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Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits Bombay stock exchange, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Tata Memorial Hospital

MUMBAI, 23 Jan— Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party visited Bombay Stock Exchange in Mumbai, India, on Friday morning.

At the hall of stock exchange, Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and managing director Ashishkumar Chauhan launched the 23 January stock exchange through the countdown system.

After extending greetings, the vice president and the managing director exchanged gifts.

The vice president visited Bombay Stock Exchange.

At Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, officials explained facts about the institute and replied to queries raised by the vice president.

Dr Sai Mauk Kham visited the laboratory of the institute.

The vice president and party proceeded to Tata Memorial Hospital where the director of the hospital briefed them on facts about the hospital. They then visited the hospital.

At Business Centre of Taj Mahak Palace Hotel, the vice president received Indo-Myanmar businessmen. Also present at the call were union minister, deputy ministers, Chin State and Sagaing Region ministers, the Myanmar ambassador to India and officials of UMFCCI.—*MNA*

***Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and managing director Ashishkumar Chauhan launch the 23 January Bombay Stock Exchange.*—MNA**

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Rice trading expected to increase in coming fiscal year

Byline: *Khin Yadana;*
Photo: *Tin Soe (Myanma Alinn)*

YANGON, 23 Jan—Myanmar will expand exporting of rice to markets in the European Union, Japan and Africa in addition to China in the coming fiscal year, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation.

The Myanmar Rice Federation released a statement saying that as China is the largest rice market of Myanmar, nine public companies have been chosen to have permits to export rice. However, these companies will start exportation in late April, chief executive officer U Nay Lin Zin of the federation told reporters.

The chosen companies are: Myanmar Agricultural Economy Public Corporation, FPR Company of Myanmar Rice Merchants Association, Myanmar Rice Mill of Myanmar Rice Millers' Association, Golden Land East Asia of Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Bayintnaung brokers, Mandalay rice dealers, companies formed with Muse rice dealers, Ayeya Pathein Company and Rakhine Rice Company.

"While trying to get permission to export rice to China, Myanmar companies send rice to the markets in EU, Japan and Africa. Thanks to efforts of the government in giving more priority to development of small- and medium-scale enterprises, local entrepreneurs can manage manufacturing of high-quality products. At present, the federation is seeking market promotion so as to increase the export of rice from 1.5 million tons to about 2.5 million tons," the CEO said.

China Certification & Inspection Group will come to Myanmar for checking the quality of products to be imported to China's market by the end of January.

"After checking quality of products and whether they are pest free, officials

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Myanmar entrepreneurs to export rice through maritime route as market promotion.

Myanmar to launch trade information portal to boost trade transparency at year-end

By *Ye Myint*

YANGON, 23 Jan — Myanmar plans to unveil a National Trade Portal at the end of this year with a view to boosting transparency in policies and practices affecting the movement of goods across borders.

The information was revealed by the Ministry of Commerce at a public event on Myanmar's first WTO trade policy review in Yangon on Friday.

In partnership with USAID, the ministry is developing the trade portal, a website that will contain a wide range of information for use by traders involved in importing and exporting goods, said an official of the ministry at the event.

"The website will feature all trade-related information beginning from the MFN rate to tariff and non-tariff measures related to importation and exportation of commodities", said the official, adding that it has been planned to input trade and services and investment information in this website.

The project to develop the trade information portal is in progress and non-tariff measures are being streamlined with the support of the World Bank. The ministry said it plans to finish it at the end of 2015. Upon completion, the National Trade Portal will link to the country's National Single Window that will link to the ASEAN Single Window.

"All the information will be featured in this portal. Apart from Most-Favoured Nation (MFN) and preferential tariffs, other measures imposed by relevant ministries will be

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approves signing agreement on establishing ASEAN tourism secretariat, JICA loan

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 Jan — Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved proposals of the government to sign the agreement on establishing a regional secretariat for mutual recognition of ASEAN tourism experts and to receive Yen 10.5 billion loan for the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology from JICA on Friday.

For signing the regional secretariat, Deputy Minister for Hotels and Tourism Dr Tin Shwe explained the benefits to be enjoyed form signing the agreement including enhanced capacity, competitiveness, cooperation for tourism promotion, lower restrictions, promotion of ASEAN region into a destination with international standards, development of tourism and services and human resources development.

Then, the Hluttaw session approved the proposal.

Afterwards, two representatives discussed receiving the loan from the JICA before Deputy Minister for Communications and Information Technology U Thaung Tin explained the arrangements.

Later, the Hluttaw session approved the loan.—*MNA*

***Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives attend fourth day session.*—MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw

DHSHD to build staff quarters in Shadaw Township

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 Jan — At the 5th day session of Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) on Friday, Daw Nang Nwam of Shadaw Constituency asked whether there is a plan to construct staff quarters for departmental personnel far from Shadaw Township in Kayah State. Deputy Minister at the President Office U Kyaw Kyaw Win replied that a total of 179 local staff and 119 personnel from other townships are discharging duty at 25 departments in Shadaw Township. At present, 86 staff members far from Shadaw Township need staff quarters. Township Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development plans to build staff quarters on 47.04 acres of land but still seeks permission for construction.

U Pe Than of Myebon Constituency asked plans for construction of asphalt or concrete Minbya-Myebon inter-town road and for better transport of Myebon. Deputy Minister at the President Office U Aung Thein replied that Rakhine State government asked for K6696.295 million estimated cost for upgrading a six-mile asphalt road section, a six-mile and three-furlong gravel road section, construction of seven-mile earthen pavement and construction of 25 reinforced concrete bridges on the road in 2015-15 fiscal year. When the budget is allotted, the inter-town road will be constructed as a six-mile and three-furlong-long asphalt section, a 16-mile and one-furlong-long gravel section and two-mile and two-furlong-long earthen section. Depending on the fund, the road will be upgraded.

U Kyi Tha of Gwa Constituency submitted a proposal to take action against unlicensed motorcycles and motor cars and seek the ways for selling motorcycles and cars to citizens at fair prices. It was seconded by U Win Than of Thabaung Constituency.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun explained that Myanmar Police Force, Customs Department, Transport Planning Department and Directorate of Road Administration in combine teams take action against unlicensed vehicles and motorcycles under the law. The Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Rail Transportation, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Religious Affairs eased the restrictions for sales of vehicles to the citizens. The Hluttaw approved the proposal.

U Maung Nyo of Sittway Constituency submitted a proposal to rename Cantonment Park (a) Kandaw Mingala Park in Yangon as U Ottama Park, supported by MPs. The Hluttaw approved the proposal.—*MNA*

Amyotha Hluttaw

Recovery plans for environmental degradation explained in Amyotha Hluttaw

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 Jan — The Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) session here on Friday saw a question arise as to plans for the recovery of environmental degradation caused by some ministries.

U Aye Myint Maung, Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry, responded that cautious efforts are underway to minimize serious damage to the environment through supervisions at all levels.

The ministry has instructed mining companies to refill open pits with topsoil from exploration sites and grow perennial trees and shady trees in order to maintain ecosystems.

According to the deputy minister, permission for mine closure requires an approval from local governments, which will inspect activities of land remediation and reclamation carried out by extractive companies in areas concerned.

"Legal actions are being taken against mine sites being operated without permission," he said.

As to another question of how PTTEP, a Thai oil company, received permission to drill for oil in the Bayon forest reserve in Magway Region, the deputy minister said that the Thailand's oil company is carrying out oil drilling in cooperation with the Ministry of Energy for national interests on the basis of mutual benefits.

He added the oil firm recompensed over K16,749 million for 4.88 acres of land affected by their project.

The religious conversion bill also came under discussion at the Amyotha Hluttaw session, with an MP from Chin State calling for a deferment of the bill because of its potential for undesirable effects.

"Myanmar enjoys human rights and freedom of worship to the full," he said.

An MP from Rakhine State welcomed the bill, saying that it protects freedom of worship and forced religious conversion, and is compatible with human rights.—*MNA*

***Western medicines are displayed on sale at a shop in Yangon suburban area.*—Photo: Thein Ngwe**

Myanmar still relies on imported western medicine

By *Khaing Thanda Lwin*

Yangon, 23 Jan—Myanmar's imported percentage of western medicine products would remain unchanged this year, according to Dr Win Sithu, Chairman of Myanmar Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association (MPMEEA).

Myanmar imported about 85 % of western medicines from its neighbours and other countries in the previous year. Over 50 % of imports come from India that remains a main medicine exporter to Myanmar, followed by Thailand and China, he added.

Approximately 98 % of medical equipment is also imported from big foreign countries such as the United States, European countries and Japan.

Currently, the country's medicine manufacturing sector is still weak. Foreign countries show their interest to improve this sector, Dr Win Sithu said.

He continued to say that consumption of vitamins and minerals in the country is growing year by year, and local entrepreneurs also have future plans to establish a public company to promote the medicine production.

"To find more business opportunities as well as promote public awareness, the association will organize the second health expo at Tatmadaw convention hall in Yangon from 5 to 7 February," said Dr Thin Nwe Soe, vice chairman of MPMEEA.

The three-day event also aimed at enabling people to understand state-of-the-art medical technology and exchanging knowledge through a network of medicine importers.

More than 40 pharmaceutical distributors will display their products through over 100 booths, with the organizer expecting more than 5,000 people to come to the fair.

Items to be displayed at the expo are western medicine, hospital and medical equipment and local and foreign health care services. It also covers health talks and entertainment programmes.

The Myanmar Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment Entrepreneurs Association said first expo was held in 2013 and it plans to conduct an expo every two year.

GNLM

Government emphasizes rural development, socioeconomic development in effort to reduce poverty

Vice President U Nyan Tun views agricultural machinery to be sold to local farmers.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 Jan—As part of the poverty reduction project, the government is taking measures to ensure rural development as well as socioeconomic status and improvements in lifestyle by coordinating with local and foreign experts, Vice President U Nyan Tun told a meeting in Sagaing Region here on Friday, officials said.

The vice president said that the Ministry of Cooperatives has introduced a system that enables rural farmers to pay for agricultural machinery in installments, which he noted helps them save time, money and energy.

The cooperative system demands concerted cooperation of individual members in enjoying higher socioeconomic status, with the vice president saying that cooperative success will ease their reliance on the government and enhance their lifestyle, thereby contributing to public and national interests.

He pointed out the need to copy the examples of successful cooperative activities in other countries as part of reducing poverty and strengthening national economy.

U Kyaw Hsan, Union Minister for Cooperatives, pledged over K23,852 million for the cultivation of winter crops in the region and over K6,561 million as loans to new members of cooperatives.

The union minister informed farmers of his ministry's installment plans for purchase of agricultural equipment, which includes 138 power tillers, 423 tractors and 39

U Tha Aye, Chief Minister of Sagaing Region, gave a background history of the cooperative system, which was introduced to the region in 1905, adding that there are 5,163 cooperatives in the region.

After the meeting, the vice president and his entourage visited Bodhi Tahtaung, where they offered flowers, water and oil lights to the Standing Buddha Statue, and made some cash donation. They also presented offertories in kind to the presiding Sayadaw and members of the Sangha. —*MNA*

UEC urges local commissions and ministries to exert more efforts on greater electoral transparency

UEC Chairman U Tin Aye highlights preparations for electoral process to hold 2015 elections.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 Jan—The Union Election Commission here on Friday morning held a work coordination meeting with ministries that help it with its election activities, officials said.

Speaking at the meeting, UEC chairman U Tin Aye said that an announcement has been made to hold general elections in late October or early November this year and that voter lists were started to collect last November.

Training will be provided to local election commissions, related ministries, political parties, civil society organizations and the media, with the chairman calling for them all to familiarize themselves with and adhere to the rules and regulations so as to ensure a greater electoral transparency.

He talked of the need for police forces to deal with complaints according to the law.

As part of voter education, he emphasized the use of mass media, which include Q&A sessions, radio and television broadcasts, pamphlets, billboards and cartoons.

"They should also be made available in ethnic languages," he said.

He urged the Ministry of Immigration and Population to speed up the submission of the list of ethnic groups eligible for parliamentary candidacy.

International observers will be invited to prove that the elections are free, fair and transparent, with the chairman saying that ministries should coordinate to design a code of conduct for foreign eyewitnesses that meets international norms and does not harm the country's foreign policy.

He called for bold actions against electoral fraud, vote rigging and prejudice, stressing that these dishonest behaviours will tarnish the image of both candidates-elect and the government they form, thereby leaving the country in scandals in the international community.

MNA

Union ministers discuss transition period of universities, colleges

Nay Pyi Taw, 23 Jan—As Pyidaungsu Hluttaw agreed to amend the National Education Law, local and foreign experts of the Ministry of Education and stakeholders are to coordinate facts of amendment for the law, Union Minister U Tin Naing Thein told the meeting on preparations for independent management of universities and colleges in transition period at the Ministry of Science and Technology on Friday.

The union minister said that financial clearance and foreign assistance are to be carried out in restricting and reengineering process of universities and colleges by the end of March 2015 as these institutions have been separated from organizational setup of the ministries. He stressed the need for universities and colleges to turn out intellectuals and intelligentsia with independent management.

Union Ministers Dr Daw Khin San Yi and Dr Ko Ko Oo noted that rectors are to take responsibility for academic and management of respective universities, adding that Ministry of Education and respective ministries will provide necessary planning and financial matters to them as of coming fiscal year.—*MNA*

Rice trading expected...

(from page 1)

of both countries will allow the export of rice by the chosen companies. China officially ordered 2 million tons of rice from Myanmar for the first batch. So, quality inspection of products will be launched at the end of January," joint secretary Dr Soe Tun of Myanmar Rice Federation told media.

Myanmar entrepreneurs are trying to expand the export of parboiled rice. They exported 914,969 tonnes of rice worth US$343 million in 2014. Of that, they earned US$274 million from rice exported to China and US$70 million from the export of products along maritime routes, according to the statistics released by Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar to launch trade...

(from page 1)

included in it," the official said, adding that the importation of fertilizer and internal revenue measures will also be available.

Myanmar's trade facilitation portal will be a single authoritative source of all laws, regulations, and procedures for traders and government agencies involved in the import and export of goods.

"We have already collected all information for the portal and the ministry is streamlining all measures," the official said.

According to the ministry, the website will be bilingual in English and Myanmar.

GNLM

Public Works, construction companies asphalting road sections in Kachin State

MOHNYIN, 23 Jan—The authorities have allotted the budget for construction of 51-mile-long and 12-foot-wide road section of 121 miles long Nantsiaung-Myitkyina Road in Kachin State.

The construction tasks must be completed in 2014-15 fiscal year. The departments and organizations taking responsibility of construction for the road are to set completion of works in time and the road must meet standard, Kachin State Minister for Finance U Nyunt Aung told local people in a meeting in Mohnyin Township.

As Kachin State has plenty of jade and teak, transport of various kinds of heavy machinery extracting natural resources cause damage to roads. Last year, the government could not allot an adequate amount of fund to be spent on maintenance of the roads. Thus, the maintenance tasks could not affect long term durability of roads. That is why local people criticized poor maintenance tasks.

In 2014-15 fiscal year, the union government allotted K4.52 billion for construction of 24 miles and seven furlongs long asphalt road to be built by Special Construction Groups of Public Works while the State government, K4.005 billion for 26 miles and one furlong long asphalt road to be constructed by five private companies.

At present, groups of Public Works and companies are undertaking construction of asphalting the road sections respectively, an official of Kachin State Public Works told media.—*GNLM-001*

Pyaungpya Dam in Myingyan Tsp to sufficiently irrigate sesame plantations

MYINGYAN, 23 Jan—Myingyan District's deputy commissioner U Myint Thin Aung and Assistant Director U Maung Lwin of District Irrigation Department visited Pyaungpya dam in Myingyan District, Mandalay Region, on 20 January.

Assistant Director U Maung Lwin explained storage of water at the dam, inflow of water, supply of water to farmlands and a plan to sufficiently irrigate sesame plantations in 2014-15 summer.

The deputy commissioner gave instructions on efficient use of irrigated water, minimizing waste of water and sufficient supply of water to the local people.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

GOLD PRICE, FE RATE (23-1-2015)

Yangon Gold Price
Buying K 696,800 per tical: Selling K 697,800
Mandalay Gold Price
Buying K 696,800 per tical: Selling K 697,800

FE RATE

USD Buying K 1023:	Selling K 1029.5
SGD Buying K 770:	Selling K 776
Euro Buying K 1150:	Selling K 1170

Myanmar U-20 win over Azerbaijan U-21 with 2-0

YANGON, 23 JAN—As part of preparations for taking part in the U-20 World Cup, Myanmar U-20 team played tune-up matches with football clubs in Turkey.

On 21 January night, Myanmar youth won over a 2-0 victory over Azerbaijan U-21 in the second tune-up match.

Myanmar used most of the first lineup players. Two star players Nyein Chan Aung and Than Paing were deployed in the second half. Captain Nanda Kyaw scored an opening goal in 71st minute for Myanmar U-20. Striker Aung Thu added one more for mother team in the 77th minute through a corner kick.

Myanmar U-20 team is taking training in Turkey as of 18 January. On 19 January, Myanmar played the first tune-up match with Taraz Club of Tajikistan, securing a 2-2 draw result.

Myanmar youth will play against a tune-up match with Iran U-22 team on 24 January.

The Iranian team is making preparations for taking part in the AFC U-23 Championship.

According to the plans, Myanmar will play three more tune-up matches while taking training in Turkey till 31 January.

After the training session in Turkey, Myanmar U-20 will take part in the invitation matches in Mandalay, Myanmar.—*GNLM*

Health staff vaccinate novices as mass immunization in Myanaung Tsp

MYANAUNG, 23 Jan— The mass immunization programme for measles and German measles was launched across the nation on 19 January and it will be completed on 27 January.

In Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Region, Head of Township Health Department Daw Maung Maung Chit and health staff vaccinated children under 15 with the assistance of local authorities.

They gave vaccination to students at basic education schools for the first phase from 19 to 27 January and the second phase from 19 to 28 February.

In addition to basic education students, the health staff vaccinated novices and students of monastic education school from Parahita Myoshwe Monastery in Myanaung Township against the diseases.

Win Bo
(Township IPRD)

Shwe Htila weekly news journal to come out in Meiktila in early Feb

MEIKTILA, 23 Jan— Arrangements are being made to publish Shwe Htila weekly news journal in Meiktila, Mandalay Region, under the supervision of U Tin Hlaing (Tin Hlaing-Meiktila).

The journal will give priority to information from Meiktila, Wundwin, Mahlaing and Thazi townships. It will carry news from upper Myanmar once every two weeks, manager U Tin Hlaing (Tin Hlaing-Meiktila) told media.

The journal will come out in early February 2015. It invites advertisements from entrepreneurs in Meiktila District by dialing 09-402543313 and news from Meiktila District and upper Myanmar region.

Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)

School officials honour first prize winner in mathematic skill contest

MYANAUNG, 23 Jan— The prize presentation ceremony for outstanding teachers and students took place at Basic Education Middle School Branch (Landa) in Petakhwe Village-tract in Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 18 January. Village administrator U Hlaing Than and Assistant Township Education Officer U Tin Aung explained efforts of departmental officials and local authorities for development of education sector in the village-tract.

Headmaster U Khin Maung Latt and officials awarded eighth standard student Ma Wutyi Khaing who secured the first prize in mathematics in township level skill contest and third prize in Ayeyawady Region level contest.

The village administrator and family presented gifts to outstanding teachers and volunteer teachers who taught students for raising pass rate of matriculation examination last year.

Officials presented prizes to outstanding students in 2013-14 academic year.

At present, Thitsa Lun Hsay Company is constructing a one-storey 120x30 feet school building for the school with the fund of the Ministry of Education in 2014-15 fiscal year.

Win Bo (Township IPRD)

Japanese experts share knowledge how to preserve ancient cultural buildings

MANDALAY, 23 Jan— Japanese experts from National Research Institute for Cultural Properties (Tokyo) gave lectures on preservation of ancient cultural buildings at the Archaeology and National Museum Department (Mandalay) on Friday.

The training course was conducted from 13 to 23 January for the third time. The experts emphasized preservation of wooden monasteries in Mandalay city applying modern technology.

Lecturer Mr Masahiko Tomoda said, "It is very difficult to maintain the ancient cultural buildings because the ancient Myanmar handicrafts decorated at the buildings are very fine. That is why, it is necessary to place emphasis on maintenance and preservation of the buildings."

A trainee said, "Thanks to the training course, I know Myanmar's handicrafts are the most significant and Myanmar architects are excellent. Depending on the fund and duration in maintenance of the buildings, we could not give priority to ancient value."

It was attended by engineers in Archaeology and National Museum Department (Mandalay) and faculty members of Mandalay Technological University.

Aung Ye Thwin

Dawei District gets K690 million fund for emerald green project in 23 villages

DAWEI, 23 Jan — An additional fund was allotted for implementation of the emerald green project by Department of Rural Development in Dawei District, Taninthayi Region, in 2014-15 fiscal year.

With regard to the project, the book-keeping course was conducted for the staff and local authorities in Thachaunggyi Village in Thayetchaung Township on 13 January and Shamatwin Village in Dawei Township on 17 January.

Head of Taninthayi Region Department of Rural Development U Thet Paing explained the purpose of implementing the project, Head of Dawei District DRD U Ngwe Thein, rules and procedures of the fund utilization and Head of Dawei Township Department U Hsan Win Htay rules of book-keeping works.

Officials supervised formation of village committees for supervising the funds.

Green Emerald Project will be implemented in 10 villages in Launglon Township, Dawei District, 11 villages in Yebyu Township, one village in Thayetchaung Township and one village in Dawei Township, totalling 23 villages.

According to the fund, the department allots K690 million for undertaking agriculture, livestock breeding, fishery, electrification, production and vocational tasks of 2,064 members of the villages.

Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)

Departmental officials distribute stoves, saplings to locals in Taungtha

TAUNGTHA, 23 Jan— Taungtha Township, located in arid zone of central Myanmar, had 16.90 inches of rainfall in 34 days last year.

Least amount of rainfall caused impacts to cultivation of local farmers. Some of them could not earn income from cultivation to cover the agricultural cost. As such, greening tasks must be carried out in Taungtha continuously. On Friday, a ceremony to distribute stoves to local people was held in the township.

Forest Department presented 100 stoves and 15,612 saplings, Dry Zone Greening Department, 100 stoves and 12,423 saplings and General Manager Col Tint Wai (Rtd) of Electricity Supply Enterprise under the Ministry of Electric Power, 300 stoves to the local authorities.

It was also attended by Mandalay Region Hluttaw representative, township level officials and village elders.

Officials will share stoves to 20 villages.

Ko Htein (Taungtha IPRD)

Japan sees no clues in hostage crisis after "deadline"

TOKYO, 23 Jan — Japan has faced a desperate struggle to win the release of two men held hostage by the Islamic State militant group amid no signs of positive development after a perceived 72-hour deadline for paying a $200 million ransom for their lives expired on Friday afternoon.

"The situation remains extremely severe, and we just continue to do what we have to do for them to be released as early as possible," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a Press conference on Friday held about an hour after the deadline.

"Our stance of contributing to the international fight against terrorism remains unchanged," the top government spokesman said.

Asked if there has been any contact from the hostage takers, for instance about a possible extension of the deadline, Suga said, "Nothing in particular," while declining to give details of the ongoing diplomatic efforts.

He also refused to comment on media reports that the Islamic State is set to issue a statement sometime soon and that a warning has been posted online that the countdown has begun.

A man claiming to be an Islamic State member threatened in an online video message Tuesday to kill the two — Kenji Goto, 47, and Haruna Yukawa, 42

*Junko Ishido, the mother of Kenji Goto, 47, one of two Japanese hostages the Islamic State group has threatened to kill, attends a Press conference in Tokyo on 23 Jan, 2015. Ishido pleaded for her son's release, saying he is "not an enemy of Islamic State."—*KYODO NEWS

— unless Japan pays $200 million in 72 hours.

The amount is the same as that Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged last weekend during his Middle East tour as part of Tokyo's contribution to anti-Islamic State efforts, including extending humanitarian aid to refugees from Iraq and Syria.

Tokyo believes that the ransom deadline was around 2:50 pm on Friday in Japan, 72 hours from when it saw the video message.

The United States has informally made known to Japan its position against paying ransom to terrorists, State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said on Thursday in Washington.

Abe and other government officials have repeatedly stressed that Japan has provided "nonmilitary" humanitarian assistance to Middle East nations struggling against the Islamic State, rejecting the group's claim that Tokyo has donated money to kill Muslims.

In the video message to Abe, the masked man with a knife standing between two kneeling hostages said, "To the prime minister of Japan — although you are more than 8,500 kilometres away from the Islamic State, you willingly have volunteered to take part in this crusade."

"You have proudly donated 100 million (dollars) to kill our women and children, to destroy the homes of the Muslims," he said, demanding a ransom of $100 million each for the hostages.

Kyodo News

Park names ruling party floor leader as new prime minister

South Korean President Park Geun-hye

SEOUL, 23 Jan — South Korean President Park Geun- hye on Friday named the ruling Saenuri Party's floor leader, Lee Wan Koo, as new prime minister, according to the presidential office. Lee, widely viewed as a figure close to the president, will replace Chung Hong Won after winning a parliamentary endorsement through a hearing.

The third-term lawmaker began his career as a civil servant and went on to serve as a provincial chief of police before entering politics in 1996. In 2006, he was elected as governor of South Chungcheong Province. In South Korea, a prime minister is not considered as a key figure in the leadership as executive power is largely concentrated in the president. The outgoing prime minister has resigned over the government's handling of a ferry sinking that has left more than 300 people, mostly teenagers on a school excursion, dead or missing. The capsizing of the Sewol ship in April last year resulted in a storm of criticism against the government for its bungling of rescue and search efforts in the initial stage of the maritime disaster.

Despite having tendered his resignation, Chung continued to retain the premiership after the president's nominees failed to obtain a parliamentary approval.

Kyodo News

Australia asks Indonesia to rethink death penalty for two drug offenders

SYDNEY, 23 Jan — Australia called on Indonesia on Friday to reconsider its decision to execute two Australians convicted of drug offences, a move that is likely to strain already fragile ties between the two neighbours.

Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott said the two members of the so-called Bali Nine who were arrested at Bali's Denpasar airport in 2005 for attempting to smuggle 8 kg (18 lb) of heroin to Australia were reformed characters who had helped rehabilitate other prisoners.

"The prerogative of mercy should be extended to them," Abbott said in a statement. "Australia opposes the death penalty at home and abroad."

Indonesian President Joko Widodo, who took office in October, has pledged no clemency for drug offenders, drawing criticism from rights activists at home and abroad.

Indonesia executed six convicted drug traffickers, including five foreigners, by firing squad last week. Brazil and the Netherlands recalled their ambassadors from Jakarta, while Nigeria summoned the Indonesian ambassador in Abuja to protest against the execution of their citizens.

Abbott said he and Foreign Minister Julia Bishop had made direct representations to their Indonesian counterparts and "are continuing to make every possible effort through the most effective channels" to stop the executions of Myuran Sukumaran and Andrew Chan.

It was not immediately clear when the executions of Sukumaran, 33, and Chan, 31, might take place.

Bishop said earlier this week she would not rule out recalling the Australian ambassador should the executions be carried out.

"This is an unimaginably difficult time for the families of these young men," Abbott said. "I spoke with both families today and will ensure the government continues to support them."

Indonesia has a record of imposing severe penalties for drug trafficking, resuming executions in 2013 after a five-year gap.

Relations between Indonesia and Australia hit a low in late 2013 after reports that Australia had spied on top Indonesian officials, including then-president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono and his wife.

Indonesia froze military and intelligence cooperation with Australia and restored relations in May 2014.

Abbott said the government would make no further public comment on the case in the interests of the convicted men.

Reuters

*Australian Andrew Chan (R) and Myuran Sukumaran (L) are escorted by police as they arrive for their appeal hearing in Denpasar District Court in Indonesia's resort island of Bali on 21 Sept, 2010.—*REUTERS

Thai assembly votes to impeach ousted leader Yingluck

BANGKOK, 23 Jan — Thailand's junta-appointed National Legislative Assembly on Friday voted to impeach former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra over a controversial rice policy that her government introduced, while banning her from politics for five years.

Yingluck had denied the charges against her during impeachment proceedings that started 9 January, saying she had governed the country honestly, transparently and justly, in compliance with the Constitution, laws and regulations, being unseated by a Constitutional Court ruling in May last year.

It was argued in the assembly proceedings that the then ruling Pheu Thai party's flagship rice-pledging policy brought a huge debt to the nation.

Under the rice policy, farmers could pledge their rice crops in return for payment, but critics say the plan was riddled with corruption and was offering farmers payments in excess of international market prices for rice, which caused the government to run up huge bills.

They say the Yingluck government neglected taking action despite acknowledging the loss and allowed the rice-subsidy program to continue, causing Thailand's financial situation to deteriorate.

Kyodo News

N Korea seeks Russia's help to improve electric power lines

SEOUL, 23 Jan — North Korea is seeking Russia's help to improve its electric power lines in return for supplying rare earth to the neighbouring country, a South Korean daily reported on Friday.

"Russia and North Korea are in discussions on Russia's replacing old electric power lines in return for the North's provision of rare earth," a Beijing-based source knowledgeable about North Korean affairs told the Chosun Ilbo.

In a move related to the project, North Korea sent electric engineers to Russia early this month, the report said.

In recent months, North Korea and Russia have been promoting bilateral ties.

Choe Ryong Hae, a high-ranking member of the North's ruling Workers' Party of Korea, visited Russia in November as an envoy of leader Kim Jong Un. He met with President Vladimir Putin and handed him a personal message from the North Korean leader.

Two days later, after holding talks with Choe, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told reporters they confirmed the two countries' "readiness to have contacts at all levels, including the highest one" at mutually convenient times.

A spate of high-level exchanges in recent months between Pyongyang and Moscow has fueled speculation that Russia will be Kim's choice for his first overseas trip since taking office nearly three years ago.

Lavrov said on Wednesday that an invitation to attend the 70th anniversary celebrations of the Soviet Union's victory over Nazi Germany received a "positive" response from North Korea, news reports said.

Kyodo News

France takes battle against radical Islam into schools

PARIS, 23 Jan — France announced new measures on Thursday aimed at helping schools combat radical Islam, racism and anti-Semitism in reaction to deadly Islamist attacks two weeks ago. The moves, including more teacher training and civic and ethics education in the country's secular curriculum, come after dozens of schools complained of pupils refusing to join a 8 January nationwide minute of silence for the victims.

French symbols such as the flag and national anthem will be explicitly celebrated and one day, 9 December, set aside as a "Day of Secularism". Poor pupils will receive more grants and efforts will be made to make school intakes more socially diverse.

While millions of French marched to defend freedom of expression after the killings at satirical weekly *Charlie Hebdo,* others have described its cartoons of the Prophet Mohammad as offensive and rejected the "Je suis Charlie" ("I am Charlie") movement of national unity.

In an unprecedented indictment by a French leader of the country's failure to integrate large immigrant populations from North Africa and elsewhere, Prime Minister Manuel Valls said this week the aftermath of the attacks demonstrated that a form of "social and ethnic apartheid" existed in France.

"Secularism must be applied everywhere, because that is how everyone will be able to live in peace with each other," Valls told a news conference.

A thousand educationalists will receive training to help teachers deal with pupils' questions on France's secular tradition, citizenship, prejudices, with an early-warning system created to identity and deal with worrying behaviour.

Three home-grown gunmen of Algerian and African origin killed 17 people in three days of violence, starting with the attack on the offices of *Charlie Hebdo* and ending with a siege at a Jewish supermarket in Paris.

French Prime Minister Manuel Valls (R) and Education and Research minister Najat Vallaud-Belkacem attend a news conference in Paris, on 22 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

Around 200 incidents in which the national minute of silence was disrupted in schools were reported to the education ministry and social media testify to differences among many pupils about the limits of freedom of expression.

Few dispute that many children, notably from immigrant backgrounds, feel outsiders in a French school system once heralded as among the best in the world but now showing cracks. Yet there is no full consensus on the causes or the remedies.

"There has long been a code of silence on these kind of problems in the national education system," said Valerie Marty, president of the national parents association Peep.

Others argue the root cause lies in a "ghettoisation" of immigrant populations in underprivileged zones around big cities.

Reuters

India, US trying to get nuclear deal over line during Obama trip

NEW DELHI, 23 Jan — India and the United States were trying to narrow differences on nuclear trade on Thursday ahead of President Barack Obama's visit, but New Delhi ruled out a change in its liability law that has choked off US investment.

Nuclear commerce worth billions of dollars was meant to be the centrepiece of a new strategic relationship between the United States and India, allowing New Delhi access to nuclear technology and fuel without giving up its weapons programme.

But the 2010 Indian nuclear liability law that makes equipment suppliers ultimately responsible for an accident has held back firms including GE-Hitachi, Toshiba's Westinghouse Electric Company and France's Areva from proceeding with the construction of reactors.

On Thursday, negotiators from the two governments met for a second day in London to hammer out an accord that Obama and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi hope to announce during talks set for Sunday. It followed talks in Vienna and New Delhi.

"Even as we speak our negotiators are working together in a collaborative manner in London. It is the third time they are meeting in approximately 45 days, you can see the element of effort that is going into the nuclear issue," foreign ministry spokesman Syed Akbaruddin told reporters.

India has offered to set up an insurance pool to indemnify companies which have won the right to construct reactors in the country against liability in the case of a nuclear accident, as a way around the law.

It says the law can't be changed for lack of political support.

Under the plan readied by state-run reinsurer GIC Re, insurance would be bought by the companies contracted to build the nuclear reactors who would then recoup the cost by charging more for their services.

Alternatively, state-run operator Nuclear Power Corporation of India (NPCIL) would take out insurance on behalf of these companies. "What is being discussed is how, within the four walls of our legal framework, our legislation, we can provide assurances to our partners in the US of any concerns they may have through their vendors or their lawyers," Akbaruddin said.

India's law, written under the shadow of the Bhopal gas disaster, is a deviation from the global norm in which the nuclear operator bears responsibility for an accident, not the equipment providers.

Reuters

Japan, US, S Korea, Aussie defence forces' legal officers meet in Hawaii

TOKYO, 23 Jan — Senior legal military officers from Japan, the United States, South Korea and Australia met in Hawaii in mid-January to discuss legal affairs associated with the forces' overseas deployment, a Japanese government source said on Friday.

In the first talks of their kind among the four Pacific countries, the officers discussed legal affairs in the event their forces were dispatched for UN peacekeeping operations to areas where no laws on the operations of foreign forces are established, among other issues, the source said.

Japan's Self-Defence Forces sent officers of the rank of colonel, while the United States, Australia and South Korea sent officers of the rank of brigadier general to the meeting, which was held at a facility of the US Pacific Command in Hawaii on 15 and 16 January according to the source. Keen to make their coordination in peacekeeping operations go more smoothly, the four plan to hold such talks once a year, the source said. They also plan to reflect the discussions in Hawaii in a multinational conference of military legal officers from about 20 Asia-Pacific countries scheduled for May this year.— *Kyodo News*

European foreign ministers plead against new Iran sanctions moves

UNITED NATIONS, 23 Jan — Four leading European foreign policy officials on Thursday warned that new sanctions legislation against Iran could torpedo efforts to secure a long-term agreement with Teheran to curb its nuclear programme.

The plea, in an opinion piece published in the *Washington Post*, appeared to be directed at the Republican-controlled US Congress weighing new sanctions, even though the piece did not explicitly mention US lawmakers.

It was by British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond, French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier and European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini.

European Commission High Representative Federica Mogherini speaks during a news conference in Riga on 8 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

Some prominent US lawmakers are calling for new sanctions to further pressure Iran to compromise in deadlocked nuclear negotiations with six world powers. That would be a mistake, the Europeans cautioned.

"Introducing new hurdles at this critical stage of the negotiations, including through additional nuclear-related sanctions legislation on Iran, would jeopardise our efforts at a critical juncture," they wrote.

"While many Iranians know how much they stand to gain by overcoming isolation and engaging with the world, there are also those in Teheran who oppose any nuclear deal," the ministers said. "We should not give them new arguments."

Negotiators from Iran and six major powers — the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China — failed to meet a self-imposed deadline in November for an agreement seen as crucial to reducing the risk of a wider Middle East war.

A deal would curb Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for relief from economic sanctions.

The new deadline for a long-term agreement is 30 June.

"New sanctions at this moment might also fracture the international coalition that has made sanctions so effective so far," the Europeans said. "Rather than strengthening our negotiating position, new sanctions legislation at this point would set us back."

"For the first time ... we may have a real chance to resolve one of the world's long-standing security threats — and the chance to do it peacefully," they wrote. "We can't let that chance pass us by or do anything to derail our progress."

US and Iranian negotiators will hold talks about Iran's nuclear programme in Switzerland on Friday and Saturday.

Under a November 2013 accord with the six, Iran halted its most sensitive nuclear activity in exchange for some easing of sanctions.

Teheran says its atomic programme is peaceful but the West fears it is aimed at developing the capability to produce nuclear weapons.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 24 January, 2015

Legacy of older generations

By *Myint Win Thein*

In history, older generations were often blamed by their younger counterparts as the former left the latter in divided societies plagued by social woes such as poverty, wars, racial hatred, disasters and so on. However, it is natural for younger generations to put blame on the elder as they are innocent ones who are not accustomed to pointing an accusing finger at anyone.

In the history of some countries, the older generations left their younger ones with so many and so intense social woes that these countries collapsed into smaller nations where no one of the latter has anything good to talk about the former. Therefore, it is clear that what older generations leave younger generations will decide whether the former should be blamed or praised by them in the future.

It is time for older generations of the divided world to think how they want to be remembered and to try their best to leave what is the best for their descendants. Otherwise, they will always be blamed in the future in the same way as they are being blamed now. The older generations should always bear in their mind that history will never say "I am sorry," or "Thank you," but it always does say to everyone "Goodbye". What they do today will become their history tomorrow.

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National University of Singapore: A University stands and shines top in Asia

By *Sayar Mya*

(Continued from yesterday)

There are three residential colleges such as 1. NUS University Town; 2. Cinnamon College; and 3. Tembusu College.

There are two Research centers namely; Research institutes and centers; and Major research facilities.

Vision, Mission & Strategy of NUS has been outlined as follows.

In its vision, the university sets a goal to be a leading global university centered in Asia, influencing the future. NUS intends be a globally-oriented university, in the distinguished league of the world's leading universities. A key joint in global knowledge networks, NUS tries to have distinctive expertise and insights relating to Asia.

Moreover, NUS aspires to be a bold and dynamic community, with a "no walls" culture and a spirit of enterprise which strives for positive influence and impact through the education, research and service.

Meaning of School without Walls

Some schools have started something that they cannot control. Students are gradually assuming more responsibility and ownership for what they learn and how they learn it. This is a good thing, but like splitting an atom inside of a cardboard box, there is no hope of containing its power and potential. Yet, by and large, the schools stubbornly cling to a traditional school system, attempting to control student learning in the confines of a specific space, time and method.

Here are three reasons that, as educators, that they must open the "cardboard box," extending student learning beyond the classrooms, schools and communities.

As it has a wide scope, every member of the university enjoys diverse opportunities for intellectual, personal and professional growth. Learning and working at NUS would foster quick, well-rounded minds, well-equipped to succeed in this fast-changing world.

In its mission, the university intends to transform the way people think and do things through education, research and service. The NUS mission comprises three mutually reinforcing thrusts:

1. Transformative education that nurtures thinking individuals who are alive to opportunities to make a difference, are valued members and leaders of society, and global citizens effective in diverse settings.
2. High-impact research that advances the boundaries of knowledge and contributes to the betterment of society.
3. Dedicated service, as a national university, that adds to social, economic and national development.

Regarding the strategy, the NUS outlines eight key components:

1. Nurture, recruit and retain best quality people, the single most important determinant of the quality of education and research.
2. Attract the best students, who are academically strong, and who have passion, commitment, leadership potential and come from diverse backgrounds.
3. Provide a high quality educational experience that stretches students, is globally-oriented, and develops skills and values to enable them to reach their full potential.
4. Focus on high impact research that advances knowledge and its application, and which is of high international quality and impact.
5. Inject a spirit of enterprise into education and research, and develop impactful synergies in education, in research, and between education and research, within a dynamic "no-walls" environment.
6. Nurture committed alumni to be key members of the NUS community, who will actively support NUS towards its Vision and Mission.
7. Develop global profile and reach as a leader among universities.
8. Adopt and adapt best practice governance and management, for optimal administration, management of resources, and faculty, staff and student services.

Interesting History of NUS

In September 1904, Tan Jiak Kim led a group of representatives of the Chinese and other non-European communities, and petitioned the Governor of the Straits Settlements, Sir John Anderson, to establish a medical school in Singapore. Tan, who was the first president of the Straits Chinese British Association, managed to raise 87,077 Straits dollars, of which the largest amount of $12,000 came from him.

The Straits dollar was the currency of the Straits Settlements from 1898 until 1939. At the same time, it was also used in the Federated Malay States, the Un-federated Malay States, Sarawak, Brunei, and British North Borneo. On 3 July 1905, the medical school was founded, and was known as the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States Government Medical School.

In 1912, the medical school received an endowment of $120,000 from the King Edward VII Memorial Fund, started by Lim Boon Keng. Subsequently on 18 November 1913, the name of the school was changed to the King Edward VII Medical School. In 1921, it was again changed to the King Edward VII College of Medicine to reflect its academic status.

In 1928, Raffles College was established to promote arts and social sciences at tertiary level for Malayan students.

Establishment of the university

Two decades later, Raffles College was merged with the King Edward VII College of Medicine to form the University of Malaya on 8 October 1949. The two institutions were merged to provide for the higher education needs of the Federation of Malaya and Singapore.

The growth of University of Malaya was very rapid during the first decade of its establishment and resulted in the setting up of two autonomous divisions in 1959, one located in Singapore and the other in Kuala Lumpur.

In 1960, the governments of the then Federation of Malaya and Singapore indicated their desire to change the status of the divisions into that of a national university. Legislation was passed in 1961 establishing the former Kuala Lumpur division as the University of Malaya while the Singapore division was renamed the University of Singapore on 1 January 1962.

Present form of NUS

The National University of Singapore was formed with the merger of the University of Singapore and Nanyang University in 1980. This was done in part due to the government's desire to pool the two institutions' resources into a single, stronger entity, and promote English as Singapore's only main language. The original crest of Nanyang University with three intertwined rings was incorporated into the new coat-of-arms of NUS.

Residential Colleges

NUS University Town

The NUS University Town (UTown) opened in August 2011. Located across the NUS Kent Ridge campus; this is where some 2,400 undergraduate students, 1,700 graduate students and 1,000 researchers will work, live, and learn in close proximity. There are four residential colleges, Cinnamon and Tembusu Colleges, College of Alice and Peter Tan, and Residential College 4 - initially named Cinnamon, Tembusu, Angsana and Khaya, an Education Resource Centre and a Graduate Residence.

NUS School of Computing (Photo from Wikipedia)

Cinnamon College

Cinnamon College houses the University Scholars Program. The USP residential college will house 600 students and contain the administrative and faculty offices for USP and teaching classrooms.

USP students will take modules at the college and follow the current USP curriculum. They will be required to take eight multidisciplinary modules specially designed for USP students, including the Writing and Critical Thinking module and University Scholars Seminars. Students will have various options to fulfill their USP advanced curriculum requirements that include individual research with faculty mentors, and industrial and entrepreneurial attachments.

Tembusu College

Tembusu College is one of the first two Residential Colleges in University Town, a new extension to the main NUS campus at Kent Ridge. Tembusu houses mainly undergraduates,

(See page 9)

Demonstration for democracy education system should be in accordance with law during democratic transition: officials

KYAUKSE, 23 Jan — A total of thirty members of All Burma Federation of Student Unions (Upper Myanmar) from Yangon, Yadanabon University, Kyaukse Technological University, Myingyan and Monywa led by Vice Chairman Moe Tet Nay (a) Aung Kyaw Moe ABFSU (Upper Myanmar) and Aung Hmai San left Mula Ngasutaung Monastery in Paleik in Singaing Township at 8.50 am on 21 January and arrived at a house in Sugyi Htantaw in Pyilon-naing Ward in Kyaukse at 7.20 pm and spent the night there.

Along their way to Kyaukse, they distributed leaflets of the statement of the Leading Committee for Democracy Education Movement on prerequisites for development of the national education policy and enactment of laws for democracy education system and shouted slogans.

Township administrators and members of township management committees along their way explained them that they would be given permission if they sought it in accordance with the law.

On 22 January morning, Mandalay Region Security and Border Affairs Minister Col Aung Kyaw Moe, the advocate-general of Mandalay Region, the rector of Mandalay University and officials went to the house they were staying and explained them that their activities were breaching the law, saying they should do so in accordance with the law and should cooperate with the government by abiding by democratic principles at a time of democratic transition. The officials also told them that the president had sent a message to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw so that the provisions of the national education law can be amended after considering their demands and the message had been released for the public.

However, the group responded to the officials that they would proceed with their schedule and continued to Myittha and Natogyi Township, according to sources.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

University students on way of demonstration for democracy education system.
PHOTO: TIN MAUNG (MANDALAY)

Tatmadaw hands over 42 child soldiers to parents, guardians

***Senior military officers meet youths who have already withdrawn from military units at handing over ceremony of child soldiers.*—MNA**

YANGON, 23 Jan—A ceremony to hand over 42 child soldiers to parents or guardians was held at No 1 Transit Centre, here, on Friday.

Joint Secretary of Committee for Prevention of Recruiting Child Soldiers Brig-Gen Tauk Tun of the office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) and Resident Representative of UNICEF Mr Bertrand Bainvel made speeches. Officials presented citizenship scrutiny cards for the children and handed over them to parents and guardians.

The military officials sent the children and parents to the care centre arranged by United Nations Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting (UNCTFMR) and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. Officials will carry out health care services to be provided to them, contact with parents, assistance for pursuing education, skill tests for seeking jobs, distribution of basic utensils and cash assistance for transport and food on their way back home.

Similar ceremonies were held to hand over 42 child soldiers at No 1 Transit Centre (Yangon) on 3 September 2012, 24 on 15 February 2013, 42 on 7 July 2013, 68 on 8 August 2013, 91 on 1 August 2014, 109 at Myawady Literary House on 25 September 2014 and 80 at No 1 Transit Centre on 24 November 2014.

Myanmar has signed an 18-month work plan with UNCTFMR on 27 June 2012 for prevention of recruiting child soldiers. The term of the work plan was extended to six months on 28 December 2013 and six more months on 28 Jue 2014.

Action was taken against 50 officers and 277 other ranks, totalling 327 for recruiting child soldiers up to the end of 2014.

MNA

National University of...

(from page 8)

in addition to resident faculty, distinguished visiting scholars, and a few graduate fellows. Freshmen (matriculating first-year students) enrolling in any NUS faculty or program apply to the College at the same time they apply to NUS. Entry is competitive (an essay-based application followed by an interview) as only 200–230 students can be enrolled in any given year. Some students from non-modular faculties (whose course requirements may be reduced or waived) and students from overseas exchange programs add to the residential mix. Students from any NUS faculty are eligible to apply.

The College offers five multi-disciplinary modules fulfilling the "University-Level Requirements" (2 General Education modules, 2 Breadth modules, and 1 Singapore Studies module) which most NUS undergraduates must read to graduate. Students read the rest of their modules in their home faculties. A University Town Residential Program Certificate is issued to eligible students along with the regular degree scroll. Students from non-modular faculties (i.e. Law, Medicine, and Dentistry) also belong to the College, but with course-work tailored to their specific programs.

Outstanding Alumni

The "Alumni" of National University of Singapore is quite interesting and noteworthy. Alumni means a group of people who have graduated from a school or university. Alumni are usually used to refer to a group of graduates of either one or both genders, while 'alumnus' traditionally refers to a single male graduate, with the feminine term being 'alumna'.

Since its inception in 1905, the National University of Singapore and its predecessor institutions have produced many illustrious individuals. This list includes (4) Singaporean Prime Ministers and presidents, (2) Malaysian Prime Ministers, and many politicians, judiciaries, business executives, educators and local celebrities.

NUS counts among its graduates, heads of states Abdul Razak Hussein, Benjamin Sheares, Goh Chok Tong, Lee Kuan Yew, Mahathir Mohamad and S.R. Nathan. A number of its graduates are also notable politicians. Rais Yatim is Minister of Information (1984–1986) and Foreign Minister (1986–1987) of Malaysia. Dr. Ng Eng Hen is a Singaporean politician. A member of the governing People's Action Party, he has been Minister for Defense, as well as the Leader of the House in the Parliament of Singapore, since 2011.

Business leaders such as CEO of the Singapore Exchange and Singapore Tourism Board Chew Choon Seng, CEO of the Hyflux group Olivia Lum, CEO of the Temasek Holdings Ho Ching and CEO of SPRING Singapore Philip Yeo.

In international politics, the school has produced the Director General of World Health Organization Margaret Chan, former President of United Nations Security Council, Kishore Mahbubani and S Jayakumar and Vice-President of the International Olympic Committee, Ng Ser Miang.

The FAQ (Frequently Asked Question) is always there with regard to the ranking of educational institution.

How good is the National University of Singapore compared to other top universities?

The 2010-11 Times Higher Education World University Rankings ranked NUS at the sloth of 34th in the world. Do you think NUS is that good/bad?

It depends on what you mean by good; and what do you mean by bad.

As I am not well versed in this realm of educational institutions, and therefore, I did some casual research work. I have done some inquiries and in combination with some personal experiences as a Myanmar diplomat served in four neighboring countries for (16) years. I came up with the following list of questions that students most probably try to find the answer for, before making their life-changing decision on where to study in this world.

(1) Which country does the student wants to study?
(2) What is the quality of the university?
(3) Is the right study program available in a language that the student speaks fluently?
(4) How much does it cost?

This article is a plain and simple presentation about the National University of Singapore to the esteemed readers of the Global New Light of Myanmar, including the students, teachers, university faculty members, persons in the sphere of educational institutions in Myanmar.

Yemen suffers power vacuum after president, premier quit

Yemen's President Abdu Rabbu Mansour Hadi

SANAA, 23 Jan — Yemen drifted deeper into political limbo on Friday after President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi resigned in exasperation at a Houthi rebel takeover of the country, a move that appeared to catch the Iran-backed group off balance.

Hadi, a former general, blamed the Houthis' control of the capital Sanaa for impeding his attempt to steer Yemen towards stability after years of secessionist and tribal unrest, deepening poverty and US drone strikes on Islamist militants.

His resignation on Thursday startled the Arabian Peninsula country of 25 million, where the Shi'ite Muslim Houthis emerged as the dominant faction by seizing Sanaa in September and dictating terms to a humiliated Hadi, whom they had held as a virtual prisoner at his home residence clashes with security guards this week.

Chanting "we are the revolution", a small group of activists gathered at Change Square, the focus of 2011 pro-democracy protests which forced long-ruling president Ali Abdullah Saleh to step down under a Gulf power transfer deal.

"We're here in rejection of the events that are happening. We came out to build a state and our demand is still to have a state," said activist Farida al-Yareemi. "We went out against Ali Abdullah Saleh and he had all the weapons."

Washington, which has relied on Hadi's cooperation to stage the drone strikes on the Yemeni branch of al-Qaeda, said it was concerned by the departures of the president and Prime Minister Khaled Bahah, who also quit on Thursday.

"The United States is troubled by reports of President Hadi and his cabinet's resignation," State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said in a statement. "At this time, it is critical that all sides avoid violence."

The Yemeni parliament is scheduled to meet on Sunday to discuss Hadi's resignation and can accept or reject it. Under the constitution, parliamentary speaker Yahya al-Ra'i, who comes from Saleh's General People's Congress party, takes office for an interim period while new elections are organized.

Some Houthi officials have welcomed Hadi's resignation but the group said an official position had yet to be taken.

It urged the army to uphold its responsibilities and called on Houthi fighters to be on alert.

Witness said Houthi fighters were seen surrounding the homes of a number of senior officials from Bahah's government, including the defence minister, in Sanaa.

A senior Yemeni official said the Houthis had proposed the creation an interim presidential council to run the majority Sunni Muslim country, but an alliance of parties rejected the idea.

Hadi, who led a United Nations-backed attempt to make political reforms and bury the autocracy and graft of the past, stood down shortly after Bahah offered his government's resignation, saying it did not want to be dragged into "an unconstructive political maze".

This was a reference to a standoff between the Houthi movement and Hadi, who had been held in his residence.— *Reuters*

*Houthi fighters secure an entrance to the presidential palace in Sanaa on 22 Jan, 2015. —*REUTERS

Saudi Arabia to bury King Abdullah on Friday

RIYADH, 23 Jan — Saudi Arabia will bury King Abdullah in an unmarked grave on Friday, hours after it moved to ensure a smooth transition by appointing a new king and crown prince to quell fears of dynastic instability at a time of regional turmoil.

Abdullah's successor, King Salman, now takes over as the ultimate authority in a country that faces unprecedented tumult in the region and difficult long-term domestic challenges compounded by the plunging price of oil.

Salman must navigate a white-hot rivalry with Shi'ite Muslim power Iran playing out in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Lebanon and Bahrain, open conflict in two neighbouring states, a threat from Islamist militants and bumpy relations with the United States.

Reputedly pragmatic and adept at managing the delicate balance of clerical, tribal, royal and Western interests that factor into Saudi policy making, Salman appears unlikely to change the kingdom's approach to foreign affairs or energy sales.

But by immediately announcing the appointment of his youngest half-brother Muqrin bin Abdulaziz as Crown Prince, King Salman decisively moved to end speculation about the direction of the royal succession and splits in the ruling family.

*Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah attends the opening session of the Arab summit in Doha on 30 March, 2009.—*REUTERS

Many Saudis in a country with a young population will be unable to recall a time before King Abdullah's rule, both as monarch from 2005 and as de facto regent for a decade before that.

His legacy was an effort to overhaul the kingdom's economic and social systems to address a looming demographic crisis by creating private sector jobs and making young Saudis better prepared to take them.—*Reuters*

Albania supports Macedonia's accession to NATO

SKOPJE, 23 Jan — Albania supports Macedonia's NATO accession and wishes that the neighbouring country will soon become a full rights member of the Alliance, Albanian minister of defence Mimi Kodheli said on Thursday.

Kodheli was paying an official visit to Skopje where she met with her Macedonian counterpart Zoran Jolevski, according to local media.

Both ministers underlined that Albania and Macedonia remain committed to their fight against terrorism and any other threat to peace, safety of citizens and democratic values of both countries.

Meantime, in the meeting with Maceodnian President Gjorge Ivanov, Kodheli stressed that Albania has clearly played a constructive role in the relations with Macedonia even in times of inter-ethnic tensions.

Ivanov welcomed the joint efforts until now regarding the integration processes, especially within the Adriatic Charter and expressed that he expects an active support from the Republic of Albania regarding NATO membership.—*Xinhua*

Security chief in violent Mexican state steps down

MEXICO CITY, 23 Jan — Mexico's Interior Ministry said on Thursday that a top security official appointed to restore order in a restive western state has stepped down, a few weeks after new outbreaks of violence.

Interior Minister Miguel Angel Osorio Chong said the federal government's security commissioner for Michoacan state, Alfredo Castillo, would take on a new role in the government, without giving any more details on the reasons for his departure. Castillo was appointed commissioner a year ago in a bid to crush a powerful drug gang known as the Knights Templar which had taken control of large swathes of Michoacan, and later became embroiled in bloody clashes with vigilante groups.

Police stand guard outside the town hall after a shooting between federal forces and armed civilians in the town of Apatzingan, Michoacan on 6 Jan, 2015. — REUTERS

After forming an uneasy alliance with the vigilantes, the government captured or killed several Knights Templar leaders, but the gang's boss, Servando Gomez, has eluded Castillo.—*Reuters*

US, Iraq preparing for assault to recapture Mosul

A Kurdish Peshmerga fighter takes his position as he keeps watch during the battle with Islamic State militants on the outskirts of Mosul on 21 Jan, 2015.—Reuters

Washington, 23 Jan — The United States and Iraq have started preparing for an offensive by summer to recapture the Iraqi city of Mosul, which was taken by Islamic State militants last June, the *Wall Street Journal* reported on Thursday.

Preparations include selecting and training military units for the planned assault and cutting supply lines to Islamic State fighters, General Lloyd Austin, head of the US military's Central Command, told the *Journal*.

Mosul is the largest city in a self-declared Islamic State caliphate straddling the border between northern Iraq and eastern Syria.

A senior Iraqi official told *Reuters* in November that Mosul was the focus of government efforts to defeat Islamic State, because of the city's size and symbolic status. The US-led forces have been conducting air strikes against Islamic State targets in Iraq and Syria, including 16 since Wednesday that were centred on Mosul. *The Journal* quoted Austin as saying that Iraqi forces must be ready before the offensive could begin.

"If we did things alone or with some of the other allies on the ground, it could move faster," he told the newspaper. "But the Iraqis have to do this themselves." Austin said he had not yet determined whether to recommend that US ground troops accompany local units pushing into Mosul but added the military would "do what it takes," the *Journal* said. He told the paper that two Iraqi divisions were expected to lead the force fighting to retake Mosul. The newspaper quoted military officials as saying those forces would receive four to six weeks of US training.— *Reuters*

UN approved cross-border aid helps 600,000 Syrians in six months

United Nations, 23 Jan — The United Nations said on Thursday that 54 aid shipments to Syria had been made since the UN Security Council authorized some cross-border routes in July, supplying food to 600,000 people, along with water and medical supplies.

In his latest monthly report to the council, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said the United Nations and partners had made 40 shipments from Turkey and 14 from Jordan. Deliveries could not be made from Iraq due to insecurity, he said.

The Security Council approved humanitarian access without Syrian government consent into rebel-held areas at four border crossings from Turkey, Iraq and Jordan. Western diplomats said at the time that nearly 2 million people could be reached. Ban's report on Syria aid access, obtained by *Reuters*, said food assistance had reached 596,000 people, non-food items had been delivered to 522,000, water and sanitation supplies had reached more than 280,000 and medical supplies some 262,000. Deliveries at those four border crossings added to existing efforts in coordination with the Syrian government, which reach several million people a month. But Ban said the situation has continued to "deteriorate rapidly" as Syria's civil war is about to enter its fifth year.

A Syrian refugee receives aid from the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) in Batroun, northern Lebanon on 13 Jan, 2015. — Reuters

"Widespread fighting across the country, administrative hurdles, and lack of agreement from the parties continued to constrain humanitarian access across the country, affecting the humanitarian capacity to deliver at planned scaled," Ban said. He said some 12.2 million Syrian need assistance, while 3.8 million people have fled the country and about 7.6 million in Syria are displaced. "It is completely unacceptable that the people of Syria continue to face grave abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law by the parties to the conflict and that they are denied access to the basic requirements for their survival," Ban's report said.

More than 200,000 people have been killed in Syria's conflict, which began in March 2011 with popular protests against President Bashar al-Assad and spiralled into civil war after a crackdown by security forces. Militant group Islamic State has also seized swathes of territory in Iraq and Syria.—*Reuters*

Bomb explodes near Turkish delegation in Somalia day before president's visit

Somali government forces assess the scene of a suicide car explosion in front of the SYL hotel in the capital Mogadishu on 22 Jan, 2015. —— Reuters

Mogadishu, 23 Jan — A suicide car bomb exploded at the gate of a Mogadishu hotel where Turkish delegates were meeting on Thursday, a day before a visit by President Tayyip Erdogan to the Somali capital. At least two police officers were killed but none of the Turkish delegates were wounded in the attack, which was claimed by Islamist al Shabaab rebels, officials said.

Erdogan, who was in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa on the first leg of an African tour when the bomb went off, appeared unfazed and said that whoever carried out the attack was not acting in the name of Islam.

"There has been a terrorist attack today in Somalia. What is this attack carried out for? If they are doing it in the name of Islam, there is no such thing in Islam," he said at Addis Ababa University, where he was receiving an honourary degree.

Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu, speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, said an investigation was under way to see if the Turkish delegation was deliberately targeted.

Al Shabaab, which has carried out attacks across east Africa including a 2013 raid on a Nairobi shopping mall that killed 67, claimed responsibility for the assault but did not mention the delegation or Erdogan.

"We attacked (the) hotel and killed several of the Somali police officers who were meeting there," al Shabaab's military operations spokesman, Sheikh Abdiasis Abu Musab, told *Reuters.*

A *Reuters* witness saw two police officers lying dead in front of the destroyed gate, and what appeared to be the mangled body of the suicide bomber.—*Reuters*

UN condemns attack on Libyan central bank, demands inquiry

Tripoli, 23 Jan — The United Nations on Thursday condemned a reported attack on an office of Libya's central bank in the eastern city of Benghazi, calling for an inquiry into the incident that has complicated talks between the country's warring parties. The UN last week brought together in Geneva some of Libya's rival factions in an attempt to negotiate an end to their fight for control of the country four years after the ousting of Muammar Gaddafi.

On Wednesday, a rival parliament based in Tripoli said it would suspend its participation in the talks, accusing troops loyal to the recognised government of attacking the bank.

The official government, which has been forced to work out of the east since an armed faction called Libya Dawn seized Tripoli, denied this, saying its forces were securing the central bank in Benghazi.

The incident at the bank, which has tried to stay out of the conflict, weakened the Libyan dinar against the dollar on the parallel market. The bank is controlling the country's vital oil revenues and foreign currency reserves. "The United Nations Support Mission in Libya condemns the reported armed attack against the Central Bank branch in Benghazi, a sovereign symbol of the Libyan State," it said in a statement. "The Mission believes that the establishment of an independent commission of inquiry will contribute to clarifying the circumstances relating to the incident," it said. The Tripoli-based central bank denounced the incident as an attack on one of the last functioning institutions. "This is threatening one of the last defences of the Libyan state," the bank said in a statement. But Adel al-Aujali, spokesman for the Benghazi branch, rejected this, telling *Reuters:* "The seat of the central bank in Benghazi is being secured by a marine unit." A *Reuters* reporter could see damage to the bank building located in the city centre, the scene of heavy battles for weeks between eastern government troops and Islamist fighters.

Reuters

TEPCO to miss March target for Fukushima toxic water cleanup

TOKYO, 23 Jan — Tokyo Electric Power Co said on Friday it will fail to fulfill its commitment to process by the end of March all highly radioactive water stored at the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant due mainly to equipment troubles, causing further delay in the decommissioning process.

Currently, some 280,000 tons of water needing treatment is stored in tanks, while around 350 tons of toxic water is newly generated every day in the process of cooling reactors that suffered meltdowns in the 2011 earthquake-tsunami disaster. When Prime Minister Shinzo Abe visited the plant in September 2013, TEPCO President Naomi Hirose pledged that the company would filter all the water kept in tanks by 31 March, 2015 to drastically reduce the amount of radioactive materials it contains, but the process has been delayed due to a series of problems with its key water treatment facilities.

Hirose on Friday met with Takayuki Ueda, commissioner of the Agency for Natural Resources and Energy, and said the company now expects to finish treating the water by the end of May at the latest, but will try to complete the cleanup as soon as possible.

"We took the promise with the prime minister very seriously but we cannot fulfill our commitment. The problem of toxic water is the biggest source of concern for the local residents and we are extremely sorry to be unable to keep our word," Hirose said during the meeting.

The water treatment system, which is called the Advanced Liquid Processing System or ALPS, is said to be capable of removing 62 types of radioactive materials except tritium. TEPCO has introduced three such facilities, including one with enhanced performance, but all of them are still running on a test basis.

The buildup of toxic water has proven to be a major challenge facing workers engaged in the plant decommissioning work, while it has been a source of concern with regard to the further spread of pollution. In August 2013, TEPCO said some 300 tons of tainted water leaked from the tanks, followed by leakage of some 100 tons in February last year. The delay in the plan also comes as TEPCO has halted all decommissioning work at the Fukushima Daiichi complex since Wednesday after two workers died on Tuesday in separate accidents at the Daiichi site and the nearby Daini plant. —*Kyodo News*

10 Chinese missing in fishing boat collision off S Korea

SEOUL, 23 Jan — A Chinese fishing boat collided with an unidentified cargo ship on Friday morning in seas near South Korea 's southern resort island of Jeju, leaving 10 Chinese fishermen missing, the Jeju coast guard and safety agency said.

The 138-ton fishing boat sank in waters about 160 km south of an uninhabited island near Jeju at around 2:30 am on Friday after the cargo ship crashed into the flank of the fishing boat, the agency said in a statement.

Among 13 crew members aboard the sunken boat, three have been saved by other fishing boats sailing near the site, but 10 others, including a captain and a chief engineer, have been unaccounted for.

The cargo ship reportedly left the site right after the collision.

Chinese maritime rescue authorities reported the incident to South Korea, which sent two patrol ships to search the missing crewmen, the *Yonhap* news agency reported, adding China dispatched two rescue ships to the area for the search operation, and five Chinese fishing boats were also helping the rescue efforts.—*Xinhua*

Members of the Chinese medical team, who returned from Liberia after assisting in the African nation's prevention and control of the Ebola virus, get on a bus for medical quarantine area in Chongqing, southwest China, on 22 Jan, 2015. A total of 82 medical workers, as the second batch of the 164-member team, returned to motherland on Thursday morning. They will be kept in quarantine under medical observation for about 20 days. —XINHUA

Indonesian divers recover bodies from near crashed AirAsia jet fuselage

Part of the fuselage of crashed AirAsia Flight QZ8501 is seen inside a storage facility at Kumai port in Pangkalan Bun, on 19 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

ABOARD KRI BANDA ACEH, 23 Jan — Indonesian divers on Thursday found six bodies near the fuselage of an AirAsia (AIRA.KL) jet that crashed last month into the Java Sea, but were unable to enter the wreckage where most of the victims are believed to be trapped, a navy official said.

Days of rough weather and poor underwater visibility have hampered navy divers' efforts to recover bodies and lift the main part of the plane off the sea bed.

"It was very dark, visibility was very limited so our diving teams could not enter," Rear Admiral Widodo, commander of the navy's western fleet, told reporters aboard the warship KRI Banda Aceh. "However we still predict we can evacuate all the bodies from there." Widodo added rescuers expected to attach giant air bags to the fuselage to lift it to the surface by Friday.

Indonesia AirAsia Flight QZ8501 lost contact with air traffic control in bad weather on 28 December, less than halfway into a two-hour flight from the Indonesian city of Surabaya to Singapore. There were no survivors among the 162 people on board the *Airbus* (AIR.PA) *A320*.

A multinational search and rescue operation has recovered 59 bodies so far and located both "black box" flight recorders, which will provide clues as to why the plane crashed.

The cause of AirAsia's first fatal crash is not yet known, though investigators have ruled out foul play. Transport Minister Ignasius Jonan on Tuesday told a parliamentary hearing that radar data showed the plane had climbed faster than normal in its final minutes, and then stalled.

Three days after the crash a source familiar with initial investigations had told *Reuters* the plane appeared to have made an "unbelievably steep climb" that may have pushed it beyond its performance envelope. The National Transport Safety Committee (NTSC), which is responsible for the crash investigations in Indonesia, is set to release some initial findings next week, but its full preliminary report will not be made public. The final report on the investigation, which will be made public, must be filed within a year.—*Reuters*

Finland supports Serbia's EU path

BELGRADE, 23 Jan — Interior Ministers of Serbia and Finland Nebojsa Stefanovic and Paivi Rasanen signed on Thursday an agreement on police cooperation, preventing and combating crime, which will also speed up Serbia's progress in the EU integration process.

Finland backs Serbian EU aspirations and supports the European Union's enlargement policy, Rasanen said at a joint press conference with Stefanovic, stressing that it is "important that enlargement continues accordingly to the agreed membership criteria". "One of the purposes of my visit is to support Serbia in its effort toward EU membership," said Rasanen, who previously signed a police cooperation agreement with Stefanovic, adding that they also discussed current issues. She underlined that Serbia, moving towards the EU, should continue implementing reforms and strive to achieve positive results, pointing out that the support for the much needed and often very difficult reforms is provided through the strong mandate of the current government.

Rasanen also commended Serbia's approach to the European integration process, noting particularly its "seriousness and capacity to take things further".

Commenting on the agreement signed with her Serbian counterpart, the Finnish minister of the interior said that the topics they discussed included high-tech crime, border control, illegal migration, and citizens fighting in foreign wars.—— *Tanjug*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV V SANDERLING VOY NO (06)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV V SANDERLING VOY NO (06) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.1.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV INNWA STAR VOY NO (1001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV INNWA STAR VOY NO (1001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.1.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINETAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV THAI BINH BAY VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THAI BINH BAY VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.1.2015 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 G LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301191/2301178

asean

THE ASEAN SECRETARIAT IN JAKARTA INVITES ASEAN NATIONALS FROM BRUNEI DARUSSALAM, CAMBODIA, LAO PDR, MALAYSIA, MYANMAR AND THAILAND

TO APPLY FOR THE FOLLOWING VACANT POST

DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL FOR ASEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY (DSG-AEC)

Currently, the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta is looking for a suitable candidate to fill a vacancy for the position DSG AEC. The DSG will assist the ASEAN Secretary-General in providing strategic direction and guidance for the implementation of the AEC Blueprint, strengthening relations with ASEAN Dialogue Partners and the International community. This post is senior-level management position where the person will have to contribute to the collective leadership of ASEAN Secretariat.

How to apply:

Visit ASEAN website at www.asean.org/opportunities/vacancies for details on job specifications, qualification and application procedure.

Application papers should reach the ASEAN Secretariat by **29 January 2015**.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SHIBA VOY NO (ISC0068E)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHIBA VOY NO (ISC0068E) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.1.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S LAND AND SEA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

Ministry of Transport
Myanma Airways
Ground Support Equipment Tender

Myanma Airways would like to buy the following equipments for Ground Handling Department. They are as follows:

(1)	Aircraft Towing Tractor (Push Back)	-	1 No
(2)	Tractor	-	5 Nos
(3)	Headset	-	10 Nos
(4)	Tow Bar(including 10 nos of shear pin)	-	3 Nos
(5)	Vacuum Cleaner	-	6 Nos
(6)	Pallet Dolly	-	10 Nos

Sealed Tender must be submitted to Myanma Airways and the tender closing date and the time is (1600) hrs on (30.1.2015).

Detailed facts and tender application form can be obtainable at Myanma Airways.

Myanma Airways
No. 104, Strand Road, Yangon.
Phone : 01 374595, 0943039170

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 24th January, 2015: Likelihood of isolated light rain in Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).
STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.
OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Slight decrease of night temperatures in the Eastern Myanmar areas.
FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 24th January, 2015: Generally fair weather.

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A car owner recharges her electric car at a new photovoltaic power station in Beijing, capital of China on 22 Jan, 2015. Beijing's first photovoltaic power station for electric vehicles has been launched recently in the city's central business district (CBD). In 2015, Beijing plans to add 100 more photovoltaic power stations with 3,500 charging units to cover the power needs of its electric vehicles.—XINHUA

More Chinese airlines to fly to Australia under new plan

SYDNEY, 23 Jan — More Chinese airlines will be allowed to offer services to Australians under a new plan announced on Friday.

Australian and Chinese airlines will be able to operate 26,500 seats a week between the major gateways immediately, with a further 7000 weekly seats to be phased-in over the next two years, according to the new agreement announced by Deputy Prime Minister Warren Truss and Trade Minister Andrew Robb. The new agreement will allow Chinese airlines to almost triple their services to Australia over the next two years and offer cheaper flights to Australians bound for Europe and North America.

The plan is also designed to cater to the growing number of Chinese tourists coming to Australia. Chinese airlines had reached the previous cap of 18,029 weekly one-way seats at certain times of the year, meaning no new services could be added by existing carriers or launched by new ones looking to enter the market. By October 2016, 33,500 seats each way will be available each week. These second-tier Chinese carriers include Hainan Airlines, Shenzen Airlines and Xiamen Airlines and the deal will allow them to increasingly target Australian passengers by using their home cities as hubs for European flights in competition with airlines such as Qantas, Emirates, Singapore Airlines and Cathay Pacific.—*Xinhua*

Keira Knightley
voted most stylish mum-to-be

Los Angeles, 23 Jan — Pregnant actress Keira Knightley has been voted most stylish mother-to-be. The 29-year-old 'Atonement' actress, who is expecting her first child with her husband James Righton, fought off tough competition from the Duchess of Cambridge Kate Middleton in a poll by baby brand My1stYears.com, reported *Hello!* magazine.

"We were surprised that Keira beat Kate in this poll as usually the Duchess is so popular with the nation. However Keira has more than proved herself the top spot with her effortless Chanel chic on the red carpet and with her recent Oscar nomination, we can't wait to see what she wears on the night," a spokesperson said.

Actress Jacqueline Jossa, who stars on the BBC One soap 'EastEnders' and is expecting her first child with 'The Only Way Is Essex' hunk Dan Osbourne, was voted third. The Saturdays' Frankie Bridge came in fourth place after announcing she is pregnant with her second child with footballer Wayne Bridge, while Abbey Clancy, the wife of footballer Peter Crouch — who is also expecting for the second time — came fifth.

'Sherlock' star Benedict Cumberbatch's fiancee Sophie Hunter received seven per cent of the vote to take the sixth spot.

PTI

Nicolas Cage joins Osama bin Laden satire movie

Los Angeles, 23 Jan — 'Ghost Rider' actor Nicolas Cage is collaborating with 'Borat' director Larry Charles in the movie 'Army of One' which focuses on a regular guy, who tries to find Osama bin Laden. The satire movie is loosely based on a GQ article about a Colorado man named Gary Faulkner who tries to catch Osama bin Laden. Armed with a sword, night-vision goggles and little else, Faulkner sneaks into Pakistan and Afghanistan over a dozen times to carry out his mission, according to *The Hollywood Reporter*.

'Army of One' is set to start production in late March. The movie written by Scott Rothman and Rajiv Joseph ('Draft Day') is targeting a 2016 release date.

Faulkner, a construction worker, made headlines after he was arrested during his eleventh mission in Pakistan carrying a sword, a dagger and a pistol among other things in 2010.—*PTI*

***'Ghost Rider' actor Nicolas Cage is collaborating with 'Borat' director Larry Charles in the movie 'Army of One' which focuses on a regular guy, who tries to find Osama bin Laden.*—PTI**

Pulitzer winner Lahiri scoops $50,000 DSC Prize for South Asian fiction

New Delhi, 23 Jan — Pulitzer Prize winning author Jhumpa Lahiri won the DSC Prize for South Asian fiction on Thursday, the third straight year a writer of Indian origin has carried off the annual $50,000 (33,142 pounds) prize that recognises the region's top literary talent.

Lahiri, who won a Pulitzer Prize in 2000, was the best-known author on a shortlist of five writers with her entry "The Lowland," a tale of Indian brothers bound by tragedy. The novel had been shortlisted for the Man Booker prize in 2013.

***Author Jhumpa Lahiri poses with her novel "The Lowland'', ahead of the 2014 Bailey's Women's Prize for Fiction in London on 4 June, 2014.*—Reuters**

The winner was announced at an evening session of the annual literature festival in the Indian city of Jaipur, with Lahiri the only writer among the shortlisted authors not present.

Keki Daruwalla, the chair of judges, described "The Lowland" as a partly political and partly familial novel about the difficulty of love in complex circumstances, by a writer at the height of her powers.

"(It is) a superb novel written in restrained prose with moments of true lyricism," Daruwalla said in a statement.

This year's shortlist for the DSC Prize, awarded to the best novel about South Asia published or translated into English, included Pakistani writer Kamila Shamsie and London-based Romesh Gunesekara, a finalist for the Booker prize two decades ago.

Rounding out the list were first-time novelist Bilal Tanweer from Pakistan and India's Shamsur Rahman Faruqi, nominated for his novel which he translated from Urdu.

The jury selected the finalists from 75 novels submitted for the award, now in its fifth year. Lahiri's win extended a winning streak for Indian-origin writers at the DSC Prize, won by Jeet Thayil and Cyrus Mistry in preceding years.—*Reuters*

'Mockingjay' becomes 2014's highest-grossing movie

Los Angeles, 23 Jan — 'The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 1' is now 2014's highest-grossing movie in the US. The Jennifer Lawrence-starring film snatched the title from the previous holder 'Guardians of the Galaxy' following a battle at the box office.

Per Wednesday, on 21 January, "Mockingjay" collected USD 333.2 million while "Guardians" garnered USD 333.17 million domestically, reported Ace Showbiz. "Mockingjay" was released on 21 November and so far has collected over USD 700 million worldwide. It opens in China on 8 February.

In 2013, "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" also faced off a Marvel movie in a similar battle. Back then, the Lionsgate project toppled "Iron Man 3' from its top position as the highest-grossing movie. It eventually garnered USD 424.7M, passing Robert Downey Jr-starring superhero film at USD 409M.

"The Hunger Games: Mockingjay, Part 2' is set for release on 20 November. Also featuring Josh Hutcherson and Liam Hemsworth among others, the action adventure movie is directed by Francis Lawrence.—*PTI*

The 63rd Annual Miss Universe Pageant takes place in Doral-Miami, Florida and will air live from Florida International University on Sunday, on 25 Jan, 2015. —Xinhua

Brazil World Cup venue closed for urgent repairs

SAO PAULO, 23 Jan — One of Brazil's sparkling new 2014 World Cup stadiums has been closed for urgent building work less than a year after it opened.

The Arena Pantanal in Cuiaba will be shut for "emergency repairs to resolve diverse construction problems with the aim of offering safety to users," the state government that owns the stadium said in a statement on Thursday.

It added that officials had visited the 600 million reals ($233.07 million) venue and noted that "immediate construction repairs are necessary".

Officials said some elevators and air conditioning broke down and that seasonal wet weather had caused water to leak through the roof.

Although Cuiaba is used to almost daily downpours in the rainy season "the (architectural) project did not take the strong rains into account," state secretary of strategic projects Gustavo de Oliveira told *Reuters*.

Initial repairs are to start this week and the stadium will be reopened for three months between February and May because state championship games will be held there and heavy rain makes building work difficult.

The government said it had contacted builders Construtora Mendes Junior and hoped by mid-February to know how long the repairs would take.

Brazil held the World Cup last year for the first time since 1950 and Cuiaba was one of the most controversial of the 12 host cities, in part because it does not host a top-flight football team.

Local authorities failed to build the tram system they promised for the city and the Arena Pantanal was one of the last of the venues to be handed over.

There was added concern over its readiness following a fire there in October 2012.

***Australia's national soccer team players attend a training session in the Arena Pantanal stadium in Cuiaba on 12 June, 2014. Australia will play its first match of the 2014 World Cup against Chile on 13 June in Cuiaba.—*REUTERS**

Officials said the fire was not serious but *Reuters* saw an unpublished report by local prosecutors that said the blaze caused "structural damage" that "could compromise the overall stability of the construction".

The 41,000-seater arena hosted four matches in the World Cup.

The state government recently announced plans to lease the arena to a private consortium, tacitly acknowledging financial difficulties in administering the ground.

The closure came just days before the Joao Havelange Olympic Stadium in Rio de Janeiro is due to reopen after two years of repair work.

That ground was opened in 2007 before being closed in 2012 after engineers said the roof was in danger of collapse.

Reuters

UN asks countries for climate plans after record warm 2014

A worker of SABESP, a Brazilian enterprise of Sao Paulo state, that provides water and sewage services to residential, commercial and industrial areas looks at the cracked ground of Jaguary dam in Braganca Paulista, 100 km from Sao Paulo on 31 Jan, 2014.
REUTERS

OSLO, 23 Jan — The United Nations asked governments on Thursday to submit plans to cut greenhouse gas emissions as the building blocks of a deal due in Paris in December to limit global warming, after scientists said 2014 was the hottest year on record.

Governments have agreed an informal deadline of 31 March to submit plans as the basis of the UN deal to slow climate change, which nearly all climate scientists say is mainly due to rising emissions of man-made greenhouse gases.

Christiana Figueres, head of the UN Climate Change Secretariat, said the meeting in Paris was a chance to get on track "towards a deep de-carbonisation of the global economy, achieving climate neutrality in the second half of the century".

The secretariat launched a website (here) to collect the national plans.

Climate neutrality means net zero emissions, or that any emissions from burning fossil fuels are offset by measures such as planting trees that soak up carbon dioxide as they grow.

Both NASA and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said last week that 2014 was the warmest year since records began in the late 19th century.

Alden Meyer, of the Union of Concerned Scientists, said record heat was "yet another indication of the severity of the climate problem" and should add urgency to government plans to be submitted to the United Nations.

He said the lower oil price might spur the use of fossil fuels but could also make it "more politically palatable" for some countries to cut fossil fuel subsidies.

Top emitters China, the United States and the European Union have outlined plans for Paris but many details are not yet clear.—*Reuters*

MITV
MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(24-1-15 07:00 am~ 25-1-15 07:00 am) MST

* Local News
* Great Shwedagon
* World News
* A Monk's Robe
* Local News
* Shan Novices To Be..
* World News
* Myanmar Masterclass: 3D
* Local News
* Sizes does Matter (Episode - I)
* World News
* Guiding Star of Song Birds
* News Extra
* Entrepreneur: Dr Thin Nwe Win
* World News
* Moving Meditation: Aikido
* Local News
* A Visit to Kyauk Kyi
* World News
* Swensen's (Ice Cream)
* Local News
* Caves of Myanmar
* World News
* Great Minds of Myanmar
* Local News
* ANANDA GU PHAYA
* World News
* Art Students: Sculpture
* Local News
* Lacquareware Making
* World News
* In The Studio: Hemale

MRTV News Channel

(24-1-2015, Saturday)

6:00 am
- Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

6:20 am
- Physical Exercise

7:00 am
- News/ Weather Report

7:35 am
- Hyper Sport

8:30 am
- Head Line News

9:35 am
- Documentary (ASEAN)

10:35 am
- One Vision (Myanmar)

12:00 noon
News / International News / Weather Report

12:35 pm
- Hluttaw Image

2:00 pm
- Round Up Of The Week's Hluttaw News

3:00 pm
- News

4:35 pm
- Amazing World

5:35 pm
- People's Talks

6:00 pm
- News / Weather Report

6:35 pm
- MRTV's Youth Programme

7:00 pm
- News

7:35 pm
- Business News

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

9:00 pm
- News
- Cultural Show (Part-1)

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(24-1-2015, Saturday)

6:00 am
- Travelogue Programme

6:25 am
- Honour Song of Alinka Kyaw Swar Myoma Nyein

6:50 am
- Myanmar Series

7:00 am
- Fashion Show

7:10 am
- Teleplay

7:45 am
- Teleplay

8:55 am
- Dramatic Arts

10:15 am
- Myanmar Video

12:00 noon
- Close Down

Billards, snooker want spot in Tokyo 2020 Games

BERLIN, 23 Jan — Billiards and snooker on Thursday launched an unexpected bid to win a spot on the Tokyo 2020 Olympics sports programme, saying sharp global rise in popularity helped their case. The programme for the Tokyo Games has already been agreed with organizers and the International Olympic Committee and any late inclusion would have to be preceded by a request from the organizers.

The IOC changed its rules in December to allow new sports to enter the Games more easily to freshen up the programme.

Tokyo is set to benefit from the rule change, with baseball and softball seen as favorites to be named for inclusion due to the sports' popularity in Japan.

"Four years ahead of its original target, the World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association has engaged heavily in working alongside the World Confederation of Billiard Sports on a bid for inclusion in the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo," snooker's world governing body said in a statement.

***China's Ding Junhui plays a shot during his match against Mark Williams of Wales in the final of the 2010 World Snooker China Open in Beijing on 4 April, 2010.—*REUTERS**

"The WPBSA and WCBS have this week submitted a bid outlining their case as to why billiards sports should be part of the programme for 2020 Tokyo," it said. Tokyo Games chief Yoshiro Mori told reporters in December he would not drag the issue out to avoid speculation and would have some indication of which sport or sports to propose for inclusion by the time of an IOC project review in February.— *Reuters*

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Saturday, 24 January, 2015

Holders Japan crash out of Asian Cup after shootout defeat to UAE

Iran's Sardar Azmoun celebrates his goal during their Asian Cup quarter-final soccer match against Iraq at the Canberra stadium in Canberra on 23 Jan, 2015.
REUTERS

SYDNEY, 23 Jan — Keisuke Honda and Shinji Kagawa both missed penalties and Japan's hopes of defending their Asian Cup title were shattered with a sudden-death 5-4 shootout defeat to the United Arab Emirates after a 1-1 extra-time draw in the quarterfinals on Friday.

Japan fell behind to an early strike from Ali Mabkhout but after a spell of intense second-half pressure, substitute Gaku Shibasaki smashed home the equalizer in the 81st minute.

Thirty minutes of extra time failed to decide the match and Honda blazed Japan's first penalty over the bar. Kagawa hit the post and Ismail Ahmed kept his cool to rifle in the decisive kick and set UAE up with a meeting with hosts Australia in the semis.

Japan coach Javier Aguirre kept faith with the same side that started three group-stage wins against Palestine, Iraq and Jordan in the group stage.

"Once it goes to penalties, anything can happen," Aguirre said. "We made two mistakes in the shootout and could only overcome one. We did not play well in the first 10 minutes, but after that we did much better. They played very defensively, but if you can't find a way to score you won't win. That's soccer."

Japan did not concede in the first round, but the alarm bells started ringing at the back after just three minutes, with goalkeeper Eiji Kawashima thwarting Mabkhout at his feet after the striker had found himself clean through.

Kawashima could do little to prevent the opener after seven minutes, however, as Mabkhout controlled a clever pass from Amer Abdulrahman and rifled home his fourth goal of the tournament.

Japan enjoyed plenty of possession after going behind but were left wanting in the final third.

Masato Morishige's header failed to trouble UAE keeper Majed Naser and Yasuhito Endo and Honda both fired off target just before halftime.

Aguirre took off Takashi Inui and replaced him with Yoshinori Muto at the break but Japan got another big scare five minutes into the second period, when Mabkhout took a pass from Omar Abdulrahman and had his shot beaten away by Kawashima.

Muto fired wide and then missed a golden chance to equalize with a header on 54 minutes and with Japan starting to show a real sense of urgency, Kagawa brought a crucial stop out of Naser.

Japan continued to pile on the pressure, and

Japan's Gaku Shibasaki (2nd R) celebrates his goal with team mates during their Asian Cup quarter-final soccer match against UAE at the Stadium Australia in Sydney on 23 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

captain Makoto Hasebe had a header cleared off the line by Abdulaziz Haikal before substitute Yohei Toyoda sent a free header wide. But the Blue Samurai finally made their pressure pay off when Shibasaki, on for Endo in the 54th minute, drilled home a superb strike from the edge of the box after a one-two with Honda.

Honda nearly won it with two minutes left in regulation with a free kick that Naser did well to keep out before two more near misses from Toyoda and Kagawa.

It was the same story in extra time with Japan chipping away and a Shibasaki free kick that was a whisker past the post in the 118th before the shootout ensued.

In the day's first quarterfinal, Salam Shakir scored the winning penalty as Iraq beat 10-man Iran 7-6 in a sudden-death shootout after a 3-3 extra-time draw.

Vahid Amiri saw his effort come back off the post, and Shakir kept his cool to slot home and give the 2007 champions the win and set up a meeting in Sydney on Monday with South Korea, 2-0 winners over Uzbekistan a day earlier.—*Kyodo News*

Espanyol close to King's Cup semis after 3-1 win over Sevilla

MADRID, 23 Jan — Espanyol secured a commanding lead in their King's Cup quarter-final tie against Sevilla when Felipe Caicedo, Sergio Garcia, with a penalty, and Lucas Vazquez scored in a 3-1 first-leg home win on Thursday.

In-form Ecuador forward Caicedo cracked a superb shot into the top corner in the 18th minute to put Espanyol ahead at their Power8 stadium in Barcelona and captain Garcia put away a spot kick in the 74th after an Alejandro Arribas handball.

As Sevilla pressed in an attempt to force their way back into the game, Garcia sped forward and set up Lucas Vazquez to slot in the hosts' third goal nine minutes from time.

Sevilla, the 2010 winners, slightly improved their chances of overturning the deficit in next Thursday's second leg when substitute Carlos Bacca pulled a goal back after a goalmouth scramble in the first minute of added time.

The winners of the tie will play Athletic Bilbao or Malaga, who drew 0-0 in Wednesday's first leg on the south coast, for a place in the final.

On the other side of the draw, Barcelona, the record winners, seized control of their last-eight tie against Atletico Madrid when Lionel Messi's late strike secured a 1-0 first-leg success at the Nou Camp on Wednesday.

Villarreal won by the same scoreline at home to Getafe thanks to a free kick from captain Bruno Soriano.

Reuters

Real Madrid agree to sign Brazil midfielder Lucas Silva

SAO PAULO, 23 Jan — Cruzeiro have agreed to sell defensive midfielder Lucas Silva to Real Madrid, the Brazilian champions said on Thursday.

Spanish media reported the fee would be around 15 million euros ($17.4 million).

Silva, 21, is considered to be one of Brazil's most promising young players and has represented his country at junior level.

"We have been in touch with Real Madrid since last year and we're now discussing a fee," Cruzeiro's director of football Valdir Barbosa told ESPN radio. "I think a deal should be complete by the start of next week."

Silva was released from training on Thursday to have a medical with the European champions, said reports.

His arrival could prompt the departure of Asier Illarramendi who is believed to be a target for Real's struggling La Liga rivals Athletic Bilbao.

Reuters

Federer knocked out by Seppi in Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 23 Jan — Second seed Roger Federer was bundled out of the Australian Open third round by Italian Andreas Seppi on Friday, suffering his first career defeat in 11 meetings between the pair in the 6-4, 7-6(5), 4-6, 7-6(5) loss.

The 17-times grand slam champion has not lost this early in the season-opening grand slam since his second trip to Melbourne Park in 2001, when he also lost in the third round.

"I just tried to enjoy playing on centre court again," Seppi said in a courtside interview after his victory. "It's not often you get the chance to play on centre court. "I just tried to play my best and I did because I was playing Roger.

"You never feel comfortable playing against Roger, but I was focussing on my service game, I didn't have many chances on his serve." The 33-year-old Swiss struggled with his first serve early in the match, while the 30-year-old Seppi took advantage of three of his five break points to take a two sets to love lead.

Roger Federer of Switzerland

Federer broke in the third game of the third set to begin what many on Rod Laver Arena thought would be a successful fight back.

Seppi, however, forced a tiebreak in the fourth and clinched victory with a desperate lunging forehand past the charging Swiss at the net to set up a fourth round clash with either Australian Nick Kyrigos or Tunisia's Malek Jaziri.—*Reuters*

Asian Cup Australia 2015 Result

Iran	3 (6) - 3 (7)	Iraq*
Japan	1 (4) - 1 (5)	UAE*

*Iraq win 7-6 on penalty shootout
*UAE win 5-4 on penalty shootout

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