THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume I, Number 125 | 14th Waxing Day of Tabodwe 1376 ME | Monday, 2 February, 2015

Talks on national education law starts in Yangon, with agreement reached on some points

YANGON, 1 Feb — Talks took place at the Diamond Jubilee Hall of Yangon University here on Sunday to discuss the National Education Law in accord with the new political culture in practice in the time of the democratically elected government, officials said.

Union Minister U Aung Min addressed the meeting, followed by rounds of discussions.

He described discussion and negotiation are the best ways to find solutions to the matter of the law in question, quoting the president's message as calling for close cooperation in the speedy amendment of the law through negotiation of students' demands.

In his radio message broadcast on Sunday morning, President U Thein Sein stressed parents raised concern about the postponement of examinations and the closure of schools. The president also called for bringing protests to an end and a firm resolves to find solutions through negotiation.

Union level officials meet student representatives at talks on National Education Law in accord with the new political culture in practice in the time of the democratically elected government.—MNA

Union Minister for Education Dr Daw Khin San Yi expressed her views during the discussion, pointing out the need to go by policies and laws as education is a long-term process.

"With the examinations drawing near, now is the time to pay priority to peaceful schooling and the rule of law," she said.

U Thein Zaw, Chairman of the Pyithu Hluttaw National Races Affairs, Rural Development and Internal Peace Making, said that no law is flawless by nature and that weaknesses should be amended as and when they arise, but in line with the existing law. He stressed the early implementation of action plans for agreed points and a continuous discussion of differences, pledging an immediate submission of the outcomes of the discussions as a national education bill to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for approval.

A student representative of the Steering Committee for Democratic Education Movement

(See page 3)

INSIDE

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services' Trophy Tatmadaw Golf Tournament kicks off

PAGE-3

MCF President's cup wraps up in Labutta

PAGE-3

Cultural troupes arrive in Nay Pyi Taw

PAGE-3

Convoy of classic cars heading towards ancient Myanmar city

PAGE-3

To be truly patriotic

PAGE-8

Thai based-companies sign to develop Dawei SEZ

By *Aung Khin*

YANGON, 1 Feb— Italian Thai Development Pcl and Rojana Industrial Park will sign a $1.7-billion deal in March to develop the Dawei industrial zone in Myanmar, according to a statement of the Thai government on 30 January.

After a meeting between Thai and Myanmar officials in Bangkok, Deputy Transport Minister Arkhom Termittayapaisit told reporters the initial stage of investment from the two companies will be $1.7 billion for the first stage of the project.

The Dawei project, located in southern Myanmar, has been delayed since ousted Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra dissolved parliament in December 2013. The development is expected to be completed in five years, and it will be, at completion, Southeast Asia's largest industrial complex that includes highway links to Bangkok and the eastern seaboard of Thailand.

A graphical representation of the Dawei Special Economic Zone and deep sea port project.

Dawei SEZ Development Co (DSEZ) invited Japanese investments in the first phase of this project, but only two companies — Italian-Thai Development Plc (ITD) and Rojana Industrial Park Plc (ROJNA) — have bid, proposing to develop the highway linking Thailand with Dawei, plus an industrial estate.

The industrial estate is expected to be 34 sq km, increasing in size from a previous allotment of 27 sq km, with a 75-year concession

(See page 3)

Agreement signed to establish Myanmar Shipyards-Dong A Joint Venture Co Ltd

YANGON, 1 Feb — Myanma Shipyards under the Ministry of Transport and Dong A Shipbuilding Joint Stock Company of Vietnam signed a joint venture agreement for establishment of Myanmar Shipyards-Dong A Joint Venture Company Ltd at Novotel Yangon Max Hotel on Pyay Road, here, on 31 Jnauary.

Managing Director U Kyi Soe of Myanma Shipyards and General Manager Mr Ngo The Cu of Dong A Shipbuilding JSC signed the agreement.

Vice Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung presented a permit to U Kyi Soe and Mr Ngo The Cu.

The joint venture company signed MoU with Uniteam Marine Yangon Ltd on construction of 110 feet clinic boat, Lin Sanda Aung Co Ltd on 90 feet fish trawler and Bravely (Myanmar) Transport & Logistics Co ltd on construction of 30 container vessel, general cargo and tankers.

Myanmar Shipyards-Dong A Joint Venture Company Ltd was established with US$ 89.5 million for 51 percent by Myanma Shipyards and 85.9 million for 49 percent by Song A Shipbuilding Industry JSC, totalling US$ 175.4 million.

The dock of Myanma Shipyards will be upgraded to build vessels of 22,000 dwt and repair vassals of 3,000 dwts in addition to doing other dock related business.—*GNLM*

Outstanding students, teachers win prizes

MANDALAY, 1 Feb— The prize presentation for outstanding students was held at No 17 Basic Education Primary School in Aungmyethazan Township on 31 January.

Assistant Township Education Officer U Kyaw Soe Tun made a speech.

Headmaster U Win Maw and officials presented prizes to outstanding students and teachers.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Dawei BEHS No 1 observes School Family Day

DAWEI, 1 Feb — No 1 Basic Education High School in Dawei, Taninthayi Region held the 2013-14 academic year School Family Day and annual meeting of parent-teacher association at the school on 31 January.

The ceremony was opened with singing songs of students and followed by an address of Taninthayi Region Education Director U Tun Yi.

Secretary of the PTA Daw May May Sein read the financial report. The meeting elected new executives of the PTA.

Director U Tun Yi, the headmistress and officials presented prizes to the teachers. The schoolchildren honoured the School Family Day with a song.

Also present at the meeting were Headmistress Daw Lwin Lwin Oo and teachers, members of PTA and School Board of Trustees and prize winning students.

Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)

Natogyi Township DAC allows shopkeepers to sell goods at Myoma market during pagoda festival

NATOGYI, 1 Feb — The township's Myoma development market committee recently announced that shopkeepers of Natogyi Myoma market of Township Development Affairs Committee will be allowed to sell their goods at the market freely during the 15-day period of township's pagoda Pujaniya festival.

The Myoma market of the Township DAC was closed and shopkeepers ordered to sell goods at the pagoda's festival in the past. The Township DAC this year allows them to sell goods at the Myoma market during the period of 57th Buddha Pujaniya, Chairman of the Township DAC U Than Htaik Aung told media.

Some shopkeepers do not wish to sell their goods in the pagoda festival due to higher cost, and they want to sell at the market as usual.

Local people expressed thanks for the township development affairs committee because they can choose the best from various goods in two markets.

Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)

Tourist number larger in Myingyan, Bagan, Mandalay

MYINGYAN, 1 Feb — This year's number of tourists rises in Myingyan, Bagan and Mandalay larger than last year, according to the locals.

Tourists visit Mandalay-Bagan route by car, train and ship. The globe-trotters prefer to use bicycle and motorcycle on their trips along Mandalay-Bagan route. Five bus lines of the township transport foreigners in groups and individuals daily.

Tourists from China, Japan, US, England, Germany, France, European countries and Thailand visit Bagan and Popa to take photo and video on traditions of local people in central Myanmar.—*Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)*

Zabuthiri Township opens three asphalt streets

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Feb — 1st Padauk street, Myatlay street and 3rd Thitsa street were commissioned into service at the designated places in Thabyegon Ward, Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, on 31 January.

Director (Engineer) of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Aung Moe reported on asphalting of the streets.

Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myo Nyunt, Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Khin Maung Htay and Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee U Kyaw Myint formally opened the repaved streets.

Also present on the occasions were Vice Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee Vice Mayor U Than Kyaw Htoo and members, district deputy commissioner and departmental officials.

The council member U Myo Nyunt, Dekkhina District's deputy commissioner U Zaw Lwin Oo and officials inspected asphalting the road in Aungzabu Ward and visited the market in the ward. They viewed a site for construction of a systematic market for the shopkeepers.

Three asphalted streets are 3,600 feet long in total length and 12 feet wide. Thanks to the asphalt streets, the local people can enjoy smooth transport.

District IPRD

Township officials team collect data on livelihoods of people

MANDALAY, 1 Feb — The poll of livelihoods of local people was conducted in 108 townships in the country as of 26 January.

The poll will be conducted at 34 households each in Tagundaing, Chanmyathaya, Thanpangon wards, Ward B, Ward F and Ward G in Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay.

On 31 January, a team led by the deputy township administrator of Township General Administration Department conducted the poll of livelihoods of the people.

Local authorities and ward supporting groups gave necessary assistance to the officials.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Talks on national education law . . .

(from page 1)
expressed their willingness for continued discussion and negotiation with stakeholders involved in the writing of the national education law and related rules and regulations.

Dr Thein Lwin of the National Network for Education Reform (NNER) said he agreed with the 11-point proposal demanded by the Steering Committee and called for negotiation.

With some points having been agreed, the talks will resume at the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 February for further negotiation and discussion of remaining points.

MNA

MCF President's cup wraps up in Labutta

Yangon, 1 Feb—The Myanmar Chinlone Federation President's Cup U-25 men's Chinlone contest reached the final match at Yedagun Hall in Labutta Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 31 January.

After the final match, Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htaik presented the first prize to Yangon team, the second to Myingyan team and third to Top Star team.

Deputy Commissioner U Tin Oo of Labutta District gave the first prize to Top Star, the second to Magway Region team and the third to Mandalay Region team in the Ooredoo Cup skill demonstration.

The new generation player award went to Shwe Thar Aung of Ayeyawady Region team, the most progressive player award to Ya Wai Aung of Magway Region and the best player award to Aung Moe Kyaw of Myingyan team.—*MNA*

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services' Trophy Tatmadaw Golf Tournament kicks off

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing tees off small ball at opening of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Golf Tournament 2014-15.—Myawady

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 Feb —Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing teed off the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services' Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Golf Tournament 2014-15 at Nay Pyi Taw Golf Course, here, on Sunday morning.

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) and the Commander-in-Chief (Air) teed off the smoke balls at the opening ceremony.

Players of 20 teams are taking part in the tournament at Nay Pyi Taw Golf Course and Yepyar Golf Course as of 31 January.—*Myawady*

Cultural troupes arrive in Nay Pyi Taw

Nay Pyi Taw, 1 Feb — The cultural tropues of Kachin State who will perform entertainment in traditional dances at the 69th Anniversary Union Day ceremony arrived at No 7 Transit Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on Sunday afternoon.

They were welcomed by officials and staff of Ministry of Transport and artistes of Fine Arts Department of Ministry of Culture.

The delegates of Taninthayi Region will arrive on Sunday evening.

Tin Tun Aung (MNA)

Convoy of classic cars heading towards ancient Myanmar city

By *Aung Khin*

Yangon, 1 Feb — A group of 70 classic cars driven by those from Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and the United States are now heading to Myanmar after flagging off from the Raffles Hotel, Singapore, on Sunday morning, according to the report of Channel News Asia.

The Road to Mandalay event, organised by the Endurance Rally Association (ERA), is due to end in Yangon 25 days later on Feb 24.

The website of ERA said with Myanmar is opening up after years of isolation the association feels the time is right to take a classic rally to this remarkable region.

The rally will pass through places such as Desaru, Kuantan, Cameron Highlands and Georgetown in Malaysia and into Thailand for stopovers in areas like Khao Lak, Kanchanaburi and Chiang Mai. The convoy will then cross the border to Myanmar and wend through Mae Sot, Nay Pyi Taw and Bagan.

The convoy includes a 1924 Rolls Royce 40/50 Silver Ghost, a 1929 Bentley Special Speed 8 and a 1938 Jaguar SS 100. The oldest car among them is a 1907 Parigi Italia.

The ERA has organised some 60 major events, in more than 50 different countries around the world, and has been responsible for some widely-acclaimed initiatives in rallying, taken up by others as well as being responsible for kick-starting the entire historic rally movement back in the 1980s.

It is also already making plans to return for the '2nd Road to Mandalay' running from Ho Chi Min City, through Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and into Myanmar, according to its website.—*GNLM*

Classic cars getting ready to leave for Mandalay.
Photo: Raffles Hotel Singapore

Thai based-companies sign to develop . . .

(from page 1)
of 50 years plus a 25-year extension. The construction period is targeted at eight years starting in the second half of the first year after contract signing.

According to the statement of the Thai government, Thailand will provide soft loans to Myanmar, to meet a budget of around 3.9 billion baht ($119.23 million) for the road construction.

"Today, bilateral relations between Thailand and Myanmar are at their best," Thai Deputy Prime Minister Pridiyathorn Devakula said in the statement, saying the first phase aims to complete within five years such infrastructure projects as a telecoms network, a small port and a reservoir.

Japan also agreed on 30 January to take part and possibly offer loans for road construction.

Deputy Prime Minister Pridiyathorn Devakula said Japan had agreed to help develop the Dawei Special Economic Zone with an equal partnership in Dawei SEZ Development Co (DSEZ), a special-purpose vehicle, to run the project.

Thailand and Myanmar in June 2013 agreed to set up DSEZ with an equal shareholding and initial investment of 12 million baht, far below the 100 million proposed earlier. The company is registered in Thailand.

Myanmar Vice President U Nyan Tun said the huge project would see quick progress after Japan's agreement to join the development.

The initial phase, which is expected to see construction work start this year, will include the industrial estate covering 27 sq km, the small port, a small power plant, the telecommunications network, a small reservoir, an LNG terminal, the road network linking the Thai border with the project, and a township for the workers.

GNLM

Myanmar secure 4-1 victory over Ukraine's Shakhtar Donetsk U-21 in 5th tune-up match

YANGON, 1 Feb — Myanmar bagged one more victory with a 4-1 result over Shakhtar Donetsk U-21 of Ukraine in Turkey on 30 January.

Winning goals for Myanmar came from first opening goal scored by Captain Nanda Kyaw through a penalty kick in the 13th minute.

The captain seconded for his team in the 35th minutes with a wonderful long shot. The third one was kicked by striker Than Paing in the 63rd minute. Myanmar youth added one more as fourth by striker Aung Thu in the 86th minute.

Shakhtar Donetsk's single gold was translated by the player in No 9 jersey in the 81st minute.

Myanmar U-20 team scheduled to play four tune-up matches with foreign clubs in Turkey but it set one more tune-up with Ukrainian club.

GNLM

Departmental staff conduct consumer poll for minimum wage

NATOGYI, 1 Feb — Consumer poll is being conducted in three wards and three village-tracts in Natogyi Township, Mandalay Region, within two weeks for designation of minimum wage.

Staff of Township General Administration Department, Labour Department and Planning Department conducted the poll in Wards 1, 4 and 6 of the township. They will continue tasks of poll in Nanwindaungboe, Seekan and Kadaung village-tracts.

After conducting the poll, they will submit a report to authorities for designation of minimum wage.—*Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)*

Rakhine State Hluttaw donates sewing machines, generators to villages

THANDWE, 1 Feb — A ceremony to donate 60 sewing machines to Township Women's Affairs Organization and Maternal and Child Welfare Associations in Thandwe District and generators and dynamos was held at the hall of Thandwe District General Administration Department in Thandwe, Rakhine State, on 31 January.

Speaker U Htein Lin, on behalf of Rakhine State Hluttaw, handed over sewing machines to Chairperson of Thandwe District WAO Daw Zargyi Win Myint and member of Thandwe Township MCWA member Daw Khin Saw Nyunt.

The speaker also presented six sets of generators and dynamos to villages through Rakhine State Hluttaw representative U Aung Naing Oo.

Also present on the occasion were Thandwe District's deputy commissioner U Htin Kyaw, Commander of District Police Force Police Lt-Col Kan Win, Thandwe Township administrator U Than Zaw Han, Ngapali Town Administrator U Tun Tun Oo, Kyeintali Town Administrator U Phyo Wai Lin and departmental officials.

District IPRD

Tourist's caravan arrives in Mandalay

MANDALAY, 1 Feb — A caravan of tourists arrived at Maha Nwesin sports ground at the corner of 35th street and 71st street in Mahaaungmye Township on 30 January.

They came from Bagan-NyaungU and spent a night at the sports ground.

The tourists had meals beside the caravan and took relaxation.

Caravans of tourists arrive in Myanmar severally because they are interested in scenic views of Myanmar and fine tradition of the people.

The Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, local authorities and people need to provide necessary assistance to the globetrotters for their convenience.

Under the arrangement of Journey Advanture Travelling Co Ltd of Myanmar, the tourists' caravan of Germany's Mr Tom Selha and party entered Myanmar through Moreh-Tamu border gate on 24 January. They visited Kalay, Gangaw, Monywa, Pakokku and Bagan by car and proceeded to Mandalay on 30 January.

German citizen Michael said, "Our tourists group comprises 37 members with 17 vehicles. They came from German, France, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Estonia. We have already passed Armenia, Pakistan, Nepal, India and Myanmar on our route. We scheduled to visit Thailand, Vietnam, Singapore and China to reach Jordan. Some sections of roads in India were poor transport but we drove smoothly in Myanmar. Up to now, we have no difficult."

Tour manager U Zin Win Htay said, "Our company has been giving services to the tourists caravan for three years. This caravan will visit ancient cultural areas around Mandalay on 31 January. They will proceed to Kalaw, Nyaungshwe, Inlay, Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Kyaikto, Mawlamyine, Hpa-an and Myawady. On 12 February, they leave Myawady for Mae Sot in Thailand. We thank the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Mandalay Region Government and Mandalay City Development Committee for their efforts to ensure smooth process of tourists' caravan."

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Tourists pose for photos in front of a snow sculpture at the Sun Island International Snow Sculpture Art Expo in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 31 Jan, 2015. More tourists visit the snow and ice amusements in Heilongjiang Province this year.—Xinhua

Journalists invited to cover China's major political meetings

Beijing, 1 Feb — Journalists from China and abroad are being invited to cover two major political meetings in March.

The third annual session of the 12th National People's Congress (NPC), the country's top legislature, will open on 5 March.

The third session of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), the top political advisory body, will open on 3 March.

The general offices of the NPC Standing Committee and the CPPCC National Committee announced on Sunday that a media centre for the two meetings will open from 27 February at the Media Center Hotel.

Chinese mainland and resident foreign journalists should submit applications for reporting passes to the media centre before 2 February, while foreign reporters temporarily in China for the "two sessions" should apply at Chinese embassies or visa organizations authorized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Reporters from Hong Kong and Macao should apply at the central government's liaison offices in the two special administrative regions. Reporters from Taiwan should apply to the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office.

Two websites went live on Sunday to help domestic and overseas journalists cover the sessions.

The websites — www.npc.gov.cn/pc/12_3 for the NPC session and www.cppcc.people.com.cn for the CPPCC session — will post information related to the events, the offices said.

Xinhua

Bangladesh opposition says leader's Internet, electricity cut

Dhaka, 1 Feb — Bangladeshi opposition activists accused the government of cutting the power, Internet and cable connections at their leader's office on Saturday to pressure her into calling off a strike after days of violent anti-government protests.

The disconnections were reported soon after the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), led by Khaleda, called another 72-hour strike from Sunday morning along with its ongoing blockades of roads, railways and water routes.

Senior ruling party member Hassan Mahmood earlier on Saturday warned that communications at Khaleda's office would be cut if she did not call off protests before school exams on Monday. The electricity supply has since been restored.

"We have been asked to fix the line and we have restored the connection," an employee of the Dhaka Electric Supply Company said.

At least two crude bombs exploded on Saturday evening near Khaleda's office in Dhaka's diplomatic zone without causing any injuries, police and witnesses said. An autorickshaw passenger died in the northern district of Sirajganj after opposition activists hurled fire bombs at the vehicle.

At least 41 people have died and hundreds been wounded in protests that surged on 5 January, the first anniversary of national elections that the BNP boycotted, denouncing them as rigged.

Khaleda is at loggerheads with Prime Minster Sheikh Hasina and has called for her government to step down for a new vote under a caretaker administration. Hasina has refused, instead tightening her grip by arresting key opposition leaders and clamping down on critical media.

"There has been no electricity ... they have also cut Internet and cable television services to the office," Khaleda's Press Secretary Maruf Kamal Khan told reporters on Saturday.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia

The BNP has warned the government of dire consequences if it does not withdraw two arson charges against Khaleda and stop what it calls the oppression of its leaders and activists.

Analysts say the renewed political turmoil could threaten the country's $24-billion garment export industry, already under pressure after a string of fatal accidents.

Hasina and Khaleda, both related to former national leaders, have alternated as prime minister for most of the past two decades in a fierce rivalry marked by bouts of political violence.

The United States, the European Union and Britain have voiced concern over the violence and urged all political parties to engage in dialogue to resolve the crisis. —*Reuters*

Nepal starts process to draft constitution on majority basis amid opposition protest

Kathmandu, 1 Feb — A committee formed by Nepal's Constituent Assembly (CA) has formally started the task of writing a new constitution on the basis of majority amid the protest from the opposition parties.

The Questionnaire Committee formed last week has started to prepare questions on contentious issues of the new constitution. The formulated questions will be put in vote in CA to settle them on the basis of numerical strength after the parties failed to settle them.

The two key opposition parties UCPN (Maoist) and Madhes-based parties have boycotted the meeting of the committee, saying that they would not attend any majority process.

The opposition parties are saying that disputed issues should be settled through a consensus among parties. The ruling parties Nepali Congress and CPN-UML command two-third votes required to pass the constitution on the basis of two-third votes.

The first meeting of the Questionnaire Committee on Saturday had formed a sub-committee to prepare terms of Reference and it started the task from Sunday. Ruling party leaders have claimed that the process of the statute drafting will not obstruct the consensus effort. They have also said there would be rooms for the consensus till the eleventh hour of the constitution drafting.

"CA and its committees are appropriate places to forge consensus on contents of the new constitution so the opposition parties should join the meeting," Nepali Congress Joint General Secretary Purna Bahadur Khadka told reporters.

Xinhua

North Korea says US rejects invitation to Pyongyang

Seoul, 1 Feb — North Korea said on Sunday the United States had rejected an invitation to send one of its top diplomats to Pyongyang, accusing Washington of trying to shift the blame for the deadlock in denuclearisation talks on the North.

Sung Kim has been meeting with officials of the countries that had been part of the so-called six-party talks in the past week in Tokyo and Beijing, where he said it was up to the North to show it was serious about ending its nuclear programme.

US Special Representative for North Korea Policy Sung Kim speaks to the media at a news conference in Beijing on 30 Jan, 2015.—Reuters

"(We) invited Kim Sung to visit Pyongyang as he expressed his willingness to meet with his counterpart of the (North) during his visit to Asia this time," the North's *KCNA* news agency quoted an unnamed foreign ministry spokesman as saying.

"However, the US, in disregard of this, is working hard to shift the blame onto the (North), misleading public opinion by creating impression that dialogue and contacts are not realized due to the latter's insincere attitude."

Kim said in Beijing on Friday that Washington was "open to engagement, substantive dialogue with North Korea about the issue of denuclearisation".

He did not mention a possible trip to Pyongyang or an invitation by North Korea to visit for talks. The US embassy in Seoul did not immediately have comment. In Washington, the State Department denied the United States and North Korea had planned for a meeting.

In 2005, North Korea reached an agreement with the United States, South Korea, China, Japan and Russia to suspend its nuclear programme in return for diplomatic rewards and energy assistance.—*Reuters*

Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong (2nd, L) and his wife Ho Ching (2nd, R) attend the light up ceremony in Singapore's Chinatown on 31 Jan, 2015. Singapore's Chinatown held a light up ceremony for the Lunar New Year celebrations on Saturday.—Xinhua

Crucial week for under-fire Australian PM after 'catastrophic' poll

PERTH, 1 Feb — Australia's conservative Prime Minister Tony Abbott came under renewed leadership pressure on Sunday, a little over a year into office following a voter backlash in a state poll and a slump in his personal approval rating.

Abbott said he was determined to stay on as leader, adding government was "not a popularity contest", but conceded Saturday's rout of the Liberal-National party (LNP) in the Queensland election had delivered a jolt.

"The people of Australia elected me as prime minister and they elected my government to get on with the job of governing our country," he told reporters in Sydney.

"I accept that we've had some difficulties," Abbott said. "I accept that we need to learn from the difficulties that we've had, but in the end, government is not a popularity contest, it is a competence contest."

In an embarrassing result for the Queensland LNP, closely aligned to Abbott's Liberal-National coalition, the party surrendered the largest political majority in Australia's history after just one term in office.

Members of the government called the result "catastrophic", sparking speculation of a possible party revolt against Abbott's leadership.

Local media reported that Abbott has called a two-day meeting of his cabinet from Tuesday to thrash out a policy agenda for 2015 and confront the political issues dogging his government.

Australia's conservative Prime Minister Tony Abbott

Fairfax media reported backbenchers and ministers have been expressing growing doubts over Abbott's leadership in recent weeks, however the majority of the dissatisfaction has been kept behind closed doors or through background briefings to the media.

Attorney-General George Brandis told Sky News the cabinet "was determinedly, unitedly and strongly behind the prime minister".

Abbott has been criticized for broken electoral promises and a series of policy backflips.

That pressure intensified last week when even his biggest supporters, including Australian-born media baron Rupert Murdoch, publicly criticized his contentious and unpopular decision to award Britain's Prince Philip a knighthood.

Abbott's surprise reintroduction of knights and dames in the honours system last year drew criticism that he was out of touch with national sentiment.

A voter poll published in News Ltd newspapers on Sunday showed voter approval for Abbott at 27 percent, trailing Labour opposition leader Bill Shorten's approval rating of 44 percent.

Abbott will deliver a key speech to the National Press Club in Canberra on Monday in what is now being seen as the most important of his career.

"Tony has said he has listened and learned," Jane Prentice, a Queensland-based federal Liberal National backbencher, said on ABC television.

"He is making a keynote speech on Monday at the Press Club, but we can't continue as we are," she said. "I think that's the lesson from today."—*Reuters*

FBI says it had no prior knowledge of deadly Philippine raid targeting militants

WASHINGTON, 1 Feb — The FBI had no prior knowledge of a police raid in the Philippines last Sunday to arrest wanted militants that went awry and left 44 police dead, an FBI spokesman told *Reuters* on Saturday.

Philippine media had reported that the FBI helped orchestrate the raid, which targeted Zulkifli bin Hir, an Islamic militant on the US law enforcement agency's list of "most wanted terrorists."

"The FBI was not involved in the planning or execution of the operation. We do express our deepest condolences to the brave officers of the Philippine National Police who lost their lives in the line of duty," FBI spokesman Josh Campbell said.

Campbell said the FBI is analyzing a biological sample provided by the Philippines of an unknown individual killed in the raid to determine if it belongs to bin Hir.

"It is routine for the FBI to process biometric information that may positively identify a subject and his or her whereabouts," Campbell said.

A Malaysian member of the al-Qaeda-linked Jemaah Islamiah militant group behind numerous bombing attacks in the Philippines, the FBI had offered $5 million for the arrest of bin Hir.

The clash, which the Philippine government has described as a "misencounter," shattered a three-year ceasefire between Philippines police and Muslim rebels in the south of the country.

It also dealt a temporary setback to peace talks, Manila's chief peace negotiator said on Saturday, appealing for renewed efforts to keep the process on track.

Reuters

Humanitarian aid delivered to Donbass without a hitch

MOSCOW, 1 Feb — Russia's Emergencies Ministry has assessed as successful another stage of providing humanitarian aid to war-torn Donbass.

"A regular stage of humanitarian aid supplies to the Donetsk and Lugansk regions went on like clockwork as all the cargoes were delivered and the task was accomplished," the ministry's press service told *TASS* on Saturday.

The twelfth convoy of the Russian Emergencies Ministry comprised over 170 trucks that all returned empty to the Russian southern Rostov region.

The trucks were inspected by customs and border officers at the checkpoints of Donetsk (in the Rostov region) and Matveyev Kurgan. Ukraine's customs officers and border guards were overseeing the procedures earlier in the day when the convoy was heading for Donbass, a *TASS* correspondent said in an eyewitness's report adding the reporters who were admitted to the border checkpoints could make sure the trucks had come back empty. Observers of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, who as a rule used to just witness the customs procedures at the border, escorted the humanitarian aid convoy across the Russian border into the Ukrainian territory for the first time.

"The Russian Emergencies Ministry's convoy was escorted by OSCE mission's monitors on two off-road cars," an official at the ministry told *TASS* specifying that the convoy had been escorted to the point of destination.

"The other convoy heading to Lugansk was met at the border crossing by an OSCE observer," he said. The twelfth Russian convoy delivered 1,500 tonnes of humanitarian aid to Lugansk and Donetsk on Saturday, mainly foodstuffs, medicines, building materials and prime necessity items to people remaining in the conflict-stricken region.

In particular, 170 whitish trucks delivered to Donbass canned fish, cereals, flour, pasta and oil along with antibiotics, blood-derived products and insulin for diabetics. "These relief cargoes were raised in several Russian regions, including the Moscow, Voronezh and Rostov regions," the ministry said.

Itar-Tass

Kremlin says Putin, Merkel, Hollande discussed Ukraine by phone

MOSOW, 1 Feb — Russian President Vladimir Putin, German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande discussed increased violence in southeastern Ukraine in a phone call on Saturday, the Kremlin said in a statement.

During the conversation a hope was expressed that the ceasefire would be the central issue in ongoing peace talks in Minsk, the Kremlin said.

Reuters

Abe's statement on hostage case involving Japanese nationals in Syria

***Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks to reporters at the prime minister's office on 1 Feb, 2015, after a new video image purportedly showing the beheaded body of Kenji Goto, a Japanese man taken hostage by a group believed to be Islamic State militants, was posted online.—*KYODO NEWS**

TOKYO, 1 Feb — The following is the full text of a statement issued on Sunday by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe regarding the hostage case involving Japanese nationals in Syria.

1. A video purporting to show that Mr Kenji Goto was murdered was uploaded on line, following Mr Haruna Yukawa.

When I think about the unbearable pain and sorrow that his family must be feeling, I am rendered simply speechless. As a government, we have pursued every possible means to save their lives. We feel the greatest sorrow and profound grief.

2. I am infuriated by these inhumane and despicable acts of terrorism, and resolutely condemn these impermissible and outrageous acts.

I will never forgive these terrorists. I will work with the international community to hold them responsible for their deplorable acts.

3. Japan will never give in to terrorism.

We will further expand our humanitarian assistance in the Middle East in areas such as food and medical care.

Japan will steadfastly fulfill its responsibility in the international community combating terrorism.

4. I wish to express my heart-felt gratitude to the world leaders, our friends, who have kindly extended their strong solidarity against these acts of terrorism and cooperation toward the release of the hostages.

5. We will continue to take all possible measures to ensure the safety of Japanese nationals at home and abroad.

Kyodo News

Greece seeks to reassure Europe as tensions rise

Athens, 1 Feb — New Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, striking a conciliatory note on debt talks after a turbulent start to office, has called the European Central Bank chief to assure him that Athens was seeking an agreement.

The new government in Athens made clear from its first day in power that it would not back down on its election pledges to abandon the austerity policies imposed under the bailout agreement sealed by the last government.

But facing growing disquiet from partners led by Germany, Tsipras rang European Central Bank President Mario Draghi on Friday night to assure him that Athens was seeking an accord, a government official said.

"The discussion was conducted in a good spirit and it was confirmed that there's a willingness to find a mutually beneficial solution for Greece and for Europe," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

He also spoke to Jeroen Disselbloem, head of the euro zone finance ministers' group who ended a visit to Athens on Friday with a thunderous expression after an apparently scratchy exchange with Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis.

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras (R) and European Parliament President Martin Schulz hold a joint statement to media in the Greek Premier's office in Athens on 29 Jan, 2015.—Reuters

The official said Dijsselbloem had called Tsipras to reassure him that despite minor signs of tension, the negotiations would continue. After halting some privatisations and announcing plans to reinstate thousands of public sector workers laid off under the bailout, the government confirmed on Friday it was not interested in renewing the bailout deal when it expires on 28 February.

With German politicians from Chancellor Angela Merkel down repeating daily that Athens must respect the bailout accord with the European Union and International Monetary Fund "troika", Tsipras and his finance minister begin lobbying for support in other European capitals on Sunday.

Varoufakis meets his French counterpart Michel Sapin in Paris before travelling to London the next day. Tsipras, whose first foreign visit will be to Cyprus, will join him on Tuesday in Rome before meeting European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and French President Francois Hollande on Wednesday.

France and Italy, the two governments that have pushed hardest to loosen the strict budget austerity imposed at the start of the euro zone crisis, may offer Varoufakis and Tsipras a sympathetic ear when they visit.

But they have both said they would not accept the new leftwing government's call for a "haircut", writing down part of Greece's 320 billion euro debt and potentially exposing their own Treasuries to billions of euros of losses.

Varoufakis told Dijsselbloem on Friday that Athens did not want an extension to the bailout but a new accord and would not deal with the troika mission overseeing the bailout.

On Saturday, he told the weekly *Agora* newspaper that Greece needs "fiscal breathing space" with a bridging deal of a few weeks while a new agreement with creditors is worked out and economic reforms including a crack down on tax evasion begin.

With both sides keen to prevent tensions during the first few days of the Tsipras government slipping out of control, he warned against "verbal fetishism" and said the differences could be overcome.

While there was resistance in Europe to a straight haircut on the face value of the debt, there was more willingness to explore other options including extending maturities or cutting interest payments that could have the same effect.

In an interview with German weekly magazine *Der Spiegel*, Greek Economy Minister Georgios Stathakis said it would be better to link the country's debt repayments to its economic growth rate as it needs a feasible solution to bring its sovereign debt under control.

Athens faces about 10 billion euros (7.5 billion pounds) in repayments this summer and is shut out of international bond markets while it waits for a final bailout tranche from international lenders of 7.2 billion.

Reuters

Italy elects senior judge Sergio Mattarella as president

Rome, 1 Feb — Italian lawmakers elected Sergio Mattarella, a constitutional court judge and veteran centre-left politician, as president on Saturday, handing a welcome political victory to Prime Minister Matteo Renzi. Mattarella, speaking at his office in the Constitutional Court after the vote, said: "My first thoughts are of the difficulties and hopes of our citizens."

He later visited the site in Rome where German troops killed 335 Italians in World War Two, saying that Europe must unite to battle terrorism the same way allied nations banded together to defeat "Nazi hate, racism, anti-Semitism, and totalitarianism".

The election shows the 40-year-old Renzi in firm control of both his fractious party and his allies in the ruling majority as he seeks to pass reforms aimed at underpinning an economic recovery in Italy, where unemployment is soaring after six years of on-off recession.

After three inconclusive rounds of voting this week in which a two-thirds majority was needed, his candidate Mattarella was elected in the fourth round, when the required quorum fell to a simple majority.

As the ballots were counted out loud in the Chamber of Deputies, the 1,009 parliamentarians and regional officials eligible to vote burst into applause when Mattarella's name surpassed the 505-vote threshold, making him Italy's 12th president since World War Two.

Mattarella, 73, who is little known to most Italians, got 665 votes. He will be sworn in on Tuesday at 10 am (0900 GMT) for a seven-year term, taking over from 89-year-old Giorgio Napolitano, who resigned earlier this month.

"Keep up the good work, President Mattarella. Long live Italy!" Renzi tweeted after the vote, while Pope Francis sent his congratulations by old-fashioned telegram. The Italian president is a largely ceremonial figure, but he wields important powers at times of political instability, a frequent scourge in Italy, when he can dissolve parliament, call elections and pick prime ministers.

Centre-right rival Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia party appeared in disarray after the vote.

Berlusconi ordered his party to cast blank ballots after accusing Renzi of betraying what he said was a promise to give him a role in choosing the candidate. Instead, more than 30 refused, opening a wound in the party.

Renato Brunetta, Forza Italia's chief whip in the lower house, said the pact that Renzi and Berlusconi sealed last year to make institutional reforms was dead, but not all his party colleagues were so resolute and Berlusconi himself has yet to comment.

Italy's new President Sergio Mattarella

"Renzi made a unilateral decision to break the pact," Brunetta said. "Nothing will be the same now." Mattarella is the first native of Sicily to become president. He has a reputation for being a reserved but straight-talking former constitutional law professor, whose career in politics began after his brother, Piersanti, was shot dead by the Sicilian Mafia in 1980.

Mattarella's political roots are in Italy's defunct Christian Democrat party that his father Bernardo, an anti-fascist, helped to found after the war.

Though Mattarella is not seen as having vast international experience, he did serve as defence minister in two different centre-left governments, from 1999 to 2001.

In 1990, Mattarella resigned as education minister to protest a decree that favoured Berlusconi's media empire, and three years later he drafted a voting law, which has since been changed, that was used when Berlusconi won his first of three national elections in 1994.—*Reuters*

France, Morocco resume judicial cooperation

Paris, 1 Feb — France and Morocco have resumed judicial and legal partnership after bilateral relations were set back by allegations of human right abuse and freedom repression, France's Justice Ministry said in statement on its website on Saturday.

While meeting her Moroccan counterpart Mustapha Ramid in Paris on Thursday and Friday, French Justice Minister Christaine Taubira "discussed in depth the difficulties which led to the suspension of judicial cooperation between France and Morocco."

"The heads of state King Mohammed VI and President Francois Hollande wanted to end this situation and preserve the exceptional partnership between the two countries," Taubira said.

The two countries had agreed to amend the Franco-Morrocan judicial cooperation convention to boost the exchange of information between the two countries as a part of Paris plan to improve intelligence services on terrorism suspects after deadly attacks early this month.

They will also bring back liaison magistrates, according to the communique.

In a rare diplomatic row between France and Morocco, Morocco decided in February 2014 to suspend its judicial cooperation with its former colonial ruler to protest over allegations of human rights abuse.

Morocco summoned the French ambassador after French police went to the Moroccan embassy in Paris to question the head of the domestic intelligence over torture allegations, following lawsuits filed against him in France by Moroccan activists.

Xinhua

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 2 February, 2015

To be truly patriotic

By *Myint Win Thein*

It is known to everyone that there are a lot of people who say they love their country and that they are patriotic. They always express or preach patriotism whenever they have an opportunity to do so. However, their actions should be scrutinized to judge whether they are true patriots or not because it is easier said than done.

It is undeniable that one who loves one's country does not want to see it ravaged by poverty, war and social woes. Therefore, those who are genuinely patriotic act responsibly toward getting rid of those evils. To drive them away, it is necessary for everyone who is really patriotic to exert efforts to make one's country peaceful and prosperous, as peace and prosperity give people mental security as well as physical security.

In addition, one does not need to fight with others to show one's patriotism as this will not bring about peace. In contrast, it will create more hatred and put one's country in jeopardy. Peace can only be brought about by mutual recognition and bilateral interests. It is a fact that people who are not able to build peace will never make a country prosperous because peace is one of the prerequisites of prosperity. If one truly loves one's country and is genuinely patriotic, one is also required to appreciate intrinsic peace.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

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

Amarapura, the second last old capital city VIII

(Further urbanization and renovation of Amarapura under King Bagan)

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

On arrival back at his capital city, *Amarapura*, King *Thayawaddy* was too much involved in family affairs and court politics. Although he was quite satisfied with his religious works and defensive measures he took during his long sojourn in Yangon, he was very frustrated for the British could not be prevailed upon for the return of Myanmar territories especially *Rakhine* and *Taninthayee* and also that his military strength was no equal to that of the British in terms of weapons and strategy and tactics of naval warfare. But he was determined to retrieve the lost territories of his kingdom. Taxed by the challenges of the Anglo-Myanmar relations and family affairs and court politics, King *Thayawaddy*, like his elder brother King *Bagyidaw*, fell into moments of mental pain and disorders which contributed to his death in 1846. So, the oldest of his three sons – Prince *Bagan*, *Mindon* and *Kanaung* – Prince *Bagan* succeeded him.

Young, very patriotic and naïve King *Bagan* too was like his father, determined to carry out the unfinished effort of his father to drive out the British aggressors by force. With the help of the French and other Europeans he planned to modernize Myanmar army and to purchase modern arms and ammunitions or manufacture them in his kingdom. He received envoys and missions from the west other than Britain. He extended urbanization of his capital city by building new roads, founding new living quarters for his local and foreign servicemen, and trading and commercial communities, and constructing highways and bridges.

The lake "*Taungthaman*" was almost an inland sea at the peak of monsoon. Daily thoroughfare on its extensive stretch of water surface by water crafts by the public was time-consuming and dangerous when storm arose unexpectedly. As a prince, *Bagan* had two boyhood friends *U Pein* and *U Sak*. *U Pein* was appointed the mayor of *Amarapura* and *U Sak* his clerk when he became king. During their spare time in late evening and night *Bagan*, *Pein* and Sak, three young friends would just cross the lake to visit places of their interests, rabbit hunting shooting games and visiting pretty village damsels on the other side of the lake. There were toddy palm trees which produced fermented intoxicant drinks for joyful Myanmar males, where they also often made their way to.

It was *U Pein*'s idea to build nearly a mile long wooden bridge across the lake by using many discarded teak planks and posts at the sites of old capitals and towns. Today, this *U Pein* Bridge across the lake *Taungthaman* in *Amarapura* is the oldest and longest wooden bride in the world, attracting visitors and tourists at home and abroad to walk leisurely on it and to enjoy beautiful scenario around.

The construction of the Bridge begun in 1849 by Myanmar engineers and carpenters, using Myanmar traditional technology was completed in 1851. The bridge was not aligned on a straight line but a curve in order to withstand the storm, the wind and the waves in high monsoon. So it slants to the south. Very few nails were used for joints were intertwined. The thick teak posts supporting the long bridge were struck down into the lake bed seven feet deep. Two props at the foot of each post were affixed into it to keep it stable and strong. The tops of the posts were carved conical to let rain water stream down easily. Originally, there were 984 teak posts but now some of them were replaced by concrete ones. Two wide verandas, on right and left sides were fenced by teak or bamboo screens of diamond shape designs through which fresh breeze and sun light came in casting fantastic shadows on the bridge users. The floors of the verandas had three layers of broad thick planks. The two approach brick bridges, each on either end of the bridge were later demolished and replaced by wooden approach bridges to match with the wooden bridge. There were four wooden pavilions [rest houses for leisure] on the bridge. If the posts of the four pavilions and those of two wooden approach bridges were added, the total number of wood posts amounts to 1086.

There were nine passage ways in the bridge where the floors could be easily lifted by a Myanmar traditional mechanism to let pass the big boats and barges. War boats and the ceremonial royal barge Pyi Gyi Mon at the annual festival of Royal Regatta in the month of *Tawthalin* [September] nine passage ways were opened by lifting the bridge at these nine passages. For royal and public use there were 482 apartments built on the bridge. Their floors had nine tiers of planks. The exact length of this bridge measures 3967 feet that is three quarter of a mile.

Some foreign visitors including western envoys who eyewitnessed the bridge in its heydays, spoke of its grandeur and glory. The lake *Taungthaman*, an inland sea at the peak of monsoon was used for naval parade and naval exercise of royal flotilla. King *Bagan* was always alert to the possible attack of the British warships coming up from their bases in lower Myanmar.

Besides, this wooden bride is historic and romantic. The longest, the largest and the oldest wooden bridge in the country or probably in the world it is 164 years old today 2015. It is an object of historic antiquity deserving its rightful place in the UNESCO's world Cultural Heritage List.

The beauty of the bridge changes in harmony with the three seasons of Myanmar – *Geinman* (summer), *Wathan* (monsoon or rain) and *Heyman* (cold or winter). The whirlwind brings down withering leaves turning the environment dry and dusty. But in no time scarlet blooms of *Letpan* (cotton trees) around the bridge peep out, majestic against the azure blue sky. Cuckoos harbinger the approach of summer while doves sing indolent songs making the bridge romantic. When monsoon arrives, green, yellow and white vegetations and rain water caress each other under the overcast inky sky. In mid monsoon, July and August, billows of water in the over-brimful lake *Taungtha-man* roll and roar almost engulfing the wooden structure thus creating an exciting romance. When cold season brings in winter, fragrance of wild flowers of different hues is being wafted in the soft breeze. Dew-laden green foliage and morning mist veil the bridge, while smokes from the nearly farms snake up heavenward. Faint crows of a far distant rooster and monastic gongs alternate breaking the monotony of buzzing cicadas. A forlorn romance indeed.

The next outstanding work of King *Bagan* in the renovation of his capital city *Amarapura* was the sumptuous temple he built on the bank of *Taungthaman* lake. When he became king he moved the great *Sagyin* stone Buddha image [which was made by his senior uncle King *Bagyidaw*] from *Inwa* to *Amarapura*, and housed it in a very grand temple designed on *Ananda* Temple of old *Bagan*. It was not only an act of religious merit but also a work of architectural and artistic wonders. Because of the new location of this *Sagyin* stone Buddha image on the bank of *Taungthaman* lake, the image acquired a new common name *Taungtha-man Kyauk Taw Gyi Phaya* [The great stone Buddha image on the bank of *Taungtha-man* lake.]

Designed on the model of graceful *Ananda* Temple at old *Bagan*, Taungtha-man Kyauk Taw Gyi Temple is a showcase of Myanmar visual arts, because its interiors were adorned with frescoes depicting major monuments of his capital city *Amarapura* as well as scenes of religious, social and cultural festivals of his people. These frescoes, executed by Myanmar traditional artists of that time tell the contemporary life style of Myanmar people. Due to lack of fund and maintenance technology they show signs of decay after years of old age. Perhaps, one day, the UNESCO world cultural heritage committee would turn its attention to them.

Among Buddhist monasteries which King *Bagan* renovated or built at and around his capital city *Amarapura*, was the *Bakaya* monastery of *Amarapura* which stands out prominent. It was King *Bodawpaya* [1782-1819 A.D.] who moved his capital city from *Inwa* to *Amarapura* in 1782 A.D. and founded a new, a large teak and gold gilt monastery named *Maha Way Yan Bontha* where his raja guru head monk was invited to reside. He was the first *Ba Mei Sayadaw* of *Konbaung* dynasty, and *Maha Way Yan Bontha* came to be commonly called the first *Bakaya* monastery of *Amarapura*. In 1821 A.D. in the reign of his grandson and successor King *Bagyidaw*, it was destroyed by fire. When King *Bagan* ascended the throne he rebuilt *Maha Way Yan Bontha* in 1847 A.D. It was commonly known as the second *Bakaya* monastery of *Amarapura*.

(See page 9)

Carving of General Aung San monument finishes

MANDALAY, 1 Feb— The centennial monument of General Aung San was carved from December 2014 to 31 January 2015.

Arrangements are being made to transport it from Mandalay to Natmauk to keep the stone monument at the Bogyoke museum at his residence in Natmauk.

The stone monument, six feet and four feet wide was carved by sculptor U Tin Tun Aung, bronze smith U Hla Myint and stone sculptor U Aung Min in line with the design of Tampawady U Win Maung. The stone inscription was written in English and Myanmar by Sitagu Sayadaw who sponsored the cost of a marble stone and transport.

"We created the stone monument for enabling the people to know activities of General Aung San in his centennial anniversary," Tampawady U Win Maung said.

The stone inscription says that General Aung San is a Myanmar's hero not only in military affairs but in political field during independence struggles.

Min Htet Aung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)

Meteorological radar station in Rakhine State expected to be completed by March

***Union Minister U Nyan Tun Aung inspects construction of a weather-radar station in Kyaukpyu Township.*—MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT**

By *Khaing Thanda Lwin*

YANGON, 1 Feb — With the assistance of the Japanese government, the establishment of a weather-radar station in Minbyin Village in Kyaukpyu in Rakhine State is expected to be finished by March, according to the Ministry of Transport.

The $12 million project was implemented in 2014. The organizing body has scheduled to install the weather equipment and instruments in August.

The station will help release updated storm and weather forecast news over the Bay of Bengal after connecting with the Multi-hazard Early Warning Center in Nay Pyi Taw, an official said.

To upgrade Myanmar's weather forecast network, Japan also provided more than $20 million in assistance to establish two radar stations in Mayangon Township in Yangon and Chanmyathazi Township in the Mandalay region.

The Yangon weather station is expected to be completed by March 2016 and the Mandalay station by January 2017.

GNLM

Htamane season begins

YANGON, 1 Feb — Volunteers make Htamane, a glutinous rice-based savory snack, and a seasonal festive delicacy at Leikpyarkan Monastery in the precinct of Nandar Aung Myay monastery on Shwedagon Road in Bahan Township, here, on 1 February, 2015.

Sayadaw U Nimala of the monastery and his laypersons has conducted the 17th ceremony to make the traditional delicacy from 31 January to 1 February, 2015.

The traditional delicacy is ceremonially prepared around and on the full moon day of Tabodwe, the 11th lunar month on the traditional Myanmar calendar (roughly in February) just as the cool season ends.

Htamane is usually made at monasteries and specialized shops to accommodate the quantity and space requirements.

A small portion is taken first as an offering to the Buddha as per custom and then it is usually sent around in the neighbourhood, to family and friends as a festival gift.

Maung Maung Thant (The Mirror)

Amarapura, the second last old capital . . .

(from page 8)

The second *Bakaya* monastery of *Amarapura* was one of the architectural wonders of that time. Except the staircases, the entire edifice was built of teak posts and planks of superb size and quality true to the typical design of the royal monastery. It had a magnificent gilt spire of 7 tiers sheltering a big Buddha image house, and a four tiered-roofed main hall and residence and a three tiered roofed meal room and stores. The enclosure wall of spacious monastic precinct had four entrance gates facing four cardinal quarters, and twelve spires of brick and plaster, three on each side.

The big monastery was surrounded by chief queen's monastery "*Beikman Yadana*" and 48 lesser monasteries built by ministers.

In the reign of King *Mindon* [1853-1878 A.D.] a great fire destroyed it in 1866 A.D. In 1951, *Mya Thein Dan Sayadaw* Monk *Ashin Nyanutara* built a two storey building on the site in which he deposited over 500 Buddha images and 5000 sets of old palm leaf manuscripts collected around Mandalay and around the country.

In 1993, the government reconstructed the second *Bakaya* monastery on its original model, the picture the ground plan and all detail were found in the frescoes of *Maha Thet Kya Yan Thi* Temple [*Taung Tha-man Kyauk Taw Gyi* Temple].

Today, this reconstructed *Bakaya* monastery, of *Amarapura* is not only an architectural and artistic marvel, but also a museum and library of antiquities and manuscripts of Myanmar religious and secular subjects – ranging from Vedas, alchemy, astrology, occult sciences to technology gold, silver, bronze, black smithy to all visual and performing arts.

In spite of political turmoil and economic downturn that King *Bagan's* short reign of 7 years [1846-1853 A.D] encountered, Buddha *Sasana* [Theravada Buddhism] continued to flourish, as the king provided his lavish patronage and his people constantly gave their supports. Because of the successful achievements of his predecessor kings in the reforms of Buddhism especially in *Vinaya*, the disciplinary rules of the *Sangha*, Buddhist Holy Order was re-strengthened, unified and stabilized. Happy results of *Sangha* unity were the emergence of highly learned *Sayadaw* monks and their scholarship of high erudition. A young monk of exceptional learnedness and high moral character named *Pannajotabhidhaja* was appointed by King *Bagan Sangha-rajah* [*Sasanabaing Sayadaw*]. This young monk wrote a commentary and sub-commentary in Myanmar language on the *Anguttara Nikaya*. This monk also translated into Myanmar "*Saddhamavitasini*." His other works were commentaries on *Samyutta Nikaya* and *Digha Nikaya* in Myanmar. Despite wars and political turmoil, Theravada Buddhism continued to flourish. There was progress in Buddhist scholarship. *Pali* texts were translated into vernacular, thus making them available and accessible to Myanmar literati. The entire *Suttanta* appeared in Myanmar language. Commentaries sub-commentaries and *vinaya* were authored by learned *bhikkus* thanks to the royal patronage of King *Bagan* and support of his subjects.

Islamic State says it has beheaded second Japanese hostage Goto

TOKYO, 1 Feb — Islamic State militants said they had beheaded a second Japanese hostage, journalist Kenji Goto, prompting Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to vow to step up humanitarian aid to the group's opponents in the Middle East and help bring his killers to justice.

"I feel intense indignation at this utterly cruel and despicable act of terrorism," a grim-faced Abe told an emergency Cabinet meeting early on Sunday, shortly after a video surfaced purporting to show the beheading of Goto, after the failure of international efforts to secure his release through a prisoner swap.

Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (C) speaks to the media at his official residence in Tokyo on 1 Feb, 2015. —KYODO NEWS

The hardline Islamist group, which controls large parts of Syria and Iraq, released the video showing a hooded man standing over Goto with a knife to his throat, followed by footage of a head put on the back of a human body. Japanese Defence Minister Gen Nakatani said the video appeared to be genuine.

The video was released exactly a week after footage appearing to show the beheaded body of another Japanese hostage, Haruna Yukawa.

"I will never forgive these terrorists," Abe said. "Japan will work with the international community to bring those responsible for this crime to justice. Japan will never give in to terrorism." When Islamic State first threatened Goto, 47, and Yukawa, 42, two weeks ago, it justified its move by citing Abe's pledge of $200 million in aid to countries battling the militant group.

But in a show of defiance, Abe on Sunday vowed to increase Japan's food, medicine and other humanitarian aid for the Middle East.

Islamic State had said Goto was held along with a Jordanian pilot. Efforts to win their release had focused on the possible release in exchange of an Iraqi would-be suicide bomber jailed in Jordan 10 years ago. The video did not mention the pilot.

President Barack Obama said the United States condemned the "heinous murder" and would continue to work with allies to destroy the hardline Islamist group.

Britain and France also condemned the killing.

Addressing Abe, the militant in the video said: "Because of your reckless decision to take part in an unwinnable war, this knife will not only slaughter Kenji, but will also carry on and cause carnage wherever your people are found. So let the nightmare for Japan begin."—*Reuters*

Sudan rebels free Bulgarian aid workers

SOFIA, 1 Feb — Six Bulgarian UN aid workers who were detained by rebels in Sudan's strife-torn South Kordofan region have been released, the Bulgarian foreign ministry said on Sunday.

"They are in good health and are in a safe place with a team of the United Nations (World) Food Programme," foreign ministry spokeswoman Betina Zhoteva said.

The WFP six workers were taken into custody by Sudan People's Liberation Movement-North (SPLM-N) on 26 January, when their helicopter made an emergency landing in South Kordofan.

SPLM-N spokesman Mubarak Ardol confirmed to *Reuters* that the six Bulgarians' transfer to the United Nations was complete, after they were moved from rebel-held territories in Sudan to the Yida refugee camp in South Sudan, where they were handed over to the United Nations.

On Friday, the chairman of Bulgarian Heli Air, the helicopter's operator, told Reuters the aid workers would be released on the day or on Saturday after talking with the detainees over the phone.

The SPML-N rebels said the aid workers had been free to leave but accused the Khartoum government of blocking access to United Nations helicopters. A Sudanese government source has denied this.

The Bulgarian foreign ministry thanked the office of the WFP for the rescue, as well for the constructive role of the Sudanese government.

Fighting between the Khartoum government and SPLM-N rebels has increased in the states of Blue Nile and South Kordofan, where the helicopter had to land, since peace talks collapsed in December.

Reuters

Syria aims to 'flush out all terrorists' in 2015

BEIRUT, 1 Feb — Syria's prime minister said on Sunday the country wanted to drive all insurgents out of its territory in 2015 and was prepared to back any attempts to fight global militancy. Speaking in parliament, Wael al-Halqi said Syria's main aim was to "flush out all terrorists from its land" this year and it would "back any initiatives to fight global terrorism," a broadcast on state television showed.

He said Syria would not allow its enemies "to destroy the land of religions and cradle of civilizations" and praised the army for its efforts.

Syria has repeatedly said it wants to coordinate with other countries to fight armed groups in its country. It describes all anti-government forces in Syria as terrorists, unlike Western countries and their Arab allies who distinguish between the hardline jihadists and more mainstream rebel fighters.

Syria's uprising started in 2011 with anti-government protests and has descended into a civil war pitting a range of armed groups against the military. Hardline groups such as Islamic State and al-Qaeda's Nusra Front have gained ground.

US-led forces started an airstrike campaign against Islamic State in Syria and Iraq last year when the militant group captured tracts of land in both countries. President Bashar al-Assad said in a magazine interview published last week that US-led air strikes should be subject to an agreement with Damascus and Syrian troops should be involved on the ground.

Reuters

US general says Syrian town of Kobani taken from Islamic State

WASHINGTON, 1 Feb — Kurdish ground forces, helped by US and allied air support, have retaken the Syrian town of Kobani from Islamic State militants, US Lieutenant-General James Terry said on Saturday.

Supporting what Kurdish forces said earlier this week, Terry, commander of the Combined Joint Task Force that has been leading air strikes against Islamic State, said in a statement issued by the US military: "Kurdish ground forces, supported by our air component, were successful in retaking the town of Kobani." A monitoring group and Syrian state media reported Kurdish fighters took full control of Kobani on Monday, but on Tuesday a US official said the town on the Turkish border had not been fully retaken. Saturday's statement said Kurdish forces had pushed Islamic State out of Kobani on Tuesday.

"Kurdish forces continue to expand their positions to surrounding areas outside of Kobani by seizing key terrain and access routes," it said. The United States and allies have launched more than 700 air strikes against Islamic State in and around Kobani since 8 August, destroying more than 280 fighting positions, nearly 100 buildings, more than 60 technical vehicles and other equipment, it said.—*Reuters*

A fighter of the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) flashes a V-sign as he patrols in the streets in the northern Syrian town of Kobani on 28 Jan, 2015.— REUTERS

Iraqi old man kills seven IS militants in revenge for slain son

TIKRIT, IRAQ, 1 Feb — An Iraqi old man on Sunday shot dead seven Islamic State (IS) militants in revenge for the killing of his son by the extremists in Iraq's northern central province of Salahudin, a provincial security source said.

The incident took place in the morning when Basil Ramadan, in his 60s, opened fire from his AK-47 assault rifle on a group of IS militants at a checkpoint in the provincial capital city of Tikrit, and killed seven of them before they shot him dead, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

Over a month ago, the IS militants executed his son Ahmed, who was a college student, with seven other young men who were accused of collaborating with the Iraqi security forces, the source said. In early 2007, another son of Ramadan was killed by the al-Qaeda terrorist group in Tikrit, some 170 km north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, the source added.—*Xinhua*

Uber will improve privacy, data security following report

San Francisco, 1 Feb — Ride service Uber, which is trying to enhance its image after several controversies, on Friday released the findings of a report on its handling of passenger data and said it would act on all the report's recommendations for improvements.

Lawyers at Hogan Lovells, who wrote the report commissioned and paid for by Uber, found that the smartphone app-enabled service had appropriate guidelines and procedures in place for internal access control, data security and data retention.

The report said Uber could improve privacy and data security by taking steps such as providing training for employees, making policies easier for customers to understand, and tightening access controls.

Management at the San Francisco-based company, which announced the report's findings in a blog post, said on Friday it had already begun putting the recommendations into effect.

The logo of car-sharing service app Uber on a smartphone over a reserved lane for taxis in a street is seen in this photo illustration taken in Madrid on 10 Dec, 2014. —Reuters

Uber commissioned the report in November, shortly after a dinner where a company executive raised the idea of hiring researchers to examine and disclose activities of media critics. It also emerged that Uber executives sometimes used an internal tool called "God View" to track specific customer rides, including the ride of a reporter for the news outlet Buzzfeed.

The incidents provoked strong public criticism, including from Senator Al Franken of Minnesota, who sent letters to Uber and rival service Lyft asking about the companies' privacy procedures. Each company responded, but Franken has asked Uber for further details.

In a conference call with reporters on Friday, Hogan Lovells lawyer Harriet Pearson said Uber had "dedicated significantly more resources to its privacy programme than other companies we've observed of similar age, sector and size." —*Reuters*

China Mobile eyes 5G technology

Beijing, 1 Feb — China Mobile, the country's largest 4G mobile network operator, has began development on the next generation of mobile internet following the success of 4G, a senior executive of the company said on Saturday.

Xi Guohua, chairman of the board for the telecom giant, made the announcement during the 13th China Enterprise Development Forum held by the Development Research Centre of the State Council.

The move suggested the company is trying to maintain its leading position in an increasingly heated competition among the country's three and only telecom service providers. However, Xi did not unveil more details on the ambitious strategy.

China Mobile outperformed its two rivals, China Unicom and China Telecom, in the 4G race after getting official approval to launch services based on TD-LTE standard by the end of 2013, nearly half a year ahead of the latter two.

China Mobile had 90 million 4G subscribers last year with 240 million cell phones sold and 700,000 base stations built, data from the company showed.

The other two operators did not release relevant data but media reports said even their combined figure cannot compete with China Mobile.

In addition, Xi said the successful development of TD-LTE improves China's research capability and equipment manufacturing. China co-launched Global TD-LTE Initiative (GTI) in 2011 with telecom operators from other countries to promote the 4G technology in the world.—*Xinhua*

China sets up first high security bio lab

Researchers take part in a drill at the newly-completed lab in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province on 30 Jan, 2015. China completed its first high level biosafety laboratory based in Wuhan on Saturday in Wuhan after more than a decade of construction. The lab will be used to study class four pathogens (P4), which refers to the most virulent viruses that pose a high risk of aerosol-transmitted person-to-person infections. —Xinhua

Japan launches backup intelligence satellite

Tokyo, 1 Feb — Japan on Sunday launched a backup information gathering satellite with a radar reconnaissance payload for the Japanese government.

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, Ltd — Japan's space agency and the commercial operator of the H-2A rocket — launched the spy satellite aboard a H-2A rocket at 10:21 am (0121 GMT) on Sunday from Tanegashima Space Centre in Japan's southwestern Kagoshima prefecture.

The launch was supposed to take off on 29 January, but was delayed due to adverse weather conditions. The information gathering satellite is equipped with a radar spy instrument capable of peering through clouds, darkness and camouflage to obtain high-resolution imagery of the Earth's surface. The exact capabilities of the satellite are kept secret by the Japanese government.—*Xinhua*

NASA satellite to measure water in Earth's soil sent into orbit

Cape Canaveral, 1 Feb —An unmanned Delta 2 rocket lifted off from California on Saturday carrying a NASA satellite to measure moisture in the top layer of the Earth's soil, data to be used in weather-forecasting and tracking of global climate change.

Soil moisture is a variable that binds together all of the planet's environmental systems, scientists say.

More precise data will enable forecasters and policy-makers to deal more effectively with drought or flooding in specific regions. "It's the metabolism of the system," said Dara Entekhabi, lead scientist of NASA's Soil Moisture Active Passive (SMAP) observatory.

The 127-foot (39 metre) rocket, built and flown by United Launch Alliance (ULA), blasted off at 6:22 am PST (9 am ET) from Vandenberg Air Force Base, located on California's central coast, a live NASA Television broadcast showed.

ULA is a partnership of Lockheed Martin Corp and Boeing Co.

The launch had been delayed for two days by high winds and the need to make minor repairs to the rocket's insulation.

Perched on top on the rocket was NASA's 2,100-pound (950 kg) SMAP, which will spend at least three years measuring the amount of water in the top 2 inches of Earth's soil.

A 127-foot (39 metre) rocket built and flown by United Launch Alliance blasts off at 6:22 am PST (14:22 GMT) from Vandenberg *Air Force Base, California on 31 Jan, 2015. —* Reuters

Overall, soil moisture accounts for less than 1 percent of the planet's total water reservoir, with 97 percent in the planet's oceans and nearly all of the rest locked in ice, Entekhabi, a professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, said at a prelaunch news conference.

Currently, scientists rely largely on computer models to estimate soil moisture.

But from an orbit 426 miles (685 km) above Earth, SMAP has two microwave instruments to collect exact soil moisture measurements everywhere on Earth and update the measurements every two or three days.

"This data will benefit not only scientists seeking better understanding our planet's climate environment, but it's also a boon for weather forecasters, agriculture and water resource managers, emergency planners and policy makers," NASA deputy associate administrator Geoffery Yoder, said after the launch.

SMAP joins 19 other NASA satellites keeping tabs on Earth's land, seas and atmosphere.

"We strive to give the world a consistently expanding view and understanding of our planet from space," Yoder said.

Including the rocket launch and three years of operations, the SMAP mission will cost NASA $916 million.—*Reuters*

Gas-filled balloon completes record-breaking Pacific flight

Balloon pilot Leonid Tiukhtyaev of Russia is seen after he landed near La Poza Grande in the Mexican State of Baja California on 31 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

LA POZA GRANDE, 1 Feb—A gas-filled balloon co-piloted by an American and a Russian touched down safely in the waters off Mexico on Saturday, completing a week-long trans-Pacific flight that unofficially broke two world records, a spokeswoman said. The balloon carrying Troy Bradley of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and his Russian co-pilot Leonid Tiukhtyaev, landed near La Poza Grande in the Mexican State of Baja California Sur after a flight that lasted six days, 16 hours and 38 minutes and covered 6,646 miles (10,696 km), organizers of the mission said in a statement.

Bradley and Tiukhtyaev, known as the Two Eagles, left Saga in southern Japan on 25 January in their attempt to surpass the world distance record for flying a gas-filled balloon, as well as the record for time in flight for that type of aircraft. Both records need to be certified before becoming official.

"The pilots made a controlled descent to a gentle water landing about four miles off the Baja coast," said Kim Vesely, a spokeswoman for the ballooning mission.

During the balloon's descent, winds turned parallel to the coast, making it more prudent for the pilots to execute a landing in the water, she said.

The Albuquerque, New Mexico-based team that oversaw the flight later said in a statement the two pilots were picked up by a fishing boat and taken to shore.

"We would note that a water landing is acceptable under the international rules governing the establishment of world records," Vesely said.

The flight surpassed the distance record of nearly 5,209 miles (8,383 km) for gas balloons set on the only previous manned trans-Pacific flight, in 1981. It also topped the flight duration record of about 137 hours aloft in a gas balloon set in 1978 by a team crossing the Atlantic.

The mission team earlier on Saturday gave a time for the duration of the Two Eagles flight as one minute less than a figure they provided later.

The Two Eagles balloon, which relied solely on an enclosed chamber of helium gas for lift, is different from hot air balloons and so-called Roziere balloons, which rely on both hot air and lighter-than-air gas. Roziere balloons have by far the greatest range of the three types. The National Aeronautic Association and the Federation Aeronautique Internationale, need to certify the records, a process that can take months, officials with the mission said.—*Reuters*

Carl Djerassi, the man who helped develop "the pill", dies at 91

SAN FRANCISCO, 1 Feb — Carl Djerassi, an Austrian-born chemist who helped to develop the birth control pill before becoming a playwright and novelist, died in San Francisco on Friday at the age of 91, his family said. Djerassi, professor emeritus at Stanford University, was the leader of a team of researchers in Mexico City who synthesized a derivative of the hormone progesterone in a form that women could take orally. The breakthrough in 1951 became the basis of some of the first pills to prevent pregnancy.

"The pill" as it became known in popular culture has been credited with fueling a radical shift in sexual mores and changing the role of women in Western society. Djerassi was awarded the National Medal of Science in 1973 for his contribution to the new form of contraceptive. But by the time of his death Djerassi had left science behind and was well into his second career as a novelist and playwright. Beginning in the 1980s, he wrote about 20 books including "This Man's Pill", a memoir, and novels such as "Cantor's Dilemma".

"I'm sick and tired of talking about the pill," Djerassi told the San Francisco Chronicle in an interview four months ago at his flat in the Russian Hill neighbourhood. Instead, he

Vienna born US chemist, novelist and playwright Carl Djerassi, known for the development of the first oral contraceptive pill, talks during a news conference in Vienna on 11 Nov, 2008.
REUTERS

wanted to talk about his passion for writing plays with scientific content — a genre he dubbed science-in-the-atre. Djerassi divided his time among San Francisco, Vienna and London. Born in Austria, his family fled the country when the Nazis came to power, moving first to Bulgaria then to the United States. His image is on an Austrian postage stamp.

After becoming a wealthy man thanks to his shares in Syntex, a company which marketed early birth control pills, Djerassi became an art collector.

But he later sold the bulk of his collection of works of Paul Klee and turned to supporting creative artists, setting up a colony near Woodside, California, where more than 2,000 choreographers, writers, visual artists and musicians have had residencies.

Reuters

Winter storm threatens heavy snow, sleet from US Midwest to East Coast

NEW YORK, 1 Feb — A winter snowstorm was expected to blanket a wide swath of the US Midwest on Saturday before heading to the East Coast, bringing up to a foot (30 cm) of fresh accumulation to parts of New England, days after a blizzard slammed the region, forecasters said.

Six to 12 inches of snow were predicted from Iowa to Massachusetts, with New York and New Jersey expected to bear the brunt of the storm when it blows in to the region on Monday, the National Weather Service said.

"Close to 100 million people live within the swath forecast to be hit with accumulating snow or enough wintry mix to make for slippery roads from Saturday evening into Monday," said AccuWeather forecaster Alex Sosnowski.

The winter weather was also threatening a new round of travel delays after thousands of flights were canceled earlier this week when a blizzard pummeled parts of the East Coast but failed to deliver the record-setting wallop predicted in some areas.

The powerful storm dumped up to 3 feet (0.9 m) of snow and led to coastal flooding around parts of New England, while largely bypassing New Jersey and New York City, where forecasters had predicted one of the biggest storms on record.

"From near New York City to southern New England, there are still huge piles of snow left," Sosnowski said in his forecast. "Crews may want to make room for the new snowfall coming."

Saturday's storm will begin as rain and sleet around Kansas and Missouri, while states to the north and east can expect moderate to heavy snowfall through Sunday, the National Weather Service said.

Midwest residents said they were ready for the new band of winter weather.

"I'm not concerned, I can't control the weather," said Andy Schmitz, a managing partner with a Buffalo Wild Wings restaurant in Sioux City, Iowa. "We'll just be prepared for a busy day."

The new storm will hit the Northeast on 2 February, Groundhog Day. That is when, according to tradition, a rodent named Punxsutawney Phil emerges from his burrow in Pennsylvania to predict the imminent end of winter or six more weeks of cold and snow.

After the storm blows out, frigid weather in the single digits Fahrenheit was expected from Philadelphia to Boston early next week, the National Weather Service said.

Reuters

Mason Gloudeman, 26, uses a snowboard to jump from a pile of snow in Fort Greene Park in Brooklyn after a snow storm in New York on 27 Jan, 2015.
REUTERS

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER
(TENDER NO. 1(T)MPE/ LBO(1)/2015-2016)

1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the supply of Lube Base Oils & Additives (403.73 Metric Tons).
2. Tender Closing Date : **6 .3 . 2015** at (12:00) noon.
3. Tender Opening Date : **6 .3 . 2015** at (13:00) hrs.
4. Delivery Time : **Within July 2015**
5. Tender Documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during office hours commencing **2 .2 . 2015** on payment of the Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyat 100,000) per set.
6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise
Contact Phone no. 067-411108/411193

*Demonstrators take part in a protest against corruption and demand the impeachment of Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff, in Sao Paulo, Brazil on 31 Jan, 2015.—*XINHUA

13 die in Bangladesh plastics factory blaze

DHAKA, 1 Feb — At least 13 people were burned to death in a fire in a plastic factory in Dhaka's Mirpur area on Saturday afternoon, police Sub-Inspector Abu Bakar confirmed on Sunday.

The bodies were taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, he said.

The fire broke out at Bangladesh Epco Ltd at about 5:35 pm on Saturday, a security guard said.

The fire originated from an exploding transformer at the factory, which produces single-use plastic items, he added.

There were about 50 people in the factory when the fire began.

Most of the workers escaped and fire fighters units brought blaze under control shortly before 8 pm.—*Kyodo News*

Three climbers rescued after fall on Oregon's Mt Hood

PORTLAND, 1 Feb — Two mountain climbers were rescued by helicopter on Saturday after they fell on Oregon's Mount Hood at an altitude of more than 10,000 feet (3,048 metres), and a third climber was helped down the mountain on foot, authorities said.

The climbers, two men and one woman, were injured on the renowned peak when they fell in the Hog's Back region, the Clackamas County Sheriff's Office said in a statement.

Authorities did not provide details on how far the climbers had fallen. Their identities were not released.

Sheriff's deputies worked to reach the injured climbers in conjunction with Portland Mountain Rescue, who were in the area training at the time, and a team from the ambulance and helicopter rescue company AMR touched down to come to the climbers assistance within hours of their fall, officials said.

The woman climber suffered two fractured ankles, while one of the men sustained a fractured leg, the Sheriff's Office statement said, citing initial reports. The third climber was assisted down the mountain under his own strength.

The Oregon National Guard said the two injured climbers were later transferred to its helicopter and airlifted to a hospital.

Mount Hood, about 60 miles (97 km) east of Portland, is a popular climbing spot, with 8,000 to 10,000 climbs per year.—*Reuters*

Beijing department store fire put out after 71 hours

BEIJING, 1 Feb — The fire at a department store in downtown Beijing was extinguished on Sunday morning, 71 hours after it started.

A total of 850 fire fighters and 165 fire trucks were dispatched to quell the flames, which began raging around 9 am on Thursday at the Bairong Shimao Department Store in Beijing's Dongcheng District.

There were no casualties and the fire died down at 8:30 am on Sunday.

A 16-year-old boy who allegedly caused the fire by igniting a carton in the warehouse of the store was arrested on Thursday, according to the Beijing Public Security Bureau.

The suspect, an employee of the store, was "looking for something fun to do" when he set the fire, police said. An initial estimate shows that the burned area reaches 2,800 square metres. A construction expert who was involved in the fire fight said the building's major structure remains intact.—*Xinhua*

Cambodian court convicts three Frenchmen for taking nude photos

PHNOM PENH, 1 Feb — A Cambodian court sentenced three Frenchmen on Saturday to six-month suspended jail terms and expelled them from the country for taking nude photos, a court official said.

Keut Sovanareth, chief prosecutor, told *Kyodo News* the court convicted the trio for taking nude photos at an ancient temple, Banteay Kdey, in Cambodia's northern province Siem Reap.

"All the three were convicted to six months in jail but suspended and are expelled from the country and are banned from returning to Cambodia for four years," he said.

The men, aged between 20 and 22, were arrested on Thursday and confessed to taking the photos, he said.

A report by the Apsara Authority, which oversees all temples in Siem Reap, the home of the Angkor Wat temple complex, said that in cooperation with police the men were questioned and detained soon after they took the photos at 11:10 am on Thursday.

They arrived in Cambodia on 23 January as tourists.

Chau Sun Kerya, spokesperson for the Apsara Authority, said the men's behaviour at the ancient temple was "inappropriate" because it is a site of worship for Cambodians.

Kyodo News

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 2nd February, 2015: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Kachin, (Northern and Eastern) Shan States, weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon and Taninthayi Regions, Mon State 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 increase of night temperatures in the Southern Myanmar areas.

*Image provided by Colombia's Presidency shows Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos (R) greeting children during his visit to Guapi, Cauca department, Colombia, on 31 Jan, 2015. According to local press, Santos visited the streets of Guapi after participating in the Regional Ministers Council. —*XINHUA

11 killed in road accident in W India

NEW DELHI, 1 Feb — At least 11 persons were killed and 14 others injured on Sunday when a bus slammed into a truck on a highway in the western Indian state of Rajasthan, said police.

The accident took place in Jodhpur district of the state when some villagers were returning home after participating in a local election polling for villager chiefs.

Police said the death toll could rise as several of the injured were fighting for their life in hospital.

Traffic accidents are common in India. Reckless driving, bad road conditions and lack of security surveillance are among the reasons for deadly accidents in the country, which kill at least 100,000 each year.

Last December, dozens of people were killed when a truck rammed into a gas tank near the state capital city of Jaipur in Rajasthan.—*Xinhua*

Advertise with us!
For inquries to place an advertisement in the GNLM,
Please email
wallace.tun@gmail.com
(+95) (01) 8604532

'American Idol' made me what I am today: Kelly Clarkson

Los Angeles, 1 Feb — 'American Idol' alum Kelly Clarkson has credited the singing reality show for making what she is today. Clarkson, 32, said her life could not have been any better if she had not participated on the show, reported *People* magazine.

"I'm considerably blessed in my life. I came from nothing, and my life took a whirlwind change overnight. My life couldn't be any better. But you just pause and go, 'Why wouldn't you want to give back? Why wouldn't you want to help out when you have so much spotlight to share?,'" she said. Clarkson said music has a healing power.

"Music has such an influence on our emotions, and it aids in recovery. It's kind of a healthy little elixir for everyone. And I can relate to it: I was very much an outsider as a kid, and music kind of saved me."

PTI

Actor Val Kilmer hospitalized in Los Angeles after 'complication'

Actor Val Kilmer

Los Angeles, 1 Feb — Actor Val Kilmer, best-known for his roles in "Batman Forever" and "The Doors," said on Saturday he was at a Los Angeles hospital for observation following what he called a "complication."

The 55-year-old film and stage star posted to his Facebook page after media reports that he had been rushed to the hospital with a suspected tumour.

"Thank you for all your sweet support," Kilmer said in the Facebook post. "But I have not had a tumour, or a tumour operation, or any operation. I had a complication where the best way to receive care was to stay under the watchful eye of the UCLA ICU," Kilmer wrote, referring to the intensive care unit of the University of California, Los Angeles, Medical Centre.

Kilmer is undergoing tests, family spokeswoman Liz Rosenberg said in an email. Rosenberg had earlier said in a statement that Kilmer was tested for a "possible tumour."

The actor, who has disclosed in previous interviews that he is a Christian Scientist, also said in the message he was assisted by friends who know his "spiritual convictions" and have helped in minimizing what he called "gossip and silly talk."

Some Christian Scientists, based on the precepts of their faith, have been known to advocate prayer before or instead of medical treatments when a person is ill.

Kilmer did not disclose any further details about his ailment in the post, but said that he hoped for a speedy recovery. "God bless you all and please don't worry," he wrote. "I do not have an official diagnosis at this time," Rosenberg said.

"He is with his two children Mercedes and Jack," she said. Kilmer played Doors singer Jim Morrison in a 1991 film about the band and Batman in the 1995 superhero film "Batman Forever." In 2013, the actor reunited with Anthony Edwards, his co-star in the 1986 film "Top Gun," to give voice to characters in the animated comedy "Planes."—*Reuters*

China's first all-Tibetan language film released

Lhasa, 1 Feb — China's first film with dialogue purely in Tibetan opened in cinemas across Tibet on Saturday. The two-hour "Tibet Sky" (or "Phurbu & Tenzin"), was filmed on the Tibetan plateau with an all-Tibetan cast. It narrates the life of Tenzin, child of a serf-owner, and Phurbu, serf of Tenzin, from the liberation of Tibet in the 1950s until the 1980s. Screenwriter Alai, a Chinese novelist of Tibetan descent, said the script was modified 17 times in order to more authentically reflect Tibetan culture.

Tibetan actor Lawang Norbu said the film respects the history and reality of Tibet, which will help the audience understand a real Tibet. He said he hoped that the film will be introduced to audiences around the world.

Earlier in 2014 the film was released with Chinese subtitles in places such as Shanghai, Sichuan and Guangdong.

Ren Zhonglun, producer of the film, said, "We will further improve the content of the film based on the feedback of the Tibetan audience in order to better present the history of Tibet."

"We plan to translate the film into different languages such as German, French, Italian and Japanese and have it released around the world," Ren said.

Xinhua

I'm tempted to get a tattoo: Judi Dench

Veteran actress Judi Dench

London, 1 Feb — Veteran actress Judi Dench says she is tempted to get a tattoo to mark her 80th birthday. The actress's daughter, Finty Williams, is all for the idea, reported *Daily Telegraph*.

"Finty's very keen on me having one. There's an Indian symbol that I like which supposedly represents life and love and everything. One of the cameramen who worked on The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel told me what it meant, but I'm a bit nervous in case I'm being set up. It might be unbelievably rude," Dench said.

Dench turned 80 in December but said the words 'old', and 'retire' are banned in her house.

"The thought of putting my feet up doesn't appeal at all — no, no, no. I've got plenty of time for that at weekends or on odd days off. The prospect of no work on the horizon makes me a bit edgy. I have no particular ambitions — I just want to be employed."

PTI

Whitney Houston's daughter revived after found unresponsive in tub

Bobbi Kristina Brown, daughter of the late singer Whitney Houston, poses at the premiere of "Sparkle'' in Hollywood, California in this file photo taken on 16 Aug, 2012.—Reuters

Los Angeles, 1 Feb — Bobbi Kristina Brown, the only daughter of the late pop star Whitney Houston and singer Bobby Brown, was found unresponsive in a bathtub at her Georgia home on Saturday, but she was revived and rushed to a hospital, police said.

The incident comes nearly three years after Houston, a superstar who battled substance abuse, drowned in a bathtub in Beverly Hills, California, in February 2012. Authorities determined cocaine use and heart disease contributed to her death.

Brown, 21, was found in the bathtub at her suburban Atlanta home by her husband and a friend, said Lisa Holland, public information officer for the Roswell Police Department.

Brown's husband, Nick Gordon, started CPR and police continued life-saving measures until an ambulance arrived and took her to the hospital.

Brown was taken to North Fulton Hospital in Roswell, a suburb north of Atlanta, Holland told reporters. "She's alive at the hospital," Holland said.

She gave no other details and a hospital spokeswoman declined to comment. Brown married Gordon in January 2014. Gordon was also raised for a time by Houston, one of the best-selling recording artists of all time, but she never formally adopted him. On Houston's birthday last year, Gordon had his arm tattooed with a portrait of the late singer.

Houston, a multiple Grammy Award winner who was known for her vocal power, clarity and mezzo-soprano range and whose dozens of hit songs include "How Will I Know" and "I Will Always Love You," was the daughter of gospel singer Cissy Houston and a cousin of pop singer Dionne Warwick.

Bobbi Kristina Brown's father, Bobby Brown, is a Grammy Award winner who started his career as frontman for the R&B group New Edition.

Both of Bobbi Kristina's parents struggled with substance abuse, and Houston described their 15-year marriage, which ended in 2007, as drug- and alcohol-fuelled. Bobby Brown was sentenced to 55 days in jail in 2013 after admitting to driving drunk in 2012.

She and her grandmother, Cissy Houston, and other relatives starred in a 14-episode reality show for cable channel Lifetime, "The Houstons: On Our Own," about their struggle to cope after Houston's death.

Brown's Twitter feed over the past year included motivations to work out, quotes from celebrities on being true to oneself, loving messages for her husband and remembrances of her mother.—*Reuters*

Djokovic grinds Murray down to win Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 1 Feb — Novak Djokovic reasserted his rule over the hard-courts of Melbourne Park on Sunday, grinding down Andy Murray 7-6(5), 6-7(4), 6-3, 6-0 to win his fifth Australian Open title.

The pair waged a fierce baseline duel for the opening two sets, but Djokovic won 12 of the last 13 games to close out an emphatic win and become the first man in the professional era to secure five titles at Melbourne Park.

Top seed Djokovic sealed the victory on the second match-point, rushing to the net with a searing approach shot that Murray could only dump into the net.

The steely-eyed Serb roared in triumph and approached his player's box to share the win with his team before tearing off his shirt and throwing it into the crowd.

The loss was Murray's fourth in a final at Melbourne Park and third to Djokovic after the 2011 and 2013 finals.

In a slow-burning contest, the pair set the tone from the first point with a fierce rally featuring scrambling, net-rushes and a Murray lob before the Scot forced an error from the Serb.

Murray failed to capitalize on three early break points and Djokovic made him pay, leaping to a 4-1 lead.

But in the first of many momentum shifts, the Scot clawed back to 4-3 when Djokovic netted an ambitious backhand down the line.

The Serb broke Murray again to 5-3, but at a cost, injuring his thumb when he slipped on the hard court and calling for the doctors to get some treatment at the change of ends at 5-4 when handing serve back.

The Serb fumed at chair umpire Jake Garner over fans yelling out during points and grew more agitated as Murray held on to take the set into a tiebreak and compile a 4-2 lead after a string of attritional rallies.

With the set begging to be put away, Murray flinched, however, serving a double-fault and then rushing to the net, sending a volley an inch past the baseline to give Djokovic a set point.

Novak Djokovic of Serbia returns the ball during his men's singles final match against Andy Murray of Great Britain at 2015 Australian Open tennis tournament at Melbourne Park in Melbourne, Australia on 1 Feb, 2015.—XINHUA

Hammering a second serve return into the net, the Scot conceded it and a pumped-up Djokovic threw a steely-eyed glance at his player's box.

Frustrated, Murray channeled his anger into his tennis, jumping out to a 2-0 lead but soon after was chastising himself again.

He conceded 12 straight points to be broken again and fell back to 4-2.

The match was interrupted a game later when two people jumped on the court in an embarrassing security lapse to protest against the Australian government's off-shore detention of asylum seekers.

The players were forced to wait a few minutes as security restored order and the break gave Murray time to settle.

Reuters

Real and Atletico Madrid both win on Saturday in Spain

MADRID, 1 Feb — Real Madrid remain top of the BBVA Primera Liga after coming back from conceding a first minute goal to defeat Real Sociedad 4-1 on Saturday.

Aritz Elustondo opened the scoring in the first minute with a powerful header following a corner, but James Rodriguez leveled just 90 seconds afterwards and Sergio Ramos put Madrid ahead seven minutes before halftime.

Real Madrid were without the suspended Cristiano Ronaldo, who was watching from a VIP box, but Karim Benzema produced a fine display which he capped with two excellent second half goals to ensure he wasn't missed.

Benzema's first goal came following a pass from the otherwise disappointing Gareth Bale, while his second of the day was an excellent curling finish from the edge of the visitors' penalty area.

Atletico Madrid overcame the dreadful conditions and an in-form rival to defeat Eibar 3-1 in a rain soaked Ipurua Stadium.

The game was over as a contest by the 25th minute after a goal from Antoine Griezmann and two from Mario Mandzukic saw Atletico overcome their midweek Kings Cup exit to FC Barcelona and set them up for next weekend's home clash against Real Madrid.

Granada also enjoyed a good day with a a 1-0 win at home to Elche thanks to a Jhon Cordoba strike.

Friday saw Deportivo la Coruna win 2-1 away to Rayo Vallecano, while the majority of the weekend's matches, including FC Barcelona's home game to Villarreal are played on Sunday. —*Xinhua*

Italy's Fognini, Bolelli claim Australian Open title

Fabio Fognini (2nd R) and Simone Bolelli (R) of Italy and Pierre-Hugues Herbert (2nd L) and Nicolas Mahut (L) of France pose with their trophies after the men's doubles final at the 2015 Australian Open tennis tournament at Melbourne Park in Melbourne, Australia on 31 Jan, 2015. Fognini and Bolelli won 2-0 to claim the titles. — XINHUA

mitv Myanmar International

(2-2-2015 07:00 am~ 3-2-2015 07:00 am)

* Local News
* Tapestry-A Unique Combination of Painting and Craftsmanship
* World News
* Ngapali, Unique Spot To Relax
* Local News
* Culture Shows: Composer Ma Mya Lay
* World News
* Myanmar Puppet
* Local News
* Taste of Myanmar "Kho Taung Noodle Soup"
* World News
* Singapore Myanmar Bilateral Ties
* Local News
* Youth Filmmaker: Lwin Ko Ko Oo
* World News
* Shin Ma Taung Thanakhar
* Local News
* Today Myanmar "Online Shopping"
* World News
* Making of Nawarat Rings
* Local News
* Shwe Maw Daw: The Glory of Bago City
* World News
* Tea
* Local News
* Sagaing: Youth Leader
* World News
* Image of the Monks
* Local News
* Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Mingalar Byuha)
* World News
* A Girl Guide

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(2-2-2015, Monday)

6:00 am
- Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

7:00 am
- News/ Weather Report

7:35 am
- Weekly Entertainment

8:30 am
- Head Line News

9:35 am
- (100) Birthday Anniversary Bogyoke Aung San

10:00 am
- News / International News

11:35 am
- MRTV's Youth Programme

12:00 noon
News / International News / Weather Report

12:35 pm
Tasty Trip

1:05 pm
- Gitadagale Phwinbarohn

2:30 pm
- Head Line News

4:00 pm
- News

4:35 pm
- University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Second Year (Myanmar)

4:50 pm
- 68th Anniversary Union Day Programme

5:35 pm
- Head Line News

6:35 pm
- Socio Economic Scenes

7:00 pm
- News

7:35 pm
- People Talks

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

9:00 pm
- News / International News / Weather Report
- Hluttaw Image
- TV Drama Series

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(2-2-2015, Monday)

6:00 am
- Travelogue Programme

6:20 am
- Wut Hmone Music Troupe

6:45 am
- TV Drama Series

7:10 am
- Fashion Show

7:30 am
- TV Drama Series

8:50 am
- Musical Programme

9:05 am
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

9:25 noon
- Colours of ASEAN (Indonesia)

9:30 am
- ASEAN Cultural Fair 2014 (Indonesia Music Show)

9:45 am
- Musical Programme

10:00 am
- Myanmar Video

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

14th Waxing Day of Tabodwe 1376 ME

Monday, 2 February, 2015

Chelsea stay five clear after 1-1 draw with Man City

London, 1 Feb — Chelsea and Manchester City drew 1-1 in their top-of-the-table Premier League clash at Stamford Bridge on Saturday, leaving Jose Mourinho's team five points clear of City but with the champions still believing they can retain their title.

Chelsea's run of 10 straight home league wins came to an end when David Silva cancelled out Loic Remy's opener just before half-time. There were no further goals, and very few on-target attempts in the second half which City edged in terms of possession.

Chelsea had lost 4-2 at home in the FA Cup last Saturday to third tier Bradford City but bounced back with a 1-0 win over Liverpool in the League Cup semi-final on Tuesday.

City, also beaten at home last week in the FA Cup by lower league opponents Middlesbrough, were still too tough an obstacle and Chelsea only managed three shots, their lowest total in a game since 2003-04.

The result left Chelsea top on 53 points, five ahead of City on 48 with Manchester United, 3-1 winners over Leicester City at Old Trafford, third on 43.

Tottenham Hotspur and Liverpool maintained their challenges for a top four finish with Spurs winning 3-0 at West Bromwich Albion to move up to fifth on 40.

Liverpool are seventh on 38 after beating West Ham United 2-0 at Anfield where Daniel Sturridge scored on his return after five months out with various injuries.

If Chelsea had beaten City they would have opened up an eight point gap with 15 matches to play but midfielder Nemanja Matic told Sky Sports they were not too disappointed.

"We expected three points from today but a draw is a good result for both teams. We both had some chances but we are still five points ahead and we are happy with that."

City boss Manuel Pellegrini thought his men should have won.

"We played a very good game. One team wanted to play from the beginning. The only chance Chelsea got they scored a beautiful goal. In the second half Chelsea defended very well, but I am very proud about our team - to have the personality to come here and try to win from first minute to end."

There was a memorable moment 14 minutes from time when Frank Lampard, who played nearly 650 times for Chelsea over 13 years and is their all-time leading scorer, came on for City to a mainly warm reception from his former fans.

In September at the Etihad he came on and scored City's late equaliser in a 1-1 draw, but that didn't happen again as the game petered out.

"It was a bit of a strange day to be honest," Lampard told Sky Sports. "But I enjoyed it. The result changes nothing but I was pleased to have an ovation at the end and share that with the Chelsea fans because I didn't get that at the back end of last year."

Sturride scores

Earlier, England striker Sturridge celebrated his return after his long lay-off when he came off the bench to score Liverpool's second goal.

Sturridge, who last played on 31 August, came on in the 68th minute and found the net 12 minutes later to seal the points for Liverpool who went ahead through Raheem Sterling six minutes into the second half.

Manchester United avenged their shock 5-3 defeat at Leicester City in September when they crushed Nigel Pearson's bottom-of-the-table side to maintain their challenge for a Champions League place.

Robin van Persie, Radamel Falcao and an own goal by Wes Morgan before halftime put United in command against Leicester who replied with a consolation from Marcin Wasilewski 10 minutes from the end.

Spurs also maintained their push for a Champions League spot, racing into a 2-0 lead in 15 minutes at The Hawthorns thanks to goals from Christian Eriksen and Harry Kane.

Kane then added the third with a second-half penalty, his 20th goal of the season.

The only winners among the bottom eight clubs were Sunderland, who beat Burnley 2-0 thanks to goals from Connor Wickham and Jermain Defoe, who scored his first goal for his new club after 34 minutes.

Reuters

Fernando (R) of Manchester City vies with Ramires of Chelsea during the Barclays Premier League match between Chelsea and Manchester City at Stamford Bridge in London, England on 31 Jan, 2015. The match ended in 1-1 draw.—Xinhua

Okazaki angling Premiership move as transfer deadline looms

Mainz, (Germany), 1 Feb — Mainz forward Shinji Okazaki is still holding on to his hope of a switch to the Premier League with the winter transfer window set to close on Monday.

Okazaki has been linked with a move out of the Bundesliga to last-place Leicester City, who reportedly have upped their offer to as much as 15 million euros (2 billion yen) for the Japanese international.

Okazaki did not score in Mainz's 5-0 victory over Paderborn on Saturday and was substituted for the first time this season. He leads 11th-place Mainz with eight goals in 17 league games.

"I've always wanted to play in the Premiership ever since I came to Europe and was hoping to get a chance — and I had an offer over the summer," Okazaki said, revealing that Leicester came knocking before the season had started.

"I know the situation Mainz are in at the moment, so I haven't pushed them too hard on it. I don't rate myself that highly as a player, so I think the team will be fine with just the other forwards."

"But it's nice that the club think I'm important to them. If I stay, I'll just work hard to keep Mainz up. I am at a crossroad in my career," he said.

Kyodo News

Hingis wins Australian Open mixed doubles title with Paes

Martina Hingis (L) of Switzerland and Leander Paes of India kiss their trophy after defeating Kristina Mladenovic of France and Daniel Nestor of Canada to win their mixed doubles final match at the Australian Open 2015 tennis tournament in Melbourne on 1 Feb, 2015.—Reuters

Melbourne, 1 Feb — Five times grand slam singles winner Martina Hingis won her second Australian Open mixed doubles title on Sunday as she teamed with India's Leander Paes to beat last year's winners France's Kristina Mladenovic and Canada's Daniel Nestor 6-4, 6-3.

Hingis, a three-time winner of the women's singles at Melbourne Park, also won four women's doubles titles and the mixed doubles title with Mahesh Bhupathi in 2006.

The 34-year-old Swiss returned to top class tennis as a doubles specialist two years ago in her second comeback after injury and then a ban for a positive test for cocaine, which she denied taking, forced her into retirement.

Hingis, who made the US Open final last year with Flavia Pennetta but lost to Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina, first played at Melbourne Park 20 years ago.

The 41-year-old Paes won the mixed double titles with Martina Navratilova, who watched the final on Rod Laver Arena and was thanked by Hingis afterwards, at Melbourne Park in 2003.

It was the first time the pair, who were seeded seventh, had played together at a grand slam.

Reuters

Editorial Section — (+95) (01)8604529
Advertisement & Circulation — (+95) (01) 8604532
gnlmdaily@gmail.com
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
www.facebook.com/globalnewlightofmyanmar
THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
"R/489 Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily."