

4th GEGG Forum focus on expanding cooperation and deepening integration for sustainable development

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb—President U Thein Sein delivered address at the 4th Green Economy, Green Growth Forum, which focuses on ‘expanding cooperation and deepening integration for sustainable resources and social and economic development’.

Coexistence with cooperative and collaborative minds has power for development, with the president citing that a strong and healthy forest is home to diverse species of flora and fauna, whose coexistence can stave off natural disasters, tree diseases and insects.

“Similarly, a stronger society has diverse technocrats with integrated minds and they can overcome different social, economic and environmental challenges of today,” he said, pointing out the ‘higher than ever’ frequency of environmen-

tal challenges and man-made disasters in recent years in today’s world.

A society contains a diversity of ethnic groups with different beliefs, customs and backgrounds as well as with varying degrees of knowledge and expertise, he said, adding that their joint cooperation and deeper integration can meet challenges of now and then.

He described broad-mindedness and closer cooperation as essential to the sustainability of natural resources and the enhancement of socio-economic growth.

Myanmar has formed a non-profit organization, Green Economy and Green Growth (Myanmar), to undertake green projects in partnership with civil society organizations and international organizations.

GEGG (Myanmar), at

the 25th ASEAN Summit held in Nay Pyi Taw in November 2014, established ASEAN Institute for Green Economy (AIGE), with a view to spurring collaboration in sustainable development and greening the regional economy in line with the ASEAN’s theme “Moving Forward in Unity to a Peaceful and Prosperous Community”.

AIGE is reported to serve as a centre of excellence on green economy and green growth by dealing with environmental, climatic and economic issues in the region while providing technical assistance for capacity building and research projects.

President U Thein Sein pledged new levels of cooperation in making policies and strategies on sustainable development and human resources in the arenas of science, technol-

ogy and management.

He called sustainable development the ‘common goal of our world’, warning that excessive harvest would terminate natural resources, which he said are vital to ‘our survival’.

He also spoke of two Earth Summits held in Brazil in 1992 and 2012 as well as Rio+20, which put in sharp focus ‘the green economy and green growth in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication’.

In line with the guidelines adopted at Rio+20, Myanmar is making efforts to ensure that industries are

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President U Thein Sein delivers speech at 4th Green Economy, Green Growth Forum at MICC-II in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA



Japan eyes Myanmar for agricultural machinery sales



Participants in an agriculture business-matching seminar are in deep conversation for better understanding of the Myanmar agricultural machinery market, at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon.—PHOTO: YE MYINT

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 3 Feb—Nineteen Japanese farm equipment makers are exploring the possibility of networking business partners to sell their farm equipment in Myanmar through an agriculture business seminar.

The seminar held in Yangon on Tuesday focused on agriculture machinery presentations of Japanese firms which are seeking business ties with potential candidates for sales of their prod-

ucts in Myanmar, an agriculture-rich country in Southeast Asia. It also featured a business matching, bringing together around 40 local farm equipment distributors to match with Japanese suppliers.

It was organized by the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO) in cooperation with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) to build a foundation for market opportunities for man-

ufacturers and distributors from agricultural machinery and materials sector.

“I got into conversation with a Japanese counterpart on a matter to import used tractors from Japan, sharing information with each other on which horsepower of tractors can work well for mechanization of the fields here”, said Nay Myo Lwin of Smart Mission International Co., Ltd that specializes in tractors, spare parts and agricultural equipment.

Despite higher pric-

es that make less affordable Japanese farm equipment to be purchased by Myanmar farmers, product quality may boost sales, he said as the market potential for Japanese tractors in the country. But, it is essential to have easy access to spare parts for users to maintain the used tractors they bought, he added.

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Bean prices up due to lower local stock and increasing demand from India

By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 3 Feb — The year 2015 is looking

rosy for Myanmar’s the start of the year pea and bean growers when harvesting gets underway. as the price of beans has increased since

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A farmer sprays tonic on bean plants in Kawa.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Press release on meeting on amendment of national education law

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb—The government has issued a statement on the deferral of the four-way talks as follows:-

1. The Government, the Parliament, the Leading Committee for Democratic Education Movement and the National Network for Education Reform made joint efforts to hold four-party talks in relation to the amendment of the National Education Law as students demanded.

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MPs debate on drafting tax reform bill

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw debated tax reform plan proposed by MP Daw Tin Nwe Oo of Dagon Myothit (North) constituency, before discussion of parliamentarians about national referendum bill on the amendment of 2008 State Constitution.

Daw Tin Nwe Oo said taxation of Internal Revenue

Department should meet the practices of Income Tax Law, urging to draft a bill on taxation which needs to be discussed at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw after writing rules and regulations by the Union government.

Union Minister for Finance U Win Shein said the ministry is trying to levy taxes in accordance

with international norms, and is drawing rules and regulations to cover all the processes of the ministry.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw took records on the discussions of income tax law.

Five members of parliament also discussed report of Public Accounts Joint Committee that revealed the findings of budgets in the second-six

months of 2013-2014 fiscal year, rejections and actions.

U Tin Maung Oo, an MP of Shwe Pyi Thar Township constituency, said tender invitation processes by union government and state/region government are taking too long, while the allocated funds are kept at the banks before taking out money

for misuse, adding that the money is drawn out beyond a certain budget.

U Thein Swe, an MP of Ayeyawady region constituency, urged to prevent misuse of public funds, quoting the report of Public Accounts Joint Committee.

Union Minister U Win Shein and U Myo Myint, deputy Auditor-General at the Office of Auditor-General of the Union explained

the working processes.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw also accepted the report presented by U Maung Tow, Secretary of Public Accounts Joint Committee.

The second report of the committee about the findings on development funds of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for 2013-2014 fiscal year was also presented to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw

National transport master plan comprising 142 projects to seek approval of Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb—At 11th day session of Pyithu Hluttaw on Tuesday, U Zaw Tun of Labutta Constituency asked whether there is a plan to cancel or amend the fine for overdue repayment date of agricultural loans of farmers.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than replied that Myanma Agricultural Development Bank collected 5 per cent interest from the loans and 12 percent fine for overdue loans. According to the existing laws and rules, there is no plan to cancel or amend the fine for overdue loans. At present, coordination is being made with the office of the Attorney-General of the Union for amendment of the law.

U Than Myint of Wundwin Constituency raised a question on plans of the government how to draw and implement national transport master plan. Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein replied that the master plan consists of 32 aviation projects, 15 waterway transport projects, 33 inland water transport projects, 14 rail transportation projects, 48 road transport projects, totalling 142. Arrangements are being made to seek approval for the master plan. Projects of the plan will be implemented at prioritized level. A national level central committee will be formed with officials of Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Rail Transportation, Ministry of Construction

and other ministries concerned.

U Thang Lein of Mindat Constituency submitted a proposal calling for drawing land management policies based on ecosystem and geographical conditions so as to conserve environment and natural resources.

Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Aye Myint Maung explained that not only government but also NGOs and INGOs participate in undertaking the process of drawing land management policies based on ecosystem and geographical conditions so as to conserve environment and natural resources. The Hluttaw decided to put the proposal on record.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker meets Chairman of Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association



NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb—Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) Thura U Shwe Mann received Chairman of Japan-Myan-

mar Friendship Association Mr Hideo Watanabe and Chairman of the Executive Board Mr Yoshito Sengoku at the Pyithu Hluttaw Hall on Tuesday afternoon.

It was attended by chairmen and secretaries of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw committees and officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw

DICA issues company registrations, work licences, permission within three days

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb—Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) held the 11th day session at its hall in Hluttaw Complex, here, on Tuesday.

U Zone Hle Htan of Chin State Constituency No 2 asked whether there is a plan to publish the book on information and rules on company registration, work licence and permission for the people.

Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Daw Lei Lei Thein replied that Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration gives talks and share knowledge about company registration process, and procedures of application for investment in regions and states and through www.dica.gov.com of the directorate. The department eases rules and regulations

for convenience of applicants and opens branches in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay, Taunggyi and Mawlamyine for company registration. The department issues company's registration, work licence and permission within three days. The ministry has no plan to publish the book on information and procedures for registration.

Defence Services Personnel representative Col Khin Soe asked about matters related to NGOs and INGOs in Myanmar.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun explained that according to the section 42 of association registration law, a total of 663 non-governmental organizations and 106 INGOs, totalling 769 operate their tasks in Myanmar. NGOs carry out

social tasks in line with their missions and visions. INGOs sign MoU with ministries concerned for undertaking education, health, social, environmental conservation, relief and rehabilitation in the nation. A total of 76 NGOs, UN and INGOs are undertaking tasks in Rakhine State. Of them, 26 NGOs, UN and INGOs are carrying out education and health sectors, 13 teams for children and aged care, 23 teams for supply of potable water and regional development, eight teams for rescue and relief of natural disaster and environmental conservation and six teams for social welfare tasks. The UGO/INGOs are operating their tasks under the supervision of ministries concerned and local authorities under the laws.—MNA

Japan eyes Myanmar for agriculture...

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Keiji Sorimachi, acting manager of Toto Kogyo Co., Ltd which makes greenhouse accessories called on Myanmar farmers who need better machines to take into account the durability of a product into consideration before buying a product.

U Kyaw Win, managing director of Seinn Yaung So Manufacturing Co., Ltd, told The Global New Light of Myanmar there is a huge market opportunity for farm equipment sales in Myanmar with immense potential

for sustained growth in the farming sector, particularly in light of the shrinking agricultural labour force.

He welcomed the Japanese mission looking to create business opportunities in the country's agriculture machinery market, but pointed out that Japanese products have prices higher than Chinese machinery and may be beyond Myanmar farmers' means.

Saying what he expected to get from the business mission to Myanmar, Hideaki Osakada who is seeking partnership in the fields of agriculture infra-

structure and Myanmar agricultural produce for export, expressed his belief that the business matching would enable participants to take their business to the next level.

Despite having good quality and reliable durability, farmers are not likely to use Japanese brands if it is hard to get spare parts cheaper, said one of attendees at the seminar.

In Myanmar where the agriculture sector represents between 35 and 40 per cent of GDP, farmers use cheap farm equipment imported from China and Chinese brands occupy a big part of the farm machinery market in the country.—GNLM

President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to Sri Lanka

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—On the occasion of the 67th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka which falls on 4th February 2015, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Maithripala Sirisena, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka and His Excellency Mr Ranil Wickremesinghe, Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.—MNA

4th GEGG Forum focus...

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environmentally friendly and follow the practices of low carbon emission.

Myanmar pays complete attention to the aspects of energy efficiency and renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, fisheries, livestock, forests, biodiversity, water resources, ecosystems, systematic use and management of land, disaster risk reduction, green cities projects, haz-

ardous waste management, conservation of oceans, seas and coastal areas, and environmentally-sound technology.

To achieve desired results, Myanmar has formulated policies, legislations and action plans, adopting the national energy policy, the national water policy, the land use policy, the environmental conservation law and the disaster management law.

President U Thein Sein holds talks with Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong of Singapore



President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo with Singaporean Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb—President U Thein Sein received Singaporean Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong and party at

the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, on Tuesday afternoon.

They discussed promotion of cooperation be-

tween the two countries.

Union ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Soe Thane, U Zeyar Aung, Dr Kan Zaw and U Ye Htut

and officials and Singaporean Ambassador Mr Robert Chua were in attendance.

MNA

As part of international cooperation, the president said Myanmar joined the Extractive Industries

Transparency Initiative (EITI) in 2014 in a bid to utilize natural resources effectively and transparently

in line with international standards.

Climate change, population growth and fewer natural resources all pose a threat to sustainable development, with the world facing frequent outbreaks of natural disasters due to the past development slogan “Growth first, Clean up later”.

The president called for reconsideration of the resource-based development pattern, stressing that the green growth approach is a new policy designed

to achieve real progress to sustainable development and poverty reduction.

He emphasized added momentum to international cooperation in environmental conservation for the present and future social and economic development as well as in promoting green economy and green growth to achieve sustainable development.

The opening of the forum was attended by Vice President U Nyan Tun, union ministers and officials of UN agencies.—MNA

Myanmar, Bangladesh to cooperate in energy sector



Vice President U Nyan Tun receives Dr. Tawfiq-E-Elahi Chowdhury, Hon'ble Energy Adviser to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb—Vice President U Nyan Tun received Dr. Tawfiq-E-Elahi Chowdhury, Hon'ble Energy Adviser to the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and

party at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, on Tuesday to hold talks on promotion of trade between the two countries.

They also discussed

cooperation in energy sector, promotion of investment between the two countries and protection matters.

Also present at the call

were Deputy Ministers U Maw Thar Htwe and U Aung Htoo, and Bangladeshi Ambassador to Myanmar Mohammad Sufur Rahman.—MNA

Union FM receives Energy Adviser to the Bangladeshi PM

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb—Dr Tawfiq-E-Elahi Chowdhury, Hon'ble Energy Adviser to the Bangladeshi Prime Minister called on U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs at the ministry, here, on Tuesday.

They discussed strengthening bilateral diplomatic relations and ways and means to promote hydropower and gas sector coordination between the two countries.—MNA



Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin receives Dr Tawfiq-E-Elahi Chowdhury, Hon'ble Energy Adviser to the Bangladeshi PM.—MNA

Press release on meeting...

(from page 1)

- Arrangements were made to continue the talks at the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 February, based on the agreement reached at the talks held at the Diamond Jubilee Hall of Yangon University on 1 February.
- The four-way meeting scheduled at the ministry on 3 February was delayed as a result of different points of view on the agenda.
- Representatives of the government, the ministry and the parliament negotiated with great patience.
- Officials of the government decided to resume the talks until agreement is reached on the type and agenda of the meeting, which will take some time in order to avoid unnecessary conflict.
- A decision has been made to postpone the talks until later 12 February on the grounds that preparations should be made to ensure preconditions agreed among all sides involved for negotiation to yield desired results. The government side will arrange for the resumption of the talks on the date set by students after 12 February.
- The Government, the Parliament, the Leading Committee for Democratic Education Movement and the National Network for Education Reform have all made an agreement to focus on required preconditions for talks to be productive and successful.

Press Release Team

Buddha Pujaniya, rice offering ceremony held at Maha Muni Buddha Image



MANDALAY, 3 Feb — The 56th Buddha Pujaniya festival is being held from the 1st Waxing Day to 8th Waning Day of Tabodwe, (from 20 January to 11 February) at Maha Muni Buddha Image

in Mandalay.

The Pathana treatise was recited from 20 to 28 January at the Buddha image. The Htamane making festival was held on 2 February. The gates of the precinct at the Buddha image were opened the whole night on that day.

Shwe Nyiahko performing arts troupe entertained the visitors at night.

In the early morning of the Fullmoon Day of Tabodwe, 3 February, wellwishers donated meals to Yaydaw Sayadaw and members of the Sangha and offered alms.

The 26th rice offering ceremony will be held at the platform of the Buddha image in the afternoon of 11th February. Willwishers and social organizations can donate provisions to 853 Buddhist monks at over 60 pavilions.

*Min Htet Aung
(Mandalay Sub-printing House)*

Quadripartite football tournament changed to tripartite one

YANGON, 3 Feb — As part of preparation of Myanmar U-20 team to take part in the FIFA U-20 World Cup, the schedule of quadripartite football tournament was changed to the tripartite tournament in Mandalay.

The tournament will be held at Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay from 17 to 21 February. Although football teams from Europe and Asia were invited to join the tournament, the

new schedule will be implemented to hold the tripartite football tournament with participation of Uzbekistan U-20 and Fijian U-20 teams together with host Myanmar U-20 team.

The invited teams will arrive in Myanmar on 15 February. The preparation meeting and pre-match press conference will be held on 16 February.

The location of press conference and its timetable will be released to the

media, according to the Myanmar Football Federation.

The fixtures of the tournament have been arranged as follows:-

Myanmar will play against Fiji on 17 February; Fiji will meet with Uzbekistan on 19 February and Uzbekistan will meet with Myanmar on 21 February.

The FIFA U-20 World Cup will be held in New Zealand from 30 May to 20 June.—GNLM



Agriculture Department grows quality Palethwe hybrid saplings

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb — Officials of the Agriculture Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation are striving for disseminating knowledge about agricultural technology to local farmers so as to use quality paddy strains.

Agricultural technicians cultivate quality Palethwe hybrid paddy saplings on the 100 acres farmland for production of paddy seeds on 3,000-acre mechanized farming area in Dekkhinathiri Township on 2 February.

Over 90 paddy transplantors from Lewe, Pyinmana and Dekkhinathiri townships transplanted paddy saplings in the designated farmlands.

Likewise, the agricultural technicians grew Palethwe paddy plants on 440 acres of farmlands in Alyinlo Village, Pyinmana Township on 27 January.

*Ko Pauk
(Okkar Myay)*



Farming workers transplant paddy quality Palethwe hybrid saplings in farmland.



Tourists caravan arrives in Nyaungshwe

NYAUNGSHWE, 3 Feb — Under the arrangements of Journey Adventure Traveling company, a 37-member-tourist team led by German citizen Mr Marc Alexander Thyseengeb arrived in Nyaungshwe, Shan State, on 2 February afternoon, by driving 17 tourist vans.

They left Kalaw, Shan State, on 2 February morning. The caravan of the tourists stopped over at the Myoma sports ground in Nyaungshwe. The tourists

visited significant attractive scenes in Nyaungshwe and Inlay areas and ob-

served traditional culture of the people.

Nay Myo Thurein



LOCAL NEWS

Nay Pyi Taw Health Department turns out public health supervisors



ZEYATHIRI, 3 Feb — The public health supervisor grade II course, conducted by Nay Pyi Taw Health Department, concluded at Zeyathiri Township Hospital (50-bed) in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 1 February.

Head of the Nay Pyi Taw Health Department Dr Daw Hla Hla Kyi gave a speech. Officials presented certificates to trainees.

Altogether 70 trainees from eight townships attended the course.

Tin Soe Lwin
(Township IPRD)

MOGE compensates over K15 million for loss of croplands to farmers



TAUNGTHA, 3 Feb — Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy presented compensations to farmers at Township General Administration Department in Taungtha, Mandalay Region, on 2 February.

MOGE had laid a 20 inches in diameter natural pipeline from the off-take point in Taungtha to Hsakha GCS passing the 14.10 acres of croplands

of 78 farmers in eight village-tracts in the township.

Township Administrator U Aung Kyaw Nyung made a speech. Project Engineer U Thet Tun explained presentation of compensation for the farmers.

Officials presented K15,402,144 for 13.97 acres of croplands to 77 farmers.

Kyaw Myo Naing
(Taungtha)

Educative talks hail centennial birthday of General Aung San, Myanmar Children's Day

MANDALAY, 3 Feb — An educative talks on centennial birthday of General Aung San and Myanmar Children's Day which falls on 13 February was held at the hall of No 26 Basic Education High School in Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay, on 2 February.

Staff Officer Daw Than Than Wai of Mandalay District Information and Public Relations Department gave talks on General Aung San: Symbol for children.

Teacher Daw Aye Aye

Myint sang a song "Bogyoke Aung San".

Teachers Daw Myo Thida gave talks on Myanmar children's day, U Myint San, idol General Aung San and Daw Phyu Phyu Thwe, qualification of General Aung San.

The school arranged to hold the extempore talks, painting, poem and essay contests to mark the centennial birthday of General Aung San, according to Headmaster Dr Than Htaik Soe.—*Tin Maung* (Mandalay)



Yamethin dwellers provided with free healthcare services, given health talks

YAMETHIN, 3 Feb — Under the arrangement of abbot Bhaddanta Bhuripanna, a lecturer from the State Pariyatti Sasana University (Mandalay), a Mandalay-based philanthropic team from Beautiful Mind Foundation including six specialists, two dentists, two house surgeons and two medical students gave

free healthcare services to the locals at a monastery in Thayetkan Village, Yamethin Township, Mandalay Region, on 3 February.

"Recently, we have made a lot of trips in Sagaing and Mandalay Regions to provide free healthcare services to the needy people. Our foundation was established on

7 May, 2011 and formed with around 200 members who regularly contribute K 2,000 per month for fee. Our aim is to share not only health knowledge but also health awareness to the locals regardless of race and religion. Wellwishers are also invited to donate cash and kind for durability of the foundation," said Dr

Taezar San, the team leader of the foundation.

"I want to express my heartfelt thanks to the philanthropists and am satisfied with their treatment," said U Maung Nu, a local who received dental disease. Moreover, the villagers were given health talks at the same venue on 2 February.—*Kyaw Htike Soe*

Pigeon pea price rises up in Natogyi Tsp

NATOGYI, 3 Feb—Untimely rain showered in Natogyi Township, Mandalay Region, while farmers harvested pigeon pea plantations, but the untimely rain could not cause impact on production of pigeon pea, a farmer told media.

"This year's pigeon pea production would not decline although the pea plantation needed rainwater," the farmer said.

Local farmers cultivated 79,980 acres of pigeon pea against 90,556 acres of targeted area in Natogyi Township. Although local farmers grow high yield pea and ordinary pea on the farmlands, high yield pigeon pea is on the high demand in the market. Due to reduction of over 20,000 acres of pigeon pea, the price of pea will be higher than last year, the local farmers said.—*Htay Myint Maung*



Township officials present cash assistance, certificates to older persons



MYANAUNG, 3 Feb — Ayeyawady Region Hlutaw representatives U Aung Win Swe and U Aung Myo Nyunt, Township Administrator U Min Min Tun and officials presented certificates of honour presented by the President and K200,000 each to senior citizens of above

100 years old in Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Region, on 1 February.

They presented certificates and cash assistance to U Ngwe Dah of Panto Village, Daw Saw of Shagon Village and Daw Than Sein of Gwegan Village.

Win Bo (Myanaung Township IPRD)

Bombs in Thai capital seen having minimal tourism impact: PM



Police forensic experts work at the site of a blast on an elevated walkway linking the overhead rail line to the mall in central Bangkok on 2 Feb, 2015.
REUTERS

BANGKOK, 3 Feb — Two small bombs outside a Bangkok shopping mall over the weekend will have a minimal impact on Thailand's vital tourism industry, the prime minister said on Tuesday, while promising better security to avoid any more such incidents. Two people were slightly injured in the twin explosions on Sunday outside the Siam Paragon mall in a busy shopping district, the first blasts in Bangkok since the military seized power on 22 May to end months of sometimes

deadly street protests.

"The tourism ministry told the cabinet that the explosion will have a minimal impact on tourism," Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha told reporters.

"However, we must look after the security situation better to ensure this does not happen again."

Thailand's tourist sector accounts for about 10 percent of the economy. It was hit last year by a drawn-out political crisis, including protests in which nearly 30 people were killed, that culminat-

ed in the coup.

The military-led government has struggled to revive growth in Southeast Asia's second-largest economy as exports are sluggish and consumer demand remains subdued.

The explosions come at a politically sensitive time, just over a week after a junta-appointed assembly banned ousted Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra from politics for five years, something that has left many of her supporters fuming.

The country remains

under martial and military leaders say they have no plans to lift it.

There was no claim of responsibility and the military said the blasts appeared to have been aimed at creating panic.

Police said they were trying to identify two suspicious-looking people caught on CCTV footage.

Prayuth dismissed talk that the army was behind the blasts as a way to justify martial law.

"Anyone who believes that has brain damage," he said.—Reuters

Sri Lanka says judiciary must be strong to avoid international war crimes probe

COLOMBO, 3 Feb — Sri Lanka's new government said on Tuesday that the country's judiciary must be strong in order to convince the international community that Sri Lanka is capable of dealing with human rights concerns on its own through domestic mechanisms.

Foreign Minister Mangala Samaraweera said that the government needed to convince the world that the island's judiciary is competent, independent and impartial which can rank among the best anywhere in the world. "An international inquiry, initiated last year, is now currently nearing completion. The results of this inquiry could lead to Sri Lankan armed forces and other civilians appearing before an international tribunal, unless tangible steps are swiftly taken to restore judicial credibility," Minister Samaraweera said in a statement. "It is the previous administration's failure to set-up credible domestic mechanisms that has led to our current difficulties. It

is the current government's position that the most effective way of beginning the process of healing between communities and preventing international prosecution, which many feel would be a violation of sovereignty, would be to institute a credible domestic mechanism as soon as possible," he said. The minister further said the challenge today is to ensure that Sri Lanka is able to effectively enjoy the rights, privileges and benefits of re-entering the community of civilized nations and ensure that Sri Lanka, as a country, does not suffer economic sanctions, ill-dignity and a tarnished reputation. The foreign minister also defended the removal of the country's controversial Chief Justice Mohan Peiris saying Peiris had acted in complete violation of the international standards of judicial conduct and therefore could not be expected to command the respect and confidence of the international community.—Xinhua

Blast rocks public market in S Philippines, wounding three

MANILA, 3 Feb — Three people were wounded in a bomb explosion on Tuesday inside a public market in southern Philippine province of Sultan Kudarat, the military said.

Jo-ann Petinglay, public affairs officer of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, said the explosion was caused by a hand grenade that was hurled at the wet market section of Isulan Town's public market around 11:10 am.

"Initial report states that three unidentified persons were wounded and immediately brought to the nearest hospital for medication," said Petinglay. He said "The motive is possibly rido (clan war)". The officer did not elaborate.

A police report named the wounded as Maylene Vargas, Abraham Bandal and Raheb Pangalaton Dimaluloy. The report described Dimaluloy as a "suspect."—Xinhua

Malaysia says UN must make conflict zone air risk reporting mandatory

MONTREAL, 3 Feb — Malaysia, which suffered two commercial air disasters last year after one jet disappeared and another was shot down over Ukraine, said on Monday the United Nations must make reporting of risks to airlines over conflict zones mandatory. The International Civil Aviation Organization, the UN's aviation agency, been under pressure to come up with new systems to protect aircraft from risks in conflict zones after Malaysia Airlines flight MH17, traveling from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur, was shot down in eastern Ukraine last July, killing all 298 people on board.

ICAO has proposed testing a central website where states and agencies could publish public warnings about conflict zones. But crucially, the proposal does not require ICAO member states to provide information. "We cannot delay implementing changes in the way global commercial aviation operates," Azharuddin Abdul Rahman, director general of Malaysia's Department of Civil Aviation, told an ICAO assembly at a high-level safety meeting in Montreal. He said reporting should be "mandatory and timely." The MH17 incident occurred during fighting between Ukraine and pro-Russian separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine. The United States said the plane was hit with a ground-to-air missile by rebels, but Russia has said that a Ukrainian military aircraft downed the jet. Last month, Reuters reported that the United States would back the ICAO proposal on flight safety over conflict zones. The Netherlands, which lost 196 citizens aboard flight MH17, said on Monday the ICAO plan was an important first step and called on all ICAO member states to back it.

"Flying should be associated with freedom and safety not with luck, and airline tickets should not be a lottery ticket," said Netherlands secretary of state Wilma Mansveld, adding quick action was needed on conflict zone risks.

"Mr Chairman, my country is impatient," she said.—Reuters

Photo provided by the Pakistan army's Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) office on 2 Feb, 2015 shows the Air Launched Cruise Missile (ALCM) "Ra'ad" being launched from an undisclosed location in Pakistan. Pakistan on Monday conducted a successful flight test of an indigenously developed cruise missile that enables the country to achieve strategic stand-off capability on land and at sea, the military said.—XINHUA



Seven killed in Bangladesh after petrol bombs thrown at bus

DHAKA, 3 Feb — Opposition activists in Bangladesh trying to enforce a transport boycott threw petrol bombs at a bus early on Tuesday setting off a fire that engulfed the vehicle killing seven people, a fire department officer said.

The opposition rejected a general election just over a year ago and stepped up its protests last month in a bid to force Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina to step down and hold a new election.

At least 51 people have been killed in political violence over the past month including the seven on the night-bus to Dhaka.

"Seven died on the spot after opposition activists hurled petrol bombs," fire department official Monir Hossain told reporters in the southeastern district of Comilla.

Sixteen people were injured, several of them critically, he said.

Spokesmen for the opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) were not available for comment. They routinely reject accusations that their activists are responsible for violence.

Bangladeshi politics has been mired for years in bitter rivalry between Hasina and BNP leader Begum

Khaleda Zia.

Both women are related to former national leaders and they have alternated as prime minister for most of the past two decades.

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.

Reuters

WORLD

Japan sees greater terror threat after hostage murder

TOKYO, 3 Feb — The threat of terrorism is more realistic following the recent murder of two Japanese nationals by Islamic State,



Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga (L), next to Eriko Yamatani, chairperson of the National Public Safety Commission, addresses a vice ministerial meeting at the prime minister's office in Tokyo on 3 Feb, 2015, aimed at discussing ways to better protect Japanese citizens from international crimes and terrorism.

KYODO NEWS

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said on Tuesday, calling for stepped-up antiterrorism measures both at home and abroad.

"The threat of terrorism has become more realistic for our country," Suga said at a vice ministerial meeting aimed at finding ways to better protect Japanese citizens from international crimes and terrorism.

Two days after the militant group released an online video purporting to show journalist Kenji Goto beheaded with a warning to Tokyo of "carnage wherever your people are found," Suga, who chaired the meeting, said, "I ask all of you to work together to strengthen antiterrorism measures."

The video with the Islamic State logo said, "Let the nightmare for Japan begin." The militant group also killed Haruna Yukawa, another Japanese hostage, according to an online video

released earlier.

Speaking to the House of Councillors budget committee, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said it is important to strengthen information-gathering capabilities at the country's diplomatic missions abroad, including those of defence officers being stationed there.

Critics have questioned the government's handling of the hostage crisis without strong intelligence.

As for domestic measures, Abe's fellow Liberal Democratic Party lawmakers have called for accelerated antiterrorism efforts toward the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

The meeting's participants from the Foreign Ministry, the Defence Ministry and other government units have vowed to consider fresh antiterrorism steps if existing measures are not working.

Tokyo is stepping up security at US facilities in

Japan as the United States leads the international fight against terrorism, as well as ports, airports, railway and other transportation centres.

To prevent the funding of terrorism, Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Taro Aso said he has called on domestic financial institutions to strengthen their surveillance of banking transactions.

Aso, concurrently serving as financial services minister, also indicated at a press conference that Group of 20 finance chiefs may discuss how to deal with money-laundering at their two-day meeting early next week in Istanbul. The hostage crisis broke out just days after Abe pledged \$200 million in nonmilitary and humanitarian assistance to Middle East countries struggling against Islamic State. The group claims that Japan has taken part in a "crusade" against its people.—Kyodo News

Australian Prime Minister sought loyalty promise from deputy but refused

SYDNEY, 3 Feb — Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott sought a commitment from deputy party leader Julie Bishop that she would not challenge him, Sky News reported on Tuesday, a promise that the Foreign Minister refused to give.



Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop

Abbott, 16 months in the top job, has faced a barrage of criticism in recent weeks following a slump in opinion polls, raising speculation that a leadership contest will emerge.

At a meeting on Monday, Abbott sought the promise from Foreign Minister Bishop, Sky News reported.

When asked about the report on Australian television, Abbott declined to refute the account.

"What (people) are looking for is politicians who are not endlessly navel gazing, not fighting amongst themselves, but

are getting on with the government of this country," Abbott said.

Abbott sought to solidify his leadership on Monday, dropping a signature plan and vowing to engage more collaboratively with colleagues.

In the speech, dubbed by some commentators as the most important of his short tenure, Abbott said he believed he had the full support of Bishop, who along with former Liberal Party leader Malcolm Turnbull, has been touted as a potential replacement.

Reuters

US dialogue offer falls through due to N Korea's insistence

SEOUL, 3 Feb — The US point man on North Korea had offered to meet with a top diplomat from the North, but the proposed meeting did not materialize because the North insisted on a meeting in Pyongyang, *Yonhap News Agency* reported from

Washington on Tuesday, citing a source. Sung Kim, special representative for North Korea policy, wanted to meet with North Korean First Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye Gwan, the former chief nuclear negotiator, and conveyed a meeting propos-

al via the North's mission to the United Nations, the report said.

The proposal was made before Kim embarked on a trip to Japan last week to hold discussions with the top nuclear envoys from South Korea and Japan in Tokyo.

After the trilateral talks, Kim visited Beijing and held talks with his Chinese counterpart Wu Dawei.

The six-party talks, involving the two Koreas, the United States, China, Japan and Russia, were last held in late 2008.—Kyodo News

US-India nuclear 'breakthrough' could be finalized within year

NEW DELHI / WASHINGTON, 3 Feb — A "breakthrough understanding" to open India's nuclear power sector to US firms reached during President Barack Obama's visit to New Delhi last month could be finalised this year, Indian officials say.

The 25 January announcement by Obama and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi followed six weeks of intensive talks, but few details were released beyond a framework based on India's acceptance of the principle that plant operators should bear primary liability in the event of a nuclear disaster.

Significant work remains on the fine print of a deal aimed at unlocking projects worth tens of billions of dollars that have been stuck the drawing board for years. India wants to nearly treble its installed nuclear capacity, which would make it the world's second biggest market after China.

US officials say details of an insurance scheme to protect suppliers from crip-

pling lawsuits need to be thrashed out and India still has to ratify a UN nuclear convention. Indian officials do not rule out completing the process this year.

"We are committed to moving ahead on all implementation issues at an early date," said Syed Akbaruddin, chief spokesman at India's Ministry of External Affairs. "There are no policy hurdles left."

General Electric and Westinghouse, a unit of Japan's Toshiba, were fully briefed on the meetings of a nuclear "contact group" that hammered out the nuclear compromise in London, say sources with direct knowledge of the talks.

Bringing them into the mix was crucial because the prospect of huge lawsuits, like those against Union Carbide over the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster, has until now kept US and other foreign firms on the sidelines.

India and the United States signed a landmark agreement to cooperate on nuclear power back in 2008. Yet an expected bonanza

never materialized because India later passed a law that would expose reactor makers to liability if there was an accident.

The liability issue has become a metaphor for the unrealized potential of the bilateral business relationship and a question mark against Modi's "Make in India" mantra.

As the days counted down to Obama's visit, Indian officials persuaded their US counterparts that their law was "not incompatible" with international standards that place the burden of liability on the operator, said one senior US official.

New Delhi also proposed setting up an insurance pool with a liability cap of 15 billion rupees (\$244 million). The state-run Nuclear Power Corporation of India would pay premiums to cover its liability. Suppliers would take out separate insurance against their secondary liability — which could not exceed that of the operator — at a "fraction" of the cost. India must still ratify the International Atomic



US President Barack Obama and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi (R) shake hands after giving opening statements during a meeting at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on 25 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

Energy Agency's Convention on Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage (CSC), which requires signatories to channel liability to the operator and offers access to relief funds.

"We would be looking at how quickly we can ratify the CSC — this is part of our assurance to the suppliers, along with the insurance pool," said an Indian member of the contact group, set up by Obama and Modi at a Washington summit last year.

The US official said Washington expects the Indians to ratify with the IAEA in the near future, along with documentation "stating what their law intends" on the issue of liability, which should offer further reassurance to US firms.

The US industry would have preferred the issue to be settled by amending the liability law, something considered politically impossible for Modi to achieve at the moment.

"We want to see all the

detail before we say: 'Yes, it works for us'," Westinghouse President and CEO Daniel Roderick, who joined Obama's delegation, told *Reuters*. That note of caution, however, masks the extent to which negotiators engaged with the industry to address fears that it could end up on the hook in a disaster on the scale of the 2011 reactor blasts at Tepco's plant in Fukushima, Japan.

"For the first time, we had a comprehensive inventory of concerns," said the Indian negotiator.

Westinghouse has been granted land in Modi's home state of Gujarat to build six reactors, while GE Hitachi Nuclear Energy is eyeing a similar project in Andhra Pradesh. The liability roadblock has prevented commercial talks from starting on the projects, with a combined capacity of 10,000 megawatts.

India has 21 nuclear reactors with an installed capacity of 21,300 MW. It plans to launch construction of 40,000 MW of capacity in the next decade.—Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 4 February, 2015

Not beyond us

By Aung Khin

Healthy living is important for a happy life. Doing good practices, keeping the thoughts away from miserable experiences, living in suitable surroundings and having hygienic food are fundamentals for a healthy life.

The number of life-threatening diseases is increasing in the world. Modern medical science has provided treatments and medicines to cure these diseases even though they are not totally wiped out. Many acute diseases can be prevented or cured in these days. Cancer is one of them. It is not beyond us.

World Cancer Day takes place on 4 Febru-

ary to raise awareness there is much that can be done at an individual, community and governmental level to harness and mobilize these solutions and catalyze positive change.

Empowering people to make healthy choices and reducing the social and environmental risk factors for cancer are key to achieving the global goal of reducing premature deaths from non-communicable diseases (NCDs) by 25 per cent by 2025 and reaching the targets of the World Cancer Declaration.

The World Cancer Declaration Targets are to be achieved by 2025 through four key areas of focus: Choosing healthy lives, Delivering early detection, Achieving treatment for all and Maximizing quality of life.

To reach the goal, awareness programmes are being launched for better health systems to ensure sustained delivery of effective and comprehensive, patient-centred cancer control programmes across the life-course. Various types of tobacco consumption, obesity, unhealthy diet, alcohol intake, and levels of physical inactivity, as well as exposure to other known risk factors are

related with cancer.

At least one-third of the most common cancers can be prevented through reducing alcohol consumption, healthier diets and improved physical activity levels. If smoking is included the figure is about 50 per cent. An early detection programme also helps improving knowledge of cancer among communities, health professionals and policy makers and increase awareness around the options for early detection.

Therefore, the government should invest in health systems that support healthy lives of the people through awareness programmes.

Write for us

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HUMAN RELATIONS SKILLS

Kyi Mun

Importance of Communication Skills

There are three types of skills in business; viz. Technical Skills, Conceptual Skills and Human Skills. Human or interpersonal skills are quite essential for every level of management and leadership. Human skills are especially essential in the service industry. It is said that: "The waves rise and fall, but the waters of the ocean remain; only the waters are sustainable. So, also, leaders come and go, but the people remain; only the people are sustainable".

Every action is activated by man and every achievement is made by man also. In a business organization, all the activities are done by people, with people, through people and for the people, with the exception of some activities done by robotic devices. So, it is very important to connect and communicate with the people. Hence, the strategic importance of human relations skills or interpersonal skills. Various categories of human relations are briefly dealt with in the following manner:

1. Self Management

- ❖ Authenticity
- ❖ Reliability
- ❖ Constructiveness

2. Managing People

- ❖ Soft Power
- ❖ Protective Heart
- ❖ Firm Mind

3. General Management Skills

- ❖ M = Making Things Happen
- ❖ A = Accountability
- ❖ G = Goal-driven
- ❖ I = Interpersonal Relationships
- ❖ C = Commitment

4. General Leadership Skills

- ❖ P = Persuading
- ❖ O = Organizing
- ❖ E = Enabling
- ❖ T = Teaching
- ❖ I = Inspiring
- ❖ C = Caring

5. General

- ❖ Strive for Win-Win Outcomes
- ❖ Thou Shall Prefer One Another
- ❖ Salesmanship
- ❖ All Ends Well
- ❖ That Ends Well

SELF MANAGEMENT

Authenticity

You should be: Original, genuine and inside-out in nature and temperament.

Reliability

You should have high character and high competence and consistency.

Constructiveness

You have got to have positive mental attitude, can-do-spirit and the habit of going the extra mile.

MANAGING PEOPLE

Soft Power

You should use soft, flexible and firm power and influence.

Protective Heart

You have got to stand for the rights of the workers and protect their interests.

Firm Hand

You must have a strong, steadfast and sensible standards and principles.

GENERAL MANAGEMENT SKILLS

M = Making Things Happen

A good manager should have high skills in going places and doing things, and in making things happen & in getting things done.

A = Accountability

A good manager must take responsibility for the outcomes of his or her decisions or actions.

G = Goal-driven

A manager must have a definite goal to strive for. He or she must know the direction clearly where to go or what to achieve.

I = Interpersonal Relationships

A manager should be a people-person. He or she should have rapport with all people.

C = Commitment

A good manager must always have dedication to the goals, and walk the talk.

General Leadership Skills

P = Persuading

A good leader is good at persuading people to follow them with willingness, and heartiness.

O = Organizing

A good leader is an expert organizer of people around their vision and strategy.

E = Enabling

A good leader knows how to fully equip people with distinctive capabilities and superb morale.

T = Teaching

A good leader is a superb teacher

I = Inspiring

A good leader uplifts, strengthens and animates the spirit of the people.

C = Caring and Sharing is the natural temperament of a good leader

General

Strive for Win-Win Outcomes

A good manager has the habit of striving for win-win outcomes or mutual benefits.

Thou Shall Prefer One Another

A good manager believes in the advice of taking imitative in doing the most good for the other party.

Salesmanship

A good manager doesn't tell. They sell. And they have what it takes to close or to clinch a sale.

All Ends Well That Ends Well

It is usually said that the end justifies the means. A good manager must drive, strive, thrive, arrive and revive for the attainment of the set vision, mission, goal, objectives and strategy.

CONCLUSION

Managers must manage; leaders must lead; and people must perform. In order to manage, lead and perform to the best of all the stakeholders' abilities, effective skills are crucial in communications and connectivity in order to get maximum win-win-win-win outcomes. In short, all the people in the organization have got to thoroughly know the following (5) factors:

- What business are we in?
- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to be?
- How can we get there?
- Which is the best way?

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

MGF officials award winners in Junior Golf Myanmar Tournament

YANGON, 3 Feb—President of Myanmar Golf Federation U Ko Ko Aye awarded first prize to Ye Lwin Oo with 151 strokes, second to Thiha Htay with 152 and third to Zin Min Thu with 153 in the U-24 golfers event in the 5th Junior Golf Myanmar Tournament 2015 at Yangon Golf Club in Insein Township on 30 January.

U Myint Aung of Junior Golf Myanmar present-

ed first, second and third prizes to Min Thanlwin Aung, Tun Myat Thu and Lin Phyo Thu in the U-10 event respectively.

Vice President of MGF U Min Thein and U Aung Kyi also gave prizes to the winners in the U-12 and U15 events.

The golf tournament was mainly sponsored by members of Junior Golf Myanmar.

GNLM

NATIONAL

Letpadaungtaung implementation committee holds coordination meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb—Implementation committee on the report of Letpadaungtaung copper mine investigation commission held a coordination meeting at President Office on Tuesday.

U Hla Tun, Union Minister at President Office, the chairman of the committee, said the investigation committee has suggested the mining project must be

continued as a state-level project.

He also said that the implementation committee is to cooperate with the regional government in the project; that compensations are to be given out to the remaining farmers; the implementation of project is to be continued in accordance with ESIA Report.

The union minister urged to proceed vocation-

al training courses for the locals to be able to create job opportunities for them, while giving out financial support them under the contribution plan before the mining extraction is in operation.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko explained preparatory measures on security at the project area, followed by discussion of Union Minister U Soe Win about relo-

cation and reconstruction of religious buildings in the area and Union Minister Dr Myint Aung about environmental conservation works.

Representatives from committees on scrutinizing land confiscation, environmental conservation and socio-economic plans for the locals, members of regional governmental, MEHL and Myanmar-Wanbao Company explained the implementation works of respective sector, before conclusion remarks of Union Minister U Hla Tun.—MNA

Green Economy, Green Growth (GEGG) Forum kicks off

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb—The Green Economy, Green Growth (GEGG) Forum took place at Myanmar International Convention Centre-II, here, on Tuesday.

Experts discussed expanding cooperation & deepening integration for sustainable national resources, social and economic development, water resources management, equal

rights, technology, ecosystem and environmental conservation.

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun and Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo presided over the sessions of the forum.—MNA

Bean prices up due to . . .

(from page 1)

The price of one basket of green gram beans has risen to between K36,000 to K37,000 in February from about K30,000 per basket in the same period last year, according to farmers in Kawa, a country town about 40 miles north-east of Yangon.

Bean prices are heavily dependent on the Indian market, with about 80 percent of locally grown beans exported to India, and about 12 to 13 per cent exported to the ASEAN market yearly, according to the Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Asso-

ciation. The bean market opened at around K750,000 per ton in December 2014, up sharply from around K500,000 to K600,000 per ton in the same period the previous year.

Bean prices usually fall in November and December. However, the prices have been surging this year due to demand from India

and lower stock at home.

The most popular kinds were black mung bean, green gram and chickpeas. Most beans are grown in Bago, Yangon, Mandalay, Ayeyawady and Sagaing regions from November to February.

Farmers grow peas and beans as a second crop.

GNLM

Union FM sends message of felicitations to Sri Lanka

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—On the occasion of the 67th Anniversary of Independence Day of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka which falls on 4th February 2015, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Mangala Samaraweera, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.—MNA

Joint Press Statement Singapore-Myanmar Joint Ministerial Working Committee to Reconvene to Strengthen Economic Relations

1. Singapore and Myanmar will reconvene the bilateral Joint Ministerial Working Committee (JMWC) this year to strengthen bilateral economic ties.
2. The JMWC was established in 1995 as a platform to promote bilateral economic cooperation and forge new business opportunities. The revived JMWC will focus on collaboration in three areas of mutual interest: (a) trade and investment, (b) finance and (c) legal sectors. Minister for Trade and Industry Lim Hng Kiang and Union Minister for Energy and Chairman of the Myanmar Investment Commission U Zeyar Aung will be the co-chairs for the JMWC. The decision was made during Emeritus Senior Minister (ESM) Goh Chok Tong's visit to Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar from 2 to 5 February 2015. Officials from both sides are working towards reconvening the JMWC meeting this year.
3. Singapore and Myanmar Enjoy strong economic links with bilateral trade growing steadily in recent years. In 2014, trade rose by 6.6% year-on-year to reach S\$3.23 billion. Myanmar moved up eight places to become Singapore's 29th largest trading partner in 2014, while Singapore was Myanmar's 3rd largest trading partner in 2013. Singapore was also Myanmar's third largest foreign investor in 2014, with a cumulative investment of US\$8.3 billion. Singapore companies have made significant investments in Myanmar with projects across various sectors such as hotel and tourism, industrial and real estate.

3 February 2015

Joint Ministerial Working Committee (JMWC)

Press Release

At the end of her visit to Myanmar from January 6 to 16, 2015, Ms. Yang Hee Lee, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights situation in Myanmar, made some observations when she met the press on 16 January 2015. Many of the concerns she raised in her statement do not reflect the overall positive aspect of an issue. Selectivity is often exercised. On some occasions, interfering on issues which falls within state sovereignty and domestic jurisdiction is evident. In this connection, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expresses the following points:

- **On the use of term "Rohingya" in her statement,** Myanmar rejects such use of nomenclature unequivocally. Myanmar never recognizes such terminology which as never been included among over 100 national races of Myanmar or even in the census records of the British colonial period. Insistence on using this controversial terminology will only pose a barrier on the road to resolving this important issue. Use of such term by the United Nations would certainly draw strong resentments of the people of Myanmar making the government's efforts more difficult in addressing the issue.
- **On a package of four draft bills,** they are being drafted in pursuant to the will of the people of Myanmar. They are widely published, and views and feedbacks from the public are also considered and incorporated, as appropriate, to the bills.

Consequently, they have been forwarded to the Parliaments for a debate, consideration and a decision. They are subject to under stringent scrutiny by the people's representatives in the Hluttaws. It will be done with the view to serving the best interest of the Myanmar people. This due process on the bills is far from completion. Prejudging the outcome if this domestic legislation process constitutes an attempt to make undue influence on the public opinion and incitement among the people.

- **On land issue,** it should be reminded that Myanmar is an agro-based country, and as such the land and the farmers are primary assets of the country and are highly valued. In order to deal with land issues with transparency and effectiveness, the Central Committee on land use management has been endeavouring its utmost. In this mission, a great number of land disputes are caused by hindrances including outdated laws, rules and procedures, lack of concrete evidences for ownership. However, the government is committed to implement land reforms which will ensure effective resolution, and safeguarding the interest of people and returning the land to their rightful owners. In light of vast land in the country, such process cannot be completed overnight.

- On the mentioning of **political prisoners**, the scrutiny process on a few remaining has been carried out with special consideration. Release of political prisoners is done with a view to enabling them to participate in political process, stability of the State and implementation of durable peace. In order to

continue looking into the affairs of political prisoners, the membership has been expanded and reconstituted. It will continue in line with relevant existing law.

- Greater **media freedom** has been granted in the country by abolishing press censorship, permitting the publication of private daily newspaper and enacting new media laws in line with international norms and practices. Accusations of backtracking in some areas have been made. The arrests of some journalists were cited previously. No journalists were apprehended for exercising their due rights but for the offences they had committed such as breaking into a restricted area. No country will tolerate a breach of national security by any person. The state of Myanmar's media freedom can be compared not only with that of countries' in the region but also rest of the world.

The special Rapporteur should fulfill her mandate in a professional and prudent manner. Her visit should not leave the country and people of Myanmar with discord, distrust and incitement.

In relation to the media statement by UN High Commissioner for Human Rights released on 21 January 2015, it is firmly reiterated that Myanmar will not tolerate any acts or expressions that would lead to hatred between religions and races.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw
3rd February 2015

As US faces new threats, Pentagon seeks bigger defence budget

WASHINGTON, 3 Feb — Facing new security challenges in the Middle East and Ukraine, the Obama administration on Monday proposed an increased \$534 billion Pentagon base budget plus \$51 billion in war funds as it urged Congress to end cuts it says erode US military power.

Defence officials said the higher spending level was necessary to carry out President Barack Obama's national security strategy, including the planned stationing of more forces in the Asia-Pacific in response to the rise of China.

The proposed base budget exceeded the \$499 billion federal spending cap for fiscal year 2016, forcing a debate with Congress over whether to continue deep cuts to federal discretionary spending or to amend the limits set in a 2011 law that sought to narrow the US budget deficit.

Defence officials acknowledged the request exceeded federal spending

limits, but General Martin Dempsey, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the budget "represents the minimum resource level necessary to remain a capable, ready and appropriately sized force able to meet our global commitments."

Defence officials said the budget included funding for additional P-8 submarine-hunter aircraft and development of a new long-range strike aircraft seen as necessary for the Asia-Pacific region.

The proposed budget included \$5.3 billion to fund operations against Islamic State militants in Syria and Iraq, including \$1.3 billion to train and equip Syrian opposition fighters.

To reassure European allies worried about Russia's actions in Ukraine and elsewhere in the region, it proposed \$789 million to bolster US military rotational deployments and increase military exercises and training with partners in Europe.

"The geopolitical



US President Barack Obama speaks about the FY2016 budget at the Department of Homeland Security in Washington on 2 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

events of the past year only reinforce the need to resource DoD (Department of Defence) at the president's requested funding level as opposed to current law," the Pentagon said in a statement.

The budget follows several years of deep cuts, also known as sequestration. Projected defence spending was supposed to be reduced by about a trillion dollars over a decade but defence officials say the cuts are

eroding military capabilities after 15 years of war.

"As the budget makes clear, a return to sequester-level funding would be irresponsible and dangerous, resulting in a force too small and ill-equipped to respond to the full range of potential threats to the nation," the Pentagon said.

The proposed budget would enable the US Army to fund an active-duty force of 475,000 soldiers, down slightly from its plan to retain 490,000 after the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Pentagon has warned that if the 2011 budget limits remained in force, it would have to cut the Army to about 420,000 troops.

The Pentagon again sought approval for several reforms hotly opposed in Congress, including retirement of the A-10 "Warthog" close-air support aircraft, conducting a new round of US base closures and curbing the rising cost of military pay and benefits.

Reuters

Britain's Labour party to lose 30 seats in Scotland to nationalists

LONDON, 3 Feb — Britain's opposition Labour party will lose as many as 30 Scottish seats to nationalists in the 7 May election, a poll showed on Tuesday, reducing Labour leader Ed Miliband's chances of unseating Prime Minister David Cameron.

Scots voted to stay part of the United Kingdom in a 18 September referendum, but support for the Scottish National Party has since soared on the perception that London will not deliver the extra powers it promised to swing the poll result.

The Times/YouGov poll shows the Scottish National Party has a 21-point lead in Scotland and would take 48 percent of the vote to Labour's 27 percent, the Times newspaper reported. The Liberal Democrats were on 4 percent and Conservatives on 15 percent in Scotland, the poll showed.

The Times said that when plugged into a mod-



Britain's opposition Labour Party leader Ed Miliband gestures as launches his party's 2015 election campaign, at the Lowry Theatre in Salford, north west England on 5 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

el, the results would give the SNP 48 out of 59 seats in Scotland, up from the 6 it won in 2010, leaving Labour just 11 seats, down from the 41 it won in 2010.

The nationalists aim to usurp Labour in Scotland and win the balance of power in an election that will decide who rules the world's sixth-largest economy and whether voters will get a referendum by 2017 on membership of the European Union.—Reuters

Cuba sounds warning ahead of next round of US talks

HAVANA, 3 Feb — Cuba warned the United States on Monday that it wants American diplomats to scale back aid for Cuban dissidents before the two countries can reopen embassies in each other's capitals.

The long-time adversaries are negotiating the restoration of diplomatic relations as a first step toward reversing more than five decades of confrontation. Officials for both governments met in Havana in January and a second round of talks is expected to be held in Washington this month.

But Cuba's lead negotiator said in an interview broadcast on state television that if the United States wants free movement for its diplomats in Cuba, it must stop using them to support the political opposition.

"The way those (US) diplomats act should change in terms of stimulating, organizing, training, supplying and financing elements within our country that act against the interests of ... the government of the Cuban people," Josefina Vidal said.

"The total freedom of movement, which the US



Josefina Vidal, director of US affairs at the Cuban foreign ministry, speaks during a news conference in Havana on 22 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

side is posing, is tied to a change in the behaviour of its diplomatic mission and its officials," said Vidal, Cuba's top official for US affairs.

Washington has long criticized the communist government for repressing opponents of the one-party system. While public support for dissidents is limited, they receive plenty of attention from US and Western diplomats.

The United States says it supports Cuban activists who exercise their right to freedom of expression.

The restoration of diplomatic ties could happen before a regional summit in Panama in April, when

US President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro would meet for the first time since shaking hands at the funeral of Nelson Mandela in December 2013.

Obama and Castro spoke on the phone the day before their separate but simultaneous announcements on 17 December that they would attempt to end their Cold War-era hostilities.

The warning by Vidal suggested there were obstacles to restoring diplomatic ties, which has been seen as a relatively easy first step before the two sides try to resolve deeper differences on matters such as human rights and the US economic embargo of Cuba.

Vidal said the conduct of Cuban diplomats in Washington was "impeccable", while suggesting the Americans were meddling in internal Cuban affairs.

"Matters of the internal affairs in Cuba are not negotiable," Vidal said. "Nor are we going to negotiate matters of an internal nature regarding Cuban sovereignty in exchange for lifting the embargo. Beyond that, everything else is a process of negotiation."—Reuters

UN's highest court to rule on Serb, Croat genocide cases

THE HAGUE, 3 Feb — The United Nations' highest court will rule on Tuesday on genocide cases filed by Serbia and Croatia over atrocities allegedly committed during the violent breakup of Yugoslavia in the 1990s.

The countries filed complaints against each other at the International Court of Justice (ICJ), which could award financial compensation if it finds either side violated the 1948 Genocide Convention.

The cases, filed 16 years ago, are part of the long legal fall-out from the break-up of Yugoslavia into seven states in wars that lasted eight years and left more than 100,000 dead in Europe's worst conflagration since World War Two.

The ruling, which is due to start at 0900 GMT (4:00 am ET), could stoke political tensions in both countries.

"What's really at stake is both states trying to justify their wars," said Eric Gordy, a professor at London's School of Slavonic and East European Studies.

"The strongest arguments they have to say they are justifying their wars is



The Peace Palace, which houses The International Court of Justice, is seen in The Hague on 22 July, 2010.—REUTERS

that they were defending their citizens against genocide," he added.

The UN tribunal for the former Yugoslavia, which is also in The Hague, has long since ruled that genocide was committed in Bosnia, where more than 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys were killed when the UN 'safe haven' of Srebrenica fell to Bosnian Serb forces in 1995.

Despite widespread atrocities against all sides, no court has ruled that ethnic Croats or Serbs were victims of genocide. Recent acquittals of suspects at the Yugoslav tribunal stoked anger in the two countries.

Many experts believe Tuesday's ruling is unlike-

ly to find Croatia or Serbia liable for genocide if no individuals from either country have been convicted of the crime.

Croatia alleges that Serbia's destruction of towns and expulsion of ethnic Croats in Slavonia amounted to genocide. In turn, Serbia accuses Croatia of genocide over the expulsion of Serbs from Krajina.

In an earlier ruling from 2007 in a case brought by Bosnia, the same court found that Serbia was not responsible for genocide, but that it had breached the genocide convention by failing to prevent the massacre in Srebrenica.

Reuters

Egypt could free jailed journalist Fahmy within hours: Al Jazeera

DOHA, 3 Feb — Egypt could free Canadian-Egyptian journalist Mohamed Fahmy within hours, Qatar-based news channel Al Jazeera English reported on Tuesday.

Fahmy's colleague, Peter Greste, an Australian citizen, was released on Sunday. A third journalist, Baher Mohamed, an Egyptian national, is still in prison in Cairo.

The three men were sentenced last June to between seven and 10 years on charges including spreading lies to help "a terrorist organization" — a reference to the now-outlawed Muslim Brotherhood.



Al Jazeera journalist Mohammed Fahmy stands behind bars at a court in Cairo on 15 May, 2014.

REUTERS

Al Jazeera said that Fahmy had renounced his Egyptian citizenship, in a move that paves the way for him to be deported under a presidential decree.

On Monday, Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird told the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation that Fahmy's release was "imminent". Baird did not elaborate, however, as to whether he meant hours or days.

A security source said on Sunday that Fahmy was expected to be released and deported to Canada within days. Egyptian authorities accuse Qatar-based Al Jazeera of being a mouthpiece of the Muslim Brotherhood, the Qatari-backed movement which President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi toppled in 2013 when he was Egypt's army chief.

Reuters

French police arrest eight in anti-jihadi operation

PARIS, 3 Feb — French anti-terrorism police arrested eight people on Tuesday on suspicion of being part of a network linked to recruiting young people for jihad in Syria, Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said.

The suspects, who can be held for up to 96 hours without charge, were arrested in the northern suburbs of Paris and the Lyon region, he said, according to remarks published on the ministry's Twitter feed.

"They are now in the hands of the police. It is a Syria issue," an official at

the Paris prosecutor's office said.

The government estimates that about 1,300 French citizens have links to recruitment cells for Syria and Iraq, of which about 400 are already fighting alongside militants.

The arrests come after President Francois Hollande's Socialist government unveiled a raft of new security measures in response to attacks in Paris in January by homegrown Islamist militants in which 20 people were killed, including the three attackers.—Reuters

French troops kill around a dozen Islamist militants in Mali

DAKAR, 3 Feb — French forces in northern Mali have killed around a dozen Islamist militants in the region of the Adrar des Ifoghas mountains, France's defence ministry said on Monday. No French soldiers were killed in the attack which took place on Saturday night, the statement said.

Malian military sources said the French operation was conducted between Boureissa and Abeissa, some 120 km (75 miles) from the northern desert town of Kidal, a stronghold of Tuareg separatist rebels. The Islamist group was spotted by aerial surveillance, and engaged by French ground forces, one Malian source said.—Reuters

Iraqi cabinet approves draft law to set up national guard

BAGHDAD, 3 Feb — Iraq's cabinet approved on Tuesday two draft laws aimed at ending sectarian rifts: one creating a national guard and the other reforming government policies towards ex-members of the Baath party.

The bills will now be passed on to the parliament for approval, said Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi's spokesman Rafid Jaboori.

The creation of a national guard has been a key demand of Sunni politicians in order to fight Islamic State. Ending the ban on ex-members of the Baath party, which ruled Iraq before the US-led invasion in 2003, from public service has also been a key Sunni demand. — Reuters

WFP alarmed by pictures of ISIS logos on its Syria food parcels

GENEVA, 3 Feb — The UN World Food Programme (WFP) has declared itself "extremely concerned" by photographs showing its food parcels being handed out in Syria with Islamic State logos on them.

Images circulating on social media show food being distributed from cardboard boxes with "Islamic State in Syria" labels pasted over the WFP logo.

The militant Islamist group, which controls large swaths of Syria and northern Iraq, is known as Islamic State or Islamic State in Syria (ISIS).

"WFP condemns this manipulation of desperately needed food aid inside Syria," said Muhannad Hadi, WFP Emergency Regional Coordinator, in a statement late on Monday. The agency was trying to confirm the authenticity of those images, it said.

The photographs seemed to have been taken in Deir Hafr village, about 50 km from Aleppo, where WFP last August delivered enough food to feed 8,500 people for a month. WFP rations are distributed in many areas by the Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC). In September, ISIS raided SARC warehouses where food rations may have been stored, WFP said. — Reuters

Blast kills one in Alexandria, bombs found at Cairo airport

CAIRO, 3 Feb — A man was killed in a bomb blast in Egypt's second city of Alexandria on Tuesday, hours after two devices were discovered at Cairo airport and another went off in the centre of the capital without casualties, security sources said.

A bomb exploded in front of Alexandria's Mabaret Al-Asafra Hospital, killing a 27-year-old man and wounding three others, the city's assistant interior minister said.

Earlier, Cairo airport authorities tightened secu-

rity after finding two unexploded bombs near the arrivals hall. Security officials were reviewing video footage to try to determine who planted them, security sources said.

State news agency MENA quoted Cairo security chief Khaled Youssef as saying a device that detonated in central Cairo was a sound bomb and that there were no casualties.

Islamist militants seeking to topple the government have carried out numerous bomb attacks on soldiers and police since

the army toppled President Mohamed Mursi of the Muslim Brotherhood in July 2013.

Last week, Islamic State's Egyptian affiliate claimed responsibility for coordinated attacks in the Sinai Peninsula which killed more than 30 security personnel.

Egypt has been trying to project an image of stability ahead of an investment conference in the resort of Sharm el-Sheikh in March that the government hopes will generate ventures worth billions of

dollars.

The bulk of attacks on security forces have occurred in the Sinai, which borders Israel and the Gaza Strip, but the insurgency has spread to other parts of Egypt, a US ally. Over the past year, police have frequently discovered homemade bombs planted near their vehicles and in public places in Cairo. Political turmoil and militant violence after the 2011 uprising that toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak have hampered tourism, a pillar of the economy.—Reuters

Blast at Nigeria pro-Jonathan rally was female suicide bomber



Security personnel rush towards the site of a car bomb explosion near a stadium in the northeastern Nigerian city of Gombe on 2 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

BAUCHI, (Nigeria), 3 Feb — A bomb blast that went off just minutes after Nigeria's President Goodluck Jonathan left an election

campaign rally was the work of a female suicide bomber, police said on Tuesday. The bomb exploded near a stadium in the northeast-

ern Nigerian city of Gombe on Monday, setting a car ablaze, killing one person and wounding 18.

Gombe state police

spokesman Fwaje Atajiri said by telephone that the bomb had been a female with explosives strapped to her, a sign it was the work of Islamist militant group Boko Haram, although no one has claimed responsibility.

Nigeria is due to hold a presidential election on 14 February, pitting the ruling People's Democratic Party's (PDP) Jonathan against former military ruler Muhammadu Buhari for the opposition All Progressives Congress (APC).

Boko Haram militants are stepping up their campaign of violence ahead of the election. The military repelled an attack by insurgents on the outskirts of the northeast's main city of Maiduguri on Sunday, their second assault in a week on a city they hope to make the capital of a breakaway Islamist state.—Reuters

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (069N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (069N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.2.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV AMIS WISDOM III VOY NO (38)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AMIS WISDOM III VOY NO (38) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.2.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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

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Phone No: 2301185

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Under the instruction of IMEX (Myanmar) Co., Ltd.

U YE NOOS (Supreme Court Advocate) (5341)

No.176, First Floor, Meba Yeik Mon Condo, Botataung Pagoda Road, Yangon Region.
Ph: (01) 397234, 397235, 296132.

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
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Consignees of cargo carried on MV ASSAD ULLAH VOY NO (01-2015) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.2.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W 7 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301186

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

1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanmar 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, Myanmar 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 Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director

Myanmar Petrochemical Enterprise

Contact Phone No. 067-411108/411193

Cuba's Fidel Castro appears in first photographs since August

HAVANA, 3 Feb — Photographs of former Cuban leader Fidel Castro, 88, appeared in official media on Monday for the first time since August, showing him slightly hunched over while seated, but appearing animated as he spoke with a student leader.

Speculation over Castro's health has intensified since the historic 17 December announcement by his younger brother, and

current president, Raul Castro, and US President Barack Obama, that the two longtime adversaries would restore diplomatic ties.

Castro, who periodically writes a column, went silent after the announcement until finally commenting a week ago, when he offered lukewarm support for the pact his brother reached with Obama.

The pictures of Castro

with student leader Randy Perdomo were taken on 23 January, according to Perdomo's account, which appeared with the photos on the website of the Communist Party newspaper Granma on Monday night.

Granma published 21 pictures of the two men talking, with Castro in various poses of engaged conversation, viewing a video and flipping through a newspaper.

A Brazilian theologian who met Castro last week said the former leader was in good health, appearing skinny but lucid.

Castro stepped down from power due to poor health, handing over to his brother provisionally in 2006 and definitively in 2008.

Though he receives visitors, he has not appeared in public for more than a year.—Reuters



Former Cuban President Fidel Castro and President of Cuba's University Students Federation (FEU) Randy Perdomo.

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REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural
Development (MLFRD),
Department of Rural Development (DRD)
Enhancing Rural Livelihoods and Incomes Project
(ERLIP) - JFPR 9174-MYA (ADB)
INTERNATIONAL CONSULTANCY POSITIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar received a USD 12 million grant from Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) to implement ERLIP with DRD as primary Implementing Agency (IA) of MLFRD, the Executing Agency (EA). The Government will apply part of the Grant proceeds to engage international consultants shown below. The consultant shall provide project management support, capacity development and technical assistance to DRD Grant Management Unit (GMU) at Union level and the six project townships. Each intermittent services will be for 3 person-months expected to start in March 2015.

a) Livelihoods Specialist, b) Finance Management Specialist, & c) Procurement Specialist

DRD now invites Expression of Interest (EOI) from qualified & experienced international consultants. In submitting EOIs, consultants must indicate the position they wish to apply for and enclose their updated curriculum vitae (CV) along with the name/s of at least one referee with contact information. EOIs must be submitted in written form to the address below (in person, by mail, or by e-mail) by February 20, 2015.

Additional information and a copy of Terms of Reference (TOR) for each position may be obtained from the DRD webpage: <http://www.drdmyanmar.org> or the address below during from 09:00 to 16:00, Monday through Friday, except public holidays.

Attn: U Khant Zaw (Deputy Chief Engineer)
 Department of Rural Development
 MLFRD, Office No. 14, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
 Tel & Fax: : 067-409447
 Email address: JFPR.ADB@gmail.com

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development
(MLFRD), Department of Rural Development (DRD)
Enhancing Rural Livelihoods and Incomes Project (ERLIP)
- JFPR 9174-MYA (ADB)
Assignment Title: Main Implementation Consultants (MIC)

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar received a USD 12 million grant from Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) to implement ERLIP with DRD as primary Implementing Agency (IA) of MLFRD, the Executing Agency (EA). The Government will apply part of the Grant proceeds to engage a consulting firm for the services of the Main Implementation Consultants (MIC). The goal is to provide project management support, capacity development and technical assistance to the DRD Grant Management Unit (GMU) at Union level and the six project townships. The engagement will be for 2.5 years expected to start in July or August 2015. Experts to be provided are:

International: Project Mgt Expert/Team Leader (12 person-months), Rural Dev Expert/Engineer, and Community Dev Expert (3pm each), and Social Safeguards Expert and Environmental Safeguards Specialist (2pm each); and
National: National Project Coordinator (20 pm), Rural Dev & Agriculture Specialist, Procurement Officer & Finance Officer (24pm each) & Social Safeguards/Gender Specialist, Environment Specialist, Monitoring & Evaluation/IT Officer and Communications Officer (16 pm each).

DRD invites consulting firms & NGOs (int'l & local) to indicate interest for the consultancy Services. Interested parties must give information on their qualifications and relevant experiences to perform the Services. They may associate with other NGOs or firms for a joint venture or sub-consultancy arrangements. Expressions of Interest must be submitted in written form to the address shown below (in person, by mail, or by e-mail) by March 2, 2015.

The MIC consultant will be selected via the QCBS method of engagement set out in the Consultant Guidelines of the Asian Development Bank (ADB). Additional information and copy of the detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained from the DRD webpage: <http://www.drdmyanmar.org> or the address below during office hours from 09:00 to 16:00, Monday through Friday, except public holidays.

Attn: U Khant Zaw (Deputy Chief Engineer)
 Department of Rural Development, MLFRD
 Office No. 14, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
 Tel & Fax: 067-409447
 Email address: JFPR.ADB@gmail.com

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST
Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development
(MLFRD), Department of Rural Development (DRD)
Enhancing Rural Livelihoods and Incomes Project (ERLIP)
- JFPR 9174-MYA (ADB)
Title: SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDER (SSP) –
NGAPUTAW & BOAT PYIN TOWNSHIPS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar received a grant in the amount of USD 12 million from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction (JFPR) to implement ERLIP with DRD as primary Implementing Agency of the MLFRD, the Executing Agency. The Government will use part of Grant proceeds to engage two (2) independent firms or entities (such as NGO) to field a team of experts for ERLIP's Support Services Provider (SSP) for Ngaputaw Township and for Boat Pyin Township covering a period of one year expected to start in May or June 2015. The goals of the assignment are to: (a) improve household livelihoods/incomes by implementing self-selected village subprojects using 1st annual (2015) round of small VT block grants; (b) develop capacities (to prepare & implement development plans) of the relevant Township's DRD Grant Implementation Unit (GIU), the priority VT development support committees (DSCs) & the village DSCs; and (c) develop effective/efficient participatory process to improve livelihoods/incomes.

DRD invites firms & entities (international & local) to submit Expressions of Interest (EOI) for the consultancy Services for each Township. Interested parties must give information on their qualifications & relevant experiences to perform the Services. Parties may associate with other firms or NGOs to form a joint venture or sub-consultancy arrangement. The consultant will be selected via CQS method set out in the Consultant Guidelines of ADB.

EOIs must be submitted in written form (indicating the name of Township) to the address shown below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by March 2, 2015. Additional information and copy of the detailed Terms of Reference (TOR) may be obtained from the DRD webpage: <http://www.drdmyanmar.org> or the address below during office hours from 09:00 to 16:00, Monday through Friday, except public holidays.

Attn: U Khant Zaw (Deputy Chief Engineer)
 Department of Rural Development, MLFRD
 Office No. 14, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
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 The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
 Dated 4 February 2015 kprw@kcyangon.com

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 Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC), Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road, Botahtaung Tsp, Yangon, Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
kprw@kcyangon.com
 Dated 4 February 2015

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE:

Weather is generally fair in the North Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 4th February, 2015:

Weather will be partly cloudy in Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions, Rakhine, Kayah, Kayin and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

STATE OF THE SEA:

Strong easterly winds with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (30) m.p.h. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Snow batters Northeast US for second time in week

NEW YORK / BOSTON, 3 Feb — A deadly winter snowstorm was forecast to lift on Monday night after walloping the Northeastern United States, forcing the delay of Boston's Super Bowl victory parade and snarling air traffic at several major airports.

The second major storm in less than a week

pummeled residents from New York City to Boston with snow, freezing rain and gusty winds. Weather conditions were a factor in at least 10 deaths, including some in the Midwest where the storm hit heavily on Sunday into Monday.

Boston, already blanketed by 2 feet (60 cm) of snow from a blizzard last

week and predicted to get a further foot, set a record for the snowiest seven-day period in the city's history. The 34.2 inches (87 cm) measured by 1 pm on Monday surpassed the 31.2 inches (79 cm) set in January 1996.

Deep snow prompted Mayor Marty Walsh to postpone by one day

until Wednesday the parade to celebrate the New England Patriots' 28-24 win over the Seattle Seahawks in Sunday's Super Bowl. Jury selection for the federal trial of accused Boston Marathon bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev was also delayed until Wednesday.

Reuters

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Bradley Cooper says surprised by 'American Sniper' debate



Clint Eastwood, best director nominee for his film "American Sniper", poses with Bradley Cooper, best actor nominee from the same film, upon arrival at the 87th Academy Awards nominees luncheon in Beverly Hills, California on 2 Feb, 2015.

REUTERS

BEVERLY HILLS, (California), 3 Feb — Bradley Cooper, who earned a best actor Oscar nomination for his performance as a deadly marksman in Clint Eastwood's "American Sniper," said on Monday that he did not foresee how the Iraq war biopic could become a charged political conversation.

"You never know when you make a movie if anybody's going to see it, so to have the audacity to think that it would cause any sort of effect at all would be pretty presumptuous," Cooper told reporters at the Academy Awards nominees luncheon.

"American Sniper," which tops the US box office and has so far grossed nearly \$250 million (£166.3 million), tells the real-life story of late US Navy SEAL sharpshooter Chris Kyle, whose 160 kills in Iraq is considered the highest count ever in US military history. The film has been nominated for six Oscars including best picture. It has become a flashpoint in US public debate with some liberals and conservatives sparring over its portrayal of war, soldiers, and Eastwood's interpretation of the history leading up to the 2003 Iraq invasion.—Reuters

'Uptown Funk' holds onto British music chart top spot

LONDON, 3 Feb — "Uptown Funk" by English DJ and producer Mark Ronson secured a seventh week at the top of the British singles chart on Sunday, the Official Charts Company said.

The single, which features Hawaii-born singer Bruno Mars, outsold Irish artist Hozier's song about love and religion "Take me to Church", which came in second place, and "LA Love" by Fergie in third.

The top five was completed by "Lips are Movin'" by Meghan Trainor in fourth and new entry "Four Five Seconds" by Barbadian star Rihanna, which also features Kanye West and Paul McCartney. Ronson could not hold



Singer Mark Ronson arrives for the UK premiere of "Mortdecai" at Leicester Square in London on 19 Jan, 2015.

REUTERS

on to number one position in the album charts, where Trainor's new entry "Title" earned her a chart-topping debut studio album. Ed Sheeran's "X" continued its long spell in the top five, charting in second place ahead of Ronson's "Uptown Special".—Reuters

Lindsay Lohan sues Fox for defamation over cocaine comments

NEW YORK, 3 Feb — Actress Lindsay Lohan and her mother Dina on Monday sued the Fox News Network, TV host Sean Hannity and commentator Michelle Fields for defamation over a comment by Fields accusing the Lohans of "doing cocaine" with each other. According to

a complaint filed in a New York state court in Manhattan, Fields made the comment on Hannity's show



on 4 February, 2014, two days after Oscar-winning actor Philip Seymour Hoffman died of a heroin overdose. Fields' comment came in a segment on the show where guests talked about celebrities like Whitney Houston, Elvis Presley and Amy Winehouse, whose deaths were linked to substance abuse, the complaint said. The Lohans said Fields declared it a "matter of fact" that they used cocaine together and said the comment and show's theme amounted to a "totally irresponsible and malicious innuendo" to suggest that Lindsay Lohan, 28, might be next to join the celebrity "obituary list." Fox News, a unit of Twenty-First Century Fox Inc, said in a statement: "Our legal team has not reviewed this yet so we cannot comment." The lawsuit seeks unspecified compensatory and punitive damages for defamation and intentional infliction of emotional distress, and to stop Fox News from distributing the 4 February broadcast. Once one of Hollywood's most sought-after young actresses, Lindsay Lohan has starred in films such as 1998's "The Parent Trap" and 2004's "Mean Girls." But has in recent years she has become known for her legal troubles and rehabilitation stints. Mark Heller, a lawyer for the Lohans, said the defendants had yet to apologise for, or retract Fields' comment.—Reuters

Whitney Houston's daughter 'fighting for her life' — family statement

ATLANTA, 3 Feb — The daughter of late pop star Whitney Houston is fighting for her life two days after being found unresponsive in a bathtub at her suburban Atlanta home, her family said on Monday.

Bobbi Kristina Brown, Houston's 21-year-old daughter with singer Bobby Brown, was rushed to a hospital in Roswell, Georgia, Saturday morning after her husband and a friend found her in the tub and her husband performed CPR.

"Bobbi Kristina is fighting for her life and is surrounded by immediate family," the Houston family said in a statement. "As her father already stated, we are asking you to honour our request for privacy during this difficult time."



Bobbi Kristina Brown attends the opening night of "The Hustons: On Our Own" in New York, in this file photo taken on 22 Oct, 2012.

REUTERS

Citing an unidentified source close to the family, CNN reported she was in a medically induced coma and breathing with the help of a ventilator.

Her brain function will not be known until doctors reduce the sedatives she is

receiving, the source told CNN.

Tara Landy, a spokeswoman for North Fulton Hospital, declined to comment on Brown's condition.

A police report released on Monday said officers responded to the home in reference to a drowning. The narrative of the incident offered no information about the young woman's condition or the circumstances leading to her being found.

Officer Lisa Holland, spokeswoman for the Roswell Police Department, said a search warrant and recording of the 911 call in the case would not be made public until police finish their investigation.

Reuters

Veteran actors share gratitude for Oscar nominations

BEVERLY HILLS, 3 Feb — As the nominees for this year's Oscars gathered at a luncheon in Beverly Hills on Monday, industry veterans took the opportunity to reminisce on their journey, some for the first time, to the Academy Awards platform.

"This nomination would not have come when I was in my twenties, because I was figuring out how to do this," said JK Simmons, best supporting actor favourite for "Whiplash."

His sentiments were echoed by fellow nominees including Michael Keaton, Steve Carell, Laura Dern and Reese Witherspoon, all of whom have been acting for more than two decades.

"At 46, it's really

beautiful, I can appreciate how meaningful it is," said "Boyhood" best supporting actress contender Arquette, a first-time Oscar nominee.

Simmons and Arquette joined more than 200 nominees across all branches of the film industry at the annual power lunch hosted by the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, organizers of the glitzy Oscars ceremony on 22 February, hosted by Neil Patrick Harris.

Most of this year's 20 acting contenders are veterans of the film industry, who shared their appreciation at being recognised for Hollywood's top honour at later stages in their career.

"The word grateful, I'm just going to keep saying it," said best actor



J.K. Simmons, best supporting actor nominee for his role in "Whiplash", arrives at the 87th Academy Awards nominees luncheon in Beverly Hills, California on 2 Feb, 2015.

REUTERS

frontrunner Keaton, who at 63, earned his first Oscar nod for dark showbiz comedy "Birdman".—Reuters

GENERAL

Shanghai Disneyland opening moved to first half of 2016



Dancers perform during the groundbreaking ceremony of Shanghai Disneyland in Pudong on 8 April, 2011.

REUTERS

NEW YORK, 3 Feb — Walt Disney Co's theme park in Shanghai, which was previously slated to open at the end of the year, has been pushed to the first half of 2016, the *Wall Street Journal* reported, citing people close to the project.

The media company has not specified a particular launch date for the \$5.5 billion theme park in China's largest city by population, the *WSJ* said.

Shanghai's mayor had said last week that basic

construction should be completed in 2015, while Chief Executive Officer Robert Iger had also affirmed in April that the park would open in 2015, the *WSJ* added.

Beijing will start on the construction of a Universal Studios theme park this year, which will be open to the public in 2019, the *China Daily* newspaper said.

Neither Walt Disney's spokeswoman nor Shanghai Disney were immediately available to comment on the report.—*Reuters*

mitv Myanmar International

(4-2-2015 07:00 am ~ 5-2-2015 07:00 am)

- | | |
|---|--|
| * Local News | * Insight Myanmar |
| * Mosaic Painting (Precious Stones & Gems) | * "Responsible Tourism and Economy" |
| * World News | * World News |
| * A Day In Bagan | * Made in Myanmar "Mixxo" |
| * Local News | * Local News |
| * Cultural Shows: Theatrical Art | * Culture Show: Theatrical Make Up |
| * World News | * World News |
| * Inspiration | * Products of Myanmar - Seashells Products |
| * Local News | * Local News |
| * A Simple and Peaceful Life | * Beautiful Mon Choral Dance |
| * World News | * World News |
| * Craft Blacksmithing | * Crocodile Keeper |
| * Local News | * Local News |
| * Moving Meditation: Aikido | * Food Trip (EP-4) (Part-1) |
| * World News | * World News |
| * We'll Leave After 12 Passengers Are On Board... | * Entrepreneur "Kalayar Pyi Wai Shan" |
| * Local News | |

Work begins to build interim nuclear soil storage in Fukushima

FUKUSHIMA, 3 Feb — Workers on Tuesday launched the construction of interim facilities near the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant to store contaminated soil and other waste collected during radiation cleanup activities within Fukushima Prefecture.

The storage facilities on around 16 square kilometres of land in the seaside towns of Okuma and Futaba are expected to be capable of storing

30 million tons of soil and other radioactive waste, such as burned ash. They are not for storing tainted waste generated within the crippled plant. Construction work has been delayed due to difficulties in obtaining agreement from the local municipalities and residents.

The government, which had hoped to begin moving radioactive waste to the interim storage sites in January, now plans to begin doing so by 11 March, the fourth anniversary of the

2011 earthquake-tsunami disaster that triggered the nuclear crisis.

The government plans to spend 1.1 trillion yen on the project.

On Tuesday morning, work began to prepare outside storage yards on some 2 hectares of land. But it remains unclear when the government will be able to start setting up other key storage buildings, an environment ministry official said.

The waste to be temporarily kept at the sites will be permanently disposed of outside the prefecture within 30 years, as requested by the prefectural government in

accepting the facilities. But the issue of finding permanent disposal sites remains unresolved.

Meanwhile, Tokyo Electric Power Co on Tuesday resumed part of the decommissioning work at its Fukushima Daiichi complex after a two-week hiatus in the wake of two separate fatal accidents last month.

The company had suspended all of work at the site on 21 January to conduct safety checks following the deaths of two workers at the Daiichi and nearby Daini site.

Kyodo News

Eto'o "lacked respect" in missing training, says coach

MILAN, 3 Feb — Sampdoria coach Sinisa Mihajlovic said forward Samuel Eto'o had shown a "serious lack of respect" by missing an extra training session on Monday following their 5-1 Serie A defeat at Torino.

Mihajlovic had scheduled two training sessions on Monday, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, as a reprisal for his team's performance.

But Eto'o, who only joined Sampdoria last week from English club Everton, left after the morning session without speaking to the coach and did not return, Italian media reported. "I don't know where he's gone and I don't know what the club intends to do," Mihajlovic was quoted

as saying in the *Gazzetta dello Sport*.

"The only thing that is certain is that the player did not give me any explanation; I consider it to be a serious lack of respect to myself and the rest of the team.

"That's the only truth today, the rest is pure fantasy.

"There hasn't been a row with Eto'o, simply because you need two people to have an argument and he has done everything on his own," he added. "I haven't seen him since the morning training and haven't spoken to him either."

Mihajlovic, a notoriously tough taskmaster who has revived Sampdoria's fortunes in his 15 months in charge, said he was ashamed by



Samuel Eto'o (L) is challenged by Ki Sung-Yueng during their English Premier League soccer match at Goodison Park in Liverpool, northern England on 1 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

Sunday's performance, adding that his players needed to examine their consciences.

Former Cameroon forward Eto'o, 33, who was a free agent, joined the Sampdoria from Everton last week

after only five months at the Merseyside club.

He came on as a second-half substitute in Sunday's match, only Sampdoria's third league defeat of the season.—*Reuters*

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(4-2-2015, Wednesday)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6:00 am | 2:35 pm |
| • Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | • Traditional Boxing |
| 7:00 am | 4:00 pm |
| • News/ Weather Report | • News / Weather Report |
| 7:35 am | 4:35 pm |
| • One Vision (Part-1-B) (Part-1) | • University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) — Fouth Year (Law) |
| 8:30 am | 5:35 pm |
| • Head Line News | • Documentary |
| 9:35 am | 6:35 pm |
| • Documentary (ASEAN) | • Science and Technology Programme |
| 10:00 am | 7:00 pm |
| • News /International News | • News |
| 11:35 am | 7:50 pm |
| • People's Talks | • (100) Birthday Anniversary Bogyoke Aung San |
| 12:00 noon | 8:00 pm |
| • News / International News / Weather Report | • News / International News / Weather Report |
| 12:35 pm | 9:00 pm |
| • Hluttaw Image | • News / Weather Report |
| 1:40 pm | • Hluttaw Image |
| • Cultural Show (Part-2) | • Fine Arts-Boston of Dramatic Performance |
| 2:20 pm | |
| • 68 th Anniversary Union Day Programme | |

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(4-2-2015, Wednesday)

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| 6:00 am | 9:00 am |
| • Wut Hmone Music Troupe | • Musical Programme |
| 6:15 am | 9:15 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • Pyi Thu Ni Ti |
| 6:40 am | 9:35 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • (60 th) Myanmar-Japan Symphony Orchestra-2014 |
| 7:05 am | 10:00 am |
| • Fashion Show | • Musical Programme |
| 7:45 am | 10:15 am |
| • TV Drama Series | • Myanmar Movie |
| 8:20 am | |
| • TV Drama Series | |

Super Bowl draws US record 114.4 million TV audience

NEW YORK, 3 Feb — The New England Patriots' heart-stopping 28-24 victory over the Seattle Seahawks in the Super Bowl delivered the largest television audience in US history with an average of 114.4 million viewers, network NBC said.

Sunday's National Football League championship game in Glendale, Arizona, topped last year's

record audience of 112.2 million live viewers on network Fox.

The figures compiled by Nielsen are fast national data and could be revised later.

Viewership peaked to 120.8 million between 9:45 and 10 pm EST (0245-0300 GMT) during the Patriots' game-winning fourth-quarter drive, Comcast Corp-

owned NBC said.

Pop star Katy Perry's halftime performance with rapper Missy Elliott and rocker Lenny Kravitz also scored 118.5 million viewers, 3 million more than last year's show featuring singer Bruno Mars and Red Hot Chili Peppers.

The Super Bowl is the most expensive TV programme for advertisers, who

were willing to pay up to \$4.5 million for a 30-second commercial this year.

Nielsen revised down the Super Bowl's rating - the percentage of households watching the game on TV — to 47.5 from 49.7. That makes it the fourth-highest rated Super Bowl as measured in percentage of households since 1986.

Reuters

Quiet day at the sales as deadline day lacks drama

LONDON, 3 Feb — The last-minute shopping spree often associated with the closing of the January transfer window failed to materialise on Monday as Europe's top clubs largely kept their powder dry.

Even in England, where the 20 Premier League can usually be relied upon to splash some of the cash they earn from a mega TV deal, trading was unusually light, leaving presenters of Sky Sports News' much-hyped deadline day coverage desperately searching for something to talk about.

Leaders Chelsea spent 35 million euros (26.42 million pounds) to bring Colombian Juan Cuadrado to Stamford Bridge, recouping most of that by selling Andre Schuerrle to Bundesliga side VfL

Wolfsburg, but Manchester United, Manchester City and Arsenal did no significant late business.

English champions City signed Ivory Coast striker Wilfried Bony from Swansea City last month for 25 million pounds (\$37.6 million) while United's only arrival of note was former Barcelona keeper Victor Valdes on a free transfer. While a few late deals could push the total January spend in the Premier League past the 100 million pounds mark, the head-spinning transfer frenzy, for now at least, appears to have been replaced by a calmer, more measured approach.

UEFA's Financial Fair Play rules have made it less likely that clubs sign players without first off-loading some of their

squad, stalling the usual merry-go-round.

Transfers of players from the Premier League to other European leagues is also hindered by the huge salaries.

The reluctance of club managers to part with players at such a delicate phase of the season has also become an increasing factor in the mid-season window.

While Premier League spending this season is running at around 900 million pounds, the vast majority of that dates back to pre-season when squads were being assembled.

Liverpool, chasing a top-four finish in the Premier League, failed to add to their squad in January, while Arsenal limited their activity to Legia Warsaw youngster Krystian Bielik and Gabriel from Villarreal.

Loan deals such as former England winger Aaron Lennon joining Everton from Tottenham Hotspur and high-flying Southampton taking Serbia's Filip Djuricic from Benfica and Eljero Elia from Werder Bremen caught the eye.

However, managers of the clubs battling against relegation were left frustrated in their attempts to strengthen.

None more so than Queens Park Rangers boss Harry Redknapp, one of England's most adept deadline day dealers.

Apart from Mauro Zarate from West Ham United, Redknapp failed to bolster QPR's squad, having tried and failed with a late attempt to sign striker Emmanuel Adebayor from Tottenham.

Speaking to the BBC,



Colombia's Juan Cuadrado celebrates after scoring a penalty goal against Japan during their 2014 World Cup Group C soccer match at the Pantanal arena in Cuiaba on 24 June, 2014.—REUTERS

former Hull City chairman Paul Duffen explained the lack of January activity.

"Getting players out in the market, there are problems such as liquidity. Clubs don't have it, apart from Chelsea today," he said. "There is the danger

in January for a player that if it goes wrong, it could harm their career.

"They could find they go on-loan at a club who get relegated and end up in a worse situation than they were."

Reuters

McIlroy prepares for multi-million dollar courtroom battle

LONDON, 3 Feb — Rory McIlroy may be able to stay calm on the golf course but the world number one must hold his nerve in the courtroom when a multi-million dollar legal battle with his former agents gets underway in Dublin on Tuesday.

The 25-year-old terminated his contract with Horizon Sports Management in September 2013 to form his own management company, prompting a protracted legal dispute that is expected to last six to eight weeks in Dublin.

The Northern Irishman signed a deal with Horizon until 2017, with the Dublin-based company expected to receive a percentage of his financial

dealings.

After signing a number of lucrative sponsorship agreements, including a deal with Nike in early 2013 worth a guaranteed \$100 million (67 million pounds) over five years, McIlroy decided that his relationship with Horizon was no longer in his best interests.

McIlroy, who may have to spend up to six days in the Dublin courtroom, is suing his former agents over the "unconscionable" contract he signed, while Horizon are counter-suing him on the grounds that he owes them millions of dollars in commission on contracts up to 2017.

McIlroy said before last week's Dubai Desert

Classic that he would have to do his "homework" on a "very tedious and nasty process".

However, the four-time major winner has been seemingly unaffected on the course.

In his last seven European Tour events, McIlroy, who won the British Open and the US PGA titles last year, has claimed four wins and three runner-up finishes.

McIlroy shot a final round 70 to win the Dubai Desert Classic title by three shots on Sunday, finishing on a tournament record equalling 22-under-par.

"Let me enjoy this win for an hour or two," McIlroy told reporters after claiming his 10th European Tour success.

"It's not the best thing to be looking forward to, but it will be all over in a few weeks."

Dubai was McIlroy's final European Tour appearance before he starts his preparations for April's US Masters in Augusta.

"It's important to put in some good performances... and feel what it's like in the heat of the moment, because that's when you really know how your game is and how it holds up under some pressure," McIlroy said.

However, the world number one will have to deal with the pressure of the courtroom first.

Reuters

Bony steps into Drogba's big boots at Nations Cup

MALABO, 3 Feb — Wilfried Bony was the main man on Sunday as Ivory Coast beat Algeria 3-1 in the African Nations Cup to set up a semi-final clash with Democratic Republic of Congo.

Ivory Coast are contesting their first international competition without former talisman Didier Drogba since the 2002 Nations Cup.

There were signs that they missed the Chelsea striker, who retired from international duty after last year's World Cup, during the group stage as they stuttered to draws against Guinea and Mali.

"If Drogba is not here it's not because of us but because of him," coach Herve Renard told reporters. "However if you lose Drogba and find Bony you're doing pretty well."

Against Algeria, Bony demonstrated that after flattering to deceive for the national side he is finally ready to take up Drogba's mantle.

The new Manchester City signing scored two fine headers, from a Max Gradel cross and a Yaya Toure free kick, ensuring the Ivorians progressed to the semi-finals.

"Bony was the top scorer in England in 2014," Renard added. "When you say that, you understand everything."

"Things are much easier when you have players



Ivory Coast's Wilfried Bony celebrates his second goal during their quarter-final soccer match of the 2015 African Cup of Nations against Algeria in Malabo on 1 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

of his and Gervinho's quality."

Gervinho, who scored a late third for Ivory Coast, also acknowledged that Bony's form was helping the team forget Drogba.

"We can't think about Drogba anymore," he said. "Bony is a different style of player he's a player who brings us another dimension."

"He has a personality that works well with Ivory Coast he works hard for us and it suits us."

Ivory Coast have reached the last four for the fourth time in Six Nations Cups and take on DR Congo in Bata on Wednesday. DR Congo advanced with a dramatic 4-2 victory over local rivals Congo on Saturday.—Reuters



Rory McIlroy of Northern Ireland in action during the final round of the Dubai Desert Classic on 1 Feb, 2015.

REUTERS