

President U Thein Sein comforts wounded military personnel, workers and civilians in Lashio

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Feb— President U Thein Sein comforted members of the government army wounded in recent clashes in Luakkai and honoured them with financial assistance and other benefits in kind at a military hospital in Lashio, Shan State, on Friday morning, officials said.

The cash assistance amounted to K10 million.

At the hospital, the president encouraged the families of fallen military personnel and provided them with financial support worth K1.5m.

He also met wounded civilians and education staff and provided them with financial support including presents and foods. They were attacked by Kokang insurgents while driving in a convoy, according to a report.

The president visited a general hospital in



President U Thein Sein comforts a victim injured in Laukkai region at Lashio General Hospital.—MNA

Lashio, where he provided financial assistance and benefits in kind to Red Cross members,

teachers, workers and civilians wounded in insurgent attacks.

A Shan Buddhist monastery in Lashio provides shelter for victims of clashes, with the pres-

ident speaking words of encouragement to them. He paid homage to the presiding Sayadaw at the monastery, followed by a donation of K32.5m, 100 bags of rice, edible oil,

salt, chillies and onions for the victims.

The president and his entourage flew back to Nay Pyi Taw in the evening.

MNA

President U Thein Sein's radio message on air

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Feb—A radio message to be delivered by U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will be broadcast through radio programmes on both March 1 and 2.

Myanmar Radio, Mandalay FM, Pyinsawaddy FM, Shwe FM, Cherry FM, Padamya FM, FM Bagan and Thazin Radio will broadcast the message at 7 am, 11 am, 6 pm and 8 pm respectively.

The full text of the message in Myanmar language will be published in Myanmar dailies to be issued on 1 March.—MNA

Myanmar, Thai businessmen share experiences on bilateral trade and investment

YANGON, 27 Feb— Representatives of the Myanmar Investment Commission held bilateral trade talks with a Thai delegation led by Chairman of Thai Industrialists Association Mr. Supant Mongkolsuthree and Chairman of Myanmar-Thai Business Council Mr. Panitarn Pavarolavidya at the Thai Embassy here on Friday.

Deputy Director Dr Marlar Myo Nyunt of the Directorate of Investment

and Companies Administration explained the role of the MIC and regulations for foreign investors in Myanmar during the talks at the embassy's Thai Business Information Centre.

The Thai delegates discussed their businesses in Myanmar and experiences of investment frameworks, as well as visiting the Thilawa Special Economic Zone in the afternoon.

Khin Cho Win

Human resources development, supports for SMEs vital: Myanmar-Japan business communities

By Ye Myint

YANGON, 27 Feb — Cooperation in human resources development and support for small and medium enterprises (SME) are vital to increasing investment between Japan and Myanmar, according to two leading bilateral business communities.

In their joint statement released after the conclusion of the 11th Joint Meeting of Myanmar-Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Business Cooperation Committees on Wednesday, the business groups also highlighted the importance of strategic priorities and master plans to be developed in important sectors that can contribute towards Myanmar's economic growth.

Moreover, it called for joint efforts to achieve a better business environment in which Myanmar is

able to increase investment from Japan.

There will be further expansion of business relations between the two countries through Thilawa Special Economic Zone, the Japan-Myanmar Joint Project which is expected

to be completed this year, said the joint statement.

During the joint meeting held in Yangon, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce (RUMFCCI) and Japan Chamber of Commerce

and Industry (JCCI) had discussions on the business potential of the agro-based food industry in Myanmar, business cooperation in Myanmar's SMEs and human resources development for SMEs.

(See page 2)



A worksite at Thilawa Special Economic Zone, Japan-Myanmar joint project being developed 23 km southeast of Yangon, the country's commercial city. The industrial complex is expected to be fully commercially operational in 2015.—PHOTO: CREDIT TO THILAWA SEZ PROJECT FACEBOOK

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw concludes discussions on national planning bill

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Feb—Healthcare, school upgrades and improvements to the banking system were on the agenda during Friday's session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, which concluded discussions on the National Planning Bill for 2015-16.

The national legislature session also heard deliberations on a number of specific projects.

Representative Dr Aung Than of Shwebo Constituency said there are more hospitals and clinics thanks to the increased budget for health, but it is necessary to appoint more

staff to improve healthcare for citizens.

Representative U Thein Yi of Htantabin Constituency said that standard requirements for upgrading basic education schools, such as those concerning student numbers and furniture, make it more difficult to improve schools, while the number of primary school drop-outs has been increasing.

Representative U Zaw Myint Pe of Mandalay Region Constituency (5) said it is necessary to upgrade the banking system in order to increase the public use of banks and to scruti-

nize work of government agencies so that funding for projects is not overlapped. He also talked of the need for strict regulations on foreign loans, ordinary spending and capital spending, to prevent use of budgets under different titles.

Representative Dr Nay Lin of Seikkan Constituency said that it is important to nurture doctors, nurses and midwives in human resources development sector and to exert concerted efforts for a more responsible and accountable healthcare system.

Representative Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yan-

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker receives Australian, Laotian ambassadors



Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives Australian Ambassador Mr Nicholas Coppel.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Feb — Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann met Australian Ambassador Mr Nicholas Coppel and party and Laotian Ambassador Mr Lying Sayaxang and party at Pyithu Hluttaw building of Hluttaw complex, here, on Friday.

pel and party and Laotian Ambassador Mr Lying Sayaxang and party at Pyithu Hluttaw building of Hluttaw complex, here, on Friday.

Also present at the calls were Chairman of International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo and officials of the Pyithu Hluttaw Office.—MNA

Candidates for President's scholarship award may take out IELTS Band Score

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Feb — A total of 138 candidates entered the interviews for the President's scholarship award on 17 February in Yangon.

Those wishing to take out IELTS Band Score may contact Exam Centre of British Council or eiei.mon@gmail.britishcouncil.org as of 2 March.

Announcements on the scholarship awards will be posted on www.myanmar-education.edu.mm of the Ministry of Education.—MoE

Human resources development, supports for SMEs . . .

(from page 1)

According to a presentation made at the meeting on SMEs in Myanmar, small-and-medium-sized enterprises constitute the majority of businesses in the private sector, account-

ing for 96% of the economic sector in both rural and urban areas and 92% of the manufacturing sector, and are the main driver for the country's economic reform and development. The SME sector is also the big-

gest employer, contributing around 70% of the total workforce.

Regarding the human resources development for SME development, another presentation stressed the need for skilled workers and capacity building in the sector, calling for addressing skills gaps and



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw representatives debate national planning bill.—MNA

gon Region Constituency (4) said that it is essential to reduce the number of staff in order to increase their salaries.

Deputy Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa said that

abuse of public funds can be prevented by closely monitoring tender systems.

Discussions on principles and fundamental principles of the National Planning Bill concluded at the session and members of union-level

organizations will explain the matters related to the bill on 5 and 6 March.

The Pyithu Hluttaw session today put the foreign trips of President U Thein Sein on record.

MNA

Chiefs of jails, architects and planners exchange views on challenges of jail

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Feb — The 4th Asian Conference of Correctional Facilities Architects and Planners, jointly organized by Myanmar Correctional Department and the International Committee of the Red Cross, took place at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon on 24 February.

Director-General of Myanmar Correctional Department U Than Htay and Coordinator Mr Hiroyuki Nabana, Chief of Facilities Planning, Facilities Division, Minister's Secretariat, Ministry of Justice of Japan) gave introductory speeches.

Delegates from Myanmar, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Laos, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines and Sri Lanka discussed current situations and challenges of jails.

Chiefs of jails, architects and planners have the opportunities to exchange their views on challenges of jails and best jail structures up to 27 February.

It was also attended by 16 members of Myanmar delegation, 36 delegates of

foreign countries, 23 members of ICRC, three from Thai Institute of Justice and one from UNAIFI.—MNA

Political parties apply for registration at UEC

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Feb — The Union Election Commission scrutinizes and allows registration for political parties. On 27 February 2015, Danu National Organization Party submitted an application to register at the Union Election Commission.—MNA

Public Announcement for remonstrance

The Danu National Organization Party headquartered at I-348 of U Tin Maung Oo, Thitsa street in Zaytan (South) Ward, Ywangan, Shan State, registered by the Union Election Commission as a political party under the Article 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law, submitted an application to register and to use title, flag and logo of the party on 27-2-2015.

It is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party's title, flag and seal may submit a complaint along with the strong evidences within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement in line with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules.

Union Election Commission



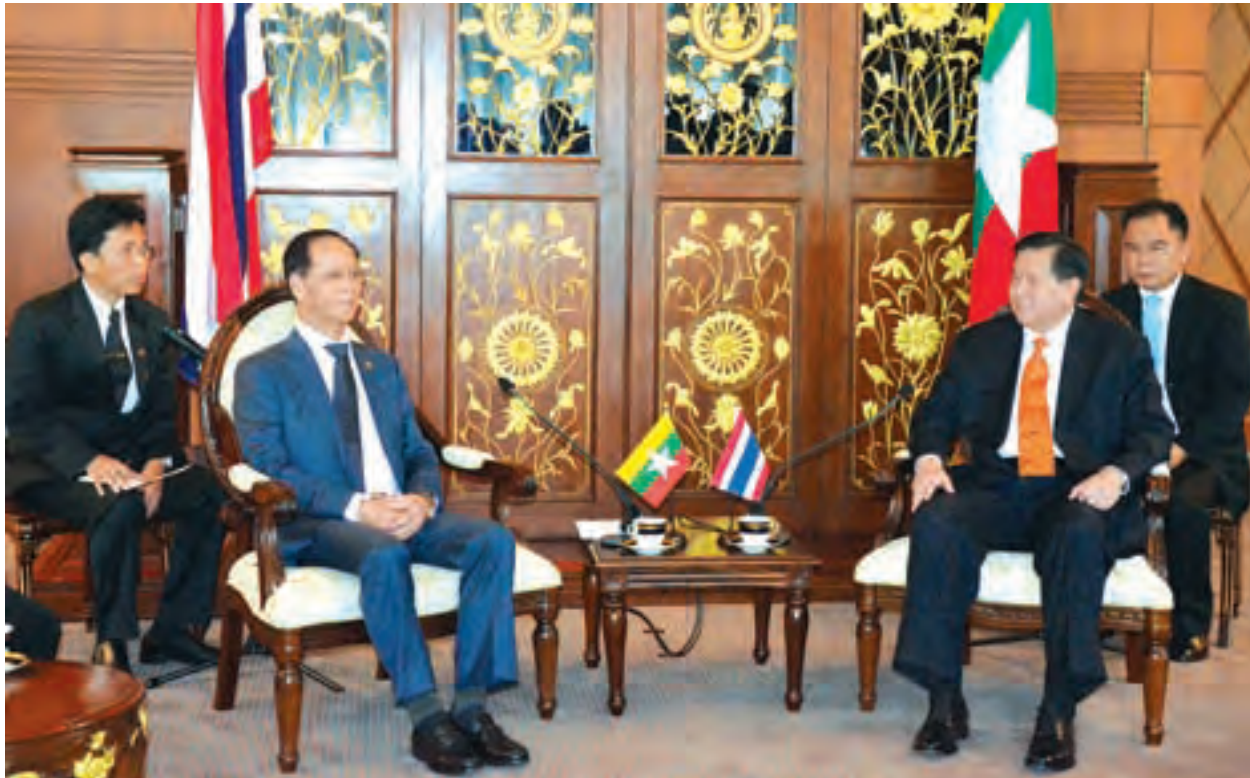
Flag of Danu National Organization Party



Logo of Danu National Organization Party

GNLM

Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham meets deputy prime minister of Thailand in Bangkok



Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham meets Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Gen. Tanasak Patimpragorn.—MNA

BANGKOK, 27 Feb— Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham, together with Chief Minister of Kayah State U Khin Maung Oo and deputy ministers, visited a hospital in Samut Sakom on Friday morning and governor of the province Acting Pol. Lt. Arthit Boonyasopha and officials welcomed the vice president and party.

Professional Level Registered Nurse Ms Nahathai Chulkarat explained salient points, healthcare system, management system and the public healthcare system of the hospital to the vice president and party. Then, the vice president and party viewed round the Myanmar migrant workers who were receiving treatments at the hospital and comforted them.

Then, the vice president and party proceeded to Queen Sirikit Health Center and heard reports on provision of healthcare services

to Myanmar migrant workers, health care services and health volunteers at the hospital.

The province governor hosted a luncheon to the vice president and party.

In the afternoon, the vice president and party met with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Thailand Gen. Tanasak Patimpragorn and discussed cooperation in health sector in border areas as well as at the central level, promotion of diplomatic relations, visa exemption, and protection of rights of Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand. The vice president and party later visited Wat Prayun Wongsawat Monastery and paid homage to the presiding monk before donating offertories.

In the evening, the deputy prime minister hosted a dinner to the vice president at the Kempinski Hotel.

MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives foreign ambassadors

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Feb — Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Ambassador of Australia to Myanmar Mr Nicolas Coppel and Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Lyying Sayaxang separately in Nay Pyi Taw on Friday.

At the meeting with the Australian ambassador, the senior general said that although Kokang insurgents said that they were not fighting against the government but they

were attacking Tatmadaw forces, Kokang Self-Administered Zone is a part of the union and the Tatmadaw had to defend the area when the insurgents attacked government offices, individuals and camps. The senior general added that the best way to restore stability in the area was the military administration. He invited positive assistance from Australia at the meeting.

At the meeting with the Laotian ambassador, the senior general said that Myanmar will cooperate

with Thailand and Laos to eliminate drugs in the Golden Triangle Region and called on the ambassador to open border gates for trade and exchange of visits between the two people.

Also present at the occasions were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and senior officers from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army).

Myawady



Myanmar-Thai businessmen hold discussions on experiences on bilateral trade and investment in Myanmar, and regulations for foreigner investors. (News on page 1)—MNA

Senior
General
Min Aung
Hlaing
greets
Laotian
Ambassador to
Myanmar Mr
Lyying
Sayaxang
in Nay
Pyi Taw.
MYAWADY



Union FM meets Malaysian, Laotian ambassadors

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Feb—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs received newly-appointed Malaysian Ambassador Mohd Haniff Bin Abd Rahman at the ministry, here, on Friday.

The union minister expressed confidence that the

friendly relations and co-operation existing between Myanmar and Malaysia would continue grow during his term in office as well.

The union minister also held talks with Laotian Ambassador Mr Lyying Sayaxang on Friday, focusing on matters relating to

the promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Lao People's Democratic Republic.

Australian Ambassador Mr Nicholas Coppel also called on the union minister on Friday morning.

MNA

Solar power improves living standard of rural people



TATKON, 27 Feb—Residents of Aingkye Village in the capital's Tatkon Township gained a brighter outlook Thursday evening with the commencement of electricity supply from newly installed solar panels.

As part of efforts to improve living standards for rural people, local authorities have been electrifying the villages in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area one

after another.

Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Phone Zaw Han, Nay Pyi Taw Development Council member U Myint Shwe and Deputy Chief Engineer of Nay Pyi Taw Electricity Supply Enterprise U Than Tun Aung were on hand to launch the supply of electricity for the village.

Electricians from Jasmine Family Company,

assigned duty by Nay Pyi Taw Council, installed one 90W solar panel, one battery, one 300W inverter and other necessary equipment at each house from 12 to 16 February. Nay Pyi Taw Council allotted K67.8 million for installation of solar panels and equipment.

Resident Daw Hla Myint said having electricity was a "dream come true" for people in the village. "In

the past, we spent K3,000 per month for a fluorescence lamp but we lit it a few hours a day," she said. "Now, solar panels have been installed at our houses free of charge under the arrangements of the council. So, all rural people are happy having light every night with the solar panels."

*Tin Soe Lwin
(Tatkon IPRD)*



Firefighters, shopkeepers join fire drill and rescue works

MYAWADY, 27 Feb—With current weather conditions raising the level of fire danger, firefighters, shopkeepers and volunteers came together Thursday for an emergency drill aimed

at improving readiness at Bayintnaung Market in Myawady, a town in Kayin State bordering Thailand.

Participants practiced using fire extinguishers and carrying out rescues.

The drill was supervised by Myawady District's deputy commissioner U Lwin Ko Oo and officials.

*Htein Lin Aung
(IPRD)*



Nay Pyi Taw WAO discusses UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities



NAY PYI TAW, 27 Feb—A roundtable discussion on United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities took place at the hall of Zabuthiri Township General Administration Department on Thursday, with a speech by Chairperson of Nay Pyi Taw Women's Affairs Or-

ganization Daw Myat Myat Moe.

Director of Nay Pyi Taw Social Welfare Department U Tun Oo outlined the purpose of the roundtable, while Project Manager U Win Naing of TLMM (The Leprosy Mission Myanmar) and General Secretary U Nyunt

Aung of Myanmar Council of People with Disabilities discussed specific articles of the convention.

Participants in the roundtable sought ways to protect the fundamental rights of people with disabilities, as well as improve their standing in society.

Thant Maung

People hope for smooth transport of road to Mandalay International Airport

MANDALAY, 27 Feb—Road users traveling to and from Mandalay International Airport are hoping for an upgrade on one of the main access routes to the central Myanmar aviation hub.

A 6-mile long road was built in 1990 to improve access between TadaU and the international airport, located

in TadaU Township, Mandalay Region, but its condition deteriorated during the construction of the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway, when it was heavily used by trucks.

The road has since been filled with gravel, but users hope local authorities can improve safety and comfort on the route. — *Htay Myint Maung*

LOCAL NEWS

Road Administration Department issues driving licenses to applicants

MYINGYAN, 27 Feb—Myingyan District Road Administration Department conducted a driving and traffic rules course No. 3/2015 at the hall of Natogyi Township General Administration Department on 14-15 February.

Head of the district department U Lay Naing gave lectures on traffic rules to 757 trainees.

After the training course, officials of the department examined the trainees on driving skill in order to issue driving licenses on motorcars and motorcycles.

The department issued driving licenses to local people four times in 2015 to save money and time for applicants.

Htay Myint Maung



TOITU Co., Ltd of Japan donates hospital equipment to North Okkalapa General Hospital



YANGON, 27 Feb—TOITU Co., Ltd of Japan donated one unit of Fetal Actocardiograph, two units of Doppler Fetus Detector and one unit of Cryosurgery system worth US\$12,900 to North Okkalapa General Hospital on Thursday.

Mr. Yoshinori Koma-

ru, Managing Director of Myanmar Yutani Co., Ltd. on behalf of TOITU Co., Ltd. handed over the donations to medical superintendent Dr Than Htut Oo.

The Japanese company has donated Fetal Actocardiograph, Doppler Fetus

Detector and Cryosurgery system to Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital, Magway General Hospital, Defence Services OG and Children's Hospital (Yangon) and Defence Services OG and Children's Hospital (Nay Pyi Taw) and Doppler Fetus Detectors to My-

anmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association (Nay Pyi Taw).

The donation ceremony for all donated items worth US\$97,500 was held at Nay Pyi Taw General Hospital (1000-bed) on 25 November 2014.

GNLM

115th Buddha Pujaniya of Shwemyintin Pagoda set to draw visitors from around country

YAMETHIN, 27 Feb—Pilgrims from around the country will converge in early March for a major festival at the historic Shwemyintin Pagoda, situated in Myinar Model Village, about seven miles east from Yamethin.

The 115th Buddha Pujaniya of Shwemyintin Pagoda will run from 1-5 March. The pagoda, built by a great hermit U Khamti on a peak in the Shan mountain ranges, can be easily accessed by pony-cart or car from Yamethin, Mandalay Region. Pilgrims from nearby areas will also throng into the Buddha Pujaniya by bullock-cart.

Organizers have made preparations

for accommodation, security, health and drinking water for visitors from four corners of the country, a member of Shwemyintin pagoda's board of trustees said.

Renovation of religious edifices, rest houses and stairways are underway and there is a plan to install an escalator for visitors with limited mobility, he added.

Bullock-cart races, for which Yamethin Township is famous, have been held in Hsegyi-Nyaunggai village from 25 to 28 February, with prizes to be awarded during the Buddha Pujaniya. Alms and rice will be offered to 150 Buddhist monks on the full moon day of Tabaung.—*Kyaw Htike Soe*



Police seize stimulant tablets in Myawady Town

MYAWADY, 27 Feb—A police squad led by IP Phone Kyaw Naing, acting on a tip-off, searched Khin Maung Myint, aged 42, from Awapyin Village in Manaung, Rakhine State, at the administrative office in Ward 4, Myawady, Kayin State, on Thursday.

Police seized 22 pink stimulant tablets worth K 66,000, a piece of lead paper used in stimulant tablets, two Nokia brand mobile phones and K200,000 from the leather bag of the suspect.—*Tun Tun Oo (Myawady Town)*

Rural lakes under maintenance in Natogyi Township

NATOGYI, 26 Feb—Natogyi Township Irrigation Department has assigned duty to Kaday Kyaw Company to maintain Leduta Lake in Padaung Village so as to store larger volume

of water. The lake is 3,000 feet long and three feet high. Under the arrangements of township authorities, two lakes are being maintained in the village.

Mandalay Region gov-

ernment arranges maintenance of 25 lakes in Natogyi Township for storing water for local consumption and for irrigating farmlands.

Htay Myint Maung



Pyithu Hluttaw MP visits construction site of staff quarters in Natogyi

NATOGYI, 27 Feb—Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Kyi Pe of Natogyi Township, Mandalay Region, together with Chairman of the Township Development Affairs Committee U Than Htaik and officials, inspected progress of a three-storey staff quarter in Natogyi Township on 23 February.

Department of Human Settlement and

Housing Development of the Ministry of Construction assigned duties to Arnt Min Construction Company and Aung Myintmo Company to construct two three-storey buildings for government staff in Ward 8 beside Myingyan-Mandalay Road.

The MP instructed officials to construct the buildings meeting standards.

Htay Myint Maung

Intelligence chief named new presidential chief of staff in S Korea

SEOUL, 27 Feb — South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Friday named head of the state intelligence organization Lee Byung Ki as her new chief of staff, according to Park's spokesman.

Lee, director of the National Intelligence Service, was also an ambassador to Japan under Park.

Lee replaces Kim Ki Choon who was at the center of mounting criticism for a string of policy flip-flops and other appointment failures.

The appointment of a new chief staff followed the parliamentary approval earlier this month of Park's nomi-

nation of Lee Wan Koo as prime minister on a vote by the ruling party after weeks of friction over his eligibility for the job.

Park also carried out a Cabinet shake-up that affected the country's financial regulator and three ministries, including the unification ministry handling inter-Korean affairs.

The reshuffle is widely seen as an effort to seek a turnaround in the management of state affairs.

Park has recently seen her approval rating drop to barely 30 percent, the lowest since she took office on 25 February, 2013.

Kyodo News

China's stealth fighter makes brief appearance in air force film

BEIJING, 27 Feb — China's prototype stealth fighter, the J-20, has made a rare appearance on screen after a brief shot of it was included in a new Chinese air force recruitment video.

The J-20 had its first test flight in early 2011 — at the same time then-US defence chief Robert Gates was visiting China — but since then few images of it have surfaced.

In the air force video, entitled "Heroes' Sky" and released on Thursday on Chinese video-sharing websites, the aircraft can be seen very briefly taking off, interspersed between other images of older fighters amid stirring patriotic slogans. "The new fighter jets call for new-generation ... flying stars," air force spokesman Shen Jinke told

the official *Xinhua* news agency in a report carried on Friday.

"The film shows the air force's role in safeguarding state security and maintaining military strategies, and as a responsible great power, China needs to build an air force to maintain regional stability and world peace," Shen added.

The six-minute film is split into three parts, called "The sky needs you", "The future belongs to you", and "The nation calls on you".

It also shows female pilots and another new type of aircraft, the Y-20 military transport aircraft. While China is still only in the early stages of testing stealth technology and any deployment is likely years away, it could eventually help narrow the military gap with



An aircraft that is reported to be Chinese stealth fighter J-20 is seen in Chengdu, Sichuan Province, in this picture taken on 7 Jan, 2011, and released by Kyodo news agency on 8 Jan, 2011.—REUTERS

the United States.

However, the latest pictures may heighten concern about China's military build-up as it presses its claims to most of the South China Sea, including the deployment of its first aircraft carrier and new anti-ship and anti-satellite ballistic missiles.

Some analysts have said that the J-20 photos suggest that China may be making faster-than-expected progress in developing a rival to Lockheed Martin's F-22 Raptor, the world's only operational stealth fighter designed to evade detection by radar.

Reuters

Australian PM dismisses rumours of leadership challenge

SYDNEY, 27 Feb — Australian Prime Minister Tony Abbott dismissed speculation about another challenge to his leadership on Friday after many of his fellow Liberal politicians claimed he did not have the numbers to rule the party.

Ministers have told the local media they believed

Communications Minister Malcolm Turnbull now had the numbers to win a challenge and should use them. A motion to vote for a change of prime minister was held earlier this month and was defeated 39 to 61. Abbott was touring Rockhampton in Queensland, which was damaged by cy-

clone Marcia, and told reporters he was confident in running government. The prime minister said rumours about a spill was just "insider gossip".

"I am just getting on with government. I'm not going to be distracted and none of my ministers are going to be distracted," he

told reporters. "Other people can obsess about this kind of insider gossip, but I'm certainly not going to. 'Frankly it rather diminishes the pain of the people of this part of central Queensland when their difficulties are intruded upon by this kind of Canberra nonsense,'" said Abbott.

Xinhua

Singapore's Changi Airport passenger traffic drops 3.8 pct in January

SINGAPORE, 27 Feb — A total of 4.42 million passengers passed through Singapore's Changi Airport in January, down 3.8 percent year on year, according to latest figures released by the Changi

Airport Group (CAG) on Friday.

The decline was due to the strong base last year, which saw the Chinese New Year falling on the last day of January in 2014.

Traffic to and from

South Asia in January grew 5 percent year-on-year, mainly driven by a growing number of travelers on India routes. Passenger traffic to Thailand recorded the biggest growth, which increased 34 percent, CAG

said.

Flight movements in January fell 5.2 percent to 28,800, while airfreight movements rose 1 percent, with 151,800 tons of cargo handled during the month.

Xinhua

Experts give various views on Abe's planned war anniversary statement

TOKYO, 27 Feb — The government has released minutes of the first meeting of experts Wednesday to advise Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on his statement for the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, indicating the existence of a variety of views on the statement.

"We would like to discuss details of the statement while looking ahead to the next generation," Japan Post Holdings Co President Taizo Nishimuro said, according to the minutes. He chairs the panel of 16 experts. "We should consider Japan as part of the world without separating Japanese

history from world history," said Acting Chairman Shinichi Kitaoka, president of the International University of Japan.

The minutes summarized the other panel members' remarks on an anonymous basis.

Concerning World War II, one expert noted, the problem is that the European war and the Asia-Pacific war have not been separated and are being analyzed from the same viewpoint in some cases.

Another panel member indicated an interest in how Chinese and South Korean views on Japan differ from

Southeast Asian views.

"We should be confident of Japan's 70-year postwar history," another said. Japan should stick to historical facts as much as possible and face history fairly and sincerely, another expert said.

Another called for paying attention to Japan's postwar contributions and for looking to the future rather than to the past.

The panel is expected to submit recommendations to the prime minister by this summer.

Attention has been focused on whether Abe will reiterate the key aspects of

the statements issued on the 50th and 60th anniversaries by then Prime Ministers Tomiichi Murayama and Junichiro Koizumi. The past statements offered apologies for Japan's "colonial rule" and "aggression." At Friday's symposium in Tokyo, the panel's acting chairman, Kitaoka, doubted the advisability of the coming statement adopting terms used in the Murayama statement.

"How we should review the entire past is important," he said. "The prime minister will include political decisions in the statement."—*Kyodo News*



Rescuers search for the missing people on the capsized ferry on the sea in Macao, south China, on 27 Feb, 2015. A ferry carrying 19 people capsized Friday off China's Macao, and four people have been rescued, the customs said. The sunken ferry is a smuggling boat, with one captain, two sailors and 16 other stowaways on board, according to the customs. The four rescued are all stowaways, while other 15 people are still missing, said the customs.—XINHUA



Thai people look at seized luxury cars during an auction at Thai Customs headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand, on 27 Feb, 2015. Altogether 232 seized luxury cars were auctioned on Friday with a total expected revenue of more than 300 million Thai baht (about 9 million US dollars).—XINHUA

Chinese diplomat tells West to consider Russia's security concerns over Ukraine

BEIJING, 27 Feb — Western powers should take into consideration Russia's legitimate security concerns over Ukraine, a top Chinese diplomat has said in an unusually frank and open display of support for Moscow's position in the crisis.

Qu Xing, China's ambassador to Belgium, was quoted by state news agency *Xinhua* late on Thursday as blaming competition between Russia and the West for the Ukraine crisis, urging Western powers to "abandon the zero-sum mentality" with Russia.

He said the "nature and root cause" of the crisis was the "game" between Russia and Western powers, including the United States and the European Union.

He said external intervention by different powers accelerated the crisis and warned that Moscow would feel it was being treated unfairly if the West did not change its approach.

"The West should abandon the zero-sum mentality, and take the real security concerns of Russia into consideration," Qu was quoted as saying.

His comments were an unusually public show of

understanding from China for the Russian position. China and Russia see eye-to-eye on many international diplomatic issues but Beijing has generally not been so willing to back Russia over Ukraine.

China has also been cautious not to be drawn into the struggle between Russia and the West over Ukraine's future, not wanting to alienate a key ally.

It has said it would like to continue to develop "friendly cooperation" with Ukraine, and respects the ex-Soviet state's independence, sovereignty and

territorial integrity.

Qu's comments coincide with talks between the United States and its European allies over harsher sanctions against Moscow.

On Monday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov accused Western powers of trying to dominate and impose their ideology on the rest of world. The United States and European delegations slammed Moscow for supporting rebels in eastern Ukraine.

Qu said Washington's involvement in Ukraine could "become a distraction

in its foreign policy".

"The United States is unwilling to see its presence in any part of the world being weakened, but the fact is its resources are limited, and it will be to some extent hard work to sustain its influence in external affairs," Qu was quoted as saying.

Ukraine's military accused Russia last week of sending more tanks and troops towards the rebel-held town of Novoazovsk, expanding their presence on what it fears could be the next battlefield.—*Reuters*



A convoy of Ukrainian armed forces including armoured personnel carriers, military vehicles and cannons prepare to move as they pull back from the Debaltsevo region, in Paraskoviivka, eastern Ukraine, on 26 Feb, 2015.—*REUTERS*

Four killed, one injured in S Korean shooting rampage

SEOUL, 27 Feb — Four people were killed and one was injured in a South Korean air-rifle shooting rampage in Hwaseong, Gyeonggy Province, *Yonhap News Agency* reported on Friday.

Police received an official report at about 9:30 am local time that "my uncle shot at my parents" with an air rifle in a single-family house in Hwaseong, southwest of capital Seoul.

When police officers arrived, a married couple in their mid-80s was found lie down on the floor along with the uncle aged 75 and head of a police station surnamed Lee.

Lee was estimated to be shot dead while trying to suppress the shooter.

The daughter-in-law, who reported the case to police by phone, suffered a light injury as she jumped from the second-story house to escape from the scene.



Police search the house where the shooting rampage happened in Hwaseong City, South Korea, on 27 Feb, 2015. Four people were killed and one was injured in a South Korean air-rifle shooting rampage in Hwaseong, Gyeonggy Province, *Yonhap News Agency* reported on Friday.—*XINHUA*

The uncle is estimated to have killed himself after going on a shooting rampage.

Given testimonies that the two siblings have been on bad terms, the accident is estimated to have been

caused by a discord between brothers. Details of the accident are under investigation.—*Xinhua*

US, Cuba to meet for second round of normalization talks

WASHINGTON, 27 Feb — Cuban and US officials meet in Washington on Friday for a second round of talks aimed at restoring diplomatic relations, amid friction over Cuba's place on a US list of state sponsors of terrorism.

The one-day talks, led by senior diplomats, stem from the decision announced by the two Cold War era foes on 17 December to work to normalize relations, including opening embassies in each other's countries, and to exchange prisoners. Washington severed diplomatic relations with Cuba 54 years ago.

Communist-run Cuba is pressing the United States to remove it from its terrorism list before the official restoration of diplomatic ties. It says sanctions on banks that do business with designated countries impede it from conducting diplomatic affairs in the United States.

The Obama administration is nearing completion of its review of Cuba's place on the terrorism sponsors list that must be submitted to Congress before Cuba's name can be removed, a senior State Department official told reporters on Wednesday.

But re-establishing diplomatic relations should not be tied to the terrorism list, and Cuba's insistence on linking them could delay the opening of embassies, the official suggested.

While recognising the banking problem, US officials say the talks should

stick to standard issues regulating embassy functions. Washington is calling for US diplomats to be able to move freely around Cuba and meet who they please, including political dissidents.

"Both of us have to come to the table in the spirit of getting to an agreement on these things, and not putting so many obstacles in the way that are not linked directly to how we function as diplomats in each other's countries," the State Department official said.

Friday's talks follow a historic first session in Havana last month and US officials cautioned that the tone might well be more workmanlike.

The United States is hoping to reach agreement on reopening embassies in time for an 10-11 April regional heads of state summit in Panama, where US President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro could meet for the first time since announcing their joint agreement last December.

The two countries currently conduct business via interests sections in Havana and Washington. Cuba says it has faced US banking problems after it was dropped by its US bank last year and has been unable to find a replacement.

Cuba was added to the terrorism sponsors list in 1982, when it aided Marxist insurgencies during the Cold War, but is currently aiding a peace process with Colombia's left wing FARC guerrillas.—*Reuters*

Somali pirates free four Thai captives

MOGADISHU, 27 Feb — Somali pirates have released four crew from Thailand after four years in captivity in central Somalia, authorities said on Friday.

The four were allegedly released after paying 400,000 US dollars in ransom to the pirates who have been holding the men in Camara town in Galmudug State in Central Somalia.

Omar Sheikh Ali, director of anti-piracy office in Galmudug state, said the negotiations which have been going on for the last four years ended Thursday after the ransom was paid, though he did not disclose whether the family or government of Thailand paid

the amount.

One of the negotiators, who refused to be named, said the pirates received 400,000 dollars to release the captives but did not divulge further information on the source of the money.

However, Ali said the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime had played an important role in the negotiation.

"We have been engaged in negotiations with the pirates to release the men unconditionally but they insisted on their stand, saying that ransom must be paid for the release of the four men," said Ali in a phone interview with *Xinhua*.—*Xinhua*

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 28 February, 2015

Mistakes must be corrected before it is too late

By Myint Win Thein

The phrase “To err is human” means everyone makes mistakes. However, it does not necessarily mean that human beings can make endless mistakes in their lives and leave them in the past without any consequences. Without correction of mistakes, man cannot make progress.

Therefore, man has learnt by trial and error before being able to enjoy the advancement of society today. It is important that mankind should be able to correct its mistakes and should be able to learn lessons from them in order to avoid them in the future. In order to be able to correct one’s mistakes, it is important to distinguish between what is right and what is wrong, while one must also accept one’s mistakes as they are in order to correct them. Since a mistake remains a mistake as long as it is not corrected, it will always remain with the person who makes it. Unfortunately, committing another mistake will not also alleviate the first mistake.

On the contrary, it just adds more woes to the mistake-maker and will exacerbate his social position. Without correction, mistakes inevitably cause further error, and eventually people can even

make errors knowingly or brazenly in their own interests, which can be defined as wrongdoing. Such people will not be able to emancipate themselves from the cycle of wrongdoings which their society cannot tolerate anymore. Such people live outside their society with hearts full of hatred and hinder the progress of the society. Therefore, it is essential that every mistake should be corrected before it is too late.

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Maintenance-free — non-existent

By San Shwe Aung

Since the beginning of civilization, mankind has been creating numerous things for his living, accommodation, houses and buildings. He has also invented many transporters which are faster than walking and running. Initially he used domesticated animals such as horses, oxen, mules and elephants to power the transporters in the forms of carts, coaches and chariots. A fast transporter called a “car” was invented in the early 19th century which was initially powered by a steam engine and now in 21st century developed so much so that there are cars run by petrol, diesel, gas, hybrid (both petrol engine & electric motor), battery (electric car) and currently fuel cell propulsion; using hydrogen gas from the filling station which is mixed with oxygen from the air and get the power through combustion and water will come out from the “exhaust” pipe making the environment completely safe. No carbon dioxide and/or carbon monoxide gases will be released from the fuel cell engine but only water, making 100% environmentally friendly.

In the area of construction, man has been building homes, residence, apartments, condominium, hostels, guest houses and hotels for human accommodation. To provide and facilitate transportation we have built roads, culverts, bridges, flyovers, underground roads, railways, trams and sky and underground trains. Not only road transport has been developed but also sea and air transport are now very advanced. Mega size container carrier, bulk carrier and liquid carrier ships are plying in international sea lanes to transport heavy goods and various products around the world. Aircrafts are also so advanced that they can carry hundreds of travel-

ers and tons of goods with high efficiency and cost effectiveness.

But as late Venerable Taungdamm Tharthanarpyu Sayardaw U Ottama Tharya once told the disciples that “Men get old, All living creatures get old and All materials get rotten”, all things (buildings, road, bridges, cars, ships, airplanes) will get rotten day by day and eventually be damaged. In engineering term it has been known that every goods and product has a life time. Things will function during their life time as they are designed to do so. Still we need to “maintain” each and every material, regardless of building, road, bridge, cars, ship or air craft. Maintenance is therefore essential not only for the non-life things but also for the living creatures including human beings.

Many years ago, I applied to attend a course in a UK university and they sent me prospectus as well as “Maintenance Plan”. I was first startled having seen “Maintenance” which was clarified in the document that maintenance covered (a) accommodation-including furniture (b) meals (c) laundry (d) possible medical care costs. Yes, we have to maintain our bodies everyday, which every human being is doing. Without maintenance we will not survive or our life will be shortened. We will get sick without drinking water, meals, bathing, keeping warm etc.

For the non-life items such as buildings, roads, bridges, cars, ships, aircrafts there have to be a well designed maintenance plan, which will include the frequency of what to do, when and how. If regular maintenance is not enough, there will have to be repair plans. Above all these maintenance plans have to be adequately budgeted. Maintenance will ensure all non-life things will be functional fully in their designed life time and to their highest performance. “Maintenance-free” is therefore non-existent.

Good government and clean governance

By U Kin Maung (Retired Diplomat)

First and foremost, let me present my own views of the two catch-phrases; good government and clean governance. These two catch-phrases, in my views, are closely related to each other. When there is good government, these are clean governance or vice versa. In this connection, I believe that we should make a study of the essential ingredients of “good government and clean governance” so that we can understand them better.

The essential ingredients of “good government and clean governance”. I think, may contain the following attributes or qualities.

- (1) Accountability
- (2) Transparency
- (3) The Rule of Law
- (4) The Independence of the judiciary
- (5) People’s participation and
- (6) Democracy

Now, please allow me to elaborate on each essential ingredient as follows:

Accountability means being accountable. And accountable means responsible, answerable for a person’s or an organization’s actions or decisions and is expected to explain them when asked or necessary. The government is an organization, representing the people and as such, the government is entrusted to carry out and manage the state’s mission and responsibilities for the benefit and for the welfare of the people is represents. In other words, the elected government or the government representing the people is accountable, answerable and responsible for its actions or decisions and it is expected to explain when necessary.

Transparency means being transparent, being obvious and being not opaque. Or, in another sense, transparency means openness. Except for national security reason, everything carried out and every action taken by a good government should be transparent. And the people, to whom, a good government owes its administra-

tive powers and existence, should have the right to have access to information.

The Rule of Law means the condition in which the members of a society including the government accept the authority of law. Under this doctrine, the government, and the citizens, the ruler and the ruled, must respect the rule of law. This doctrine also means “equality before the law, fair play, uniformity of laws for all private citizens and the public officials alike”. It also means that “disputes and differences that are amenable to legal settlement will be taken to the courts and peacefully settled, and that they will not lead to violence”.

And, where there is no rule of law, there comes in lawlessness, chaos and unrest. Therefore, “law and order is often equated with the rule of law”. Whenever there is a conflict, whenever there is a clash, minor or serious, civil or criminal, the rule of law must prevail, justice must prevail.

The Independence of the judiciary

The judiciary is the branch of government, responsible for interpreting the laws and administering justice. As such, “the independence of the judiciary is not merely a window-dressing, but a vital necessity” for a good government and clean governance. In simple language, the independence of the judiciary means that “the courts can freely decide, without considering the wishes of the government, but only considering the demands of justice according to the law”. From another point of view, the independence of the judiciary means the courts can independently administer justice, strictly following the stipulations of laws with non-interference or non-intervention of the government or of any other institution.

People’s participation

A government is simply an organization formed with the people’s representatives. A government needs not only the people’s support, but it also needs people’s

participation in its mission and nation-building tasks. The greater the number of people’s participation is there in the governments tasks and duties, the brighter and brilliant success the government will achieve. People and power, people and government are interdependent. We have an old saying “if a tremendous task cannot be achieved single-handedly, it can be achieved by many hands”. There is an English old-saying which goes “many hands make light work.” In view of this, “a good government and clean governance” need people’s participation. The greater the number of the people participate, the better, the government.

Democracy, A good government is the government democratically elected. In this sense, a good government can also be defined as “the government of the people, by the people, for the people”. This being so, I think we can also define good government as a government, that is free from corruption, a government that implements people’s hopes and aspirations with might and main, with equality and justice but without one iota of nepotism, or cronyism. In other words, a good government can also be defined as “the people’s government made for the people, made by the people and answerable to the people”. And where there is a good government, there will surely be clean governance.

This write-up is the result of an arduous attempt of mine, to express my humble opinions about the topic. If you have any comment, and criticism, any addition, any amendment or any alteration to make, you are warmly and respectfully welcome. Thank you.

Reference:

- (1) Law and Custom in Burma and the Burmese Family. Dr. Maung Maung
- (2) A book of essential quotations
- (3) Black’s Law Dictionary (Second Pocket Edition)

The author is a retired Deputy Director-General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Kyaukpyu gas turbines send electricity to Rakhine State, national power grid



Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe and Chief Minister U Maung Maung Ohn cut the ribbon to launch Kyaukpyu gas turbines.—MNA

Art and heritage festival celebrates life in Yangon



By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 27 Feb—Organized by the British Embassy, the “My Yangon My Home” art and heritage festival will take place at a range of venues in the city in March.

The main aims of the festival are to promote public interest in community arts, as well as to explore the everyday life of the city, the organizer said.

The fair will run 1 to 22 March and will be open to the public free of charge. Works will be exhibited in various locations around downtown Yangon, with more than ten art galleries taking part.

The event covers more than ten satellite projects including the “Circular Train” urban installation;

‘Mohinga’ street food narratives and history; ‘La Casa,’ an exhibit of contemporary art in domestic spaces; and ‘Downtown Short Stories’ from cartoon artists.

“This is the first ever festival and it brings together diverse communities to share experiences through public arts,” said the organizer.

The festival also includes a traditional Myanmar puppet show, a photo competition called “Inside my home” and an urban interactive installation dubbed “Planetarium.”

About 200 Myanmar artists will share their works with Yangon residents through participatory art workshops.—GNLM

Holiday makers including couples taking relax at Mahabandoola Park, one of public parks in downtown Yangon.
PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Feb — A ceremony to mark the launch of sending electricity from gas turbines in Kyaukpyu to Rakhine State and national power grid was held in Kyaukpyu, Rakhine State, on Thursday.

In his speech, Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe elaborated on the ministry’s efforts for electricity access to all Rakhine State at a cost of US\$102.419

million (K88.508 billion), resulting in availability of electricity at Kyaukpyu and its environs in September 2013, Taungup, Thandwe, Ngapali, An, Sittway, Ponnagyun, Kyauktaw and MraukU in December 2014.

Next, the Union minister, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Maung Maung Ohn and officials formally opened the power station.

Rakhine State has been connected to the national power grid as of 15 December 2014, and 10 townships

in the state now enjoy national grid-based electricity. Before connecting to the national grid, a unit of electricity costs about K450 in Rakhine State.

According to officials, work is underway to supply electricity to Minbya, Madaykyun, Pauktaw, Myebon, Maei, Gwa, Tat-taung and Kamhtaunggyi this year and Kyeintali sub-township, Yathedaung, Buthidaung, Maungtaw and Taungpyo Letwe sub-township later.

MNA

Stimulant drugs seized in Laukkai

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Feb — Narcotic drugs were seized by military columns on patrol in Laukkai on 25 February, following a search on three suspects, officials said.

The seizures included 350 grams of Ice powder, over 4,500g of Amphetamines and 1,550 WY-inscribed stimulant tablets, worth K13.2 million in total.

On 26 February, a raid on a building led military columns to an ownerless seizure of 1,200 WY-inscribed stimulant tablets

worth K1.8m.

A local police station

has filed a lawsuit against the culprits.—Myawady



Li Hsin Wa, Chein Yi and Wu Kun Hai arrested with stimulant tablets and other narcotic drugs in Laukkai.—MYAWADY

Exhibition of Japanese health and longevity products to come in March

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 27 Feb—To create new business links between Myanmar and Japan, the Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO), a government-related organization, will organize its first health expo, Japan Healthful Lifestyle Exhibition, in March at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall in Yangon.

The major objectives

of the event are to enhance Japan’s image as a forerunner in health and longevity products among Myanmar people and to help establish local business bases for Japanese firms, the organizer said.

The Japan-brand exhibition from 21 to 23 March covers a wide range of fields, including sports, health management ser-

vices, drugstores, healthy food, beauty, nursing care, hospitals and so on by 87 Japanese firms and organizations via more than 100 booths.

JETRO said: “This exhibition is a rare opportunity to witness an abundant lineup, including demonstrations for care exercises, weightlifting and beauty products and speeches on medical treatment and more.”

Director Kenji Mizuta of JETRO said he believes the expo will contribute to expanding the lifespan and improve the health environment for Myanmar people of all generations in the future.

To provide continuing support to the industry, JETRO is considering hosting the same event in other ASEAN countries following Myanmar, the group told the press.

According to the director, Japan, is one of the top five longest-living nations in the world with average life expectancies of more than 80 years.—GNLM



Photo shows Solar-Impulse-2 that will arrive in Mandalay on 10 March.—MNA

Argentine judge says no evidence government tried to derail bombing probe

BUENOS AIRES, 27 Feb — There is no evidence that President Cristina Fernandez tried to whitewash Iran's purported involvement in a deadly 1994 bombing, an Argentine judge told *Reuters* in an interview on Thursday after dismissing the case.

On the contrary, the evidence suggested "the government exhausted all possibilities to enable the investigation into the AMIA (Jewish community centre) attack to advance", said Judge Daniel Rafecas, who showed *Reuters* copies of the evidence. Rafecas on Thursday discontinued the case brought by prosecutor Alberto Nisman, who was found dead in mysterious circumstances in January the day before he was to appear in Congress to discuss his criminal complaint.

Many Argentines ex-

pressed dismay at his decision and said the government may have had a hand in it — a suspicion Rafecas firmly rejected.

"There is simply no evidence revealing that the Argentine government had any intention to disturb, impact or cover up the work of the Argentine justice, on the contrary," Rafecas said, sitting behind his desk in his downtown office, in front of a bookcases stacked full of legal books.

In January, Nisman had accused Fernandez of seeking to whitewash the investigation into the 1994 AMIA attack that killed 85. Four days later he was found dead with a bullet to the head, spawning a torrent of conspiracy theories.

The inquiry into the alleged cover-up was given this month to prosecutor Gerardo Pollicita, who sub-



Argentina's President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner gestures as she makes an announcement on new subsidies and benefits for school renovation works, at the Casa Rosada government house in Buenos Aires on 11 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS

mitted the complaint.

Rafecas said the evidence presented "was exactly the opposite of what Nisman claimed. In these conditions, what I decided today was that it was not possible in any circum-

stance to open a criminal investigation," he said.

President Fernandez called Nisman's cover-up claims "absurd" and said he had been duped by rogue security agents. She said she believed the agents then

killed the prosecutor after using him to smear her.

Some government officials said they believed Nisman had not even written the report himself — a claim Rafecas also refuted.

"I have no doubt (it) was written by the prosecutor. There is an eloquence and a way of writing that does not make me suspect in any way that someone else might have written this." While the case has raised long-festering questions over interference and intimidation in the justice system, Rafecas said he had not been subject to any pressure. "I started studying the case two weeks ago. In these two weeks, I worked with utmost tranquillity, and no-one, from either side, has approached me to make suggestions or exert pressure," he said.

Reuters

First detachment of China's peacekeeping infantry battalion arrives in Juba

KHARTOUM, 27 Feb — 144 members of China's peacekeeping infantry battalion of the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) have arrived in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, at 10:08 on 27 February Juba local time.

This marks the successful deployment of the detachment sent in advance. And it also shows China's peacekeeping infantry have had the ability of self keeping and self guarantee in the logistics support system of the UNMISS.

Xinhua

German leader Merkel to visit Japan on 9-10 March

TOKYO, 27 Feb — German Chancellor Angela Merkel will pay an official visit to Japan on 9-10 March in what will be her first trip to the country in seven years, the government said on Friday.

In their meeting, Prime

Minister Shinzo Abe and Merkel will discuss the fight against terrorism, the crisis in Ukraine and bilateral issues, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said.

With Germany and Japan hosting Group of Seven summits this year and next

year, respectively, it is "extremely important" that the two governments promote cooperation, Suga told reporters.

"We see Chancellor Merkel as one of the most important leaders in the European Union and the

international community," he said. "We would like to make the upcoming visit an opportunity to send a message to the world that Japan and Germany, as partners sharing basic values, will proactively contribute to global peace and prosperi-

ty." According to the Foreign Ministry, Merkel plans to hold talks with Abe on 9 March. She will also have an audience with Emperor Akihito the same day. Merkel last visited Japan in 2008 for a Group of Eight summit in Hokkaido.—*Kyodo News*

EU-Russia-Ukraine gas talks to be held on Monday

BRUSSELS, 27 Feb — Russia, Ukraine and the European Union will hold talks in Brussels on Monday to discuss problems with gas supplies to Ukraine, the EU said on Thursday.

European Commission spokeswoman Anna-Kaisa Itonen tweeted that the talks between EU energy chief Maros Sefcovic and the energy ministers of Russia and Ukraine were confirmed for Monday.

Itonen had said earlier that Sefcovic had invited Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak and his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Demchyshyn for talks, but was awaiting confirmation that they would take part.

A Russian Energy Ministry official said earlier she was not able to confirm whether Moscow has agreed to take part in the meeting yet. "We are talking by phone at the moment," she said. President Vladimir Putin warned on Wednesday that Russia would halt gas supplies to Ukraine if it did not receive advance payment, raising the possibility of onward deliveries to Europe being disrupted for the fourth time in a decade.—*Reuters*

UN General Assembly adopts resolution to mark end of WWII anniversary

UNITED NATIONS, 27 Feb — The UN General Assembly on Thursday adopted a resolution to commemorate the upcoming 70th anniversary of the end of the WWII, urging the international community not to forget wartime sacrifices and atrocities.

The resolution was adopted by consensus at the 69th session of the 193-member assembly. Its sponsors include China and nearly 40 other countries, including

Belarus, Brazil, Germany, India, Mongolia, Poland, Russia, Serbia and Vietnam. The assembly asked its president to hold a special solemn meeting in the second week of May 2015 in commemoration of all victims, according to the resolution. "2015 will mark the seventieth anniversary of the end of Second World War, a war which brought untold sorrow to humankind, particularly in Europe, Asia, Africa,

the Pacific and other parts of the world," it said.

The resolution stressed that "this historic event established the conditions for the creation of the United Nations, designed to prevent future wars and save succeeding generations from their scourge." It noted that this year will also mark the UN's 70th founding anniversary, calling upon all UN member states to "unite their efforts in dealing with

challenges and threats to international peace and security, with the United Nations playing a central role."

The member states are also asked to "make every effort to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State, or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations, and to settle all disputes by

peaceful means in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations." In addition, the assembly recalled that a resolution adopted on 22 November, 2004 to declare 8 and 9 May "a time of remembrance and reconciliation," and invited all member states, UN bodies, non-governmental organizations and individuals to observe those days to pay tribute to all victims of the war. — *Xinhua*

Turkish police seal off street outside US consulate, detain suspect

ISTANBUL, 27 Feb — Turkish police on Friday sealed off a street outside the US consulate in Istanbul, a *Reuters* witness said, and local media reported a suspect had been detained. *Dogan News Agency* said police had detained a man, believed to be mentally unstable, for questioning. A police official said he was not able to immediately comment. A US diplomat told *Reuters* the consulate had taken precautionary measures following a security alert.

Istanbul has been on high security alert since January, when a suicide bomber blew herself up at a police station in the historic Sultanahmet district, killing one officer and wounding another.—*Reuters*



A member of a bomb disposal unit checks a vehicle near the US consulate in Istanbul on 27 Feb, 2015. REUTERS

WORLD

‘Jihadi John’ from Islamic State beheading videos unmasked as Londoner



A flat is seen through railings in west London on 26 Feb, 2015. Local media reported that the flat is the former home of Mohammed Emwazi.—REUTERS

LONDON/WASHINGTON, 27 Feb — The masked “Jihadi John” killer who fronted Islamic State beheading videos has been identified as Mohammed Emwazi, a British computer programming graduate from a well-to-do London family who was known to the security services.

The black-clad militant brandishing a knife and speaking with an English accent was shown in videos released by Islamic State (IS) apparently decapitating hostages including Americans, Britons and Syrians.

The 26-year-old militant used the videos to threaten the West, admonish its Arab allies and taunt President Barack Obama

and British Prime Minister David Cameron before petrified hostages cowering in orange jump suits.

Emwazi’s name was first disclosed by the *Washington Post*. Two US government sources who spoke on condition of anonymity confirmed to *Reuters* that investigators believed Jihadi John was Emwazi.

Dressed entirely in black, a balaclava covering all but his eyes and the bridge of his nose and a holster under his left arm, Jihadi John became a menacing symbol of Islamic State brutality and one of the world’s most wanted men. Hostages called him John as he and other Britons in Islamic State had been nicknamed the Bea-

ties. He was unmasked publicly for the first time on Friday by British media which published a photograph showing Emwazi as a schoolboy.

The *Daily Mail* newspaper published a picture showing Emwazi smiling and sitting cross-legged on the grass at the front of the photograph from the St Mary Magdalene Church of England primary school in Maida Vale, West London.

Emwazi was born in Kuwait but came to Britain aged 6 and graduated with a computer programming degree from the University of Westminster before coming to the attention of Britain’s main domestic intelligence service, MI5, according to an account given by Asim Qureshi, the research director of the Cage charity that campaigns for those detained on terrorism charges.

Emwazi, a fluent Arabic speaker, said MI5 had tried to recruit him and then prevented him from traveling abroad, forcing him to flee abroad without telling his family, Qureshi told a news conference in London. Emwazi travelled to Syria around 2012, Qureshi said.—*Reuters*

With sledgehammer, Islamic State smashes Iraqi history

ARBIL/BAGHDAD, 27 Feb — Ultra-radical Islamist militants in northern Iraq have destroyed a priceless collection of statues and sculptures from the ancient Assyrian era, inflicting what an archaeologist described as incalculable damage to a piece of shared human history.

A video published by Islamic State on Thursday showed men attacking the artefacts, some of them identified as antiquities from the 7th century BC, with sledgehammers and drills, saying they were symbols of idolatry.

“The Prophet ordered us to get rid of statues and relics, and his companions did the same when they conquered countries after

him,” an unidentified man said in the video.

The smashed articles appeared to come from an antiquities museum in Mosul, the northern city which was overrun by Islamic State last June, a former employee at the museum told *Reuters*.

The militants shoved stone statues off their plinths, shattering them on the floor, and one man applied an electric drill to a large winged bull. The video showed a large exhibition room strewn with dismembered statues, and Islamic songs played in the background.

Lamia al-Gailani, an Iraqi archaeologist and associate fellow at the London-based Institute

of Archaeology, said the militants had wreaked untold damage. “It’s not only Iraq’s heritage: it’s the whole world’s,” she said.

“They are priceless, unique. It’s unbelievable. I don’t want to be Iraqi any more,” she said, comparing the episode to the dynamiting of the Bamiyan Buddhas by the Afghan Taliban in 2001.

As well as Assyrian statues of winged bulls from the Mesopotamian cities of Nineveh and Nimrud, Gailani said the Islamic State hardliners appeared to have destroyed statues from Hatra, a Hellenistic-Parthian city in northern Iraq dating back around 2,000 years.

Reuters

Missing Canadian teens believed headed to fight with Islamic State

TORONTO, 27 Feb — Canadian authorities believe four young men and two women who disappeared from Quebec in January have travelled to the Middle East to fight with Islamic State, media reported on Thursday.

The *Globe and Mail* newspaper said at least four of the young people studied

at Montreal’s College de Maisonneuve as recently as last fall.

Global News said it had confirmed that the group of teens went to Turkey, an entry point for many looking to join militants in Syria, and that Canadian authorities had lost trace of them.

Asked about the

reports, Canadian Public Safety Minister Steven Blaney said on Thursday he couldn’t comment on operational matters. But he added that reports of such recruitments highlight the need for legislation the government is trying to pass to deter so-called high-risk travellers.

Reuters

Libya needs international maritime force to help stop illicit oil, weapons - UN experts

UNITED NATIONS, 27 Feb — Libyan authorities are unable to halt the illicit trade in oil or the flow of weapons in and out of the country, and they need an international maritime force to help, United Nations sanctions monitors said in a new report.

The confidential report by the UN Security Council’s Panel of Experts on Libya, first seen by *Reuters* on Thursday, will likely increase pressure on major world pow-

ers to consider intervention to stop the North African state from spinning further out of control.

“The capacity of Libya to physically prevent (arms) transfers is almost nonexistent and there is no authorization to enforce the arms embargo on the high seas or in the air as there were during the 2011 revolution,” the panel wrote in the report. The 15-nation Security Council imposed an arms embargo on Libya in 2011 to stop delivery of

weapons to the government of former leader Muammar Gaddafi during his crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrations. Under the embargo, the government can import munitions with approval of a council committee.

“The absence of universal enforcement of the embargo, the very high demand for (arms) materiel and the resources and support available to fighting parties to procure materiel indicate that continuing

large scale illicit trafficking is inevitable,” the report said. The panel urged the Security Council to form an international maritime force “to assist the Libyan government in securing its territorial waters to prevent the entry into and exit from Libya of arms ... the illicit export of crude oil and its derivatives and other natural resources.”

The Libyan Mission to the United Nations was not immediately available to comment on the report.

Reuters could not independently verify the allegations in the report.

Earlier this month, Libya and Egypt asked the United Nations Security Council to lift the arms embargo on Libya, impose a naval blockade on areas not under government control and help build Libya’s army to tackle Islamic State and other militants.

Libya has descended into factional fighting, leaving it almost lawless nearly four years after the

fall and death of Gaddafi. Two competing governments backed by militia brigades are vying for control of the oil-producing OPEC member, and UN-brokered talks between them have been unsuccessful.

The panel said that UN exemptions aimed at enabling Libyan authorities to buy munitions to establish law and order have helped militias develop considerable arsenals.—*Reuters*

Saudi ambassador moves to Aden from Houthi-controlled capital — Hadi aide

SANAA, 27 Feb — Saudi Arabia’s ambassador to Yemen is moving to the southern city of Aden, an aide to President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi said on Thursday, in an apparent snub to the Shi’ite Houthi faction that has taken control of the capital Sanaa.

The Saudi Foreign Ministry could not immediately be reached for comment. Saudi Arabia joined Western states this month in evacuating its embassy in Sanaa following a power grab by the Iranian-backed northern Houthis, viewed with suspicion by the Gulf’s mostly Sunni Muslim rulers.

Ambassador Mohammed Said al-Jaber’s move to Aden, Yemen’s economic hub, underlines Saudi Arabia’s support for Hadi, who fled to the port city last week after

the Houthis forced him to announce his resignation and held him under house arrest in Sanaa for a month.

Parliament never met to approve Hadi’s resignation, and on Saturday he said he was still president. He is now working to set up a rival power centre in Aden with loyal army units and tribes, though many members of his government, including the prime minister, Khaled Bahah, remain under house arrest in Sanaa.

“The Saudi ambassador returned to Aden yesterday together with the Gulf Cooperation Council secretary-general and began today to pursue his mission officially in Aden,” said Rajeh Badi, an aide to Hadi. He said envoys from the other Gulf Arab states would follow suit.

Reuters



Government-backed Sunni Arab tribesmen from paramilitary groups look into the area controlled by Islamic State militants in Kirkuk, north Iraq, on 26 Feb, 2015.—XINHUA

Britain's Prince William visits war cemetery, lunches with emperor

TOKYO, 27 Feb — Britain's Prince William on Friday paid a visit to the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Yokohama, southwest of Tokyo, and attended a luncheon hosted by Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko during his first Japan visit that started the previous day. The Duke of Cambridge, 32, who will stay in Japan through Sunday, laid a wreath and offered a silent prayer at the cemetery dedicated to about 1,700 Commonwealth servicemen from such countries as Britain, Canada and Australia, including those who died in Japan as prisoners of war during World War II.

The prince signed his name in the visitors' register and went through an album containing pictures of his late mother Princess Diana, who visited the cemetery during her last visit to Japan in 1995. Britain's Queen Elizabeth II, 88, and late former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher also paid their respects at the cemetery when they visited Japan.

Later in the day, the prince expressed his gratitude to the emperor and empress who welcomed

him at the Imperial Palace. He said he was glad to have an audience with them.

The Japanese imperial couple met with the prince and his wife Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, in May 2012 during their visit to Britain to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the queen's reign. The duchess is not accompanying Prince William this time as she is expecting the couple's second child. Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako later met with Prince William for some 40 minutes at their residence. In their first meeting, they discussed exchanges between the Japanese imperial and British royal families and Prince William's activities, the Imperial Household Agency said.

The Japanese crown prince and princess were invited to a wedding ceremony for Prince William and Catherine in April 2011, but refrained from attending it as the devastating earthquake and tsunami had hit northeastern Japan the previous month.

Prince William is scheduled to visit the disaster-hit region from Saturday.—Kyodo News



Britain's Prince William signs condolences at a stand, where a newspaper article about his late mother Princess Diana is placed, during his visit to the Commonwealth war graves in Yokohama, near Tokyo, on 27 Feb, 2015.—KYODO NEWS

Hong Kong woman gets six years in jail for abusing maid

HONG KONG, 27 Feb — A Hong Kong woman was sentenced to six years in prison and fined 15,000 HK dollars (about 1,932.99 US dollars) for abusing her Indonesian domestic helper at the District Court on Friday.

Earlier this month, the woman, Law Wan-tung, 44, was found guilty of 18 of 20 charges including grievous bodily harm, criminal intimidation and failure to pay wages or give time off work to her domestic worker Erwiana Sulistyarningsih. Handling down the sentence, district Court Judge Amanda Woodcock said Law's attitude and behavior were contemptible, and she had shown no compassion to her domestic helpers.

The judge said this type of conduct could be prevented if domestic helpers were not forced to

live with their employers.

The case had gained international attention about a year ago after photos of Erwiana's injuries

spread among Indonesians in Hong Kong. From those photos, her face, hands and legs covered with scabs and lacerations.—Xinhua



Erwiana Sulistyarningsih (C), a former Indonesian domestic helper, arrives to the district court in Hong Kong on 27 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS



An exhibitor demonstrates new Hytec water management systems at the 2015 BUILDEX interior design, architecture and construction trade show in Vancouver, Canada on 25 Feb, 2015. BUILDEX Vancouver is one of Canada's largest tradeshow and conferences, welcoming over 15,500 design, construction and real estate management professionals each year. —XINHUA

UN official urges Philippines to implement food security policies

MANILA, 27 Feb — The UN special rapporteur on the right to food urged the Philippine government on Friday to implement food security and nutrition policies, noting that despite the country's rise to a middle-income status in recent years, millions continue to suffer hunger and malnutrition, especially among children.

"There are severe implementation gaps in almost all policies related to the right to food with a lack of coordination among relevant agencies. I would urge the authorities to ensure the poorest of the poor are reached as a matter of priority without discrimination," Hilal Elver said in a press conference as she wrapped up her seven-day visit and assessment of the Philippine food situation. Citing latest available data, Elver said an

estimated 3.8 million households suffered involuntary hunger at least once during the last quarter of 2014, some 7.36 million children are malnourished and around 4 million children suffer from stunted growth. Aside from the lack of political will to implement existing policies and budgetary constraints, the causes also include poverty, prevailing conflict and climate change and other environmental factors. "The effects of under-nutrition are irreversible, and lack of access to adequate and nutritious

food is having a detrimental effect on future generations and must be addressed as a matter of urgency," Elver said. "Accessing adequate and nutritious food continues to be a challenge across most of the country, both in terms of under- and over-nutrition, with women and children faring worst," she added, recalling personal encounters with the urban poor in the capital Manila, the survivors of super typhoon Haiyan in Tacloban City and farmers in central Luzon.

Kyodo News

Serbia prepared for worst-case scenario with gas supplies

BELGRADE, 27 Feb — Serbian citizens have no reason for concern over gas supplies as the country has three to four months' worth of fuel supplies, Minister of Mining and Energy Aleksandar Antic said on Thursday. "Today we have all the balances established and a readiness to ensure normal supplies of all fuels to Serbian citizens, distribution systems and the economy, regardless of whether there will be any disturbances in gas transit through Ukraine," he said.

At this time, there are no an-

nouncements of reduced gas supplies, and Serbia is ready even for the worst-case scenario, which would imply a halt of supplies, the minister said.

"We have over 300 million cubic metres of gas in the Banatski Dvor underground storage facility, as well as significant quantities of mazut at heating plants, primarily at Belgrade heating plants and in commodity reserves, which total over 70,000 tons today," Antic said.

Tanjug

Two Vietnamese found guilty of stealing goats from researchers

GIFU, (Japan), 27 Feb — The Gifu District Court in central Japan on Friday gave a suspended sentence to two Vietnamese men for stealing goats kept for research purposes by a university in Gifu Prefecture.

Le The Loc, 30, and Bui Van Vy, 22, were both sentenced to two years in prison, suspended for three years, for stealing two goats be-

longing to Gifu University in Minokamo in August last year. Both men have confessed to butchering and eating the goats, according to the ruling.

Presiding Judge Tomohiko Shinomiya said that, despite their selfish motive, the defendants have shown remorse and desire to rehabilitate themselves.

Kyodo News

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Incomplete applications will not be considered.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV FORTUNE EPOCH VOY NO (EAL-09)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FORTUNE EPOCH VOY NO (EAL-09) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.2.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ECL (S'PORE) PTE LTD**
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (RSU-433)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (RSU-433) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.2.2015 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND INTERPRETER/TRANSLATOR MYANMAR — ENGLISH ASSIGNMENTS IN MYANMAR

The International Monetary Fund is seeking Myanmar-based **interpreter/translators** to work under short-term contracts for its missions to Yangon and/or Nay Pyi Taw as well as under long-term contracts for its technical assistance (TA) experts in Nay Pyi Taw. Candidates must be professional interpreters with knowledge of economic terminology, capable of interpreting **into Myanmar and English** and producing final written translations into both languages in electronic format. Assignments with TA experts may also involve office support and administrative duties.

Short-listed candidates will be interviewed and asked to take interpretation and translation tests in Yangon.

Please send your CV listing your qualifications, interpretation and translation experience, and your complete contact information **by March 20, 2015** to languagecandidates@imf.org.

Attn: Mrs. Susana Eri, Chief Interpreter
(Subject line should contain MMR-missions", "MMR-long-term projects", or both)



Invitation for Conducting Feasibility Study for Agro-Industrial Zone

Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation Ltd (MAPCO) hereby invites interested parties/organizations to submit Proposal on Conducting Feasibility Study, for the investment of Agro-Industrial Zone in Myaungmya Township, Ayeyarwady Region, utilizing about (300) acres of industrial use land. MAPCO is interested in establishing the Agro-Industrial Zone which will include agro-based value-added factories, rice processing and reprocessing, biomass power generation, animal feed production and other agro-based industries.

For the establishment of such Zone, MAPCO is seeking the Proposal on Conducting Feasibility Study from those who are well-experienced in conducting Feasibility Study for intended project. Interested parties are to submit the Proposal by (24-4-2015), addressed to MAPCO Office, No 100, Warden Port Area, on Concrete New Highway, Seikkan Township, Yangon. Enquiries can be made by email at bod@mapco-ygn.com or md@mapco-ygn.com or phone to Planning & Project Management Department, 01-2301652, 01-230 1653.



Students communicate with university representatives during the Study and Go Abroad Fair at Vancouver Convention Centre in Vancouver, Canada, on 22 Feb, 2015. The fair is the largest education expo in Canada. It showcases 122 universities from 30 countries that offer different subjects and courses for those who are looking for options in studying overseas.—XINHUA

Fukushima officials conduct on- site probe at crippled plant

Tokyo, 27 Feb — Officials from Fukushima Prefecture, including nuclear experts, conducted an on-site investigation at the crippled Fukushima Daiichi complex on Friday, following the recent revelation of another toxic water leakage into the Pacific Ocean.

The move follows Tokyo Electric Power Co's announcement on Tuesday that highly radioactive rainwater accumulating on the rooftop of a reactor building has flowed into the adjacent sea through a gutter.

TEPCO has been aware since last April that radiation levels in the gutter rise every time it rains, but did not disclose the data for 10 months.

The officials are expected to look at the gutter and around the No 2 reactor building where the contaminated rainwater was found.

Trade, Economy and Industry Minister Yoichi Miyazawa said at a press conference on Friday that the government "may have been a little bit careless" in failing to oversee TEPCO properly on this issue.

Fishermen in Fukushima met with Miyazawa the same day and called for a "radical review of measures against radioactive water," saying that "the anger among local fishery operators is immeasurable."

Kyodo News

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WEATHER REPORT

FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 28th February, 2015: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagaing Region and Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthayi Region and Chin State and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).



Lupita Nyong'o's \$150,000 Oscars dress stolen from hotel

WEST HOLLYWOOD, (California), 27 Feb — The \$150,000 (97,384 pounds) pearl-studded, custom-made Calvin Klein dress worn by Oscar-winning actress Lupita Nyong'o at this year's Academy Awards has been stolen, police said on Thursday.

The gown, embellished with 6,000 natural white pearls, was stolen from Nyong'o's room at the London Hotel in West Hollywood, during the day on Wednesday, a spokesman for the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department in West Hollywood said.

"Ms Nyong'o was not in the room at the time of the theft," Deputy John Mitchell told Reuters.

The Calvin Klein dress, custom designed by Francisco Costa, was one of the stand-outs on the red carpet at last Sunday's Oscars. Nyong'o told Reuters she had helped with the design of the one-of-a-kind gown, influenced by the ocean.

Nyong'o, 31, won a best supporting actress Oscar in 2014 for her role in "12 Years a Slave" and is closely watched for her fashion choices. She presented the award for best supporting actor at this year's Oscars ceremony.

Representatives for Calvin Klein declined to comment.—Reuters

Actress Lupita Nyong'o wears a Calvin Klein gown and Chopard diamonds as she arrives at the 87th Academy Awards in Hollywood, California on 22 Feb, 2015. REUTERS

Kendrick Lamar plays unreleased songs for Michael Jackson's son

LOS ANGELES, 27 Feb — Rapper Kendrick Lamar played out songs from his yet to be released album to King of Pop Michael Jackson's son Prince during private music session.

Prince, 18, shared on Twitter some photos of him posing with Lamar, 27, and revealed in the caption the 'Compton' rapper has treated him to a few new songs off his upcoming album, reported Aceshowbiz.

"Had the great honour of

meeting Kendrick and hearing some of his new tracks for his upcoming album with @RealO-Bee," Prince captioned.

The follow-up to Lamar's 2012 acclaimed debut album 'good kid, mAAAd city' has been in the works for a while, but it still has no official release date.

The upcoming effort is led by single "i" which recently won two Grammys for Best Rap Performance and Best Rap Song.

PTI



Rapper Kendrick Lamar

Ed Sheeran, Sam Smith win big at Brit Awards 2015



Singers Sam Smith and Ed Sheeran were the big winners at the 2015 Brit Awards, both artists taking home two gongs apiece.

PTI

LOS ANGELES, 27 Feb — Singers Sam Smith and Ed Sheeran were the big winners at the 2015 Brit Awards, both artists taking home two gongs apiece.

The 'Money on My Mind' hitmaker received the British Breakthrough Act gong as well as the Global Success Award

for his international accomplishments.

While the 'Thinking Out Loud' singer ensured his wins tied with Smith, beating him for both the prestigious MasterCard British Album of the Year award as well as British Male Solo Artist.

"This is deja vu, I was here last year. This is amazing and

(the trophies) are so beautiful," Smith said. The 22-year-old singer also praised his fellow artist, Ed Sheeran, adding, "I'm so happy that Ed Sheeran won those awards, I truly think he deserves them."

Sheeran, 24, said winning was not what he was "used to".

"I win now and then but winning isn't really a thing I'm used to. To be honest I thought Sam was going to get Album or Male, so it's nice to get both."

And he couldn't be happier to win the prestigious Album of the Year gong, after previously losing out to Adele.

"I think this is the award that every British musician who's ever been up for a BRIT would like. I was up for it before but Adele was up for it as well so that was a written off thing. I'm glad this time I won," he added.

Fans were treated to performances from some of the music industry's top artists including Royal Blood, Paloma Faith, Madonna, Taylor Swift and Kanye West.—PTI

Kelly Clarkson releases single featuring John Legend



Oscar-winning composer John Legend has collaborated with singer Kelly Clarkson on her new single 'Run Run Run'.—PTI

LOS ANGELES, 27 Feb — Oscar-winning composer John Legend has collaborated with singer Kelly Clarkson on her new single 'Run Run Run'.

Clarkson has released the song, which will be featured in her seventh studio album 'Piece by Piece', reported Aceshowbiz.

The single is a cover

of Swedish pop band Tokio Hotel. Prior to the duet, Clarkson has previously worked together with Legend. They were judges on the short-lived ABC competition show 'Duets' in 2012.

'Piece by Piece' has been slated for 3 March release via RCA Records.

PTI

My admiration for Beyonce is beyond normal: Taylor Swift



Beyonce & Taylor Swift

LOS ANGELES, 27 Feb — Singer Taylor Swift admits she loves R&B star Beyonce beyond the 'normal amount' and tries hard to not let it become creepy.

Swift, 25, talked about her love for the 'Drunk In Love' hitmaker in a recent pre-Brit Awards interview, reported People magazine.

"It's normal for everyone to love Beyonce. I love her more than that amount. More than the normal amount. I try really hard not to let it get creepy. I channel it into a joyous admiration and appreciation," she said.—PTI

GENERAL

U Nyunt Tin (Taikkyi) (79)

Resident Correspondent (Fiji TV)

U Nyunt Tin, son of U Pan (deceased) and Daw Mya (deceased) of resident of No. 133, 8th Street, 3rd Ward, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon, beloved husband of Daw Eih Eih Win (deceased) (Eih Shwezin Teashop), beloved father of U Tin Maung Win - Daw Win Win Aye and Daw Eih Eih Tin (Foreign Correspondent, Fuji TV) - U Zaw Moe Tun, and beloved grandfather of Maung Pyit Moe @ Princeton, passed away on February 26, 2015 (Thursday). His remains will be cremated at Yeway Cemetery at 5 pm on February 28, 2015 (Saturday).

(Buses will leave the above residence at 3: 30pm)

Australian researchers invent world's first self-landing drone

SYDNEY, 27 Feb — Australian scientists have developed the world's first automatic landing system for unmanned drones.

The Queensland University's Australian Research Center for Aerospace Automation (ARCAA) made the breakthrough which will allow the drones and other automatic planes weighing less than 20 kilograms to map terrain to identify emergency landing spots and then land on their own.

ARCAA director Duncan Campbell said it will help the planned operation of unmanned aircraft in disaster recovery efforts.—Xinhua

mitv Myanmar International

(28-2-2015 07:00 am~ 1-3-2015 07:00 am) MST

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News • Great Shwedagon "Charitable Associations" • News • Myanmar Traditional Festival • News • PET FISH BIZ • Size Does Matter (Human-Elephant Conflict, "Habitat Loss") • News • Innovative Handiworks Based on The Art of Line Drawing • Shin Ma Taung Thanakhar • News • Food Trip (EP-2) • News • Myanmar National Poet And Literary Icon; | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prolific Writer of Poems & Prose - Min Thu Wun (Ep-1) • Myanmar Masterclass: Impressionism • News • My Tour Around Hopone City • MraukU, Treasure Trove of Rakhine Culture • News • Writer • Dawei -Tavoy , Travel To The Southern Part of Myanmar • News • Traditional Matrimony of Ra Wan Nationals • Shwe Maw Daw : The Glory of Bago City • News • Myanma Pottery |
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Chelsea sign huge shirt deal with Japanese firm

LONDON, 27 Feb — Premier League leaders and Capital One Cup finalists Chelsea agreed "one of the biggest shirt sponsorships ever signed" with the Yokohama Rubber Company on Thursday.

Financial details were undisclosed but media reports said the deal was worth almost 40 million pounds (\$61.64 million) a year.

The tyre manufacturer will have its name on the front of Chelsea's shirts for five years starting next season. The agreement brings to an end the Stamford Bridge club's 10-year partnership with Samsung Electronics.

"We believe Yokohama will play a key role in helping us drive our global expansion in international markets such



Chelsea (L) and Liverpool line up before their English League Cup semi-final second leg soccer match at Stamford Bridge in London in this file photo taken on 27 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

as the US where they have operated with distinction for many years," club chairman Bruce Buck said in a news release.

"Also, of course, Chelsea having such an esteemed and historic Japanese company as our partner enables us to accelerate our develop-

ment in their home market too." Yokohama Rubber chief executive Tadanobu Nagumo flew in from Japan to appear in a photo-shoot with Buck, captain John Terry and manager Jose Mourinho on Thursday.

"This shirt partnership will give Yokohama an op-

portunity to showcase our company to a huge worldwide audience thanks to Chelsea's ever-growing popularity," said Nagumo.

"We see our partnership as an integral part of our global expansion plans."

According to the news release Chelsea were the most-watched Premier League team on worldwide television last season with more than 31,000 broadcast hours.

The London club are chasing silverware on three fronts this season.

They are five points clear at the top of the Premier League, meet Tottenham Hotspur in the Capital One (League) Cup final at Wembley on Sunday and host Paris St Germain in a Champions League last 16 return match next month having drawn the first leg 1-1 in France. — Reuters

Liverpool in shootout misery, holders Sevilla win

Besiktas players celebrate after victory in the penalty shootout during UEFA Europa League Second Round Second Leg, Istanbul, Turkey on 26 Feb, 2015. REUTERS

LONDON, 27 Feb — Liverpool's Europa League campaign ended at the scene of one of their greatest European triumphs as they lost 5-4 on penalties to Besiktas in the Ataturk Stadium on Thursday on a woeful night for British clubs.

Brendan Rodgers's side were the highest profile casualties of the last 32, where holders Sevilla came through a testing

encounter at Borussia Mönchengladbach, winning 3-2 on the night and 4-2 on aggregate.

But in a sign that Italian teams may not be the dying force in Europe they are sometimes made out to be, AS Roma were joined in the last 16 by compatriots Inter Milan, Fiorentina, Torino and Napoli.

Roma overcame crowd trouble and the temporary suspension of their match in

Feyenoord to win 2-1 in a fiery atmosphere in Rotterdam and clinch a 3-2 success over the two legs.

The only British representatives in the last 16, however, will be Everton, who saw off Young Boys 7-2 on aggregate, after Premier League Tottenham Hotspur were beaten 2-0 at Fiorentina and Celtic had their hopes ended in a 1-0 defeat by Inter.

Turkish side Besiktas won their clash with Liverpool after Dejan Lovren missed the decisive penalty after the match ended 1-1 on aggregate following Besiktas's 1-0 win on the night.

Croatia centre back Lovren blasted his effort high and wide to spark wild celebrations at the ground where Liverpool beat AC Milan on penalties 10 years ago to clinch a fifth European Cup.

The Merseysiders were playing at the Ataturk Stadium for the second time since their stunning 2005

comeback victory against Milan but, with club captain Steven Gerrard injured, had no surviving members of that side on the field against Besiktas.

They picked an attacking lineup but were second best most of the night and Tolgay Arslan's crisp, curling effort after 72 minutes from the edge of the area levelled the aggregate score and took the game into extra time and eventually penalties.

The first nine of both team's spot kicks found their target, but Lovren stepped up, leant back and sent his effort high over the bar sparking raucous home celebrations.

The statuesque Croat was perhaps an odd choice to take a penalty, but boss Rodgers defended the decision. "We were happy with the penalty takers and Dejan was confident. We're obviously disappointed for him, because I felt in the game he played very well."—Reuters

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(28-2-2015, Saturday)

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|---|---|
| 6:00 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mono Classical Songs 6:20 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teleplay 7:20 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myanmar Series 7:35 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teleplay | 8:50 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dramatics Arts 10:10 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myanmar Video 3:45 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (2015) 4th National Sports Games (Man) Football Live Broadcast (Mandalay Region Vs Kayin State) |
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MRTV News Channel in Brief

(28-2-2015, Saturday)

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| 6:00 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw 6:45 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentary 7:00 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News/ Weather Report 7:35 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Sports Games 8:35 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Documentary 9:00 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News/ International News 9:35 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRTV's Youth Programme 10:35 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Science and Technology Programme 11:35 am <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Game for Children 12:00 noon <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News / International News / Weather Report 12:35 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hluttaw Image 1:00 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round up of The Week's TV News | 2:20 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Round up of The Week's Hluttaw News 3:00 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News 3:45 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (2015) 4th National Sports Games (Man) Football Live Broadcast (Mandalay Region Vs Kayin State) 6:00 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015 Closing Ceremony of Fourth National Sports Games (Live) 7:00 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News / Weather Report 7:35 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business News 8:00 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News / International News / Weather Report 9:00 pm <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • News • National Sports Games • Cultural Show (Part-6) • Gitadagale Phwintbarohn |
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Nay Pyi Taw Council Area women's team champions in football tourney



Union Ministers poses for documentary photo with prize winning football teams.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 27 Feb—Lt-Gen Sein Win and Lt-Gen Thein Htay of the Ministry of Defence together with officials enjoyed sports matches in Myanmar martial arts event, Karatedo, volleyball and boxing events in the 4th Myanmar Sports Festival on Friday.

They awarded winners in the sports events.

Po La Pyae of Yangon Region secured the first prize in men's 45-50 kilos martial art event, Naw Phaw Law El of Kayin State, first in women's 45-49 kilos event, Tin Aung Win of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area in men's 50-55 kilos event, and Wai



Wai Lwin of Taninthayi Region in women's 45-50 kilo Bando attack event.

Union Ministers U Thein Nyunt and U Tint

Hsan watched the final match between Nay Pyi Taw Council Area and Yangon Region in the women's football event at Wunna

Theikdi Stadium. Nay Pyi Taw Council Area emerged champion with a 5-4 victory over Yangon Region in the final.

Medal tally in 4 th National Sports Festival 2015 on 27-2-2015				
State/Region	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
Yangon	86	60	47	193
Mandalay	49	53	65	167
Bago	28	29	36	93
Magway	20	14	18	52
Ayeyawady	18	19	43	80
Nay Pyi Taw	18	9	23	50
Kayah	15	14	17	46
Kayin	15	7	8	30
Mon	13	28	35	76
Shan	13	14	33	60
Rakhine	12	21	32	65
Sagaing	9	18	24	51
Taninthayi	9	17	38	64
Kachin	9	14	16	39
Chin	4	2	2	8

Union Minister U Thein Nyunt presented first prize to Nay Pyi Taw Council Area women's football team.

On Friday, athletes participated in basketball, Futsal, weightlifting and Sepak Takraw events

MNA

Murray woes deepen after Dubai defeat by teenager

DUBAI, 27 Feb —Andy Murray's February torment deepened on Thursday when he lost 6-1, 6-3 to 18-year-old Croatian tyro Borna Coric in the quarter-finals of the Dubai Championships.

This month the world number three has lost the Australian Open final against Novak Djokovic and then failed to live up to his top seed billing in Rotterdam as he fell by the wayside in the quarter-finals.

Murray arrived in Dubai temporarily shorn of his coach Amelie Mauresmo before struggling to find practice partners. The lack of preparation may have led to his downfall at the Aviation Club on Thursday.

"I made way too many mistakes from the beginning of the match right through to the end; early in rallies, (I was) rushing points," the Briton told reporters.

porters.

"(It was) quite similar to the match I played against (Gilles) Simon in Rotterdam which is disappointing."

Top seed Djokovic steamed into the last four with a 6-1, 6-1 win over Marsel Ilhan of Turkey and Roger Federer eased through when Richard Gasquet retired after losing the first set 6-1 but Murray was completely outplayed.

The Scot lost three successive service games to concede the first set 6-1.

Coric, who made the main draw as a lucky loser, broke for a decisive 4-2 lead in the second set before serving out for the match.

"He doesn't have any weak spots that you can actually say I need to play on his backhand or on his forehand," said Coric.

"I was just trying to stay in the rally as long as

I can. I was running very good."

Murray failed to earn a single break point against Coric, the Croat winning

88 and 84 percent of points on his first and second serves respectively, while the Zagreb native also broke four times.

The Scot won only five points on Coric's serve in the entire match.

The Croat, who last year became the young-

est player to crack the top 100 since Rafa Nadal burst through in 2003, had failed to get past the second round in any of his five previous tournaments this year.

But the 84th-ranked player will be eager to build on his victory over Murray when he faces 17-times grand slam winner Federer in Friday's semi-finals.

Second seed Federer is chasing an unprecedented seventh Dubai title and moved into the last four when Frenchman Gasquet had to pull out with lower back pain having lost the first set.

On the other side of the draw, Djokovic swept aside world number 104 Ilhan in 49 minutes for the loss of two games.

Djokovic next faces Czech Tomas Berdych who beat Ukraine's Sergiy Stakhovsky 6-3, 4-6, 6-2.

Reuters



Andy Murray of Britain returns the ball to Joao Sousa of Portugal during their match at the ATP Championships tennis tournament in Dubai on 25 Feb, 2015.—REUTERS