

President U Thein Sein attends Chin National Day celebration

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb — President U Thein Sein and party attended a celebration of the 67th Anniversary of Chin National Day in Haka on Friday.

On his arrival at Vann Thou Moun sports ground where the Chin National Day was celebrated, the President was presented with a Chin traditional dress, a turban, a bag and a sword to wear by Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai.

Next, the President cordially greeted those present including students, local people and foreign visitors who were giving enthusiastic welcome to him.

Then, the President and party put up a mast, Bwayt-tai which means “Head”, and celebrated the 67th Anniversary of Chin National Day together with attendees.

Afterwards, the President presented gifts to Chin National Day celebration committee members, and Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy, and Air) General Hla Htay Win, sets of computers and accessories to responsible persons.



Chin State Chief Minister U Hong Ngai presents a Chin traditional dress, a turban, a bag and a sword to President U Thein Sein at the celebration of 67th Anniversary of Chin National Day in Haka.—MNA

Through his greetings, the President called for cooperation based on two points of love for the country and wish for the national development for ensuring peace and prosperity across the Union including

Chin State. Next, the President enjoyed Chin traditional dances to mark the 67th anniversary celebration.

The President and party also attended a ceremony to open a new theater and

maternity ward at Haka People’s Hospital.

The President, Union Minister Dr Than Aung, the Chin state chief minister and Parliament member U Robin formally opened the ceremony.

Next, they viewed round the newly-inaugurated theater and maternity ward. Then, the President and party offered provisions to members of Sangha at Myoma monastery in Haka. In the evening, the President met with Christian religious leaders at Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Hall.

MNA

Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business’s report encourages sustainable, quality tourism in Myanmar

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 20 Feb — Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business (MCRB), a Yangon-based

organization encouraging responsible business activities throughout Myanmar, released a sector-wide impact assessment on tourism on Friday, highlighting a number of actual and po-

tential impacts of the country’s tourism development and choices to be made.

The report spotlights the livelihoods of local inhabitants and the long-term viability of the coun-

try’s tourism destinations such as Bagan, Inlay and Kyaik-hti-yoe which are already under environmental and social pressure from the effects of tourism.

(See page 2)



United States condemns attack on MRCS convoy

YANGON, 20 Feb—The Embassy of the United States of America in Yangon issued a press release dated 20-2-2015 that the United States condemns the attack on a Myanmar Red Cross Society convoy in northern Shan State on February 17, which injured two humanitarian staff. Attacks on humanitarian workers, who often put themselves at personal risk to provide life-saving services to people in need, are unacceptable. We honor the brave work of the MRCS team, and of all others providing services to those in need in Kokang and throughout the country, and call on all parties to allow the safe passage and full protection of humanitarian staff in accordance with international humanitarian standards. We likewise call on all parties to ensure the protection of civilians and their safe passage out of conflict areas.—GNLM

Photo of local fishermen with a distinctive rowing style at Inlay Lake, which measures 22 km long by 10 km wide and sits in a valley between two mountain ranges.

PHOTO CREDIT TO MYANMAR TOURISM FEDERATION

INSIDE

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits injured/displaced staff from Laukkai

PAGE-3

Vice President U Nyan Tun receives Malaysian Defence Minister, Chairwoman of Hanns Seidel Foundation

PAGE-3

Myanmar requests Malaysia to provide legal protection for its migrant workers

PAGE-9

Union Defence Minister welcomes Malaysian counterpart

PAGE-3

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Parliament approves two bills, adopts resolution supporting two ordinances

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb — The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on Friday approved a competition bill, which was returned with presidential remarks.

The bill will then be submitted to the president after the parliament has

made agreed changes to it.

The enactment of the competition bill is said to protect the interests of the people when businesses try to corner or speculate on the market, according to an MP.

The parliament also

approved the Myanmar coastal and inland water transport license bill, on which both houses previously disagreed. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the bill after changing the clauses on which Pyithu Hluttaw

(Lower House) and the Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) had different opinions. It will send the bill to the president for the bill to become a law.

U Aung Min, Union Minister at President Office, tabled a motion call-

ing for the parliament's approval of two ordinances, a state of emergency and a martial law, issued in the Kokant self-administrative region on 17 February.

The parliament adopted a resolution supporting the motion, with MPs not-

ing that political stability, internal peace and national unity are important for the country to stand as a democracy and that the two ordinances are issued in favour of the security and safety of the people.

MNA



Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann poses for documentary photo with Professor Ursula Mannle, Chairwoman of Hanns Seidel Foundation of Germany and party.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets foreign guests, attends 67th Anniversary of Chin National Day

YANGON, 20 Feb — Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann Friday met Professor Ursula Mannle, Chairwoman of Hanns Seidel Foundation, and Hon Mrs. Barbara Stamm, Speaker of the Bavarian State Parliament of Germany, at the Hluttaw Building here.

Also present at the call were U Nanda Kyaw Swa, deputy speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw, Chairman U Hla Myint Oo of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee and officials from the Hluttaw office.

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya Nyein and MPs attended the ceremony to mark the 67th Anniversary of Chin National Day at Myanmar International Convention Centre-II, here, on Friday evening.

Amyotha Hluttaw MP U Sun Dok Ciint read out the message sent by President U Thein Sein on the occasion of the 67th Anniversary of Chin National Day.

Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann read his message to the Chin National Day and

extended greetings.

Chin national Daw Thum Penn read out the message sent by Chairman fo Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Leading committee member U Lien Ciint Mann reported on brief history of the Chin National Day. Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann presented certificates of honour to doctorate degree holder Chin nationals.

Officials presented certificates of honour to outstanding Chin nationals. The ceremony ended with presentation of Chin traditional dances and songs.

MNA

YIE, YUE hold talks on amendment bill on National Education Law

YANGON, 20 Feb — Talks on amendment bill on the National Education Law was held at the main hall of Yangon Institute of Economics on Friday morning.

Present were Rector Dr Daw Khin Naing Oo, Pro-rector Dr Tun Aung, professors (heads of de-

partment), professors, faculty members and students.

The rector invited advice on the amendment bill, especially in areas like management, curriculum, options for students and laws concerning faculty member, saying that advice from the talks would be submitted to higher

authorities.

Similar talks on the amendment bill was held at Yangon University of Education in Kamayut in the afternoon.

Dr Soe Than of Teaching Methodology Department invited participants to engage in discussions and students took part in the

creation and poverty alleviation potential of tourism, and potential threats as well.

“Myanmar that has so many ecological and cultural assets is lucky to still have choices. It can try to compete with Bali and Thailand to attract mass tourism. But, if it does, it risks destroying the things that make its destinations different. Alternatively, Myanmar can harness tourism in support of the protection of its diverse cultures and ecosystems,” the MCRB director commented.

These choices need to be made on the basis of participatory discussions at the local and national level, she said. — GNLM

discussions.

Student participants at the talks at the both institutes welcomed the talks. Maung Zeyar Lwin of Yangon Institute of Economics agreed that the law should be amended and but did not want student to skip examinations for protects while Ma Ei Ei Phyo of Yangon University of Education objected to section 66 (c) of the amendment bill.—MNA



Faculty members and students seen at talks on amendment bill on the National Education Law.—MNA

Myanmar Centre for . . .

(from page 1)

The report said implementation of government policies already in place to encourage responsible tourism is incomplete due to a lack of capacity and resources.

Vicky Bowmen, MCRB director, stressed the need not to too much focus on hard infrastructure, particularly in hotel construction, urging to rein so-called “hotel zones”, where land is compulsorily acquired for multiple hotels, often on environmentally sensitive sites.

“What is needed—as the government’s own Mas-

ter Plan indentified— is participatory destination management and a ‘zonal planning’ approach, which is not the same thing as establishing a ‘hotel zone’.”

The report found that local communities are still not sufficiently engaged in decisions on tourism development.

“Engagement, consultation and participatory of stakeholders should form the basis of tourism development projects from the very start,” said Allen Jorgensen from the Danish Institute for Human Rights.

The report also highlights the significant job

Myanmar Farmers’ Development Party denounces Kokang renegade group disturbing internal peace, country’s stability and peace

YANGON, 20 Feb — Central Executive Committee of the Myanmar Farmers’ Development Party headquartered in Yangon released a statement denouncing the Kokang renegade group headed by Pheung Kya-shin which is causing disturbances to internal peace and stability and peace of the country.

The party’s CEC expressed sympathy for

Tatmadawmen who were killed and injured while defending the country and local people who are struggling to survive the severe fighting in Laukkai area where Kokang armed group has attacked the military headquarters in Kongyan, the office of the leading body of Kokang self-administered zone, His-auk Myanmar correctional department, Yan-

lon-kyan police station and Laukkai military area.

The statement said that now is the time when the government, the people and Tatmadawmen are striving for achieving ceasefire and internal peace.

The statement also honoured the soldiers, offspring of farmers, who sacrificed their lives for the county.

MNA

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham visits injured/displaced staff from Laukkai



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham comforts a patient at Lashio General Hospital in Lashio.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 20 Feb—Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and party visited injured Tatmadaw personnel who fought bravely for the nation in Laukkai and their families at the Military Hospital in Lashio station on Friday.

The vice president presented cash awards, gifts and food to them.

Then, the vice presi-

dent and party proceeded to Lashio General Hospital and visited injured government employees, members of Red Cross Society, and local people in Laukkai. The vice president presented them with cash awards, clothes and food supplies.

Afterwards, the vice president met with health staff who are taking refuge

in Lashio from the fighting in Kokang Self-Administered Zone at Myanmar Medical Association where Deputy Minister for Health Dr Win Myint reported to the vice president on arrangements for health, food and accommodation for the health staff.

The vice president presented government cash awards of over K 24 mil-

lion for staff and families of health departments from Laukkai, Kongyan, Tarshwehtan and Mawhtike before he personally donated K 5 million for them.

Union Ministers U Maung Myint, U Win Myint, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Tin Aung Chit and faculty members from University of Medicine (1) and the Public Health Uni-

versity donated cash for the displaced health workers.

At the meeting, about K 34 million was donated for the displaced health workers.

The vice president later met with education staff from Kokang Self-Administered Zone at No 1 Basic Education High School and presented K 36.7 million cash award of the government for education staff who are taking refuge in Lashio from the fighting in Laukkai and K 1 million each to families of three education staff who were killed during the fighting in Laukkai. The union ministers and the deputy ministers donated cash for the education staff.

At today's meeting, the government and well-wishers donated K 126.5 million and household goods worth over K 61 million for staff in Kokang Self-Administered Zone.

In the evening, the vice president attended ceremony to present cash donation for Tatmadaw personnel discharging duties in Luakkai area held at the North-East Command where the vice president donated K30 million. Shan State Government, Ministry of Industry, Ministry of Commerce and Ministry of Education donated K 9.5 million for the personnel and Ministry of Border Affairs donated food worth

K 5 million. Lt-Gen Aung Than Htut of the Ministry of Defence expressed thanks for the donation.

In the morning, the vice president attended the meeting of leading committee for organizing the religious title and rice offering ceremony at the Ministry of Religious Affairs, here.

He said that the government will offer religious titles to 151 monks and 13 nuns, totalling 164 this year at Sasana Beikman at the foot of Nay Pyi Taw Up-patasanti Pagoda under the arrangements of various committees.

Chairman of the leading committee Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Soe Win reported on preparations of the leading committee and arrangements for the ceremony. Chairman of work committee Deputy Minister Dr Maung Maung Htay submitted reports on transport of title recipient monks and nuns while officials of subcommittees reported on their work plans.

The new government has offered religious titles to recipient Sayadaws and nuns in Nay Pyi Taw three successive years, and the previous government also presented titles to monks and nuns three successive times at Maha Pasana Cave on Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon.—MNA

Union Defence Minister welcomes Malaysian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin welcomed Malaysian Defence Minister Hon Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein at the Bayintnaung Yeiktha, here, on Friday morning.

Lt-Gen Wai Lwin and the Malaysian Minister took the salute of the Guard of Honour. The Union Minister received the Malaysian Defence Minister and party at Bayintnaung Yeiktha. The Union minister hosted a luncheon to the Malaysian guests.

In the evening, both ministers met media at the press conference at Kempinski Hotel.—Myawady

Vice President U Nyan Tun receives Malaysian Defence Minister, Chairwoman of Hanns Seidel Foundation

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—Vice President U Nyan Tun held talks with Malaysian Defence Minister Hon Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein and party at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, on Friday to discuss promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between armed forces of two countries.

They also focused on cooperation in maritime security, assistance for Malaysia's ASEAN chairmanship, rights for Myanmar migrant workers in Malaysia under the law and arrangements for social security.

The vice president also received a delegation led by Professor Ursula Mannle, Chairwoman of Hanns Seidel Foundation of German at the same venue.

They discussed assistance for raising political awareness which is basic



for democracy in line with the motto of Hanns Seidel Foundation: "In the service of democracy, peace and development", sharing of knowledge to the people on challenges and opportuni-

ties for ASEAN Economic Community, development of Myanmar's tourism industry, and creation of opportunities for women entrepreneurs.

MNA

Vice President U Nyan Tun poses for documentary photo with Malaysian Defence Minister Hon Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein and party.—MNA

Religious association conducts 46th Nikaya examination in Mandalay



MANDALAY, 20 Feb—The 46th Nikaya examination of Pariyatti Sasanahita Association was held at the hall of association on 85th street in Chanayethazan Township on 19 and 20 February.

A total of 185 novices and monks set for the examination. Chairman of the association U Shan, Secretary U Maung Maung Tin and officials provided necessary assistance for the examination.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Police disseminates human trafficking knowledge to people

TAUNGTHA, 20 Feb—Anti-Human Trafficking Police Force under Myanmar Police Force gave educative talks on prevention of human trafficking.

On 17 February, IP

Myint Thein of No 11 Anti-Human Trafficking Police Squad of Mandalay Region disseminated knowledge about migrant working, human smuggling and trafficking, activities

of authorities to combat trafficking in persons, and ways and means of human traffickers, at Taungtha Township General Administration Department.

It was also attended

by the township administrator, the commander of Township Police Force, social organizations and local people, totalling over 60.

After the talks, officials presented pamphlets on prevention of trafficking persons to the attendees.

Kyaw Myo Naing (Taungtha)

Rural people get potable water from tube-well

HINTHADA, 20 Feb—Hinthada Township Rural Development Department in Ayeyawady Region assigned duty to Gon Gyi Shin Company to carry out rural water supply tasks.

The company sank a tube-well in Kyethsukwin Village and launched it on

12 February, attended by the deputy commissioner of the district and departmental officials.

The water supply facilities comprise one 4-inch diameter tube-well, one pump station and 1000-gallon-capacity water tank.—*Win Bo (IPRD)*

Mandalay authorities beef up development tasks

MANDALAY, 20 Feb—Workers of Mandalay City Development Committee carried out sanitation on 27th street between 72nd and 73rd streets and drains along both sides for proper flow of water and sprayed the drains for prevention of dengue haemorrhagic fever

in Chanayethazan Township on 19 February.

Skilled workers and engineers are building a 21-foot concrete bridge across Mingala Canal at the junction of 19th street and circular road in Aungmyethazan Township. A plan is underway to finish the

construction of the bridge by February. The housings will be built for basic workers from freight-handling works at the designated places in Nyaunggwe Ward and Minte Ekin Ward under the arrangement of Mandalay Region Government.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Tatkon Township Sub-commission carrying out electoral preparations in smooth processes

TATKON, 20 Feb—Tatkon Township Election Sub-commission held a co-ordination meeting 2/2015 at its office on 19 February, focusing on electoral process and compilation of voter lists.

Chairman of Township Sub-commission U Soe Tint Thein, in his speech, said that the township sub-commission is undertaking preparations for coming elections. The sub-commission supervises compilation of voter list from 8 December 2014 to April 2015. The sub-commission has no difficulty in implementing its process



and policy as three political parties namely Union Solidarity and Development Party, National Unity Party and National League for Democracy are carrying out their process under the prescribed work proce-

dures, he said.

The chairman invited suggestions and requirements from attendees.

The sub-commission holds monthly meetings on work processes.

Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon)

Wellwishers donate cash and foodstuffs to patients

TAUNGTHA, 20 Feb—A mobile medical specialist team led by Lt-Col Kyaw Sein Tun gave medical treatment free of charge to local people as of 13 February.

The team comprising 109 officers and other ranks provided free transport services to the patients who need surgical

treatments to Military Hospital (500-bed) in Meiktila.

Major Han Zaw Htwe of Garrison Engineer unit donated K500,000, We Are Able construction company K500,000, Col Tint Wai (Rtd) foodstuffs worth K200,000, Dagon Emperor Service Co Ltd K250,000 and local people from Taungtha Township K250,000 to the medical team for providing necessary assistance to the patients.

Kyaw Myo Naing (Taungtha)

LOCAL NEWS

Measles-rubella mass immunization campaign conducted in Nay Pyi Taw, Ayeyawady Region

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb — To meet the WHO's regional goal of measles elimination and rubella control by 2020, the Ministry of Health is organizing the second phase of nationwide measles-rubella mass immunization campaign from 19 to 28 February.

The community-based vaccination is also aimed at preventing both infectious diseases in the target aged group of 9 months to 15 years including all children who were left out, drop out or missed school vaccination. According to Zabuthiri Township Health Department in Nay Pyi Taw council area, during the second phase campaign, alto-



gether 167 children among over 400 target audiences in the township have received the new combined measles-rubella vaccine so far. Health staff will give vac-

cine to remaining children. The Health Department in Myanaung Township in Ayeyawady Region said there are 24,297 children to accept the vaccine

in the second phase programme, with over 30,000 students already received the vaccine during the school-based campaign in January.



In the last month campaign, over 36,000 students in Tatkon Township in Nay Pyi Taw also received the vaccine, with the Township Health Department

achieving 98.6 percent coverage in it, an official said.—*Thant Maung, Win Bo (Myanaung Township IPRD), Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon Township IPRD)*

KYANGIN, 20 Feb — Myanmar Solar Power Company carried out electrification in rural areas in Kyangin Township, Ayeyawady Region, spending the fund allotted by Department of Rural Development in 2014-15 fiscal year.

A ceremony to launch solar power supply was held in Thayetpinkwin Village on 12 February, attended by the township administrator and departmental officials.

At present, over 80 houses are enjoying electricity in the village.

Win Bo (IPRD)

Rural people get electricity in Kyangin Tsp



Staff share agricultural techniques to farmers

DAWEI, 20 Feb — Meetings on enhancement of agricultural technology to cultivate monsoon paddy in 2015-16 fiscal year was held in Dawei Township, Taninthayi Region.

Head of Township Agriculture Department Daw Mar Mar Win explained use of quality paddy strains for boosting production, applying good agriculture pattern and systematic use of fer-

tilizer and pesticide.

The meeting was attended by local authorities, members of ward supporting groups, staff of Agriculture Department and local farmers.

Officials of the department have held the meetings on inspection of sample paddy seeds to be sown in 2015-16 fiscal year in 14 wards and villages.

Po Shwe Thun (Dawei)

Region minister supervises examination centres in Mandalay District

MANDALAY, 20 Feb — Mandalay Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Win Hlaing and Director-General U Myo Nyunt of Department of Myanmar Board of Examinations and officials viewed students

at examination centres in Aungmyethazan Township on 19 February.

The minister inspected fourth standard students in the examination at No. 1 Basic Education High School in Aungmyethazan

Township. He also visited BEHS No 11.

A total of 3,760 students of fourth standard and 4,812 students of eighth standard are taking examinations in Mandalay District.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Villagers in arid zone to get potable water soon



NATOGYI, 19 Feb — Kyaungbon Lake is being re-dredged for more storage of water so as to irrigate farmlands in Pyinsi Village, Natogyi Township located in the arid zone in Mandalay Region. Deputy commissioner

U Myint Thin Aung of the district and departmental officials inspected progress of dredging the lake.

Natogyi Township Irrigation Department dredges the lake as of 23 January with the use of heavy machinery.

The government allotted K82.83 million for dredging and maintenance of the lake.

Upon completion, local people will get potable water from the lake sufficiently.

Zaw Min Naing

India's Modi seeks humble, tolerant new image after poll rout

NEW DELHI, 20 Feb — It's out with the flashy suit, in with religious tolerance for India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is seeking to soften his image after an electoral pounding in New Delhi and grumblings in his party about his top-down leadership style.

Abruptly ending a string of national and regional election victories, Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was thrashed in the capital this month, a defeat many blamed on a perception that Modi was tacitly fanning Hindu extremists.

"The Delhi election results ended the party's honeymoon period with a jolt," a senior BJP leader in New Delhi said, asking not be identified as he is not authorized to speak to the

media. "If we don't start the damage control and make immediate corrections, defeat in other state elections is imminent."

In the space of a week, Modi, a Hindu nationalist who rarely attends events organized by religious minorities, delivered a long-awaited speech about inter-faith tolerance to a Christian congregation.

Leaders of the hardline Hindu group Vishwa Hindu Parishad associated with the BJP have cautioned members across India against making comments that "hurt Narendra Modi's image". A saint-like bust of the prime minister was removed from a temple in his home state of Gujarat after he tweeted his disapproval, and a designer suit he wore to meet US President Ba-



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi attends an event organized by the Christian community to celebrate the beatification of two Indians by Pope Francis late last year, in New Delhi on 17 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

rack Obama is being auctioned for charity.

The navy blue outfit, embroidered with gold pinstripes bearing Modi's name, was mocked by Modi's opponents, and even the party faithful said it un-

dermined the voter-friendly narrative of Modi's humble beginnings as the son of a tea seller.

"Modi's image as a son of a tea vendor was his trump card," said a senior election campaign

adviser to the party. "Voters admired his simplicity, but now he is viewed as a flashy leader."

The day before the suit went on auction, Modi broke months of silence after a series of attacks on Christian institutions in New Delhi and vowed to protect all religious groups.

"Voters did not expect him to be silent after churches were attacked," said the BJP leader. "We realise that it was a mistake." Urban development minister Venkaiah Naidu said the Delhi elections were a setback for the BJP and cause for introspection, but denied Modi had lost touch with voters.

"There is no change in their regard and admiration for Narendra Modi," Naidu told Headlines Today tele-

vision this week. "People love him." The day after Naidu spoke, senior BJP official Prodyut Bora quit. In his resignation letter to the party's powerful president, Amit Shah, the rebel complained about the centralisation of power in the prime minister's office.

Bora, who set up the BJP unit that spread the party's message through social media, said Modi's leadership style was damaging democracy within the party. People might soon forget that Modi's monogrammed pinstripe suit cost as much as a million rupees (\$16,100), Bora told Reuters.

"But the increasing arrogance of top (party) leaders does not seem to be fading away," he said.

Reuters

Homes destroyed as twin cyclones slam into northern Australia

ROCKHAMPTON, 20 Feb — A powerful cyclone slammed into northeast Australia on Friday, destroying homes, upending trees, cutting power lines and causing flash floods, while a second storm severed communications to a northern island where heavy damage was expected.

Tens of thousands took what shelter they could as Cyclone Marcia caught Queensland state almost unawares, gathering strength in just a few hours before making landfall midmorning as a category 5 system — the highest rating.

Emergency services scrambled to evacuate thousands of homes before pulling out and warning anyone who had not left to barricade themselves inside to avoid wind gusts peaking at 285 kph (177 mph).

Rail lines to coastal ports, an essential part of Queensland's A\$280 billion (141.77 billion pounds) commodities export-driven economy, were brought to a standstill.

"Stay indoors, take the safest room in the home and let the storm pass," Queensland Fire and Emergency Services Assistant Commissioner John Watson told media after the storm passed over the coastal city of Rockhampton, home to 75,000 people, and headed south towards Australia's third-largest city, Brisbane.

There were no reports of deaths or injuries and the storm was downgraded to a category 2 by evening. But authorities warned heavy rains and flooding were likely to continue for several days and extend inland.

Reuters



Cyclone Marcia slams into the heavily populated central and southern coastline of Queensland from 8 am local time, Australia, on 20 Feb, 2015. Two cyclones, Lam and Marcia, hit the north and east regions of Australia on Friday with winds of up to 290 km per hour recorded so far.—XINHUA

Drug-resistant malaria found close to Myanmar border with India



A government health worker takes a blood sample to be tested for malaria in Ta Gay Laung village hall in Hpa-an District in Kayin State, south-eastern Myanmar, on 28 Nov, 2014.—REUTERS

LONDON, 20 Feb — Malaria with total resistance to the antimalarial drug artemisinin has taken hold in Myanmar and spread close to the border with India, threatening to repeat history and render crucial medicines useless, scientists said on Friday.

If the spread of artemisinin-resistant malaria parasites were to reach into India, they said, that would pose a serious threat to the chances of global control and eradication of the killer mosquito-borne disease. And

if resistance spreads from Asia to Africa, or emerges in Africa independently — as has been seen before with previously effective but now powerless antimalarials, "millions of lives will be at risk", they said in a report.

"Myanmar is considered the front line in the battle against artemisinin resistance as it forms a gateway for resistance to spread to the rest of the world," said Charles Woodrow of the Mahidol-Oxford tropical medicine research unit, who led the study at Oxford

University. In a study published in *The Lancet Infectious Diseases journal*, Woodrow's team collected 940 parasite samples at 55 malaria treatment centres across Myanmar and its border regions. They found that almost 40 percent of the samples had mutations in their so-called

kelch gene, K13 — a known genetic signal of artemisinin drug resistance.

They also confirmed resistant parasites in Homalin, in the Sagaing Region, only 25 km (15 miles) from the Indian border.

While there have been significant reductions in the numbers of people falling ill and dying from malaria, it still kills around 600,000 a year — most of them children in the poorest parts of sub-Saharan Africa.

From the late 1950s to the 1970s, chloroquine-re-

sistant malaria spread across Asia to Africa, leading to a resurgence of cases and millions of deaths.

Chloroquine was replaced by sulphadoxine-pyrimethamine (SP), but resistance to SP subsequently emerged in western Cambodia and again spread to Africa. SP was replaced by artemisinin combination treatment, or ACT, and experts now worry that history may repeat itself yet again.

"The pace at which artemisinin resistance is spreading or emerging is alarming," said Philippe Guerin, director of the Worldwide Antimalarial Resistance Network.

Woodrow noted that thanks to advances in the science of genetic analysis, researchers tracking artemisinin antimalarials are in "the unusual position of having molecular markers for resistance before resistance has spread globally".

"The more we understand about the current situation... the better prepared we are to adapt and implement strategies to overcome the spread of further drug resistance," he said.—Reuters

Indonesian president appoints acting chairman of anti-corruption body

JAKARTA, 20 Feb — Indonesian President Joko Widodo on Friday appointed Tufiqurrahman Ruki as acting chairman of the country's Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK). The appointment came after the temporary quit of the commission's chairman who has been declared by police as a corruption suspect.

Ruki was the first chairman of KPK from the period of 2003 to 2007 and had successfully led the commission in fighting corruption, winning support from investors in the country. The president also named Indrianto Seno Aji, a lecturer of law in leading Indonesian University, and Johan Budi, KPK's deputy chairman for prevention of graft, as acting deputy chairmen of the body. KPK was established in 2003 to fight high-level corruption cases in the country.—Xinhua

US, other countries to enhance info-sharing on extremism

WASHINGTON, 20 Feb — The United States wrapped up talks with some 60 other countries on Thursday on how to counter Islamic State and other violent groups, stressing in a statement the need for enhanced information-sharing to stem the spread of extremism especially among the young.

The statement was released after a ministerial meeting that took place at the end of the three-day US-hosted Summit to Counter Violent Extremism.

The participants “underscored their commitment to countering violent extremism in all of its forms and manifestations that lead to terrorism, as well as addressing the drivers of this extremism,” the statement said.

The term “violent extremism” like “terrorism” should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, it said.

The statement also pointed to the need to promote information sharing “on the drivers of violent

extremism in all of its forms” and strengthen the role of civil society, in particular young people and women, in countering and preventing violent extremism.

Addressing the ministerial meeting, US President Barack Obama sought unity among as many countries as possible to fight Islamic State and other violent groups and to elevate online voices calling for peace as a way to counter the spread of extremist ideologies.

“We must remain unwavering in our fight against terrorism,” Obama told the participants including representatives from Japan, China, South Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Obama said that a series of violent incidents by groups including Islamic State have nothing to do with Islam and rejected any attempt to give them religious legitimacy.

“The notion that the West is at war with Islam is an ugly lie,” Obama said. “We have to confront the warped ideologies es-

poused by terrorists,” he said.

Japan pledged a \$15.5 million package aimed at helping build counterterrorism capacity in the Middle East and Africa.

Yasuhide Nakayama, senior vice foreign minister, told the session, “Japan will expand humanitarian assistance for the moderate countries in the Middle East that are on the front line of the battle against violent extremism and terrorism.”

Nakayama attended the ministerial meeting after the killings of journalist Kenji Goto and another Japanese man, Haruna Yukawa, by Islamic State militants, who had held them hostage.

Nakayama was in Jordan as head of the Japanese task force during the hostage crisis.

The White House hosted the event in the wake of violent attacks in recent months including those in Canada, Australia, France and Denmark, in addition to a series of hostage killings by Islamic State militants.— *Kyodo News*

French minister visits US Internet firms about militants’ messaging



French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve speaks at the Ministerial meeting on Foreign Fighters during the White House Summit on Countering Violent Extremism at the State Department in Washington on 19 Feb, 2015. — REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 20 Feb — France’s chief internal security official is travelling to California’s Silicon Valley to discuss his government’s concerns about violent jihadist social media messaging with leading tech and Internet companies.

French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve told a Washington news conference on Thursday that “all the Internet operators were welcoming me,” including Twitter Inc, Google Inc, Microsoft Corp and Facebook Inc.

He said that when meeting with the companies on Friday, he would discuss several issues related to the use of social media by groups such as Islamic State, including the companies’ own “codes of

conduct” as well as strategies for using social media to counter violent messaging by militants.

He said that under a new French law, the government has the authority to “block” the posting of content which it considers dangerous.

A French official said that a law granting the government powers to do this was passed by the French parliament late last year, and that regulations to implement it were issued ten days ago.

Cazeneuve said, however, that he expected that French authorities would not have to use their powers to ban particular message traffic often. “We think the companies will do it,” he said.

The companies did not have immediate comment.

Cazeneuve noted the French were strong proponents of freedom of speech and that the condemnation of the recent deadly shooting attack by two gunmen at the offices of satirical publication *Charlie Hebdo*, which had published cartoons lampooning the Prophet Mohammed, demonstrated how highly France values free expression.

Earlier, in a speech to an international summit meeting on “countering violent extremism” hosted by the administration of President Barack Obama, Cazeneuve said that in recent years, the “profile of terrorists and potential terrorists has changed.”

He said many had “become radicalised over the Internet,” and others shifted from “crime to terrorism after serving time in prison or after contact with hardline Islamists.”— *Reuters*

US congressional delegation meets Cuba’s heir apparent

HAVANA, 20 Feb — Nine members of the US House of Representatives met Cuban Vice President Miguel Diaz-Canel on Thursday, marking the first time Cuba’s heir apparent to power has received an official American delegation. Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi and eight other House Democrats concluded their two-day visit by meeting Diaz-Canel, 54, who is first in line to the seat of power held by brothers Fidel and Raul Castro since 1959.

The meeting came two months after the United States and Cuba announced a rapprochement and plans to restore diplomatic relations after more than 50 years of hostilities.

The nine Democrats, all supporters of US President Barack Obama’s policy change on the Communist-led island, were due to be escorted directly to the airport after the meeting.

Diaz-Canel and the Americans talked about Cuba’s market-style economic reforms, bilateral relations and prospects of the US Congress lifting the country’s 53-year-old trade

embargo of Cuba, official Cuban media reported.

It was the first time Diaz-Canel has met any American officials since he became first vice-president two years ago, Cuban officials said. As president, Raul Castro has received American delegations led by US Senator Patrick Leahy. Diaz-Canel, who is most likely to become president when Castro steps down in 2018, has generally kept a low profile but occasionally speaks publicly

of Cuba’s need for a more dynamic and critical press and for a more open Internet. The United States and Cuba held historic talks in Havana last month aimed at re-establishing diplomatic ties. A second round is scheduled for 27 February in Washington.

Obama, a Democrat, has already started to lift barriers to trade and travel but needs the Republican-controlled congress to completely lift the trade embargo. “There is strong

bipartisan support to lift the embargo in the congress, however it’s not universal and it certainly does not appear to be shared by those in power who have the ability to bring a bill to the floor,” Pelosi told reporters.

Other members of the delegation were Representatives Jim McGovern, Eliot Engel, Rosa DeLauro, Collin Peterson, David Cicilline, Anna Eshoo, Nydia Velazquez and Steve Israel.— *Reuters*



US House of Representatives Democratic leader Nancy Pelosi (3rd R, front), Archbishop of Havana Cardinal Jaime Ortega (2nd R, front) and members of a delegation of congressional Democrats pose for a photograph in Havana on 19 Feb, 2015. — REUTERS

Fighting persists in east Ukraine despite ceasefire



A member of the Ukrainian armed forces rides an armoured personnel carrier near Debaltseve, eastern Ukraine on 20 Feb, 2015. — REUTERS

KIEV/VUHLEHIRSK, (Ukraine), 20 Feb — Fighting persisted in east Ukraine on Friday despite new European efforts to ensure a ceasefire takes hold.

The Ukrainian military said separatists had attacked positions held by government troops 49 times in the past 24 hours, using rockets, artillery and armoured vehicles, “The number of attacks show the terrorists do not want to completely silence their guns,” Ukrainian military spokesman Anatoly Stelmach said.

He said there had been some shelling in the district of Mariupol — mostly government-held territory on the Sea of Azov that Kiev fears may become the focus of the separatists’ next offensive. The rebels accused the government forces of also staging attacks, including on what they said were residential areas of the rebel stronghold of Donetsk. One woman was killed in the shelling on Thursday, the separatist press service *DAN* said. The fiercest fighting since a truce came into effect on Sunday was in and around Debaltseve, a strategic rail hub, before Ukrainian forces withdrew on Wednesday. A *Reuters* witness saw a tank emblazoned with the words ‘Good Wolf’ firing from a separatist checkpoint outside Vuhlehirsk, a frontline town near Debaltseve, on Friday morning, indicating fighting had not ceased completely in the area. The leaders of France, Germany, Ukraine and Russia agreed by telephone on Thursday to make a new effort to ensure the ceasefire holds. The four countries’ foreign ministers are expected to meet next week to discuss east Ukraine.— *Reuters*

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 21 February, 2015

Would you sacrifice yourself or someone else?

By Myint Win Thein

Sacrifice is a word with two different meanings, with one being positive and the other negative. The first meaning of sacrifice is to give up something that is important or valuable to one in order to get or do something that

seems more important for oneself or for another person. Another meaning of sacrifice is to kill an animal or a person and offer it or them to a god in order to please the god.

If one sacrifices oneself for something, it means positive, but when one sacrifices someone or something for one's own interests or to please someone, it means negative. Therefore, as long as one cannot give up oneself for the interests of a society, one is exploiting others, those who have actually sacrificed for the public interests. Even when one is praising others who devoted their lives for society, one may still be sacrificing others to serve one's own purpose.

In history, when powerful people sacrificed others in a society, the society had to suffer enor-

mously, but when powerful people in a society sacrificed themselves for the society, the society as a whole could enjoy peace and prosperity later. It can be said that every society needs powerful people who sacrifice themselves rather than those who sacrifice others.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email wallace.tun@gmail.com with your name and title.

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.

PRIDE & DRIVE

Kyi Mun

PRIDE means: (1) Feeling of satisfaction arising from what one has done, or from persons, things, etc. one is concerned with; e.g. *take a pride in one's achievements (in the success of one's children); look with pride at one's garden.* (2) Self-respect, knowledge of one's worth and character; e.g. *his pride prevented him from doing anything dishonorable; His pride would not allow him to accept any reward. Don't say anything that may wound his pride. False pride, mistaken feeling of this kind; vanity.* (3) Object of pride. A girl who is her mother's pride. (4) Too high an opinion of oneself, one's position, possessions, etc; arrogance, the sin of pride; *be puffed up with pride. Pride goes before a fall,* (Proverb).

Please let's try to understand the meaning of PRIDE more widely in the following manner:

P for Passion
R for Resourcefulness
I for I, Me, Mine...
D for Daring
E for Excelling in One's Own Calling
PASSION

Passion means a strong feeling, a vigorous will, a long lasting desire, sustained longing or yearning, hankering, etc. If you want to do or to have something with a great determination, interest and zeal, it means you are passionate enough to take risks and to overcome difficulties. Passion can also mean being hot or eager to do or to have something. In the affairs of love, if you have a great love for somebody, it means you are very passionate to be united with that person in a seamless integration of minds, hearts and souls. Passion in this case means, love, lust, intimacy, ecstasy, blissfulness. Passion can also mean a positive quality of love and zeal as well as a negative quality of hatred and grudge.

RESOURCEFULNESS

Resourcefulness means being good at finding ways of dealing with a problem or being skillful in making things happen and in getting things done. It also means having the ability, skills and knowledge to go places and to do things. Resourcefulness can also mean to be very responsive, tactful in meeting people's needs satisfactorily. Resourcefulness also means being skillful in acquiring and deploying the resources, such as man, money, material, machinery and method. To be resourceful is to be successful.

I, Me, Mine

Both in the words PRIDE and DRIVE, the alphabet I is placed in the middle of the words. It means both words

are I-centered words. I would like to think that the alphabet I, right in the centre of the words PRIDE and DRIVE, is responsible for being proud and driven. I think "I" is the catalyst of having pride and drive. I would like to think that you should have a tremendous DRIVE for your utmost achievement in your life and you should also have a great PRIDE for the said achievement of yours.

DARING

"Cowards die twice;" it is said. The Bible says: "Be bold, and mighty forces will come to your aid." The poet Bailey said: "My head is bloody but unbowed; I'm the master of my fate and the captain of my soul". "Fear and be slain, believe and live", we are told by some ancient sage. In living and moving and having our being, we must dare to do our duty. We have got to be brave enough to try our best to have what it takes to be successful and useful people who dare nobly, who will strongly and who never falter in the path of duty.

EXCELLING IN ONE'S OWN CALLING

To justify ourselves for being proud, we have got to excel in:

- **Health and Fitness**
- **Vision and Strategy**
- **Passion and Values**
- **Selflessness and Service**
- **Character and Competence**

By excelling in our TALENTS, we can be rightfully proud of serving, to the best of our ability, the Triple Bottom Line: PEOPLE, PLANET AND PEACE.

If you are proud enough to want to be a reasonably successful person, nothing will stop you from becoming an outstanding person. But, if you have DRIVE or the capacity and determination that makes you successfully achieve something, you are sure to rise above mediocrity and reach the caliber of the high achievers. So, we should nurture and cultivate DRIVE in our character and competency. Now, let's see what the meaning of DRIVE is.

DRIVE means: Energy or capacity to get things done: *Young men with brains, drive, and initiative, the new headmaster is lacking in drive;* Organized effort. The school made a great drive to raise f 5,000 for a new sports ground. Drive also means determination and energy that make you successfully achieve something. *Brian has got tremendous drive.*

The meaning of the word DRIVE can also be understood in the following way:

D for Dedication
R for Resources
I for I, Me, Mine
V for Vision & Values
E for Effectiveness & Efficiency
DEDICATION

Dedication means: (1) Hard work or effort that someone puts into a particular activity because they care about it a lot. The success of the festival is a tribute to the dedication of one man; Single-minded dedication to her art. (2) Devoting one's time, energy etc. to a noble cause or purpose. A person of great drive is a person of single-minded involvement in a purpose or project. Such a person is deeply dedicated to:

- * **DRIVE**
- * **STRIVE**
- * **THRIVE**
- * **ARRIVE**
- * **REVIVE**

RESOURCES

A person or an organization of great drive must have the following resources adequately in order to have a great impact, outreach and sustainability of their achievement:

- * **Human Resources**
- * **Financial Resources**
- * **Technological Resources**
- * **Material Resources**
- * **Information Resources**

Results are dependent on effective deployment of the relevant resources, on the one hand, and efficient productivity of all the activities and movements involved.

I, ME, MINE

"I" becomes a member of a TEAM when that "I" joins a team. And "I" becomes the leader when that "I" can take charge of the job involved. There are many useful things that "I" can do: To Plan, To Organize, To Direct, To Control and To Coordinate. When the minds of many people arrive at a great vision and a tremendous mission, that vision and that mission becomes a tremendous force. The individual I's are the BEES and the vision and mission are the BEEHIVE.

VISION & VALUES

Vision means what you want to become at a particular future time, and values are the ideals or beliefs that you hold very high in your esteem. Your vision is usually constructed on the sound and solid foundation of your values. For example, the St. Paul Cathedral was constructed according to the vision of the GREATNESS of ALL MIGHTY GOD based on the VALUES of SANTIITY of "POVERTY, CHASTITY AND OBEDIENCE. Vision and values are the property of the inner HEART, SOUL AND MIND, and the manifestation of the inside-out vision and values is the outside-in performance in the implementation of the STRATEGY devised by PEOPLE.

EFFECTIVENESS & EFFICIENCY

Effectiveness means doing the RIGHT THINGS for the purpose of attaining the set goals, and Efficiency is DOING THE THINGS RIGHT for the purpose of raising PRODUCTIVITY, REVENUE AND PROFIT, while reducing wastages of all kinds at the same time. It all boils down to practicing the Total Quality Management and Total Quality Leadership.

CONCLUSION

Strategically, we should take pride in living, moving and having our being with tremendous drive; but tactically, we should not be proud in dealing with people. I mean we should be proud of being human beings but we should not be proud in any manner in our human relationships.

U Kyi Mun residing in Yangon is a consultant of NAING Group Capital Co.,Ltd.

NATIONAL

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb— Commander-in-Chief Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing requested Malaysia's Defence Minister Hon Dato Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein here on Friday, to provide legal protection for Myanmar migrant workers in Malaysia, both legitimate and illegitimate, officials said.

Myanmar is making plans to bring illegal migrant workers home, with the commander-in-chief calling on Malaysia to give consideration of action taken against them.

Speaking of the country's reform, he cited local and foreign instigation as current political crises, pledging the army and the government will go hand in hand to continue to brave

and overcome challenges that lie ahead.

The Malaysian defence minister said his country is grateful to Myanmar for its assistance when Malaysia was in difficulty. He expressed Malaysia's support of Myanmar's reform, adding that the host country will be able to overcome hardship.

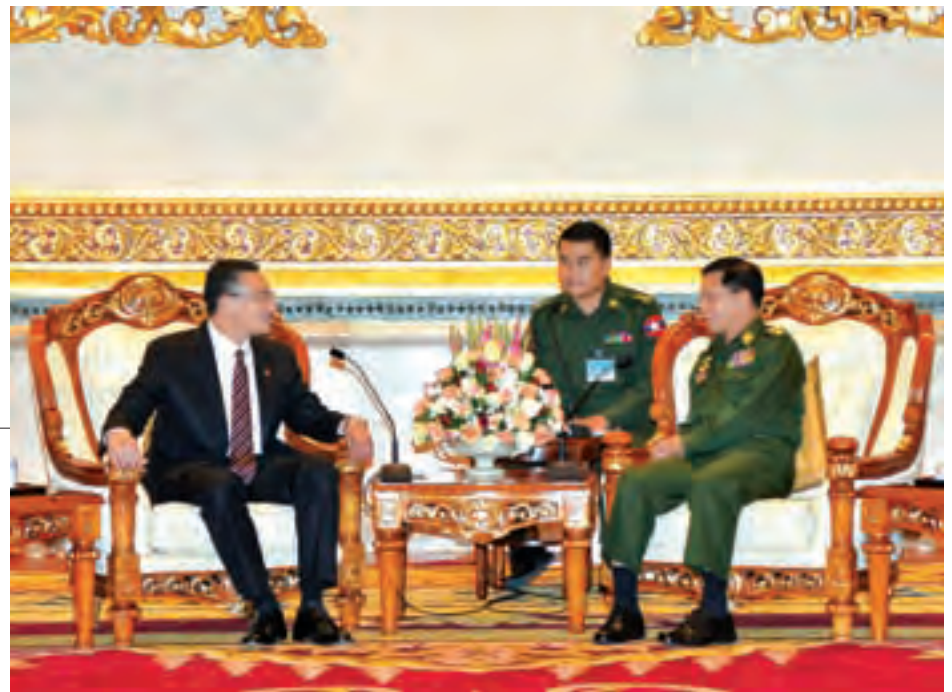
"The two countries will create new levels of relationships between the two armed forces," he said, pledging concerted cooperation among the ASEAN in surmounting the hurdles of the region. The commander-in-chief and the Malaysian defence minister also discussed greater cooperation between the two armed forces in the fight against religious extremism and in swift exchange of informa-

Myanmar requests Malaysia to provide legal protection for its migrant workers

tion about arms deals.

Myanmar established diplomatic relations with Malaysia on 1 March 1958, with its embassy opened in June one year later. Malaysia opened its embassy in Myanmar in February 1964. Malaysia now takes the rotating chair of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) after Myanmar.—MYAWADY

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Malaysia's Defence Minister Hon Dato Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein.—MYAWADY



Union Labour Minister calls for compromise between employers and employees



YANGON, 20 Feb— The Ministry of Labour, Employment and Social Security is trying to facilitate better coordination between employers and employees in connection with the demand for pay

rise, Union Minister U Aye Myint told a meeting here on Friday, officials said.

The union minister urged both sides to reach a compromise, saying that the two-week-long boycott has caused employers to

suffer losses and employees to encounter difficult livelihood.

According to the union minister, Red Stone, a garment factory, experienced a similar hardship, but now it has resumed its operation following a compromise between the boss and his workers.

"Protests that lead to the blockage to the factories are against the law," he said, adding that clearing the blockage is not the solution to the problem.

Labour dispute has occurred in four foreign factories.—MNA

A map shows clashes between government's troops and Kokang insurgents in Laukkai region



Fighting breaks out as government forces continue securing Laukkai

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—Government troops captured three small arms and ammunitions hidden by Kokang rebels in sugarcane plantations southwest of Laukkai on 19 February, while securing

the town and its surrounding areas, officials said.

At 6 pm, Kokang rebels launched attacks on the government columns on the road linking Kongyan and Lawkwakyaing, and they were forced

to retreat after the army returned fire in hot pursuit.

On Friday afternoon, the two sides were engaged in fighting in two separate places.

Myawady



Deputy Minister for Energy U Aung Htoo being welcomed by Kuwaiti Ambassador Mr Essa Y.K.E. Al-Shamali at the reception to mark 54th Anniversary of National Day and 24th Anniversary of Independence Day of Kuwait on 20 February in Yangon.—MNA

Britain says Libya needs unity government before arms embargo change



Members of the Libyan Police are seen on their vehicles as the Police prepare for deployment during the start of a security plan put forth by the Tripoli-based government to increase security in the Libyan capital, at Martyrs' Square in Tripoli on 9 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Feb — Britain said on Thursday that Libya needed a unified government before the United Nations Security Council could change an arms embargo in order to better equip Libya's military to com-

bat Islamic State and other militants.

The United States also believes "a political solution, one that is non-intervention, is the right path forward," said State Department spokeswoman Jen Psaki, adding that

Washington supports the current arms embargo.

Council member Jordan had circulated a draft resolution to the 15-member body on Wednesday, obtained by Reuters, that would remove conditions on the import of weapons

by Libya's government and push for it to be supplied "necessary security assistance." "The problem is that there isn't a government in Libya that is effective and in control of its territory.

There isn't a Libyan military which the international community can effectively support," British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said during a visit to Madrid.

Britain and the United States have veto power on the Security Council.

"The first condition has to be the creation of a government of national unity ... then the international community needs to rally very quickly around that government of national unity and ensure that it has the means to deal with the Islamist terrorism," Hammond said.

The Libyan government is allowed to import weapons only with approval of a Security Council committee overseeing the embargo imposed in

2011 when forces of former leader Muammar Gaddafi cracked down on pro-democracy protesters.

"We have supported, continued to support the UN approval process currently in place for Libya ... That continues to be our position," Psaki said, but added that the United States would discuss the draft resolution with council members.

Libya has since descended into factional fighting.

Two competing governments backed by militia brigades are scrambling for control of the oil-producing country.

The chaos has created havens for Islamist militants.

"Simply pouring weapons into one faction or the other, which is essentially what has been proposed, is not going to bring us to a resolution to the crisis in Libya," Hammond said.

The UN is mediating, hoping to get the rival fac-

tions to create a unity government.

The draft resolution asks a Security Council committee to come up with recommendations for an "enforcement mechanism" to stop the supply of arms to non-state actors in Libya. Egypt has called for a naval blockade to stop weapons reaching militants.

The draft resolution "calls on Member States to combat by all means ... threats to international peace and security in Libya caused by terrorist acts and in coordination with the legitimate government in Libya."

The draft text is under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, which would make it legally binding.

On Monday, Egypt carried out air strikes in Libya targeting militant camps, training sites and arms storage areas after Islamic State released a video showing the beheading of 21 Egyptian Christians.—Reuters

Thailand bans surrogacy for foreigners in bid to end 'rent-a-womb' tourism

BANGKOK, 20 Feb — Thailand's interim parliament has passed a law that bans foreigners from seeking surrogacy services to end a "rent-a-womb" industry that made the Southeast Asian country a top destination for fertility tourism.

Thailand was rocked by several surrogacy scandals last year, including allegations that an Australian couple had abandoned their Down Syndrome baby with his Thai birth mother taking only his healthy twin sister back to Aus-

tralia with them. Another case involved a Japanese man who fathered at least 16 babies using Thai surrogates in what local Thai media called the "baby factory".

Thailand gave preliminary approval in August for a draft law to make commercial surrogacy a crime. The draft passed its first reading in November and became law on Thursday.

"This law aims to stop Thai women's wombs from becoming the world's womb. This law bans foreign couples from coming



A woman, who identified by herself as a surrogate mother, looks on during a news conference at Pavena Foundation for Children and Women, in Pathum Thani on 9 Sept, 2014.—REUTERS

to Thailand to seek commercial surrogacy services," Wanlop Tankananurak, a member of Thailand's National Legislative Assembly, told Reuters. The law bans foreign couples from seeking surrogacy services and stipulates that surrogate mothers must be Thai and over 25.

"The important part is if the couple seeking surrogacy services is Thai or the couple is mixed-race, they can find a Thai woman to be their surrogate providing she is over 25," he said, adding that violation of the

law carries a "severe prison sentence".

Critics say making commercial surrogacy illegal could push the industry underground, making it harder for patients to access quality physicians and medical care.

Thailand's junta, known as the National Council for Peace and Order, disbanded the upper house Senate following a May coup and placed all law-making authority in the hands of an interim parliament hand-picked by the military rulers.—Reuters

Heavy snowfall, extreme weather conditions hit Israel

JERUSALEM, 20 Feb — Some parts of Israel were covered with snow early Friday amid a heavy winter storm and extreme weather conditions.

Snow piled up to unusual heights of about 25 cm in Jerusalem, according to a statements by the municipality. Highways to Jerusalem were shut down and residents of the city have been asked not to travel unnecessarily.

The municipality said 250 snow ploughs have been operating in order to keep the main roads in the city leading to the major hospitals open.

Most bus lines were suspended, aside from special lines, and schools were closed as well.

Israel's Home Front Command mobilized armored personnel carriers to Jerusalem and Safed in northern Israel in cases of emergency medical evacuations.

Magen David Adom (the Israeli Red Cross) announced it has dozens of special vehicles with snow chains and 125 jeeps prepared for urgent medical evacuations.—Xinhua

US, Israeli national security advisers discuss Iran nuclear programme

WASHINGTON, 20 Feb — US national security adviser Susan Rice met with her Israeli counterpart, Yossi Cohen, at the White House on Thursday for a discussion on Iran's nuclear programme, among other issues, the White House said.

The White House said

the national security advisers agreed to continue close consultations.

The meeting comes at a tense time in US-Israeli relations and ahead of a controversial visit to Washington next month by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

Reuters



Photo taken on 19 Feb, 2015 shows the fight between parliamentarians during the first day of debates in Turkish legislature's General Assembly on a government-led controversial homeland security bill in Ankara, Turkey. The fight erupted following arguments between the deputies of ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) and the deputies of the main opposition Republican People's Party (CHP) during a session late in the evening.—XINHUA

WORLD

Yemen parties agree on transitional council



United Nations' Yemen envoy Jamal Benomar addresses a news conference on a proposal to turn the country into a federation of semi-autonomous regions, in Sanaa on 24 Dec, 2013.—REUTERS

SANAA, 20 Feb — Yemen's feuding parties have agreed on a "people's transitional council" to help govern the country and guide it out of a political crisis, UN mediator Jamal Benomar announced on Friday.

The move follows the takeover of power by the Houthi movement, a Shi'ite Muslim militia, which led to the resignation of the president last month and the paralysis of many of Yemen's state institutions. "This progress is not a (final) agreement, but an important breakthrough that paves the way towards a comprehensive agreement," Benomar said in a statement. As part of the new formula, Yemen's old 301-member house of representatives, made up overwhelmingly of MPs from the former ruling party thought to be sympathetic to the Houthis, will stay in place. Instead of the traditional upper house, a new transitional council — whose numbers were not specified — will consist of traditionally unrepresented sectors among Yemen's formerly independent South, women and young people. Together the two bodies will make legislation guiding Yemen's transition.

Arrangements for the vacated presidency and ministries along with security required further dialogue, Benomar added. There was no immediate comment by the Houthis or the two main Sunni Islamist and socialist opposition parties. Security in Yemen has been steadily unravelling since the Houthis invaded the capital Sanaa in September and began imposing their writ on the government.

Regional power house Saudi Arabia along with the United States have both closed their embassies in Sanaa and fear the political vacuum may empower al-Qaeda's strong affiliate in Yemen and even fuel a full-blown sectarian civil war.—Reuters

US sees Iraqi offensive to retake Mosul in April-May time frame

WASHINGTON, 20 Feb — An Iraqi and Kurdish military force of some 20,000 to 25,000 troops is being prepared to recapture the city of Mosul from Islamic State fighters, probably in the April-May time frame, an official at the US Central Command said on Thursday.

The official said Mosul was currently being held by 1,000 to 2,000 Islamic State fighters. No decision has been made on whether small numbers of US military advisers might need to be on the ground close to Mosul to direct close air support, the official told a group of reporters on condition of anonymity.

Mosul, which had a population of over 1 million people, was captured by Islamic State fighters in June and is the largest city in the group's self-declared caliphate, a stretch of territory that straddles the border between northern Iraq and eastern Syria.

The main attack force being assembled for the Mosul campaign would include five Iraqi army brigades, the official said. Three smaller brigades would act as a reserve force, and three brigades of Kurdish peshmerga troops would contain the city from the north and isolate it from Islamic State forces further west.

A so-called Mosul fighting

force consisting mainly of former Mosul police officers and tribal fighters also is being assembled for the assault, the official said. About a brigade of counterterrorism troops also would be employed in the fight, he said. The total number of troops would be 20,000 to 25,000.

The aim of Iraqi and US military leaders is to have all five Iraqi army brigades that comprise the main attack force participate in US-led training currently going on in Iraq. That will begin once the present batch of 3,200 trainees

rotate out of the five training sites, the official said.

The official said the timing of the offensive would ultimately depend on the readiness of Iraqi forces, which collapsed last summer as Islamic State conquered Mosul, the country's second-largest city, and raced across northern Iraq. It is highly unusual for the US military to openly telegraph the timing of an upcoming offensive, especially to a large group of reporters.

Asked why the exception was being made for the Mosul of-

fensive, which the Pentagon has described as a pivotal battle in the overall campaign in Iraq, the official said it was a reflection of the confidence of Iraq, which had devised the battle plan.

"They are absolutely committed to this. There are a lot of pieces that have to come together and we want to make sure the conditions are right. But this is their plan. They have bought into it. They are moving forward as if they will execute in the time frame that I just described," the official said.

Reuters



A Kurdish Peshmerga fighter takes up position with weapon at the frontline against the Islamic State, on the outskirts of Mosul on 26 Jan, 2015. REUTERS

Car bombs kill 40, wound 70 in eastern Libyan city

BENGHAZI, 20 Feb — Three car bombs ripped through the eastern Libyan city of Qubba on Friday, killing 40 people and wounding 70, security officials and medics said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but parliamentary speaker Aguila Saleh said the bombs appeared to have been in retaliation for Egyptian air strikes on nearby Derna, an Islamist militant hotspot.

On Monday, Egypt launched

air strikes on suspected Islamic State targets in Derna, a day after the group released a video showing the execution of Egyptian Coptic Christian workers.

Three bombs exploded on Friday at a petrol station, the local security headquarters and the town council headquarters in Qubba, which is Saleh's hometown.

"We are announcing seven days of mourning for the victims of Qubba," Saleh told Al Arabiya

television. "I think this operation was revenge for what happened in Derna."

A security official said the car bombs were probably suicide attacks but no more details were immediately available.

Libya is in chaos, with two governments and parliaments vying for legitimacy and territory, four years after Muammar Gaddafi was toppled.

The internationally recog-

nized prime minister, Abdullah al-Thinni, is based in Bayda, some 40 km from Qubba. Saleh works out of Tobruk, another eastern town home to the House of Representatives, the elected parliament.

The capital Tripoli is under the control of a rival government and parliament, set up after a faction called Libya Dawn seized the city in summer, forcing Thinni to flee to the east.

Reuters

Islamic State hit with 15 air strikes by US-led coalition



Smoke and flames rise over a hill near the Syrian town of Kobani after an airstrike, as seen from the Mursitpinar crossing on the Turkish-Syrian border in the southeastern town of Suruc in Sanliurfa Province, on 23 Oct, 2014.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 20 Feb — The US-led coalition staged 15 air strikes on Islamic State forces in Iraq and Syria, the Combined Joint Task Force said on Thursday.

Five of the strikes were around the Syrian town of Kobani, where the coalition and Kurdish forces have been pushing back Islamic State, and destroyed eight fighting positions and two checkpoints, as well as hitting tactical units hit. Two strikes also were staged near Al Hasakah, Syria, the task force said in a statement.

Eight air strikes near six Iraqi towns hit fighting positions, tactical units, a weapon-storage facility, vehicles and buildings.

All the strikes were conducted between Wednesday and Thursday mornings, the statement said.—Reuters

Gov't proposes removal of geographical limits to SDF operations

TOKYO, 20 Feb — The government proposed on Friday in a meeting of two ruling parties that the Self-Defence Forces should be able to operate without geographical restrictions, as Japan seeks to review its legal framework to give them an expanded role abroad.

During the second round of security talks that resumed a week earlier, the government also sounded out the Liberal Democratic Party and Komeito party about creating a permanent law to enable the dispatch of SDF personnel overseas to give logistical support to foreign militaries.

Senior lawmakers from the ruling bloc have yet to reach an agreement on an outline of security legislation following a landmark Cabinet decision in July on reworking Japan's postwar security policy.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe aims to expand the role and mission abroad of the SDF in peacekeeping and other operations. LDP Vice President Masahiko Komura, who chairs the security talks, stressed the need for Japan to contribute more to global peace and stability.

But Komeito remains cautious about the move, bringing into focus how much the junior coalition partner will allow the legal constraints to be loosened.

Komeito deputy chief

Kazuo Kitagawa said legislative work cannot proceed without "a rigorous debate on the requirements, purposes and procedures for SDF operations."

Currently, Japan can give logistical support to the US military under the law enacted in 1999 to handle "situations in areas surrounding the country" to brace for contingencies on the Korean Peninsula.

One option floated by the government is to amend the law in an effort to avoid such geographical limits and extend logistical support to the US military, and potentially the Australian military, according to ruling coalition lawmakers. Tokyo has maintained that the concept is not geographical but rather situational, but former Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi said in the past that the SDF would not be sent to the Middle East or the Indian Ocean. "How are we going to keep consistency with past government statements made in the Diet?" a Komeito lawmaker said during the coalition talks on Friday.

The Abe administration is expected to submit security-related bills to the current Diet session through 24 June, after securing the support of the ruling bloc. Other proposals made by the government are also designed to ease a series of restrictions on the SDF. — *Kyodo News*

Bomb scare proves false alarm near Hollywood venue for Oscars



A bomb disposal robot is seen investigating a suspicious item in a vehicle near the Dolby Theater ahead of the 87th Academy Awards in Hollywood, California on 19 Feb, 2015.

REUTERS

LOS ANGELES, 20 Feb — A bomb scare triggered by an erratic motorist brandishing a propane tank at a shopping strip near the Hollywood venue for the upcoming Oscars show proved to be a false alarm on Thursday, but the man was detained, Los Angeles police said.

Bomb squad investigators cordoned off a row of storefronts and the front entrance of a hotel across the street after a man who was driving recklessly in the area emerged from his car with the propane canister, according to police on the scene.

The man told police who stopped him that he also had two canisters of nitrous oxide, a non-flammable gas also known as laughing gas. He was taken into custody while the bomb squad was called to investigate the situation, police said. Bomb disposal technicians later detonated the items in question as a precaution, one officer said. Police spokeswoman Jane Kim said no explosives were found in the investigation.

The incident unfolded at about 11 am local time about a block away from the corner of Hollywood

Boulevard and Highland Avenue, where the Dolby Theatre complex is located, and police were on the scene for roughly five hours before the all-clear was given.

The area around the

Dolby, site of the upcoming 87th annual Academy Awards ceremony on Sunday, had already been closed to traffic in preparation for the film industry's highest honours.

Reuters

Australia taps Japan, France Germany to compete for submarine project

SYDNEY, 20 Feb — Australia said on Friday that it will invite Japan, France and Germany to participate in a competitive evaluation process to assess their suitability to help Sydney design and build submarines for its navy.

The three countries will be invited to take part in the process "that will assess their ability to partner with Australia to develop a Future Submarine that meets our capability requirements," Defence Minister Kevin Andrews said in a statement.

"All three of these countries have proven submarine design and build capabilities and they are currently producing submarines," he later told reporters, adding that he hopes to visit each of them to see their shipbuilding activities.

The new submarines are to replace the navy's current fleet of six Collins Class submarines, which are scheduled to retire from service in the mid-2020s. Calling it the "largest defence procurement program in Australia's history," he said it "represents an investment of

some A\$50 billion (US\$40 billion) in Australia's security." Andrews said the 10-month evaluation process will ensure "that capability, cost, schedule and key strategic considerations, along with Australian industry involvement, are carefully and methodically considered, and avoid unnecessary delays to the Future Submarine Programme."

Regarding the issue of local industry participation, Andrews acknowledged there has been "some anxiety over past times" about this and assured "there is now a pathway for Australian industry to maximize their involvement in the future submarine programme."

He said the government expects that "significant work" will be undertaken in Australia, including on "combat system integration, design assurance and land based testing."

"This will result in the creation of at least 500 new high-skill jobs in Australia for the life of the programme, the majority of which will be in South Australia," he said.

Kyodo News

Greek leader welcomes existing Chinese investments in country

ATHENS, 20 Feb — Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said on Thursday that he believed Greece could be a significant com-

mercial gateway for China into Europe.

Speaking aboard a Chinese warship visiting the Greek port of Piraeus,

Tsipras welcomed China's existing investments in his country.

China's COSCO (1199.HK) [COSCO.UL]



Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras walks past a guard of honour after boarding the Chinese frigate Changbaishan at the port of Piraeus, near Athens on 19 Feb, 2015. — *REUTERS*

manages part of Piraeus docks but the government of Tsipras, a radical left-winger, has halted privatisation of the port which had been agreed with the country's EU/IMF creditors.

"We give special importance to the existing Chinese investments in Greece including the important activities of COSCO at Piraeus Port," he said while visiting the warship.

The government halted the sale of its two biggest ports, Piraeus (OLPr.AT) and Thessaloniki (OLTr.AT).

Under a privatisation scheme last year, COSCO had been shortlisted, along with four other suitors, as a potential buyer of a stake of 67 percent in the Piraeus port. — *Reuters*

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV THAI BINH STAR 01 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THAI BINH STAR 01 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.2.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.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.

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S G LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV FU WEN SHAN VOY NO (147)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FU WEN SHAN VOY NO (147) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.2.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.W.S(3) 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 COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV YIN PU VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YIN PU VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.2.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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 MID-SHIP BEIJING OPERATIONS

Phone No: 2301186

Invitation of Expression of Interest (EOI) for Pharmaceutical Plants for No (1) Pharmaceutical Factory (Yangon), Pharmaceutical and Foodstuff Industries, Ministry of Industry

No (1) Pharmaceutical Factory (Yangon) under the Pharmaceutical and Foodstuff Industries, the Ministry of Industry intend to cooperate for Pharmaceutical Plants with Local and Foreign Entrepreneurs Companies.

As a first step, Companies who interest in those cooperation are required to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) not later than 4 PM (Myanmar Standard Time), on March 5th 2015 to Planning Department, Pharmaceutical and Foodstuff Industries, Ministry of Industry, Office No (37), Nay Pyi Taw, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Interested entities can take over the (EOI) Form and other indications at above office commencing from (23-2-2015) by presenting complete documents of company profile. **Document of Company Profile**

- Valid Certificate of Incorporation
 - Records and Regulation of Company
 - Name of Foreign's Technical Cooperator
- (For more information : Phone no : +95 +67 408140, 408275
Fax no : +95 +67 408195)

Top China cotton producer resists reforms in restive Xinjiang



Farmers stack cotton at a cotton purchase station in Hami, Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region in this 3 Nov, 2010 file picture. REUTERS

BEIJING, 20 Feb — China's top cotton producer, a quasi-military body formed 60 years ago to settle the far west Xinjiang area, is resisting a government policy that could force it to cut output in an industry employing hundreds of thousands in the restive region.

Beijing has pledged to end a costly stockpiling program that has artificially inflated cotton prices and in Xinjiang helped underpin an influx of Han Chinese workers, creating friction in an area home to the Muslim Uighur people.

Reluctant to accept the current weak market price, the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps (XPCC) has asked the government to buy part of its crop and store it in state reserves, said two trade

sources with knowledge of the issue.

XPCC, also known as the army corps, or 'bingtuan', has become a sort of state within a state and gained a dominant role in industries such as cotton, where it employs about 200,000 mainly Han Chinese on some of Xinjiang's best land.

"Cotton is intimately associated with land usage, ownership, employment and Han in-migration. It's all tied up," said Tom Cliff, a scholar at the Australian National University.

Beijing has promised subsidies to help cushion the impact of ending stockpiling, but the total amount is unclear and with the local cotton price plunging any threat to the industry could be a fresh source of

competition for jobs.

Employment discrimination, experts say, along with a demographic shift that many Uighurs feel is diluting their culture, is fuelling resentment that spills over into violent attacks directed at Han Chinese, China's majority ethnic group.

China denies that Uighurs are unfairly marginalized, and says it is addressing underdevelopment and lack of jobs in heavily Uighur areas such as southern Xinjiang.

Beijing has also pledged to invest billions of dollars in textile factories in Xinjiang, in the hope of creating 1 million jobs by 2023, but there are concern that Uighurs could be overlooked for many of the jobs. —Reuters



Soldiers escort a trapped car on snow-covered Xinjiang-Tibet Road (Mayou Mula section), Ali Prefecture, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, on 19 Feb, 2015. The road of the Mayou Mula section, with an altitude of 4,900 metres, was blocked by snow as a snowfall hit the region on Thursday, the first day of Chinese Lunar New Year. Rescuers from local police had to work two hours to evacuate trapped vehicles and people.—XINHUA

At least 17 killed after freight train derails in Mozambique

MAPUTO, 20 Feb — At least 17 people were killed after a freight train carrying coal derailed on Thursday in Mozambique's capital Maputo, a railway company confirmed on Friday.

A driver from the company who declined to be named said the train was travelling from Maputo to neighbouring Zimbabwe.

The cause of the accident is still unknown.—Xinhua

WEATHER REPORT

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

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 21th February, 2015: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Taninthayi Regions, Kachin, Shan and Mon States, weather will be partly cloudy in Mandalay and Yangon Regions ,Kayah and Kay-in States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

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Will Friedle in 'Guardians of the Galaxy' animated series

LOS ANGELES, 20 Feb — Actor Will Friedle will lend his voice to Marvel's upcoming 'Guardians of the Galaxy' animated series. The 'Girl Meets World' star will play Star-Lord in the forthcoming Disney XD show, reported The Wrap.

Also joining the cast of the show are Kevin Michael Richardson and Trevor Devall, who will play Groot and Rocket Raccoon respectively. Test footage from the series featuring Star-Lord and Rocket Raccoon was previously unveiled during a panel at New York Comic-Con back in October.

'Guardians of the Galaxy' will premiere on Disney XD in 2015.—PTI



Actor Will Friedle

My new album fits more into pop genre: Taylor Swift

LOS ANGELES, 20 Feb — Taylor Swift thinks it was "exciting" making her latest album, 1989, as it fitted more into the pop genre than the country one.

The 'Style' hitmaker moved further away from her country roots on the album, reported Billboard.

"(The label) were very comfortable with what we had been doing because things had been going well. Making my last album was sort of a hybrid between country and pop.

I just thought there's no way you can keep doing the same thing over and over again and it's got to be exciting to you or exciting for fans.

"You have to change things up and some people in my team were like, 'This is a great album. We love it. These songs are incredible; this is the best work you've ever done. Can you put three country songs on it please?'," Swift, 25, said.

PTI



Director hints at remake of 'Now and Then'

LOS ANGELES, 20 Feb — Director Lesli Linka reveals she has held a discussion about the remake of her 1995 coming-of-age film 'Now and Then' with the movie's writer.

The film, which centred on one memorable summer four 12-year-old friends had in 1970, was penned by Marlene King, who has also penned TV series 'Pretty Little Liars', reported *Us* magazine.

"I'm very friendly with the woman who wrote it, Marlene King, so yes, that has come up," Linka said. "It seems to be (with) this film especially, young women have come of age on it and I love that. That was one of the reasons we



The film is centred on one memorable summer four 12-year-old friends had in 1970. PTI

made it, there hadn't been anything done about young girls growing up," she said. 'Now and Then'

starred Christina Ricci, Rosie O'Donnell, Gaby Hoffman, Demi Moore, Ashley Aston Moore, Rita Wilson, Thora Birch, and Melanie Griffith, was written by Marlene King.

PTI

Designers spin '70s vibe for winter looks at New York Fashion Week

NEW YORK, 20 Feb — Hemlines fell, sultry dresses hugged the body and tailored coats with generous fur trim oozed elegance on the runway as designers at New York Fashion Week spun a retro 1970s look with sleek silhouettes for their 2015 fall/winter collections.

Chunky-knit sweaters, high collars, long layering and fur hats paired with ponchos and capes exuded a warm, comfortable feeling as the week-long fashion fest came to a close on Thursday and temperatures outside dipped below freezing.

"The bohemian side of the 70s is what you are seeing," said Lizzy Bowring, head of the catwalks department at trend forecast-

ing and analysis company WGSN.

"The look is much closer to the body, more streamlined, much more elegant than we have seen before."

Ralph Lauren, one of the final designers to show his collection, topped an embroidered, feathered skirt with a cashmere turtleneck sweater and a shearling jacket with suede pants.

The look was luxurious with long, belted coats and jackets with fur collars or sleeves, and gowns in cream floral lace, bronze tulle and black satin with a plunging back.

"What I am really loving the most is the continuation of this 1970s sensuality," said Ken Downing,

fashion director and senior vice president of Neiman Marcus stores.

Many designers dropped hemlines to mid-calf, while others kept them higher. Black and a rich colour palette of burgundy, rust and olive, along with slit skirts, plaids, belted waists and beading and embroidery also featured prominently on the runway.

Rugged met refined as coats and jackets were more structured with a military influence and large buttons, and chunkier heels appeared on shoes and boots.

Calvin Klein kept to the '70s theme in his collection with patch-work leather coats and jackets and leather sheath dresses.

Reuters



A model presents a creation from the Ralph Lauren Fall/Winter 2015 collection during New York Fashion Week on 19 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

Eight days on edge may seal documentary Oscar for 'Citizenfour'

LOS ANGELES, 20 Feb — Unlike the often long, arduous slog of making documentary films, with subjects sometimes followed for years, the bulk of Oscar contender "Citizenfour" came together in eight dramatic days.

Inside the Hong Kong luxury hotel room of National Security Agency whistleblower Edward Snowden, the former government contractor detailed the US and British governments' secret mass surveillance programmes before fleeing the territory.

"We met on a Monday, and then he went underground on the following Monday," director Laura Poitras told *Reuters* ahead of Sunday's Academy Awards ceremony, where "Citizenfour" is widely expected to win best documentary. The biggest challenge, however, was what would happen if there was a knock at the door.

"I just figured I would roll as much as I can," said the American filmmaker, who was placed on a US travel watch list after her 2006 Iraq war documentary "My Country, My Country."

"I backed up all my footage and made sure to get it out of the hotel room in case someone tried to stop us from reporting," Poitras added.

"Citizenfour" — the final installment of Poitras' trilogy on US post-9/11 policy — will be released the day after Sunday's Academy Awards on US premium cable network HBO.

"Citizenfour" is exactly the kind of movie from a documentary point of view that the Academy loves," said Jonathan Taplin, an Oscar voter and producer of Martin Scorsese's "Mean Streets."

The film hits the so-called Oscar sweet spot with its timely social and political import. Snowden, meanwhile, remains a political refugee in Russia.

"Citizenfour," named after the pseudonym Snowden used in his early correspondence with Poitras, has won dozens of awards, including honours from the Directors Guild and the British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA).

Poitras also shared a Pulitzer prize with journalists Glenn Greenwald and Ewen MacAskill, who first reported Snowden's story from the hotel room.

The filmmaker said one of the biggest challenges she faced was finding a way to understand and then communicate the technical complexity of the NSA surveillance programmes.

"We come into this hotel room and talk about code name after code name, and we don't have any idea how the puzzle fits together," Poitras said. "You need to let the audience know that it's OK that they don't understand everything, because that's part of what that's all about."

Reuters

GENERAL

Real's Modric back in training after three-month layoff

MADRID, 20 Feb — Real Madrid had some positive news on the injury front on Thursday when Croatia midfielder Luka Modric returned to training after a three-month absence with a thigh injury.

Real have missed the control Modric gives them in central midfield and his reappearance a day after Wednesday's 2-0 Champions League last 16, first leg win at Bundesliga side Schalke 04 came as the La Liga leaders prepare for Sunday's trip to Elche.

"Modric's return to the group was the big news of

the day during a training session in which the 10 outfield players who started in the victory against Schalke 04 exercised in the indoor facilities," Real said on their website.

"The session ended with a match on a miniature pitch, which Modric opted out of to jog alone," the European champions said.

Injury casualties Sergio Ramos, Sami Khedira, James Rodriguez and Fabio Coentrao continued with their respective recovery processes, they added.

Real are a point clear of second-placed Barcelona



Croatia's Luka Modric

with over half the La Liga season played.

Barca host Malaga on Saturday and will leapfrog Real into top spot if they

avoid defeat to the Andalusians as they have a superior goal difference to their great rivals.

Reuters

Nadal into Rio Open quarterfinals

RIO DE JANEIRO, 20 Feb — Spain's Rafael Nadal advanced to the quarterfinals of the Rio Open on Thursday with a 7-5, 6-3 victory over compatriot Pablo Carreno Busta.

The 14-time Grand Slam winner struggled to assert himself early before breaking Carreno Busta

in the 12th game to take the first set.

The world No 3 then broke Carreno Busta's serve in the eighth game of the second set before serving out the match.

Nadal paid tribute to his 209th-ranked countryman in the stifling heat.

"Tough conditions, a

difficult, young opponent and I'm just content to be in the quarterfinals," Nadal said.

"For me every victory is important and even more so on clay."

Nadal will Friday meet 52nd-ranked Pablo Cuevas of Uruguay for a place in the semifinals.

Cuevas earlier defeated

Albert Montanes of Spain 6-2, 6-2 while Argentine Federico Delbonis beat Martin Klizan of Slovakia 6-2, 6-1.

In the women's draw, Slovakia's Anna Schmiedlova progressed to the last eight with a 6-0, 6-2 win over Paula Ormaechea of Argentina. —Xinhua

Feyenoord fans arrested over violence before Roma match

ROME, 20 Feb — Twenty-three Feyenoord fans were arrested in Rome and 19 charged after violence broke out before the Dutch side's Europa League clash with AS Roma on Thursday, prompting an outcry over damage to the city.

Drunk fans damaged buildings and threw bottles at riot police on Wednesday night before hundreds clashed with police at the Spanish Steps on Thursday before the game.

Police fired tear gas and tangled with fans, who left the square's Baroque fountain full of empty beer bottles.

"Rome has been violated today," local government councillor Paolo Masini said in a statement, describing tourists holed up in hotels and nearby windows shuttered. "This is pure and simple hooliganism."

Italian police said they arrested six Dutch nationals on Wednesday night and confiscated truncheons and broken bottles. Judicial sources said a further 17 people were arrested on Thursday, and magistrates will deal with the four not yet charged next week.

Livio Ricciardelli, a member of the city gov-

Feyenoord fans lie facedown on the street after being detained during clashes that broke out at the Spanish Steps prior to the start of the Europa League soccer match between Roma and Feyenoord in Rome, on 19 Feb, 2015.



ernment, said Feyenoord should make a public apology and pay for the damage caused to the city by its fans, adding that repairs would be costly.

The Dutch Embassy in Rome said in a statement that there was "no place for violence in football" and that it would cooperate with Italian authorities to punish the perpetrators.

Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi said during a television interview that he appreciated the embassy's message about the events, and would take the issue to European football authori-

ties, calling it "an insult to civilised society."

"Tomorrow we will check how it worked, if we made any mistakes, on the understanding that these hooligans are evidently responsible," Renzi said in response to a question about the incidents on state news channel RAI2.

Most of the charges against fans are for resisting arrest, judicial sources said, adding that the first eight charged were given six months' jail time, or they can pay a 45,000-euro (33,175 pounds) fine.

Rome's public works

department said staff had been sent to empty and clean the Barcaccia fountain, a boat carved out of travertine stone that nestles in an oval pool at the foot of the Spanish Steps.

Technicians will now assess what damage has been done to the recently restored fountain, which was designed by Italian artists Pietro and Gian Lorenzo Bernini.

Around 6,500 Feyenoord supporters were expected to attend the last 32, first leg match at the Stadio Olimpico.

Reuters

mitv Myanmar International

(21-2-2015 07:00 am~ 22-2-2015 07:00 am) MST

- | | |
|---|---|
| * News | * News |
| * Great Shwedagon - The Planetary Posts | * "Myanmar Music Icon" Ko Nay Win (Ep-1) |
| * Amazing: Magician Sak Kaw Ma | * News |
| * News | * Myanmar Masterclass: Conceptual Art |
| * Waso Charity Feast | * News |
| * Chinlone & The Dreams of the players | * A Journey To Southern Shan State (Ep-3) |
| * News | * Jeyyanandi (A Day in the Life of a Nun) |
| * Natural Lake: Fish Breeding | * News |
| * Business | * The Legend of An ambulatory Surgeon (Episode-2) |
| * Size Does Matter (Episode - 4) | * News |
| * News | * Kachin Traditional Wedding Ceremony |
| * Shrinking Footprints | * Myanmar Sculpture — Work of Art |
| * Youth Filmmaker: Lwin Ko Ko Oo | * News |
| * News | * The Art of Making Glaze Ware |
| * Food Trip (Episode-1) | * YUFL |
| * News | |
| * Today Myanmar "Food Safety" | |

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(21-2-2015, Saturday)

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|--|--|
| 6:00 am | 7:40 am |
| • Honour Song For Alinka Kyaw Swar Myoma Nyein | • Musical Programme |
| 6:20 am | 8:00 am |
| • Teleplay | • Dramatic Arts |
| 7:00 am | 9:35 am |
| • Fashion Show Music | • Myanmar Video |
| 7:20 am | 5:45 pm |
| • Myanmar Series | • International Friendly Matches Football Competition (Live) (Myanmar U-20 Vs FIJI U-20) |

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(21-2-2015, Saturday)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 6:00 am | 12:35 pm |
| • Paritta by venerable Mingun Sayadaw | • Hluttaw Image |
| 6:20 am | 1:20 pm |
| • Physical Exercise | Round Up of The Week's Hluttaw News |
| 7:00 am | 2:35 pm |
| • News/ Weather Report | • National Sports Games |
| 7:50 am | 3:35 pm |
| • 2015 Opening Ceremony Fourth National Sports Games (Live) | • Hyper Sports |
| 9:00 am | 4:20 pm |
| • News/ International News | • 2015 University Entrance Examination (English) |
| 9:35 am | 5:45 pm |
| • MRTV's Youth Programme | • International Friendly Matches Football Competition (Live) (Myanmar U-20 Vs FIJI U-20) |
| 10:35 am | 8:00 pm |
| • Science and Technology Programme | • News/ International News/ Weather Report |
| 11:35 am | 9:00 pm |
| • Game for Children | • News |
| 12:00 noon | • National Sports Games |
| • News / International News / Weather Report | • Cultural Show (Part-5) |
| | • Gitadagale Phwintbarohn |



Medal tally in 4th National Sports Festival 2015 on 20-2-2015



State/Region	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Yangon	66	37	27	130
Mandalay	25	28	39	92
Bago	12	13	16	41
Rakhine	9	11	18	38
Ayeyawady	5	8	21	34
Kayah	5	2	8	15
Mon	4	9	8	21
Nay Pyi Taw	4	6	10	20
Kachin	4	5	6	15
Magway	3	5	7	15
Sagaing	3	4	5	12
Shan	2	10	15	27
Kayin	2	2	6	10
Chin	2	-	-	2
Taninthayi	1	7	12	20

Fourth National Sports Festival 2015



Players of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area team trying to control football in meeting with those of Sagaing Region at Wunna Theikdi training ground No 4.—MNA

Football, discus, sitting volleyball, Sepak Takraw, Judo continue in National Sports Festival

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb — Nay Pyi Taw Council Area played a group match against Sagaing Region in Wunna Theikdi training ground No 4 in the football event of the National Sports Festival 2015, here, on Friday.

Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan viewed participation of

disabled athletes in discus event. Bago Region played with Yangon Region in the men's sitting volleyball event at Wunna Theikdi gymnasium. Ayeyawady and Bago regions competed in the women's Sepak Takraw tournament at Wunna Theikdi Sepak Takraw court.

The union minister

inspected preparations for opening ceremony of the festival at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium (B). He enjoyed participation of players from Kayin and Rakhine states and Mandalay Region and Kayin State in the Judo event at Wunna Theikdi Gymnasium (A).

MNA



Swimmers with disabilities taking part in swimming competition at Wunna Theikdi swimming pool in Nay Pyi Taw.

THAN NAING (ZABUTHIRI)

Lukaku nets Everton treble while Celtic, Inter draw

LONDON, 20 Feb — A Romelu Lukaku hat-trick in a 4-1 win for Everton at Young Boys and a thrilling 3-3 draw between Celtic and Inter Milan ushered in the return of the Europa League as the first knockout stage delivered a glut of goals on Thursday.

Lukaku looked like the dynamic target man Everton fans have been hoping to see all season and could have scored five in a rampant display in the first leg of their last-32 clash in Switzerland.

His perfect treble of right-footed, left-footed and headed goals were among the highlights of a superb end-to-end encounter, that was perhaps only pipped for sheer entertain-



BSC Young Boys Sekou Sanogo Junior attacks Everton's Romelu Lukaku (L) during their Europa League round of 32 first leg soccer match in Bern, on 19 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

ment by the game at Celtic Park where five of the six goals came in a dramatic opening 45 minutes.

Inter let slip a two-

goal lead and then a 3-2 advantage as Celtic levelled in the third minute of stoppage time in a duel between two former Euro-

pean champions.

Napoli were among the other first-leg winners, beating Trabzonspor 4-0 away, and were considerably happier than Serie A rivals AS Roma whose status among the favourites looked questionable after a disappointing 1-1 home draw with Feyenoord. While Gervinho opened the scoring for Roma with a deft flick from close range, Colin Kazim Richards netted a simple chance to level the scores with a potentially precious away goal.

Liverpool, one of the eight teams to have dropped into the Europa League from the Champions League, needed a late penalty from Mario Ba-

lotelli to take a 1-0 first-leg advantage against Turkish side Besiktas.

But typically with Bilotelli, the finale was not without controversy as the Italian striker wrestled the ball off designated penalty taker and captain for the night Jordan Henderson, before firing home.

It was Lukaku, who proved the star of the night, however, becoming only the fourth Everton player to score a European hat-trick.

"I've always said Rom is quite unique because you don't get many players with that pace and power," Everton boss Roberto Martinez said on the club website (www.everton.com).

"He is a great target in

our build-up play, but then in the same manner when the game was stretched to night, his penetration, his desire to get on the end of things and then three clinical finishes was huge for us." Young Boys grabbed an early opener with a superb curled effort from Guillaume Hoarau whose delight was swiftly crushed as Everton netted four times before Hoarau horribly fluffed a penalty in the second half. Not even the sending-off of Everton defender John Stones, which brought about that penalty, could upset the visitors' rhythm as Martinez's side continued to prove a much more fearsome prospect in Europe than in the Premier League. —Reuters