

Ministry for Agriculture and Irrigation to establish organic farming zone

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—The Bill Committee's report on the Association Registration Bill was submitted at today's session of Pyithu Hluttaw.

With regard to the question on the establishment of organic zone or urban or-

ganic farm, Deputy Minister for Agricultural and Irrigation U Ohn Than replied that organic farming are being implemented in Nay Pyi Taw, Bago and Ayeyawady Regions and Chin State. Boosting organic crops production relies on local and

foreign demands and organic crops manufactures.

Shift from traditional farming to organic farming takes two years for seasonal crops and three years for perennial crops. The products that meet 75 percent organic standards can

be labeled as traditional-turned-organic ones while the products with at least 95 percent organic standards can be sold as organic products.

Department of Agriculture will establish an organic farming zone, give the train-

ing, provide technical assistance and help the entrepreneurs for the availability of organic certification and local and foreign marketing. The seventh day session will go on 27 January.

Both governmental and private sectors should fulfill

needs infrastructure facilities at industrial zones, said Deputy Minister for Industry U Myo Aung at Amyotha Hluttaw today.

In his reply to the question raised by Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon (See page 8)

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35 officials receive foreign economic relations skills

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Thirty-five government officials received foreign economic relations skills during Basic Foreign Economic Relations Course No. 2.

In his speech at the ceremony to conclude the BFER course No. 2 held at Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development here today, Union Minister U Tin

Naing Thein has urged the trainees to work hard for improvement their capabilities as part of efforts for human resource development and to contribute to governmental departments, economic organizations and social organizations in terms of feeding information related to economy.

The trainees learnt 22

subjects including economy, investment, trade, financial, aid, grant and loan.

Outstanding trainees of the course would receive commercial attaché course to be jointly conducted by the Netherlands' CBI and would be appointed as commercial attaché, said Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic De-

velopment.

Altogether 35 trainees are from Minister of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development, Ministry of Cooperatives, Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development and Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. MNA

U Thar Aung Nyunt appointed as Myanmar Ambassador to Malaysia

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Thar Aung Nyunt, Director-General of the Consular and Legal Affairs Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Malaysia.—MNA

U Win Naing appointed as Myanmar Ambassador to Islamic Republic of Pakistan

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Win Naing, Director-General of the International Organizations and Economic Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.—MNA

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Rocket blasts off with NASA communications satellite



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NASA rover Opportunity finds signs Mars once had fresh water



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Budget for Rio 2016 up 27 percent to \$2.93 billion

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Moeyungyi Sanctuary sees flocks of migratory birds

To protect and conserve sites inhabited by a large number of species of birds and recognized

as the areas of biodiversity, 2171 sites with a total surface area of 207,291 hectares in 168 countries

that are parties to Ramsar Convention, have been designated as wetlands of international importance so far.

Among them, Moeyungyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary is the first site under Ramsar Convention in Myanmar.



By: MNA

It is located on the side of Yangon-Mandalay Highway, 19 miles from Bago, Bago Region.

As it is home to hibernating and resident water birds, the sanctuary has become an ecotourism site, offering globetrotters and local travelers for bird watching trips and making the enjoyment of natural scenery.

On his inspection tour of the sanctuary, Deputy Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Aye Myint Maung coordinated mat-

ters related to the development of ecotourism and public awareness of the importance of wetland conservation. He stressed the need to draw action plans suitable for the own region in accord with the slogan "Think Globally, Act Locally".

World Wetlands Day is celebrated internationally each year on 2 February. It marks the anniversary of the signing of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance. World Wetlands Day was first celebrated in 1997. The theme for the World Wetland Day 2014 is "Wetlands and Agriculture: Partners for Growth".

Kyemon: 24-1-2014

Trs: YM

Photo shows Moeyungyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary with flocks of migratory birds.



YMBA opens Meiktila branch

MEIKTILA, 24 Jan—A ceremony to set up the branch of Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA) was held at Sasana Beikman in Meiktila on 20 January.

Chairman of the YMBA Headquarters U Kyaw Thein (Maha Mingaladhamma Jotikadhaja) made a speech.

Vice-Chairman of the organizational committee U Sein Thein explained rules and regulations of formation and read the executive list of

YMBA Branch No 42.

The chairman of YMBA presented appointment certificate to Chairman of the branch U Thein Swe.

Treasurer U Maung Maung Myint of the branch K 100,000 as formation fund to the chairman.

Staff Officer of Meiktila District Religious Affairs Department U Win Zaw Nyunt explained religious affairs.

The branch chairman spoke words of thanks.

U Tin Hlaing (Meiktila)

Development Fund

Fund handed over to development undertaking committee

KYAUKME, 24 Jan—Pyidaungsu Hluttaw allotted K 100 million to be spent on regional development tasks to various townships.

Recently, a ceremony to hand over cash to the fund of Rural Development and Township Development Committee was held at the hall of Kyaukme Township General Administration Department of Shan State.

Kyaukme Township Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Sai Hsaung Hsi presented K 100 million to the Secretary of the Township Development Implementation Committee

who is also Township Administrator.

Chairman of the Township Development Implementation Committee Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Sai Hsuang Hsi, Secretary U Aung Lwin and party shared the fund to ward and village development committees and supervisory committees in equal ratio. The fund will be spent on water supply tasks, sinking tube-well, construction of water tanks, construction of roads and bridges, electrification and construction of village fire station.—Kyemon



Extended building construction starts at Kalay People's Hospital

KALAY, 24 Jan—The government allotted K 469 million of the fund in 2013-14 fiscal year to construct a two-storey building which is 240 feet long and 56 feet wide reinforced concrete structure, south of Kalay General Hospital in Kalay of Sagaing Region.

Alpha Wing Co takes responsibility for construction of the building

as of 26 December 2013 and it has been completed by 20 per cent so far.

On 16 January, Chairman of Kalay District Management Committee U Maung Htoo, District Senior Engineer U Myint Win of District Public Works and Medical Superintendent Dr Nyunt Than inspected progress of construction tasks.

Officials instructed responsible persons of the company to place emphasis on timely completion of building meeting set standards.

A more plan is underway to build tube-well, septic tank, water tanks spending K 21.836 million for the two-storey new building.

Kyemon-Ju Nine



Myingyan Steel Plant to be operated soon



MYINGYAN, 24 Jan—Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd will hand over Myingyan Steel Plant to Ministry of Industry in the third week of January this year. All staff and workers will be placed under management of Myingyan Steel Plant, according to Deputy Steel Plant Manager U Thein Zaw.

The plant is now ready to operate its runs, he added.

Iron and steel are important things in nation-building endeavours in setting out the industrialized plant.

Although the price of materials are so high, but it must be undertaken for ensuring development of industrial sector. In addition, the steel plant will be run as it is focusing on import-substitute projects so as to creating job opportunities for the local people and to manufacture the import-substitute products.

The plant was established with assistance of Italy. It was built in Myingyan Township, eight miles to Myingyan.

Kyemon-Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)

Pay Your Tax

Sunflower plantations thriving in Thazi Tsp

THAZI, 24 Jan—Sunflower, the edible oil crops, grown in Nadaw, the month of Myanmar lunar year, December, is now thriving in their plantations in villages of Thazi Township.

Generally, there are two species such as cold season sunflower strain and monsoon sunflower strain.

Local farmers of Thazi Township grow a few acres

of monsoon season crops.

In growing sunflower plants, there does not need to recruit the workers for the plantations.

Bean plantations can be cultivated in the sunflower plantations through the mix-cropping. So local farmers enjoy better profits from the sunflower plantations.

Kyemon-Tun Tun (Thazi)



WORLD

Suicide car bomber kills four in Cairo, two more blasts follow

CAIRO, 24 Jan— A suicide car bomber blew himself up in the parking lot of a top security compound in central Cairo on Friday, killing at least four people in one of the most high-profile attacks on the state in months, security sources said.

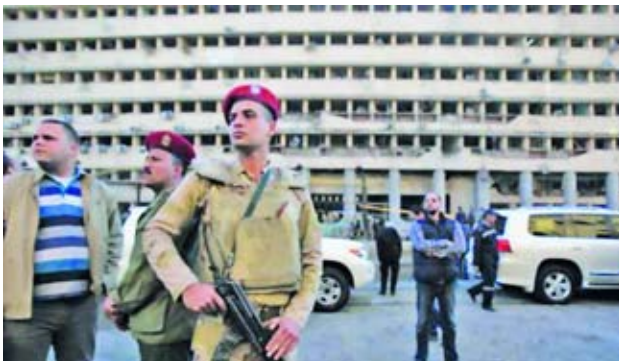
The early morning explosion damaged the Cairo Security Directorate, which includes police and state security, and sent smoke rising over the capital, raising concerns that an Islamist insur-

gency is gathering pace.

Hours after the attack, two more blasts rocked the capital.

A crude explosive device killed one policeman and wounded nine others in another Cairo neighborhood, the Interior Ministry said in a statement. Security sources said a person driving past security vehicles threw a hand grenade in their direction.

In Giza, a large district on the outskirts of Cairo, a third explosion went off



An army police officer stands guard in front of the damaged Cairo Security Directorate building, which includes police and state security, after a bomb attack in downtown Cairo, on 24 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

near a police station. There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The dead from the first blast included three police-

men, security sources said. State television quoted the Cairo governor as saying 50 people were wounded.

Reuters

Ukraine's Yanukovich spurns opposition, more barricades go up



Anti-government protesters gather for a rally in Kiev on 23 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

KIEV, 24 Jan— Ukrainian anti-government protesters erected more street barricades in the capital Kiev early on Friday after opposition leaders emerged empty-handed from talks with President Viktor Yanukovich that were aimed at defusing two months of unrest.

Opposition leader Vitaly Klitschko said that Yanukovich had yielded nothing in a second round of talks with the opposition on Thursday evening, and he voiced fears that the impasse could now lead to further bloodshed.

At least three protesters were killed early on

Wednesday in Kiev — two from gunshot wounds - after clashes between protesters who are being led by a hard core of radicals and riot police.

Scores of others on both sides have been injured — many of them with eye injuries caused by flying projectiles and police

rubber bullets.

After speaking first to protesters manning barricades at the main confrontation point with police, Klitschko then went to Kiev's Independence Square where he declared: "Hours of conversation were spent about nothing. There is no sense sitting at a negotiating table with someone who has already decided to deceive you."

"I earnestly wish that there will be no bloodshed and that people are not killed ... I will survive, but I am afraid there will be deaths, I am afraid of this," the boxer-turned-politician said.

Three opposition politicians — Klitschko, former economy minister Arseny Yatsenyuk and far-right nationalist Oleh Tyahnybok - had tried to wring concessions from Yanukovich that would end two months of street protests against his rule.—*Reuters*

South Sudan gov't, rebels sign cease-fire deal

NAIROBI, 24 Jan — South Sudan's government and rebel troops loyal to former Vice President Riek Machar that have been fighting since December signed a cease-fire deal on Thursday in Addis Ababa, the neighboring Ethiopia's capital, *Reuters* news service and other media outlets said.

The agreement calls for the cessation of hostilities by Friday. It will likely generate expectations that unrest will come to an end in the country that a United Nations official had said was effectively in a civil war.

Thousands were killed

in the fighting that lasted more than a month and could continue to have a lasting adverse impact on society and economy.

According to the United Nations, at least 490,000 have been internally displaced, while about 86,000 fled to neighbouring countries.

Japan's Ground Self-Defence Force troops dispatched to the capital Juba as part of the UN peacekeeping operations have suspended its original mission of infrastructure development. They have instead been providing support to asylum seekers.

Negotiators from the government and the rebel forces have been holding peace talks since early January under the auspices of the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, a regional organization in East Africa. The fighting has grown amid the rivalry between the country's largest ethnic group Dinka, with which President Salva Kiir is a member, and Nuer to which Machar belongs. Government forces recaptured several state capitals temporarily held by rebels, including Bor, the capital of the eastern state of Jonglei.—*Kyodo News*

Gov't to approve Japan Post's new education insurance

TOKYO, 24 Jan — The government will give Japan Post Insurance Co on Friday approval to launch a new savings-oriented education insurance product, Finance Minister Taro Aso and Internal Affairs and Communications Minister Yoshitaka Shindo said. The Financial Services Agency and Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications will allow the company to launch the new educational endowment insurance in April, when the new school year begins, government officials said.

"It is important that operations are implemented in an appropriate manner, and we hope that (the insurer) will do so," Aso, who doubles as financial services minister, said at a press conference. The move comes after Washington apparently relaxed its concerns over Japan's insurance market following an expansion of business collaboration between Japan Post Insurance and American Family Life Assurance Co, or Aflac.

Japan's insurance sec-

tor is one of the key topics of discussion in bilateral talks between Tokyo and Washington over the envisioned Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade arrangement. But the issue has not been discussed intensively since the collaboration between the insurance unit of the state-owned Japan Post group and the US-based insurer was announced last July.

Japan Post Insurance, a wholly owned unit of Japan Post Holdings Co, applied for the new insurance product in September 2012 for sales to commence by April 2013. The government, however, froze its screening of the application after the insurer became embroiled in a scandal over nonpayment of 100,000 outstanding policies.

The new education insurance plan will be more savings-oriented than its existing education insurance. Similar products by other insurers have been popular, and the approval suspension has been weighing on the sales of Japan Post Insurance.—*Kyodo News*



A destroyed vehicle is seen at the blast site in northwest Pakistan's Peshawar, on 23 Jan, 2014. At least nine people including two children were killed and 11 others injured in a car bomb blast that hit Pakistan's northwestern city of Peshawar on Thursday afternoon, local media and police said.

XINHUA

Small bomb explodes in Rome near French church

ROME, 24 Jan — A small makeshift explosive device blew up in a street in central Rome in the early hours of Friday, causing slight damage to a building belonging to a French religious establishment and three parked cars, police said.

There was no immediate word on what was behind the explosion, which occurred hours before a

visit to Pope Francis by French President Francois Hollande but security was tight near the Vatican ahead of the meeting.

According to a tweet from the French Embassy to the Vatican, the church of Saint-Yves des Bretons, part of a religious foundation known as Les pieux etablissements de la France, is located in the street.—*Reuters*



Former UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata (3rd from R) takes part in a ceremony to open a sake barrel in Davos, Switzerland, on 23 Jan, 2014. It was part of the Japan Night event in the Swiss resort hosting the World Economic Forum.

KYODO NEWS

WORLD

“Nankai Trough” quake to cut Osaka’s tap water supply for 8 mil

OSAKA, 24 Jan — A powerful earthquake originating in what seismologists call the “Nankai Trough” off western Japan could cut off tap water to roughly 8.32 million people in Osaka, or 94 percent of the prefecture’s residents, the metropolitan government said on Friday.

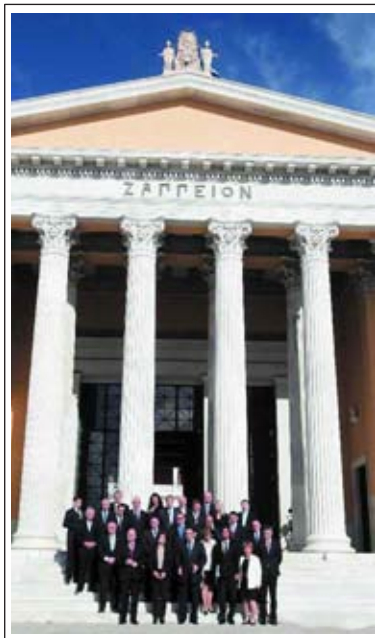
The supply outage would result from quake-induced damage to tap water infrastructure stemming from intense oscillation, tsunami and a phenomenon called ground liquefaction, it said, quoting the results of discussions at an advisory panel to the local government.

Such an intense tremor would also knock out the power supply for a combined 2.34 million households, or 55 percent of the prefecture’s households, while stopping gas supply to 1.15 million households, or 34 percent of the households, it said.

Damage to buildings, distribution networks and other infrastructure would surpass 28 trillion yen worth.

Although the national government earlier predicted the Nankai Trough quake would stop tap water supply for only 4.3 million people, the metropolitan government’s projection almost doubles that estimate.

The Osaka government’s estimate is much more severe as it takes into account possible damage to water intakes along the Yodo River, the prefecture’s main source of tap water.—Kyodo News



EU Justice Ministers pose for a family photo at the Zappeion Hall in Athens, capital of Greece, on 23 Jan, 2014. The Informal Meeting of Ministers for Justice and Home Affairs (JHA) will address issues that have been prioritised by the presidency in the field of Justice: future developments in the sector, as it enters the post-Stockholm period, and the level of data protection for European citizens.—XINHUA

70 animals remain in shelter in Sendai

SENDAI, 24 Jan — About 70 dogs and cats are still living in a shelter in Sendai in the northeastern prefecture of Miyagi, even though almost three years have passed since the powerful earthquake and tsunami struck the region in March 2011.

“I would like to continue to look after these animals until all of them can reunite with their owners,” said Takashi Wagatsuma, 43, head of the shelter operator called “Dogwood.”

Shortly after the 11 March disaster, the shelter of about 1 hectare took care of as many as 300 dogs and cats that formerly lived at homes in not only Miyagi but also Iwate and Fukushima prefectures.

About 200 of them have been returned to their owners and 30 died, according to Dogwood.

The remaining 70 are those whose owners remain missing or are currently living in temporary housing or apartments where they are not allowed to have pets.

Kayoko Kohata, 41, entrusted her two cats to the shelter after moving out of the Fukushima village of

Iitate to temporary housing in Fukushima City due to high levels of radiation following the accident at Tokyo Electric Power Co’s Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station.

“For me, the cats are part of my family and their faces always make me feel at ease and cheer me up,” Kohata, who comes to see the cats twice a month, said during her brief visit at the end of last year. There are also people outside the northeastern region who have offered a helping hand to animals in Tohoku.

Cat and Dog Rescue Party Minashigo, a non-

Fire at seniors’ residence in Canada kills 3, 30 missing

OTTAWA, 24 Jan — At least three people were killed and 30 others unaccounted for after a night-time fire early Thursday destroyed a seniors’ residence that housed many residents with limited mobility in the town of L’Isle-Verte in Canada’s Quebec Province.

The town’s acting mayor or Ginette Caron said most of about 50-60 residents, at their 80s, who lived at the Residence du Havre, could not get around on their own and some of them had

Alzheimer’s disease. Many residents had come to live at the residence because of the special end-of-life care offered in the region, she was quoted by local media as saying. About 20 residents were taken away from the residence to local and nearby hospitals.

Local police said that they received a call about the fire at around 12:35 am ET and the fire was brought under control at around 5 am ET in L’Isle-Verte, a small town with about

1,500 residents located in the Lower St Lawrence, about 230 km northeast of Quebec City. The fire is now out, but images show a demolished building, with little more than a frame left behind in some places.

Canada’s Prime Minister Stephen Harper, who is in Jordan on his first Middle East tour, Governor General David Johnston and other leaders all issued statements expressing their condolences to the small community.—Xinhua



Shiite Muslims participate in a sit in protest in southern Pakistani port city of Karachi on 23 Jan, 2014. Protests against Tuesday’s suicide attack that killed 28 Shiite Muslims in Pakistan’s southwestern Balochistan province continued for the second consecutive day in almost all big cities of the country on Thursday.—XINHUA

China jails hospital official in baby selling case

WEINAN, 24 Jan — A Chinese hospital official involved in a baby trafficking case has been sentenced to one year imprisonment for dereliction of duty, a court announced on Friday.

The Linwei District People’s Court in Weinan City of northwest China’s Shaanxi Province delivered the verdict to Si Xin, former administrator of the delivery rooms at Fuping County Maternal and Child Health Care Hospital at a public hearing. Three others were also sentenced.

Wang Li, former president of the hospital, was exempt from punishment. Former director of the department of obstetrics Gao Wenping received one year in jail with two years’ reprieve. Former deputy president of the hospital Yao Junmin was given six months in prison with one year reprieve. On 14 January, the main offender, Zhang Shuxia, an obstetrician at the hospital, was sentenced to death with two

years’ reprieve for selling babies to human traffickers. Zhang was guilty of selling seven babies, one of whom later died, to traffickers after persuading their parents to give up their “sick” newborns.

The case led to public outrage over baby trafficking and professional ethics of medical workers after Zhang’s crimes were exposed in July, when a mother, surnamed Dong, suspected her newborn had been abducted. She reported the incident to police.

Zhang persuaded Dong and her husband to give up their boy after falsely claiming the child had a congenital disease. The baby was found in good condition in neighboring Henan Province on 5 August. Two twin baby girls were also rescued from neighboring Shanxi and Shandong provinces in east China on 10 August after their mother, surnamed Wang, contacted police in Fuping.—Xinhua



Photo taken in December 2013 shows Yuri Nakatani, head of Cat and Dog Rescue Party Minashigo, caring for cats in Hiroshima, Hiroshima Prefecture.

KYODO NEWS

Jordan king talks with Canada PM on regional issues

AMMAN, 24 Jan — Jordan’s King Abdullah II met with the Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper on Thursday, discussing the situation in the Middle East. During the meeting, the king stressed Jordan’s keenness to forge closer ties with Canada in various fields.

The king also praised Canada’s continued support to the kingdom, mainly in implementing developmental strategies to enhance youth’s capacities. During

the meeting, which focused on regional and international issues, King Abdullah II said the establishment of an independent and viable Palestinian state, based on the two-state solution and the Arab Peace Initiative, is a top and strategic Jordanian interest.

On the Syria crisis, King Abdullah reiterated Jordan’s stance which supports a comprehensive political solution to the crisis that ends bloodshed and violence, preserves

Syria’s unity as well. He also warned about the repercussions of extremism, violence and terrorism on the region’s countries.

The king pointed to the burden being shouldered by Jordan as a result of hosting the largest number of Syrian refugees and valued the support provided by Canada to enable the kingdom to continue providing humanitarian services to the refugees.

The Canadian Prime Minister said Canada was

looking forward to enhancing coordination and consultations with Jordan to promote bilateral cooperation in various fields.

He also praised Jordan’s comprehensive reform process led by the king.

Harper visited Jordan on Thursday after a four-day visit to Israel, his first trip to Israel focusing on economic cooperation, and the status of the peace talks with the Palestinians.

Xinhua

WORLD

Hiroshima to take steps to safeguard peace memorial against quakes

HIROSHIMA, 24 Jan — The Hiroshima municipal government plans to take seismic reinforcement steps for the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, the symbol of the August 1945 atomic bombing of the city, municipal sources said on Friday.

The memorial, also known as the Atomic Bomb Dome, was the only structure left standing in the area hit by the world's first atomic bombing, and has been designated as a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

The city government will earmark funds for the project in its budget for fiscal 2014 from April and plans to start work in or after fiscal 2015, the sources said.

It will be the first time for work to be undertaken to safeguard the monument against earthquakes. Past reinforcements in 1967 and 1989 were limited to filling wall cracks with bonding resin.—Kyodo News



US Deputy Secretary of State William Burns (2nd from R) and Japanese Defence Minister Itsunori Onodera (L) hold talks in Tokyo on 24 Jan, 2014. At right is US Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy.

KYODO NEWS

DPRK sends open letter to S Korea urging detente

PYONGYANG, 24 Jan — The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) repeated its call for South Korea's "positive response" to its "important proposals" on improving inter-Korean relations, the official KCNA news agency reported on Friday.

The letter, sent by the National Defence Commission (NDC) on Thursday under a special order from DPRK's top leader Kim Jong Un, urged Seoul to "stop all hostile military acts, the biggest hurdle stoking distrust and con-

frontation," according to the report.

It said Pyongyang has "already unilaterally opted for halting all acts of getting on the nerves" of South Korea, adding that the DPRK did not ask South Korean authorities to stop ordinary military drills.

"It is our determination to create an atmosphere of reconciliation and unity, completely halt hostile military acts, realize the reunion of separated families and relatives, resume the tour of Mt Kumgang and re-energize multi-faceted

US drone strike kills four in central Yemen

SANAA, 24 Jan — A US drone strike hit a group of people driving a car in Yemen's central Province of Marib on Thursday night, killing at least four people and injuring several others, a Yemeni interior ministry official told Xinhua.

"Four people were killed in the US drone strike which took place on Thursday night in coordination with the Yemeni interior ministry," the official told Xinhua by phone on

condition of anonymity. He said the targets included an al-Qaeda suspect.

He said that about seven others were seriously injured in the attack, which hit the suspects' vehicle in Wadi Abida in Marib Province, some 173 km north-east of Sanaa.

The Yemeni interior ministry issued a statement after the attack, saying it foiled an attempt by al-Qaeda militants to seize some government institutions in Marib Province. No further details were given by the ministry's statement which was obtained by Xinhua.

It was the second US-drone strike since the beginning of this year after unmanned plane killed two suspected al-Qaeda

militants in Yemen's south-eastern Province of Hadramout on 8 January.

The United States has escalated its drone strikes on the al-Qaeda network in Yemen since Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi took office in February 2012 after a UN-backed power transfer deal removed former President Ali Abdullah Saleh from power.

The Yemen-based al-Qaeda offshoot frequently launched revenge attacks on local targets, the military and foreign missions in the country. On 5 December, 12 al-Qaeda militants attacked the Yemeni defence ministry, killing over 56 people and injuring more than 200 others.—Xinhua



Arab women choose books at a bookstand during the 45th Cairo International Book Fair in Cairo Egypt, on 23 Jan, 2014. The 45th Cairo International Book Fair, one of the biggest book exhibitions in the world, opened to public here on Thursday, with the theme "Culture and Identity," and saw participation from 24 different countries and over 700 publishers, 500 of which are Egyptian.

XINHUA

Reputed NY mobster nabbed in 1978 'Goodfellas' Airport heist



Alleged Bonanno crime family leader Vincent Asaro is escorted by FBI agents from their Manhattan offices in New York on 23 Jan, 2014. —REUTERS

NEW YORK, 24 Jan—Five people said to be part of a New York crime family were arrested on Thursday, including a 78-year-old man accused of participating in a notorious 1978 airport heist that inspired the movie "Goodfellas."

More than three decades after \$5 million in cash and \$1 million in jewelry was stolen from a Lufthansa airlines cargo building at John F Kennedy International Airport, the FBI arrested Vincent Asaro, an alleged leader of the

Bonanno organized crime family, on robbery charges.

Four other men, who prosecutors said were members of the New York-based gang, were arrested for other crimes.

"Vincent Asaro devoted his adult life to the Bonanno crime family, with a criminal career that spanned decades," said US Attorney Loretta Lynch in a statement. "Neither age nor time dimmed Asaro's ruthless ways, as he continued to order violence to carry out mob business in recent

months." Asaro pleaded not guilty in a brief appearance at US District Court in Brooklyn, and his attorney said he would fight the charges.

"I got a call from Martin Scorsese," joked attorney Gerald McMahon, referring to the director of the 1990 movie about the heist. "He wants to do a sequel to 'Goodfellas' and it seems that federal prosecutors are providing him with the script."

At the time of the JFK caper, the currency was being shipped to a US-bank from West Germany and the theft was the biggest cash heist ever in the United States. The stolen \$5 million in cash would be worth \$17.9 million in 2013 dollars, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

"These 'goodfellas' thought they had a license to steal, a license to kill, and a license to do whatever they wanted," said George Venizelos, FBI assistant director-in-charge, in the New York field office.

The gangsters involved in the heist had each been promised a \$750,000 payment that most didn't get "either because they were killed first or it was never given to them," according to court papers filed in the Brooklyn court on Thursday.

Asaro resented the non-payment, according to a 2011 recording made by a cooperating witness.

"We never got our right money, what we were supposed to get, we got fucked all around," Asaro told the witness, according to the papers. "That fucking Jimmy (Burke) kept everything."

James "Jimmy the Gent" Burke was played by Robert De Niro in the popular Scorsese movie adapted from the book "Wiseguy" by Nicholas Pileggi. Affiliated with the rival Lucchese crime family, Burke was the suspected mastermind of the brazen crime that stumped investigators for decades.

Reuters

ICC postpones Kenyatta trial again

THE HAGUE, 24 Jan—The trial of Kenya President Uhuru Kenyatta faces another delay and will not start at the scheduled date of 5 February, was stated by the International Criminal Court (ICC) in The Hague on Thursday.

Instead of commencing the trial the chamber will now hold a status conference on 5 February to address the prosecution's request for a 3-month adjournment. The trial was originally scheduled for 9 July, 2013, but was already delayed to 12 November and later to 5 February to give the defense more preparation time.

Last month the ICC prosecutor Fatou Bensouda asked for an adjournment after one of the prosecu-

tion's key witnesses indicated he was no longer willing to testify and a second key witness confessed to have given false evidence. This latter witness was also withdrawn from the witness list.

Kenyatta, who was elected as President of Kenya in March this year, is charged, as an indirect co-perpetrator, with five counts of crimes against humanity. The charges are murder, deportation or forcible transfer, rape, persecution and other inhumane acts allegedly committed during the post-election violence in Kenya in 2007 and 2008, in which more than 1,000 people died. The charges were confirmed on 23 January, 2012.

Xinhua

BUSINESS & HEALTH

High-fluoride paste may prevent white spots from braces

NEW YORK, 24 Jan — Adolescents may not be able to get out of wearing braces, but using a high-fluoride toothpaste for the duration could help them avoid white marks the devices often leave behind, according to a new study from Sweden. The special paste with almost four times the usual fluoride content helped prevent about a third of the chalky-looking spots among kids between the ages of 11 and 16 years old, researchers say.

Past studies have shown that up to 85 percent of patients who wear braces may develop these so-called white spot lesions, which represent local tooth decay and tend to be permanent.

"To reduce this effect, several products are available on the market, but evidence of the effectiveness

of the products is lacking," said Mikael Sonesson, lead author of the study and an orthodontist at Malmö University. To see whether a high-fluoride toothpaste that patients could use at home would protect against the spots, more than 400 kids at five dental practices who were scheduled to get braces were recruited starting in 2008. They were randomly divided into two groups, with about half receiving a paste containing 5,100 parts per million fluoride to use at home and the other half receiving paste that was similar in every way, except it contained 1,450 ppm fluoride—the amount in most standard commercial brands, according to the researchers.

Before getting their braces, all the youngsters had detailed photos taken

of their teeth and photos were taken again after the braces were removed. The participants wore braces for an average of 1.8 years and received toothpaste supplies for as long as they did. Two clinicians who did not know which fluoride paste the youngsters had used evaluated all the before-and-after photos to assess the presence and severity of white spots using a four-point scale. About 10 percent of participants dropped out of the study for various reasons, though no side effects of the toothpastes were reported, Sonesson and his colleagues note in the *European Journal of Orthodontics*.

When the researchers analyzed results for the remaining participants, they found that about 45 percent of patients who brushed

with regular toothpaste developed white spots, whereas only 34.6 percent of those who used the high-fluoride paste developed spots. That translates to about 32 percent fewer white spots in the high-fluoride group. The results were not surprising, given previous research on the use of fluoride for preventing cavities, according to Nisreen Takulla, a dentist in the Boston area.

"High-fluoride toothpastes are often prescribed for patients at a high risk of dental caries, to be used once a day instead of regular toothpaste, and topical fluorides have also been proven to be very effective for caries control," said Takulla. Other ways to get higher doses of fluoride include mouth rinses and gels applied to the teeth.

Reuters

China's ICBC says will help repay investors in troubled shadow-banking scheme



A man and his daughter ride a bicycle past a branch of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd (ICBC) in Beijing on 26 June, 2013. —REUTERS

SHANGHAI, 24 Jan — China's top lender will help bail out investors in a trou-

bled high-yield investment scheme, local media said on Friday, in a move that risks

reinforcing the view among Chinese savers they are effectively insured against poor investment decisions.

Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (601398.SS) (1398.HK), which sold the "Credit Equals Gold #1" investment scheme on behalf of a shadow-banking outfit, has qualified its earlier position that it would not bear the "main responsibility" for repaying investors. An official at ICBC's Shanghai branch was quoted as saying that ICBC would take some responsibility. "ICBC won't ignore the issue of its reputation," the

official *Shanghai Securities News* quoted her as saying.

The official said that most of the roughly 700 investors in the product, created by China Credit Trust Co Ltd, have sought reassurances from ICBC following the news after learning that the product may not pay out as planned on 31 January. "The ICBC has not shirked its responsibility and pushed these investors to go chase China Credit Trust Co Ltd for payment. On this point, ICBC will bear responsibility," the official was quoted by the newspaper as saying.

Reuters

Cold air may help lose weight

WASHINGTON, 24 Jan — Turning down temperatures at home and office may help you fight obesity, according to a new study published on Wednesday in the US journal *Trends in Endocrinology & Metabolism*. New evidence suggests that regular exposure to mild cold may be a healthy and sustainable way to help people lose weight, researchers from Maastricht University Medical Centre in The Netherlands said.

In other words, our warm and cozy homes and offices might be partly responsible for our expanding waistlines, they added. "Since most of us are exposed to indoor conditions

90 percent of the time, it is worth exploring health aspects of ambient temperatures," first author Wouter van Marken Lichtenbelt of Maastricht University Medical Centre said in a statement. "What would it mean if we let our bodies work again to control body temperature? We hypothesize that the thermal environment affects human health and more specifically that frequent mild cold exposure can significantly affect our energy expenditure over sustained time periods."

Marken Lichtenbelt said they started studying the effects of mild cold about 10 years ago, mostly because it had received so little attention. They found



that a more variable indoor temperature, one that is allowed to drift along with temperatures outside, might be beneficial, although long-term effects still await further investigation. A previous study from researchers in Japan revealed a decrease in body fat after people spent 2 hours per day at 17 degrees Celsius for six weeks. The new study also found that people get used to the cold over time. After six hours a day in the cold for a period of 10

days, people in the study increased heat-generating, calorie-burning brown fat, felt more comfortable and shivered less at 15 degree Celsius.

At least in young and middle-aged people, non-shivering heat production can account for a few percent up to 30 percent of the body's energy budget, they said. That means lower temperatures can significantly affect the amount of energy a person expends overall.—Reuters



The company logo is displayed at the Samsung news conference at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas on 7 Jan, 2013. REUTERS

Samsung Electronics fourth-quarter profit sags

SEOUL, 24 Jan — Samsung Electronics Co Ltd posted its first decline in quarterly profit in two years, hit by one-off special bonus as well as slowing smartphone sales as it braces for a year of tougher competition with rival Apple Inc. The world's biggest smartphone maker kept its full-year investment plan conservative and warned it would be difficult to increase earnings in the first quarter as demand pulls back from the year-end holiday period.

October-December operating profit fell 6 percent on year to 8.3 trillion won (\$7.7 billion), in line with a previous estimate of 8.3 trillion won, Samsung said in a statement on Friday. The figure was brought down by an 800 billion won (\$745 million) special employee bonus to commemorate 20 years since Chairman Lee Kun-hee announced a management strategy that the company regards as the catalyst to its recent growth. It said a stronger won also hit profit, knocking off around 700 billion won.

Shares of Samsung Electronics, worth \$204 billion, edged up 0.4 percent after the earnings release,

compared with the benchmark index which fell 0.3 percent. The stock has fallen 8 percent in the past month on concern over slowing smartphone growth. "It will be challenging for Samsung to improve its earnings in the first quarter as the weak seasonality of the IT industry will put pressure on demand for components and TV products," the company said in a statement. Samsung said its 2014 capital expenditure, a barometer of broader technology industry demand for manufacturing tools such as chip equipment, will be similar to 2013's 23.8 trillion won.

Operating profit at its cash cow mobile division stood flat at 5.47 trillion won, but slipped 18 percent from July-September's record 6.7 trillion won as new iPhones drew away sales during the year-end holiday period. Operating profit from display unit Samsung Display tumbled 90 percent to 110 billion won as weaker-than-forecast sales of the Galaxy S4 left smartphone screens sitting in the inventory, while subdued sales of television sets also had an impact on TV screen shipments.—Reuters

Venezuela unveils new currency exchange scheme

CARACAS, 24 Jan — Venezuela will adopt a new currency exchange scheme that allows public and private sectors to apply varied exchange rates, Oil Minister Rafael Ramirez said on Wednesday. State agencies that need US dollars to import essential goods, such as medicine and food, will continue to apply the current official exchange rate of 6.3 bolivars per dollar, Ramirez, who is also president of the state oil company PDVSA, said at a Press conference.

He said Venezuelans traveling abroad and other private individuals, however, would pay a market rate for the greenback, instead of the controlled preferential rate. "We are building a system of tiers to maintain control over our dollars, but a new

exchange system is definitely evolving," Ramirez said. The market exchange rate, currently at around 11 bolivars per dollar, will be set at weekly auctions held by the central bank, said the minister, adding that nearly 11.4 billion dollars are expected to be auctioned this year.

"The rate ... will be determined by the auction mechanism," Ramirez said, noting that the auctions will be under the management of the newly established National Foreign Trade Centre. Also on Wednesday, President Nicolas Maduro said via Twitter that thanks to the new exchange scheme, Venezuela would head for "a new economic order to invest its foreign currency for the development and growth of the real economy."—Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NASA rover Opportunity finds signs Mars once had fresh water

NEW YORK, 24 Jan — NASA's decade-old Mars rover, Opportunity, has found evidence that life-friendly fresh water once pooled on the red planet's surface, reinforcing similar discoveries made by newcomer Curiosity on the other side of the planet, scientists said on Thursday.

Opportunity, along with its now-defunct twin, Spirit, landed 10 years ago for concurrent 90-day missions to look for clues of the past existence of water. Both rovers did so, confirming evidence collected

by orbiting spacecraft that Mars, the planet believed to be most like Earth in the solar system, was not always the cold, dry desert that appears today.

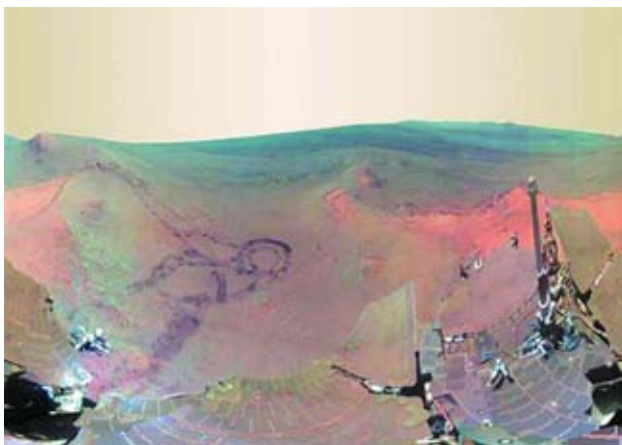
In August 2012, Curiosity, equipped with an on-board chemistry lab, arrived for follow-up investigations to determine if Mars had other ingredients essential for supporting life. The answer, returned very early in the ongoing mission, was a definite 'yes'. On the other side of the planet, meanwhile, Opportunity has been analyzing water-bearing

rocks at the rim of an ancient impact crater called Endeavour. Rather than the chemical fingerprints of acidic, salty water found at previous sites, Opportunity discovered telltale clays called smectites that form in Ph-neutral water.

"It's like drinking water," planetary scientist Ray Arvidson, with Washington University in St. Louis, said in an interview. "This would have been a niche for whatever life at the time existed," he said. The finding adds to an emerging picture of a planet that spent its first billion years or so warmer than it is today, with pools of fresh water on its surface, scientists say. Gradually, water activity declined and what did exist became acidic, scientific findings reveal, and then, beginning about 3 billion years ago, Mars dried up.

"Most of the activity on Mars in terms of habitability and water activity was concentrated in the first billion or so years," said Opportunity lead scientist Steve Squyres, with Cornell University in New York.

Reuters



A 360-degree digitally-compressed panorama image of Mars is seen in this composite of 800 images sent from the NASA Opportunity rover on Mars released on 9 July, 2012.—REUTERS

Rocket blasts off with NASA communications satellite

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Florida), 24 Jan — An unmanned rocket blasted off from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station on Thursday to put the newest member of NASA's space communications network into orbit. The 19-story tall Atlas 5 rocket, built and launched by United Launch Alliance, a partnership of Lockheed Martin Corp and Boeing Co, lifted off at 9:33 pm EST (0233 GMT Friday). With the 3.8-ton (3,447-kg) Boeing-built Tracking and Data Relay Satellite perched on its nose, the rocket blazed through clear, star-filled skies as it headed southeast over the Atlantic Ocean toward orbit.

The satellite, called TDRS, is the 12th built for a NASA constellation that circles more than 22,300 miles above Earth. The satellites are strategically positioned over the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans where they can continuously track and communicate with the space station and dozens of other fast-moving spacecraft some 22,000 miles below. "This capabil-

ity is analogous to standing at the top of the Empire State Building and tracking an ant as it marches its way down the sidewalk in front of the building," Boeing programme director Andy Kopito told reporters during a prelaunch press conference at the Kennedy Space Centre on Tuesday.

Eight members of the network currently remain in orbit. Two have been decommissioned and were incinerated as they fell back into Earth's atmosphere. A third satellite was destroyed in the 1986 space shuttle Challenger accident. NASA ordered a 13th and

final TDRS satellite to ensure the network can operate through 2030. By then, NASA expects to transition to laser communications and other upgrades that will significantly boost capability and cut costs, said NASA deputy associate administrator Badri Younes. NASA paid a combined \$715 million for the TDRS satellite launched on Thursday and its predecessor, launched in January 2013, Younes said.

That amount also covered ongoing upgrades to its prime ground communications station in White Sands, New Mexico. The next satellite, which should

Company in West Virginia spill failed to disclose second chemical



Residents line up for water at a water filling station at West Virginia State University, in Institute, West Virginia, on 10 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

NEW YORK, 24 Jan — The company behind a chemical spill that left about 300,000 people in West Virginia without tap water failed to disclose a second chemical in the leak, state officials said on Wednesday. The company, Freedom Industries, had previously said that only one chemical, crude MCHM, had spilled from one of its storage tanks into the Elk River at Charleston on 9 January.

Freedom Industries told the state Department of Environmental Protection on Tuesday that a second chemical, PPH, was in the above-ground tank despite

an order immediately after the spill to disclose what was in it, the department said in a statement. Governor Earl Ray Tomblin said he was "very disappointed" that it took Freedom Industries, a maker of specialty chemicals, 12 days to disclose the presence of PPH. "You know, once again it's another one of those chemicals that very few people knew anything about," he told a news conference. "When I first heard about it yesterday the first thing we tried to do with my internal team is find out, what is PPH? And then why it was not revealed."

The federal Centres for

Disease Control and Prevention said in a statement that the low levels of PPH, or polyglycol ethers, and a review of information about it showed there were no new health concerns. About 300,000 people around Charleston, the state capital, were banned from using tap water for anything but flushing toilets following the spill. The ban was lifted fully on Saturday. The leak from a Freedom Industries tank was about a mile upriver from West Virginia American Water, the area's main water plant and a unit of American Water Works Company Inc.

Ordered by the state Department of Environmental Protection to report the contents of the tank by Wednesday afternoon, Freedom Industries said it had held only crude MCHM, or 4-methylcyclohexane methanol, and PPH. Freedom Industries President Gary Southern wrote in a letter that the mix in the tank was about 88.5 percent crude MCHM and 7.3 percent PPH, with the rest water. A copy was on the Department of Environmental Protection website.

Reuters



Israeli archaeologists excavate 1,500-year-old floor mosaics in a newly-discovered basilica in Moshav Aluma, southern Israel, on 22 Jan, 2014. Israeli archaeologists unearthed one of the biggest basilica, which is a 1,500-year-old church dating back to the Byzantine era in the south of the country, a leading archaeologist told Xinhua on Wednesday. The structure was unearthed during a salvage excavation in Moshav Aluma in southern Israel. The church's floor is covered with mosaics and inscriptions in Greek, which researchers believe are the names of the donors.—XINHUA

Flies with brothers make gentler lovers

LONDON, 24 Jan — Flies who play the mating game while also living with their brothers are gentler to females during sex and tend to hassle them less, according to a study by British scientists.

The study found that unrelated male flies compete more fiercely for female attention than related flies, pestering them more often for sex and leaving them little time to sleep or eat.

"Brothers don't need

to compete so much with each other for female attention since their genes will get passed on if their sibling mates successfully anyway," said Dr Tommaso Pizzari of Oxford University's zoology department, who led the study.

"Their more relaxed attitude to mating results in fewer fights and they also harm the females less as their courting is not so aggressive."—Reuters



A 19-story Atlas 5 rocket built by United Launch Alliance streaks across the sky after lifting off from Cape Canaveral, Florida on 23 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 25 January, 2014

Hunger, malnutrition killing developing world

Have you ever wondered how large effort is required to grow rice, our staple food, and how much a bowl of rice costs from cultivation to the dining table? Have the thought of hunger ever crossed your mind while you are having ample foods or throwing leftovers?

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) statistics, 870 million people of the global population are facing hunger and 98 percent of them are in developing countries. Hunger and malnutrition put crushing economic burden on the developing world while making the individuals susceptible to infectious diseases and increasing the risk of premature death.

Hunger and malnutrition are in fact the number one risk to the health worldwide—greater than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined. Natural disasters, conflict, poverty, poor agricultural infrastructure and over-exploitation of environment are the major causes of hunger.

It is quite absurd that farmers, the rice producers, themselves are making up the large proportion of the world's hungry population. In particular, smallholder farming communities are surviving off marginal lands prone to natural disasters like drought or flood. When there is no water, they run into crises and when there is too much of it, they also have to bear the hardship. This is particularly true for farmers in Myanmar. Is this the reward for their elbow grease?

Three-quarters of all hungry people live in rural areas, mainly in the villages of Asia and Africa. Overwhelmingly dependent on agriculture for their food, these populations have no alternative source of income or employment. Consequently, many of them migrate to cities in search for employment, which in turn increases the number of poor and hungry people living on the periphery of the biggest cities.

While some parts of the world are starving, some are wasting foods. While some parts of the world are grappling with malnourishment, some are addressing the problem of obesity. Given the economic disparities, everyone should bear in mind the hard work behind every grain of rice.

Executive management training course concludes



Ministry for Agriculture ...

(from page 1)

Region Constituency No. 4 if there is a play to provide infrastructure facilities to industrial zones, Deputy Minister for Industry U Myo Aung also called on private companies to invest in communication, hydro-

power generation and Internet services at the industrial zones.

Industrial zones which were established in 1995 need upgraded infrastructure facilities and technology.

During the question

and answer session today, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Tun said that the ministry has no plan so far to establish a police academy as the ministry is carrying out reforms to effectively bring about security and the rule of law in the country.

The Myanmar Police Force has established more regiments including Border Guard Police Force, tourism police force, anti-human trafficking force, oil field security force and forest police force to expand the number of police to 150,000 for the country's 60 million population.—MNA

U Htay Aung appointed as Myanmar Ambassador to Republic of Singapore

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Htay Aung, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Singapore.—MNA

U Win Hlaing appointed as Myanmar Ambassador to SRV

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Win Hlaing, Director General of the Planning and Administrative Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.—MNA

Deaths of women, children in Rakhine State are false ...

(from page 16)

At Ducheertan Middle Village, they heard report on the incident that happened on 13 January by the village clerk and viewed round the mosque where the clothes of the police Sgt were found. They gave necessary instructions to police who discharged security duty at the village.

At the hall of Maung-taw District Deputy Commissioner Office, Police Brig-Gen Tin Ko Ko and Commander of Rakhine State Police Force Police Nay Myo replied to queries raised by representatives of UNHCR and OCHA.

The Chief Minister said that they arrived there to inspect progress of development in villages. Deaths of women, children



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin meets local people in Rakhine State.—MNA

in Rakhine State are false reports of foreign news agencies. They came here

to know the correct news that occurred last week. The police are on duty not

to lose property in Ducheertan Village and coordinated with officials.—MNA

Government, ...

(from page 16)

In order to deter from being physically attacked, eight warning shots were fired. However, there were no civilian injuries or casualties.

In search of the missing police sergeant in the following days, only clues such as blood-stained uniform, belt, and a pair of boot were discovered. The Chief Minister of Rakhine State, local authorities, police and security personnel, religious leaders, Rakhine State Hluttaw (Parliament) Representatives, resident representatives from UNHCR and OCHA together

Nga Laik Kan Tha Resort here this evening.

UCSB member U Than Tun delivered an address and presented certificates to the trainees.

The experts from Japan and Singapore gave lectures on management and leadership.

A total of 15 trainees attended the course from 20 to 24 January.

made a tour to the area including Ducheertan Village and met with the villagers.

A planned and pre-determined violent attack on the security personnel in the line of duty is an offence punishable by law. The attackers include those who took part in the arms training courses run by so-called Rohingya Solidarity Organization-RSO. Law enforcement agencies will continue their efforts to expose and bring them to justice within the existing framework of law.

The Union Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the local authorities are taking every step to ensure security, rule of law, justice, humanitarian access, and reconciliation in Rakhine State. At this critical juncture of political, socio-economic

and administrative reform process in Myanmar, will only unbiased, constructive and well-objective activities be helpful to the people of Myanmar.

The international media and international agencies should release only information which is verified with responsible officials of the government. Falling to do so, releasing unverified information would tantamount to interfering internal affairs of the host country. Resident Diplomatic Missions are also required to faithfully observe fundamental diplomatic practices in line with the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Date: 24 January, 2014

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Jointly organized by the Union Civil Services Board and Sasakawa Peace Foundation (SPF), a training course for executive management of Myanmar civil service-2014 concluded at

UCSB member
U Than Tun presents
certificate to trainees
through a trainee.

KYEMON

Kyemon

LOCAL NEWS

National Objectives of 67th Anniversary Union Day 2014

- For all the national races to cultivate the Union Spirit to perpetuate the Union
- For all the national races to live in unity and harmony
- For all the national races to build up the prevailing national reconciliation
- For all citizens to participate in tasks for tranquility and the rule of law
- For all the national races to join efforts for modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation

Census taking process clarified in Bhamo

BHAMO, 24 Jan— Director of Kachin State Immigration and National Registration Department Secretary of State Census Committee U Win Lwin arrived in Bhamo and held a clarification on population affairs and census taking process at the city hall in Bhamo on 18 January.

Deputy Commissioner of Bhamo District U Teza

Aung made a speech. The secretary of the committee U Win Lwin explained to district, township and ward/village census committee members, departmental officials, Hluttaw representatives and local people matters related to population affairs and census taking process and 42 points question for lifestyle.

District IPRD

Heroin worth over K 4.7 million seized

MYITKYINA, 24 Jan—The authorities and members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade made surprise check on vehicles on 23 January evening on the road to Aungmyintha Model Village of Myitkyina due to security measures.

They searched the vehicle driven by Zaw Htet, 32 of Webar Village in Waingmaw Township and seized 59.45 grams of white powder believed to be heroin worth K 4,756,000 from

soap cases and K 2,195,000 believed to be proceeds.

They handed over the suspect and seized materials to Aungmyintha Model Village police outpost.

Myitkyina Myoma Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against suspect Zaw Htet, 32 under Sections 15/19(a)/21 (a) of Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

Kyemon-Moe Kya (Myitkyina)

Retaining walls under construction at Zingalin Bridge in Kalay Tsp



KALAY, 24 Jan— Zingalin Reinforced Concrete Bridge and its retaining walls along Zingalin Creek were damaged due to erosion.

At present, a retaining wall made of hard wood posts is under construction for protection of the bridge and prevention of bank erosion.

The retaining wall

construction was spent K 29 million funded by the Union government in 2013-2014 fiscal year.

The Zingalin Bridge is located between mile posts

78/4 and 78/5 on Asian Highway at the entrance to Zingalin Village of Kalay Township, Sagaing Region.

Kyemon-Joe Net

Traffic police on field trip to disseminate traffic rules

NYAUNGLEBIN, 24 Jan— Traffic police officers together with local policemen made surprise check on drivers and road users along Yangon-Mandalay Highway and the site in front of Myoma Market in Nyaunglebin on 23 January.

They gave talks on

enforcement of traffic rules, obligations of road users including those of vehicles to abide by traffic rules.

Nyaunglebin Township of Bago Region is bustling with vehicles and road users with growing number day by day.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)



Anti-narcotic drug elimination talked in Thanatpin

THANATPIN, 24 Jan—An educative talk on menace of narcotic drugs was given at Basic Education High School in Thanatpin Township on 21 January.

Responsible persons of the township MANA and officials of Anti-Drug Special Crops of Myanmar Police Force briefed those

present on disadvantages of narcotic drugs, law and crimes. Secretary of Region association Daw San San Wai presented pamphlets on narcotic drugs to the headmaster.

It was organized by Bago Region Anti-Narcotics Association.

Kyemon-060

CONSTRUCTION

Gymnasium being built at Kalay University

KALAY, 24 Jan— The Union government allotted K 180 million on construction of a gymnasium at Kalay University in 2013-14 fiscal year.

The gymnasium will be 90 feet long, 120 feet wide and 31 feet high. It will be of reinforced concrete. Alpha & Omega Co commenced its construction tasks as of 1 July 2013. So far, construction tasks have been completed by 25 per cent. It is estimated that the construction will be completed by March 2014,

said Senior Engineer U Soe Naing of Engineering Department of the university.

At present, over 8500 students from Upper Sagaing Region and Chin State are pursuing higher education at Kalay University.

With the aim of uplifting physical and mental qualification of the students, the Union Government is making arrangements for construction of sports grounds and gymnasiums not only at Kalay University but at other educational institutions.

Kyemon-Joe Net



Photo shows a worksite where workers are participating in construction tasks of gymnasium at Kalay University for enabling the university students to have easy access to sports training.



WORLD

Toronto Mayor Ford stuck in elevator as lunch audience waits

TORONTO, 24 Jan — Toronto Mayor Rob Ford lived up his reputation for surprises on Thursday when he got stuck in a hotel elevator for nearly an hour while a room full of the city's business elite waited impatiently for him to deliver a speech.

The mishap, which delayed his arrival at an C\$89-a-plate (\$80) business lunch, comes just two days after a video emerged showing Ford ranting, putting on a Jamaican accent, and using profanities to describe Toronto's police chief. On Tuesday, Ford admitted he had consumed

alcohol when the video was shot on Monday night, despite his pledge late last year to quit drinking.

The posting of the video on YouTube was a setback for the mayor's efforts to distance himself from a crack-smoking scandal last year and to jump-start his reelection campaign.

By the time Ford finally reached the podium on Thursday — about an hour late and with no explanation from his staff for his absence — several people in the audience at a downtown hotel had grown tired of waiting and had left.

"I want to thank the

Economic Club for hosting this event and getting me stuck in an elevator for 45 minutes," he said, before launching into a 20-minute campaign-like speech trumpeting his efforts to cut costs at city hall and criticizing city council for curbing his powers late last year.

Rhiannon Traill, chief executive of the Economic Club of Canada, which hosted the event, confirmed that she, Ford, other members of Ford's staff and several hotel employees had been stuck in a service elevator for about 45 minutes.

The group could not



Toronto Mayor Rob Ford speaks at the Economic Club of Canada lunch in Toronto, on 23 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

get a cellphone signal, but called for help using the elevator intercom, she said.

Ford did not take questions after the speech.

Ford vowed to clean up his act in November after admitting he had smoked crack while in a "drunken stupor" and had also driven

a car after drinking.

Those admissions came after police revealed they had a video of the mayor smoking what appeared to be crack. The video had been uncovered in the course of a drug investigation.

Reuters

Smog to linger in central China

BEIJING, 24 Jan — Moderate and heavy smog will linger in southern and central parts of north China and the Guanzhong area of Shaanxi Province, while a cold front will bring cold weather to eastern and central China over the next three days, the National Meteorological Centre (NMC) said on Friday.

The NMC forecasted that a weak cold front is to sweep the areas north of the Yangtze River and bring the temperatures down by four to eight degrees Celsius in the coming three days. The northern part of the Shandong Peninsula will see sleet on Friday.

The NMC added that snow and snowstorms will hit the northwestern part of the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on Saturday and Sunday.

Xinhua

Colombian police seize 1.2 tons of cocaine

BOGOTA, 24 Jan — Colombian police seized 1,234 kilograms of cocaine in the country's northern Cordoba department, and captured two suspected members of a major criminal ring, authorities said on Thursday.

The cocaine, with an estimated street value of 30 million US dollars, was

found inside a tank truck traveling on a road between Cordoba and neighbouring Antioquia department.

The cache of illicit drugs was heading for the European and US markets, where it would fetch three times its original value, a police report said.

The two suspected

gang members captured attempted to offer the officers on duty 300 million Colombian pesos (about 150,300 US dollars) to let them go, police said. The latest seizure brings to 2,284 kilograms the amount of cocaine confiscated in the past two months in Cordoba.

Xinhua

Italy's tax evasion highlights large underground economy

ROME, 24 Jan — Almost 52 billion euros (71 billion US dollars) of untaxed income that was not declared to tax authorities have been uncovered in Italy last year, which experts said highlighted a large underground economy.

Tax police said that 12,726 people were found to be dodging their taxes in 2013, of which 8,315 were paying no taxes at all. The figure was on rise compared to 11,769 tax evaders reported in 2012.

A total of 202 company officials have been arrested, police also added.

Taxes were reportedly dodged through a variety of tax scams including false expense claims, value added tax (VAT) avoidance, foreign-based companies' income earned in Italy that is subject to local taxation and transfers of convenience to international tax havens. Experts said that the evasion figures were the signal of a large underground economy in the country.

Italy is the worst country among the industrialized economies for tax

evasion, of which around half was found in the northern wealthy regions of Lombardy, Piedmont and Veneto, Raul Caruso, an economic policy professor at the Catholic University of Milan, told Xinhua.

Italy's national tax office estimated last month that a total of 130 billion euros (177 billion dollars) is evaded every year in the country.

Caruso noted, however, that the undeclared income "does not take into account widespread black

working," meaning that the real size of Italy's underground economy is "widely underestimated."

Tax police confirmed in Thursday's report that 14,220 citizens last year were found to be employed "in the black", or outside the legal system. Their work was being paid entirely under the table.

"Authoritative studies conducted before the outbreak of the economic crisis had shown that the overall illegal economy in Italy accounted for nearly one third

of gross domestic product (GDP)," Caruso said.

"And we can easily imagine that the amount further increased after the economic crisis worsened the situation of companies and citizens," he added.

The expert did not believe that the tax evasion had an impact on aggravating Italy's worst postwar recession, that he said was especially triggered by a dramatic drop in investments rather than by diminished internal demand.

Xinhua



An Israeli launcher of an Iron Dome missile interceptor battery is deployed in Acre, northern Israel, on 22 Jan, 2014. The Israeli Defence Forces (IDF) deployed an anti-missile battery in the northern city of Acre on Wednesday, due to rising fears of hostilities on the borders. Previously, other battery were deployed in Be'er Sheva and Ashdod in southern Israel. XINHUA

Veteran head of Italy's air force dies in helicopter crash

ROME, 24 Jan — The veteran head of Italy's army air force was killed on Thursday in a helicopter crash during a training flight near Rome.

Giangiorgio Calligaris, a decorated general who had served in many places around the world, died at 57 as his military helicopter crashed outside the city of Viterbo, north of the Italian capital.

The lieutenant and student who was on board with Calligaris, 25-year-old Paolo Lozzi, also died in the crash.

Earlier in the day, the helicopter had been reported to have disappeared from the radar in the area, and was then found by rescue teams which said both the passengers had been killed in the collision.

Local media said

that firefighters reported a sheared power line in the area after the accident occurred.

Italian authorities suspected that the helicopter crashed after hitting the power line and opened an investigation to ascertain the cause of the accident, ANSA news agency said.

Calligaris had taken command of Italy's army aviation in March 2013 after conducting military operations within the country and especially serving in several places around the world.

In 1999 he took part in the "Joint Guardian" operation in Kosovo, which was part of NATO's actions to promote regional stability and security, and later was vice commander of the Italian Joint Task Force Iraq.

Xinhua

A vendor delivers food for customers at the annual "Street Food City" event held outside the Vancouver Art Gallery in downtown Vancouver, Canada, on 22 Jan, 2014. Over 23 food trucks gathered on Wednesday at the 3rd "Street Food City" event hosted by Tourism Vancouver to promote the local street food culture to the people.—XINHUA



REGIONAL



Members of a Japanese group that performed a traditional regional Japanese dance in India pose with locals on 18 Jan, 2014. The performance was part of the "Cool Japan Festival" held in Mumbai to introduce Japanese food and culture. KYODO NEWS

Japan, EU to hold 4th round of free trade talks next week

TOKYO, 24 Jan — Japan and the European Union will hold their fourth round of free trade negotiations in Brussels next week with the aim of accelerating discussions over tariffs and other trade barriers, the trade ministry said on Friday.

The five-day talks starting on Monday are seen as a "crucial meeting" before the European Union's review in April of whether Japan has

made progress in eliminating nontariff barriers, an official of the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry said.

The review, coming a year after the launch of negotiations, is being held so the regional group can decide whether to continue the free trade talks, the official said.

In November last year, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and European

Council President Herman Van Rompuy confirmed their commitment to "the earliest possible" conclusion of the trade liberalization talks during a summit in Tokyo.

The European Union wants Japan to abolish tariffs on main EU exports such as wine, pork and cheese, while Japan is seeking the abolition of EU tariffs on automobiles.—Kyodo News

Japan to expand number of foreign workers in construction sector

TOKYO, 24 Jan — Cabinet ministers on Friday discussed how the number of foreigners in Japan's construction sector should be upped to soften the sector's serious labor shortage stemming from greater public works outlays associated with "Abenomics" stimulus policy, officials said.

Relevant ministers present at the ministerial meeting included Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, land and infrastructure minister Akihiro Ota and Justice Minister

Sadakazu Tanigaki. Suga told the meeting, "The construction industry may run out of human resources further, as the industry is facing structural problems."

"It is crucial to take advantage of foreigners who can become work-ready forces," he said.

The emergency steps envisioned by the government to soften the construction labor shortage are also designed to mitigate the shortage in light of an expected surge in demand

for workers stemming from an upcoming construction boom for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, the officials said.

The steps will likely include extending the period of foreign workers' allowable stay in Japan from the current three years and upping the number of foreign workers which construction companies are allowed to hire as a proportion of each firm's overall workforce, they said.

The number of construction workers in Japan has been generally follow-

ing a downward path in recent years, as a string of government administrations, starting with that of then Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi, have been cutting public works outlays from the national coffers.

The number stood at only 5.03 million in 2012, down 30 percent from 1997, when the corresponding number reached its peak, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

Kyodo News



Taizo Noda of a local agricultural cooperative holds a lemon grown in a heart-shaped frame on Ikuchi Island in the Seto Inland Sea in the city of Onomichi, Hiroshima Prefecture, in December 2013. KYODO NEWS

Ship runs aground in C Philippines

MANILA, 24 Jan — A ship with 160 passengers on board run aground near Talisay city in central Philippine Province of Cebu on Thursday, local media reported.

Ship MV Weesam 7 run aground at Lauis Ledge in Talisay while en route from Ormoc, a port city in Leyte province, to Cebu city in Cebu province, both in central Philippines, at 6:40 pm Thursday, Philippine Daily Inquirer reported.

Rescue operation of the passengers is ongoing.

The location where MV Weesam 7 is currently aground is near the location where MV St. Thomas Aquinas sank in August last year.

Philippine Coast Guard surmised that the probable cause for the incident was strong winds and waves.

Xinhua



Lanterns are lit up at the Thean Hou Temple in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on 23 Jan, 2014. The Thean Hou Temple held a light-up ceremony Thursday to celebrate the upcoming Chinese Lunar New Year, which falls on 31 January this year. XINHUA

China's military furthers "mass line" campaign

BEIJING, 24 Jan — Senior Chinese military officials on Thursday called on the People's Liberation Army (PLA) to carry out the "mass line" campaign to build a strong military.

During a PLA conference on the second phase of the campaign, Fan Changlong, vice chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), urged efforts to ensure the campaign reaches every corner of the military and thorough implementation of requirements to root out bad workstyles. The year-

long "mass line" education campaign, which entered its second phase in January, was launched in June 2013 to boost ties between the Communist Party of China (CPC) members and the public through a "thorough cleanup" of undesirable work styles — formalism, bureaucracy, hedonism and extravagance.

The second phase campaign should target Party committees at the division or brigade level and serious problems concerning unjust use of personnel, lavish feasting, bribery, fraud, and

failure to adhere to the system of democratic centralism, Fan said. The military should always follow the CPC's instructions, serve the people, and keep in mind its main function of fighting battles, he added.

Xu Qiliang, who is also CMC vice chairman, urged army commanders at the same conference to re-examine themselves in the light of problems exposed during the second phase of the campaign and thoroughly solve untackled problems exposed in the first phase.—Xinhua

Indian capital put on terror alert

NEW DELHI, 24 Jan — Indian authorities have issued a terror alert in the national capital in the run up to the Republic Day Sunday, a senior police official said on Friday.

"The terror alert has been issued following specific intelligence inputs that Pakistan-based militant outfits like Lashker-e-Toiba and home-grown Indian Mujahideen may carry out serial blasts in the Indian capital on 26 January," he said, on condition of anonymity.

Sleuths from the Delhi Police and the Intelligence Bureau recently met the country's defence officials to discuss the security ar-

rangements in the national capital, he said. "Some 10,000 security forces personnel will be manning the Indian capital Sunday and security at the Indira Gandhi International Airport has also been stepped up. The efforts are to avoid any kind of untoward incident during the Republic Day celebrations," the official added. India had suffered a massive jolt during the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks when some 10 Pakistani militants entered through sea route and carried out a mayhem in the financial capital, in which over 170 people were killed and more than 300 others injured.—Xinhua

Japan to join int'l child custody treaty on 1 April

TOKYO, 24 Jan — Japan is expected to join an international treaty for settling cross-border child disputes on 1 April, government officials said Friday. The Cabinet earlier in the day endorsed the decision to sign the 1980 Hague Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction. The pact sets rules and procedures for the prompt return

to the country of habitual residence of children under 16 taken to another country, if requested by the other parent.

Japan will set up a unit within the Foreign Ministry on 1 April to take charge of matters related to the treaty.

The Cabinet confirmed plans to join the pact in May 2011 and obtained parliamentary approval two years later.—Kyodo News

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LETTER OF GRATITUDE

The Engagement Ceremony and Reception
of

JENNIFER SUIREMMAWI CEM

The daughter of Mr. Dar Cem and
Mrs. Rebecca Nei

and

MYAT WAI LIN

The son of Mr. Than Tin and Mrs. Al Dong

is successfully celebrated and thankful for
honoring and attending to the ceremony at
I.B.C (International Business Centre), Yangon
on January 21, 2014.

**MYAT WAI LIN AND
JENNIFER SUIREMMAWI CEM**

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CITY OF MUMBAI VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CITY OF MUMBAI VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.1.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SINOR LINES PTE LTD
(S'PORE)**

Phone No: 256924/256914



A farmer picks strawberries in a greenhouse in Jimo City, east China's Shandong Province, on 23 Jan, 2014. The local strawberry growers used multi-layers planting method to gain two times more strawberries than usual.—XINHUA

Western Australia bushfires brought under control

SYDNEY, 24 Jan — A bushfire in Perth's City of Swan in Western Australia has been brought under control, the state fire authority said on Friday.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Services (DFES) said 45 firefighters are on the scene strengthening containment lines.

Aerial support has been sent to assist ground crews, it added. At 6:35 am (local time) on Friday, a watch and act alert was issued for people in the southern part of Aveley in Swan as there was a possible threat to lives and homes.

But the alert for the southern part of Aveley

were downgraded to a bushfire advice at 7:45 am on Friday while people in the northern part of Aveley were given the all clear.

There has been a string of suspicious bushfires in the area in recent days, including one at Ellenbrook, where flames came within meters of dozens of homes.

On Friday, the DFES confirmed a bushfire that threatened lives and homes in the town of Kwinana in Perth's outer southern suburbs on Thursday afternoon was deliberately lit.

More than 70 firefighters tackled the blaze and brought the fire under control overnight.—Xinhua

Crime falls 10 pct in England, Wales

LONDON, 24 Jan — Crime against households and adults (aged 16 and above) in England and Wales for the year ending September 2013 fell by 10 percent to eight million, statistics indicated on Thursday.

The Office for National Statistics released a survey conducted by the Crime Survey for England and Wales (CSEW), saying that the number is the lowest since it started 32 years ago.

The total number of CSEW incidents is estimated to be 20 percent lower

than the survey in 2007, and is now less than half of its peak level in 1995.

The CSEW also estimated there were 859,000 crimes experienced by children aged 10 to 15 in the 12 months to September 2013. And 54 percent of which were violent crimes, while most of the remaining crimes were thefts of personal property.

Meanwhile, crime records from the police were 3.7 million in the year ending September 2013, a decrease of three percent compared with the same period

of the previous year.

CSEW figures included crimes that may not have been reported to the police.

The CSEW, the new name for the British Crime Survey, has measured crime in this way since 1982. It used alongside the police recorded crime figures to show a more accurate picture of the level of crime in the country, and provided valuable source of information for the government about the extent and nature of crime in England and Wales.

Xinhua

Extra police on duty across New South Wales on Australia Day

SYDNEY, 24 Jan — Australia's New South Wales (NSW) Police on Friday urged the community to play and stay safe on Australia Day.

NSW Assistant Commissioner Mark Murdoch on Friday Launched Operation Shoreline, which will see about 2,500 police deployed across the state Sunday.

He said the police operation would ensure Australian and tourists have a safe and enjoyable day.

Police will focus on alcohol-related crime and anti-social behavior on the national day.

"We will not tolerate for one minute drunken buffoons who want to interfere with other people's ability to enjoy the day," Murdoch told reporters in Sydney.

NSW Premier Barry O'Farrell has recently announced a series of new measures to combat alcohol-fueled violence after mounting public pressure to act.

Xinhua



People wait for beef noodles at a noodle restaurant in Lanzhou, capital of northwest China's Gansu Province, on 22 Jan, 2014. With a long history of over 100 years dating back to Qing Dynasty (1644-1912), beef noodle has won fame both at home and abroad. There are over one thousand beef noodle restaurants in Lanzhou, which sell over one million portions of beef noodles every day. To people of Lanzhou, it is not only a food tradition, but a way of lifestyle.—XINHUA

Four killed, 4 injured in bomb, shooting attacks in southern Thailand

BANGKOK, 24 Jan — Four people, including a monk, were killed and four others injured in separate attacks in two provinces of southern Thailand, police said on Friday.

Officials said the latest of the three incidents was a bomb blast at 11 am in Tan-to district of Yala Province, in which one police officer was killed and three of his colleagues were injured while on patrol in a remote area.

The two other attacks both occurred around 7 am

in Pattani Province, with police saying they are investigating a bomb blast and a shooting incident in which three people were killed.

In Panare district of Pattani, a roadside bomb was detonated by remote control as a car carrying a monk, which was escorted by two paramilitary soldiers, passed by, killing the monk and one soldier, while seriously injuring the other one.

In Kokpho District of the province, a villager

was shot dead while riding a motorbike home from work, with police not ruling out that the incident may have been motivated by personal issues.

Officials said there has been an increase in attacks in the past week in southern Thailand, after several weeks of relative calm.

More than 5,500 people have been killed in the predominantly Muslim pProvinces of Pattani, Yala and Narathiwat since a separatist insurgency broke out in 2004.—Kyodo News



Student Sun Dongliang has reunion dinner with school leaders at East China Jiaotong University in Nanchang, east China's Jiangxi Province, on 24 Jan, 2014. The university on Friday prepared reunion dinner for dozens of students who have decided to remain on the campus during the winter vacation.—XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT

Universal to expand Harry Potter park with new ride, shops

ORLANDO, (Florida), 24 Jan — The expansion of Universal Orlando's wildly popular Wizarding World of Harry Potter, slated to open this summer, will feature a new signature ride called Harry Potter and the Escape from Gringotts, the company said on Thursday. The expansion, called Diagon Alley after the book and movie series' wizarding business district in London, will largely be geared toward souvenir shopping and dining.

Universal Creative President Mark Woodbury named nearly a dozen outlets in the meticulously replicated alley where visitors can buy items ranging from Hogwarts' school uniforms to Harry Potter's favourite strawberry and peanut butter ice cream. The strong merchandising focus grew out of the experience of the original Harry Potter land, a recreation of Hogsmeade village,

which opened in 2010. Lines snake through the village for visitors to enter a magic wand shop or buy a cup of butterbeer.

"It became apparent really quickly that people enjoyed that discovery, shopping and dining experience almost as much as they did the attractions. And this just brings all that to life for them

in Diagon Alley," Woodbury said during a webcast. Diagon Alley shops will include Weasleys' Wizard Wheezes, Madam Malkin's Robes for All Occasions, Magical Menagerie, and Quality Quidditch Supplies as well as The Leaky Cauldron restaurant and Florean Fortescue's Ice Cream Parlor.—Reuters



Guests tour the Wizarding World of Harry Potter theme park at the Universal Studio Resort during its grand opening in Orlando, Florida on 18 June, 2010.

REUTERS

Daniel Radcliffe to star in Brooklyn Bridge

LONDON, 24 Jan — Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe is all set to star in Brooklyn Bridge, written and directed by Douglas McGrath.

UK banner Goldcrest Films will finance, distribute and sell international rights of the movie which starts filming this August, reported Contactmusic.

"Having Daniel's involvement is a massive coup for the film, not only

is he perfect for the role, but he's consistently proved himself to be one of the very few actors who is genuinely a massive draw for audiences of all ages," said Degove, managing director of Goldcrest Films.

The movie is inspired by true story and narrates story of a young engineer who is left to oversee the construction of Brooklyn Bridge after his father passes away.—PTI



Daniel will start filming of the movie in August.—PTI

Sanjay Dutt prays at temple, dargah for wife Maanyata

MUMBAI, 24 Jan — Actor Sanjay Dutt, whose wife Maanyata is currently undergoing medical treatment at a hospital, visited a

temple to pray for her recovery.

Earlier this month, Maanyata was admitted to a private hospital in sub-

urban Mumbai after being diagnosed with a tumour in liver and a suspected heart ailment. Sanjay Dutt, who is under emotional distress because of his wife's ill-health, recently visited Shree Siddhivinayak Ganapati Mandir in Dadar and the holy Sayyed Haji Abdul Rehman Shah Baba Dargah in Dongri to pray for her recovery. On 21 December, the 53-year old Bollywood actor and 1993 Mumbai serial blasts case convict was granted a month's leave from Yerwada Jail in Pune after he filed an application citing his wife's illness. Earlier this week, the Maharashtra government extended his parole by an-

other 30 days on the ground of his wife's illness.

"My wife has a tumour of the liver. There have been many cancer instances in my family. Doctors are investigating. Please pray for my wife. We will follow medical course after the investigation," Sanjay Dutt had said earlier.

Sanjay Dutt had been convicted by the Supreme Court last year and sentenced to five years in prison for illegally possession of arms in a case related to the 1993 bomb blasts. He had already served 18 months of his term and is currently undergoing the remaining 42 months of his sentence.—PTI



Maanyata is said to have a tumour in the liver.—PTI

Britain's Zara Phillips (L) and her husband Mike Tindall walk to St. Mary's church to attend the annual Christmas service on the Royal Estate at Sandringham in Norfolk, eastern England on 25 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS



Queen's granddaughter Zara names her baby Mia Grace

LONDON, 24 Jan — Queen Elizabeth's granddaughter, Zara Phillips, has named her daughter Mia Grace, Buckingham Palace said on Thursday.

Mia Grace was born on 17 January and is 16th in line to the British throne. She is Phillips' first child with her rugby-player husband Mike Tindall and the Queen's fourth great-

grandchild.

The parents are known in Britain for their sporting success, with Phillips, 32, winning an equestrian silver medal at the London Olympic Games in 2012 and Tindall, 35, the former captain of the England rugby union team.

Phillips is the only daughter and second child of Princess Anne, Queen

Elizabeth's only daughter. Anne married Olympic equestrian Mark Phillips in 1973 but they divorced in 1992. She is now married to retired naval officer Timothy Laurence.

Phillips and Tindall met in Australia during England's Rugby World Cup campaign in 2003 and married in 2011 in Edinburgh.—Reuters

21st century music is focus of London Southbank Centre season

LONDON, 24 Jan — London's Southbank Centre and its four resident orchestras will present a 2014/2015 season with an emphasis on contemporary music as well opening up the centre's concert venues to top-rank visiting orchestras, the center announced on Thursday.

Among the new music on offer are works commissioned by Southbank Centre from Steve Reich, Anna Clyne, Terry Riley, Unsuk Chin, Kaija Saariaho, Simon Holt, and with the Philharmonia Orchestra, James MacMillan.

The focus on 21st century music comes after what the center says was the success of its "The Rest Is Noise" festival that focused on music of the 20th century.

"Building on the huge success of 'The Rest Is Noise' festival, when we saw more than 120,000 people engage with 20th century music in a new and intensive way, this year we present a season marked by its focus on 21st century music," Jude Kelly, the centre's artistic director, said in a Press release.

The new works and more conventional repertoire will be heard on the programmes of the four resident ensembles, the London Philharmonic Orchestra, the

Philharmonia Orchestra, the London Sinfonietta and the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, and other artists.

Among visiting ensembles, Daniel Barenboim will conduct two concerts with the Staatskapelle Berlin in performances of Beethoven, Strauss, Elgar and Tchaikovsky, together with Barenboim's solo performance in a cycle of Schubert's Piano Sonatas over four concerts as part of The Barenboim Project.

Also appearing will be Gustavo Dudamel with the Simon Bolivar Symphony Orchestra of Venezuela, and Simon Rattle and the Berliner Philharmoniker returning to Southbank Centre for The London Residency 2015 in partnership with the Barbican Centre, performing Mahler's Symphony No 2 alongside German avant garde composer Helmut Lachenmann's Tableau.

Reuters



SPORTS



Drapac's Will Clarke is awarded with Europcar Most Competitive Rider Jersey at the second stage of Santos Tour Down Under from Prospect to Stirling in Australia, on 22 Jan, 2014.—XINHUA

Atletico Madrid beat Bilbao 1-0 in Cup

MADRID, 24 Jan —A first half header from Atletico Madrid defender Deigo Godin was enough to give his side a 1-0 win over visiting Athletic Club Bilbao in the first leg of their Copa del Rey quarter-final tie. Godin got a powerful header on a good cross from Juanfran Torres in the closing minutes of the first half to decide what was a disappointing game between two sides in the top-four of the Spanish BBVA Primera Liga.

Athletic Club had failed to clear their lines following a corner and were

defending too deep and too narrow, which allowed the Uruguayan to get his head on the ball and decide the game.

It was a match which had kicked off with high expectations, but which delivered few thrills as the home team were content to snuff out any attempt by the visitors to play attacking football.

Athletic Club Bilbao may also have lacked spark after only playing on Monday, which gave them less recovery time than the reigning Cup holders and they created few chances in

the game other than a shot from Mikel Rico, which grazed the post in the closing minutes.

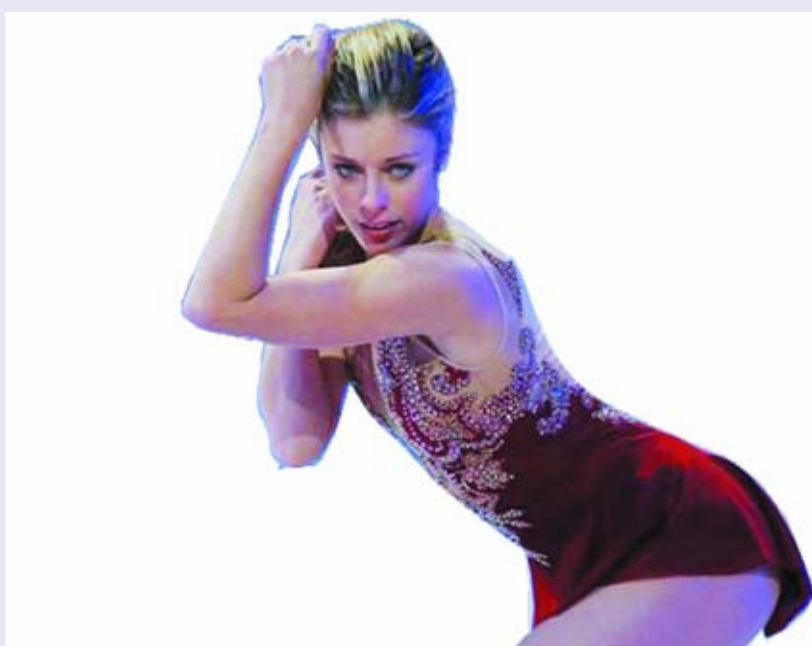
Atletico also created little in the game, although Diego Costa saw a good chance smothered by Iago Herrerin in the Athletic goal in the first half, while Koke always looked dangerous from set pieces.

In the end the home side deserved their narrow win, but Athletic Club will look to the fact that they are unbeaten in their San Mames Stadium and will have a full house for the return leg.—Reuters

Wagner changes programme weeks before Sochi

NEW YORK, 24 Jan — Figure skater Ashley Wagner, who was gifted a spot on the US Olympic team despite an error-strewn national championships, is changing her troublesome long programme in a bid to boost her medal hopes at the Sochi Winter Games. Wagner, who finished fourth at the US nationals but was controversially handed the final Olympic berth ahead of third place finisher Mirai Nagasu, said it was “insane” to make such a change so close to the 7-23 February Games but that it was a risk she had to take.

“After I found out that I was on the team I sat (coach Rafael Arutunian) down



Sochi represents an unexpected second chance for

at home.

But while the US squad

programme that I think that it will easily

“I forgot that I have not been skating this the whole year,” said Wagner, who played her “Samson and Delilah” skate into a fifth place finish at last year’s World Championships. “The only reason I was selected for the Sochi Olympics was me skating well. It was me letting that moment overwhelm me. “I thought more about what I would lose than what I could gain, what I was working on. ... It was the wrong mindset going into such a big competition.”

Wagner said she was hurt by the backlash she received for being selected ahead of Nagasu, who finished fourth at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics.

Reuters



South Korean figure skater Kim Yuna attends the inaugural ceremony for the upcoming Sochi 2014 Olympic Winter Games in Seoul, South Korea, on 23 Jan, 2014.—XINHUA

IJF President to visit Cuba

HAVANA, 24 Jan — The head of the international judo body will arrive in Cuba on Friday to review preparations for the first Judo Grand Prix event to be held in Cuba, sports news website Jit reported on Thursday.

The president of the International Judo Federation (IJF), Marius Vizer, will meet with national sports officials and offer his organization’s support in organizing the event, set to take place 6 and 7 June.

The tournament in Cuba will alternate with the Grand Prix in Miami, Florida, and form part of the classification system for the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The tournament grants winners 300 points, making it a very attractive event for top judo competitors.

Following the tournament, the IJF plans to establish an international training center at Cuba’s Varadero beach resort, 150 kilometers from Havana in the western province of Matanzas.—Xinhua

Wawrinka reaches first final, Li to meet Cibulkova

MELBOURNE, 24 Jan—Stanislas Wawrinka edged Tomas Berdych in the tightest of duels to reach his first grand slam final at the 36th attempt on Thursday and set up a possible all-Swiss Australian Open title showdown against Roger Federer.

Federer will have to get past world number one Rafa Nadal in the second semi-final on Friday first, but 28-year-old Wawrinka did his part by the narrowest of margins with a 6-3, 6-7(1), 7-6(3), 7-6(4) victory over the tall Czech.

The earlier women’s semi-finals were one-sided affairs with China’s Li Na beating teenager Genie Bouchard 6-2, 6-4 to get to her third Melbourne final and diminutive dynamo Dominika Cibulkova downing Agnieszka Radwanska 6-1, 6-2 to reach her first.

There was nothing uneven about the battle between the seventh seed Berdych and eighth seed Wawrinka that followed on Rod Laver Arena in which three of the four sets were decided by tiebreaks.

While Wawrinka’s vic-

tory over defending champion Novak Djokovic in the quarter-finals was all about guts and shotmaking, the arm-wrestle with Berdych was a study in big serving and heavy hitting.

Wawrinka grabbed the only break of serve in the contest to take the first set and exactly three hours later he clinched the fourth-set tiebreak on his second match point, a thumping unreturnable serve providing a fitting climax.

“It’s amazing. I didn’t expect to make a grand slam final in my career,” Wawrinka said before turning his mind to the possibility of facing Federer. “To play a Swiss final will be amazing, first for Switzerland, for the country. He is the best player ever. For me it’s my first final. To imagine to play against Roger would be amazing.”—Reuters

Ailing Mickelson ponders Torrey Pines withdrawal

NEW YORK, 24 Jan — Phil Mickelson has a special relationship with the Farmers Insurance Open which is played in his native San Diego but he was considering withdrawing from the event after nursing a troublesome back in Thursday’s opening round. The American repeatedly winced at the top of his backswing as he carded a three-under-par 69 on the North Course at Torrey Pines and said his ultimate decision on whether to pull out would depend on how he responded to treatment. “I’ll work on it tonight and tomorrow and we’ll see how it goes,” left-hander Mickelson, a three-times winner of the PGA Tour event, told reporters after mixing four birdies with a lone bogey to end the round five strokes off the pace.

“It’s the start of the season so I don’t want to do anything stupid here. I don’t



think it’s anything serious, I just couldn’t go after it today. If I can get it to feel better for tomorrow, I can go and maybe shoot a good round.

“Hopefully it will work out. If not, it’s not the end of the world and I’ll take a few days off and rest it up, but either way we’ll see how it goes.” Asked whether he had considered pulling out of the event on Thursday, Mickelson replied: “Never thought about not starting, but around the turn I thought about maybe taking this week off and seeing if I could get it a little bit better.”—Reuters



Stanislas Wawrinka

GENERAL



Sen Genshitsu, grand tea master from Japan's Urasenke school, performs a tea ceremony at the Church of San Francisco in Mexico City on 23 Jan, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

Over 10,000 South Sudanese flee into in Kenya

NAIROBI, 24 Jan — More than 10,000 South Sudanese fleeing fighting in their country have crossed the border into Kenya since mid December last year, the UN humanitarian agency said on Thursday.

A report from the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) Eastern Africa noted that over 80,000 people have now crossed the border from South Sudan into Uganda, Kenya, Ethiopia and Sudan as at 20 January.

"WFP supports approximately 450,000 refugees in Kenya and UNHCR projects that new arrivals from South Sudan may rise to 20,000 by 31 March," OCHA said in its report published in Nairobi on Thursday.

The UN World Food Programme (WFP) said it needs an additional 35 million US dollars to cover requirements through March for operations supporting new South Sudanese refugees in neighbouring coun-

tries.

The UN had earlier appealed for 166 million US dollars to provide assistance to the displaced civilians through March. So far, an estimated 167,000 people of the 628,000 in need of aid have been reached.

The UN expected to have a "significant number of foreign police units" operating on the ground within the next few days, with the full 5,500-strong surge in UN peacekeepers and equipment deployed on the ground within eight weeks, officials have said.

UNHCR reported that as many as 500 South Sudanese are arriving daily at the Kakuma refugee camp in northwest Kenya.

"The agency is concerned by the large presence of children among arrivals, the majority of whom are separated from their families," OCHA said. Prior to the latest conflict, the UN refugee agency had secured land in Kakuma to accommodate 25,000 refugees.—Xinhua

Italians Errani and Vinci retain Australian Open title

MELBOURNE, 24 Jan — Top seeds Sara Errani and Roberta Vinci of Italy produced a great escape on Friday as they beat Russia's Ekaterina Makarova and Elena Vesnina 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 to retain the Australian Open women's doubles title.

The Russian third seeds led 5-2 in the decider before Errani and Vinci roared back to clinch their fourth grand slam title and

retain their world number one ranking.

Victory for Makarova and Vesnina would have lifted them to top spot and when they broke twice to lead 5-2 in the final set, they looked set for the title.

But the Italians stayed strong and won five straight games, clinching victory on their second match point when Vinci fired a forehand return winner down the line.—Reuters

Seven soldiers injured in S Philippine land mine blast

MANILA, 24 Jan — Seven soldiers were injured after a land mine, which was believed to have been planted by members of the leftist rebel group New People's Army (NPA), exploded in southern Philippines on Friday, a military official said.

Lt Col Nilo Vinluan, commander of the Philippine Army's 57th Infantry Battalion, said government troops were on their way to an operation when the land mine went off in Makilala town in North Cotabato province.

Vinluan said the soldiers were aboard military vehicles when they ran over the land mine planted by leftist rebels in Luna Sur village at around 12:45 am.

He said the soldiers sustained minor injuries and were rushed to a hospital in Makilala.

Vinluan said the NPAs had been planning to attack a military detachment in Villaflore and a packing plant of Dole Philippines, a producer and distributor of fresh fruits and vegetables.

He said the land mine was meant for troops who may respond to the attack on the detachment.

The 4, 000-strong NPA, armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, is fighting a leftist insurgency in 60 Philippine provinces since 1969.—Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(25-1-2014, Saturday)

6:00 am	Week's Hluttaw News
1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	2:20 pm
6:30 am	20. Business News
2. Physical Exercises	2:40 pm
6:35 am	21. Hyper Sports
3. Nice & Sweet Songs	3:00 pm
6:45 am	22. News
4. Documentary	3:15 pm
7:00 am	23. TV Drama Series
5. News/Weather Report	4:00 pm
7:20 am	24. News
6. Business News	4:20 pm
7:35 am	25. Documentary
8:00 am	4:40 pm
7. Hyper Sports	26. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Zoology)
8. News/ International News	5:00 pm
8:30 am	27. News
9. India Drama Series	5:15 pm
9:00 am	28. Game For Children
10. News/International News	6:00 pm
9:30 am	29. News/Weather Report
11. "What are human rights?" (documentary)	6:20 pm
9:50 am	30. Documentary
12. Documentary	7:00 pm
10:00 am	31. News
13. News	7:20 pm
10:15 am	32. Documentary
14. TV Drama Series	7:40 pm
15. Solo Favourities	33. Documentary (ASEAN)
11:05 am	8:00 pm
11:25 am	34. News/International News/Weather Report
16. Game For Children	8:35 pm
12:00 pm	35. Business News
17. News/International News/Weather Report	8:50 pm
12:30 pm	36. Hit Songs of Stars
18. Round Up of The Week's TV Local News	9:00 pm
1:20 pm	37. News
19. Round Up of The	9:30 pm
	38. Myanmar Series
	39. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

25-1-14 07:00 am ~ 26-1-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Great Shwedagon-The Prayer Halls And Buddha Images
- * World News
- * Guiding Star of Song Birds
- * Local News
- * Kaung Mhu Lon and its spectacular surrounds
- * World News
- * [Doctor][Painter]
- * Local News
- * The Eel Business (Fisherman the eel culture)
- * World News
- * Dhamma School
- * Local News
- * An Oasis Trip to Mt. Popa
- * World News
- * A Person with Faith
- * Local News
- * Naga Traditional Cultural Showroom
- * World News
- * In The Studio: L CO
- * Local News
- * "Pride of Myanmar" Bagan Arts and Crafts
- * World News
- * Dengue Fever
- * Local News
- * Rakhine Traditional Wedding Ceremony
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movie Review "Superb"
- * Local News
- * A Trip to Mon State "Mawlamyine"
- * World News
- * Myanmar Harpist

Budget for Rio 2016 up 27 percent to \$2.93 billion



President of Brazil's Olympic Committee Carlos Arthur Nuzman attends a conference on the budget for the Rio 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games in Rio de Janeiro on 23 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

RIO DE JANEIRO, 24 Jan — The operating budget for the Olympics and Paralympic Games in 2016 has jumped 27 percent to seven billion Brazilian reais (\$2.93 billion).

Officials told a news conference on Thursday the new total for the combined Games in Rio was less than London spent in 2012, explaining the rise was due to factors like inflation and

new technology.

Four sports have been added since the bid was won in 2009 - rugby sevens, golf, paracanoe and paratriathlon - and the revised bill also has more detail.

"Our goal is to hold a magnificent Games. We want to ensure a balanced budget (and) avoid any transfer of public funds to the committee," said Artur Nuzman, president of the Brazilian Olympic Committee and the local organizing team.

Just over half the budget will come from local sponsors while the International Olympic Committee (IOC) will contribute 21 percent.

Around 13 percent is to be raised by ticket sales, nine percent from interna-

tional sponsors and six percent by licensing and other income.

A quarter of the budget was originally supposed to come from government sources but officials said they would no longer take public money.

That decision comes seven months after the biggest public protests in 20 years erupted on the eve of the Confederations Cup soccer tournament, the test event for the World Cup that will be held in Brazil in June and July this year.

Hundreds of thousands took to the streets angry at what they perceived as public funding for grandiose football stadiums while schools, hospitals and public transport were in a state of disrepair.—Reuters

Union FM meets guest from Peninsula Press

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Ms Kathleen De Lacy, Editorial Director and Regional Manager (South East Asia), Peninsula Press of Washington, D.C., the United States. During the meeting,

the Union Minister gave an interview regarding the progress of Myanmar's reforms and its role in ASEAN Chairmanship.—MNA

Deaths of women, children in Rakhine State are false reports of foreign news agencies

MAUNGTAW, 24 Jan—Together with ministers, departmental officials, Coordinator Barbara Babista of Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Buthidaung Township Hluttaw representative, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Hla Maung Tin visited Buthidaung and Maungtaung on 22 January.

On his inspection tour of Buthidaung, the chief minister inspected progress in construction of a primary school with the assistance of Indonesia and under-construction Gupaukgyi detour on Buthidaung-

Maungtaung road.

Next, the chief minister and party proceeded to Maungtaung and observed development undertakings in Waithali and Khayay Myaing villages. Then, the chief minister held talks on health and education matters with villagers from Ducheeyartan and Mawlawis at Gawthuthaya village. He called for strict adherence to the law and the rule of law, saying that the recent incidents will be dealt with in accord with the law.

Asked by Representatives from UNHCR and OCHA, Rakhine State

Hluttaw representative U Aung Myo Min and Dr Bawshi Ahmed, villagers from Ducheeratan Village, a Mawlawi from Gawthuthara Village and local people from surrounding villages replied that they did not find any killing.

Police Brig-Gen Tin Ko Ko clarified the villagers that some were still detained for interrogation and they would be released if they had no guilty. Then, the Chief Minister and the police battalion control commander attended to the needs of villagers.

(See page 8)

Survey for ancient Hanlin city to be inscribed on World Heritage Site list underway

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—Efforts are being made in listing three Pyu Cities—Hanlin, Beikthano and Thayaykhittaya—as UNESCO's World Heritage Sites in Myanmar.

Union Minister at President Office U Hla Tun together with Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin and ICOMOS's ex-

pert Dr Susan McIntyre-Tamwoy conducted a cultural heritage site survey in Hanlin old city today. They observed remains of ancient structures at the site of Hanlin old city and heard reports on facts about the ancient Hanlin City presented by officials.

After observing ancient Hanlin ruins, the Un-

ion minister and party visited Hanlin Basic Education Middle School where they presented stationery to the students. The Ministry of Culture is striving for the three ancient Pyu cities to be added to the World Heritage list. Surveys for Beikthano and Thayaykhittaya were conducted in October, 2013.—MNA

Workshop on writing country report on convention on elimination of all forms of discrimination against women kicks off

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—An opening of workshop on writing the country report on the convention on elimination of all forms of discrimination against women took place at Mingala Thiri Hotel, here, this morning.

In her address, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin said Myanmar will be able to present its fourth and fifth country reports together to the United Nation Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against Women in August 2004. A report-writing committee comprising 33 representatives from ministries, NGOs and civil society organizations and 19 members of core group who are mainly responsible for writing the report has been formed, she added.

The Union minister called on those present to strive for the emergence of the final report through the



Union Minister Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin makes a speech at the workshop.—MNA

workshop.

Next, UN Women's Senior Adviser Dr. Jean Dcunha and UNFPA Deputy Resident Coordinator Ms. Kaori Ishikawa spoke on the occasion.

Myanmar signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

on 22 July, 1997. Initial report was submitted in 1999 followed by second and third country reports in 2007. As Myanmar failed to submit the fourth country report in 2010 due to various reasons, its fifth country report will be submitted together with the fourth report in August 2014.—MNA

Government, authorities taking every step for security, rule of law, justice, humanitarian access, reconciliation in Rakhine State

Press Release

It is learnt that foreign media and some international agencies are issuing Press Releases based on unjustified conclusions drawing from unverified information in relation to the incidents which took place on 13 January, 2014 in Ducheertan (Middle) village, Maungtaung Township. Such misinformation and unjustified conclusions amount to exaggeration and distorting the situation eventually leading to misunderstanding between the two communities

in Rakhine State. It is also confirmed that those Press Releases were issued without any attempt to inquire or verify the information with responsible government officials. The truth about the situation of the incident is as follows:

During the routine patrol duty in Ducheertan (Middle) village in the vicinity on the night of 13 January, 2014, a five-member police patrol team was surrounded and threatened by over one hundred

Bengali mob wielding sticks and knives. As the mob advanced with visible threat, the patrol team had to leave the vicinity. During the withdrawal, the leader of the police patrol team was lost in the mob. Remobilized police and security forces revisited the same vicinity in search of the lost police sergeant. They were again threatened by over 500 Bengali mob armed with sticks and knives.

(See page 8)

Exportation of Myanmar's horticulture to be increased

Although Myanmar's export and import have increased significantly along with development of border trades, exportation of fruits and vegetables required to set income record in the last year.

Myanmar earned US\$ 34.981 million from exportation of fruits and vegetables till December in 2013-2014 fiscal year, said an official of the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar exported

horticulture worth US\$ 54.892 million in 2010-2011 FY and US\$ 73.831 million in 2012-2013 FY.

Myanmar exported fruits and vegetables to Singapore by ship in May 2013 and efforts are being made

Byline:

Wai Yan Oo:

Photo: Tin Soe
(Myanma Alinn)

to penetrate Japanese market. Myanmar has been exporting fruits and vegetables to neighbouring countries through border trade.

Myanmar's main exports to neighbouring countries are mango, watermelon, cucumber and other fruits. Myanmar imports apples from China through Muse Border Trade Checkpoint.

Myanma Alinn: 24-1-

2014

Trs:KHS



NRC broadcasting time to be changed

NAY PYI TAW, 24 Jan—National Races Channel of Myanma Radio and Television is airing Kachin, Kayah, Sakaw Kayin, West Poe Kayin, East Poe Kayin, Chin (Laizoe), Chin (Choe), Mon, Rakhine, Shan and Wa national races programmes twice a day from 6 am to 2 pm and from 2 pm to 11 pm daily starting from 15 October.

As NRC broadcasting time will be changed in four months a time according to the national races languages, first trial will be launched from 1 February to 31 May 2014. They are Kayah language pro-

gramme from 6 am to 7 am, Sakaw Kayin programme from 7 am to 7:30 am, West Poe Kayin programme from 7:30 am to 8 am, East Poe Kayin programme from 8 am to 8:30 am, Chin (Laizoe) programme from 8:30 am to 9 am, Chin (Choe) programme from 9 am to 9:30 am, Mon programme from 9:30 am to 10:30 am, Rakhine programme from 10:30 am to 11:30 pm, Shan programme from 11:30 pm to 12:30 pm and Wa programme from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm and Kachin programme from 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm.

MNA