

2nd Union Government Cup Golf Tournament concludes



President U Thein Sein at second round of 2nd Union Government Cup Golf Tournament.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 26 round of 2nd Union Government Cup Golf Tournament at Myodaw and Sein enjoyed the second

Yepyar golf courses, here, this morning.

Prize presentation of

2nd Union Government Cup Golf Tournament was held at Myodaw golf course this

evening and Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presented prizes to the winners.

Chairman of Leading Committee for holding golf tournament Union Minister U Tint Hsan explained matters related to the event.

The leading committee chairman and Union ministers awarded best loser awards, most eagle award, most birdie award, most par award, longest drive award, nearest pin award, first, second and third winners in individual (scratch) and (handicap) events to respective winners.

Union Minister Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win presented third prize to Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development and Lt-Gen Khin Zaw Oo of the Commander-in-Chief Office (Army) second prize to Ministry of Home Affairs in inter-team (scratch) event.

Patrons of Leading Committee Union Minister U Hla Tun awarded third prize to Ministry of Home Affairs and Union Minister U Thein Nyunt second prize to Ministry of Defence in inter-team (handicap) event.

On behalf of President U Thein Sein, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presented Union Government Cup to Ministry of Defence in inter-team (scratch) event and Ministry of LFRD in inter-team (handicap) event.

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham cordially greeted participant golfers and posed for a documentary photo with them.

After prize awarding ceremony, a dinner followed. The singers entertained those present together with Myanma Athan modern music band.

MNA

Sunflower growers earn high income

Gangaw region, located in Magway Region in the north-west of the nation, has been putting farmlands under edible oil crops such as sesame and groundnut. After conducting the cultivation on test, the region could achieve success in growing sunflower for 10 years. Up to now, local farmers are engaged in cultivation of sunflower in both monsoon and cold season through double and mix-cropping patterns.

In practical work, cold season sunflower boosts its per-acre yield

more than that of monsoon sunflower. At present, Gangaw Township grows 2211 acres of monsoon sunflower, Htilin Township 7229 acres, Saw Township 1829 acres and Kyaukhtu Sub-Township 2356 acres. Likewise, Gangaw Township cultivates 19369 acres of cold season sunflower, Htilin Township 12188 acres, Saw Township 3333 acres and Kyaukhtu Sub-Township 6601 acres. Monsoon sunflower produces 19.16 baskets per acre and cold season sunflower, 31.46 baskets on average.

"I have been growing

Byline: Sein Kyaw (Wabochaung)

sunflower plantations for 10 years in addition to butter bean. Both strains are marketable. Sunflower has more resistance against weather than that of bean. Farmers can cost K 150,000 per acre for sunflower. One basket of sunflower can produce 4.5 viss of oil. Production of sunflower can fetch K 600,000 per acre. Now, we use Yezin hybrid and Shwekyar sunflower strains," said farmer U Myint Lwin of Myinthar Village of Gangaw region.

He secured the township level sunflower best production award due to production of over 60 baskets of sunflower in 2011.

In Gangaw region, the local farmers grow sunflower and pea plantations through mix-cropping pattern.

Trs: TTA



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham presents championship trophy to Defence Ministry team in inter-team (scratch) event.—MNA

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New building under construction at Htintan BEMS Branch



A school building is under construction at Basic Education Middle School Branch in Yezagyo Township.

YEZAGYO, 26 Jan—Under the management of Magway Region government, Htet Moe Pwint Co Ltd is constructing the building of Basic Education Middle School Branch in No 1 Htintan Ward of Yezagyo. So far, the building has been completed by 75 per cent.

The construction started on 17 January.

The building will be

90 feet x 30 feet x 12 feet funded K 32.4 million by the Ministry of Education in 2013-2014 fiscal year.

The ministry allotted K 32.4 million on construction of the building for Yezagyo BEMS Branch, K 32.4 million on Ngatayaw BEMS Branch, K 21.6 million on Kaing-2 BEPS, K 14.4 million on Kyaukhlega BEPS and

K 28.8 million on Shwehlan BEHS Branch.

MMAL-Pe Tun Zaw (Yezagyo)

Mobile SIM cards sold at K 85000-K 110,000

MEIKTILA, 26 Jan—GSM and CDMA 800 MHz SIM cards are sold at the market ranging from K 85000 to K 100,000 in Meiktila.

Buyers pay K 85000 to K 90000 for CDMA SIM cards. They prefer purchase of GSM at K 100,000 and K 110,000. SIM cards that flowed from Magway, Taungdwingyi, Chauk, Kyaukpadaung and Myingyan are marketable in Meiktila. The mobile phone shops resell the CDMA cards at K 100,000 and GSM at K 110,000, said Ko Htay of Meiktila who is a broker of mobile SIM cards.

As of April 2013, region and state governments allotted 350,000 mobile phone cards worth K 1500

each to local people. So far, a total of over 7 million including 3.2 million of mobile SIM cards.

A plan is underway to allot more and more SIM cards to the people to enable each household to hold the mobile phones.

A separate plan will be implemented for pensioners to be able to use mobile phones.

On 24 January, the ministry concerned issued a statement that 350,000 mobile phone SIM cards of CDMA 800, GSM and WCDMA will be sold to the people across the nation and 50000 WCDMA cards will be sold for the retired service personnel in the entire nation. MMAL-Chan Tha (Meiktila)

K 28.8 million on Shwehlan BEHS Branch.

MMAL-Pe Tun Zaw (Yezagyo)

Pay Your Tax

Traditional Medicine Department gives treatment to over 4000 patients



NATOGYI, 26 Jan—Natogyi Township Traditional Medicine Department has provided health care services to over 4904 patients of the township in 34 diseases in 2013 with the use of traditional medicines free of charge, said Head of the clinic Daw Khin Mar Tin. In 2012, the department gave

Damaged vehicles go to iron casting

LASHIO, 26 Jan—Officials of Central Equipment Statistics and Inspection Department under the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development collected data of damaged vehicles where there are levels of casting or repairing from the courts in Shan State

(North).

The statistics stated list of confiscated vehicles and machinery to be cast. The list comprises 23 cars, 204 motorcycles, 17 trawlergy and 44 other machinery.

Of them, one car, one tractor, one trawlergy and 22 motorcycles from Lashio District and Township

courts were transported by crane to be sent to Vessel Abolish Factory (Thilawa) of Myanma Economic Corporation as of 23 January.

The remaining vehicles and machinery will be repaired under the systematic system.

MMAL-Nay Myo Nwe



Officials supervise picking up of damaged and unnecessary vehicles and machinery to be cast at foundry.

Crime

Four suspects of snatching arrested

YANGON, 26 Jan—No 2 security company of Yangon Region Police Force discharge duty of security on Than Street Bus Stop on Insein Road in Hline Township on 23 January afternoon.

They found four suspects namely Ahtit (a) Aye Lwin, son of U Tin Shwe of Thakayta Township, Maung Kyaw (a) Maung Oo, son of U Tin Soe of Twantay Township and Thaik Soe Tun, son of

U Thein Aung and Nyan Tun, son of U Aung Than of Hlinethaya Township along with K 47000.

Under the interrogation, those four suspects snatched money from a slam bag of a woman who prepared to get down from a bus of No 226 bus line.

Hline Myoma Police Station opened files of lawsuit against them under the law.

Kyemon-Soe Win (MLA)



Four suspects of snatching arrested.

treatment to 5078 patients. Most of them suffered from nerveus, pains at knee and waist, skin and hypertension diseases.

The TMD allotted 55 viss of traditional medicines. The local people prefer to receive treatment with traditional medicines.

MMAL-Khin Zar Mon Myint

WORLD

Japan, India agree to conduct naval drill with US

NEW DELHI, 26 Jan — Japan and India agreed Saturday to carry out a trilateral naval drill with the United States. In a meeting with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced a total of around 200 billion yen, or \$2 billion, in loans to India mainly to help finance a project to expand the subway system in the capital.

It will be the first time for Japan's Maritime Self-Defense Force to take part

in a US-India naval exercise since the Japanese government purchased three of the five main islands in the Senkaku group from a private Japanese owner in 2012.

Abe and Singh stressed their commitment to ensuring the freedom of navigation, unimpeded commerce and the peaceful settlement of conflicts in line with the principle of international law including the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, according to a joint statement issued after the

meeting. The two leaders affirmed maritime cooperation such as continuation of a Japan-India naval drill and a planned working-level meeting in March for exporting Japan's US-2 amphibious planes for search and rescue purposes to India, the statement said.

"We hope to strengthen security ties with India," Abe said in a joint news conference with Singh.

To bolster bilateral security cooperation, the leaders agreed to launch

regular consultations between Shotaro Yachi, head of the secretariat of Japan's new National Security Council, and his Indian counterpart.

On the economic front, Abe and Singh agreed to complete by July next year a joint survey on the possible introduction of Japan's shinkansen bullet train technology for a high-speed train project between Mumbai and Ahmadabad in western India, according to the statement.—Kyodo News



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his wife Akie wave as they leave Tokyo International Airport in Tokyo on 25 Jan, 2014 for India. During a three-day visit to India, Abe will meet with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to discuss bilateral cooperation in the economic and security fields. KYODO NEWS

Suicide bomber kills four in Kabul attack on Afghan army bus

KABUL, 26 Jan — A suicide bomber attacked an Afghan army bus in Kabul on Sunday, killing four people and wounding up to 22, police said, the latest incident in a worrying surge of violence in the Afghan capital over the past 10 days.

The Taliban quickly claimed responsibility for the attack, the worst since a devastating assault on a popular restaurant on 17 January killed 21 foreigners and Afghans.

Hashmat Stanikzai, the chief spokesman for police in Kabul, said an investigation into the latest attack

was under way.

"The number (of victims) might change," he said. Stanikzai said the wounded included children who were nearby when the blast occurred. The Afghan capital was hit by at least two other attacks in the previous 24 hours, according to security officials.

Two people were wounded in an explosion in the north of the city late on Saturday, while security sources said a rocket landed near the international airport on Kabul's outskirts without causing casualties.

The restaurant attack on 17 January was the



Afghan policemen inspect the wreckage of a bus hit by a suicide attack in Kabul on 26 Jan, 2014. A suicide bomber attacked an Afghan army bus in the capital, Kabul, on Sunday, killing three people and wounding at least 10, police said. The attack, the latest in a worrying upsurge of violence in Kabul and around Afghanistan, was claimed by the Taliban. —REUTERS

worst on foreigners since the Taliban were overthrown by US-led Afghan forces in late 2001 and sent shockwaves through Kabul. Three United Nations

staff and the International Monetary Fund's top representative in Afghanistan were among the 13 foreigners killed in that attack.

Reuters

Police, protesters clash after Ukraine's president offers foes posts

KIEV, 26 Jan — Police clashed with protesters who blockaded a building in central Kiev on Sunday and the fate of Ukraine's government was up in the air after embattled President Viktor Yanukovich offered opposition leaders key posts. One of the president's main foes called his offer a "poisoned" attempt to kill off a protest movement in a country plunged into political unrest by Yanukovich's U-turn away from the European Union and toward Russia.

In the latest violence, a few thousand protesters tried to storm an ornate cul-

tural center where hundreds of security forces were gathered in central Kiev, a few hundred metres from the hub of weeks of opposition protests on Independence Square. Demonstrators threw stones and smoke bombs while police fired stun grenades and sprayed water into the crowd.

The police and security forces later left the building, its windows shattered, and streamed out through a corridor created by the crowd after an opposition leader, Vitaly Klitschko, arrived at the scene and helped negotiate a solution.

Reuters

Advance voting called off in Bangkok, S Thailand due to anti-gov't protest



A Bangkok district officer stands inside the compound of a polling station in central Bangkok on 26 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

BANGKOK, 26 Jan — Sunday's advance voting for the 2 February election in Bangkok and southern Thailand was called off in the face of the prolonged anti-government protest.

Election officials were forced to call off the advance voting in all 50 districts of the capital as well as most southern constituencies as hordes of protesters gathered to deny entries

to the advance polling units.

A brawl and fistfight briefly occurred between pro-government villagers and anti-government protesters at the polling unit in Ladkrabang district of the capital, police said.

Though the police managed to stop the clash outside the polling unit, election officials decided to call off the advance voting for fears of possible

violence. Nevertheless, advance polling in all other regions of the country and the capital's outlying provinces was held without effectual protests.

According to the officials, those who have been barred by the protesters from casting their advance votes on Sunday may do so on the date which is yet to be set for general voting.

It remains to be seen whether or not the caretaker government headed by acting premier Yingluck Shinawatra will agree to reschedule the nationwide election from 2 February as suggested by the Election Commission and endorsed by the Constitutional Court. Meanwhile, one leading guard for the protesters was killed and several others injured by gunshots at a polling unit in Bangna area, police said.

Xinhua

Twenty-nine dead in clashes on anniversary of Egypt uprising

CAIRO, 26 Jan — Twenty-nine people were killed during anti-government marches on Saturday while thousands rallied in support of the army-led authorities, underlining Egypt's volatile political fissures three years after the fall of autocrat President Hosni Mubarak.

Security forces lobbed teargas and some fired automatic weapons in the air to try to prevent demonstrators

opposed to the government reaching Tahrir Square, the symbolic heart of the 2011 uprising that toppled the former air force commander.

As police tried to calm Cairo's politically-charged streets, a car bomb exploded near a police camp in the Egyptian city of Suez, security sources said.

The blast, which was followed by a fierce exchange of gunfire, sug-

gested the authorities could be locked in a long-term battle with Islamist insurgents who are gaining momentum. But the growing violence has not dented the popularity of General Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, whose ouster of Islamist Mohamed Mursi, Egypt's first freely-elected president, plunged the country into turmoil.

Instead of commemorating Mubarak's overthrow, tens of thousands of Egyptians gathered in Tahrir to pledge their support for Sisi in an event stage-managed by the state.

An army marching band played, while vendors sold t-shirts with the general's image for five Egyptian pounds (\$0.72). Huge banners and posters displayed Sisi in his trademark dark sunglasses at Saturday's rally. Some women kissed posters.

Reuters



Supporters of Egypt's army and police gather at Tahrir square in Cairo, on the third anniversary of Egypt's uprising, on 25 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

Madagascar's president takes over; grenade blast kills child

ANTANANARIVO, 26 Jan — Madagascar's new president Hery Rajaonarimampianina, who won the first elections since a coup in 2009, took office on Saturday but his inauguration was marred by an explosion that killed one person and wounded dozens after the ceremony. The government said initial investigations showed the blast was caused by a grenade that was thrown near Mahamasina stadium where a musical show was taking place in the evening, hours after the inauguration there.

"The new president had

just been sworn in. We know the political situation. His inauguration may not have pleased everyone. That's perhaps one of the reasons why this happened," said Arsene Rakotoniraza, minister of internal security, who was at the scene.

He said a child aged 12 was killed and 33 people were wounded, seven of them critically. Extra police were deployed afterwards in several parts of the capital. Rajaonarimampianina had earlier pledged to create an investment-friendly climate in the Indian Ocean

island.

The World Bank said on Friday the next step of forming a government was crucial and that a resumption of normal lending hinged on the appointment of a new prime minister.

"We need to put in place the structures ... that lead to development. We need to put in place a climate for investment that respects the rule of law," Rajaonarimampianina said as he took office.

The former finance minister won the presidential election on 20 December, the first in the country since the 2009 coup that plunged Madagascar into a political crisis that has sharply slowed economic growth and deepened poverty. Outgoing president and former coup leader Andry Rajoelina, who backed Rajaonarimampianina in the vote, has said he may seek the prime minister's post in the new government. Rajoelina, and the man he ousted in the coup, Marc Ravalomanana, were barred from standing in the presidential elections under the terms of a deal brokered by regional African states meant to end the political turmoil.—Reuters



Madagascar's newly elected President Hery Rajaonarimampianina (R) receives the key symbolising the transfer of power from outgoing president Andry Rajoelina (L) during the handover ceremony at Iavoloha Presidential Palace in the capital Antananarivo, on 24 Jan, 2014. —REUTERS



Japan's Crown Prince Naruhito and Crown Princess Masako arrive at the National Theatre in Tokyo on 25 Jan, 2014, to appreciate traditional songs and dances from Fukushima, Miyagi and Iwate prefectures, which suffered serious damage from the March 2011 massive earthquake and tsunami. The event was held to support reconstruction efforts in the prefectures. KYODO NEWS

M6.1 quake hits Indonesia's Java Island

JAKARTA, 26 Jan — An earthquake with a magnitude of 6.1 occurred near Indonesia's Java Island on Saturday, the US Geological Survey said, but there were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

According to the USGS, the quake struck southern Central Java Province, about 330 kilometres southeast of Jakarta, at 12:14 pm.

Media reports said the earthquake sent people in the nearby city of

Yogyakarta and other surrounding towns into panic.

The USGS said the earthquake occurred about 39 km under the seabed.

No tsunami warning was issued by Indonesia's Meteorological, Climatology and Geophysics Agency, which put the quake's magnitude at 6.5.

Indonesia is located in the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire, where earthquakes and volcanic eruptions frequently occur.

Kyodo News

Nine killed, 30 injured in grenade attack in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, 26 Jan — Nine people were killed and 30 others injured in a grenade attack on a wedding party in central Cambodia, military police said on Sunday.

The attack occurred in Choam Village in Kompong Thom Province on Saturday night when attendants were dancing at the event, according to the provincial military police chief.

The bride sustained injuries to her leg, while the groom was unhurt.

It was not immediately known who was behind the attack, but villagers told authorities that the bride had had an affair with another man in the village prior to the wedding and revenge might be the motive, the police said.

Kyodo News

FM highlights China's new reform drive at WEF

DAVOS, (Switzerland), 26 Jan — China's new round of comprehensive reforms would provide the world with more "Chinese opportunities," said Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

China's new reform drive would not only mark a new era for its own development, but have extensive and positive impact on the world, Wang said Friday in

a special session on China during the World Economic Forum (WEF) annual meeting.

An increasingly prosperous China would gift the world with more "Chinese opportunities" in development, namely market opportunities, investment opportunities, growth opportunities and cooperation opportunities, he said.

China would remain

committed to the path of peaceful development, contribute more "Chinese power" to world peace, undertake more international obligations, and play an even more active and productive role in resolving hot issues, he said.

Noting that Chinese President Xi Jinping had outlined the vision of the Chinese dream, which was to achieve the revitaliza-

tion of the Chinese nation, Wang said the new round of reform launched in China was the right path to this goal.

As an important member of the international community, China would also work with other countries and make its due contribution to the development and progress of mankind, Wang said. On the same day, Wang met Klaus Schwab,

WEF founder and executive chairman, and voiced his hope that the WEF would continue its focus on and support for China's reform process.

China attached great importance to the WEF, said Wang, noting that Chinese Premier Li Keqiang had posted an article on the WEF's official website on the occasion of the annual meeting.—Xinhua

Three dead, including gunman, in Maryland mall shooting

COLUMBIA, (Maryland), 26 Jan — A gunman opened fire with a shotgun in a skate shop at a crowded shopping mall near Baltimore on Saturday, killing two store employees and wounding another person before apparently killing himself, police said.

Howard County police said they did not know the motive for the shooting at the large mall in Columbia, Maryland, about 20 miles west of Baltimore. Police identified the victims as Brianna Benlolo, 21, of

College Park, Maryland, and Tyler Johnson, 25, of Ellicott City, Maryland. Both were employees of Zumiez, a skate shop where the shooting took place. The name of the gunman has not been released.

One person suffered a gunshot wound to the foot, and four others were injured in the chaos, police said. Howard County General Hospital said all five people had been treated and released. The shooting happened at about 11:15 am EST (1615 GMT) on

the mall's upper level just above the food court. The mall, which has more than 200 stores, was crowded with weekend shoppers, many of whom sheltered in place after hearing the shots or seeing people fleeing.

Police, who were in the area on another case, responded to the emergency calls within two minutes and found all three bodies either in the store or just outside it. The gunman apparently had committed suicide.

"He still had a large

amount of ammunition on and about him and because of concerns about explosives and any other weapons he might have we are approaching this with an abundance of caution," Howard County Police Chief Bill McMahon told reporters.

It took hours for state and Howard County police, joined by authorities from neighbouring counties, to clear the building of shoppers and employees and ensure there were no other shooters.



Howard County officials walk to deliver remarks after a shooting at a shopping mall in Columbia, Maryland on 25 Jan, 2014. —REUTERS

"This took a long time because you can imagine how many rooms there are in the mall, how many back offices, bathrooms and

dressing rooms and nooks and crannies in the mall," Howard County Executive Ken Ulman told reporters.

Reuters

WORLD

Tunisia premier lacks consensus on new caretaker cabinet

TUNIS, 26 Jan — Tunisia's new Prime Minister Mehdi Jomaa on Sunday was forced to delay naming a caretaker government to lead until elections after failing to reach a consensus over the key post of interior minister.

Jomaa, a technocrat, was appointed in December after ruling Islamists agreed to step down in a compromise with secular opponents to end a crisis threatening to upend democratic transition after their 2011 "Arab Spring" revolt.

Jomaa had planned to present his cabinet before the president on Saturday, but just after midnight the premier told at a press briefing there was no consensus over the cabinet list

and he could not name the government. "I have to inform the president that I do not have the list," he said. "It is not a question of a person, but rather I am looking for a real consensus in the government. There should not be any division." He said the president could reassign him to the task of forming a new government or name another candidate.

It was a setback for Tunisia after its assembly finished the country's new constitution last week, progress widely praised as a model in contrast to upheaval in Libya, Egypt and Yemen who also ousted leaders in 2011 uprisings.

Party sources said Tunisian opposition leaders

wanted to a new interior minister, but Jomaa pressed to keep the current minister to ensure continuity in key security matters as the country faces Islamist militants.

After months of deadlock last year, North African country's Islamist party Ennahda agreed to step down in a compromise deal to make way for a non-political, technocrat government to ease tensions and prepare for elections later this year.

One of the most secular countries in the Arab World, Tunisia has struggled with deepening divisions over the role of Islam and the rise of ultra-conservative Salafists, who secularists worried



Tunisia's premier-designate Mehdi Jomaa addresses the media during a news conference following a meeting with the Tunisian President at the Carthage Palace in Tunis on 10 Jan, 2014. —REUTERS

would infringe on liberal education and rights.

No date has been set for elections, but the new government will have to tackle demands from international lenders to cut public spending and curb the country's budget deficit without triggering protests

over economic hardships.

Islamist militants, tied to al-Qaeda operations in North Africa, are also a growing threat for a country that relies heavily on European tourism and overseas remittances for its hard currency income.

Reuters

Death toll from Congo arms depot blast rises to over 20

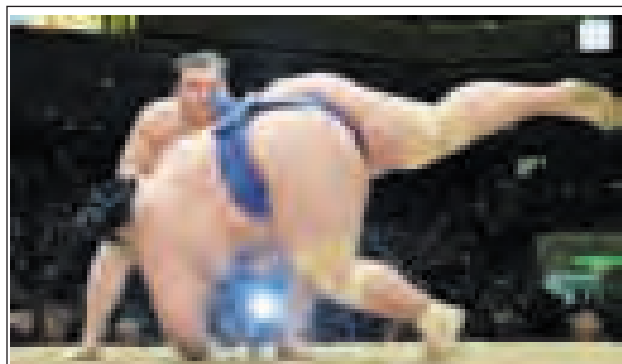
KINSHASA, 26 Jan — The number of people known to have been killed by an explosion at an arms depot in Democratic Republic of Congo has risen to more than 20, the UN mission in the country said on Saturday.

The blast occurred on Friday when a lightning strike sparked a fire at the depot near the diamond mining hub of Mbuji-Mayi, Congo's third largest city.

"Over 20 people died, more than 50 were injured and many houses destroyed by the blast, causing desolation in the city," said a statement released by the UN peacekeeping mission in the country, MONUSCO.

A senior government official had previously estimated that at least 10 people were killed. "I have instructed our office in Mbuji-Mayi to stand by and support local authorities in dealing with the situation," said Martin Kobler, head of MONUSCO.

Congo, a country the size of Western Europe in the heart of Africa, is home to around 65 million people. Many live in poverty despite its wealth of natural resources such as copper, cobalt, gold and diamonds. —Reuters



Yokozuna (grand champion) Hakuho (back) beats ozeki Kotoshogiku at Tokyo's Ryogoku Kokugikan on 25 Jan, 2014, day 14 of the New Year Grand Sumo Tournament. Hakuho leads the 15-day tournament with no loss. —KYODO NEWS

LDP to discuss right of collective self-defence with coalition ally

TOKYO, 26 Jan — The No 2 lawmaker of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party said on Sunday the party will discuss whether Japan should be allowed to exercise the right of collective self-defence with its coalition partner the New Komeito party, which has expressed a cautious stance on the issue.

"We will discuss the issue with New Komeito to find common ground," LDP Secretary General Shigeru Ishiba said on an NHK TV program. "Before undergoing the process, I will not say by when we will reach a conclusion."

His comments came after Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the LDP chief, said in his policy speech at the Diet on Friday that Japan will review its self-imposed ban on exercising the right of collective self-defence to seek a greater security role

abroad. New Komeito's leader Natsuo Yamaguchi indicated last week in an interview that it will be difficult to decide by the 22 June end of the current Diet session whether to alter the long-standing interpretation of the Constitution that Japan cannot exercise the right.

On Sunday, New Komeito Secretary General Yoshihisa Inoue reiterated the party's cautious stance, telling the NHK programme, "We need to form a national consensus while gaining the understanding of the international community."

Ishiba, meanwhile, said that the economy should be closely monitored to see whether the consumption tax should be hiked to 10 percent in October 2015 after being raised to 8 percent in April from the current 5 percent. —Kyodo News

India celebrates Republic Day

NEW DELHI, 26 Jan — India on Sunday started its 65th Republic Day celebration with ground-to-air security apparatus put in place in the capital by thousands of armed personnel on the eight-km-long parade route from Rajpath to Red Fort here.

The celebration started with military parades as usual. Among the military strength first showcased at the parade were Indian Army's main battle tank T-90 and minesweepers, fol-

lowed by army regiments.

Meanwhile, an improvised explosive device blast took place Sunday in the northeast state of Manipur's capital Imphal, without causing any casualties. The blast took place near the divisional commissioner's residence of the city, said local TV CNN-IBN.

Indian President Pranab Mukherjee, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and visiting Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and tens of thousands of people

attended the celebration.

In his speech to the nation on Saturday evening, Indian President Mukherjee called on Indians to elect a stable government in the general election this year and warned them against "populist anarchy" by the anti-graft party Aam Aadmi Party which has come to power in the capital last month. Prime Minister Singh paid tribute to India's dead soldiers at the Indian Gate before the parade started. —Xinhua

Syrian civil war foes meet for first time, focus on aid

GENEVA, 26 Jan — Syria's civil war foes held their first face-to-face meetings on Saturday, launching talks aimed at ending nearly three years of conflict which has killed 130,000 people and destabilized the wider Middle East.

Government and opposition delegates faced each other across a negotiating table at the United Nations headquarters for a total of three hours in the presence of mediator Lakhdar Brahimi, who described the meetings as "a good beginning".

While political differences which Brahimi says must form the core of their talks appear insurmountable for now, the two sides focused on Saturday on a possible humanitarian deal aimed at building confidence in the negotiating process.

Brahimi said he hoped that authorities in Syria would approve access on

Sunday for an aid convoy to reach the rebel-held centre of Homs, allowing it to be delivered on Monday.

"We haven't achieved much, but we are continuing," he told a news conference after the talks concluded for the day. Anxious to avoid any possible confrontations, organizers ensured the two parties entered and left the negotiation room for the morning and afternoon sessions through separate doors. Brahimi said they faced each other during the meeting but addressed their remarks through him. "This is what happens in civilized discussions, you talk to the president or the speaker or the chairman," he said.

The veteran international mediator also said he set out his plans for the talks over the coming weeks, stressing that they must ultimately be focused on implementing a June 2012 declaration which

called for a transitional governing body to be set up with the consent of Syria's opposing forces.

"He told us this is a political conference ... based on Geneva 1," opposition delegate Anas al-Abdah said, referring to the 2012 communiqué announced by world powers in the same Swiss city where Saturday's talks took place.

President Bashar al-Assad's government delegation said it broadly accepted Geneva 1, but reiterated its longstanding opposition to the idea of a transitional body, saying it was inappropriate and unnecessary.

"We have complete reservations regarding it," Information Minister Omran Zoabi said, comparing the proposal to the transitional government set up in Iraq by US occupation forces after they toppled Saddam Hussein in 2003. —Reuters



Bashar Jaafari, the Syrian government's Ambassador to the United Nations and a member of the Syrian government delegation, speaks to journalists upon his arrival for the first meeting face-to-face with the Syrian opposition delegation and the UN-Arab League envoy for Syria Lakhdar Brahimi (not pictured) at a UN office in Geneva on 25 Jan, 2014. —REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

EU regulator backs Bayer, GSK drugs, knocks back Novartis, Teva

LONDON, 26 Jan — Europe's drugs regulator gave its backing on Friday for marketing approval to be granted for Bayer's pulmonary hypertension drug Adempas and for GlaxoSmithKline's diabetes medicine Eperzan. The European Medicine Agency (EMA) also backed a new drug from Dainippon Sumitomo Pharma called Latuda, for the treatment of schizophrenia, and Bemfola, a new biosimilar medicine for the treatment of infertility.

But the regulator decided against recommending Teva's new multiple

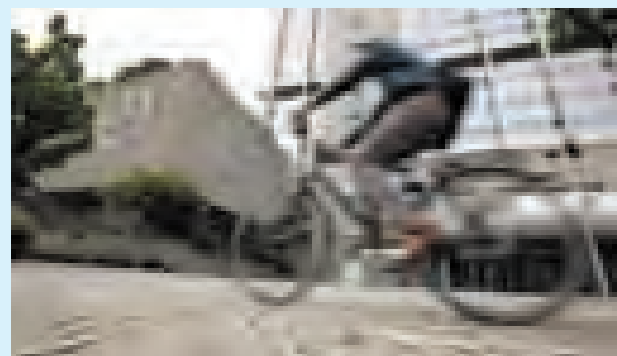
sclerosis (MS) pill Nerven-tra, or laquinimod, which the Israeli firm is developing with Swedish partner Active Biotech, and recommended rejecting an application from Swiss drug-maker Novartis to market its heart failure drug sere-laxin. Recommendations for marketing approval by the EMA's Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use (CHMP) are normally endorsed by the European Commission within a couple of months. The prospects for laquinimod were already viewed by analysts as uncertain, since the drug missed its main goal in a

late-stage trial in 2011 and US regulators have asked for another Phase III study before considering it.

Analysts at Jefferies in London said the rejection of Teva's MS drug was as they had expected and was driven by three major concerns — about the possible link to risk of cancers and pregnancy dangers, and its modest effect on relapse rates which suggested an unfavorable risk-benefit balance for the drug. On Bayer's Adempas, the EMA said the key benefits of the drug were "its ability to provide significant improvement in exercise capacity and pul-

monary haemodynamics in two specific conditions known as chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension and pulmonary arterial hypertension."

Adempas, which belongs to a class of drugs known as soluble guanylate cyclase stimulators that help arteries relax to increase blood flow and decrease blood pressure, got backing from drugs regulators in United States in October last year, and in Japan earlier this month. The EMA also issued negative opinions for two so-called orphan medicines — Masiviera from France's AB Science,



A man rides a bicycle in front of the building of Germany's largest drugmaker Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals in Berlin on 28 April, 2011.—REUTERS

intended for certain types of advanced pancreatic cancer, and Translarna, from PTC Therapeutics, designed to treat Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

GSK's once-weekly diabetes drug albiglutide won the EMA's recommendation and will be sold under the brand name Eper-

zan. It belongs to the same class of injectable GLP-1 drugs as Victoza, from Novo Nordisk, as well as Byetta and Bydureon, from Bristol-Myers Squibb and AstraZeneca. Last year regulators in the United States pushed back an approval decision on the drug until 15 April.—Reuters

No serious side effects with Merck allergy pill

NEW YORK, 26 Jan — No serious safety concerns were raised over Merck & Co's experimental pill for ragweed allergies, according to FDA documents on Friday, ahead of a meeting next week of outside medical experts who will discuss whether the drug merits approval.

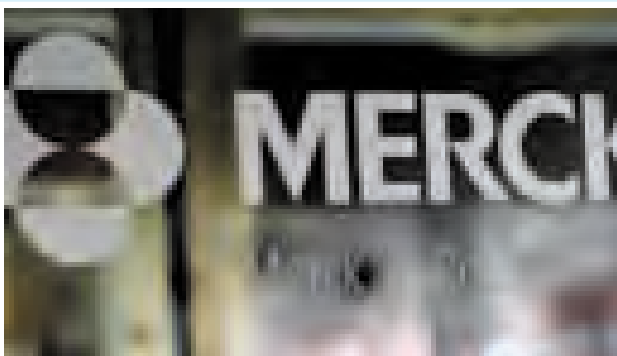
The Allergenic Products Advisory Committee will meet on Tuesday to review Ragwitek, a pill placed under the tongue that, if approved, would be an alternative to regular injections administered by doctors for ragweed pollen allergies.

At the meeting, the panel will be asked to discuss whether available clinical trial data supports

the safety and the efficacy of the product in persons 18 years of age and older and make recommendations to the US Food and Drug Administration.

The committee will also be asked to recommend to the agency whether any additional studies of the drug might be needed. The FDA documents appeared to favor the drug's safety, saying "none of the adverse events categorized as serious by investigators or (Merck) are considered related to the study drug."

The document also said "there were no deaths in any of the five clinical development trials of Ragwitek." About 30 million people in the United States suffer allergies to



ragweed pollen, the FDA said. Analysts see eventual Ragwitek sales of about \$300 million. However, Morningstar analyst Damien Conover said sales could reach as much as \$1 billion if enough allergy sufferers prefer the pill to injections.

The pill, which is comprised of extracts from short ragweed pollen, would be taken daily beginning 12 weeks prior to the start of the ragweed pollen season and throughout the season.

Merck filed its applica-

tion seeking US approval of Ragwitek last March. The drug, and another pill for grass pollen allergies called Grastek, are being developed along with Danish Drugmaker ALK Abello. In December, an FDA advisory committee unanimously recommended approval of Grastek. Merck shares were down 9 cents at \$51.51 on the New York Stock Exchange, against the broader markets, which were down more than 1 percent.

Reuters

Hanoi stock market forecast to rally on last trading ahead of long holiday

HANOI, 26 Jan — Hanoi's stock market is forecast to rally to 74-75 points on the last trading day next Monday before the long holiday during the lunar New Year festival. During the previous week, the Hanoi stock exchange HNX prolonged the upward trend, gaining 0.87 point or 1.19 percent.

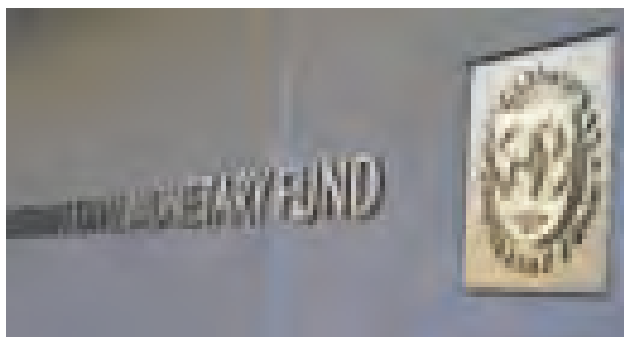
Stock market index of Vietnam's capital Hanoi, HNX-Index, closed at 73.66 points on Friday, up 0.21 points, or 0.29 percent, against the previous trading day's closing session. A total of 34.76 million shares worth 336.6 billion Vietnamese dong (15.95 million US dollars) were traded at the Hanoi Stock Exchange

on Friday, an increase of 10.56 percent in volume and 23.83 percent in value against Thursday.

Prices of 132 stocks went up, 74 stocks fell down, while 62 stocks remained unchanged. During the week, the index experienced three ups and two downs, posting the highest level of 73.66 points on Friday, and the lowest level of 72.5 points on Monday. Last week, HNX-Index ranged from 71.05 points to 73.07 points. HNXFF-Index, the new benchmark to replace the HNX-Index one year later, from December 2014, closed at 72.87 points, up 0.17 points or 0.23 percent on Friday.

Xinhua

IMF chief warns of risks to recovery



DAVOS, (Switzerland), 26 Jan — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) chief Christine Lagarde on Saturday said that the recovery of the world economy is a consolidation process and people should be aware of the risks.

Speaking at a session at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting here, Lagarde said the recovery happened at different rates

in different areas and it is in consolidation process. Apart from the old risks which Lagarde categorized as the financial market reforms yet to be finished and unbalanced growth, Lagarde also mentioned some new risks including the tapering in the United States and the possibility of deflation.

According to Lagarde, the possibility of deflation is low, but "the deflation

risk is that it would occur if it is a shock to those economies that are now going at low inflation rates and certainly way below targets." If low inflation stays for a period of time, the risk is that longer term expectations will be anchored at a much lower level, said Lagarde.

In response, the European Central Bank (ECB) president Mario Draghi said the inflation in the euro zone is going to stay on a very low level for a protracted time. According to Draghi, the ECB is aware of the risk of deflation if the low inflation lasts for a long time. Meanwhile, he reiterated that there is no deflation in the euro zone and the ECB is "ready and willing to act if needed."—Xinhua

Coca-Cola laptop theft could have compromised info for 74,000

NEW YORK, 26 Jan — Beverage maker Coca-Cola Co (KO.N) on Friday said company laptops had been stolen from its headquarters in Atlanta and could have compromised information of about 74,000 people, according to a report in *The Wall Street Journal*.

A spokeswoman for the company said the lap-

tops were stolen by a former employee responsible for maintenance and disposal of equipment, the business daily reported.

The company on 10 December learned that personal information was stored on the laptops after recovering them, the newspaper said.

Coca-Cola could not immediately be reached for

comment outside regular US business hours.

The world's largest soft drink company has alerted domestic and Canadian employees about the security breach through a memo, the Journal reported. Personal details such as social security numbers, driver's license numbers and credit-card information may have been compromised, the Journal said.

The company, which has managed to recover the laptops, which were not encrypted, contacted law enforcement authorities, while saying it could not confirm whether the information has been misused, the newspaper reported.

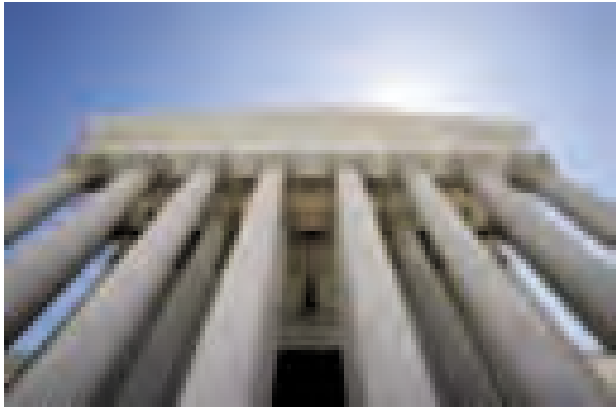
Reuters



A Coca-Cola logo is pictured on the back of one of their corporate delivery trucks in San Diego, California on 24 Sept, 2013.

REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



The US Supreme Court building seen in Washington on 20 May, 2009.—REUTERS

US court system targeted in cyber attack

WASHINGTON, 26 Jan — Unidentified hackers temporarily blocked access to the federal court system's public website on Friday, preventing lawyers from filing legal documents, Politico reported.

The denial-of-service attack hit uscourts.gov, as well as other federal court websites around the country, a spokesman for the Administrative Office of the US Courts told Politico. PACER, the court system

access page that provides information on cases, and its electronic filing system also were affected.

The spokesman said the court system was investigating to determine who was responsible.

The blockage meant that attorneys could not file documents and that documents could not be retrieved online. Reuters was not immediately able to confirm the report.

Reuters

LONDON, 26 Jan — British scientists have applied for permission to run an open-air field trial of a genetically modified (GM) crop they hope may one day become a sustainable and environmentally friendly source of healthy Omega-3 fats. The proposed trial — likely to generate controversy in a nation where GM foods have little public support — could start as early as May and will use Camelina plants engineered to produce seeds high in Omega-3 long chain fatty acids.

No GM crops are currently grown commercially in Britain and only two — a pest-resistant type of maize and a potato with enhanced starch content — are licensed for cultivation in the European Union (EU). But scientists at Britain's agricultural lab Rothamsted Research have developed Camelina plants to pro-

duce Omega-3 fats that are known to be beneficial to health but normally found only in oils in increasingly limited fish stocks.

The idea, they told journalists at a briefing on their plans, is initially to supply the fish farming industry — which currently consumes around 80 percent of fish oils taken from the sea — with a non-fish source of these Omega-3s. Beyond that, possibly within a decade, the GM-produced Omega-3 oils could be used in food products such as margarine, the researchers said. "We now have a vegetable oil enhanced with these two critical fish oils," said Johnathan Napier, a professor of plant science and head of a 15-year research project which has so far shown that the fish-oil producing plants can be grown successfully in

greenhouses. "We know it works in the glasshouse, now (we need to see) does it work in the real world?" he said. The researchers said that although the trial would be in the open air, there was no risk of cross-pollination between the Camelina plant and other field crops grown in Britain. The application for permission to conduct the trial, which submitted to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) on Monday, is subject to a public consultation and an inquiry by a scientific committee that monitors such GM plans.

A decision could be made within 90 days. While Britain and the EU have been very reticent about the use of GM crops, they are commonplace elsewhere. The first GM seeds were planted in the United States more than 15 years ago and so far no evidence has been

documented of adverse health impacts for people eating GM-derived foods. GM crops can also be imported into Britain and used to produce ingredients for human food and for animal feed.

While he acknowledged there is likely to be some public opposition to the idea of a GM field trial, Napier said he hoped the potential for boosting health and protecting the environment would persuade sceptics of the project's value. "If you have a crop that has got potential health benefits and sustainability and environmental benefits, and we can articulate that clearly, then I think people will see this is an OK thing to do," he said. Omega-3 oils found in fish are known to help reduce the risk of cardiovascular diseases including heart attacks and strokes.

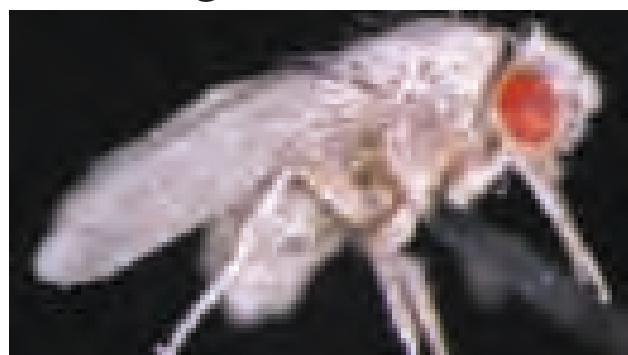
Reuters

Space-raised flies more susceptible to fungus

WASHINGTON, 26 Jan — Drosophila flies that grew up in space had a weakened immune system after returning to Earth, US researchers said on Friday.

It's well-established that spaceflight affects immune responses. Lead researcher Deborah Kimbrell from the University of California, Davis, and her colleagues from the Department of Molecular and Cellular Biology in the UC Davis College of Biological Sciences, used Drosophila to study the relationship between immunity and gravity because Drosophila share many fundamentals of the immune system with mammals such as mice and humans.

The flies, which take about 10 days to develop into adults, were sent into space as eggs on a 12-day mission aboard the Space Shuttle Discovery. After they returned to Earth, the research-



ers tested their responses to two different infections: a fungus, which flies fight off through a pathway mediated by the Toll receptor, and a bacterial infection that flies resist through a gene called Imd. Both the Toll and Imd pathways have counterparts in humans and other mammals.

While the response through the Imd pathway was robust, the Toll pathway was "non-functional" in space-raised flies, Kimbrell said. In Earth-based experiments, the researchers found

that when flies were tested in a centrifuge under hypergravity, or increased gravity, conditions, their resistance to the fungus was improved, suggesting that their Toll pathway was boosted.

Future spacecraft designed for long missions, said Kimbrell, should include centrifuges that crew could use to keep up bone and muscle mass, as this might also have a beneficial effect on astronauts' immune systems. The findings were published in the US journal PLOS ONE.—Xinhua

Romanian hacker 'Guccifer' appeals against arrest

BUCHAREST, 26 Jan — Romanian hacker "Guccifer", famous for breaking into emails of former US president George W Bush's family and entertainment figures, appealed against his arrest on Friday but the chances for his release appeared slim.

A source in the prosecutor's office confirmed that masked police had netted Marcel Lazar Lehel, known by the aliases "Guccifer" and "Small Fume", on Wednesday and said he was currently being detained for 29 days in Bucharest pending a criminal investigation. The hacker shot to fame last February after he hacked into Bush family emails and posted artwork by the former president, including self-portraits in the shower and bathtub.

"(Guccifer) was assigned a criminal defense lawyer," the prosecutor's

office source said, adding his appeal against his detention would be considered by the court on Monday or Tuesday. Asked by Reuters whether it had received an extradition request for Guccifer from the United States, Romania's justice ministry said it had no information on the matter.

Local media in Guccifer's home region of Arad in northwest Romania near

the Hungarian border said he was a taxi driver by trade, but this could not be confirmed. Top Romanian lawyer Catalin Dancu said there was "close to no chance" of Guccifer's request to be freed being granted. "Investigating hacking on such a scale... is an offence that cannot be done with the suspect still at large," said Dancu.

Reuters



Marcel Lazar Lehel, 40, is escorted by masked policemen in Bucharest, after being arrested in Arad, 550 km (337 miles) west of Bucharest on 22 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

Usmanov tightens hold on Russian social net VKontakte as founder sells stake

Moscow, 26 Jan — Pavel Durov, founder of Russia's biggest social network, said he sold his stake in VKontakte (www.vk.com) to an ally of tycoon Alisher Usmanov, the site's second-largest shareholder, who has long wanted to secure control.

Durov sold his 12

percent stake to Ivan Tavrinn, the chief executive officer of Russian mobile phone operator Megafon, which Usmanov controls, Durov said on his VK page on Friday.

This means that Usmanov and his allies now control around 52 percent of the company. According



Uzbek-born Russian businessman Alisher Usmanov attends a meeting between Russian President Vladimir Putin and Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed al-Nahyan at the Novo-Ogaryovo state residence, outside Moscow on 12 Sept, 2013. — REUTERS

to business daily Vedomosti, the deal took place last month and was probably based on a valuation of \$3 billion-\$4 billion for all of VK, Russia's answer to Facebook.

Tavrinn could not immediately be reached for comment. VKontakte's press office did not respond to an

emailed request for comment. VK is 39.9 percent owned by Russian internet group Mail.Ru, which is part owned by Usmanov and has long been seeking to increase its stake to gain control of the network of more than 100 million users. In 2012, Mail.

Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 27 January, 2014

The good and the bad

The world is a mixture of good and bad. We all must accept the good and discard the bad meaning we must take the good examples and models while leaving behind all the bad deeds and habits. We must associate with the wise while avoiding the foolish. Likewise, we must be prudent enough to know which one is the right path and which one is the wrong path.

If we make friends with fine and upright people, we also will become a decent man. A good community can produce good persons. Likewise, an honest community can produce straightforward persons. Loyalty can also be taught from friends and society. On the other hand, bad habits sometimes are like infectious diseases. What will happen if we associate only with gamblers or drug addicts or alcoholics? So friends are important for us. Our lives can be ruined because of the influence of bad companions. Normally, a person who is raised by good people will become good and grow up in a bad community will become bad.

We can learn a lot even from our life. First we must know which one is indecent and which one is decent. Film stars and musical stars have much influence on us. But we should imitate only their good parts. Especially from the movies, what we should take lessons is the struggle between the good and the bad.

In most of the movies, the good guys always win and the bad guys always lose in the end. And that is the message we should take from the entertainment industry.



Htidaw (umbrella) and diamond orb hoisting atop ancient Tharkho Hill Pagoda in progress in Ohnbin Village of Tatkon Township on 23 January.—AYE THAN

Acting Union Education Minister attends Education World Forum 2014

YANGON, 26 Jan—Acting Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Myint attended Education World Forum 2014 in London, Britain from 20 to 22 January.

During his tour, Acting Union Minister Dr Myo Myint met Rt Hon Alan Duncan MP, Minister of State for International Development of the UK at House of Parliament. They discussed matters on implementation of pragmatic education promotion and Britain's assistance for success of education reform in Myanmar.

He held talks with Member of Parliament Lord

Alton, Sir Vernon Ellis, Chair of British Council and officials from Universities of Oxford, Nottingham, London and Manchester separately.

The Myanmar delegation observed ICT and Educational BETT Exhibition, attended Microsoft in education Leaders Briefing jointly organized by Microsoft and British Council, and clarified educational progress in Myanmar and use of ICT in learning process.

They also held discussions with Director of Partners in Learning of Microsoft Mr. James Bernard and

Marble hill ranges of Sagyin acquire not only commercial and industrial fame but also sacredness and sublimity due to increasing use of these stones for religious purposes. Generations of miners with their hereditary mining rights which they proudly obtained from successive Myanmar kings, continued to earn their livelihood by no other professions than mining and sculpting. Their descendants jealously preserve their hereditary right of mining and proudly follow their hereditary profession. Marble stone miners and sculptors of old capitals, Inwa, Amarapura and Mandalay carry on their works without fail. Market demands for their products increase even in the lean years of economy. Happy main reason for it is that Buddhism continues to flourish in the country and Sagyin marble is becoming popular and favorite stone for sculptors to produce religious objects not only for Buddhism but also for other faiths such as Mahayana Buddhism, Hinduism, Shintoism, Confucianism, and Christianity. To-day at stone sculptors' quarters in Mandalay we find status, images and symbols of Hindu gods and goddesses, Chinese Guan Yin, gods and goddesses, Japanese Shinto, Jesus, Virgin Mary and holy crosses of Christianity to gather with Buddha statues and nat spirit idols in their workshops and sale centres. Sagyin marble stone had already made appearance in foreign countries since early 19th Century or even earlier. In People's Republic of China, North and South Korea, Japan, India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Indonesia, [especially Bali], Sagyin marble Buddha images of different sizes, postures and hand gestures [mudra] are found sheltered in temples of these countries. They are small and medium sizes, sculpted in Myanmar by Myanmar sculptors donated by My-

officials on academic matters with the use of Microsoft technology.

He together with Deputy Director-General Dr Zaw Myint of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) arrived back in Yangon by air on 24 January evening.—MNA

anmar government, monks and devotees or dedicated by wealthy Buddhists of these countries.

To carry on the story of colossal Sagyin marble, Buddha Images of Myanmar kings described in the previous article, the following is a brief account of the latest gigantic Sagyin marble Buddha Image which is rated the largest of all of its kind in the world.

Exactly one hundred and thirty years after the sculpting and dedication of the fourth Sagyin marble Buddha Image "Maha Thet Kya Marazein [Mandalay Kyauk Taw Gyi] in King Mindon's time, there emerged another extraordinary monolithic stone in Sagyin marble hill ranges. U Taw Taw and sons who are hereditary stone sculptors in Mandalay have quarries in these hill ranges. It was in the quarry of Kyauk Taw hill of that range that they discovered a boulder

ble was of high quality with many veins of bluish colour suggesting presence of sapphire in its texture.

The father and sons, at first, were happily prospecting the number of images and statues to be carved out of its and money value they would obtain. But U Taw Taw being a devout Buddhist and faithful Myanmar citizen decided to present their discovery to the State, though they had all legal rights of it as their own property. His sons all agreed to father's decision. Through proper channel they presented the matter and their noble decision to the then Government of the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC). The Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Council General Than Shwe, and his Cabinet after discussion, unanimously decided that the big stone be fashioned into a sitting Buddha Image and that it should be

palm leaves. All available machines and equipment were put to use. Myanmar modern and traditional engineers jointly worked to accomplish their tasks. In addition to paid labourers, groups of contributors of free labour turned up everyday who were eager to take that rare opportunity of gaining merit of religious deed, once in a life time. To provide food, clothing, shelter and health care services for all involved in these tasks, local, national and foreign wellwishers generously made donations, cash and kind. Many media men, pilgrims, visitors, domestic and foreign came to the site to view the marble hill ranges and sceneries, to move at the big stone and the ingenuity of Myanmar engineers and sculptors.

After consultation with Auvadacariya Monk Sayadaws, astrologers, iconographers, archaeologists and historians, a consensus of opinions was reached (1) that an Image be fashioned into a sitting Buddha (2) that its posture and hand gesture be Abhaya mudra [which means no danger hand gesture], (3) that a rough outline be made at the site at the foot of the hill ranges, and (4) that only after rough outline was finished, it be conveyed to Yangon.

Secretaries 1, 2, and 3 of the State Law and Order Restoration Council and almost all ministers, military commanders and government departments, happily participated in this national task of religious merit. The writer of this article as Professor and researcher of Myanmar history compiled accounts of the four colossal Sagyin marble Images of Myanmar kings, including the then methods and techniques of wheres, hows, and whens of conveying heavy loads of stones from their places of origins to the sites of their sculpting and the places and temples of their final shelters, including the performance, of rites of consecrations and Buddha puja ceremonies. There were compiled from chronicles, stone inscriptions, palm leaf inscriptions and mural ink writings and parchments and wall paintings.

(To be continued)

Maha Saddhamma Jotika dhaja Sithu Dr.Khin Maung Nyunt

of enormous size in the cold month of Tabodwe [February] 2000. Before discovery of it, U Taw Taw told the writer of this article that he had a few auspicious dreams presaging good happenings in near future. U Taw Taw a devout Buddhist and stanch believer in nat spirits never failed to observe and practice the five moral precepts [Pancha Sila] prescribed by Lord Buddha and propitiated all not spirits and ancestors with due rites and offerings. He also paid yearly himage to his mines and quarries in Sagyin marble hill ranges. On that auspicious day in February he and his sons were taking a leisurely walk on the hill. Suddenly a white stone appeared in their eyes. They did not believe it was there for in the past they only noticed grasses and wild vegetations and birds there. Why only that day they noticed the white stone? On clearing the green covers, much to their amazement it was a boulder of immense size. Only with the help of quarry workers they could see the entire stone sparking snow white in the bright sun shine, never seen before in their life and career. After washing it with water from nearby pool, U Taw Taw found that the mar-

enshrined in the then capital Yangon, because there are already four large size Sagyin marble Buddha Images in Upper Myanmar, but none in Lower Myanmar, so that new image should be housed in or near Yangon. That decision was heartily welcomed and supported by clergy and laity of Myanmar public.

Soon after the news of the big marble stone and the decision of the SLORC, both the people and the Government were alerted and commenced their activities of carrying out the enormous task of bringing down the heavy load of the stone from the hill, fashioning of it into an outline shape of a sitting Buddha, conveying of it to Yangon, a very long and different distance from the hill ranges to Insein near Yangon, and putting it on a hillock and sheltering it in an Image House befitting the sacred Image. Almost all ministries and government departments were involved in these tasks.

The big stone, in rough weighed over 500 tons, Myanmar engineers and technicians pooled their brains to bring down that heavy load to the foot of the hill; where a large workshop was built of bamboo, cane, thatch and

NATIONAL



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker...

(from page 16)

unity of national people, national reconciliation and

the rule of law and should encourage the multi-party democratic system and the market oriented economic system.

He said that Myanmar should take lessons from her bitter experiences in the past

not to happen such events again while practicing the democratic system, stressing the need for practicing a democratic system which is suitable for Myanmar's history and situation.

MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann greets those attendees in meeting with local people in Sagaing Region.—MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint presents certificate of honour to a wellwisher. (News on page 16) — MNA



Workshop on Advancing UN Global Compact in Myanmar: delivering prosperity and opportunity widely held

YANGON, 26 Jan—Workshop on “Advancing the UN Global Compact

in Myanmar: delivering prosperity and opportunity widely” took place at UMFCCI on Min Ye Kyaw Swa Road, here, on 22 January.

The forum, jointly conducted by UMFCCI and UN Global Compact, intends to uphold corporate social responsibility (CSR)

in Myanmar's economic community far and wide.

It was attended by Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Thane, UNGC Foundation Chairman Sir Mark Moody-Stuart, Pro Dr Aung Tun Thet and entrepreneurs.

Sagawah

MWA awards winners in 1st Manuscript Award Contest

YANGON, 26 Jan—Myanmar Writers Association held the 1st manuscript awarding ceremony for poem, article and short story competition at its hall on Pansodan Street, here, this morning.

On the occasion, Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi said that language, literature and culture of a nation reflect the national symbols like State flag and money, praising the undertakings of the association.

Chairman of Myanmar Writers Association Sithu U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha Saw Chit) delivered an opening address and reported on follow-up plans for the emergence of literature serving the national interest.

Committee chairman for holding manuscript competition U Ohn Maung



Union Minister U Aung Kyi poses for documentary photo with award winners in 1st Manuscript Award Contest.—MNA

(Myinmu Maung Naing Moe) explained the purpose of the competition.

The Union Minister awarded first prize winner Zaw Myo Han (Ngathaingyoung) in poem competi-

tion. Myanmar Writers Association Chairman Sithu U Tin Hlaing (Ledwintha Saw Chit), Vice-Chairmen U Kyaw Win (Manoktha Kyaw Win) and U Ohn Maung (Myinmu Maung

Naing Moe) also awarded the winners.

After the ceremony, the Union Minister had a documentary photo taken together with the officials and winners.—MNA

YANGON, 26 Jan—Myanmar-Japan Hip-Hop Concert was held to mark the 60th anniversary of their establishment of diplomatic relations between Myanmar.

The first ever event is one of the events and projects to strengthen the cultural exchange between the two countries and the events would promote the bilateral friendship and future, said Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu.

More cultural exchange events would be organized, said Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Mikio Numata.

MNA

Myanmar, Japan mark 60th anniversary diplomatic ties

Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu presents gifts to performers of Myanmar-Japan Hip-Hop Concert.

MNA

1st Overseas Job Fair opens

YANGON, 26 Jan—Under the supervision of Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security, Thu Kha Su San Services Co Ltd organized 1st Overseas Job Fair, at the training school of the company in Hlinethaya Township this morning, with an address by Union Minister U Aye Myint.

The Union minister said that the government has been carrying out reform processes to alleviate poverty and create suitable jobs for the people. There are nearly

240 million migrants around the globe in 2012, according to the report of United Nations. The number of migrants will reach about 400 million in 2050, he added. He continued the government is trying to satisfy the local and foreign labour demand, urging employment agencies to protect rights of Myanmar workers. He called on employment agencies to conduct language, law, custom and work proficiency courses for the workers before sending

them to abroad.

Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Soe Min said that the State has invited foreign investments to grasp job opportunities, technical skill and capital and encourages development of industrial production of the national race entrepreneurs.

Union Minister U Aye Myint and party formally opened the job fair. A total of 41 booths from 41 overseas employment agencies are being displayed at three-day fair.—MNA



Students join all-round outstanding exam in Langkho District



LANGKHO, 26 Jan—The examination to select all-round outstanding students was held at district level at Langkho Basic Education High School in 2013-14 academic year as of 24 January.

Six students each learning at 8th, 9th and matriculation from Langkho, Mongnai, Maukme and Mongpan Townships are sitting for the examination, totalling 24.

The students took the

English and Myanmar writing examination on 24 January, skill for life, Public Ethics and Myanmar Customs, general knowledge on 25 January and physical training on 26 January, said District Education Officer Daw Kyi

Aye.

Two students each from respective standards will be chosen to be sent to State all-round education outstanding student camp.

MMAL-Sai Zaw Latt (Langkho)

Specialists give health care to patients at Yinnyeipan Free Clinic

NATOGYI, 26 Jan—Specialists from Mandalay made field trips to grassroots level.

At Yinnyeipan free clinic in Pyinsi Model Village of Natogyi Township, the specialists gave health care to the local people on 25 January, said U Hla Oo of Pyinsi Village.

Local people warmly welcomed the medical specialists team for their treatment.

The specialists performed medical checkups at patients with eye, teeth and general

diseases from Pyinsi Village and its surrounding villages. The free clinic sponsored all sorts of costs for the patients including medicines and health care, said local people.

Patron of the clinic Thabyehti Monastery Sayadaw said that they are trying hard to give medical treatment to the patients round the clock.

At present, the clinic accepts over 60 patients on Saturday and Sunday weekly.

MMAL-Khin Zaw Mon Myint (Law)



Uniforms provided to members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade

TWANTAY, 26 Jan—A ceremony to present uniforms to members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade of wards and villages was held at the hall of Twantay Township General Administration Department,

MYINGYAN, 26 Jan—Special Bridge Construction Group No 16 of Public Works has already built Sunlun Bridge as two-way facility in Myingyan so as to enable the vehicles not to wait for coming of opposite way.

The bridge is 120 feet long.

Myingyan at the level of district, one of the arid zone townships, is located between Sunlun Creek and Pyaungpya Creek.

Two Pyaungpya Bridges are in parallel for serving convenience of transportation for the dwellers. As newly-built Sunlun Bridge has two-way lane, the local people are enjoying convenience of transportation without traffic congestion.

MMAL-Khin Zar Mon Myint (Law)

here, Yangon South District on 25 January morning.

At the ceremony, officials gave 467 sets of uniforms to 467 auxiliary fire fighters from 37 village-tracts.

Deputy Township

Administrator U Zaw Win Hlaing handed over the uniforms provided by Myanmar Fire Brigade to Deputy Commanding Officer of the auxiliary fire battalion U Tin Oo.—Kyemon-Myo Hlaing (Twantay)

Sunlun Bridge put into service in Myingyan



Photo shows newly-built Sunlun Bridge in Myingyan Township of Mandalay Region.

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

HRD

Outstanding staff honoured in Pakokku

PAKOKKU, 26 Jan—In commemoration of anniversary celebration of Information and Public Relations Department, Pakokku District IPRD

held the outstanding award presentation ceremony at its office in Ward 1 of Pakokku of Magway Region, on 25 January afternoon.

Head of Township IPRD Daw Win May explained the winner list at township level, information sending level and librarian level.

Staff Officer of the District IPRD U Tin Win presented prizes to respective winning township IPRDs.

MMAL-Aung (Mann Tekkatho)

REGIONAL

Six policemen killed in terrorist attacks in Pakistan's Karachi

ISLAMABAD, 26 Jan — At least six policemen were killed and another was injured Saturday night in two different terrorist attacks in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi, local media reported.

The two incidents took place within half an hour in the Landhi area of Karachi when some unknown terrorists attacked two police vehicles at different locations.

In first incident, the miscreants hurled hand grenades at a police mobile, killing three police-

men on duty outside the house of a politician.

A few minutes later, some unknown gunmen opened fire at another police vehicle in the same area, killing three policemen on the spot and wounding an officer in charge.

In both attacks, miscreants managed to flee the scenes after the assaults.

According to earlier reports, it was a single attack in which six policemen were killed, but police said later that there was two different attacks.

Police and rescuers



People transfer an injured man to a hospital in southern Pakistani port city of Karachi on 25 Jan, 2014. At least six policemen were killed Saturday night in a terrorist attack in Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi, local media reported. —XINHUA

rushed the bodies and the injured to the Jinnah Hospital of the city.

No group has claimed responsibly for the attack yet. Earlier in the day, at

least 10 people including a police inspector were killed and several others injured in different firing and target killing incidents in the city.—Xinhua

Nepal's largest party selects PM candidate

KATHMANDU, 26 Jan — Nepal's largest party Nepali Congress (NC) on Sunday selected its president Sushil Koirala as a party's prime ministerial candidate through internal election.

Out of 194 party's lawmakers, 105 lawmakers voted for Koirala electing him to be party's Parliamentary Party (PP) leader while his rival party's senior leader Sher Bahadur Deuba secured 89 votes.

According to party's statute only PP leader of the party is eligible to become the party's candidate for prime ministerial berth.

Deuba has already become the prime minister three times after 1990 political change, while Koirala has not taken by ministerial position in his 50 years political career.

Three leaders — Koirala, Deuba and vice-President Ram Chandra Poudel — were competing for the PP leader. But, Poudel gave

up the race after the Koirala agreed to entrust him the post of party's acting vice-president. In the election, Poudel supported Koirala in defeating the Koirala.

NC, a centrist party, which has emerged as a largest party from the November 19, 2013 Constituent Assembly (CA) has staked the claim for the leadership of the unity government. After being elected, Koirala told the reporters that his priority is to form a national consensus government. "We will consult with all parties to form a consensus government which is necessary to promulgate a new constitution within a year," Koirala told media.

The government formation process is likely to start soon as the first meeting of parliamentary session of the Constituent Assembly (CA) will begin on Sunday.

Xinhua

Fire hits SW China ancient village

GUIYANG, 26 Jan — A fire in an ancient ethnic village in southwest China's Guizhou Province has destroyed more than 100 houses.

The fire broke out at 11:30 pm on Saturday in Baojing Dong Village of Zhenyuan County. It was put out at around 3:50 am

on Sunday, local officials said.

Baojing Dong Village, built 300 years ago, is the biggest Dong village in Qiongzhusan Miao and Dong Autonomous Prefecture of Guizhou. It was one of China's most complete such settlements, known for well-preserved

ancient Dong-style dwellings. It holds 470 households and nearly 2,000 inhabitants. No casualties have been reported and the cause of the fire is being investigated.

Baojing Dong Village is the second historic settlements which have been hit by fire within one

month. A blaze on 10 January destroyed more than 100 traditional wooden homes in the ancient Tibetan village of Dukezong in southwest China's Yunnan Province.—Xinhua

3 die, 26 missing after boat capsizes in central Indonesia

JAKARTA, 26 Jan — At least three people died and 26 others went missing after their boat capsized due to flash flooding in central Indonesia on Saturday, a disaster mitigation official said Sunday.

Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman of the Na-

tional Disaster Mitigation Agency, said the incident occurred Saturday morning when a boat with 37 people onboard was sailing from the village of Nameng to the nearby town of Siau in North Sulawesi Province.

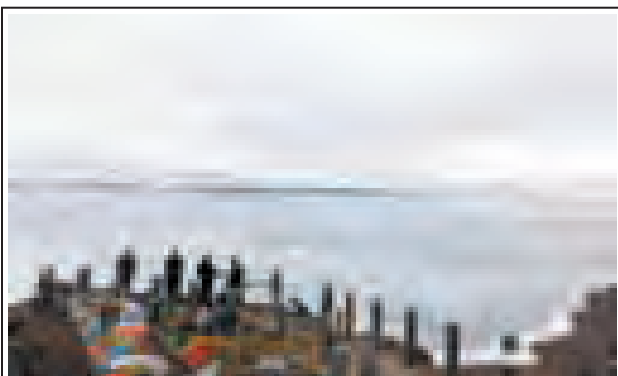
A flash flood that abruptly gushed down from

nearby mountains hit the boat just off the Nameng coast, Sutopo said.

Eight passengers on the boat survived.

Another flash flood hit the province two weeks ago, claiming 19 lives.

Kyodo News



Tourists view the scenery of the Nam Co Lake in southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, on 24 Jan, 2013. Nam Co, the highest saltwater lake in the world with an elevation of 4,718 meters, is regarded as a sacred lake in Tibetan Buddhism.—XINHUA

China police issues traffic safety tips for Spring Festival travel rush

BEIJING, 26 Jan — China traffic police on Saturday issued safety tips for the Spring Festival travel rush. As people are rushing back home for family reunion in the traditional Chinese Lunar New Year, the number of road passengers every day exceeds 90 million, with more traffic accidents being reported.

Traffic police said among accidents that resulted in five or more fatalities, two thirds involved in vehicles from other places and the major reasons were fatigue driving and unfamiliarity with roads.

Two thirds of accidents happened on expressways for the reasons of rear-end collisions, overspeed, and failing to keep safe distance, traffic police said. The Traffic police urged passengers and drivers to check vehicles conditions before driving, learn the roadmaps and weather information, and avoid fatigue driving and overspeed. It also urged people to choose passenger vehicles with operating licenses, and avoid overman and overload. Self-awareness of safety should be improved, said the traffic police.—Xinhua

Beijing H7N9 tests find no positive samples

BEIJING, 26 Jan — A round of tests for H7N9 bird flu on samples taken from Beijing's poultry markets have so far not found any positive samples, local authorities said on Sunday.

The tests have been carried out since December 23 on 22,595 samples from 12,000 poultry farms and households in the city.

A total of 6.05 million poultry from 27,000 farms and households have received compulsory immunizations since December 22. Bird flu, or avian influenza, is a contagious disease of animal origin caused by viruses that normally only infect birds and, less commonly, pigs. It can be fatal to humans.

Several regions, including Shanghai, Beijing, Zhejiang, Jiangsu, Guangdong, Fujian, have reported H7N9 human infections so far this year.

Beijing reported its first human infection case of this year on 23 January.

Xinhua

Poverty relief to become priority for poor counties

BEIJING, 26 Jan — Chinese officials in poverty-stricken counties can stop worrying too much about regional GDP figures from now on, as the central authorities have moved to make poverty relief the priority for their work.

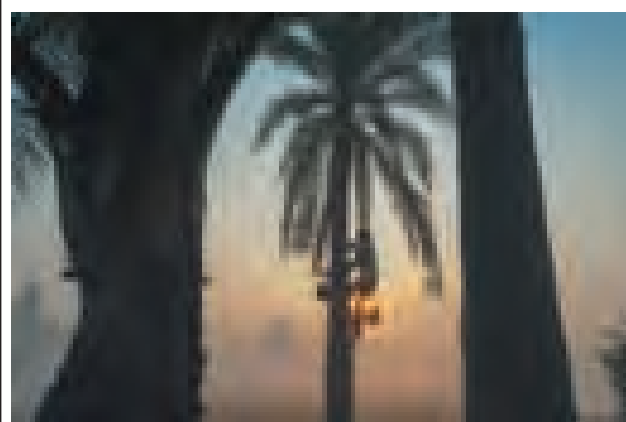
The country will reform the evaluation system for officials from poor

counties by prioritizing the work of poverty reduction rather than the regional GDP, according to a guideline released Saturday jointly by the general offices of the CPC Central Committee and the State Council, the Cabinet. GDP figures will no longer be a standard for counties with fragile ecology or where development

is restricted by the government to ensure sustainable growth, the guideline said.

"The country will take improving the livelihood of people in poverty and reducing poor population as major indicators" to guide officials in poor regions to put their work priority on poverty relief, it said.

Xinhua



A villager collects date juice on the outskirts of Calcutta, capital of eastern Indian state West Bengal, on 25 Jan, 2014. Date molasses from date palm trees is a delicacy in West Bengal and neighbouring country Bangladesh. It is also served as basic ingredient for making traditional sweet during the winter.

XINHUA

GENERAL

Albania hails Slovakia's support for its European integration

TIRANA, 26 Jan — Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama on Friday appreciated Slovakia's support for Tirana's efforts to join the European Union (EU).

"Albania has been lucky to enjoy everlasting and unwavering support from Slovakia on its path toward European integration," Rama told a joint Press conference with Slo-

vak Prime Minister Robert Fico. Rama also thanked Fico for continuously encouraging the EU-mediated dialogue between Kosovo and Serbia.

"The agreement between Kosovo and Serbia is one of the most important events toward a new era in our region," said Rama.

The two countries have agreed to establish a joint

working group through which Slovakia will help Albania carry out reforms and improve governance, said Rama.

Fico, who is on his first official visit to Albania, said that Slovakia will offer Albania its experience on its EU integration process and help Albania fulfil its justified ambition of joining the EU.

On bilateral cooperation between their countries, Fico saw business and investment opportunities in Albania, particularly in tourism.

"Albania has hundreds of kilometers of coastline with magnificent beaches and it can be an excellent destination for the Slovak tourists," he said.

Xinhua

Egypt evacuates embassy staff in Libya's Tripoli

TRIPOLI, 26 Jan — Egypt has evacuated diplomats and staff of its embassy in the Libyan capital of Tripoli on Saturday after five staff were kidnapped by unknown gunmen, an Egyptian diplomatic source in Libya told Xinhua.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said that an Egyptian plane left the Tripoli International Airport carrying all staff of the embassy and their families.

The Libyan foreign ministry had announced the kidnapping of four Egyptian embassy staff including the cultural attaché on Saturday, after another diplomat was abducted on Friday night.

The abductions came hours after the leader of the Operations Room of Libya's Revolutionaries, a major militia group, Shaban Hadia, was arrested in Egypt after police forces raided his home in the coastal city of Alexandria.

The Islamist militia group contributed to the toppling of former Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi during the uprising in 2011.—Xinhua

ESCO Secretariat and gain international experience.

BAKU, 26 Jan — Azerbaijan and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) signed a Young Professional Programme cooperation agreement, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Saturday.

The agreement will allow young Azerbaijani specialists to work in the UN-

The Programme is geared specifically for candidates from unrepresented or under-represented countries in the UNESCO Secretariat. The eligibility of a Member State is determined at the date of the call for applications. This programme provides 10 recent college

graduates and young professionals under the age of 30 with the opportunity to start a career in an international organization.

In 2013 the Government of Azerbaijan and UNESCO signed a framework agreement on cooperation in the fields of education, science, culture and communication.—Xinhua

Azerbaijan, UNESCO sign agreement in cooperation of youth



People buy clothes in Sijiqing clothing market in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, on 25 Jan, 2014. The clearance sale of the market attracted thousands of customers on Saturday.—XINHUA

Al-Qaeda-linked groups claim responsibility for rocket attacks in east Lebanon

BEIRUT, 26 Jan — The al-Nusra Front in Lebanon and the Marwan al-Hadidi Brigades claimed responsibility on Saturday for rocket attacks on Lebanon's east Bekaa city of Hermel.

The statement was made by the two extremist groups on their Twitter accounts.

Seven rockets fired from Lebanon's eastern mountain range hit Hermel,

the National News Agency reported on Saturday.

The incident comes a day after four rockets hit the area and caused no casualties but material damage.

Marwan al-Hadid Brigades is linked to Abdullah Azzam Brigades, an al-Qaeda-affiliate that claimed responsibility for the twin suicide bombings against the Iranian embassy in Beirut which killed 25 people

and injured more than 70 others.

Syrian rebel fighters have claimed responsibility for firing many rockets that recently landed in Hermel.

Lebanese President Michel Suleiman has repeatedly called for "all necessary procedures to protect citizens and Lebanese towns and prevent any attack against them."

Xinhua



Women of Yi ethnic group feed black-headed gulls in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 24 Jan, 2014.—XINHUA

German Finance Minister speaks highly of progress in crisis countries

DAVOS, (Switzerland), 26 Jan — The finance minister of Germany on Saturday spoke highly of the progress made in the crisis countries in euro zone.

Wolfgang Schaeuble told the participants at the World Economic Forum Annual Meeting here that the most successful countries in the euro zone in the last several years were the program countries.

"Because they deliv-

ered what they had to deliver," said Schaeuble.

Ireland, Portugal were doing well and Spain was doing "extremely well", and Greece did "much better than everyone expected two years ago," Schaeuble went on to explain.

In a clear response to criticism about Germany's trade surplus, Schaeuble said that Germany had started to boost its domestic demand.

German economists and analysts have been calling on crisis countries in the euro zone to stick to austerity policies and structural reforms.

The president of the European Central Bank (ECB) Mario Draghi insisted that the economic recovery in the euro zone is weak and fragile and fiscal consolidation should be continued.

Xinhua

Roadside bomb strikes wedding party bus, killing one in Afghanistan

JALALABAD, (Afghanistan), 26 Jan — A roadside bomb struck a wedding party bus in the eastern Nangarhar Province on Sunday, leaving one person dead and wounding six others, spokesman for provincial government Ahmad Zia Abdulzai said.

"A bus was carrying

villagers including men, women and children to attend a wedding party in Achid District this morning but unfortunately a mine planted by rebels on the road struck it killing one on the spot and injuring six others," Abdulzai told Xinhua. Nangarhar with Jalalabad as its capital 120 km east of

Kabul has been regarded as relatively peaceful province in Afghanistan.

He also blamed the enemies of peace a term used by officials against Taleban militants for organizing the attack. However, the armed outfit fighting the government is yet to make comment.—Xinhua

A boy participates in a commemoration ceremony to mark the 21st anniversary of the murder of one of Turkey's most renowned investigative journalists, Ugur Mumcu, in front of his house in Ankara, capital of Turkey, on Jan. 24, 2014.

XINHUA



ENTERTAINMENT



Ekta says Salman is a people's man.

Salman Khan too honest to be a politician

MUMBAI, 26 Jan — While many feel that superstar Salman Khan will make a good politician, producer Ekta Kapoor thinks otherwise.

When Ekta was asked at the trailer launch of Main Tera Hero whether Salman will make a good politician, the television and movie producer said, "I think Salman is too honest to be a

good politician." "He is more like an aam aadmi (common man). He is people's man," she added. Salman's film Jai Ho, which released on 24 January, also talks about the power of common man. In the film, he plays Jai, who fights against politicians and corruption on behalf of common man.

PTI

No competition with Alia, Sidharth

MUMBAI, 26 Jan — Young actor Varun Dhawan, who made his Bollywood debut with Alia Bhatt and Sidharth Malhotra in Student Of the Year, says the trio has discussed competition but he believes their camaraderie goes beyond it.

"We (Alia Bhatt, Sidharth Malhotra and I) have discussed competition, we do discuss these things but I think when you do your first film with someone, you form a bond and it's like (they are) family," Varun said here at the launch of the trailer of his second film Main Tera Hero. "You are just bonded for life. So you overlook that (competition) thing. I just have lot of love in my heart for both of them," he added. In fact, he says that Alia and Sidharth "were more nervous for me than I am right now (for my film Main Tera Hero)".

"That's how the relationship is," added the son of filmmaker David Dhawan. Karan Johar's directorial, Student Of The Year, released in 2012. It turned out to be a hit and set Alia, Sidharth and Varun's career on roll in the Hindi film industry.

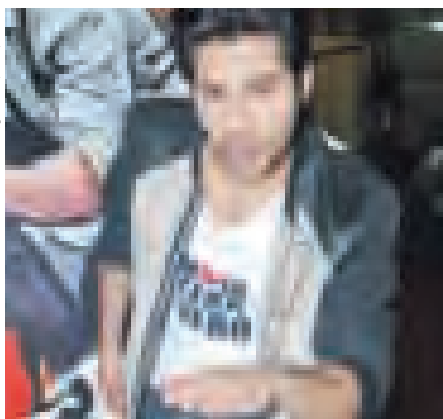
Varun is awaiting the release

of Main Tera Hero, while Alia is waiting for Highway to hit the screens and Sidharth is looking forward to Hasee Toh Phasee. Varun has showered praises on the trailers of both the films and he has even urged the audience to go and watch them.

"Sid (Sidharth Malhotra) and Alia's films are releasing in the same month (February) and mine (releases) in April.

I have loved the promo of Hasee Toh Phasee and Highway and you all must go and watch the films," the 26-year-old said. While Hasee Toh Phasee will hit the theatres on 7 February, Highway starring Alia Bhatt and Randeep Hooda, will release on 21 February. Meanwhile, Varun's Main Tera Hero, directed by his father, is slated to release on 4 April. It also features Ileana D'Cruz and Nargis Fakhri as the female leads.

PTI



Varun's Main Tera Hero releases on 4 April.

Justin Bieber: the making of a teen idol

NEW DELHI, 26 Jan — In a world ruled by social media, Justin Bieber's brand of music proved an opiate for the digital masses. As music critics listened and watched in growing disbelief, the 13-year-old YouTube star became a supernova of sorts, shored up by a vast bank of mostly-young fans, or Beliebers.

Now 19, Justin announced he was retiring in December 2013 — though his team later said he was "kidding" — and was recently arrested for drunk driving and drag racing in Miami. In between, the former clean-cut teen idol was accused of vandalizing a neighbour's house, spitting on fans, reckless driving, assaulting a bodyguard, detained at an airport for using foul language, vandalizing a hotel in Australia and visiting a Brazilian brothel. Drugs were found on his tour bus and he has had multiple confrontations, some violent, with paparazzi.

As the focus shifted from his music to his be-

havior, celebrities handed out advice to him. Actor, former rapper and reformed bad boy Mark Wahlberg said during a web chat: "Justin are you listening? Don't be so naughty, yeah? Be a nice boy, pull your trousers up, make your mum proud." Actor Channing Tatum told *Vanity Fair* magazine: "That kid's wildly talented. I hope he doesn't fall down into the usual ways of young kids because it's so hard for someone to be responsible when they're not asked to be."

Justin Drew Bieber was born on 1 March, 1994 in Ontario, Canada. His parents, Patricia Mallette and Jeremy Bieber, never married but remain friends. Patricia, who was 17 when Justin was born, is credited by her son both for raising him and for helping launch his career. Growing up, Justin played hockey, football and chess. He also taught himself the piano, guitar, trumpet and drums. After winning second prize in a singing competition, Jus-

tin's mother started posting videos of his performances on YouTube, making him into an Internet phenomenon.

In 2008, a former music executive stumbled upon one Justin's videos on YouTube and tracked him down to Ontario. Aged 13, Justin flew to Atlanta to record demo tapes and was soon signed up by R&B star Usher's music label. He was 15 when his first album, *My World 2.0*, released and set a record with seven songs from his debut—including

the blockbuster *Baby* — making it to the Billboard charts.

Two more albums followed — *Under The Mistletoe* (2011) and *Believe* (2012). He sang for the Obamas at the White House, made two concert films, had roles in TV shows like *CSI: Crime Scene Investigation* and *The Simpsons*, and sang Lionel Richie's part in the remake of USA For Africa anthem *We Are The World* to raise funds for earthquake-devastated Haiti.—PTI



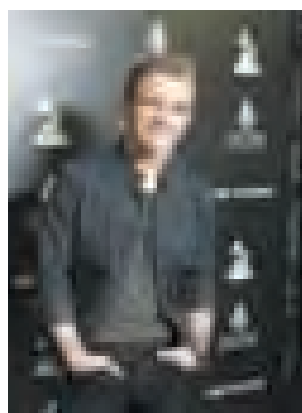
Justin Bieber is the second most-followed celebrity on Twitter.

For young performers at the Grammys, exposure could be the award

LOS ANGELES, 26 Jan — Winning a Grammy Award may be the goal on Sunday, but getting a chance to perform at the annual awards show in front of tens of millions of TV viewers worldwide could be the biggest career maker of the night for up-and-coming singers and musicians.

The Grammys, rated in a recent industry poll by *Billboard* magazine as the second-best promotional opportunity for an artist or group behind performing at football's Super Bowl halftime show, will offer that chance to several young singers like country music's Kacey Musgraves, Hunter Hayes and New Zealand teen pop wunderkind Lorde. "It is a humon-

gous opportunity," said the 22-year-old Hayes, who is nominated for best country solo performance this year after earning three nods as



Country music singer Hunter Hayes poses during a media opportunity in Beverly Hills, California on 23 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

a newcomer in 2013.

"It's a huge introduction and endorsement, not only to get to perform in front of these pioneers and musical masterminds but to get the endorsement from the Academy in that way," added Hayes, referring to Grammy organizer, the Recording Academy, which tapped him to perform last year too. This year's top performances include pop stars Beyonce, Katy Perry, promising rappers Kendrick Lamar, Macklemore & Ryan Lewis, as well as former Beatles Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr.

Grammys can be notoriously difficult to predict and this year seems to be particularly vexing because there is no predominant

genre or theme. The nominees for the top award, album of the year, represent five different sounds, from country pop's Taylor Swift to French DJ duo Daft Punk. "I'd have to say it is a bit of an odd year in music and not necessarily in a bad way," said producer Jeff Bhasker, nominated for three top awards this year including song of the year for "Just Give Me a Reason," by Pink and Nate Ruess.

He sees a "reshuffling of the deck as far as what listeners are hungry for," noting that popular music is becoming more intimate and slowing down from the up-tempo dance music of years past.

Reuters

Scarlett Johansson: My fiance is my buddy

LOS ANGELES, 26 Jan — Actress Scarlett Johansson, who has found love again with Romain Dauriac after her divorce with Ryan Reynolds, says her fiance is her best friend but they don't want to rush into marriage. Johansson currently stars in Oscar nominated film *Her* as the voice of the computer operating system who falls in the love with a

lonely letter writer, played by Joaquin Phoenix in the Spike Jonze directed movie.

"I'm very happy. He's my buddy," Johansson told *People* magazine while talking about her journalist fiance. The couple got engaged last August but do not want to "rush through it" and plan to take their time in planning a wedding. "Being engaged is an

exciting time to enjoy and to really savor," she says. Johansson was earlier married to Reynolds but they divorced in 2011. She was briefly linked to Sean Penn following her divorce.—PTI

Scarlett Johansson says she is very happy with her fiance.



SPORTS

Aguero saves City from Cup shock, Liverpool advance

LONDON, 26 Jan — Second-tier Watford were half an hour away from a seismic FA Cup shock at Manchester City on Saturday before Sergio Aguero ruined the script with a hat-trick as his side stormed back to reach the last 16 with a 4-2 win.

Only European champions Bayern Munich had returned victorious from City's Etihad Stadium fortress this season but goals by Fernando Forestieri and Troy Deeney had the Watford fans dreaming of a famous result.

The London side were still leading 2-0 after an hour but eventually

succumbed to the siege as Aguero cancelled out the deficit, Aleksandar Kolarov put City ahead three minutes from time and their Argentina striker completed a treble to maintain Manuel Pellegrini's side's four-pronged assault on silverware.

"I wanted to change all of my players at half-time, all 11 of them," a relieved Pellegrini said.

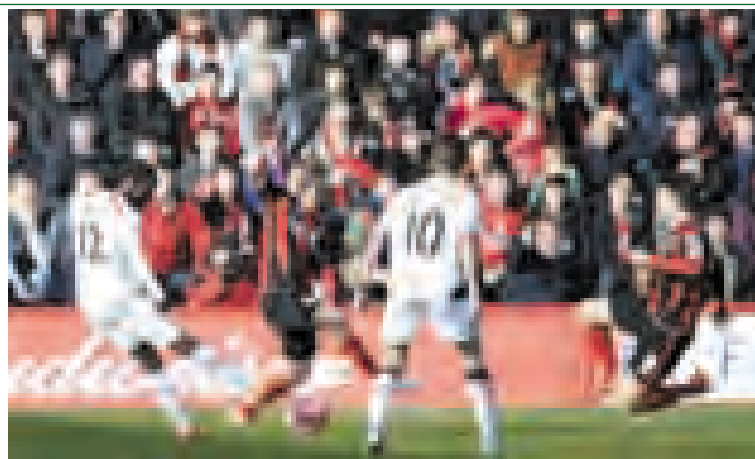
"The whole team was a disaster in the first half."

Liverpool had no such problems as they reached the last-16 with a 2-0 win at second tier Bournemouth — Victor Moses and Daniel Sturridge scoring for the

seven-times winners who were made to work hard on the south coast.

Moses opened the scoring after 26 minutes and Sturridge linked with Luis Suarez on the hour to ease Liverpool through and make sure there was no repeat of last season's humbling defeat to third tier Oldham Athletic.

Kidderminster, the only survivors from outside England's top four divisions, battled valiantly at League Cup finalists Sunderland but slipped out 1-0 while fourth tier Southend United were beaten 2-0 at home by Premier League Hull City.



Liverpool's Victor Moses (L) shoots and scores a goal against Bournemouth during their English FA Cup soccer match at Dean Court in Bournemouth, southern England on 25 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS

League One Sheffield United, who face Premier League Fulham on Sunday, are now the only side not in the top two divisions still in the competition after Everton crushed Stevenage 4-0 in Saturday's late kickoff.

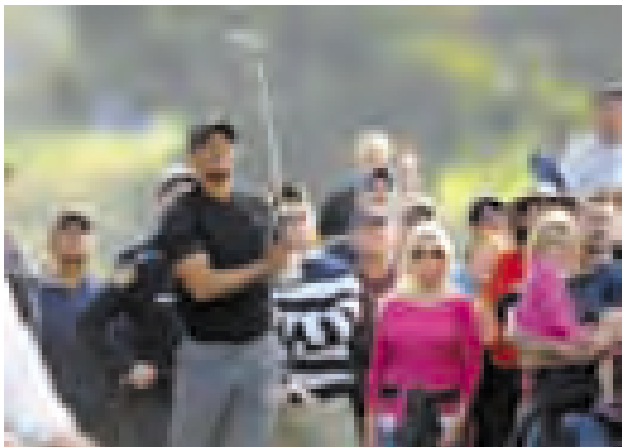
Everton paid a price for their victory though with Costa Rica fullback Bryan

Oviedo suffering a suspected broken leg.

Holders Wigan Athletic, who were relegated to the Championship after beating Manchester City in last year's final, kept alive their hopes of an unlikely successful defence of the trophy with a 2-1 win over top flight Crystal Palace.

Apart from Palace's exit there were no other surprises with Wilfried Bony's double helping Swansea City triumph 2-1 at Birmingham City, Cardiff City winning 1-0 at Bolton Wanderers and Southampton easing past second-tier side Yeovil Town 2-0.—Reuters

Woods endures nightmare day at Torrey Pines



Tiger Woods

SAN DIEGO, 26 Jan — Defending champion Tiger Woods plunged to new

ter struggling badly in Saturday's third round of the Farmers Insurance Open outside San Diego.

Though he made the second-round cut by a stroke on Friday after carding a one-under-par 71 on the easier North Course, the world number one was badly out of sorts on a difficult day for scoring as he laboured to a 79 on the brutal South layout.

It was his worst ever score at the event, which he has won at Torrey Pines a record seven times, and ensured he would miss the

third-round cut for the leading 70 players and ties, giving him the unwanted label of 'MDF' (made cut, did not finish). His score matched the second worst of his professional career, and is eclipsed only by the 81 he shot in strong winds and driving rain in the third round of the 2002 British Open at Muirfield.

Woods, whose remarkable playoff win at the 2008 U.S. Open also took place at Torrey Pines, declined to speak to Golf Channel and CBS Sports after he had signed his scorecard, and

also turned down requests to talk to reporters.

"I'm done," the 14-times major champion said before signing a few autographs for fans and then being driven away from the course in a van.

Woods, who won last year's Farmers Insurance Open by four shots in a fog-delayed Monday finish, endured a damaging run of back-to-back double bogeys followed by five straight bogeys from the 18th, his ninth hole, to finish at six-over-par 222.

Reuters

Pacquiao set for April re-match in Vegas with Bradley



Manny Pacquiao

LOS ANGELES, 26 Jan — Filipino southpaw Manny Pacquiao will return to the ring for a re-match and the chance of revenge against American Timothy Bradley on 12 April in Las Vegas, the promoter said on Saturday. The fight will be held at the MGM Grand Garden Arena where Bradley (31-0, 12 knockouts) will defend his World Boxing Organization welterweight title, promoter Bob Arum said in a statement.

Pacquiao controversially lost to the American on points when they first met in June 2012, the crowd responding with a chorus of boos after the shock split decision was announced.

It was Pacquiao's first defeat since he lost to Erik Morales in Las Vegas in March 2005, ending a run of 15 consecutive wins by the Filipino who has won world titles in an unprecedented eight weight divisions. "I've never been as ashamed to be associated with the sport of boxing as I am tonight," promoter Arum said at the time.

Reuters

Ronaldo helps lift Real Madrid to the top

MADRID, 26 Jan — Cristiano Ronaldo scored his 22nd La Liga goal of the season to set Real Madrid up for a 2-0 win at home to Granada on Saturday that lifted them above Barcelona and Atletico Madrid to the top of the table.

Barca and Atletico, who play on Sunday, have drawn their last two outings including a 0-0 stalemate between the pair at the Calderon stadium in Madrid that allowed Real to narrow the gap in the three-horse title race. Saturday's laboured victory at the Bernabeu was Real's fifth in a row in La Liga since a 2-2 draw at Osasuna in December and they lead the way for the first time since winning the title in 2011-12.

France forward Karim Benzema was also on target as Carlo Ancelotti's side moved on to 53 points from 21 matches.

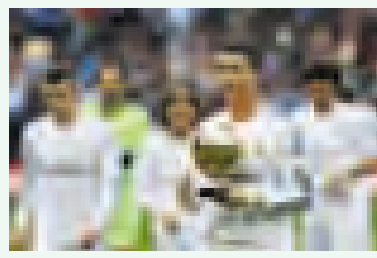
Barca and Atletico have 51 points ahead of their games on Sunday at home to 15th-placed Malaga and at second from bottom Rayo Vallecano respectively.

"The most important thing is the balance the team has at the moment, that's the key," Ancelotti told

a news conference. "We are defending well and attacking well," added the Italian, in his first season in charge after taking over from Jose Mourinho. "There is always room for improvement and sometimes we need to increase the tempo but the key is the team's balance."

After a shaky start to the campaign, Real have tightened up their leaky defence and have not conceded in seven straight games in all competitions, equalling their best run of clean sheets from the 1994-95 season.

Their pickup in form, which has also seen them qualify for the last 16 of the Champions League and put them on the brink of a place in the semi-finals of the King's Cup, coincided with the return from injury of Xabi Alonso.—Reuters



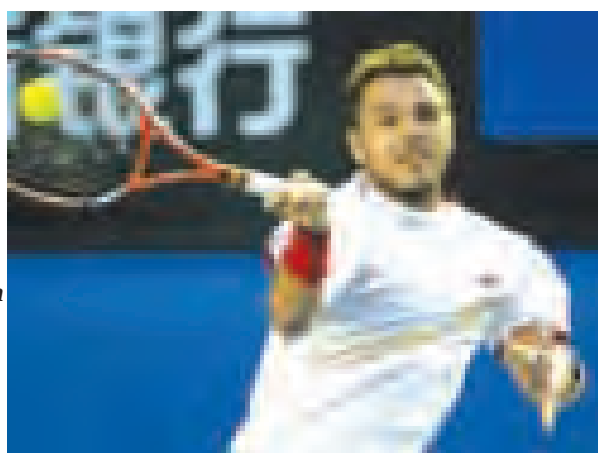
Wawrinka takes two-set lead against ailing Nadal

Stanislas Wawrinka of Switzerland hits a return to Rafael Nadal of Spain during their men's singles final match at the Australian Open 2014 tennis tournament in Melbourne 26 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS

MELBOURNE, 26 Jan—Stanislas Wawrinka raced into a 6-3 6-2 lead against Rafa Nadal in the Australian Open final on Sunday as the top seeded Spaniard appeared severely hampered by a back injury he picked up early in the second set.

The eighth-seeded Swiss won the first set, broke Nadal in the opening game of the second and held serve to take a 2-0 lead before Nadal grimaced in pain and clutched at his back after playing a shot from the baseline midway through the next game. Nadal successfully held serve to trail 2-1 but quickly left the court for a medical time-out, leaving



Wawrinka to argue with the chair umpire about the lack of disclosure over the injury. Nadal re-emerged after six minutes amid some jeers from the Rod Laver Arena crowd but his movement was clearly restricted and he was unable to generate any pace on his serve. Wawrinka simply went about his business, marching to a 4-1 lead as Nadal double-faulted repeatedly and struggled to reach wide balls. Nadal had more treatment on his back from a physio at the change of ends, then underlined his fighting spirit by holding serve to trail 5-2, but Wawrinka went on to serve out the set with an ace.—Reuters

GENERAL

Small Quebec town prepares to mourn 32 seniors killed in fire



Emergency workers look on while digging through the remains of the senior residence Residence du Havre in L'Isle-Verte, Quebec, on 25 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

L'ISLE-VERTE, (Quebec), 26 Jan — The small grief-struck Quebec town of L'Isle-Verte will hold a memorial service on Sunday for the 32 people who died in a massive fire that engulfed a three-storey wooden residence for seniors. Despite media reports alleging a cigarette ignited the blaze early on Thursday, police say they still do not know the cause of what appears be Canada's second-most deadly disaster in a retirement home.

Ten bodies have been recovered and 22 people are still missing in the frozen ruins of the Residence du Havre in L'Isle-Verte, a town of 1,500 people on the St. Lawrence River northeast of Quebec City and 65 km (40 miles) north of Maine.

The memorial service, due to start at 2 pm EST (1900 GMT), will be led by local priest Gilles Frigon. He said the church wanted to help rebuild the hearts of the community.

"We celebrate with them but when they suffer, we suffer," he told report-

ers tearfully on Saturday. A larger public mass is due to be held in the town on 1 February.

Special teams of police, firefighters and coroner's office officials, braving brutal cold, have been using steam and hot air to melt thick ice encasing the bodies of victims in the burned ruins of the residence.

Police said the teams would focus on melting the ice overnight before splitting into two groups on Sunday, with one set of specialists continuing to attack the ice while the other would look for the remains of victims.

"We are working stubbornly and rigorously to establish the cause and circumstances of this fire while preserving the integrity of the potential victims," Quebec police spokesman Michel Brunet told reporters as night fell on Saturday.

The disaster looks set to be the second worst to hit a Canadian seniors' home after a 1969 blaze in Quebec that killed 54 people.

New Zealand-operated plane crash lands in Solomons

WELLINGTON, 26 Jan — A plane operated by a New Zealand company has crash landed in the Solomon Islands, media reported Sunday.

The Boeing 737 freight aircraft, operated by Airwork Flight Operations, landed in Honiara on Sunday afternoon, the NZ Newswire reported.

However, shortly after touching down, the right-hand landing gear collapsed, causing the plane to slide to a halt on the runway, Airwork said in a statement.

None of the three crew on board were injured.

Authorities have been informed and investigations are under way.—Xinhua

Only part of the residence was equipped with sprinklers. Quebec law does not require sprinkler systems in residences where the occupants have some mobility.

Quebec Premier Pauline Marois cut short a visit to Europe and plans to be present at the service to mark the province's second calamity in a matter of months.

In July 2013, a runaway tanker train carrying light crude from North Dakota's Bakken region derailed and exploded in the heart of the town of Lac Megantic, Quebec, killing 47.

Brunet said that while he appreciated locals were impatient to know what had happened, it could take months to determine the cause of the fire.—Reuters

Nestor eyes mixed doubles grand slam after Melbourne win

MELBOURNE, 26 Jan — Canada's Daniel Nestor has targeted a mixed doubles grand slam in 2014 after pairing up with Frenchwoman Kristina Mladenovic to beat Sania Mirza and Horia Tecau and win the Australian Open title on Sunday.

The Wimbledon champion pairing were nominally the underdogs against their sixth-seeded opponents but wrapped up a comfortable 6-3 6-2 victory inside an hour on Rod Laver Arena.

It was a third Melbourne Park mixed doubles title for Canadian Nestor after his 2007 triumph with Elena Likhovtseva and 2011 victory with Katarina Srebotnik.

Malaysian woman arrested in Singapore for heroin smuggling

SINGAPORE, 26 Jan — Singapore Central Narcotics Bureau (CNB) has arrested a Malaysian woman on suspicion of smuggling nearly 940 grams of heroin into Singapore.

In a statement on Sunday, CNB said the 22-year-old Malaysian was arrested at Woodlands Checkpoint on Saturday night.

The woman was one of two passengers traveling in a Malaysian-registered vehicle that was stopped at the checkpoint.

Two female CNB officers conducted a search on her, and found two bundles of heroin hidden in her underwear. CNB said the her-

oin amounted to 937 grams, and has a street value of about 84,000 US dollars.

After her arrest, CNB officers carried out follow-up operations through the night.

Their efforts led to the arrests of three Singaporean men, aged 44 to 57, at Telok Blangah Crescent and Pipit Road.

The three men are suspected to be involved in coordinating and bringing drugs into Singapore before re-distributing them in the streets. One of them is suspected to be the leader of the syndicate.

Investigations are ongoing.—Xinhua

Annan arrives in Teheran for talks on regional issues

TEHERAN, 26 Jan — Former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan arrived in the Iranian capital of Teheran on Sunday to hold talks with Iranian officials on regional issues.

Annan, serves now as the chairman of the Elders organization, a group of former global leaders, arrived in Teheran along with former Finnish President

Martti Ahtisaari, who is also a member of the organization, Press TV reported.

"(The visit is) to encourage and advance the new spirit of openness and dialogue between Iran and the international community, and to explore what could be done to enhance cooperation on regional issues," said the report.

Xinhua

Nestor eyes mixed doubles grand slam after Melbourne win

Nestor then told his 20-year-old partner Mladenovic on court that he would now like to target a sweep of the major titles to complete the grand slam in one year.

"I was half joking but I always tell my friends

my best chance of winning grand slams nowadays are in mixed," the 41-year-old, who now has won a total of 12 grand slam doubles titles, later told reporters.

"But obviously I'd still like to win men's doubles titles, too... I just think

this is the best chance, but I'll keep playing both and hopefully good will come out of it."

The last time a single partnership won doubles titles at all four majors in one year was when Martina Navratilova and Pam Shriver performed the feat in women's doubles in 1984.

Defeat for Indian Mirza and her Romanian partner Tecau denied Asia a second Australian Open champion in two days after China's Li Na won the women's singles title on Saturday evening.

"I've had a good week in the mixed so it's a good start to the year," said Mirza, who no longer plays singles.—Reuters



Kristina Mladenovic

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

27-1-14 07:00 am ~
28-1-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Goldsmith
- * World News
- * Myanmar Street Food
- * Local News
- * A Diary of a Fisherman
- * World News
- * Talented Musicians
- * Local News
- * History And Mystery Behind The Caves
- * World News
- * A Monk's Robe
- * Local News
- * A Trip to Mon State
- * World News
- * Modifying Natural Thanakha Bark into Ready-Made Skin Care Product
- * Local News
- * Come and Visit, no matter the distance (Patheon)
- * World News
- * Brilliant Woman "Dr Mya Thidar Sway Tin"
- * Local News
- * Htan Taw Drums (Part-II) "Dobat"
- * World News
- * I'm In Love With Diamond
- * Local News
- * Hiker's Journey (Yangon City)(Ep-8)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Conceptual Art
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Mega Factory (EP-3)
- * World News
- * Kyaikhteeyoe: My Father The Porter

Vice-President U Nyan Tun participates in Public and Private Stakeholders Roundtable Discussion on Energy and Infrastructure



NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—A Public and Private Stakeholders Roundtable Discussion on Energy and Infrastructure, co-sponsored by the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the World Bank, took place with the participation of Vice-President U Nyan Tun and World Bank's President Mr. Jim Young Kim at Thingaha Hotel, here, this evening.

Participants to the roundtable discussion shared their views on infrastructure development in Myanmar, formulation of short-term

and long-term development plans, infrastructure development in energy and communication sectors and ongoing projects.

The Vice-President also took part in the discussion, focusing on reform processes taking place in Myanmar, infrastructure development projects and action plans, challenges that the country encounters and implementation of follow-up tasks for the success of target realization.

Also present were the Union ministers, the deputy ministers, Ms. Karin Finkelston, World Bank Vice-President, Mr. Axel Van Trotsenburg, Vice-President for East Asia and Pacific Region of World Bank, development partnership organizations, investors and guests.—MNA

**Vice-President
U Nyan Tun holding
talks with World Bank
President Mr. Jim
Young Kim at Thingaha
Hotel.—MNA**

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker discusses development tasks in Monywa, Yinmabin districts

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw, held talks with local authorities and townsenders from Monywa and Yinma-

bin districts on implementing development tasks in the areas.

The meeting held at the town hall in Monywa yesterday was also attended by members of management

committees for development, support groups for development and political parties and townsenders from townships in the two districts.

During the meeting, he said that the constitution should not be amended hurriedly and meanwhile, it is unreasonable to assume that it is early to amend the constitution as it has been into practice for not so long.

He also suggested that constitutional amendments should not harm current stability and development, (See page 9)

Significant night temperature (26-1-2014)

Pinlaung	2°C
Haka	2°C
Heho	3°C
Loilem	3°C
Namsan	4°C

Thai anti-government protester killed, adds to doubts over election

BANGKOK, 26 Jan—A Thai anti-government protest leader was shot and killed in Bangkok on Sunday when violence erupted

as demonstrators blocked early voting in many areas of the capital ahead of a disputed election next week.

It brings the death toll

to 10, with scores wounded, since protesters took to the streets in November, vowing to shut down the capital and force Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra from office.

A spokesman for the national police, Piya Utayo, identified the dead man as Suthin Tharatin, one of the protest leaders. "Suthin was shot in the head and in the chest," he said.

It was not immediately clear who had fired the shots, but the protesters accused the government and police of trying to intimidate them.

Reuters



Anti-government protesters react after they forced a polling station to close in central Bangkok on 26 January, 2014.—REUTERS

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker's regional development tour of Pyawbwe, Yamethin Tsps

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan— "It is required not only to encourage students to devote to their studies but also to motivate them to reach their full mental and physical potentials," Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint said at Pyarsi village school upgraded to Basic Education High School (branch) in Yamethin Township this morning.

He stressed the need to instill moral and ethical behaviors in the children for emergence of good and able citizens in the country.

A good primary education is key to breaking the cycle of poverty, he added.

Next, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker presented certificates of honour to those who made their contributions to the upgrade of the school.

Likewise, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker attended a ceremony to mark the upgrade of Ywathit (west) village school to Basic Education High School (branch) in Pyawbwe Township yesterday.

In his address at the ceremony, the Amyotha

Hluttaw Speaker said education lays sound foundations for the success of realization of a genuine democracy. A good education enables a child to be a well-qualified leader, he added.

Next, he observed regional development works taking place at Phyzin and Tawtwinhla villages and in the township.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker also attended a school-upgrading ceremony held in conjunction with an opening of new school building at Kyitaingkon village.—MNA

Wawrinka defeats injured Nadal to win Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 26 Jan—Stanislas Wawrinka held firm in a match of high drama to defeat an injured Rafa Nadal 6-3 6-2 3-6 6-3 and win his maiden grand slam title at the Australian Open on Sunday.

The eighth seed roared to a two-set lead after top seed Nadal struggled with an apparent back injury sustained early in the second set, but the Swiss was left stunned as his opponent suddenly revived in the third at Rod Laver Arena.

Though restricted in his movement, Nadal fought back into the match with a barrage of clean hit-

ting, completely throwing the Swiss off his game who surrendered the third set in a hail of unforced errors.

Wawrinka captured a break in the fourth set, surrendered it with a terrible service game, but recovered again to earn a chance to serve for the match. He

stayed cool when it counted, serving strongly and sealing the win with an imperious forehand rocketing down the line. A relieved Wawrinka raised his hands in the air in celebration and after shaking hands with a gloomy Nadal, went to console the Spaniard at his chair.—MNA/Reuters

