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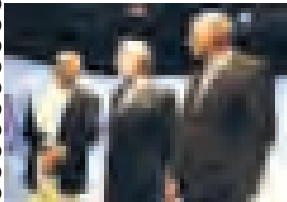


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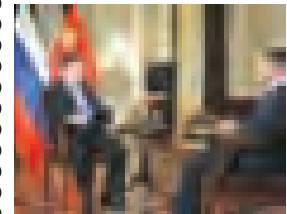
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NAY PYI TAW, 9 Feb—

At the invitation of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win, a goodwill delegation led by President Mr Joachim Gauck of the Federal Republic of Germany and Mrs Daniela Schadt arrived in Yangon by special flight this afternoon.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, the German Ambassador to Myanmar and officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The goodwill delegation visited Shwedagon Pagoda in the evening, and they were welcomed by member of the pagoda board of trustees Dr Tin Thein Lwin and party.

The German President and party signed the visitors' book after visiting the Gold Zedi at the prayer hall on the platform of the pagoda.

The German guests offered flowers and lights to the Buddha Image and went round the pagoda.

MNA

German President and party visit Shwedagon Pagoda



President Mr Joachim Gauck of the Federal Republic of Germany and Mrs Daniela Schadt visiting Shwedagon Pagoda.—MNA

Vice-Senior General Soe Win leaves for Singapore

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Feb—Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and party left Yangon for Singapore by

air this morning at the invitation of Chief of Singaporean Army Major General Ravinder Singh.

Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Hsan Oo, Commander of

Ayeyawady Naval Region Command Commodore Maung Oo Lwin, senior military officers and officials saw off the goodwill delegation at the Yangon International Airport.

The Vice-Senior General was accompanied by Commander of Mingaladon Airbase Brig-Gen Thein Naing, Brig-Gen Myint Nwe of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief

(Army) and senior military officers.

During the three-day visit from 9 to 12 February, they will also attend the Singapore Air Show 2014 in Singapore.—MNA

Land plot price hiking in Bagan-NyaungU

By: NLM-018



NyaungU, a district level town, constituted with 219 villages from 74 village-tracts and seven wards including Bagan, is home to over 300,000 people.

The government designated the year of 2006 as tourism year. As hotels were built in Bagan-NyaungU for accommodation of tourists, prices of land plots have been raising year by year.

At present, restaurants, hotels, motels, Inns and lodgings are mushrooming in the area from the exit of NyaungU to Wetgyi Lake and at the entrance to Bagan. Hotels and motels have taken places at new Bagan town. The farmlands along NyaungU-

Kyaukpadaung Road have been put under hotels. The land plots on both sides of Kyaukpadaung road can be sold at best prices.

Land plots in downtown NyaungU increase to hundreds of million kyats from K 40-50 million. A total of 77 hotels in Bagan-NyaungU have over 2350 rooms. As these hotels could not give enough accommodation to visitors, Bagan-NyaungU has opened hotel zones to build zone (1) near Myingabar Village, zone (2) near Lawkananda river water pump station, zone (3) three miles from NyaungU and zone (4) beside Bagan-Chauk Road. On completion, there

will be over 40 more hotel rooms.

In 2013, a total of 115,684 globetrotters visited Bagan-NyaungU although number of tourists hit 80410 in 2007. Over 60 members of Tourist Police Department of Myanmar Police Force are taking out security duty for visits of foreigners in the region.

As latest information, one land plot was sold at K 800 million at the exit of NyaungU in December 2013. At present, land plot trading is surging day by day in Bagan-NyaungU while hotels and tourism industry is booming in the region.

Trs: TTA

Animal vaccination course conducted in Dawei

DAWEI, 9 Feb—The animal vaccination course concluded at the office of Taninthayi Region Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in South Nyaungyan Ward of Dawei on 7 February.

Head of the region department Dr Khin Maung made a speech, and Head of Dawei District LBVD Dr Tin Htay explained the purpose of the training course.

The training course was conducted for the daily wage workers to take

practical works from 3 to 7 February.

The trainees took practical works at cow farm of No 8 Operations Control Command in Dawei and cow farms in Sakhangyi Village of Launglon Township to inject the farming cattle and pigs for prevention of animal diseases.

At the course, officials of Dawei District, Dawei Township and Launglon Township departments gave training to the trainees.

MMAL-Region IPRD

New cables installed for full supply of electricity

MYEIK, 9 Feb—The old lamp-posts and old power lines were substituted with new ones along Myeik-Kyweku road in Kanphya Ward and other urban wards, Sandawut Village-tract and Kyaukphyutaung Village in Myeik of Taninthayi Region on 7 January morning.

The electrician of Township Electricity Supply Enterprise carried out the substitution of the power lines to minimize the loss of electricity and to enable the local people to enjoy full consumption of electricity and to be free from danger of electricity.

MMAL-Moe Hein (Myeik)



Damaged road upgraded to asphalt facility in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 9 Feb—Pyidawtha-Pintale-Thaphan Road built in AFPFL Government era had been in poor condition for over 30 years. It passed Wundwin and Meiktila townships of Meiktila District.

Local people from Pintale used the road daily to go to shopping in Meiktila. In the past, both local people and drivers faced difficulties in their trip along Pintale-Meiktila Road.

Rural Development Department spent a large sum of fund on repaving Pintale-Meiktila-Pyidawtha Road.

The department has spent K 659.75 million on 13 miles long Pintale of Wundwin Township to Thaphan Village of Meiktila Township as

of December 2013. In addition, the department also spent K 117 million on four miles long road section to Thaphan Village of Meiktila and K 71 million on tarmacking the Meiktila-Thaphan-Pintale Road.

On completion, the Pintale-Thaphan-Meiktila Road will be better transport facility for the local people.



Sugarcane plantation on model plot harvested in Taunggyi Tsp



Photo shows harvesting of sugarcane plantation in Taunglaylon Village-tract of Taunggyi Township.

TAUNGGYI, 9 Feb—The harvesting of sugarcane plantation was harvested at the farm of U Aung Kyaing in Taunglaylon Village-tract of Taunggyi Township, southern Shan State, on 6 February morning.

The plantation was cultivated by Industrial Crops Development Department in Taunggyi Township through good agricultural pattern.

Before harvesting, Head of Township Industrial Crops

Development Department U Tun Hla explained the advantages of the GAP.

Head of District Department U Myint Thein

and sugarcane crops section in-charge U Mya Win replied to queries raised by local farmers.

They participated in

the harvesting of sugarcane plants on five acres of land that produced 54.10 tons per acre.—MMAL-Naing Win Tun (Danumyay)

Development

Floating recreation centre built at Mingala Lake in Myeik



Floating recreation centre in Mingala Lake in Myeik.

MYEIK, 9 Feb—Mingala Kandawgyi Lake, 1600 feet long and 750 feet wide, is located in Myitnge Ward of Myeik in Taninthayi Region.

A bridge was built crossing the lake from the east to the west in 2002. Now,

the bridge was damaged due to weeds. At present, Township Development Affairs Committee cleared the weeds from the lake and maintained the bund of the lake with the use of heavy machinery.

A concrete road, 12 feet wide and 1500 feet long, was constructed on the bund.

In addition, the floating recreation centre is kept open at the lake and the bund is facilitated with park for relaxation of the people young and old.

MMAL-Moe Hein (Myeik)

Photo shows progress

in repaving of

Thaphan-Pintale road

in Meiktila Township.

WORLD

Kosovo's head of university quits after violent protests

PRISTINA, 9 Feb — The rector of Kosovo's state university Ibrahim Gashi resigned on Saturday following protests by students over reports their professors had forged academic works.

Some 30 police officers and dozens of other students were injured on Friday during clashes. More than 30 students and other members of civil society and opposition political parties were arrested.

The protests started when a flurry of reports in the Kosovo media accused professors at the university of publishing works in fake online journals in order to further their academic credentials.

"I hope that my resignation will start the normalization of work at UP (University of Pristina)," Gashi said. "I am aware that this situation is created from a group of students instrumented and politicized by some NGOs and political parties."

The controversy has struck a nerve in Kosovo, where corruption is rife and the education system is widely regarded as politicized and of poor quality.

Reuters

Iran says warships sailing towards US

DUBAI, 9 Feb — An Iranian naval officer said a number of warships had been ordered to approach US maritime borders as a response to the stationing of US vessels in the Gulf, the semi-official *Fars* news agency reported on Saturday.

"Iran's military fleet is approaching the United States' maritime borders, and this move has a message," the agency quoted Admiral Afshin Rezayee Haddad as saying.

Haddad, described as commander of the Iranian navy's northern fleet, said the vessels had started their voyage towards the Atlantic Ocean via "waters near South Africa", *Fars* reported.

Fars said the plan was part of "Iran's response to Washington's beefed up naval presence in the Persian Gulf."

The *Fars* report, which



Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida (L) speaks during a joint press conference with US Secretary of State John Kerry (R) at the State Department in Washington on 7 Feb, 2014, after their talks. They agreed to work closely to address the Japan-China territorial issue over uninhabited islets in the East China Sea.

KYODO NEWS

3 people injured in bomb attacks as protests continue in Bangkok

BANGKOK, 9 Feb — At least three protesters were injured on Saturday in separate bomb attacks at one of the protest sites in Bangkok, reports said.

An attack from an M-79 grenade launcher occurred in the evening at one of the antigovernment protest sites located on Chaeng Wattana road in northern Bangkok, injuring two protesters, one seriously. The site was also attacked earlier Saturday morning, injuring one protester.

At least 10 people have

been killed and 600 injured in gunfire and bomb attacks since political violence erupted last November after the lower house of parliament passed an amnesty bill that appeared to be aimed at benefiting ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra. The bill was later voted down in the Senate.

The protesters are demanding that Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra and her caretaker government step down, but she has refused to do so.

Kyodo News

Syrian chemical weapons stalling tests limits of US-Russian deal

THE HAGUE, 9 Feb — At a closed door meeting, Western governments led by the United States took Syria to task for failing to surrender its chemical weapons under ambitious deadlines agreed with Russia after a poison gas attack in August.

Speaker after speaker stood up to berate Damascus at the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemi-

cal Weapons (OPCW), until it came to Russia's turn and Moscow took a much more lenient view — the international split over Syria writ large.

Russia defended President Bashar al-Assad and said his government needed more time to ship the chemicals safely through territory where it is fighting rebels.

Syria missed a first

deadline to give up the most dangerous toxins on 31 December and another cut-off date passed on Wednesday, when it was due to hand over all the remaining critical chemical materials.

The success of the destruction programme, now also at risk of missing the final 30 June deadline, is in the interests of both powers, but the confrontation

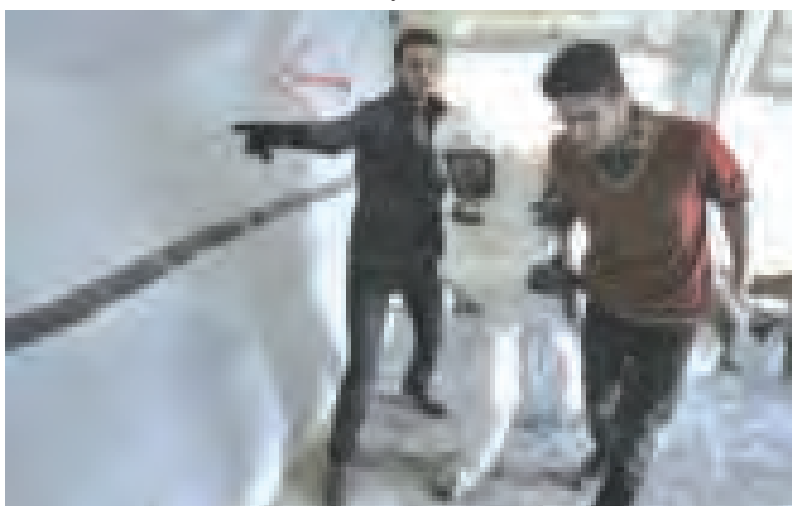
The \$22 billion ex-



Delwar Hossain, owner of the Tazreen Fashions garment factory, where 112 workers died in a devastating fire last month, speaks during an interview at the office of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BGMEA) in Dhaka on 29 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

port industry, which supplies many Western brands, came under scrutiny when a building housing factories collapsed in April, five months after the Tazreen fire, killing more than 1,130 people.

The owner of that building that collapsed, Mohammed Sohel Rana, was arrested after a four-day hunt as he appeared to be trying to flee across the border to India. After the Tazreen blaze, both Wal-Mart Stores Inc WMT.N and Sears Holdings Inc said that goods were being manufactured for them at the factory though both had denied it authorization as a supplier.—MNA/Reuters



A Free Syrian Army medical group conducts a training on how to cope with chemical weapons attacks in Aleppo on 25 Dec, 2013. REUTERS

in The Hague on 30 January exposed a deep division between Moscow and Washington over how to respond to Syria's lack of progress.

The US-Russian clash also bodes poorly for a broader Moscow-Washington partnership that is seen as critical to resolving other major foreign policy challenges, from Iran's nuclear programme to the Geneva peace talks for Syria, which are set to resume on Monday. Further bad feeling was aroused by a leaked phone conversation about Ukraine between US officials.

Even with the latest setback, the agreement to destroy Syria's chemical stockpile that averted a US-led military strike and led to a Nobel Peace Prize for the OPCW, can still be pulled off, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon has said.—Reuters

Putin to visit Japan in fall as Abe aims to enhance dialogue

SOCHI, (Russia), 9 Feb — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Saturday that Russian President Vladimir Putin will visit Japan in the fall, as the two countries try to resolve a territorial dispute that has prevented them from signing a peace treaty following World War II.

The announcement came after the leaders met earlier in the day in Sochi, Russia, where Abe attended the opening ceremony of

the Winter Olympics on Friday in the absence of US and many European leaders in protest at Russia's handling of human rights issues.

"We agreed that President Putin will visit Japan this fall," Abe said at a Press conference following the meeting. Russia's news agency Interfax reported that Putin's visit is possible in October or November, citing the president's spokesperson.

"Japan and Russia must address difficult problems as soon as possible and conclude a peace treaty," Abe told the news conference, referring to the long-standing territorial dispute over the four Russian-administered islands off Hokkaido. The issue "should never be left to the next generations."

Abe and Putin agreed their countries should accelerate bilateral talks on the issue, Japanese offi-

cials said. Tokyo hopes the planned visit by Putin will help give momentum to the negotiations as the two sides remain unable to narrow their differences significantly despite repeated contacts over the past year.

Abe also said he wants to hold talks with Putin in June, when Russia will host a summit of the Group of Eight nations in Sochi.

The latest meeting in the Black Sea resort was their fifth in a year. Putin



Russian President Vladimir Putin (L) and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shake hands in Sochi, Russia, on 8 Feb, 2014, prior to their talks. Abe attended the on 7 February opening ceremony for the Sochi Winter Olympics. KYODO NEWS

hailed the recent increase in trade between Japan and Russia. "We have seen a good environment be created that could help resolve

the most difficult problem in bilateral relations," he said at the beginning of the meeting, which was open to the press.—Kyodo News

Afghan presidential runners promise economic, political stability



Presidential candidates Abdul Qayum Karzai (R), Abdullah Abdullah (C) and Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai take part in a debate at a television channel, TV1, in Kabul, Afghanistan on 8 Feb, 2014. Three candidates running to secure Afghanistan's top slot in the April presidential elections promised in a televised debate Saturday evening to revive the country's impoverished economy and bring about stability. —XINHUA

KABUL, 9 Feb — Three candidates running to secure Afghanistan's top slot in the April presidential elections promised in a televised debate on Saturday evening to revive the

country's impoverished economy and bring about stability.

Organized by a private television channel, TV1, all the trio hosted in the studio described reviving the

economy and political stability as their prime objectives.

Former foreign minister and top challenger to President Hamid Karzai in 2009 presidential elections Abdullah Abdullah, former finance minister Ashraf Ghani Ahmadzai and Abdul Qayum Karzai, the elder brother of serving President Karzai, attended the debate.

They all vowed to better the living conditions of war-weary Afghans by improving the economy and bringing about durable peace and stability in the country, while strengthening Afghanistan's relations with the neighbouring states and the international community if they win the coming presidential polls slated for 5 April this year.

Eleven politicians are contesting to succeed incumbent President Karzai and lead the country for the next five years.—Xinhua

Taleban negotiators leave capital to meet leaders on peace talks

ISLAMABAD, 9 Feb — A senior member of the Pakistani Taliban dialogue committee and a religious leader Saturday flew to North Waziristan tribal region for talks with Taliban leaders on taking the peace process forward, sources privy to the religious leaders said.

Professor Mohammad Ibrahim, leader of Jamaat-e-Islami, and Maulana Yousaf Shah, who is representing the committee's chief Maulana Sami-ul-Haq, met the Taliban representatives at an undisclosed location near Miranshah, administrative headquarters of North Waziristan border-

ing Afghanistan.

The committee will apprise the Taliban leaders of the talks with the government's negotiators and will listen to what they suggest to take the dialogue process forward, a source close to the Taliban committee said.

Sources said the government had provided a helicopter to the Taliban committee members to take them to North Waziristan.

In the first round of talks between the government-nominated team of negotiators and Taliban-nominated intermediaries on Thursday, it was proposed that talks will be held

within the parameters of the Constitution.

The four-member committee appointed by the government comprises Adviser to the Prime Minister on National Affairs Irfan Siddiqui, former intelligence officer Muhammad Amir, senior journalist Rahimullah Yousufzai and former Pakistan ambassador to Afghanistan Rustam Shah Mohmand.

The three-member committee named by the TTP includes Professor Mohammad Ibrahim, religious leader Maulana Sami-ul-Haq and Maulana Abdul Aziz.

Xinhua

Five die, over 600 injured as heavy snow hits eastern Japan

TOKYO, 9 Feb — Heavy snow hit eastern Japan on Saturday, disrupting transportation systems and leaving five people dead and over 600 people injured in snow-related accidents, a Kyodo News tally showed.

The Japan Meteorological Agency issued the first heavy snowfall warning for central Tokyo in 13 years. Snow accumulation reached 27 centimetres there, the heaviest snow in the Japanese capital since February 1994 and the fourth largest snowfall since World War II, the agency said.

Several universities in Tokyo delayed the starting times of their entrance

examinations for the new academic year that begins in April.

Snowfall marked a record 32 cm in Chiba and 16 cm in Yokohama.

Temperatures in many cities in the Kanto region centering on Tokyo stayed below zero during the day and the agency issued a blizzard warning for Chiba Prefecture and parts of Kanagawa Prefecture.

At Tokyo's Haneda airport, Japan Airlines Co. and All Nippon Airways Co. suspended all domestic flights from noon and 3 pm, respectively, affecting about 98,000 people.

The Tokaido and San-

yo bullet trains operating in central and western Japan fell behind schedule as they operated at reduced speed, affecting nearly 290,000 travelers, the operators said.

Sections of expressways, including the Shin-Tomei and Chuo expressways, were also closed due to the snow. Tokyo Electric Power Co said 48,000 households in the Kanto region were without power Saturday night due to heavy snow.

Tokyo Skytree, the world's tallest broadcasting tower at 634 metres, was closed from 11 am due to strong winds, its operator said.—Kyodo News

Iran says talks with IAEA "constructive"

TEHERAN, 9 Feb — The fresh round of negotiations between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on bilateral cooperation was constructive, spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Behrouz Kamalvandi said on Saturday.

The talks between Iran and the IAEA, which started here on Saturday, was "good, constructive

and moving forward," and the two sides will continue their "intense" negotiations on Sunday, Kamalvandi was quoted as saying by Press TV. The first day of talks took nearly five hours, he said, adding that the two sides discussed the points further, which were previously agreed upon.

Iran is in talks with the IAEA "out of good faith" to help remove "artificial ambiguities" over Tehe-

ran's nuclear programme as "the Islamic republic is not legally obliged under the Safeguards (Agreement) to respond to such queries and ambiguities," Kamalvandi said.

The IAEA delegation also expressed satisfaction with Iran's cooperation in implementing the previously-signed deal with the UN nuclear body, he said, expressing hopes that the two sides would conclude their negotiations on Sunday.

No immediate comment from the IAEA delegation is made. Inspectors of the IAEA visited Iran's Gachin yellow cake mine in the south in January 2014 and the Arak heavy water production plant in December 2013. The inspection was in line with the implementation of an agreement signed between head of the AEOI Ali-Akbar Salehi and IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano in Teheran on 11 November, 2013.

Xinhua



Smoke billows from a market in central Baghdad, Iraq, Feb. 8, 2014. A big fire broke out at an electrical appliances market here on Saturday. —XINHUA

WORLD

Chinese president pledges to further advance reform

SOCHI, (Russia), 9 Feb — Chinese President Xi Jinping said in an interview aired Saturday that his country will forge ahead with reform and he is confident in its future development.

During the exclusive interview with Rossiya TV, Xi hailed the remarkable achievements China has made in the past decades since the initiation of the country's reform and opening-up policy.

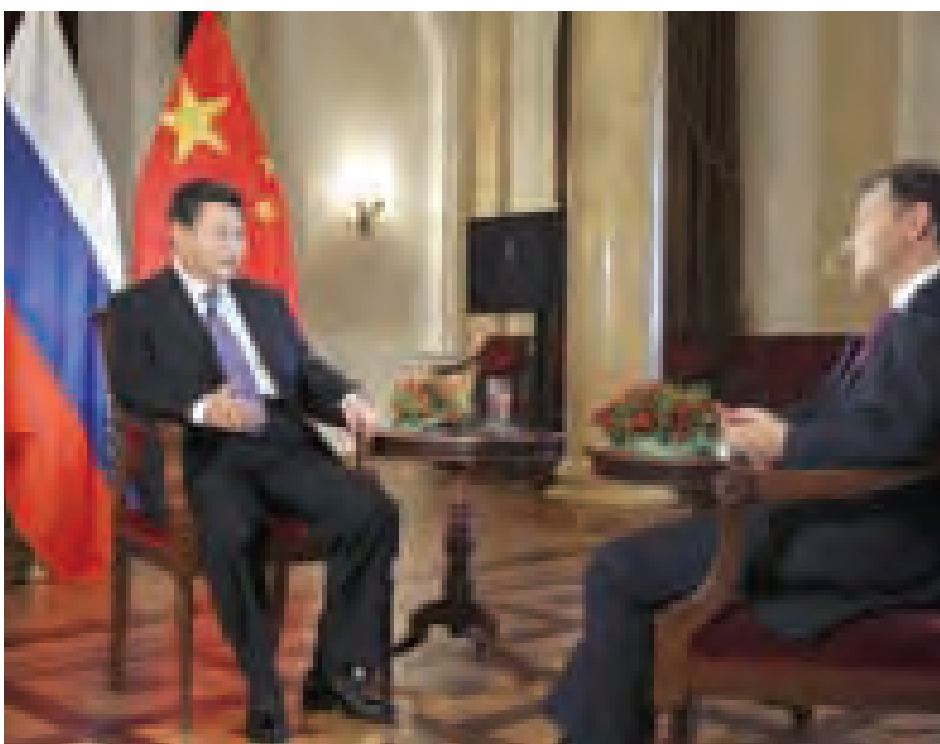
Xi arrived in this Russian resort city on Thursday to attend Friday's opening ceremony of the 22nd Winter Olympic Games. The three-day visit was his first overseas trip this year.

Given the rapid pace of economic globalization, increasingly fierce com-

petition in comprehensive national strength and the profound changes in the international situation, Xi said, reform and opening-up remain the primary path for China to achieve fresh and greater development.

"In comparison with the past, the breadth and depth of China's reform have been considerably expanded. In order to further promote reform, top-level design must be enhanced," Xi said. Late last year, the Third Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China decided to further deepen China's reform in an all-around way, and Xi became head of the newly established leading group responsible for the undertaking.

"It is no easy task for



Visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) gives an interview to a Russian TV channel in Sochi, Russia, on 7 Feb, 2014.—XINHUA

China, whose population is as large as 1.3 billion, to deepen reform," noted the Chinese president.

With low-hanging fruit already picked, China must roll out bolder measures in a steady manner so as to rise to the challenges and march forward in the right direction, Xi added.

"I am very confident in China's development prospect," the Chinese leader said.

When asked about his first-year experience as China's president, Xi said it is important for a Chinese leader to have overall considerations and keep balance between different matters while focusing on priorities. "It is like you need to use all the ten fingers when you play the piano," Xi said.—Xinhua



A soldier participates in the opening of the military exhibition "Armed Forces, Passion for Serving Mexico", at Mexico City's Zocalo, in Mexico City, capital of Mexico, on 8 Feb, 2014. The exhibition will remain open until on 9 March.—XINHUA

US envoy to visit N Korea for release of imprisoned missionary

BEIJING, 9 Feb — A US special envoy plans to visit North Korea as early as next Monday for the release of Kenneth Bae, a Korean-American missionary who has been detained in the communist country for more than a year, a pro-Pyongyang newspaper in Japan said Friday.

The Choson Sinbo quoted Bae as speaking about the possible visit based on information he has obtained from the Swedish Embassy in Pyongyang.

Bae also told the newspaper he has also heard from an official at the embassy, which serves as protecting power for the United States as it has no diplomatic ties with North Korea, that Robert King will be in the communist country by the end of February at the latest.

The release of Bae is

seen as holding the key to the resumption of political dialogue between Washington and Pyongyang.

Bae was detained in November 2012 while leading a group on a tour of North Korea's northeastern region of Rason and later sentenced to 15 years of hard labor for what Pyongyang says was an attempt to topple its regime.

On Friday, Bae again called on the US government to make utmost efforts to secure his early release.

He was allowed to speak to *Kyodo News* and a few other foreign media organizations last month at a hospital in Pyongyang, during which he expressed hope of returning to his family as soon as possible.

North Korea, in late August, rescinded an invitation to King.

Kyodo News

US urges removal of foreign fighters from South Sudan

WASHINGTON, 9 Feb — The United States on Saturday expressed concern over reported violations of a shaky ceasefire agreement between South Sudan's government and rebel forces and urged the removal of foreign fighters engaged in the conflict.

Thousands of people have been killed and more than half a million have fled their homes since fighting erupted in December in a conflict that has brought oil-producing South Sudan to the brink of civil war.

State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki said the United States is "deeply concerned by reports of violations by both

the government of South Sudan and anti-government forces" of the ceasefire deal.

"We urge the redeployment or phased withdrawal of foreign forces invited by either side, and warn of the serious consequences which could result from any regionalization of this conflict," Psaki said in a statement. President Salva Kiir's government and rebels loyal to his fired deputy, Riek Machar, agreed to the ceasefire on 23 January, but both sides have since accused each other of violations.

Regional and world powers worry about the potential for a spillover of violence in an already volatile part of Africa. South Sudan

declared independence from Sudan in 2011.

The rebels have accused government SPLA forces and fighters from the Sudanese Justice and Equality Movement — a rebel group from north of the border — of razing Machar's hometown, massacring women and children as they fled. The government also accuses the rebels of flouting the ceasefire.

An advance team sent by east African nations to monitor the ceasefire arrived in South Sudan last Sunday. Violence erupted in the capital, Juba, in December before spreading across the world's newest nation.

Reuters

Turkish police fire tear gas to break up Internet protest

ISTANBUL, 9 Feb — Police fired water cannon and teargas to disperse hundreds of people protesting in central Istanbul on Saturday against new controls on the Internet approved by parliament this week.

The new powers, once approved by the president, will let authorities block web pages within hours, in what the opposition has said is part of a government bid to stifle discussion of a corruption scandal. Riot police advanced along Istanbul's Istiklal Avenue behind armored vehicles firing water cannon at protesters, some of whom waved flags and held



Riot police use water cannons to disperse demonstrators during a protest against Internet censorship in Istanbul on 8 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

up placards. Some demonstrators responded by throwing stones or setting off fireworks aimed at police before scattering into side streets.

"Everywhere is bribery,

everywhere is corruption," some chanted, in a variation of an anti-government slogan used by demonstrators in protests across the country last summer.—*Reuters*

Fire burns 5,600 tons of rubber in Savannah, Georgia

SAVANNAH, (Georgia), 9 Feb—A fire ignited 5,600 tons of stored rubber at a warehouse in Savannah, Georgia, on Saturday, spreading thick black smoke for miles but causing no injuries, an official said.

The fire broke out at about 11:30 am EST (1630 GMT) at a warehouse at the Port of Savannah's Ocean Terminal and was contained by early evening, said Claude Debnam, a dispatcher for Savannah Fire and Emergency Services.

Blocks of rubber were stored in the warehouse for use in the making of tires and other products, Debnam said.

Smoke drifted toward downtown Savannah and its historic areas, prompting an advisory to tourists and residents to stay indoors as much as possible, Debnam said.

Fire officials have not determined the cause of the blaze, Debnam said.

"As hot as rubber burns, it may be a couple days until they can get in there and find out what happened," said Debnam, a former volunteer firefighter. "It will be a mess over there."

Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Roche bans rivals from comparing copycat drugs to Herceptin



The logo of Swiss pharmaceutical company Roche is seen outside their headquarters in Basel on 30 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

ZURICH, 9 Feb — Pharmaceutical group Roche said it secured an injunction from an Indian court banning generic drug makers Biocon and Mylan from comparing their copycat versions of Roche's Herceptin breast cancer treatment to the original. Mylan and Biocon, which co-developed breast cancer drugs CANMab and Hertraz they say are biosimilars of Herceptin, are no longer allowed to refer to Herceptin or its manufacturing process, safety, efficacy and sales when communicating about their drugs, the New Delhi High Court ruled on Wednesday.

India's Biocon and US-based Mylan launched CANMab and Hertraz in India this year after Roche

decided last summer not to pursue a patent application for Herceptin in India, paving the way for generic drugmakers to produce cheaper copies, known as biosimilars because they are not identical to the original drug."

Roche has filed and secured an injunction against Biocon and Mylan. The injunction prevents the companies from comparing their products to Herceptin," Roche spokeswoman Silvia Dobry said in an emailed statement on Friday.

She said Roche had taken this action to make sure Biocon and Mylan's products really had demonstrated comparable efficacy and safety to Roche's drug.—Reuters

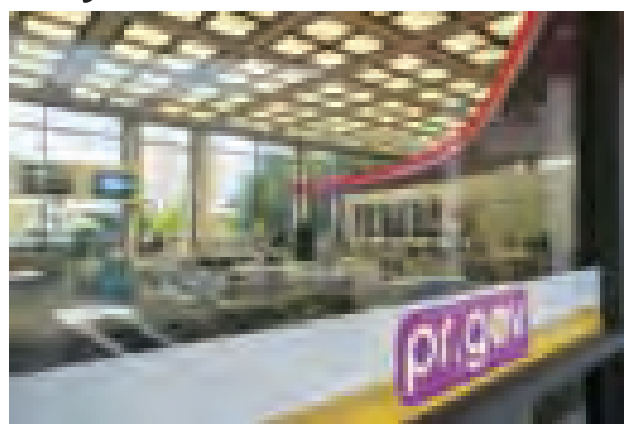
Moody's cuts Puerto Rico to junk

NEW YORK, 9 Feb — Moody's on Friday cut Puerto Rico's credit rating to junk status, citing concerns about the fiscally challenged US territory's weak growth and ability to access capital markets.

Moody's, which placed Puerto Rico's rating on notice for a downgrade late last year, said it now rates the commonwealth's general obligation bonds at Ba2, two notches below investment grade status.

With some \$70 billion of tax-free debt, Puerto Rico has long struggled with recession and has for months been under threat of a ratings downgrade to junk-bond territory by all three US credit ratings agencies. Standard & Poor's cut the island's rating to junk on Tuesday.

Moody's said Puerto



A government service centre located in the former Western bank building in the Hato Rey financial district, remains nearly empty after the government took it over when it closed the bank due to its high exposure to toxic loans, according to a report by Puerto Rico's Inspector General in 2010, in San Juan on 5 Feb, 2014.

REUTERS

Rico's economic malaise, underfunded pension obligations and high deficit "have now put the commonwealth in a position where its debt load and fixed costs are high, its li-

quidity is narrow, and its market access has become constrained." Moody's also cut its ratings on the island's sales-tax supported senior lien COFINA bonds to Baa1 from A2.—Reuters

Teens' poor breakfast choices predict later health problems

NEW YORK, 9 Feb — Teenagers who didn't eat a good breakfast were more likely to be obese and have elevated blood sugar in middle age, a new study shows.

Researchers at Umea University in Sweden found that teens who reported eating no breakfast or only sweets were two-thirds more likely to develop a cluster of risk factors linked to heart disease and diabetes when they were in their 40s than their peers who ate more substantial morning meals." It may be that eating breakfast aids in keeping to a healthier

diet the rest of the day," the study's lead author, Maria Wennberg, told Reuters Health in an email. Kids who miss breakfast experience hunger surges and tend to overeat later in the day, Dr David Ludwig, a pediatrics and nutrition researcher at the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston, said. He was not involved in the current study.

Wennberg and her colleagues reviewed data from 889 people in Lulea, Sweden. In 1981, when they were 16 years old, the participants completed questionnaires about what they ate for breakfast on a single

day. Researchers then examined them in 2008, when they were 43 years old, for metabolic syndrome, a collection of risk factors that can lead to heart disease, diabetes and stroke. They found that 27 percent had developed signs of the syndrome, according to the study published in Public Health Nutrition. Moreover, those who reported missing breakfast or eating a poor-quality one as a teenager were 68 percent more likely to have metabolic syndrome in middle age.

When the researchers analyzed separate components of the syndrome, they

found that obesity and high blood-sugar levels at age 43 were linked with poor breakfast habits at age 16. About 35 percent of US adults have metabolic syndrome, according to the American Heart Association. In addition to a large waistline and high blood sugar, components of the syndrome include high blood pressure and low "good" cholesterol. Past studies found links between higher quality diets and healthier lifestyles, the authors write. Poor breakfast habits may therefore be part of an unhealthy lifestyle.—Reuters

Morgan Stanley adds four executives to its operating committee

BANGALORE, 9 Feb — Morgan Stanley (MS.N) named four executives, including fixed-income trading co-heads Michael Heaney and Robert Rooney, to its operating committee, bringing the Wall Street bank's total committee members to 16, the company said on Friday.

The company also appointed Shelley O'Connor, chief executive of Morgan Stanley's private bank, and Andy Saperstein, head of

investment products and services for the Wall Street firm's wealth-management arm, to its committee. Wesley McDade, managing director of Morgan Stanley Corporate Communications, confirmed in an email that the additions to the committee were announced internally.

Morgan Stanley's operating committee is the highest group of managers at the bank, helping Chief Executive James Gorman



The corporate logo of financial firm Morgan Stanley is pictured on a building in San Diego, California on 24 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

set the company's strategy. Morgan Stanley was one of the best performing bank stocks in 2013, rising 64 percent, compared with 39

percent for its chief rival Goldman Sachs Group Inc (GS.N) and 30 percent for the Standard & Poor's 500 Index.—Reuters

Health watchdog urges stricter no smoking rules

BEIJING, 9 Feb — Chinese doctors have been told to inquire and record the smoking history of patients during their initial diagnosis to help smokers quit, the country's health watchdog said on Friday. Medical workers should learn about the harms of smoking and ways of persuading smokers to give up, according to a National Health and Family Planning Commission

statement.

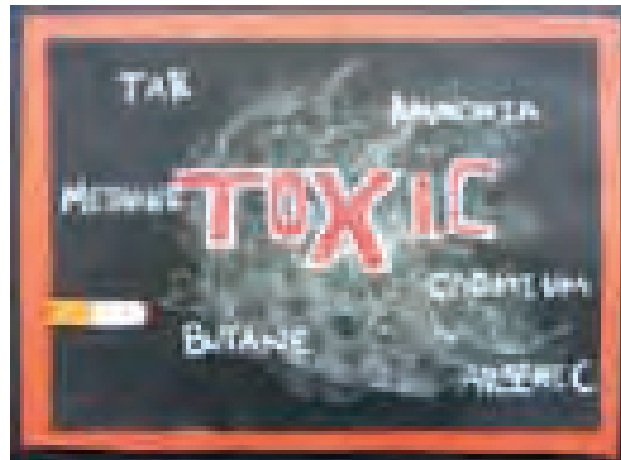
Smoking clinics should be set up. Doctors with knowledge about giving up smoking and leading officials of medical institutions should take the lead in getting people to quit, the commission said. In China, colleagues, friends and relatives often offer cigarettes to others as a show of hospitality, and smoking indoors is common in a country that

has 300 million smokers.

There should be no tobacco advertisements and products in medical institutions, and medical officials who breach the regulation will be disqualified for selection as model employees or model institutions, the commission said. There should be no smoking at public events, and no smoking signs should be placed in prominent areas at such events, it said.

Medical workers are also asked not to put ashtrays in their offices, while those who quit smoking will be awarded, it added. Although a government regulation issued in 2011 bans smoking in enclosed public spaces, enforcement of the regulation has been considered very poor because it does not stipulate any penalties for offenders.

Xinhua



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

US ends probe of Samsung's use of essential patents

WASHINGTON, 9 Feb — The US Justice Department will close its investigation into Samsung Electronics' use of a special class of essential patents to attack rivals but would keep monitoring related patent litigation, it said on Friday.

Samsung had filed a patent infringement complaint against Apple Inc at the US International Trade Commission and won an order in June 2013 banning the sale of some older iPhones and iPads in the United States. Samsung and Apple are the No 1 and No

2 smartphone makers, globally.

One of the patents involved in the case was a so-called standards-essential patent (SEP), a class of patents that ensure different devices can work together and are expected to be widely licensed.

The Justice Department and the US Patent and Trademark Office have argued that sales bans imposed as punishments for infringing on these patents should be done only in very rare cases. Otherwise, patent holders "could use the



A man walks out of Samsung Electronics' headquarters in Seoul on 6 Jan, 2014. — REUTERS

threat of an exclusion order to obtain licensing terms that are more onerous than would be justified by the value of the technology itself," the Justice Department said.

The ITC's sales ban on Apple devices was over-

turned in August by the Obama administration, citing the effects on US consumers and the economy. Based on that action, a Justice Department investigation was unnecessary, the department said.

Reuters

Taiwan's MediaTek sets up backyard brawl with Qualcomm

SAN FRANCISCO, 9 Feb — Qualcomm Inc, the world leader in smartphone microchips, may want to shore up its defensive tactics. Taiwan's MediaTek Inc, the leading chip supplier for Chinese smartphones, is barreling into the US market with a new major global branding campaign and setting up shop in San Diego, California, home to

"We really feel that it's a strategic area," she said of San Diego's Sorrento Valley, where MediaTek plans to open its new office in the next few months. It is home to many technology companies clustered around Qualcomm, one of the city's largest employers. "A lot of our technology partners sit in that area and we want to be able to serve them," said



Backlash hits AOL CEO after 'distressed babies' remark



Chairman and CEO of AOL, Tim Armstrong, speaks during the launch of the HTC One smartphone in London on 19 Feb, 2013. — REUTERS

NEW YORK / LOS ANGELES, 9 Feb — AOL Inc Chief Executive Tim Armstrong tried to tamp down a backlash after he blamed a pension cut on costs stem-

ming from two employees' "distressed babies," insisting that the Internet provider was focused on families.

Armstrong's comments on Thursday during

a company town hall meeting about why it was cutting 401(k) contributions caused a fire storm on social media, overshadowing positive quarterly results from AOL.

It marked the second recent instance when a gaffe by Armstrong left the CEO with some explaining to do.

During the meeting, Armstrong singled out two unidentified employees who had babies with health issues in 2012 and their impact on AOL health costs, which he said had also increased because of "Obamacare" health reforms.

"We had two AOLers that had distressed babies that were born that we paid a million dollars each

to make sure those babies were OK in general," Armstrong said, according to the Capital New York, which first reported the details.

He said changes to the company's 401(k) retirement plan were made in the wake of President Barack Obama's healthcare law, which he said added \$7.1 million in expenses for the online media and entertainment company. After the town hall, Armstrong sought to clarify his remarks in a memo to AOL's 5,000 employees.—Reuters

Yahoo shifts Europe tax base to Ireland from Switzerland

LONDON / ROME, 9 Feb — Yahoo! Inc is shifting its main European tax base to Ireland from Switzerland, a Reuters examination of company statements and accounts shows, as pressure mounts on the Alpine nation to abolish some corporate tax incentives. The internet search group said the shift reflected a streamlining of its European operations and was not motivated by a desire to cut its tax bill,

one of the higher in the US tech sector.

"Yahoo pays all taxes required and complies with tax laws in all countries where we operate. We take our tax obligations seriously," Yahoo spokeswoman Caroline Macleod-Smith said. However, tax experts said it was likely the changes that Switzerland is expected to make to its tax rules, following European Union pressure, had some

influence over the decision, and that other companies could follow Yahoo's lead. "Obviously tax reasons are part of the reasons they are going out of Switzerland," said Frank Marty, head of tax policy at lobby group Economie Suisse.

"The tax regimes we have are very successful (in attracting companies) but there is pressure that Switzerland abolishes the current regimes ... The risks are substantial," he added. Currently, Switzerland offers tax rates to companies which make their profits outside Switzerland that are less than half the rates imposed on companies that operate locally. EU rules require countries not to discriminate between domestic and foreign firms in taxation and Brussels has told Switzerland that if it wants to enjoy unfettered access to the bloc's market, it needs to scrap this practice.

Reuters

University studies if quakes in North Texas linked to fracking

DALLAS, 9 Feb — A team of scientists has launched a study of seismic activity in North Texas to determine if fracking may be the cause of a series of earthquakes that have rattled two towns in the region since November.

The seismic activity in Azle and Reno, northwest of Fort Worth, has national implications, with opponents of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, saying what is happening in the towns points to the dangers of the energy source extraction method. "It's important that we don't rush to conclusions," Heather DeShon, associate professor of geophysics at Southern Meth-

odist University and leader of the research team, told a news conference in Dallas on Friday.

DeShon said the start of the earthquake series has coincided with start of injection wells used for fracking in the area. The study is expected to take six months to a year.

Fracking, which involves the injection of water, sand and chemicals under high pressure into bedrock to increase the flow of oil or gas, has been the culprit in some small earthquakes around the country. It is not suspected as the cause of the bigger and more frequent quakes that have occurred recently,

according to the Interior Department.

Experts say billions of dollars are at stake, as potential new regulations could affect the oil and gas industry's profits and as lawsuits by property owners with earthquake-related claims make their way through the legal system. In January, SMU seismologists installed a network of 12 seismic stations in and around the two towns, where at least two injection wells for fracking are in operation. Texas has seen a new energy boom due to fracking, which has also helped reduce US reliance on foreign energy sources.

Reuters



PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 10 February, 2014

Preparations for examination

According to Newton's laws of motion "To every action there is always an equal and opposite reaction". So there must be results for every effort. Our goal is where we get the desired achievement. So reaching the goal means achieving the success. As for ordinary workers and farmers their goal is to free themselves from poverty. As for businesspersons, it is the prosperity while knowledge and education degrees are the destination of students.

The current academic year is going to end soon, and the examinations are drawing nearer. The immediate goal of every student is to pass the examination every year. So they must learn their lessons hard and make best preparations for the examinations.

Trial run is important for them. So they should collect old examination questions and try to answer them first before sitting for the real final examination. This will give them good experience in entering the actual examination.

One important thing for all students is that examination is not a gambling. They should not solely rely on questions selected on possibility basis. They must learn their lessons well.

Health and fitness is another important issue for students going to enter the examinations. Over sleeplessness is a dangerous factor. Students need to get enough sleeping time while taking healthy food and taking care of their health especially before and during the examinations. What's more, they should not even think of applying deceitful means such as cheating in the examinations.

All in all, students must first make preparations on all subjects to the best of their ability while taking care of their health to get the highest marks in every subject.

Latpadaungtaung farmers ...

(from page 16) K 0.3 million for an acre of cropland (non-holdings) as of 3 February this year.

Local farmers who are left to get land compensations due to various rea-

sons are invited to receive their land compensations and cash assistance at Salingyi Township General Administration Department Office.

MNA

Peace, stability and rule of law ...

(from page 16)

The chairmen of development affairs committee and development supportive committee reported on necessities for regional development presented by the deputy commissioners

from Loikaw and Bawlake Districts and Deputy Ministers U Ohn Than and Dr Aung Myat Oo made clarifications.

In his concluding remarks, the Union minister underlined to exploit cul-

tural heritage sites to attract tourists in the state and urged them to systematically manage not only natural resources but also technical resources in order to transform the manual to mechanized farming.

Next, they attended opening of new CT scan

building and extended RC two-storey building at People's Hospital in Loikaw and fun fair in commemoration of the Union Day in Dimawhso Township.

They inspected milch cow breeding farm in 6th-mile model village.

MNA

Interview with Director-General ...



Director-General U Myint Kyaing of Population Department.

(from page 16)

members one day. Please explain the point.

A: A census questionnaire is not a household registration document that mentions family members. The document used in collecting census data is the one to list family members and visitors and renters who were in a house on the census night. It is nothing to do with the household registration document as well as ownership. The questionnaire cannot be used as an evidence for ownership.

Q: Please tell me why an ownership questions is included in the census questionnaire. People want to know where it is for tax collection.

A: The question aims to reveal wealth index of the country. The question is about the ownership of radio, television, telephone, bicycle, trailer, boat, cart,

etc, not number of the items and sources where the things come from. It is impossible to collect tax as Information is protected under the Census law. Don't worry about the question with no intent to know individual cash or gold ownership.

Q: People outside are talking about the names of national races in which some are no longer exist on the ground, some are new and there are wrong spelling for some names.

A: The upcoming census will be based on 135 national races. The names of the national races are listed in accord with the approval of authorities concerned in various levels. The list of 135 national races was approved in 1973 and 1983 censuses. No more amendment is put to the list up to date. But, we cannot say that the list is still true. It can be said that the census count is a process of making correction. People have a right to say their real national race and the name of the national race they said will be documented. New names will be kept record and some names will disappear as they don't mention. We will spell the name of a national race as they said.

Q: It is learnt that no coordination with some minorities was made. Please explain about it.

A: Here there are two parts—coordination before the census count and coordination after the process in order to redefine the

points, if necessary. The present figures had already been approved. If we make coordination before the census count, there will be many arguments over the points to be redefined or amended. The process is to scrutinize and approve the current figures. When the process is over, there will be a discussion on collected facts and figures with the participation of all. Questions included in the census questionnaire have been approved after holding series of data user workshops attended by local and foreign experts.

Q: It is learnt that racial codes used in 2014 Census are hard to understand for some people. Why?

A: Setting racial code is a technical procedure. It is required to set codes because devices used in census-taking cannot read handwritings.

Using numerical symbols can help us know the facts we want in the short space of time. If not, it will take many years to come out the results. Use of machines can count the tribal codes to know the number of population in a short period of time.

Q: We heard widespread news that there are 12 small tribal groups in a national race. But, there are only seven tribal groups on the ground. May I know about it?

A: Twelve tribal groups are based on the already-existed lists. It might disappear automatically if they did not reply that they do not belong to the groups. It is impossible to omit these groups. And we have no authority to do so. We will have to put these names on the list if they really belong to it.

Q: Another question is that for instance, ethnic group (A) has 40 tribal groups. There is no any other tribe in the group (A) if they belong to the group (A) only. And the second question is that would their original ethnic group (A) would disappear if they reply that they belong to the

tribal names only?

A: The ethnic names they belong to will be put on record. And we will know the tribal population in the group (A) if they reveal their tribal names with their own violation. Thanks to it, we can know each tribe's population and the total population in the group (A). Main ethnic group would not disappear when even they reveal their tribal names in the main group.

Q: What is the difference when people who did not include in 135 national races are put in other codes?

A: We designate the codes for 135 national races for the smooth functioning of our works. We may know the people who did not include in the 135 national races only when we collect the facts and figures. So, we cannot designate the codes for them in advance. Other people except the 135 national races will be named "other". After the census-taking process, we will continue deciding how to deal with the new races. People won't lose their rights.

Q: Some media criticize that the question of what national races belong to can hamper national unity. Could you explain the facts about it?

A: It has been over 30 years Myanmar did not take population census. Lack of census taking in the conflict-affected regions will be far long. The situation will remain unchanged in the next ten years if we omit controversial tribal population. The 2014 nation-wide census-taking process is based on international standards and human rights.

Thanks to it, we can know the facts and figures of country's total population. More emphasis can be placed on each and individual tribal groups for the country's growth and development, which can lead to better national unity. All are urged to join hands in the census-taking process to know the actual facts and figure of our country.



NATIONAL

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



Vice-Senior General Soe Win being seen off at Yangon International Airport to pay visit to Singapore. (News on page 1)—MNA

LOCAL NEWS

Opium weighing over 2 kilos worth K 780,000 seized

THAZI, 9 Feb—The police squad from Mandalay Anti-Drug Squad on 6 February searched the vehicles driven from Taunggyi at Kywetathson Village toll gate. They found one packet of 1.63 kilos of brown latex believed to be opium and one packet of same material weighing 0.4899 kilo totalling 2.1199 kilos worth K 780,000 from the bag of passenger Than Win (a) Than Nyunt on board Shan Myay Latt express bus driven by Aung Naing Oo.

The suspect confessed that he bought the opium from U Me, 50 of Kandaw U Ward in Pinlaung. Thazi Police filed of lawsuit against Than Win (a) Than Nyunt under the law.

NLM-018

Wunna Theikdi Library put into service

ZABUTHIRI, 9 Feb—As a gesture of hailing the 67th Anniversary Union Day, the Wunna Theikdi Library was opened in conjunction with the unveiling the signboard of Myanmar Theravada Buddhist Missionary Organization and Border and Hilly Region Sasana Nuggaha Association at the library in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw on yesterday morning.

Head of District Religious Affairs Department U Myint Maw, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department U Aung Ye Cho and officials formally opened the library. The head of department of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee and the deputy director of IPRD (Head Office) gave speeches.

The Head of District RAD explained matters related to the Sasana Nuggaha Association. The vice-chairman of the library spoke words of thanks. The library showcases 1441 books in various subjects for readers.

Township IPRD



People pay homage to sacred relics in Meiktila

MEIKTILA, 9 Feb—The 58th Datupujaniya of sacred relics was held at Aungchantha Theintaung Taikthit Wundawpyae Monastery in Kyitawgon Ward of Meiktila from 5 to 7 February.

Presiding Nayaka of the monastery Maha Kammathanaçariya Bhaddanta Vingisa

organized the offering of meals and lights to the sacred Buddha relics and Buddha images at Mula Datu Beikmandaw. And, the consecration ceremony was held for the Buddha images.

On 5 February, religious association recited Dhammacakka Sutta. On 7 February, Htamane meal was offered to members of the Sangha, and rice offered to the monks. Next, day meals was offered to 200 members of the Sangha.

Pyetkhayway-taung Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Labhavata delivered a sermon and Wundawpyae Monastery Presiding Nayaka Sayadaw administered the Desana to share merits gained.

NLM-018

New transformer installed in Thingangyun Township for full supply of electricity

THINGANGYUN, 9 Feb—Electricity Supply Enterprise Head U Hla Myint and

party of Yangon City Electricity Supply Board and electricians built a 315 KVA transformer on Zawaiya Road in Nga/K Ward of the township recently. Moreover, they installed 170 feet long 6.6 KV overhead power line there.

Now, the local people consume the electricity at full capacity.

The Township Head of Electricity Supply Board has built seven a 315 KVA transformer, 2800 feet long overhead 6.6 KV power line and 1730 feet long 400 Volt power line in 2013-14 fiscal year.—Hmwe Hmwe (Thingangyun)

Officials inspect progress in installation of transformer and power lines in Thingangyun Township.



Library development discussed in Myingyan Tsp

MYINGYAN, 9 Feb—Myingyan Township Information and Public Relations Department made a clarification on library development at its TV room yesterday morning.

Myingyan District IPRD Staff Officer Daw Hnin Yi recounted her experience in library development course jointly organized by Myanmar Book aid & Preservation Foundation in Nay Pyi Taw and clarified keeping libraries in Myingyan District neat and tidy, growing number of readers, books promotion and upgrading the public libraries to Public Digital

Libraries.

The attendees from Kyaukpadaung, Taungtha, Natogyi and Ngazun townships in Myingyan District also took part in the discussions.—U Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Midwifery course opened in Labutta

LABUTTA, 9 Feb—Health Department of Labutta Township in Ayeyawady Region and Merlin Myanmar jointly conducted the opening of midwifery course at the hall of the township Health Department on 7 February. Deputy Township

Administrator U Thant Zin made a speech. Head of Township Health Department Dr Than Than Htay explained selection of the trainees. Altogether 30 trainees attended the midwifery course that will last six months.—MMAL-District IPRD

WORLD

9 killed in Guatemala jungle

GUATEMALA CITY, 9 Feb — Nine members of a family including a baby and a young girl were killed Saturday in a remote jungle region in northern Guatemala, the country's officials said.

Neighbours said the killings took place when two SUVs carrying armed men arrived at the family's house.

About 20 gunmen opened fire on the family, shooting dead seven adults, a five-year-old girl and a three-month old baby girl.

Army spokesman Ismael Cifuentes said that

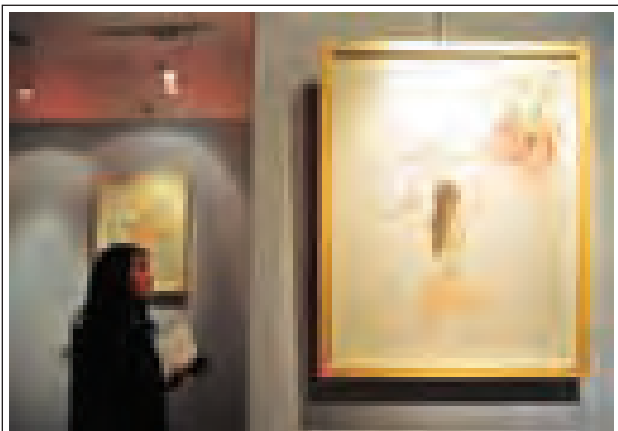
eight people died at the site and a ninth died in hospital.

The shooting appeared to be related to a fight between local drug traffickers, according to Security Minister Mauricio Lopez.

"There's a lot of conflict in this area related to drug trafficking," he said. "We believe the men that carried out this attack were involved in drug trafficking."

Security officials are still conducting interviews with witnesses and they have not yet made any arrests.

Xinhua



A visitor views painting works during the "Empathy/Illusion" art exhibition of Liu Fan in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province, on 8 Feb, 2014. Over 20 femininity themed painting works by Liu Fan were displayed on the exhibition here.

XINHUA

Jordan concerned over final status solution in peace talks

AMMAN, 9 Feb — Jordan's Lower House on Saturday stressed its rejection of Israel's demand for being recognized as a Jewish state.

In a statement released Saturday, the Lower House emphasized the need to establish an independent and fully sovereign Palestinian state along the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, the state-run Petra news agency reported.

It reiterated full backing for the Palestinians' quest for the restoration of their legitimate national rights, on top of which is an independent state on the Palestinian soil and the return and compensation of refugees.

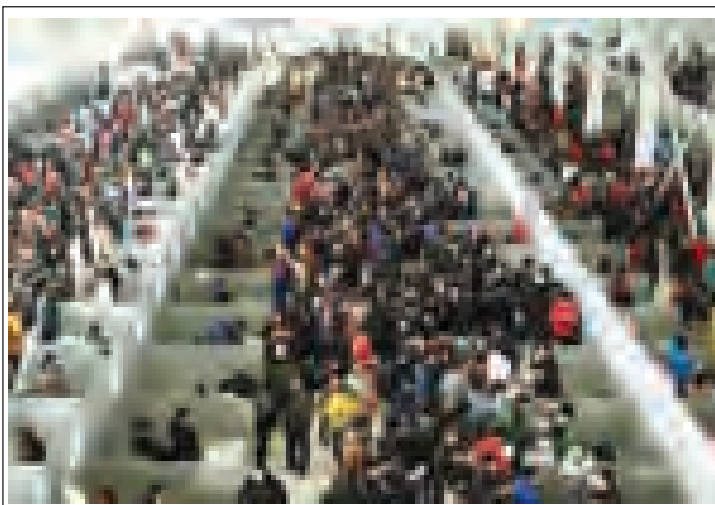
The statement stressed that a final status solution concerning refugees, Jerusalem, security, water and settlements should take Jordan's higher interests

into account, adding that it would totally reject any arrangements or frameworks that contradict all Jordanian national interests or undermined its security and territorial safety.

The Lower House stressed the refugees' right to return and compensation. It also reiterated full Palestinian sovereignty over Jerusalem and Islamic and Christian holy sites in the city and rejection of all Israeli decisions in that regard.

It made clear that "any change of the city's demography is a blatant violation of the international law and a gross breach of international resolutions." The legislature said it stood behind His Majesty King Abdullah's efforts to reach a just, comprehensive and lasting solution to the Palestinian cause.

Xinhua



Job hunters swarm into a job fair for new graduates in Yantai City, east China's Shandong Province, on 8 Feb, 2014. As the Chinese lunar New Year holidays drew to an end, many people started looking for jobs recently.

XINHUA

Six killed in Albania as van plunges from cliff

TIRANA, 9 Feb — Six people died from a serious car accident Saturday morning in Kukes, northern Albanian, when a minivan carrying 13 people came out of the road and fell 100 metres down a cliff. The crash happened on the road to Kukes, 180 km northeast of the Tirana, capital of Albania. Police said three people died immediately and three

others perished at a hospital, seven passengers were injured, four of them had life-threatening injuries.

The wounded were taken by helicopter to a Military Hospital in Tirana.

A witness working in a hydropower station nearby the site of accident told Xinhua that the vehicle came out of the road and plunged down an abyss, crashing

through the rocks several times on the rugged terrain.

According to initial reports, frost on the road and overspeed were believed to have been the main causes. Minister of Health Ilir Beqaj has arrived in Kukes. He expressed his condolences to the relatives of the victims. and promised to provide all the necessary help to alleviate their pain.—Xinhua

15 people killed, 127 injured in hotel fire in western Saudi city

RIYADH, 9 Feb — At least 15 people were killed and 127 others injured on Saturday as a fire hit a hotel in western Saudi City Medina, Saudi official news agency reported.

The fire broke out at 2:33 pm local time (GMT 1133) at the hotel located in the central area of the holy

city, and most of the injured suffered smoke inhalation, the reported quoted a statement of the Medina District government as saying. Around 700 guests were staying at the hotel, and most of them are pilgrims with various nationalities to perform Omra pilgrimage.

Medina Governor,

Prince Faisal bin Salman bin Abdulaziz, has ordered to find alternative accommodations for the rest guests of the hotels and provide them with all their requirements.

An investigation has been launched into the fire, which was controlled at around 5:00 pm local time.

Xinhua

Two jump off bridge into Arkansas river to avoid truck, one missing

TEXARKANA, (Arkansas), 9 Feb — A man was rescued and woman was missing after they jumped off an icy highway bridge in Arkansas into frigid water on Saturday to avoid being struck by a jackknifed truck, officials said.

The two had been in a multicar accident at about 2 am CST (0800 GMT) and were outside their cars with Arkansas State Police and emergency equipment when the tractor-trailer truck skidded on ice toward them, police said.

Searchers dragged the Red River in southwest Arkansas to find the woman, described as being in her 40s from nearby Ashdown, Arkansas. The man was found with broken bones and taken to a hospital, said Miller County Sheriff Ron Stovall.

Police are not releasing

their names.

The rescued man had fallen close to the banks of the Red River near the Interstate 30 bridge near Fulton, Arkansas, Stovall said.

An eyewitness told a local newspaper, the Texarkana Gazette, that the

woman was knocked off the bridge into the river where the water was 25 Fahrenheit (minus 4 Celsius).

A pair of glasses found by Texas game wardens yielded a clue where to resume the search at daybreak on Sunday for the missing

woman.

"That's very unique to find something like that, that small of an object," said Larry Pritchett, director of the Miller County Office of Emergency Management.

Xinhua

Slovenia to stick to int'l missions in 2014

LJUBLJANA, 9 Feb — Slovenia will continue involving in international missions in 2014 with total spending to 22.4 million euros (30.4 million US dollars), the Slovenian Press Agency reported on Saturday.

Slovenia, member state of both the European Union and NATO, has been taking part in military and civil missions abroad since 1997.

Currently Slovenia has 418 soldiers, 11 police officers and 14 civilian experts deployed in various missions abroad, with the majority of them being assigned in Kosovo.

Apart from Kosovo and the Palestinian territory where Slovenia has police officers, the tiny Balkan country also has soldiers in Afghanistan, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Lebanon, Syria, Somalia, Serbia, Macedonia and Mali.

Its civilian experts are also deployed in Albania and Tajikistan, taking part in missions sponsored by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the world's largest security-oriented intergovernmental organization.

Xinhua

Parents and examinees attending the 2014 art admissions test for Communication University of China wait outside a testing center in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, on 8 Feb, 2014. 2014 art admissions test for Communication University of China would last from 8 Feb to 14 Feb at Beijing, Hangzhou, Chengdu and Changsha.—XINHUA



REGIONAL

Nomination process for Monday's prime ministerial election begins in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 9 Feb — More than two months after the Constituent Assembly (CA) national election, nomination process for election of country's prime minister has begun in Nepal from Saturday, officials said. According to a notice published by Parliament Secretariat, any political leaders willing to contest in the prime ministerial race can register their candidacy on Saturday and Sunday. The Parliament secretariat has begun the process from Saturday morning. The final list of candidates will

be made public on Sunday evening. Till Saturday afternoon no one has registered the candidacy.

The election will take place on Monday 11 am local time for selecting the prime minister. Nepal's CA, which will also serve as legislative body, will elect the prime minister through a majority votes in the House. Until Saturday afternoon, Nepali Congress President Sushil Koirala has announced his candidacy for the prime ministerial post and he is likely to register his nomination on

Sunday. After the dissolution of CA in 2012, Nepal is passing through a political and constitutional crisis due to the lack of elected body. Parties formed technocratic government March last year with a purpose of holding the election.

The technocratic government conducted election on November last year but government formation process is being delayed. A talk between Nepali Congress, first largest party and CPN-UML, second largest party is being continued but there has not been power

sharing agreement between two parties. The CPN-UML has said that there should be fresh election of the president and vice-president but NC is against it.

Parties moved for the formation of majority government as they failed to form a unity government. There are just two days to meet the deadline of PM election but there has not been any agreement on coalition government which has raised serious doubt about the stable government in the Himalayan country.

Xinhua



Toshiaki Toyoshima (L), a 66-year-old owner of popular restaurant Sushi Gen, watches an employee making sushi with gloves at his restaurant in Los Angeles, the United States, on 4 Feb, 2014. Under a new California law implemented Jan. 1, food employees are not allowed to contact "ready-to-eat" foods with their bare hands except when washing fruits and vegetables.—KYODO NEWS

Cambodia's micro-lenders see 44 pct lending growth last year

PHNOM PENH, 9 Feb — Cambodia's 38 microfinance institutions reported a 44 percent increase in loan disbursements in 2013, according to a report of the National Bank of Cambodia (NBC), the regulator of banking and finance institutions in the country.

The microfinance institutions had lent a total 1.17 billion US dollars to customers last year, up 44 percent from 813 million US dollars in a year earlier, said the NBC's annual report posted on its website on Sunday.

The report said non-performing loan rate, or bad loan, was only 0.7 percent last year.

On the deposit side, the customers' deposits at the microfinance institutions had increased by 61 percent to 364 million

US dollars last year from 226 million US dollars in a year earlier.

NBC's Governor Chea Chanto said the current assets at the microfinance institutions represented about 10 percent of the current assets in the whole banking sector.

"Microfinance institutions have continued developing rapidly," he said in the report. "Currently, the micro-lenders have been serving about 2.4 million customers."

Cambodia sees microfinance institutions as a key player in helping the government reduce poverty in rural areas and the sector has been well developed in recent years.

Generally, the maximum size of a loan micro-lenders of

Xinhua

2 police killed in shooting in southern Thailand

BANGKOK, 9 Feb — Two frontier police were killed and another three were wounded in a shooting attack Saturday in the southern Thai Province of Pattani, local police said.

The attack happened in Saiburi District while the group of five frontier police was on their way to the market to buy food. The unknown gunmen chased their vehicle and opened fire before a gun battle started, according to the local police.

The gunmen fled after the brief attack and it was

not clear whether any of them was injured or killed, police said.

Another attack later occurred in Choirong District of Narathiwat Province when a group of paramilitary soldiers was hit by a bomb blast while patrolling in the area, injuring one soldier.

Since violence in the southern provinces started in 2004, Thai authorities estimate that nearly 6,000 people have died in the insurgency.

Kyodo News

30-year-old rare elephant found dead in Indonesia's Sumatra

JAKARTA, 9 Feb — A rare Sumatran elephant was found dead on Indonesia's Sumatra Island on Friday, a conservationist said.

Syamsidar, spokeswoman of the international conservation organization WWF Indonesia, said the 30-year-old female elephant might have died about 10 days ago in a palm oil plantation in Bengkalis Regency of Riau Province.

"The cause of her death is still under investigation," Syamsidar, who like many Indonesians goes by a single name, said.

The critically endangered subspecies of Asian elephant was the second found dead in the province. The first was found in early January, apparently having been poisoned.

Xinhua



People let lanterns into the sky in Pingxi, New Taipei City of southeast China's Taiwan, on 8 Feb, 2014. A sky lantern festival was held here on Saturday. XINHUA

Serious challenges remain in Haiyan-hit areas of Philippines

TACLOBAN CITY, (Philippines), 9 Feb — Recovery and rehabilitation efforts for people and areas affected by super typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines continue to face enormous challenges three months after the tragedy, with aid agencies seeking increased efforts and funding to address gaps in shelter and livelihood requirements.

"Three months after

Typhoon Haiyan made landfall in the Philippines on 8 November, the humanitarian needs remain enormous. The main concerns in the overall situation, on the way ahead, are shelter and livelihood," UN information officer Gemma Cortes told Kyodo News on Friday.

"While we have achieved a lot in the emergency phase, we are taking more time in the recovery phase, particularly on rebuilding the communities and bringing the people back to their normal lives, because of lack of funding. Of the \$788 million international appeal we made last December, only 45 percent is currently funded," she said. Emergency shelter, in particular, is only 24 percent funded, while early recovery and livelihood portions are only 18 percent covered.

Cortes attributed the lack of funding to the other ongoing emergency situations elsewhere in the world, such as in South Sudan, Syria and central Africa, which, she said, also

require aid from the international community.

"We have to continue raising awareness about the situation here to be able to raise funds," she said.

Patrick Duigan of the International Organization for Migration said there are still 4,080 families, or 17,533 individuals, across the central Philippines who remain displaced, 90 percent of whom are from the 40-meter no-build zones from the coasts who must be permanently relocated.

Sadakazu Ikawa of the International Children's Action Network said the lack of building materials and the erratic weather condition in December and January also delayed the completion of the construction of temporary shelters.

In this severely battered city, which serves as the hub not only of the central island province of Leyte but also adjacent Samar island province, some 2,000 temporary shelter units are being constructed, a few of which have actually become occupied in late January.—Kyodo News



Fire fighters work at a scene of a car accident on Lichuan section of Huyu (Shanghai-Chongqing) Expressway in central China's Hubei Province, Feb. 9, 2014. Car accidents caused by snow in Lichuan section of the Huyu Expressway has led to the two-way closing of the expressway since Saturday night, causing thousands of cars to be stranded on the road. The expressway was reopened but operating slowly by Sunday morning.—Xinhua

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Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 12th February (Wednesday) Union day 2014 being public holiday under the Negotiable Instruments Act.
Central Bank of Myanmar

Obama taps Robert Work as next deputy Pentagon chief

WASHINGTON, 9 Feb — US President Barack Obama has nominated Robert Work, former undersecretary of the Navy, as next deputy secretary of defence, Pentagon chief Chuck Hagel announced

on Friday. At a Pentagon news briefing, Hagel praised Work as "a highly respected and nationally recognized strategic thinker, practitioner, and expert on national security, as well as budgeting, technology, military affairs."

Work, currently the CEO of the Washington-based think tank Center for a New American Security, will succeed Ashton Carter, who resigned in last December.

"Bob's distinguished career of public service, his ability and his experience and knowledge of DOD (Department of Defence) make him uniquely qualified for his position," Hagel said, adding that Work would help lead the department "at a very, very challenging time."

Hagel was referring to the budgetary cuts faced by the Pentagon and the recent scandals involving the US nuclear missile forces,

which have led to criticism and suspicion about the US-military's ethics and behavior.

Work, 61, had spent 27 years in the US Marines before his retirement in 2001 to join the Centre for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, where he later became the vice president for strategic studies. He had served as undersecretary of the Navy from May 2009 to March 2013.

Xinhua

Former Chicago Mayor Daley leaves hospital

CHICAGO, 9 Feb — Richard M Daley, mayor of Chicago from 1989 to 2011, was discharged from a Chicago hospital on Saturday after being admitted into the intensive care unit a week ago, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Daley was taken by ambulance to Northwestern Memorial Hospital last Friday after becoming ill following the return from a business trip to Arizona.

He walked out of the hospital around noon, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Daley spokeswoman

Jackie Heard had earlier said he was due to walk out of the hospital. Details

about the nature of his illness were not immediately available.—Reuters



The former mayor of Chicago Richard M Daley speaks during the APEC CEO summit in Honolulu, Hawaii on 11 Nov, 2011.—REUTERS

UN says poor rains to affect Kenya's food security

NAIROBI, 9 Feb — Kenya could face a cereal deficit following erratic rains and dry conditions in major growing belts in the country, a UN food agency said Saturday in its latest report.

The UN Food and Agriculture Organization said cereal production in Kenya will decline by about 11 percent compared to last year.

According to the agency, the most affected areas include south-eastern and coastal marginal agricultural livelihood zones, where the delayed onset of

rains resulted in considerably delayed planting, and a dry spell in November 2013 that led to poor crop development.

"In these areas, where the short rain crops account for up to 65 percent of the total annual crop production, the maize output is likely to be considerably below average," said the report.

According to early estimates, the seasonal maize production is expected to be about 40 to 50 percent below average.

UN National Food

Security Officer Simon Muhindi said they had contributed 280,000 U.S dollars towards the food security assessment. The country's over 40 million people consume nearly 4 million 90kg bags of maize a month.

Maize prices in January were between 9 and 12 percent higher than 12 months earlier. However, imports from neighboring Uganda and Tanzania mitigated the upward pressure on prices of the reduced domestic availability.

Xinhua

Worker dies at Brazil World Cup stadium

RIO DE JANEIRO, 9 Feb — A construction worker died on Friday in an accident outside the Arena da Amazonia World Cup stadium in the city of Manaus.

Antonio Jose Pita Martins, 55, died after being struck on the head while dismantling a crane used at the venue, local authorities said.

World football's governing body FIFA issued a statement "deeply regret-

ting" the accident. "With great sadness we send our sincerest condolences to the family," the statement said.

The incident was the sixth death involving a worker at Brazil's 12 World Cup stadiums and the third at Arena da Amazonia.

The first occurred in March last year and was followed by another fatal accident in December.

One worker died at the Mane Garrincha stadium

in Brasilia and another two were killed at Sao Paulo's Itaquerao stadium.

Arena da Amazonia is one of five World Cup stadiums yet to be ready for the 12 June- 13 July tournament, despite a December 2013 deadline set by FIFA.

Located in the Amazon rainforest, Manaus will host four World Cup matches, including the England-Italy Group D match on 14 June.

Xinhua

Kenyan police arrest 3 Al-Shabaab suspects in border town

MANDERA, (Kenya), 9 Feb — Kenya's police on Saturday arrested three Al-Shabaab suspects and recovered three rifles and 259 rounds of ammunition in the northern town of Mandera. The trio, who were arrested at Koromei area, 10 km from Mandera town, had sneaked in the country from Somalia.

Mandera County Police Commander Noah Mwivanda said the three upon interrogation said that they had come to pick their "boss."

"When our officers interrogated these Al-Shabaab suspects, they said that they had come to pick their boss. We have since established that this is not true. We believe that these militiamen were on a mission to carry out an attack in Mandera town," Mwivanda said.

The three Al-Shabaab

suspects who were driving in a Toyota Land Cruiser vehicle with no registration number were intercepted by the police who were on a routine night patrol.

The police commander said that a video camera caught in their possession was to be used to take pictures of security installations and other strategic places with a view of attacking them later.

"We have every reason to believe that these militia men were up to no good. They were fully armed to commit a major attack in our town. But thank God our hawked eyed officers arrested them before they could carry out their evil acts," said Mwivanda.

The three were briefly detained at the Mandera police station before being flown to Nairobi for further interrogation.

Mandera town that has

enjoyed relative calm in the last few months is always under threat from the Al-Qaeda linked group due to its proximity to Somalia.

The local police chief said security had been stepped up and he appealed to residents to be extra vigilant and take security measures seriously, regardless of their status in society.

Since Kenya sent troops across the border into Somalia in October 2011, northern, eastern and parts of Nairobi and Mombasa have been hit by a series of blasts, many targeting local security forces and humanitarian workers.

The Kenyan soldiers in the UN-backed AU force have also intensified their offensive against the Al-Qaida allied terrorist group, pacifying some of the areas surrounding the capital, including the strategic city of Kismayo. —Xinhua

A salesgirl shows a gold rose at a gold shop in Lianyungang City, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 9 Feb, 2014. As the valentine's day draws near, roses made of pure gold has become popular among customers despite of its high price. XINHUA



Hipolito Mora (C), spokesman of self-defence groups reacts during a meeting with members of the Citizen Council C. Cristos, in the municipality of Apatzingan, in Michoacan, Mexico, on 8 Feb, 2014. Members of self-defence groups entered Apatzingan on Saturday accompanied by the Mexican Army and Federal Police to take control of the town that has been affected by the actions of the criminal organization "Los Caballeros Templarios", according to the local press.—XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT

Fox cancels 'X Factor' as Simon Cowell returns to UK version

LOS ANGELES, 9 Feb — US television singing contest "The X Factor," led by judge and show creator Simon Cowell, was canceled on Friday after three seasons, network Fox said on Friday.

"The X Factor," which was unable to replicate the ratings success of fellow Fox singing contest "American Idol," was only able to muster 6.2 million viewers for its season three finale last December, about half of its first season finale audience.

Cowell, 54, whose acerbic on-screen personality helped transform "American Idol" into one of the top shows on US television, will also return to the UK version of the show in an effort to help declin-

ing ratings there. "I've had a fantastic time over the last 12 years, both on 'The X Factor' and 'American Idol,'" Cowell said in a statement. "And apart from being lucky enough to find some amazing talent on the shows, I have always had an incredible welcome from the American public (most of the time!)"

"The X Factor" was seen as a way for Cowell to put his own stamp on US reality television as it was a show he created and produced, and helped lead it to popularity in Britain.

The US version of the show struggled to find the right mix on the judging panel, running through nine different personalities in its three seasons on the air. In 2012, Fox spent a re-



Alex Kinsey (L) and Sierra Deaton (R) look at their mentor and judge Simon Cowell (C) as he speaks during an interview backstage after the folk duo won "The X Factor" in Los Angeles, California, on 19 Dec, 2013.

REUTERS

ported \$15 million to hire pop singer Britney Spears as a judge on the show in a bid to boost ratings, but she was unable to turn her star power into larger audiences for Fox.

Last year, viewership fell to about 6 million per episode from 9 million in 2012. Its main rival, Comcast Corp.-owned NBC's

"The Voice" drew about 12 million viewers per episode. Cowell, a British media and music mogul best known for the biting criticism of contestants that helped draw viewers to "American Idol," will be without a show on US television for the first time since "Idol" began in 2002.

Reuters

Inside Ahaana's fairytale wedding: Hema Malini dances, Dharmendra gets teary

NEW DELHI, 9 Feb — If the guest-list of Ahaana Deol and Delhi businessman Vaibhav Vohra's big fat Bollywood wedding and their wedding reception in Delhi attended by BJP VIPs had you awe-struck, these videos from their sangeet and wedding will make you fall in love with love.

Life is a fairytale — Ahaana & Vaibhav Trailer created and shared by 'The Wedding Story' on their Facebook page captures beautiful candid moments from the couple's wedding celebrations.

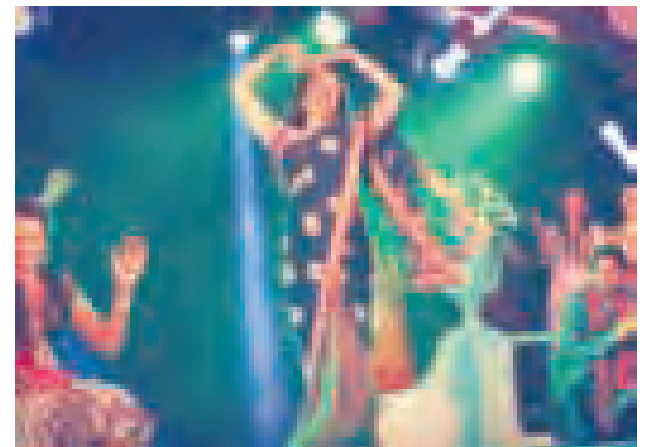
Hennaed hands, lots of laughs, tears of joy and dances by bride's mother

Hema Malini, still the Dream Girl of Indian cinema, aunt Madhoo and sister Esha Deol Takhtani will make you smile. "Bombay is gonna spin," an ecstatic Esha announces at the sangeet.

"Kanyadaan se bada koi dan nahi hota, aur bhagwaan ne iss daan ke badle humme bhaut kuch diya hai," says actor-turned-politician Dharmendra, the father of the bride, with tears in his eyes.

Taylor Swift's "Today Was A Fairytale" plays all through the second half of the video and we can't think of a better song.

PTI



Ahaana and Vaibhav got married on 2 February.—PTI

Eastwood saves tournament director from choking

LOS ANGELES, 9 Feb — Hollywood actor-director Clint Eastwood delivered an unexpected star turn when he saved the tournament director of this week's AT&T Pebble Beach National Pro-Am from choking during a dinner on the eve of the golf event. Eastwood, 83, noticed a "look of panic" on the face of tournament official Steve John as he tried to swallow a piece of cheese during a function for tournament volunteers at the Monterey Conference Centre in California on Wednesday night.

Immediately, Eastwood stepped in and performed the Heimlich maneuver, the Carmel Pine Cone reported in Friday's edition. "I looked in his eyes and saw that look of panic

people have when they see their life passing before their eyes," Eastwood told the newspaper. "It looked bad. The look on Steve's face was different than when somebody is just coughing or joking around."

"I gave him three good jolts, and that got it out. And then I made him drink a big glass of water with a bunch of lemon squeezed in it." Eastwood, a prominent figure at the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am where he used to compete as an amateur, said it was the first time he had used the Heimlich maneuver.—Reuters

Director Clint Eastwood is interviewed at the opening night gala for AFI Fest 2011 with the premiere of Eastwood's film "J. Edgar" in Hollywood on 3 Nov, 2011. REUTERS

Ranveer Singh: Disappointed at Lootera not being nominated

MUMBAI, 9 Feb — Actor Ranveer Singh is disappointed about his critically-acclaimed film Lootera, also starring Sonakshi Sinha, missing from nominations at most of the award functions. Vikramaditya Motwane's period drama Lootera, based on author O Henry's 1907 short story The Last Leaf, had received a mixed response after its

release.

Ranveer, who was appreciated for his performance in the film, is unhappy and disappointed that it failed to get nominated for this year's movie awards. "I don't think Lootera is a failure. The producers earned money and it is a great film. If Lootera was the best reviewed film of the year, then where is the recogni-

tion. It is a technically superior film of all the films released last year. I think Vikramaditya Motwane deserved nomination for direction," Ranveer said.

The actor feels the film should have at least been nominated in categories like — best director, best film, cinematography and best production design. "Such a technically superior film missing from nominations is very surprising. So, yes it is disappointing. I am disappointed for the team," he said. However, he is happy that his co-star Sonakshi was nominated in the Best Actress category for the Screen awards.

"Sonakshi deserves to get a nomination. For me, Lootera was higher in terms of performance than Ram Leela. I can't talk about whether I deserve a nomination or not. Ram Leela was easy in comparison to

Lootera as the latter was challenging," Ranveer said. But, the actor is happy at being nominated for his performance in Ram Leela. He says the box office success of a film is not the only parameter to call it a superhit or blockbuster. Lootera earned Rs 35 crore and according to Ranveer, it is not bad.

"It is not about box office and the numbers, but about the memory of the film. Films like Andaz Apna Apna, Jab We Met and Band Baaja Baraat may not have achieved big numbers but they are watched again and again on TV or DVD," he said. "The memory of the film is important and Lootera is one such film, you can watch it after 15 years and still cry. It was made in cinematic language which people are not used to. It is definitely a successful film," he added.—PTI



Lootera was critically acclaimed but didn't earn many nominations at awards ceremonies.—PTI

For Shah Rukh Khan, Farah crafts "one-legged moves"

MUMBAI, 9 Feb — Filmmaker Farah Khan is thrilled to have Shah Rukh Khan back on the sets of Happy New Year and is trying to whip up some "one-legged moves" for the superstar.

Farah took to Twitter to share her excitement for the day. "Exciting day ahead! Entire star cast of Happy New Year in a song starting today...will figure out some one-legged moves

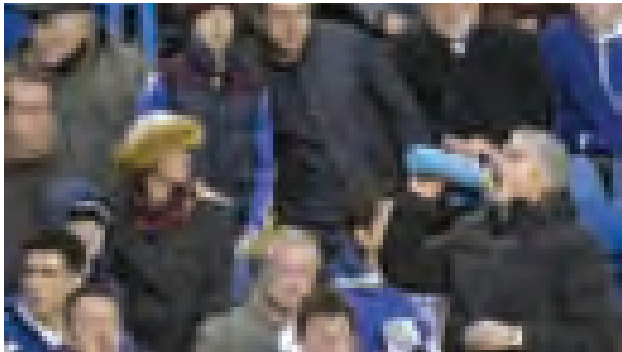


for Shah Rukh Khan. It may just start a trend," Farah posted on the microblogging site Friday.

The film also features Abhishek Bachchan, Sonu Sood, Boman Irani, Vivaan Shah and Deepika Padukone.—PTI

SRK suffered some minor injuries on the sets of Happy New Year few days ago.—PTI

Chelsea display Hazard warning lights to title rivals



Chelsea's manager Jose Mourinho (R) takes a drink during their English Premier League soccer match against Newcastle United at Stamford Bridge in London, on 8 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

LONDON, 9 Feb — Manager Jose Mourinho again played down Chelsea's title chances even though his team capitalised on slip-ups by their two nearest rivals to march to the top of the Premier League on Saturday. Belgium winger Eden Hazard stole the show with a hat-trick as the Londoners recorded a comfortable 3-0 home win over eighth-placed Newcastle United.

The victory put in-form Chelsea one point clear of second-placed Arsenal, who

were thrashed 5-1 at Liverpool, and two ahead of Manchester City who drew 0-0 at Norwich City. "We are top of the league and that is something we can't hide," Mourinho told reporters when he was asked if he was again ruling out Chelsea's chances of winning the league with 13 games left. "I say the same and I feel the same. It's not just to say, it is to say and to feel. I do not change."

Mourinho played down a suggestion by Newcastle

counterpart Alan Pardew that this Chelsea side is the best yet under the Portuguese. "My team here was an amazing team that lasted for almost a decade," said Mourinho, referring to the squad that won the title in 2005 and 2006 during his first spell in charge. "They are players that are part of the history of this club. These players here are just starting."

Despite his attempts to play down Chelsea's championship prospects for the umpteenth time this season, the momentum has swung their way after they also became the first side to win at City on Monday. Worryingly for their rivals the 2012 European champions have started to show the kind of consistency that Mourinho brought to the club when he first moved to Stamford Bridge 10 years ago.—Reuters

Premier League Standings

Rank	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	G	Pts
1	Chelsea	20	12	5	3	28	10	18	41
2	Arsenal	20	11	6	3	26	14	12	39
3	Manchester City	20	10	7	3	24	16	8	37
4	Manchester United	20	10	6	4	22	18	4	36
5	Liverpool	20	10	5	5	25	19	6	35
6	Newcastle United	20	8	7	5	20	18	2	31
7	Everton	20	8	6	6	19	20	-1	30
8	Wolverhampton Wanderers	20	8	5	7	21	22	-1	29
9	Stoke City	20	7	8	5	20	20	0	29
10	Southampton	20	7	7	6	21	21	0	28
11	Cardiff City	20	7	6	7	19	20	-1	27
12	Queens Park Rangers	20	7	5	8	18	21	-3	26
13	Blackburn Rovers	20	6	8	6	18	21	-3	26
14	Reading	20	6	7	7	19	21	-2	25
15	Blackpool	20	6	6	8	18	21	-3	24
16	Sheff Wed	20	6	5	9	18	21	-3	23
17	Wolves	20	5	8	7	18	21	-3	23
18	Leeds United	20	5	7	8	18	21	-3	22
19	Sheff Utd	20	5	6	9	18	21	-3	21
20	Leeds Utd	20	4	8	8	18	21	-3	20
21	Leeds Utd	20	4	7	9	18	21	-3	19
22	Leeds Utd	20	4	6	10	18	21	-3	18
23	Leeds Utd	20	4	5	11	18	21	-3	17
24	Leeds Utd	20	4	4	12	18	21	-3	16
25	Leeds Utd	20	4	3	13	18	21	-3	15
26	Leeds Utd	20	4	2	14	18	21	-3	14
27	Leeds Utd	20	4	1	15	18	21	-3	13
28	Leeds Utd	20	4	0	16	18	21	-3	12
29	Leeds Utd	20	3	1	16	18	21	-3	11
30	Leeds Utd	20	3	0	17	18	21	-3	10

Dufour-Lapointe sisters take moguls one-two

ROSA KHUTOR, (Russia), 9 Feb — Canadian teenager Justine Dufour-Lapointe roared when it mattered most to claim a shock gold medal and lead her sister Chloe to a family one-two in the moguls freestyle skiing final at the Olympic Games on Saturday. The sister-act stunned overwhelming favourite Hannah Kearney in the third run of the final under the bright lights at the Rosa Khutor Extreme Park to leave the tearful defending champion with a bronze.

They were the third pair of sisters to win gold and silver in the same event at a Winter Olympics. The others were Christine and Marielle Goitschel of

France in 1964 and Doris and Angelika Neuner of Austria in 1992."It just totally rocks. It is just really amazing," Justine, 19, said. "Today I gave everything I had inside. I haven't eaten since 12 this morning."

"I really gave it my all. I felt the pressure, but I tried to just put that away and I said, 'You know what, I'm going to roar and people will see me and remember who the real Justine is'." Hopes of a family podium sweep had disappeared when the third sibling, Maxime, went out after the second run of the final but her sisters would not be denied in the final six-woman showdown.

Reuters



Canada's Chloe Dufour-Lapointe (L) and her sister Justine celebrate in the finish area during the women's freestyle skiing moguls final competition at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympic Games in Rosa Khutor, on 8 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

Hot Walker takes commanding lead at Pebble Pro-Am

CARY, (North Carolina), 9 Feb — Red-hot Jimmy Walker stands on the verge of his third victory of the PGA Tour season, six strokes clear of his nearest pursuers after his third round at the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am on Saturday. Walker opened the commanding lead with two late birdies to post a four-under-par 67 on Saturday

at Monterey Peninsula, one of three courses used for the \$6.6 million pro-celebrity event on the California coast.

The 35-year-old American's round came on a day with high winds that reached nearly 40 mph and caused a delay of more than two hours as the gusts moved several balls on the greens. Twelve players, in-

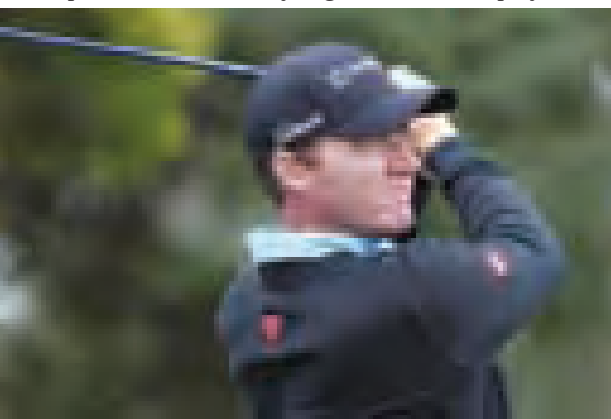
cluding second-round co-leader Jordan Spieth, did not complete the round due to the delay and were returning at 7 a.m. local time (1500 GMT) to finish their third rounds. Walker posted a 13-under-par 202 total heading into Sunday's final round, which will bring everyone who makes the cut together at Pebble Beach.

Fellow American Hunter Mahan (72) and New Zealander Tim Wilkinson (69) were tied for second on seven-under. The three frontrunners all played at Monterey Peninsula. "I have never had whatever big lead this is going into the last round," Walker told reporters. "It played really tough. When (we) made the turn, coming back and playing about five or six (holes) in a row in the

wind, it was really stout. "We were all just kind of laughing at some of the shots that we were hitting and the numbers we were hitting."

Phil Mickelson stayed on the edge of contention with a 71 at Spyglass Hill that left him equal fifth, eight strokes behind Walker, though he lamented a bogey at his final hole.

"It was a tough day, tough conditions, but I played pretty well," said the five-time major champion. Spieth endured a wretched day on the Pebble Beach greens, soaring to five-over-par through 15 holes to stand nine strokes off the pace. Walker has been the dominant player on the PGA Tour since the new "wraparound" season started in October.—Reuters



Wagner strikes blows as New Zealand beat India by 40 runs

AUCKLAND, 9 Feb — Neil Wagner captured four wickets at crucial times as New Zealand held off a counter-attacking India to win the first test at Eden Park by 40 runs after tea on the fourth day on Sunday.

India had looked favourites to win the match for much of the day before Wagner dismissed Virat Kohli (67) and Shikhar Dhawan (115) after lunch then removed Zaheer Khan (17) and Mahendra Singh Dhoni (39) in the evening session when the tourists were in sight of the 407

runs needed for victory.

Dhoni, the architect of a bludgeoning counter-attack after his side had been reduced to 270 for six after tea, was the ninth wicket to fall, effectively ending the chase with his side still 44 runs short of their target.

India, who were eventually dismissed for 366, were skittled out for 202 in their first innings, a deficit of 301 runs, but fought back brilliantly with the ball to give themselves a fighting chance of achieving an unlikely victory.

Reuters



India's Virat Kohli plays a shot watched by New Zealand's BJ Watling during his second innings on day four of the first international test cricket match at Eden Park in Auckland, on 9 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

Medicines donated to Pakokku General Hospital

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Feb—Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung and wife donated medicines to Medical Superintendent Dr Daw Khin May Thwin at Pakokku General Hospital on 3 February.

On the occasion, the Union minister urged doctors and health staff to disseminate knowledge about personal hygiene to the local people in the respective regions.

The Union minister visited patient wards and instructed officials to repair the damages of water supply and sewerage facilities.

In Hsinchaung model village, they donated medicines to the rural health branch.

In Yezagyo Township, the Union minister inspected inter-village roads, river water pumping project, prevention against landslide,

electrification and cultivation tasks. He then presented medicines, stationery, foodstuff and Sky Net receivers to villages.

MNA



Union Minister U Soe Maung gives words of encouragement to a patient at Pakokku General Hospital.—MNA

Interview with Director-General U Myint Kyaing of Population Department

Recently, I had been given an opportunity to interview Director-General of Population Department U Myint Kyaing who is also the in-charge of the whole census-taking process as the Secretary of Central Census-taking Committee. Regarding the upcoming census count that is needed for adoption of social, economic and administrative policies and acquisition of demographic data for planning and implementation of projects, I would like to in-

form the people of the points in census which are incomprehensible to them with the aim of closing information gap about the census.

Q: May I know a brief background history of the censuses that had taken in Myanmar throughout the successive periods?

A: According to records, surveys that look like censuses were conducted since King Thalun and King Bodaw Phaya in Myanmar. It was found that the processes of counting the

Interviewer: Min Min Zaw

population and recording other facts such as household, farmland, crops output and revenue were carried out. During the British rule, counts had been conducted in lower Myanmar in 1872 and 1881. A nationwide census used to be conducted every 10 years from 1890 to 1941. After regaining independence, two nationwide official censuses were taken in 1973 and 1983.

Q: It is learnt that names of everyone of a certain house including visitors and renters who were there when the census count took place at midnight on 29 March, 2014 will be listed by the census takers. People are very serious for knowing a point that there will arise ownership claims referring to the facts taken by those who are not family

(See page 8)

Yazagyo Multi-purpose Dam Project under construction in Kalay

By: Ju Nine

Yazagyo Multi-purpose Dam Project is situated on Nerinzara River, about two miles north of Yazagyo Village in Kalay Township near Kalay-Tamu Road. Its main purpose is to supply water to 8500-acre farmlands and generate 4 megawatts of electricity for development of Myittha basin in Kalay Township.

The project was started in 2003-2004 financial year. The 13660 ft long and 165 ft high embankment is of earthen type and its storage capacity is 52000 acre-

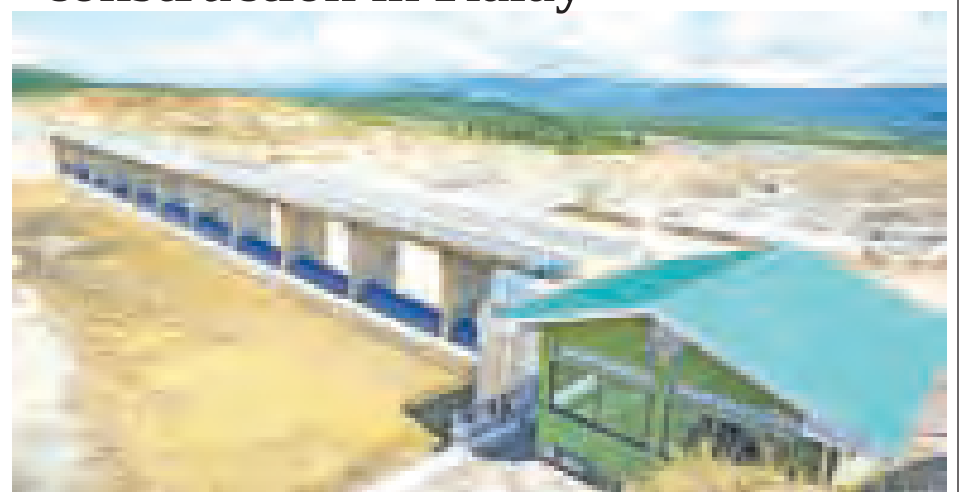
feet and still storage capacity is 8000 acre-feet. Watershed area of the dam is 980 acres and the length of main embankment will be 4745 ft and three saddle dykes, 8915 ft.

The project is scheduled to be completed in 2014-15 fiscal year and construction works of main dam is completed by 80 percent, 568 ft long, 350 ft wide RC Ogee type spillway by 86 percent and irrigation system by 41 percent.

Irrigation Department and C.G.G.C Co have already signed the contract for

construction of hydropower plant and it was planned to be completed within two years. Upon completion, annual average 21 million kWh of electricity will be generated by the hydropower plant.

As the height of Yazagyo Dam was increased to 10-foot and 5-foot shutter was installed at the spillway, water storage capacity of the dam will be 52000 acre-feet to irrigate water to 8500 acres of farmlands. The dam will much contribute to rural development task of the villages in the irrigated area



and will be able to supply electricity to Kalay.

The estimated cost of

the dam is K 54,244 million and the people in Kalay expect timely completion of

the dam.

Kyemon: 9-2-2014
Trs:KHS

Peace, stability and rule of law key to regional development

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Feb—The Union government and region/state and the leading committees of self-administered division zones are to be cooperated to fulfill requirements of local nationals in implementing re-

gional development tasks. Kayah State enjoys stability, tranquility and eternal peace which are necessary for socioeconomic development, said Union Minister at the President Office U Hla Tun in meeting with local people

at Peace Hall in Loikaw yesterday.

The Union minister continued that it is time to add momentum for development of road transportation, education, health and socioeconomic status as peace, stability and rule of law have been restored in the state. The officials are to be carried out people's wishes for people-centered development in collaboration with local people,

he said. The state government needs to follow the Constitution and rules and regulations in implementing regional development tasks in coordination with the Union government, he added.

Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung clarified matters on progress of tourism industry and the state chief minister extended greetings.

(See page 8)

Calcium Carbonate Plant produces 1500 tons of product monthly

YANGON, 9 Feb—Union Minister for Industry U Maung Myint made an inspection tour of Crown Calcium Carbonate Plant of Shwe Kyike company on Phanchatwun U Shwe Oh Street in Dagon Myothit (East) Township, here, this morning.

The Managing Director of the plant conducted the Union Minister and party round the plant to explain

activities on the production processes.

The plant has been manufacturing products since 2008 and it produces 1500 tons of calcium carbonate powder a month. The plant is producing the calcium carbonate powder to supply the domestic demand for manufacturing wire, PVC pipe, tooth paste, paper, pharmaceuticals and other personal goods.—MNA

Latpadaungtaung farmers receives cash assistance for confiscated lands

NAY PYI TAW, 9 Feb—So far cash assistance of K 702.672 million had been paid for 1079.35 acres farmland of 369 farmers up to date, said the Implementation Committee of the Report of the Investigation Commission for Letpadaungtaung Copper Mine Project.

Apart from land com-

pensations that had been given to local farmers for the loss of their lands in the project area during the previous year, cash assistance for confiscated lands are being presented to farmers who received K 1.2 million for an acre of farmland, K 0.8 million for an acre of cropland (holdings) and

(See page 8)

GENERAL



A man walks in the rain on a street in Buenos Aires City, capital of Argentina, on 7 Feb, 2014. Downpours since Friday morning in Buenos Aires have flooded the areas of La Plata and Ensenada municipalities and caused the evacuation of people at Berisso township, according to local press.—XINHUA

Gunman kills two in church off Russia's eastern coast

MOSCOW, 9 Feb — A gunman opened fire in a Russian Orthodox cathedral on the island of Sakhalin, off Russia's eastern coast, on Sunday, killing a nun and a churchgoer and wounding six other people, officials said.

The shooting happened at a time when Russian security forces are on high alert due to concerns about possible attacks on the Winter Olympics in Sochi, thousands of kilometres (miles) to the west.

The gunman was detained at the scene after the shooting at the main cathedral in the city of Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, on the island in the Sea of Okhotsk, north of Japan, the federal Investigative Committee said.

The suspect worked as a security guard in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, it added.

There was no imme-

diate word on a motive in the attack, which came days after a Moscow teenager killed a teacher and a policeman and held classmates hostage in the first major school shooting in Russia.

Most of the wounded in Sunday's mid-afternoon attack were shot in the legs and their lives were not in danger, RIA cited the regional leader of the Russian Orthodox Church, Archbishop Tikhon, as saying.

He said a prayer service for the victims would be held later on Sunday at the cathedral, which is the main Russian Orthodox church in a region that includes Sakhalin and the Kurile island chain. The part of the church where the shooting took place would have to be cleaned of victims' blood and blessed, he added.—Xinhua

Sudan says no delay in holding presidential vote

KHARTOUM, 9 Feb — Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir on Saturday reiterated that the coming presidential and parliamentary elections would not be delayed.

"There won't be any delay for the presidential and parliamentary elections slated for early 2015," said al-Bashir when addressing an emergency meeting for the ruling National Congress Party (NCP) in Khartoum.

"The government would embark during the coming phase on running a wide dialogue with the political forces, without exclusion, on peace, economic conditions, political freedoms and the Sudanese identity," he added.

He said the government does not mind renegotiations with the armed movements, provided that they abandon violence.

He said the country is entering a new phase through which his party intends to bring together all components of the Sudanese people, disclosing that contacts were being made with the political forces to form a mechanism to lead the dialogue.

In December last year al-Bashir made a cabinet reshuffle, a move described by the government as a step towards comprehensive reform.

Xinhua

MYANMAR TV

(10-2-2014, Monday)

6:00 am	2:30 pm
1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw	22. Documentary
6:25 am	2:50 pm
2. Physical Exercises	23. Musical Programme
6:30 am	3:00 pm
3. Nice & Sweet Song	24. News
6:40 am	3:15 pm
4. Documentary	25. 67 th Anniversary Union Day Programme
7:00 am	3:30 pm
5. News/Weather Report	26. Documentary
7:20 am	4:00 pm
6. People Talks	27. News
7:30 am	4:15 pm
7. Teleplay (Health)	28. 67 th Anniversary Union Day Programme
7:50 am	4:30 pm
8. Documentary	29. 2014 University Entrance Examination (Economic)
8:00 am	5:00 pm
9. News/ International News	30. News
8:25 am	5:15 pm
10. 67 th Anniversary Union Day Programme	31. Sweet Song For You
8:45 am	5:30 pm
11. Documentary (ASEAN)	32. India Drama Series
9:00 am	6:00 pm
12. News/ International News	33. News/Weather Report
9:25 am	6:30 pm
13. Cartoon Series	34. TV Drama Series
10:00 am	7:00 pm
14. News	35. News
10:15 am	7:25 pm
15. Weekly Entertainment	36. TV Drama Series
10:45 am	8:00 pm
16. Documentary	37. News/International News/Weather Report
11:10 am	8:35 pm
17. New Melody	38. People Talks
12:00 pm	8:45 pm
18. News/International News/Weather Report	39. Hit Songs of Stars
12:25 pm	9:00 pm
19. Myanmar Movies	40. News
1:50 pm	41. Documentary
20. Musical Programme	42. TV Drama Series
2:00 pm	
21. "traffic" (an mtv exit special)	

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

10-2-14 07:00 am ~ 11-2-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Myanmar Traditional Instruments (OBOE)
- * World News
- * Scented Buddha Images
- * Local News
- * Food Trip (EP-1) (Part -2)
- * World News
- * Fortune Teller: "Yan Moe Aung"
- * Local News
- * The Most Prominent Resort And Residence - Ngapali
- * World News
- * News Extra "Thanakha"
- * Local News
- * Applied Myanmar Traditional Martial Art (Part-1)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Impressionism
- * Journey To Unimaginable Spots (EP-2)
- * The Pride of Myanmar "Traditional Handicraft"
- * Local News
- * The Man and The Elephant (Part-II)
- * World News
- * In the Studio: Khin Su Shin
- * Mogok: The Colourful Land of Rubies
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Cubism
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Pottery
- * World News
- * Art Students: Theatrical Art

Bayern, Dortmund reap victories in German Bundesliga

BERLIN, 9 Feb — Front runners Bayern Munich marched on as they won the Bavarian derby 2-0 meanwhile Dortmund sealed their second straight victory with a goal festival over Bremen at the 20 round of Bundesliga on Saturday. Bayern extend their unbeaten record to 45 games as resilient Nuremberg failed to get more out of their bright start at the Bavarian derby. The hosts caught a lively start at outsold home front when Daniel Ginczek tested Bayern custodian Manuel Neuer before Hiroshi Kiyotake's sideways scissors kick rattled the bar. The German giants seemed impressed as Josip Drmic

nearly broke the deadlock, but it was again Neuer who denied the opener.

However, instead of celebrating an opener against the league leaders, Nuremberg were punished for their poor chance conversion as Mario Mandzukic opened the scoring against the run of the

game at the 18th minute. The Croatian international made use of David Alaba's cross to volley home from seven meters into the top left corner. Bayern established their rhythm as Arjen Robben and Thomas Mueller rattled the woodwork as everything pointed to another goal for the visitors.



Nuremberg hoped to grab at least one point but all their hopes were destroyed by Philipp Lahm, who exploited Mandzukic's assist to score his first goal since December 2010.

Consequently Bayern restore their 13-point lead atop the standings with 56 points while Nuremberg slumped into the relegation battle with 16th position and only 17 points. Dortmund routed Bremen 5-1 to wrap up their second straight win, keeping the pressure on second placed Leverkusen. The hosts from Bremen caught a better start but Franco di Santo failed to ensure a perfect start from close range. Bremen staged a well-posi-



tioned defence but lacked in creativity meanwhile Dortmund failed to find a gap inside Bremen's bulwark. However, things changed with the 26th minute as Marcel Schmelzer forced a turnover to set up for Robert Lewandowski, who slotted home into the far post corner.

Dortmund added another goal to their lead with just four minutes remaining in the first half as Henrik Mkhitarian dribbled his way through Bremen's

defence to double the lead from inside the box. Juergen Klopp men started where they left off as Manuel Friedrich headed it 3-0 on the scoreboards following his first goal for the BVB with just three minutes into the second half. To make things worse for hapless Bremen, Mkhitarian curled a back heel pass by Marco Reus from sharp angle past Bremen keeper Raphael Wolf to seal his brace and the 4-0 lead at the 62nd minute.—Reuters