

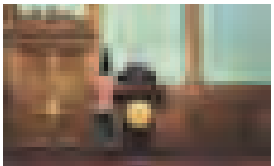
INSIDE

Libraries for Society

(SINCERELY PEOPLE, MINISTRY OF CULTURE)

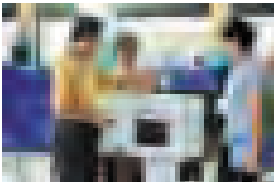
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Regional development success needs support committees' competence, goodwill, understanding of laws, bylaws, rules and regulations

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb — "Regional development success could be achieved by development support committees formed with local people who have a certain level of competence,

a spirit of goodwill and a sound understanding of laws, bylaws and rules and regulations," said Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann in meeting

with members of management committees and development support committees, responsible persons of political parties and local people in Dekkhina district at a hall in Zabuthiri Town-

ship, here, this afternoon.

While the government's drive to fulfill the requirements of the people through a people-centred approach is taking place, it is required to follow

the proper procedures in dealing with development works, he added.

He pointed out a fact that requirements still remain to be fulfilled (See page 8)

World Wetlands Day for 2014 celebrated at Monyungyi Wetland



Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun addresses ceremony to mark World Wetlands Day for 2014.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb — Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry celebrated the World Wetlands Day for 2014 at the

Monyungyi Wetland Wildlife Sanctuary in Bago, today.

The celebration jointly conducted by the minis-

try, Fauna & Flora International-FFI, Biodiversity and Nature Conservation Association-BANCA and Shwepyithar Company.

The Monyungyi Wetland located over 50 miles north-east of Yangon is designated as a Ramsar Site on 17 November, 2014.

Speaking on the occasion, U Win Tun, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry, has called on ministries concerned, NGOs and local people to work together for conservation of the Monyungyi Wetland systematically as the wetland is playing an important role in irrigation and is inhabited by rare species of birds.

The Union minister said that wetland areas contribute to storage of water for cultivation and creation of home to water birds and various animal species.

The Union minister also stressed the need to conserve wetlands areas and practise the farming system which hardly damage the environment and ecological system.

The motto of the World Wetlands Day-2014 is "Wetland and Agriculture: Partners for Growth".

MNA

Bogale-Thabaung river crossing bridge to allow traffic in late June

According to a statement of Transport and Construction Delivery Unity, Bogale-Thabaung river crossing bridge which is under construction will be put into service at the end of coming June this year. Upon completion, the bridge will link Bogale-Kyeinchaung-Kadon Kani road with Bogale-Myaungmya road.

Installation of steel trusses that arrived at the worksite in the third week of November, 2013 at the bridge will be completed in April followed by flooring and fixing rails to the bridge to be completed in May. Then the bridge will

see its tarmacking work in June.

With the emergence of the river crossing bridge, local people will be able to travel from Bogale to Myaungmya and from Kadon Kani to Bogale, Pyapon, Kyaiklat, Maubin, Dedaye, Kungyangon, Kawhmu, Dala and Yangon by car. Moreover, the bridge will enable local people to have direct access to Settsan and Amar and Yangonites to visit Gangaw Tahtaung Pagoda, one of the famous pagodas in the delta region, by taking a day trip from Yangon.

As the bridge can not

only contribute towards smooth and secure transport in the region but also benefit locals in Kadon Kani to

transport their marine products to Bayintnaung market during a day trip, local people are looking forwards

to the completion of the bridge.

Myanma Alinn: 2-2-2014
Trs: YM

Byline: Minn Thitsar Hlaing
(Kadon Kani)



Under-construction Bogale-Thabaung river crossing bridge.

MINGIN, 2 Feb—Tinbet-Ugyi-KyaukOh earthen road section, 4.2 miles long and 36 feet wide, is under construction by Rural Development Department of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, in Mingin Township of Kalay District in Sagaing Region, northwest of the nation.

The department spent K 50.023 million in 2013-14 fiscal year. Pan Mon Co is taking responsibility for construction of the road section with the use of heavy machinery.

Upon completion, the road will contribute to education, education and social development of 4825 people from 944 houses of Tinbet and Kyaunggyi village-tracts.

The road will be an engine for swift flow of commodity and smooth transportation of the rural people.

Under the instruction of Sagaing Region



Chief Minister U Tha Aye, Chairman of Kalay District Management Committee U Maung Htoo,

the staff officer of Rural Development Department and the chairman of Mingin Township Management

Committee, officials of Township Development Supportive Committee and departmental officials

inspected progress of construction meeting set standard on 30 January.

MMAL-Ju Nine

Rural development scheme formulated in Mingin Tsp

School buildings in Mingin Tsp under construction

MINGIN, 2 Feb—Sagaing Region government allotted fund for construction of school buildings in Mingin Township of Kalay District in Sagaing Region.

Htaik Arnt Htoo Co is building the school structures at Basic Education Primary School in Mingin, BEPSs in Nanwinchaung, Ngaohn and Thinbaw, Thallabar, Kantha and Nyaunggon villages.

Likewise, Royal Great Co is also constructing the school building at BEPS branch in Pynmamaw Village. On 30 January, Chairman of Kalay District Management Committee U Maung Htoo and officials inspected progress of construction tasks at the schools.—MMAL-Joe Net

Midwifery course 1/2013 concludes in Kyunsu

KYUNSU, 2 Feb—The fresher midwifery course No 1/2013, conducted by Kyunsu Township Health Department, concluded at the hall of Township People's Hospital in Kyunsu Township on 30 January afternoon.

At first, Township Administrator U Nyein Htwe made a speech.

Head of Township

Health Department Dr Phone Naing explained matters related to the training course.

The township administrator presented certificates to the trainees. The head of Township Health Department handed over midwifery kits to the trainees. A trainee spoke words of thanks.

The ceremony was also

Health Care Services

attended by departmental officials and trainees, totalling 35.

The training course run six months from 8 July 2013 to 8 January.—MMAL-Yan Naing Tun (Township IPRD)

Work procedures for taking census in Bago District

BAGO, 2 Feb—Secretary of Bago District Census Committee Deputy Director U Ye Yint Tun gave talks on tasks of ward and village-tract census committee, formation of supportive groups, duty and functions

of committee members and work procedures at Hanthiri Hall in Bago.

The talks in Hanthiri hall on 28 January was given to 377 census committees of 31 wards on 28 January and 275 members

of the census committee from 27 village-tracts on 29 January.

At the ceremony, pamphlets on work procedures was distributed to attendees.

MMAL-403



MYEIK, 2 Feb—The concluding ceremony of Separate Fire Brigade's auxiliary fire brigade course concluded at Min Zarni Co.Ltd on BOC Road in Yenamyay region of Myeik on 1 February.

Deputy Managing Director U Soe Myint of Min Zarni Fishing Co Ltd spoke on the occasion, cordially met with local people.

A total of 29 trainees attended the course from 21 to 26 January.—ZawMyo Naing (Myeik District IPRD)

Auxiliary fire fighting course concludes



Fire drill in progress at Min Zarni Co in Myeik.

Fibre Internet linkage laid to connect with 18 countries

MANDALAY, 2 Feb—With the aim of ensuring betterment in applying Internet, the fibre lines are being laid as of early January 2014 along SE-ME-WE 5 broadband linkage.

The lines are being laid by Myanma Posts and Telecommunications and a Chinese company along 27th Street, 66th Street and 78th street in Chanayethazan Township. The linkage is playing the most crucial for extension of GSM lines and connection with international community.

A new overseas communication station is under construction in Patheingyi. The fibre line is being laid along Muse-

Mandalay-Yangon-Patheingyi route. On completion, the Internet speed will be higher.

Laying the fibre lines for SE-ME-WE 5 International Internet linkage is being supervised by Chinese engineers so as to link with 18 countries.

At present, use of GSM phone lines are very slow in Mandalay. Meanwhile, WCDMA phones have got better access to 3G Internet communication system in Mandalay.

Kyemon-Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)



WORLD

NATO chief doesn't see Karzai signing security pact

MUNICH, 2 Feb — President Hamid Karzai is unlikely to sign a pact for US and NATO forces to stay in Afghanistan after 2014 and will probably leave the choice for his successor, NATO chief Anders Fogh Rasmussen said on Saturday.

Kabul and Washington spent months negotiating a legal framework for some US troops to stay on after the end of 2014, when NATO-led forces are due to end combat operations, leaving behind a much

smaller training and advisory mission.

But Karzai has said he will not sign the agreement unless certain conditions are met. The delay has frustrated the United States and its allies, who want to plan the post-2014 training and advisory mission.

Both the United States and NATO have said they may be forced to pull their forces out of Afghanistan entirely at the end of this year unless the agreement is signed soon.

Rasmussen acknowl-



Afghan President Hamid Karzai speaks during a news conference in Kabul on 25 Jan, 2014.

REUTERS

edged for the first time on Saturday that he did not expect Karzai to sign the US pact and a similar pact that must be negotiated with other NATO forces.

Instead, he believed Karzai would leave the issue for the president elected

in 5 April election. Karzai has served two terms and cannot run again. "I think, realistically speaking, a new president will be the one to sign," Rasmussen told reporters during the annual Munich Security Conference.—Reuters

Thai voters destroy protesters' stage in Bangkok, urging district chief to resign

BANGKOK, 2 Feb — Thai voters destroyed protesters' stage here on Sunday after being disrupted from voting during general elections, demanding the resignation of chief of Din Daeng District Office.

Over 1,000 residents in Din Daeng had filed complaints to police, saying the Election Commission (EC) failed to ensure the rights of voters, and urged Issaramet Kachanukul, chief of Din Daeng District Office, to resign.

The anti-government People's Democratic Re-

form Committee (PDRC) earlier set up a stage on a road to block voters from entering a polling station in Din Daeng. There are 175 polling stations with 25,949 eligible voters in the district.

Around 12 million out of a total of 48.77 million eligible voters in Thailand failed to exercise their voting rights during Sunday's general elections concluded at 3 pm local time due to shortage of ballots and polling staff as well as blockade by protesters, reports said.

Xinhua

Suicide bomber kills three in Lebanese Hezbollah stronghold

BEIRUT, 2 Feb — A suicide car bomber killed three people at a petrol station in a stronghold of the Shi'ite militant Hezbollah movement on Lebanon's northern border on Saturday, the latest sign that Syria's civil war is spilling over into its small neighbour.

The blast occurred in the town of Hermel at the northern end of the Bekaa Valley, an area populated mainly by Shi'ite Muslims

among whom Hezbollah draws its support.

Lebanon's *National News Agency (NNA)* cited witnesses who said the perpetrator entered the petrol station and asked to buy fuel before detonating the bomb, leaving a meter-deep hole in the ground and setting the station and nearby cars on fire.

Images broadcast on Hezbollah's Al Manar television showed fire raging

beside a severely damaged petrol station as well as emergency vehicles and security forces at the scene.

A security source told *Reuters* that, besides the three dead bystanders and the dead bomber, 28 other people had been wounded.

A Twitter account purportedly run by the Lebanese branch of the Nusra Front, a Syrian rebel group with links to al-Qaeda, said it had carried out the attack, but it was not possible to verify the claim.

The Lebanese affiliate has also claimed responsibility for last weekend's rocket attack on Hermel and suicide bombings in January that killed three people in Hermel and four people in Beirut's southern suburbs.

In earlier statements, the Nusra Front in Lebanon threatened to attack Hezbollah outposts and strongholds, including civilian population centers.

Saturday's blast fitted

a pattern of attacks by rival sectarian groups on each other's strongholds that has been amplified by Syria's civil war.

Lebanon's caretaker interior minister, Marwan Charbel, told *Reuters* that the situation in Lebanon was "unstable and getting worse every day".

"This matter is very, very dangerous," he said. "It is bigger than the security apparatus."

Suicide bombers often use stolen vehicles, and Charbel said up to 400 cars had been stolen in Lebanon in the last six months.

"This is a strange path for Lebanese, because most of the explosions we see are carried out by Lebanese," he said. Saturday's blast happened near a building that houses a charity connected to the late Shi'ite Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Hussein Fadlallah. Fadlallah, who died in 2010, was not a member of Hezbollah.—Reuters



A Thai people casts his vote at a polling station in Bangkok, capital of Thailand, on 2 Feb, 2014. Thailand's general election kicked off at 8 am local time on Sunday, amid concerns of possible violence and bloodshed due to disruption from anti-government protesters.

XINHUA

12 million eligible Thai voters fail to cast ballots

BANGKOK, 2 Feb — Around 12 million out of a total of 48.77 million eligible voters in Thailand failed to exercise their voting rights during Sunday's general election, which concluded at 3 p.m. local time, local media reported.

The 12 million voters

are distributed in 53 constituencies where polling stations were closed on Sunday due to disruption from anti-government protesters, along with 28 constituencies that lack constituency-based candidates, according to the Nation channel.

Xinhua

Japan offers 10 mil euros to Syria-aid fund

MUNICH, 2 Feb — Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said on Saturday in a meeting with German counterpart Frank-Walter Steinmeier that Tokyo will offer about 10 million euros (1.4 billion yen) for a German-led fund to help civil war-stricken Syria, Japanese officials said.

The Japanese government has already announced about 12.5 billion yen in humanitarian aid to

Syria and will use part of the sum for the fund, they said.

During the meeting in Munich, the two foreign ministers also agreed to strengthen cooperation in promoting reform of the UN Security Council.

They also reaffirmed the need to seek a free trade pact between Japan and the European Union, the officials said.

Kyodo News

Video shows beheading of man in Syria by al-Qaeda rebels

BEIRUT, 2 Feb — Rebels in Syria with ties to al-Qaeda have decapitated a man believed to have been a pro-government Shi'ite fighter, an amateur video of the public beheading posted to the Internet on Saturday showed.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a monitoring group which posted the video, said the beheading was conducted by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), a

foreign-led group fighting to overthrow President Bashar al-Assad and establish an Islamic emirate in Syria.

The footage shows armed men in black standing outdoors in a circle around a man who is lying on the grass. One of the militants leans over the victim and appears to cut off his head with a small knife, cheered on by the others.

Once the head is detached, the militant holds

it up and places it on the man's back before it rolls off and settles on the ground about a meter (3 ft) away from his body.

The remainder of the three-minute video shows the crowd, which includes several children, talking, laughing and taking photographs of the scene.

The Britain-based Observatory, which opposes Assad and has an extensive network of sources across Syria, said the video was

taken in the central province of Homs. Its authenticity could not be independently verified.

Hard-line Islamist rebels with links to al-Qaeda have come to dominate the largely Sunni Muslim insurgency against Assad, who is supported by members of his minority Alawite sect — an offshoot of Shi'ite Islam — as well as Shi'ite fighters from Iraq and Lebanon's Hezbollah.

Reuters



A damaged petrol station is seen at the site of an explosion in the Shi'ite town of Hermel on 1 Feb, 2014.

REUTERS

Voting under way in Nagasaki gubernatorial election

NAGASAKI, 2 Feb — Voting in the Nagasaki gubernatorial election started on Sunday morning, pitting the incumbent against a Communist challenger.

Hodo Nakamura, backed by the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner the New Komeito party, seeks his second four-year term.

Toshihiko Haraguchi, secretary general of the Japanese Communist Party's Nagasaki chapter, calls for revamping the policies under Nakamura's leadership.

Having the support of the main opposition Democratic Party of Japan's Nagasaki chapter as well, Nakamura is expected to have an edge over Haraguchi.

The focus of the election is the Isahaya Bay reclamation project that is driven by the national government but opposed by local farmers.

As one of his achievements, Nakamura, 63, has cited efforts to bring a low-cost carrier to Nagasaki Prefecture. He has also appealed to voters that he will

raise the income of Nagasaki residents by promoting the manufacturing and tourism industries.

Haraguchi has pledged to revitalize the local economy by relying less on public works projects and focus on welfare. Nagasaki had 1,161,416 eligible voters as of 23 January.

Kyodo News



Osaka Mayor Toru Hashimoto, who doubles as co-head of the Japan Restoration Party, speaks at the party convention in Tokyo on 1 Feb, 2014. Hashimoto expressed later that day his intention to quit as mayor and run for reelection to gain public support for his goal of creating an Osaka metropolitan government through the merger of the prefectural and municipal governments. KYODO NEWS

Japanese high school student wins int'l ballet competition

LAUSANNE, (Switzerland), 2 Feb — A 17-year-old Japanese student on Saturday won an international ballet competition in Lausanne, Switzerland, for teenagers aiming to dance professionally.

Haruo Niyama, a second-year student at a high school in Matsumoto, Nagano Prefecture, is believed to be the first Japanese male winner since 1989. "I want to be a ballet dancer who can entertain an audience," he said after an award ceremony.

Seventy-three youths from 15 countries participated in the ballet competition.

Kyodo News



Jordanian men listen during a sit-in protest in Amman, Jordan, on 1 Feb, 2014. During the sit-in, Jordanians from different opposition parties protested against US Secretary of State Kerry's framework plan for peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

XINHUA

Powerful bomb planted by rebels in S Philippines defused

COTABATO, (Philippines), 2 Feb — Philippine government forces defused on Sunday a powerful homemade bomb planted by breakaway Muslim rebels along the highway in the southern Philippine Province of Maguindanao a day after 12 people got injured in their bomb attacks, a military official said.

Colonel Dickson Hermoso, spokesman for the Philippine Army's 6th Division, said by phone that

local residents reported to soldiers stationed in Maguindanao after they discovered an improvised explosive device left by members of Bangsamoro Islamic Freedom Fighters (BIFF) along the national highway at Macasampen village, Guindulunagn, shortly after 6:00 am local time.

"Our bomb experts immediately responded to the scene and defused the explosive. This is another attempt to inflict casualties

among civilians and soldiers," he said.

On Saturday morning, 12 people, including two journalists, six soldiers and four civilians, were injured in a bomb explosion in Maguindanao.

The military blamed followers of Ameril Umbra Kato, the founder of the BIFF, a breakaway group of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), for the attack.

Xinhua

Egypt adjourns Morsi's trial on killing protesters until 4 February

CAIRO, 2 Feb — The trial of Egypt's ousted president Mohamed Morsi on charges of inciting violence and killing protesters has been adjourned by Cairo Criminal Court until 4 February, state TV reported on Saturday. The defence team asked the court to adjourn the trial to further study the documents of the case, the report said.

Morsi's lawyer Sileem al-Awaa, an ex-Islamist

presidential candidate, asserted that the trial is null as Morsi was tried behind a glass cage, which violates the rules of trying presidents.

Morsi along with other 14 co-defendants belonging to the Muslim Brotherhood are accused of inciting violence and killing protesters outside the presidential palace in December 2012, after the announcement of a controversial constitutional

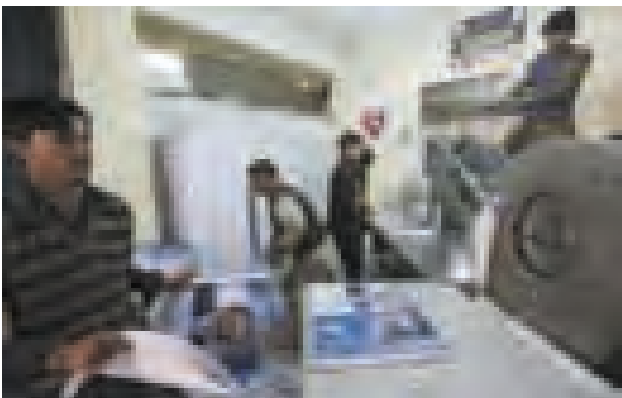
declaration which granted the Islamist leader absolute power. The clashes there left eight people dead.

Morsi was airlifted by a helicopter from Borg al-Arab prison in the coastal city of Alexandria early Saturday morning, according to official news agency MENA. The hearing held at the Police Academy complex in eastern Cairo, where a heavy security presence stood guard.—Xinhua



A supporter shouts slogans outside the Police Academy in Cairo, Egypt, on 1 Feb, 2014. —XINHUA

Afghan election campaign stirs both violence and hope



Labourers print posters of presidential election candidates at a printing Press in Kabul, on 29 Jan, 2014. —REUTERS

KABUL, 2 Feb — Presidential candidates in Afghanistan begin two months of campaigning on Sunday for an election that Western allies hope will consolidate fragile stability as their forces prepare to leave after nearly 13 years of inconclu-

sive war.

The Taliban have rejected the 5 April election and have already stepped up attacks to sabotage it. The militants will also be looking to capitalize if the vote is marred by rigging and feuding between rivals

seeking to replace President Hamid Karzai, who can not run for a third term under Afghan law. Whoever replaces him will inherit a country beset by deepening anxiety about security as most foreign troops prepare to pull out by the end of the year, leaving Afghan forces largely on their own to battle the insurgency.

Monthly attacks in the capital, Kabul, where candidates are expected to focus their efforts to win over women and young people, are at the highest since 2008, one embassy said in a recent confidential security report.

"This increase can be attributed to efforts towards the presidential elections," the embassy said.—Reuters

Iraqi forces hit militant positions in Anbar, 15 killed

BAGHDAD, 2 Feb — At least 15 militants were killed as the Iraqi security forces hit gunmen positions in the western restive Province of Anbar on Saturday, security sources said.

Iraqi helicopter gunships and artillery bombarded the positions in the industrial area in the city of Fallujah in Anbar, some 50 km west of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, killing 15 gunmen, the Ministry of Defence said in a statement emailed to Xinhua.

The statement said that the Iraqi security forces backed by allied tribal fighters retook full control of al-Mal'ab District in Anbar's provincial capital city of Ramadi, some 110 km west of Baghdad. Meanwhile,

fierce clashes were underway in Fallujah between the Iraqi army and local tribal fighters. The army's artillery bombarded several districts in and near Fallujah, killing and wounding an unknown number of people, a provincial police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The mobile and internet services of the province were cut off since early of the day, the source added. Anbar Province has been the scene of fierce clashes that flared up after Iraqi police dismantled an anti-government protest site outside Ramadi in late December last year.

Separately, three people were killed and two wounded in three bomb

explosions across the predominantly Sunni Province of Salahudin in north of Baghdad, a provincial police source told Xinhua anonymously. In Baghdad, a roadside bomb detonated in the capital's southern district of Doura, killing a civilian and wounding five others, a police source said. Meanwhile, five soldiers were wounded in a roadside bomb explosion near their patrol in Tarmiyah area, some 40 north of Baghdad, the source said.

In addition, a soldier was killed and two others were wounded when a roadside bomb struck their patrol near the town of Latifiyah, some 25 km south of Baghdad, the source added.

Xinhua

WORLD

Ukrainian gov't calls on opposition to share responsibility

MUNICH, (Germany), 2 Feb — Ukrainian Foreign Minister Leonid Kozhara said on Saturday that Ukrainian government had met all the requirements of the opposition and the latter should do their part to end the crisis in the East European country.

Kozhara said at the Munich Security Conference that the requirements set by the opposition include repealing a controversial legislation issued on 16 January, providing amnesty to detained persons under the condition that the opposition retreat

from occupied government buildings, being ready to talk about constitutional reform as well as election and composition of electorate commission.

"Today we have actually fulfilled the requirements of the opposition," said Kozhara, "We did everything."

"I again call the opposition today to share the responsibility... We all should share responsibility and to implement all arrangements we have chosen before," Kozhara said.

At least four people

were reportedly killed and hundreds of others, including police officers, injured during clashes between protesters and the government forces in Ukraine in the past two weeks.

Kozhara accused that some of the so-called peaceful protesters were "extremists" and "militants" who attacked police with petrol bombs.

Rallies started in streets of Kiev last November when Ukrainian government decided to put on hold an association agreement with the European Union and opt

for closer relations with Russia. Demonstrations turned violent on 19 January, when radical activists attacked riot police with fireworks and petrol bombs.

Sitting next to Kozhara in the conference on Saturday, opposition leader Vitali Klychko said that Ukrainian government had chosen a path that was unacceptable and protesters had shown their will to implement a political change in the country by staying outside in cold temperatures in rain and snow.

Xinhua



Peru's President, Ollanta Humala, delivers a speech in the Republic's Congress, in Lima City, Peru, on 31 Jan, 2014.

Humala attended the Congress to deliver a speech about the decision on the Hague, that resolved the maritime dispute between Peru and Chile, according to official information.—XINHUA

Strong winds, high tides hit Ireland's coastal areas

DUBLIN, 2 Feb — The Irish Coast Guard urged the public to stay away from the coast this weekend as strong winds and high tides hit the country's south and west coastal areas.

The Coast Guard said it strongly advises the public "not to go out on exposed coasts, cliffs, piers, harbor walls, beaches, promenades or any other coastal areas during the inclement weather."

"Huge waves can be whipped up by high seas. These waves can pose hazards to anyone close to the shoreline," it warned.

Ireland's Met Eireann, the national meteorological service, said southerly gales will develop overnight on all Irish coastal waters and on the Irish sea, gradually veering southwest to west later Saturday evening and Sunday and increasing gale to storm force.

There will be frequent heavy showers, some thundery with sleet and snow for a time mainly on higher ground, the national meteorological service said, adding that high coastal flood risk is growing due to the combination of very high spring tides, extremely high waves.

Meanwhile, Ireland's state broadcaster RTE said hundreds of people have been evacuated from their homes in south Ireland's Limerick city, because high tides combined with strong winds caused the River Shannon to burst its banks at several locations.

RTE also said high tide and storm force winds hit the west coast with extensive flooding in parts of Galway city and coastal areas Saturday morning, adding that emergency crews are assisting home owners and businesses in the worst affected areas.

Xinhua

Chamberlain retires after serving Emperor Akihito for 48 yrs

TOKYO, 2 Feb — A chamberlain serving Emperor Akihito for 48 years retired Sunday at the age of 71, the Imperial Household Agency said.

After joining the agency in 1966, Katsusuke Meguro was assigned to work for the then Crown Prince Akihito and continued serving him after he

acceded to the throne.

As he studied fisheries science at Nihon University, Meguro was involved in the emperor's research on goby as a co-author of a number of papers.

It is customary for a chamberlain to voluntarily retire after reaching 70 years old.

Kyodo News



Photo taken on 18 Dec, 2013, in Takamatsu shows Takaaki Fujisawa (R) and Honoka Miyaji, a Japanese teenage pair who won the amateur division of the New York style salsa dancing called "On 2" at the World Latin Dance Cup in Miami, Florida earlier that month.

KYODO NEWS

Iraqi army prepares to storm militant-held Falluja

BAGHDAD, 2 Feb — Iraqi security forces are preparing to storm Falluja and break a month-long standoff with militants who are in control of the city, senior security officials and troops told Reuters on Saturday.

Anti-government fighters, among them insurgents linked with al-Qaeda, overran two cities in the Sunni-dominated western province of Anbar on 1 January, against a backdrop of deteriorating security across the country.

At least 12 people were killed in bombings across Iraq on Saturday, mostly in the capital Baghdad, just 70 km (40 miles) away from Falluja, a city currently surrounded by the army.

Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki had held off an all out assault on the city to give local tribesmen a

chance to expel the militants themselves, but security officials told Reuters a decision had been made to enter Falluja by 6 pm (1500 GMT) on Sunday.

"That's it: they were given enough time to make their choice, but they failed," a top security official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said of the tribesmen and militants.

Some of the militants have raised the black banner of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), which is seeking to establish a Sunni state straddling the border between Anbar and Syria, where the group is also active.

The official said the governor of Anbar had sent a "final warning" to militants and tribal fighters in Falluja. Whoever wanted to leave the city would be given

en safe passage and those who lay down their arms will be offered amnesty, he added.

"The message was clear, we offered them to leave the city and be a part of the national reconciliation project," the security official said. "But, if anyone insists on fighting our forces, he will be considered an ISIL militant whether he is or not."

Maliki has appealed for international support and weapons to fight al-Qaeda, although critics say his own policies towards Iraq's Sunni minority are at least partly to blame for reigniting an insurgency.

Once-dominant in Iraq, many Sunnis resent the Shi'ite-led government that came to power after the 2003 US-led invasion.

Reuters

Israel's finance minister halts funds to West Bank settlements

JERUSALEM, 2 Feb — Israel's finance minister halted the transfer of government funds to West Bank Jewish settlements on Saturday and ordered a probe into allegations that money meant to support municipi-

palities had been funneled to a pro-settler political group.

The money in question had been earmarked to cover security and building maintenance fees that were incurred when Israel froze

settlement building for 10 months during 2009 and 2010, the Finance Ministry said in a statement.

But some of the money may have illegally made its way to the Yesha settler's council to be used for political purposes, including activities that run counter to government policy, the ministry said. The allegations had been reported on Israeli television.

A spokesman for the Yesha council could not be reached for comment.

Finance Minister Yair Lapid, who heads a centrist party in the ruling coalition, ordered payments to be "stopped immediately" until the issue was cleared up, the statement said.

Lapid opened an investigation to determine within the week where the funds had gone.

Israel's YNet news website reported that, over the past four years, the government had transferred 148 million shekels (\$42 million) to the municipalities to help compensate them for income lost as a result of the 10-month freeze, declared under US pressure to help restart peace talks.

Most countries consider the settlements Israel has built in the West Bank, land that it captured in a 1967 Middle East war, to be illegal. Palestinians say the continued presence of Jewish settlements will deny them a viable state.—Reuters



A crane is seen next to homes in a Jewish settlement near Jerusalem known to Israelis as Har Homa and to Palestinians as Jabal Abu Ghneim on 3 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Former New York mayor named UN chief's envoy for cities, climate change

UNITED NATIONS, 2 Feb — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday announced the appointment of former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg as his special envoy for cities and climate change to galvanize urban action to reduce greenhouse emissions ahead of the United Nations climate summit in September.

"Mr. Bloomberg will assist the secretary-general in his consultations with mayors and related key stakeholders, in order to raise political will and mobilize action among cities as part of his long-term strategy to advance efforts on climate change," said a statement issued here by Ban's spokesman.

Bloomberg, who left office as mayor on 31 December after 12 years in the job, currently serves as the president of the Board of the C40 Climate Leader-

ship Group, a network of large cities from around the world committed to implementing meaningful and sustainable climate-related actions locally that will help address climate change globally.

Ban has invited leaders from governments, businesses, finance and civil society to bring "bold announcements and actions" to the 2014 Climate Summit, scheduled to be held on 23 September in New York. Cities play an essential role in developing and implementing actions and driving ambition, significantly affecting climate change.

Bloomberg, who served as New York City's 108th mayor, began his career in 1966 at Salomon Brothers, a Wall Street investment bank, and launched Bloomberg LP in 1981, a financial news and information company. In 2007, Mayor Bloomberg

addressed the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Bali, Indonesia.

In April of that year, UN Director of Sustainable Development JoAnne DiSano warmly welcomed Bloomberg's plans to reduce the strain on natural resources such as water, air and land by instituting a more energy-efficient city by rebuilding aging water mains, fostering greater support for mass transit, putting limits on vehicular congestion and creating more energy-efficient buildings.

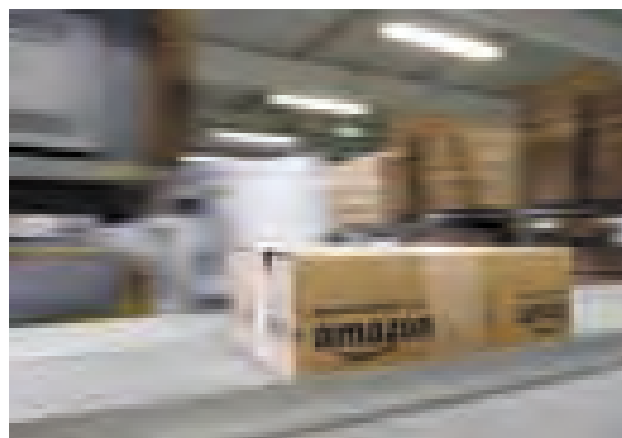
"This is exactly the type of initiative that we would like more cities and communities to undertake," she said then. "Real development has to allow for economic growth and social development in an environmentally balanced way. We are strongly encouraged by this proposal." —Xinhua

Amazon shares fall 9 percent after warning of possible loss

NEW YORK, 2 Feb — Amazon.com Inc shares fell more than 9 percent in early trading on Friday, after the online retailer warned of a possible loss in the current quarter and its quarterly results missed expectations in the holiday shopping season. At least seven brokerages cut their price targets on the stock, by as much as \$30 to a low of \$415. Another seven raised their price targets by as much as \$100 to a high of \$500. Amazon shares were down at \$372.81 in early trading. The stock had gained by about a third in the last six months. The world's biggest online retailer said it expects operating results for the current quarter to range from a \$200 million

loss to a \$200 million profit, compared with a profit of \$181 million a year earlier. The outlook was somewhat conservative, reflecting Amazon's focus on investing aggressively in growth opportunities and new initiatives, analysts said.

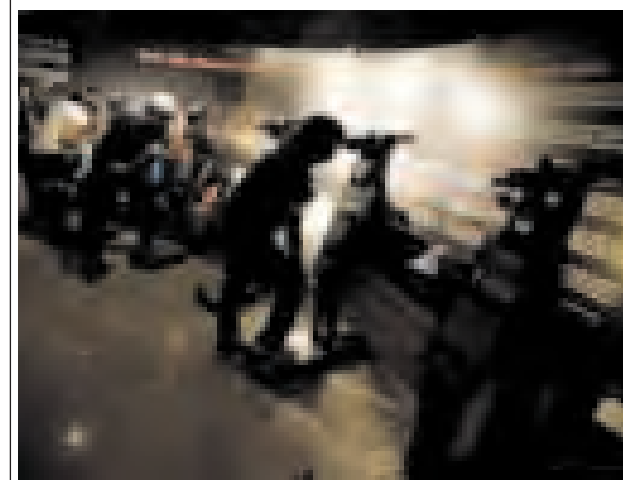
"In addition to increased internal investment to build out the digital library, distribution center capacity and enhance offerings, ... Amazon may be facing further margin pressure due to the success of its Amazon Prime offering," Benchmark analyst Daniel Kurnos wrote. Amazon charges users an annual fee of \$79 for its "Prime" two-day shipping and online media service, considered instrumental in driving



A parcel moves on the conveyor belt at Amazon's logistics centre in Graben near Augsburg on 16 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

online purchases of both goods and digital media. The company said it was considering raising prices for Amazon Prime by \$20-\$40 in the United States due to higher fuel and transportation costs and increasing usage.

Analysts said the price increase would add about \$600 million to Amazon's annual revenue while still representing compelling



Visitors observe the interactive expo "Puro Chile", in the Cultural Centre Gabriela Mistral, in Santiago, capital of Chile, on 31 Jan, 2014. The expo is a broad show of the "EXPLORA" project of the National Scientific and Technology Research Commission (CONICYT, for its acronym in Spanish) and an invitation to see how the human being has discovered the universe through history. —XINHUA

Wayfair raises around \$150 million in funding

SAN FRANCISCO, 2 Feb — Wayfair, the online home-furnishings site, is raising around \$150 million at a valuation of around \$2 billion, according to a person familiar with the matter, underscoring the appeal of select online retailers.

The funding comes as rival One King's Lane said on Thursday it raised \$112 million at a valuation of \$912 million. T Rowe Price led the Wayfair funding round, the person familiar with the investment told

Reuters late on Thursday. The mutual-fund giant has made several investments in early-stage companies in recent years, including in Twitter several years before its initial public offering. Spokeswomen for Wayfair and T Rowe Price declined to comment.

While it trails industry leader Williams-Sonoma in online home-furnishing sales, Wayfair's business is growing fast. Last year, its sales totaled almost \$1 billion, the person familiar with

the situation said, up from around \$600 million the year before. Currently, only a tiny percentage of home goods is purchased online, but that could grow as more people who have grown up shopping online hit the age where they buy homes and need to furnish them, analysts say.

Not all venture-backed online retailers are thriving. ShoeDazzle, a subscription-based service, struggled with a business model and was sold to JustFab last year. —Reuters

AT&T cuts prices for wireless data plan customers

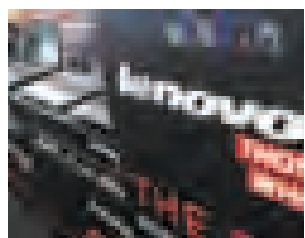
NEW YORK, 2 Feb — AT&T Inc, the No 2 US mobile provider, on Saturday announced a price cut for customers who share large data plans in its latest attempt to regain ground lost to market leader Verizon Wireless and No 4 US operator T-Mobile US.

In what the company called its "best-ever prices," AT&T said a family of four can get unlimited talk and text with 10GB of shared data for \$160 a month. The discounts are available to any customer, including small businesses with up to 10 lines, and customers of other carriers who switch to AT&T. The cuts follow recent price adjustments at all four US wireless providers

as they attempt to sustain growth in a mature market built on stealing growth from competitors.

AT&T and T-Mobile US have been competing fiercely. After T-Mobile spent several quarters directly marketing to AT&T customers, AT&T recently offered to pay T-Mobile customers to switch to its service. As part of its new effort, AT&T, for a limited time, is offering new and existing customers a \$100 credit for each new line of service. While it does not have an ad Sunday's Super Bowl broadcast, the company plans to run existing advertising the same day in hopes of generating interest in its plans.—Reuters

Sony, Lenovo in talks on possible PC business alliance



Lenovo's laptop PCs are displayed at an electronic shop in Tokyo on 5 Sept, 2012. —REUTERS

TOKYO, 2 Feb — Japan's Sony Corp and Chinese technology company Lenovo Group are in talks about a possible joint venture to take over Sony's loss-making Vaio PC business overseas, Japanese broadcaster NHK reported on Saturday. The Japanese electronics and media giant called the report inaccurate while acknowl-

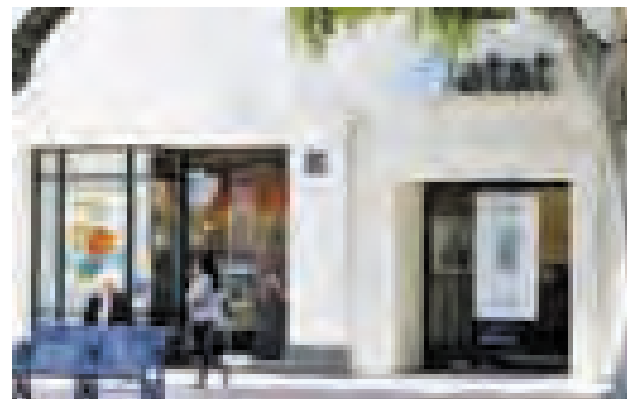
edging that it was looking at various possibilities for the unit.

"Sony continues to address various options for the PC business, but the press report on a possible PC business alliance between Sony and Lenovo is inaccurate," the company said in a statement. Sony has said it plans to revise its product and

manufacturing strategy for the Vaio unit as it faces a slump in its PC business, hit by the popularity of smartphones and tablets.

Sony, which will release results next week, had previously predicted its PC business would be in the red for the year to end-March, without disclosing figures.

Reuters



The white Apple iPhone 4 and iPad 2 are advertised in the window of an AT&T cellular store in Los Angeles on 31 Aug, 2011. —REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

For companies, a rocky road ahead in emerging markets

CHICAGO / LONDON, 2 Feb — International companies are taking steps to mitigate the effects of the turmoil in emerging markets, including hedging foreign currency exposure more aggressively, reducing some investment plans, cutting costs, and raising prices frequently. While executives are not hitting the panic button just yet, and many say the risks they face are hardly unique, they are still aggressively tackling costs and making sure that revenue keeps up with inflationary pressures. And many warn that if China suffers a credit crisis as some fear, then things could get a whole lot worse.

From Africa to Asia to Latin America, policy-makers are scrambling to prop up their currencies and prevent a sudden exodus of foreign capital by jacking up interest rates and taking other steps — all this just as many emerging economies were already starting

to slow sharply after a decade-long boom. The sudden onslaught of market volatility in Turkey, Argentina, South Africa and Brazil, along with worries about an abrupt slowdown in China, means companies are now bracing for deeper reversals in demand for their products in emerging economies. And this is happening at a time when their US dollar or euro revenues from many of these countries are also taking a hit because of

plunging emerging market currencies.

Automakers Ford Motor Co (F.N) and Fiat SpA (FIA.MI), home appliance manufacturer Whirlpool Corp (WHR.N) and liquor giant Diageo (DGE.L) all cited weakness and a more sober outlook in once-roaring emerging markets in earnings reports this week. Still, for many executives, especially those with decades of experience in the developing world, wild cur-

rency swings and economic ups and downs are a fact of life that they must deftly navigate.

"We have had quite a bit of currency changes, particularly in the very weak emerging markets. But let's put it in context," Jeff Fetting, Whirlpool's chairman and chief executive said. "We've been in the Brazilian market for over 60 years and we've managed hyper inflationary periods, busts, booms, and we've never had a loss-making year in Brazil." Fetting said the appliance maker was not overly concerned that the downturn in emerging markets would significantly affect the company financially, since the most troubled economies account for less than 3 percent of overall revenue. The company has taken steps in countries where currency devaluations had occurred to recoup dollar-based raw materials costs.

Reuters



The Fiat logo is seen in a car displayed on the Fiat booth during the first media day of the Geneva Auto Show at the Palexpo in Geneva on 5 March, 2013.

REUTERS

Fiat to present small Jeep SUV in March, 500X in October

MILAN, 2 Feb — Italian carmaker Fiat (FIA.MI) will present a Jeep-branded small sports utility vehicle (SUV) at the Geneva car show in March while its 500X crossover vehicle will be presented at the Paris show in October, an Italian trade union official said.

Both cars will be produced at the Melfi plant in the southern Italian region of Basilicata, which currently manufactures the

Grande Punto. In a statement on Friday, Ugl trade union official Pino Giordano said work to adapt the production line at Melfi to produce the two new models was underway.

Fiat, which completed a merger with its US arm Chrysler last week, will present a new industrial plan, outlining new investments and models, in early May.

Xinhua

All alcohol, even wine, raises risk of gout flare-ups

NEW YORK, 2 Feb — Bad news for gout sufferers who enjoy drinking the fruit of the vine—new research finds that all types of alcohol, even previously exempt wine, can bring on attacks of the painful condition. "I don't want to sound too dogmatic and say, 'You must stop drinking,'" lead author Dr. It's not just beer or hard liquor that can trigger attacks, but also wine," she said.

Gout is a potentially debilitating form of arthritis that afflicts more than 8 million American adults,

and the number is rising, Neogi's team writes in *The American Journal of Medicine*. The so-called disease of kings causes joints to swell and redden. It most often strikes overweight men's big toes but also claims feet, ankles, knees, hands and wrists. A link between intoxicating beverages and gout has been suspected since ancient times. 2004 landmark study of more than 47,000 men found that drinking beer and hard liquor—but not wine - increased the risk of developing gout.

Neither has wine been shown in other studies to bring on attacks in people who already have gout, the way beer and liquor have. Nonetheless, Neogi said, some of her patients report "they can't even sniff wine without having a gout attack." o investigate the effects of all types of alcohol on the short-term risk of a gout flare-up, Neogi and her team examined survey responses from 724 adults with gout, 78 percent of them men, from across the United States between 2003 and 2012.—Reuters



Workers make bicycle parts at a factory at Ludhiana in Indian state of Punjab, on 1 Feb, 2014. The north Indian state is the hub of bicycle manufacturing. Officials said 40,000-50,000 bicycles are manufactured in the city everyday and exported to Indian states and other countries. The state has around 4000 registered small and large units associated with making bicycle parts.—XINHUA

Norovirus responsible for nearly 700 sick people on cruise ship

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb — The US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) said on Friday its laboratory has confirmed that norovirus was the cause of the gastrointestinal illness that sickened nearly 700 passengers and crew aboard a cruise ship this week on a trip to the Caribbean.

"The CDC has been investigating the outbreak since last Sunday, but no particular source has been identified and it's quite possible a source won't be identified," the CDC said in a statement. "This outbreak represents one of the largest norovirus outbreaks in the past 20 years," the agency added.

The cruise ship, Explorer of the Seas, which is operated by US-based Royal Caribbean, was forced to end its trip two days early and returned to home port in New Jersey Wednesday due to the outbreak.

According to the CDC, 634 of 3,071 passengers and 55 of 1,166 crew onboard have reported being ill during the eight-day voyage. The symptoms included vomiting and diarrhea.—Xinhua

FDA proposes rule to prevent food contamination during transport

WASHINGTON, 2 Feb — Food transportation companies will be required to adhere to certain sanitation

standards to prevent food from becoming contaminated during transit under a new rule proposed by the US

Food and Drug Administration. The rule would require shippers and carriers to properly refrigerate food, clean vehicles between loads and protect food during transportation. It would establish standards for vehicles and transportation equipment, transportation operations, information exchange, training and records.

"This proposed rule will help reduce the likelihood of conditions during transportation that can lead to human or animal illness or injury," said Michael Taylor, the FDA's deputy commissioner for foods and veterinary medi-

cine. Excluded from coverage will be shippers, receivers or carriers whose operations generate less than \$500,000 in annual sales. The rule also excludes food that is fully packaged and stable, and live food animals and raw agricultural commodities transported by farms.

The FDA proposes staggering the implementation of the rule based on the size of a business, ranging from one to two years after publication of the final rule. The proposed rule is open for public comment through 31 May. The rule is the seventh and final plank of the 2011 Food

Safety Modernization Act, a sweeping initiative designed to reduce food-borne illnesses by giving the FDA greater powers to intervene before an outbreak occurs.

It would establish standards for vehicles and transportation equipment, transportation operations, information exchange, training and records. "This proposed rule will help reduce the likelihood of conditions during transportation that can lead to human or animal illness or injury," said Michael Taylor, the FDA's deputy commissioner for foods and veterinary medicine.—Reuters



A view shows the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland on 14 Aug, 2012.—REUTERS

OPINION

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 3 February, 2014

The best health care services

The government in office is increasing its health budget gradually for ensuring health, fitness and longevity of the entire country. But requirements still persist in uplifting public health standard and public healthcare activities. In addressing these issues, the government is building more and more infrastructures including new hospitals and dispensaries,

upgrading and renovating the existing ones and appointing more health staff as the foundation of public healthcare.

Public healthcare will improve along with the infrastructural and manpower development. Provision of adequate medicines and medical equipment at every hospital and dispensary is also important in this case. People want a cost-effective health care system everyone can enjoy equally. So, it is important to provide the best health care services at the least cost.

Concerning the matter, President U Thein Sein in his recent radio address to the nation said, "In consultation with experts, we are undertaking fundamental reforms to establish a national healthcare system ac-

cessible to both the rich and the poor. The Ministry of Health and the International Development Association, which is part of the World Bank Group, will jointly adopt short- and long-term plans."

These plans will realize the cost-effective healthcare system aspired by the entire country. Consequently, people will see the emergence of all-inclusive healthcare services in every part of the country in the near future. We hope that these plans when materialized will reduce the people's expenditure in enjoying healthcare services under the cost-sharing health system. We believe that the health sector will continue to develop till it can provide the best health care services at the least cost.

NATIONAL

Regional ...

(from page 1)

due to inadequate funding for needs in all prioritized sectors.

After hearing reports presented by the chairmen of the development support committees from Pyinmana, Lewe, Dekkhinathiri and Zabuthiri Townships, the Speaker made concluding remarks. — MNA

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann meets locals in Dekkhina District.

MNA



Head-on collision leaves six passengers dead in Wundwin Township

MEIKTILA, 2 Feb—A pickup driven by Kyaw Min, 48, Saikmalan Village in Kyaukse Township heading for Meiktila from Mandalay overturned near Phayasu Village on Yangon-Mandalay Expressway in Wundwin Township at 4 pm today.

Thirteen passengers from Natogyi and Wundwin Townships on board got injured. The injured were sent to Kume Hospital and driver

Kyaw Min escaped from the scene. Similarly, a Trawlargyi driven by Shwe Win, 45, Kyapinai Village in Natogyi Township collided with a van car driven by Aung Win, 58, Thonein Village, Patheingyi Township near mile post 378/1, Shweku Village in Wundwin Township this morning, leaving six dead and 29 injured.

The injured were sent to Kume Hospital.—NLM-017

Libraries for Society (Sincerely people, Ministry of Culture)

The Ministry of Culture of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has privilege to organize the ASEAN Library Development Forum 2014 on 3 – 4 February 2014 at Mingalar Thiri Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw. This Library Forum is the first regional library forum in Myanmar initiated by the Department of Historical Research and National Library.

This year 2014 is the Myanmar Chairmanship Year and Ministry of Culture is committed to hold not only the Meetings for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Council Ministers and the SOM but also to organize series of cultural activities to mark the ASEAN Chairmanship. Holding this "ASEAN Library Development Forum" becomes one of our activities too. Recently, the National Libraries has been merged under the Historical Research and renamed it, the Department of Historical Research and National Library. Then the Director General of the Historical Research and National Library Department has planned to hold the Forum and raise the awareness of National Library functions and to promote reading and library users.

The reading culture has been strong even since the Bagan Dynasty where

we have a record of literary works. Before we had formal schools, we had monastic education, which is all about reading and also teaching religion. At the time, there were many scholars in the literary field, and even women were able to be literary scholars. That literary culture has extended for decades until now. Myanmar literature has historically been a very important aspect of life of Myanmar people steeped in the Pali Canon of Buddhism. Traditionally, Myanmar children were educated by monks in monasteries in towns and villages.

In fact, since Pyu civilization as well as Mon civilization, libraries had been initiated as religious monuments of Buddhism. The earliest forms of Myanmar literature were found as golden plates at Sri Ksetra ancient city. It was engraved with Buddhist Pray in Pali language. There were inscriptions at the foot of throne of Buddha images and votive tablets as well as at the stone burial urns that show not only Buddhist sacred literature but also about humanities and sciences had developed at that time.

Another earliest forms of Myanmar literature were on stone engravings (*kyauk sa*) for memorials or for special

occasions such as the building of a temple or a monastery. The most significant one is Mya Cedi Stone Inscription inscribed by Prince Raja Kumarra, son of King Kyan-sitha, in 1113 AD. It was inscribed with four languages: Puy, Pali, Mon and Myanmar, at four sides. This inscription is the best evidence and resource to study the linkage of Myanmar literature and languages. Scholars said that the style of writing of text of this inscription was high standard that seemed improved before that time.

Later, palm leaves were used as paper (*palm-leaf manuscript*), which resulted in the rounded forms of the Myanmar alphabet. During the Bagan Dynasty, King Anawrahta adopted Theravada Buddhism as the state religion, and brought many Pali texts from Ceylon. These texts were translated, but Pali remained the literary medium of the Myanmar kingdom. According to the texts of stone inscriptions, there were donors from royal family and ministers donated monasteries and Tripitaka Texts together with the librarian and slaves for educational purpose of monks. Through the monks, literature had been widening among people.

Libraries in Myanmar have been developed since 11th century AD during the reign of King Anawrahta in Bagan Period that Myanmar culture, arts and literature were flourished. The earliest evidence is Anawrahta Pitaka-taik (AD 1057) in Bagan. Since then, pitaka-taiks or libraries were developed in the kingdoms as royal libraries used by the people in the palaces. It can be noticed that Bagan Period is glorious era of Myanmar literature based on the religion. Monasteries were playing as vital role of education in that period to disseminate knowledge and to learn literature.

Then, the Konbaung Dynasty has been dubbed the "Golden Age of Literature". Myanmar literature during this period was therefore modeled after the Ramayana, and dramatic plays were patronized by the Myanmar court. Monks remained powerful in Myanmar literature, compiling histories of Myanmar. Myanmar society had been contributed along with the improvement of literature.

After Independence, the National Library was established under the administration of Ministry of Culture inherited by the collections of Bernard Free Library and

manuscripts from the Mandalay Palace. At present, there are various kinds of libraries in Myanmar such as national library, academic libraries, public libraries, school libraries, special libraries, etc.

Since the 21st century creates the global information environment, libraries are being changed into information providers and community centres globally. Today, libraries are competing with Internet contents that are increasingly becoming readily accessible to the public through online media.

In fact, libraries are supportive institutions and educational providers to the educational development of a country. Today education system is extending to the life long learning organism that focuses on the community. We recognize that libraries are not only information providers but also learning centres for the people.

Regarding the situation of Myanmar, recent political reform in Myanmar brings positive social changes and economic development. With a rapid spread of information and communication technology during recent years, the Myanmar information environment has changed dramatically. Myanmar accepts that building a successful democratic country is undertaken by the healthy and

skilful nationalities. Accordingly, we are carrying out the realistic implementation of national development tasks as well as taking ASEAN Chairmanship for 2014 that is very important responsibility for regional development.

In this regard, during the ASEAN Chairmanship, Ministry of Culture tries to promote the library sector by organizing such a forum to share experiences and knowledge of international library professionals and librarians from ASEAN countries.

This forum would provide the opportunity to the participants to exchange our know-how and to discuss and expand more information toward digital environment on library and information technology field. The outcome from this forum would be expected to be effective at our plans and strategies for the development of libraries in our country as well as to be supportive for future cooperation programmes among the libraries in the region and internationally. Taking this opportunity, we have to join hands to the goal of "Libraries for Society" by holding this Forum.

With the deliberation of the Ministry of Culture and participants, the ASEAN Library Development Forum 2014 will be productive and fruitful.

LOCAL NEWS

Umbrella hoisted atop Sasana Beikman in Nyaunglebin

NYAUNGLEBIN, 2 Feb—A ceremony to hoist umbrella atop Sasana Beikman was held in Nyaunglebin of Bago Region on 1 February.

Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee (Sudhamma) Ven. Bhaddanta Pannajota and Chairman of Township Sangha Nayaka Committee (Shwegyin) Maha Gandavacaka Pandita Ven. Bhaddanta Candavamsa and wellwishers formally opened the ceremony.

The wellwishers, Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Soe Myint, Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Ye Myint, Bago Region Hluttaw representative U Soe Paing, township level



departmental officials and those of social organization

hoisted the umbrella atop the Sasana Beikman.

The building is 135 feet long and 60 feet wide,

constructed at a cost of K 300 million by local people and wellwishers.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)

Suspect of motorbike theft arrested

MANDALAY, 2 Feb—A suspect Soe Thu, 21, of Myayinanda Ward in Chanmyathazi Township in Mandalay pulled the motorcycle at the corner of 58th Street and Kyansittha Road in Ward D of Pyigyidagun Township in

Mandalay District on 30 January morning.

Police on patrol checked him and exposed theft of motorbike.

Action was taken against Soe Thu under the law.—Kyemon-Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Suspect of motorbike theft arrested

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—A motorcycle was stopped at the residence in Baho Kwetthit ward of Chauk in Magway Region at 9.45 pm on 29 January after biker Ye Myint arrived back home.

Due to a loud voice, his aunt Daw Khin Htwe searched the motorcycle but

she could not find anything. So, she searched it and saw persons brought the motorcycle. She shouted help and arrested the suspect.

The suspect was Aye Naing Oo, 20 of Setsetyo Village in Phalankan Village-tract in NyaungU Township of Mandalay

Crime

Action taken against wayward person with dagger

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—According to the information that a wayward person committed rude acts with holding a dagger at Shwe

Region, and his partner managed escape from the scene.

Police from Chauk Myoma Police Station searched the remaining suspect and Hla Moe (a) Po Soe, 40 of the same venue was arrested near Oil Office on Chauk-NyaungU Road.

Action was taken against them under the law.—Min Min Latt (Mann Tekkatho)

Moe tea shop on east part of Pyay Street in Zeyawady Ward of Aunglan Township in Magway Region at 3.30 pm on 29 January, police from Aunglan Myoma station together with witnesses searched the suspect, Chan Myae Zaw, 21 of Setya Ward in Aunglan, in front of the shop.

The police confiscated a dagger from him.

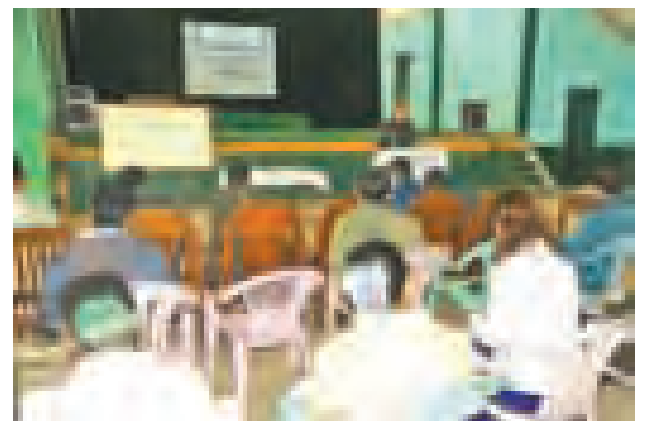
Aunglan Myoma Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against Chan Myae Zaw under Section 19 (e) of Arms Law.—Min Min Latt (Mann Tekkatho)

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

Staff Proficiency

Township Governance Self-Assessment Workshop held



FALAM, 2 Feb—The Township Governance Self-Assessment Workshop, organized by UNDP, took place at the town hall in Falam of Chin State on 30 January.

Deputy Township Administrator U Kyaw Soe said that the workshop was aimed at gaining good results in development of

the township.

UNDP In-charge of Chin State Mr Moses explained the purpose of the workshop.

The participants of the workshop discussed cooperation among the social organizations for development of the township.

Kyemon-District IPRD

Pine branches, fowls marketable at Yadanabon Market during Chinese New Year occasion

MANDALAY, 2 Feb—Yadanabon Market and the 34th Street market were hustling with buyers in Chanayethazan Township of Mandalay in the last week of January for the Chinese New Year Day.

The evening market of 34th street where sellers from PyinOoLwin, Amarapura, Lashio, Taunggyi and Kutkai sell their goods such as vegetables, fruits and foodstuffs was crowded with Chinese people. Fowls were sold by sellers from Amarapura at K 10000 to K 15000 to be used in the New Year festival. Moreover, people from PyinOoLwin



Township sold branches of pine plants as Chinese people

put up their residences in commemoration of the New

Year.—Kyemon-Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Accident

Biker's reckless driving causes two people injured

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—Reckless driving of motorcycle caused several injuries to two persons in Yenangyoung in Magway Region on 28 January.

A motorbike driven by Zin Aung Ko (a) Nge Htwe of Phoko Village heading for Magway from Yenangyoung hit a pedestrian and Aung Myo Paing's motorcycle along with Set Hlaing Ko and Tin Min Latt on the

pillion in Thitapwe Ward of Yenangyoung.

In the incident, pedestrian Daw Nyein sustained injuries at head and wrist and Aung Myo Paing at both knees and back head.

Yenangyoung Myoma Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against motorcyclist Zin Aung Ko (a) Nge Htwe under the law.

Min Min Latt (Mann Tekkatho)

WORLD

Man with rifle, machete arrested for threatening ex-President Bush

NEW YORK, 2 Feb — A New York man sitting in a car that had a loaded rifle, machete and a container of gasoline was charged on Friday with threatening to kill George W Bush after professing a romantic interest in the former

president's oldest daughter, prosecutors said. Benjamin Smith, 44, of Pittsford in upstate New York was arrested in Manhattan by the US Secret Service, according to a criminal complaint filed in federal court.

"Bush will get his,"

Smith screamed as he was taken into custody, according to the complaint. Later, when asked about his marital status, he told agents he was divorced and "working on a relationship with Barbara Bush."

At a preliminary hearing, Assistant US Attorney Andrea Griswold told US Magistrate Judge Henry Pitman the government believes Smith was referring to the former president's daughter and not Bush's mother, who shares the same name.

It is a crime under federal law to threaten a current or former president.

On Thursday, the man's mother called police to report she had found a threatening note in the home she shares with her son and that a rifle was also

missing, the complaint said.

"I'm going to work for George W Bush and the Pentagon," the note said, according to the government. "I have to slay a dragon and then Barbara Bush is mine."

The Secret Service tracked him using his cell phone to Manhattan, where they arrested him early Friday morning. It was not clear why Smith went to New York City or where the former president and his family were at the time.

Smith's defence lawyer, Peggy Cross-Goldenberg, said the note and Smith's outbursts did not constitute a "true threat." The judge also conceded it was "unclear" a jury would find Smith guilty.

Reuters



Former US president George W Bush watches before the start of the MLB American League baseball game between the Texas Rangers and the Chicago White Sox in Arlington, Texas on 30 April, 2013.

REUTERS

Forest fire extinguished in SW China

KUNMING, 2 Feb — Firefighters have put out a forest fire that broke out on Saturday afternoon in southwest China's Yunnan Province and no casualties were reported, local authorities said on Sunday.

It took more than 200 people to help extinguish the blaze that threatened the village of Liuzhao in Yanshan County, home to some 5,900 people, the county

government said.

The government is investigating the cause of the blaze and the damage, while the firefighters are clearing the site to avoid any possible spread of fire.

It also warned locals to be more careful during Spring Festival, when people often practice customs like burning incense and setting off firecrackers.

Xinhua



Tourists walk on the Bai Causeway over the West Lake in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, on 1 Feb, 2014, the second day of the seven-day break for Spring Festival.—XINHUA

Portuguese protest against gov't austerity measures

LISBON, 2 Feb — Thousands of Portuguese staged a protest on Saturday against government austerity measures in the downtown of capital Lisbon. General Confederation of the Portuguese Workers, or CGTP, who organized the demonstration, called for the Portuguese to struggle against the government, oppose the exploitation and poverty and demand for salary rise, employment and welfare.

Raising high placards,

the demonstrators marched from Cais Sodre railway station towards Restaurante Square in downtown Lisbon, chanting slogans against government austerity measures and calling for the government to step down. A 77-year-old woman, who identified herself as Fatima Batalha, said that she wants a new government that understands the hardship of the workers and cares for the Portuguese people.

CGTP General Secre-

tary Armenio Carlos criticized the government for agreeing to various austerity measures with the troika comprising the European Union, the International Monetary Fund and the European Central Bank.

He said that it is not possible for Portugal to exit the bailout programme with the troika without any outside help against the back-drop of 400,000 layoffs, the government's failure to repay the public debt and

the decrease in investment. Demonstrations were also held in the Northern cities of Porto and Coimbra, the Southern Algarve region and the autonomous regions of Madeira and Acores.

Under a 78-billion-euro (101-billion-US dollar) bailout agreement with the troika in May 2011, Portugal has pledged to implement a tough austerity policy, which has been blamed for the deepening recession in the country and has also sparked strong discontent among the general public.

The Portuguese government is confident that the country will be able to exit the bailout programme with the troika in June this year as scheduled after an early sign of economic recovery emerged in the second half of last year. However, it is yet to know whether the government needs precautionary loans after the exit.

Xinhua



A vehicle drives past outside a military hospital where Pakistan's former president Pervez Musharraf was admitted for a heart condition in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, on 1 Feb, 2014. A court in Pakistan on Friday ordered the arrest of former President Pervez Musharraf in a high treason case as he has not appeared in the court despite several orders, court officials said.—XINHUA

Turkish fighter jets scrambled to intercept Syrian warplane

ANKARA, 2 Feb — Four Turkish fighter jets were launched on Friday to intercept two Syrian MI-17 military helicopters which approached to southern Turkey, a Turkish military statement said on Saturday.

Two Turkish F-16 fighter jets scrambled Friday to intercept a Syrian MI-17 military helicopter which approached to the Yayladagi village of Turkey's southern Hatay province, said the general staff of the Turkish Armed Forces in the statement.

On the same day, two other F-16 fighter jets scrambled when another Syrian MI-17 military helicopter approached to the Nusaybin border village of Turkey's southern Mardin province, according

to the statement. Turkish war jets have been intercepting any Syrian aircraft approaching the border region since a Turkish war plane was shot down in 2012 by the Syrian army after it reportedly violated the Syrian airspace, according to local media.

Turkey downed a Syrian MI-17 attack helicopter in September last year, saying it made a 2-km incursion into its airspace while ignoring warnings.

Turkey, once an ally of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad but now a leading voice urging his ouster, shelters more than 700,000 Syrian refugees and has reportedly provided Syrian rebel army leaders with sanctuary.

Xinhua

733 people killed in Iraq's violence in January

BAGHDAD, 2 Feb — A total of 733 Iraqis were killed in violent attacks in Iraq in January, according to a statement issued Saturday by the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI).

The statement said that 618 civilians and 115 members of the security forces were killed and 1,229 were wounded in terrorist and violent acts in January across Iraq.

The UNAMI statement excluded the casualties in Anbar Province where fierce clashes flared up after Iraqi police dismantled an anti-government protest site outside Ramadi in late December last year. "I am deeply worried about the humanitarian situation of thousands of displaced families and particularly of

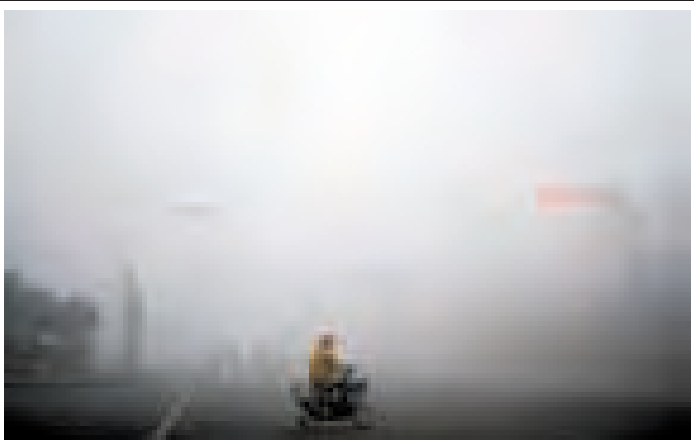
those stranded in Fallujah. They lacked water, fuel, food, medicine and other basic commodities," UN envoy Nickolay Mladenov said in the statement.

Last week, the UN refugee agency said that more than 65,000 people had fled the conflict in the cities of Fallujah and Ramadi in Iraq's central Anbar province over the past week. More than 140,000 people have fled since the fighting began at the end of 2013.

Iraq's Sunnis have been carrying out a year-long protest, accusing the Shiite-led government of marginalizing them and its Shiite-dominated security forces of indiscriminately arresting, torturing and killing their sons.

Xinhua

A man rides motorcycle amid heavy fog in Jinan, capital of east China's Shandong Province, on 2 Feb, 2014. Local weather bureau issued heavy fog and cold front alarm on 2 Feb, forecasting an 8-10 Celsius degree drop from 2 Februry to 4 Februry.—XINHUA



REGIONAL

Model Chibana becomes WFP Ambassador against hunger

Tokyo, 2 Feb — Japanese model Kurara Chibana said she felt devastated when she saw children dying of hunger in Zambia, Tanzania and other impoverished countries. To help tackle the issue, Chibana became the UN World Food Programme's Ambassador against hunger for Japan in December after having served as the organization's celebrity partner since 2007.

In an interview, the 31-year-old from Naha, Okinawa Prefecture, said she has always kept in mind what her mother once told her in her childhood — "Please remember that there will be things you can do for other people should you ever get famous" — and that she has been looking for ways to help others.

As a WFP supporter, Chibana has visited five countries — Zambia, Tan-

zania, Ethiopia, the Philippines and Sri Lanka — as well as the town of Minamisanriku in the northeastern Japanese prefecture of Miyagi, which was badly affected by the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

In Zambia torn by floods and droughts, she saw people eating tree roots to stave off starvation. "Having seen firsthand people suffering from food shortages, I was made to realize how vital it is for people to eat," she said.

Chibana, who often appears on TV programmes and in commercials, said some people have criticized her, telling her she should visit countries suffering from starvation more often instead of being spotlighted as a model in gorgeous dress. But she said she has decided to do all she can do at each moment. She said that whenever she is given the opportunity to speak about her activity as WFP Ambassador she tries to choose specific stories and experiences.

Kyodo News



Photo taken 13 Dec, 2013, shows Japanese model Kurara Chibana, who became the UN World Food Programme's Ambassador against hunger for Japan that month after having served as the organization's celebrity partner since 2007.
KYODO NEWS



Nepalese people gather at Uma Maheswor temple to observe cultural program organized to mark Kirtipur festival at Kirtipur on the outskirts of Kathmandu, Nepal, on 1 Feb, 2014. —XINHUA

Japan's Kishida expresses concern over Asian security situation

MUNICH, 2 Feb — Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida expressed concern on Saturday over the security situation in Asia, saying military spending in the region is growing significantly.

In an address to the Munich Security Conference, Kishida also stressed

the importance of promoting cooperation among Japan, the United States and European nations.

While seeking closer ties with the United States, the Association of South-east Asian Nations and India to secure peace and security in Asia, Kishida also expressed Tokyo's willing-

ness to promote dialogue with Beijing.

Under Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's policy of "proactive pacifism," Kishida said, Japan will follow a peaceful path and play a more active role to achieve international peace and security.

Kyodo News

Bus accident leaves 10 dead in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 2 Feb — Ten people died and 47 were injured after a passenger bus plunged off a road in a mountainous district in eastern Nepal late Friday, police said on Saturday.

The bus overloaded with 65 passengers fell from a narrow, winding road and landed about 100 meters below in Okhaldhunga district, about 120 kilometers southeast of Kathmandu, the district's

police chief Govinda Adhikari told Kyodo News by telephone.

"A preliminary investigation has shown that a mechanical fault in the steering wheel of the bus led to the accident," Adhikari said. Three people died on the spot while seven later succumbed to their injuries. Bus accidents in Nepal's mountainous areas are generally blamed on poorly maintained roads and vehicles.—Kyodo News

Volcano erupts in Indonesia, killing 14, injuring 3

JAKARTA, 2 Feb — At least 14 people were killed and three others injured after a volcano on Indonesia's Sumatra Island erupted on Saturday, a government official said.

Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman at the National Disaster Mitigation Agency, said Mt Sinabung in North Sumatra Province erupted three times, only a day after the authorities allowed villagers to return home.

"Most of the victims were senior high school students who were enjoying

the view of the volcano," Sutopo said, adding they were hit by hot clouds of gas that travelled down the volcano's slopes.

One of those killed was a journalist for a local newspaper in the North Sumatra provincial capital of Medan.

They were all in the village of Sukameriah, 3 kilometres from the crater, when the clouds of gas passed the village.

The Saturday eruptions spewed ash 2 kilometers into the air.

Kyodo News

Nepal's largest party expedites talks to form national unity government

KATHMANDU, 2 Feb — Nepal's largest party Nepali Congress (NC) has expedited talks with parties represented in the Constituent Assembly (CA) for the formation of the government under its leadership, party leaders said on Saturday.

NC, a centrist party, is saying that its first priority is formation of a national unity government which means forming the government on the basis of consensus among parties.

If the first attempt fails, the party plans to form a government under its leadership securing the majority votes in currently 575-members House.

Earlier, NC had dispatched a letter to 30 parties in the Parliament seeking requesting to support for the formation of the government.

"If we fail to form national unity government, we will expedite homework for the formation of majority government from House," NC President Sushil Koirala, who is also the party's prime ministerial candidate, told the press on Friday.

In Nepal, constitution has provided two ways for the formation of the government.

The article 38(1) has the provision of formation of national unity government, while article 38(2) has the provision of majority government.

The first provision provides right to president to form government, while the second option provides right to House if first option does not work.

Nepal is struggling to form an elected government that will replace the incumbent government led by the chief justice of the country

which was merely formed to hold the election on 13 March 2013. Government formation process began in Nepal after the first meeting of Parliament on 22 January.

The head of the state has provided a week for the formation of new government. The deadline provided by the head of the state will expire on Sunday.

If parties request the president to extend the deadline with a promise of forming a national unity government, he is likely to provide more times.

If parties fail to forge consensus, the president

will write to the CA to elect new prime minister from the House. Nepal held the second election to CA on 19 November last year which ended the political and constitutional crisis that emerged after the dissolution of CA in 2012.

The government formation process is delayed due to the dispute among the parties.

In 2008, it took four months for the formation of government due to the wrangling among the parties and many fear that same situation might be repeated this time around.

Xinhua



Children attend a kids' workshop during India Art Fair in New Delhi, on 1 Feb, 2014. India Art Fair, India's premier modern and contemporary art fair announces its 6th edition from 30 Jan to 2 Feb, 2014 in New Delhi. The Himalayas Art Museum in Shanghai, China, as part of a major delegation of Chinese collectors, attended the fair.
XINHUA

Florida reviews thousands of drug cases for possible evidence tampering

TALLAHASSEE, (Florida), 2 Feb — Florida's state police agency on Saturday announced a massive evidence review in thousands of drug cases handled by one crime-laboratory chemist, saying its findings could lead to some criminal cases being quashed and drug dealers set free.

The chemist is suspected of taking illegal drugs out of evidence storage and replacing them with over-the-counter medication, the agency said.

"It could be for personal use. It could be for trafficking. We don't know," Gerald Bailey, head of the Florida Department of Law

Enforcement (FDLE), said at a news conference.

Bailey declined to identify the FDLE chemist, who was ordered to take vacation and accrued compensatory leave time pending disposition of the case.

He said the man has hired an attorney and is not cooperating in the investigation. He said the chemist will be fired if a case is documented.

"We've identified nearly 2,600 cases spanning 35 counties that chemist processed between 2006 and the present day," Bailey said.

"So far, we've identified several dozen evidence

submissions where prescription drugs were substituted with over-the-counter medications. This has the potential of impacting hundreds of drug cases across our state."

Bailey said the investigation began when the Escambia County Sheriff's Office reported missing evidence in several drug cases last week.

Last Thursday, he said, it was determined that one chemist had handled laboratory submissions in which substances believed to be illegal drugs were replaced.

Bailey said there was no indication that the chemist was bribed to tamper



Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Gerald Bailey, with Assistant FDLE Commissioner Jim Madden (R), announces an investigation into evidence tampering that could affect hundreds of drug cases handled by a chemist in the Pensacola FDLE laboratory during a news conference in Tallahassee, Florida, on 1 Feb, 2014. —REUTERS

with evidence and get cases dismissed.

Bailey said he never would have suspected the man, hired in 2006, of any wrongdoing.

"This is a shock and a disappointment," he said.

"This individual would have been way down on my list of potential bad apples."

Reuters

Colombian Navy foils FARC bomb attack

BOGOTA, 2 Feb — Colombian Navy announced on Saturday that it foiled a bomb attack to be conducted by the rebel Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), after the institution seized 20 grenades in a rural area of the country's southwestern Narino department, where most of the rebel attacks are carried out.

"The grenades, which were hidden in a wood area of 'El Bajito' neighbourhood in Tumaco township, were spotted by troops of the Navy's anti drug trafficking task force and Police investigation officers, with the support of informants," the Navy said in a statement released.

According to authorities, the FARC's 'Daniel Aldana' mobile column intended to "conduct terrorist attacks against civilians and the security forces in the municipality of Tumaco."

Tumaco authorities have offered to pay a rewards of up to 10 million Colombian pesos (about 5,000 US dollars) for information leading to avoid the FARC attacks. Meanwhile, the seized grenades will be destroyed.

Xinhua



A vendor (L) prepares local snacks in Pichaiyuan Food Street in Qingdao City, east China's Shandong Province, on 1 Feb, 2014. —XINHUA

Flow of natural gas stopped at rig off Louisiana coast

HOUSTON, 2 Feb — The flow of natural gas has been stopped at a drilling rig off Louisiana's coast, authorities said on Saturday, after a blowout last week left gas escaping from an underwater well. The US Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) confirmed on Saturday that the flow of natural gas had been stopped by pumping weighted drilling fluids into the well.

The well is located in the Gulf of Mexico, about 170 km southwest of Lafayette, a major city in south Louisiana. BSEE said in a press release that while the flow has been stopped, there is still additional work required to secure the well, including setting up barriers to ensure no more natural gas is released. Barriers are also to ensure the safety of personnel during well operations.

BSEE will continue to review all procedures for efforts to secure the well, the

release said. The blowout happened Thursday morning when workers were drilling on the jack-up rig at the well site owned by EnVen Energy Ventures of Metairie. The rig was then evacuated and gas was diverted overboard as the crew worked to kill the well. No injuries were reported.

A platform that was producing oil and gas near the EnVen rig was shut down as a precaution. No visible sheen has been sighted and no pollution has reached the Gulf of Mexico, the company said.

Blowouts from wild natural gas wells are typically less of an environmental threat than offshore oil well blowouts like the one that led to the massive BP oil spill in April 2010, when BP's Deepwater Horizon drill platform caught fire and exploded, killing 11 workers and triggering one of the worst environmental disasters in the country.

Xinhua

Two students shot in apartment near Michigan State University campus

NEW YORK, 2 Feb — Two students were shot, and one was critically injured, on Friday evening inside their apartment complex near the campus of Michigan State University (MSU), police said.

The shooting happened at about 8:45 pm (0145 GMT) in East Lansing, a city in the upper Midwest state, a statement from East Lansing Police

Department said. The gunman, described as a black man in his 20s, was still at large, though police said the shooting at the Cedar Village student residential area did "not appear to be a random act".

"Upon arrival two victims had suffered gunshot wounds while inside their apartment," the statement said.

One of the two MSU

students had been treated at a local hospital and released.

"This is near but not on the MSU campus. There is no indication of immediate danger to the campus community," said MSU spokesman Kent Cassella.

US President Barack Obama is due to visit East Lansing on Friday, his first trip to Michigan since 2012, local media said. —Xinhua

UN chief, Security Council slam deadly car bombing in Lebanon

UNITED NATIONS, 2 Feb — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and the UN Security Council on Saturday strongly condemned a deadly car bombing in northeastern Lebanon, saying "the recent escalation in acts of terrorism and violence in Lebanon is of grave concern."

"The secretary-general strongly condemns the car bombing today in the area of Hermel in north-eastern Lebanon that has killed and wounded several people," said a statement issued here by Ban's spokesman.

"He extends his condolences to the families of the victims of this terrorist act. He hopes that the perpetrators of this crime and all other acts of terrorism will be brought to justice," the statement said.

A suicide car bombing hit a gas station in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa town of Hermel on Saturday,

leaving five people dead and 18 others injured. The al Nusra Front in Lebanon has claimed responsibility for the attack.

The al-Qaeda affiliated terrorist group, on its Twitter account, has also claimed responsibility for a number of other recent attacks targeting Shiite populated areas in Lebanon.

"The recent escalation in acts of terrorism and violence in Lebanon is of grave concern," Ban said in the statement. "The secretary-general reiterates his call on all Lebanese to rally behind their state institutions, including the army and security forces, as the best means to confront such unacceptable and indiscriminate actions and to safeguard their country's security and stability."

The Security Council also extended their condolences to the families of the victims and expressed their

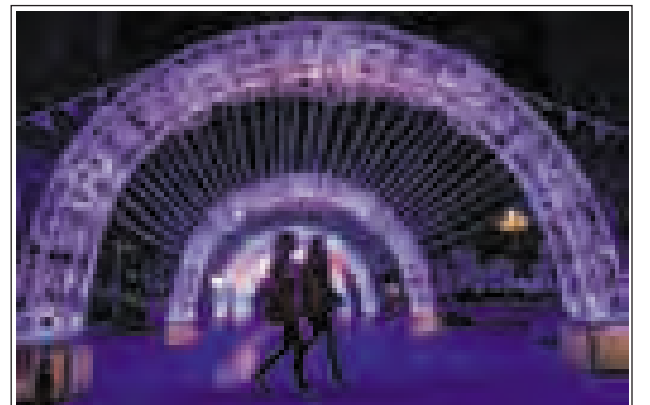
sympathy to all those injured in this heinous act and to the people and Government of Lebanon.

In a statement, the 15-member Security Council said, "Terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of

their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed."

"The members of the Security Council underlined the need to bring the perpetrators to justice," it added. Hermel, which is considered the heartland of Lebanon's Hezbollah movement, has been targeted recently by a wave of rocket attacks from Syria.

Xinhua



Visitors view at a lantern festival, marking the worship of the goddess Matsu, in Putian, southeast China's Fujian Province, on 31 Jan, 2014. —XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT

Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, Deepika Padukone on list of world's most beautiful women

NEW DELHI, 2 Feb — Bollywood actresses Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Deepika Padukone are among the World's 30 Most Beautiful Women of 2014 in a poll conducted by the website Hollywood-buzz. While Ash clinched the fourth position — after Italian actress Monica Bellucci, model Kate Upton and Hollywood star Angelina Jolie — Deepika ranked 29 on the list.

A statement from an elated Ash read, "The results of this poll by Hol-

lywood Buzz was brought to my notice in fact by my well-wishers whatsapping me, believe it or not, and I must admit it's overwhelming to hear that over 4 million people across the globe have voted and listed me amongst their top choices with such beautiful and talented women. I say a huge loving thank you to all my well-wishers (fans) for making me smile and always being there for me. More power to our love."

Ash and Deepika are the only Indian women to

figure in the list which consists largely of Hollywood names including actresses Charlize Theron, Amber Heard, and Jennifer Lawrence.

The list of 30 also includes musicians Beyonce, Katy Perry and Rihanna, with a sprinkling of models like Adriana Lima, Irina Shayk and Miranda Kerr.

The following are the names in the complete list:

1. Monica Bellucci
2. Kate Upton
3. Angelina Jolie
4. Aishwarya Rai

- Bachchan
5. Irina Shayk
6. Meryem Uzerli
7. Charlize Theron
8. Amber Heard
9. Rihanna
10. Scarlet Johansson
11. Megan Fox
12. Adriana Lima
13. Halle Berry
14. Eva Mendes
15. Miranda Kerr
16. Katy Perry
17. Amanda Seyfried
18. Olivia Wilde
19. Mila Kunis
20. Kristen Stewart
21. Kim Kardashian



Ash clinched the fourth position while Deepika stood at number 29 on the list.—PTI

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 22. Jennifer Lawrence | 27. Jessica Alba |
| 23. Taylor Swift | 28. Anne Hathaway |
| 24. Haifa Wehbe | 29. Deepika Padukone |
| 25. Beyonce | 30. Fan Bingbing |
| 26. Candice Swanepoel | |

PTI

Justin Bieber released after private jet searched for drugs

NEW YORK, 2 Feb — Canadian pop singer Justin Bieber was allowed re-entry into the United States on Friday after a brief detention during which US Customs officials used drug-sniffing dogs to search his private jet, according to a US law enforcement source briefed on the incident.

No illegal drugs were found on the plane and no charges were brought, but the young singer and his fellow passengers were questioned for several hours, said the source.

The search of the plane was undertaken after US customs officials believed they smelled marijuana on some of Bieber's entourage.

It was not immediately clear who or how many



Pop singer Justin Bieber arrives at a police station to face assault charges in Toronto in this file photo taken on 29 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

other passengers were on the plane that touched down at New Jersey's Teterboro Airport.

A Port Authority spokesman said his agency was notified at 8:20 pm local time (0120 GMT) that

Bieber had been released from US Customs, and had no further comment.

Earlier Friday, the Los Angeles County District Attorney's office charged a friend of Bieber's with drug possession in connection

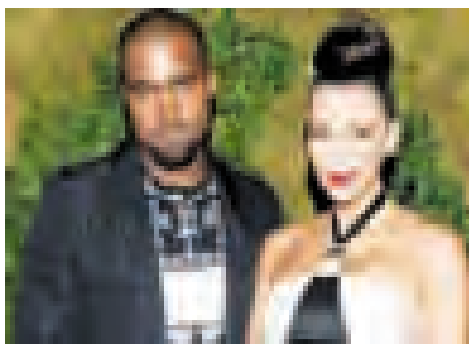
with a raid last month on the singer's home in Calabasas, California, about 30 miles northeast of Los Angeles.

Xavier Smith, 20, better known as rapper Lil Za, was charged with possession of MDMA and oxycodone and vandalizing the Los Angeles County Sheriff's jail where he was held, said Ricardo Santiago, a spokesman for the district attorney. Bieber, 19, was arrested last week in Miami Beach on charges of driving under the influence, resisting arrest and driving with an expired license.

The Canadian was also charged on Wednesday with assaulting a limousine driver in Toronto.

Reuters

The wedding would be shown on her reality series Keeping Up with the Kardashians.
PTI



Kim Kardashian, Kanye West's wedding to be televised

LOS ANGELES, 2 Feb — Socialite Kim Kardashian's much anticipated wedding to her rapper fiancé Kanye West will reportedly be televised and shown on her reality series Keeping Up With The Kardashians.

The 33-year-old socialite, who has a daughter North with West, apparently persuaded the rapper to televise their big day, reported Radar Online.

"Kim has always wanted to be a June bride and she is finally going to get her wish. Kim persuaded Kanye to let the cameras roll. They have

narrowed down the wedding location, which is being kept a secret at this point. It will be on the outskirts of Paris," a source said.

"They both have very high expectations for their wedding. It will be an over-the-top affair, and there will be pre-wedding festivities leading up to the big day for their guests. It'll be like a festival," the source added.

Kim was previously married to Damon Thomas and Kris Humphries. Her marriage to Humphries, which lasted only 72 days, was also televised.—PTI



Austrian actor and Academy award winner Maximilian Schell performs on stage during the Red Ribbon Celebration Concert ahead of the 20th Life Ball at Vienna's international Airport on 18 May, 2012.

REUTERS

Oscar winner Maximilian Schell dies aged 83

VIENNA, 2 Feb — Austrian actor Maximilian Schell, who won an Academy Award for his role as a German defence attorney in the acclaimed 1961 courtroom drama "Judgment at Nuremberg", has died at age 83.

The Vienna-born actor died overnight at a clinic in Innsbruck as the result of a "sudden and serious illness", his agent, Patricia Baumbauer, told the Austria Press Agency on Saturday.

One of the best known foreign actors in US films, Schell starred on stage and screen on both sides of the Atlantic after growing up in Switzerland, where his family settled to escape the Nazis after Germany's 1938 annexation of Austria.

The brother of actress Maria Schell, he also won a Golden Globe and New York Film Critics Circle award for his role in "Judgment at Nuremberg", which followed a television drama version of the play.

"Judgment at Nuremberg," directed by Stanley Kramer, was a dramatization of the war crimes trials in Germany that followed

World War Two. It focused on an international tribunal, headed by Americans, that was handling the trials of four German judges accused of knowingly condemning innocent men to death in concert with the Nazis.

For his portrayal of defence attorney Hans Rolfe, Schell earned broad international recognition. He was part of an all-star cast that also included Spencer Tracy, Burt Lancaster, Marlene Dietrich, Montgomery Clift, Richard Widmark and Judy Garland.

Schell won the Oscar for best actor, beating, among others, his co-star Tracy. The movie was nominated for 11 Oscars, including best picture, and won two Academy Awards.

Schell was nominated for two more Oscars, in 1976 for best actor for "The Man in the Glass Booth" and in 1978 as best supporting actor for "Julia".

Also a prolific television actor, Schell won the 1993 Golden Globe for best actor in a supporting role in the TV movie "Stalin" in which he co-starred with Robert Duval.—Reuters

Kareena Kapoor discusses social issues with former French First Lady

MUMBAI, 2 Feb — Bollywood actress Kareena Kapoor was present for a lunch affair with Valerie Trierweiler, the former First Lady of France. The two discussed issues related to young children and nursing mothers suffering from pneumonia, dysentery and malnutrition in Mumbai's slum areas.

Trierweiler, who is an active member of Action Contre La Faim — an international humanitarian organization committed to saving the lives of malnourished children — flew to India from Paris over the weekend.

She spoke about Fight Hunger Foundation, an NGO which promotes approaches to prevent acute malnutrition, over a private lunch where

Kareena was also present. "I am extremely glad and fortunate to be a part of this private lunch affair. All the women in this room are not just beautiful but powerful and successful as well," Kareena said in a statement.

The event was organised by lifestyle expert Chhaya Momaya. "Kareena epitomises the power of women today with her grace and beauty. With her honest commitment towards the cause she has taken up she can influence and empower the audience effortlessly," Chhaya Momaya said.—PTI

Kareena was present for a lunch affair with Valerie Trierweiler, the former First Lady of France.
PTI



SPORTS



Pedro Ciriaco (L) of Leones del Escogido tries to hit the ball during the sixth game of winter baseball series against Tigres del Licey held at Quisqueya Stadium in Santo Domingo City, Dominican Republic, on 26 Jan, 2014. Leones del Escogido and Tigres del Licey vie for the pass for Caribbean Series 2014, that will be held in Venezuela.—XINHUA

Manning wins fifth MVP award, Super Bowl beckons

NEW YORK, 2 Feb — Peyton Manning claimed a fifth National Football League most valuable player award on Saturday but the Denver Broncos quarterback will need another Super Bowl ring to cement his place among the all-time greats.

Manning, who will lead the Broncos against the Seattle Seahawks in the Super Bowl on Sunday, was the clear favourite in the MVP race after he set single season marks for touchdown passes (55) and yards (5,477).

Manning, who had neck surgery in 2011 and missed the entire season before being released by Indianapolis and signed by Denver in 2012, also won the award in 2009, 2008, 2004 and shared it with Ste-

ve McNair in 2003.

No one other than Manning had won MVP honors four-times and only quarterbacks Johnny Unitas, Brett Favre and running back Jim Brown have captured the award three occa-

sions.

Manning was not on hand to accept the award at New York's Radio City Music Hall leaving that duty to his son Marshall and father Archie, a former New Orleans Saints quar-



Former NFL quarterback Archie Manning (C) accepts the NFL MVP award for his son Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning with Peyton's son Marshall as Joe Montana (R) holds the award during the NFL Honors award show in New York on 1 Feb, 2014.

REUTERS

Silver takes over as commissioner from Stern

TORONTO, 2 Feb — A new era began for the National Basketball Association (NBA) on Saturday when David Stern's 30-year run as commissioner ended with his deputy, Adam Silver, taking over the helm. Stern had stated in October 2012 his intention to retire after exactly 30 years in charge and the league's owners unanimously approved Silver as his successor.

The handover was officially confirmed by the NBA on its Twitter account on Saturday with a picture of Silver, holding a basketball, shaking hands with Stern, who is the league's longest-serving commissioner. Above the photo-

graph, a caption read: "It's official: Adam Silver succeeds David Stern as #NBA Commissioner."

The league will now begin using game balls bearing Silver's signature.

Stern, 71, said in a statement: "It is a source of great satisfaction to me that the NBA will now be led by commissioner Adam Silver, for whom I have tremendous admiration, respect and expectations as he and his experienced and dedicated team take the NBA to successes that were unimaginable even a short while ago."

Stern had presided over a period of expansion and growth for the NBA, both domestically and internationally, and in 2011 he

concluded a new Collective Bargaining Agreement with players after a five-month lockout. During his tenure, six NBA franchises were relocated (Clippers, Kings,

Grizzlies, Nets, Hornets and Sonics) while seven new teams were brought in (Hornets, Timberwolves, Heat, Magic, Grizzlies, Raptors and Bobcats).—Reuters



Deputy NBA commissioner Adam Silver speaks during an announcement that the Toronto Raptors will host the 2016 NBA All-Star game in Toronto, on 30 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

Japan posts historic Davis Cup win

TOKYO, 2 Feb — Japan made Davis Cup history as it clinched its World Group first-round against Canada on Sunday, advancing to the quarterfinals for the first time since the current WG structure started in 1981.

Victory was sealed when Frank Dancevic was forced to retire from his reverse singles match against Japanese ace Kei Nishikori due to injury. That gave the host an insurmountable 3-1 lead and Go Soeda finished the job in the last singles rubber with a 6-1, 6-4 win over Peter Polansky.

World No 18 Nishikori was leading 6-2, 1-0 at Ariake Colosseum when the match was halted. Dancevic took a medical timeout but

was unable to continue due to abdominal pain.

Nishikori and Yasutaka Uchiyama had given Japan a 2-1 lead with victory in the doubles on Saturday.

Japan beat Colombia 3-2 last September to return

to the World Group following a one-year absence. It will play either the Czech Republic, which is chasing a third straight title, or the Netherlands in the 4-6 April quarterfinals.

Kyodo News



Kei Nishikori (front) and Yasutaka Uchiyama of Japan play doubles against Daniel Nestor and Frank Dancevic of Canada in a Davis Cup World Group first-round match at Tokyo's Ariake Colosseum on Feb. 1, 2014. Nishikori and Uchiyama won 6-3, 7-6(3), 4-6, 6-4.

KYODO NEWS

Lin's career triple-double helps Rockets rout Cavaliers

HOUSTON, 2 Feb — Jeremy Lin had his first career triple-double while playing off bench for the Houston Rockets in an easy 106-92 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Saturday night at Toyota Centre.

The Rockets built a big early lead in the first half, leading by as many as 19 points before the Cavaliers opened the second half with an 11-0 run to overtake the host team. Rockets coach Kevin McHale then dramatically changed the lineup. Jeremy Lin came in for Chandler Parsons, sharing the backcourt with Pat Beverley with James Harden moving to small forward.

The strategy worked. Rockets rolled again, with

Lin chasing a triple double, Beverley putting his finger prints all over the game, and Harden and Howard scoring reliably throughout. They didn't relent in crushing Cleveland's resistance and hold on to the victory.

Lin played off bench with 15 points, 11 rebounds and 10 assists, the first triple-double of his career and also the Rockets' first this season. Howard finished with 26 points and Harden returned after two games out with a sprained thumb to score 28 points. Luol Deng had 24 points and Kyrie Irving added 21 with seven assists for. With the win, Houston has improved to 32-17 on the season. Cleveland is 16-31.—Xinhua

Vos claims her seventh world title cyclocross

THE HAGUE, 2 Feb — Marianne Vos became world champion cyclocross for the seventh time overall and for the sixth consecutive time in Hoogerheide, the Netherlands, on Saturday.

Vos drove away from her rivals in the opening round, after which she continued solo to claim the title in spectacular fashion. The Italian Eva Lechner finished second over one minute behind the winner and Helen Wyman from Great Britain grabbed a bronze medal.

Vos was beaten a few

times this season by Katherine Compton, but partly due to bad luck and an accident early in the race the American finished ninth.

"I was quite nervous beforehand," said Vos afterwards to Dutch broadcaster NOS. "The conditions were tough, so I hoped I could deal with it. Especially in the beginning of the race it was difficult, but after one round I found my rhythm. It's great to win here in the Netherlands. The spectators were fantastic, they constantly shouted my name."—Xinhua

GENERAL



Members of Syrian Red Crescent help people evacuate the trapped Yarmouk camp in Damascus, Syria, on 1 Feb, 2014. UNRWA Spokesperson Chris Gunness said in a statement that some 2,000 food parcels have been distributed to the camp and 1,000 others will be distributed on Saturday. The Yarmouk camp is a large district in southern Damascus that houses around one million people, only 170,000 of them are Palestinians. It was overrun by the rebels last year. The government troops struck a siege around the camp to push the rebels out, accusing them of using civilians as human shields. Currently there are 20,000 Palestinians and 10,000 Syrians trapped inside the camp.

XINHUA

Khartoum suspends ICRC activities in Sudan

KHARTOUM, 2 Feb — The International Committee of the Red Cross said Saturday it was notified by the Sudanese authorities to suspend its activities in Sudan. "The ICRC has received a letter from the Sudanese Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) asking the organization to suspend all its activities in Sudan as of 1 February," an ICRC source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

"Accordingly, we have suspended our activities," the source added, noting that the reason behind the suspension was relating to the ICRC work plan for 2014. He further said that the ICRC embarked on dialogue with the HAC to find a solution for the difference.—*Xinhua*

Lithuania assumes rotating UN Security Council presidency for February

UNITED NATIONS, 2 Feb — Lithuania on Saturday assumed the rotating presidency of the UN Security Council for February. Raimonda Murmokaite, Lithuanian Permanent Representative to the United Nations, took over the role from Jordanian representative Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zedi Al-Husseini.

The European country was elected by the General Assembly as a non-permanent member to the most powerful UN body for the 2014-2015 term. During its presidency, Lithuania will focus on the protection of civilians in conflict situations and the rule of law.

The UN Security Council is composed of

five permanent members - China, the United States, Britain, France, and Russia - and 10 non-permanent members.

The presidency of the council rotates among countries on a monthly basis according to the English-language alphabetical order of the countries' names.

XINHUA

MYANMAR TV

(3-2-2014, Monday)

6:00 am	3:15 pm
1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	19. Myanmar Movies (Part-2)
6:25 am	3:30 pm
2. Physical Exercises	20. Teleplay (Traffic)
6:35 am	4:00 pm
3. Nice & Sweet Song	21. News
6:50 am	4:15 pm
4. Documentary	22. 2014 University Entrance Examination (Maths)
7:00 am	4:40 pm
5. News/Weather Report	23. 67 th Anniversary Union Day Programme
7:25 am	5:00 pm
6. People Talks	24. News
7:35 am	5:15 pm
7. Teleplay (Health)	25. Early TV Melodies
8:00 am	5:30 pm
8. News/ International News	26. India Drama Series
8:25 am	6:00 pm
9. 67 th Anniversary Union Day Programme	27. News/Weather Report
8:40 am	6:20 pm
10. Documentary (ASEAN)	28. Documentary
9:00 am	6:40 pm
11. News/ International News	29. TV Drama Series
9:25 am	7:00 pm
12. Cartoon Series	30. News
10:00 am	7:25 pm
13. News	31. TV Drama Series
10:15 am	8:00 pm
14. Weekly Entertainment	32. News/International News/Weather Report
11:15 am	8:30 pm
15. New Melody	33. Documentary
12:00 pm	8:40 pm
16. News/International News/Weather Report	34. People Talks
12:25 pm	8:45 pm
17. Myanmar Movies (Part-1)	35. Documentary
3:00 pm	9:00 pm
18. News	36. News
	37. Documentary
	38. TV Drama Series

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

3-2-14 07:00 am ~ 4-2-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Myanmar Traditional Instruments "Myanma Drum"
- * World News
- * Goldsmith
- * Local News
- * Secret Places For Yummy Food (EP-7) (Aung Thu Kha Myanmar Rice Meal)
- * World News
- * Parents Day
- * Local News
- * Sittway, Evergreen Seaside Town
- * World News
- * Green Grocer
- * Local News
- * Paper Products... Plain but Pretty
- * World News
- * Myanmar Puppet
- * Local News
- * Journey To Unimaginable Spots (Ep-1)
- * World News
- * Tea
- * Local News
- * The Man and The Elephant (Part-I)
- * World News
- * Traditional Snacks
- * Local News
- * The Richly Blessed Gem Land
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movie Review "Be the Right Heir"
- * Local News
- * Myanma Pottery
- * World News
- * Myanmar Master Class "Still Life (Fruit)"

Mini-Olympics in village in Punjab brings simple fun to rural folk

KILA RAIPUR, (Punjab), India, 2 Feb — These days, the village of Kila Raipur, half an hour drive from Ludhiana city in northern Indian city of Punjab, is abuzz with traditional sports activities as part of what has been dubbed by the local media as a mini-Olympic festival.

Every year the villagers assemble in the stadium for the three-day festival to watch games including the typical rural ones -- bullock cart and dog racing.

The popularity of Punjab's rural Olympics has been growing with every passing year. Even players from foreign countries have participated in traditional games.

The sporting activities are held inside a stadium built in the middle of a vast expanse of wheat and sugarcane fields.

The athletes, mostly Jat Sikh villagers from neighboring places, took part in the activities and displayed their skills.

In gentle February sun the athletes run to cheering applause from crowds and rip-roaring commentary in chaste Punjabi language.

Riding two speedy horses at the same time, displaying stunts on a running bicycle and lifting of pegs on spears by galloping horsemen were among the sports activities that often leave spectators in the stadium gaping and some of them shouting on the top of

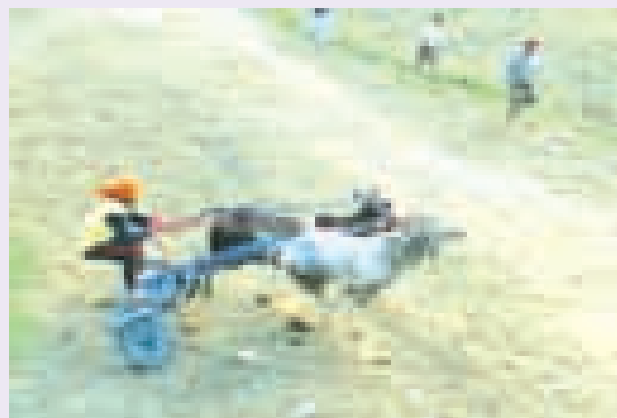
their lungs.

The bullock cart owners in the audience also shouted calling on their mules to run faster and outsmart the other cart riders. Early in the morning, the owners ferried their decorated mules and dogs in tractors and other vehicles to the stadium.

The mules from one village have to compete with others from neighboring villages. Dog races should also follow the same arrangement.

School children donning uniforms took part in hockey matches and race. Elderly residents showed acrobatics and other manly sports.

While hockey matches and race competition were



An Indian villager drives his bulls during the rural sports festival, also known as the "Indian Rural Olympics" in Kila Raipur, north India, on 31 Jan, 2013. The three-day sports festival features major Punjabi rural sports including Bullock cart race, tug-of-war, Kabbadi, horse race, and dog race.—XINHUA

staged simultaneously, for bullock cart and dog races the arena would have to be cleared.

For local villagers the assortment of rural games gives them a respite from days of back-breaking toil

in the fields.

"I have brought two mules for the competition and have been coming here for the past six years," said Jasmaer Singh, a 55-year-old villager from village Sangoor. "It's lots of fun here."

The Grewal clan inhabiting the village Kila Raipur is organizing the games and keeping the spirit of these Olympics-style games alive.

"This is the 78th edition of the Kila Raipur festival," said Jagbir Grewal, organizer of Kila Raipur sports festival. "It has been going on since 1933 and our aim is to promote sportsmanship among the rural populace."

XINHUA

Cultural troupes of States, Regions arrive in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Feb—Members of cultural troupes from States and Regions arrived at No. 7 Transit Centre (Ywataw) to perform entertainment featuring traditional dances in commemoration of the 67th Anniversary Union Day.

They were welcomed by Chairperson of Dinner and Entertainment Event Subcommittee Deputy Minister for Culture Daw Sanda Khin and the staff of Department of Fine Arts under the Ministry of Culture.

The cultural troupe members of Mon, Kachin, Rakhine, Shan and Chin States and Magway Region arrived today and those of Kayah and Kayin States and Taninthayi Region also arrived here yesterday.—MNA



Cultural troupe from Shan State arrives
Nay Pyi Taw.
MNA

Significant night temperature (2-2-2014)

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

Suthep threatens to take legal action against Yingluck



Thailand caretaker Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra (R) casts her vote at a polling station near her residence in Bangkok, capital of Thailand, on 2 Feb 2014.—XINHUA

BANGKOK, 2 Feb—Top leader of anti-government protesters Suthep Thaugsuban threatened Sunday to sue Thai caretaker premier Yingluck Shinawatra for financial wasting in holding the general election.

Secretary General of the People's Democratic Reform Committee (PDRC) from a stage in Lumpini in capital Bangkok blamed Yingluck's cabinet on wasting some 3.8 billion baht (117.7 million US dollars) tax spending after "failing to hold a successful general election". Suthep said the Election Commission (EC) would not be able to announce the result because of the very low voter turnout, reported the Bangkok

Post newspaper.

Anti-government protesters tried to prevent the delivery of ballots to polling stations by blocking roads.

Around 12 million out of a total of 48.77 million eligible voters in Thailand failed to exercise their voting rights during Sunday's general election, which concluded at 3 pm local time, local media reported.

The result of the election will not be announced Sunday. It will be sent to the Election Commission (EC) and be released after the finish of by-elections for advance voting and in blocked polling stations, which is scheduled to be held on 23 February.

Xinhua

Myanmar Microfinance Bank (Parami Branch) opened

YANGON, 2 Feb—Myanmar Microfinance Bank opened its branch on Parami Road, South Okkalapa Township, here, today.

Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan, Yangon Region Chief Min-

ister U Myint Swe, Deputy Minister Dr Maung Maung Thein and Chairman U Khin Maung Aye of MMB cut the ribbon to open the bank.

MMB is giving various banking services to the customers.—MNA

Stimulant tablets worth over K 210 million seized in Sittway

SITTWAY, 2 Feb—Stimulant tablets worth K 211.470 million were seized in Sittway today.

Following a tip-off, members of Special Anti-drug Squad (Sittway) together with witness searched U Than Hlaing's luggage and seized 70,000 stimulant tablets in seven packages, a handset and K 50,000 on Danyawady (2) ship at the jetty of Inland Water Transport in Sittway.

Further investigation disclosed that owner of the seized tablets was Maung

Soe Hlaing, 26 of Kyaungkyi Street Ward in Sittway.

After searching the house of Maung Soe Hlaing, the squad led by Commander of Sittway District Police Force Police Lt-Col Thit Hsan arrested suspects Maung Soe Hlaing and Maung Maung Htwe (a) Tu Tu along with 490 stimulant tablets, K 800,000 and three motorbikes in the presence of witnesses. Action is being taken against the suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Rakhine State IPRD

Dredger makes proper flow of water course in Chindwin River

Chindwin River is the main artery in Sagaing and Magway regions for waterway transport of the local people.

Whenever summer falls, ships cannot dock at jetty of Mingin of Kalay District in Sagaing Region due to silting Chindwin River. As the ships anchor at Taungyataw stream of Mingin and Pahtolon Village downstream of it, the local passengers face many difficulties in waterway

transportation.

To be able to over these difficulties, Directorate of Water Resources Utilization and Improvement of River Systems launched the dredging of silt in water course of Chindwin River as of 7 November 2013 spending the fund of the Union.

It is the largest dredger across the nation. Its operation in Chindwin River is the first of all in Chindwin River. Dredging of sand-

bank in the river will make proper waterway for inland water transport, and the local people are pleased for the efforts of dredging. Thanks to the dredging, the vessels can dock at the jetty in Mingin.

Chairman of Kalay District Management Committee U Maung Htoo together with the chairman of Mingin Township Management Committee and members of Township Development Supportive

Committee on 30 January inspected dredging of sandbank in the river.

So far, the dredger has implemented dredging the 122,844 cubic metres area of the sandbank out of 135,933 cubic metres, accounting for 90.4 per cent.

In March 2014, the dredging tasks will be completed, said Junior Engineer Sai Yu Zaw.

Kyemon: 2-2-2014

Trs: TTA

By: Joe Net

