

Ministry of Defence champions in Union Government's Cup Golf Tournament



Vice President U Nyan Tun poses for documentary photo with champion Ministry of Defence team in Third Union Government's Cup Golf Tournament.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan — Vice President U Nyan Tun attended the prize presentation for the Third Union Government's Cup

Golf Tournament on the lawns of Nay Pyi Taw City Golf Course, here, on Sunday evening.

Chairman of the

Leading Committee for organizing the tournament Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan reported on purpose of holding the

competition.

Union ministers and deputy minister presented best loser award, most birdie award, most

India intends to foster bilateral trade with Myanmar

By Aung Khin

YANGON, 25 Jan — India intends to promote bilateral trade with Myanmar, according to a report of Business Standard on 22 January, quoting an official statement of the Indian government.

President Pranab Mukherjee called for increasing bilateral trade during the meeting with Vice President Dr Sai Mauk Kham who made a five-day visit to India from 19 January.

The statement said, "India-Myanmar bilateral trade is growing and India

is today Myanmar's fourth largest trading partner with the balance of trade greatly in favour of Myanmar. Yet, this trade is far below potential and does not reflect the closeness of ties."

Mukherjee said, "Indian companies are keen to bring their expertise and

resources to Myanmar in promising sectors such as energy, power, construction, banking, and insurance."

He also said India has believed that its development could not be complete and sustainable unless it built productive partner-



Myanmar has opened border trade camps at her neighbouring countries, including India to promote trade promotion through normal and border trade routes. A border gate at Reedkhoda Town, Chin State, shaing border with India.—PHOTO: PANORAMIO.COM

President U Thein Sein sends messages of felicitations to India, Australia

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan — On the occasion of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26 January 2015, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Pranab Mukherjee, President of the Republic of India and His Excellency Mr Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India.

The President also sent a message of felicitations to General the Hon. Sir Peter Cosgrove, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and His Excellency the Hon. Tony Abbott MP, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia on the occasion of the anniversary of the National Day of the Commonwealth of Australia which falls on 26 January 2015.—MNA

par award, longest drive award and nearest to the pin award to respective winners and awarded prize and scratch events, individual and team handicap and scratch events.

Vice President U Nyan Tun gave the championship trophy to champion Ministry of Defence

that won both team handicap and scratch events.

Ministry of Home Affairs secured the second prize and Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry the third prize in the team handicap event while Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development bagged the (See page 3)

ships with its immediate neighbours.

Myanmar and India are making efforts to expedite completion of all bilateral developmental projects, including the Kaladan Project and connectivity projects.

The Indian President expressed his appreciation for the historic reforms undertaken by the Myanmar government for democratization, negotiation of a nation-wide cease-fire with armed ethnic groups, economic development and establishment of peace and stability.

The statement added, "He congratulated the government of Myanmar for taking forward the peace and national reconciliation process in an inclusive manner to meet the aspirations of all ethnic nationalities. He also conveyed his good wishes and support of the government of India for the successful conclusion of nationwide cease-fire and working towards establishment of peace and stability in the ethnic states."

India has also intended to promote cooperation between the two countries, being committed to building a peaceful, stable and economically interlinked

neighbourhood as it is essential for the collective development and prosperity of the region.

President Mukherjee remarked on the greater role of Myanmar in the region and at other international forums, congratulating the successful chairmanship of Myanmar in the ASEAN and East Asia summits.

Myanmar is the only ASEAN country bordering India, and it is the gateway for India to South-East Asia.

Dr Sai Mauk Kham also said Myanmar government was grateful to India for the assistance provided in various fields, especially in capacity-building, health care and lines of credit for various projects, and inviting the Indian president to encourage the Indian business community to explore various opportunities in Myanmar.

Trade volume between the two countries has exceeded \$ 2 billion, and is expected to soar to \$3 billion at the end of 2015.

Indian companies that have a presence in Myanmar include ONGC Videsh (OVL), Jubilant Oil and Gas and the Century Ply-Star Cement group.—GNLM

RBE transport resumes in Sittway Township

YANGON, 25 Jan— Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Than Htay, Chief Minister of Rakhine State U Maung Maung Ohn, the commander of Western Command and a local, formally put into service a train that will resume its operation in the Pyidawtha-Sittway-Yechanbyin railroad section in Sittway, Rakhine State, on 22 January.

It is the first road section of Sittway-An-Minbu railroad to link Rakhine State with other regions and states, the union minister said at the launching of the train.

He added that resumption of running the train was aimed at enabling students of Sittway University and Technological University to enjoy smooth transportation to their learning centres.



Union Minister U Than Htay, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Maung Maung Ohn and Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Aung Lin Dwe open resumption of train along Pyidawtha-Sittway-Yechanbyin railroad section in Sittway.—MNA

The railway section is 11.46 miles long, opened on 19 May 2009. Myanmar Railways manages runs of an RBE with three coaches for two each of up and down runs daily. The runs of train

along the railroad section stopped in 2012 due to various situations in Sittway.—MR

Bago ring road under construction to ease traffic jams

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan — U Kyaw Lwin, Union Minister for Construction, went on an inspection tour in Bago Region on Saturday, overseeing the construction site of a ring road being undertaken by Max Myanmar Company with “Build, Operate and Transfer” (BOT) system.

The union minister inspected progress made in foundation works and the construction of concrete conduits and small bridges.

The ring road is 11 miles and three furlongs long, with 56 concrete conduits and 58 bridges on it.

The Bago beltway is being built to reduce traffic jams in town, thereby promising road safety and smooth transport.

He also inspected the construction of an overpass near a high school, which is now 60% complete and will protect people and students from traffic accidents.—MNA

Grand Wynn secures certificates for quality



YANGON, 25 Jan — Grand Wynn Manufacturing Ltd obtained ISO 22000:2005 certificate and GMP, HACPP certificate for food security management given by UKAS of England.

Grand Wynn uses modern double racking system cold storage for ensuring control of fresh products to be distributed to the customers, Director of the company

U L Mein Deng told media. Deputy Director-General U Tun Win spoke words of honour.

Dr Fransis Ng of ACM of UK presented certificates to officials of Grand Wynn Group of Companies.

Grand Wynn Group of Companies is appointed as sole agent for distribution of Dade sunflower oil and olive oil produced in Turkey.—Tin Tun Aung

Cyclists join road racing, mountain bike events



NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan— Myanmar Cycling Federation and Myan Shwe Pyi Tractors Company jointly organized the Road Race Contest on Saturday.

After viewing the skill demonstration of cyclists, Union Minister for Sports U Tint Hsan urged them to make utmost efforts to set new records in their events and take training continuously.

Union Minister U Tint Hsan presented first prize to Zin Lin Ko, second to Ye Khant Mon and third to Aung Phyto Min in the U-18 road race event. Chairman of Myan Shwe Pyi Tractors Company Vice President of Myanmar Cycling Federation U Khin Maung Win and officials gave prizes to men’s and women’s age-wise road race and mountain bike events.

MNA



Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung and President of Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw formally open new stadium of Ayeyawady United FC in Patheingyi on 24 January.—MFF

Myanmar C.P. Cup tennis tournament commences

YANGON, 25 Jan — With the aim of improving Myanmar sports standards and turning out new generation athletes, The Myanmar C.P. Cup tennis tournament, organized by Myanmar Tennis Federation and sponsored by Myanmar C.P. Livestock Co., Ltd, kicked off at the Theinbyu Tennis Court in Mingala Taungnyunt Township on 24 January.

Adviser to Myanmar C.P. Livestock Co., Ltd

explained the purpose of holding the tournament. President of the federation U Aung Maw Thein made a speech.

Patron of the federation U Nyi Nyi, President U Aung Maw Thein, Vice Chairman of the company Mr Phichet Sivasri and the adviser formally opened the tournament.

The tournament will be held up to 29 January.

GNLM

NATIONAL

Ministry of Defence champions . . .

(from page 1)
second prize and Ministry of Home Affairs, the third prize in the team scratch event.
Captain Thet Htut Oo of the Ministry of Defence stood first, U Hsan Aung of Ministry of Rail Transportation, second and U Aung Zaw Moe of Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry third in the individual

handicap event.
Captain Thet Htut Oo of Ministry of Defence secured the first prize, U Zaw Min of Ministry of Transport second and Major Nay Myo Aung of Ministry of Defence third in the individual scratch event.
After the prize presentation ceremony, guests and athletes from 34 teams were served with dinner.
MNA

Union FM sends messages to India, Australia

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan — On the occasion of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26 January 2015, U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency Mrs. Sushma Swaraj, Minister of External Affairs of the Republic of India.
He also sent a message of felicitations to Her Excellency the Hon. Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Commonwealth of Australia on the occasion of the anniversary of the National Day of the Commonwealth of Australia.—MNA

Union Minister delivers speech at 18th ASEAN Tourism Ministers Meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan — The 18th ASEAN Tourism Ministers Meeting was held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre (1) in Nay Pyi Taw on Sunday, with an opening speech by Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung.
In his speech, the union minister pointed out the importance of cooperation in tourism sector in the ASEAN region, saying that 99.2 million tourists visited the region in 2013, an increase of 11.73 percent compared to the figures in the previous year.
Under the ASEAN Tourism Strategy (2011-2015), measures for development of tourism sector, standardization of tourism services, cooperation in human resources development and establishing ASEAN secretariat for tourism to mutually recognize tourism experts are being carried out and an agreement to establish the secretariat will soon be signed by the members, the union minister added.
Tourist arrivals to the ASEAN region, implementation of the ASEAN

Tourism Strategy, development of ASEAN Tourism Strategy (2016-2025) and joint-declaration of the ASEAN tourism ministers were discussed at the meeting.
In the afternoon, a coordination meeting of the ASEAN and international organization was held at the centre and participants including ASEAN tourism ministers, the secretaries general of World Tourism Organization, the China-ASEAN Centre, ASEAN-Japan Centre and the ASEAN-Korea Centre, the chairman of the World Tourism Council and chief executive officers of Asia-Pacific Tourism Organization took part in the discussions on cooperation for ASEAN tourism development. The meeting concluded in the afternoon.
The union minister met with Secretary General Dr Taleb Rifai of the World Tourism Organization and Chairman Mr David Scow-sill of the World Tourism Council separately and held discussions on cooperation for development of Myanmar tourism sector during the meeting.—MNA

Vice Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham, U Nyan Tun send messages to Indian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26 January 2015, Dr. Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Vice Presidents of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, have sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Mohammed Hamid Ansari, Vice President of the Republic of India.—MNA

Palethwe paddy, cotton plantations thriving at Shwedaung research farm

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan — The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is focusing on distribution of quality strains of crops and raising income of farmers.
Shwedaung Research Farm under Department of Industrial Crops Development is producing quality seeds of paddy and crops in Nay Pyi Taw.
Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing viewed thriving Palethwe hybrid paddy, Shwedaung-9 and Ngwechi-8 long staple cotton research plantations on Saturday afternoon.



Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing views thriving cotton plants at Shwedaung Research Farm in Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

Both cotton strains can yield above 1900 kilos per acre. A modern cold storage is under construction at the research farm to be able to store seeds of cotton, Palethwe paddy, beans

and pulses and sunflower at long, 60 feet wide and 18 feet high.
their preservation. The cold storage will be 160 feet long, 60 feet wide and 18 feet high. Arrangements are being made to commission the cold storage into service on coming Peasant's Day which falls on 2 March 2015.—MNA

Power lines, power stations under construction for electrification of villages in Ayeyawady Region



Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe inspects machine parts to be used at construction of power stations and power lines in Ayeyawady Region.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan — The Ministry of Electric Power constructs power grids for supply of electricity to local people in Ayeyawady Region.
At present, electri-

cal engineers and skilled workers are installing a 30.25-mile-long 230KV Athok-Pathein power line and a 100 MVA Pathein main power station.
Arrangements are being made for installation of 66KV power stations and power lines to supply electricity to Ngabyema, Ngayokkaung, Hainggyi and Mawtinsoon regions.
During inspection

tour of Ayeyawdy Region, Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe heard reports on progress of Pathein main power station, the 230KV Athok-Pathein power line, the 80-mile-long 66KV Myitto-Ngayokkaung-Ngabyema power line, Ngayokkaung sub-power station, Ngabyema sub-power station and the 230KV Hlinethaya-Kyaiklat power line presented by Chief Engineer U Thein Hlaing of Power Supply Project Branch.
The Ayeyawady Region electrical engineer reported on plans to electrification upon completion of 66 KV power lines and power stations.
These power lines and sub-power stations will feed electricity to local people from 89 villages in Ngabyema, Ngayokkaung, Hainggyi, Mawtinsoon and Ngaputaw in Ayeyawady Region.
MNA

Farmers store feedstuff for summer



MYINGYAN, 25 Jan— There was less rainfall in Myingyan District in the late monsoon, local farmers collect feedstuff for cattle not to face difficulties of animal feedstuff in summer.

They gather straws of paddy, stocks of maize and corns, stems of groundnut and husks of pigeon pea for feedstuff.

They store foodstuff at street prices. In the region, the local farmers sold one trawler of feedstuff at K50,000 on average.

Htay Myint Maung



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Myingyan District police achieve success in crime reduction activities

MYINGYAN, 25 Jan— Criminal cases were free on 1 January 2015 in Myingyan, Natogyi, Taungtha and Ngazun townships of Myingyan District, Commander of Myingyan Dis-

trict Police Force Police Lt-Col Maung Win told reporters.

Thanks to utmost efforts of police for crime reduction, no one crime included in the list of eight

major criminal cases happened in the district, IP Nyi Nyi Min of Myingyan District criminal prevention squad told media. Especially, he said police achieve success in crime reduction

activities in over 20 wards of Myingyan.

Police are assigned duties of crime reduction at 10 police station and six outposts in Myingyan District so as to ensure rule of law in cooperation with local people.

Htay Myint Maung

Earthen work completed to upgrade Yangon-Mandalay expressway

MYINGYAN, 25 Jan— Earthen works have been completed from mile posts 326 to 340 to upgrade Yangon-Mandalay expressway to become an eight-lane road. At present, the expressway is of four-lane one. Flowery plants have been grown as landscapes on the traffic islands in the centre of the expressway. In the future, the expressway will be decorated with flowery plants.—*Htay Myint Maung*



MCDC maintains LED lamp-posts in main roads in Mandalay City

MANDALAY, 25 Jan— Electricians from Building and Warehouse Department under Mandalay City Development Committee carried out maintenance of LED bulbs along main roads in Mandalay City.

As of 23 January, they substituted damaged LED bulbs with new ones on 78th street between Theikpan

and 26th streets, 35th street from the Strand Road and Aungpinle, 30th street between 78th and 58th streets, and 73rd street between entrance of the Mandalay University to 26th street.

Officials of the department plan to maintain lamp-posts in remaining townships.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



Enthusiasts visit Myanmar Fisheries Show and Contest (Mandalay)



MANDALAY, 25 Jan— Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development U Khin Maung Aye visited the Myanmar Fisheries Show and Contest (Mandalay) on 23 January.

The deputy minister gave instructions on standards of products at the Sanpya/Htoo Thit feedstuff and medicine trading booth. The deputy minister viewed sales of Bago Ma Ni's pickled fish and prawn, solar lamps, marine products, pet fish and others at the show.

He left necessary instructions on sales of quality products to customers at fair prices.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)

REGIONAL

After a bear hug, Obama gets down to business with Modi in India

NEW DELHI, 25 Jan — In a glow of bonhomie, US President Barack Obama and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi worked on a series of bilateral agreements at a summit on Sunday that both sides hope will establish an enduring strategic partnership.

Signalling his determination to take ties to a higher level, Modi broke with protocol to meet and bear-hug Obama as he landed in New Delhi earlier in the day. It was a remarkable spectacle given that, just a year ago, Modi was persona non grata in Washington and denied a visa to the United States.

After a working lunch that included kebabs made with lotus stem, figs and spices, the two leaders got down to talks to finalise possible agreements on climate change, renewable energy, taxation and defence cooperation.

Indian media reported that negotiators had struck a deal on civilian nuclear trade. The NDTV news channel said they had ironed out differences on suppliers' liability in the event of a nuclear accident and on tracking of material supplied. The White House declined to comment on the reports and the spokesman for India's Ministry of External Affairs said only "we hope for a positive outcome at the end of the day".

Obama will be the first US president to attend India's Republic Day parade, an annual show of military might long associated with



US President Barack Obama hugs India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi as he arrives at Air Force Station Palam in New Delhi on 25 Jan, 2015.

REUTERS

the anti-Americanism of the Cold War, and will host a radio show with Modi.

His presence at Monday's parade at Modi's personal invitation is the latest revival in a roller-coaster relationship between the two largest democracies that just a year ago was in tatters.

"It's a great honour. We are grateful for this extraordinary hospitality," Obama said during a welcome at the presidential palace, where there was a guard of honour, a 21-gun salute and a stray dog running around the forecourt until it was chased away.

Modi greeted Obama and his wife, Michelle, on the tarmac of the airport as they came down the steps from Air Force One on a smoggy winter morning. The two leaders hugged each other warmly.

According to protocol, the prime minister does not

greet foreign leaders on their arrival, meeting them instead at the presidential palace. Modi made the decision himself to break with tradition and surprised even his own handlers, media reports said.

Obama then laid a wreath at Raj Ghat, a memorial to Mahatma Gandhi, who is revered as the father of independent India.

The roads of New Delhi were lined with armed police and soldiers, part of a highly choreographed plan

for the visit.

Up to 40,000 security personnel have been deployed for the visit and 15,000 new closed-circuit surveillance cameras have been installed in the capital, according to media reports. The United States views India as a vast market and potential counterweight to China's assertiveness in Asia, but frequently grows frustrated with the slow pace of economic reforms and unwillingness to side with Washington in interna-

tional affairs.

India would like to see a new US approach to Pakistan, New Delhi's arch-foe. Elected last May, Modi has injected a new vitality into the economy and foreign relations and, to Washington's delight, begun pushing back against China's growing presence in South Asia.

Annual bilateral trade of \$100 billion is seen as vastly below potential and Washington wants it to grow fivefold. Obama will depart slightly early from India to travel to Saudi Arabia following the death of King Abdullah, instead of a planned visit to the Taj Mahal. Like Obama, Modi rose from a modest home to break into a political elite dominated by powerful families.

Aides say the two men bonded in Washington in September when Obama took Modi to the memorial of Martin Luther King, whose rights struggle was inspired by India's Mahatma Gandhi.

The "chemistry" aides describe is striking because Modi's politics is considera-

bly to the right of Obama's, and because he was banned from visiting the United States for nearly a decade after deadly Hindu-Muslim riots in a state he governed.

Obama, the first sitting US president to visit India twice, also enjoyed a close friendship with Modi's predecessor Manmohan Singh, who in 2008 staked his premiership on a controversial deal that made India the sixth "legitimate" atomic power and marked a high point in Indo-US relations.

The nuclear deal failed to deliver on a promise of billions of dollars of business for US companies because of India's reluctance to pass legislation shielding suppliers from liability, a deviation from international norms.

In a reminder that personal chemistry is not always enough, ties between Washington and India descended into bickering over protectionism that culminated in a fiery diplomatic spat in 2013 and the abrupt departure of the US ambassador from New Delhi, who has only just been replaced.

Reuters

Japanese lens producer making "eye" for 30-metre telescope

YOKOHAMA, 25 Jan — An optical lens manufacturer in Sagami-hara, Kanagawa Prefecture, is busy finishing work on the "eye" of the world's biggest telescope, known as the Thirty Meter Telescope, now under construction near the summit of Mt Mauna Kea on Hawaii Island.

The primary mirror of the TMT, scheduled to be completed in March 2022, will be composed of 492 hexagonal mirrors, each side of which measures 72 centimeters. Ohara Inc is supplying 574 mirrors, including those for replacement, to the project by March 2020.

The TMT, with a 30-metre aperture, is larger than Japan's Subaru Telescope, one of the world's biggest telescopes to date which was also built on the summit of the 4,205-metre high volcano Mt Mauna Kea and started observation in 1999. The TMT's light-condensing capabilities are 13 times greater than the Subaru Telescope, enabling the identification of an object as small as a 1 yen coin from a distance equivalent to that between Tokyo and Osaka.

Ohara has been ded-



Glass craftsman Hiroyuki Minamikawa stands with an optical lens featuring zero thermal expansion in Sagami-hara, southwest of Tokyo, on 17 Dec, 2014. The lens will be one of 492 pieces constituting the main mirror for the world's biggest telescope called "Thirty Meter Telescope" or TMT set for completion in 2022 on Hawaii Island. —KYODO NEWS

icating itself to the TMT project, undertaken by Japan, the United States, China, Canada and India, after its bitter experience with the Subaru Telescope.

As the Subaru project, though Japanese, went to an American company, "we really wanted an order to build the TMT," said Hiroyuki Minamikawa, 44, an official in charge of the new project at Ohara.

Minamikawa read about the TMT concept

in a US research paper in 2003 and began studies in a bid to win the order. After three years of research, he concluded that non-expansion glass, which does not expand in size with rises in temperature, is indispensable.

Ohara began experiments in 2006 to examine the effects of sharp rises and falls in temperature on glass and created a system for mass production of non-expansion glass in 2012.

The successful development of the glass was the result of Ohara's pride as a well-established company that was founded in 1935 and manufactured an observation system for Apollo 11, the US space mission that landed the first humans on the moon in 1969.

The new glass expands by less than 0.00002 millimetre per metre for a rise of 1 C in temperature. The bigger a mirror is in diameter, the more light-sensitive it is. In addition to its light-condensing capability, therefore, the TMT has a resolution four times sharper than the Subaru Telescope's single main mirror measuring 8.2 metres in diameter.

"I cannot imagine a mirror as large as 30 meters," Minamikawa said. "I wonder what we can see on it."

The most distant and oldest star so far observed was born some 800 million years after the Big Bang. The universe has a history of 13.8 billion years.

The TMT will help astronomers observe stars which were born 200 million to 400 million years after the Big Bang.

Kyodo News

South Korean kidnapped in southern Philippines

MANILA, 25 Jan — A South Korean had been kidnapped by gunmen in southern Philippine province of Zamboanga Sibugay, a military official said on Sunday.

The 73-year-old victim, Noui Hong Sung, was kidnapped from his residence in Mabuhay Village, RT Lim town around 9:30 pm local time on Saturday, according to Vivar Crisostomo, civil military operations officer.

"He was seized from his house. There were five suspects, all armed.

They (suspects) came in from a mini-van," the official said in a phone interview.

He said the military has yet to identify the suspects. However, the soldiers are coordinating with police officers to search the area where the victim was brought.

Crisostomo said they are expecting the suspects to contact with the victim's family to negotiate.

There are many lawless groups and rebels associated with kidnapping based at Mindanao, the second largest island in southern Philippines.

Another South Korean, Song Ki Eon, was kidnapped in southern province of Lanao del Sur on 19 January.

Xinhua

PM Abe hints to reflect gov't's ideas in wording of WWII statement

TOKYO, 25 Jan — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Sunday he wants to reflect his government's position in a statement to be released in August on the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II, signaling the possibility of changing the wording of a 1995 statement which offered apologies for Japan's wartime aggression in Asia.

"Rather than whether to use the wording we have repeated, I want to issue (a statement) in light of how the Abe government considers the matter," Abe said on a TV program aired on Sunday morning.

Asian countries as well as the United States are closely watching whether the new

statement will stick to a 1995 statement issued by then Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama.

On the TV programme, Abe said he plans to inherit statements issued by past Japanese premiers overall. Specifically, Abe said he will include three points in the statement — remorse for Japan's wartime aggression, Japan's path of democracy in the 70 years after the war and his intentions for Japan's future such as how to build the region and the world.

On 15 August, 1995, the 50th anniversary of Japan's surrender in the war, Murayama said Japan caused "tremendous damage and suffering" to the people of Asia and other countries through its colonial rule

and aggression.

Abe appeared negative about using the same wording that appears in the Murayama statement in his new statement, suggesting he wanted to avoid "bits and pieces of argument over whether the previous wording was used or new wording was added."

Appearing on the same program, Katsuya Okada, leader of the largest opposition Democratic Party of Japan, criticized Abe's approach.

"I cannot tolerate the prime minister's remarks calling (Japan's) colonial rule and aggression 'bits and pieces'," Okada said, adding that the 1995 statement has received international recognition.

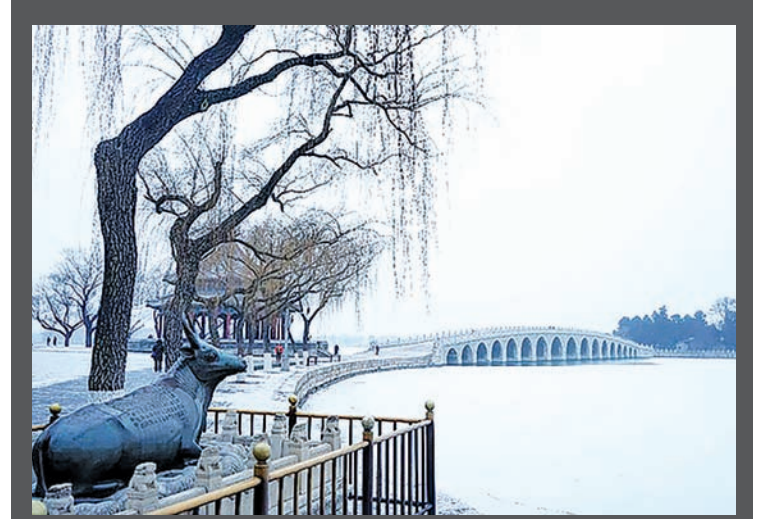


Photo taken on 25 Jan, 2015 shows a snow view of the Summer Palace in Beijing, capital of China. A light snowfall hit Beijing lat Saturday.—XINHUA

Natsuo Yamaguchi, leader of Komeito, the junior ruling coalition of Abe's Liberal Democratic Party, said in the program that the kind of expression used in the Murayama statement

has a significant meaning.

The upcoming new statement must respect it and be able to send a similar message, Yamaguchi added.

Kyodo News

Vucic: Serbia will bravely pursue its reform path



BELGRADE, 25 Jan — Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic accepted all key propositions of the World Bank (WB) during

the talks with WB Regional Director for South-East Europe Ellen Goldstein, and said that Serbia will bravely continue its reform

path regardless of the political price.

Goldstein underscored that Serbia is facing a milestone and a definite decision that will determine the future of the reform process, the Serbian government Office for cooperation with the media released.

This is the decisive period for Serbia which has to initiate urgent restructuring of public enterprises, complete the launched privatisation process and liquidate the companies that are draining money from Ser-

bia's budget while being practically inexistent for years now, Goldstein said.

Vucic accepted all WB key propositions and said that Serbia will bravely pursue its reform path regardless of the political price because the most important task and result of the government has to lie in a safe future for Serbia.

During the meeting, Vucic and Goldstein concluded that Serbia will be an economic leader in the region if it conducts all envisaged reform measures successfully.—*Tanjung*

Chinese participants see WEF as efficient network platform, predictor for future

DAVOS, (Switzerland), 25 Jan — The annual Davos meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) concluded here on Saturday, drawing applause from Chinese participants.

President of Guangzhou Automobile Group Co Zhang Fangyou, who attended the WEF in 1995 for the first time, said Davos provided his company with efficient access to Europe.

Before his arrival to Davos, Zhang said they had a European tour to meet with business partners in different countries, such as France and Germany.

With more engagement of high technology providers from Europe, the business trip was fruitful and promoted local network by the chance of the Davos meeting, he added.

Regarding to his impression about the WEF, Zhang said that changes came as the range of topics had been expanded, covering not only economic sectors, but also cultural and political issues.

Wu Hougang, CEO of Chinese seafood distributor Zonoco Group, said that the WEF has expanded his horizons.

"Davos is platform to help you understand the world economic trend and

direction of changes in important sectors," Wu said, adding that "If you want to know this year's trend and foresee the future, just attend the WEF in Davos."

In Wu's eyes, the world is in the transition era, which will bring radical or even revolutionary changes. "You have to embrace such trend if want to survive and thrive," he said.

Wu said that he learned about the unpreventable development of e-commerce from last year's WEF. "Our company then drew on Internet to sell our seafood products, and we are China's biggest online seafood distributor

now."

The two businessmen were among a host of Chinese participants who enjoyed a lot from the WEF. Even though they probably could not reach any concrete solutions with business partners during the forum, they gained more accurate sense both in global economy and development direction.

More than 80 participants from China representing business, government, international organizations, academia, attended the four-day Davos meeting featuring 280 sessions and workshops.

Xinhua

Tributes to Saudi King spark rights criticism in Britain

LONDON, 25 Jan — As world leaders flew to Saudi Arabia to mark the death of King Abdullah, several prominent British politicians criticized the deference shown to the leader of a country accused of having a poor human rights record.

Human rights campaigners and politicians from different parties questioned why the Union flag had been flown at half mast on public buildings including Westminster Abbey, for the leader of a country which still has the death penalty.

Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, who died early on Friday after a short illness, had pursued a modernizing legacy of cautious social and economic reform.

But against a background of regional turmoil, the authorities had in the last year issued tougher penalties against all forms of dissent, which included the increased use of the death penalty via public beheadings.

A sentence of a thousand lashes on a blogger accused of offences including insulting Islam, cyber crime and disobeying his father has also caused international outrage.

"Flying flags at half mast on gov(ernment) buildings for the death of

Saudi King is a steaming pile of nonsense," said Ruth Davidson, the Scottish leader of David Cameron's Conservative Party.

The British government ordered the Union flag to be flown at half mast above public buildings for 12 hours on Friday in response to the death of a foreign monarch, sparking intense criticism on social media.

"I think many people will wonder why, if the government feels the UK's relationship with Saudi Arabia is so close ... those ties are not being used much more effectively to secure the basic rights and freedoms of the citizens of that country," Green Party lawmaker Caroline Lucas was reported as saying.

Westminster Abbey said in response to the criticism that any decision to not fly the flag at half mast would have been a "noticeably aggressive comment on the death of the king".

"Nor would it have done anything to support the desperately oppressed Christian communities of the Middle East for whom we pray constantly and publicly," it said.

Britain's Cameron and Prince Charles travelled to Saudi Arabia to offer condolences on Saturday.

Reuters

Greek leftists Syriza aim for landmark election win



Alexis Tsipras

ATHENS, 25 Jan — Greeks began voting on Sunday in an election expected to bring in a government led by the leftwing party Syriza, which has pledged to take on international lenders and roll back painful austerity measures imposed during years of economic crisis. Barring a huge upset, victory for Syriza, which has led opinion polls for months, would produce the first euro zone government openly committed to cancelling the austerity terms of its EU and IMF-backed bailout programme.

A Syriza win would represent another turning point for Europe after last week's announcement by the European Central Bank of a massive injection of cash into the bloc's flagging economy after years of trying to clamp down on budgets and pushing countries to pass structural reforms.

Polls opened at 7.00 am (0500 GMT) and are due to close at 7.00 pm, with 9.8 million Greeks eligible to vote. The first exit poll is

expected immediately after voting ends, with the first official projections due at 9.30 pm with results being updated into the night.

While Syriza is expected to form the biggest group in the 300-seat parliament, it is unclear if it will be able to govern alone or have to form a coalition with one or more of the smaller parties.

Final polls on Friday gave the party led by 40 year-old Alexis Tsipras a lead of up to 6.7 points with 31.2-33.4 percent of the vote, close to the level needed for an outright victory.

Three out of four polls showed Syriza widening the gap over the centre-right New Democracy party of Prime Minister Antonis Samaras. After its most severe crisis since the fall of its military junta in 1974, Greece's economy has shrunk by some 25 percent, thousands of businesses have closed, wages and pensions have been slashed and unemployment among young people is over 50 percent.

At the same time, its massive public debt has climbed from 146 percent of gross domestic product in 2010 to 175.5 percent last year, the second highest in the world.

Greece's economy last year emerged from recession for the first time in six years and unemployment has be-

gun to come down slightly, but it may be years before the country recovers.

Tsipras' campaign slogan "Hope is coming!" has resonated with austerity-weary voters, despite Samaras' warnings that a Syriza government could bankrupt Greece. "We are voting for Alexis Tsipras to put an end to this misery," said Stavroula Gourdourou, an unemployed mother who voted for the ruling conservatives in 2012. "Enough is enough! We won't let them destroy our children."

Renouncing much of the firebrand rhetoric that was once his hallmark, Tsipras has promised to keep Greece in the euro and dropped threats to "tear up" the tough requirements of its 240 billion-euro (179 billion pounds) bailout.

He has promised to renegotiate a deal with the European Commission, ECB and International Monetary Fund "troika" and write off much of Greece's 320 billion-euro debt, despite clear signs from partners including Germany that they would refuse.

At the same time, he wants to raise the minimum wage, cut power prices for low income families, cut taxes and reverse pension and public sector pay cuts.

For a factbox on how Greek elections work, please click:

Reuters

Journalist who broke news of prosecutor's death flees Argentina



Argentine journalist Damian Pachter, who works for the Buenos Aires Herald newspaper, waits before taking a flight out of the country at Buenos Aires' airport, early on 24 Jan, 2015.

REUTERS

BUENOS AIRES, 25 Jan — The first journalist to report on the death of a Argentine state prosecutor, who was investigating the deadly 1994 bombing of a Jewish community center in Buenos Aires, said on Saturday that he had fled Argentina fearing for his life. "I'm leaving because my life is in danger. My phones are tapped," Damian Pachter, a journalist with the *Buenos Aires Herald*, told the website Infobae.

The website carried a photograph of Pachter, wearing a cap and carrying sunglasses, at the airport before he boarded an Aerolineas Argentinas flight.

Telam, an Argentine state-run news agency, reported that the flight was bound for neighbouring Uruguay. "I'm going to

come back to this country when my sources tell me the conditions have changed. I don't think that will be during this government," Pachter told Infobae.

State prosecutor Alberto Nisman was found dead in his apartment late on 18 January a gunshot wound to his head and a 22 caliber pistol by his side along with a single shell casing. He had been scheduled to appear before Congress the following day to answer questions about his allegation that President Cristina Fernandez conspired to derail his investigation of the attack.

His death and a storm of conspiracy theories around it have rocked Argentina. Argentina suspects rogue agents from its own

intelligence services were behind Nisman's death.

The government says Nisman's allegations and his death were linked to a power struggle at Argentina's intelligence agency and agents who had recently been fired.

Argentine courts have accused a group of Iranians of planting the 1994 bomb, which killed 85 people.

Nisman had claimed that President Fernandez opened a secret back channel to Iran to cover up Teheran's alleged involvement in the bombing and gain access to Iranian oil needed to help close Argentina's \$7 billion per year energy deficit.

Fernandez's government called the accusation absurd.

Reuters

Russian delegation heads for PACE session under extremely complex conditions

MOSCOW, 25 Jan — Russian delegation is heading for Strasbourg to participate in the winter session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), due on 26 January, under extremely complex conditions, head of the Russian parliament's lower chamber international affairs committee Alexei Pushkov tweeted on Sunday.

"We are leaving for PACE session under extremely complex conditions: last week war was resumed by Kiev, but West threatens with new measures to us. Will be tough," he wrote.

Ukraine's presidential aide Yuri Birukov wrote on his Facebook page on 18 January: "Two hours ago the entire group of our military in sector B received an order and opened saturation fire on known positions of the separatists."

The main intrigue at the PACE winter session

would be confirming authorities of the Russian delegation. Voting, Moscow said earlier, will demonstrate whose positions in PACE are stronger — of realists or of supporters of the 'cold war.'

At its April 2014 session PACE stripped the Russian delegation of the right to vote until January 2015 and excluded it from all Assembly's management bodies for Crimea's reunification with Russia. Russian lawmakers then walked out of the session in protest and refused from further participation in the PACE work. Since then the Russian delegation has not attended the Assembly's summer and autumn sessions in Strasbourg.

In mid-November 2014 Naryshkin told the media that the Russian delegation was ready to return to the full-format participation in PACE's work in 2015, adding that in his opinion PACE has huge



Alexei Pushkov

potential to help in overcoming the current crisis of political trust in Europe. He also urged his foreign colleagues to renew the Assembly's agenda, removing all unimportant questions, and adding those that are of primary importance.

The conflict between Russia and PACE reached its peak in April last year as the European body approved an anti-Russian resolution over the political crisis in Ukraine, depriving Moscow's delegation of the right to vote, and ban-

ning it from participation in ruling bodies and monitoring missions till the end of the year.

In January 2015, the powers of all delegations at PACE are to be formally reapproved. On 18 December, 2014 the Duma Council made a decision to include in Russia's PACE delegation Duma speaker Sergei Naryshkin and his deputy Sergei Zheleznyak. This means that in accordance with the procedural rules, Naryshkin as the delegation's perma-

nent member can attend the PACE January session that will raise the issue of the return of Assembly powers to Russia.

Naryshkin said on Monday that he was considering "an optimistic scenario of PACE action (towards Russia's delegation)." "But if other opinion prevails, as for myself, I doubt the expediency of our work at PACE — at least during 2015," he said.

On Friday, 23 January, Aleksei Pushkov said Russia will refuse to co-operate with PACE for another year if the group extends its sanctions against Russia's delegation. "We will refrain from any forms of interaction with PACE until the end of 2015," Pushkov told journalists. The parliamentarian denied allegations that the Russian delegation was heading to a PACE session, scheduled for next week, "to make peace" with the group.

"We are not going to make peace with those trying to force Russia out of the Council of Europe," he said. "We are going there since we are full-fledged members of the assembly and we have no reason not to attend the session."

The delegation also wanted to join the group's session "to reiterate its position", Pushkov said, noting that most PACE members last year tilted in favour of geopolitics supporting Ukrainian authorities in Kiev. "We want to fight this policy. And we have allies," he said.

On 20 January, Pushkov said the Ukrainian delegation at PACE will insist on keeping West's sanctions on Russia. "Judging by the Ukrainian representative's statements at the monitoring commission meeting in Paris, the Ukrainian delegation at PACE will press for keeping sanctions on Russia," he tweeted.—*Itar-Tass*

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 26 January, 2015

Land issues are among the greatest challenges for Myanmar

By Myint Win Thein

Land issues are among the greatest challenges Myanmar faces and the reason why the issues have been a growing concern for the country is the complex rules and regulations of old times and systems, the difficulty to examine ownership evidence, and outdated laws, rules and regulations, Vice President U Nyan Tun

told officials in Mandalay recently.

As, taking advantage of these weaknesses, projects were implemented without transparency and consideration for locals whose lands were confiscated, it is necessary to return the land to former owners without resorting to corrupt practices in a transparent manner based on goodwill in accordance with the law as soon as possible, to make further investigations into land confiscation and to return land that should be given back to former owners as soon as possible.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has also pointed out in one of its reports how land issues should be handled so that former land owners will be pleased.

The vice president was reminding the officials to change their mindsets from the former era in which work was not done without corrupt prac-

tices, delays, bureaucracy and ignoring the law. As the government has recognized the seriousness of the problems, those who implement the decisions of the government are required to work their best to solve the issues as soon as possible without giving any excuse. A good policy may end up as an empty promise because of those who fail to implement it on the ground.

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WORK & HOPE

Kyi Mun

WORK

Just as Theory must be applied by Practice, just as the blind man and the lame man combine their forces in order to be able to embark on a journey, HOPE must be reinforced by WORK or WORK must be animated by HOPE. First work and then hope for the best.

*"Some seedlings spring up
but never flower while
others flower but do not
bear fruit."*

-Confucius

Work is indispensable in life. If you can work better, your life will be better. There are two basic questions in life. One is **What are you?** And the other question is: **What can you do? What you are is your character; and what you can do is your competence.** Your work is the manifestation of the quality of your competence plus your attitude which is a part of your character. Since the quality of life depends on the quality of work, let us try to understand the meaning of work. Work, as I understand, is:

- **W for Winning Edge**
- **O for Opportunities**
- **R for Resources**
- **K for Knowledge**

"You have to love what you do."

-Donald Trump

WINNING EDGE

Winning edge means competitive advantage. It is also called cutting edge or leading edge. If you are deemed to have a cutting edge over your opponents or competitors, it means you are in a better or superior position than your competitors and you more or less prevail over them. **Having a cutting edge means having some superiority in the quality and capability of the leader, in the quality and capability of the followers/employees, in morale and in resources.**

OPPORTUNITIES

Success is the result of opportunities exploited. Opportunities are to be found in the environment. They can be in the form of man, money, material, machine, method, market, master mind (advisory council) and so on. In striving, seeking and finding opportunities, the FOCUS must be mainly on building a better future. Every opportunity must be sought:

- To make the present situation effective,
- To find and realize the future potential, and
- To focus on building the future.

It means opportunities must be boldly and aggressively seized with clear-cut vision and strategy in mind.

*You do need a burning desire
and determination fueled by
a strong dose of passion.*

-Robert T. Kiyosaki

RESOURCES

Resources are the building blocks of a business or a project. To have a winning edge over the competitors, superior resources in the forms of human, financial, technological and organizational dimensions must be solidly built up. In building up the human resources, character, competence, commitment, courage and caring should be given top priority.

KNOWLEDGE

This is knowledge age. Knowledge is not just advancing, it is exploding: Successful organizations of the future must be able to learn and respond quickly. Knowledge age has made a radical distinction between the learning organizations and the traditional organizations. For example:

	Traditional Organization	Learning Organization
* Attitude toward change	If it's working, don't change it	If you aren't changing, it won't be working
* Attitude toward new ideas	If it wasn't invented.... here, reject it	If it was invented or reinvented here, reject it
* Who's responsible for innovation	Traditional areas such as R & D	Everyone in the organization
* Main Fear	Making Mistakes....	Not learning, not adapting
* Cutting Edge	Product & Services...	Ability to learn, knowledge and expertise
* Manager's Job	Control others	Enable Others

HOPE

"Hope Springs Eternal In The Human Breast."

-A Proverb

A leader is a dealer in hope.

-Napoleon Bonaparte

Hope means: To want something to happen and think that it is possible; Hope against hope; hope for the best.

- **H = Having Expectations**
- **O = Objective**
- **P = Performance**
- **E = Exceeding Expectations**

HAVING EXPECTATIONS

As long as we live, we have expectations to live and move and have our being. Expectations for living and moving and having our being include fighting, suffering and loving. The most common expectations are for; MONEY, LOVE/SEX, EGO FOOD AND HEALTH.

But in entertaining hope, it is very important to : **"Be Strong and of Good Courage; Be Not Afraid and neither be thou Dismayed."**

There is an ancient saying in India that:

**Hope Is The Shield,
Courage is the Sword,**

Here, I would like to add that: **And Wisdom is the Chariot.**

OBJECTIVE

Objective is something that you are trying to achieve. Synonym is Goal and Target, according to the Oxford Dictionary. So, you should entertain a passionate hope if you are trying to get something or to achieve something. Without a great hope, your effort can be deficient in earnestness and energy and persistence. So, in putting an effort, you must have a tremendous expectation to be suc-

cessful. If your heart is pulsating with a great hope of being victorious, nothing can stop you from following the advice: **"This one thing I do. Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press towards the mark."**

PERFORMANCE

Without actual action or performance, nothing will happen or nothing will get done. Only by engaging in actual performance, you will be able: **"To Go Places and Do Things: To Make Things Happen and To get Things Done."** Performance will be most effectively realized, if maximum distinctive capabilities are applied with maximum earnest effort.

EXCEEDING EXPECTATIONS

Your hope would be realized in proportion to your capac-

ity to meet or exceed expectations. Results or the quality and quantity of results would be dependent upon the quality and quantity of the resources deployed in the performance. And expectations would be fulfilled depending on the quality of the effort put forth. So, it is important to bear in mind that:

- * Results will depend upon the Resources effectively and efficiently deployed; and
- * Expectations will be related to the Effort made.

CONCLUSION

In formulating and implementing a plan of action or a piece of some important **WORK**, the 8-P Principles should be followed. The 8-P Principles are :

- Plan Purposefully
- Prepare Passionately
- Proceed Prayerfully (Expectantly)
- Prevail Persistently

In so doing your **WORK**, you had better entertain a good **HOPE**.

Hope should not be just a Day Dream. Hope should be in the form of a great, passionate expectation, which must be strongly backed up by a realistic objective, which, in turn, must be purposefully executed with superb performance to exceed expectations of the stakeholders.

Ref : *Management by Robbins and Coutter*

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

LOCAL NEWS

IPRD marks 24th birthday in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area



NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan — Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Information and Public Relations Department held the 24th anniversary of the department at its office on 24 January.

At the commemorative ceremony, Myoma Zaygon monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Tejosara administered the Five Precepts.

Deputy Director Daw Thin Thin Zin and Assistant Director U Soe Paing donated alms to members of the Sangha.

The deputy director and officials offered meals to members of the Sangha.

Tun Tun Win (Pyinmana)

Station hospital, staff quarters under construction in Tatkon Tsp

TATKON, 25 Jan — Director Dr Tha Tun Kyaw of Admin Branch of Health Department (Head Office) and Director Dr Hla Hla Kyi of Nay Pyi Taw Health Department inspected construction of a main building of 16-bed station hospital and staff quarters in Buta village, Shwemyo, Tatkon Township, 23 January.

Ministry of Health allotted the fund for construction of the station hospital in 2014-15 fiscal year. Diamond City Company is building the hospi-

tal as of 28 October. Officials left instructions on construction of buildings meeting set standards.

The main building of the hospital will be 194 feet long and 117 feet wide.

The residence of the medical officer will be 44 feet long and 36 feet wide.

Three staff quarters, one mortuary, one underground water tank and one pump house are under construction.

Tin Soe Lwin (Township IPRD)

Social Security Board presents compensation to family for demise of worker

NYAUNGLEBIN, 25 Jan — A ceremony to present compensation to the demise of Myanmar Railways worker U Soe Lin, 28 who discharged duty at Tawwi station in 2014 was

held at the hall of Township General Administration Department in Nyaunglebin, Bago Region, on 24 January.

Director-General U Tun Than of Social Secu-

rity Board of Nay Pyi Taw explained delivery of insurance compensation for the worker under the new Social Security Law.

The director-general presented K2.43 million to the family of U Soe Lin.

Station superintendent U Aung Kyaw Soe of Tawwi Station spoke words of thanks.

It was attended by departmental officials, staff officer of Bago Region Social Security Board U Saw Tin Oo, Nyaunglebin Station Superintendent U Myint Lwin and local authorities.

Nay Lin (Nyaunglebin)



Staff quarters being built at Station Hospital (16-bed) in Buta Village, Tatkon Township.

Farmers use agricultural machinery in farmlands for boosting production in Yinmabin District



YINMABIN, 25 Jan — Yinmabin Township Agricultural Mechanization Department, Sagaing Region, sells agricultural machinery to local farmers through installment system.

“Local farmers in Yinmabin District purchase 70 power-tillers from April to December 2014. They have also bought 73 power-tillers this year. Farmers directly purchased farming equipment from the shops

of the department in Pale, Monywa and Mandalay. At present, 842 power-tillers in Yinmabin, 499 in Pale, 464 in Salingyi and 394 in Kani townships are being used in the works,” said an official of department.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation plans to dredge drains of North Yama Dam to local farmlands in Yinmabin and Pale Township, spending the loans from India in 2015-16 fiscal year. Thanks to the ministry, a total of 6,200 acres of farmlands will consume irrigated water from the drains and canals.

Farmers use agricultural machinery at paddy fields in Yinmabin Township.

Tun Ko Ko

Congo parliament says to drop controversial part of election law

KINSHASA, 25 Jan — Democratic Republic of Congo's lawmakers will remove part of an electoral reform bill the opposition says was aimed at keeping President Joseph Kabila in power, the head of the national assembly said on Saturday.

Parliamentarians will vote on the bill on Sunday, Aubin Minaku said, potentially ending a violent standoff in which some 42 people have been killed in the capital and other parts of the country during violent protests over recent days.

"The line in question (will) be purely and simply

officials said, after the measure drew violent protests earlier this week.

The envoys, representing the United States, Britain, France, Belgium, the European Union and the UN peacekeeping mission in Congo, met Kabila at his Kinshasa residence, said a Western diplomat, who asked not to be named.

"The ambassadors met the president ... to warn him of the risk of things getting out of control over the modification of the electoral law that has provoked so much tension," the diplomat said.

The same envoys have met the presidents of the Senate and National As-



A police officer stands guard in front of a store that was looted during violent protests in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo on 23 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

withdrawn from the law," Minaku told journalists in Kinshasa. "We have responded to [the people's] expectations so that there is serenity."

Under Kabila's proposed law, a national census would have to be completed before the next presidential elections, expected in 2016. The government argues a census is long overdue and would allow better management of the country.

But the opposition says the new bill is a ploy to keep Kabila, 43, in power beyond the end of his mandate in 2016, as a census would take years to complete in an impoverished country the size of western Europe.

Last weekend, the assembly approved the bill with the census requirement, while the Senate voted on Friday to exclude it from the proposed legislation.

Western diplomats met Democratic Republic of Congo President Joseph Kabila on Saturday in a bid to persuade him to drop plans for amending the country's electoral law, of-

sembly to urge them to drop the census provision.

Kabila's proposed bill has angered people across the country. He has been in power since 2001, when he took from his father after the latter was killed.

His last reelection in 2011 was marred by widespread rigging, according to observers, and there is simmering discontent over prevailing poverty despite Congo's riches in minerals including copper, diamond and gold.

Some 42 people were killed in protests since Monday in the capital Kinshasa and other major cities, rights groups say. Protest leaders have called for new demonstrations unless the entire law is withdrawn.

In a statement released on Saturday, the US campaign group Human Rights Watch (HRW) said the DRC government had deployed "unlawful and excessive force" against protesters.

The government spokesman was not immediately available to respond.

Reuters

Abe condemns terrorist group for posting image of killed hostage

TOKYO, 25 Jan — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe condemned on Sunday a hostage-taking group claiming to be the Islamic State after an image apparently showing one of the two Japanese held by the militant group holding a photo of the other hostage decapitated was posted on the Internet.

"It's outrageous," Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters at his office. "The photo showed Mr Haruna Yukawa was killed. It's an unforgivable act of violence. We demand an immediate release of Mr Kenji Goto without hurting him."

Abe did not use the name Islamic State.

An audio message attached to the image of Goto posted online on Saturday

might Japan time said that Yukawa was killed.

The development came after a man claiming to be a member of the extremist group threatened in a video on Tuesday to kill Goto, 47, and Yukawa, 42, unless a ransom of \$200 million was paid within 72 hours.

The amount is the same as that Abe pledged last weekend during his Middle East tour as part of Tokyo's contribution to anti-Islamic State efforts, including extending humanitarian aid to refugees from Iraq and Syria.

Abe called a meeting of relevant ministers in the early hours of Sunday.

"We are now analyzing (the authenticity of) the image," Defence Minister Gen



Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) speaks to the media at his official residence in Tokyo in this on 25 Jan, 2015 photo by Kyodo.—KYODO NEWS

Nakatani told reporters after the meeting.

Japan's top government spokesman hastily called a press conference to announce the country's re-

sponse to the image.

"We demand an immediate safe release of Mr Kenji Goto," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said.—Kyodo News

Suspected Boko Haram militants attack major Nigeria northern city

MAIDUGURI, (Nigeria), 25 Jan — Suspected Boko Haram militants began attacking Nigeria's major northeastern city of Maiduguri just after midnight on Sunday, military, government and local sources said.

At around 9 am (0800 GMT) on Sunday, a Reuters witness said shelling could be heard and that military helicopters were circling the city.

All roads have been

closed, a security source said, and commercial activity has been shut down.

The militants began the attack at the edge of the city in the Njimtilo area. The city is the capital of Borno state and would be a major prize for the insurgents who are trying to carve out an Islamic state.

Boko Haram has waged a five-year insurgency to carve out an Islamic state in the northeast of Africa's big-

gest economy. The militants control vast swathes of Borno state and some areas of neighbouring Adamawa and Yobe states. They recently took control of the town and army base at Baga by Lake Chad.

The army's inability to squash the group has become a major headache for President Goodluck Jonathan, who is seeking re-election in February. Jonathan visited the state capital on Saturday

as part of his campaign and opposition candidate Muhammadu Buhari was due to arrive on Monday.

The insurgents last attempted to take Maiduguri from the same area in December 2013 and attacked a nearby army and airforce base.

A resident, Rachel Adamu, who lives around Njimtilo said "please pray for us, we are in danger, under serious attack now."—Reuters

Bomb wounds two policemen on anniversary of Egypt uprising

CAIRO, 25 Jan — A bomb wounded two Egyptian policemen in Cairo on Sunday and security forces moved quickly to disperse small protests on the anniversary of the popular uprising that toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak in 2011, officials said. The blast targeted policemen stationed outside a sports club in Cairo's Heliopolis area, the security sources said. Supporters of deposed president Mohamed Mursi of the Muslim Brotherhood gathered near Tahrir Square — symbolic heart of the 2011 revolt — and held up photographs of him, a Reuters witness said. Security forces rounded them up. They also teargas to disperse a protest in Cairo's Ramses Square, officials said.

Tensions have been rising in Egypt. A woman protester was shot dead on Saturday near Cairo's Tahrir Square, the symbolic heart of the revolt that ended Mubarak's 30 years of rule. Dozens of protesters were killed during last year's an-



A man waves an Egyptian national flag as a military helicopter circles over Tahrir Square, in Cairo, on 8 June, 2014.—REUTERS

niversary. State news agency MENA said 22 armored vehicles were parked around Tahrir Square and roads to the square were sealed off.

Security forces were also dispatched to Rabaa Square in northeast Cairo, where hundreds of Mursi supporters were killed in August 2013, one month after the army toppled him.

Mursi and other Brotherhood leaders are standing trial on a range of charges, from inciting violence to

conspiring with the Palestinian militant group Hamas against Egypt. They deny the charges. Although a security crackdown has virtually ended street demonstrations, several took place this week in Cairo and Egypt's second city, Alexandria. In a televised address on Saturday, President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi praised the desire for change Egyptians showed four years ago but said it would take patience to achieve all of "the revolu-

tion's goals".

Sisi announced a roadmap to democracy after toppling Mursi when mass protests against his rule erupted, and the government says it is committed to democracy. But human rights groups accuse the former military intelligence chief under Mubarak of restoring authoritarian rule to the most populous Arab state.

Opponents say new laws, including one restricting protests, have rolled back freedoms won in the uprising, when hundreds died as security forces clashed with protesters. Islamists and liberal activists, including many who supported removing Mursi and his Muslim Brotherhood, have been jailed.

An Egyptian court ordered the release of Mubarak's sons Alaa and Gamal on Thursday pending a retrial in a corruption case. In November, a court dropped charges against Mubarak of conspiring to kill protesters in the uprising.—Reuters

Ancient scrolls charred in Vesuvius eruption come to life

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan — The contents of hundreds of papyrus scrolls that were turned into charcoal in the eruption of Italy's Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD — one of the great natural disasters of antiquity — have long remained a mystery. That soon may change.

Scientists said on Tuesday a sophisticated form of X-ray technology has enabled them to decipher some of the writing in the charred scrolls from a library once housed in a sumptuous villa in ancient Herculaneum, a city that overlooked the Bay of Naples.

The library was part of what's called the Villa of the Papyri, which may have belonged to Julius Caesar's father-in-law. Other libraries from antiquity have been discovered but this is the only one that had its scrolls still present.

Along with its sister city Pompeii, Herculaneum was buried by the eruption. The scrolls were carbonized by a blast of hot volcanic gas, ending up looking like burned logs.

Roughly 1,800 of the delicate and brittle scrolls were unearthed in the 1750s. Some have been deciphered. Most have not. Methods used over the years to unroll them or separate their layers have destroyed many.

Carbonized papyrus and the black charcoal ink used in the scrolls have very similar compositions, making it tough to make out the writing using even advanced scanning methods. But these researchers used a technology similar to CT scans, called X-ray Phase Contrast Tomography, to decipher the writing while leaving the scroll rolled up. "They are extremely fragile because they are, more or less, only pieces of charcoal," said Emmanuel Brun of the European Synchrotron Radiation Facility in Grenoble and Ludwig Maximilians University in Munich, who helped lead the study.

The method was used on one intact charred scroll as well as scroll fragments, added Vito Mocella of the Institute for Microelectronics and Microsystems, part

of the National Council of Research in Naples.

The researchers determined the writing was in ancient Greek and the intact scroll may be a text written by 1st century BC philosopher Philodemus.

While this study was not intended to reveal the scrolls' full contents, Mocella said there are plans to use the technology to decipher the hundreds of remaining scrolls. Experts have hoped these may contain famous lost ancient works.

"We're very excited about this possibility because we know the immense value for the study of ancient Greek and Latin civilization," Mocella said.

The intact scroll used in the study, published in the journal *Nature Communications*, was given to Napoleon Bonaparte as a gift in 1802, Brun said.—Reuters

Davos bosses fret over threats to Internet free trade

DAVOS, (Switzerland) 25 Jan — Business leaders pushing for frictionless free trade have something new to worry about: the potential break-up of the Internet, which today forms the backbone of the global economy.

The issue is a hot topic at this year's World Economic Forum in Davos, and the forum is seeking to provide a platform for debate over ways to maintain an open, cross-border Web in the face of pressures for national regulation.

"Is fragmentation happening? Quite frankly, there is a temptation," said Vittorio Colao, chief executive of mobile telecoms group Vodafone, who pointed to different regulatory regimes as an impediment to network traffic. A growing volume of business relies on the Internet, from tourism to



Vittorio Colao, CEO of Vodafone Group, gestures during the session "The Future of the Digital Economy" in the Swiss mountain resort of Davos on 22 Jan, 2015. — REUTERS

financial services, and the Web has empowered firms, especially smaller ones, to find customers in foreign markets who would otherwise be out of reach.

A 2014 report by the Boston Consulting Group estimated the Internet economy will be worth \$4.2 trillion in the major Group of 20 (G20) economies by 2016 and, if it were a coun-

try, it would rank among the top five in the world, ahead of Germany.

Yet even as the Internet has become embedded in modern life, its interconnected nature has come under attack from interests ranging from governments to corporate brands decrying copyright abuses or fearing cyber attacks such as those at Sony.—Reuters

First round-the-world solar flight to take off next month

ABU DHABI, 25 Jan — A plane powered by the sun will attempt an unprecedented flight around the world next month, the project's founders said, seeking to prove that flying is possible without using fossil fuel.

Solar Impulse 2 is set to take off from Abu Dhabi with stopovers in India, Myanmar and China before crossing the Pacific Ocean and flying across the United States and southern Europe to arrive back in Abu Dhabi. On its five-month journey of 35,000 km (22,000 miles), the engines will be powered only by solar energy. The two Swiss pilots will take turns at the controls in the tiny cabin

for five consecutive days and nights in the air.

"Miracles can be achieved with renewables such as solar power. We want to show we can fly day and night in an aircraft without a drop of fuel," Bertrand Piccard, one of the pilots and the project's co-founder, told reporters on the sidelines of the World Future Energy summit currently underway in Abu Dhabi, capital of the United Arab Emirates.

The plane, which has the weight of a family car (2,300 kg, 5,100 pounds) and a wingspan equal to that of the largest passenger airliners, will take off in late February and return by late July. Its journey



The dismantled Solar Impulse 2 aircraft is pictured before being loaded into a Cargolux Boeing 747 cargo aircraft at Payerne airport on 5 Jan, 2015. —REUTERS

will span approximately 25 flight days at speeds between 50 and 100 km (30 to 60 miles) per hour.

Feasibility studies, design and construction have taken 12 years, said Andre

Borschberg, the second pilot and co-founder.

"It is not the first solar airplane, however it is the first able to cross oceans and continents," he said.

Reuters

Brussels Motor Show kicks off in Belgium



Photo taken on 23 Jan, 2015 shows a NOBLE M600 coupe at Brussels Motor Show in Brussels, Belgium. XINHUA

SpaceX gets 1 bln USD funding from Google, Fidelity

BEIJING, 25 Jan — Space Exploration Technologies (SpaceX), founded by Elon Musk, announced it has raised 1 billion US dollars from Google and Fidelity in the latest round of funding, according to media reports on Wednesday.

The money will be used to continue research in space transport, reusability, and satellite manufacturing.

One of its projects involves creating a satellite network to broaden the reach of Internet access around the world. Media reviews said there's a vast, untapped potential in connecting the estimated more than 3 billion people who still aren't on the Internet. These are customers who could be shopping, clicking on advertisements and posting on social media.

Google and Fidelity will collectively own just under 10 percent of SpaceX, joining existing investors Draper Fisher Jurvetson, Founders Fund, Valor Equity Partners and Capricorn.—Xinhua

2nd annual HTML500 free coding camp held in Vancouver



People learn how to code during the 2nd annual HTML500 free coding camp in Vancouver, Canada, on 24 Jan, 2015. The HTML500 is a one-day event where Canada's top 50 tech companies come together to teach 500 people how to code for free. By the end of the day, attendees will create their very own landing page, networked with 100 developers, and possibly even gotten hired by one of the 50 companies in attendance at this massive celebration. —XINHUA

Russia has paid about 1 bln euro for Mistral — Russian defence ministry

MOSCOW, 25 Jan — Russia has paid a sum of about one billion euro under the Mistral purchase contract, Russian Deputy Defence Minister Yuri Borisov said on Saturday.

“We want to have our

money back, we have paid about one billion euro in advance,” he told the Russian News Service radio station.

He said Russia would accept any outcome. “If they hand over (the ships),

we know how to use them. If they give back our money, we know how to use it too, but in either case it would have an adverse impact of the technical rearming of the Russian Navy,” Borisov said.—*Itar-Tass*



Mistral (L9013) is an amphibious assault ship, a type of helicopter carrier.

Iran warns new sanctions harm ongoing nuclear talks

TEHRAN, 25 Jan — Any new sanctions against Iran will seriously hurt the ongoing nuclear talks between Iran and the world powers, and the US will be responsible for the probable failure, a senior Iranian lawmaker said on Saturday.

Any new sanctions on Iran is against the Geneva accord, and “if this happens it will definitely put an end to the talks,” Hossein Naghavi-Hosseini, the

spokesman for the Majlis (parliament) National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, was quoted as saying by semi-official ISNA news agency.

The six countries — Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States — and Iran clinched an interim agreement in Geneva in November 2013, whereby Iran agreed to cap its nuclear programme in exchange for

limited sanction relief.

However, the deadline for following negotiations was extended twice last year, yet with no major breakthroughs.

If the ongoing nuclear negotiations fail, “the United States will be responsible for the failure of the talks,” Naghavi-Hosseini said referring to the recent moves by some US Congressmen to impose fresh sanctions against the Islam-

ic republic.

A new draft is being prepared by the Majlis which means “to oblige the government to resume nuclear enrichment using new generation of centrifuges,” Hossein Naghavi Hosseini said.

“Majlis’ nuclear committee is working on the technical aspects of the draft in detail,” he was quoted as saying.

If the western coun-

tries hinder the progress of the talks, the Iranian government will have to upgrade uranium enrichment to 60 percent purity, he added.

Iran has been a target of UN sanctions due to its alleged attempts to build nuclear weapons. The West accuses Iran of developing nuclear weapons under the cover of civilian nuclear programmes, which Iran has denied, insisting that its

nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes only.

The sides agreed in November 2014 to extend the deadline for another seven months aimed to reach a political agreement within the next five months.

How much nuclear capability Iran can keep, and the steps to lift West-imposed sanctions against Tehran are the main sticking points for the ongoing negotiations.—*Xinhua*

Gentiloni: Serbia, Albania EU membership important

ROME, 25 Jan — Serbia’s and Albania’s EU membership is of strategic importance for the stabilization and security of the entire Western Balkans, Italian Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni has said after meeting with Serbian Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic and Albanian Foreign Minister Ditmir Bushati in Rome. Italy has always fought for the goal and will continue to play a major role in this regard, Gentiloni added, the Italian news agency Ansa reported on Friday.

He said the two countries “membership in the EU” was a “strategic commitment” for the government in Rome, one stressed by Prime Minister Matteo Renzi at the end of Italy’s six-month EU presidency.

Minister Ivica Dacic, who is on an official visit to Rome, took part in a three-way meeting between the Italian, Serbian and Albanian foreign ministers, and



the three officials agreed that those talks would help stabilize relations between Belgrade and Tirana.

The trilateral meeting was organized at the initiative of Italian Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni, the Serbian Foreign Ministry said in a release on Friday.

Dacic said at the meeting that efforts should be made to overcome differences and strengthen the dialogue and friendly relations between Serbia and Albania. We should focus on what brings us closer together,

rather than on what drives us apart. We are part of the same region and should be working towards joint projects, the Serbian foreign minister said. The three officials also discussed regional cooperation in the light of EU integration and Italy’s support to this process, the release said. Dacic and Gentiloni also held a separate meeting in which they discussed bilateral relations, promotion of economic cooperation and the priorities of Serbia’s OSCE chairmanship.—*Tanjug*

US airline flights land in Atlanta after bomb threats

ATLANTA, 25 Jan — Bomb threats against two US airline flights on Saturday prompted North American air defence fighter planes to scramble to accompany them to their destination in Atlanta, an airport spokesman said.

The planes landed safely at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, no bombs were found aboard either and the Atlanta airport has returned to normal operations, said airport spokesman Reese McCranie.

Threats against Delta Air Lines flight 1156, coming from Portland, Oregon, and Southwest Airlines flight 2492, from Milwaukee, had been deemed cred-

ible, McCranie said.

Several media outlets reported that a Twitter user going by the name Zortic wrote of planting bombs on the two planes, stating in a message to a Delta Twitter account, “I have a bomb on one of your planes, but I forgot which one when I left the airport. Can you help me find it?”

Those tweets have since been deleted.

Neither the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which is leading the investigation, nor the airport confirmed the source of the threats.

The North American Aerospace Defence Command scrambled fighter jets from McEntire Joint

National Guard Base in South Carolina, said NORAD spokesman Preston Schlachter. A pair of fighter jets accompanied each aircraft as it landed, he said.

Southwest said in a statement 86 passengers were aboard its flight, and they were being rescreened.

A Delta spokesman said by email its plane was carrying 180 passengers.

The incident comes five days after bomb threats were made against two other Delta flights. One was arriving at John F Kennedy International Airport in New York from San Francisco, and another was departing the New York airport for Tel Aviv.

Reuters



Indian policewomen rehearse for the upcoming Republic Day parade at Shivaji Park in Mumbai, India on 24 Jan, 2015. India is to celebrate its 66th Republic Day on 26 Jan with a large military parade.

XINHUA

GENERAL

Egypt museum admits King Tut's beard broke off and was glued back

CAIRO, 25 Jan — The Egyptian Museum in Cairo acknowledged on Saturday that one of its greatest treasures, the mask of King Tutankhamun, had been crudely glued back together after being damaged, but insisted the item could be restored to its former glory. The golden mask's beard was detached in August, something the museum had not made public until photographs surfaced on the Internet showing

a line of glue around its chin, prompting speculation about the damage and questions over whether Egypt was able to care for its priceless artefacts. The beard broke off when museum workers were changing the lights in its display case and accidentally touched the mask, the antiquities ministry said. Christian Eckmann, a German conservator brought in to evaluate the



The mask of King Tutankhamun, which was found to have been damaged and glued back together, is seen at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo on 24 Jan, 2015. REUTERS

damage, told reporters on Saturday that the seriousness of the damage had been exaggerated. "The use of epoxy is not the best, but it is a solution," he said at a news conference alongside the minister of antiquities. "However this measure was unfortunately done not really properly, so you can see now some remains of glue at the beard." However, gluing the boy king's beard on is not

unprecedented. The beard was not fixed to the mask when it was excavated, Eckmann said, and the artefact was brought to the Egyptian Museum with its beard unattached in 1924. It was not until 1941 that the beard piece was reattached to the mask with glue that has deteriorated over the past 70 years, making the accident in August more likely, Eckmann said.—Reuters

80% of Japanese in favour of death penalty: gov't survey

TOKYO, 25 Jan — The percentage of Japanese people in favour of the death penalty totaled 80.3 percent, down from a record 85.6 percent in the previous survey in 2009, according to a government poll released on Saturday. Only 9.7 percent said the death penalty should be abolished, up 4 percentage points from the previous survey. The result shows a narrower gap between supporters and opponents of the death penalty and is likely to help deepen debate over capital punishment. In the latest survey, which asked for the first time about the possible

abolishment of the death penalty if the life sentence is introduced in Japan, 37.7 percent of respondents said it should be abolished, while 51.5 percent said it should not. Of the respondents opposing execution, 46.6 percent said it would be irrevocable if an accused person was in fact innocent, up 3.4 percentage points from the previous survey. The respondents may have been affected by the court decision last year to suspend Iwao Hakamada's death sentence and reopen his murder case after nearly half a century of detention. Some 41.6 percent said the perpetrators should be

kept alive to pay for their crimes, while 38.8 percent said executing people is unforgivable even for the government. In expressing their preference for execution, 53.4 percent said the feelings of victims and their families would not be satisfied if the death penalty is abolished, while 52.9 percent said perpetrators of heinous crimes should pay for their crimes with their lives, and 47.4 percent said a risk remains that similar crimes could be repeated if they are kept alive. Of those respondents, 40.5 percent said the death penalty could be abolished if the situation changes in

the future. It is the 10th survey since the government started the poll on the death penalty in 1956. Since 1989, the government has conducted such a survey every five years. For the latest survey, the Cabinet Office polled 3,000 men and women aged 20 or older nationwide last November, receiving valid responses from 1,826. The government changed the wording of questions after the Japan Federation of Bar Associations said questions in the previous poll were made to lead to the conclusion of keeping the death penalty. *Kyodo News*

Suicide truck bomb rocks Afghan capital, injuring two

KABUL, 25 Jan — One attacker was killed and two civilians were wounded after a suicide truck bomb rocked Afghan capital of Kabul early Sunday morning, police said. "A truck packed with explosive was detonated along ring road in Qasaba locality at 05:45 am (local time), and the explosion injured slightly two civilian passersby," the Kabul police said in a statement. The attacker was killed on the spot and the truck was destroyed, the statement said, adding that "the explosives were planted under the fruit boxes for carrying out a subversive attack." The potential target remained unknown but, witnesses said the target might have been the nearby front gate of military airport, lying in north of Hamid Karzai International Airport. The road was not busy when the incident occurred. The Taliban insurgent group claimed responsibility for the attack. About 10,000 civilians were killed and injured in Taliban-led insurgency and conflicts in the central Asian country in 2014, according to UN mission officials. The officials blamed the attacks of Taliban insurgents and other armed groups for most of the civilian deaths and injuries.—Xinhua



Wakakusa Yamayaki in Nara
Grass is burned on the hillside of Mt Wakakusa in the city of Nara during an annual festival on 24 Jan, 2015, as fireworks preceded it. The festival is held on the fourth Saturday in January and has been taking place for hundreds of years. At front is the five-story pagoda of Kofukuji, a Buddhist temple. Photo was taken by multiple exposure from 6:19 pm to 6:40 pm.—KYODO NEWS

Lock of slain US President Lincoln's hair auctioned in Dallas, Texas

HOUSTON, 25 Jan — A lock of slain US President Abraham Lincoln's hair and items connected to his assassination were sold at auction for 803,889 US dollars on Saturday in Dallas, a city in the northern part of US state of Texas. The lock of Lincoln's hair, which was removed by Surgeon General Joseph Barnes shortly after Lincoln was shot by actor and Confederacy supporter John Wilkes Booth in April 1865, went for 25,000 US dollars while a letter to a friend written and signed by

Booth in 1861 fetched 30,000 US dollars, according to a report from the website of local English daily newspaper the Houston Chronicle. The lock of Lincoln's hair was among about 300 items that belonged to Fort Worth, Texas history buff Donald Dow, who died in 2009, Heritage Auction officials said, adding that Saturday's auction came after Donald Dow's son Gred Dow believed that it was the right time for him to sell the collection. Greg Dow said that his father

was fascinated with President Lincoln and the assassination, but he now wanted other collectors to have a chance to enjoy it. Lincoln, the 16th US president, was born on 12 February, 1809. He led the United States through its Civil War — its bloodiest war and its greatest moral, constitutional and political crisis. In doing so, he preserved the Union, abolished slavery, strengthened the federal government and modernized the economy.—Xinhua

WEATHER REPORT

BAY INFERENCE: Weather is partly cloudy in the South Bay and generally fair in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 26th January, 2015: Weather will be partly cloudy in Taninthayi Region and Kachin State and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.
STATE OF THE SEA: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.
OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the Lower Myanmar areas.
FORECAST FOR NAY PYI TAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 26th January, 2015: Fair weather.

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Winston Churchill remembered with a 20-pound silver coin

LONDON, 25 Jan — A rare 20-pound silver coin has been struck on Saturday by the British Royal Mint to mark the 50th anniversary of the death of a man described as the greatest ever Briton, Sir Winston Churchill. The coin — official currency in Britain — is being sold at its face value of twenty pounds. Churchill was British prime minister during World War II. *Xinhua*



Bill Clinton documentary by Martin Scorsese put on hold

NEW YORK, 25 Jan — A documentary about former US president Bill Clinton by Martin Scorsese has been stalled for indefinite time as his wife Hillary Rodham Clinton is expected to soon announce her candidacy for 2016 presidential run.

The Clintons allegedly demanded more control over the interview questions and the final cut. Coming from the Oscar-winning director, the project was filmed during the last two years as the former president was making philanthropic trips to Africa and other

places, reported *New York Times*.

It was backed by HBO which produced films about Ronald Reagan and George H W Bush in the past. The Clintons didn't want to risk any possible unflattering camera angle that could provide ammo against Hillary's campaign.

It was also reported that there was an open question about how the daughter, Chelsea Clinton, might figure in the film or on the production team.

"It's not happening soon but that doesn't mean it's not going to happen," a representative for HBO said of the documentary.

Meanwhile, Matt McKenna, a spokesman for Bill Clinton, branded the rumoured control issues "inaccurate." Chelsea's camp also dismissed report that she sought to join the production.

Scorsese hasn't commented on the matter, but he once said in 2012 that the movie would "provide greater insight into this transcendent figure."

Bill Clinton himself at the time said he was pleased to become the subject of a "legendary director."—PTI



Chiwetel Ejiofor to join 'Doctor Strange' cast

LOS ANGELES, 25 Jan — '12 Years a Slave' star Chiwetel Ejiofor is set to join the cast of 'Doctor Strange'. The 37-year-old Oscar-nominated actor is now in early talks for a mystery role. Marvel had no comment on the report.

If the deal is sealed, he will reunite with '12 Years a Slave' co-star Benedict Cumberbatch who is tapped to play the Sorcerer Supreme, according to *The*

Hollywood Reporter.

'Doctor Strange' is directed by Scott Derrickson with the screenplay from Jon Spaiht. It tells the story of a neurosurgeon named Stephen Strange who discovers the hidden world of magic and alternate dimensions following a horrific car accident.

Back in December, it was reported that Morgan Freeman, Bill Nighy and Ken Watanabe were cir-

cling the role of Doctor Strange's mentor, the Ancient One.

Earlier this week, Derrickson teased the movie by sharing an excerpt from the comic. He then retweeted a photo shared by Spaiht which features "Azathoth" by HP Lovecraft.

'Doctor Strange' is targeting a 4 November, 2016 release date.—PTI



Selena Gomez gets cozy with Zedd

LOS ANGELES, 25 Jan — Singer-actress Selena Gomez was photographed getting cozy with rumoured boyfriend, Russian-German music producer and DJ, Zedd. The 22-year-old 'Heart Wants What It Wants' singer, who is filming 'The Revised Fundamentals of Caregiving' in Atlanta, got a surprise visit from Zedd on the sets of the movie and they posed for pictures with some fans, reported TMZ.

Gomez and Zedd took photos with some fans at Benihana restaurant. One fan also snapped a photo of them "getting cozy" at the restaurant.

In the photo, Gomez, who just got a shorter haircut, wore a white shirt and large sunglasses. Zedd, meanwhile, sported a black leather jacket over a grey hoodie.

The fan followed it up with a picture, taken from outside, of the pair standing closely to each other inside the restaurant. The fan wrote alongside the picture, "Zedd & Selena getting cozy before coming outside for fans..."

"Selena and Zedd were hugging and kissing while eating at the restaurant," an onlooker said.—PTI

Ed Sheeran to get Madame Tussauds waxwork



LONDON, 25 Jan — Pop star Ed Sheeran is all set to get a wax statue at Madame Tussauds museums.


The waxwork company confirmed it had plans to add Sheeran to one of its six museums in the US, reported BBC online.

Madame Tussauds could not confirm when the waxwork would be ready for display or which museum it would go in.

Sheeran, 23, said being measured in his underwear was "one of the weirdest experiences of

my life". Sheeran, who grew up in Framlingham in Suffolk, said, "They put me in skin-tight grey shorts and vest, which doesn't leave much to the imagination. Then they just measured me for three hours, prodded and poked and filmed it." Madame Tussauds has five existing US museums in Hollywood, Las Vegas, New York, San Francisco and Washington DC and plans to open another one in Orlando this year.

PTI



Miley Cyrus

can't spell Patrick Schwarzenegger's last name

LOS ANGELES, 25 Jan — Pop star Miley Cyrus has trouble spelling out her boyfriend Patrick Schwarzenegger's last name.

The 22-year-old 'Wrecking Ball' singer revealed on 'Good Morning America' that she just realised 'there's not a T' in her boyfriend's last name, re-

ported Ace Showbiz.

"Literally, I just had this conversation, I can't tell you. Apparently there's not a T in it," Cyrus said.

She visited the ABC morning show to promote her new MAC Cosmetics Viva Glam campaign. The proceeds from the sale of her custom lipstick will benefit the MAC AIDS fund.

"It's fun for young people to get to buy a lipstick and know that it's going to actually go to changing the way that their future is going to be," she said.

"I realised that if there's going to be all this attention on me all the time, no matter what I say, no matter what I do, I should be saying something and speaking on behalf of those that kind of feel like they have no voice."—PTI

"Literally, I just had this conversation, I can't tell you. Apparently there's not a T in it," Cyrus said.

GENERAL

Chinese mother prosecuted for selling her own baby

ZHENGHOU, 25 Jan — A woman from central China's Henan Province has been prosecuted for selling her own baby, local authorities said.

The woman surnamed Huang conspired with an obstetrician in a Xinxiang County clinic to sell her newborn for 42,000 yuan (nearly 7,000 US dollars). The doctor was also prosecuted.

In August, a villager came to police and claimed that her grandson had been sold. Huang, her daughter-in-law, told the family that the baby died soon after birth,

but a relative discovered that the boy had actually been sold.

During the investigation, Huang said she had a son with her former husband, but always quarreled with her current husband and was worried that the new baby would affect the life of her first child.

The doctor was paid 7,000 yuan for helping her find the couple who bought the boy, the procuratorate said. The boy is now in the care of his grandmother. Further investigation is under way.—Xinhua



Vice Chairman of China's Central Military Commission Fan Changlong (R) meets with Chief of Staff of the Pakistani Army Raheel Sharif in Beijing, capital of China, on 25 Jan, 2015. —XINHUA

Tottenham's cup runs dry as Leicester pounce

LONDON, 25 Jan — Tottenham Hotspur's hectic schedule caught up with them as they slipped out of the FA Cup in a 2-1 fourth-round home defeat by Premier League bottom club Leicester City on Saturday.

The north London club's 36th game of the season, more than any other English top-flight team, was going to plan after Andros Townsend's early penalty but late goals by Leonardo Ulloa and Jeffrey Schlupp sealed a fifth round place for Leicester.

Tottenham, sixth in the Premier League, will try to defend a 1-0 first leg advantage in their League Cup semi-final at third-tier Sheffield United on Wednesday and resume their Europa League challenge in the last 32 against Fiorentina next month. Spurs manager Mauricio Pochettino has rotated his squad freely and did so again with record signing



Tottenham Hotspur's Etienne Capoue (R) challenges Leicester City's Andrej Kramaric during their FA Cup fourth round soccer match at White Hart Lane in London, on 24 Jan, 2015. —REUTERS

Erik Lamela back from injury and Spain striker Roberto Soldado in attack.

Belgian international Moussa Dembele also started, as did Brazil midfielder Paulinho, but Tottenham were punished for failing to build on their lead as Leicester pounced late on.

"I'm very disappointed because I thought we

played well," Pochettino told the Spurs website (www.tottenhamhotspur.com). "The problem was we didn't kill the game and you need to kill the game.

"We gave the opportunity to Leicester to stay alive in the game and in the last 10 minutes we lost everything we made in the first 80 minutes.

"We need to show character and we need to go to Sheffield and try to get the victory," added the Argentine.

Leicester's main priority is to stay in the top flight but manager Nigel Pearson said an FA Cup run was a useful boost for the months ahead. "Today's result, against a Premier League side with an awful lot of quality, will hopefully be a positive influence on the rest of the season," he said.

Pearson gave a debut to new signing Andrej Kramaric and the Croatia midfielder was denied a first-half penalty. "Today was a really good experience for him. It gave us a chance to use him in a game, which allows him to acclimatize against a Premier League side," said the Leicester boss.

"He is going to be an important player for us."

Reuters

Kosovo police fire teargas in anti-government protest

PRISTINA, 25 Jan — Kosovo police fired teargas on Saturday evening to disperse thousands of protesters throwing stones at a government building in a demonstration called by ethnic Albanian opposition parties.

It was the biggest protest seen in Pristina since Kosovo declared independence from Serbia in 2008.

The ethnic Albanian parties are seeking the resignation of a minister, Aleksandar Jablanovic from the Serb minority, who earlier this month called some ethnic Albanians savages.

They also want the government to announce clear plans for the future of the country's wealthiest mine, which is claimed also by Serbia.

Around 10,000 people

ended a protest at 1600 local time (10 am ET) but dozens continued to throw stones at the government building and attacked police, injuring 20 officers.

Police said they had arrested 22 protesters.

In early January, Jablanovic dubbed as "savages" some ethnic Albanian protesters who lost relatives during a 1998-99 war with Serbia.

The minister has apologized but the opposition parties are asking for his resignation, organizing protests all over Kosovo.

Protesters also called on the government to vote an early plan to take control of a huge mine rich in lead, zinc and silver.

Fearing bankruptcy, Kosovo's new government



A protester kicks a tear gas canister during a protest in the centre of Pristina on 24 Jan, 2015. —REUTERS

said last week it would take control of the sprawling Trepca mining complex, but backtracked on Monday following a furious response from Serbia and intense discussions with Western diplomats.

A NATO helicopter and unmanned drone flew during

the protest. NATO has some 5,000 troops to maintain the fragile peace.

Kosovo declared independence in 2008 almost a decade after NATO intervened for 11 weeks and drove out forces under late Serbian strongman Slobodan Milosevic.—Reuters

MITV

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(26-1-15 07:00 am~ 27-1-15 07:00 am) MST

- * Local News
- * Myanmar Handicrafts
- * World News
- * Pretty Play Things From Pakokku
- * Local News
- * Interview with Israeli Ambassador
- * World News
- * Distinguished Myanmar Ladies
- * "Tin Moe Lwin"
- * Local News
- * Chef Life: Cho Wut Yee
- * World News
- * "Myanmar's Traditions and Culture" Tea
- * Local News
- * Youth Filmmaker (Kaung Sint)
- * World News
- * Kayah
- * Local News
- * Today Myanmar (Sesame Export)
- * World News
- * Nelson English Language Center
- * Local News
- * Friendship Tour to China-I
- * World News
- * Friendship Tour to China-II
- * Local News
- * Friendship Tour to China-III
- * World News
- * Independent Filmmaker
- * Local News
- * Myanmar Traditional Wicker Ball (Chinlone)
- * World News
- * In The Studio
- * "Six Thu"

MRTV News Channel

(26-1-2015, Monday)

- 6:00 am**
 - Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
- 6:35 am**
 - Physical Exercise
- 7:00 am**
 - News/ Weather Report
- 7:35 am**
 - Weekly Entertainment
- 8:30 am**
 - Head Line News
- 9:35 am**
 - Documentary (ASEAN)
- 10:35 am**
 - Business News
- 12:00 noon**
 - News / International News / Weather Report
- 12:35 pm**
 - Tasty Trip (Chin State)
- 1:05 pm**
 - Gitadagale Phwintbarohn
- 4:00 pm**
 - News
- 4:35 pm**
 - University of Distance Educations (TV Lectures) —First Year (Myanmar)
- 6:35 pm**
 - Socio Economic Scenes
- 7:00 pm**
 - News
- 7:35 pm**
 - People Talks
- 8:00 pm**
 - News / International News / Weather Report
- 9:00 pm**
 - News / International News / Weather Report
 - Hluttaw Image
 - TV Drama Series

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(26-1-2015, Monday)

- 6:00 am**
 - Travelogue Programme
- 6:25 am**
 - A-1 Soe Myint Musics
- 6:45 am**
 - TV Drama Series
- 7:10 am**
 - Fashion Show
- 7:50 am**
 - TV Drama Series
- 8:35 am**
 - TV Drama Series
- 9:20 am**
 - Musical Programme
- 9:35 am**
 - Pyi Thu Ni Ti
- 9:55 am**
 - China in Myanmar Cultural Show
- 10:10 am**
 - Myanmar Video

Bombs kill 11 in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 25 Jan — Bombs killed at least 11 civilians in central Baghdad on Sunday when they exploded at two restaurants in the Iraqi capital, police and medical sources said. Police said the deadliest explosion took place near Tahrir Square when a bomb placed in a plastic bag exploded near a popular restaurant, killing seven people and wounding 11 others. In a separate incident, four people were killed and eight wounded when a bomb went off near a small restaurant in central Baghdad's Sibaa district, police and medics said.

It was not clear why the restaurants were targeted, and no group immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Reuters

Shock defeats for Chelsea and Man City in FA Cup

LONDON, 25 Jan — Often derided and disrespected during the Premier League era, the FA Cup added another incredible chapter to its proud heritage on Saturday as Chelsea and Manchester City were humbled by supposed inferiors.

A day after Manchester United suffered a fright in a 0-0 fourth-round draw at fourth tier Cambridge United, Premier League leaders Chelsea surrendered a two-goal lead to lose 4-2 at home to third tier Bradford City.

If that was not a seismic enough shock, a couple of hundred miles north, Premier League champions City were torn apart by second tier promotion hopefuls Middlesbrough, crashing 2-0 at a stunned Etihad. Chelsea were unbeaten in all competitions at home this season. They boast a 100 percent record in the league at Stamford Bridge and appeared on course for a routine win after 38 minutes with goals from Gary Cahill and Ramires. Bradford, 49 places lower than Chelsea

and with a squad made up of journeymen and bargain signings, had other ideas.

They gained a foothold when Jon Stead fired a beauty past Petr Cech before halftime.

Former Chelsea player Filipe Morais side-footed an equaliser after the break before an improbable script was completed by Andy Halliday thumping the ball past Cech with 10 minutes left and Mark Yeates side-footing a fourth in stoppage time to send the visiting fans delirious.

Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho visited the opposition dressing room to offer his congratulations but was scathing of his side, which despite nine changes from Tuesday's League Cup semi-final first leg draw at Liverpool, was packed with internationals.

"Me and the players must feel ashamed," Mourinho told the BBC as his hopes of a quadruple this season were extinguished in the most unexpected circumstances.

"It's a sporting disgrace. This happens to every team from time to



Manchester City's Vincent Kompany (R) fouls Middlesbrough's Jelle Vossen during their English FA Cup 4th round soccer match at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester, northern England on 24 Jan, 2015.—REUTERS

time but for me it's the first time, it's unacceptable to lose against a team from a lower league." It was the first time in England that a Mourinho team lost to lower league opposition.

"The lads are absolutely bouncing in that dressing room and what they've done today will be remembered for a very long time," said Bradford manager Phil Parkinson who led the Yorkshire side

to the 2013 League Cup final against the odds. Manchester City only arrived back from a warm-weather training camp in Abu Dhabi the evening before taking on Middlesbrough and looked groggy against fluent opponents who struck after halftime through Chelsea loanee Patrick Bamford and Spaniard Kike.

Bamford bundled in the opener after sloppy

defending and, after Borowski wasted several clear chances and Frank Lampard hit the post for City, Kike beat keeper Willy Caballero with a neat finish after a counter-attack.

City's second home defeat in a week after losing to Arsenal last Sunday has derailed their season.

"We had six or seven clear chances to score. We played well in the first-half," said City boss Ma-

nuel Pellegrini.

"After they scored we were disordered, they had a counter attack and they scored again late on."

The surprises, that begun earlier in the day when top flight Swansea City lost 3-1 at second tier Blackburn Rovers and had two players sent off, continued when Southampton went down 3-2 at home to Crystal Palace, meaning the top three in the Premier League all crashed out on a remarkable FA Cup afternoon. Jeffrey Schlupp's stoppage-time volley gave Premier League bottom club Leicester City a surprise 2-1 victory at League Cup semi-finalists Tottenham Hotspur.

West Bromwich Albion avoided an upset at Birmingham City, winning the Midlands derby 2-1, but a poor day for the elite continued when Bolton Wanderers drew 0-0 at Liverpool and Sunderland were held 0-0 at home by Fulham. Derby County beat Chesterfield 2-0 while Preston North End and Sheffield United drew 1-1.

Reuters

Ronaldo off in Real win as Barca hit six



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo is seen during their Spanish First Division soccer match against Cordoba at El Arcangel stadium in Cordoba on 24 Jan, 2015.

REUTERS

BARCELONA, 25 Jan — Cristiano Ronaldo was sent off for kicking out at an opponent but Real Madrid still beat Cordoba 2-1 away on Saturday while Barcelona kept on their heels with a 6-0 romp at Elche.

Real remain top with 48 points, one more than Barca and also with a game in hand, but the loss of world player of the year Ronaldo through a ban could cause problems.

"I am sorry to everyone and especially to Edimar for my impulsive act in today's game," Ronaldo said on his Twitter account. His great

rival Lionel Messi and Neymar hit second-half braces for Barca after Gerard Pique celebrated his 200th La Liga appearance with a volley that clipped off Domingo Cisma and into the roof of the net 10 minutes before the break.

Neymar was upended in the box by Sergio Pellegrin and Messi scored the penalty after 55 minutes. Elche midfielder Faycal Fajr was dismissed for a second yellow card two minutes later. Messi was the provider twice for Neymar who finished clinically after 69 and

72 minutes before the Argentine got his second two minutes from the end.

Messi has now equalled the record of doubles scored in La Liga after notching up his 77th to match the total set by Telmo Zarra, of Athletic Bilbao, in the 1940s and 1950s. It is the latest in a long line of records for the striker, who became the highest scorer in La Liga history earlier this season.

There was still time for Pedro to get the sixth from close range after being found by Neymar.

"After the first goal it was easier and we were able to control the game," Barca coach Luis Enrique told reporters. "This was a typical game during the season and they are not easy to win so I am happy with the way the team played over the 90 minutes."

Real's Ronaldo kicked out at defender Edimar with seven minutes to go and also appeared to throw a punch as the visitors struggled to create chances but they were gifted the win when a Gareth Bale free kick was handled by Fede Cartabia in the area.—Reuters

Nadal, Sharapova charge into quarters as top brass shine

MELBOURNE, 25 Jan — Former champions Rafa Nadal and Maria Sharapova charged into the quarter-finals of the Australian Open on Sunday, as the guardians of the tennis establishment crushed the grand slam dreams of upstart challengers. Nadal withstood an early serving barrage from South African beanpole Kevin Anderson in a 7-5, 6-1, 6-4 masterclass at Rod Laver Arena to continue his brilliant comeback from a 2014 season ravaged by injury and illness. The Spaniard, who ruled himself out of contention before the tournament, now faces Tomas Berdych for a place in the semi-finals, a man he has mastered in their last 18 matches. The Czech seventh seed, whose record of pain against Nadal dates back to 2007, overpowered local hope Bernard Tomic 6-2, 7-6(3), 6-2.

"The chance to be in the quarter-finals after a tough period of time for me is a fantastic result," 14-times grand slam champion Nadal said courtside. "I probably played my best



Rafael Nadal

match of the year." Ticketholders at Rod Laver Arena may have felt a bit short-changed by the day session, with Nadal's two-hour nine-minute romp to victory following Sharapova's 69-minute demolition of Peng Shuai. US Open semi-finalist Peng, taking the mantle from retired Chinese champion Li Na, stayed with the Russian second seed for seven games, but was blanked in the next eight as Sharapova set up a blockbuster showdown with Canadian sensation Eugenie Bouchard,

a 6-1, 5-7, 6-2 winner over Romanian Irina-Camelia Begu.

Twenty-year-old Bouchard was dubbed 'the next Sharapova' as she announced herself in a breakout 2014, and bristles at the comparison which was put to the test at the French Open semi-finals last year. Sharapova came back from a set down to quash Bouchard that day before going on to win the title and expects another stiff test from the Canadian upstart.

"We all want to create our own path and go through our own career," the five-times grand slam champion told reporters. "And we're all destined for some sort of thing. We work extremely hard at a sport, and that's what we want to be known for."

Reuters

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