twitter account that all students and employees have already been evacuated.

Local radio station DZMM said three Ateneo employees received text messages about the bomb threat at around 9 am on Wednesday.

Members of the Philippine National Police are currently inspecting the campus.—*Xinhua*

A ceremony is held to pay tribute to sea gods and goddesses in Qingdao City, east China's Shandong Province, on 12 Feb, 2014. XINHUA

Vietnam's beer brewing industry booming despite economic difficulties

HO CHI MINH CITY, 13 Feb — While many businesses have been forced to cut production or even shut down over the economic turbulence, Vietnam's beer making industry has continued to post explosive growth, local online *Tuoi Tre (Youth)* newspaper reported Wednesday.

In Vietnam, Southeast Asia's biggest beer consumption country, a large proportion of the population are beer lovers, and it is seen as a heaven for both local and international brewery investors to boost their business.

However, many are concerned that the country will soon experience a beer surplus when supply exceeds demand.

The Saigon Beer Alcohol Beverage Corporation, commonly known as Sabeco, is leading the race to open new breweries in the country. Its latest investment is the Saigon-Kien Giang brewery, which has recently broken ground in the Mekong Delta province of Kien Giang. Once operational, it is expected to produce 50 million liters of beer per year, Tuoi Tre reported.

In late 2013, the Ho Chi Minh (HCM) City-based beverage maker Sabeco also started two similar projects in southern Can Tho City and central Binh Thuan province, both are worth 450 billion VND (21.32 million US dollars) and have a capacity of 50 million liters per year.

Sabeco is operating 24 brewery projects nationwide, with 20 facilities already active producing a total of 1.8 billion liters of beer a year. Sabeco has said it would invest in three more projects from now till 2015.

Meanwhile, Habeco, the northern rival of Sabeco, is also operating dozens of breweries in the northern and central regions including Phu Tho, Hai Phong, Quang Ninh, Nam Dinh, Thanh Hoa, and Quang Binh.

Several localities like central Nghe An, northern Phu Tho, capital Hanoi and southern Binh Duong are home to beer making plants of at least two brewers.

Foreign firms are also showing their interest in this lucrative market. Denmark-based Carlsberg are cooperating with several local businesses to invest in breweries, while US brand Budweiser is waiting to inaugurate its first Vietnamese facility in the near future.—*Xinhua*

People buy Tangyuan, a Chinese sweet dumpling, in a super market in Nanchang, capital of east China's Jiangxi Province, on 12 Feb, 2014. As the Valentine's Day and traditional Lantern Festival approach, which fall on the same day this year, Tangyuan and chocolate became popular in market.—XINHUA

No reactor safety reviews to be completed by end of March

TOKYO, 13 Feb — The head of the Nuclear Regulation Authority said on Wednesday that regulators are unlikely to complete safety checks on any of the country's reactors by the end of March, a key process toward reactivating the facilities.

"I think none (of the checks) will be completed by the end of this fiscal year," NRA Chairman Shunichi Tanaka told a Press conference, referring to the process that started after nuclear regulations were revamped in the wake of the 2011 Fukushima Daiichi complex disaster.

Of a total of 16 reactors for which applications for NRA safety checks have been submitted, the assessment process is more advanced for 10 units, most located in western Japan.

But a number of items have to be tackled at the 10 reactors, such as estimating the maximum possible seismic motion at each plant site for use in designing quake resistance.

During a meeting of the NRA commissioners earlier in the day, Kunihiko Shimazaki, who is in charge of assessments related to earthquake and tsunami, said he sees differences in utilities' approaches to the issue.

"Some utilities have come to us without changing their style (from before the nuclear crisis), while others have actively used the latest method. Differences occur in such areas," Shimazaki said.

The 10 units include the No 3 reactor at Shikoku Electric Power Co's Ikata plant, and the Nos 3 and 4 reactors at the Genkai plant and the Nos 1 and 2 reactors at the Sendai plant, both owned by Kyushu Electric Power Co.

A total of 48 commercial reactors remain in Japan, but all of them are currently offline amid heightened safety concerns following the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant disaster, triggered by a huge earthquake and tsunami in March 2011.

Kyodo News

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

"Supply of equipment for a Crisis Response Centre in NayPyiTaw, Myanmar"

European Commission

Publication ref : EuropeAid/135164/DD/SUP/MM

The **European Commission** intends to award a **supply contract** for the supply, delivery, installation and putting into operation of the following lots:

Lot 1: **ICT equipment** ; Lot 2: **Office furniture** ;

for **the Ministry of Home Affairs** in a **work space** located in NayPyiTaw, Myanmar, with financial assistance from the Instrument for Stability Programme of the European Union.

The tender dossier is available from the EU Delegation to Myanmar, 45 Inya Myaing Road, Golden valley (2) Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon and will also be published on the EuropeAid website: https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/online-services/index.cfm?do=publi.welcome and on the Myanmar Delegation website : http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/myanmar/grants_tenders/tenders/index_en.htm.

The **deadline for submission** of tenders is **19/03/2014**. Possible additional information or clarifications/questions shall be published on the above websites.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ER TURKU VOY NO (037)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ER TURKU VOY NO (037) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HANJIN SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (369)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (369) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVER GREEN SHIPPING
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV FORTRESS 7 VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FORTRESS 7 VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR:
M/S AOYANG SHIPPING CO LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GRANDSOAR VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GRANDSOAR VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BERTLING CHARTERING
& SHIP MANAGEMENT PTE LTD
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Passenger van crash kills 8 in Brazil

Rio de Janeiro, 13 Feb — A passenger van crashed in northeast Brazil on Wednesday, killing at least eight people on board and injuring another six, the Fire Department said.

A right tyre of the van, which served as public transport between cities of Penedo and Arapiraca in the state of Alagoas, burst when it was traveling along the Al-101 South Highway outside of Penedo.

The sudden blowout caused the driver, identified as 70-year-old John Jones, to lose control of the van, which veered into an opposite lane before crashing into a post, witnesses said.

After the impact, the vehicle flipped over, hurling passengers out of the van, before coming to a stop, they said.

The Fire Department said seven people died at the scene, among which five were women, and that the driver died in an emergency unit of the city.

The other injured were taken to a nearby hospital, but their conditions were yet unknown. It was unclear how many people were aboard the van at the time of the crash.—*Xinhua*

MINISTRY OF FINANCE
Internal Revenue Department
(Invitation to Open Tender)

1. The Internal Revenue Department, as a system of administration of revenue in the process of its stamping and selling the stamps intends to buy he stamps of standard quality and of standard security measure against forgery. Open tenders are invited from the persons who can produce and sell such stamps of standard quality.
2. The forms and conditions of open tender can be obtained at the Internal Revenue Department, Branch Office of the Commercial Tax Directorate, No, 46, Nay Pyi Taw and Office of Tax Service Unit, No. 59/61 Pansodan Street, Yangon during the office hours of the days between 17.2.2014 to 19.2.2014.
3. The public tender shall be submitted to Department of Evaluation and Selection of the Revenue, Office No.46 of Nay Pyi Taw during the office hours on the 28th day of February 2014. The tenders submitted after the period of prescribed time shall be absolutely left out of consideration. For further details, inquiry can be made at the following address.

Internal Revenue Department
Office No. 46, Nay Pyi Taw
Phone- 067-430025

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (091)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (091) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORINET OVERSEAS
CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV NASICO LION VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NASICO LION VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(4) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S G LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

Opportunity never knocks twice at any man's door.

TRADE MARK CAUTION

HUBBARD a company incorporated in France and having its office at Mauguerand 22800 Le Foeil (FRANCE), is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of following Trade Mark:

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Reg.No.IV/5308/2010
Reg.No.IV/7835/2013

used in respect of "**Class 31:** Eggs for hatching; live poultry for breeding, laying and meat; live animals".

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trade Mark or other infringements whatsoever will be dealt with according to law.

Khine Khine U Advocate
LL.B, D.B.L, LL.M (UK)
For **HUBBARD**
#205/5, Thirimingalar Housing, Strand Rd, Yangon.
Dated. 14 February 2014

Emilia Clarke named Most Desirable Woman of 2014

Los Angeles, 13 Feb — Game of Thrones star Emilia Clarke has been crowned the most desirable woman by a magazine.

The 26-year-old actress has topped the list of Top 99 Most Desirable Women in a survey conducted by *AskMen* magazine. Pop star Miley Cyrus has landed on the last place, reported Ace Showbiz. "Emilia Clarke being crowned Khaleesi of the Top 99 Most Desirable Women of 2014 is attributable to the strength and character she portrays on screen as well as the popularity of HBO's Game of Thrones," AskMen publisher James Bassil said in a statement.

"The Top 99 poll called on readers to elect women who most closely match their ideals, voting on more than just sex appeal and taking into account other criteria such as character, talent and potential for 2014," it read further. Community star Alison Brie is placed second on the list. Emily Ratajkowski who starred in Robin Thicke's music video for Blurred Lines is on number three.The fourth and fifth positions are taken by Jennifer Lawrence and Emma Watson respectively. Over more than 1 million people took part in the poll.—*PTI*

The title is attributable to the strength and character she portrays on screen as well as the popularity of HBO's. **PTI**

***Kareena is known for her flawless beauty.*—PTI**

Kareena Kapoor: I don't follow any beauty regime

New Delhi, 23 Feb — Actress Kareena Kapoor says she does not follow any particular beauty regime but avoids using any kind of chemical on her face. "I don't follow any particular regime as such. But moisturization is important for me as I have a dry skin. I don't use any chemical on my face. I do pilates to keep myself fit," Kareena said.

The 33-year-old actress said to keep her lustrous locks healthy she oils them regularly. "I try to oil my hair regularly and it feels nice too. It's a kind of stress-buster. Everybody likes a nice hair and body massage," said Kareena.

Known for her flawless beauty and style, the Jab We Met star said that off-screen she is like any other girl. "Brands don't really matter... I would be happy to travel in my jeans and kurta and walk around in pyjamas for that matter. I can stay in my track-pants all day and feel comfortable. Style is more about your attitude and it is not really about what you wear. You need to carry what you wear," she said. Kareena, who is married to actor Saif Ali Khan, said that she loves junk food but exercises regularly to maintain her body. "I am a Punjabi and everywhere you go in Delhi there is such amazing food. But I exercise regularly," she said.—*PTI*

John Oliver to debut 'Last Week Tonight' on HBO in late April

Los Angeles, 13 Feb — John Oliver, the British comedian whose career took off as the nonchalant news correspondent on "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart," will debut his new HBO series "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver" on 27 April, the network said on Wednesday.

The half-hour show to air on Sundays in the 11:00-11:30 pm slot will present a satirical look at the week in news, politics and current events, HBO said in a statement, without elaborating further on the show's content.

The offer from HBO, a unit of Time Warner Inc, came a few months after Oliver stood in as guest host for Jon Stewart during the summer of 2013 on the Comedy Central program, while Stewart was filming in Jordan "Rosewater," a drama and his directorial debut. When asked at the January meeting of the Television Critics Association if filling in for Stewart led to the HBO job, Oliver said "I think it probably led in some way and let's just say the only way." "I think it is probably the main reason why I am here now. It was a bizarre, exciting and terrifying experience."

Reuters

'Now 49' compilation knocks 'Frozen' from Billboard 200 top spot

Los angeles, 13 Feb — The latest edition of the "Now That's What I Call Music!" franchise featuring chart hits by Lorde and Katy Perry debuted at the top of the weekly Billboard 200 album chart on Wednesday, pushing the "Frozen" film soundtrack off its pedestal."Now 49," a 21-track compilation that includes songs by Justin Timberlake, Lady Gaga and Britney Spears, sold 98,000 copies in its first week, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

While "Now 49" knocked Disney's "Frozen" film soundtrack down from the top spot to No 2, the record that features the Oscar-nominated song "Let It Go" is still racking up strong sales, with another 88,000 copies sold in its 11th week since release."Let It Go" is No 6 on Billboard's Digital Songs chart, which measures downloads.After singer Bruno Mars performed a high-octane set watched by a record-breaking 115.3 million viewers at the Super Bowl on 2 February, his album "Unorthodox Jukebox" continued to benefit from the exposure by selling 81,000 copies and climbing four spots to No 3 this week.

"Now 49" was one of four debuts in this week's Top 10 of the Billboard 200 chart. R&B singers Toni Braxton and Babyface teamed up on "Love Marriage & Divorce," which nailed No 4. Electro-rock group Broken Bells and their "After The Disco" came in at No 5, and British girl band Little Mix placed at No 6 with "Salute."Overall album sales for the week ending 9 February totaled 4.5 million units, down 22 percent from the comparable week in 2013, Billboard said.— *Reuters*

***Katy Perry performs "Unconditionally'' at the 41st American Music Awards in Los Angeles, California on 24 Nov, 2013.*—Reuters**

Comedian John Oliver poses for photographers backstage during the 41st International Emmy Awards in New York, on 25 Nov, 2013. **Reuters**

Ranveer Singh: Priyanka Chopra is one-take artist

Mumbai, 13 Feb — Actor Ranveer Singh lauds his Gunday co-star Priyanka Chopra for being professional and efficient on the set. "What I love about Priyanka is that she makes everyone's job easy," Ranveer told reporters during the promotion of the film at a college. "She is actor-friendly, director-friendly, and producer-friendly. She makes everyone's task easier by tapping-in her experience. She is a one-take artist," he added. Gunday is Ranveer's first film with Priyanka.

The actor, who bagged best actor Filmfare award for his work in Goliyon Ki Raasleela Ram-leela, worked with Priyanka's cousin Parineeti Chopra in Ladies vs Ricky Bahl. On being asked the difference between them, he said: "The major difference between the two is the experience." Gunday also features Arjun Kapoor and it will hit the theatres on 14 February.

PTI

SPORTS

Liverpool beef up title bid with last-gasp win

London, 13 Feb — Liverpool's surge towards a first league title since 1990 continued on Wednesday when they beat Fulham 3-2 with a last-minute penalty while Arsenal's challenge took a knock after a 0-0 home draw against Manchester United. The most open Premier League championship race for years continued on a wild and windy night across Britain, leaving Chelsea top, just seven points ahead of fifth-placed Tottenham Hotspur who chalked up a superb 4-0 win at Newcastle United.

The other match that survived the weather ended in a 1-1 draw between Stoke City and Swansea City at the Britannia Stadium, a result that left both sides mired in the equally tight battle to avoid the drop that has 11 teams in its grip. The storms caused Manchester City's game against Sunderland at the Etihad Stadium and Everton's match at Goodison Park against Crystal Palace to be postponed because of dangerously high winds.

After drawing 1-1 at West Bromwich Albion on Tuesday, Chelsea lead the way with 57 points, one in front of Arsenal with 12 matches to play.Manchester City are third on 54 with a game in hand on the top two, followed by Liverpool on 53 and Spurs on 50.Everton, who also have a game in hand, are sixth on 45 points, three clear of United who have won just two of their last seven league matches. The most dramatic game of the night was played at Craven Cottage where bottom-of-the-table Fulham, who forced a 2-2 draw at Old Trafford on Sunday, twice led against Liverpool who were heavily fancied to win following their 5-1 demolition of Arsenal on Saturday.

It was Fulham who took the lead when defender Kolo Toure, guilty of a terrible error that cost Liverpool victory at West Brom earlier this month, sliced the ball into his own net after eight minutes.

Daniel Sturridge equalised, scoring for the eighth successive match, four minutes before the break before Fulham stunned the visitors by going ahead again through Kieran Richardson. Brendan Rodgers's side equalised for a second time when Philippe Coutinho found the net from 20 metres in the 72nd minute. Sascha Reither then brought down Sturridge in stoppage time and skipper Steven Gerrard scored from the penalty spot. — *Reuters*

Liverpool's Daniel Sturridge (R) scores a goal against Fulham during their Premier League match at Craven Cottage in London on 12 Feb, 2014.—Reuters

Napoli beat Roma to reach Coppa Italia final

Rome, 13 Feb — Napoli reached the Coppa Italia final after beating 10-man Roma 3-0 in the second leg of their semi-final on Wednesday. Rafa Benitez's side, who lost to Roma 3-2 in the first leg, turned the table about thanks to goals from Jose Callejon, Gonzalo Higuain and January signing Jorginho. Roma head coach Rudi Garcia admitted his side made mistakes in both legs.

"Perhaps we lost the qualification in the first leg, as we conceded two goals when we were 2-0 up," Garcia told the post-match Press conference. He felt sad to see his players squandered chances before the break. "This evening we had three chances to score in the first half and didn't make the most of them. We should've been more ruthless in attack and also in defence, as we made mistakes in both legs," he said. His Napoli counterpart Benitez praised his side as "almost perfect".

"It wasn't the perfect performance, but it was almost perfect," Benitez told the post-match press conference. "Everyone worked in the defensive phase and then we were able to score three great goals," he said. *Reuters*

Farrington joins the halfpipe gold medal club

Rosa Khutor, (Russia), 13 Feb — American cowgirl Kaitlyn Farrington stunned three former champions to win gold in the women's snowboarding halfpipe by the narrowest of margins at the Sochi Olympics on Wednesday. The 24-year-old nailed her second run under the Extreme Park lights for a score of 91.75 to beat Australian defending champion Torah Bright by 0.25 of a point.

Farrington, who needed to run in both heats to reach the final, could barely contain her disbelief and watched nervously as the final six riders completed their runs before she could celebrate her first gold medal at a major event. "I was hoping just to make the final, and then after the semi-finals I was riding well and I thought if I could just land my run I might be in the medals," she said. "Watching the three gold medalists come down after me was a crazy feeling. I was happy the other medalists all landed their runs because that's what I wanted to do, but I did not expect to come out on top.

"I can't really believe it right now ... they are gold medalists and I can't believe I'm one now too." American Kelly Clark, the 2002 champion, was awarded 90.75 for the final run of the night to take the bronze and become the first snowboarder to win three Olympic medals after also finishing third in Vancouver. "I'm just so proud of Kaitlyn, this is her first Olympics so to see her come out and walk away Olympic champion is just amazing," said 30-year-old Clark, who was competing in her fourth Games. *Reuters*

1 of 7. Kaitlyn Farrington of the US performs a jump during the women's snowboard halfpipe finals at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympic Games in Rosa Khutor on 12 Feb, 2014. —Reuters

Couples set for a record 32nd start at beloved Riviera

Pacific Palisades, (California), 13 Feb — Fred Couples will add another chapter to his long love affair with Riviera Country Club when he extends his record number of Northern Trust Open starts to 32 at the fabled venue this week.

Couples eclipsed the previous mark of 30, first set by fellow American Gene Littler, when he played in the PGA Tour event last year and he was delighted to gain a spot in the 2014 edition via a sponsor's exemption.

"I'm lucky, this is my favorite tournament and I've played a lot of times, won a couple times," Couples, 54, told reporters after playing in the pro-am competition on Wednesday."Eventually I won't play in this and I'll watch the tournament as much as I can. I live a mile from here. But right now, I've played well here this morning. My goal is to try to hang with these guys.

"I have a great pairing tomorrow with Jordan (Spite) and Webb Simpson so it's very exciting for me with that pairing. We'll see what happens." Former Masters champion Couples, who was the winner at Riviera in 1990 and 1992, was scheduled to tee off in Thursday's opening round from the first hole with fellow Americans Simpson and Spieth.—*Reuters*

LeBron rates himself among all-time greats

Cary m (North Carolina) , 13 Feb — LeBron James says he has no doubt he will be regarded as one of the top four all-time greats in basketball by the time his career is over. "I'll be one of the top four that has ever played this game, for sure," the Miami Heat forward told nba.com ahead of Sunday's National Basketball Association (NBA) All-Star game to be played in New Orleans.

Asked to name the quartet he felt should be on the NBA's version of Mount Rushmore, the tribute to four US presidents, James nominated Michael Jordan (Chicago Bulls), Larry Bird (Boston Celtics) and Magic Johnson (Los Angeles Lakers).After thinking for a few seconds, James then added Oscar Robertson as the fourth. Robertson, nicknamed "The Big O", played for the Cincinnati Royals and Milwaukee Bucks in the 1960s and 1970s.

Asked whether he believed he would eventually be ranked in that top four, James replied: "Yeah ... and if they don't want me to have one of those top four spots, they better find another spot. We got to bump somebody."James, 29, who has won two NBA championship titles with the Heat, declined to say which of the four players should get "bumped" to give him a berth.

A 10-time All-Star, James has averaged 27.5 points per game with a shooting percentage of just under 50 from the field after a decade in the league with the Heat and the Cleveland Cavaliers.

The Mount Rushmore National Memorial is a sculpture of four US presidents carved into the granite face of Mount Rushmore in South Dakota. The presidents are George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Theodore Roosevelt and Abraham Lincoln.—*Reuters*

Fred Couples of the US watches his tee shot on the second hole during the first round of the British Open golf Championship at Muirfield in Scotland on 18 July, 2013. Reuters

GENERAL

Cambodia bans smoking in public venues, workplaces

PHNOM PENH, 13 Feb — Cambodia has banned smoking in public venues and workplaces, according to a Health Ministry circular made public here Wednesday.

The circular, dated 4 Feb and signed by Health Minister Mam Bunheng, advised workplace supervisors and those who are in charge of public places to educate people not to smoke in workplaces and public venues including government buildings, restaurants and bars.

It also urged managers of those places to put "no-smoking" signs.

"If the smokers do not obey, the supervisors should ask them to smoke outside," it said.

The circular did not state any penalty or fine for violators.

Dr. Mom Kong, executive director of NGO-Cambodia Movement for Health, said the prohibition was a positive step towards protecting the public from exposure to cigarette smoke.

"Around 90 percent of Cambodian people are exposed to smoke at restaurants and about 50 percent in workplaces," he told *Xinhua* on Wednesday. "Some 10,000 Cambodian people die from tobacco-related diseases every year."

Cambodian smokers spent roughly 100 million US dollars a year for cigarettes and tobacco, he said, adding, "Moreover, the expense on medical treatment for cancer patients caused by tobacco is much higher than that of tobacco expense."

Tobacco is seriously harmful to the health of smokers and other people when their smoke drifts around, and other people breathe it in.

Cambodia has a population of about 14.8 million, with 7.5 million adults. According to the National Adult Tobacco Survey 2011, some 1.4 million adult Cambodians smoke cigarettes and another 550,000 people use smokeless tobacco (betel quid).

Xinhua

East ride as Barca book Cup final date against Real Madrid

MADRID, 13 Feb — FC Barcelona booked their place for the final of the Copa del Rey which they will play against bitter rivals, Real Madrid, which drew 1-1 with Real Sociedad on Wednesday night. A magnificent goal from Leo Messi after 27 minutes, his fifth of the competition, was the key moment of the game. Messi received the ball well just inside the Real Sociedad half, before embarking on a trademark solo run and beating home goalkeeper, Enaut Zubikaria after 27 minutes.

After Barca's 2-1 win in the first leg a week ago, Messi's goal meant that Real Sociedad would need to score four times in order to reach the final. Despite the task that faced them, Real Sociedad showed themselves willing to do everything in their power from the start. Cheered on by the fans in a packed Anoeta Stadium, Real Sociedad looked to take the game to Barca, but found themselves against the best version of Barca, which looked to control the ball and frustrate their rivals, while always working to provoke a space in the rival defense.

Carlos Vela was again a threat for Real Sociedad but was denied an equalizer 10 minutes from halftime by Dani Alves after his shot had beaten Barca keeper, Jose Pinto. Vela hit the bar with a chip 10 minutes into the second half just before Zubikarai produced a fine double save to dent first Messi and then Cesc Fabrigas, whose shot the goalkeeper stopped while still on the floor.

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(14-2-2014, Friday)

6:00 am
1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

6:15 am
2. Myitta Pawana By Min Gun Sayadaw

6:45 am
3. Physical Exercises

6:55 am
4. Songs & Dance Of National Races

7:00 am
5. News/Weather Report

7:20 am
6. Hyper Sports

7:35 am
7. Ovada Patimauk Day Of Thidagu

8:00 am
8. News/ International News

8:30 am
9. India Drama Series

9:00 am
10. News/ International News

9:30am
11. Documentary

9:45am
12. ASEAN Programmes

10:00 am
13. News

10:15 am
14. TV Drama Series

11:15 am
15. Clever

11:40 pm
16. Myanmar Series

12:00 pm
17. News / International News/ Weather Report

12:25 pm
18. Myanmar Movie

2:20 pm
19. Musical Programme

3:00 pm
20. News

3:15 pm
21. TV Drama Series

4:00 pm
22. News

4:20 pm
23. Teleplay (Traffic)

4:30 pm
24. 2014 University Entrance Examination (Myanmar)

5:00 pm
25. News

5:15 pm
26. India Drama Series

6:00 pm
27. News/Weather Report

6:20 pm
28. Amazing World

6:45 pm
29. TV Drama Series

7:00 pm
30. News

7:25 pm
31. TV Drama Series

8:00 pm
32. News/ Internation News/ Weather Report

8:35 pm
33. People Talks

9:00 pm
34. News
35. Documentary
36. Hyper Sports
37. Traditional Boxing
38. TV Drama Series

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

14-2-14 07:00 am ~ 15 -2-14 07:00 am) MST

* Local News
* Who can match their Unique Music and Fashion
* World News
* In the Studio "Na Di Htike"
* Local News
* Truly Magical Pindaya
* World News
* Hip-Hop and Design
* Local News
* Myanma Traditional Wedding Dressing Style
* World News
* Graffiti: Character Art
* Local News
* Sagaing Hills & Nostalgic Panorama
* World News
* The Storytellers
* Local News
* The Land of Silver Mountains (Kayah State)
* World News
* News Extra "Thanakha"
* Local News
* Sweet & Dreamy Taste
* World News
* A Girl Guide
* Local News
* Preserving Myanma Handicrafts
* World News
* Myanmar Street Foods
* Local News
* "Me N My Travel With Maria" Market Of Pyay City Development Committee
* World News
* A Person with Faith

Bayern, Wolfsburg progress in German Cup

BERLIN, 13 Feb — Titleholders Bayern Munich cruised to a 5-0 win over Hamburg while second division side Kaiserslautern flabbergast Leverkusen and Wolfsburg overpowered Hoffenheim 3-2 at the quarterfinals of the DFB Cup on Wednesday.

German giants Bayern Munich celebrated a 5-0 goal festival at struggling Hamburg. Mario Mandzukic's hat trick and goals by Dante and Arjen Robben ensured Hamburg seventh straight loss and a berth in the semi-finals for the Bavarians.

Hamburg were able to uphold the resistance until the 22nd minute thereafter Bayern started their run on the hosts goals. Mandzukic broke the deadlock with assistance of Mario Goetze's chip into the path of unmarked Croatian international, who had all time and space to tap in from very close range.

Only four minutes later Bayern doubled the lead by courtesy of Dante, who headed home Toni Kroos' corner kick.

After the restart Bayern started where they left off as Arjen Robben brought down Kroos' long-range pass with his chest to beat Rene Adler into the far post corner at the 54th minute.

Mandzukic added two more goals within two minutes to Bayern's lead to put the result beyond doubt at the 76th minute against hapless and struggling Hamburg.

Wolfsburg booked their place in the German cup with a 3-2 win over Bundesliga rivals Hoffenheim. Both sides staged an entertaining and fast paced encounter although Wolfsburg killed the game with two first half goals. Hoffenheim caught the better start but it were the hosts that broke the deadlock with 26 minutes into the game.

Jannik Vestergaard brought down Kevin de Bruyne inside the box to cause a penalty. Ricardo Rodriguez stepped up and converted from the spot into the bottom right.

The opener gave the hosts more confidence but for all that Hoffenheim responded with the equalizer at the 39th minute when Roberto Firmino utilized a turnover to beat Wolfsburg's keeper Diego Beanglio with a low shot.

Wolfsburg restored their lead just five minutes later, again through a foul play penalty, as Niklas Suele chopped Rodriguez, who sealed his brace with another converted penalty into the top left corner.

The "Wolves" added a third goal to their lead as Bas Dost got his name on the score sheets before Rodriguez was sent off for his second bookable offence at the 70th minute.

Hoffenheim made use of their superior numbers as Firmino scored his second of the night in the dying minutes of the game. However, their comeback came to late, as ten men Wolfsburg were able to kill the game.

Elsewhere, second division team Kaiserslautern knocked out top- flight club Leverkusen at the 114th minute in extra time.

Ruben Jessen's winner ensured a ticket for the final four for the "Red Devils". Leverkusen staged an unimaginative performance and they never gained a foothold into the match.

Xinhua

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Friday, 14 February, 2014

Three-month licence grant period scheduled for unlicensed motorbikes

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Feb—During a 90-day period from 17 February to 4 July, licences will be granted to unlicensed motorbikes and taxes will be levied as prescribed previously, said Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation U Chan Maung at today's Pyidaungsu Hluttaw session.

When the prescribed period was over, motorbikes running illegally on the roads will be confiscated and actions will be taken in accord with the law, he added. So far, the licenses have been issued to 2,833,309 motorcycles, earning more than K 278 billion tax for the country. Registration will be made by the combined teams that include the representatives from departments concerned under the supervision of region/state governments, offering one stop service. He continued that 25 % of the tax will be put into the region/state fund under the agreement of Financial Commission.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker announced President U Thein Sein's Japan tour to attend 40th anniversary of ASEAN-Japan dialogue ties and fifth Mekong-Japan Summit held in Tokyo from 13 to 15 December 2013 at the invitation of Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe was documented.

With regard to findings on Union Budget for 2012-13 FY, MP U Mya Thein from Mudon Constituency discussed the report of Joint Public Accounts Committee. Union Minister U Win Shein made clarifications on the committee's report. He said findings and comments of the committee on the report of Union Auditor-General Office will be submitted to the Union government for follow-up works.

(See page 9)

Nay Pyi Taw dwellers get health care services

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Feb—Union Minister at the President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Thein Nyunt together with Union Minister Dr Pe Thet Khin, Deputy Ministers Dr Win Myint and Dr Than Aung looked into the medical treatments being given by specialists of Mount Elizabeth Hospitals Singapore led by ENT surgical specialist Dr Goh Yau Hong and those of Zabuthiri Specialist Hospital and Directorate of Medical Corps of Ministry of Defence to the patients at Nay Pyi Taw Zabuthiri hospital here this morning.

Under the arrangement of Parkway Hospitals Singapore, specialists from Singapore and the Zabuthiri hospital performed surgical operations at the patients and gave medical services to the needy people in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

The specialists made surgical operations to six patients with disorders of ear, nose, throat and dental services to 65 and general treatments to 274 patients.

MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing leaves for Lao PDR to pay goodwill visit

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing being welcomed by officials at Wattay International Airport.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Feb—A Myanmar military delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing left here by air this afternoon for Lao People's Democratic Republic at the invitation of the Lao PDR Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Defence Lieutenant General Douangchay Phichith.

The Senior General and party were seen off at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office and their wives, Laotian Ambassador Mr Nilahath Sayarath and Laotian Deputy Military Attaché Major Khampheng Sonephachanh.

The Senior General was accompanied by wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Lt-Gen Aung Than Htut and Maj-Gen Mya Tun Oo of the Commander-in-Chief Office, Chief of Staff (Navy) Rear-Admiral Tin Aung San, Chief of Staff (Air) Maj-Gen Lwin Oo,

(See page 9)

Israeli bestseller "The Soul Bird" by Michal Snunit, translated to Myanmar language

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Feb—As part of the framework and the events celebrating the 60th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between Israel and Myanmar, the Israeli embassy in Yangon has initiated special education project. This project's aim is promoting reading among young children in Myanmar.

The Israeli Embassy acted as a bridge between Israeli Children's Books and the children of Myanmar. With the blessing of internationally renowned author—"Michal Snunit", the embassy has aided in translating the book from Hebrew and redesigning it.

The book will be introduced between February 14th -16th.

As part of the project's next stage, the Embassy of Israel will donate thousands of the book's copies to schools and public libraries throughout the country. We believe that this humble donation on behalf of the "People of the Book" will contribute in promoting reading habits of the young generation in Myanmar.

NLM

***Photo session after press meeting for Book Project.*—NLM**

Media accreditation for third BIMSTEC Summit, related meetings

NAY PYI TAW, 13 Feb — A coordination meeting prior to the Third Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Summit and the 16th BIMSTEC high-ranking officials' meeting will be convened at Royal Kumudra Hotel on 1-2 March and the 14th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting and the Third BIMSTEC Summit at Myanmar International Convention Centre on 3-4 March in Nay Pyi Taw.

Local and foreign media persons who wish to cover the events are to visit www.thirdbimstecsummit.gov.mm of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for online registration by completing the prescribed media registration form by clicking media registration on the home page not later than 25 February. Identification pass will be issued to journalists who are willing to cover the meetings on 1 and 2 March at Royal Kumudra Hotel and those who wish to cover the meetings on 3 and 4 March at MICC in the morning of the start of the respective meetings.

Foreign journalists are required to apply for their visas at the nearest Myanmar Embassies. Please contact Foreign Economic Relations Department (Ph: 067 412509) for information about identification pass/visa for foreign journalists and News and Periodicals Enterprise (Ph: 067 412126) for information about identification pass for foreign new agencies based in the country and local journalists.— *MNA*