Toppling Lenin's Statue

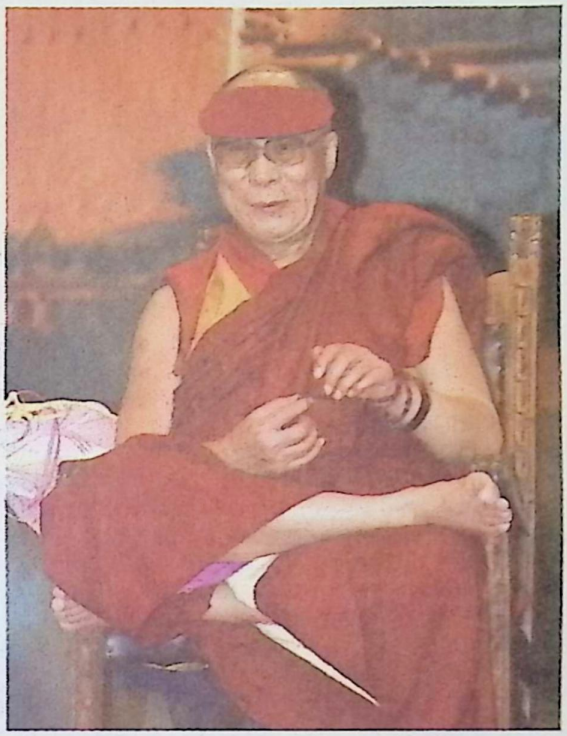


Kiev, Ukraine. Pro-EU Ukrainian demonstrators topple the statue of Soviet Union's founder Vladimir Lenin and attacked it with hammers on Sunday in the latest mass protests against President Viktor Yanukovich and his plans for closer ties with Russia. Demonstrators kept up their protest against Yanukovich as the authorities sent internal troops and riot police into central Kiev in an increasingly tense showdown. Thousands braved sub-freezing temperatures to maintain the open-ended demonstration on Independence Square in Kiev while others guarded barricades thrown up the day earlier around key government buildings.



'Ghost' Airport Up for Sale

Madrid, Spain. A huge airport in central Spain that cost one billion euros ($1.4 billion) to build but has not received a commercial flight since 2011 went up for auction Monday for just 100 million euros. With a runway long enough to land an Airbus 380, the world's largest airliner, and a capacity to handle 10 million passengers per year, the airport at Ciudad Real some 200 kilometres (100 miles) south of Madrid, has become a symbol of Spain's real estate bubble. The airport went up for auction on Monday for a starting price of 100 million euros to meet creditor demands and the bidding will close on December 27, a spokesman for a commercial court in Ciudad Real which is overseeing its sale said.



Not Attending Madiba's Funeral

New Delhi, India. Spokesperson Tenzin Takhla said on Monday that the Dalai Lama will not attend memorial services for fellow Nobel Peace Prize laureate Nelson Mandela in South Africa. Takhla gave no reason for the Dalai Lama missing the memorial service in Johannesburg and funeral in Mandela's hometown, and only stated that "logistically it's impossible at this time." South Africa blocked the Dalai Lama from attending a Nobel laureates' peace conference in 2009, and stalled on a 2011 visa until the Tibetan leader withdrew the application.

Unfit For Occupation



Bellingham, Washington. A health official in northwest Washington state says three college students who began to feel dizzy and lethargic while living for several months in a rental house have been told to move after the home tested positive for methamphetamine. Whatcom County Health Department supervisor Jeff Hegedus said that an initial health department test found meth contamination well above Whatcom County's legal limit. A second test done by a decontamination contractor came back with an even higher meth reading.