The New Light of Myanmar

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Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham holds talks with Chairman of Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation, former member and Speaker of EU Parliament

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham received Dr Hans-Gert Pottering, Chairman of Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation, former member and Speaker of European Union Parliament, and party at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, this afternoon.

They cordially discussed progress of political reforms in Myanmar, development of human resources, internal peace-making process, democratization and amendment for the Constitution.

Also present at the call were Deputy Ministers U Thant Kyaw and Maj-Gen Maung Maung Ohn and officials.—*MNA*

***Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham poses for documentary photo with Dr Hans-Gert Pottering, Chairman of Konrad-Adenauer-Foundation, former member and Speaker of EU Parliament.*—MNA**

Myanmar, ADB to spend US$ 22m of JFPR on rural livelihoods, HIV control

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb—The Government of Myanmar and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) will jointly conduct poverty alleviation and expand HIV/AIDS services to the vulnerable groups into remote areas spending US$ 12 million from Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR).

A key feature of the project is its community-driven approach, under which village infrastructure like access roads, jetties, water and irrigation facilities, schools and community health centers will be improved. New income earning opportunities will be developed in areas such as fish, shrimp and pearl farmings, livestock husbandry, and production of cash crops and growth of tourism market.

The $12 million livelihoods grant will benefit at local people in villages in Ayeyawady Delta, Central Dry Zone, Taninthayi Region and Shan State.

The $ 10 million HIV/AIDS grant will include building 47 rural health centers and sub-health centers, refurbishing three townships hospitals, supplying medical equipment and training," said Kazuhiko Koguchi, ADB's Executive Director for Japan.

ADB is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive economic growth, environmentally sustainable growth and regional integration.

Zagawah

INSIDE

Asia-Pacific stability depends on success of ASEAN code of conduct

PAGE-4

TEPCO labour union wants utility to drop 20% salary cut

PAGE-5

African nations form G5 to work on Sahel security, development

PAGE-5

"12 Years a Slave" wins top British film awards as "Gravity" soars

PAGE-13

Albania to host environmental film festival in May

PAGE-7

ABLSC (Central) to resume bus ticketing system for convenience of passengers

Byline: Tin Win Lay (Kyimyindine)
Photo: Myint Aung (Pharmaceuticals Industry)

It is learnt that All Bus Lines Supervisory Committee (Central) has arranged to resume bus ticketing system in Yangon and green light was asked for region government.

"The car owners accept money given by the bus driver and bus conductor. Only when we know number of passengers and real income, can we calculate the income of car owners and bus workers," said U Hla Aung, Chairman of ABLSC (Central).

As car owners face difficulties to calculate real income of a car, they hire their car by K 35,000 or K 40,000 per day. The entrepreneurs move from bus line services to petro station, toll gate and highway express bus line services that are more commercialized for them. Especially, the bus conductors from small vehicle lines charge extra fare more than prescribed bus fare. ABLSC (Central) receive many complaint letters from the passengers daily. Although officials from ABLSC (Central) have taken action against the bus conductors, they later charge illegal extra fare from the passengers previously.

Passenger bus lines are operating through e-ticket system for convenience of passengers and bus workers in other countries. Not only officials from ABLSC but also drivers and bus conductors should observe that system. Due to cancellation of bus ticketing system for 20 years and the increasing numbers of bus lines and cars in Myanmar, that system will be introduced phase by phase.

E-ticket system will enable to draw statistics and planning of the State in order to know per capita income of the people.

Myanma Alinn; 10-2-2014

Trs: KHS

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LOCAL NEWS

Meditation, Abhidhamma course conducted

MEIKTILA, 17 Feb—The 10-day meditation course and basic Abhidhamma course are being conducted at the jail of Myanmar Correctional Department in Meiktila as of 15 February, said U Khin Maung Tun of the department.
Both courses will be conducted for the inmates.
A total of 36 trainees are attending the 10-day course and 27 at the basic Abhidhamma course.
The Abhidhamma course will last 20 days. The department has opened 10-day meditation courses for male inmates twice and the same course for female once. The Abhidhamma course is for the second time, he added.
The Department conducts the vocational training courses to the inmates to be able to apply the experiences from the courses in practical fields.

Kyemon-Chan Tha (Meiktila)

Bago Region government organizes third Htamane making contest

Globetrotters enjoy Htamane making contest in Bago.

BAGO, 17 Feb—Organizedby Bago Region government, the third Htamane making contest took place at the sports ground near Shwemawdaw Pagoda, Bago, on 13 February. A total of 32 teams took part in the contest.

Kyunthaya Ward secured the first prize, Panhlaing ward the second and No 4 ward the third.

Officials concerned presented prizes to the winners.

The contest was joined by globetrotters who took photos.—*Kyemon-Saya Zeyatu (Shwemawdaw)*

Mon National Day observed in Thaton

THATON, 17 Feb—A ceremony to mark the 67th Anniversary Mon National Day took place at the compound of Basic Education Primary School in Dingaseik Village of Thaton Township on 15 February.
Nai Kyaw Myint and Tamangyi Monastery Sayadaw extended greetings.
Deputy Commissioner of Thaton District U Nay Lin explained significant day of Mon national and preservation of Mon language and culture.
Officials read out the message sent by the Mon National Day Organizing Committee. A female Mon national explained emerence of the Mon national day.
Later, they paid respects to the older persons.
Kayin and Pa-O national cultural troupes presented traditional dances to the audiences.

Kyemon-Thet Oo (Thaton)

Voluntary Service

Free hair dressing served to people

YANGON, 17 Feb—A total of 10 trainees from Hair Salon Centre gave hair dressing services to the needy people free of charge near Padaukmyaing Market on Bo Aung Kyaw Road in Hlinethaya Township of Yangon Region on 15 February.

Needy people, children and house wives received the hair dressing.

The trainees make field trips to the wards and villages in Bago and Yangon regions. They can give services to the people young and old.

At present, people wil cost K 500-K 700 for men of hair dressing and K 1000 for women, said a supervisor for free hair dressing service.

Due to receiving hair dressing free of charge, the people can save their money for their families.

Hair Salon Centre goes right down to the grassroots and gives hair dressing services to the people from all walks of life in villages of Twantay and Dala townships.

MMAL-Than Htaik (Hlinethaya)

Trainees of Hair Salon Centre give free hair dressing services to people young and old in Hlinethaya Township.

Health Care Service

Specialists provide free health care services to people in Mongnai

MONGNAI, 17 Feb—Shan State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myo Tun and a medical team comprising four specialists and 12 members gave health care services to the people at the hall of Basic Education High School in Mongnai Township on 15 February morning.

Kholan Hospital medical superintendent Dr U Yu Wai, specialists Dr Zaw Lwin, Dr Su Su Mar and Dr Tun Lin Aung together with 12 members, Township Administrator U Myat Kyaw and party and township level and village level authorities gave health care to 32 out patients, 473 general patients, 15 patients for surgical operations, 91 child patients and 164 patients who received traditional medicine, totalling 817.

Shan State Minister Dr Myo Tun donated K 2.5 million to implement education, health regional development projects.

Kyemon

University of Computer Studies (Kengtung) holds convocation

KENGTUNG, 17 Feb—The seventh convocation of the University of Computer Studies (Kengtung) took place at its hall in Kengtung of Shan State (East) on 16 February.

Principal Dr Nay Min Tun of the university conferred degrees on 27 students.

In his speech, the rector urged the graduate to serve the interest of the nation.

It was also attended by academic and management board members, registror, faculty members, graduate students and their relatives.—*MMAL-Naing Naing Aung Wai*

Rector Dr Nay Min Tun confers certificate of degree on a graduate.

Japan eager to deepen ties with US at all levels

Ed Royce (R), chairman of the US House Committee on Foreign Affairs, and Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida shake hands before talking in Tokyo on 17 Feb, 2014.
KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 17 Feb — Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida told a group of US House of Representatives members Monday that the Japan-US alliance is the cornerstone of Japan's diplomacy, and that Tokyo wants to deepen bilateral relations at all levels, with particular emphasis on parliamentary diplomacy.

"Japan and the United States must deepen bilateral ties at all sorts of levels, and I believe parliamentary diplomacy has significant meaning," Kishida said in a meeting with the group led by Ed Royce, chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, part of which was open to the press.

Kishida said Japan will steadily make preparations for a planned visit to Japan by US President Barack Obama in April.

In an apparent reference to Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade negotiations, Royce expressed willingness to promote "our trade initiative, which we hope will be a win-win for Japan and the United States."

TPP talks involve 12 Pacific Rim economies including Japan and the United States.

The eight-member US bipartisan delegation "is looking forward to further discussions on what we can do to increase trade, investment, economic growth, more opportunities, more jobs," Royce said.

Kyodo News

Venezuela's Lopez says ready for arrest

CARACAS, 17 Feb — A Venezuelan opposition leader wanted by police in connection with deadly street protests said on Sunday he would march with his supporters in Caracas on Tuesday, and that he was ready to face arrest if necessary. Authorities accuse Leopoldo Lopez of murder and terrorism in connection with violence around four days of sporadic anti-government protests that have left three people dead and both sides blaming each other for the bloodshed.

The demonstrators have vowed to stay in the streets until President Nicolas Maduro resigns, although there is no sign of that happening.

"I will be there showing my face. I have nothing to fear," Lopez said in a brief video posted on Twitter. "If there is any illegal decision to jail me, then I will accept that decision and that infamous persecution by the state."

Tuesday's march would run from Plaza Venezuela to the state prosecutor's office in the city centre, Lopez said. He would join the rally at its end, he added, and would proceed alone to the office to deliver a petition letter.

Reuters

A passenger (4th L) climbs down an airplane ladder with his hands on his head as police officers stand around hijacked Ethiopian Airlines flight ET 702 at Cointrin Airport in Geneva on 17 Feb, 2014. — REUTERS

Co-pilot hijacks Ethiopian plane, surrenders to Swiss police

GENEVA, 17 Feb—The co-pilot of a hijacked Ethiopian Airlines flight surrendered to Swiss authorities in Geneva on Monday after commandeering his aircraft to seek asylum in Switzerland, police said.

The plane's second-in-command, who was not carrying a weapon, took control of the plane when the pilot left the cockpit to use the toilet. After landing, he left the aircraft via a cockpit window, without harming passengers or crew, police spokesman Pierre Grangean told a news conference.

"Just after landing, the co-pilot came out of the cockpit and ran to the police and said, 'I'm the hijacker.' He said he is not safe in his own country and wants asylum," Grangean said.

As passengers left the plane, which was parked near the end of the runway, they were checked by police as they held their hands on their necks, a Reuters witness said.

Ethiopia, sub-Saharan Africa's second most populous country, is among the continent's fastest growing economies. The opposition and rights campaigners accuse the government of stifling dissent and torturing political detainees.

But it is rare for government officials and employees - Ethiopian Airlines is run by the state - to seek asylum. The last senior official to do so fled to the United States in 2009.

Flight ET702 departed the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa on Sunday evening and was bound for Rome. The plane was hijacked at about 0330 GMT (10:30 PM EST Sunday) while over northern Italy, Grangean said. It landed at Geneva at 6:02 a.m. (0502 GMT).

He said the co-pilot, an Ethiopian born in 1983, locked the flight deck door when the pilot went to the toilet. He then asked to refuel at Geneva, landed the plane, climbed down on an emergency exit rope from a cockpit window, and gave himself up.

Robert Deillon, CEO of Geneva airport, said air traffic controllers learnt the plane had been hijacked when the co-pilot keyed a distress code into the aircraft's transponder, "There is ... a code for hijack.

Reuters

Three South Koreans killed, 14 injured in bomb attack in Egypt

SEOUL, 17 Feb — Three South Koreans were killed and 14 others injured by a bomb attack on a tourist bus in Egypt on Sunday, which also killed the Egyptian driver, South Korea's *Yonhap News Agency* reported on Monday.

It said the bus, carrying 31 South Korean churchgoers and two South Korean tour guides, was attacked in the small Egyptian town of Taba on the Sinai Peninsula as it was preparing to cross the border into Israel.

The blast killed the two tour guides and a female tourist, along with the Egyptian driver, and injured 14 other South Koreans.

"A man presumed to be in his 20s threw a bomb into the vehicle, according to survivors. But no one has claimed responsibility for the attack, and it was not clear if South Koreans were specifically targeted in the explosion," a South Korea Foreign Ministry official was quoted as saying.—*Kyodo News*

People and security officials walk and look as smoke rises from a tourist bus in the Red Sea resort town of Taba in the south Sinai, on 16 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

Thai protesters besiege Government House

BANGKOK, 17 Feb — Thailand's anti-government protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban on Monday morning led protesters to besiege the Government House to prevent caretaker Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra from returning to work.

Caretaker Labour Minister and chief of the government-run Centre for Maintaining Peace and Order, Chalerm Yoobamrung, said earlier that Yingluck would be able to work in the Government House again by on Wednesday. At around 10 am local time, protesters started to build concrete walls to block gates of the Government House. Chalerm said Sunday that police forces would be deployed from Monday in a bid to reclaim five protest sites in Bangkok from protesters, including the one near the Government House.—*Xinhua*

Ukraine protesters and police pull back in contest over president

KIEV, 17 Feb — Ukrainian opposition protesters ended a two-month occupation of city hall in Kiev on Sunday and opened a road to limited traffic, meeting an amnesty offer aimed at easing a stand-off over President Viktor Yanukovich's rule.

The authorities, for their part, withdrew riot police from a flashpoint district of the capital, near the Dynamo Kiev football stadium, where at least three protesters died in January in violence between ultra-radical activists and police.

Apparently accepting that the protesters had met the authorities half-way, the prosecutor's office said in a statement that the amnesty would come into force from Monday. —*Reuters*

WORLD

Chief trade negotiators begin TPP talks in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 17 Feb — Chief negotiators from the 12 Pacific Rim countries involved in the ongoing Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade talks began discussions on Monday in Singapore before a plenary ministerial meeting slated for later this week aiming to conclude the ambitious trade deal.

At the working-level meeting through Friday, top officials from the TPP member nations will try to thrash out thorny issues including tariff elimination and intellectual property rights before bringing them to the ministerial level.

Koji Tsuruoka, Japan's top TPP negotiator, told reporters on Monday morning that each member country needs to "show flexibility" to make progress in Singapore, expressing commitment to make utmost efforts toward a final agreement.

After the 12 countries abandoned their goal of reaching an agreement by the end of 2013 at the last ministerial conference held in Singapore in December, they have continued talks at various levels, but huge gaps remain over outstanding problems, negotiation sources said.

Prior to the ministerial meeting set to begin Saturday, trade representatives from Japan and the United State — the two biggest economies in the TPP — met in Washington in a last-minute effort to break a deadlock on tariff elimination and automotive trade issues. But the two sides failed to move closer.

Kyodo News

Volcanic ashes cover the street in Malang of East Java Province, Indonesia, on 16 Feb, 2014. The death toll from eruption of Kelud volcano in Indonesia's Province of East Java increased to four on Saturday with all of them living within the radius of 7 kilometres from the crater of the volcano.

XINHUA

Asia-Pacific stability depends on success of ASEAN code of conduct

US Secretary of State John Kerry (L) walks with ASEAN Secretary-General Le Luong Minh to a meeting in Jakarta on 16 Feb, 2014.

REUTERS

JAKARTA, 17 Feb — The future stability of the Asia-Pacific region depends on the success of negotiating an ASEAN code of conduct on maritime claims, US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Monday.

The United States has been increasingly uneasy at what it sees as China's effort to gain creeping control over waters in the Asia-Pacific, including its 23 November declaration of an air defence identification zone (ADIZ) in an area of the East China Sea that includes islands at the center of a dispute with Japan.

Speaking in the Indonesian capital during a trip to Asia and the Middle East, Kerry added that negotiations on a Tran-Pacific Partnership trade deal would continue and he believed the US Congress would come to an appropriate conclusion on the trade talks.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations groups Vietnam, Thailand, Singapore, the Philippines, Malaysia, Myanmar, Laos, Indonesia, Cambodia, and Brunei.

Reuters

Performers participate in the 130th Nice carnival in Nice, southern France, on 15 Feb, 2014. The annual event kicked off here on Friday.

XINHUA

Greek opposition says will try to force early election in 2015

ATHENS, 17 Feb — Greek opposition leader Alexis Tsipras said on Sunday he will not support any candidate for president in spring 2015 in the hope of forcing an early parliamentary election.

President Karolos Papoulias' term ends in March 2015 and, under Greece's constitution, his successor will need the support of 180 deputies in Greece's 300-seat parliament, equivalent to a 3/5ths majority.

But the government has only 153 seats, meaning it would have to rely on the support of Tsipras's Syriza's 71 deputies or of smaller parties also opposed to Greece's EU/IMF bailout.

"We will not support any candidate," Tsipras said in an interview in the weekend edition of German newspaper *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*.

"This means that the necessary parliamentary majority to elect a president will not be there ... There will have to be new elections," a transcript sent by his office on Sunday stated.—*Reuters*

Lawyers for Egypt's deposed President Mursi stage walk-out

CAIRO, 17 Feb — Lawyers for deposed Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi withdrew in protest after he appeared in court on Sunday on charges of conspiring with foreign groups to commit terrorist acts in Egypt.

Mursi's legal team protested they could not hear their client speak from inside a soundproof glass cage. The judge controls the microphone that allows defendants to be heard.

The judge ordered a lawyer's syndicate to assign 10 lawyers to defend Mursi at the trial's next hearing on 23 February.

"My professional conscience will not permit me to continue...in these void proceedings," lawyer Mohamed Salim al-Awa told *Reuters*.

In what they call "the biggest case of conspiracy in the history of Egypt", prosecutors say Mursi's Muslim Brotherhood hatched a "terrorist plan" in 2005 involving the Palestinian Hamas group as well as Shi'ite Iran and its Lebanese ally Hezbollah.—*Reuters*

Hamas has dismissed the charges as "fabrications and lies". The Brotherhood also rejects the allegations, saying it is a peaceful organization with no links to any violent groups.—*Reuters*

TEPCO labour union wants utility to drop 20% salary cut

Tokyo, 17 Feb — The labour union of Tokyo Electric Power Co plans to ask the utility as soon as this week to retract its 20 percent cut in employees' annual salaries, a company source said on Sunday.

The union wants to prevent the departure of employees with expertise in areas that could help rebuild TEPCO, the source said.

The request will be a follow-up to the utility's new business turnaround plan approved by the government in January, in which TEPCO said it will reduce the size of the salary cut. In April 2011, the labour union and management agreed to cut annual salaries by 20 percent as part of restructuring efforts to fund compensation payments related to the nuclear crisis that erupted at TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi power plant the previous month.

In its new business turnaround plan, TEPCO said it intends to narrow down the salary cut to 14 percent in the second half of fiscal 2014 and 5 percent in fiscal 2016. TEPCO expects the cumulative number of voluntary retirees since the nuclear crisis to total 1,700 by the end of March. Of the total, employees from the business strategy division at TEPCO's head office and nuclear engineers are expected to account for around 40 percent, fueling concern that their departure could affect the utility's core activities.

Kyodo News

Young men of Miao ethnic group dressed as "Mangge", wearing a mask and clothes made of Chinese silvergrass, dance during traditional "Mangge" Festival in Anchui Township of Rongshui Miao Autonomous County, southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 16 Feb, 2014. Local Miao people believe "Mangge" can drive off evils and bring people prosperity in the new year.
Xinhua

US nuclear waste facility monitored for radiation

Houston, 17 Feb — An underground nuclear waste repository in the US state of New Mexico is monitored as radiation was detected earlier on the underground levels of the facility, US media reported on Sunday.

An air monitor at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP), located near Carlsbad in the southeastern part of New Mexico, detected unusually high levels of radioactive particles on its underground levels late Friday night, local TV KRWG reported, quoting a source with the US Department of Energy.

US Department of Energy spokesman Roger Nelson said in a news release that no workers were underground at the time and no injuries or damages have been reported. The 139 workers above the ground at the site were told on Saturday to stay where they were as a precaution. None of them tested positive for contamination, and all non-essential personnel were released.

The WIPP stores waste that emits alpha and beta radiation, which is in particulate form, so the risk is of inhalation not penetration, Nelson said.

The Department said samples were taken at several surface sites around the WIPP and that tests show no contamination has been detected in those surface samples.—*Xinhua*

President summons Renzi as Italy seeks new government

Rome, 17 Feb — Italian President Giorgio Napolitano summoned Matteo Renzi to a meeting on Monday at which he is expected to ask the centre-left leader to form a government that must overhaul one of the most troubled economies in the euro zone.

Napolitano is likely to ask the slick-talking mayor of Florence to form the country's 65th government since World War Two in the meeting, which a statement from the president's office said was scheduled for 10.30 am (0930 GMT) in Rome.

Enrico Letta resigned as prime minister on Friday after his Democratic Party (PD) forced him to make way for Renzi, 39, who is promising radical reforms to the euro zone's third-biggest economy and a government that can survive until 2018.

Renzi would become the youngest prime minister in Italian history.

Matteo Renzi, the PD secretary and current mayor of Florence, walks next to a car in the courtyard of his home at Pontassieve, near Florence, on 16 Feb, 2014.
Reuters

But to take power he will need the support of a centre-right rival, and if he gets it, he will become the third premier in a row picked by the president and not by popular vote.

This process is not widely welcomed in a country where a long-entrenched political elite, resistant to reform, has grown unpopular due to systemic corruption and mismanagement.

"Renzi committed an original sin, which is that he will become prime minister without an election," said Giovanni Orsina, deputy head of Rome's Luiss School of Government. "Now in order to make that original sin forgotten, he needs to govern very effectively."

After getting a mandate from the president, Renzi will have to strike a deal with the small New Centre Right (NCD) party, whose support the PD needs to command a parliamentary majority.

The party, which split from ex-premier Silvio Berlusconi last year, said it wants to see a written programme that puts a clear centre-right stamp on tax, jobs and family policies before backing Renzi.

On the economic front the two sides are likely to find common ground. Renzi has already said he backs lower taxes affecting employment, but they differ on social issues such as immigration and laws.

"We are decisive. If we say no to the government, it will not be born," NCD leader Angelino Alfano said at a party rally on Sunday. Renzi may meet Alfano in Rome on Sunday evening to hammer out an agreement, some Italian media reported. —*Reuters*

African nations form G5 to work on Sahel security, development

Nouakchott, 17 Feb — The leaders of Mauritania, Mali, Niger, Chad and Burkina Faso agreed on Sunday to create a regional organization to strengthen cooperation on development and security in the Sahel region.

Mauritania will host the headquarters of the new grouping, dubbed the G5 Sahel, and its President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz will initially take the chair, according to a statement issued after a meeting in the Mauritanian capital, Nouakchott.

The Sahel is an arid belt of land south of the Sahara desert which runs across Africa from Mauritania in the west to Sudan in the east. "There is no lasting development without security nor enduring security without effective development," Abdel Aziz said at the meeting. "We have agreed to unite our efforts to tackle this double challenge of security and lasting development in the Sahel."

The closing communique said ministers from the five nations would work together to identify priority investment projects and seek sources of international financing, focusing on areas such as infrastructure, food security, agriculture and pastoralism. In recent years, the western Sahel region has faced a rising threat from armed Islamist groups. Al-Qaeda-linked groups seized control of the northern two thirds of Mali in 2012 before they were defeated by a French-led military campaign last year.

Reuters

***Italian stunt team Bizzarro perform car-driving skills in Sanya, south China's Hainan Province, on 15 Feb, 2014.—*Xinhua**

BUSINESS & HEALTH

FDA warns about Medisca's L-citrulline supplement

WASHINGTON, 17 Feb — The US Food and Drug Administration said on Saturday certain lots of the supplement L-citrulline, used to treat genetic disorders found mostly in children, sold by compounding firm Medisca Inc were found to contain none of the drug, and warned doctors and patients not to use it.

The FDA said the company is voluntarily recalling eight lots of the supplement. The agency said it has received "several adverse event reports associated with Medisca's L-citrulline product.""Health care professionals should discontinue dispensing from these lots, contact patients, and return all unused product to Medisca Inc. Patients and caregivers should stop using any product with these lot numbers," the FDA said.

The FDA said testing by Medisca indicated that those lots at issue did not contain L-citrulline. The agency said L-citrulline is used to treat certain urea cycle disorders, rare genetic conditions primarily diagnosed in children. The company said in a statement that its investigation of the lots found that they did not contain L-citrulline "and therefore represent a potential health hazard. These lots should not be used for any purpose." — *Reuters*

Lloyds seeks 'lower' ringfence to save investment banking business

BANGALORE, 17 Feb —Lloyds Banking Group Plc (LLOY.L) is in talks with Britain's Prudential Regulation Authority over "ringfencing" rules in an attempt to save its investment banking functions, the *Financial Times* reported on Sunday. The state-backed group is concerned that the cost of operations after ringfencing takes effect may outweigh the benefits, forcing the group to shut investment banking activities and operate as a retail business alone, sources familiar with Lloyds' plans told the newspaper.

Lloyds Banking Group and the Prudential Regulation Authority could not immediately be reached for comment. Ringfencing for banking groups in the UK is scheduled to be implemented by 2019.

It is expected to force big British banks to legally separate their retail banking operations from investment banking, in line with the recommendations of the Independent Commission on Banking, which was led by Sir John Vickers. The FT quoted people familiar with the matter saying that Lloyds is in discussions with the regulator to allow it to operate a "lower" ringfence so that its retail and investment banking activities would not have to be so rigidly separated. The report cited people close to Lloyds saying that the bank's initial discussions with the regulator were progressing well and that the regulator "understood" the group's situation. One of the sources said "we hope the regulator will be pragmatic."

The signage is seen at a branch of Lloyds bank in central London on 13 Feb, 2014.— REUTERS

"Given that we are predominantly a retail and commercial bank, we would expect to be less affected than other major UK banks by the implementation of a retail ringfence. We remain committed to providing our clients with a broad range of banking services," a Lloyds representative told the *Financial Times*. The PRA is expected to consult and finalize the structure of ringfencing with banks in 2014. —*Reuters*

A man walks past a Du telecommunications advertisement in Deira in Dubai on 12 March, 2012.—REUTERS

UAE telco du agrees terms on $720 million loan financing

DUBAI, 17 Feb — UAE telecom firm du has agreed terms on a $720 million loan which will be used to replace two existing debt facilities and lower the company's funding costs, two banking sources said on Sunday. The five-year loan will be provided by Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank, National Bank of Abu Dhabi and Saudi Arabia's Samba Financial Group, the sources who both have knowledge of the matter said. They spoke on condition of anonymity as the information is not public.

Du declined to comment when contacted by Reuters. The interest rate which du will pay for the new loan will be 140 basis points over the London interbank offered rate (Libor), the sources said. Bankers not involved in the deal remarked that the pricing which du ultimately got from the three lenders was extremely cheap, especially as it had managed to negotiate a loan with a five-year lifespan." There have been talks for maybe 3-4 months between the company and banks but while they wanted five years, the most that banks were prepared to offer was three years — especially at the pricing levels they wanted," said one of the bankers not involved in the transaction.

By comparison, Commercial Bank of Qatar, the Gulf Arab state's second-largest lender by assets, is currently marketing a $600 million loan, split between a two- and three-year portion, which pays 120 and 140 bps respectively when the margin is combined with the fees a bank will earn. Du's new loan will replace two existing debt facilities. The first is a $220 million three-year loan which expires in June. That transaction paid a margin of 145 bps over Libor and was provided by Dubai lenders Emirates NBD and Mashreq as well as NBAD and Samba, according to Thomson Reuters data.

It will also replace a $500 million facility raised in late-2012, which is due to run until 2017 and pays a margin of 175 bps over Libor. The banks who funded that deal were ADCB, Mashreq, NBAD and Samba. Du joins other companies which are currently raising cash to refinance existing debt, even if those facilities still have a substantial amount of time to run. Emirates Steel is seeking $1.3 billion from banks to replace debt and fund the purchase of assets from its parent firm, even though the original deal has more than three years to run.

Reuters

BoE's Carney: Jobs, incomes, wages to be factored into any rate rise

LONDON, 17 Feb — The Bank of England will only start to increase interest rates when a range of measures suggest the economy is operating at closer to full capacity, central bank governor Mark Carney said in an interview broadcast on Sunday. On Wednesday the BoE said it would look at a broader range of measures of slack in the economy than just the unemployment rate when considering whether to raise borrowing costs, and that it was in no rush to raise rates.

"The path of monetary policy, the path of interest rates is going to be calibrated very carefully to ensure that only when we see sustainable growth in jobs, in incomes and in spending, will we make adjustments," he told the BBC. "We can responsibly take our time and only adjust interest rates once more slack has been cut," Carney said.

The BoE said that in the run-up to the publication of its economic forecasts, markets had been pricing in a first rise in interest rates in the second quarter of 2015, and that this was consistent with inflation just below the BoE's 2 percent goal.

Carney also said he was concerned about Britain's history of booms and busts in house prices, but that a government scheme to aid home-buyers, Help to Buy, was not a major factor in boosting prices for now."It's still pretty small, it's all outside of London, it's for lower-priced houses, as a whole it's mainly with first-time buyers, so its not driving the housing market, but we have a responsibility to watch it," he said.

Bank of England governor Mark Carney

Reuters

FTA with S Korea a big boost to Australian agriculture

CANBERRA, 17 Feb — Australian Minister for Trade and Investment Andrew Robb said on Monday the country's Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with South Korea will serve as a big boost to Australia's agriculture sector. Robb released the full text of the 1,800-page document of FTA with South Korea, under which a 40 percent tariff on beef exports will be scrapped and the Korean market would be opened up to other agricultural exports such as sheep meat and wine.

"These sorts of opportunities are just critical, especially given the situation in agriculture," Robb said at a Press conference in Canberra. "There is an exploding market on our doorstep, but we have to be able to compete." Robb said the United States, as another major beef exporter, secured a free trade agreement with South Korea two years ago and hence has achieved an 8 percent advantage over Australia in beef export to the Northeast Asian country. He said that the deal will boost agricultural exports to South Korea by more than 70 percent over the next 15 years, and manufacturing exports by up to 30 percent.

The auto components sector, hit by the loss of Holden and Toyota's local manufacturing operations, will immediately become more competitive as an 8 percent tariff will be removed in the South Korean market, he said. Australian consumers will benefit from cheaper South Korean- made cars as a 5 percent import tariff designed to protect jobs in the Australian motor industry is removed over the next three to five years. The agreement is yet to be finally signed and is set to take effect from the end of this year, subject to parliamentary ratification.

What might become a concern for Australia is the inclusion of the so-called "investor-state dispute settlement" (ISDS) mechanism, which gives foreign companies the right to sue the Australian government if they think they are being denied access to Australian markets. But Robb believes safeguards built into its design mean its inclusion will not leave Australia exposed. He said the so-called "non-discriminatory" action taken by a government — that is, action that does not single out just one company — will not be liable to legal action under the ISDS. — *Xinhua*

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Crocodiles can climb trees: researchers

Orlando, 17 Feb — Most people entering crocodile territory keep a wary eye out on water and land, but research suggests they need to look up. Though the reptiles lack obvious physical features to suggest this is possible, crocodiles in fact climb trees all the way to the crowns, according to University of Tennessee researcher Vladimir Dinets.

Researchers in the climbing study observed crocodiles in Australia, Africa and North America. The study documented crocodiles climbing as high as six feet off the ground. But Dinets said he received anecdotal reports from people who spend time around crocodiles of the reptiles climbing almost 30 feet. Dinets said crocodiles lack the toe and foot structure that would be expected of a climber. However, smaller and juvenile crocodiles in particular were observed climbing vertically while larger ones tended to climb angled trunks and branches, all of which is a measure of the reptiles' spectacular agility, he said.

"They just go slowly," he said. "Eventually they get there." The finding was reported in January in Herpetology Notes in collaboration with Adam Britton from Charles Darwin University in Australia and Matthew Shirley from the University of Florida. The researchers believe the crocodiles climb to keep a lookout on their territory and to warm themselves in the sun. "The most frequent observations of tree-basking were in areas where there were few places to bask on the ground, implying that the individuals needed alternatives for regulating their body temperature," the authors wrote.

An adult Philippine crocodile is seen on a tree limb in this undated handout photo received on 14 Feb, 2014. Reuters

"Likewise, their wary nature suggests that climbing leads to improved site surveillance of potential threats and prey." People who spend time around crocodiles have known about the climbing ability for decades, Dinets said, but this study is the first to thoroughly examine the climbing and basking behavior. Dinets also was co-author of a widely reported study in 2013 that demonstrated crocodiles used sticks and twigs to hunt, balancing nest-building material on their snouts just above the water line to lure birds. The crocodiles lay in wait for hours and lunged when a bird ventured near.

Reuters

Albania to host environmental film festival in May

Tirana, 17 Feb — Albania will host an environment-themed film festival in May with the screening of movies on environmental issues involving water, pollution, biodiversity and waste, organizers announced on Saturday.

Organizers of the second edition of the Environmental Film Festival — a joint initiative of the Delegation of the European Union to Albania, the Albanian Ministry of Environment and other partners — are seeking Albanian and Western Balkan entries that celebrate human connection with the natural world.

They said short films ranging from 5 to 20 minutes in length are expected.

New entries will be accepted until 28 March, while a jury will select 10 films for each category. The festival's films will be shown across Albanian cities as part of a campaign to raise environmental awareness.

Xinhua

Bonobos, like humans, keep time to music

Bonobos, closely related to chimpanzees.

Chicago, 17 Feb — Some animals, like humans, can sense and respond to a musical beat, a finding that has implications for understanding how the skill evolved, scientists said on Saturday. A study of bonobos, closely related to chimpanzees, shows they have an innate ability to match tempo and synchronize a beat with human experimenters. For the study, researchers designed a highly resonate, bonobo-friendly drum able to withstand 500 pounds of jumping pressure, chewing, and other ape-like behaviors.

"Bonobos are very attuned to sound. They hear above our range of hearing," said Patricia Gray, a biomusic programme director at University of North Carolina in Greensboro. Experimenters beat a drum at a tempo favoured by bonobos — roughly 280 beats per minute, or the cadence that humans speak syllables. The apes picked up the beat and synchronized using the bonobo drum, Gray and psychologist Edward Large, with the University of Connecticut, said at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

"It's not music, but we're slowing moving in that direction," Large said. Related research on a rescued sea lion, which has no innate rhythmic ability, shows that with training, it could bob its head in time with music, said comparative psychologist Peter Cook, who began working with Ronan the sea lion while a graduate student at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Scientists suspect that the musical and rhythmic abilities of humans evolved to strengthen social bonds, "so, one might think that a common ancestor to humans and the bonobo would have some of these capabilities," Large said.

The addition of sea lions to the list suggests that the ability to sense rhythm may be more widespread. Gray and Large said they would like to conduct a study on whether bonobos in the wild synchronize with other members of their species when they, for example, beat on hollow trees." That's really coordination. Now, you're talking about a social interaction," Large said. —*Reuters*

Google acquires Israeli security start-up SlickLogin

Jerusalem, 17 Feb — The global internet giant Google is acquiring SlickLogin, an Israeli developer of sound-based password alternative, in an "acqui-hiring deal," which means SlickLogin's staff and knowledge will be integrated into Google, SlickLogin confirmed the deal on its website on Sunday.

"Today we're announcing that the SlickLogin team is joining Google," the three founders of the young start-up said, adding Google "shares our core beliefs that logging in should be easy instead of frustrating... We couldn't be more excited to join their efforts." No financial figures of the transaction were disclosed.

SlickLogin was founded less than a year ago. The company is based on a novel idea to enable end users to log-in easily into password-protected websites by using a uniquely generated sound. The company has yet to launch a commercial product and accrued clients, so the deal actually represents an acquisition of the technology itself.

Xinhua

Crowdfunding website Kickstarter hacked, recommends users change passwords

New York, 17 Feb — Kickstarter, the fundraising platform used by millions of people to raise capital for creative projects and businesses, said on Saturday that hackers had gained access to some of its customers' data earlier this week but that the breach had been repaired.

"No credit card data of any kind was accessed by hackers. There is no evidence of unauthorized activity of any kind on all but two Kickstarter user accounts," Kickstarter Chief Executive Officer Yancey Strickler said in a blog post on the website. It noted that it does not store credit card data. Recent data breaches at Target Corp and Neiman Marcus have sparked concern from US lawmakers and consumers over who should bear the cost of consumer losses and how to improve cybersecurity.

Kickstarter's information that was accessed without authority included user names, email addresses, mailing addresses, phone numbers and encrypted passwords, said Kickstarter, which was informed of the breach by law enforcement officials on Wednesday night.

It added that while passwords were not revealed, persons with computer expertise could still decipher encrypted passwords, and recommended users change their passwords as well as those for other sites or accounts for which the users had the same password.

Kickstarter said it had beefed up security in recent days. It also said it was working with law enforcement officials. Kickstarter launched in 2009 as a conduit for funding of projects ranging from films and stage shows to video games and restaurant launches. Contributors to a project's launch are often compensated with rewards, discounts, credits or other offers from the projects they help fund. Since its launch more than 100,000 projects have been funded, with hundreds of millions of dollars pledged.

Reuters

ARTICLE

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 18 February, 2014

Film tourism

Tourism is one of the fastest growing industries in Myanmar that has been opening up together with the introduction of reforms in various sectors and adoption of the market economy. As Myanmar is a new frontier, its business prospects especially in tourism are bright. Tourism as we all know is a large business having many sectors ranging from culture and adventure tourism to food and education tourism.

One of the sectors with many areas to explore is film tourism as it is an entirely new business in Myanmar. Film tourism describes the effects that film and TV-productions can have on our travel decisions as they inspire people to experience the screened places firsthand. Not only is film tourism an excellent vehicle for destination marketing, it also presents new product development opportunities, such as location tours, film museums, exhibitions.

Apart from local film industry, some foreign countries may come and shoot films in Myanmar. Here we should draw the attention of big industries from countries like India, South Korea, UK, Germany and US that our country is a new frontier having lots of things to offer. We can promote film tourism in our country through seminars, conferences and business talks, script assessment of feature films and film productions for their tourism-inducing potential, destination marketing consulting (movie maps, homepage features and classic promotion materials), development of film-related tourism products, creation of film location tours, promotion of film exhibitions and fairs and products for museums, consultation of existing tourist attractions with a film connection, tourism script development for the small and big screen, and conduction of market research with film-induced tourists.

As our country is now a visitor-friendly land, paving the way for investments and technological and technical cooperation we see brighter prospects for our film tourism.

Victorious Myanmar Para Games athletes get honor at dinner

YANGON, 17 Feb— A dinner was hosted in honour of victorious Myanmar athletes who participated in the 7th ASEAN Para Games at a training ground in Dagon Myothit (North) Township in Yangon on 16 February.

In his words of praise, Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htaik called on medal-winning athletes to sustain their diligence and excellent performance they had presented at the Games into the future and to bring glory to home again at the 8th ASEAN Para Games in 2015.

Next, Maj-Gen Nay Lin, President of Myanmar Paralympics Federation, spoke words of thanks, highlighting contributions of wellwishers and liaison officers to the Games.

Then, the deputy minister and officials presented additional cash awards and certificates of honour to victorious para sports teams, managers and coaches, LOs, VOs and WF and wellwishers.

Afterwards, MD U Myint Kyi of Than-Myan-Thu Construction Company donated K 5 million for the federation. Victorious Para Games athletes were presented K 50000 each at the dinner.—*MNA*

Current situation of Fresh Water Seepage into Twyn Taung Crater Lake with high pH and alkaline ecosystem, causing lower pH and dilution with increased population of Tilapia fish eating Spirulina and water beetle

Dr. Min Thein

(continued from 16-2-2014)

10. In any region of the world, massive irrigation water generally causes a significant rise of ground water table. Thus, the massive volume of river water pump up in the Twyn Taung region also causes an obvious rise in ground water table resulting in water filled ponds and shallow surface and tube wells (Figs. 1, 3).

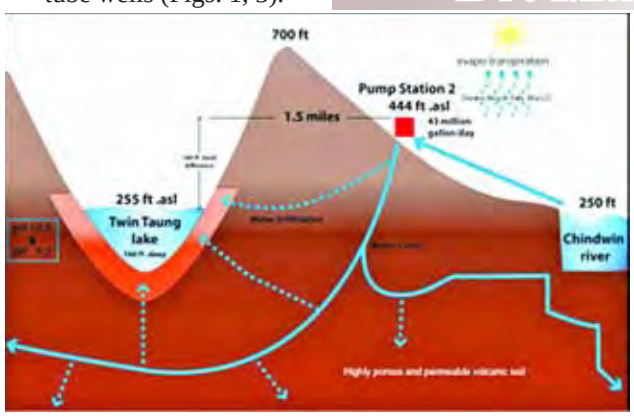


Fig.3.Water Levels of Chindwin River, Twyn Taung Lake and Pump Station (2) showing possible water infiltration.

11. Twyn Taung lake is 189 feet lower and only 1.5 miles away from pump station (2). The big water volume pumped up causes a rise in ground water table in the region. Since Shinmachauk and other ponds, situated farther away than Twyn Taung from the pump station, are filled up with water recently, it is quite obvious that some of the pumped up river water also seeps into the nearby crater lake at lower level. (Figs. 1,4)

The presence of highly porous and permeable volcanic soil in Twyn Taung region

12. Within a 5 mile radius from the Twyn Taung crater lake, highly porous and permeable volcanic soil is reported to be present (Twyn Taung craters, p.46; Personal communications: Professor and Head, Professor Dr. Tin Maung Htwe, Department of Geology, University of Mandalay).
13. Some soil samples from Twyn Taung and Ye Budalin river water pumping work region were taken to test the water seepage rates. It was found that soil samples from near the crater show highly seepage rate than those from farther away (Fig. 5).
14. The main problem seems to be that the pumping station and water distribution earthen canals are situated within the 5 miles radius of the crater which has highly porous and permeable volcanic soil(Fig. 6).
15. Irrigating river water in the Twyn Taung region which has highly porous and permeable volcanic soil can lead to salinization in the future. At present, it is also destroying the highly alkaline ecosystem of Twyn Taung lake by diluting high pH of the lake water. Thus, the best solution is to relocate the irrigation canals outside the volcanic soil region (5 to 10 miles range).

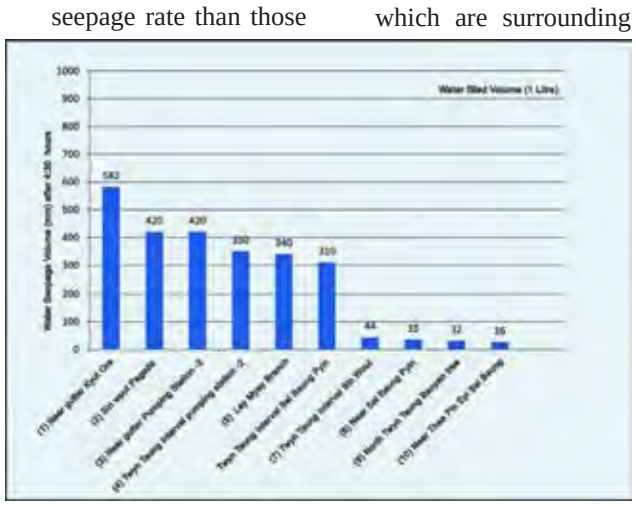


Fig.5. Soil samples (1 kg each) taken from Twyn Taung region showing different water seepage rates.

Current seepage of fresh water into Twyn Taung lake

16. Inside the Twyn Taung crater, new spring holes appeared on the northern and earthen sides in the lake. These are in line with the river water distribution canals which are surrounding the crater from outside (Figs.1,3. Thus, it is most probable that water from irrigation canals seeps into the Twyn Taung lake.)
17. Twyn Taung lake is cone shape and based on contour diagram (Fig.7), it can hold about 3100 million gallons of water. Since the river water work is pumping at least 30 million gallons per day, it is equivalent to more than 3 times the volume of lake water per year. During the 7 year period (2006 to 2013) a total amount of 63000 million gallons of water has been pumped up and the lake water level has rose 44 inches which is equivalent to a net increase of 208.62 million gallons. This amount is only 0.33% of grand total pumped water. If all the pumped water seep into the lake, the water level could have risen by additional 108 feet.
18. Continuous seepage of fresh water resulted in the occurrence of thin fresh water surface layer in the lake due to difference in specific gravity. pH value is drastically reduced at northern and eastern lake sides (Fig. 7).Consequently fish migrated from lake side areas to central areas.
19. Due to lower pH of lake water, undesirable algae contaminants and organisms can appear in the lake.
20. The impact of current drastic change in pH will destroy the extreme alkaline ecosystem in the Twyn Taung lake accompanied by extinction of rare natural living resources namely Spirulina blue-green algae and Ephedra water beetle insect.

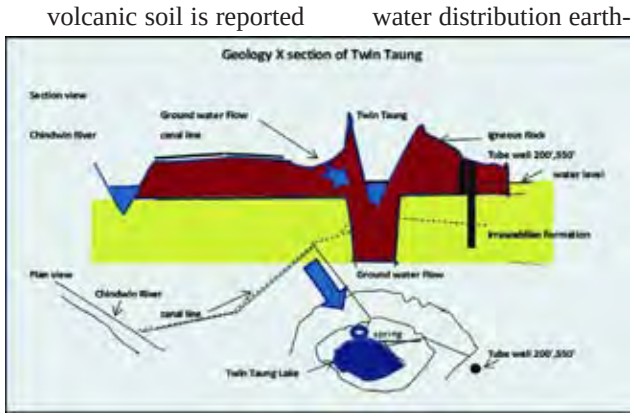


Fig.4.Geology X Section of Twyn Taung.

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of Twyn Taung Lake

21. In the past three simple environmental impact assessments (EIA) have been evaluated.
    (a) In the early years of 1980, igneous rocks from Twyn Taung were cut for making outdoor flow tiles by Ministry of Industry (1). After using the rocks on the ground, production was stopped due to the report by the field managers that digging of the earth to acquire the rocks underground would result in erosion of the soil into the lake and thereby destroying the lake ecosystem.

(to be continued)

Region/State government's recommendation needed to postpone repayment period on agriculture loans of pests-stricken farmers

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb — Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw continued respective sessions on 17 February.

At the Pyithu Hluttaw session, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than said the postponement of repayment period on agriculture loans will be possible at the request of the farmers of pest-ravaged farmlands in Shwebo Township, but a recommendation of the region government is needed. Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay responded to a question of a representative that 20 students from self-administered division and zones have been allowed to attend the University of Medicine (Magway) in accord with relaxation of marks in the minimum eligibility requirement. At the Amyotha Hluttaw session, Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein welcomed entrepreneurs' interest to develop inland water transport on the River Thanlwin, saying that plans are underway to conduct a feasibility study for water transport along the river by the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems.

Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Aye Myint Maung replied that the ministry is responsible to manage a balance between environmental conservation and fulfillment of the demand on forest products, not for the sake of the ministry only. Next, Amyotha Hluttaw approved Consumer Protection Bill sent back by Pyithu Hluttaw with its amendments.

MNA

Vice-President ...

(from page 16)

Next, he visited Obokone village and met local people. As rural electrification has been realized in nearby villages of the dame by hydropower turbines at the dam, local people have access to electricity.

In meeting with locals at Kyauk Khwat village, the Vice-President said rural electrification through hydropower, solar power, biomass and wind power benefited 200,00 of 600,00 villages in Myanmar, including Kyauk Khwat village. He called for raising a fund to cover operating and maintenance costs for durability of machines. While measures are being undertaken for rural development by the government, local people are to do their bit, sharing responsibilities for development of their own regions as plenty of works still remain to fulfill requirements of every village.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun held a meeting with departmental officials and local people from townships in Pyay and Thayawady districts at Zigon Township City Hall.

During the meeting, the vice-president called for cooperation and coordination among Hluttaw representatives, township management committees, support committees for development, development affairs committees and local people in making efforts for development of townships.

He also pledged for providing assistance to the private sector as the government is carrying reforms in the private sector as part of efforts for encouraging joint venture businesses and investment sector.

The meeting was attended by about 600 local people.

During the meeting, the Union minister, deputy ministers and departmental heads donated rice, foods and utensils to the township.

During the visit, the vice-president contributed 10 million kyat into the funds of the Zegon Township People's Hospital and 5 million kyat in to the funds of the Zegon Township Home for the Aged.—*MNA*

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Indonesian armed forces chief

***Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses for documentary photo with Commander-in-Chief of Indonesian National Defence Forces Gen Dr. Moeldoko.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb— A ceremony to welcome Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing by Commander-in-Chief of Indonesian National Defence Forces Gen Dr. Moeldoko took place at the parade grounds in Jakarta, Indonesia at 7 am LST on 17 February.

First, the two armed forces chiefs took the salute of the Guard of Honour and inspected it. The Senior General held talks with the Indonesian armed forces chief at the office of the Commander-in-Chief. The Indonesian armed forces chief expressed his belief that Myanmar will be able to successfully hold meetings on ASEAN armed forces in March and May, saying both countries have good relations and both are members of Non-alignment movement. He invited Myanmar military officers to attend peace-keeping course in Indonesia.

The Senior General disclosed that the Indonesia visit is the first-ever visit for him as a military chief and it aims at strengthening amity and friendship between the two armed forces. He suggested to send reciprocal visits for defence services sports and cultural troupes, adding an UN official invited him to join Myanmar defence services personnel in UN Peacekeeping Force. He iterated that every defence services have to serve national duty of their countries.

The Senior General and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla met with Myanmar Ambassador U Min Lwin and wife, staff and family members of embassy, military attaché office and permanent representative to ASEAN office at Myanmar embassy 7 pm LST on 16 February. The Senior General presented gifts to the staff from permanent representative to ASEAN office and ASEAN Secretariat and attended dinner hosted by Ambassador U Min Lwin. The Senior General and party left Laungprabang International Airport in Laos for Indonesia on 16 February evening and arrived at Halin Perdana Kusama Airport in Jakarta of Indonesia at 5 pm LST.

Myawady

Myanmar to host 12th AMRI meeting in June

***Union Minister U Aung Kyi speaking at coordination meeting for holding the 12th AMRI meeting and related meetings.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb — Myanmar will host the 12th Meeting on ASEAN Ministers Responsible for Information (AMRI) in June in Nay Pyi Taw.

Myanmar takes pride in hosting the 12th AMRI meeting while the country's press freedom level is up, reaching upper middle in ASEAN countries, said Union Information Minister U Aung Kyi, at the work coordination meeting for holding the 12th AMRI meeting and related meetings in Myanmar. The Union minister stressed the need for taking responsibility by every citizen for better press freedom in the country in line with the international standard.

He expressed his hope that Myanmar's media would be the one which takes social responsibilities.

AMRI is constituted under the ASEAN Committee on Culture and Information (COCI), one of the main bodies in ASEAN cooperation in information, established in 1978.

The first meeting of the AMRI was held in Jakarta, Indonesia, in 1989, and the 11th meeting was held in Malaysia in 2012.—*MNA*

Investigation ...

(from page 16)

The members of the commission investigated the killing of Police Sgt Aung Kyaw Thein who was murdered at the Village of Ducheertan (middle) on 13 January.

The commission also met with local Bangali people at the Ducheertan Village's (middle)post-primary school as part of the investigation into the conflict.

The commission also visited the Village of Khayaymyaing and the Village of Kinchaung and met with local Rakhine people.

The members of the commission examined the Kinchaung Village's cemetery and suspected sites along with forensic experts.

During the tour of investigation, the commission also collected information related to education, socio-economy and agricultural situation of the villages of Bangalis and Rakhine people.

MNA

Two-storey building to comfort patients of Mohnyin District Hospital

Workers pouring out efforts in construction of two-storey building at Mohnyin District Hospital of Kachin State.

MOHNYIN, 17 Feb—A 106 feet long and 30 feet wide two-storey RC building is under construction at Mohnyin District Hospital.

The government allotted K 1300 million for construction of the hospital.

"Increasing number of population in Mohnyin District, the district hospital becomes reliable for the local people. To be able to serve health care to the people, seven doctors of 18 from organizational setup had been assigned duties at the hospital. Of them, three doctors are learning Master's Degree Course and another one will be transferred to the Medical Research Department (PyinOoLwin). So, ratio of doctors to patients is unbalance," said the District Medical Supridentent.

NLM-001

Housing buildings under construction in Ayechan Thayar region of Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 17 Feb—Under the supervision of Mandalay Region government, a total of 217 buildings are being built for the fire victims in Ayechan Thayar region.

These buildings are funded by families.

A plan is underway to construct 252 buildings in Ayechan Thayar region. For the first phase, 217 buildings are under construction. Moreover, 35 remaining buildings and condominiums and infrastructures will be constructed there, said Deputy Commissioner of District General Administration Department U Tin Maung Soe.

Nation-building Endeavours

Over 1200 workers and engineers are making utmost efforts in completion of construction tasks for the buildings before the rainy season.

Kyemon-Chan Tha (Meiktila)

K 5 million donated to monastic education school

SINGAING, 17 Feb—Myitta Goldsmith Shop of Mandalay donated K 5 million to the fund of Maga Parahita Monastic Education School in KyunU Village of Singaing Township op 15 February.

Wellwisher U Nyo Aye-Daw Kyi Yin and family of Manmyo Market of Mandalay had built a two-storey RC building worth K 55.5 million for the school.

The school was established by Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dhammapiya in 2007.

The school is a shelter for orphans from Maukmai, Hopong, Hsihseng and Nawngtaung townships. This year, 105 students are learning education at the school.

The school provides stationery, textbooks and exercise books to the needy students.

Since its establish, the school has turned out three Dhammacariya monks, nueses, BEd and other graduates totalling 12.

Kyemon-Tun Tun Naing

HRD

Outstanding students of Pyapon BEMS-1 honoured

PYAPON, 17 Feb—A ceremony to honour those who were selected as outstanding students (Lu-Ye-Chun) from Basic Education Middle School No 1 in Pyapon was held at the school on 13 February.

Headmaster U Khin Hlaing made a speech and then presented prizes to outstanding students Ma Yin Myo Myat Oo, Maung Han Lin Aung and Ma Chan Myae Khin of the school.

Next, guests presented gifts to the outstanding students. On behalf of the outstanding students, Ma Yin Myo Myat Oo spoke words of thanks.—*Kyemon-Thuza Nwe (Pyapon)*

Kyaukse IPRD show books, photos to readers

KYAUKSE, 17 Feb—The book show, wall magazine and photo shows and mobile library service took place at the people's sports ground in Kyaukse of Mandalay Region recently.

The shows were visited by departmental officials, members of social organizations and local people.

Due to opening of the mobile library, the bookworms read the publications and books the whole day.

Staff of the Township Information and Public Relations Department distributed pamphlets to the visitors with the aim of raising readers.

Kyaukse District IPRD is giving services of Wifi free of charge for the people, allows the readers to apply the Internet free of charge, opens mini book corners at the Kyaukse Station and other public places, put mobile libraries in factories, workshops, hospitals, universities, basic education schools and jail for broadening horizon of the people from all walks of life.

The department changes new books at the mini book corners monthly.

Any person may enrol at the District People's Hospital and may borrow any books from the library where over 14000 books are being stored for the public reading service, said Staff Officer Daw Wai Wai Phyo of District IPRD.—*Kyemon-Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)*

Mingin Tsp enjoys regional development tasks

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb—Over 800 residents in Mingin Township of Sagaing Region got free health care services, academic talks and some donations thanks to the Literacy and Regional Development Supportive Team from 2 to 8 February.

The team shared knowledge on their experiences, durability of the libraries and rural health.

They also donated clothes to needy people from far-flung villages, text books and stationery to branch of Basic Education High School No.6 in the village, publications and K 300,000 to the monastic education school and K 200,000 to fund for construction of the concrete street of Maha Minkyaung Monastery.

Literacy and Regional Development Supportive Team launched social welfare tasks for the first step.

Aung Thura

A boat leaves a port on the southern part of the Indonesian resort island of Bali on 16 Feb, 2014, to search for seven Japanese female scuba divers. The two diving instructors and five tourists went missing on 14 February while diving in waters off Bali.—KYODO NEWS

5 missing Japanese divers rescued off Bali

DENPASAR (Indonesia),17 Feb— Rescuers on Monday found and rescued five of the seven Japanese women who went missing last week while scuba diving off the Indonesian resort island of Bali, officials said.

Nyoman Suarsika, police chief on Nusa Penida Island, off the Indonesian resort island of Bali, told *Kyodo News* that the five divers were found on a rocky outcrop by local fishermen at around 3:30 p.m.

"They are in weak condition," Suarsika said, noting that one of them is "in critical condition."

One of the survivors has been identified as Saori Furukawa, 37, one of the two locally based Japanese diving instructors on the scuba diving trip.

Furukawa, who spoke briefly to *Kyodo News* after she was sent to a local hospital, said the four others rescued together with her "are safe."

The seven divers — the two diving instructors and five tourists from Japan — went missing Friday afternoon while scuba diving near Nusa Lembongan Island, located southeast of Bali.

Nusa Lembongan, a favorite spot for seasoned scuba divers, is known for its fast currents and transparent waters where coral reefs and tropical fish abound.

Kyodo News

Workers of power supply company repair transmission line in Erxianyan Village of Huolongping Township in Xianfeng County, central China's Hubei Province, on 16 Feb, 2014. Due to the snowstorm in recent days, electricity grid in Enshi Tu and Miao Ethnic Autonomous Prefecture was badly damaged and employees of the power supply company have been called on to deice and repair electricity transmission lines. **—XINHUA**

Japan's October-December GDP growth much weaker-than-expected

TOKYO, 17 Feb — Japan's economy grew a much weaker-than-expected annualized 1.0 percent in real terms during the last quarter of 2013 amid sluggish exports, the government said on Monday, sparking fears the country may face a sharp economic downturn after a sales tax hike in April.

The expansion in October-December inflation-adjusted gross domestic product corresponds to a 0.3 percent advance from the previous three months, the fourth straight quarter of growth, the Cabinet Office said in a preliminary report. GDP is the total value of goods and services produced within a nation.

The result fell short of the average market forecast of an annualized 2.6 percent growth in a Kyodo News survey.

Consumption — the biggest component accounting for around 60 percent of Japan's GDP — rose a real 0.5 percent, marking a fifth consecutive quarterly increase, due in part to a rush in demand ahead of the planned 3-percentage-point sales tax hike to 8 percent. Corporate capital spending climbed 1.3 percent, while housing investment gained 4.2 percent, suggesting domestic demand remained robust on the back of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's policies centering on drastic monetary easing and massive fiscal spending.

In 2013, Japan's GDP grew a real 1.6 percent for the second straight year of expansion. Exports, however, grew only 0.4 percent during the October-December period following a 0.7 percent decrease in the previous quarter. Shipments to emerging countries in Asia were healthy, but those to the United States shrank, a government official said.

The slowing growth in exports may dampen optimism that any negative impact of the sales tax hike on the economy could be eased by a recovery in exports, buoyed by global economic growth and the depreciation of the yen. "As domestic demand is expected to decelerate in fiscal 2014 (starting April), the economy is likely to hinge on developments in exports," said Koya Miyamae, senior economist of SMBC Nikko Securities Inc.

Imports, meanwhile, went up 3.5 percent with demand for natural gas and oil growing as utility companies depend more on fossil fuel-based power generation as an alternative to nuclear power in the wake of the Fukushima nuclear crisis in March 2011. In nominal terms, or unadjusted for price changes, the economy expanded 0.4 percent on quarter. The GDP deflator, a wider price gauge than the consumer price index, was up 0.1 percent, signaling that the economy is on the verge of beating nearly two decades of deflation.

Kyodo News

Thai government bank loan not enough to pay off rice programme debt

BANGKOK, 17 Feb — A loan given to the government bank operating a controversial and expensive rice programme could temporarily ease pressure on Thailand's prime minister, but it is a fraction of the sum needed to settle a 130 billion baht ($3.99 billion) debt owed to up to a million farmers.

Thailand's Government Savings Bank said on Sunday it loaned 5 billion baht ($153.42 million) to the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC), but stopped short of confirming whether the money would even be used to pay farmers for rice bought under the scheme.

The programme was operated through the state-owned BAAC and paid farmers well above the market rate for their rice, making it uncompetitive on world markets. As a result, the government has struggled to sell enough rice to fund the scheme, prompting thousands of farmers, many of whom have been waiting for their money for months, to take to the streets in protest. Thailand's anti-graft body said it may also file corruption charges related to the programme.

"The Government Savings Bank has lent 5 billion baht to the BAAC, but we have no idea what the BAAC will use the money for. This is a normal inter-bank loan," Worawit Chailimpamontri, president of the Government Savings Bank, told reporters, adding that the loan might raise concerns among the bank's clients if used to fund the struggling programme.

Thai government officials and representatives from the BAAC were not available to comment.

***Workers at the Udon Permsin rice mill pile up sacks full of rice to for storage in the northeast province of Udon Thani, Thailand on 21 Jan, 2014.*— REUTERS**

Hundreds of farmers continued to rally at the commerce ministry in Bangkok on Sunday. The unrest has added to increasing pressure on Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra who has been facing off against a Bangkok-based protest movement seeking to drive her from office for more than three months.

Reuters

Major international navy exercise launches in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 17 Feb — New Zealand's largest navy exercise in decades began in waters around Auckland on Monday with 600 personnel from 14 nations and five military ships from New Zealand, Australia and the Republic of Korea.

"The Western Pacific Naval Symposium Mine Counter Measures and Diving Exercise (WPNS) is a good opportunity for New Zealand to work alongside our partners to test our readiness to respond to a natural disaster in the South Pacific," Defence Minister Jonathan Coleman said in a statement. The training scenario was set in the fictional and remote South Pacific island nation of the Barclay Islands after a devastating 8. 9-magnitude earthquake and a powerful tsunami.

Key shipping channels into the capital would be cut off and mines and explosive remnants dating from World War II would litter coastal waters. The scenario would see a multinational task force led by New Zealand personnel deployed to create new shipping routes to undamaged coastal areas so that humanitarian aid and disaster relief supplies could be delivered. "The South Pacific region is susceptible to natural disasters. It is important New Zealand is prepared for a variety of contingencies, so we can play our part along with our partners to provide assistance when required," said Coleman.

The navy's mine clearance and survey teams have considerable experience in this area and routinely worked to remove World War II explosive remnants in the South Pacific.

The WPNS, which runs until 7 March, includes personnel from Australia, Canada, Chile, China, France, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Peru, the Republic of Korea, Singapore, Thailand and the United States.

Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (036)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NOBLE BREEZE VOY NO (036) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.2.2014 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 INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1011)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY NO (1011) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.2.2014 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 CHINA SHIPPING (MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (361)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ORA BHUM VOY NO (361) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.2.2014 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

An Abyssinian cat plays during the International Feline Exhibition, in Bogota, capital of Colombia, on on 16 Feb, 2014. About 100 breeds of cats were presented during the International Feline Exhibition held in Bogota.—XINHUA

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(4/2014)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Qty	Remark
(1)	IFB-185(2013-2014)	Fire Fighting Truck	(1) Unit	US$
(2)	IFB-186(2013-2014)	CAT D 3508 Marine Engine Assy With Gear Box	(2) Sets	US$
(3)	IFB-187(2013-2014)	Spares for CAT D 399 Engine & CAT D 379 Engine	(7) Items	US$
(4)	IFB-188(2013-2014)	30" LSAW API 5L, Grade X65, 3LPE Coated Steel Line Pipe (35 Miles) & Accessories	(1) Lot	US$
(5)	IFB-189(2013-2014)	2" & 3" Pipe Fittings	(8) Items	US$
(6)	IFB-190(2013-2014)	6" x 8" R Mixing Pump	(3) Sets	US$
(7)	IFB-191(2013-2014)	20" LSAW API 5L, Grade X 46, 3LPE Coated Steel Line Pipe (5 Miles) & Accessories	(1) Lot	US$
(8)	IFB-192(2013-2014)	Surveying, Transferring, Laying, Welding, Construction, NDT, Land and Crop Compensation of 20" Gas Pipe Line	(1) Lot	US$
(9)	DMP/L-062(2013-2014)	Spares for CAT-D399 Engine Ex USS Oil Well Rig	(4) Items	Ks
(10)	DMP/L-063(2013-2014)	Spares for CAT-D3512 Engine Ex ZJ 50 D SR I&II Rig	(5) Items	Ks
(11)	DMP/L-064(2013-2014)	Roller Bearing (3) Items for K-700 Rig Pump's Jack Shaft and 100 Tons Jack Hydraulic Hand Pump	(1) Lot	Ks

- Tender Closing Date & Time - 17-3-2014,16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 17th February, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (841)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAJIN VOY NO (841) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.2.2014 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGSRIMUANG VOY NO (120)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSRIMUANG VOY NO (120) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.2.2014 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 WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO LTD

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Singapore to continue tightening inflow of cheap foreign labour

SINGAPORE, 17 Feb — Singapore will continue to tighten the inflow of foreign workers on work permits, which often command lowest salaries on a hierarchy of permits for foreigners to work in the city state, Acting Manpower Minister Tan Chuan-Jin said on Sunday.

Singapore will continue to do so even though the jobs they have may not be attractive to Singaporeans, because they have the " greatest bearing" on foreign worker numbers in Singapore and thereby contributes to the strains on infrastructure, Tan said at a dialogue session with the residents of a local district.

An employer mentioned that Singaporeans are unwilling to take up certain jobs, but Tan said, "but if wages don't move, it's not surprising that Singaporeans don't want to take those jobs. If the wages are high enough, I think there will be Singaporeans keen to do (the job)."

Tan cited construction as an example of slow productivity growth resulting from the use of cheap foreign labour.

"That's why construction industry's productivity is very low in Singapore, because it's still cheaper to pay and get a Bangladeshi worker or someone from China to work, as opposed to changing the way we do business," he said.

Work permit holders, often those who take up jobs in the services and construction sector, make up about seven in 10 of the more than 1 million foreign workers in Singapore.

Singapore has been tightening its foreign labour policy since around the general election in 2011, when immigration polices became one of the issues that generate the most discussions.

Tan said the long-term target is to keep Singapore's overall labor force growth rate to 2 percent a year for the next 10 years, down from the historical average of 3-4 percent.

However, Tan said that it is necessary for Singapore to remain open to foreign labour.

Xinhua

Yangon City Development Committee

Invitation for Tender

1. Yangon City Development Committee hereby invites Tenders from interested local companies, foreign companies, local companies and foreign companies in joint ventures for the implementation of the Housing Projects, Affordable Housing Project, Housing Project and Car Parking Building, Automated Car Parking Tower Project on the basis of cooperation on mutual benefit in the areas mentioned below:

(a) Housing Project. North Okkalapa Township, Corner of Bagan Road and Hantharwaddy Road, Shwe Paukkan (Land area 10.93 acres);
(b) Housing Project, Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yarzadedit Road (Land area 40.493 acres);
(c) Affordable Housing Project, Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Min Ye Kyaw Swar Road, (Land area 11.0 acres);
(d) Housing Project, Kyeemyindine Township, Zay Gyi Road (Land area 0.364 acres);
(e) Housing Project and Car Parking Building, Botataung Township, Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Theinbyu Road (Land area 3.086 acres);
(f) Housing Project and Car Parking Building, Botataung Township, 45th street (Land area 2.561 acres);
(g) Automated Car Parking Tower Project Kamaryut Township, Corner of Hledan Road and Htantapin Street (P.A.E System) (Land area 0.103 acres).

2. The Projects will be developed in accordance with plans approved or to be approved by the Yangon City Development Committee.

3. The information on respective Project will be stated in the Instructions to Tenderers. Tenders shall be submitted for each Project separately.

4. The Tenders shall be submitted in two envelopes, one for technical proposal and the other for financial proposal. The Tenders shall be prepared in compliance with the Instructions to Tenderers.

5. Tenderers may obtain further information about the tendering from the following office, during office hours:

Engineering Department (Buildings), Yangon City Development Committee

6. Tender documents are available at the above address from the date of 25th, February, 2014 during office hours. A complete set of each of tender documents for Housing Projects (North Okkalapa Township, Dagon Myothit (North) Township) and Affordable Housing Project (Dagon Myothit (East) Township) may be purchased upon payment of non-refundable fee of USD 300 (United States Dollars three hundred only) by means of overseas account transfer to Current Account No. - 1-DA-06-91886(MFTB), Mvanma Foreign Trade Bank, Yangon or upon payment of non-refundable fee of Kyat 300,000 (kyat three hundred thousand only) to Yangon City Bank Account No. DY-9 through above Department. A complete set of each of tender documents for the Projects specified in paragraph 1 (d), (e), (f) and (g) may be purchased upon payment of non-refundable fee of USD 500 (United States Dollars five hundred only) or kyat 500,000 (Kyat five hundred thousand only).

7. Tenders shall be delivered to the above office on or before 14 hrs. on 31st, March 2014. Any Tender submitted after the designated date and time will not be considered.

8. Tenders for Housing Projects (North Okkalapa Township, Dagon Myothit (North) Township) and Affordable Housing Project (Dagon Myothit (East) Township) must be accompanied by tender security in the form of a bank guarantee valid for six months in the amount of USD 50,000 (United States Dollars fifty thousand only) issued by local or foreign bank which must be correspondent bank of Myanma Foreign Trade Bank, Yangon. The amount of Tender security in the form of bank guarantee for the Projects specified in paragraph 1 (d), (e), (f) and (g) shall be USD 100,000 (United States Dollars one hundred thousand only).

9. Tenders will be opened in a session to be held at the office of Yangon City Development Committee in the presence of representatives of tenderers on the date and time as may be notified to the tenderers.

Tender Invitation Committee
Yangon City Development Committee

"12 Years a Slave" wins top British film awards as "Gravity" soars

Director Steve McQueen (C) celebrates with Dede Gardner (L-R), Anthony Katagas, Jeremy Kleiner and Brad Pitt after winning Best Film for "12 Years a Slave'' at the British Academy of Film and Arts (BAFTA) awards ceremony at the Royal Opera House in London on 16 Feb, 2014.—Reuters

London, 17 Feb — The harrowing drama "12 Years a Slave" won the Best Film award at Britain's top movie honours on Sunday, cementing its status as favourite for the Oscars next month, but it was the space thriller "Gravity" that claimed the biggest trophy haul."12 Years a Slave", by British director Steve McQueen with Hollywood's Brad Pitt as a producer, had been tipped as the night's major winner and also won Best Actor for Chiwetel Ejiofor as a man tricked and sold into slavery in the pre-Civil War United States.

But "Gravity", starring Sandra Bullock and George Clooney, took home six prizes from its 11 nominations, including the Best Director prize for Mexican Alfonso Cuaron and the awards for Cinematography and Outstanding British Film.McQueen, 44, said it was horrifying that 21 million people were still living in slavery around the world now. "I hope that, 150 years from now, our ambivalence will not allow another filmmaker to make this film," he told the ceremony at London's Royal Opera House.

McQueen, a video artist as well as a director, previously won kudos for his 2008 film "Hunger", about an IRA hunger strike in Northern Ireland, and won Britain's top visual art award, the Turner Prize, in 1999 for a video based on a Buster Keaton film. Pitt, whose partner Angelina Jolie accompanied him to the ceremony, dressed like him in a tuxedo, said he was proud of the film, based on the real story of Solomon Northup. "It is a story that says we are all the same, and our freedom and dignity is everything, and that is what we are fighting for," Pitt told a news conference.

Reuters

Priyanka Chopra: Being self-made has toughened me

Mumbai, 17 Feb — In an industry dominated by the Khans and the Kapoors, Priyanka Chopra is proud to have made her own space without the support of any guardian angel."I came into the movie business with no help and no one to guide me. I take pride in the fact that I am self-made and I have become tough over the years," Priyanka, whose latest film Gunday released 14 Feb, told IANS. The desi girl was born to a physician couple in the Indian Army. Her first brush with showbiz came when she stormed her way to success at the Miss World pageant in 2000.

Priyanka has won a National Award for the movie Fashion. **PTI**

A career in movies was waiting to happen, and she was noticed with the 2003 film Andaaz. In her over 10 years' association with Bollywood, she has essayed various roles and even pocketed a best actress National Award for Fashion. But Priyanka believes she still has a long way to go in the industry.

"There is so much more that I have to do and which I will do. As long as people watch me or want to be entertained by me, I will find ways of entertaining them as I am a performer and that is what I intend to be," said Priyanka, who has excelled in films like Kaminey, 7 Khoon Maaf and Barfi.

She is also one of the few new-age Indian actors to diversify and take up a career in singing. A trained singer, Priyanka has so far launched two singles — In my city and Exotic — and hopes to strike a balance between both careers. "I didn't want to be someone who gave up something to gain something else. I think as women, we can multi-task really well. And that is exactly what I intend to do. I hope to be able to balance both my careers. Both are very important to me," said Priyanka, who recently released a teaser of her third single in London.—*PTI*

"Lego" continues to lead North American box office

Los Angeles, 17 Feb — "The Lego Movie," a 3D computer animated comedy of Warner Bros Pictures, which depicts a world based on the colourful toy blocks, collected 48.8 million US dollars in ticket sales this weekend, topping the North American box office chart for a second week.

The Warner Bros release has earned about 129.1 million dollars in ticket sales since opening on 7 February, according to studio estimates from Rentrak. "Lego" was followed by "About Last Night" and "RoboCop," Sony's two new releases.

The romantic comedy remake "About Last Night," featuring Kevin Hart, grossed 27 million dollars in the weekend. The film marked another strong performer for Hart on the heels of last month's "Ride Along." "RoboCop" with a tickets earning of 21.5 million dollars, was ranked the third. Of the tickets sales, IMAX showings contributed 4.5 million dollars. This release is Jos Padilha's remake of Paul Verhoeven's 1987 Hollywood classic sci-fi film "RoboCop." The audience for the film was 62 percent male and 64 percent over the age of 25, according to Sony.

Xinhua

SPORTS

Ter Mors leads another Dutch sweep in 1,500m

SOCHI, (Russia), 17 Feb — Short track specialist Jorien ter Mors was left in tears of joy after making a mockery of her lack of long track experience to win the Olympic women's 1,500 meters speed skating title on Sunday, as the Dutch claimed another medal sweep. A day after finishing fourth in the 1,500m short track final, Ter Mors, the first women to compete in both skating disciplines, clocked an Olympic record one minute, 53.51 seconds on the Adler Arena ice, a time which few of the pre-race favorites threatened.

Defending champion Ireen Wust was closest, 0.58 seconds back as added silver to her 3,000m gold, while Lotte Van Beek took bronze just ahead of another Dutch skater, Marrit Leenstra in fourth. "I never imagined I would win a gold here on long track. It's crazy," Ter Mors told reporters. "On Tuesday I did a training session here, I have only been here two times, most of my training is on short track." Ter Mors took up short track four years ago and tried the time trials of speed skating only in the last 18 months, saying she rarely trained on the big oval.

"My heart is really going out for short track," said the Enschede-born skater. "I have already worked four years very hard for the little track. That is why it is really close to me." The 24-year-old set her blistering time in the ninth heat of 18 and then had a long wait to see if it was enough. Sporting an orange bobble hat, she took to her phone to try to kill the unfamiliar and nerve-racking waiting time. "The text messages went to some friends and team mates in the stands," she said. "Normally when I go to the finish line I know if I have won or not, so it was a little bit different."

One-by-one the challengers came up short. Wust, three-times Olympic champion, always looked the most likely but when she fell behind the split times of Ter Mors on the third lap, gold looked assured. Still, Ter Mors sat with her head in her hands as Van Beek went in the final heat but she was always outside the required time and the tears flowed upon confirmation of the victory." The emotional part is it has been a really hard year for me with the death of my father in the summer, it's been hard. So that is why I got emotional when winning this gold medal."

*(L to R) Second-placed Ireen Wust, first-placed Jorien ter Mors and third-placed Lotte Van Beek, all of the Netherlands, celebrate on the podium during the flower ceremony for the women's 1,500 metres speed skating event at the Adler Arena during the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics, on 16 Feb, 2014.—*REUTERS

The medal sweep moved the Dutch on to a record 16 speed skating medals for Sochi, surpassing the 13 won by East Germany at the 1988 Games. It was also a third speed skating medal sweep in Sochi for the Dutch. The men completed the feat in the 500 and 5,000m but this was a first in the history of the Winter Olympics for the women. "I can't believe it," Van Beek told reporters. "These are my first Olympic Games and not only do I medal but all the girls finished in first, second, third and fourth. That's awesome."

Russian Yuliya Skokova was best placed non-Dutch skater in fifth, almost three seconds back of the gold medal.The Dutch have dominated the competition in Sochi, collecting 16 of the 24 speed skating medals so far, with four events left to be raced. In contrast, the United States are still looking for their first speed skating medal after Heather Richardson and Brittany Bowe finished in seventh and 14th in their old skinsuits after the team ditched their Olympic 'Mach 39' ones on Saturday.

Reuters

Arsenal, Everton and Sheffield United light up FA Cup

LONDON, 17 Feb — Arsenal exacted revenge against Liverpool on Sunday, Everton kept a dream alive for their manager and Sheffield United caused a dramatic old-fashioned upset as they all reached the FA Cup quarter-finals. The Londoners, who lost 5-1 at Anfield in the Premier League on 8 February, beat Liverpool 2-1 with a 16th-minute goal from Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and a 47th-minute strike from Lukas Podolski.

*Arsenal's Lukas Podolski (L) challenges Liverpool's Joe Allen during their English FA Cup fifth round soccer match at the Emirates stadium in London on 16 Feb, 2014.—*REUTERS

Captain Steven Gerrard halved the arrears for Liverpool with a penalty on the hour. Everton were by far the better team in another all-Premier League clash, seeing off Swansea City 3-1 with goals from debutant Lacinda Traore, Steven Naismith and a Leighton Baines penalty. Swansea replied through Jonathan de Guzman.

Everton's win keeps Roberto Martinez on course to become the first manager to lift the famous FA Cup trophy with different clubs in successive seasons after he led Wigan Athletic to victory in last season's final against Manchester City. Once-powerful Sheffield United, league champions in 1898 and FA Cup winners in 1899, 1902, 1915 and 1925 but now battling to avoid relegation to League Two, came from behind to beat Championship promotion hopefuls Nottingham Forest 3-1 with two goals in the last two minutes.

Forest, who reached the FA Cup final in 1991 when they were managed by Brian Clough, the father of Sheffield United manager Nigel, came to Bramall Lane protecting a 16-match unbeaten run and took the lead with a Jamie Paterson header after 28 minutes. But United, who have knocked out Premier League sides Aston Villa and Fulham this season, evoked the ghosts of their past to record an unlikely win.On-loan Liverpool forward Connor Coady equalized after a goalkeeping error in the 68th minute before substitute Chris Porter struck twice, once from the penalty spot, in the dying minutes.

Reuters

*Bubba Watson poses with the winners trophy following his victory of the Northern Trust Open at Riviera Country Club on 16 Feb , 2014.—*REUTERS

Watson storms home to seal two-shot win at Riviera

PACIFIC PALISADES, (California), 17 Feb — Bubba Watson was rewarded for his impressive early season form when he stormed to his first PGA Tour title since the 2012 Masters with a two-shot victory at the Northern Trust Open on Sunday. Four strokes off the pace going into the final round, the American left-hander seized control with five birdies in the first eight holes on the way to a flawless seven-under-par 64 at a sun-splashed Riviera Country Club.

Watson, who has long relished playing at the revered venue despite never having posted a top-10 finish in seven previous starts, capped his round in style, rolling in a 14-foot birdie putt at the last to post a 15-under total of 269."I am hitting the ball really well ... and it worked out this week," an elated Watson told CBS Sports after clinching his fifth PGA Tour title and the winner's check for $1.206 million."Things are great right now," said the American, who went bogey-free at Riviera over the weekend as he fired successive 64s.

Watson's final round was the lowest by a champion at Riviera since Doug Tewell's 63 in 1986 sealed a seven-shot victory.

He came into the tournament having recorded two top-10s in his first four starts on the 2013-14 PGA Tour, his best finish a tie for second at the Phoenix Open earlier this month. "Today, I got hot early, holed a bunker shot on six to really get it going and went bogey-free in the last round," said Watson. "I was looking at: 'There's a number out there and I'm going to shoot it. I have to shoot it and I have to go out there and play good golf'.

Reuters

Dillon wins pole for Daytona 500

DAYTONA BEACH, (Florida), 17 Feb — Austin Dillon, driving a car bearing the famed number three of late NASCAR champion Dale Earnhardt, won pole position for the Daytona 500 race on Sunday. Dillon's Chevrolet posted a top speed of 196.019 mph at Daytona International Speedway to claim front row honors for the 23 February race, the first time Earnhardt's number has been used in a top-level NASCAR event since his death on the last lap of the 2001 race.

The 23-year-old rookie Dillon is the grandson of Earnhardt car owner Richard Childress and drives in the same style as the seven-times NASCAR champion. "It's really special to have my grandson and the No 3," Childress said.

"We were fast in (pre-season) testing. You keep dreaming and thinking what would it be like to be on the pole." Recalling the swagger of Earnhardt, rookie Dillon sported a black cowboy hat while posing for pictures with his Daytona 500 pole-winning trophy.

"It's amazing," Dillon said. "It brings momentum into the season showing that RCR (Richard Childress Racing) has speed."

Reuters

GENERAL

Daw Nyunt Nyunt Saing @ Alice Tun Saing
B.A, B.Ed (S.A.T Retd:)
S.H.S II Dagon (Myoma)
Age (76) years

Residing at Block 1, Building 1, Moe Kaung Road, Baukhtaw, Yangon. Daughter of U Tun Saing and Daw Yin Nu, daughter in Law of U Ba Hla and Daw Thein Nyunt, wife of U Mya Lwin, mother of Thomas Soe (Ko Thura Soe) and Vicky Soe (Ma Hnin Mar Lwin) Sydney Australia, John Lwin (Ko Thant Lwin) and Ma Kay Khine Lwin (Washington DC. USA) Ko Sunn Lwin. Grandmother of Su Myat Noe Lwin (GIC), Amy Lwin, Waing La Min Lwin (S.H.S.6.Botahtaung), Cherie Poe Poe Thura Soe, Calvin Lwin, Violetta Khayanpyar Thura Soe, Andrew Lwin, passed away peacefully on 15-2-2014 (Saturday) at 6:25 am and was cremated on the same day at 2:00 pm at Yayway Cemetery Yangon.

Bereaved family

Colombia president orders inquiry into army kickback allegations

Bogota, 17 Feb — Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos on Sunday ordered a judicial investigation into allegations senior army officers received huge kickbacks on military procurement contracts.

Weekly news magazine *Semana* which made the revelations says it has hundreds of hours of audio recordings proving the existence of an "astonishing corruption network" in which officers received up to 50 percent of the value of contracts.

"The corrupt deeds denounced within the National Army are very serious ... I have given instructions to the Defence Ministry to immediately take firm and exemplary decisions as necessary and make them public. This is unacceptable", he said.

File photo shows Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos Speaks during a Reuters interview at the presidential palace in Bogota on 8 August, 2013.—Reuters

Santos said that given the nature of the allegations, the investigation could only be carried out by the civil and not military judicial authorities.—*Reuters*

Blaze extinguished near British National Archives building

London, 17 Feb — The British National Archives, Britain's official agency for holding government records, was closed to the public after a blaze broke out next to the building on Saturday afternoon.

Firefighters were called after a fire broke out on Bessant Drive in Kew, where the National Archives is located, at around 12:30 pm, according to the London Fire Brigade (LFB).

The blaze affected two disused water towers, and 21 firefighters and officers brought the fire under control one hour later.

"The fire caused significant damage to the water towers and smoke could be seen from the surrounding area," LFB said in a statement.

No injuries were reported, but the National Archives building was closed for recovery.

"We can confirm the fire has been put out, but we will stay closed to the public in order to recover the building," the National Archives tweeted, confirming that the records, staff and members of the public remain safe and unharmed.

The cause of the fire is still under investigation.

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(18-2-2014, Tuesday)

6:00 am
1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
6:20 am
2. Physical Exercises
6:30 am
3. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies
6:45 am
4. Documentary
7:00 am
5. News/Weather Report
7:20 am
6. People Talks
7:30 am
7. Documentary
8:00 am
8. News/ International News
8:25 am
9. India Drama Series
9:00 am
10. News/ International News
9:25 am
11. Documentary
9:40 am
12. Business News
10:00 am
13. News
10:15 am
14. Weekly Entertainment
11:00 am
15. Documentary
11:25 pm
16. Musical Programme
11:35 pm
17. Tamyethnar Takwetsar
12:00 pm
18. News/International News/Weather Report
12:25 pm
19. Myanmar Video
2:30 pm
20. Traditional Boxing
2:45 pm
21. Business News
3:00 pm
22. News
3:15 pm
23. TV Drama Series
4:00 pm
24. News
4:15 pm
25. Documentary
4:30 pm
26. 2014 University Entrance Examination (History)
5:00 pm
27. News
5:15 pm
28. Business News
5:30 pm
29. India Drama Series
6:00 pm
30. News/Weather Report
6:20 pm
31. Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than
6:40 pm
32. TV Drama Series
7:00 pm
33. News
7:25 pm
34. TV Drama Series
8:00 pm
35. News/International News/Weather Report
8:35 pm
36. Pyi Thu Ni Ti
9:00 pm
37. News
38. Documentary
39. Alinka Wat Yi Musical Troupe
40. TV Drama Series

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

18-2-14 07:00 am ~ 19 -2-14 07:00 am) MST

* Local News
* Myanmar Delicate Artistic Creations-Gem Stone Painting
* World News
* Sticy Shan Snack
* Local News
* Pilgrimage To Alaung Taw Kassapa Hill
* World News
* Myanma Puppet
* Local News
* Lively group folk dance of Karan nationals
* World News
* Shcool for the Blind
* Local News
* The Great Po Sein
* World News
* Porcelain and Glass
* Local News
* Htan Taw Drums (Part-1) "Osi"
* World News
* Myanmar Movie Review "Be the Right-Heir"
"Contemporary Art"
* Local News
* Taste Of Myanmar (Mandalay Noodle Salad) * World News
* Tea Leaves
* Local News
* A Trip To The City Of Rakkhita, Rakhine
* World News
* Kyaikhteeyoe: My Father The Porter
* Local News
* Applied Myanma Traditional Martial Art (Part-2)
* World News
* Guiding Star of Song Birds

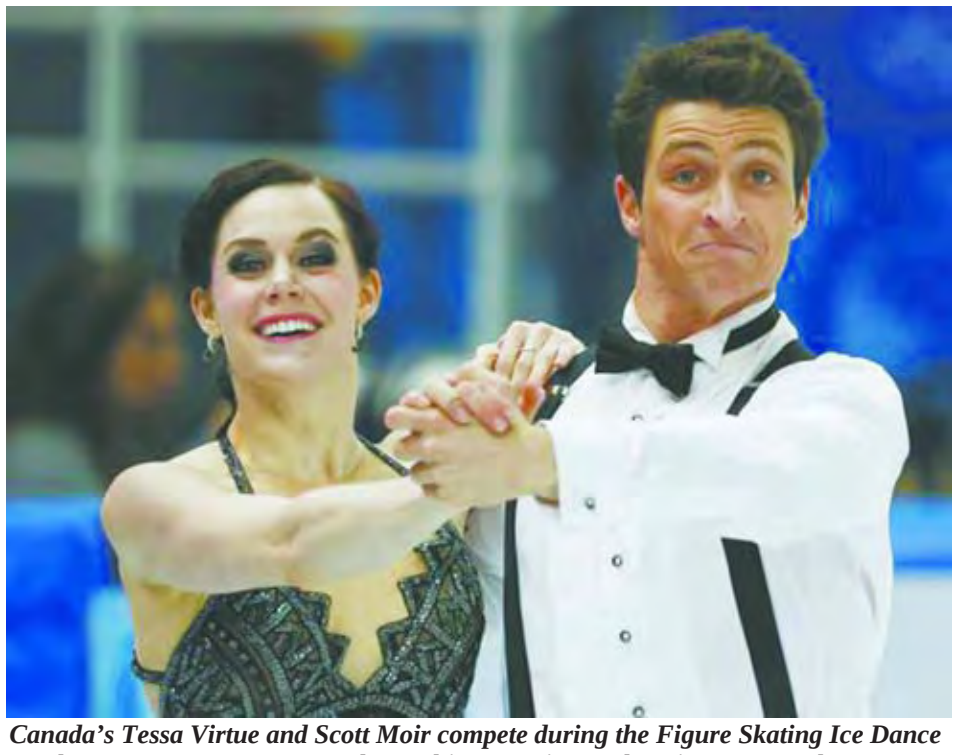
Ice dancers glide to centre stage at Sochi Games

Sochi, (Russia), 17 Feb — The climax to the Olympic ice dance competition will be a showdown between the United States and Canada in what should be the most captivating of seven medal events in Sochi on Monday. Meryl Davis and Charlie White, seeking to become the first Americans to win the Olympic gold, lead going into the decisive free dance. They must hold off a challenge from reigning champions Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir of Canada.

The first bobsleigh medal of the Games will be decided at the Sanki Sliding Centre. Russian Alexander Zubkov raised home hopes that he could complete his Olympic medal collection by adding gold to the silver and bronze he already has after setting the pace at the halfway stage in the two-man event. World champion snowboarder Alex 'Chumpy' Pullin takes on a field including medal contenders Markus Schairer of Austria and Norway's Stian Sivertzen in the cross as he aims to give Australia a first gold medal in Sochi.

After China's women failed to turn their dominance of freestyle aerials into Olympic gold, it's the turn of the men with Liu Zhongqing and Qi Guangpu expected to fight it out with Belarussian defending champion Alexei Grishin for the title. There is a double dose of biathlon after fog forced the postponement of the men's 15-km mass start on Sunday. Frenchman Martin Fourcade, who has already won two gold medals at these Games, is the favourite for another in a race to be held on Monday morning.

Darya Domracheva of Belarus also hopes to secure a hat-trick of Sochi Olympic titles. She starts the women's 12.5-km mass start as the hot favorite, while Norway's Tora Berger aims to add to her pursuit silver.—*Reuters*



Canada's Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir compete during the Figure Skating Ice Dance Short Dance Programme at the Sochi 2014 Winter Olympics, on 16 Feb , 2014.
Reuters

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The New Light of Myanmar

Tuesday, 18 February, 2014

Vice-President U Nyan Tun makes inspection tour of two townships in Bago Region

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb — Accompanied by Union Ministers U Ohn Myint, U Win Myint and U Tint Hsan and deputy ministers and officials, Vice-President U Nyan Tun made an inspection tour of Nattalin and Zigon Townships in Bago Region today.

On his arrival at Taungnyo Dam in Nattalin Township, the Vice-President called on officials to lay down effective plans to attend to the needs of people as soon as possible.

As renovation of irrigation facilities was completed in June, 2013, Taungnyo Dam built in 1995-96 was able to resume its tasks of benefiting farmlands.

(See page 9)

Vice-President U Nyan Tun inspects small-scale power plant in Zigon Township in Bago Region.—MNA

Region/State government's recommendation needed to postpone repayment period on agriculture loans of pests-stricken farmers **(New on page 9)**

Media accreditation for 3rd BIMSTEC Summit, related meetings

NAY PYI TAW, 17 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 Senior 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*

CCDAC, UNODC, donor countries discuss substitute projects for opium

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb —Myanmar needs cooperation from international organizations to achieve success in fighting the menace of the narcotic drug, said Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun at the meeting the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control, donor countries and United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), on 17 February.

In cooperation with the UNODC, Myanmar government would extend the development projects to Mongnai, Mongpan, Pinlaung, Pekhon, Langkho and Mongton townships as substitute for opium cultivation as part of efforts for ensuring food security for opium growers.

To substitute the opium cultivation in Shan State in attempts to help the growers who are in need of food security as their opium cultivation are destroyed every year, the government and UNODC has implemented the three projects aiming at assisting in their food security and livelihood, alleviating the poverty and land reclamation.

World Food Programme and the UNODC have distributed 6600 bags of rice to opium growers in Loilem in 2012.

A delegation comprising officials and diplomats from UNODC and donor countries visited Mongnai and Mongpan in southern Shan State from 2 to 6 December, 2013, as part of efforts for assisting in fighting in the opium cultivation.

MNA

Legal licence issued to unlicensed motorbikes in Pobbathiri Tsp

Byline: Ko Myo (Shwe Paukkan)
Photo: Ko Htike (Pyinmana)

Issuance of licenses to the unlicensed motorbikes from Nay Pyi Taw Council Area is being launched at the office of Directorate of Road Administration (Ka-Nya-Na) in Pobbathiri Township as of 17 February.

During three-month licence issuance period, the licences will be issued to the unlicensed motorcycles daily except the off days and public holidays. The expense for a motorcycle officially issued by the directorate is 5 percent each of customs and commercial taxes, K 1,750 for two-year premium, K 22,000 for registration fee and K 550 for banking services. It is learnt that the staff members have been instructed to stay away from the corruption and bribery in serving office works. Legal licences have been already issued to the unlicensed motorcycles in 2004, 2008, 2010 and 2012 and this will be the fifth time. Expenses for granting licence are depending on the model and brand of the motorbikes and it will describe to make the public known through the state-run newspapers and private-owned newspapers, according to a staff.

There can be seen a long line of people who apply motorcycle licences at the office and the applicants include service personnel and older persons. As the office is lack of shady trees, the applicants suffer extreme heat. Whatever it may be, the people across the country are pleased with the government's arrangement for the unlicensed motorbikes, said an applicant.

Trs: KHS

Hotel rooms available for media persons of 3rd BIMSTEC Summit, related meetings

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Feb— The preliminary meeting for 3rd BIMSTEC Summit and the 16th BIMSTEC Senior Officials' Meeting will be held at Royal Kumudra Hotel here on 1-2 March, 2014, and the 14th BIMSTEC Ministerial Meeting and the 3rd BIMSTEC Summit at Myanmar International Convention Centre on 3-4 March. Media persons may contact 067-422134, 067-422133, 067-422132, 067-422131 and visit mannmyanmarhotel@gmail.com to enquiry prices and number of hotel rooms at Mann Myanmar Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone.

Investigation commission continues probe into Ducheertan Village conflict

MAUNGTAW, 17 Feb — The investigation commission has probed into the Ducheertan Village conflict, interrogating villagers of Ducheertan and Bangali villages.

The commission looked into the Village of Ducheertan (west) on 17 February where fire broke out on 28 January and raised questions to the local Bangali people.

(See page 9)