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Government to provide assistance for holding free and fair election

President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Mr Yves Letterme, Secretary General of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) and party.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Jan—President U Thein Sein held talks with Mr Yves Letterme, Secretary General of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) and party at Presidential Palace, on Wednesday.

They discussed assistance to be provided by the government to the election, preparations made for holding the 2015 election in a free and fair manner, and cooperation among the Union Election Commission and civil societies, voters and media. Also present at the call were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Ko Ko, U Wunna Maung Lwin and U Khin Yi and officials.

MNA

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Japanese firms seek Myanmar partnership to make progress through technology transfer

By *Ye Myint*

YANGON, 21 Jan — Three Japanese CEOs dealing with production technologies, food exports and software development gave talks at a seminar in Yangon on Wednesday on possibilities for technology transfer to Myanmar.

The seminar on Japanese technology transfer was organized by MORO Manufacturing Co. Ltd with the support of the Japan-Myanmar Association and the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) in Yangon.

Expressing their willingness to establish win-win partnership and progress together, they encouraged Myanmar youths to make great strides in pursuit of their dreams by grasping a chance for technology creation.

"I want to set up an engineering school in Myanmar," said Tetsuya Moro, CEO of MORO Manufacturing Co. Ltd which had the experience of operating "techno schools" in Vietnam and Thailand five years ago.

He pointed out Myanmar is in need of human resources with high quality, adding he would like to offer a chance to learn Japanese technology for free for Myanmar youth with aspirations for higher technology.

"I want to go into partnership with Myanmar software engineers for outsourcing orders,"

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Nine garment factories in list of 20 firms recently permitted to invest in Myanmar

YANGON, 21 Jan—Nine garment factories are among 20 enterprises recently permitted to invest in Myanmar by the Myanmar Investment Commission.

According to statistics released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, MIC permitted 20 foreign and local enterprises to invest, at its meeting on 16 January.

Of the nine garment firms, six are wholly foreign-owned investment businesses, two are joint-venture businesses and one is owned by a Myanmar citizen.

All garment firms will operate on cutting, making and packaging arrangements, according to the commission.

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***Myanmar garment industry which is expected to surge has created most job opportunities in Myanmar.* PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses fall in oil price, losses of local merchants and farmers

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Jan —Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) session discussed impact of falling oil prices, losses of Myanmar merchants to Chinese traders and upgrading and maintenance of regional reservoirs on Wednesday.

Concerning the impact of falling oil prices in the international market, Deputy Minister for Energy U Aung Htoo said that oil prices were falling in the international market due to imbalance of supply and demand and this had an impact on gas prices exported from Myanmar but incomes from gas could only slightly fall as production from new projects, Zawtika and Shwe, met the targets, adding that the ministry had an advantage of lower costs for imported oil and gas for local consumption.

The deputy minister continued to say that falling oil prices could also slow down the activities of exploration and production but there were advantages as well as disadvantages as Myanmar could gain short-term benefits if it could buy and store reserve oil at low prices.

As for losses of Myanmar merchants to Chinese traders, Deputy Minister for Commerce Dr Pwint Hsan said that local merchants and farmers suffered losses because they did not follow rules and regulations and relied on trust between them and illegally traded goods.

However, losses of local merchants and farmers would be recovered by negotiations between authorities of the two countries and between merchant associations if evidence was provided, the deputy minister added, saying that his ministry had already discussed the matter at the 10th China-Myanmar Trade Coordination Meeting but the Chinese side replied that it was necessary to investigate who engaged in illegal trade. However, the deputy minister said the two countries had agreed to hold a coordination meeting and the list of Chinese merchants who still needed to pay for goods they bought would be given to Chinese authorities at the meeting.

For the question on upgrading of regional reservoir, Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw said that maintenance and upgrading of regional reservoirs is being carried out by state/region governments.

At today's session, a motion calling for effective prevention and action against illegal trade of natural resources to other countries was submitted by a representative.—*MNA*

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses land seizure, electoral system

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Jan— Land confiscation of Tatmadaw and proportional representation electoral systems are discussed at the twelfth regularly meeting of Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) Wednesday.

Major General Kyaw Nyunt, deputy minister for Defence, answered the questions of two representatives about land seizure of Tatmadaw and incentive cash for military personnel in remote areas.

Answering to the question of U Thaw Zin Oo, representative of Magway region constituency 9, the deputy defence minister said Tatmadaw will not release an area of 450 acres as these were seized by respective commands for security reasons.

He explained in these areas, only 268 acres are land plots, while 153.38 acres are pond areas; crops are cultivated on the cultivable lands for household funds of families.

The deputy minister said Ministry of Home Affairs issued land permits for these areas where buildings and offices have been constructed for the families of military staff and command.

Regarding the question of U Mahn Kan Nyunt, representative of Kayin State constituency 2, the major general said military staff in remote areas never enjoyed incentive cash as they are receiving extra money from their own cultivation and livestock in their respective commands, while they are provided with food rations.

Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw informed the Upper House about submitting a proposal to constitutional tribunal for verification of proportional representation voting system for the state constitution.

Twenty-six representatives of Amyotha Hluttaw asked the practices of PR system for the seats of Upper House and state/region Hluttaw except self-administration regions under the arrangement of Union Election Commission.

MNA

Nine garment firms in list of 20 firms recently...

(from page 1)

Six wholly foreign-invested firms will be established in the area of the Hlinethaya Industrial Zone while one with joint-venture firm will operate in the Dagon Myothit (South) Industrial Zone and the other in Natogyi in Myingyan Township in Mandalay Region.

The firm owned by the Myanmar citizen will be established in the North Okkalapa Industrial Zone and will manufacture jackets, shirts, sportswear and pants.

MIC has also given permission to three Myanmar-citizen owned companies to invest in the hotel business.

Max Myanmar Hotel Co Ltd will build a hotel in Nay Pyi Taw; Snow Diamond Co Ltd in Hpa-an, Kayin State; and Eden Hotels and Resort Co Ltd in Ngapali Beach, Thandwe Township in Rakhine State.

The remaining wholly foreign-owned firm will be established in the Hlaingthaya Industrial Zone, to make poly bags, printed labels, woven labels, paper stickers and paper tags.

The remaining joint-venture firms will produce oral and skin care products, PET products, electric ware and plastic packing bags and do plastic printing.

Of the three remaining firms with Myanmar-citizen investment, one will manufacture Japanese traditional lucky charms made of silk on a CMP basis and one will make traditional Japanese paper bags.

Anawmar Art Group Co Ltd has received permission from MIC to rent the Ministers' Office under a BOT agreement to use it as a museum and for other services.

GNLM

Departmental officials participate in workshop on Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Jan—The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Australian Embassy in Yangon and the Attorney-General's Department of the Australian Government jointly organized a workshop on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) on 20th January 2015 at Nay Pyi Taw.

Senior officials from the Supreme Court of the Union, ministries, General Administration Department, Myanmar Police Force, Myanmar Correction Department, the Union Attorney-General's Office and Myanmar National Human Rights Commission participated in the workshop. For Australia, the officials from the Australian Embassy in Yangon and the Attorney-General's Department of the Australian Government participated in this workshop.

At the workshop, they exchanged and shared their respective experiences in preparing and submitting national UPR reports.

MNA

1st Myanmar International Furniture Expo set for February

A family-run furniture store in Tamway Township, Yangon, displays wooden furniture on sale. **PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN**

By *Khaing Thanda Lwin*

YANGON, 21 Jan—The first Myanmar International Furniture Expo will open to the public 12 to 15 February at Tatmadaw Convention Hall in Yangon with the aim of seeking new business opportunities, a source said.

Jointly organized by the Myanmar Rattan and Bamboo Entrepreneurs Association and the Wood-based Furniture Association, the fair is also aimed at creating networks among local entrepreneurs to promote their products and bringing more value-added manufacturers into the furniture industry.

About 40 exhibitors, including the governmental Myanmar Timber Enterprise, will showcase their quality products through more than 100 booths. The organizers expect about 10,000 visitors to come to the four-day event.

"The fair is believed to bring benefits to both local and foreign businesspersons. It would also be attractive to small and medium entrepreneurs and customers," said an exhibitor.

Local entrepreneurs need technical assistance to manufacture value-added products. To fulfill the need, both associations will try to link with non-government organizations to provide training opportunities for local employees, the organizer said.

U Wai Lwin, secretary of Wood-based Furniture Association, said the price of furniture products would decrease in the future if local entrepreneurs produce value-added furniture in large quantities.

Chairman U Kyaw Thu of the Myanmar Rattan and Bamboo Entrepreneurs Association said plans are underway to hold next expo in September.

The association schedules two furniture exhibitions per year.—*GNLM*

Union FM receives officials of UN agencies, IDEA Secretary General

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 Jan — At the initiative of the United Nations and International Organizations Relations Subcommittee, a meeting to further intensify cooperation with United Nations agencies on ongoing process of Myanmar's Graduation from LDC status was held at the ministry, here, on Wednesday.

At the meeting, the chairman of United Nations and International Organizations Relations Subcommittee, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin made an opening remark. The meeting was attended by United Nations country team headed by Ms Renata Dessallien, Resident Humanitarian Coordinator and representatives of UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA.

Also present at the meeting from Myanmar side were relevant officials and secretaries of the four subcommittees for Myanmar's graduation from LDC status, namely, Gross National Income (GNI), Human Asset Index (HAI), Economic Vulnerability Index (EVI) and United Nations and International Organizations Relation.

The Union Minister received Mr Yves Letterme, Secretary General of the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (IDEA) at the ministry, here, Wednesday.

They discussed cooperation between Myanmar and International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance. The union minister also held talks with Ms Renata Lok Dessallien, United Nations Resident Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative to Myanmar at the same venue.

They exchanged views on further close cooperation between Myanmar and UN.—*MNA*

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham meets Indian Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari

***Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham holds talks with Indian Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari.*—MNA**

New Delhi, 21 Jan— Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham met Indian premier Narendra Modi at the Prime Minister's Office on Wednesday evening before he greeted Indian president Pranab Kumar Mukherjee at President Office.

In the morning, Myanmar vice president met his Indian counterpart Mohammad Hamid Ansari, followed by visiting National Museum in New Delhi.

The vice president visited Fortis Hospital in the capital. Dr Sai Mauk Kham also met with families of Myanmar Embassy in New Delhi and Myanmar students before enjoying dinner served by the ambassador.—*MNA*

Union Defence Minister receives resident humanitarian coordinator, U.S. Military Attaché (Army)

Nay Pyi Taw, 21 Jan — Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin received a delegation led by Resident Humanitarian Coordinator Ms Renata Lok-Dessallien of the UN at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

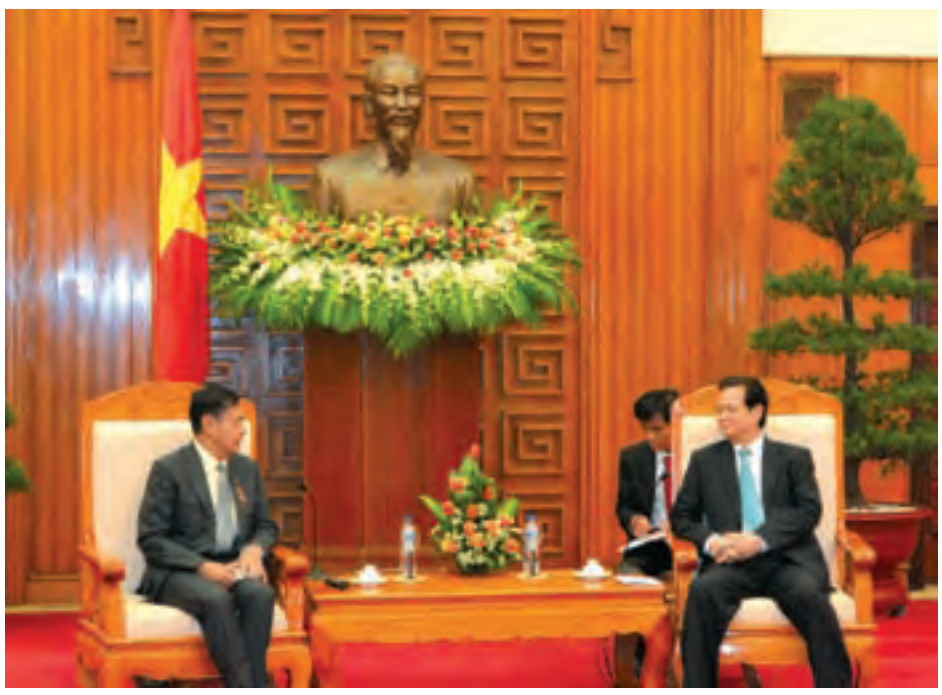
The resident humanitarian coordinator said at the call that allowing child soldiers to leave the military is a good practice and requested the minister to continue to do so, to extend the term of the CTFMR, to move IDPs at conflict areas in Kachin State to Lonkhin and Hpakant, to issue special travel permits for humanitarian teams to transport humanitarian aids and vaccines for children, and to make public if human rights courses and conflict management courses are available for security personnel in Rakhine State.

The union minister responded that efforts will be made to eliminate the issue of child soldiers and the ministry will continue to cooperate for the CTFMR, saying that the Tatmadaw will fully help Kachin State in the national interests but it is necessary to negotiate with both sides as the other side is an armed group. Permission of the Tatmadaw alone will not be safe, he added. Then, the union minister thanked for her advice and reminded her that it should be careful in solving problem as some solutions cause more tensions.

In meeting with Military Attaché (Army) Colonel William C. Dickey of the U.S. to Myanmar on 19 January, the union minister explained prevention of recruiting child soldiers after Myanmar government and UNCTFMR has signed the work plan on prevention of child soldiers on 27 June 2012, scrutiny and handover of child soldiers to parents and families, action taken against those who recruited children for military services, extension of the committee to give educative talks to the people. He said that the committee has made arrangements for holding talks between departmental officials and guests.

The U.S. Military Attaché said that the US government recognized endeavours of the Myanmar government and defence services for prevention of recruiting child soldiers. He will send information of Myanmar's endeavours to the United States. He said he would like to know all undertakings of the committee to cancel Myanmar from the list of countries using child soldiers.—*MNA*

Union Information Minister visits Vietnam Television, Voice of Vietnam, VNExpress-FPT Group, VNPT, Vietnam Viettel



***Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut meets Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung.*—MNA**

Hanoi, 21 Jan—At the invitation of Minister for Information and Communications Mr Nguyen Bac Son of Vietnam, a delegation led by Union Minister for Information U Ye Htut left for Vietnam on 19 January.

The Union minister and party called on Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr Nguyen Tan Dung at his office on 20 January and discussed cooperation in information sector between the two countries.

On 20 January, the Union Minister and party held talks with Minister for Information and Communications Mr Nguyen Bac Son of Vietnam on cooperation in information sector between the two countries, signing of MoU between information ministries, cooperation in raising awareness of the two peoples on 40th anniversary diplomatic relations between the two countries in May 2015.

The union minister visited the Vietnam Television (VTV), the Voice of Vietnam (VOV), VNExpress-FPT Group, Vietnam National Post & Telecommunications Corporation (VNPT), and largest mobile operator of Vietnam Viettel and met with presidents and officials.

MNA

Inter-sessional Meeting on TMHS PWG and its related meetings take place in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 21 Jan —The Inter-sessional Meeting on Traditional Medicine and Health Suppliment Product Working Group-TMHS PWG and its related meetings, hosted by Myanmar, took place at Hotel Shwepyitha in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, from 18 to 22 January, with an address by Deputy Minister for Health Dr Daw Thein Thein Htay.

It was also attended by the director-general of Traditional Medicine Department, traditional medicine producers and practitioners.

Participants discussed designation of norms and standards for production, rules and regulations for registration and export of traditional medicines and healthy foods among ASEAN countries.

The agreement on traditional medicines and healthy foods production will be signed among the ASEAN countries by the end of 2015. They will discussed exchange of traditional medicine production technology and nurturing of herbal plants.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Participants of ASEAN countries taking part in discussion at Inter-sessional Meeting on TMHS PWG and its related meetings in Mandalay.

MCWA, health staff give vaccination to students in Tatkon, Mandalay

TATKON, 21 Jan—The mass immunization of measles and German measles was held at No 1 Basic Education High School in Tatkon Township on 19 January.

Members of Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association and staff of the township Health Department vaccinated students from aged 6 to 15 at the BEHS No 1.

Likewise, the mass immunization was held at Chanayethazan BEHS No 16 in Mandalay.

Mandalay Region Minister for Finance Dr Myint Kyu made a speech. Head of District Health Department Dr Kyaw Soe explained the procedure for the vaccination.

A total of 1,508 teams gave vaccination to 1,373,405 children under 15 years old at 7,424 gathering points in 28 townships of Mandalay Region.

Tin Soe Lwin (Township IPRD)/Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Nurses vaccinate students against measles and German measles at No 1 Basic Education High School in Tatkon Township as part of implementation of mass immunization.

Former students pay respects to retired teachers

Retired teachers at respect paying ceremony of Mandalay BEHS No 14 (former Father Lafon).

MANDALAY, 21 Jan— No 14 Basic Education High School (former Father Lafon) in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, held the 17th respect paying ceremony at the Chinese Buddhist Temple on 30th street between 82nd and 83rd streets on 17 January.

Secretary of the organizing committee U Nay Win explained the financial statement for the fund of ceremony.

Former students paid respects to retired teachers who discharged duties from 1952 to 1965 and donated K345,000 each to them.

On behalf of the teachers, Sayagyi U Mya Thaung gave words of advice to the former students.

Later, they joined the get-together party.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Myanmar referee assigned duty of referee assessor in AFC's matches

YANGON, 21 Jan — Asian Football Confederation (AFC) organizes the AFC Champions League 2015 (Preliminary Round 2).

AFC assigned U Tun Hla Aung as referee assessor in the match between Chonbuti FC (Thailand) and Kitchee (HKG) to be held on 10 February 2015 and another match between Global FC (Philippines) and South China (HKG) in the AFC Cup 2015 (Group G) to be held on 25 February.

U Tun Hla Aung is in-charge of Myanmar Football Federation referee section.—*GNLM*

Cambodian parliament officially recognizes opposition chief as minority leader

PHNOM PENH, 21 Jan — The National Assembly of Cambodia has formally recognized Sam Rainsy, president of the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), as a minority leader "with a rank equal to the prime minister."

"The National Assembly decides to recognize His Excellency Sam Rainsy as the parliamentary minority leader,"according to an announcement signed by Heng Samrin, president of the National Assembly on Tuesday and released to the media on Wednesday.

The announcement came after the assembly on 19 December amended its internal rules to make the way for the recognition of a parliamentary minority leader.

According to the amended rules, the head of any opposition party, holding at least 25 percent of the parliamentary seats, will be formally recognized as a minority leader. The minority leader, who has a rank equal to the prime minister, will be the dialogue partner of the head of government on issues concerning national interests.

Prime Minister Hun Sen said in December that the minority leader will not have the same powers as he has as Cambodia's head of government. "The minority leader cannot order the armed forces, administration and other government affairs," he said during a graduation ceremony, adding that the recognition is aimed at creating the culture of dialogue between the heads of the ruling and opposition parties.

The assembly comprises 123 lawmakers — 68 from Prime Minister Hun Sen's ruling Cambodian People's Party and 55 from the opposition CNRP.—*Xinhua*

***Photo taken on 21 Jan, 2015 shows the road which is decorated by candies in Chengdu, southwest China's Sichuan Province.—*XINHUA**

Indonesia will not make public preliminary AirAsia crash report

JAKARTA, 21 Jan — Indonesia will not release to the public a 30-day preliminary report detailing its investigation into last month's crash of an AirAsia passenger jet that killed 162 people, a senior transport safety official said on Wednesday.

The *Airbus A320-200* vanished from radar screens on 28 December, less than halfway into a two-hour flight from Indonesia's second-biggest city of Surabaya to Singapore. There were no survivors.

Investigators are analyzing data from the aircraft's two "black box" flight recorders to determine exactly why it crashed.

Transport Minister Ignasius Jonan on Tuesday told a parliamentary hearing that, according to radar data, the plane had climbed faster than normal in its final minutes, after which it stalled.

Investigators have not found any evidence so far that terrorism played a part in the disaster. Investigators are expected to submit a preliminary report to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) early next week. Under ICAO regulations, the preliminary report must be filed within 30 days of the date of the accident.

"One month after the accident we will just make a preliminary report. No comment and no analysis," Tatang Kurniadi, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Committee, told reporters.

"This will not be exposed to the public. This is for the consumption of those countries that are involved."—*Reuters*

Malaysia halts California apple import

BEIJING, 21 Jan — Malaysia's Ministry of Agriculture said it has stopped the import of Granny Smith apples and Gala apples from California, US, according to the latest local media reports.

Minister Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob said the ministry got a notice from US Food and Drug Administration that these two kinds of apples produced by the California-base company BidartBrothers have been affected by a virus called Listeria monocytogenes.

Listeria monocytogenes is a deadly virus that may lead to a 20-30 percent death rate of people who are infected through intake of food carrying the virus.—*Xinhua*

***A man shoots video footage of part of the fuselage of crashed AirAsia Flight QZ8501 inside a storage facility at Kumai port in Pangkalan Bun on 19 Jan, 2015.* REUTERS**

Indian, Pakistan border guards trade fire on Kashmir border

SRINAGAR, (Indian-controlled Kashmir), 21 Jan — The border guards of India and Pakistan on Wednesday exchanged fire on forward posts in Arnia area of R S Pura sector of Jammu District, violating cease-fire agreement on International Border (IB) in Kashmir, officials said.

The district is about 322 km south of Srinagar city, the summer capital of Indian-controlled Kashmir,

"In yet another incident of cease-fire violation, Pakistani troops resorted to firing in Arnia area of R S Pura sector along India-Pakistan IB today," an official said. "Pakistani troops using small arms started unprovoked firing on our three forward posts at around 6:00 am (local time)." According to officials, Indian border guards of Border Security Force (BSF) posted along the IB adequately retaliated to firing from Pakistan.

"The BSF retaliated to the firing and exchange of fire was going on when the reports last came in."

However, there were no reports of any damage to the Indian side in the fresh exchange.

Both New Delhi and Islamabad accused each other of resorting to unprovoked firings and violating cease-fire agreements. And both sides insisted that their troops gave befitting reply to the other side.

The fresh exchange on volatile border came four days ahead of US President Barack Obama's visit to India. Obama is scheduled to visit India as the chief guest on India's republic celebration day and ceremonial parade on 26 January.

The troops of India and Pakistan intermittently exchange fire on the 720 km-long Line of Control (LoC) and 198 km IB in Kashmir, despite an agreement in 2003 to observe cease-fire. Though some violations have been reported on both sides, the cease-fire, however, remains in effect.

Xinhua

Two Abu Sayyaf members killed, six others wounded in S Philippines

ZAMBOANGA CITY (Philippines), 21 Jan — At least two members of the terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group were killed while six others, including a sub-leader, were wounded in a series of encounters with the government troops that sparked on Tuesday in southern Philippine province of Basilan, security official said on Wednesday.

The fighting initially erupted when government troops clashed with 25 Abu Sayyaf militants at about 11:00 am in the village of Pamatsaken in Sumisip town, said Navy Ensign Chester Ramos, information officer of Task Group Zambasulta, a joint military unit pursuing the Abu Sayyaf group.

Ramos said the militants under leader Juhaibel Alamsirul alias Abu Kik retreated with suspected casualties following the brief firefight.

Pursuing troops on clearing operation later engaged the same group in the nearby village of Baiwas after they were fired by the Abu Sayyaf snipers.

Ramos said the exchange of sniper's fire lasted briefly with the Abu Sayyaf retreating anew, but succeeded encounter as the troops caught up the Abu Sayyaf group that massed up to 50 followers and triggered almost two hours of firefight.

The government troops were immediately provided with airstrike by Philippine Air Force (PAF) attack helicopters and artillery support that dislodged the position of the Abu Sayyaf.

The 400-strong Abu Sayyaf Group, founded in the early 1990s by Islamic extremists, is a violent Muslim terrorist group operating in the southern Philippines. The ASG is notorious for a series of kidnappings, bombings and even beheadings in southern Philippines over the past decades.—*Xinhua*

Japan stresses support for anti-Islamic State efforts is "nonmilitary"

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe arrives at Haneda airport in Tokyo on 21 Jan, 2015, after completing his Middle East trip. He asked Middle East leaders for help as Islamic State militants threatened to kill two Japanese captives.
KYODO NEWS

TOKYO, 21 Jan — Japan stressed on Wednesday it has pledged "nonmilitary" support for Middle East nations struggling against Islamic State after the militant group threatened to kill two Japanese captives, denying the group's claim that Tokyo had donated money to kill Muslims.

A man claiming to be an Islamic State member threatened in an online video message on Tuesday to kill the two captives unless Japan pays a ransom of $200 million in 72 hours, the same amount Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged in a speech made last weekend in Cairo as part of Tokyo's contribution to anti-Islamic State efforts.

"What Japan has provided is humanitarian assistance targeting refugees," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a Press conference, while reiterating that Japan's policy of making active contributions to the international fight against terrorism remains unchanged.

"From talks we had with their families and the situation surrounding them, we believe the hostages are Haruna Yukawa and Kenji Goto (as shown in the video)," Suga said. "We will continue to seek an early release of the two by working closely with the international community."

Suga, meanwhile, declined to comment on the ransom demand while saying Japan is trying to contact the hostage takers through various diplomatic channels. They have not contacted the Japanese government, he said.

In Israel on Tuesday, Abe condemned the hostage taking as "unforgivable" and vowed to rescue the two men.

The prime minister is scheduled to return to Japan later Wednesday from his Middle East trip that also took him to Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinian territory.

Abe asked those Middle East leaders for help after the incident came to light, according to Suga.

The man in the video said in a message to Abe, "You have proudly donated 100 million (dollars) to kill our women and children, to destroy the homes of the Muslims," demanding a ransom amount of $100 million each for the hostages.

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, now in London, has called on his US and French counterparts in separate telephone talks to help rescue the hostages.

Both US Secretary of State John Kerry and French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius promised to do their utmost to resolve the matter as soon as possible, said Kishida, who is attending the so-called two-plus-two meeting between the foreign and defence ministers of Japan and Britain.

Kyodo News

Russia and India set to step up anti-terror fight — defence minister

NEW DELHI, 21 Jan — Russia and India are set to boost partnership in combating terrorism, visiting Russian Defence Minister General Sergey Shoigu said at talks with Indian counterpart Manohar Parrikar. "Our countries condemn strongly any terrorist acts and oppose a policy of double standards in the struggle against this evil," the Russian minister noted.

He valued highly current bilateral military-technical cooperation, noting that Russia and India reached the level of close production ties. "Production of a multi-purpose transport airplane, a fifth-generation fighter jet and several naval projects are in sight," Shoigu said.

Russian-Indian relations have already been strategic for many decades and are based on a firm basis of mutual trust, mutual understanding and close ties between the nations of the two countries. "The results of Russian President Vladimir Putin's last December visit to India and his talks with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi confirmed this once again," Shoigu said. He recalled that at the summit the two leaders had adopted a plan to bolster Russian-Indian cooperation in the next decade which particularly plans broad military and military-technical cooperation. "Agreements reached at the top level open up new opportunities to develop cooperation between defense agencies of Russia and India," Shoigu noted.

"The course for building up diversified ties between our agencies remains unchanged," he said he hoped for this. "We are ready to broaden cooperation," the Russian defence minister pledged.

Itar-Tass

Russian Defence Minister Sergey Shoigu

UN chief calls on unconditional releaseof Japanese hostages

NEW YORK, 21 Jan — UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday called for the unconditional release of two Japanese hostages being held by a man claiming to be a member of the Islamic State militant group.

Ban is "obviously very concerned about the fate of these two hostages," as he is about the "fate of all people" taken by armed groups in Iraq and Syria, Stephane Dujarric, Ban's spokesman told reporters, adding that the UN chief calls for the immediate release of all hostages and it "should be done unconditionally".

In an online video posted on Tuesday, the man threatened to kill the two, Haruna Yukawa and Kenji Goto, unless a $200 million ransom was paid within 72 hours.

In a speech on Saturday in Cairo, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged $200 million in aid to Middle East countries to contribute to anti-Islamic State efforts. Abe stressed on Tuesday the money is intended to support refugees from Iraq and Syria.

Kyodo News

S Korean teenager believed to join Islamic State

SEOUL, 21 Jan — A South Korean teenager is estimated to have joined the Islamic State as Seoul police said on Wednesday the 18-year-old has crossed the Turkish border into Syria.

The Seoul Metropolitan Policy Agency (SMPA) announced its investigation results into the teenager, identified by his surname Kim, saying he crossed the border into Syria voluntarily.

Kim left South Korea for Turkey on 8 January on his first trip overseas with a South Korean guide, and moved to the southern Turkish town of Kilis, about 5 km away from the Syrian border, a day later.

On 10 January, the teenager left a hotel at around 8 am and got on a van with an unidentified Arab man. They were dropped off at a camp for Syrian refugees near Besiriye, a Turkish town some 18 km east of Kilis. Since then, Kim has disappeared. A Turkish newspaper reported that a South Korean national joined the IS group, bolstering mounting suspicion that the teenager could have entered the Islamic militant group.

Seoul police said it hasn't been verified whether Kim joined the IS group. If confirmed, he would become the first known South Korean jihadist.

The police, however, said Kim has searched the keywords of IS, Turkey, Syria and Islam on the Internet more than 500 times since January 2014. His personal computer saved four photo files describing IS members with an IS flag on their hands. He deleted 47 photo files depicting IS members with rifles on their hands and Islamic women.

The teenager, who dropped out of his middle school, is known to have stuck to a trip to Turkey.

Kim's parents were unaware that he was to visit Turkey to meet a Turkish friend known as "Hassan" who Kim met online.

Kim is believed to have contacted IS-linked people through social network services such as Facebook, Twitter and Surespot. In March 2014, he posted a message saying "I want to enter IS" on his Facebook account.

On 9 January, a day after he left for Turkey, Kim said on his Facebook account that he "wants to live a new life away from" his family and nation.

Xinhua

Obama strikes defiant tone with Republicans in big speech

US President Barack Obama

WASHINGTON, 21 Jan — President Barack Obama struck a defiant tone for his dealings with the new Republican-led Congress on Tuesday, calling on his opponents to raise taxes on the rich and threatening to veto legislation that would challenge his key decisions.

Dogged by an ailing economy since the start of his presidency six years ago, Obama appeared before a joint session of Congress for his State of the Union speech in a confident mood, buoyed by an economic revival that has trimmed the jobless rate to 5.6 percent and eager to use this as a mandate.

It is now time, he told lawmakers and millions watching on television, to "turn the page" from recession and war and work together to boost those middle-class Americans who have been left behind.

But by calling for higher taxes that Republicans are unlikely to approve and chiding those who suggest climate change is not real, Obama set a confrontational tone for his final two years in office.

He vowed to veto any Republican effort to roll back his signature healthcare law and his unilateral loosening of immigration policy. Any attempt to increase sanctions on Iran while negotiations with Teheran over its nuclear programme are still under way would also be rejected, he said.

In sum, Obama appeared liberated: no longer having to face American voters again after his election victories in 2008 and 2012, a point that he reminded Republicans about.

"I have no more campaigns to run," Obama said. When a smattering of applause rose from Republicans at that prospect, he added with a tight smile: "I know because I won both of them."

Addressing Congress for the first time since Republicans seized the Senate in November elections, the Democratic president made clear he will not back down from his political opponents, urging them to work with him to engage in a debate about the future "without demonising each other."

"Imagine if we broke out of these tired old patterns," he said. "Imagine if we did something different." The core of Obama's plan to boost the middle class is to raise taxes on the wealthiest Americans by $320 billion over the next 10 years to pay for expanded tax credits and educational benefits for the middle class, including two years of free community college.

Many of the proposals he outlined, while popular with many Americans, are unlikely to become reality, given Republican opposition and the fact Obama will soon become a lame duck as the county turns its attention to the 2016 campaign to succeed him.

But even if Obama's wealth redistribution proposals are anathema to Republicans, they could be forced to consider alternative ways to tackle income inequality and prove they can govern, which could be a factor for Americans as they consider whether to elect a Republican as president in 2016.

And his moves could give an assist to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, the overwhelming favourite for the Democratic presidential nomination if she decides to run.

Potential Republican presidential candidates Mitt Romney, who Obama defeated in 2012, and Jeb Bush responded quickly to the speech in Facebook postings, saying Obama was trying to use the tax code to divide people.

"Rather than bridging the gap between the parties, he makes 'bridge to nowhere' proposals. Disappointing. A missed opportunity to lead," said Romney.

At a time of riveting global crises, Obama's speech was mostly about domestic issues and was relatively light on foreign policy.

He defended his decision in December to seek to normalise relations with Communist-ruled Cuba and urged Congress to lift the more than 50-year-old US economic embargo against Havana.

He called on lawmakers to pass a new authorization of military force against Islamic State militants to replace powers that were given to President George W Bush to prosecute the Iraq war.

Republican Senators John McCain and Lindsey Graham, two sharp critics of Obama, accused the president of bungling the battle against Islamic State, also known by the acronym ISIS.

"Despite the President's claims of progress in the campaign against ISIS, this terrorist army continues to gain thousands of recruits and now controls significantly more territory in Syria than when US airstrikes began there six months ago," they said in a statement.— *Reuters*

US and Cuba sit down for historic talks on restoring ties

HAVANA, 21 Jan —The highest-level US delegation to Cuba in 35 years begins talks on Wednesday aimed at restoring diplomatic ties and eventually normalizing relations between two adversaries who have been locked in Cold War-era hostilities.

The two days of meetings are the first since US President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro announced on 17 December they had reached a historic breakthrough after 18 months of secret negotiations.

Obama has set the US on a path toward removing economic sanctions and Washington's 53-year-old trade embargo against the communist-ruled island, telling Congress in his annual State of the Union address on Tuesday that "we are ending a policy that was long past its expiration date." Talks will focus on immigration on Wednesday and turn to restoring diplomatic ties on Thursday.

Both sides are also expected to outline longer-term goals. While Cuba will seek the repeal of Washington's 53-year-old economic embargo and ask to be removed from the US list of state sponsors of terrorism, the Americans will press the one-party state for greater human rights.

On immigration, Cuba has said it will protest US laws that welcome Cubans into the United States once they set foot on American soil, an exceptional policy that Cuba says promotes people-trafficking and dangerous journeys across the Florida Straits on flimsy vessels.

Obama has the executive authority to restore diplomatic ties but needs the Republican-controlled Congress to lift the economic embargo.

A senior Cuban foreign ministry official on Tuesday drew a distinction between restoring diplomatic ties and the broader issue of normalizing relations.

"Cuba isn't normalizing relations with the United States. Cuba is re-establishing diplomatic relations with the United States. The normalization of relations is a much longer process and much more complicated process," the official told reporters, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The official said normal relations would require the United States to lift the embargo, remove Cuba from terrorism list and stop recruiting Cuban doctors to defect.

The US delegation will be led by Roberta Jacobson, the top US diplomat for Latin America and the first US assistant secretary of state to visit Cuba in 38 years. A US official of similar rank visited Cuba 35 years ago.

The Cuban team will be led by Josefina Vidal, the foreign ministry's chief diplomat for US affairs. —*Reuters*

Questions mount over death of Argentine prosecutor

Women smash a police fence during a protest over the death of prosecutor Alberto Nisman, in front of the Olivos presidential residence in Buenos Aires on 19 Jan, 2015. **REUTERS**

BUENOS AIRES, 21 Jan — The mysterious death of an Argentine prosecutor just days after he accused the president of directing a cover-up in the bombing of a Jewish community center two decades earlier has jolted the country with accusations of foul play coming from all sides.

The body of Alberto Nisman, lead investigator into the 1994 car bomb that killed 85 people, was found in his apartment on Sunday night, a handgun by his side along with a single shell casing. He had been scheduled to present his findings in Congress on Monday and his death sparked street protests over the slow pace of justice for the attack on the AMIA Jewish centre in 1984. Officials said Nisman apparently committed suicide but his former wife, Sandra Arroyo, said on Tuesday that she did not believe he killed himself, and some Argentines suspect the government might be behind his death.

"Murderer!" some among a crowd of 2,000 shouted as they hammered at police barricades surrounding the presidential palace. Hundreds more demonstrated outside the presidential residence as Nisman's death dominated Argentine news programs and social media.

President Cristina Fernandez and her allies also say there appears to be more to it than a simple suicide although they have not said who they think was part of any conspiracy.

Viviana Fein, the state prosecutor handling the case, said Nisman was alone when he died but that she has not discarded the possibility of there being "some type of induction or instigation" of the suicide.

"Was it a personal decision or was he pressured?" said Juliana Di Tullio, a government-allied member of the lower house of Congress.

A government source who asked not to be named told *Reuters* the Fernandez administration believes the death was linked to a struggle within the state intelligence services.

The head of Argentine intelligence was replaced in December, resulting in the firing of agents who had been helping with Nisman's investigation. Nisman had accused agents from another faction within the state intelligence apparatus of being part of Fernandez's alleged plot to clear the Iranian suspects.

Nisman alleged last week that Fernandez wanted to whitewash the 1994 bombing and normalize relations with Iran in order to trade Argentine grains for Iranian oil.

Argentina has a $7 billion annual energy gap, complicating the government's efforts to jumpstart a weak economy.

Fernandez and her ministers dismissed Nisman's charges last week as ridiculous. Since his death, they have raised questions about his activities earlier this month, when he rushed back from vacation to level the accusations against her.

"Who was it who ordered Nisman to come back to the country on 12 January ... interrupting a family vacation that was not set to end until 20 January?" Fernandez asked on a Facebook post, putting quotation marks around the word 'suicide' when she referred to his death.

"Who can believe ... he would cut his vacation short without telling the judge handling the case, and hand over a 350-page complaint that would have had to be prepared earlier? Or could it be that someone gave him the complaint when he got back?"

Late on Tuesday, the government published a letter from the intelligence service stating that two alleged agents Nisman mentioned in his accusations had in fact never worked for the agency. Several officials have picked holes in his report.—*Reuters*

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 22 January, 2015

Without slightest hesitation in agricultural sector

By *Aung Khin*

Farmers make up 70 percent of the population of Myanmar. Sufficient agricultural loans and lower interest rates are important for the success of the farming industry. Farmers find it difficult to keep on farming when the major source of livelihood means being in debt.

Rice exports by Thailand in 2014 were 10.8 million tonnes, making it the biggest rice exporting country in the world. Myanmar exported only around 1 million tonnes of paddy in the same year. In this circumstance, all-round sectors regarding crop cultivation should be reviewed and made better.

Myanmar exported 610,500 tons of rice, gaining nearly $212.2 million in 2012, a drop from 789,100 tons and $307 million in 2011 according to government statistics.

Modern farming technologies and high-yield crops are playing key roles to increase production. But enough credit will be needed for the farmers to be able to grow more varieties of crops and agricultural enterprises should be set up to process and package the crops to help the farmers get more income.

Implementation needs to be combined with modern technologies. Most Southeast Asian countries largely rely on agriculture. These countries are rushing to global markets and Myanmar should not hesitate or delay to adopt a pragmatic system to become a major rice exporter as has been planned for the agricultural sector.

Rice consumption in the world is estimated at 483 million tonnes, while global rice trade is expected to hit 41.9 million tonnes in 2015, marginally higher than 41.88 million tonnes in 2014. Strong import demand is anticipated, particularly for China, Nigeria, Iran and the Philippines.

In these emerging markets, Myanmar should try to keep pace with other rice-producing countries. After all, the economic policy of the country has chosen agricultural as a major source for economic growth.

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

SERVANT LEADER

Kyi Mun

Servant means: (1) a person who works in another person's house, and cooks and cleans, etc. for them: a domestic servant
(2) a person who works for a company or an organization: a public servant
(3) a person or thing that is controlled by something: He was willing to make himself a servant of his art

Leader means: (1) a person who leads a group of people, especially the head of a country, an organization, etc: a political/ spiritual, etc. leader: the leader of the party, the union leaders; He was not a natural leader; She was a born leader;
(2) a person or thing that is the best, or in first place in a race, business, etc. She was among the leaders of the race from the start. The company is a world leader in electrical goods. Market leader.
(3) the most important violin player in an orchestra
(4) Editorial

In my opinion, servant, here, means the servant of a great cause, a tremendous idea, a gigantic belief or a revolutionary fervor. So, a servant leader should mean a leader who has resolutely entrusted his entire body and mind and heart and soul to a cause or a belief. Such a servant-leader would never care for POSITION, POWER, POSSESSION, etc. He or She would only go all-out, aim nobly high, and would give all he or she has got; he or she would give every bit of himself or herself, holding nothing back.

A true servant leader would have the following characteristics as his or her trademark:

S *for* Strategist
E *for* Empathizer
R *for* Responsibility-taker
V *for* Values-seeker
A *for* Altruist
N *for* Networker
T *for* Tactician
L *for* Learner
E *for* Earnest Fighter
A *for* Active Organizer
D *for* Dreamer (Visionary)
E *for* Enabler
R *for* Revolutionary

STRATEGIST

A strategist is a **shaker and mover**. He or she is a seer who sees the BIG PICTURE and **who sees far into the future**. A strategist is a meticulous planner, carefully calculating and forecasting beforehand all the possibilities in the future. He or she sees the realistic scenarios and selects the most realistic one as the model for decisive action. A strategist would follow the following 7-P Principles of Action:

Prior Planning Plus Preparations
Prevent Poor Performance

A strategist is the bold one who dares to struggle and who dares to win. A strategist is also the brave one who dares to scale the heights. A good strategist is always staunch to: **"Be resolute, fear no sacrifice, and surmount all difficulties to win victory."**

EMPATHIZER

An empathizer is the person who has the ability to feel and understand another person's feelings and experiences, especially because he or she has been in a similar situation. So, a servant leader is the person who is naturally willing to place himself or herself into the position of the people they represent and serve. Empathy is a matter of the heart. A true servant leader must have the heart to PROTECT, PROMOTE AND PROPAGATE the interests of their followers. A servant leader is so high in spirit that he or she dares to serve the people even from the lowest rung. A real servant leader will never swerve from earnestly serving the people.

RESPONSIBILITY-TAKER

Responsibility means:

(1) a duty to deal with or take care of somebody or something, so that you may be blamed if something goes wrong: - *We are recruiting a sales manager with responsibility for the European markets. - They have responsibility for ensuring that the rules are enforced. - Parental rights & responsibilities. - I don't feel ready to take on new responsibilities; To be in a position of responsibility; I did it on my own responsibility (without being told to and being willing to take the blame, if it had gone wrong.)*
(2) Blame for something bad that has happened: *The bank refuses to accept responsibility for the mistake. Nobody has claimed responsibility for the bombing.*
(3) a duty to help or take care of somebody because of your job, position, etc: *She feels a strong sense of responsibility towards her employees; I think we have a moral responsibility to help those countries.*

A servant-leader is always willing and ardent to take responsibility and to take charge. Such a leader is always fervent to be in charge of a fight or a project or a meeting. A servant-leader's basic attitude is to serve the people, to serve the organization and to serve the country. His or her whole life is staunchly dedicated to a good purpose or a good cause.

VALUES-SEEKER

A servant-leader is a deep believer in serving the people. Such a leader is an authentic, reliable and constructive value provider to the national peace, progress and prosperity. He or she stands for liberty, equality and fraternity. He or she is always on the side of the worker, producer, entrepreneur, value provider and wealth creator. A true servant-leader lends his or her support and assistance to all efforts of raising the level and content of CHARACTER, COMPETENCE, COMMITMENT, CONGRUENCE, COURAGE AND CARING.

ALTRUIST

A servant-leader is a true altruist. He or she is always on the lookout to "Love All, Serve All; Hurt Never and Help Ever". Such a leader is always ready to bend over backward to serve a higher purpose. He or she is always hands-on, mind-on and heart-on to be of use to a worthy cause. He or she stands for the principle of "One for All and All for One". He or she is totally committed to serving valiantly the call of duty.

NETWORKER

A servant-leader is a people-person. In the interest of the broad masses of the people and the country, he or she lives and moves and has his or her being. Such a leader is always in rapport with his colleagues and team-members. He or she always looks for the opportunity to create win-win outcomes. He or she supports every move for mutual benefits. A servant-leader is a true representative of all the stakeholders. He or she is always willing and fervent to create and cement win-win-win-win relationships for the Customers, Employees, Shareholders and the Entire National Economy.

TACTICIAN

A servant-leader is a good tactician. Tactics are the moves executed in support of the set strategy. In military parlance, tactics are all the moves in the actual battle field. The purpose of strategy is always to prevail over the enemy and tactics are the moves that destroy or reduce the strength and morale of the enemy. In business, strategy aims at prevailing over the competition, and tactics are leadership, differentiation and focus.

A good servant-leader is a brilliant strategist and at the same time a dynamic tactician who has what it takes to prevail over the opponent.

LEARNER

A good servant-leader is a good learner. Such a leader always learns from negative aspects as well as the positive aspects. He or she learns from the people, from the enemy, from trends, from the books and from the history. A good servant-leader is an ardent learner who meticulously avoids:

- **Arrogance**
- **Greed**
- **Complacency**
- **Inconsistency**
- **Myopia**
- **Apathy**
- **Inertia**
- **Ignorance**

(See page 9)

Supplementary MOA, Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) signed for Chipwenge hydropower project

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Jan — Chipwenge hydropower project jointly implemented by Myanmar and Chinese engineers started its operation as of 24 September 2013 in addition to Shweli-1 and Tarping-1 hydropower projects, Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe said at the signing ceremony of Supplementary MOA and Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) at Horizon Hotel, here, on 20 January evening.

The union minister stressed the need to abide by traditions and customs of the region, provide necessary assistance for regional development and minimize impacts on the natural environment.

Vice President of CPI Corporation Mr Yu Jianfeng expressed thanks for signing the agreements.

Director-General U Thaung Han and presidents of CPI Co., Ltd of the People's Republic of China and Asia World Co., Ltd signed the Supplementary MOA and Joint Venture Agreement.

Chipwenge hydropower station generates 99 megawatts to be supplied to local people in Kachin State.

The ceremony was also attended by Union Ministers U Nyan Tun Aung, U Than Htay and Dr Ko Ko Oo, deputy ministers, the deputy attorney-general and officials.—*MNA*

***Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe attends signing ceremony of Supplementary MOA and Joint Venture Agreement (JVA) for Chipwenge Project.*—MNA**

ADB to invest in Myanmar's development projects

NAY PYI TAW, 21 Jan—Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun held talks with Country Director Mr Winfried F Wicklein of Myanmar Resident Mission of the Asian Development Bank at the ministry, here, on Wednesday.

They exchanged views on topics to be discussed at the 4th GMS Environment Ministers' Meeting-EMM-4 to be held from 27 to 29 January, ways of ADB to provide assistance for reform processes in Myanmar, and future cooperation plans between the ministry and ADB in environmental conservation.

ADB will invest US$ 30.1 billion in 92 projects on development of infrastructure, enhancement of organizational capacity and development of human resources in six Mekong Sub-region countries in 2014-18. It will put investment in two projects on environmental conservation and six projects in technology sector in Myanmar. By implementing these projects, ADB will assist in development of ecotourism and agro-biodiversity products, assessment of green value chains, improvement of land and energy utilization, development of environmental safeguards, transborders protection management, payment for environmental services-PES, calculation of environmental performance index-EPI, and formation of national support units for transborders biodiversity and natural resources conservation in Myanmar.—*MNA*

South Korean delegation concludes visit to Myanmar

YANGON, 21 Jan—Dr Chung Ui-hwa, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, and party concluded their goodwill visit to Myanmar on Wednesday, source reported.

The delegation left for home this afternoon and they were seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Speaker U Sein Tin Win and Deputy Speaker U Tin Aung of the Yangon Region Hluttaw, Korean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Lee Baek-soon and officials.

MNA

Japanese firms seeks...

(from page 1)

Takahiro Yamashita, CEO of Software Development Rio Co., Ltd told the media.

"It is imperative to ensure technology development in Myanmar before entering the outsourcing partnership," he added.

"I have a desire to establish a software engineering school in Myanmar," said the CEO of Rio Co., Ltd which is incorporated in a computer engineering curriculum for the Hanoi University of Science and Technology.

For outsourcing cooperation with Myanmar, around $10,000 worth of software outsourcing business is intended for Myanmar partners, added the CEO.

His two pieces of advice for Myanmar IT development suggested the country's technological schools should follow science and technology curricula of developed countries such as the US and Japan and a plan should be set to send Myanmar talents abroad for further studies. U Myo Thet, vice president of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry said, the seminar coincided with the RUMFCCI's efforts seeking all means to turn out skilled technicians with the establishment of a vocational institute.

"I will talk to them about how to collaborate on turning out skilled technicians through cooperation between Moro's engineering school and RUMFCCI's vocational institute," said the vice president.

During their presentations, the Japanese CEOs explained their vision of offshore business, noting a manpower shortage caused by population decline in Japan. The seminar was aimed at seeking business partners who will become an important source of technology transfer for ensuring industrial vitalization and economic growth in Myanmar, said officials.—*GNLM*

A team of Japanese CEOs from machinery manufacturing company, IT company and food export company hosts a Japanese technology transfer seminar at RUMFCCI Building in Yangon on Wednesday.
PHOTO: YE MYINT

SERVANT LEADER...

(from page 8)

EARNEST FIGHTER

A servant-leader is always an Earnest Fighter. Such a leader is always willing to fight the good fight of uplifting the peoples' living standards, their economic, socio-cultural caliber and the National Prestige and Brand-Image. A good servant-leader is a fighter for the MACRO INTERESTS of the Entire NATION or the entire organization. A true servant-leader never fights for MICRO INTERESTS or the SECTORIAL INTERESTS. In short, a servant-leader is always a people-person.

ACTIVE ORGANIZER

A servant-leader is a good organizer of people. A true servant-leader is intrinsically POETIC in the following manner; his or her forte is:

- Persuading
- Organizing
- Enabling
- Toughening
- Inspiring
- Caring

DREAMER (VISIONAY)

A servant-leader is a DREAMER. It means he or she is a visionary. A good servant-leader usually has very strong and vivid:

- VISION
- MISSION
- GOAL
- OBJECTIVES
- STRATEGY
- TACTICS

ENABLER

A good servant-leader really understands the importance of the cutting-edge capabilities of the people. Such a leader is quite convinced that there are the following FOUR FACTORS OF WINNING THE WAR or COMPETITION:

- The quality and capability of the Leader,
- The quality and capability of the People/ Followers
- Morale
- Resources

So, a true servant-leader goes all-out to enable his followers to have the cutting-edge capabilities of the decisive winners.

REVOLUTIONAY

A servant-leader is a true revolutionary in that he or she cultivates himself or herself to be:

- **Active rather than Passive**
- **Dynamic rather than Static**
- **Proactive rather than Reactive**
- **Progressive rather than Regressive**
- **Farsighted rather than Shortsighted**
- **Revolutionary rather than Reactionary**

Such a revolutionary servant-leader always LEADS, never CHEATS.

CONCLUSION

A servant-leader:
Knows the PURPOSE Clearly,
Leads the PEOPLE Dearly, and
Fights the BATTLE Cheerily.
Ref: Oxford Dictionary

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co.,Ltd.

Palestinian stabs up to 10 people on Tel Aviv commuter bus

JERUSALEM, 21 Jan — A Palestinian man stabbed up to 10 people on a commuter bus in central Tel Aviv on Wednesday before he was shot in the leg by a prison security officer as he tried to escape, police said.

Tel Aviv police commander Bentzi Sau said 10 people had been injured. He said the assailant was a West Bank resident who stabbed the driver and then attacked passengers shortly after boarding the bus.

Police spokesman Micky Rosenfeld said the Palestinian was a 23-year-old resident of the town of Tulkarm in the West Bank.

A doctor at Tel Aviv's Ichilov hospital told Army Radio that seven people had been admitted for treatment, four of whom were seriously hurt. "Shortly after he boarded the bus, the assailant stabbed the driver several times but there was an excellent response from him as he resisted the attack and in this way the terrorist was stunned," Sau told reporters at the scene.

Israeli police officers carry on a stretcher a Palestinian man who stabbed up to 10 people in Tel Aviv on 21 Jan, 2015. — REUTERS

Sau said a vehicle with prison officers traveling close by saw the attack and officers gave chase. They caught the man in a nearby street and shot him in the leg as he tried to escape.

The stabbing was the latest in a string of incidents in the past few months at a time of heightened tension between Palestinians and Israelis, particularly in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Israel seized the territories in a 1967 war and Palestinians want them for an independent state, along with Gaza.

Reuters

Bodies of 26 civilians, Kurdish fighters found in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD, 21 Jan — Search teams have discovered the bodies of 15 civilians and 11 Kurdish peshmerga fighters in two mass graves in Iraq, a local official said on Tuesday.

The bodies were found in a rural district 86 kilometres northeast of Baghdad that had been controlled by Islamic State militants.

"The [civilians'] bodies were horribly disfigured, which indicates that they were executed during the early days of Islamic State presence in Saadiya District," said the district chief, Mohammed Mulla Hassan, from the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan party.

He said the bodies found in the second grave belonged to Kurdish peshmerga fighters, who probably were captured during fighting in the nearby town of Jalawla last summer and killed more recently.

Joint search teams from the Kurdistan regional government in northern Iraq and Baghdad's human rights ministry found the graves.

A similar team discovered 16 corpses last week in a nearby area.

Hassan blamed the killings on the Sunni jihadists of Islamic State, who controlled the area until late November, when they were forced out by Shi'ite militias, security forces and peshmerga.

The Shi'ite militias have also been accused of atrocities when retaking land from Islamic State, which swept across northern Iraq last summer as the Iraqi army collapsed.

Reuters

Dutch UN attack helicopters strike Mali rebels in north

DAKAR, 21 Jan — Dutch United Nations attack helicopters carried out air strikes on Tuareg rebel forces in northern Mali on Tuesday, the first such engagement by Dutch forces serving in the UN mission in Mali.

The UN mission, known as MINUSMA, said it was responding to heavy weapons fire directed at its peacekeepers in the town of Tabankort. It said the helicopters only destroyed a rebel vehicle after firing warning shots that were ignored. A spokesman for the MNLA Tuareg separatist rebels, who are involved in peace talks with the Malian government in Algeria, denied warning shots had been fired and said five fighters had been killed and several others wounded.

UN peacekeepers have deployed across northern Mali to help the weak Bamako government secure desert zones that were occupied by a mix of rebels and al-Qaeda-linked Islamists in 2012 until a French military intervention two years ago. The incident highlights how Mali's north is still awash with various armed groups and is likely to complicate the last round of UN-backed peace talks due to take place next month between the government and the rebel factions that are involved.

The UN mission had been for days seeking to end a standoff over Tabankort, a desert town that the MNLA had surrounded and where there are rival pro-government militia fighters, as well as a contingent of UN peacekeepers protecting civilians.

"These actions were taken in line with our mandate which authorizes MINUSMA to use force to protect civilians, its personnel and its positions from attack or imminent danger," the mission said in a statement. The UN mission did not give a toll and it said clashes were still taking place on Tuesday evening.

Some 450 Special Forces troops, intelligence operatives and four Apache helicopter gunships from the Netherlands have been deployed in northern Mali as part of a force of up to 12,000 men.

UN troops mostly help Mali's army occupy key towns while French soldiers hunt down resurgent Islamist militants. However, the Dutch contingent is tasked with intelligence gathering and has the force's only attack helicopters.—*Reuters*

Houthi gunmen guard Yemen leader's home, deny overthrowing him

SANAA, 21 Jan — Yemen's minority Shi'ite Houthi fighters took up guard at President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi's home on Wednesday but said they had not toppled him, after two days of fighting which left little doubt that the enfeebled leader was now at their mercy.

The Houthis, friendly to Iran, swept into the capital four months ago and have emerged as the dominant force in the country. For now at least they appear to have decided to stop short of overthrowing Hadi, possibly preferring to exert control over a weakened leader rather than take on the burden of power.

Their defeat of the presidential guards in gunbattles and artillery duels in recent days adds to disarray in a country where the United States is also carrying out drone strikes against one of the most powerful branches of al-Qaeda.

After clashes at the president's office and home on Tuesday, the Houthis' leader threatened in a speech overnight to take further "measures" unless Hadi bows to his demand for constitutional changes that would increase Houthi power.

By early morning on Wednesday, Houthi fighters, accompanied by an armored vehicle, had replaced the guards at the president's residence. Presidential guard sentry posts were initially empty, however a few guards later appeared and were permitted to take up positions.

"President Hadi is still in his home. There is no problem, he can leave," Mohammed al-Bukhaiti, a member of the Houthi politburo, told *Reuters*.

Yemeni military sources said the Houthis also seized the military aviation college located close to Hadi's home, and the main missile base in Sanaa, without a fight.

In the south of the country, Hadi's home region, local officials denounced what they called a coup against him and shut the air and sea ports of the south's main city, Aden.

Yemen, an impoverished nation of 25 million, has been plagued by Islamist insurgency, separatist conflict, sectarian strife and economic crisis for years. An "Arab Spring" popular uprising in 2011 led to the downfall of long-ruling President Ali Abdullah Saleh, bringing more chaos.

The Houthis, rebels from the north drawn from a large Shi'ite minority that ruled a 1,000-year kingdom in Yemen until 1962, stormed into the capital in September but had mostly held back from directly challenging Hadi until last week, when they detained his chief of staff.

They accuse the president of seeking to bypass a power-sharing deal signed when they seized Sanaa in September, and say they are also working to protect state institutions from corrupt civil servants and officers trying to plunder state property.

Houthi fighters battled guards at Hadi's home and entered the presidential palace on Tuesday. In his televised speech that followed, the group's leader Abdel-Malek al-Houthi warned Hadi that he had to implement the power-sharing deal.

"We ... will not hesitate to impose any necessary measures to implement the peace and partnership agreement," said Abdel-Malek, whose Shi'ite Muslim group is widely seen as an ally of Iran in its regional struggle for influence with Saudi Arabia.

"All the options are open and without exception and the ceiling is very, very high. And this is why, I here advise the president ... Implement this deal. It is for your benefit and for the benefit of your people," he said on live television.

The accord gives the Shi'ite Muslim group, which takes its name from the family of its leader, a role in all military and civil state bodies. The Houthis also demand changes to the divisions of regional power in a draft constitution.—*Reuters*

Houthi fighters take up position on a street during clashes near the Presidential Palace in Sanaa on 19 Jan, 2015.—Reuters

Asian shares buoyed by ECB easing hopes, BOJ hold lifts yen

*A man using his mobile phone walks past the Bank of Japan headquarters building in Tokyo on 19 Dec, 2014. —*Reuters

Tokyo, 21 Jan — Asian shares hit a six-week high and the euro stayed under pressure on Wednesday as investors counted on the European Central Bank to unveil a stimulus drive, while the yen jumped after the Bank of Japan left policy unchanged.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan rose 1.3 percent, with shares in India and New Zealand hitting record highs.

European shares are expected to open higher with spreadbetters seeing higher opening of up to 0.2 percent in FTSE and France's CAC 40.

Japan's Nikkei bucked the trend by slipping 0.5 percent and the yen gained 0.9 percent to 117.76 to the dollar after the BOJ did not expand its stimulus.

While the decision had been widely expected, some players had bet on a surprise from BOJ Governor Haruhiko Kuroda, as the central bank's inflation target for next year looks increasingly illusive.

The BOJ maintained its money-printing target while tinkering with expiring loan schemes to support bank lending. It stuck to a bullish inflation outlook for 2016 even though it cut its 2015 projections following falls in oil prices in recent months.

On the whole, global share prices have been supported in recent sessions by growing investor conviction that the ECB will adopt quantitative easing at its meeting on Thursday.

"Everyone is talking about the ECB meeting outcome," said Kara Ordway, a market maker and trader at City Index in Sydney. "Markets are choppy because there is so much uncertainty."

The FTSEurofirst 300 index of top European shares climbed to a seven-year high on Tuesday, led by German shares, which hit record highs.

The euro was soft at $1.1570, having fallen from above $1.16 touched on Tuesday to get closer to an 11-year low of $1.14595 set last week. Still, uncertainties on exactly what the ECB will do kept many investors on guard, especially given that Germany's Bundesbank is reluctant to see large scale money-printing.

"The market appears to be looking to quantitative easing of at least 500 billion euro... but there is a chance the ECB's action is less aggressive than some are hoping for," said Shuji Shirota, associate director at HSBC in Tokyo.

The spectre of the ECB's stimulus and recent volatility in global markets caused by plunging oil prices boosted demand for precious metals as a safe haven. Gold extended its rally to a five-month high, rising above $1,300 per ounce for the first time since August, having risen 10 percent so far this year. It last stood at $1,300.90.

Silver also rose to a four-month high of $18.32 per ounce, rising almost 2.0 percent on Wednesday.

US debt prices also remained firm, as ever-falling European bond yields make higher-yielding US bonds more attractive.

The 10-year US notes yield stood at 1.797 percent, having fallen to as low as 1.698 percent on Tuesday, its lowest level since May 2013.

Commodity prices remained under pressure, with oil falling as much as 5 percent at one point on Tuesday after the International Monetary Fund cut its 2015 global economic forecast. Benchmark Brent crude ticked up on Wednesday to trade at $48.33 a barrel, though it is still down 3.6 percent on the week.

Reuters

Number of new Ebola cases declines: UNMEER head

United Nations, 21 Jan — There has been an overall decline in the number of new Ebola cases, especially in the three most affected African countries, said a UN official on Ebola on Tuesday.

Briefing on the progress in the global Ebola response to a UN General Assembly meeting, Ismael Ould Cheikh Ahmed, new head of United Nations' Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) said that "the devastating spread of the disease has slowed."

According to Ahmed, among the three most affected countries, Liberia has recorded the sharpest decline, from averages exceeding 300 cases per week in August and September to less than 10 cases per week today. In the past three weeks, the number of new cases in Sierra Leone and Guinea has been at its lowest since August and late July of last year respectively.

While the numbers of overall new cases has come down, the disease has spread across a larger geographic area, the UN official said, warning against complacency in the fight against Ebola.

Too many communities in Ebola-affected countries are still refusing to acknowledge the disease and are resisting response efforts, he said.

In this regard, Ahmed called on the international community to strengthen efforts in social mobilization and community ownership, and also adjust the global response to the evolving nature of the disease.

Also on Tuesday, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon appealed to national stakeholders, community leaders, response actors and member states to stay engaged and sustain the global effort in fighting Ebola.

"The outbreak has taught us that there is no room for complacency," said Ban. "Resources continue to be required to adjust the response, monitor chains of transmission and end the outbreak."

Xinhua

Calorie counts on menus used by women, wealthier diners in Seattle area

Washington, 21 Jan — Women, higher-income diners and patrons of fast-food restaurants in the Seattle area are more likely to use restaurant calorie count information, according to survey results published on Tuesday.

The research findings from Washington State's King County, which includes the city of Seattle, add to a growing body of data on how such disclosures, meant to curb the US obesity epidemic, may influence dining habits.

The study was based on surveys of more than 3,000 King County residents who frequent chain restaurant. It began eight months before the county required restaurants to post calorie information at the beginning of 2009, and continued for two years after that.

*A meal of a "Monster"-sized A.1. Peppercorn burger, Bottomless Steak Fries, and Monster Salted Caramel Milkshake is seen at a Red Robin restaurant in Foxboro, Massachusetts on 30 July, 2014.—*Reuters

Women, higher-income individuals and diners who ate at fast-food chains said they were the most likely to use the information. White, higher-income and obese customers were more likely to see the calorie information. Researchers did not ask how diners put calorie information to use.

"It was a confirmation that if you post calorie information, more people are going to see it and more people are going to use it," said Roxana Chen, lead author and social research scientist for public health for Seattle and King County.

The study was funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and published online by the American Journal of Public Health.

Chen said the latest study builds on related RWJF-funded research published in 2013. In that study, researchers examined receipts from more than 7,300 King County restaurant customers and found that patrons, particularly women, who saw the calorie counts purchased fewer calories than those who did not.

King County was the second US jurisdiction, after New York City, to implement a calorie counts under a menu-labelling law.

Reuters

Toyota expects fewer global sales in 2015 amid weak demand

Nagoya, 21 Jan — Toyota Motor Corp said on Wednesday its group aims to sell 10.15 million vehicles globally in 2015, down 1 percent from the previous year, affected by weak demand in Japan and emerging economies.

In 2014, the Toyota group, which also includes Daihatsu Motor Co and Hino Motors Ltd, remained the world's biggest carmaker for the third straight year, selling 10.23 million vehicles, up 3 percent, beating rivals such as Germany's Volkswagen AG and General Motors Co of the United States.

It was the first time the Japanese automaker group had sold more than 10 million units on a calendar-year basis. The result was largely helped by robust demand in the United States as the world's biggest economy has been increasingly showing signs of recovery.

But Toyota's sales were also weighed down by sluggish demand in Japan where the consumption tax hike in April has sapped private consumption and business investment.

In 2015, Toyota expects a negative impact from possible slower sales in emerging market countries, particularly China. It also projects a drag on domestic sales of Daihatsu's minicars amid a tax hike linked to the vehicles with engines up to 660 cc.

Kyodo News

Prosecutors seek formal probe for Paris attack suspects

PARIS, 21 Jan — French prosecutors asked magistrates on Tuesday to open a formal investigation into four men suspected of helping prepare the Islamist attack on a kosher supermarket in Paris, one of three attacks in France that claimed 17 victims.

The four suspects, ages 22 to 28, have been in police custody since Friday.

Police have been searching for possible accomplices to brothers Cherif and Said Kouachi, who carried out attacks on the satirical weekly *Charlie Hebdo*, and Amedy Coulibaly, who killed a policewoman and four people in the Jewish foodstore. All three gunmen were shot dead by police in sieges on 9 January.

Twelve people were arrested last week on suspicion of providing logistical support to Coulibaly, a judicial source said. For the most part, those arrested were already known to police, Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said on Friday.

Eight of those suspects, three of them women, were released on Sunday and early Tuesday morning, prosecutors said.

The four still in custody should be formally investigated by magistrates for possible charges of criminal association related to a terrorist enterprise, prosecutors recommended. One of them should additionally be investigated for possession and transport of weapons, they said in a statement.

Investigating magistrates will now decide whether or not to proceed with the case and follow prosecutors' recommendations.

Investigators are also looking at whether the attackers received help from militants in Spain and whether they obtained their weapons in Belgium.

Reuters

The photo taken on 20 Jan, 2015 shows the exterior look of a railway-themed restaurant in Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province. A railway-themed restaurant opened recently in Hefei. It is composed of two carriages and a locomotive sculpture. The restaurant also holds art exhibitions.—XINHUA

Protests not over at Australian detention centre

SYDNEY, 21 Jan — A protest by hundreds of asylum seekers at an Australian detention centre in Papua New Guinea, where some had sewn their lips shut in protest, had not ended despite government statements to the contrary, rights advocates said on Wednesday.

Australia uses offshore detention centres in Papua New Guinea and the tiny South Pacific island nation of Nauru to process would-be refugees trying to reach the country, often in unsafe boats after paying people-smugglers in Indonesia.

In February 2014, one person was killed and more than 70 injured during riots at the immigration detention centre on Manus Island in PNG after residents overran the camp and attacked detainees.

More protests began last week after asylum seekers were told they would be moved into new accommodation, which they feared would make them more vulnerable to attack by Papua New Guineans opposed to their presence.

Journalists are barred from visiting Manus Island, so information about the protests cannot be verified independently.

On Tuesday, Australian Immigration Minister Peter Dutton and officials in Papua New Guinea said a peaceful end to the protests had been negotiated, despite footage seen by *Reuters* showing riot police forcing their way into the facility.

Refugee advocates and asylum seekers inside the compound contradicted his assessment on Wednesday, saying the protests had spread further despite attempts to end them.

"Our ... hunger strike entered its ninth day and it will continue," a group of around two dozen refugees said in a handwritten letter posted on an advocacy group's website.

"We will continue our push until we reach our ultimate goal which is FREEDOM."

A group of 70 refugees have been imprisoned over their involvement in the protests, said Ian Rintoul, executive director of the Refugee Action Coalition, while others are being held in isolation in the camp's medical facilities.

"They are systematically removing people from compounds who they believe are ring leaders," Rintoul said.

A spokesman for Dutton did not respond to requests from *Reuters* for comment on Wednesday.

Under conservative Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott's tough policy, none of the thousands of asylum seekers will ever be eligible for resettlement in Australia, even if they are found to be genuine refugees.

Several detainees have reportedly swallowed razor blades or detergent as acts of self-harm, citing the despair of endless detention as a major factor in the protest.

Reuters

Workers re-install the steam clock to its original position at Gastown in Vancouver, Canada on 20 Jan, 2015. After a three-month absence from Gastown in Vancouver, the iconic Steam Clock returned to its original place. The Steam clock is one of the major tourist spot and symbol of Vancouver. Built in 1977, the clock was taken away first time for major repair.—XINHUA

Plan OK'd for dumping Fukushima's water into ocean after treatment

TOKYO, 21 Jan — The Nuclear Regulation Authority on Wednesday gave the green light to Tokyo Electric Power Co's plan to dump toxic groundwater pumped up at the stricken Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex into the Pacific Ocean after removing almost all radioactive materials from it.

The plan is one of the measures aimed at curbing the amount of contaminated water building up at the seaside complex. But it remains uncertain when the operator may actually release the water.

Local fishermen have registered strong concerns that dumping the water will heighten consumer apprehension about marine pollution, and TEPCO has said it will not release the water unless it obtains consent from the locals.

The company plans to treat water pumped up through 42 of its wells at a water treatment facility at the plant. After treatment, the water will be temporarily stored in tanks to check whether the amount of radioactive materials left in it is within levels deemed safe for release into the sea.

According to TEPCO, the amount of radioactive water at the complex is believed to be increasing by some 350 tons every day as fresh, untainted groundwater is seeping into reactor buildings and mixing with toxic water generated in the process of cooling the reactors that suffered meltdowns in the 2011 nuclear disaster.

Separately, TEPCO is running a groundwater bypass that is aimed at pumping up untainted groundwater before it mixes with radioactive water. Since the earthquake- and tsunami-triggered disaster, the operator has dumped such water into the Pacific numerous times after confirming its safety.—*Kyodo News*

Mexico says expects kingpin extradition request from US soon

MEXICO CITY, 21 Jan — Mexico's attorney general said on Tuesday he expects the United States to submit an extradition request soon for drug lord Joaquin "Shorty" Guzman, who was Mexico's most wanted man until his capture last February.

"I'm aware they're going to ask me, and it won't be a problem to do all the paperwork to determine at the time what will be most convenient," Attorney General Jesus Murillo told reporters in Mexico City of the US extradition request.

Murillo did not say which state he expected to make the request, although US prosecutors in New York said following Guzman's capture that it planned to make one.

Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV FS BEACH VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FS BEACH VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.1.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W.6 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S G LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301191/2301178

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PHUONG NAM 68 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NAM 68 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.1.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W.5 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S G LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301191/2301178

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MINH CONG-68 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MINH CONG-68 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.1.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.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 RK SHIPPING & TRADING PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KULSAMUT VOY NO (01/15)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULSAMUT VOY NO (01/15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.1.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (1) 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 KULNATEE CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

INVITATION FOR QUOTATION

THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT has received the Grant from the International Development Association for National Community Driven Development Project and wishes to purchase for National Community Driven Development Project the following Tablets by Shopping method as defined in the World Bank Procurement Guidelines:

Reference No. G1.3c: Tablets **300 units**

Sealed Quotations shall be submitted to U Khant Zaw, Deputy Chief Engineer, Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14), Nay Pyi Taw, not later than (5.2.2015) 12:30 hour, after which no request for quotation will be accepted.

For detail information please contact U Kyaw Swar Aung, Deputy Director
Mobile phone 0943434333 or office phone 067409413
Website: www.drdmyanmar.org
Email: drdmyanmar@gmail.com

Paris mayor threatens to sue Fox News, faces uphill fight

PARIS, 21 Jan — The mayor of Paris on Tuesday said she intended to sue Rupert Murdoch's Fox News over insults she said the US cable television network hurled at the French capital following this month's massacre at the *Charlie Hebdo* newspaper.

In an interview with CNN's Christiane Amanpour, Mayor Anne Hidalgo said Paris planned legal action because the city's honour was "prejudiced" by Fox reports that wrongly suggested areas of the city were "no-go zones" that were closed to non-Muslims.

"The image of Paris has been prejudiced and the honour of Paris has been prejudiced," Hidalgo said.

Fox on Saturday issued several apologies for statements made on-air that suggested such zones existed in Europe.

In one such apology, anchor Julie Banderas said the network "made some regrettable errors on air regarding the Muslim population in Europe," and apologized "to any and all who may have taken offense, including the people of France and England."

It was not immediately clear where Paris might sue Fox, a division of Twenty-First Century Fox Inc.

Legal experts said the city faced an uphill legal fight, especially in the United States, which has strong protections for media against defamation and libel claims.

"I believe there is no cause of action in the United States, period," said Jane Kirtley, a media law professor at the University of Minnesota.

"This is an example of someone from another country not recognizing the force of the First Amendment, which allows criticism of governmental entities," she said, referring to part of the US Constitution.

Kirtley said France has potentially more accommodative "insult" laws that could let government officials claim that published statements, even if truthful, assaulted their dignity.

But even if Paris prevailed in France, enforcing a judgment might be difficult, because a 2010 US law called the Speech Act makes a variety of foreign libel judgments that conflict with US laws unenforceable in US courts.

"Even if a judgment were obtained in France, it would be impossible under American law to enforce it here," said Robert Drechsel, a journalism professor who teaches media law at the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

Reuters

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 22nd January, 2015: Weather will be partly cloudy in Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Rakhine State and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.
STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.
OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of decrease of night temperature in the Upper Myanmar areas.

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Nils Lofgren, guitarman to the stars, also shines solo

E-Street Band member Nils Lofgren performs at a concert with Bruce Springsteen (unseen) in Stockholm in this 3 May, 2013 file photo. — Reuters

London, 21 Jan — After 26 gruelling months on tour with Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band playing stadiums across the globe, guitar man Nils Lofgren deserves to put his feet up until the phone rings again.

But the irrepressible Lofgren is already back on the road, treating his loyal fans to his own music in intimate venues.

"It was fabulous of course. But I do want to do my show again and now I'm doing that," Lofgren told *Reuters*. "It's been something I've done simultaneously with being in other great bands really the whole of these 46 years, starting when I was 17 with 'After the Goldrush'."

It was Neil Young's classic album that first brought the teenaged Lofgren's name to attention, playing piano and guitar after he had introduced himself to the Canadian at a show.

His own debut album in 1975 was highly rated and he enjoyed the occasional hit over the years. But his reputation as one of the hottest players around led him to join the E Street Band in 1984 for the "Born in the USA" tour as a replacement for Steve Van Zandt. He's been with them ever since.

He's also collaborated with other artists, ranging from Ringo Starr and Lou Reed to Branford Marsalis.

Lofgren's own solo concerts are anything but laid back.

"I try to think of it as heavy metal acoustic. You need to be loud and to really command the room. You don't want to be a thin folk act where people can have a comfortable conversation." At London's Union Chapel, he played old favourites like "Keith Don't Go" and "Shine on Silently" as well as Springsteen's "Because the Night". He opened playing a harp, a Christmas present from his wife Amy a few years ago.

He also tap-danced on "I Came to Dance" — a skill he learnt after years of playing basketball necessitated him having a hip replacement and giving up sport.

Afterwards, he chatted with fans and signed copies of a 10-disc, boxed-set retrospective of his career that has recently been released. He and Amy put together the package after Concord Music secured the song rights.

"We turned our house upside down for a year-and-a half, went through thousands of photographs and posters, after a lot of work we had a beautiful package." Lofgren said he's comfortable with the balance between being a sideman and his own man.

"I love to lead bands but when you do, you're playing all the solos, you're singing all the leads. It's a bit more challenging to be the front man."

As a sideman, he enjoys getting to play everything from banjo to steel guitar.

Future plans include writing songs for a new album and more touring. "I think if I wrapped it up it would kill me."

He always checks with Springsteen's camp to make sure he's not needed for the day job.

"It's a very cherished honour and I'll certainly always be there if and when they go out again. Of course, I hope there's another chapter, like everybody else."—*Reuters*

Coen brothers to head Cannes film jury in May

Paris, 21 Jan — Joel and Ethan Coen, the American filmmaker brothers, will be the first co-presidents of the jury for this year's Cannes Film Festival, the organisers said on Tuesday.

The Coen brothers, who made "Fargo", "Barton Fink" and "No Country for Old Men", replace Australian filmmaker Jane Campion, who was last year's president. The jury will choose the winning films during the 68th edition of the festival that runs from 13-25 May on the French Riviera.

"Cannes is a festival that has been important to us since the very beginning of our career. Presiding over the Jury is a special honour, since we have never heretofore been president of anything," Joel and Ethan Coen said in a statement given to the organizers.

They were speaking from the "Hail Caesar!" film shoot with George Clooney, Christophe Lambert, Scarlett Johansson, Tilda Swinton, Josh Brolin and Channing Tatum, according to the organisers.

The films in the official selection, and additional members of the jury, will be announced in April.

Reuters

Sony's 'The Interview' surpasses $40 million in digital sales

Los Angeles, 21 Jan — "The Interview," the Sony Pictures comedy believed to have triggered a cyber attack on the studio, has racked up over $40 million (26 million pounds) in sales from 5.8 million digital downloads, the studio said on Tuesday.

Michael Lynton, chief executive of Sony Corp's entertainment arm, called the $40 million mark "a significant milestone" for the studio's unprecedented online and pay television release, on platforms such as Google Inc's Google Play, Apple Inc's iTunes and Time Warner Cable.

The film's digital release on 24 December was cobbled together a week after Sony Pictures shelved a wide release when major theatre chains refused to screen the movie due to unspecified threats of violence from hackers. President Barack Obama called the decision to scrap the theatrical release a "mistake" akin to self-censorship.

The film starring Seth Rogen and James Franco, which depicts the fictional assassination of North Korea leader Kim Jong Un, has also earned $6 million at the box office after independent theatres pushed for a limited release on Christmas Day.—*Reuters*

Actors who start bands make me sick: Johnny Depp

Superstar Johhny Depp

Los Angeles, 21 Jan — Superstar Johhny Depp finds the idea about actors venturing into music very sickening.

Depp will be seen as a guitarist in the upcoming film 'Mortdecai', where he plays both live and in the studio, reported *Rolling Stones*.

While the 51-year-old actor said he was grateful for those opportunities, and that he would continue to play, he wouldn't be forming The Johnny Depp Band anytime soon.

"That whole idea for me is a sickening thing, it's always just made me sick," he said.

"The luxury now is, anybody with a certain amount of success, if you have a musical being, you can go out and start a band and capitalise on your work in other areas. But I hate the idea, 'Come see me play the guitar because you've seen me in 12 movies.' It shouldn't be (that way). You want the people who are listening to the music to only be interested in the music," Depp added.—*PTI*

Whitney Houston biopic on Lifetime garners top ratings

***Lifetime's biopic on singer Whitney Houston, which was slammed by her family, attracted 4.5 million total viewers.*—PTI**

Los Angeles, 21 Jan — Lifetime's biopic on singer Whitney Houston, which was slammed by her family, attracted 4.5 million total viewers, becoming the network's most-watched telecast since 'Flowers in the Attic'.

Houston was found dead at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in February 2012, leading to an outpouring of grief from her fans around the globe. She was 48.

'Whitney' was directed by Angela Bassett and starred Yaya DaCosta as Houston, reported *Entertainment Weekly*. The movie averaged 2.1 million viewers in the adults 18-49 demographic.—*PTI*

Hollywood's indie film pool prepares for the Amazon plunge

LOS ANGELES, 21 Jan — When Amazon Inc announced on Monday its move into the movie business, the Internet retailer sent a ripple through Hollywood's pool of independent film. It's a pool where the major studios don't swim much any more and where projects get stuck for years for lack of financing. But from its waters also spring many acclaimed films, best picture Oscar nominees like "Selma" and "Whiplash" and quite a few commercial successes.

With plans to produce 12 films per year with budgets ranging from $5 million (3 million pounds) to $25 million, for theatrical release and streaming on Amazon Prime video 4-8 weeks later, a digital company is creating a new art-house studio and getting films into consumers' hands and living rooms faster.

"It's a great business," said Mark Gordon, the veteran Hollywood television and film producer behind movies like "Saving Private Ryan" and the new Steve Jobs biopic.

"By financing a movie they feel good about and knowing where their second window is going to be, there is a huge opportunity for them and the rest of the creative community."

Amazon's announcement came as a surprise, but the Seattle-based company had already built up its credibility among Hollywood's creative types, most notably with its television

series "Transparent," which won two Golden Globes last week, its first major awards since starting Amazon Studios in 2010.

"They have clearly been able to do it on the episodic side, I see no reason why they can't do it on the feature film side," said Franklin Leonard, founder of the Black List, a site where unproduced screenplays are shared with filmmakers and producers.

"The real challenge will be getting filmmakers in the door who want to make films for Amazon and giving those filmmakers the freedom to make the films that become '12 Years a Slave' or 'Birdman'," he said.

Amazon has already drawn Woody Allen to make a new TV series, his first foray onto the small screen. Most of Hollywood's big studios largely abandoned the dramatic film business to concentrate on action adventure blockbusters and sequels, where there is less risk among a built-in fan base and more likely financial reward.

News of a new, deep-pocketed buyer in the independent sphere would always be welcome, but Amazon's decision to hire a big name in the independent film world to head up Amazon Original Movies drew special praise.

"It's exciting, especially because it's led by Ted Hope, who has a pretty sterling track record in terms of filmmaking and projects that he's been involved with," said Ned Benson, who made his directorial debut with "The Disappearance of Eleanor Rigby," released last year.—*Reuters*

Chinese tennis queen Li Na expecting a baby

MELBOURNE, 21 Jan — Retired Chinese tennis queen Li Na will soon play a whole new role in her life — to be a mom.

The two-time Grand Slam winner announced on Monday that she is expecting her first child. The announcement was met with thunderous cheers and applause from spectators in Rod Laver Arena where Li lifted the Australian Open title in 2014, her second Grand Slam championship since the French Open in 2011. "I choose to share my secret here with fans from all over the world," said Li. "This summer, the first baby of Jiang Shan's and mine will come to this world."—*Xinhua*

Williams sisters withdraw from doubles at Melbourne Park

Serena (R) and VenusWilliams at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships, in London on 1 July, 2014.
REUTERS

MELBOURNE, 21 Jan — Multiple grand slam champions Serena and Venus Williams withdrew from women's doubles competition at the Australian Open on Wednesday before first round action got underway.

Tennis Australia, which handles all of the withdrawals for the tournament, were unable to give a reason why the 13-time grand slam and three-time Olympic champions were unable to play their match against 11th seeds Anabel Medina Garrigues and Yaroslava Shedova.

Irina Falconi and Petra Martic took the Williams sisters' place in the draw, though were beaten 6-3, 6-3 by the Spanish/Kazakh pairing.

Medina Garrigues and Shvedova will now face either the pairing of Kiki Bertens and Johanna Larsson or Mirajana Lucic-Baroni and Lisa Raymond.

Both Serena and Venus play their second round singles matches on Thursday.
Reuters

Iraq hope practice makes penalties perfect for Iran test

CANBERRA, 21 Jan — Penalty practice begins on Wednesday for Iraq's squad as head coach Radhi Shenaishil prepares his side for a quarter-final against old foes Iran by daring to dream of another Asian Cup title.

A 2-0 win over Palestine on Tuesday rounded off the 2007 champions' Group D campaign and ensured a Canberra showdown on Friday with three times winners Iran, a side they have not beaten since 2003.

"Of course it is going to be a difficult match as there is a lot of history between us and Iran are a strong team," Shenaishil told reporters on Tuesday. "As a player I've played a lot of matches against Iran, especially at the stage where the losing teams will leave the competition, so I'm sure we're going to see a good game in Canberra on Friday."

Shenaishil was at the centre of Iraq's defence when they recorded their sole win over Iran at an Asian Cup, a 2-1 group stage success in 1996.

The victory helped Iraq through to the last eight but they were knocked out by the hosts, the United Arab Emirates, 1-0 after extra time. Qatar Sports Club head coach Shenaishil, only in temporary charge for the Asian Cup, was sure a victory over Iran on Friday would not go to waste this time, with Uzbekistan or South Korea awaiting in the last four.

"I wish that the 2007 scenario occurs for the Iraq national team again and if we get a positive result against Iran and make it to the semi-final, I'm sure you will find Iraq in the final," he said. Iran topped Group C after winning all three matches against Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates without conceding a goal.— *Reuters*

***Iraq's players pose for a team photo before the start of their Asian Cup Group D soccer match against Palestine at the Canberra stadium in Canberra on 20 Jan, 2015.*— REUTERS**

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* Wholesale Fish
* Local News
* Up Against The Tide
* World News
* Tea Leaves
* Local News
* Myanmar Traditional Instruments (MYANMA DRUM)
* World News
* In The Studio "Lann Sa"

MRTV News Channel

(22-1-2015, Thursday)

6:00 am
- Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:25 am
- Physical Exercise

7:00 am
- News/ Weather Report

10:35 am
- Documentary (Education Talk) (Part-1)

11:35 am
- Documentary (Education Talk) (Part-2)

12:00 noon
News / International News / Weather Report

12:35 pm
- Hluttaw Image

2:35 pm
- Teleplay (Health)

3:35 pm
- Socio Economic Scenes

4:35 pm
- Documentary (Health)(Part-1)

5:35 pm
- Documentary (Health) (Part-2)

6:00 pm
- News / Weather Report

6:35 pm
- One Vision (Myanmar)

7:00 pm
- News

7:35 pm
- Current Affairs

8:00 pm
- News / International News / Weather Report

9:00 pm
- News
- Hluttaw Image
- Clever

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(22-1-2015, Thursday)

6:00 am
- Travelogue Programme

6:30 am
- Wut Hmone Music Troupe

6:50 am
- TV Drama Series

7:15 am
- Fashion Show

7:40 am
- TV Drama Series

8:30 pm
- TV Drama Series

9:15
- Musical Programme

9:25 am
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

9:45 am
- China in Myanmar Cultural Show

10:05 pm
- Myanmar Video

12:00 noon
- Close Down

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thursday, 22 January, 2015

Gritty Sharapova digs deep before Federer pushes through

MELBOURNE, 21 Jan — Roger Federer was made to work for his place in the third round of the Australian Open on Wednesday after Maria Sharapova suffered a huge scare against a 150th-ranked qualifier as the heat rose at Melbourne Park.

Rod Laver Arena's centre court was ground zero for high drama early in the day, with Russian Sharapova finding herself two service breaks down at 4-1 in the deciding set against compatriot Alexandra Panova.

With the temperature rising above 32 degrees Celsius (90F), Sharapova showed ice in her veins, first clawing back to 5-4 and then clobbering a string of forehand winners to save two match-points in an exhilarating counter-attack.

With that, the belief drained quickly from her plucky 25-year-old opponent and after levelling with another smoking forehand down the line, second seed Sharapova closed out the match 6-1, 4-6, 7-5.

"When other things aren't working, maybe the mental side of things will help you out," the five-times grand slam champion told reporters.

"Until the very end I still try to dictate, I still try to find my way."

Federer was forced to find his own way through in the third match at Rod Laver Arena after losing the first set to Italian Simone Bolelli.

The Swiss master was troubled by a painful injury to the little finger on his racquet hand and growled at a prying television camera when medical staff worried at it before the second set.

He shrugged it off, though, and marched on to a 3-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-2 over the 48th-ranked Bolelli, sealing the match with a rush to the net that would have pleased coach Stefan Edberg.

"It felt like a bee stung me," the 33-year-old second seed said of his finger problem. "I was like, 'this can't be possible'.

"I'd never had this pain before... Thankfully it wasn't so bad at the end."

Andy Murray had a far more serene outing on the second show-court at Margaret Court Arena, trouncing Marinko Matosevic 6-1, 6-3, 6-2 to retreat to the cool of the shade after 102 impressive minutes.

The Scot's win extended his unbeaten record against Australians to 10-0, deflating the crowd's joy slightly after 10 locals had made it past the first round across both the men's and women's draws.

"I think I moved pretty well today. I defended well, you know, which is something — if you want to win these tournaments, you need to defend well," said Murray, who next faces Portugal's Joao Sousa before a potentially mouth-watering clash against young gun Grigor Dimitrov.

The Bulgarian Dimitrov's heart may have been in his mouth had he watched his girlfriend Sharapova's match and the 10th seed also suffered a wobble in beating unseeded Slovakian Lukas Lacko 6-3, 6-7(12), 6-3, 6-3.

Seventh seed Tomas Berdych had no such troubles, roaring forward with a straight sets demolition of Austrian veteran Jurgen Melzer. The evening session sees third seed Rafa Nadal play American Tim Smyczek on centre court for a place in the third round, with Canadian hope Eugenie Bouchard taking on Kiki Bertens of the Netherlands.

Reuters

Roger Federer of Switzerland celebrates after defeating Simone Bolelli of Italy in their men's singles second round match at the Australian Open 2015 tennis tournament in Melbourne on 21 Jan, 2015. —REUTERS

Maria Sharapova of Russia returns the ball during her women's singles second round match against Alexandra Panova of Russia at the Australian Open tournament in Melbourne, Australia, on 21 Jan, 2015. Sharapova won 2-1. —XINHUA

Military man Lee shooting for South Korean glory

SEOUL, 21 Jan — Plucked from the obscurity of South Korea's military soccer team, Lee Jeong-hyeop has shown he not only deserves a place in Uli Stielike's Asian Cup squad but could one day be the answer to their chronic striking problems.

Stielike's decision to include the raw 23-year-old in the party for Australia was met with raised eyebrows and murmurs of surprise, as the absence of injured pair Kim Shin-wook and Lee Dong-guk left Korea woefully short of experienced strikers.

After the embarrassment of a first-round exit at the World Cup in Brazil, South Korea have placed a premium on Asian Cup success and travelling to Australia with only three recognised centre forwards, including Lee, set the alarm bells ringing.

However, Stielike liked what he saw in Lee during a pre-tournament training camp on the Korean honeymoon island of Jeju, impressed by his pace, perpetual motion and intelligent movement off the ball.

It is difficult to remember the last time South Korea had such a powerful, mobile and old-fashioned centre forward.

South Korea's Lee Jeong-hyeop (L) falls under the challenge of Australia's Matthew Spiranovic during their Asian Cup Group A soccer match at the Brisbane Stadium in Brisbane on 17 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

In recent years, Cho Jae-jin and Lee Dong-guk possessed the aerial prowess to trouble defenders but lacked pace and mobility, while the willowy Park Chu-young's tendency to float in and out of games infuriated fans and coaches alike.

Even in the heyday of Guus Hiddink's 2002 World Cup team, South Korea relied on aging warhorse Hwang Sun-hong and the sublimely talented but leaden-footed Ahn Jung-hwan to lead the forward line.

There is no denying Lee still has a long way to go.

He has been guilty of poor-decision making in Australia as well as failing to hold the ball up as a target man should, but the energy and enthusiasm he brings to the side gives the Koreans a whole new dimension.

Whether it is chasing long balls into channels or harrying defenders out of possession, Lee allows South Korea to employ a more pressing, high-tempo game.

At the end of the day, however, strikers are judged on their goals, and Lee is showing he has a knack for being in the right place at the right time.

He marked his international debut by coming off the bench to score against Saudi Arabia in a pre-Cup warm-up and bagged the winner against Australia in his first start on Saturday, steering home Lee Keun-ho's cross-shot from close range to seal top spot in Group A.

It is easy to see why South Korea has latched on to what local media have dubbed Lee's "Cinderella" story.

Growing up in the southern port city of Busan, financial hardship meant Lee often had to make do with football gear handed down from team mates while his mother scrimped and saved to support his career.—*Reuters*

Sterling strike gives Liverpool hope against Chelsea

LIVERPOOL, 21 Jan— Raheem Sterling's stunning individual goal earned Liverpool a 1-1 draw with Chelsea in a rip-roaring League Cup semi-final first leg at Anfield on Tuesday but the dominant Merseysiders could be left to rue a missed opportunity. Chelsea, having taken an 18th minute lead against the run of play through an Eden Hazard penalty, defended stoutly until Sterling, refreshed and reinvigorated from a mid-season break, levelled before the hour after bursting through the defence.

Both sides had vociferous penalty appeals turned down and Chelsea goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois showed his worth with a series of superb saves to keep the tie level heading into next Tuesday's return leg.

For record eight-times League Cup winners Liverpool, however, it was a chance missed, having dominated the clash against a strangely subdued Chelsea side who will now have home advantage and be strong favourites to reach Wembley.

The winners will face Tottenham Hotspur or third tier Sheffield United, who meet on Wednesday, in the final. "I'm delighted with the performance, disappointed with the result," was Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers' assessment of an evening of near-misses for the hosts. Minutes after home captain Steven Gerrard had seen a stunning 30-metre effort tipped over by Courtois, Liverpool were playing catch-up.

Reuters

AFC ASIAN CUP Australia 2015

Asian Cup Australia 2015

Korea Republic	14:00 MST (22.1.2015)	Uzbekistan
China PR	17:00 MST (22.1.2015)	Australia

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