

745 land grabbing cases happened in 5 decades as successive governments implemented projects in interests of country and people in accordance with rules, regulations

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb — A Hluttaw representative has urged the government to ensure transparency in dealing with land grabbing issues by administrative bodies so that farmers can grow crops on rain-fed field by June, 2014, and can grow winter crops by September, 2014, at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 20 February.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun clarified the implementing

the report section 1, 2 and 3 of the investigation commission, saying that Ministry of Defence had received only 565 cases related to battalions and regiments and not received 2,192 cases presented by Hluttaw representatives.

To be able to settle the land grabbing issues, President Office has given guidelines to Ministry of Defence not to ask tenant farmers to grow crops on land grabbed by battalions

and regiments, to manage the minimum area required for the security and training groups, to use the land that is actually required for the battalions and regiments and to give back the remaining land to farmers, he added.

To be able to speedily and effectively settle the land grabbing issues, the central committee for managing the land utilization led by Vice-President U Nyan Tun was formed on 16 September, 2013.

According to the section 1, 2 and 3 of the investigation commission formed by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, there are a total of 745 cases of land grabbing issues, comprising 512,204,701 acres.

All 745 cases were happened in 5 decades as the successive governments implemented projects in the interests of the country and the people in accordance with the rules and regulations.

(See page 8)

¥ 1716 million for physical development of health, road, bridge in Myanmar



NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Daw Lei Lei Thein and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Mikio Numata signed the two agreements at the Ministry here on 20 February.

These two agreements will grant Japan's aid ¥ 978 million for betterment of medical equipment at general hospitals in Yangon and ¥ 738 million for machinery installation to construct and maintain roads and bridges in Rakhine State.—MNA

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Hydropower project to turn Muse into modernity

By L. Soe (IPRD)

While Myanmar has been opening up together with the introduction of sweeping reforms since 2011, urbanization initiated by the government spreads across the country.

Among regional development endeavors, I would like to present a government-initiated urbanization program, turning Muse, north-east door of the country, into modernity. Muse once a small town of Shan State (North). As time went by, Muse was transformed from an ordinary town into a busy one, serving as a border town allowing inflow of commodities from

the neighbouring country since a decade ago.

As electricity is key to realization of a special economic zone in Muse, Great Haw Kham Public Co., Ltd is implementing a hydropower project damming Muse's Namtpaw creek. Upon completion of the project located at a place, five-mile from Muse, the hydropower plant will run through BOT system. Director U Sai Ohn Myint of the company said at a press meet in Hsin Shweli Hall on 14 February that the generating capacity of the dam will be 15 megawatts. It is set to complete planning, design, EIA and SIA of the K 27.12 billion



project within a year after an MoU was signed and the whole project within 30 months after signing an MoA with Shan State government, he added.

Muse currently con-

sumes about 10 megawatts of electricity. As the plant will contribute 15 megawatts to Muse, modernization plan of Muse will benefit from it.

With an increase in

electricity supply, a plan to modernize Muse will take good shape, thereby contributing towards more job opportunities and better socio-economic development in the region. Moreover,

the dam will benefit farmlands in nearby villages, supplying water all year round for agriculture purpose.

Kyemon: 18-2-2014

Trs: YM

LOCAL NEWS

Socio-economy enhanced in rural areas of Yebyu Township

YEBYU, 20 Feb—Taninthayi Region Government is giving priority to regional development tasks for local roads and markets spending its fund in Yebyu Township of Dawei District in Taninthayi Region. Executive Officer U Naing Htwe of Township Development Affairs Committee supervises upgrading of local roads.

The 1340 feet long hospital road was repaved with asphalt in Ward B of the township and it cost K 17.55 million.

The committee spent K 10 million on repaving 700 feet long Thanda Street.

The committee rebuilt the old strand road market in Ward A and it cost K 21.5 million. In addition, 960 feet long Kanyingauk Road was repaved with contribution of K 12.53 million in Ward A of the town.

The pavement of the hospital road, 1650 feet long, was spent K 16 million.

All the projects cost K 76.58 million.

MMAL-Yebyu IPRD



Rural libraries for the People

MAGWAY, 20 Feb—Self-reliant village libraries have been put into services one after another with the aim of broadening horizon of the rural people and raising reading habit in Magway Region.

The self-reliant libraries were established with low-cost materials so these buildings were damaged and came deterioration in a few years.

According to the statistics in 2013, there remain 672 libraries of

4752 meeting set standards of library in Magway Region.

To be durability, the Union government provided K 1 million to each village libraries.

Spending the fund donated by wellwishers, 101 more libraries have been built in Magway Region.

The cash assistance K 10.1 million provided by the Union government and K 142,689,265 contributed by the people were spent

on construction of 101 libraries. These facilities were constructed with corrugated iron sheets, brick nogging and concrete floor.

Myanmar Libraries Foundation also provided K 6 million for durability of village libraries in Magway Region.

In addition, ten libraries were set up with the fund of the people.

Wellwishers donated furniture and publications to the libraries where these

facilities were completed. MLF presented books to the libraries free of charge.

A local people of Thayettaw Village in Pwintbyu Township expressed his delight that it is sure development of knowledge thanks to village libraries built of concrete.

Nowadays, the rural libraries will be a drive for development of socio-economy of the local people.

MMAL-Tin Tun Oo (IPRD)

600 plots to shoppers.

Priority will be given to those who sold goods at the Pujaniya for the allotment of shops.

The festival will display various kinds of shops including photo gellery, decoration for farming cattle, personal goods and households products and domestic

foodstuff. This year, a plan is underway to hold the Pujaniya.

KoMyo(ShwePaukkan)

Buddha Pujaniya to be held at Lawka Marazein Pagoda in Pyinmana Township

PYINMANA, 20 Feb—Lawka Marazein Pagoda Board of Trustees will hold the Buddha Pujaniya from 8 to 22 March.

In previous years, the Buddha Pujaniya of the

pagoda was crowded with people from Pyinmana, Tatkon and Lewe townships.

The pagoda board of trustees has arranged sales of shopkeepers to allot over

SALOON CAR

PLUNGED INTO LAKE:

A Sunny Super

Saloon plunged

into Nadi Lake near

Shweyanbyay Village

beside Nyaungshwe-

Shwenyaung Road

in Shan State on 18

February.

MMAL-673



Licences issued to bikers for motorcycles in Kawkareik

KAWKAREIK, 20 Feb—The licences for motorcycle are being issued at the town hall of Kawkareik of Kayin State as of 17 February. The Directorate of Road Administration, the Customs Department, Myanma Economic Bank and Township Development Department jointly undertake issuance of licences for the motorcycles through one stop services at the single place.

A total of 20 motorcycles took out the licences on 17 February and 10 motorbikes on 18 February.

A motorbike owners remarked that the charge for licence is higher than that of actually purchase of the motorcycles but charge of customs and commercial tax, said an owner of the motorcycle, said a motorcycle owner.

Issuance of the licences for motorcycles will be issued for the local people during 90 days period.—MMAL-Tin Win Hlaing (Kawkareik)

Injury in querrel

WUNDWIN, 20 Feb—U Maung Pu and his neighbouring Zaw Lin caused quarrel concerning cutting of a lead tree in Nyaungbinhla Village of Wundwin Township on 18 February.

Zaw Lin entered the residence of U Maung Pu and beat the latter with the use of 10 feet long bamboo stick. U Maung Pu fell on the ground due to injuries at his head. While Daw Win lifted his husband, Maung Win hit the woman with the use of bamboo stick, so Daw Win was injuries at her head and neck. U Maung Pu passed away with injuries. Shwedaung Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against Zaw Lin, 29, under the law.—NLM-018

Wallet snatched

MEIKTILA, 20 Feb—Senior Auditor Daw Hla Hla Kyi of Meiktila Township Accounts Office together with her son drove a motorcycle on 17 February evening.

On arrival at the back of Central Institute of Transport and Communications, two men driving a motorcycle caught up them.

The men snatched a wallet from Daw Hla Hla Kyi and son.

The wallet comprised one Hwawai mobile phone worth K 100,000, one gold ear plug worth over K 100,000, K 50000 and ID.

Meiktila Police Station opened a file of lawsuit over the snatch case.—NLM-018

WORLD

Abe to express Japan's anti-nuclear resolve at Hague summit

TOKYO, 20 Feb — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is set to announce Japan's policy of increasing its commitment to addressing nuclear proliferation and terrorism in cooperation with other countries when he attends an international conference next month, government sources said on Thursday.

Abe will also express his concern about North Korea's nuclear development programme while seeking understanding from other participants toward Tokyo's intention to proactively contribute to global peace and stability at the Nuclear Security

Summit scheduled for 24-25 March in The Hague, the Netherlands, the sources said.

The government has yet to announce Abe's attendance at the summit, having yet to finalize the schedule given the need for him to attend Diet sessions.

But the sources said Abe strongly hopes he will participate in the meeting as the representative of Japan, the only country to have come under nuclear attack. US President Barack Obama and Chinese President Xi Jinping are also expected to attend the conference.

Kyodo News



Visiting US Rep Diana DeGette (L) shakes hands with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at the prime minister's office in Tokyo on 19 Feb, 2014, prior to talks with the premier. DeGette, a Democrat from Colorado, co-chairs the US Congressional Study Group on Japan.

KYODO NEWS

Ukraine clashes kill 21 more, EU talks shifted

KIEV, 20 Feb—At least 21 civilians were killed in fresh fighting in Kiev on Thursday, shattering an overnight truce declared by Ukrainian President Viktor Yanukovich, and a presidential statement said dozens of police were also dead or wounded.

Activists hurling petrol bombs and paving stones drove riot police off a corner of the central Independence Square, known as the Maidan, and appeared to capture several uniformed officers. Police responded with stun grenades.

The clashes erupted shortly before three visiting European foreign ministers were due to meet the Russian-backed Yanukovich to push for a compromise with his pro-European opponents. The meeting was delayed for security reasons but began an hour late.

A Reuters photographer counted 21 bodies in civilian clothes in three places on the square, a few hundred meters (yards) from the presidency. That raised the death toll since



A man walks at the site of clashes between anti-government protesters with Interior Ministry and riot police in Kiev, on 19 Feb, 2014. —REUTERS

Tuesday to at least 43, by far the bloodiest hours of Ukraine's 22-year post-Soviet history.

A statement from Yanukovich's office said: "They (the protesters) went on to the offensive. They are working in organized groups. They are using firearms, including sniper rifles. They are shooting to kill."

"The number of dead and injured among police officers is dozens," the statement on the presidential website said.

Shortly after 9 a.m.

(0700 GMT), the protesters advanced to a line closer to Yanukovich's office and parliament.

Television showed activists in combat fatigues leading several captured, uniformed policemen across the square.

Both sides have accused the other of using live ammunition.

The foreign ministers of Germany, France and Poland were expected to present Yanukovich with a mixture of sanctions and enticements to make a deal with his opponents that

could end the bloodshed.

"Black smoke, denotations and gunfire around presidential palace ... Officials panicky," tweeted Polish minister Radoslaw Sikorski to explain the delay in the meeting.

Pro-EU activists have been keeping vigil in the square since the president turned his back on a trade pact with the bloc in November and accepted financial aid from Moscow.

Russia, which has been holding back a new loan installment until it sees stability in Kiev, has condemned EU and U.S. support of the opposition demands that Yanukovich, elected in 2010, should share power and hold new elections.

In an apparent criticism of Yanukovich's handling of the crisis, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said on Thursday that Moscow could only cooperate fully with Ukraine when its leadership was in "good shape", Interfax reported.

Reuters

Thai protesters take to Facebook to target businesses linked to PM

BANGKOK, 20 Feb—Protesters campaigning to oust Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra turned to Facebook and other social media to attack businesses linked to her family on Thursday and rallied outside the offices of a property developer whose share price tumbled.

Yingluck's government appears increasingly hemmed in by opponents and the judicial system, lacking the fiscal powers to fund key policies and warned by a court on Wednesday that it cannot use a state of emergency to disperse protesters.

Four protesters and a police officer were killed on Tuesday, in the deadliest clashes since the unrest began in November, when police attempted to reclaim sites near government buildings that have been occupied for weeks. About 500 protesters gathered outside the Bangkok offices of SC Asset Corp, a property developer controlled by the Shinawatra family, waving Thai flags and blowing whistles.

"We will hamper all Shinawatra businesses," protest leader Suthep Thaugsuban told supporters at a rally on Wednesday night. "If you love your country, stop using Shinawatra products and do everything you can so that their business fails."

Yingluck was executive chairwoman of the company before being swept to power in a landslide election victory in 2011.

Shares in SC Asset fell 4.3 percent on Thursday, following a similar fall the previous day. Shares in M-Link Asia Corp, a mobile handset distributor with links to the Shinawatras, have also lost almost 10 percent over the past two days.

Anusorn Iamsa-ard, deputy spokesman for Yingluck's Puea Thai Party, said the building the protesters targeted had nothing to do with her.—Reuters

Gunmen kill 47 in northeastern Nigeria

ABUJA, 20 Feb —Gunmen attacked the Nigerian northeastern town of Bama early Wednesday, killing 47 people, police confirmed. Police Commissioner for Borno state Lawan Tanko said Wednesday night that some buildings were razed by the attackers, suspected members of the Boko Haram Islamist group.

Officials and witnesses said the gunmen invaded the town at about 4.00 am (0300 GMT), opened fire on a school and partly burned down the palace of a traditional ruler of Borno, whose kingdom was one of the oldest medieval Islamic caliphates in West Africa.

Xinhua



Used items are displayed at Jembatan Item flea market in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 19 Feb, 2014. Jembatan Item is one of the largest flea markets in Jakarta. XINHUA

Cambodia, Malaysia vow to further enhance ties, cooperation

PHNOM PENH, 20 Feb — Cambodia and Malaysia pledged on Thursday to further promote ties and cooperation in trade, investment, tourism and education for the benefits of the two countries and peoples. The commitment came after a meeting between Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and visiting Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin at the Peace Palace in Phnom Penh, the capital of Cambodia.

Muhyiddin, who is also education minister, said it was his first visit to Cambodia to further expand bilateral relations and cooperation in economics, trade, investment, tourism and education.

He promised to encourage more Malaysian investors to Cambodia for the fields of agriculture, rubber plantation, infrastructure development and energy.

For his part, Hun Sen said it was vital to further deepen bilateral ties and cooperation for mutual benefits, saying that Cambodia wanted to see more Malaysian investors and called for them to consider investing in the rice sector since Cambodia has about 3.5 million tons of milled rice left over for exports this year.

Malaysia is the third largest investor in Cambodia with the cumulative investment of around 2.62 billion US dollars in banking, finance, tourism, and information technology, according to the Council for the Development of Cambodia.—Xinhua



Canada's Prime Minister Stephen Harper (L), Mexico's President Enrique Peña Nieto (C) and US President Barack Obama wave before the official photograph during the 7th North American Leaders Summit in Toluca, Mexico, on 19 Feb, 2014. During the one-day summit, leaders of the United States, Canada and Mexico are expected to focus on how to revitalize the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), which was signed by the three countries and came into force on 1 Jan, 1994.—XINHUA

World powers and Iran make “good start” towards nuclear accord

VIENNA, 20 Feb — Six world powers and Iran made a “good start” during talks in Vienna towards reaching a final settlement on Teheran's contested nuclear programme, the European Union's foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton on Thursday. Speaking to reporters after three days of negotiations, Ashton said the two sides had identified the ingredients of an accord that could put an end to years of hostility between the West and the oil producing nation.

But she cautioned that future negotiations, which western governments want to wrap up by late July, would not be easy.

“We have had three very productive days during which we have identified all of the issues we need to address in reaching a comprehensive and final agreement,” she told reporters.



A cameraman films outside Palais Coburg hotel where nuclear talks are taking place in Vienna on 19 Feb, 2014.—REUTERS

“There is a lot to do. It won't be easy but we have made a good start.”

Senior diplomats from the six powers — the United States, Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany — as well as Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Ashton agreed to meet again on 17 March, also in the Austrian capital.

Although modest in scope, the agreement on an

agenda for talks indicates an early step forward in the elusive search for a settlement in the nuclear dispute, which carries the risk of enveloping the Middle East in a new war. The sides remain far apart on how to resolve the dispute and both Iran and the United States, a key player in the talks, have publicly stated it may not be possible to reach a final agreement.

A senior US State De-

partment official said of Wednesday's second day of talks: “Today's discussions, which covered both process and substance, were constructive and useful.”

The six powers want a long-term deal on the permissible scope of Iran's nuclear work to lay to rest concerns that they could be put to developing atomic bombs. Teheran's priority is a complete removal of damaging economic sanctions against it. The powers have yet to spell out their precise demands of Iran. But Western officials have signaled they want Teheran to cap enrichment of uranium at a low fissile concentration, limit research and development of new nuclear equipment, decommission a substantial portion of its centrifuges used to refine uranium, and allow more intrusive UN nuclear inspections.—Reuters

Italy's Renzi faces obstacles in forming new gov't

ROME, 20 Feb — Matteo Renzi's efforts to gauge support in parliament before forming a new Italian government ran into its first major obstacles on Wednesday in a meeting with comic-turned-activist Beppe Grillo.

The cool-headed Renzi deftly handled a power struggle against ex-Prime Minister Enrico Letta and negotiations with President Giorgio Napolitano, who asked Renzi to form a government to succeed Letta's.

But he appeared to lose his cool after meeting with Grillo on Wednesday, saying the leader of a large anti-government bloc in parliament should be “embarrassed” by the way he conducted himself during the talks. “I saw the embarrassed faces of his followers,” Renzi said. “Grillo wouldn't dialogue even after his supporters urged him to.”

Grillo, a long-time government critic, raised eyebrows by becoming a major political player over the last two years. His movement won more than a fourth of the vote in parliamentary elections on 24-25 February last year, and he refused to discuss an alliance with any other bloc — sparking a two-month-old stalemate that ended last April when Napolitano asked Letta to form a government.

But without support from a large enough unified bloc, the Letta government struggled to pass reforms until Letta was forced to step down last Friday.

Xinhua



“Maiko” apprentice geisha pose for photos in Kyoto on 19 Feb, 2014, during a kimono fitting session for the “Kyo Odori” dance performance. The annual event will be held in Kyoto from 5 to 20 April. KYODO NEWS

100 tons of toxic water leaked at Fukushima plant, no flow to sea

TOKYO, 20 Feb — Roughly 100 tons of highly radioactive water leaked from one of the tanks at the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear complex, plant operator Tokyo Electric Power Co said on Thursday.

Steps have been taken to stop the leakage of the water, which contains 230 million becquerels per liter of strontium and other beta ray-emitting radioactive substances. The utility

believes the liquid has not flowed into the adjacent sea as there is no drainage nearby.

According to TEPCO, a worker on patrol noticed water spilling from the tank's lid at 11:25 pm on Wednesday. The water, by passing through a rainwater pipe, escaped outside a barrier intended to block water from spreading outside when tanks leak.

A TEPCO official said the company suspects that

radioactive water was mistakenly directed to the tank because valves that should have been closed were open, causing the container to overflow.

One of the valves appeared to have been closed, but may have malfunctioned, while two other valves had been open.

After closing the two valves, TEPCO said it confirmed the leak stopped at 5:40 am.

Kyodo News

WORLD

Japan introduces anti-terror, disaster equipment to ASEAN

NAHA, (Japan), 20 Feb — The Japanese government on Wednesday showed senior defence officials from ASEAN countries gathering for a conference in Okinawa 10 items used to combat natural disasters and terrorism. Japan exhibited

defence equipment for the first time for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, as the government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe plans to further ease restrictions on the country's arms exports. All of the items, shown at the Air Self-Defence Force's base in Naha,

can be exported if they are used for the purpose of humanitarian assistance.

Among them are a ball-shaped surveillance robot that can capture images inside when it is thrown into a destroyed house and a permeation apparatus that can detect

human movement inside walls. At the exhibition, ASEAN officials asked questions such as what companies are involved in the development of those items and how many hours they can operate for.

"We hope ASEAN countries will be interest-

ed in Japan's cutting-edge technology and that this opportunity will lead to joint development and exports in the future," said a senior official of Japan's Defence Ministry.

On Tuesday, Japan and ASEAN countries agreed at the Okinawa meeting

to expand cooperation in antiterrorism and joint development of equipment to cope with natural disasters.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Kyodo News

Snow shoveling volunteers working in snow-plagued Yamanashi

KOFU, (Japan), 20 Feb — With a record snowfall having blanketed Yamanashi Prefecture last week, volunteers have been stepping in to shovel snow for elderly residents unable to carry out the work themselves. In the prefectural capital of Kofu, which logged a record 114 centimetres of snow, the municipal social welfare council on Wednesday dispatched a total of 25 snow shoveling volunteers including those from other prefectures such as Niigata and Fukushima.

Among them were two local senior high school students who shoveled knee-deep snow along with an official from the council to make a path to the home of a 79-year-old woman. "It helped me a lot," said the woman who lives alone. "I would like to help persons in difficulty," said one of the two students while smiling.

On Thursday, a total of 11 municipal social security councils in the prefecture are inviting snow shoveling volunteers and two more are considering doing so. Volunteers are required to secure their food and lodgings on their own, carry shovels with them and make telephone inquiries to the councils beforehand.

Kyodo News



Chinese President Xi Jinping (L) holds a welcoming ceremony for visiting Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussain prior to their talks at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing, capital of China, on 19 Feb, 2014. —XINHUA

China, Pakistan vow to build "community of shared destiny"

BEIJING, 20 Feb — Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks with his Pakistani counterpart Mamnoon Hussain on Wednesday and the two leaders pledged to forge a China-Pakistan "community of shared destiny".

"China and Pakistan are good friends, good partners, good neighbours and good brothers," Xi said during the talks at the Great Hall of the People. The Chinese side will treat the China-Pakistan ties, as always, from a strategic and long-term perspective, and the ties will be a priority in China's relations with its neighbours, he said.

Hailing the all-weather, time-tested friendship between the two countries, Hussain said to further cement the friendship serves as "the cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy". Support for the unique relationship resonates across Pakistan at all levels including the government, political parties and the people, said the Pakistani president.

Pakistan is willing to build a community of shared destiny with China, said the visiting president. He arrived in Beijing on Tuesday for a four-day state visit at Xi's invitation. Hussain said the

Pakistani side is appreciative of China's strategic vision and believes China is an important power to promote peace and development in the world as well as in the region. It is Hussain's first official foreign trip since taking office in September. Before their talks, Xi held a red-carpet ceremony to welcome Hussain at the hall in downtown Beijing.

China's top legislator Zhang Dejiang met with Hussain earlier on Wednesday and Premier Li Keqiang is scheduled to meet with the visiting president on Thursday. During

Wednesday's talks, the two presidents agreed to enhance the strategic and cooperative partnership between the two countries, featuring a more solid political foundation, closer economic links, deepened security cooperation and more fluent cultural and people-to-people exchanges.

"China would stand firmly behind Pakistan's efforts to uphold its sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and Pakistan would be opposed to any force that attempts to undermine China's sovereignty," according to a news release after the talks.—Xinhua

Pakistan bombs militant hideouts in tribal area after talks collapse

ISLAMABAD, 20 Feb — Pakistani fighter jets bombed suspected militant hideouts in a tribal area on the Afghan border on Thursday, killing at least 15 people, security officials said, after attempts to engage insurgents in peace negotiations collapsed this week.

"We received information about militant hideouts and based on our intelligence, precision strikes were carried out around midnight in the Mir Ali area," an intelligence official told *Reuters*. "Fifteen militants were killed in the bombing. —Reuters

More Americans now view Afghanistan war as mistake

WASHINGTON, 20 Feb — For the first time since the United States became militarily involved in Afghanistan in 2001, the US public opinion about the war is now more negative than positive, showed a Gallup poll released on Wednesday.

Americans' views are now split down the middle, with 49 percent saying the involvement there was a mistake and 48 percent saying it was not, according to Gallup's 6-9 February. World Affairs survey.

Gallup first asked Americans about US intervention in Afghanistan in November 2001, just after the US sent its military into that country after the 11 September error attacks on Washington DC and New York that killed nearly 3,000 people. The US invaded Afghanistan to punish the Taliban for harboring al-Qaeda terrorists responsible for the attacks.

Xinhua

With no winner since Christmas, US Powerball lottery hits \$400 million

NEW YORK, 20 Feb — Powerball ticket holders on Wednesday frantically checked their stubs to see whether they had hit the \$400 million jackpot in the US lottery that hasn't had a top prize winner since Christmas.

The prize is the sixth-largest in US history, and the fourth-largest for Powerball, according to a spokesperson for the Multi-State Lottery As-

sociation, which runs the game.

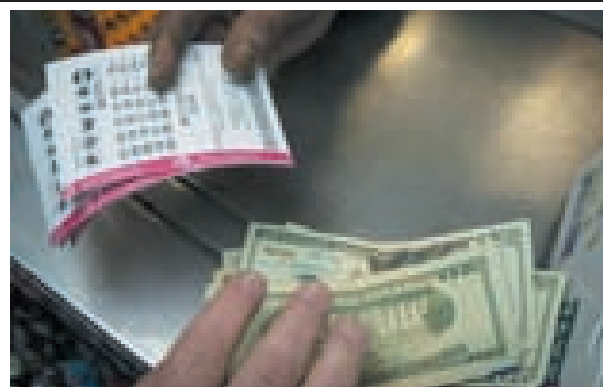
The winning numbers, drawn late on Wednesday, were 1, 17, 35, 49, 54, and 34, according to Powerball's website.

The top prize amount has been swelling since the last jackpot on Christmas Day. It has rolled over 15 times and increased in value after each drawing since then, said Carolyn Hape-man, Powerball spokes-

woman in New York.

If the winner opts to take Wednesday night's prize as a lump sum, it would amount to \$227.8 million, the website said.

In the last two years, Powerball prizes have increased considerably, due to ticket prices doubling to \$2, and California, the nation's most populous state, joining 42 other states, Washington DC and the US Virgin Islands in play-



A man purchases New York State Lottery tickets for the \$400 million Powerball lottery in New York's financial district on 19, Feb 2014. —REUTERS

ing the game.

The chance of claiming the jackpot is one in

175 million, regardless of how many tickets a person buys.—Reuters

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Google prepares 34-city push for ultra-fast Fiber service

SAN FRANCISCO, 20 Feb — Google Inc is exploring a major expansion of its super-fast “Fiber” TV and Internet service, which could extend the nascent network to 34 more US cities and pose a competitive threat to home broadband providers.

Google executives told reporters on Wednesday the search company has reached out in recent weeks to cities from nine metropolitan areas around the country, including San Jose, Atlanta and Nashville, to discuss the feasibility of building out Fiber, which Google says delivers the Internet at speeds up to 100 times faster than average networks. As Google delivers more music, videos and other content to mobile devices, it is increasing investment in ensuring it gets the bandwidth it needs.

Web-access projects



An employee answers phone calls at the switchboard of the Google office in Zurich on 18 Aug. 2009.

REUTERS

like Fiber could also help grow revenues beyond its maturing search business, and give it more insight into consumers’ online habits — which, in turn, is crucial to making ads more effective. Google had initially billed its first Fiber broadband offer, launched in Kansas City last year, as a test project to spur development of Web services and technology.

But industry observers speculate that the one-gigabit-a-second high-speed Internet service could become a viable business for the company, prompting traditional rivals such as AT&T to mount a defence. “We continue to believe that Google Fiber is an attempt by Google to build a profitable, stand-alone business,” argued Carlos Kirjner, senior Internet analyst for Bern-

stein Research.

“Google is taking the long view and we think in five or more years, it could turn out to be a significant, profitable business for Google and headwind for incumbents.” AT&T Inc said last year it was ready to build its own one-gigabit-per-second fiber network in Austin, provided it got the same treatment from local authorities as Google. AT&T CEO Randall Stephenson said in September he expects the telecoms carrier to expand that offer to “multiple markets” in coming years.

And Comcast Corp, which will become the largest cable provider in the country if it passes antitrust scrutiny for its proposed \$45 billion acquisition of Time Warner Cable, argued to regulators this month that Google Fiber could threaten its business over time. —Reuters

Australian study found asteroids hit a tiny star

CANBERRA, 20 Feb — Scientists from the Commonwealth of Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO) found that apart from the Earth, the Moon, asteroids also hit distant stars. Scientists using CSIRO’s Parkes telescope and another telescopes in South Africa have found evidence that a tiny star called PSR J0738-4042 is being pounded by asteroids, CSIRO said in a me-

of a clock.

In 2008, Shannon and a colleague predicted how an infalling asteroid affect a pulsar.

They said it would alter the pulsar’s spin rate and the shape of radio pulse that we see on the earth. “That is exactly what we see in this case,” Shannon said. “We think the pulsar’s radio beam zaps the asteroid, vaporising it. But the vaporised particles are electrically charged and



dia release on Friday.

“One of these rocks (asteroids) seems to have had a mass of about a billion tonnes,” CSIRO astronomer and member of the research team Dr Ryan Shannon said.

PSR J0738-4042 lies 37,000 light-years from Earth in the constellation of Puppis. The environment around this star is especially harsh, full of radiation and violent winds of particles.

“If a large rocky object can form here, planets could form around any stars,” Shannon said. The star is a special one, a “pulsar” that emits a beam of radio waves. As the star spins, its radio beam flashes over Earth again and again with the regularity

they slightly alter the process that creates the pulsar’s beam.”

Asteroids around a pulsar could be created by the exploding star that formed the pulsar itself, scientists said.

The material blasted out from the explosion could fall back towards the forming pulsar, forming a disk of debris.

Astronomers have found a dust disk around another pulsar called J0146+61. “This sort of dust disk could provide the ‘seeds’ that grow into larger asteroids,” said Paul Brook, a PhD student co-supervised by the University of Oxford and CSIRO who led the study of PSR J0738-4042.

Xinhua

Lockheed tech lets US Apache helicopter pilots aim in colour



The US Army’s AH-64 Apache helicopter attends a live-fire exercise of South Korean and US armed forces, during a media day of the fire exercise in Pochoon, 46 km (29 miles) northeast of Seoul, on 19 June, 2012.

REUTERS

HUNTSVILLE, (Alabama), 20 Feb — The US Army has unveiled new technology that will for the first time allow AH-64 Apache helicopter pilots to

see targeting and surveillance data in full, high-resolution color, instead of the fuzzy black and white images they get now.

An Army official said

new sensors developed by Lockheed Martin Corp over the past four years could help avoid mistakes such as the 2007 attack by two US Apache helicopters that killed 12 people in Baghdad, including two Reuters news staff, after they were mistaken for armed insurgents. US Central Command has said an investigation of the incident found that US forces were not aware of the presence of the news staffers and believed a camera held by one of the men was a rocket-propelled grenade launcher.

“This additional situational awareness ... will give soldiers what they need to make the right decisions on the battlefield,”

Army Lieutenant Colonel Steven Van Riper, the Army’s product manager for the Apache sensors, told reporters when asked if the new technology help avert such mistakes. “That’s our goal ... This will cut dramatically the amount of voice communications and other things that take precious time on the battlefield, time that could be used better to make decisions,” he said during a demonstration at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama, where the Army tests new aircraft. “Now they can focus on those tasks and not worry, ‘Am I looking at the right thing?’”—Reuters

Toshiba: aims to be in global top three in imaging diagnostics by March 2018

KAWASAKI, (Japan), 20 Feb — Toshiba Corp President Hisao Tanaka said on Thursday that the Japanese conglomerate aimed to be in the global top three companies making imaging diagnostics for medical use by the business year ending in March 2018.

Toshiba, which has positioned healthcare as the third pillar of growth in addition to NAND flash memory chips and power generation, has said it aims to make 600 billion yen (\$5.87 billion) in revenue from the sector by

the end of its three-year business plan through March 2016, and 1 trillion

yen in the year to March 2018.

Reuters



The logo of Toshiba Corp is seen at an electronics store in Yokohama, south of Tokyo, on 25 June, 2013.

REUTERS

Big figures to attend Mobile World Congress in Barcelona

MADRID, 20 Feb — The presence of Mark Zuckerberg, the founder of Facebook, and other big app developers at the Mobile World Congress (MWC) next week is set to be one of the big attractions at the most important event in the mobile industry. Zuckerberg is scheduled to deliver the keynote speech at the trade show, held from 24 to 27 February in Barcelona.

Moreover, Jan Koum, the person behind the phenomenally successful “WhatsApp,” the President of IMB Virginia Rometty, Rich Riley from the music recognition app “Shazam”

and Jon Matonis, the Executive Director of the virtual money app “Big Coin,” will also attend. The 2014 MWC is expected to draw a record number of 75,000 attendees to the Fira Gran Via in Barcelona, beating the 2013 attendance of 72,000.

Almost a hundred ministerial trade delegations will also be in Barcelona, all attempting to drum up business for their countries at the event, where many mobile phone operations and hardware manufacturers traditionally take the opportunity to launch new products and services. It was estimated the overall

benefit for Barcelona, in terms of hotel bookings, restaurant and bars and other sectors, was around 356 million euros (482 million US dollars), while 7,220 temporary jobs would be created during the event.

The MWC this year, held in Barcelona for the ninth consecutive year, will focus on the continued spread of LTE networks around the globe alongside new hardware and mobile devices launches. It will cover 94,000 square meters at the Fira Gran Via and will also hold events at the Fira de Montjuic, where the MWC took place two years ago. — Xinhua

BUSINESS & HEALTH

US researchers report progress in leukemia treatment

WASHINGTON, 20 Feb— US researchers on Wednesday reported “more encouraging news” about an experimental therapy against a deadly form of leukemia, called B cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia (B-ALL). A clinical study involving 16 B-ALL patients found that 88 percent of them achieved “complete remissions” after being treated with genetically modified versions of their own immune cells, according to the research report published in the US journal *Science Translational Medicine*.

“These extraordinary results demonstrate that cell therapy is a powerful treatment for patients who have exhausted all conventional therapies,” said Michel Sadelain of

Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Centre and one of the study’s senior authors. “Our initial findings have held up in a larger cohort of patients, and we are already looking at new clinical studies to advance this novel therapeutic approach in fighting cancer.” B-ALL, a type of blood cancer that develops in B cells, is difficult to treat because the majority of patients relapse. Patients with relapsed B-ALL have few treatment options and only 30 percent respond to salvage chemotherapy. Without a successful bone marrow transplant, few have any hope of long-term survival.

In the current study, 16 patients with relapsed B-ALL were given an infusion of their own genetically modified immune

cells, called T cells, which were “reeducated” to recognize and destroy cancer cells that contain the protein CD19. Overall, 14 patients, or 88 percent, of the 16 patients experienced a “complete remission,” with no detectable cancer cells in their bodies, and seven were healthy enough to undergo a bone-marrow transplant, the researchers said. Historically, only 5 percent of patients with relapsed B-ALL have been able to transition to bone marrow transplantation.

In a statement, the researchers identified two of the 16 patients: Dennis Billy of Wynnewood, Pennsylvania, one of the first patients to receive this treatment more than two years ago, was able to successfully undergo a bone



marrow transplant and has been cancer-free and back at work teaching theology since 2011.

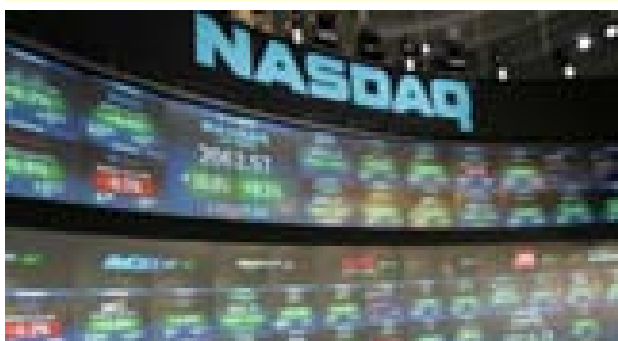
Paolo Cavalli, a restaurant owner from Oxford, Connecticut, remains in complete remission eight months after receiving his

personalized T cell treatment.

“Patients without any hope gained complete remission after receiving the engineered cells,” Wang Xiuyan, one of the authors at the Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre, told

Xinhua. “Although engineered T cells are still experimental, adoptive cell therapy, or immunotherapy in general, has been becoming a paradigm shifting modality in cancer patient care.”

Xinhua



Nasdaq snaps eight-day winning streak after Fed’s release of minutes

NEW YORK, 20 Feb — US stocks drifted lower after volatile trading on Wednesday, with the Nasdaq Composite Index halting its gains of eight days in a row, following the release of minutes of the Federal Reserve’s January policy meeting in the day. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 89.84 points, or 0.56 percent, to 16,040.56. The S&P 500 dipped 12.01 points, or 0.65 percent, to 1,828.75. The Nasdaq slipped 34.83 points, or 0.82 percent, to 4,237.95.

Wall Street staged seesaw trading session on weak housing data, before sinking shortly after the release of the minutes of the latest policy-setting meeting, which ignited market concerns over interest rate hikes. “A few participants raised the possibility that it might be appropriate to increase the federal funds rate relatively soon,” the minutes said, though there was still a lack of consensus on the new rate guidance among top Fed officials. A rise in interest rates

is broadly considered to put a damper on risky assets including equities.

At its last policy meeting, the US central bank announced a further reduction in its bond purchases by 10 billion US dollars to 65 billion dollars starting February. On the economic front, US privately owned housing starts in January were at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 880,000, 16 percent below the upwardly revised December estimate of 1.048 million, while building permits fell 5.4 percent to 937,000 in January, the Commerce Department said. Moreover, US mortgage applications slipped 4.1 percent for the week ending 14 February from a week earlier, according to the Mortgage Bankers Association.

Among other data, the US Producer Price Index for final demand increased 0.2 percent in January on a seasonally adjusted basis, which followed a 0.1-percent rise in December and no change in November, the Labor Department said.

Reuters

Facebook to buy WhatsApp for \$19 billion in deal shocker

SAN FRANCISCO / BANGALORE, 20 Feb — Facebook Inc will buy fast-growing mobile-messaging startup WhatsApp for \$19 billion in cash and stock in a landmark deal that places the world’s largest social network closer to the heart of mobile communications and may bring younger users into the fold. The transaction involves \$4 billion in cash, \$12 billion in stock and \$3 billion in restricted stock that vests over several years. The WhatsApp deal is worth more than Facebook raised in its own IPO and underscores the social network’s determination to win the market for messaging.

Founded by a Ukrainian immigrant who dropped out of college, Jan Koum,

and a Stanford alumnus, Brian Acton, WhatsApp is a Silicon Valley startup fairy tale, rocketing to 450 million users in five years and adding another million daily. “No one in the history of the world has ever done something like this,” Facebook Chief Executive

Mark Zuckerberg said on a conference call on Wednesday. Zuckerberg, who famously closed a \$1 billion deal to buy photo-sharing service Instagram over a weekend in mid-2012, revealed on Wednesday that he proposed the tie-up over dinner with CEO Koum

just 10 days earlier, on the night of 9 February.

WhatsApp was the leader among a wave of smartphone-based messaging apps that are now sweeping across North America, Asia and Europe. Although WhatsApp has adhered strictly to its core functionality of mimicking texting, other apps, such as Line in Japan or Tencent Holdings Ltd’s WeChat, offer games or even e-commerce on top of their popular messaging features. The deal provides Facebook entree to new users, including teens who eschew the mainstream social networks but prefer WhatsApp and rivals, which have exploded in size as private messaging takes off.—*Reuters*



A man is silhouetted against a video screen with an Facebook logo as he poses with an Samsung smartphone in this photo illustration taken in the central Bosnian town of Zenica in a file photo taken on 14 Aug, 2013.—REUTERS

Poor sleep linked to widespread pain

NEW YORK, 20 Feb — Regularly feeling tired and worn out after a night’s sleep was the strongest predictor of also developing widespread pain in a new study of UK adults over the age of 50. “In older adults widespread pain, that is pain that affects multiple sites in the body, is common and is associated with

morbidity and disability including poor mental health and reduced physical functioning,” said Ross Wilkie, the study’s senior author. Wilkie is a researcher with the Arthritis Research UK Primary Care Centre of Keele University in Staffordshire. “In this study, reporting musculoskeletal pain was common with just

under half of participants reporting some pain and one quarter reporting widespread pain,” Wilkie told *Reuters Health* in an email.

“Non-restorative sleep was the strongest predictor of new onset widespread pain,” he said, and “sleep is a modifiable target,” so improving it might improve the outcomes of these people, he said. “In addition to sleep, osteoarthritis, cognitive impairment, anxiety and physical health independently predicted the onset of widespread pain and are important treatment targets,” he added. Widespread pain is the main feature of fibromyalgia, a condition affecting 15 percent of women and 10 percent

of men over the age of 50, according to Wilkie and his colleagues, who published their report in the journal *Arthritis and Rheumatology*. But the factors that influence who develops widespread pain with age are poorly understood, they write. To investigate, the researchers analyzed data on 4,326 adults from North Staffordshire, England.

All were over age 50 and free of widespread pain at the start of the study, although 2,764 had some localized pain. Participants were surveyed about their pain, their physical and emotional health and lifestyle factors at the beginning of the study.

Reuters



NATIONAL

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 21 February, 2014

Patience, the only way to conquer hindrances

Patience is the only way to overcome hindrances. We need patience to overcome hindrances and blocks to us.

Fire can be extinguished with water. Darkness can be driven out when light comes. Loving kindness is the only way to beat the hate. We can overcome our feelings of greedy, angry, ignorance and unsatisfactory by practising patience.

However, most of the people are lack of patience. As we can't control their anger when they handle the troubles, we make mistakes. That's why, elder persons always advise us not to react angrily because it is easy to make mistakes when we are angry.

It is the best way to handle any problem and issue with cool and calm, without anger.

It is clear that we cannot achieve success in dealing with problems angrily.

Patience is the best way to conquer others when we are criticized by others. If we get angry whenever we see things that can make us angry, we will not reach cessation of angry. It is the nature of ordinary people to criticize others. Therefore, patience is the best way to conquer others and the truth we should cultivate in our hearts.

MPT to sell five new stamps on 24 Feb

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—To mark the taking census process of the Ministry of Immigration and Population, Myanma Posts and Telecommunications under the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology will sell five new special stamps worth K 200 each at region, state, district and township post offices starting at 9:30 a.m. on 24 February.

As a special programme, the stamps will be sealed at Nay Pyi Taw General Post Office, Yangon Post Office and Mandalay Post Office on 24 February.—MNA

Myeik BEMS Branch gets new school building

MYEIK, 20 Feb—A ceremony to open two-storey new school building took place at Basic Education Middle School (branch) in Myoma Ward-1, Myeik Township on 19 February.

The RC building is 120 feet long and 32 feet wide, comprising 10 classrooms.

It was built at a cost of FEC 123,408 funded by Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects-GGP of Japan.

At the ceremony, the Myeik District Deputy Commissioner spoke words of thanks and Mr. Keimaeda, Second Secretary of the Japanese Embassy ex-

745 land grabbing ...

(from page 1)

Those ministries who managed the land and implement projects in 50 decades are Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Transport and Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay Development Committee, the deputy minister said.

While addressing the land disputes in accord with the types of lands, accurate enactment is made from Section 22 to Section 25 of the Farmland Law and it is said at Section 25 (c) that decision of region/state farmland management committee is final.

While settling a land dispute over the ownership, a verdict shall be made by the ward/village committee within 15 days after opening the case. A letter of complaint can be submitted to the township committee within 30 days and a verdict shall be made within 30 days after receiving the complaint. The district committee has to give its verdict within 30 days and complaint can be made within 60 days. The region/state committee will decide the case within 60 days after receiving it. So, the case will last 135 days before reaching a final decision.

There have been delays while seeking firm evidence in accord with the law as types of lands claimed by some farmers are vacant, fellow, pasture and forest lands.

While applying for the return of lands, applicants are required to prove their ownership with firm evidence. As the chairman of the township development support committee is one of the members of the township land management committee and a townselder is included in the ward/village land management committee, fair decision over land

disputes can be made.

The central committee coordinated with region/state/Nay Pyi Taw committees and the Union ministers for the settlement of 745 land disputes up to 14 February, 2014.

It is not possible to give up a total area of 332,894.723 acres in 358 cases as the handover of these lands carried out in accord with the law. Compensations have been awarded for a total area of 1,698.98 acres in five cases.

Regarding the partial return of lands, a total area of 38,956.06 acres of 79,026.69 acres will be given up and 5,872.65 acres have been returned to those concerned so far.

Regarding the full return of lands, a total area of

**The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw
Nay Pyi Taw**

Date: 19 February, 2014

Message sent to 66th Anniversary Chin
National Day

Esteemed Chin brethren,

1. We would like to extend warm greetings to you at the time when 66th Anniversary Chin National Day which falls on 20th February, 2014.
2. The Chin National Day is auspicious not only for all living in Chin State but also for all national people of the country.
3. Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is making efforts for national unity, national reconciliation and peace desired by all national people.
4. We are sending this message to you, expressing our hope that while working together with national people living in Chin State which has a distinctive characteristic and all national people of the country with Union Spirit and with unity, we would achieve our aim of building a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation.

Thura Shwe Mann
Speaker
Pyidaungsu Hluttaw



Speaker of Pyidaungsu and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint and Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Chairperson Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attend reception to mark Chin National Day.—MNA

Pyidaungsu ...

(from page 16)

Next, Member of Union Civil Services

Board U Ngun Maung spoke words of thanks.

Those present were served with Chin traditional food and enter-

tained with Chin traditional dance and song by Chin traditional cultural troupe.

MNA

19,778.250 acres which is more than that of 25,336.441 acres will be given up. So far 5,655.13 acres have been returned to those concerned and the process of returning the remaining lands is underway.

Thirty-eight of 745 cases related to the part (1), (2) and (3) of the Report are the same and a total area of the lands complained by the farmers is 36,161.60 acres.

Regarding the lands disputed with private entrepreneurs, those concerned have been informed to seek legal advice.

So far 688 of 745 cases have been settled up to 14 February. Compensation for the seized lands will be included in the Union Budget

for 2014-2015 FY. A total of 3387 letters of complaints and two related to the party (4) of the Report sent by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to the Union government are under scrutiny.

As Pyidaungsu Hluttaw sent complaint letters to the Ministry of Defence and region/state government directly without the Union government's knowledge, it cannot be settled as soon as possible. Systematic implementation could be seen through a step by step procedure. It will be clear if the complaint letters are numbered and sent.

Information about the land that will be returned to those concerned are available at the offices of respec-

tive land management committees.

Applications with firm evidence can be submitted to the ward/village committees and farmlands will be returned to those concerned in accord with the law, rules and regulations.

In conclusion, respective Union ministries and committees are taking care of the complaint letters under the supervision of the central committee led by the Vice-President.

Next, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the motion. Then, Pyithu Hluttaw committees held discussions on projects to be implemented in accord with appendix-2 (a) of National Planning Bill for 2014-2015 FY.—MNA

plained the purpose of construction of building.

After that, Contractor U Nyi Nyi Min handed over documents related to the school building to a member of school board of trustees.

Zaw Myo Naing
(Myeik District IPRD)

LOCAL NEWS

Mandalay News

Cooperation in economic development discussed

MANDALAY, 20 Feb—Chief Minister of Mandalay Region U Ye Myint received a delegatin led by Mr Low Kian Min, Senior Vice President of Sembcorp Industries Ltd of Singapore at his office, here, on 18 February.

At the call they cordially discussed cooperation in economic development of the region.

The call was attended

by Mandalay Mayor Region Minister for Development Affairs U Aung Moun, Region Minister for Transport U Kyaw Hsan and Region Minister for Electric and Industry U Kyaw Myint, Secretary of the region government U Ohn Lwin and Mandalay City Development Committee member U Tun Kyi.

Kyemon-Tin Maung (Mandalay)

Triangle road repaired at Myitnge Bridge

MYITNGE, 20 Feb—A triangle road is under construction at the top of Myitnge Bridge in Amarapura Township, Mandalay City municipal area.

Due to growing number of motorcycles and vehicles, traffic accidents occur one after another daily. Therefore, the 12th-mile junction of Myitnge Bridge can be cleared with traffic

congestions soon.

“Thanks to the traffic safety, not only the people but also the students will be free from traffic accidents,” said a parent of students from Myitnge Myoma Ward.

The triangle road is being constructed by Amarapura Township Public Works under the Ministry of Construction.

Kyemon-Maung Maung Soe (Myitnge)

Agriculture

New wheat strains introduced in ChaungU Township

CHAUNGU, 20 Feb—People of ChaungU Township are engaged in cultivation of wheat and gram as cold season crops in Monywa District of Sagaing Region.

There are 20234 acres of farmlands were placed under wheat plantations and 23566 acres under gram plantations.

A ceremony to

introduce new wheat strains such as Yezin-8, 9 and 10 strains to be able to compete with Yezin-3 was held at the paddy field of U Pauk Sa on 18 February.

It was attended by Deputy Township Administrator U Soe Myint Hlaing, Head of Township Settlement and Land Records Department U Tun Tun Win and officials

of Township Agricultural Coordination Committee.

Staff Officer Daw Than Hla of Agriculture Department explained the purpose of introduction and agricultural techniques.

Officials replied to queries raised by local farmers.

The farmers then chose wheat strains.—*Kyemon-Township (IPRD)*



Shwemyinzu Pagoda Buddha Pujaniya at Indawgyi Lake



MOHNYIN, 20 Feb—The 147th Buddha Pujaniya of ancient Shwemyinzu Pagoda will take place from 8 to 15 March 2014 at Indawgyi Lake in Mohnyin Township of Kachin State.

The Buddha Pujaniya is packed with not only local pilgrims but also globetrotters annually.

During the period, sports festivities such as

rowing, volleyball and Sepak Takraw events will be held at the grounds. In addition, departments concerned showcase their booths.

Traditional utensils of nationals, textile and costumes shops are to be opened at the festival.

Local people of villages near Indawgyi region enjoy the festival at the Pujaniya.

Environment and Wildlife Conservation Branch of

the Forest Department under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry plans to open its educational booth on environmental conservation in

cooperation with Friends of Wildlife to give knowledge about environmental conservation to the visitors and local people. NLM-001

“Environment and Wildlife Conservation Branch of the Forest Department plans to open its educational booth on environmental conservation.”

News in Brief

Slimming Guide talks on 23 Feb

YANGON, 20 Feb—An educational talk on Slimming Guide will be held at the hall of University of Nursing on Bogyoke Aung San Street in Lanmadaw Township on 23 February.

It will be organized by Your Slimming Guide with the assistance of the Natural

Fat Burner.

Nutritious expert Dr U Hla Kyi, Deputy Director (Rtd) of Health Department will give talks on reduction of body weight and calories for daily diet.

Any interested person may attend the talk.—*Aung Thura*

Wall magazine, photo and book shows organized at Pyinmana BEMS 2

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—Dekkhina District Information and Public Relations Department organized the wall magazine, photo and book show at Basic Education Middle School No 2 in Pyinmana on 19 February.

The district library arranges issuance of membership cards to the bookworms

and gives service to the readers to have free reading opportunities.

The show was attended by enthusiasts, teachers and students.

Over 200 photos, over 500 copies of books and publications were distributed to the attendees.

Dekkhina District IPRD

Car accident kills driver from stationary car

THAZI, 20 Feb—A vehicle with load of maize seeds driven by Myo Hlaing Win, 29 of Ywagyi Village in Thazi Township caused engine error and it stopped near mile post 35/7 on Meiktila-Taunggyi Road near Yinmabin Village of Thazi Township on 18 February.

Meanwhile, a Canter driven by Kyaw Min, 40, heading for Pyawbwe

from Taunggyi hit the stationary car.

Driver Kyaw Min of the stationary car sustained the injuries at head, hands and legs. At Yinmabin Station Hospital, the driver died of injuries.

Yinmabin Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against Kyaw Min under the law.

NLM-018

NSA weighs enlarging collection of Americans' phone records

WASHINGTON, 20 Feb — The US government is considering enlarging its National Security Agency's (NSA) controversial collection of Americans' phone records — an unintended consequence of lawsuits seeking to stop the surveillance programme, the *Wall Street Journal* reported Wednesday.

A number of government lawyers involved in lawsuits over the NSA phone-records programme believe federal-court rules on preserving evidence related to lawsuits require the agency to stop routinely destroying older phone records, the newspaper said,

quoting officials familiar with the discussions.

As a result, the government would expand the database beyond its original intent, at least while the lawsuits are active.

According to the newspaper, no final decision has been made to preserve the data and that even if a decision is made to retain the information, it would be held only for the purpose of litigation and not be subject to searches.

The government currently collects phone records on millions of Americans in a vast database that it can mine for links to terror suspects. The database

includes records of who called whom, when they called and for how long.

US President Barack Obama has ordered senior officials to end the government storage of such data and find another place to store the records—possibly with the phone companies who log the calls. Under the goals outlined by Obama last month, the government would still be able to search the call logs with a court order, but would no longer possess and control them.

NSA Director Keith Alexander said the program, if it had existed in 2001, would have

uncovered the 11 Sept plot.

Critics of the programme, including the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and the Electronic Frontier Foundation, have sued the government, saying it violates the Constitution's Fourth Amendment protection against unreasonable searches.

Patrick Toomey, an ACLU lawyer, was quoted by the newspaper as saying that no one in the government has raised with his group the possibility the lawsuits may actually expand the database they call unconstitutional.

"It's difficult to under-

stand why the government would consider taking this position, when the relief we've requested in the lawsuit is a purge of our data," he said.

The phone records programme is overseen by the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, and any move to keep data past the five-year period may require the blessing of that court.

A federal judge in New York ruled the program is legal, while a Washington DC judge ruled it almost certainly illegal. There are several other pending cases, and other lawsuits could yet be filed.—Xinhua

Fog, smog to blanket north, central China

BEIJING, 20 Feb — Fog and smog will blanket China's north and central regions on Thursday, the National Meteorological Center (NMC) said.

It will affect regions including those along the Yellow, Huaihe and Yangtze rivers, as well as south of the Yangtze, according to the NMC.

The national weather observatory forecast that visibility will be reduced to less than 1 km in parts of Shanxi, Shaanxi, Hebei, Henan, Shandong, Anhui, Jiangsu, Hunan, Jiangxi and Guizhou provinces on Thursday morning. In some areas, visibility will be less than 500 metres.

Xinhua

Mafia prosecuted in central China

WUHAN, 20 Feb — Thirty-six members of an alleged mafia-style gang were prosecuted on Thursday over nine murders and other charges, according to a court in central China.

The Xianning People's Procuratorate in Hubei Province filed the lawsuit against the group to the Xianning Intermediate People's Court.

The gang, allegedly led by Liu Han and Liu Wei, is the largest mafia-style criminal group to be prosecuted in recent years in China.

Both Lius were charged with 15 crimes, including intentional homicide, injury and illegal detention.—Xinhua

Austrian population over 8.5 mln

VIENNA, 20 Feb — The Austrian population was over 8.5 million at the beginning of 2014, marking consistent steady growth. The Statistik Austria figures released on Wednesday show an increase of 52,990 people over January 2013, almost 10,000 people higher than the year before. The capital Vienna saw 1.4 percent population growth which made up for almost half of all growth across the country, where the increase averaged out at 0.6 percent. The city now has almost 1.8 million residents. Just over a million people in the country are foreigners, according to Statistik Austria, which makes up 12.5 percent of the overall population. Of these, almost half (48.6 percent) are from European Union member states.—Xinhua



United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (R) shakes hands with his outgoing spokesperson Martin Nesirky (L) during a Press briefing at the UN headquarters in New York, on 19 Feb, 2014. Ban Ki-moon on Wednesday named Stephane Dujarric as his new spokesman to replace Martin Nesirky, and also tagged Farhan Haq, currently acting UN deputy spokesman, as Dujarric's deputy.—XINHUA

China-NZ-Cook Islands water project boost for development

WELLINGTON, 20 Feb — New Zealand Foreign Minister Murray McCully left for the Cook Islands on Thursday to attend a ground-breaking ceremony on a major water-project partnership with China and the Pacific island nation.

The Te Mato Vai project on Rarotonga is a partnership between New

Zealand, China and the Cook Islands to replace the island's aging water network with an investment of 65 million NZ dollars (53.64 million US dollars).

"Our commitment to the innovative Te Mato Vai project will promote further development in the Cook Islands while safeguarding tourism gains," McCully

said in a statement. The partnership is the first development project of its type in the Pacific and was announced at the Pacific Islands Forum annual leaders meeting in the Cook Islands in 2012.

McCully would also attend the third New Zealand-Cook Islands Joint Ministerial Forum. "These annual ministerial talks reflect the

value we place on our unique constitutional relationship of shared citizenry and currency," McCully said.

"The discussions will cover a range of topics including economic reform, regional and international issues and New Zealand's substantial development programme."

Xinhua

New vote for Western Australia as court voids razor-sharp contest

SYDNEY, 20 Feb — Voters in Western Australia are headed for a rerun of last year's federal Senate race, after the High Court on Thursday voided the election over 1,370 ballots that disappeared during a recount of the tight contest.

The ruling could have an impact on conservative Prime Minister Tony Abbott's agenda. His Liberal-National coalition won a strong majority in the lower house of parliament in last year's poll, but lacks a majority in the upper house, or Senate.

Justice Kenneth Hayne invalidated the race

because the lost ballots far exceeded the margins of error in two of the senate races, one of which came down to as few as 12 votes.

Senator Michael Ronaldson, the Liberal Party minister responsible for the Australian Electoral Commission, warned the agency over a replay of the debacle in the new vote, which could take place within weeks.

"It is incumbent upon the Australian Electoral Commission to ensure that never again will such a failure of process occur," he said in a statement.

Abbott campaigned on a promise to repeal an

unpopular carbon trading scheme initiated by former Prime Minister Julia Gillard's Labour government.

He lacks, however, the votes to push its repeal through in the new Senate, in which the balance of power will be held by a handful of independent and single-issue senators.

Although his Liberal Party won three of the state's six Senate seats in the September vote, at least one of those seats is vulnerable in a fresh contest, says Antony Green, an election analyst for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

Reuters



Venezuelan Minister of Foreign Affairs Elias Jaua (C) participates in a meeting with ambassadors of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), in Caracas, capital of Venezuela, on 19 Feb, 2014.—XINHUA

REGIONAL

Launch of Xinhuanet's Malaysia channel earns widespread acclaim

BEIJING, 20 Feb — Personages of various circles from China and Malaysia have sent congratulations upon the opening of the Malaysia channel of Xinhuanet, giving credit to its role in promoting bilateral exchanges and friendships.

"The Malaysian channel on Xinhuanet will serve as a new window and a fresh bridge for governmental and non-governmental communication and cooperation between the two countries," said Chinese Ambassador to Malaysia Huang Huikang in his congratulatory letter.

Huang said communication and good feeling between the two peoples have carried on and expanded their friendship generation after generation, and the development of China-Malaysia relation will surely benefit the two peoples. Malaysia-China Friendship Association expressed warm congratulations on the official launch of the channel, saying that the channel will help the two peoples promote development and cooperation and create the brilliancy together.

Officials form the Federation of Chinese Associations Malaysia, Malaysia-China Chamber of Commerce, Media Chinese International Group, Chinese channel in Media Prima Group, Malaysian Chinese Cultural Society and Han Culture Centre Malaysia have also sent their congratulatory letters on the launching of Xinhuanet's Malaysia channel.

Xinhua



An elderly South Korean is carried into an ambulance heading for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to meet his long-lost relatives in the DPRK's scenic resort of Mount Kumgang, at Sokcho, South Korea, on 20, Feb. 2014. Accompanied by 58 family members, 82 elderly South Koreans, four fifth of them older than 80, departed as of 8 am local time from a resort hotel in the South Korean east coastal city of Sokcho to reunite with their long-lost families, or 178 people from the DPRK, for the first time in six decades.—XINHUA

Postquake illnesses kill more people than disaster itself in Fukushima

FUKUSHIMA, (Japan), 20 Feb — Stress and other illnesses related to the 2011 quake and tsunami killed 1,656 people as of Wednesday in Fukushima Prefecture, outnumbering the 1,607 whose deaths are directly tied to disaster-caused injuries as of 10 February, according to data compiled by the prefecture and police.

A prefectural official said that many people "have undergone drastic changes in their lives and are still unable to map out their future plans such as homecoming, causing increased stressed on them."

Around 136,000 people are still displaced in the prefecture that suffered both the natural calamity and the subsequent nuclear meltdown at a major power

station. Fukushima, Miyagi and Iwate are the three eastern Japan prefectures on the Pacific that sustained the most severe damage in the 11 March, 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

But Fukushima's death toll of more than 1,600 by indirect causes stands out compared with Iwate's 434 and Miyagi's 879.

Around 90 percent of those who died because of indirect causes were aged 66 or older, the Reconstruction Agency said, citing statistics as of September. The prefectural government is planning to step up a watch on evacuated residents at temporary housing and private apartments, working together with municipal governments, to curb such deaths.

Minamisoma city had

the largest toll with 447 deaths indirectly blamed on the disaster, followed by 317 in Namie town and 225 in Tomioka town.

Part of Minamisoma and the entire Namie and Tomioka are designated evacuation zones after the nuclear meltdowns that spewed radioactive materials into the air.

Unlike those deaths caused by collapsed buildings or tidal waves, indirect deaths are determined by municipal panels after examining links between the disaster and the cause of death when the bereaved kin filed a request.

These deaths include those caused by physical and mental stress stemming from stays at shelters, a lack of initial care as a result of nearby hospitals

disabled by the disaster and suicides.

Following the Great East Japan Earthquake, as the 2011 disaster is known in Japan, the health ministry has provided as a yardstick for recognizing disaster-linked deaths based on criteria worked by Nagasaki city in Niigata Prefecture after the magnitude 6.8 earthquake in 2004. Employing this yardstick, the ministry said the possibility of indirectly caused deaths diminishes one month after the disaster. But given such deaths are increasing nearly three years after the Fukushima disaster coupled with the nuclear crisis, experts say a new set of criteria may be necessary that also takes into account a nuclear power plant accident.—Kyodo News

Cambodia discusses garment issues with buyers from global brands

Phnom Penh, 20 Feb — Cambodian Permanent Deputy Prime Minister Keat Chhon on Wednesday met with a delegation representing 30 global brands and global trade unions to discuss the current situation of garment sector.

The delegation comprised 27 global brands including H&M Hennes & Mauritz AB, Gap Inc, Adidas, Puma, Levi Strauss and Co, American Eagle Outfitters, Inditex and three global trade unions, said a Press statement from the Cambodian side.

The meeting was called by the Cambodian government in response to a request by the group last month, the statement said, adding that representatives of the brands and trade unions wanted to understand about the current situation of the garment sector following violent clashes between protesting workers demanding higher wages and security forces earlier last month. "Permanent Deputy Prime Minister Keat Chhon told the buyers that the government has always paid high attention to improving living conditions and well-being for the workers," the statement said.

Xinhua

Hydropower Developers' Working Group convenes in Laos

VIENTIANE, 20 Feb — Representatives from hydropower companies gathered in Lao capital Vientiane for the first Hydropower Developers' Working Group meeting, according to a Press release obtained by Xinhua on Wednesday.

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Lao National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (LNCCI) hosted the working group, which consisted of more than 60 individuals from the hydropower and construction sectors. The working group aims to develop hydropower for Laos in a commercially viable and environmentally sustainable manner.—Xinhua

Sri Lanka's tea industry was greatly affected by drought

COLOMBO, 20 Feb — Drought has cut Sri Lanka's tea production by 50 percent causing havoc to the livelihoods of about 400,000 small holders largely in the south and prompting possible relief from the Government, which has described the situation as "disturbing", officials said here on Wednesday.

Tea smallholders numbering close to 400,000 have been affected by this condition, which has resulted in low income for factories that have begun processing every other day due to leaf shortage and daily intake becoming uneconomical.—Xinhua

Woman found dead, shot in the head, in car in Gunma Prefecture

MAEBASHI, (Japan), 20 Feb — A woman with an apparent gunshot wound in the head was found dead in a car parked outside a discount shop in Tatebayashi, Gunma Prefecture on Wednesday, police said. A shop clerk discovered the woman in the driver's seat bleeding from the head and nose and reported to the police, the prefectural police said, adding that they have opened an investigation as a homicide case.—Kyodo News



A boy looks for reusable materials from his burnt home after a fire at a residential area in Taguig City, the Philippines, on 19 Feb, 2014. Two people died from the incident while more than 100 families were left homeless. —XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

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

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

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

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

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

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

COMPLETION OF ENGAGEMENT

The engagement of

MIN MIN LWIN (USA)

son of U Kyin Than + Chin Lan Fong,
residing in Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region
and

HTAY OO WAI

only daughter of U Aung Moe Myint + Daw Amy
Seing,
residing in Lanmadaw Township, Yangon Region,
has been legally accomplished
in the presence of honourable witnesses and parents
of both sides.

Together with parents of both sides,
MIN MIN LWIN (USA) + HTAY OO WAI

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (357)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RAKAN VOY NO (357) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MVPACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (021)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACIFIC TRADER VOY NO (021) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (369)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO (369) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 21.2.2014 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

**Former tourist site Old Sydney
Town severely damaged by fire**

SYDNEY, 20 Feb — Old Sydney Town, the former tourist site near Gosford in Australia's New South Wales, has been severely damaged by a fire overnight, local media reported on Thursday.

The fire destroyed the antiques and heritage horse carts at the site.

When firefighters arrived about 3:30 am (local time) on Thursday they

found the front administration and storage building well alight, the Australian Associated Press reported.

About 40 firefighters were battling the blaze for three hours to bring it under control. No one was injured.

Old Sydney Town was a small open air museum and theme park in the town of Somersby, near Gosford.

Xinhua



A visitor views a piece of cosmetic product of Tang Dynasty (618-907) during a toiletry show in Taipei, southeast China's Taiwan, on 19 Feb, 2014.

The toiletry show, displaying a total of 95 groups of cosmetic products from Han Dynasty (206 BC - 220 AD) to Qing Dynasty (1644-1912), opened in Taipei on Wednesday.

XINHUA

UN rights chief urges accountability amid ongoing violence in CAR

UNITED NATIONS, 20 Feb — UN human rights chief Navi Pillay has warned that authorities in the Central African Republic (CAR) will be held personally accountable for the serious human rights violations in the country, a UN spokesperson said Wednesday.

Pillay reminded "all leaders in key positions, whether they belong to anti-Balaka, ex-Seleka or the former army, FACA, that they have clear obligations under international law," Martin Nesirky said at a daily news briefing here.

They have a responsibility to refrain from committing, ordering, inciting or instigating violations of international law and to prevent subordinates from committing such violations, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said.

"Most of the ongoing human rights violations are being committed by anti-Balaka elements who are deliberately targeting the Muslim population of the capital," she noted.

According to the UN, thousands of people are estimated to have been killed

in CAR, and 2.2 million, about half the population, need humanitarian aid in a conflict which erupted when mainly Muslim Seleka rebels launched attacks in December 2012. The violence has since taken on increasingly sectarian overtones.

The overall situation in the capital Bangui seems "slightly calmer," said Pillay. However, the situation outside Bangui is "evolving dangerously." After their retreat from the southern and western parts of the country, ex-Seleka forces are now regrouping in their

traditional stronghold in the north, she noted, adding that given the strong feeling of resentment among ex-Seleka forces and the displaced Muslim population, the large non-Muslim community is clearly exposed to possible retaliatory violence.

Valerie Amos, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and emergency relief coordinator, is in Bangui on Wednesday but fighting in the north has reportedly limited her ability to travel around the country.

Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Designer to the stars Fausto Puglisi aims out of this world



Madonna performs during the halftime show at the NFL Super Bowl XLVI football game between the New York Giants and the New England Patriots in Indianapolis, Indiana, on 5 Feb, 2012.

REUTERS

R&B singer Cee Lo Green will not return to NBC's 'The Voice'

NEW YORK, 20 Feb — Grammy-winning R&B singer Cee Lo Green, a judge on NBC's "The Voice" singing competition, said he has decided to leave the popular show after four seasons but will continue to work with the television network. Green made the surprise announcement on "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" daytime TV talk show on Wednesday. "I'm not coming back at all," Green told a surprised DeGeneres while singer Lionel Richie sat beside her.

"I just don't want to wear out my welcome there. You know what I'm saying? I have so many other things that I want to do," he added. Green, 39, said he has a television show in development with NBC and hinted there may be some other talk show opportunities.

He also plans to tour with Richie later this year and will be working on an album. "I haven't released an album in four years. I'm almost done with my album," said Green. "I didn't mean to drop the bomb today." Comcast Corp.-owned NBC confirmed that Green was leaving the singing contest, and he and the network were working on upcoming programming.

Reuters

Arctic Monkeys win coveted album gong at top UK music awards



Alex Turner (C) of the Arctic Monkeys talks after being presented with the British Album award at the BRIT Awards, celebrating British pop music, at the O2 Arena in London on 19 Feb, 2014. Seen are Nick O'Malley (L) and Matt Helders (R).

REUTERS

LONDON, 20 Feb — Indie quartet Arctic Monkeys won the coveted best album honour at Britain's top music awards on Wednesday for "AM", their seventh BRIT Awards gong in total and second of the night at a star-studded show in London. The band, who in the past have responded frostily to their BRIT successes, earlier performed at the ceremony for the first time despite multiple nominations since 2006.

"That rock 'n roll, it just won't go away," frontman Alex Turner said as he accepted the award. The Arctic Monkeys were the bookies favorites to walk away with the Mastercard British Album of the Year award this year, the third time they have won it.—Reuters

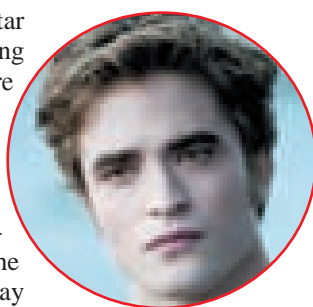
Robert Pattinson wants to direct?

LOS ANGELES, 20 Feb — Twilight star Robert Pattinson is reportedly consulting some filmmakers for his directorial venture as he is keen to go behind the camera.

The 27-year-old actor, who was previously dating Kristen Stewart, wants to try something new as he has reportedly grown tired of being famous, reported Radar Online. "The cost of fame is the thing he and Kristen used to complain about all day and that hasn't changed at all for him," the source said.

"He is looking at a whole new approach to his future and is even considering going to theatre school to focus more on getting behind the camera," the source added. The British actor, who rose to fame by portraying the role of a vampire in the big screen adaptation of Stephenie Meyer's Twilight, has reportedly held talks with many independent filmmakers.

"Rob's been talking to a lot of independent filmmakers and the last thing he wants to do is act in another blockbuster. He would like to direct a movie one day," the source said. Pattinson is currently filming Queen of the Desert and Life. His films The Rover and Maps to the Stars which are in post-production stage are slated to release this year.—PTI



Robert wants to try something new as he has reportedly grown tired of being



Rihanna says she's not entirely comfortable with her fame.

PTI

Rihanna: Never wanted to be famous

LOS ANGELES, 20 Feb — Singer Rihanna says she still finds it difficult to tackle fame. The 25-year-old Umbrella hitmaker, who is on the cover of Vogue magazine for the third time, looks relaxed and happy in the photograph.

The Grammy-winning singer said she's not entirely comfortable with her fame. "I never wanted to be famous. I just wanted my music to be heard all over the world. Then it happened and the fame came with it. I can't ever imagine feeling used to it," she said.—PTI



Hrithik suffered an injury and had to undergo a brain surgery last year.

PTI

Hrithik Roshan will do his own stunts in Bang Bang

MUMBAI, 20 Feb — Actor Hrithik Roshan will do the action sequences for his upcoming film Bang Bang on his own. There were reports that a body double was arranged for Hrithik, 40, for his stunts in Bang Bang in view of his brain surgery.

However, an insider said that when Hrithik reached Shimla, he was not happy with the scenes so he wanted to shoot it himself. But the body doubles will be available on sets all the time." Hrithik will do the action sequences on his own. The stunts are designed by Andy Armstrong who was working on Spider Man 2," a source close to the development said.

"Hrithik has always done his own stunts and he does not like body doubles. All the stunts are designed in a unique way making it interesting for Hrithik to do it on his own," the source said. It was during the making of Bang Bang that Hrithik suffered an injury and had to undergo a brain surgery last year.—PTI

SPORTS

Oracle Team USA to train with Cup challenger in Sydney



Oracle Team USA sails toward the finish line ahead of Emirates Team New Zealand to win Race 17 of the 34th America's Cup yacht sailing race in San Francisco, California on 24 Sept, 2013.—REUTERS

MELBOURNE, 20 Feb — Oracle Team USA will have their first proper look at America's Cup challenger Team Australia when training starts in Sydney Harbour next month.

The America's Cup champions have shipped one of their AC45 catamarans to Australia and will have a series of trials and training sessions with the local Challenger of Record.

"This training session

on Sydney Harbour is the first of a series of trials and training sessions for our sailing team and will be the first time our sailors have been together since the America's Cup," team manager Tom Slingsby said on Team USA's website (oracle-team-usa.americascup.com/). "We'll welcome back some old faces and introduce some new blood as we look for the right crew combination for

the sailing team for the 35th America's Cup. "These sessions will be coordinated with Team Australia and we're looking forward to sailing against this new Cup team."

Australian Slingsby was a strategist on software billionaire Larry Ellison's Team USA, who stormed back from an 8-1 deficit to defeat Team New Zealand at San Francisco Bay last year to win the 34th Amer-

ica's Cup. The Olympic champion sailor joins fellow Australian Jimmy Spithill, who will bid for a third successive America's Cup at the helm of Team USA.

Hamilton Island Yacht Club, owned by wine magnate and sailing enthusiast Bob Oatley, is the Challenger of Record for the 35th regatta which is slated for August 2017 in San Francisco Bay.—Reuters



Barcelona president Sandro Rosell (L) attends a news conference where he announced his resignation, next to vice-president Josep Maria Bartomeu, at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on 23 Jan, 2014.—REUTERS

Barca deny wrongdoing after tax fraud reports

BARCELONA, 20 Feb — Barcelona have denied wrongdoing after local media said Spain's public prosecutor had asked for charges to be brought against the club for alleged tax fraud in last year's signing of Brazil forward Neymar. The prosecutor had written to the judge overseeing a probe into the deal, accusing Barca of drawing up "pretend contracts" and engaging in "financial engineering" to defraud the tax man of 9.1 million euros (\$12.5 million), according to the reports which did not identify the source of their information.

A spokeswoman for the prosecutor's office said she was unable to comment

on the veracity of the reports. "The club's actions have, at all times, regarding that operation (to sign Neymar) and in line with the available information, been fully compliant with existing law," Barca said in a statement on Wednesday. The Spanish champions added they would be sending legal representatives to court "in the coming days" to defend their rights and interests.

"At the same time (Barca) states its complete availability to collaborate with the justice authorities in this process, as it has been doing from the first moment, or in any other that might require its intervention." —Reuters

Williams sisters enter quarter finals at Dubai tennis open

DUBAI, 20 Feb — Venus Williams, the former world's number one and currently ranked 44, defeated here on Wednesday Serbia's hopeful Ana Ivanovic 6-2, 6-1, while her younger sister Serena Williams, the current number one, kicked out Elaterina Makarova the evening before 7-6, 6-0.

Ivanovic appeared to be exhausted during the game as the 26-year-old Serbian had a tough Tuesday behind her when she beat Germany's Angelique Kerber in three tough sets.

For Williams, the victory

was a revenge for her defeat in the final in Auckland, New Zealand, earlier this year. Thirty-three-year-old Venus Williams will face Flavia Panetta from Italy in the quarter finals.

Seventeen-times Grand Slam tournaments winner Serena Williams hit the news before the start of the 22nd Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships when she said she would rather play Dubai than practicing after her she recovered from back injury, "because just practicing is boring".

Xinhua



Venus Williams

SOCHI OLYMPIC

Milestone day for Bjoerndalen, as history is made in snowboarding

SOCHI, (Russia), 20 Feb — Ole Einar Bjoerndalen became the most decorated athlete in Winter Olympic history, Tomoka Takeuchi increased Japan's medal haul and there was a family triumph in the snowboarding parallel giant slalom as competition began in one of the Games' blue riband events on Wednesday — the women's figure skating.

Bjoerndalen won a record 13th medal when he helped Norway win the biathlon mixed relay from Czech Republic and Italy. The 40-year-old broke

the total medals record he previously shared with retired cross-country skiing great Bjoern Daehlie and matched his compatriot's record haul of eight golds. Bjoerndalen also has four silvers and a bronze to his name.

Norway's victory in the relay, in which the two men complete 7.5-kilometre legs and the two women race 6-km legs, saw the Scandinavian powerhouse extend its lead at the top of the medal table with nine golds and 20 medals overall. — Kyodo News



Japan's Tomoka Takeuchi (L), Switzerland's Patrizia Kummer (C) and Russia's Alena Zavarzina

Asada flops under pressure, Kim comes through



Vancouver Olympics silver medalist Mao Asada of Japan is pictured after her performance in the women's short program of the figure skating competition at the Winter Olympics at the Iceberg Skating Palace in Sochi, Russia, on 19 Feb, 2014.

KYODO NEWS

SOCHI, (Russia), 20 Feb — So much for the rivalry between Mao Asada and Kim Yu Na. Vancouver 2010 gold medalist Kim was in championship form Wednesday, deservedly finishing first in a tightly contested women's short programme with 74.92 points.

Kim's performance was so mesmerizing that the South Korean drew a standing ovation from her fellow athletes from other countries in the stands, transcending sports and borders.

Kyodo News

Braves give contract extensions to manager and GM

LOS ANGELES, 20 Feb — The Atlanta Braves have kept faith with manager Fredi Gonzalez and general manager Frank Wren by giving both men contract extensions, the Major League Baseball team said on Wednesday.

No details of contract terms were disclosed by the club. In three seasons with Atlanta since taking over from Hall of Famer Bobby Cox in late 2010, the 50-year-old Gonzalez has

led the team to a 279-207 record. The (96-66) Braves ended last season on top of the National League (NL) East standings, winning their first division title since 2005 when they ended a record run of 14 in a row.

Wren, 55, took over as Braves general manager after the 2007 season and has been an instrumental figure in acquiring BJ. Upton and Justin Upton, Chris Johnson and Dan Uggla for Atlanta. — Reuters

GENERAL

Army air raids kill 10 militants in Egypt's Sinai

RAFAH, 20 Feb — At least 10 militants were killed in government air raids on their hideouts in Rafah and Sheikh Zuweid cities in North Sinai governorate that continued from Wednesday evening until early Thursday, a security source told *Xinhua*.

"The death toll may increase as tens were seriously injured during the raids," the source added, noting the four military planes also destroyed a number of vehicles carrying machine guns used by militants.

Xinhua



Electricians of local power grid try to restore power supply at Shigaochang Village in Badong County, central China's Hubei Province, on 18 Feb, 2014. Many parts of Hubei witnessed heavy snow from Monday evening to Tuesday, wreaking havoc on traffic, electric power and crops.—XINHUA

Scolari refuses to rule out Adriano World Cup return

FLORIANOPOLIS, (Brazil), 20 Feb — Brazil coach Luiz Felipe Scolari on Wednesday refused to rule out striker Adriano's chances of playing in this year's World Cup. Adriano, who has not represented the national team since 2010, played his first match for nearly two years last week with a late appearance as a substitute for Atletico Paranaense in their 1-0 victory over The Strongest in the Copa Libertadores. "There are lots of stories. Everybody lobbies for one player or another. We all do it when we want a player to do well," Scolari said during a Press conference.

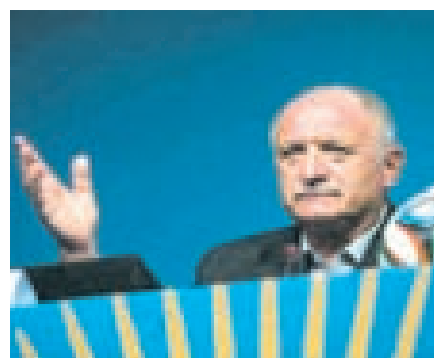
When asked if Adriano

could be considered for the World Cup, Scolari replied: "I consider every Brazilian player. Some more and others less. 'There are some that haven't played for some years. I am looking at everything. But I have to make my observations in accordance with a series of factors, not just one.' 'Scolari's comments follow claims by local press that the 65-year-old earlier this week sought Atletico Paranaense's football director Antonio Lopes to discuss Adriano's fitness.' 'That's not true. You don't talk about whether a player is fit if it's clearly not the case,' Scolari said.

Adriano, 31, was once

considered one of the best strikers in world football. He has scored 27 goals from 48 matches for Brazil and won the Golden Ball award for the best player at both the 2004 Copa America and 2005 [Confederations Cup, in which he also top-scored. But injury and disciplinary problems have

prompted a rapid fall from grace for the former Inter Milan forward. His latest comeback follows two Achilles tendon operations in as many years. During that time he was sacked by both Corinthians and Flamengo due to lifestyle issues and lack of commitment to training.—*Xinhua*



Luiz Felipe Scolari, coach of the Brazilian national football team, attends a press conference in Florianopolis, Brazil, on 19 Feb, 2014.

XINHUA

MYANMAR TV

(21-2-2014, Friday)

6:00 am

1. Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

7:20 am

2. Hyper Sports

8:00 am

3. News/ International News

9:50 am

4. ASEAN Programmes

10:15 am

5. TV Drama Series

11:40 am

6. Myanmar Series

12:00 pm

7. News / International News/ Weather Report

2:25 pm

8. Documentary

3:00 pm

9. News

4:15 pm

10. 2014 University Entrance Examination (Myanmar)

5:25 pm

11. India Drama Series

6:20 pm

12. Amazing Series

7:00 pm

13. News

8:00 pm

14. News/ International News/ Weather Report

8:35 pm

15. People Talks

9:00 pm

16. News

17. Documentary

18. Hyper Sports

19. Traditional Boxing

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

21-2-14 07:00 am ~ 22 -2-14 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Let's Observe the Traditions of "Matupi"
- * World News
- * I'm In Love With Diamond
- * Local News
- * Visiting To Mawlamyine Trip
- * World News
- * Distinguished Myanmar Lady "Kalayar Moe"
- * Local News
- * Kachin Traditional Wedding Ceremony
- * World News
- * Independent Filmmaker
- * Local News
- * The Beauty In The North Of Myanmar
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Conceptual Art
- * Local News
- * Short Trip With Steve (Taungyi Trip)
- * World News
- * Goldsmith
- * Local News
- * A Day Out With Sarah (EP-6)
- * World News
- * Traditional Snacks
- * Local News
- * Marketable Goods (Myanmar Arts and Handicrafts)
- * World News
- * Myanmar Masterclass: Still Life (Glass)
- * Local News
- * Myanma Betels
- * World News
- * Great Minds of Myanmar (Anthropologist U Kyaw Win)

UN to send more peacekeepers to Congo mining province

KINSHASA, 20 Feb — The United Nations peacekeeping mission in Democratic Republic of Congo will deploy more troops to copper-rich Katanga Province to help fight worsening militia violence there, the UN force commander said on Wednesday.

Katanga has been spared much of the violent disorder that has plagued large swathes of the vast Central African nation for nearly two decades. But the southern province, home to some of the world's largest copper reserves, has seen a rise in attacks by armed Bakata-Katanga secessionists since last year.

Hundreds of rebels attacked the Katangan capital Lubumbashi in 2013 before surrendering

after battles with security forces. Fighting again approached the city in January.

General Carlos Dos Santos Cruz, head of the UN military force in Congo, said additional troops would be deployed to protect civilians in the so-called "triangle of death", one of the regions hardest hit by the violence.

The 22,000-strong UN mission, known as MONUSCO, now has only 450 soldiers deployed to Katanga.

"We are going to deploy one company, about 100 to 120 men. Then we want to...launch joint operations with the Congolese army," Dos Santos Cruz told a news conference in the capital Kinshasa.

The Bakata-Katanga militia is demanding in-

dependence for Katanga, whose rich mineral deposits have attracted international mining companies including Freeport-McMoRan and Glencore.

Violence in Katanga has not reached the intensity seen in Congo's eastern borderlands where the U.N.-backed army last year defeated the M23 rebellion - the greatest threat to President Joseph Kabila in a decade.

However, over 400,000 civilians are currently displaced by violence in Katanga, according to the U.N. refugee agency.

Katanga has a history of secessionist movements dating back to a failed attempt to break away from newly independent Congo in the early 1960s.

Feelings that Katan-

gans should benefit more from the province's vast

mineral wealth continue to strain relations with the

central government in distant Kinshasa.—*Reuters*



A train is seen from a helicopter in the southern Congolese Province of Katanga, on 29 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

Workshop on commerce and investment opens

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker attends reception to mark 66th Anniversary Chin National Day

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—The opening of workshop on commerce and investment, jointly conducted by the Union Attorney-General Office and Allen & Overy Ltd, took place at Thingaha Hotel on 20 February morning.

Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin said that amendment of company law, laws related to joint venture, state-owned enterprises and share purchase contract will be discussed at the work-

shop. Consultant Mr. Paul Crook from Allen & Overy Ltd said that Britain-based the law firm has 43 branch offices in 29 countries and has been conducting workshops and conferences in Myanmar in coordination with the relevant ministries and universities.

Mr. Paul Crook gave lecture entitled "Workshop on Myanmar Companies Act" and the workshop lasts till 21 February.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 20 Feb—A reception to mark 66th Anniversary Chin National Day took place at Myanmar International Convention Center (MICC) on 20 February evening.

First, Deputy Director-General U Soe Htet of the Amyotha Hluttaw Office read the 66th Anniversary Chin National Day message sent by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw speaker and Director-General Dr Naing Ti Yan of the Me-

teorology and Hydrology Department, historical background of Chin National Day.

Then, Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint and Chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee Daw Aung San Suu Kyi extended greetings.

Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Judicial, Legal Af-

fairs, Complaints and Petition Vetting Committee Thura U Aung Ko presented a certificate of honour to archer Ma Aung Neign who snatched gold medal in 27th SEA Games and the

chairperson of Pyithu Hluttaw Rule of Law and Tranquility Committee, certificates of honour to Chin Nationals who obtained the degrees of doctor in 2013.

(See page 8)

Investigation Commission makes inspection tour of Maungtaung for Ducheeratan incident

MAUNGTAUNG, 20 Feb—Chairman of Investigation Commission Dr Tha Hla Shwe (President of Myanmar Red Cross Society) and party met villagers at Basic Education Post-Primary School in Gawduthara Village, Maungtaung Township of Rakhine State on 18 February and asked questions for Ducheeratan incident.

They then went to Zawmatet Village-tract where they viewed taking rations by the villagers from Ducheeratan Village at the warehouse of World Food Programme (WFP) and asked what they wanted to know.

Next, they met with

the villagers from Nhushula Village at village's BEPPS and raised questions for their knowledge.

During interrogation with the villagers and suspects, they enquired about the root cause for the death of police sergeant Aung Kyaw Thein from Khayaymyaing police outpost happened on 13 January, the main cause on outbreak of fire in Ducheeratan (west) Village on 28 January, spread of wrongful news about the fire, number of death toll due to the cases and loss of houses and property and suggestions should be tackled for preventing the case in detail.—MNA



Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin delivers an address at Workshop on Commerce and Investment.—MNA



Ex-Murdoch editor Brooks launches hacking defence, acquitted on one charge



Former News International chief executive Rebekah Brooks and her husband Charlie Brooks (L) arrive at the Old Bailey courthouse in London February 20, 2014.—REUTERS

LONDON, 20 Feb—The jury trying Rebekah Brooks over phone-hacking charges should not hold her role as a former Rupert Murdoch editor with huge political influence against her, her lawyer said, as the former British newspaper boss took the stand on Thursday.

Brooks, a friend of Prime Minister David Cameron, answered questions in court for the first time on the hacking scandal which has convulsed Britain's elite and forced Murdoch to close the 168-year-old tabloid at the center of the scandal, the News of the World.

Opening Brooks's defence within a packed courtroom on day 62 of the trial, Jonathan Laidlaw urged the jury to forget the myth that had built up around one of the most famous women in Britain, and to focus on the specific charges. He was speaking shortly after the judge ruled that Brooks had been acquitted on one of the five charges she was facing, relating to one charge of authorizing an illegal payment for a picture of Prince William in a bikini. She denies all the other charges

Reuters

Elephant foundations to enhance livelihood of elephant workers, elephants

By: Ko Lwin (Swa)

Elephants are the most reliable for timber extraction in Myanmar for hundreds of years.

Thailand-based Elephant Foundation and Save Elephant Foundation Myanmar join hands in enhancement of elephants and elephant workers at 20th-Mile Elephant Camp at Bago mountain range in Toungoo District as of 5 February. Emphasizing lifestyles of elephants, mahouts and their families

a Toungoo (South) timber extraction region, an official of the joint study group said that they will look after older elephants and families of mahouts for their livelihoods free of charge. If the authorities concerned pass the permit, a plan will be implemented to build a hospital for the elephant.

Members of the excursion team from the Elephant Foundation donated equipments and dried rations to workers for elephants.

Toungoo (South) timber extraction region in Toungoo District is residence for 19 male elephants, 36 female elephants. A total of 27 male elephants and 38 female elephants are under care of Toungoo (North) timber extraction region, and 10 male elephants and 15 female elephants in addition to 52 male elephants and 92 female elephants registered by private entrepreneurs, totaling 289, according to

Assistant Director U Thein Shwe of Toungoo District Forest Department.

There are unknown number of wild elephants in forests of Bago mountain ranges, and some wild elephants were seen at No. 2014 Khabaung forest reserve in the area of Toungoo (South) timber extraction for several times, he added.

Myanma Alinn:
17-2-2014
Trs: TTA

