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President urges int'l community to work hand-in-hand with government at Third MDCF

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Feb— President U Thein Sein delivered an opening speech at 3rd Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum held at Myanmar International Convention Centre (2), here, Saturday.

Before the opening ceremony, the President discussed with the delegation led by Dr. Akihiko Tanaka, chairman of Japan International Cooperation Agency about cooperation programmes.

In his opening address, President U Thein Sein said: After our new administration assumed Office in March 2011, in order to ensure international support for Myanmar's democratic reform and enhance our cooperation with the global community to sustain the development of our country, we began holding this national level development dialogue in 2013 and so we gather here today at the Third Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum.

The first MDCF was held in January 2013 under the theme "Partnership for Actions, Implementation and Success", initiated to establish a new partnership between the Government of Myanmar and development partners to gain support for ensuring the success of our reform processes, democratization and the development of our country.

During that forum, "The Nay Pyi Taw Accord for Effective Development Cooperation" was unanimously adopted.

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President U Thein Sein delivering speech at lauching ceremony of the Third Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum.—MNA

Discovering the modern arts movement hidden behind Lokanat Gallery

By *Aye Min Soe*

YANGON, 7 Feb —The Lokanat Gallery, Myanmar's first private gallery that turned 44 in December last year, is considered the historic place for Myanmar's modern and contemporary arts movement.

Now, the gallery's 44th anniversary exhibition, opened on 20 December, 2014, continues through 20 February to showcase the members' many works.

The Lokanat, a symbol of peace and prosperity and figures prominently in art and culture of Myanmar, was founded in 1971 at an colonial building in

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Yangon City's colonial-era building where Lokanat is located.

Indian Coast Guard Ship "Vishwast" to dock in Yangon on goodwill visit

By *Ye Myint*

YANGON, 7 Feb — "Vishwast", an Indian Coast Guard Ship commanded by Inspector General Sashi Kumar, will pay a goodwill visit to Myanmar on 10 February, according to a press release of the Indian Embassy in Yangon.

The ship's visit is aimed at enhancing interactions between India and Myanmar and strengthening the close and friendly relations between the two countries in the spirit of traditional friendship and cooperation, said the embassy in the press release.

The ship, manned by 12 officers and 90 crew, will dock at Myanmar International Terminals Thilawa, a deep sea port located 25 km south of Yangon, from 10 to 13 February.

The press release said that during their four-day stay in Myanmar, the Commanding Officer and crew will meet with officials from the Myanmar Navy and Department of Marine Administration and also call on the Chief Minister of Yangon Region.

On the second day of their visit, the ship's crew will perform free medical treatment at Thanlyin People's Hospital.

ICGS Vishwast, which means "trustworthy" has a facility for operating Chetak and Dhurv helicopters and is fitted with sophisticated and state-of-the-art equipment and technology. The offshore patrol vessel can operate at sea for over two weeks without any replenishment, according to the press release.

GNLM

Myanmar, WFP discuss food supply programme in Rakhine, Kachin states

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Feb— Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win on Friday met Mr Dom Scalpelli, Country Director and Representative of the World Food Programme, at his office here to discuss food supply programme for needy people in Rakhine and Kachin states.

They emphasized progress of food supply project that is being implemented in 10 regions and states by the Ministry and the WFP, and undertaking of food-for-education and labour schemes.—*MNA*

Third MDC forum focuses on strategic development plans

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Feb— Discussion at a two-day forum on Saturday centred on development pathways of strategic importance to Myanmar, human capacity enhancement, land resources management, social protection, rural development and poverty alleviation.

The 3rd Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum is scheduled on 7-8 February at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 in the capital city of Nay Pyi Taw.

Dr Kan Zaw, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development, chaired the Day One forum, which saw discussions of progress on the implementation of the Nay Pyi Taw Accord for Effective Development Cooperation, the framework for economic and social reforms, policies for national development projects, foreign aid, and future cooperation.

The forum also discussed matters related to elections, peace processes and business transactions with development partners. The first and second forums were held in 2013 and 2014.

Nanda Win and Myat Thanda Maung

MOGE, two foreign oil companies sign production sharing contracts

***Union Minister U Zeyar Aung attends signing of production sharing contracts for AD-9 and AD-11 offshore Rakhine coast and MD-5 offshore Taninthayi coast.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Feb— The signing of production sharing contracts for AD-9 and AD-11 offshore Rakhine coast and MD-5 offshore Taninthayi coast was held between Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy and Shell Myanmar Energy Pte Ltd and Mitsui Oil Exploration Co., Ltd Group at Hilton Hotel, here, on 5 February.

Managing Director U Myo Myint Oo of MOGE, Vice President Exploration Asia/Australia Mr Graeme Smith of Shell Myanmar Energy Pte Ltd and Director Mr Kosuke Onishi of Mitsui Oil Exploration Co., Ltd signed the contracts.

MOGE will get US$61 million for signature bonus and US$300,000 for data fee. The companies will spent at least US$ 1.215 million during two years observation period and six years exploration period for three blocks.

The companies will conduct environment impact assessment and social impact assessment.

The ceremony was also attended by Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission Union Minister U Zeyar Aung, Vice Chairman of the commission Union Minister U Htay Aung, Union ministers Dr Myint Aung and U Maung Myint, Attorney-General of the Union Dr Tun Shin and officials.—*MNA*

Education Ministry meets Advisory Committee for implementation of Education Promotion

YANGON, 7 Feb—In order to draft a bill amending the National Education Law, the Ministry of Education on Saturday held a meeting with Advisory Committee for Implementation of Education Promotion at the Department of Higher Education (Lower Myanmar) here.

At the meeting, both sides discussed the committee's points of amendment over the law.

Present at the call were Union Minister for Education Dr Daw Khin San Yi and officials, legal experts from the National Education Law Drawing Work Committee and members of the advisory committee.—*MNA*

***Union Minister Dr Daw Khin San Yi speaking at meeting on drafting amending the National Education Law.*—MNA**

Photo of Coast Guard Ship 'Vishwast', an offshore patrol vessel of India.
(Byline on page 1)—PHOTO: CREDIT TO THE TIMES OF INDIA

Shinhan bank provides Cooperatives Ministry with mid-term loan for modernizing Myanmar agriculture

By *Ye Myint*

YANGON, 7 Feb— Shinhan Bank, a leading bank in South Korea, and the Ministry of Cooperatives have reached an agreement on provision of a medium-term commercial loan of $ 85million for modernizing Myanmar's agriculture sector, according to the bank on Saturday.

The agreement to provide the ministry with the loan for purchase of farm machinery from South Korean firm Daedong Industrial Co., Ltd was signed on 21 January, said the bank, adding the first loan is expected to be taken out in the second week of this month based on the import of the agriculture machinery.

An official of the bank expressed his view that Myanmar's agriculture sector will be able to restore its status as a top world rice exporter with construction of more infrastructure and use of modern farm equipment in the sector.

Besides providing loans for farm machinery import, the bank also plans to launch a two-step loan fund for the sector in cooperation with local banks, he added.

The South Korea-based bank opened its representative office in Yangon in 2013. — *GNLM*

President urges int'l. . . .

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The second first MDCF held in January 2014 reaffirmed the shared commitment between the Government of Myanmar and development partners, to closer cooperation.

Through coming together and with the successful conduct of these forums, we have fostered cooperation with the international community, which has resulted in a substantial increase in development assistance, financial and technical support and closer cooperation in various areas and sectors.

Due to the international community and development partners' true understanding and realization of the constraints and challenges, opportunities and potential that Myanmar has encountered in its democratic reform process, and due to their relentless efforts to cooperate with the government and with generous contributions and support to Myanmar's political development and peace process, socio-economic development, poverty reduction and rural development, and in many other areas, it is no possible to witness and enjoy many tangible outcomes and successes that we are discussing here today.

Therefore, taking this opportunity, on behalf of the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation to the international community and to development partners for all the support and assistance extended to Myanmar.

Up until now, we have laid down sound foundations in our country, in the contexts of its democratic reform process, mutual commitments made between the Government and Development partners in their development cooperation efforts, increases in development assistance and support, more effective implementation of projects and programs and strengthened institutional systems, rules and regulations, procedures and practices. In this respect, it is our aim to strengthen our cooperation by building upon these sound foundations, to ensure inclusive development involving all of Myanmar's people in the coming future.

With this objective, the theme of this year's Myanmar Development Cooperation Forum has been chosen as "Building upon Foundation – Focusing towards Future Inclusive Development".

This year, 2015, poses a challenging year for Myanmar. This government fully understands and remains committed to successfully overcoming challenges such as convening our general election, signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, furthering the Government's administrative reforms and reconciling the wide range of views regarding amendments to the Constitution.

With the continued support of the international community, we feel confident that we can meet whatever challenges we face in a peaceful and inclusive manner, in partnership with our neighbours, the international community and development partners.

At this juncture, I would like to emphasize that the government's efforts to fulfill two of the most widely held wishes of the general public: peace and stability, and socio-economic development, has generated some substantial results in the past four years. But, there is still much work to be done. Our government will continue to strive to the best of its ability to consolidate the democratic reform processes and bring the peace process to fruition and to stand by our pledge to hold free and fair elections in 2015.

Regarding the peace processes, concerted efforts are being made for the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement so as to ensure national reconciliation and perpetual peace throughout the nation.

I would like to highlight the role of international community and development partners, and note that their financial and technical assistance plays a crucial role not only in support of economic development but also in support of Myanmar's continued, successful democratic reform process.

Therefore, I encourage the international community and development partners to continue to work hand-in-hand with the government, and exert their utmost efforts to expedite implementation of ongoing development programs and projects so that more of our people are able to enjoy benefits of this reform during this year 2015. Later, Dr. Akihiko Tanaka made conclusion remarks.

President U Thein Sein and government officials posed for photos with the attendances at the ceremony, including Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, union ministers, deputy ministers, members of Parliaments, members of state/region governments and ministers of economy, as well as representatives from donor countries, international organizations, ambassadors, UN agencies, INGOs and social organizations.—*MNA*

***President U Thein Sein cordially greets Dr. Akihiko Tanaka, chairman of Japan International Cooperation Agency.*—MNA**

Our Apology and Correction

YANGON, 7 Feb — We, the Editorial Department of the Global New Light of Myanmar, wrongly published the country's name of the delegation which made courtesy calls on Vice President Dr. Sai Mauk Kham and Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyitu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann in the news appeared on page 3 of this paper on 7-2-2015. We are very sorry for causing inconvenience and we would like to request the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to accept our deepest and most sincere apology for this inconvenience. In this regard, we make the correction to the above-mentioned news as follows:

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann meet DPRK delegation

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Feb—Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham received a delegation led by Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Ri Kil Song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, at 11 a.m. on Friday.

They cordially discussed promotion of bilateral relations, and cooperation in trade, economy and international community.

Also present at the call were deputy ministers Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun, U Thant Kyaw and Dr San Lwin and officials.

Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann also received a delegation led by Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Ri Kil Song of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at the hall of Pyithu Hluttaw at Hluttaw Complex, here, at 12 noon on Friday.—*GNLM*

General Aung San's centenary birthday anniversary celebrated in Natmauk

***Speaker U Khin Aung Myint speaking at ceremony to mark the centennial of the birthday of General Aung San.*—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 7 Feb — A ceremony to mark the centennial of the birthday of General Aung San was started in Natmauk, Magway Region, on Saturday, with an address by Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint.

Thura U Shwe Mann, Chairman of the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP), sent a message to the centenary event, which was read out by U Thein Zaw, Chairman of National Races Affairs and Internal Peace Making Committee.

Speaker U Khin Aung Myint praised General Aung San to the skies, depicting him as an architect of independence and trustworthy national leader who had made strenuous efforts to free Myanmar from the yoke of imperialism.

The national leader was endowed with such characteristics as sacrifice, righteousness, farsightedness and charisma, with the speaker saying that these personal charismas have made us always remember him for a century.

The speaker recalled that General Aung San had lived all his life a student leader, a political leader, a defence services leader and a national leader, committing his life to 'national independence struggle' by laying down his life with a sole ambition in his mind, which the speaker said 'Independence must be won'.

He praised the national leader for his ability to dispel sectarianism and conventionalism which were deeply rooted in the political culture of Myanmar, and to practise pragmatism.

According to the speaker, General Aung San worked in tandem with all forces, putting aside sectarian differences. The leader of the then defence services used to be keen on a monopoly-free socialism, different from proletarianism, but gave guidance at a conference on the writing of State Constitution, stressing that only the democratic system is suitable for the country.

Speaker U Khin Aung Myint called for following the examples the national leader had set in turning the country into a democracy.

The event will celebrate the centenary birthday anniversary of General Aung San in Natmauk from 7 to 13 February, with a stone plaque marking his 100th birthday to be erected on his birthday, 13 February.

MNA

Ministry of LFRD donates K1 million to rural library in Myingyan Tsp

MYINGYAN, 7 Feb—The cash donation ceremony to self-reliant Bo Cho library was held in Ward 6, Myingyan, Mandalay Region, on 5 February.

Chairman of the library committee Dr Tin Hlaing made a speech. Head of Myingyan Township Rural Development Department U Kan Chun presented K 1 million donated by the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development to patron of the library committee U Htin Aung.

Librarian U Kyaw Moe Aung explained the functions of the library. Secretary of the library U Chan Tun spoke words of thanks for cash donation.

Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)

Road Transport opens driving and vehicle maintenance course

MANDALAY, 7 Feb—The basic driving school under the Road Transport of the Ministry of Rail Transportation opened the Ta Ta vehicle driving course at the hall of school in Tampawady Ward in Chanmyathazi Township on 5 February.

Managing director U San Myint Oo of Road Transport made a speech, and deputy chief engineer U Khin Aung Myint explained the purpose of training course.

A representative of Ta Ta gave training on mechanical sector and driving and maintenance sector.

Altogether 68 trainers from driving training schools from Road Transport in Mandalay, Meiktila, Magway, Pakokku, Lashio and Taunggyi are attending the training course.

The training schools conduct the driving and vehicle maintenance courses to enthusiasts monthly.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Immigration staff issue citizenship scrutiny cards to people

DAWEI, 7 Feb—Moe Pwint Special Project is being implemented in Dawei District, Taninthayi Region.

On 5 February, staff of Township Immigration and National Registration Department issued citizenship scrutiny cards to the local people. In the card issuance process, Taninthayi Region Minister U Saw Harvey explained that citizenship is an image of the sovereignty of the nation and the people are to enjoy full fundamental rights of citizens if they have citizenship scrutiny cards. Deputy Director of Region IPRD U Yin Htwe said that the department in cooperation with the NRC issues the cards to the people. So they are to systematically keep the cards he added.

The staff issued 50 cards to the people in Kayintaungpyauk Village in Thayetchaung Township and 40 cards in ward 1 of Myitta Town.

Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)

Village of emerald green project gaining development momentum

MYINGYAN, 7 Feb—Head of Myingyan Township Rural Development Department U Kan Chun and staff on 5 February inspected progress in carrying out rural development tasks in Taungpon Village included in the emerald green project in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region.

The government and the Rural Development Department implemented the Emerald Green Project for alleviation of poverty of the people. According to the project, the government delivered K30 million as capital for undertaking agriculture, livestock breeding, trade and production in project villages.

The head of the department met local people and explained regularly operating the jobs, carrying out of rural development and repayment of capital to the government.—*Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan)*

Mobile Fuel Lab makes surprised check in Mandalay District

MANDALAY, 7 Feb—A team led by Mandalay Region officer U Soe Lwin of Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise checked quality and standards on sales of fuel octane 92 and octane 95 at private fuel stations in Mandalay as of 5 February.

The officials tested quality and measurement of fuel at a mobile fuel lab. They plan to conduct the test twice a week in Mandalay District. Warning will be given to the fuel stations two times. Officials will take action against the fuel stations and entrepreneurs who offend the sales of low quality fuel to ban the fuel sale licences.

Private entrepreneurs operate 109 fuel stations in Mandalay District. Officials will conduct checking of fuel quality with the use of two mobile fuel labs.

Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Cycling festival at Myanmar-Thai border

MYAWADY, 7 Feb—A cycling festival in commemoration of the Myanmar-Thai friendship relations was launched on Myawady-Mae Sot Bridge on Saturday.

Myawady District's deputy commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo and departmental officials, officials of Tak District and Mae Sot townships of Thailand formally kicked off the cycling festival.

Over 1,500 Myanmar and Thai cyclists participated in the festival passing along the route from the bridge to trade zone.—*Tun Tun Oo (Myawady Town)*

MFF president meets youth trainees at football training school

MANDALAY, 7 Feb—President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw visited the youth football training school in Paleik Township, Mandalay Region on 4 February.

After cordially talking with youth football trainees, the president presented footballs to them.

The president viewed round the training school so as to provide necessary assistance to it.—*MFF*

Inter-ward invitational Sepak Takraw tournament commences

DAWEI, 7 Feb — As a gesture of hailing the 68th Anniversary Union Day, the U Sein Maung Trophy second inter-ward invitational Sepak Takraw tournament, organized by Zeyar Shwewei Sepak Takraw Club, kicked off at the sports ground of the club on Pakokku Kyaung Street in Myaukywa Ward in Dawei, Taninthayi Region, on Saturday.

Township administrator U Lin Thant, Deputy Director of Region Sports and Physical Education Department U Soe Moe Naing and a townselder launched the tournament.

Altogether 15 clubs participate in the tournament. Local people and sports fans enjoyed the competition of clubs in the event.

Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)

Mandalay Region livestock breeding show 11-14 Feb

MANDALAY, 7 Feb—Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development and Mandalay Region government will jointly organize the 3rd Mandalay Region livestock breeding show in the compound of Mandalay Region Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in Kywehsegan, Pyigyidagun Township from 11 to 14 February.

The show will comprise Myanmar's bull, milch cow and goat show and contest. First, second and third prizes and two consolation prizes will be awarded to the winners.

Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)

Eight burnt to death in Bangladesh in two bombings

DHAKA, 7 Feb — Eight people, including two children, were burnt to death on Friday night in two separate petrol bomb incidents, with 31 people received burn injuries, amid continued country-wide non-stop blockade enforced by the opposition alliance, police said on Saturday.

One of the incidents took place at 11 pm on Friday night at northern Gaibandha, where a Dhaka-bound passenger bus carrying around 50 passengers was petrol bombed allegedly by the pickets of on-going blockade.

Five people, including two children, were bunt to death on the spot, fire service officials said. Seventeen of the injured victims were rushed to Rangpur Medical College Hospital and the rest were admitted to Gaibandha hospital.

Another petrol bombing took place on a truck at Gaurnadi sub- district of southern Barisal District at midnight Friday, in which all the truck employees, including the driver, died on the spot.

Former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's opposition alliance has announced the non-stop blockade across the country from early January, demanding fresh elections under a non-party caretaker government system. The indefinite blockade and series of work stoppage, which has entered the 33rd day, has left 63 people dead.—*Xinhua*

Top DPRK leader oversees test firing of newly developed rocket

PYONGYANG, 7 Feb — Top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) Kim Jong Un recently watched the test firing of a "newly developed anti-ship rocket," the official *KCNA* news agency reported on Saturday.

The test firing of the "ultra-precision anti-ship rocket," which was designed to precisely hit enemy warships, proved that " the powers of the rocket boat and the anti-ship rocket's hit rate reached the level of designed tactical and engineering data," the *KCNA* said.

This new-type rocket, after being deployed at naval units of the Korean People's Army, will "bring a great change" in defence of territorial waters and in reacting to attacking attempts of the enemy fleet, through contact or non-contact combat, it said.

Kim showed satisfaction with the test firing and required more tactical guided weapons of high precision and intelligence be produced based on test firing experience.—*Xinhua*

*North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (front) watches a drill by the Korean People's Army (KPA) for hitting enemy naval target at undisclosed location in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang on 31 Jan, 2015. —*REUTERS

Thai Prime Minister Prayut says election possible by year's end

BANGKOK, 7 Feb — Thai Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha said on Friday that a general election for a new government is possible by the end of this year, while expressing a view that it is necessary to maintain martial law for the time being.

Speaking to a group of reporters from Japanese media ahead of the prime minister's first visit to Japan, which begins Sunday, Prayut explained that a draft constitution has to be approved in April and submitted to the king for endorsement in September. Another two months will then be needed to prepare for a general election, he said. Provided that this plan goes smoothly without conflict among concerned parties, the prime minister said, "It is possible that the election will be held at the end of the year."

Prayut seized power in a military coup in May 2014. In June, he said that a general election would be held in the second half of 2015 but told a group of reporters on Wednesday that it could be delayed to early 2016. He assumed the post of prime minister in a provisional Cabinet installed in August. The Thai leader pointed out the importance of keeping martial law in place to ensure peace and order in the country, a measure issued after political turmoil intensified amid anti-government protest. Japanese businesses operating in Thailand are paying close attention to when martial law would be lifted as it impacts their business activities.

"Give me some time to take care of my people and my country," Prayut said of maintaining martial law.

During his three-day visit to Japan, Prayut plans to meet with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

The Thai prime minister expressed hopes for securing Japanese cooperation in railway and other infrastructure development. He also showed interest in building a high-speed rail link in the future with Japan's shinkansen bullet train technology as a possible option. On Thailand's special economic zones in six border provinces, Prayut said, "I want more automobile investment in special economic zones and industrial area expansion. However, infrastructure investment in those areas is still needed and Japan is more than welcome to invest."—*Kyodo News*

*Rescuers search for missing passengers in the Keelung River in Taipei, southeast China's Taiwan on 7 Feb, 2015. Rescuers kept on searching for the missing passengers of the TransAsia Airlines plane crash on Saturday.—*XINHUA

Japanese woman injured in Cambodia armed robbery attempt

PHNOM PENH, 7 Feb — A Japanese woman suffered minor injuries on Friday afternoon in Cambodia's capital Phnom Penh after she resisted an armed attempt to rob her purse, a police officer said.

Two unidentified men riding on a motorbike near the Olympic Stadium in a central part of the city fired a shot that struck the right side of her hip, the Phnom Penh municipal police chief said.

The victim and her husband, a Vietnamese national, had stepped off a city bus and were waiting to catch a tuk-tuk motorcycle taxi to their guest house, he said. The couple arrived in Cambodia on Friday, according to the police.

She was sent to a hospital and discharged soon after as her condition was not serious.

The police said they are investigating the case and looking for the perpetrators.

Kyodo News

Indonesian president arrives in Brunei for 2-day state visit

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, 7 Feb — Brunei's Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah held talks in the Palace with visiting Indonesian President Joko Widodo, who arrived here on Saturday for a two-day state visit to the country.

During the meeting, the Prime Minister's office said, the Sultan and President Widodo discussed issues related to the bilateral relations as well as exchanged views on regional and international matters of mutual concern.

The Sultan and President Widodo witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the government of Brunei and the government of Indonesia in the field of health.

The ceremony was followed by the second signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Brunei Darussalam National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and the Indonesia Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the Prime Minister's office said. Some 4,000 students lined up along the main road to the main entrance of Istana Nurul Iman (the Palace), waving flags of both countries to welcome the visit of the Indonesian president. — *Xinhua*

US's Kerry meets Iran minister in Munich on nuclear talks

*US Secretary of State John Kerry arrives at 'Bayerischer Hof' hotel before the start of the 51st Munich Security Conference in Munich on 6 Feb, 2015.—*REUTERS

MUNICH, 7 Feb — US Secretary of State John Kerry met with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif for more than an hour on Friday to discuss developments in nuclear negotiations between Teheran and major world powers, which have been at an impasse for months.

"Their meeting was focussed on the ongoing nuclear negotiations and they discussed the recent meetings of the P5+1 (six world powers)," a senior US State Department official said on condition of anonymity.

"Secretary Kerry also reiterated our desire to move towards a political framework by the end of March," the official added. "They agreed to stay in close touch and that they would try to meet again soon."

The meeting, which included senior European Union official Helga Schmid, took place on the sidelines of the annual Munich Security Conference. Kerry and Zarif have met repeatedly in recent months in an attempt to break the deadlock in the nuclear negotiations.

Zarif is also expected to meet France's and Russia's foreign ministers in Munich.

In response to the State Department statement, a source in Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office warned there may soon be "a dangerous deal enabling Iran to produce nuclear weapons that would threaten the survival of Israel."

"Prime Minister Netanyahu believes it is his obligation to speak out about this grave threat to the Jewish state while there is still time to stop a bad deal," the source said on condition of anonymity.

Republicans invited Netanyahu to address US Congress in March, an invitation that President Barack Obama's Democrats have criticized.

Iran and the United States, Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China have set themselves a March deadline to reach a political agreement ahead of a final nuclear deal by 30 June. The agreement would be on limiting Iran's nuclear programme in exchange for lifting sanctions.

Iran and the six have twice extended the negotiations after failing to meet previous deadlines for a deal.

Teheran rejects allegations by Western powers and their allies that it is developing the capability to produce atomic weapons. But it has refused to halt uranium enrichment and other sensitive atomic work, leading to US, European Union and UN sanctions that have hobbled the Iranian economy.

While progress has been made in narrowing differences on how many uranium enrichment centrifuges Iran will be allowed to operate under a long-term agreement, officials close to the talks say differences remain on lifting sanctions and the duration of any deal.

Reuters

UK concerned over 'threatening' Russian nuclear strategy

MUNICH, 7 Feb — Britain's defence minister voiced concern on Friday that Russia may have "lowered the threshold" for using nuclear weapons and said Britain must update its own deterrent in response to Russian modernization of its nuclear forces.

Russia's nuclear strategy in a hypothetical future war is coming under greater scrutiny among NATO members as tensions between the Western alliance and Moscow hit their highest level since the Cold War over the Ukraine conflict.

"There is three-fold concern, first that they (the Russians) may have lowered the threshold for use of nuclear. Secondly, they seem to be integrating nuclear with conventional forces in a rather threatening way and ... at a time of fiscal pressure they are keeping up their expenditure on modernizing their nuclear forces," Defence Secretary Michael Fallon told *Reuters* in an interview.

"All of that is very worrying," he said during the Munich Security Conference. "The main answer to that is to make sure that we modernize our own deterrent too."

Russia's new military doctrine reserves the right to use nuclear weapons in response to a nuclear strike or a conventional attack that endangered the state's existence, but some in the military had been calling for a first strike option.

Fallon did not expand on how Russia could be lowering its nuclear threshold.

Britain is set to take a final decision next year, after this year's election, on whether to replace its ageing fleet of Vanguard class submarines, which carry Trident nuclear missiles.

Fallon's Conservative party, the senior member of the two-party ruling coalition, favours a like-for-like replacement of the submarine fleet.

Fallon also voiced concern about stepped-up patrolling near Britain's coast by Russian bombers, ships and submarines.

"We've seen a sharp increase in Russian activity, not simply just at the edges of UK airspace, but affecting a number of other allies in NATO," he said.

An incident last week when two heavily-armed Russian bombers flew into the English Channel was "something we've not seen for as long as anybody can remember", Fallon said.

*Britain's Defence Secretary Michael Fallon listens to US Secretary of Defence Chuck Hagel (R) during a NATO defence ministers meeting at the Alliance headquarters in Brussels on 5 Feb, 2015.—*REUTERS

The Russian flights were provocative, intimidatory and "frankly they are dangerous because there are pilots who are not responding to air traffic control, not filing flight plans and not responding to our own pilots", he said.

Fallon spoke out against supplying weapons to Ukraine, an option which is under consideration in Washington.

Asked if Britain would follow suit if Washington decided to send weapons, Fallon said: "No, we are not supplying lethal equipment to Ukraine. We think that would escalate the conflict. We have been supplying non-lethal equipment and training already and we continue to keep that under review."

He said Britain backed a new effort by the leaders of Germany and France to try to halt the Ukraine conflict, but said the West also needed to keep up sanctions pressure on Moscow.

Territorial gains made by Ukrainian separatists since the Minsk agreement in September should "absolutely not" be recognized in any new ceasefire, he said.

Reuters

Echoes of the 1990s in Ukraine as financial crisis bites

KIEV, 7 Feb — A crippling financial crisis in Ukraine is turning the clock back to the 1990s, when people kept dollars in their socks rather than at banks and smuggled cars to sell them on the black market and avoid the tax man.

When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, leaving the command economy in tatters, many in the newly independent republics such as Ukraine were left to fend for themselves, using guile to seek out goods and services and navigate the new capitalist reality.

Some business leaders say those days are returning as Ukraine nears financial collapse, with the hryvnia currency plunging about 30 percent against the dollar on Thursday after the central bank ditched its unofficial peg.

As the economy deteriorates and fighting rages between government forces and Russia-backed separatists in east Ukraine, banks are no longer lending, and selling imported goods makes little economic sense, said Oleh Nazarenko, director of the Ukrainian Association of Car Importers and Dealers.

"We are returning to the 1990s, when drivers hid their dollars in their socks and bought cars in Germany, then drove them to Ukraine and sold them with cash changing hands on the street - with the state not getting a penny in taxes," he said.

He said car prices at showrooms were soaring as the hryvnia devalued, with vehicles worth $20,000 at 160,000 hryvnias in February last year now on sale for 400,000 hryvnias or more.

Complicating matters, the central bank's decision to scrap the daily foreign currency auctions that had in effect pegged the exchange rate has made it all but impossible to gauge the new rate.

Official automobile sales last month were 77 percent lower than January 2014 and sales for 2014 were 57 percent down on the previous year. Forty-four percent of people working in the automobile industry lost their jobs last year, when the hryvnia fell 50 percent against the dollar.

Reuters

Putin, Merkel, Hollande end talks on Ukraine crisis

MOSCOW, 7 Feb — A tripartite meeting on the Ukraine crisis, involving Russian President Vladimir Putin, French President Francois Hollande and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, ended here at midnight, a Kremlin spokesman said on Saturday.

The French and German leaders have left the Kremlin and were heading for the airport, spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

The three leaders ended the nearly five hours of talks without announcing the outcome of their talks.

Peskov said the meeting was "constructive and substantial" and that efforts would be continued to draw up a possible joint document on the implementation of the Minsk agreements reached in the Belarussian capital of Minsk in September.

"Joint work is being done to draft a document that would include the Ukrainian president's proposals and those put forward today by Russian President Vladimir Putin," the spokesman said.

There will be a telephone conversation in the Normandy format on Sunday when preliminary results of Friday's meeting will be reviewed, said Peskov, referring to talks in France in June that involved Putin, Merkel, Hollande and Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko.

The French and German leaders' meeting with Putin came a day after their surprise visit to Kiev where they talked with Poroshenko to discuss ways to end the fighting in eastern Ukraine.

The Minsk agreements aimed at committing the Kiev government and the pro-independence militants to an immediate ceasefire in eastern Ukraine failed to stop the violence which has killed over 5,300 people since April 2014. The fighting intensified sharply over the past two weeks.

Last Saturday's Trilateral Contact Group talks in Minsk failed to produce an agreement.—*Xinhua*

*Russian President Vladimir Putin (C) meets with visiting French President Francois Hollande (R) and German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Moscow, Russia, on 6 Feb, 2015. The tripartite talks on Ukraine crisis, involving the Russian President Vladimir Putin, French President Francois Hollande and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, started here on Friday evening in an attempt to find a peaceful solution to the escalating armed conflict in Ukraine.—*XINHUA

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 8 February, 2015

Common humanity makes people less harsh

By *Aung Khin*

Every community expects tolerance of viewpoints and civility toward others. Diverse perspectives and ideas contribute to building an environment of civility that is conducive to advancing knowledge and transforming lives. Tolerance is the essence of humanity.

The term humanity embraces tolerance, compromise, understanding, acceptance, patience, etc. W. Somerset Maugham, a British playwright, novelist and short story writer, said, "Tolerance is another word for indifference". With mutual trust and understanding, humanity can wipe out grudge, hatred and prejudice.

Mutual understanding and inclusiveness are important for ensuring a peaceful society. A community that lacks of humanity will never establish a peaceful environment. It is no exaggeration to say that many people are happy with finding others' fault, while they, in their turn, feel angry at the criticism of their own flaws.

While tolerance, universal brotherhood and peace are the symbol of humane society, hatred, enmity, revenge and violence are the characteristics of uncivilized world. The world has become a global village, and no society can any more live in isolation.

Relations among different communities of various backgrounds have increased globally. In the age of information technology, the global continents seem to be closer, while the term migration has been familiar with the people, causing more contacts of social affairs, religions, cultures and traditions.

Globalization has also brought into culture shocks in some situations. However, a humane society tries to understand different perspectives and ideas of others. There might be different styles of traditional background and working environments. Every community should practise constructive criticism without oppression or persecution of others for a peaceful society.

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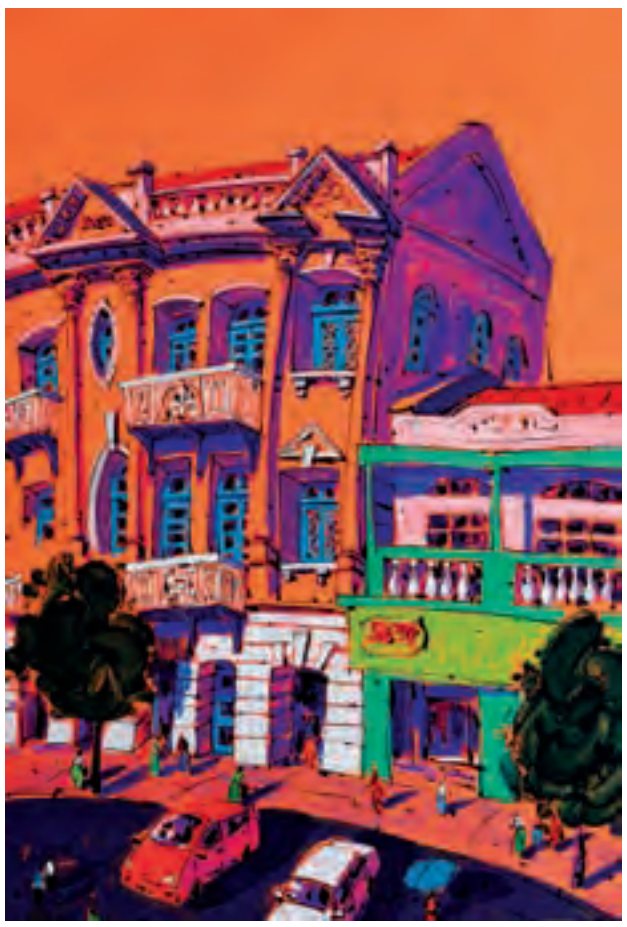
Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Discovering the modern arts...

(from page 1)

downtown Yangon as a non-profit organization by U Ba Than and U Ye Tun with the aim of encouraging the arts, both painting and sculpture, of naturalism and modernism in the country.

"In those days, artists considered that exhibiting their works at Lokanat was being ordained as artists," said U Pe Nyunt Wai, a 60-year old art master and a member of the gallery.



Work by MKM

Though Myanmar artists had firmly believed in the gallery's motto "Art Comes To Us With the Ministry of Truth, Beauty and Love", they had to struggle in their modern arts movement for about three decades from 1962 to 1992 as successive governments set strict censorship rules on creating modern and contemporary arts.

"The worst for the artists was that the socialist regime which started in 1962 put media, including paints and brushes, on the list of luxury items and collected high taxes on them so they could not be imported easily. Therefore paints, brushes, paper and canvas were not available in Myanmar," said U Tin Win, 60, a well-known artist member of the Lokanat Galleries.

In that period, there were no foreign businesspeople, nor foreign companies except embassies, in Myanmar. It meant there were no buyers except diplomats who bought paintings at an annual exhibition in Yangon. Sometimes, diplomats organized group exhibitions at their embassies and residences, and from four to five Myanmar artists exhibited their works in each group show.

As there was no income from their creation of works, nor getting media easily, Myanmar artists had to turn to commercial painting for their livelihood and struggled to make ends meet.

Diplomats from the French, US, German and British embassies gave the media, including paints, paper, canvas and so and books on the arts to their friends in the art world as gifts and showed documentary films of international modern arts to them.

On the other side, Myanmar artists, living in an isolated country, knew little about the movements of international artists, how they made their creations, or with which techniques.

"Modern paintings were also considered 'paintings created by crazy men' in those days," said U Tin Win.

"In fact, Lokanat gave birth to the vanguard of Myanmar's modern and contemporary arts movement," said U Pe Nyunt Wai.

He recounted the generation before them, saying the then young artists Paw Oo Thet, Baji Aung Soe, Khin Maung Yin, Maung Ngwe Tun, Win Pe, Ko Shwe Aung Thein started to develop the modern art styles and became successors to U Khin Maung (Bank) and U Aung Khin (Mandalay) who introduced modern arts to Myanmar after the country gained independence from Britain in 1948 after they discovered modern works in books from France, the US and other European countries.

Work by MKM

In 1988, the socialist era ended and the then government adopted new policies that helped Myanmar contemporary artists to be able to have relations with international arts societies and to study movements of international artists through the internet.

And owners of overseas galleries and artists from foreign countries began to visit the country.

Still, the rapid change was not much benefit to early contemporary artists in Myanmar, the majority of whom had faced serious obstacles to make a living and a career.

The country has opened up, unexpectedly, but even now many artists are not ready to break out after being isolated from the international community for more than 30 years.

For many of those artists, the lack of knowledge in their crafts due to a rarity of books on the arts, scarcity of media, worry about censorship, and not really understanding contemporary arts because they have no experience of visiting arts shows and galleries abroad has meant a clouded and difficult learning path that, for most, is only beginning to be travelled.

Lokanat Galleries

In fairness, Myanmar's contemporary arts should be considered to have started only in 1993, not in 1920. Myanmar's contemporary arts, even now, have not yet grown up and are still "at toddler age", U Tin Win said.

Today, the art works of the founding members of the Lokanat Galleries are rare works in Myanmar.

"Leave the vanguard to history. Today is the time for the new generation, the new blood of artists to make new creations with new techniques and with new thinking," U Pe Nyunt Wai said.

GNLM

Italy's support strengthens safeguarding of Myanmar heritage

In just a few years, Myanmar has seen the inscription of its first World Heritage site, increased public and political awareness about heritage protection, as well as citizens learning the skills necessary to make cultural safeguarding a long-term reality in their country.

These remarkable accomplishments in such a short period of time were made possible in large part by members of the international community who recognize the enormity of the tasks ahead in sustainably safeguarding Myanmar's heritage and are committed to working with UNESCO and national authorities to address them.

Italy has been a dedicated partner in these efforts since 2012 when the country began funding the "Capacity Building to Safeguard Cultural Heritage in Myanmar". This support has allowed UNESCO to bring in international experts from specialist agencies, such as ICCROM and the Lerici Foundation, to assist Myanmar in protecting important its heritage sites, particularly the ancient Pyu settlements and the Bagan archaeological landscape.

These international experts worked with professionals in the Ministry of Culture and related agencies to develop skills in mural painting and monument conservation; archaeological assessment; site management; usage of Geographic Information Systems (GIS); and community-awareness raising.

Those efforts paid off last year when Pyu Ancient Cities became the first site in Myanmar to be inscribed to the UNESCO World Heritage List.

That milestone provided a foundation upon which Myanmar authorities can now build and a model that can be applied at other potential sites of outstanding universal value. Most recently, the government of Myanmar has made it a priority to nominate the Bagan Archaeological Area as its second cultural World Heritage site.

Preparing a nomination dossier for Bagan, as well as boosting skills in site management and conservation at Pyu Ancient Cities are the main areas of focus of the second phase of the project, which is currently underway.

Italian funding for the second phase of the project has enabled conservation laboratories to be set up in Sri Ksetra (one of the Pyu cities that inscribed on the World Heritage list) and Bagan; increased the effectiveness of international experts in their advisory roles; and expanded capacity-building activities to respond to critical contemporary needs, such as disaster risk preparedness, hydrology mapping and emergency conservation.

The project's successes thus far have also helped bring about an overall atmosphere of improved political and institutional support for cultural heritage in Myanmar, which is critical to its progress towards international standards in cultural heritage conservation.

Many donor countries have answered UNESCO's call to cooperate in efforts to promote the safeguarding of Myanmar's cultural heritage. The Royal Norwegian Government, for example, has been funding projects to enhance the conservation of Myanmar's natural heritage properties as well as the safeguarding of its Intangible Cultural Heritage through UNESCO capacity-building strategies. Switzerland and Japan, through their Funds-in-Trust with UNESCO, have also been contributing funding and expertise to help Myanmar achieve the World Heritage List nomination as well as devising heritage management schemes.

UNESCO; MOC

Dutch entrepreneurs to invest in Myanmar's fishery industry

By *Khin Yadana;*
Photo: *May Oo Moe*

YANGON, 7 Feb—The government is striving for enhancement of the nation's fishery sector. In the future, the government will cooperate with the Netherlands to promote the marine product industry.

A delegation of marine product entrepreneurs from the Netherlands visited Myanmar in January. They are interested in putting investment in Myanmar's fishery sector, and they will submit a work proposal to the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, according to the Fisheries Department.

"Myanmar has much prospect for marine products. Myanmar entrepreneurs have many opportunities to do business in the fishery industry. However, they face some difficulties in export of products and seeking foreign markets. They cannot keep ahead of entrepreneurs from the international community in market opportunities. With regard to the work proposal, the entrepreneurs from the Netherlands will carry out the tasks from the stage of fishing to cold storage processing. And then, they will export," an official of the fisheries department said.

U Tin Shwe from a fishing industry said, "We welcome entrepreneurs from the international community, but I worry about their occupation of market share. In the country, we operate most fishery industries with the payment-for-job system. Generally, we lack a market network."

Workers in processing fish at a marine product industry to meet local demand so as to develop meat and fish sector of the State.

Community-based immunization campaign to be conducted in Feb: Health Ministry

By *Khaing Thanda Lwin*

Photo shows an activity of nationwide measles-rubella mass immunization campaign for chidren.

YANGON, 7 Feb—The second phase of the nationwide measles-rubella mass immunization campaign will be conducted from 19 to 28 February, aiming to meet the WHO's regional goal of measles elimination and rubella control by 2020, according to the Ministry of Health.

The community-based vaccination programme is also aimed at preventing both infectious diseases in the target-age group of 9 months to 15 years, including all children who were left out, dropped out or missed vaccination at school, Dr Kyaw Kan Kaung of the ministry said.

The health ministry in partnership with both local and foreign agencies already conducted their first phase of school-based immunization in all public, private and religious schools from 19 to 26 January.

More than 8 million children among over 17 million in the target-audience received new combined measles-rubella vaccine during the school campaign, with Myanmar achieving 95 percent coverage in it. With the result that international observers recognize the ministry's effort to provide national MR vaccination services to the public, the source reported.

At the media briefing on Saturday, the health ministry issued updated information on the community-based campaign, urging parents to continue their involvement.

In Myanmar, it was later found in the higher-aged group of people who failed to get vaccinated, but the country has reached its goal of reducing the risk of a measles outbreak in South East Asia. The previous measles vaccination programme for under the age of 5 was held in 2012.

Measles is one of the major causes of child mortality. Rubella is usually mild in children, but for some people, especially pregnant women and their babies, rubella can be serious, the doctor said.

GNLM

Ukrainian army, rebels declare humanitarian truce in frontline town

KIEV, 7 Feb — The Ukrainian army and pro-independence insurgent rebels on Friday declared a temporary humanitarian truce in the frontline town of Debaltsevo in eastern Ukraine.

The ceasefire, beginning at 8:00 am local time (0600 GMT), will last nine hours to enable the evacuation of civilians from the combat area, said Vitaly Kiva, deputy head of the Interior Ministry department in Donetsk region.

Meanwhile, Eduard Basurin, a senior insurgent commander, said that within the framework of the humanitarian truce, about 1,000 people will be evacuated from Debaltsevo and several hundreds from the neighbouring Uglegorsk town. The evacuees are allowed to choose a destination for their evacuation, Basurin said, explaining that civilians can decide whether to flee to government-controlled or rebel-held areas.

A member of the Ukrainian armed forces assists local residents onto a bus to flee the military conflict, in Debaltseve, eastern Ukraine on 6 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

Debaltsevo, a Ukrainian army stronghold in Donetsk region with a population of about 25,000, has been an epicenter of the recent fighting between the warring sides in eastern Ukraine. A green corridor for civilians was also established in Lugansk region, local authorities said.

According to Lugansk governor Gennady Moskal, over the past few days, about 100 children have been evacuated from war-torn areas in Lugansk region to Severodonetsk, a relatively calm town.

The conflict in eastern Ukraine, which has raged since April 2014, has claimed more than 5,300 lives and displaced over 1 million civilians, including nearly 700,000 people within Ukraine. — *Xinhua*

Italy's Renzi emerges from tough period stronger than ever

ROME, 7 Feb — Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi lost the backing of two key supporters in less than a month, but experts say he has nonetheless emerged stronger and is more prepared than ever to aggressively pursue his reform agenda.

Last month, 89-year-old Giorgio Napolitano stepped down as Italian president, citing his advanced age. Napolitano had been a faithful supporter of most of Renzi's reform plan. This week, controversial ally Silvio Berlusconi, the former prime minister best known for his legal problems, announced he was abandoning the pact that allied him with Renzi's supporters after he was mostly left out of the consultation process to select Napolitano's successor.

At the same time, Renzi's economic reforms have failed to gain much traction, with predictions of economic growth downgraded twice in recent weeks, while the country's debt keeps piling up despite warnings from European Union economists. Yet despite those developments, Renzi's deft navigation through the political waters around recent changes have left the 40-year-old leader once criticized for a lack of experience in a stronger position than ever.

"Renzi is from Florence and so was Niccolo Machiavelli," said Pietro Paganini, from the Competere think tank, referring to the Renaissance writer and philosopher known for brutality, ambition and the phrase "The end justifies the means." "Renzi played a tough political game and he won; he learned well from his fellow Florentine," Paganini continued. Former judge and government minister Sergio Mattarella was selected as Napoliatno's replacement last weekend, and though it's too early to know how Mattarella will react regarding the reform agenda, experts say Renzi's strong position in parliament is likely to make that less important.—*Xinhua*

US Benghazi panel plans to interview Susan Rice, other officials

National Security Advisor Susan Rice

WASHINGTON, 7 Feb — A House panel investigating the deadly 2012 attacks on US diplomatic facilities in Benghazi, Libya, plans to interview at least 20 officials including National Security Adviser Susan Rice, former Pentagon chief Leon Panetta and ex-CIA head David Petraeus, the committee said on Friday. The list of interviewees — a veritable "who's who" of US foreign policy and national security officials — emerged as Democrats complained about the "unlimited" budget of the Select Committee on Benghazi and its open-ended schedule, as it covers similar ground to earlier investigations.

Democrats say the committee's efforts are politically motivated and aimed at undermining the possible presidential candidacy of Hillary Clinton. She was Secretary of State when the 11 September, 2012 Benghazi attacks killed US Ambassador Christopher Stevens and three other Americans. Republicans say Clinton's State Department failed to protect diplomatic personnel. Previous investigations have said that the compound where Stevens died was not well protected, but that the CIA and the US military responded properly.

A letter to Democrats dated Thursday from the panel's Republican chairman, Representative Trey Gowdy, detailed whom it plans to interview after 1 April. Targets include Rice, who rankled many Republicans soon after the attacks with comments that they were related to protests against a US-made video, rather than being premeditated. This was two months before President Barack Obama was to face voters seeking re-election; Rice was US ambassador to the United Nations at the time.

Others on Gowdy's list include Rice's current deputy, Ben Rhodes; White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough; General Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and former White House press secretary Jay Carney. White House spokesman Eric Schultz, travelling with Obama to Indiana on Friday, would not say whether administration officials would consent to Benghazi committee interviews, saying he had not seen the committee request. Gowdy wants Clinton to testify to the panel in public, but wants more documents first. By Gowdy's own description, the State Department has already handed over the equivalent of "40 copies of Dr. Zhivago." Democrats this week asked the House Administration Committee for a hearing on the Benghazi panel's spending, saying it could cost over $3 million in 2015 — about $8,000 (5,247 pounds) per day. The Administration Committee rejected the request as "remarkably odd," saying Democrats should have spoken out when the House reauthorized the panel in January. It was created last May and spent $1.8 million last year.

Reuters

61 bodies discovered at abandoned crematorium in southern Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 7 Feb — Police have uncovered bodies of 61 people, including children, at an abandoned crematorium in Mexico's Pacific coast resort of Acapulco in southern Guerrero state, officials said on Friday.

Police found "perfectly embalmed bodies" of men, women and children "ready for cremation" at a crematorium called Cremaciones Del Pacifico, the State Prosecutor's Office (FGE) said in a press release. "An anonymous tip" led police to the site late Thursday, the FGE said. State Prosecutor Miguel Angel Godinez said authorities were trying to determine how to classify the crime, according to the daily *El Universal*. "We have a clear violation of sanitary laws ... possibly fraud, because the crematorium has been abandoned. However, we couldn't say for certain at the moment," he told the daily by phone. The official said authorities didn't know the whereabouts of the owner of the business. The FGE, meanwhile, said the president of the Guerrero State Association of Funeral Homes was giving testimony. The agency was looking to consult "the files of all the people sent to the crematorium from 2013 to the present," the FGE said. The bodies, covered in lime and white sheets, appeared to have languished at the site for about a year and were rotting, media reported. The discovery comes amid ongoing protests sparked by the disappearance and probable massacre in late September of 43 students from the town of Ayotzinapa, Guerrero.

Xinhua

Mexican armed policemen stand guard in front of the Pacific crematorium in Acapulco, Guerrero, Mexico, on 6 Feb, 2015. According to local press, at least 61 dead bodies were found inside an abandoned crematorium on the outskirts of Acapulco.—XINHUA

Islamic State says US hostage killed in air strike in Syria

BEIRUT, 7 Feb — Islamic State said on Friday that an American woman hostage it was holding in Syria was killed when Jordanian fighter jets bombed a building where she was being held, but Jordan expressed doubt about the Islamist militant group's account of her death.

In Washington, US officials said they could not confirm that the woman, 26-year-old humanitarian worker Kayla Mueller of Prescott, Arizona, had been killed. Her family said in a statement on Friday they are hopeful she is alive and asked Islamic State to contact them.

Mueller was the last-known American hostage held by Islamic State,

Kayla Mueller in an undated photo. REUTERS

which controls wide areas of Syria and Iraq.

The group has beheaded three other Americans, two Britons and two Japanese hostages — most of them aid workers or journalists — in recent months. Mueller was taken hostage while leaving a hospital in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo in August 2013.

The group's latest claim, detailed by the SITE monitoring group, came just days after it released a video on Tuesday showing a captured Jordanian pilot, Mouath al-Kasaesbeh, being burned alive in a cage.

Jordan's King Abdullah, who was in Washington discussing how to deal with Islamic State militants when the video was made public, vowed to avenge the pilot's death and ordered a stepped-up military role in the US-led coalition against the group.

Jordan said it had carried out a second straight day of air strikes on Friday on Islamic State positions.

"We are looking into it but our first reaction is that we think it is illogical and we are highly sceptical about it. ... It's part of their criminal propaganda," government spokesman Mohammad Momani said in response to Islamic State's account of what happened to Mueller.

"How could they identify Jordanian war planes from a huge distance in the sky? What would an American woman be doing in a weapons warehouse?" Momani said.

Hours after the release of the video showing the pilot burning to death, Jordanian authorities executed two al-Qaeda militants who had been imprisoned on death row, including a woman who had tried to blow herself up in a suicide bombing and whose release had been demanded by Islamic State.—*Reuters*

Egyptian military kills 47 militants in the Sinai

CAIRO, 7 Feb — Egyptian security forces killed 47 Islamic militants in the country's Northern Sinai on Friday in one of the biggest operations in the region in months, security sources said. Apache helicopters killed 27 militants from the Sinai Province group, which pledges allegiance to Islamic State, the ultra-hardline militants who have seized swathes of Iraq and Syria, the sources said. Hours later, soldiers shot and killed 20 militants, said the sources.

Sinai Province, fighting to topple the Cairo government, has claimed responsibility for coordinated attacks that killed more than 30 members of the security forces in late January.

After that bloodshed, President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi told Egyptians the country faced a long, tough battle against militants.

Also on Friday, a bomb exploded along a street in Egypt's second largest city Alexandria, killing one person and wounding four others, security sources said. Sinai-based militants have killed hundreds of soldiers and police since then army chief Sisi toppled president Mohamed Mursi of the Muslim Brotherhood in mid-2013 after mass protests against his rule.

A security crackdown on Brotherhood supporters, in which hundreds were killed in the streets and thousands arrested, has weakened the group.

Reuters

Yemen's Houthis dissolve parliament, assume power — televised statement

Houthi fighters in police uniform guard outside the president palace in Sanaa on 6 Feb, 2015.— REUTERS

SANAA, 7 Feb —Yemen's dominant Houthi movement dissolved parliament on Friday and said a new interim assembly and government would be formed, a move denounced by a main political faction as a coup.Yemen has been in political limbo since President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi and the government of Prime Minister Khaled Bahah resigned last month after the Houthis seized the presidential palace and confined the head of state to his residence in a struggle to tighten control.

Yemen's instability has drawn international concern as it shares a long border with top world oil exporter Saudi Arabia, and the country is also fighting one of the most formidable branches of al-Qaeda with the help of US drone strikes.

The Houthis, who became power brokers when they overran Sanaa in September, had been holding talks with the main political factions trying to agree a way out of the stand-off.

Friday's declaration suggested that the Houthis had taken on more powers including forming the new parliament and control over the military and security forces. Some political leaders attended the announcement, which took place at the Presidential Palace. Former interior and defence ministers were also there, indicating that the announcement might have had the blessing of some other political factions.

But this was unlikely to be tolerated by Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Sunni Arab allies who eye the Shi'ite Houthis with suspicion for being close to their regional rival Iran. The new assembly is to elect a five-member interim presidential council to manage Yemeni affairs in a transitional period of up to two years, according to a televised statement.

"What the Houthis have done is political suicide and also a coup that would lead the country into the unknown," said Nasser al-Noubah, a leader of the southern separatist movement al-Hirak. Hundreds of protesters took to the streets in the Yemeni city of Taiz to reject the Houthi takeover, eyewitnesses said.

Reuters

US charges six with supporting Islamic militant groups

WASHINGTON, 7 Feb — Six people have been charged with providing money and equipment including US military uniforms to foreign fighters joining al-Qaeda, Nusra Front and Islamic State in Syria and Iraq, the US Justice Department said on Friday. The six are Bosnian natives living in Missouri, Illinois and New York. Five of them were arrested in the United States and charged with conspiring to provide material support and resources to terrorists. The sixth person is overseas, the department said in a statement.

Members of the group conspired to provide money and equipment — including US military uniforms, combat boots, tactical gear, military surplus goods and firearms accessories — to be used to commit crimes outside the United States, according to a federal grand jury indictment made public by the Justice Department.

It said people in Turkey and Saudi Arabia acted as intermediaries who received the money and property from the defendants in the United States and transferred them to militants fighting with groups in Syria, Iraq and elsewhere.

The group transferred thousands of dollars over the past two years to purchase equipment for a man identified as Abdullah Ramo Pazara and other foreign fighters travelling to join battles in Syria, Iraq and elsewhere, the indictment said. In one message last year, two of the accused parties discussed buying a night-vision optic with a built-in camera for recording killings while fighting in the Middle East, according to the indictment.

Reuters

Thousands rally in Jordan demanding revenge for pilot's death

AMMAN, 7 Feb — Thousands of Jordanians packed the streets of the capital Amman on Friday, urging their monarch to step up air strikes on Islamic State to avenge its killing of pilot Mouath al-Kasaesbeh.

Crowds massed near the main Husseini mosque, then marched chanting "Death to Daesh," using an Arabic acronym for the jihadist group, in the latest sign of mounting public anger. The rally came three days after Islamic State released a video purporting to show Kasaesbeh being burned alive in a cage as masked militants in camouflage uniforms looked on.

Many Jordanians have opposed their country's involvement in US-led air campaign against Islamic State positions, fearing retaliation. But the killing of the recently-married pilot, from an influential Jordanian tribe, has increased support for the military push.

Jordanian fighter jets pounded Islamic State targets in Syria on Thursday, before roaring Kasaesbeh's hometown.

Queen Rania, the wife of King Abdullah, joined Friday's marchers, carrying a picture of the pilot.

"Mouath died standing for his country and faith, defending our common humanity. We are united in our grief and pride in our brave martyr," she told *Reuters* in a statement.

"Jordan is united in it's resolve to confront this ideology of terror and ultra-violence," she added. Protesters wearing the red Arab Bedouin headdress, chanted: "We sacrifice our souls for you O'Majesty." —*Reuters*

Jordanian protesters hold up pictures of Jordan's King Abdullah and Jordanian pilot Muath al-Kasaesbeh, as they chant slogans during a march after Friday prayers in downtown Amman on 6 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

Israeli minister urges West to give more arms to Kurds, Jordan

Minister of Strategic and Intelligence Affairs for International Relations of Israel Yuval Steinitz attends a news conference after a meeting of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee during the 68th United Nations General Assembly at UN headquarters in New York on 25 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

MUNICH, 7 Feb — Western states should provide more weapons to Jordan, Egypt, Kurdish forces and certain opposition forces in Syria, Israel's Strategic Affairs Minister Yuval Steinitz said on the sidelines of the Munich Security conference on Friday.

Israeli officials had previously stopped short of making such explicit calls, citing concern that such groups would face added hostility by being publicly associated with Israel.

Kurdish regional forces are battling Islamic State militants on Syrian and Iraqi territory where IS has submitted whole towns to strict Islamic rule. Egypt is trying to defeat jihadists operating in the Sinai Peninsula, bordering Israel.

When asked what the Western-led alliance conducting air strikes against IS strongholds could do better, Steinitz said:

"More support with weapons and also financial support to more moderate groups, Islamic forces, like for example the Kurds, like the Free Syrian Army and like moderate Arab states, like Jordan, like Egypt."

The Free Syrian Army is an array of mainly Western-backed armed opposition groups that have little or no central coordination in fighting President Bashar al-Assad in a civil war that began with peaceful anti-government protests in 2011.

Thousands rallied in Jordan on Friday three days after Islamic State released a video purporting to show a Jordanian fighter pilot being burned alive in a cage as masked militants in camouflage uniforms looked on.

Many Jordanians have opposed their country's involvement in US-led air campaign against Islamic State, fearing retaliation. But the killing of the recently married pilot, who was from an influential Jordanian tribe, has increased support for the military push.

Yuval said he saw no immediate threat to Jordan's sovereignty from Islamic State: "If there will be such a threat, I believe the world and even if necessary Israel will interfere," he said.

Reuters

Pakistan detains 10,616 suspects after Taleban attack on army school

ISLAMABAD, 7 Feb — The security forces in Pakistan have detained about 10,616 suspects on different charges after the Taleban savage attack on an army-run school in last December, officials said on Friday.

The attack had killed 140 children and 10 of the staff members of the Army Public School in the northwestern city of Peshawar.

The government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif launched a " National Action Plan" (NAP) with consensus of all political parties to deal effectively with terrorism and violent extremism.

A report presented to the prime minister said the law enforcement agencies have conducted 14,886 search operations in all parts of the country since the implementation of the NAP.

According to the report, the security agencies conducted 9,413 operations in the country's biggest Punjab province while 2,724 in the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, which is mainly affected by terrorism-related incidents.

The forces carried out 1,577 raids in southern Sindh Province, 336 in capital Islamabad, 39 in southwestern Balochistan province, 720 in Pakistan-administered Kashmir, 56 in the tribal regions, and 21 in northern areas of Gilgit-Baltistan.—*Xinhua*

Authorities arrest 290 false asylum-seekers

BELGRADE, 7 Feb — The Serbian police arrested 290 individuals who tried to cross the Serbian border in the past 48 hours with an intention of illegally reaching EU countries, Serbian Minister of Interior Affairs Nebojsa Stefanovic released on Friday.

Over the past few days, the number of citizens wishing to illegally enter the territory of Hungary has been alarmingly high, the minister said and specified that misdemeanour charges were filed against 256 individuals while criminal charges were raised against 15 smugglers.

Stefanovic and Swedish Ambassador Christer Asp signed the protocol on implementation of the readmission agreement between Serbia and the EU and specified that at this moment, around 1,500 people from Serbia are waiting for response to their asylum applications in Sweden.

Of them, 95 or 96 percent will be returned to the country, he said.

The Serbian minister called on everyone who want to try and cross the border illegally to refrain from such actions because they will certainly be turned back.

Stefanovic underscored that the signing of the protocol testifies of Serbia's wish to be even more strongly committed to its European integration and elimination of false asylum-seekers.

Stefanovic expressed gratitude to Sweden for the support in the process of Serbia's European integration and the cooperation with the Interior Ministry, adding that he expects the projects with the Serbian police to be realised by 2020, the total value of which adds up to over EUR 1 million.

The Swedish ambassador underscored that his country maintains very good and constructive cooperation with Serbia with regard to migrations, which has led to a more numerous Serbian diaspora in Sweden.

Nevertheless, the number of false asylum-seekers in Sweden is still large and not all of these individuals come from Serbia, Asp said.

Sweden will try to find the solution to this problem in cooperation with Serbia, the ambassador said.

Thanks to the cooperation with Serbian institutions, we successfully achieved a significant reduction of the number of asylum-seekers in Sweden, Asp said and noted that Sweden supports Serbia's EU path.—*Tanjug*

Niger forces kill 109 Boko Haram militants in battle

NIAMEY, 7 Feb — Niger's forces killed 109 fighters from the Islamist militant group Boko Haram on Friday as they repulsed attacks on Bosso and Diffa, two southeastern towns near the Nigerian border, Niger state television said.

Four Niger soldiers were killed, 13 were wounded and two are missing after the fighting in Bosso against Boko Haram, whose five-year insurgency is spreading from Nigeria to neighbouring states. Four Niger soldiers were wounded in Diffa.

"At around 9 am elements of the Boko Haram terrorist group launched two simultaneous attacks at Bosso and Diffa. At Bosso, Niger's defence forces helped by Chadian troops neutralised the assailants," said the statement by Defence Minister Karidio Mahamadou on state television.

Chad deployed war planes to repulse the attack, military officials in Niger said earlier.

There was no independent confirmation of the numbers killed.

General Yaya Doud, commander of Chadian forces deployed north of Lake Chad, was shot in the stomach in Bosso, a Chadian security source said. He has been evacuated to hospital in N'Djamena for treatment.

"The Boko Haram attack from Malam Fatori (in Nigeria) against the town of Bosso and the bridge at Doutchi in the Diffa region has been repulsed. We have Chadian planes bombarding the locality," said a Niger military source.

Boko Haram has seized territory in northeastern Nigeria as part of a five-year insurgency for an Islamist state. Around 10,000 people were killed last year and the militants increasingly stage cross border attacks.

The insurgency is the worst threat to Nigeria's security as the nation, Africa's top oil producer and biggest economy, heads to a presidential election on 14 February.

The militants are also increasingly threatening neighbouring Chad, Niger and Cameroon, prompting regional leaders to come up with a joint plan to defeat them.

Chad has deployed some 2,500 soldiers to neighbouring Cameroon and Niger as part of this effort. Niger's parliament is due to vote on Monday on a proposal by the government to send its troops into Nigeria to fight Boko Haram.

Reuters

A man holds a sign that reads "Stop Boko Haram'' at a rally to support Chadian troops heading to Cameroon to fight Boko Haram, in Ndjamena on 17 Jan, 2015.
REUTERS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (092N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO (092N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.2.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (123N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO (123N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.2.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (RSU-429)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (RSU-429) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.2.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Notice for Golf Tournaments

1. Under the guidance of Yangon City Development Committee, under the management of Myanmar PGA and Myanmar Golf Federation, and mainly sponsored by KBZ Bank, YCDC Cup Open Golf Championship 2015 is scheduled to be held from 25-2-2015 to 27-2-2015 at the City Golf Resort, Yangon City Development Committee. In addition to this, the 20th anniversary members' golf tournament of the City Golf Resort is scheduled to be celebrated on 28-2-2015 if the number of competitors does not exceed 400, and in case it exceeds 400, the tourney shall continue till 1-3-2015.

2. Therefore our golfers who wish to take part in YCDC Cup Open Golf Championship 2015 are to be enrolled at Myanmar Driving Range, corner of Okkalar Street and Airport Street, Mayangone Township by 12:30 hours of 23-2-2015, making contact by telephone 09-2037671, 09-420017835 and 09-73130474. Our members who wish to participate in CGR members' golf tournament are to enroll their names, together with their Handicaps, at the Reception Counter, City Golf Resort, contact telephone numbers 09-421119932, 09-250532668 and 09-30090884 not later than 18:00 hours of 22-2-2015.

Tournament Steering Committee

Brazilian court seizes former billionaire Eike Batista's assests

Rio de Janeiro, 7 Feb — Brazil's Federal Police on Friday carried out a court order to seize cash, luxury cars and other assets from former billionaire Eike Batista, who is being sued for money laundering, fraud and other financial crimes.

The amount frozen on Friday is estimated at 3 billion reais (1.09 billion US dollars).

Batista, founder and CEO of the EBX Group, went from the seventh richest man in the world to ruin in less than two years and he is now alleged to have 1 billion dollars in debt.

The EBX Group's flagship, oil company OGX, had successive bad results in oil exploration in Brazil and filed for bankruptcy protection in late 2013.

In September 2014, Batista was indicted for financial crimes and the court ordered that his assets be frozen. The court has also ordered to freeze assets of his wife, ex-wife and adult sons as investigators found they attempted to transfer assets in millions of dollars to escape the court's seizure.—*Xinhua*

Mongolia's 1st major English-language magazine hits newsstands

Ulan Bator, 7 Feb — Mongolia's first major English-language magazine hit newsstands recently, with its founder and editor-in-chief hopeful that the biweekly publication will open the door to better understanding of the country that is rich not only in natural resources but also art and culture.

"My magazine is not only about one particular topic or subject," Chanrav Burenbayar said late last month in an interview in Ulan Bator days after the first issue of the *Mongolian Observer* was released. "If you want to understand Mongolia...you need to have a very comprehensive understanding of what is the mentality of the country."

Since Mongolia transitioned into a market economy and a democracy after the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1989, the Asian country landlocked between China and Russia has attracted more international attention.

But for many foreigners, he said, the focus has been mainly on its economy, or more precisely the mining industry, as Mongolia with a population of about 3 million sits on some of the world's richest mineral deposits.

Burenbayar believes there is much more than that to be looked for even if they are interested in Mongolia only in terms of business.

He likened knowing about a country to forming a friendship, saying, "You need to understand what the person is like (from various angles)."

Consequently, he said, the magazine will cover "the entire gamut of the Mongolian society," not just the economy and politics, with each issue running a feature story.

Until now, information on Mongolia in English was very limited.

There are two other English magazines available, but they are partially written in the language and very much focused on either the mining industry or the economy in general, according to him, whose past careers included working as a journalist and an official of the United Nations Children's Fund.

Each issue of the *Mongolian Observer* with nearly 50 pages costs about $4. The 59-year-old editor-in-chief said he recognizes that it is "challenging" to publish an independent magazine, considering the decline of print media and the small market in Mongolia. For his short-term goal, Burenbayar said he wants to increase the circulation to 1,500 by the end of March from the current 500 by securing subscriptions from abroad, airliners and hotels.

Chanrav Burenbayar, editor-in-chief of the Mongolian Observer, holds Mongolia's first major English-language magazine in Ulan Bator on 25 Jan, 2015. He hopes the newly issued biweekly publication will open the door to better understanding of the country that is rich not only in natural resources but also art and culture.
Kyodo News

"Any print media does not make money overnight," he said. "One thing you have to have is a commitment. If you want to deliver that commitment, you have to deliver good journalistic pieces."

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WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is generally fair in the Andaman Sea and partly cloudy in the Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 8th February, 2015: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in Sagaing, Mandalay and Magway Regions, Shan, Chin and Rakhine States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Strong easterly winds with moderate to rough sea are likely at times off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong easterly wind may reach (30) m.p.h. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Lava erupts from the Piton de la Fournaise volcano on 5 Feb, 2015, in the French Indian Ocean island of La Reunion. This is the second eruption in the past year at Piton de la Fournaise after 3-years of quiet.
Xinhua

With African fashion in vogue, home talent shines

JOHANNESBURG, 7 Feb — When Michelle Obama and Beyonce Knowles attended high-profile events in clothes made by African designers, it was a sure sign that the continent's vibrant style has arrived on the world stage.

The showcasing of clothes from home-grown African designers in stores in New York, London and Tokyo is a sign of a broader change of attitude towards a continent which is earning a brighter reputation beyond stories of war and disease.

It has proven difficult for Africa's home grown designers to break into the mainstream fashion market because the perception has often been that products from the world's poorest continent are of low quality or just not cool.

Global fashion designers like Yves Saint Laurent took inspiration from Africa decades ago and more recently brands like Burberry, Louis Vuitton and Christian Dior have embraced the continent's style and broadened its appeal. But consumers now want products made by Africans, not replicas produced by Western clothing chains, according to Bethlehem Tilahun Alemu, who owns Ethiopian shoe company, soleRebels, which has a dozen stores from Singapore to Greece.—*Reuters*

South African model Lulama Mlambo poses while wearing clothes made by Kisua.com, an online clothing retailer launched by Ghanaian entrepreneur Samuel Mensah, in Johannesburg, on 2 Feb, 2015. — REUTERS

Melissa Leo, Zachary Quinto to star in Edward Snowden film

LOS ANGELES, 7 Feb — Actors Melissa Leo, Zachary Quinto and Tom Wilkinson are in talks to star in upcoming biopic of National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden.

The computer professional leaked classified information from the NSA to the mainstream media, starting in June 2013. The film, which is directed by Oliver Stone, already stars Joseph Gordon-Levitt and Shailene Woodley, reported *TheWrap*. Leo, Quinto and Wilkinson might play Laura Poitras, Glenn Greenwald and Ewen MacAskill respectively in 'The Snowden Files'. Poitras is the director of Oscar-nominated Snowden documentary 'Citizenfour', which was also a part of the whistleblower's revelations.

Greenwald is a lawyer/journalist, who was chosen by Snowden to leak information to. MacAskill is a contributor at The Guardian who helped break Snowden's stories about mass surveillance. Gordon-Levitt will play the whistleblower and Woodley will be seen as his girlfriend in the movie, which is based on books 'Time of the Octopus' by Snowden's lawyer in Russia, Anatoly Kucherena, and 'The Snowden Files: The Inside Story of the World's Most Wanted Man' by Guardian journalist Luke Harding.

Scott Eastwood has also joined the movie. He will play a National Security Agency agent.—*PTI*

'Gone Girl' Amy a dream role: Rosamund Pike

Rosamund Pike

LOS ANGELES, 7 Feb — Rosamund Pike, who starred as a scheming wife in the David Fincher-directed 'Gone Girl', says playing Amy Dunne would be a dream role for any actress.

The thriller, based on Gillian Flynn's best-selling book of the same name, revolved around a man (Ben Affleck), whose wife disappears, leaving him as the prime suspect. Pike feels that though Amy was a dangerous person, she was "empowering" in a way, reported Collider.

"There's no actress who wouldn't dream of a character like that. As an actor, you think, 'I'm never going to be good enough. I can see how far I want to reach with this and the potential, but I'm never going to reach it,'" she said in an interview. "But the other side of that, is you go home and think, 'I can do anything I want. This is so extreme. It's a version of being a woman that isn't contained in any way.' She's extreme. Yes, it's a film about a murderess, but it's very empowering, in some ways. It's great to stretch every muscle and get to make good on every insane thought you've ever had.'"

PTI

Herzog brings his female 'Lawrence of Arabia' to Berlin film contest

BERLIN, 7 Feb — Nicole Kidman says she loves the desert, which was lucky for her as veteran German director Werner Herzog expected her to spend a lot of time there for his entry for this year's Berlin film festival competition.

His "Queen of the Desert", which had its premiere on Friday is based on the life of the British society woman Gertrude Bell.

Known as "the female Lawrence of Arabia", she trekked the deserts of the Arabian peninsula in the early part of the 20th century, knew TE Lawrence, befriended Bedouins, had two failed love affairs, worked as a spy and wound up as Britain's diplomatic expert on the Arab tribes.

Herzog, 72, who directed off-the-wall features such as "Fitzcarraldo" and other films starring the maniacal Klaus Kinski in the 1980s, said he wished he'd made more movies with women. "I think I should have done films about female protagonists much earlier in my life. I always thought I was a director for men ... and I'm glad that finally this discovery came to me, I should have done films about female characters from much, much earlier on," Herzog told a news conference. Kidman said she was attracted to the movie in part for the opportunity to bring Bell's life to the screen, but also for the chance to film in the desert. James Franco, Robert Pattinson and Damian Lewis co-star, but as Herzog pointed out, the Australian actress appears in all but one scene.

"I think what's so beautiful about this movie is you just see how exquisite that region is and the desert and the people and being a part of it certainly gives you a strong affinity for that, but I've always felt a pull towards the desert," she said.

Herzog said he hoped the film would give viewers a better appreciation of the region and its politics, in part complicated by borders Bell helped to draw. He said if the West did not understand the region, it risked falling further into the hands of Islamic State.

"We legitimately have to ask ourselves the question whether the border delineations ... have been the best of all worlds, no they have not. But we see the alternative out there, the alternative is materializing and the alternative is no borders — and Islamic State running this as a Caliphate which includes Lebanon and Israel, among others," he said. The film got mixed early reviews, with Britain's Independent newspaper saying: "This is the closest Herzog has come to making a conventional Hollywood movie — what it lacks is the perversity, drive and wildness that are usually his hallmark."—*Reuters*

Actors James Franco, Nicole Kidman, Damian Lewis and director Werner Herzog (L-R) arrive on the red carpet for the screening of the movie 'Queen of the Desert' at the 65th Berlinale International Film Festival, in Berlin on 6 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

'Star Wars' actor Richard Bonehill dies

sword master on films and TV series such as 'The Avengers', 'Rob Roy', 'The Count of Monte Cristo', 'Robin Hood' and 'Jason and the Argonauts' died at the age of 67.—PTI

LONDON, 7 Feb — Richard Bonehill, a swordsman and actor known for various roles in the 'Star Wars' films, has died at the age of 67. The cause of his death is yet to be revealed. News of his death was reported by the Truro Fencing Club in the UK, where Bonehill served as head coach for 12 years until 2007 and was president when he died.

"We are sad to announce the sudden passing of our President & former Head Coach Richard Bonehill. A great leader and an inspiration," the club tweeted. Bonehill also worked as an actor, fencing coach and sword master on films and TV series such as 'The Avengers', 'Rob Roy', 'The Count of Monte Cristo', 'Robin Hood' and 'Jason and the Argonauts'.

He also appeared on 'Doctor Who'. In 'The Empire Strikes Back' and 'Return of the Jedi', Bonehill appeared in a variety of roles including a Stormtrooper, a rebel soldier, a TIE fighter pilot, a Tauntaun handler and as Nien Nunb, a creature who co-pilots the Millennium Falcon.—*PTI*

Detroit man with marathon walking commute surprised with new car

DETROIT, 7 Feb — A Detroit factory worker who has walked more than 20 miles (32 km) during his daily commute to work for a decade was surprised on Friday with a brand new car, donated by a suburban car dealership.

The unexpected gift is the latest in an outpouring of donations from supporters across the globe who, touched by James Robertson's plight, have raised more than $310,000 to help him buy a car. Robertson has told the *Detroit Free Press* that his car broke down a decade ago and, making $10.55 an hour, he has been unable to save for a new one.

"I don't like it, I love it," said Robertson, 56, who appeared baffled as he sat behind the wheel of his 2015 red Ford Taurus. "If only my parents could see me now." Robertson thought he was going to look at cars to purchase with Evan Leedy and Blake Pollock, who both helped coordinate the gift, worth an estimated $37,000. Instead Robertson was greeted by reporters and a team of supporters who first learned of his marathon commute this week in a story that ran in the Sunday *Detroit Free Press.*

The story has since been widely shared on social media, and Robertson has been featured on national network news programmes. The publicity has prompted a renewed discussion about reforming Metro Detroit's troubled public transportation system.

Leedy, 19, a student at Wayne State University, launched an online GoFundMe.com fundraiser after he read about Robertson's daily trek between his home in Detroit and the Schain Mold & Engineering factory in the suburb of Rochester Hills.

He spent part of the week negotiating a reasonable insurance rate for Robertson, who has not driven in 10 years.

***Detroit resident James Robertson reacts next to the 2015 red Ford Taurus sedan he was surprised with as a free gift at the Suburban Ford dealership in Sterling Heights, Michigan, on 6 Feb, 2015.—*REUTERS**

Leedy told *Reuters* he was initially quoted a $15,000-a-year premium, a quote that illustrates Detroit's notoriously high insurance rates.

The Free Press was tipped off by Pollock, a banker who had befriended Robertson two years ago when he spotted the factory worker walking by his office on his way to work.

The newspaper said Robertson takes buses to work, but has to walk more than 20 miles round trip because buses do not cover the whole route.

He starts his commute at 8 am for his 2-10 pm shift, and does not get home until 4 am. He has perfect attendance at his job, the said.

Reuters

Equatorial Guinea fined for Nations Cup violence

MALABO, 7 Feb — Equatorial Guinea were fined $100,000 (652,316 pounds) on Friday for the behaviour of their supporters during Thursday's violence-strewn African Nations Cup semi-final loss to Ghana.

The tournament hosts will, however, be allowed to have spectators for their third place playoff match against the Democratic Republic of Congo at the same venue on Saturday.

They were told that as part of their sanction they must play their next game behind closed doors but this part of the punishment has been suspended, the Confederation of African Football said in statement on Friday.

***Security and Confederation of African Football (CAF) officials try to protect Ghana fans after Equatorial Guinea fans threw objects during their African Nations Cup semi-final soccer match in Malabo on 5 Feb, 2015.* REUTERS**

At least 36 people were treated by the medical teams at the stadium after the rioting that interrupted the semi-finals.

"All the injured were supported and attended to on site. A total of 14 were transferred to hospital units for further investigations with one case requiring close monitoring," CAF added. Angry home fans pelted Ghana's team officials and spectators with an assortment of missiles as their side went behind.

Ghana fans were attacked as they celebrated and they fled on to the playing area, seeking sanctuary behind the back of the goal.

Equatorial Guinea were fined $5,000 on Monday for an invasion of the pitch by a few spectators after their upset win over Tunisia in the quarter-final in Bata.— *Reuters*

Chocolate snorting offers new way to a cocoa high

BRUGES, (Belgium) 7 Feb — When Belgian chocolatier Dominique Persoone created a chocolate-sniffing device for a Rolling Stones party in 2007, he never imagined demand would stretch much beyond the rock 'n' roll scene. But, seven years later, he has sold 25,000 of them.

Inspired by a device his grandfather used to propel tobacco snuff up his nose, Persoone created a 'Chocolate Shooter' to deliver a hit of Dominican Republic or Peruvian cocoa powder, mixed with mint and either ginger or raspberry.

Belgian chocolatier Dominique Persoone snorts cocoa powder off his Chocolate Shooter in his factory in Bruges, on 3 Feb, 2015.— REUTERS

"The mint and the ginger really tinkle your nose," the 46-year-old said in his chocolate factory in the medieval city of Bruges. "Then the mint flavor goes down and the chocolate stays in your brain." Tattoo-clad Persoone, who has collaborated with celebrated chefs such as The Fat Duck's Heston Blumenthal and elBulli's Ferran and Albert Adria, has a history of culinary innovation.

Alongside the classics, he has created chocolates flavored with bacon and onion, oysters and even grass.

It took some perfecting to create the snorting powder as chocolate itself was too dry. Before the successful formula was discovered, Persoone used a mix that included chili pepper.

"It's a very bad idea," he said. The chocolate shooters, which sell for 45 euros ($50) each, have been exported to Russia, India, Canada, Australia and the United States.

The packaging bears a warning against excessive sniffing, but Persoone insists it is safe. He was inspired by the role of the nose when tasting food and, he says, a certain idea of fun."The mentality when you think about sniffing is: 'Oh it's kinky, guys who do that stuff...'" Persoone said.

"I'm not the bad boy promoting drugs, not at all ... Life is boring. Let's have fun."— *Reuters*

mitv Myanmar International

(8-2-2015 07:00 am~ 9-2-2015 07:00 am) MST

* Local News
* Today Myanmar "Ratten Export"
* World News
* Beach Food Delivery
* Local News
* The Man and The Elephant
* World News
* Goldsmith
* Local News
* Strolling Along A Memory Link - U Pein Bridge
* World News
* PyinOoLwin Sweater
* Local News
* Lisu: Their Life and Customs
* World News
* In the Studio : Ja Som (The Myth)
* Local News
* Nine Wonders
* Around The Platform of Shwedagon Pagoda
* World News
* 19 Hours
* Local News
* One Heritage…… One Festival
* World News
* Products of Myanmar — Bomboo Hat
* Local News
* Crab Business "Mud Crab"
* World News
* Size Does Matter (Human-Elephant Conflict, "Laws & Regulations")
* Local News
* School for the Blind (Kyee Myin Dine)
* World News
* Myanmar Masterclass: Impressionism

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(8-2-2015, Sunday)

6:00 am
- Alinka Wutyi Music Troupe

6:20 am
- Fashion Show

6:55 am
- Myanmar Programme

7:20 am
- Myanmar Video

8:50 am
- Sing & Enjoy

9:50 am
- Myanmar Movie

12:00 noon
- Close Down

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(8-2-2015, Sunday)

6:00 am
- Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:00 am
- News/ Weather Report

7:35 am
- Business News

8:30 am
- Head Line News

9:35 am
- Weekly Entertainment

10:50 am
- (100) Birthday Anniversary Bogyoke Aung San

11:35 am
- Hyper Sports

12:00 noon
- News / International News / Weather Report

12:35 pm
Round up of The Week's International News

12:50 pm
- Myanmar Movies (Part-1)

2:35 pm
- Myanmar Movies (Part-2)

3:35 pm
- Myanmar Movies (Part-3)

3:50 pm
- 68th Anniversary Union Day Programme

4:35 pm
- Business News

5:00 pm
- News

5:35 pm
- Documentary

6:00 pm
- News / Weather Report

6:35 pm
- Weekly Entertainment

7:00 pm
- News

7:30 pm
- Head Line News

7:35 pm
- Documentary (Women in Myanmar Society)

8:00 pm
- News / International News / Weather Report

9:00 pm
- News
- Tasty Trip
- Sing & Enjoy

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunday, 8 February, 2015

Manchester United close to full strength for West Ham trip

London, 7 Feb — Manchester United midfielder Michael Carrick is their only absentee for this weekend's visit to West Ham United, manager Louis van Gaal said on Friday in a rare positive update in a season dominated by injury troubles.

United are returning to full strength after being hampered for most of the campaign, with Van Gaal chopping and changing his team as he has made do without the likes of Phil Jones, Marcos Rojo and Ashley Young for long spells.

Carrick is now the only United player left on the sidelines after rupturing his calf muscle in the run-up to last week's Premier League win over Leicester City.

Despite a mixed start to the campaign in which United's results have frequently been better than their performances, they are third in the table and into the fifth round of the FA Cup.

Van Gaal, however, is determined not to get complacent and despite the 10 point-deficit to leaders Chelsea is keen to kick on starting at Upton Park on Sunday.

"I said that at the beginning of the week before the game against Leicester City, that this is an important week and we have to win all three matches," he told reporters on Friday.

"After we beat Leicester we were third in the league. After that, we beat Cambridge and we are in the next round of the FA Cup.

"Now, we have to continue, but it's not so easy because we have to play away in London against West Ham and it was a tough game in Manchester. We have to win in London."

Van Gaal has faced criticism that his side have struggled for attacking fluency, with some suggesting their three-man defensive system sacrifices flair in favour of possession.

"It is not a question of playing with wingers or without wingers or playing with three defenders of four defenders. It is the playing style which is attractive," he said.

"We are fourth in the goalscoring league and third or fourth in the defensive way of playing (goals conceded). I don't think we are very bad — we are very good but we can improve."

The United manager laid flowers at a ceremony to mark the 57th anniversary of the Munich air disaster on Friday.

"I represent the club. I think the players who died played a big part in the history of the club. We must remember that always," he said.

Reuters

Queens Park Rangers' Bobby Zamora (L) is challenged by Manchester United's Phil Jones and Michael Carrick during their English Premier League soccer match, at Loftus Road in London on 17Jan, 2015. **Reuters**

Mourinho continues attack on Financial Fair Play rules

London, 7 Feb — Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho has repeated his call for clubs who breach European governing body UEFA's Financial Fair Play rules to be stripped of their titles and docked points.

"I don't think a team can be champions when you are punished because you didn't comply with Financial Fair Play (FFP)," Mourinho said in comments reported by the BBC on Friday, which many will see as a thinly-veiled attack on Premier League rivals Manchester City.

Manuel Pellegrini's side won the title last year, but were also fined, had their transfer spending restricted and told not to exceed their salary bill for breaching the rules, which are designed to prevent clubs from running up losses. "I enjoy the challenge of the English competition," Mourinho added. "The only thing that is not nice is that you compete against the ones who don't follow the same rules.

Chelsea's manager Jose Mourinho instructs his team during their English League Cup semi-final first leg soccer match against Liverpool at Anfield in Liverpool, northern England on 20 Jan, 2015. **—Reuters**

"Our work to keep the team strong, with possibility to compete against the ones financially more powerful or against the ones who don't care and don't respect Financial Fair Play... we had to work very, very hard."

Chelsea were heavily funded by billionaire Roman Abramovich when he bought the club in 2003, but posted a 18.4 million pound profit for the year ending last June, the largest since the Russian took over.

Reuters

Schalke leapfrog Gladbach into third with 1-0 win

Berlin, 7 Feb — A solid defence helped Schalke 04 secure a 1-0 win at home to Borussia Moenchengladbach on Friday that lifted them above their rivals into third spot in the Bundesliga in the battle for Champions League places.

Swiss international Tranquillo Barnetta scored the winner after some sloppy defending from Gladbach, beating two defenders at the near post to tap in a pinpoint Kevin-Prince Boateng cross in the 10th minute.

"When you don't allow any (players) through then it's really difficult for your opponent to score," Barnetta told reporters. "We also showed it against Bayern Munich on Tuesday (in a 1-1 draw) where we did not let anything through. That is our goal."

Schalke, without suspended leading striker Klaas-Jan Huntelaar, were by no means exciting to watch, crowding their defence and waiting to catch the visitors on the break.

The addition of defender Matija Nastasic, on loan from Manchester City, has been an instant success with the Serbian oozing confidence.

Schalke's tactics paid off as Gladbach struggled, failing to create a chance in the entire game while also being caught out at the back on several occasions.

Schalke, who face Real Madrid in the Champions League Round of 16 later this month, have gone five league game without defeat, conceding two goals in the process. They now have 34 points, one ahead of Gladbach, who had won their previous two games this year.

Champions Bayern Munich, eight points clear at the top on 46, will look to bounce back from a loss and a draw at struggling VfB Stuttgart. Second-placed VfL Wolfsburg entertain Hoffenheim while last season's runners-up Borussia Dortmund take on Freiburg as they look to move off the bottom of the table with a win.—*Reuters*

Schalke 04's Timon Wellenreuther (2nd R) and Leroy Sane (2nd L) celebrate victory, while Christian Fuchs (R) looks on, after their Bundesliga first division soccer match against Borussia Moenchengladbach in Gelsenkirchen, on 6 Feb, 2015. **—Reuters**

Leeds defender Bellusci cleared in Norwich racism row

London, 7 Feb — Leeds United defender Giuseppe Bellusci has had a misconduct charge for allegedly racially abusing Norwich City striker Cameron Jerome found not proven by an Independent Regulatory Commission, the Football Association said on Friday.

Bellusci, 25, was accused of using abusive and insulting words towards Jerome in a championship (second tier) game at Carrow Road on 21 October.

"It was further alleged that this breach of Rule E3(1) was an "Aggravated Breach" pursuant to Rule E3(2), as it included a reference to ethnic origin and/or colour and/or race," the FA said on its website.

Ex-Italy under-21 international Bellusci, nicknamed 'The Warrior' when he played for Catania, had denied the charge and requested a personal hearing.

Norwich said they were "deeply disappointed" at the verdict and fully supported Jerome "who genuinely believed he was on the receiving end of unacceptable language on the field of play...".

Bournemouth's Callum Wilson is fouled in the area by Leeds' Giuseppe Bellusci during Sky Bet Football League Championship. **—Reuters**

Jerome told the club website (www.canaries.co.uk): "I'm glad the commission has said that they believe I truthfully reported what I genuinely believe I heard.

"I'll always continue to report anything unacceptable I hear said to me on or off the pitch and I'd certainly encourage any other players in a similar situation to do so as well.

"We must stand up together to eradicate these problems from our game and our society."

The FA acted after receiving referee Mark Clattenburg's match report on the incident which led him to stop the game midway through the first half having received a complaint from Jerome after words were exchanged with Bellusci.

Clattenburg spoke to both managers on the touchline before lecturing the Italian defender. Moments later Jerome was booked for a foul on the Leeds player.—*Reuters*

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