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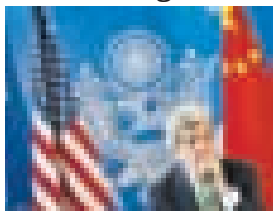
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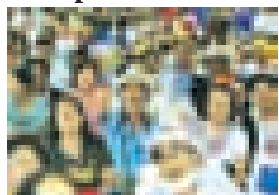
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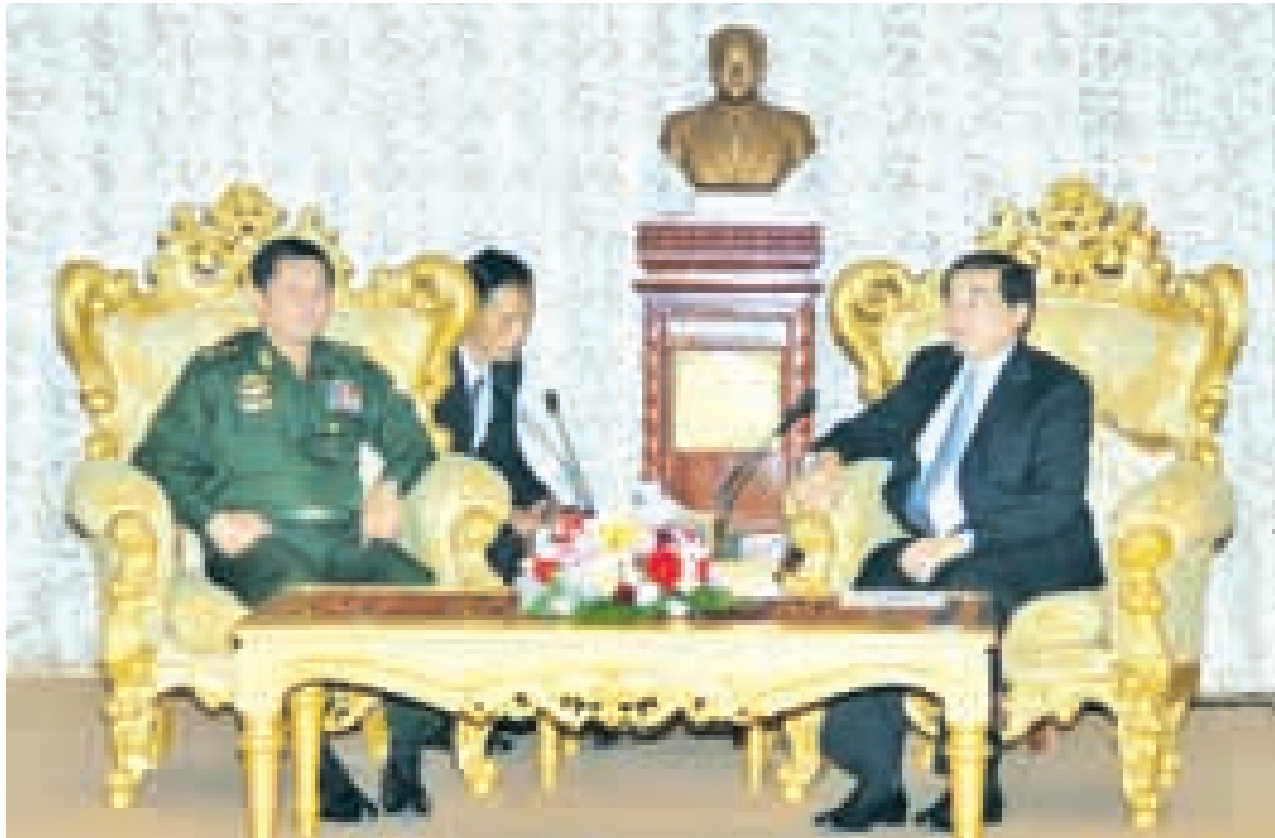


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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Laungprabang Province in Lao PDR



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets Governor of Laungprabang Province Mr. Kham Pheng Saisompheng at the latter's office in Laungprabang.—MYAWADY

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing held a discussion with Governor of Laungprabang Province Mr. Kham Pheng Saisompheng at the latter's office on 15 February.

At the meeting, the Laungprabang governor said that more than 1200-year-old Laungprabang has a population of over 430,000 and their livelihood rely on agriculture and livestock breeding. He continued that Laung-

prabang is one of the most visited tourist places in the world.

The Senior General said that he takes pride in the city's rich cultural heritage, calling for tourism co-operation with Myanmar's ancient cities—Mandalay and Bagan.

In the evening, the Senior General and party attended a dinner hosted by the officials from Laungprabang Command.

First, the commander of Laungprabang Command and the Senior Gen-

eral extended greetings. Before and during the dinner, Laungprabang Province cultural troupe performed traditional dance and songs. Then, the Senior General and officials of Laungprabang Command exchanged gifts and presented gifts to the cultural troupe.

The Senior General

and party donated robes and offertories to the monks at the rice offering ceremony in Wat Sain Village on 16 February morning.

Next, they viewed round Laungprabang on a motorcade and visited Royal Palace Museum and donated offertories and robes to the monks at a temple.

Myawady

March towards an accountable and responsible media world

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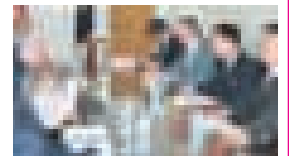
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Mobile Medical Unit provides free health care to workers in Mingaladon industrial zone



Mobile medical facility providing primary health care to workers.

A mobile medical unit (MMU) provided health care services to the workers of Asia Optical Factory in Mingaladon Industrial Zone on 15 February. The MMU is a clinic on the wheels that can offer basic health care to the people.

Deputy Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Security Daw Win Maw Tun observed giving free healthcare to the factory workers by the MMU there.

In meeting with workers' representatives, employers and officials, the deputy minister talked

about three insurance benefits—health and social care insurance, family assistance insurance and occupational injury insurance—that will be among in the new social security law. She also elaborated ongoing process of issuing social security smart cards.

In the morning, the deputy minister attended a stake-driving ceremony for construction of a new operation theater for Htantabin Workers' Hospital in Hlinethaya Township.

It is learnt that efforts are being made to widely cover more workers in pro-

viding primary health care to them with the use of such mobile medical facility. Moreover, plans being implemented by the ministry aim at enabling workers who contribute their regular payments to the social security funds to have access to free healthcare at other people's hospitals and private hospitals apart from clinics of social security board and workers' hospitals in the future.

Myanma Alinn: 16-2-2014
Trs: YM

By: MNA

Relics, Buddha images enshrined at Dhammarajika Pagoda in Mogaung Tsp



MOGAUNG, 16 Feb—A ceremony to enshrine relics, religious objects and ornaments into the reliquary was held at Dhammarajika Pagoda in Dhammekha Hill of Pinbaw Village of Mogaung Township, Kachin State, on 14 February.

A total of 484 Buddha images, relics and ornaments were sprinkled scented water in process of enshrinement.

Officials conveyed the Buddha images, religious objects and ornaments into the reliquary. Members of the Sangha recited religious verses.

The pagoda is 108

feet in height, 120 feet in circumference. It has four archways. The construction of the pagoda will cost more than K 2000 million.

It was also attended by Abbot Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kovida of Pinbaw Dhamma Thukha Monastery and members of the Sangha, Kachin State Hluttaw MP U Kyaw Myint, Township Administrator U Tin Swe Myint, Chairman of the Pagoda Board of Trustees U Tun Shein and members, wellwishers and local people totalling over 3000.

MMAL-Hsimeekhon

Nan Yi

Mongkai Township WAO organizes Ms Union Contest

MONGKAI, 16 Feb—Mongkai Township Women's Affairs Organization held the Ms Union Contest in conjunction with the concert at the hall of Mongkai Township of Shan State on 12 February evening.

Chairperson of Township WAO Daw Khaing Khaing Htwe made a speech.

The Ms Union Contest was categorized as two classes for primary level girl event and the above-16

event.

A total of 37 women and girls from five wards and village-tracts participated in the contest.

In the primary level event, Nang Phyo Theingi Aung stood first while Nang Cho Win secured the first prize in the above-16 event.

Officials of the association presented prizes to the winners two classes.

MMAL-Nang Hlaing

Hlaing Oo (Mongkai)



Animals distributed to local breeders for rural development

YEBYU, 16 Feb—Yebyu Township Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of Dawei District in Taninthayi Region distributed animals to 11 villages of the townships under the supervision of Taninthayi Region government on 13 February morning.

In accord with the Un-

ion Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, Staff Officer Dr Min Zin Oo of Township LBVD presented 148 pigs, three cows and 215 ducks worth K 9 million to 61 breeders of 11 villages in the first week of February to develop rural regions.

MMAL-Yebyu Township

IPRD

Lakes dredged to store rainwater



KANMA, 16 Feb—Kanma Township Rural Development Department of Thayet District in Magway Region spent the fund on sinking tube-wells in 2013-14 fiscal year so as to store rainwater for supply of water to the local people.

Head of District Rural Development Department U Aung Gyi supervised dredging of the earthen lakes in Thitmezi Village on 15 February.

Head of Township

Department U Thiha Soe reported on progress of works. The lake is 100 square feet and three feet deep. Earthen embankment is eight feet high.

So, the lake can store about 200,000 gallons of water to be able to solve the problems on shortage of water in the summer.

The department plans to dredge the earthen lakes in six other villages.

MMAL-Township

IPRD

Gravel road constructed for rural development

MAUBIN, 16 Feb—Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development and Rural Development Department are building nine miles long Achan-Htan-bingwe gravel road spending the fund for 2013-14

fiscal year.

The construction started on 1 February.

The road will be eight feet wide and eight inches thick.

Officials of the District and Township Rural

Nation-building Endeavours

Mandalay-Bagan railroad upgraded

NATOGYI, 16 Feb—Thanks to substitution of concrete sleepers along the railroad section from Mandalay to Bagan and maintenance of the rail tracks, the trains along that route can drive safely.

Myanmar Railways is placing emphasis on maintenance of the rail tracks, runs of the trains on time and speeding the driving rate of locomotives, the passengers enjoy convenient travelling.

Fare of train ticket has been risen similar to that of bus fare. However, the Myanmar Railways does not meet loss in its runs due lack of motor roads along its route. That is why local people rely on the rail transportation.

The express train, local train and commuter trains are running along Mandalay-Bagan railroad.

MMAL-Htay Myint

Maung



A train runs along railroad linking Mandalay and Bagan.

Development Departments supervised land preparations for construction, placing of gravels along the

road section, use of heavy machinery and stockpile of gravels.

MMAL-Aung Tha Kyaw

WORLD

Thai police fail to reach deal with protesters

BANGKOK, 16 Feb—Thai police and a prominent protest leader failed to reach a deal on Sunday to reopen state offices and roads in Bangkok that have been occupied for months by protesters seeking to overthrow Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra.

Talks with Buddhist monk Luang Pu Buddha Issara, a protest leader, failed to free up an occupied government complex in the north of the capital as a third day of a security operation designed to retake sites occupied by protesters drew to a close.

Buddha Issara said the government was using a request to reopen roads as an excuse to crack down on protesters.

"If there is blood loss... will the authorities take responsibility? Or will you blame it on provocateurs?"

Buddha Issara asked police representatives.

Speaking to the monk during a televised video conference, Naret Nanthachot, commissioner of Provincial Police Region 1, said police would not use force.

"I am asking for your kindness and understanding...tens of thousands of people are frustrated each day by their inability to use roads," said Naret.

Both sides agreed to talk at a later date.

Hundreds of riot police began an operation to reclaim key intersections and state buildings in Bangkok on Friday in what authorities said would be a slow operation to take back areas that have been occupied by protesters for several weeks.

Labor Minister Chalerm Yoobamrung, who



An anti-government protester uses a clapper during a rally near the Government Complex in Bangkok 16 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

is charge of the operation, said the government would continue with its operation and try to reclaim five protest sites next week.

"This gathering has caused distress to others... that's why we have to reclaim the sites starting next week," Chalerm said at a news conference on Sun-

day.

The security operation has so far avoided larger sites in the city center occupied by the main protest group, the People's Democratic Reform Committee (PDRC), focusing instead on state offices on the outskirts of Bangkok.

Reuters

Iraq's Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr quits politics

BAGHDAD, 16 Feb — Iraq's firebrand Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr on Sunday announced that he is leaving political life and closed his offices in order to stop the "evil acts" by some people under the name of his Sadr family.

"I announce that I do not intervene in public political affairs, and there is no bloc would represent us anymore, nor any position inside and outside the government and the parliament," Sadr said in a statement posted in his official website.

The statement also said that Sadr has closed all of his political offices except for some charities and said that "no one has the right to represent and speak on their behalf and under their title."

According to the statement, Sadr's surprise decision came to "protect his family's name, and to end all evil acts that occurred and likely to occur under the name of our family or under the name of our offices." Sadr's move would have some impacts on the political process as his parliamentary bloc al-Ahrrar and his allied politicians would lose their religious legitimacy after Sadr's withdrawal.

Sadr also known of his stance to reject Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's efforts to seek a third term in his post after the coming April 30 national elections. His withdrawal could be useful for Maliki's ambition.

Moqtada al-Sadr, 40, is the son of a prominent Shiite leader, Ayatollah Mohammad Sadeq al-Sadr, who was murdered presumably by the regime of Saddam Hussein in 1999.

Succeeding his father's career, al-Sadr became the head of the al-Sadr group. He was also enrolled at the Najaf Hawza Seminary and then in Iran's Qum Hawza Seminary.—Xinhua

Continued vigilance urged against heavy snow in northern Japan

TOKYO, 16 Feb—The Japan Meteorological Agency on Sunday urged continued vigilance about heavy snow and strong winds in northern Japan, as the low pressure system that brought record snowfalls centering on the country's eastern region moved to the northeastern Pacific coast.

The heavy snow has caused 12 deaths since Friday in seven prefectures -- Gunma, Saitama, Yamaguchi, Nagano, Shizuoka, Shiga and Oita.

The low pressure system, which dumped 27 centimeters of snow in Tokyo and broke snowfall records in other cities, is expected to further strengthen by Monday, coming close to the Kuril Islands, to bring heavy snow and strong winds in coastal areas in northern Japan, the agency said.—Kyodo News

Two killed as more storms batter Britain

LONDON, 16 Feb—Two people were killed and 32 people were rescued from a seaside restaurant on Friday as storms and strong winds battered Britain, adding more misery to areas already hit by widespread flooding and transport chaos. Gales of up to 80 miles per hour and heavy rain lashed southern England and Wales overnight, Britain's Met Office said, while severe flood warnings remained in place for much of southern and central parts

of Britain.

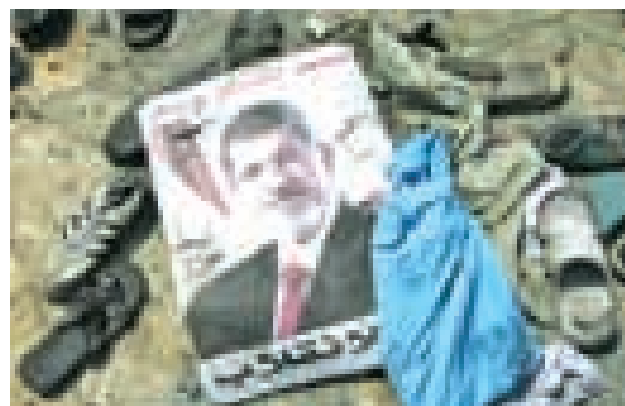
More than 141,000 people have been left without power after high winds brought down power lines, the Energy Networks Association which represents energy companies said.

A 49-year-old woman died in the central London district of Holborn late on Friday after part of a building collapsed on the car she was driving, British police said.

In the English Channel, an 85-year-old man died when a cruise ship carrying 1,084 passengers and crew was hit by a large wave during rough seas, the ship's operator Cruise & Maritime Voyages said. The ship was heading to her home port of Tilbury, southeast England after a 42-night voyage.

Emergency services rescued 32 diners from a beachfront restaurant in

Reuters



A poster of deposed Egyptian President Mohamed Mursi that reads "Yes to legitimacy; no to the coup" lies amid the debris of a cleared protest camp outside the burnt Rabaa Adawiya mosque in Cairo 15 Aug, 2013.

REUTERS

bollah as a reward for their cooperation, the prosecutor said.

Hamas, which governs

the Gaza Strip, has dismissed the charges as "fabrications and lies".

Reuters

Egypt's deposed president Mursi on trial on terrorism charges

CAIRO, 16 Feb—Deposed Egyptian president Mohamed Mursi appeared in court on Sunday on charges of conspiring with foreign groups to commit terrorist acts in Egypt, in a further escalation of the crackdown against his Muslim Brotherhood.

Declaring it "the biggest case of conspiracy in the history of Egypt", prosecutors have detailed a "terrorist plan" dating back to 2005 and implicating Palestinian group Hamas and the Shi'ite Islamist government of Iran as well as its Lebanese ally Hezbollah.

Mursi's Muslim Brotherhood propelled him to victory in the 2012 presidential election but has been driven underground since the army took power in July after mass protests against his rule.

The state, which has declared the Brotherhood a terrorist group, has killed

about 1,000 of its members on the streets and jailed thousands of others, including top leaders.

Egypt's Western allies have exerted little pressure on the Cairo government to end what critics say are widespread human rights violations.

Mursi is on trial in three cases and charged in two others.

In the latest one, the prosecutor also charged Brotherhood leaders Mohamed Badie, Khairat El-Shater, Mahmoud Ezzat and others with crimes including committing acts of terrorism in Egypt and divulging military secrets to a foreign state.

A total of 36 people are on trial.

The Brotherhood accuses the army of staging a coup and reviving a dictatorship, an allegation the military denies.

The prosecutor said

the Brotherhood's plan was to send "elements" to the Gaza Strip for military training by Hezbollah and the Iranian Revolutionary Guards.

Upon their return to Egypt, they would join forces with extremist groups in the Sinai Peninsula, the Egyptian-controlled territory that borders Israel to the east, it said.

After the 2011 uprising that ousted President Hosni Mubarak, the group exploited the chaos to carry out attacks on security forces in North Sinai and elsewhere, it said.

The prosecutor said they aimed to establish an "Islamic emirate" in North Sinai where Mursi not declared president.

Mursi's presidential aides including Essam El-Haddad, his national security adviser, had leaked secret reports to Iran's Revolutionary Guards and Hez-

WORLD

Tokyu blames snow for train collision near Tokyo

TOKYO, 16 Feb — An official of railway operator Tokyu Corp suggested on Saturday heavy snow may have weakened the brakes of a train involved in the commuter train collision that occurred near Tokyo shortly after midnight.

Fumiaki Shiroishi, general manager of Tokyu's railway business, said the brakes of the train that rear-ended another "were not as effective as expected due to the effects of snow." He noted that the automatic train control system worked

properly at the time of the accident that left 19 passengers with light injuries.

"We apologize for causing much anxiety and trouble to everyone," Shiroishi said.

At around 12:30 am, a train on the Tokyu Toyoko

line linking Tokyo and Yokohama bumped into another train that was stopped at Motosumiyoshi Station in Kawasaki city south of Tokyo after overrunning the stop line by about 30 metres.

The first and second cars of the moving train derailed after the collision and the driver said he had applied the brake but not in time, according to Kanagawa prefectural police.

Train services were disrupted at the time of the accident due to heavy snow, and Shiroishi said there had been 10 previous instances on Friday of trains halting beyond the stop line on the same line, including two at the same station. Transport authorities have launched an investigation and found that the driver of the colliding train had been notified prior to the accident, an official said.—Kyodo News



Fumiaki Shiroishi (C), general manager of railway operator Tokyu Corp, and two other Tokyu officials bow during a Press conference at the transport ministry in Tokyo on 15 Feb, 2014, following the commuter train collision at Motosumiyoshi station on the Tokyu Toyoko Line.—KYODO NEWS

Gov't to submit bill to parliament to ratify arms trade pact

TOKYO, 16 Feb — The government plans to submit to parliament by the end of this month a bill to ratify the Arms Trade Treaty, the first international pact to regulate trade in conventional arms, government sources said on Saturday.

The measure, coming less than a year after Japan signed the treaty adopted at the UN General Assembly last April, underscores Tokyo's eagerness to nudge others to join the

framework, according to the sources.

However, the move appears incongruous with the policy of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government in seeking to relax the nation's restrictions on arms exports.

The treaty would regulate trade in such weapons as tanks, attack helicopters, combat aircraft and small arms. Countries that accede to the pact would be banned from importing, exporting

or brokering arms trades if there are risks the weapons could be used for terrorism or genocide or the trade would violate a UN Security Council resolution.

Japan took the lead in drafting the treaty along with Britain and Australia, and signed the pact last June. It will go into force when 50 countries ratified the treaty, but just over 10 countries have so far done so. The United States signed the pact last

September but has yet to ratify it, with no prospect of obtaining approval from Congress anytime soon. Neither Russia nor China has signed the treaty. One government source dismissed the notion of inconsistency in Tokyo's arms export policy on the grounds that the country's restrictions on arms exports, even if relaxed, would still be more strict than the regulation to be imposed by the treaty.—Kyodo News

Marshall Islands leader finds similarities on visit to Hiroshima

HIROSHIMA, 16 Feb — Marshall Islands President Christopher Loeak visited the Hiroshima peace museum on Saturday and spoke of similarities between his country and the Japanese city that suffered US atomic bombing in 1945.

Loeak, who met with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo on Friday, visited Hiroshima ahead of the 60th anniversary of the US hydrogen bomb test 1 March, 1954, on Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

At the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum, Loeak was briefed by museum director Kenji Shiga and atomic bomb survivor Keiko Ogura, 76, on



Marshall Islands President Christopher Loeak (L) offers a floral wreath at the Cenotaph for the Atomic Bomb Victims at Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima on 15 Feb, 2014. KYODO NEWS

the 1945 bombing of the city and its aftermath.

Loeak said he looks to atomic bomb survivors to draw attention to the effects of nuclear weapons, adding that he hopes to forge solidarity with the people of Nagasaki and Fukushima for having similarly been impacted by radiation.

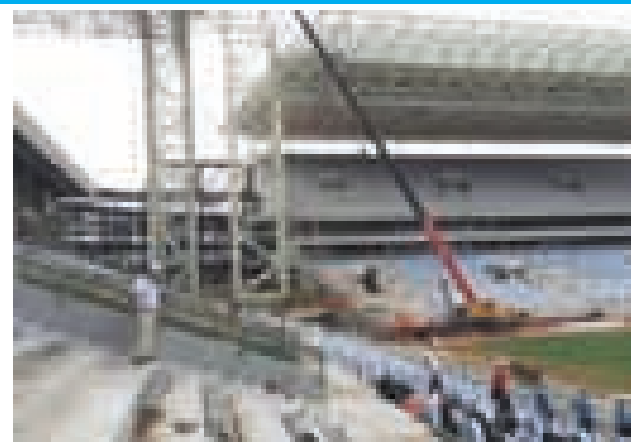
Some Marshall Islands residents were exposed to radioactive fallout from the 1954 H-bomb test. The Japanese tuna fishing boat *Fukuryu Maru No 5* was also exposed to the fallout.

The president arrived in Japan on Wednesday and is set to leave on Sunday.

Kyodo News

Iraqi PM visits battlefield in Anbar, 21 killed in violence

BAGHDAD, 16 Feb — Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki on Saturday paid a surprise visit to the battlefield in Anbar Province to announce a rebuilding plan, while violence across the country left 21 people killed and 26 wounded, government and security sources said. Maliki spent several hours in his first visit to the province, during which he met with top military and tribal leaders, who briefed him on the security situation and the development of military operations in the provincial capital city of Ramadi, some 110 km west of Baghdad, a statement from Maliki's office said. Maliki pledged to restore security and stability across province



An official (L) from Brazil's World Cup organizers accompanies visitors on a tour inside the Arena Pantanal soccer stadium, which will host several matches of the 2014 World Cup in Cuiaba, on 13 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

Brazil World Cup stadium was structurally damaged by fire

CUIABA, 16 Feb — An October fire at a Brazilian World Cup stadium caused far more damage than previously reported, according to a report by local prosecutors obtained by Reuters, raising questions about whether the stadium will be ready for the competition and why government officials have insisted the blaze was minor.

State officials overseeing construction of the still-unfinished Arena Pantanal in the western city of Cuiabá, which is among 12 Brazilian cities scheduled to host games, have long said the 25 October fire wasn't a major cause for concern.

However, an 18-page report prepared in December by the Mato Grosso state Public Ministry, an independent judicial body similar to the district attorney's office in the United

States, warned that the blaze caused "structural damage" that "could compromise the overall stability of the construction." The report was delivered in December to the state agency overseeing the stadium's construction, the Extraordinary Secretariat for the World Cup, or Secopa. State prosecutors provided Reuters with access to the document, whose content has not been previously disclosed to the public.

It is unclear whether the damage described in the report has since been fixed. Prosecutors are scheduled to conduct a follow-up inspection of the fire site next Thursday, and they said they hoped the disclosure of the report's contents would lead local officials to be more cooperative and transparent than they have until now.

Reuters

and announced a comprehensive reconstruction plan for cities destroyed by militant groups or in clashes with them, the statement said.

The plan also includes training thousands of local young men, who fight the militant groups to protect their homeland in the place of the army, which will withdraw for other missions, the statement added.

Meanwhile, an official from the main hospital in Fallujah told *Xinhua* that his hospital received Saturday three bodies and four people with artillery and mortar wounds. Anbar Province has been the scene of fierce clashes that flared up after Iraqi police dismantled an anti-government protest

site outside Ramadi in late December.

In Baghdad, three civilians were wounded when two roadside bombs went off in the east district of Sadr City, a police source told *Xinhua*. Four more people were wounded in a roadside bomb blast at a marketplace in Obiedi district in east Baghdad, while a policeman was wounded in a roadside bomb explosion near his patrol in Zaiyounah District also in the east, the source added.

In Iraq's eastern province of Diyala, militiamen bombed a Sunni mosque in the village of Albu-Shaheen east of the provincial capital city of Baquba, a local police source told *Xinhua*.

Xinhua

WORLD

Obama signs increase in US debt ceiling

RANCHO MIRAGE, (California), 16 Feb — President Barack Obama signed legislation on Saturday that raises the US debt limit through March 2015, taking the politically volatile issue off the table with congressional elections coming up this November.

Without an increase in the statutory debt limit, the US government would have soon defaulted on some of its obligations and would have had to shut down some programs, an historic event that would have caused severe market turmoil.

Picnic bus accident kills seven children in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 16 Feb — At least seven children were killed and some 20 others injured as their picnic bus plunged into a roadside canal in southwestern Jessore district, some 164 km away of capital Dhaka, on Saturday night, police said.

A Jessore police official told Xinhua that the bus with around 30 children of a primary school veered off the road and plunged into the canal at around 8:30 pm (local time).

"All the seven children died on the spot," said the police official. He said the accident took place on their way back to home after a picnic.

The bus driver seems to have lost control as the roads were slippery after rain, he added. At least 44 school students were killed in a fatal road accident in July 2011 when a truck carrying them overturned and plunged into a ditch in Mirsarai sub-district of Bangladesh's Chittagong District, 240 km southeast of Dhaka.

Xinhua



Iran's Parliament speaker Ali Larijani speaks at a Press conference in Teheran, capital of Iran, on 15 Feb, 2014. Larijani said here on Saturday that there is nothing secret on the nuclear deal signed by Iran and the 5+1.—XINHUA

On a long holiday weekend in a desert resort area in southern California, Obama put his signature on the legislation without fanfare, while behind closed doors at the Sunnylands retreat.

It was a quiet end to the latest chapter in what has been one of the more challenging aspects of his presidency, as he and his fellow Democrats have repeatedly sparred with Republicans over increasing the country's borrowing authority.

Extending the debt ceiling to March 2015

means the issue may not get caught up in election-year politics.

Congress had given final approval to the increase after final action in the Senate on Wednesday, but only over the objections of Texas Republican Ted Cruz, a favorite of the conservative Tea Party movement.

It appeared at first there would not be enough Republicans to join the Democratic majority and advance the bill.

But a decision by Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell and No

2 Senate Republican John Cornyn, who are both up for re-election this year, to vote to advance the measure ensured that it would survive.

The House of Representatives, where Republicans hold a majority, passed the measure in a close vote on Tuesday after Republicans dropped the confrontational tactics they had used in similar votes over the past three years.

The advance of the measure has brought relief to financial markets. Investors were becoming



US President Barack Obama speaks before signing an executive order to raise the minimum wage for federal contract workers to \$10.10 an hour starting next year, during an event at the White House in Washington on 12 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

increasingly jittery ahead of 27 February, the date by which the US Treasury had been warning its

borrowing authority would be exhausted, putting federal payments at risk.

Reuters

Confab calls for action to outlaw nukes on 70 years after Hiroshima

NUEVO VALLARTA, (Mexico), 16 Feb — A major conference drawing representatives from more than 140 countries ended on Friday with an appeal for action to outlaw nuclear weapons ahead of the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki next year.

The chair's summary of the two-day Second Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in Nayarit, Mexico, reiterated the growing risk of nuclear weapons use globally because of their proliferation and vulnerability to cyber attacks,

human error and potential access to nuclear arsenals by terrorist groups.

In addition to the short and long-term impact on human health from radiation exposure, a nuclear weapon detonation would have effects not constrained by national borders, most severely affecting the poor and vulnerable, the document said.

The summary said weapons will only have been eliminated after they are outlawed. "We believe this is the path to achieve a world without nuclear weapons," it added.

"In our view, this is

consistent with our obligations under international law" such as those derived from the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Geneva Convention.

The conference called on nuclear weapons states and countries that have not joined the NPT to take part in the third conference to be held in Austria.

The United States, Russia, China, Britain and France, which are allowed to possess nukes under the NPT, did not take part in the first conference in Oslo in March last year as well as the latest meeting.

Kyodo News

Japan, US apart over farm produce, auto trade in TPP trade talks



US Trade Representative Michael Froman (L) and Akira Amari (2nd from R), Japan's minister in charge of the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade negotiations, hold talks in Washington on 15 Feb, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

WASHINGTON, 16 Feb — Japan and the United States moved no closer to an early conclusion of the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade pact in ministerial talks Saturday, remaining divided over thorny farm produce and auto trade issues. Both governments will "continue to work" on narrowing the gaps ahead of an upcoming plenary ministerial meeting in Singapore, Japanese

TPP minister Akira Amari told reporters after meeting with US Trade Representative Michael Froman in Washington.

Amari said bilateral negotiations with the United States on the TPP had been "deadlocked" since top officials from both governments met on the sidelines the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, last month.

"We shared a view on

how to narrow down our differences," Amari said, after being asked what the main progress made in the talks with Froman was.

Amari said both governments agreed on the importance of bridging gaps over the issue of market access including agricultural products and rules in the TPP framework.

The USTR said in a statement that Froman and Amari "noted that differences remain, particularly in the negotiations on automotive trade." The ministers "instructed their teams to continue this work next week in Singapore and Tokyo," the statement said.

The talks between the two biggest economies in the envisioned TPP pact came before the first ministerial gathering for the TPP countries in the Southeast Asian country since they missed the primary deadline for concluding a pact at the end of last year.

Kyodo News

Over half Osaka voters question Hashimoto re-election bid

OSAKA, 16 Feb — A majority of voters in the city of Osaka, western Japan, question Mayor Toru Hashimoto's recent resignation to seek re-election with the aim of achieving his proposed local administrative reform, a Kyodo News survey showed on Sunday. In the telephone survey conducted Saturday and Sunday, 64.2 percent of respondents voiced doubts about Hashimoto's move, while 27.3 percent welcomed it.

On 7 February, Hashimoto submitted his resignation in order to elicit public opinion in an election regarding his plan to merge the Osaka prefectural and municipal governments into a metropolitan government similar to Tokyo's.

The 1,014 respondents to the random-digit-dialed survey were divided about the reform plan, with 39.1 percent in favor and 40.3 percent against, and also about whether to back Hashimoto, with 47.8 percent supportive and 41.8 percent opposed.

Asked about their reasons for questioning the mayor's move, the largest group of 31.2 percent cited the high cost involved, followed by 30.0 percent who said Hashimoto should discuss the matter with opponents in the municipal assembly and 21.2 percent who said they do not favor Hashimoto's political stance.

Of those who welcomed the re-election bid, the largest group of 29.8 percent said public views about the Osaka metropolis plan would be clarified by the election.

The Osaka municipal assembly voted Friday to reject Hashimoto's resignation, but he will automatically lose the mayoral post on 27, 20 February days after he announced his resignation, under the local autonomy law. Major political parties in Osaka plan not to field candidates. If no other candidates run, Hashimoto will be re-elected without a vote in the election set for 23 March.—Kyodo News

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Opera Software says Skyfire's expectations were too high

OSLO, 16 Feb — Norway's Opera Software now expects to pay \$35 million less than anticipated for Skyfire, a video and data compression technology firm bought in February 2013, as sales underperformed the unit's own expectations, the company said on Tuesday.

Opera's shares traded 4.1 percent lower at 1050 GMT. "As we got through the end of 2013, we realized that the earn-out targets set by the Skyfire management team were not realistic, and

as a result, in the fourth quarter of 2013, we reduced the estimated earn-out payments to Skyfire by \$35 million. We continue to feel good about the Skyfire technology, its business and its prospects going forward," Opera Chief Financial Officer Erik Harrell said.

The original deal set a price tag of up to \$155 million for Skyfire, with an upfront pay of \$50 million and the rest to be paid over three years. Skyfire helps telecoms operators and broadband providers compress

data through cloud computing technologies and thereby save money by allowing them to invest less in physical infrastructure. "Many in the market had expected the operator business to grow faster than it actually has," Arctic Securities analyst Markus Bjerke said. "Opera must also have thought so since they're now changing the previously announced payment."

He said the share price fall was linked to the Skyfire announcement. "The share has performed

strongly on Skyfire expectations so it's not entirely surprising that it's falling on a disappointment there," Bjerke added. Chief Executive Lars Boilesen said he was pleased with signing two Skyfire deals during 2013 and that prospects for the unit were good. "If there is a disconnect between analysts' expectations and what we actually deliver, then that's something we have to work on," he told Reuters.

"There are many (potential customers) that are testing the product. It's a

complex and time consuming process that we believe will lead to several deals in 2014," he said. "The video compression is now becoming part of all our products, and that's the main reason why we bought them." Opera maintained it is on track to meet its long-held 2015 sales target of \$500 million and core earnings of \$150 million. Analysts in a Reuters poll on average expected next year's revenues to hit \$487 million.

The analysts expected 2015 earnings before

interest, tax, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) of \$159 million. Opera's forecasts for 2014 were also broadly in line with analyst expectations. Fourth-quarter 2013 revenues totaled \$89.6 million, beating the predictions from all eight analysts in the Reuters poll, which had an average expectation of \$86.1 million. Adjusted EBITDA for the period was exactly in line with forecasts, at \$24 million, while operating profit (EBIT) was marginally lower.—Reuters

South Korea to route sensitive US communications away from Huawei gear

SEOUL, 16 Feb — South Korea has agreed to route sensitive US and South Korean communications away from networks that include equipment made by Huawei Technologies Co Ltd, spurred by Washington's concerns over the Chinese firm, the Wall Street Journal reported on Friday. US

officials in meetings with South Korean counterparts in recent months raised the risk that Huawei's equipment could be used for spying on communications between the allies as well as compromise networks used by US military and intelligence officials in South Korea, the report said.

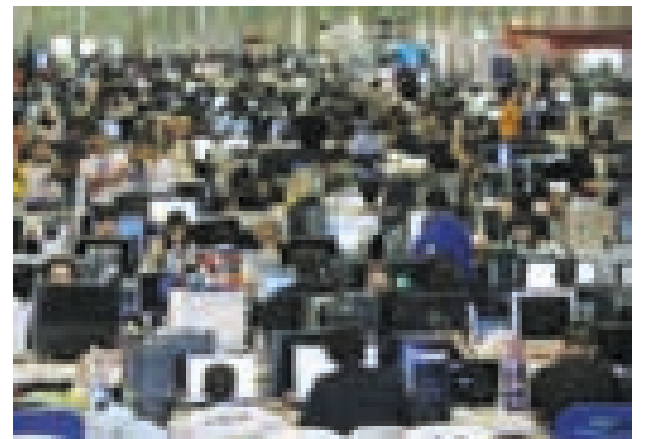
"To address these security concerns, South Korea decided to make changes to the project so that sensitive South Korean government communications won't pass through Huawei equipment," the Journal quoted US officials briefed on the discussions as saying. A US official confirmed the report but declined to provide further details. A South Korean foreign ministry official declined to comment on the report but said the issue at stake involved purchase decisions by private companies, over which the government has no control. Huawei had no comment on the report.

South Korea hosts about 28,500 US troops as part of the two countries'

combined defence against possible North Korean aggression. Last year, the heads of two US Senate committees overseeing national security expressed concern about a supply deal between Huawei and South Korea's LG Uplus Corp, its third largest mobile carrier.

Huawei equipment will not be used or connected to US military bases in South Korea to protect American communications, the officials were quoted as saying. State Department spokeswoman Jennifer Psaki said: "While the United States has expressed concerns in the past, these decisions were made by the Republic of Korea and the Republic of Korea alone."

Reuters



People surf the web during the annual "Campus Party" Internet users gathering in Valencia on 28 July, 2009.—REUTERS

Spain to force search engines to pay to display some content

MADRID, 16 Feb — News media companies in Spain will be able to charge search engines such as Google for displaying copyrighted content under a new law proposed by the Spanish government on Friday.

The measure echoes similar drives around Europe. Publishers in Portugal, France, Belgium and Germany have pushed for compensation in some form or another for links, snippets, headlines and lead paragraphs that appear in news search engines and aggregators such as Google

News and Yahoo news. The search engines draw revenue from advertising placed near news content and media companies have fought for a share of it.

The new rule was introduced in the draft of an intellectual property law that the centre-right People's Party government will present to parliament for approval, Deputy Prime Minister Soraya Saenz de Santamaria told a weekly news conference. Under the proposed changes, the search engines would not have to seek permission to publish brief fragments but would have to pay "an equitable remuneration for the use".

The government did not say how it would be determined which fragments must be paid for and how amounts would be calculated.

This has been a matter of fierce debate elsewhere in Europe. A spokeswoman for Google in Spain said the company could not comment because it had not yet seen the exact wording of the intellectual property reform bill.—Reuters



The logo for Chinese phone maker Huawei hangs above their booth on the first day of the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas on 8 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

After retailer breaches, SEC plans roundtable on cybersecurity

WASHINGTON, 16 Feb — The Securities and Exchange Commission said on Friday that it plans to hold a roundtable next month to discuss cybersecurity, after massive retailer breaches refocused the attention of the business community and policymakers on the area. The SEC said that it would hold the event

on 26 March to talk about the challenges cyber threats pose for market participants and public companies.

Recent breaches at Target Corp and Neiman Marcus have sparked concern from lawmakers and revived a long-running spat among retailers and banks over who should bear the cost of

consumer losses and technology investments to improve security. On Thursday, trade groups for the two industries announced they are forming a partnership to work through the disputes.

US lawmakers have also considered weighing in on how consumers should be notified of data theft. But

progress on legislation is not guaranteed in a busy election year.

The SEC in 2011 drafted informal staff-level guidance for public companies to use when considering whether to disclose cyber attacks and their impact on a company's financial condition.

Reuters

Ericsson says Ciena deal will boost IP networks presence

STOCKHOLM, 16 Feb — Ericsson's agreement on Friday with Ciena for the development of joint transport solutions for IP-optical convergence will help Ericsson to reach its goal of becoming the No 3 player within the IP networks market, an Ericsson spokesperson told Reuters. Ericsson, the No 1 global supplier of mobile network gear,

is smaller than the likes of Cisco, Juniper and Alcatel-Lucent within IP-networks.

The Sweden-based telecoms supplier has the ambition to reach the No 3 position within IP-networks within a few years, Jan Haglund, head of IP and Broadband within Ericsson's biggest business area Networks, told Reuters. "In year 2020 about 30 percent of these

markets will be dependent on common solutions for IP and optical systems, which is the underlying financial driver for this agreement with Ciena," Haglund said.

Haglund said the market for IP networks is worth about 15 billion dollars currently with an annual growth of about 5 percent and that the market for optical systems is worth 10 to



The exterior of Ericsson's headquarters are seen in Stockholm on 30 April, 2009.—REUTERS

15 billion dollars per year. Ericsson will, as part of the agreement, offer Ciena's

Converged Packet Optical portfolio, Ericsson said.

Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Health experts call for soft drink tax to curb New Zealand obesity

WELLINGTON, 16 Feb — New Zealand health researchers on Friday called for a tax on sugary carbonated soft drinks in order to save lives and increase public health spending. The call came in the run-up to a symposium hosted by the University of Auckland next week under the theme “A Sugary Drink Free Pacific by 2030?”. The research-

ers from the universities of Auckland and Otago estimated a 20-percent tax on fizzy drinks would reduce energy consumption by 0.2 percent a day and help avert or postpone about 67 deaths from cardiovascular disease, diabetes and diet-related cancers a year.

The health effect of such a tax would likely be greater amongst Maori and

Pacific island consumers as they were more responsive to changes in food prices and amongst children and young people due to their higher consumption of such drinks. “High sugar intakes are linked to obesity, type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease — a strong case can therefore be made for efforts to reduce consumption,” lead researcher Professor Cliona Ni Mhurchu of the University of Auckland’s National Institute for Health Innovation said in a statement.

“Of particular concern are sugar-sweetened soft drinks because they are nutrient poor, and energy from beverages appears less satiating than that obtained from solid foods, resulting in increased consumption.” About 17 percent of the total sugar intake of New Zealand and between

27 percent and 29 percent of total sugar consumed by 15 to 18 year-old adults came from non-alcoholic beverages. A 20-percent tax could also generate up to 40 million NZ dollars (33.43 million US dollars) each year, which could be invested in programmes to improve public health, according to the researchers’ calculations.

However, the Taxpayers’ Union public spending watchdog group said a Danish tax on saturated fat, introduced in 2011, had been an “economic disaster” and had to be abandoned after 15 months with little effect on consumption. “The overseas experience is that fat taxes merely lead to compensatory purchasing and brand switching,” Taxpayers’ Union executive director Jordan Williams said in a statement.—Xinhua



Investor Tom Perkins says progressive taxation ‘persecutes’ the rich

SAN FRANCISCO, 16 Feb — Tom Perkins, the Silicon Valley venture capitalist who compared the plight of the wealthiest Americans to Jews in Nazi Germany, offered up a provocative new idea on what the rich deserve: more votes in public elections for every dollar they pay in taxes.

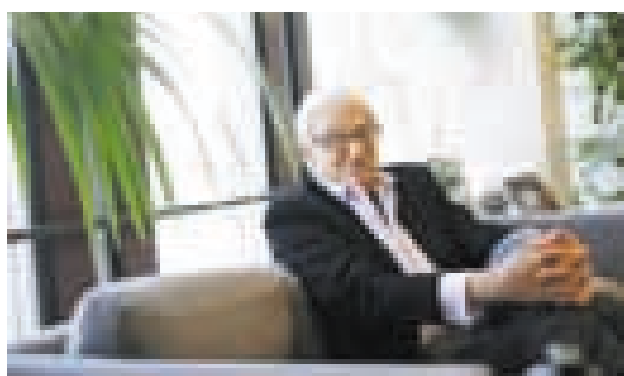
“If you pay a million dollars, you should get a million votes,” Perkins, the retired co-founder of venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, told an audience at San Francisco’s Commonwealth Club in comments that he later said were meant to be provocative. He also said that only taxpayers should have the right to vote. Last month, Perkins wrote a much-discussed letter-to-the-editor published in *The Wall Street Journal*

that likened the Nazi party’s war on Jews to what he called “the progressive war on the American one percent, namely the ‘rich.’”

He later apologized for the analogy, which included a reference to Kristallnacht, the 1938 attack on Jews in Nazi Germany and Austria. He expressed regret again on Thursday for

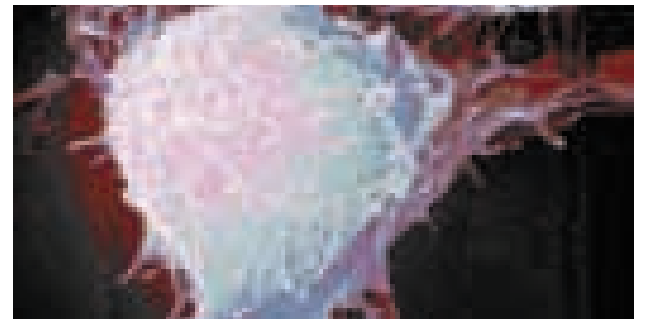
those words, saying, “You shouldn’t compare anything to the Holocaust.” But on Thursday night, he doubled down on his comments about the treatment of the nation’s wealthiest citizens. “The extreme progressivity of taxation is a form of persecution,” he said.

Reuters



Venture capitalist Tom Perkins is interviewed in his office in San Francisco, California on 12 Sept, 2011.

REUTERS



Over 5,000 Cubans receive stem cell treatment

HAVANA, 16 Feb — More than 5,000 patients have received stem cell treatment in Cuba since that procedure was introduced in 2004, a medical expert said on Saturday.

Doctor Porfirio Hernandez, research vice director at the Hematology and Immunology Institute in Cuba, said in an official media outlet that the stem cell treatment method has been implemented in 13 of the entire 15 provinces of the island country.

As a widely acknowledged pioneer of this

practice in Cuba, Hernandez indicated that more than 60 percent of patients receiving this treatment had suffered from severe ischemia at lower limbs and other blood vessel related ailments.

The therapy has also been used to reduce the sufferings of patients with severe problems in orthopedics and cardiology, Hernandez added. Stem cells are capable of self-renewing, regenerating tissues damaged by diverse disease, traumas, and aging, and stimulating the creation of new blood vessels.—Xinhua

China’s Wanxiang wins US bankruptcy auction for Fisker Automotive

NEW YORK, 16 Feb — Wanxiang Group, China’s largest auto parts company, won a bankruptcy auction for the assets of Fisker Automotive, the defunct manufacturer of the Karma plug-in hybrid sports car, Fisker said on Friday. Wanxiang’s bid has been valued at about \$149.2 million, representing \$126.2 million of cash, \$8 million of assumed liabilities, and a contribution of common equity in an affiliate designated by Wanxiang, Fisker said in a statement.

The sale will be presented to the US Bankruptcy Court in Wilmington, Delaware, on Tuesday for approval by Judge Kevin Gross. Wanxiang outbid an affiliate of Richard Li, a Hong Kong billionaire and Fisker investor, said two sources who were briefed on the auction. The auction began on



A logo of Wanxiang Group is seen at China International Auto Parts Expo in Beijing, on 24 April, 2012.

REUTERS

Wednesday and ended on Friday. Li had presented an initial bid of around \$55 million, the sources said. There were 19 rounds of bidding, according to Fisker.

California-based Fisker was the brainchild of Henrik Fisker, a former BMW designer. The company’s elegant cars were hobbled by cost overruns and tech glitches and in 2012 it stopped production to conserve cash. Wanxiang has been building a US manufacturing presence and last year

the US government cleared it to acquire the bankrupt assets of A123 Systems Inc, which made Fisker batteries.

Both Fisker and A123 were funded in part with loans from the US government that were meant to foster clean-fuel technologies. Wanxiang outbid Johnson Controls Inc for A123, and the Chinese company also overcame an active lobbying effort to block it from obtaining technology developed with US taxpayer money.

Reuters

Aveo, Astellas end pact to develop cancer drug tivozanib

BANGALORE, 16 Feb — Aveo Oncology and Astellas Pharma Inc said they would end an agreement to develop Aveo’s lead experimental drug that has seen a string of failures in multiple cancer indications. Aveo, which cut 62 percent of its workforce last year to focus on developing the drug, tivozanib, as a treatment for breast and colon cancers, said in December that the

drug was not likely to succeed in a mid-stage trial testing its use in colon cancer.

The companies said on Friday they would discontinue the study. A mid-stage trial testing tivozanib as a treatment for breast cancer was stopped last month due to insufficient enrolments. Tivozanib was rejected by US health regulators in June for use in kidney cancer, citing inconsistent study



results. The termination of the collaboration will be effective 11 August, after which Aveo will retain the rights to the drug, the companies said in a statement.

The two companies had signed a worldwide

The logo of Japanese pharmaceutical company Astellas Pharma Inc. is seen at the company’s headquarters in Tokyo on 17 July, 2009.—REUTERS

agreement to develop and market tivozanib outside of Asia for the treatment of a broad range of cancers in February 2011. Cambridge, Massachusetts-based Aveo’s shares have lost nearly 7 percent of their value since December 13, when the company said the drug was unlikely to succeed as a treatment for colon cancer. The stock closed at \$1.75 on the Nasdaq on Thursday. —Reuters

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 17 February, 2014

Merit, knowledge and wealth

Everyone must pursue a life in progress. We must be active and animated throughout our life. We eat to live and live to promote ourselves. That is life. So we all must strive to gain something in our life every day.

The important thing in life is to gain merit, knowledge or wealth or all of them. So we must always try to achieve one of them or all of them. Only then our life will be meaningful. Otherwise life will be worthless.

Normally, we can gain merit by making donations to the needy, serving the community, helping the vulnerable, caring the older people or doing Vipassana. And reciting Parittas, reading the beads and meditation are also meritorious deeds that are good for life.

Moreover, we need to gain knowledge. In other words we need to learn and the best thing is constant learning. Apart from school education, we need to have knowledge in some of the vocational education and some other branches of professions. Actually, we must be jack of many trades and master of some.

Another important thing in life is wealth. So we must work and try to earn more and more income. And then we must save some of our earnings. Wealth is what we must accumulate day by day to make ourselves financially prosper.

Malcolm Forbes, a famous American publisher once said "It's a very short trip. While alive, live!" We agree with him. Truly, we all must do something good during our life. We must strive to gain merit, knowledge or wealth or all of them. Only then we will become real humans, and if not we will be nothing.

MRA officials leave for Japan

YANGON, 16 Feb—A 14-member delegation led by Vice-President U Nay Lin of Myanmar Restaurant Association (MRA) left here by air on 15 February night for Japan to observe foods and other matters at the invitation of Organization to Promote Japanese Restaurant (JTO) Chairman Mr Kasutaka Kato.

They were seen off at the airport by Vice-Chairman U Sonny Aung Khin of MRA and general secretary U Kyaw Myat Moe.

Myanmar Restaurant Association members performed catering service to the participants at the XXVII SEA Games.

Than Swe
(Pabedan)

March towards an accountable and responsible media world

A number of democratic reforms are taking place in all sectors of the country. As part of media reforms, the media has enjoyed free media pre-censorship since one and half years. With the aim of ensuring media development, the government has carried out such relaxations on the media. The green-light has been given for publication of books on politics and mythic and of private daily newspapers as of April 2013. Till now, there are 18 private daily newspapers. Thanks to the government's relaxations, the media world sees more progress. On the other hand, the media should have accountability and responsibility in accord with media ethics. Only then, could the media serve as a distribution channel of information between the civil society and the government.

It can be seen that Myanmar's media sector is changing at a fast pace. The country sees the growing number of online media consumption that outnumbered traditional media. Digital media is becoming more popular among the educated Myanmar youth rather than traditional media, the print media, even though Myanmar's internet access remains low. The increasing number of internet users can make the flow of information fast. On the one hand, people could enjoy the up-to-date news thanks to it. On the other hand, it may have a negative impact. The information should be accurate one and not be ones like the hate-speech that can trigger the violence. Here, it can be seen that how important the media ethics are for the journalists. The government has given the media freedom in accord with democratic norms.

But some journalists have weaknesses in following the journalist ethics such as Code of Ethics of Myanmar Press Council (Interim) states that media must ensure every news item is correct in facts and data and assess them as much as possible and journalist ethics of society of professional journalists also states that journalists should test the accuracy of

information from all sources and exercise care to avoid inadvertent error. Deliberate distortion is never permissible. Some have failed to follow the ethics described in the society of professional journalists that the journalists should never distort the content of news photos or video. It is regretted that Myanmar media sees the prevalence of smear campaign.

Dr Thida Tin

It can trigger misunderstanding and hatred among the interfaith that could lead to violent clashes. And it may also undermine the State's security, peace and stability, defame people and organizations and lead to the outbreak of unexpected issues.

For the emergence of an accountable and responsible media environment, the Ministry of Information has signed an MoU on media development cooperation with International Media Support in November, 2013. The media development programme includes training course for photo journalists and those from print media, photo exhibition and establishment of a Myanmar Journalism School in cooperation with Myanmar Forever Group, UNESCO, Canal France International (CFI), DW Akademie of Germany and Fojo Media Institute of Sweden. Here I would like to briefly explain the facts about the Myanmar Journalism School. The establishment of this school was discussed at a ceremony to sign Film and Media Sectors Cooperation Agreement between Union Information Minister U Aung Kyi and Culture Minister Ms Aurelie Filipetti of France in Yangon in December, 2013. Opening the school is aimed at ensuring the development of reliable news coverage through journalist ethics being practiced in international media and the designation of Myanmar's media quality. Plans are under way to conduct one-year diploma course in coming July.

One of main areas of cooperation under the MoU between the Ministry of Information and IMS is the peace process. After years of civil war, the government led by the President is striving for peace with the ethnic armed

groups. Reporting peace efforts is crucial for success of peace process and democratization. But there were biased reporting or reporting which incited violence indirectly due to less experience in journalism. To prevent undesirable consequences, conflict sensitive journalism courses were conducted from November 2012 to June 2013 in 11 cities—Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon,

Mandalay, Mawlamyine, Monywa, Kalay, Myitkyina, Taunggyi, Lashio, Magway and Patheingyi. Myanmar is currently drafting a handbook of conflict sensitive journalism and also initiating efforts on monitoring media coverage on peace process. The MoU also covers supports to other organizations and courses to develop capacity of working journalists.

Under the media development cooperation MoU, the Ministry of Information agreed to provide necessary inter-governmental cooperation, support regional projects through local governments, coordinate with government agencies to smoothen process of the project, provide necessities (eg. Visa) to IMS consultants and international scholars, allow IMS to register, and support its implementations.

Teams of spokespersons have been formed in each ministry to enable the media contact with respective ministries directly. But there are still challenges for thorough relations with the media due to lack of experience in media relations. To remedy the situation, the ministry opened media relations courses where local and international lecturers gave lectures. Journalism courses were also opened for the staff of the Ministry of Information. U Ko Ko Hlaing, Saya Maung Wuntha, U Ye Naing Moe, U Ko Ko (Sethmu Tekkatho), U Hein Latt, U Tint Swe, U Ye Myint Pe and U Myat Khaling gave lectures at a course from 14-3-2011 to 25-3-2011. U Ye Naing Moe gave five Media and Public Relations Courses in May and October 2011. Mr Graham Wattas and Ms Sardra gave lectures at Public Relations Training for Government Officials from 19-11-2012

to 23-11-2012 with the support of UNESCO. U Ye Naing Moe again gave Public Relations Training for Government Officials from 26-12-2012 to 28-12-2012 with the support of UNESCO. Members of Governing Body of Public Service Media also gave trainings to journalists of the Ministry of Information. From 22-5-2013 to 23-5-2013, Ms Barbarar Swann, Mr Blair Levin, Mr David D Oxsford and Mr Jim Me Queeny gave the Development of Communication Strategy training with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the United States. Ms K Bhavani provided Crisis Media Management course with the support of the Singaporean government from 16-7-2013 to 17-7-2013. Ms Margenite Sullivan provided applied journalism courses twice with the support of USAID from 14-8-2013 to 23-8-2013. U Thi Han Myo Nyunt, Professor Dr N Ganesan of the Hiroshima Peace Institute, Daw Saint Yi Htet and Dr Tin Maung Than provided Civil Service Trainings thrice. Dr Daw Thida Tin provided public relations course from 10-10-2013 to 11-10-2013. With the support of the Ministry of Information, Director-General U Ye Tint of Information and Public Relations Department and U Ye Naing Moe provided public relations course from 12-11-2013 to 14-11-2013. With the support of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung of Germany, Professor Dr Ganesan of the Hiroshima Peace Institute and Daw Saint Yi Htet provided civil service trainings twice. These trainings were aimed at ensuring accountable and responsible media environment.

The pen could bring about both the good and the bad. So, any organization or the government alone could not create the accountable and responsible media environment which would contribute to the country and the society. Cooperation of every stakeholder is required for this and to ensure the peaceful democracy.

Trs: MT+HKA

LOCAL NEWS



**Thatta Thattaha
Maha Bawdi Pagoda
built on Udayayanthi
Hillock in Pobbathiri
Township of Nay Pyi
Taw was crowded with
holiday-makers and
pilgrims on Saturdays
and Sundays.
The pilgrims from all
corners of the nation
visit to pay homage to
Maha Bawdi Pagoda.**
KYAW THURA (NAY PYI
TAW)



**Photo
shows
Shwe-
hsandaw
Pagoda in
Pyay
of Bago
Region.**

MYINGYAN, 16 Feb—
Abbot Ashin Çakkavara
and disciples of Wat
Mahatha monastery of
Thailand donated three
Buddha images and a statue
of Sayadaw Bhaddanta
Saddhammajotika in
memory of his centennial
birthday to Waso monastery
in Thamongaing Village of
Myingyan Township on 15
February.

Waso monastery
Sayadaw Bhaddanta
Samvara administered the
Five Precepts.

Members of the
Sangha recited biography
of the venerable Sayadaw
in Thailand and Myanmar

Abbot, disciples of Thailand donate Buddha images to Waso Monastery in Myingyan Tsp



languages.

Disciples read out the
religious verses and poems
in honour of the venerable

Sayadaw.

Waso monastery
Sayadaw Bhaddanta
Samvara shared merits for

offering of three Buddha
images and the statues of
the Sayadaw.

Those present shared
merits gained.

The Sayadaw
established Vijjalaya
University and discharged
duty of rector and Deputy
Sangharaja of Wat Mahatha
Monastery in Bangkok of
Thailand.

Later, the attendees
both members of the Sangha
and local people were
served with meals.—U Zaw
Min Naing (Myingyan)

Htamane making contest depicts Myanmar tradition



NAY PYI TAW, 16
Feb—The third Htamane
making contest took place in
Shwekyei Ward of Zabuthiri
Township on 14 February
evening.

While participants were
taking part in the Htamane
making contest, cultural
troupes presented traditional
dances and songs to the
audiences.

At 7 pm, Chairman
of Nay Pyi Taw Council
U Thein Nyunt and wife,

Deputy Minister U Thant
Shin and members of Nay
Pyi Taw Council presented
prizes to the winners.

The audiences were
served with Htamane meals.

The Zabuthiri
Township Administrator
donated Htamane meals to
Uppatasanti Pagoda and
monasteries.

A total of 19 teams
participated in the contest.

Kyaw Thura
(Nay Pyi Taw)

MOHNYIN, 16 Feb—
Mohnyin District Livestock
Breeding and Veterinary
Department places emphasis
on raising awareness of
bio-security in livestock
breeding sector.

Poultry farms fumigated in Mohnyin Tsp

Assistant Director
Dr Win Oo and livestock
breeding entrepreneurs
made collaborative efforts
in fumigating the poultry

farms in the district on 12
and 13 February.

The officials sprayed
44 poultry farms and plan
is underway to fumigate the
remaining poultry farms so

as to raise bio-security.

A total of 99 poultry
farms are engaged in
breeding of about 110,000
chickens around Mohnyin.

NLM-001



A live lost in motorcycle's accident

MEIKTILA, 16 Feb—A
tragic motorbike accident
occurred at the top of
Industrial Zone (4) Road
in Meiktila of Mandalay
Region, taking the live of
a man away on 1 February.

According to the
information, Gwet Gwet (a)
Nyan Lin Phyo, 19, son of Ma
Khin Swe Toe (a) Ma Toe,

54, got severe injuries at head
and back after his motorbike
had hit another driven by Ko
Ko Lwin and died the next
day at Mandalay General
Hospital.

No. 3 Police Station
in Meiktila opened a file of
lawsuit against motorcyclist
Ko Ko Lwin under the law.

NLM-018

Htamane meal offered to Pyay Shwehsandaw Pagoda at its Pujaniya

PYAY, 16 Feb—The light
offering ceremony was held
at Shwehsandaw Pagoda in
Pyay in conjunction with the
91st Htamane meal donation
ceremony in Pyay Township
of Bago Region yesterday
morning.

After the congregation
had received the Five Precepts
from the Abbot Sayadaw of
Zawtikayon Pali Tekkatho
Monestery, members of the
Sangha recited Paritta and the

member of pagoda board of
trustees supplicated on the
religious affairs.

Maha Bawdi religious
association handed over
K 547,550 collected for
Htamane meal to Regional
Control Command
Commander Col Myint
Aung.

Later, the Sayadaw
delivered a sermon, and the
congregations shared merits
gained.—NLM-017

Rice offering ceremony for members of the Sangha

TATKON, 16 Feb—The
39th rice offering ceremony
organized by Mogaung
Pagoda rice offering group
was held along Yangon-
Mandalay Highway leading
to Mogaung pagoda in
Tatkon of Ottara District in
Nay Pyi Taw Council Area
on 14 February afternoon.

Wellwishers offered

rice to 500 members of
the Sangha including
Ovadacariya Sayadaws
and the monks who recited
Pathana treatise.

The ceremony was
closely supervised by ward
administrator and members
of ward supportive
committee.

Township IPRD

Election of Meiktila township Development Affairs Committee members discussed

MEIKTILA, 16 Feb—U
Aung Mung, Mandalay
Region Minister for
Development Affairs, held
a meeting for election of the
DAC committee members
at Meiktila District General
Administration Department
Office in Mandalay Region
on 13 February.

The minister said
constitution of election
committee, election
of a chairman and three

members among 15 ward
representatives from the
municipal area, stressing
the ward representatives
to conduct the electing
municipal members within
one week.

Meiktila District
Deputy Commissioner U
Tin Maung Soe, township
administrator U Myo Hlaing
and members of DAC also
attended the meeting.

NLM-018

WORLD

Eleanor Roosevelt is top US first lady, survey says

WASHINGTON, 16 Feb — Eleanor Roosevelt was named the greatest first lady of the United States in a survey of historians released on Saturday, while Michelle Obama, in fifth place, edged out Hillary Clinton in sixth.

Roosevelt, whose husband, Franklin, served as president from 1933 to 1945, has come up No 1 each of the five times the survey has been conducted by Siena College Research Institute since 1982. In the top finishers after Roosevelt were Abigail Adams, Jacqueline Kennedy and Dolly

Madison. Least impressive, according to the survey, was Jane Pierce, the wife of 14th US president, Franklin Pierce. Although historians disagree over exactly when the title of first lady came into common usage, it has traditionally been given to a president's wife and is an unofficial, but potentially powerful, role. Pollsters asked 242 historians and political scientists to rate 38 presidents' wives in 10 categories such as "courage," "integrity," "value to the country" and "accomplishments."

Reuters



Women pray during the celebration of the Lantern Festival in Calcutta, capital of eastern Indian state West Bengal, on 14 Feb, 2014. According to the Chinese Lunar calendar, the Lantern Festival falls on the 15th day of the first lunar month.—XINHUA

Tanzania police seize 58 tuskers, arrest three in connection

DAR ES SALAAM, 16 Feb — Police in Tanzania's southern region of Mtwara said on Saturday that they have seized 58 pieces of ivory valued at 440,000 US dollars and arrested three people in connection with the haul.

The seizure of the ivory comes hardly three days after President Jakaya Kikwete appealed to the international community to assist his East African country in stopping ivory and rhino horn trade in the world in order to protect the wild animals from extinction.

"If the ban is effected, elephants and rhinos will be safe. There will be no demand for ivory and horns and thus no enticement to kill an elephant or rhino," Kikwete said when speaking to delegates at the London Conference on the Illegal Wildlife Trade last Thursday.

He cited a ban on ivory

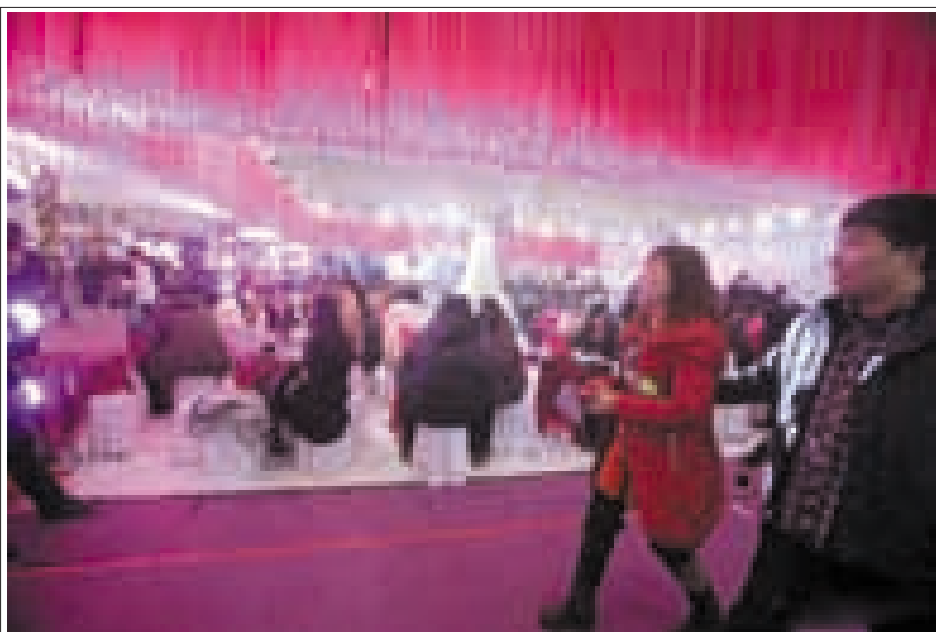
trade in 1989 by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), which played a crucial role in stopping the trade.

Acting Mtwara regional police commander Maisha Maganga told a news conference on Saturday that the 58 pieces of ivory were being ferried from Nanyumbu District in Mtwara region to the country's commercial capital Dar es Salaam.

He said the ivory was intercepted on Friday after members of the public had tipped off police on the contraband.

"Our final count has revealed that 29 elephants were killed by the poachers to get the 58 pieces of ivory," said Maganga, adding that the suspects cut-off the floor of a Landcruiser and made an artificial fuel tank to stock the ivory.

Xinhua



Visitors are seen at a wedding expo in Beijing, capital of China, on 15 Feb, 2014. The 2014 China Wedding Expo opened here on Sunday.—XINHUA

Gaza leader says not to accept peace deal between PNA, Israel

GAZA, 16 Feb — The Hamas chief in the Gaza Strip said on Saturday that his movement will not accept any framework peace agreement between Israel the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) based in

the West Bank.

"Such a deal is meant to perpetuate (Israel's) occupation of Palestine," Ismail Haniya said at the opening ceremony of a charity organization in Gaza that cares for freed female pris-

oners from Israeli prisons. Haniya stressed that Islamic Hamas movement, which rules Gaza since mid-2007, will never agree to give up the Palestinian lands and the Palestinians' right of return.

Xinhua

Pakistani PM terms Taliban attacks setback for peace talks

ISLAMABAD, 16 Feb — Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Saturday described Pakistani Taliban's recent attacks as a serious setback for the ongoing peace talks between the militant group and the government.

Sharif made comments two days after a deadly bomb attack on a police bus in the southern port city of Karachi killed 13 police officers and injured dozens of others. Taliban quickly claimed responsibility for the attack that created doubt about the success of the peace talks.

The Taliban spokesman, Shahidullah Shahid, said the attack revenged

Taliban members killed in Karachi and other cities in recent days by the police and paramilitary troops.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for attacks in Karachi and Peshawar which prompted strong condemnation across Pakistan.

"These attacks were sad and should have not occurred as we view such acts as a serious setback for the peace process," Sharif told Geo TV on board his special plane while returning from visit to Turkey.

"The Taliban has sent an encouraging message to us through their intermediaries and we are happy that the process has started," he said.

He said the government had also held the Taliban accountable for killing innocent people in public places.

"I am seriously concerned at the terror attacks during the ongoing peace dialogue," he said. "It is my desire that no more innocent people lose their lives in terrorism."

He said his government has started the dialogue with sincerity and formed a negotiating committee to take the process forward.

He also hailed formation of a team of mediators by the Taliban but stressed that the bloodshed should be stopped.

Xinhua

Plane forced to turn around after hitting birds in China

HEFEI, 16 Feb — An airplane was forced to return to the airport in eastern Chinese city of Hefei after hitting birds en route to Beijing on Saturday, but no casualties have been reported. The China Eastern Airlines plane, MU5169, was struck by birds on its right engine, about 10 minutes after take-off at 7:58 am, a spokesman with the Hefei Xinqiao International Airport said.

The bird strike led to a

mechanical fault in the engine, forcing the plane to turn around. The flight was canceled later and passengers were transferred to another plane. It is the second such accident in two days at the Xinqiao Airport.

On Friday afternoon, an Air China plane also returned to the airport due to a bird strike about nine minutes after takeoff. No casualties have been reported.

Xinhua

US pledges 1 bln USD in loan guarantees for Jordan

RANCHO MIRAGE, 16 Feb — US President Barack Obama announced Friday that his country will provide 1 billion US dollars in loan guarantees for Jordan to help the key Arab ally deal with the Syrian refugee crisis.

He made the pledge before a meeting with Jordanian King Abdullah II at Annenberg Estate, located in Rancho Mirage, California.

The promise, which follows a 1.25-billion-dollar loan guarantee announced last year, will make it easier for Jordan to enter the capital markets and borrow money.

Jordan's economy is under pressure because of hosting nearly 600,000 refugees from Syria. It will cost the Jordanian government 900 million dollars in 2014, according to the US Agency for International Development.

"The people of Jordan have been very generous in absorbing hundreds of thousands of displaced persons from that war-ravaged country," Obama said.

"It puts a great strain on the resources of Jordan and it's very important for us to make sure that we're supportive of the Kingdom in accommodating all these refugees," he added.

Acknowledging that the Syrian crisis would not be resolved in the short term, Obama said he is considering new ways to pressure the government of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.—Xinhua



Pupil Ou Jitong attends the 10th Chinese Bridge Chinese Proficiency Competition in San Francisco, the United States, on 15 Feb, 2014.

XINHUA

REGIONAL

Search continues for seven Japanese scuba divers missing off Bali

DENPASAR, (Indonesia), 16 Feb — Rescuers on Sunday continued to search for seven Japanese women who have been missing since Friday while scuba diving in waters off the Indonesian resort island of Bali.

Authorities said rescuers, operating from boats and aircraft, have so far not found any clues regarding the fate of the seven women, two diving instructors and five tourists from Japan.

Family members of some of the missing Japanese are scheduled to arrive in Bali on Monday.

The two diving instructors, Shoko Takahashi, 35, and Saori Furukawa, 37, work for Bali scuba diving operator Yellow Scuba, local sources said.

One of the five missing Japanese tourists is aged 59 and the others are in their late 20s. The seven women went missing while diving near Nusa Lembongan off

the southeastern coast of Bali, according to the Japanese Consulate General in Denpasar.

Japanese government officials said the seven were seasoned scuba divers, all having taken part in at least 50 scuba diving tours.

Nusa Lembongan, a favorite spot for seasoned scuba divers, is known for fast currents and transparent waters where coral reefs and tropical fish abound.

Kyodo News



People walk in the snow on a street in Lanzhou, capital of northwest China's Gansu Province, on 16 Feb, 2014. The central, eastern and southern part of Gansu witnessed snowfall on Sunday.—XINHUA



Photo taken on 15 Feb, 2014 shows the scene of a forest fire on a mountain in Liangshan Yi Autonomous Prefecture, southwest China's Sichuan Province. The fire which broke out on Friday afternoon remained unextinguished by 7 pm on Saturday.

XINHUA

Existing home sales in Tokyo area hit record highs in 2013

TOKYO, 16 Feb — Sales of existing homes, both condominiums and single-family houses, rose to record highs in 2013 in Tokyo and three surrounding prefectures on the back of the improving national economy, a real estate information firm said on Saturday.

The number of used condominiums sold in Tokyo and Chiba, Kanagawa and Saitama prefectures jumped 16.0 percent from the year before to 36,432, the most since the Real Estate Information Network for East Japan began collecting data in 1990.

Sales of existing single-family homes in that area increased 6.9 percent to 12,245, also a record.

"Consumer resistance to used houses is becoming less" as remodeling has grown popular in Japan, an official of the company

said, adding the uptrend is expected to continue this year despite the consumption tax hike in April, thanks to housing loan tax breaks.

The growth in existing home sales is also attributable to the rising cost of new condominiums.

Data at the Real Estate Economic Institute show the average price of new condominiums in the Tokyo area rose 18.2 percent in December from a year earlier, due largely to rising wages for construction workers and higher costs for building materials.

"The used housing market is a good option for those who cannot buy a new house amid circumstances where incomes have yet to increase," said Toshiaki Nakayama, a senior researcher of real estate research firm Tokyo Kantei Co.—Kyodo News

Nepal to elect constitution drafting body Chairman on Tuesday

KATHMANDU, 16 Feb—Nepal's Constituent Assembly (CA), the body elected late last year with a main purpose of drafting a new constitution, is all set to elect its Chairman on Tuesday.

The meeting of CA on Sunday, which was chaired by senior lawmaker Surya Bahadur Thapa, announced the date for the election of CA chairman, which is regarded as a powerful post in the constitution drafting process.

Thapa is chairing the CA till its first meeting on

Jan. 22.

Nepal's CA is failing to make any progress in the constitution drafting process.

With the election of Chairman, CA is likely to expedite the constitution drafting body.

It has been one month since the first meeting of CA but there has not been any progress on constitution drafting process. Parties have made a public commitment to promulgate a new constitution within a year, but they are yet to start the constitution draft-

ing process.

The Nepali Congress has agreed to support the CPN-UML candidate in the House as a part of a power sharing between the country's two largest parties.

And the UCPN (Maoist) is demanding the post of CA chairman. "First and second largest parties have formed the government, we are outside the government so we should get CA chairman," Maoist Spokesperson Dina Nath Sharma told media persons after CA meeting.

Xinhua

Small Nepal Airlines plane with 18 aboard missing in western Nepal

KATHMANDU, 16 Feb—A small Nepal Airlines aircraft with 18 people aboard lost radio contact Sunday and may have crashed in western Nepal, an airline official said.

The Twin Otter, with a three-person crew, was carrying 14 Nepali passengers and a Danish passenger, said Mahesh Kumar Moktan, a Nepal Airlines official. The plane was heading from Pokhara resort town in

western Nepal to Jumla district and is believed to have crashed in Arghakhanchi district.

A helicopter sent from Pokhara could not reach the site due to bad weather.

The plane left Pokhara after a refueling stop at 12:45 p.m., according to Dipak B.K., an air traffic controller at Pokhara airport, located about 150 kilometers west of Kathmandu.

The pilot contacted Bhairahawa airport at around 1:15 p.m. asking for weather conditions around the airport and contact was lost with the plane soon afterward, he said. The controller said weather conditions in the region were good at the time the plane took off from Pokhara.

Bhairahawa is about 200 kilometers southwest of Kathmandu.

Kyodo News



Photo taken on 15 Feb, 2014 shows the passengers on the square of Nanchang railway station in Nanchang, capital of east China's Jiangxi Province. The Nanchang railway station saw a passenger flow peak as the vacation of migrant workers and students ended.

XINHUA

Thai delegation to visit Iran eyeing trade boost

TEHERAN, 16 Feb — A trade delegation from Thailand, grouping officials of the country's food, car, electronics, and shipping industries, will travel to Iran on Sunday for discussing cooperation with Teheran, *Teheran Times* daily reported on Saturday.

Thailand can be a reliable source for exporting electronic components and car parts to Iran, Mohammad-Hossein Barkhordar, head of the union of Iranian importers, was quoted as saying.

In turn, Iran can meet Thailand's needs of chemical, industrial and mineral products, Barkhordar said. Last week, Thailand ambassador to Iran Adisorndej Sukhasvasti expressed hope for an increase in the trade cooperation between Bangkok and Teheran. There are a lot of opportunities for expanding economic cooperation between Thailand and the Islamic republic, said Sukhasvasti, adding that he and the Iranian Ambassador to the Southeast Asian country, Hossein Kamalian, "are now planning different projects in this regard."

The Thai ambassador said Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has been trying to establish friendly ties with all countries since the beginning of his term in office, adding that "Undoubtedly, relations between Iran and other countries, including Thailand, will improve."

Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(4/2014)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Qty	Remark
(1)	IFB-185(2013-2014)	Fire Fighting Truck	(1) Unit	US\$
(2)	IFB-186(2013-2014)	CAT D 3508 Marine Engine Assy With Gear Box	(2) Sets	US\$
(3)	IFB-187(2013-2014)	Spares for CAT D 399 Engine & CAT D 379 Engine	(7) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB-188(2013-2014)	30" LSAW API 5L, Grade X65, 3LPE Coated Steel Line Pipe (35 Miles) & Accessories	(1) Lot	US\$
(5)	IFB-189(2013-2014)	2" & 3" Pipe Fittings	(8) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB-190(2013-2014)	6" x 8" R Mixing Pump	(3) Sets	US\$
(7)	IFB-191(2013-2014)	20" LSAW API 5L, Grade X 46, 3LPE Coated Steel Line Pipe (5 Miles) & Accessories	(1) Lot	US\$
(8)	IFB-192(2013-2014)	Surveying, Transferring, Laying, Welding, Construction, NDT, Land and Crop Compensation of 20" Gas Pipe Line	(1) Lot	US\$
(9)	DMP/L-062(2013-2014)	Spares for CAT-D399 Engine Ex USS Oil Well Rig	(4) Items	Ks
(10)	DMP/L-063(2013-2014)	Spares for CAT-D3512 Engine Ex ZJ 50 D SR I&II Rig	(5) Items	Ks
(11)	DMP/L-064(2013-2014)	Roller Bearing (3) Items for K-700 Rig Pump's Jack Shaft and 100 Tons Jack Hydraulic Hand Pump	(1) Lot	Ks

- Tender Closing Date & Time - 17-3-2014,16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 17th February, 2014 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411097 / 411206

US, China agree to work on climate change



US Secretary of State John Kerry listens to a question during a discussion with Chinese bloggers in Beijing on 15 Feb, 2014.

REUTERS

BEIJING, 16 Feb — China and the United States, the world's top emitters of greenhouse gases, pledged on Saturday to work together to

attenuate the effects of global climate change.

"China and the United States will work together... to collaborate through enhanced policy dialogue,

including the sharing of information regarding their respective post-2020 plans to limit greenhouse gas emissions," according to a US-China joint statement issued at the end of US Secretary of State John Kerry's whirlwind Beijing visit.

The two sides "commit to devote significant effort and resources to secure concrete results" by the Sixth US-China Strategic and Economic Dialogue later this year, the statement added.

"Both sides reaffirm their commitment to contribute significantly to successful 2015 global efforts to meet this challenge," the statement said.

International talks to try to agree on a successor to the 1997 Kyoto Proto-

col, the first and only international agreement to tackle climate change, are due to be held in Paris next year. The United States never ratified the Kyoto deal.

A new global pact might include pledges on curbing greenhouse gas emissions and measures to enable the poorest nations to adapt better to climate change. Kerry welcomed Chinese cooperation.

"This is a unique, co-operative effort between China and the United States and we have hopes that it will help to set an example for global leadership and global seriousness on the issue of next year's climate negotiation," Kerry told reporters before departing for Jakarta.

Reuters

French minister says CAR operation to last longer than expected

PARIS, 16 Feb — France's military operation in the Central African Republic will last longer than initially planned because the situation in the country is worse than anticipated, French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said on Saturday.

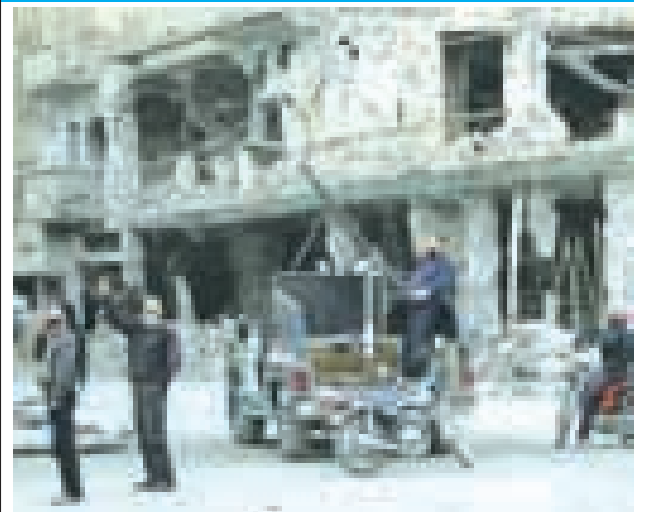
"I think it will be longer than expected because the level of hatred and violence

is more important than we had imagined," Le Drian told France Inter radio. "A military operation is not decreed as clockwork, we have to adapt." France said on Friday it would send another 400 troops to help combat the crisis in the African country as UN chief Ban Ki-moon pleaded for more swift, robust international help to

stop sectarian violence that could turn into a genocide.

Almost a million people, or a quarter of the population of the former French colony, have been displaced by fighting which erupted after the mostly Muslim Seleka rebel group seized power in March last year in the majority Christian country.

Reuters



Free Syrian Army fighters and civilians look at the sky as they stand past damaged buildings in Deir al-Zor, eastern Syria on 14 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

Syria's death toll now exceeds 140,000

BEIRUT, 16 Feb — More than 140,000 people, over 7,000 of them children, have been killed in Syria's uprising-turned-civil war, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Saturday.

The pro-opposition Observatory said the period since the "Geneva 2" peace talks for Syria began last month had been the bloodiest of the nearly three-year conflict.

The death toll is now at 140,041, according to the Observatory, which is based in Britain but has a network of activists across the country. Among the dead were 7,626 children and 5,064 women.

The revolt against President Bashar al-Assad began as peaceful street protests but transformed into an armed insurgency after a fierce security force crackdown. It has since descended into a civil war with sectarian dimensions.

The Observatory's toll could not be independently verified by Reuters. The United Nations said last month it would stop updating its death count in Syria as dangerous conditions on the ground made estimates impossible to update with accuracy. The Observatory said all those cases included in its count were those it could document with either

names and identification documents, or pictures and videos. It said the fate of tens of thousands more people remained unknown.

The Observatory said it counted more than 30,000 rebels killed and over 50,000 from pro-Assad forces. But the group's chief, Rami Abdelrahman, said the true toll on both sides was likely much higher—by perhaps more than 60,000.

Groups on both sides try to hide their casualties, he said, making fighter death tolls very difficult to gauge.

"The Observatory would like to point out that these statistics do not include the fate of more than 180,000 people missing inside the regime's prisons," it said in a statement.

"Nor does it include more than 7,000 detained by regime forces and armed groups loyal to it, or the hundreds of people kidnapped (by rebel groups) because they are believed to be regime loyalists."

The Observatory called for an immediate ceasefire for the Geneva peace talks, now planned to go into a third round. "It is shameful that the international community has done nothing to show that it will defend human rights," Abdelrahman told Reuters by telephone.

Reuters



French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian (C) and Central African Republic's interim President Catherine Samba Panza (2nd R) look at seized weapons during his visit to Mbaiki, about 105 km (65 miles) away from Bangui, on 12 Feb, 2014. Picture taken 12 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

ENTERTAINMENT



Cast member Ellen Page poses at the premiere of "The East" at the Arclight theatre in Hollywood, California on 28 May, 2013. The movie opens in the US on 31 May.—REUTERS

'Juno' actress Ellen Page comes out as gay

LAS VEGAS, 16 Feb — Actress Ellen Page, who was nominated for an Oscar for her role in "Juno," came out as a lesbian on Friday at a Las Vegas conference for gay teens. "I am tired of hiding and I am tired of lying by omission," the 26-year-old actress said in a speech that drew roaring support from an audience at the Time to Thrive conference sponsored by the Human Rights Campaign.

"I'm here today because I am gay. And because ... maybe I can make a difference," she said. "To help others have an easier and more hopeful time. Regardless, for me, I feel a personal obligation and a social responsibility." Page, who in 2007 played a pregnant teen in "Juno," has also starred in "Inception,"

"To Rome with Love" and "X-Men: The Last Stand."

Page is also working on "Freeheld," a drama about a terminally ill police detective fighting to assign her retirement benefits to a lesbian lover. Page said in her speech that she suffered for years because she was scared to be public about her sexuality. "My spirit suffered, my mental health suffered and my relationships suffered," she said. "And I'm standing here today, with all of you, on the other side of all that pain."

The Human Rights Campaign, a lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender advocacy group that posted her speech on its website, congratulated Page for completing the "deeply personal and arduous journey" of coming out.—Reuters

American Hustle grosses \$200 mn worldwide

LOS ANGELES, 16 Feb — David O Russell's American Hustle has earned \$200 million at the box office worldwide. The film is the highest grossing film for producer Megan Ellison's Annapurna Pictures and has also set a domestic record for its writer-director Russell, reports hollywoodreporter.com.

It has grossed \$138.7 million in North America, setting a career high record for Russell at the domestic

box office, surpassing the \$132.1 million take for his Silver Linings Playbook. Internationally, the movie has earned \$64 million and it has yet to open in territories such as Germany, Russia and Korea.

American Hustle, which features Christian Bale, Amy Adams, Bradley Cooper, Jeremy Renner and Jennifer Lawrence, is nominated in 10 categories at the forthcoming 86th Academy Awards.—PTI



The movie is nominated in 10 categories at the forthcoming 86th Academy Awards.—PTI

Composer Penderecki is witness to history of native Poland

TEL AVIV, 16 Feb — Krzysztof Penderecki, one of the world's most celebrated living composers, says his music bears witness to the harrowing history of his native Poland in the 20th century. Now 80 but showing no signs of slowing down, Penderecki is performing with the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra this week in Israeli cities his Polish Requiem, a monumental composition with soloists and choir first performed 30 years ago.

"I am emotionally very much involved in this piece because it tells us the story of our history and the history of the last decades to which I was a witness," Penderecki told Reuters in an interview between rehearsals in Tel Aviv. "I have lived through very difficult times," said Penderecki, reflecting on the

Nazi occupation of Poland in World War Two, the Holocaust and postwar communist oppression. "When the Second World War started, I was only five but I still remember... Being a witness ... I wanted people to remember what happened in our country

and elsewhere," he said.

Among the events commemorated in Polish Requiem are the Jewish uprising against the Nazis in the Warsaw Ghetto in 1943 (Dies Irae) and the Soviet massacre of some 22,000 Poles in Katyn Forest in 1940 (Liberate me, Domine).

Penderecki embarked on the Requiem in 1980 with the brief, lyrical "Lacrimosa" section commissioned for the unveiling of a monument at the Gdansk shipyard to the Solidarity trade union, which helped topple Poland's communist regime nine years later.

"It was an idea from (then-Solidarity leader and future Polish president) Lech Walesa," Penderecki said. "A year later, my friend Cardinal (Stefan) Wyszyński, who was a very important political figure in our postwar history, passed away, so I wrote the Agnus Dei."

"And then I started to write the requiem, but it took me 25 years. The last movement for strings was only written to commemorate the death of Pope John Paul II (in 2005)," he said.

Reuters



Polish composer and conductor Krzysztof Penderecki listens to a question during a news conference at the Prince of Asturias Awards foundation in Oviedo on 25 Oct, 2001.—REUTERS

Simon Cowell's girlfriend gives birth to boy in New York

LOS ANGELES, 16 Feb — British TV and music mogul Simon Cowell, who had long said fatherhood was not in his plans, welcomed a son on Friday, his representative AnnMarie Thomson said.

The former "American Idol" judge's girlfriend,

Lauren Silverman, gave birth to the 6 pound, 7 ounce (2.9 kilograms) boy in New York. It is her second child and Cowell's first.

Cowell, 54, who gained fame as an acid-tongued judge on television singing contests in the United States and his native Britain, has never married. "I'm not brilliant with babies," Cowell told US magazine Parade last October. "I never know what to do. But (once he's older) I think I'll be a good dad in terms of advice."

Silverman's pregnancy first came to light last year when her ex-husband filed for divorce in New York and naming Cowell as a co-respondent. Cowell's "The X Factor" contest was cancelled last week by US broadcaster Fox, and he said that he would return to the judges panel on its UK counterpart amid sagging ratings.—Reuters

Silverman's pregnancy first came to light last year when her ex-husband filed for divorce in New York and naming Cowell as a co-respondent. Cowell's "The X Factor" contest was cancelled last week by US broadcaster Fox, and he said that he would return to the judges panel on its UK counterpart amid sagging ratings.—Reuters



Judge Simon Cowell attends "The X Factor" season three premiere event in West Hollywood, California on 5 Sept, 2013.

REUTERS

Indian wins 250,000 pounds on British TV game show

LONDON, 16 Feb — A Sikh man in Britain has become only the second male contestant to win a popular television game show, getting 250,000 pounds (around \$416,000) in the process.

Roop Singh, 54, from Leeds became only the second male contestant to take such a large sum on Channel 4 game show Deal Or No Deal hosted by popular anchor Noel Edmonds, and the seventh overall since the programme was first broadcast eight years ago.

Roop Singh went all the way to the end despite



Roop Singh became only the second male contestant to take such a large sum on the game show.—PTI

having just five pounds, 100 pounds, 500 pounds, 1,000 pounds and 250,000 pounds

in his last five boxes, the channel said in a media release on 12 February.—PTI



Sridevi made her much awaited comeback to the silver screen with English Vinglish.—PTI

Sridevi approached for comedy, drama films

MUMBAI, 16 Feb — Bollywood veteran Sridevi, who made a come back on the silver screen with a sterling performance in English Vinglish has been approached for a comedy and drama film.

"There are two-three subjects lined up including a comedy, drama and a revenge drama film. Sridevi and Boneyji (producer husband Boney Kapoor) have shortlisted a couple of stories but we are looking to sign a right director," sources close to the actress said. "She (Sridevi) wants to do a film which a family audience can enjoy and also her role has to be exceptional," the source said.

PTI

SPORTS

Stoch edges Kasai to gold, former S Korea hero An wins title for Russia

SOCHI, (Russia), 16 Feb — Polish ski jumper Kamil Stoch leapt to gold in the men's large hill on Saturday, edging Japanese veteran Noriaki Kasai by the slimmest of margins, while five-time world champion skater Victor An gave Russia its first ever short track gold in the men's 1,000 metres and China's Zhou Yang retained her title in the women's 1,500. In high drama at the RusSki Gorki Jumping Centre, 41-year-old Kasai leapt into first place with his final jump, notching up 277.4 points, but normal hill winner Stoch made it double gold with his last leap, falling short of Kasai's length but totaling 278.7. Peter Prevc

of Slovenia, who won silver in the normal hill a week ago, took the bronze with 274.8. Kasai, taking part in a record seventh Olympics, was part of the Japanese team that won silver at the 1994 Lillehammer Games but this was his first individual Olympic medal.

At the Iceberg Skating Palace, An finished in 1 minute, 25.325 seconds, with compatriot Vladimir Grigorev taking silver just 0.074 behind, to become the first athlete to win Olympic gold medals for two countries having changed citizenship. Seoul-born An, who bagged the bronze in the 1,000 meters last Monday, reclaimed the title he won for South Korea in Turin eight years

ago. An, now a four-time Olympic gold winner, missed out on the 2010 Vancouver Games due to a mixture of injury and disaffection with his native country's skating authorities, and became a Russian citizen in 2011. European champion Sjinkie Knegt, who was disqualified for a finger gesture aimed at An in the European championships in Dresden last month, took bronze for the Netherlands.

Zhou defended her 1,500-metre short track title in a time of 2:19.140, out-sprinting 17-year-old Shim Suk Kee of South Korea in the final lap to edge her into silver spot, as Italian veteran Arianna Fontana, silver medalist in the 500

meters, collected bronze. At the Adler Arena Skating Centre, Zbigniew Brodka scored a sensational win for Poland in the men's 1,500 metres.

The Pole, who finished 27th four years ago in Vancouver, beat Dutchman Koen Verweij to the gold by three-thousandths of a second in a time of 1:45.006, made official after computer calculations. Canada's Denny Morrison took the bronze in 1:45.22 to add to his silver in the men's 1,000 metres on Wednesday.

There was a remarkable victory too for Sweden in cross country skiing as the women's relay team came from behind to take the 4x5-kilometre title in



(From L to R) Noriaki Kasai of Japan, Kamil Stoch of Poland and Peter Prevc of Slovenia celebrate during a flower ceremony after winning the silver, gold and bronze medals, respectively, in the Winter Olympics men's large hill individual ski jumping event at the RusSki Gorki Jumping Centre in Sochi, Russia, on 15 Feb, 2014.—KYODO NEWS

53:02.7, beating out Finland by just 0.5 second and Germany a further 0.4. The Swedes began the last leg in third place more than 25 seconds behind the Finnish leaders, but Charlotte Kalla, double silver winner

at Sochi in the women's 10-km classic and skiathlon, put in a tremendous burst to catch Krista Lahtenmaki and Germany's Denise Herrmann with 300 metres left and snatch gold in the final sprint.—Kyodo News

Allred's Cinderella story not yet over at Riviera

PACIFIC PALISADES, (California), 16 Feb — Whatever happens in Sunday's final round of the Northern Trust Open, American Jason Allred will be able to celebrate a fairytale week of the unexpected at Riviera Country Club. A graduate of the nearby Pepperdine University, Allred is playing his first PGA Tour event since the 2010 US Open, where he tied for 47th, after earning one of four spots in the Riviera field via Monday qualifying.

Allred had decided to try to qualify for this week because he and his wife are expecting their third child at the end of the month and so far, so good. The

33-year-old has amazingly strung together scores of two-over-par 73, 64 and 67 to surge into a tie for fourth place at nine-under after 54 holes, just three strokes behind leader William McGirt. "This is somewhat of a new situation for me but I sure am having fun," Allred told reporters after posting a nine-under total of 204 on Saturday.

It feels so good to be out there and have a blast. "I told my wife a couple weeks ago, if I can look back on the week and say I really enjoyed it and stayed present in the moment, whatever happens I'll be proud of myself for that.

"It's so special to be



back in this Pepperdine area. Coach is one of my best friends in the world and he had a lot of the team out here today so just a really special treat to be here." Allred, who worked as a whitewater rafting guide after college, was a member of the PGA Tour in 2005 and 2008 but has otherwise played most of his professional golf on the satellite circuits. His most significant achievements include winning the 1997

US junior title and competing in the British Open (2005) and the US Open (2006 and 2010). This week's experience at Riviera can certainly be added to that list. "Gosh, yesterday I happened to hit a great shot at 14 and I made a great putt there (from 25 feet) today," Allred said of the reaction he has earned from the supportive fans at Riviera over the past three days.

Reuters

Team Bosh wins All-Star shooting contest

NEW ORLEANS, 16 Feb — Miami's Chris Bosh hit a half-court shot to give his team the victory in the Shooting Stars contest on NBA All-Star on Saturday.

Bosh and teammates Dominique Wilkins and WNBA player Swin Cash had a final-round time of 31.4 seconds. Each team must hit shots from 10 feet from a right-side angle, the top of the key, 3-point range and half court, and the team with the best time wins.

There were two teams from the Eastern and Western conferences consisting of a current NBA player, a former player and a WNBA player. —Xinhua

LONDON, 16 Feb — Bayern Munich's Switzerland midfielder Xherdan Shaqiri will miss next week's Champions League, last 16 match at Arsenal with a thigh injury he picked up in the Bundesliga on Saturday, the German champions said.

Shaqiri scored twice for runaway league leaders Bayern in a 4-0 win at home to Freiburg but had to come off just past the hour mark because of the injury.

"A post-match medical showed the player ruptured a muscle in the back of his right thigh (and) will now definitely miss the Champions League round of 16 first leg away to Arsenal on Wednesday and the following Sunday's Bundesliga trip to Hanover," Bayern said on their website (www.fcbayern.de).

The injury is a blow for Bayern coach Pep Guardiola who is already without France winger Franck Ribery, whose role Shaqiri occupied against Freiburg, due to a buttock injury.

Reuters

Bayern midfielder Shaqiri out of Arsenal clash



Bayern Munich's Xherdan Shaqiri celebrates a goal during the German Bundesliga first division soccer match against Freiburg in Munich on 15 Feb, 2014. —REUTERS

Sterling's form has boosted his World Cup chances-Hodgson

LONDON, 16 Feb — Liverpool winger Raheem Sterling's outstanding form has made the teenager a strong contender for a place at this year's World Cup finals in Brazil, said England manager Roy Hodgson.

After making his debut away to Sweden in 2012, Sterling, 19, was left out by England and his club but since being restored to Liverpool's first team he has again impressed Hodgson.

"He lost his place for a while and wasn't on the radar to quite the same extent," said Hodgson.

"Then I was very impressed with him in an England under-21 game

and since he got back into the Liverpool team his form seems to be going up and up." England seem certain to be without injured Arsenal winger Theo Walcott for the World Cup but Hodgson believes they are



Liverpool's Raheem Sterling

"awash" with potential replacements.

As well as Sterling, he mentioned Walcott's club mate Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, Aaron Lennon (Tottenham Hotspur), Adam Johnson (Sunderland), Wilfried Zaha (on loan to Cardiff City from Manchester United) and Nathan Redmond (Norwich City). Another youngster who has forced his way into contention is 18-year-old Southampton left back Luke Shaw, now challenging the more experienced pair of Ashley Cole, who has not been playing regularly for Chelsea, and Everton's Leighton Baines.

Reuters

GENERAL

Fireman Brodka douses Dutch hot streak



Winner of the men's 1,500 metres speed skating competition Zbigniew Brodka of Poland (C), second-placed Koen Verweij of the Netherlands (L) and third-placed Denny Morrison of Canada celebrate at the flower ceremony for the event at the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics, on 15 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

SOCHI, (Russia), 16 Feb — Poland's Zbigniew Brodka denied the Dutch another Olympic speed skating gold medal by winning the men's 1,500 meters by just three thousandths of a second on Saturday, while a change of suit failed to reverse America's slide on the Adler Arena ice. Part-time fireman Brodka clocked one minute, 45 seconds in the 17th of 20

heats but then was left with his heart in his mouth as Dutch skater Koen Verweij crossed the finish line in the same time in the final pairing.

All eyes were fixed on the giant scoreboard at the Adler Arena as organizers tried to split them before determining the Pole had been victorious by the tiny margin. "Its unbelievable," Brodka told reporters "First

of all I wasn't sure, but in the back of my mind I believed I had won. When I saw I had won it was an unbelievable feeling." Brodka, 29, grabbed the Polish flag and took off on a lap of honor as he celebrated his country's first Olympic gold medal in speed skating despite not having a covered oval to train on at home.

He said he had commiserated with Verweij on the podium during the flower ceremony but added "that is sport". Verweij's medal was the 13th for the Dutch in speed skating in Sochi, tying East Germany's record for most medals in the sport at a Winter Olympics. That stat was of little consolation to the long haired 23-year-old, who was despondent at missing out on his country's fifth gold of the Sochi Games.

"When I crossed the finish line, I saw I had the same time. You hope it falls on your side but it didn't. You can't describe it," Verweij told reporters. "Still silver, I don't know, it doesn't feel that good. I really wanted gold. The silver medal is for the first loser." Denny Morrison of Canada took bronze to go with the silver medal he won in the 1,000 meters on Wednesday. Morrison's double is two more medals than the United States have managed after seven speed skating events in Sochi.

Reuters

Panama says freed North Korean ship set sail for Cuba



The North Korean-flagged cargo ship Chong Chon Gang is pictured in Fort Sherman Bay, a former US base, on the outskirts of Colon city on 12 Feb, 2014. REUTERS

PANAMA CITY, 16 Feb — A North Korean ship detained near the Panama Canal for smuggling Cuban weapons set sail back for the Caribbean island on Saturday with most of its crew on board after it paid a fine, the government said.

The Chong Chon Gang ship was seized in July for smuggling Soviet-era arms, including two MiG-21 jet fighters, under thousands of tons of sugar.

Thirty-two sailors in good health were on the ship when it left the country's Colon port Saturday morning, Panama's foreign

ministry said in an emailed statement. The captain and two other officers remain jailed on weapons trafficking charges.

The ship was released after paying two-thirds of a \$1 million fine imposed after two MiG-21 aircraft, 15 MiG engines and nine anti-aircraft missiles were found hidden beneath its declared cargo of sugar.

After the discovery, Cuba acknowledged it was sending "obsolete" Soviet-era weapons to be repaired in North Korea and returned to Cuba.

Reuters

MYANMAR TV

(17-2-2014, Monday)

6:00 am	2:45 pm
1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	21. Documentary
6:30 am	3:00 pm
2. Physical Exercises	22. News
6:35 am	3:15 pm
3. Nice & Sweet Song	23. Jiont Performance by State Traditional Orchestra
6:45 am	3:45pm
4. Documentary	24. Documentary
7:00 am	4:00 pm
5. News/Weather Report	25. News
7:20 am	4:15 pm
6. People Talks	26. Teleplay (Traffic)
7:35 am	4:30 pm
7. Teleplay (Health)	27. 2014 University Entrance Examination (Zoology)
7:45 am	5:00 pm
8. Documentary	28. News
8:00 am	5:15 pm
9. News/ International News	29. Song of Yesater Year
8:30 am	5:25 pm
10. Musical Programme	30. India Drama Series
8:45 am	6:00 pm
11. Documentary (ASEAN)	31. News/Weather Report
9:00 am	6:20 pm
12. News/ International News	32. Teleplay
9:30 am	6:35 pm
13. Cartoon Series	33. TV Drama Series
10:00 am	7:00 pm
14. News	34. News
10:15 am	7:25 pm
15. Weekly Entertainment	35. TV Drama Series
11:00 am	8:00 pm
16. Documentary	36. News/International News/Weather Report
11:30 pm	8:35 pm
17. New Melody	37. People Talks
12:00 pm	8:50 pm
18. News/International News/Weather Report	38. Hit Songs of Stars
12:25 pm	9:00 pm
19. Myanmar Movies	39. News
2:35 pm	40. Documentary
20. Musical Programme	41. TV Drama Series

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

17-2-14 07:00 am ~ 18 -2-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Htan Taw Drums (Part-I) "Osi"
- * World News
- * Myanmar Movie Review "Be the Right Heir"
- * Local News
- * Taste Of Myanmar (Mandalay Noodle Salad)
- * World News
- * Tea Leaves
- * Local News
- * A Trip To The City Of Rakkhita, Rakhine
- * World News
- * Kyaikhteeyoe: My Father The Porter
- * Local News
- * Applied Myanmar Traditional Martial Art (Part-2)
- * World News
- * Guiding Star of Song Birds
- * Local News
- * Journey To Unimaginable Spots (EP-3)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass Class "Contemporary Art"
- * Local News
- * Myanmar National Poet and Liteary Icon "Min Thu Wun" (Part- II)
- * World News
- * Talented Musicians
- * Local News
- * A Visit to Kyaukkyi
- * World News
- * The Photographer: Kyaw Kyaw Winn
- * Shwe Maw Daw: The Glory Of Bago City
- * Tea

Turkish PM tightens grip on judiciary in parliament vote

ANKARA, 16 Feb — Turkey's parliament approved a law boosting government control over the appointment of judges and prosecutors on Saturday, after a heated debate and a brawl that left one opposition lawmaker hospitalized.

Dozens of MPs broke into fights during the tense 20-hour debate and insults flew across party lines. When an opposition deputy called Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan a dictator, deputies from the leader's party shouted back "are you drunk?"

The battle for control of the Higher Council of Judges and Prosecutors (HSYK), which appoints

senior members of the judiciary, lies at the heart of a feud between Erdogan and influential US-based cleric Fethullah Gulen.

Gulen, whose followers say they number in the millions, is believed to have built up influence in the police and judiciary over decades and leads a powerful worldwide Islamic movement from a forested compound in the United States.

Erdogan, head of the ruling AK Party, blames him for unleashing a corruption investigation he sees as an attempted "judicial coup" designed to undermine him in the run-up to local and presidential elections this year.



Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan listens to a question during a news conference in Ankara on 11 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

Opposition parties said the HSYK bill aimed to stifle a graft investigation launched on 17 December in which dozens of

prominent business people, the sons of three cabinet ministers, and state officials were questioned.

Reuters

Special Rapporteur visits Central Prison, Thilawa SEZ, Myitkyina

NAY PYI TAW, 16 Feb — Mr. Quintana, Special Rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar, and party visited Central Prison of Myanmar Correctional Department in Insein Township in Yangon on 14 February.

He met Vice-Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Set Aung who was also the chairman of Thilawa Special Economic Zone Management Committee and party at the briefing hall of the Thilawa SEZ project in Thanlyin-Kyauktan Township on 15 February.

Mr. Quintana and party

observed initial construction works of the project.

In meeting with the Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai and ministers at the state government office on 16 February, he asked about measures taken for acquisition of humanitarian assistance for relief camps and matters related to political prisoners and Laiza road.

Next, Mr. Quintana and party held talks on his plan to visit Laiza with responsible persons of KIO Liaison Office in Sitapward in Myitkyina.—MNA



Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai meeting with Mr. Quintana, Special Rapporteur on human rights in Myanmar and party.—MNA

Follow-up news to arson attack on Pyinmana custody

PYINMANA, 16 Feb — Pyinmana custody facility fire caused panic among nearby residents and locals in urban wards on 15 February morning.

It was, police said, due to an arson attack of Maung Maung Naing, one of detainees at the facility, who is currently on trial for a murder case. The fire swept through his detention room and spread three others.

“We called authorities concerned shortly

after spotting the fire. As detainees failed to follow our verbal warnings, we had to fire about 18 warning shots into the air with blank bullets to control the situation,” said one of the police officers.

“We took quick action in order to return to normal with the use of police force. Now, calms returned to the facility. Further action will be taken against those who got involved in the disorder,” said Police

Major Than Myint, head of Pyinmana Township Police Force, while giving an interview to media persons.

According to witnesses, arson attacks by detainees turned into a riot as they damaged the walls. Some firefighters suffered injuries as detainees threw bricks at them.

A total of 282 suspects—236 men and 46 women—are held at the custody facility, it is learnt.

NLM



Police official explains incident on outbreak of fire and riot of detainees at Pyinmana Police Station.

Investigation Commission on inspection tour for exposing true incident of Ducheertan Village



MAUNGTAU, 16 Feb — Chairman Dr. Tha Hla Shwe (Chairman of My-

anmar Red Cross Society), Secretary Dr. Kyaw Yin Hlaing and party of the Investigation Commission for incident that occurred at Ducheertan village and west Ducheertan village in Maungtau Township of Rakhine State, asked district and township level officials what they want to know, at the office of Maungtau District Deputy Commissioner on 15 February afternoon.

On 16 February, they met town's elders of both communities at the same venue.

During the trip to Ducheertan village and west Ducheertan village from 15 to 21 February,



Chairman of Investigation Commission Dr. Tha Hla Shwe and party observe incident of Ducheertan Village in Maungtau Township.—MNA

the commission officials will tour Bengali villages, Rakhine national villages and the suspected places reported by some international news agencies and organizations and meet with responsible persons of UN agencies and those of local and foreign social organizations.

During its investigation tour, the commission will carry out to probe the cause of the death of Police Sergeant Aung Kyaw Thein at Ducheertan village on 13 January, 2014 and whether there is foul play on his

death, the cause of fire at Ducheertan (west) village and whether it is an arson attack, false reporting about the village fire and who are behind it, deaths and injuries and loss of property in the incidents and present suggested measures in order to avoid the recurrence of such incident.

A team of forensic and legal experts will accompany the commission during the investigation tour in order to help the commission's probe into incidents, it is learnt.

MNA

Organic fertilizer introduced to farmers at organic farm in Ottarathiri Tsp

By Kyaw Thura (Nay Pyi Taw)

It is learnt that fruits and vegetables show is being held in commemoration of Peasants' Day at the organic farm near Koeywa Thabyaygon Village in Ottarathiri Township on 9 February. Out of 900 acres of farmland, saplings are being nurtured at 40-acre and water for saplings are taken from Setsetyo and Chaungmagyi Dams. The purpose of the show is to understand benefits of organic pesticide and organic fertilizer by the farmers.

Use of pesticides and fertilizers for fruits and vegetables can be harmful to not only consumers but also to growers. The show aims at raising awareness among farmers about chemical fertilizer. If the farmers change chemical fertilizers to organic fertilizer, chemical fertilizers are not required for the saplings, said Staff Officer

Daw Aye Aye Nwe of Agriculture Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation. Number of plantations such as cabbage, pumpkin, lady's finger, chilly, tomato, cucumber, banana, papaya and pineapple are grown at the organic farm. Surplus saplings of crops will be given to the farmer free of charge, she continued.

Cultivation of cucumber contributes much to the farmers as the fruits are

ready to be plucked after 35 day-old and its duration is only 80-85 days. Moreover, musk melon is marketable fruit and very popular in the neighbouring countries. Fruits and vegetables grown with the use of organic fertilizer are more expensive than that of grown with chemical fertilizer in international horticulture and vegetable markets, she added.

Trs: KHS

