Established 1914

MAI launches maiden flight of Yangon-Siem Reap (Angkor Wat)

YANGON, 23 Feb—The Yangon-Siem Reap (Angkor Wat) route of Myanmar Airways International (MAI) was launched at Yangon International Airport, here, 9 am today.

Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Yangon Region Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Tun Than and officials formally opened the ceremony. Maj-Gen Tin Ngwe cordially greeted the passengers for maiden flight of Yangon-Siem Reap (Angkor Wat).

Yangon-Siem Reap (Angkor Wat) was implemented under the MoU on promotion of tourism industry between the two countries during the trip of Prime Minister U Thein Sein to Cambodia in 2010.


MAI plans to extend flights to Tokyo of Japan, Seoul of Republic of Korea, New Delhi of India, Dubai of UAE and Jakarta and Bali of Indonesia.

Victorious Myanmar archers back from First Asian Archery Grand Prix 2011

YANGON, 23 Feb—The Myanmar victorious archery team that bagged five gold, one silver and four bronze medals in the First Asian Archery Grand Prix 2011 held in Bangkok from 18 to 21 February arrived here by air yesterday evening.

The members of the Myanmar team led by General Secretary of Myanmar Archery Federation U Kyaw Oo (Deputy Director of Sports and Physical Education Department) were welcomed back by General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of SPED U Thaung Htaik and officials. Chairperson of Central Working Committee for Myanmar Women’s Sports Federation Daw Aye Aye and Secretary Daw L Khun Yi handed over K 1 million as cash award presented by MWSF to the Myanmar team. Myanmar secured one gold medal each in the men’s compound team event and knockout event, the women’s compound team event, the knockout event, and Aung Hngein won one gold medal in the women’s single compound event and one silver in women’s compound knockout event.

Ye Min Swe won one bronze medal each in men’s single compound event and knockout event, and Thin Thin Khai one bronze in women’s single recurve event. Ye Min Swe and Aung Hngein secured one bronze in the compound mix-team event.

Ye Min Swe and Aung Hngein set the new record with 157 points in the third place match by breaking their old record of 153 points in the 2010 grand prix.—MNA

Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order

Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system

Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad

The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation

Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character

Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit

Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

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National reconsolidation

Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution

Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four political objectives

Four economic objectives

Four social objectives

Four political objectives

Four economic objectives

Four social objectives

Members of Myanmar victorious archery team being welcomed back at Yangon International Airport after bagging five gold, one silver and four bronze medals in the First Asian Archery Grand Prix 2011.

MNA
**PERSPECTIVES**

Thursday, 24 February, 2011

Preserve invaluable Myanmar traditional medicine

Traditional medicine of Myanmar has been developed in line with Myanmar traditions and customs since ancient monarchial era. Before flourishing of Western medicines, health care services have been provided to the people applying Myanmar traditional medicines.

Herbal plants are being grown and species of these plants conserved by establishing the herbal parks to ensure availability of raw materials for production of traditional medicines. Departments concerned are conducting research to uplift quality of traditional medicines, carrying out development of Myanmar traditional medicine sector and preserving ancient treatises of traditional medicines.

The Nay Pyi Taw National Herbal Park located on 196.4 acres of land was inaugurated near Nay Pyi Taw-Taungnyo Road on 4 January 2008 for ensuring emergence of an international standard herbal park.

Rare and potent herbal plants from various parts of the nation can be seen in the National Herbal Park. Thousands of various rare herbal plants are being nurtured at the park.

Myanmar has to conserve valuable and rare species of herbal plants and preserve invaluable therapies of traditional medicines for their existence. Thus, utmost efforts are to be made for discovering and improving the essence of Myanmar traditional medicine by conducting systematic research through modern technology so as to disseminate potent therapy of Myanmar traditional medicines to the international community.

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**Mandalay Mayor inspects sanitation tasks**

MANDALAY, 23 Feb—Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor U Phone Zaw Han together with the officials inspected drainage system for proper water flow of Ngwetachaung drain between 12th and 14th streets in Aungmyethazan Township on 9 February.

Later, he inspected building of Kywe-yegon dumping ground in Patheingyi Township and left necessary instructions.—**MNA**

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**Man injured in KNU mine attack**

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb—U Maung Hla Phyu of Nyaunggon village in TadaU Village-tract, Hpa-an Township, Kayin State, lost his left big toe and picked up injuries in the lower body at the explosion of the mine planted by KNU near Taungpaw Monastery in Kyonkanhet Village at about 7 pm yesterday.

The incident took place when he stepped on the mine while preparing to cook rice.

Authorities are taking care of him who is receiving treatment in Hpa-an Hospital.—**MNA**

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**Raffles Hospital to partake in Education, Living & Health Care Exhibition**

YANGON, 23 Feb—The Education, Living & Health Care Exhibition, organized by Jade Crown Organizing Group and mainly sponsored by Shine Construction Group, will be held at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road, here, from 9 am to 5 pm daily from 25 to 28 February.

Raffles Hospital of Singapore, one of the participants at home and abroad in the health and education fields, will participate in the exhibition.

Raffles Hospital will fix discount for health care services, present pamphlets and gifts and disseminate health knowledge to the visitors.

For further information, contact Raffles Hospital Patient Liaison Office Myanmar-Diamond Aces Services Co., Ltd, Tel: 01-299944 and 095127625.—**MNA**

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**Want to learn B.A (Hons;) of University of Sunderland?**

YANGON, 23 Feb—For the human resource development, STI Education is conducting diplomas and advanced diplomas in Logistic Management, Supply Chain Management, Human Resources Management, Teacher Training, Hospitality & Tourism Management, Banking & Finance and Business Management etc. Those who have got advanced diplomas from STI may learn the final year of B.A (Hons;) in Business Management conferred by University of Sunderland, UK. And, they can continue to attend MBA courses of University of Bradford and University of Sunderland after passing B.A (Hons;).

For more information, STI Education, No.377, Shwebontha Street (Upper Block), Pabedan Township and Myanmar Info-Tech Ward (4) and Room (7), HlineTownship and dial Ph:700273 and 507048.—**MNA**

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**Do not be softened whenever**

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

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**People’s Desire**

Deputy Minister for Construction U Myint Thein being greeted by Charge d’Affair ai Mrs Fadlyani binti Haji Annuar of Brunei Darussalam Embassy in Myanmar at ceremony to mark 27th National Day of Brunei Darussalam held at Traders Hotel in Yangon on 23 February.—**MNA**

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**Mandalay Mayor U Phone Zaw Han looks into sanitation task being carried out with the use of heavy machinery in Aungmyethazan Township.—**MCDC
**Tensions rise over Afghan civilian deaths**

KABUL, 23 Feb—An investigation into claims that international troops killed scores of civilians in northeast Afghanistan escalated into a feud Tuesday between President Hamid Karzai and senior US military officials who cited a report that Afghan parents have been known to discipline children by burning their hands and feet.

Karzai spokesman Waheed Omar described comments made by Rear Adm. Gregory Smith, director of Communications for the US-led coalition, also known as International Security Assistance Force, as being “outrageous, insulting and racist.” He demanded a clarification.

The flap started during a discussion at the presidential palace about claims that NATO forces killed about 60 civilians during a four-day operation in Kunar Province — a charge that has been contested by the international coalition.

Media reports and television footage broadcast after the claims showed severely injured children and others with burns on their faces, hands and feet — yet is was unclear if they were injured in military operations. The Washington Post, quoting unidentified individuals who attended the palace meeting, reported Tuesday that Gen. David Petraeus, the top NATO commander in Afghanistan, had suggested that Afghans might have intentionally burned their own children to exaggerate claims of civilian casualties. The coalition vehemently denied the report.

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**US and allies kill, injure Iraqi people**

BAGHDAD, 23 Feb—There has been daily casualties in Iraq since the US and its allies have invaded the country.

The total number of casualties as from the day they invaded the country to 23 February reached 705053 and the total number of seriously injured people reached 1276603, according to the news on the Internet.

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<th>No.</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Death toll of Iraqi people</td>
<td>705053</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The total number of seriously injured people</td>
<td>1276603</td>
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**Casualties of Afghani people in invasion of NATO troops led by US**

KABUL, 23 Feb—The NATO troops led by the US have invaded Afghanistan and they are there for a long time.

A number of Afghan people are killed and injured due to invasion of the NATO troops led by the US.

According to the Internet news, a total of 33667 Afghani people were killed and 40977 seriously injured as from the day when the NATO troops led by the US invaded Afghanistan to 23 February.

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**At least 14 injured in grenade attack in NW Pakistan**

KABUL, 23 Feb—Afghan and NATO-led troops have captured a Taleban facilitator in Taleban birthplace Kandahar in southern Afghanistan, a statement of the alliance said Wednesday.

“Afghan National Security and International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF) detained a Taleban facilitator during a security operation in Kandahar District, Kandahar Province on Tuesday,” the statement added.

The unnamed Taleban man was responsible for the movement of weapons in the Province for attacks against Afghan and coalition forces, it said.

Taleban militants fighting Afghan and NATO-led troops have yet to make comment.

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**Israeli fire wounds seven Palestinians in Gaza**

Gaza, 23 Feb—Seven Palestinians were wounded Wednesday by Israeli artillery shelling in Gaza City, witnesses and medical sources said. The wounded are members of Al-Quds Brigades, the armed wing of the Islamic Jihad movement, the brigades said in a statement.

Adham Abu Selmiya, spokesman for medical services, said that two were seriously wounded and the others sustained moderate injuries.

The witnesses said that the bombing happened as the Israeli force was operating in Palestinian-controlled land in eastern Gaza City.

Also on Wednesday, the Israeli forces shot two Palestinian workers in northern Gaza Strip. Abu Selmiya said that the two were collecting gravel and scrap metal near Gaza-Israel borders when they were shot.

Shootings at the workers have been taking place on daily basis since Israel allocated a 300-metre-wide buffer zone along its borders with Gaza in February, 2010.

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**Soldiers from Kandahar Army Airfield, Afghanistan conducted a Team Village mission where members of Civil Affairs and Psychological Operations visited local villages to provide humanitarian aid and gather passive intelligence in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, on 23 Sept, 2003.—INTERNET**
Satellites to scan for earthquake signs

LONDON, 23 Feb—British and Russian scientists say a satellite system monitoring seismic activity from space may one day predict the occurrence of earthquakes and eruptions.

Researchers from the two countries have joined in the TwinSat project, which intends to put two satellites into orbit about 250 miles apart, working in tandem to collect and interpret electromagnetic signatures from the ground, the engineerc.co.uk reported Tuesday.

Geologists say as stress builds up in the Earth prior to an earthquake or a volcanic eruption, subtle electromagnetic signals are released.

Present methods for collecting and analyzing seismic-related signals are not sensitive enough to be of any real predictive value, project researcher Dhiren Kataria of University College London says.

“The signatures are much too weak and the signal-to-noise level too high,” he says. “Also, to be able to observe it, you need the sensors to be very close to the earthquake site and that is not always possible because most of our ground sensors are at fixed locations.”

“The on other hand, when you’re up in space the noise is reduced and the spread of the signal is over a much wider region, so you can capture it far easier.”

The project team, made up of researchers from UCL’s Mullard Space Science Laboratory and Russia’s Institute of Physics of the Earth and International Science and Technology Centre, says it plans to launch the TwinSat in 2015.—Internet

Coral reefs said vital to biodiversity

CANBERRA, 23 Feb—Australian scientists say corals reefs in the South China Sea, West Pacific and Coral Triangle are key to preserving fish and marine resources in the region.

Research by Johnathan Kool of the Australian Research Council’s Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies and colleagues has established that the richest marine region on Earth — the so-called Coral Triangle between Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines — depends for its diversity and resilience on coral and fish larvae swept in from the South China Sea and Solomon Islands, an ARC release said Tuesday.

“The currents go in various directions, but the prevailing direction is from east to west, and this carries coral spawn and fish larvae from areas such as round the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea and the Solomons/Papua New Guinea,” Kool said.

“Maintaining the network of links between reefs allowing larvae to flow between them and re-stock depleted areas is key to saving coral ecosystems threatened by human pressure and climate change,” he said.

Recent evidence suggesting the region’s marine biology is closely interconnected shows it is in the interests of all Asia-Pacific countries to work together more closely to protect it, he said.

“These coral ecosystems provide food and income for more than 100 million people working in marine-based industries throughout the region,” Kool said.—Internet

Macao’s 1st mobile e-book platform to be launched in Q1

MACAO, 23 Feb—Hutchison Telephone (Macao), which markets itself as 3 Macao, has announced that it will launch Macao’s “first-ever one-stop mobile e-book platform in the first quarter” of the year, the Macau Post Daily reported on Tuesday.

The company made the announcement about its “3 Books” launch during a media luncheon on Fisherman’s Wharf.

“With over a million books in what will be Macao’s largest electronic book collection, accessible via platforms such as the iPhine and PCs, the 3 Books service will offer users the most refreshing and comprehensive reading experience anytime, anywhere,” the announcement said.—Xinhua

Cellphone network said threat to GPS

WASHINGTON, 23 Feb—A proposed faster US cellphone network could interfere with global positioning systems, creating GPS “dead zones” across the country, researchers say.

GPS satellites transmit their navigation signals in the range 1559 to 1610 megahertz, close to the frequency band used by US telecom company LightSquared, which communicates with its satellites in the 1525 to 1559 megahertz range known as the “L” band, NewScientist.com reported Tuesday.

Despite the closeness of the frequencies, GPS receivers have operated without any interference problems — up to now. In January the Federal Communications Commission gave preliminary approval for LightSquared to build 40,000 new high-speed-4G mobile wireless protocol base stations on the ground that would broadcast much stronger signals in the 1525 to 1559 MHz range to link to cellphones.

Engineers with GPS manufacturer Garmin International in Olathe, Kan, say this will seriously damage GPS reception and that it “will result in widespread, severe GPS jamming [and] will deny GPS service over vast areas of the United States.”—Internet

Apple deemed top of movie product placement charts

LOS ANGELES, 23 Feb—Apple was deemed top of the product placement charts on Tuesday after getting its computers, iPads, iPods and other items featured in 30 percent of the top movies at the US box office in 2010.

But the single movie with the most placements was “Iron Man 2” — which featured 64 identifiable products, according to Brandchannel, the website of global brand consultancy Interbrand.

Brandchannel said it identified 591 brands or products in 33 films that reached No1 at the box office in 2010, an average of 17.9 per film. This was a slight increase from the 17.5 per film average of 2009.

Apple had roles in movies last year ranging from “Kick Ass” to “The Other Guys” and “Toy Story 3.” Total Apple products placements beat those of runners-up Chevrolet, Ford and Nike.

Apple was given the Brandcameo award for Overall Product Placement, which goes to the brand that makes the most discernible appearances in No1 films at the US box office that year.

Apple, which also came top in 2009, capped a decade in which its products appeared in one-third of 334 films that reached number one status at the US box office.—Reuters

The Amazon homepage appears on a screen in Washington, DC US online retail giant Amazon on Tuesday launched a movie streaming service that competes directly with Internet film star Netflix.—INTERNET

A Xoom tablet is displayed at the 3GSM World congress in Barcelona, on 17 Feb US telecom titan Verizon on Thursday will begin selling Motorola Mobility’s hotly awaited “Xoom” tablet computer at a price close to that of a top-of-the-line iPad.—INTERNET

A technician gathers sulphur deposits in Banyuwangi, eastern Java, which could be used as a source of renewable energy. Experts and activists say governments are not doing enough to exploit these energy sources.—INTERNET
Health Tip: Cramp got your leg?

A muscle cramp occurs when a muscle involuntarily contracts. It often occurs during a sport or other exercise, but a muscle can spasm even during sleep.

The ADAM Encyclopedia offers these suggestions for alleviating or preventing a muscle cramp:
- Stop your activity right away, and perform some gentle stretching or massage.
- Heat the muscle while it’s cramping. Apply ice for pain later.
- Take a nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug to help manage pain.
- Drink plenty of water, a sports drink or take a salt tablet.
- Don’t push yourself beyond your limit while working out.
- Be sure to include enough potassium in your diet.
- Stretch your muscles regularly.—Internet

Method detects likelihood of cancer spread

LUND, 23 Feb—Researchers in Sweden say they developed a technique that can identify which breast-cancer patients are likely to risk metastasis — the spread of cancer. Researchers at Lund University in Sweden say within the next two years the method will be tested in Swedish hospitals, and in the future the technique may also be used in other countries.

Carl Borrebaeck, professor of immunotechnology at Lund University and programme director for Create Health, says the idea is to build a diagnostic clinic next to the operating theater, where the tumour can be analyzed while the patient is still on the operating table and the surgeon, oncologist and pathologist together can make a diagnosis and treatment plan.

Borrebaeck says with the technique for analyzing patterns of biomarkers — protein molecules — in the blood, it is possible to obtain information about what type of cancer the patient has and what the prognosis is. One-quarter of all women who suffer from breast cancer are at risk of metastasis, Borrebaeck says.

Internet

Carrefour, Wal-Mart fined 9.5 mln yuan for cheating Chinese consumers

BEIJING, 23 Feb—Nineteen stores of Carrefour and Wal-Mart in China were fined 9.5 million yuan (1.45 million US dollars) for cheating consumers over prices, said China’s economic planner and price regulator Tuesday.

The National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) disclosed the cases of price deception on 26 Jan, involving the two retailers’ stores.

It ordered a maximum fine of 500,000 yuan for each store.—Xinhua

Minority teens: Fewer depression therapies

ATLANTA, 23 Feb—Black, Hispanic and Asian adolescents are less likely than whites to receive treatment for major depression, US researchers say.

Researchers at the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University in Atlanta analyzed data from 2004 to 2008 collected from the National Survey of Drug Use and Health.

Drs Janet R. Cummings and Benjamin G. Druss evaluated a national representative sample of 7,704 adolescents ages 12-17 diagnosed with major depression within the past year. Researchers studied the differences in treatment for depression across four racial/ethnic groups of adolescents with major depression — non-Hispanic whites, blacks, Hispanics and Asians.

The study, published in the Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, found the percentage of non-Hispanic whites who received any major depression treatment was 40 percent compared with 32 percent for blacks, 31 percent for Hispanics and 19 percent for Asians.

Internet

BOJ upbeat on economy, exports show seasonal dip

TOKYO/AOMORI, 23 Feb—Bank of Japan Deputy Governor Hirohide Yamaguchi said the country’s economy will soon pull out of its torpor, despite a near-stalling of export growth in January, but warned that risks remain from rising commodity prices.

Stirred export growth slowed to its weakest pace in more than a year in January as shipments to China lost steam before the Lunar New Year, but economists said the central bank’s forecast for an export-led recovery remained intact as underlying demand overseas was still strong.

“Exports were weaker than expected but the overall trade data does not alter the scenario that the economy is emerging from a lull in the January-March quarter,” said Yoshimasa Maruyama, economist at Nomura Securities in Tokyo.

Yamaguchi, a career central banker and a close aide to Governor Masaaki Shirakawa, said Japan’s economy is emerging from a lull in the January-March quarter, ” said Yoshimasa Maruyama, economist at Nomura Securities in Tokyo.

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Google faces another antitrust complaint in Europe

BEIJING, 23 Feb—Google faces another antitrust complaint in Europe from the French company 1plusV that Google is abusing its dominant market position to shut out competition, according to the New York Times Wednesday.

1plusV, which specializes in creating thematic search engines, complained with the European Commission Tuesday that Google prevented competing search engines from using its advertising service if its search technology was not adopted. This thereby impeded the development of alternative technologies, the complaint said.

According to 1plusV, Google was artificially favouring its own websites, and pushing down other competing search sites in search results.—Xinhua

中国批准工程研究中心

BEIJING, 23 Feb—China's Ministry of Science and Technology has approved a subsidiary of CSR Corporation Limited (CSR), China's largest rail vehicle maker, to set up an engineering research centre for high-speed trains.

The research centre of CSR Sifang Locomotive & Rolling Stock Co, Ltd (Sifang Locomotive), is the first of its kind in China, said a CSR statement Wednesday.

The research centre will provide a platform for high-level research and development, experiments and engineering technology studies for China’s high-speed trains, it said.

Sifang Locomotive is the maker of China’s CRH-380A train, which set a world record speed of 486.1 kilometres per hour during a test run on the Beijing-Shanghai high-speed railway in December last year.

Currently, more than 40 CRH-380A trains made by Sifang Locomotive have been put into operation in China, according to the statement.

Xinhua

Macao logs over 2 mln visitor arrivals in January

MACAO, 23 Feb—Macao’s visitor arrivals in January this year reached 2,076,064, up 1.4 percent from a year earlier, according to figures released on Wednesday by the city’s Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

Of all the arrivals in January, 54.5 percent lasted only one day, the figures indicated. Analyzed by place of residence, visitors from the Chinese mainland increased by 7.9 percent year-on-year to 1.22 million, 38.8 percent of the total, of which 538,306 traveling to Macao under the Individual Visit Scheme.

Visitors from South Korea (42,127) and Japan (36,155) grew by 39 percent and 1.4 percent respectively, while those from Hong Kong (529,621) and Taipei (92,123) decreased by 2.8 percent and 20.4 percent respectively.

INTERNET

Activists rip out GM crops in a field in Menville, France, in 2004. Global plantings of genetically modified crops increased 10 percent in 2010 compared to the prior year, according to a study released Tuesday by an organization that promotes crop biotechnology.

INTERNET

Somali gov’t deprecates killing of US hostages by pirates

MOGADISHU, 23 Feb—Somali government has condemned as horrendous crime the killing of two American couples by pirates who seized their yacht last week off Oman.

The couples reportedly died after they were shot by their captors this week as the US navy pursued their pirated yacht in an effort to negotiate their release.

Two Somali pirates were also killed and 13 others captured by the American navy after the killing of the couples.

“We condemn the actions of these and all pirates operating from our shores and we will ensure that the captured pirates are brought to justice,” Somali Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi said in a statement.

The premier said his government “deeply regrets” the deaths of the four Americans hijacked by pirates off the coast of Somalia describing the pirates as callous men.

“We are all deeply saddened by the news of these killings. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends and we offer our sincere condolences,” Premier Mohamed said.—Xinhua

People take part in the Hong Kong marathon on 20 Feb, 2011. More than 65,000 people took part in the 10-km, half-marathon and marathon races in the territory on Sunday, organizers said.

INTERNET

新西兰地震警告

CORVALLIS, 23 Feb—The New Zealand earthquake that killed dozens and caused heavy damage is a warning to cities up and down the West Coast of North America, a researcher says.

Robert Yeats, a professor of geology at Oregon State University, says that same description matches what could happen in many major cities and towns in Washington, Oregon, California and British Columbia.

“The same characteristics that caused such destruction and so many deaths in Christchurch are similar to those facing Portland, Seattle, parts of the Bay Area and many other West Coast cities and towns,” Yeats said.

“And it’s worth keeping in mind that New Zealand has some of the most progressive building codes in the world. They are better prepared for an earthquake like this than many US cities would be.”

Like much of the West Coast, Yeats said, New Zealand sits near a major boundary of the Earth’s great plates — in this case, the junction of the Australia Plate and the Pacific Plate.

Xinhua

Machu Picchu archaeological site. Peru’s picturesque Inca city of Machu Picchu, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a victim of its own success, and booming tourism demand now means access must be limited to protect it, UNESCO chief Irina Bokova said Monday.

INTERNET

NZ quake said a warning to North America

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INTERNET
The United Nations General Assembly issued its Resolution 61/193 dated 20 December 2006 to designate the year 2011 as International Year of Forests. It was celebrated at the Assembly Hall of the United Nations Headquarters in New York on 2 February 2011. I was selected to represent Myanmar at the ceremony. The United Nations Secretary-General in his speech highlighted the importance of forest management for sustainable development of woodlands, economic and social sustainability, poverty alleviation, and forests’ absorbing carbon dioxide, calling for cooperation of all countries in International Year of Forests. On the occasion, the winning films of International Forest Film Festival designed to value the central role of people in the sustainable management, conservation and sustainable development of our world’s forests were screened. Among the screened films, “The Queen of the Trees” reflects the important role of a fig tree (ficus glomerata) in conserving the terrestrial biodiversity.

It was intended to enable governments, UN agencies, related NGOs, private organizations and other organizations to boost expression of unanimous stances in International Year of Forests to scale up management and conservation for sustainable development of forests.

The logo for this year is based on the theme of “Forests for People”. Forests, habitats for the terrestrial biodiversity, play an important role in providing shelter, food, medicines and safe water and conserving the environment for global climate patterns. Therefore, it is required to widely recognize the vitality of forests that contribute to basic needs and interests of the world population of seven billion.

At present, the world’s forest coverage is 31 percent. Over 30 million acres of natural forests around the world are damaged yearly, which is alarming for one-fourth of the world population (about 1600 million) who depend on about 9800 million acres of natural forests.

The largest forest coverage countries are the Russian Federation, Brazil, Canada, the United States of America and the People’s Republic of China, which forms over half the total area of the global forests. The total area of forests protected under the law including national parks and sanctuaries makes up only about 13 percent of world forests. From 2000 to 2010, the world lost 12.8 million acres of forests a year, which is equal to the area of Costa Rica. That shows a decrease in annual deforestation if compared with that from 1990 to 2000.

Plantations are being set up to regenerate deforested areas. So far, the afforested area has increased to about 625 million acres, about seven percent of world’s forest area. From 2005 to 2010, over 12 acres of lands were put under plantations.

Wood and non-wood products are produced from only about 3000 million acres of forests, and 2350 million acres are designated for multipurpose areas. If compared with the total area in 1990, the world’s forest area from which wood and non-wood products are produced has decreased by about 124 million acres. Similarly, timber production size is decreasing in all regions of the world except Africa. According to the statistics, average annual production of timber is about 3400 million cubic meters.

The area of forests designated to conserve the environment is about 815 million acres. China is growing trees on a broad scale under an anti-desert programme. So, up to 1990, it saw about 148 million more acres of forests.

The four global objectives adopted at the United Nations Forum on Forests are:

- Reverse the loss of forest cover worldwide through sustainable forest management, including protection, restoration, reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;
- Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people;
- Increase significantly the area of protected forests worldwide and other areas of sustainably managed forests, as well as the proportion of forest products from sustainably managed forests;
- Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased, new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of sustainable forest management.

The United Nations Forum on Forest urged its members to work in International Year of Forests as follows:

- For United Nations Forum on Forests member countries and regional organizations to work out the issues being faced by world forests and those who depend on them for their livelihoods by holding private ceremonies in order to raise the awareness about multipurpose values of forests;
- To formulate better policies to conserve all non-legally binding forests and to achieve the four global objectives, to boost international cooperation, to adopt strategies to seek ways, raise funds and exploit forest resources and hand them over to developing countries;
- To appoint coordination committee or those in charge at the national level in member countries, to launch International Year of Forests movements and work coordination at regional and national levels, to encourage voluntary service in movements between international organizations and members, and to expose achievements and challenges in addressing forest issues at national, regional and international levels for sustainable forest management.

- For UN agencies to effectively participate in movements to mark International Year of Forests;
- For UN Economic and Social Commission to submit agendas for celebrating International Year of Forests to UN General Assembly, and to boost management for benefits of present and next generations as the forest section is a crucial part in international development objectives;
- For organizations for forest cooperation to enable individuals or organizations to understand more the multipurpose values of forests including ecosystems and sustainable forest management.

In Myanmar, a member of the United Nations Forum on Forests, the Ministry of Forestry is playing a leading role in pursuit of short- and long-term plans for sustainable forest management for Myanmar forests. The Myanmar forest policy aims to ensure sustainable development of forests for the people and next generations to directly and indirectly enjoy benefits from forests, to help fulfill the basic needs of the people, to mobilize participation of the people in conserving and exploiting forests, and to organize the people to be convinced of the major role of forests in improving the socio-economic status of the State. Moreover, the government has given the green light to regenerate deforested areas and set up private-owned plantations in barren areas with active participation of the people.

As a gesture of honouring the International Year of Forests (2011), I would like to urge the people especially local people to do their bit in tasks for sustainable development of forests that lie at the centre of addressing forest issues for development economic and social achievement of the nation, environmental conservation and preparedness against natural disasters including global climate changes.

Translation: MS
Religious Affairs Minister receives Korean guests

Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung received a delegation led by Ven Mok Tak of the Republic of Korea, Chairperson of Korea-Myanmar Friendship Association.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb—Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung received a delegation led by Ven Mok Tak of the Republic of Korea, Chairperson of Korea-Myanmar Friendship Association at the Ministry of Religious Affairs here this afternoon. They discussed strengthening of Korea-Myanmar friendly relations and religious affairs.—MNA

Kenbo Cup Golf Tournament to be held

YANGON, 23 Feb—Thagyan 2011 Kenbo Cup Golf Tournament, mainly sponsored by Kenbo and organized by Myanmar Golf Federation, will be held Shwethamin Golf Club in Muse on 5 March, Ayeyawady Golf Club of Pathien on 13 March, Hanthawady Golf Club of Bago on 20 March, Monywa Golf Club of Monywa on 26 March, Northern Star Golf Club of Myitkyina on 1 April and Shwemantong Golf Club of Mandalay on 5 April. The final event will go on in Shwemantong Golf Club on 7-8 April on a grand scale.—MNA

Talks on traffic rules given to university students

YANGON, 23 Feb—Head of No. 1 Traffic Police Area Police Captain Myint Kyi and party of Yangon Region Wireless and Traffic Police Corps gave talks on traffic rules at University of Computer Studies in Shwepyitha yesterday. It was attended by 525 faculty members and students in total. —MNA

Chairman of Myanmar Pharmaceuticals Dealers Association Dr Win Sithu and party being seen off at Yangon International Airport on 23 February before their departure for Asia Pharma Expo-2011 to be held in Dhaka of Bangladesh.—MNA

Model Pharma Co., Ltd to take part in Education, Living and Health Care Exhibition

YANGON, 23 Feb—Education, Living and Health Care Exhibition will be held at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wissaya Road here from 9 am to 6 pm from 25 to 28 February. Model Pharma Company, a sole agent in Myanmar dealing with latest pharmacy and pharmaceutical equipment, will take part in the exhibition. Gulco Dr, a diabetes testing device, and BP Dr, a blood pressure measuring device, will be showcased at the booth of the company. Besides, Pep 2 for children will be available at the booth. For further information, contact Model Pharma Co., Ltd at No (18-20) on Naykyar Street in Pazundaung township in Yangon (Ph: 201615 and 397681 and email: info@midelpharma.com).—MNA

Star Resources to open Receptionist & Flight Attendant course

YANGON, 23 Feb—Star Resources Hospitality Management Academy will open new class of Receptionist & Flight Attendant course in the last week of this February. The well-experienced lecturers of the academy will teach internationally recognized syllabuses with the course guide lines of Institute of Hospitality (UK) and Educational Institute of AH & LA (USA). The duration of the course is three months. New classes of International Hospitality Management Couse and IELTS Foundation and Preparation Course will be opened in the same week as well. Those interested may contact Star Resources Hospitality Management Academy at Room No. (302), Building (267), Pyay Road, Myaynigon, Sanyoung Township (Ph: 01-523623, 523200).—MNA

Industry-2 Minister receives KOICA Country Representative

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Feb—Minister for Industry-2 U Soe Thein received Resident Representative Ms Kim Jin-Hwa of Korea-Myanmar Friendship Association at the Ministry of Religious Affairs here this afternoon. Their meeting focused on continuous cooperation in technology for Technical Training School (Thagara) being opened with the assistance of KOICA and handing over of Technical Training School (Magway) in May 2011. —MNA

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Health Education book, the 13th work of Dr Soe Lwin being distributed by Sarpay Lawka Book House-5, corner of Pansodan and Maha Bandoola Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon. —MNA
Progress of road constructions inspected

YANGON, 23 Feb—Deputy Minister for Construction U Myint Thein on 21 February inspected maintenance and repaving of Mezali-Maletto Road being undertaken by Road Construction Special Group (4) and Maubin District Public Works.

He looked into construction tasks being carried out on Maubin-Twanluv Road by Yangon and Ayeyawady Region Public Works with the use of heavy machinery.

At the briefing hall of Myago Camp, the deputy minister heard reports on progress of Khatittyayu-Myago road section presented by officials. The deputy minister stressed the need to place emphasis on timely completion of works with high quality and priority to be given to worksite safety.—MNA

Talks on Recent Climate Changes in Myanmar and Weather Outlook for 2011 on 5 March

YANGON, 23 Feb—Dr Tun Lwin (Meteorology and Hydrology Department) (Retired) will give talks on “Recent Climate Changes in Myanmar and the Weather Outlook for 2011” at the monthly subject-wise talks (March 2011), organized by the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, on the first floor of UMFCCI Office Tower on Min Ye Kyawwaa Road in Lannmadaw Township here at 2 pm on 5 March.

Chairmen, executives and members of the UMFCCI and its affiliated associations and enthusiasts are invited to attend the talks. — MNA

Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon)...

(from page 16) The Ministry of Construction is building Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon) between mile post No. 40 and No. 44 on Yangon-Pathein Road, 8000 upstream of Bo Myat Tun Bridge. On 1 January 2010, the stake driving ceremony was held at RP 19 of the bridge project.

The approach bridge will be 1837 feet long on Pathein bank and 1575 feet on Yangon bank. The total length of the motor road will be 3412 feet and the total length of railroad, 6614 feet. The total length of approach motor road will be 11389 feet. The bridge will have 10814 feet in total length of bridge and approach roads. Likewise, the bridge will have 20545 feet in total length of approach railroads. The clearance of the facility will have 262 feet wide and 57 feet high.

So far, the construction of the bridge has completed by 63 per cent on 21-1-2011.

In an interview, group leader Ko Min Zaw of the engineers and workers said, “A total of 300 technicians of iron frame installation group are working at the construction project. Under the supervision of the superintending engineer, we all participate in installation of iron frames at the bridge through three steps. We firmly believe we will carry out the tasks without any mistake applying our experiences. Priority is being given to worksite safety. Installation of iron frames at the bridge will be complete with the use of manpower and heavy machinery.”

On completion, a railroad network will emerge in Ayeyawady Region in addition to the road network for contributing to construction of better transport for the local people and they will enjoy fruits of social, education and economic development in the near future.

Translation: TTA

Kyemon: 18-2-2011

Myanmar workers participate in lifting first iron frame onto Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon).

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Ye Min Swe and Aung Hngein who set new record of Asian Archery Grand Prix 2011 in Asia seen with Myanmar Archery Federation General Secretary U Kyaw Oo. (News on page 1)

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Official records show Cuban tourism optimistic in 2011

HAVANA, 23 Feb—Cuba registered record international tourist arrivals of 222,296 at the end of January 2011, a year-on-year growth of 15.9 percent, the National Statistics Office (NSO) said here on Tuesday.

Compared with the same periods in 2007, 2008 and 2009, the number represents an increase of 33.9, 19.2 and 10.5 percent respectively and means a good start for the Cuban tourist industry in 2011, said the NSO.

Cuban authorities are planning to raise the number of international tourist arrivals up to 2.7 million this year, from 2.5 million last year, which saw a 4.2-percent growth over 2009. Tourism is Cuba's second largest revenue source after the delivery of medical and other professional services in other countries, especially Venezuela, for which the island nation receives some 6 billion US dollars annually.—Xinhua

Plumber rescues US woman's 10k dollar diamond ring from sewer line

New York, 23 Feb—A plumber rescued a 10,000-dollar wedding ring from the sewer line after a Pennsylvania woman accidentally flushed it down the toilet.

According to KABC-TV, Kristen Kalis of Cranberry Township, Pa, was horrified when she realized she'd flushed the ring early in the morning, reports the New York Daily News.

Worst of all, she couldn't find one plumber who was willing to take on the case — they all told her the ring was gone for good.

Finally, Kalis spoke to Steve from Mister Rooter who was willing to try and retrieve the ring.

When snaking a camera down the sewer line didn't work, he wasn't deterred. "Stuck the Shop-Vac down. It's about four-feet deep. Sucked it all out. After all the water was drained out, unplugged the Shop-Vac, took off the lid, dumped the water out and there was the ring," Steve told KABC.

He said this was the first diamond ring he'd ever found while working in the sewer line.

Kalis was grateful to Steve, to say the least.

"I'm like screaming and yelling outside. 'I'm hugging him. I'm telling him that I love him. I was just so, so happy," Kalis said.—Internet

Malcolm X daughter accused of fraud, identity theft

NEW YORK, 23 Feb—The youngest daughter of slain civil rights leader Malcolm X was being held without bail on Tuesday in North Carolina pending extradition to New York on charges she stole $55,000 and the identity of the widow of her father's friend and bodyguard.

Malikah Shabazz, 44, is accused of defrauding Khaila Bakr of New York City, widow of a bodyguard who was with Malcolm X when he was assassinated in Harlem on 21 February, 1965, according to Queens County, NY, District Attorney Richard Brown.

Shabazz allegedly stole the personal identification information of the 70-year-old widow and used it to steal more than $55,000 between August 2006 and November 2007, he said. “She vehemently denies taking any money, or anything of value that belonged to Ms. Bakr,” said Shabazz’ attorney Sean Devereux after the hearing in Marshall, NC.

Shabazz was ordered held without bond, and New York officials were expected in North Carolina on Monday to transfer her to New York.

The attorney said the judge had given authorities a maximum of two weeks from Shabazz’ arrest to collect her. "Otherwise we'll be back in court again," he said. Shabazz was arrested in Mars Hills, North Carolina, on Friday and charged with grand larceny, criminal possession of stolen property, forgery, identity theft, fraud, falsifying business records and other charges.

If convicted, she faces up to seven years in prison.—Reuters

A boy presents his cow during a cow beauty contest at the 48th Paris International Agricultural Fair, at the Porte de Versailles exhibition center in Paris, France, on 22 Feb, 2011. The annual fair, opened on 19 Feb, will run till on 27 Feb.

New method found to detect autism risk

BEIJING, 23 Feb—Scientists have developed a new method of detecting the autism in infants by brain waves analysis, according to a study published in “BMC Medicine” Tuesday.

By analyzing brain activity patterns of nearly 80 babies, researchers found great differences between the high-risk group and the comparison group.

In the research, babies wore helmet-like caps studded with electrodes and electric wire to measure electrical activity while they watched a research assistant blowing bubbles. The tests were repeated from the time they were 6 months old until they reached age 2.

Researchers said patterns in brain electrical activity can give many clues about how the neurons in each part of the brain are connecting and functioning. Although these results are only preliminary, the scientists believed that computer will help to pick up subtle differences in brain activity patterns therefore push forward this new method in application.

Compared with the traditional behavioural tests now used, this new method is safer, less expensive and easier to perform, and may help those autism-suspected babies shorten their waiting time by months or even years.—Xinhua
NZ earthquake causes ice to break off glacier

CHRISTCHURCH, 23 Feb—The earthquake that struck Christchurch has caused some 30 million tons of ice to break off from New Zealand’s biggest glacier.

Tour guides at the Tasman Glacier in the Southern Alps say the quake caused the ice to “calve” from the glacier, forming icebergs in the terminal lake.

Tourists of Glacier Explorer boats say the icefall caused waves of up to 3.5 metres in height which swept up and down the lake for 30 minutes.

The glacier is about 120 miles (200 kilometres) from Christchurch on the west coast.

The powerful earthquake struck Christchurch on Tuesday, toppling tall buildings and churches, crushing buses and killing at least 65 people.

New Zealand earthquake death toll rises to 75

WELLINGTON, 23 Feb—The New Zealand South Island City of Christchurch Mayor Bob Parker said on Wednesday that the official death toll was 75 after Tuesday’s massive earthquake.

Fifty-five bodies have been identified, with 20 other deaths confirmed, though the bodies have yet to be recovered.

New Zealand gains experience in dialog science

BEIJING, 23 Feb—China’s National Meteorological Centre (NMC) Wednesday forecast rain or snow in most parts of China in the next few days, which could help relieve the severe drought in many provinces.

The NMC said northwestern and northern regions, areas along the Yellow River, Huaihe River and the Yangtze River, most regions south of the Yangtze and Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region could see light to moderate rain or snow from Thursday.

Some areas in Henan, Shanxi and Hebei Provinces, which were severely hit by the drought, could see heavy rain or snow.

The severe drought has persisted since last October, said the NMC.

Baby dolphins dying along oil-soaked US Gulf Coast

GULFPORT, 23 Feb—Baby dolphins are washing up dead along the oil-soaked US Gulf Coast at more than 10 times the normal rate in the first birthing season since the BP disaster, researchers said.

Some 17 baby dolphin corpses have been found along the shorelines of Alabama and Mississippi in the past two weeks, The Institute for Marine Mammal Studies said. “The average is one or two a month. This year we have 17, and February isn’t even over yet,” said Moby Solangi, director of the Gulfport, Mississippi-based institute.

“For some reason, they’ve started aborting or they were dead before they were born.”

Solangi is awaiting results from a necropsy performed on two of the dolphins Monday to determine a cause of death. But he called the high numbers an anomaly and said the Deepwater Horizon disaster, which unleashed millions of barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico over three months, likely played a role.

Adult dolphin deaths tripled last year to 89 from a norm of about 30.

“We shouldn’t really jump to any conclusions until we get some results,” Solangi said. “But this is more than just a coincidence.”

Dolphins breed in the spring — around the time of the 20 April explosion that brought down the BP-leased drilling rig — and carry their young for 11 to 12 months.

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Battling US for huge deal, Eurofighter woos Japan

TOKYO, 23 Feb—In a deal that could be worth billions of dollars and determine one of the primary fighter jets in Asia for decades to come, European aircraft makers are trying to convince Japan to do something it has never done before — snub America. US planes have long been Tokyo's overwhelming favourite, but Japan appears to be wobbling under a strong sales pitch for the Eurofighter Typhoon, coupled with problems and restrictions that have made the American alternatives less attractive. The stakes are high.

The contract is expected to be worth upward of $10 billion, and the chosen plane will be the showcase aircraft for Washington's chief ally in the region at a time when both China and Russia are modernizing their air forces. Gom European, some analysts say, also could complicate future US-Japan air defence cooperation.

Eurofighter unveils new fighter in Japan

BATTLEFIELD, 23 Feb—In a significant move towards expanding its reach in Asia, Eurofighter unveiled its newest fighter jet, the Eurofighter Typhoon, to a selected group of defence officials and enthusiasts in Japan. The unveiling was part of an extensive marketing campaign by the European consortium to win contracts from Japan and other Asian nations.

The Eurofighter Typhoon, a multi-role warplane designed for air superiority and ground attack missions, was showcased at a special event in Tokyo, where it was displayed alongside other advanced military technologies. The event was attended by representatives from Japan's Ministry of Defence, military personnel, and key industry stakeholders.

“Japan is a vital player in the Asia-Pacific region, with growing strategic importance,” said a member of the Eurofighter team. “We are confident that the Typhoon’s capabilities will meet the needs of the Japanese armed forces and open up new opportunities for our partnership.”

The Eurofighter Typhoon is powered by a twin-spool turbofan engine and配备有先进的电子战系统和航电设备。它具有卓越的机动性、隐身性和作战灵活性，能够执行多种任务，从拦截敌方攻击到精确打击地面目标。

In addition to the unveiling event, Eurofighter has been conducting extensive negotiations with Japanese officials to finalize a potential sale of the Typhoon. The company has expressed confidence in securing a deal, given Japan’s growing defence needs and its reliance on Western technology.

The unveiling of the Eurofighter Typhoon in Japan marks a pivotal moment in the company's efforts to expand its market footprint in Asia. With Japan's defence budget set to increase in the coming years, the Eurofighter Typhoon presents a compelling alternative to existing fighter models. The company is optimistic about its chances of securing a significant contract, which could significantly boost its revenues and strengthen its position in the global defence industry.

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BP signs $7.2 billion deal with Reliance

LONDON, 23 Feb—British oil giant BP said Monday it had signed a $7.2 billion deal to buy 30 percent of 23 gas and oil fields in India from Reliance Industries Ltd.

The deal, which is one of the largest in the Indian oil and gas sector, will give BP a significant stake in some of the country's most promising fields, including the Shah fields in the eastern state of Gujarat.

BP's acquisition of a 30 percent stake in the fields, which are estimated to contain about 700 million barrels of oil equivalent, comes as the company seeks to diversify its portfolio and expand its presence in the rapidly growing Indian market.

“India is a key market for BP and this deal strengthens our position in the country,” said BP CEO Bob Dudley. “We are committed to working closely with Reliance to unlock the full potential of these fields and bring them online in a sustainable manner.”

In addition to the Shah fields, the deal also includes stakes in the Tapti, Saurashtra and Damodar fields, which are expected to begin producing in 2023. The fields are located in the offshore块 of the Krishna-Godavari basin, one of the largest gas-producing areas in India.

The acquisition is part of BP's strategy to increase its exposure in the Asia-Pacific region, where it is already active in other countries such as Australia and China. The company has been expanding its operations in India, particularly in the upstream sector, where it has invested heavily in recent years.

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A car-shaped art work is exhibited outdoor at the 798 Art Zone in Beijing, China, on 20 Feb, 2011. The “brick car”, 6.5 tons in weight, is made of cement, bricks and reenforcing steel bars.

Posters for Russia military holiday ‘showed Chinese jets’

Hundreds of posters decorating Russian streets for a military holiday accidentally replaced Russian planes with Chinese fighter jets, an official admitted Tuesday.

Posters displayed in the northwestern city of Saint Petersburg showed a plane against a national flag. But instead of a Russian jet, it was in fact a Chinese Chengdu J-10, or Vigorous Dragon.

The slip, reproduced in around 250 posters, was an error by the designer, who was unfamiliar with military planes, said the head of the city’s media committee, Alexander Korennikov.

“I was the designer’s fault. If you are not a specialist in military hardware, it is an easy thing to do,” he said.

“The problem was that the images were printed and put up before being checked and agreed with the media committee.”

The mistake was spotted at the end of last week and the posters were due to be removed by the end of Tuesday, on the eve of the holiday, Korennikov said.

On Wednesday, Russians celebrate the Day of the Defenders of the Fatherland, a public holiday when military hardware is on display.

I pray for Charlie Sheen, says dad Martin Sheen

LONDON, 23 Feb—Hollywood legend Martin Sheen has revealed that he prays for his troubled son Charlie.

The ‘West Wing’ star said the actor, who has fought a well-documented battle with drugs and checked into rehab last month, had the backing of his family, reports the Telegraph.

When asked how he was supporting his son, Sheen replied: “With prayer. We lift him up and we ask everyone who cares about him to lift him up, and lift up all those who are in the grip of drug and alcohol abuse, because they are looking for transcendence.”

The 70-year-old was speaking at the UK premiere of his new pilgrimage film ‘The Way’ at London’s British Film Institute.—Internet

Lindsay Lohan in talks to star in first movie since rehab stint

New York, 23 Feb—Lindsay Lohan is in negotiations to star in her first film since finishing her 3-month court-ordered stay at a California rehab facility.

The 24-year-old actress will return by mid-year for a role in “Escaping the Game,” a drama to be filmed in the US and Spain, producer Nathan Folks told RadarOnline.

Folks said contracts are still yet to be signed but expected the deal to be finalized within the next few weeks. Lohan will play an investigator hired in a case involving missing celebrities who fake their own deaths and create a new life for themselves on a remote island. “She wants to do it. It’s about celebrities who become very famous and can’t take it,” The New York Post quoted Folks as saying.

The movie role comes after Lohan was charged with felony grand theft over a missing 2,500-dollar necklace.

Folks is confident the “Mean Girls” star will stay sober and out of jail, and said he had discovered how to get her insured for his 30 million dollars project.—Internet

Sandra Bullock’s ex Jesse James writing memoir

New York, 23 Feb—It looks like Jesse James, the infamous ex-husband of Sandra Bullock, is ready to reveal all about his past. He is writing a memoir, according to UsMagazine.com.

The book, which is allegedly titled “American Outlaw”, will be published by Gallery Books, an imprint of Simon and Schuster.

The 41-year-old motorcycle aficionado has a lot of potential material to cover: his three failed marriages, his recent engagement to Von D, his businesses such as West Coast Choppers - and, of course, his alleged affair with tattoo model Michelle (Bombshell) McGee, reports the New York Daily News. James is now engaged to LA tattoo artist Kat von D.—Internet

Wallet missing for 40 years found in NY crevice

A New York man whose wallet disappeared from his jacket pocket has gotten it back — 40 years later.

Rudolph Resta was working for The New York Times as an art director in 1970 when he left his jacket in a closet at the old Times building in Manhattan just off Times Square. When he went to look for his jacket, the wallet was gone. Fast-forward to last fall, when a security guard checking a gap by an unused window came across the wallet — apparently stashed there by a thief who’d pulled out the cash.

Resta was tracked down through pieces of ID linked to the Times. Resta is now in his 70s. He’s enjoying the memories the wallet contained — photos of his sons as children, his glamorous wife and his late father.

Lady Gaga wants non-glamorous life

LONDON, 23 Feb—Pop star Lady Gaga insists she wants to live a “normal” life and has no interest in the “glamorous” Hollywood social gatherings.

“I actually made a choice to keep my life pretty normal. Some point about two years ago I said to myself, ‘OK, am I going to put my toe in Hollywood’s pond and figure out if I want to live a glamorous life and assimilate to the glamorous lifestyle,’ but I really didn’t want to do it,” contactmusic.com quoted her as saying.—Internet

Models present creations from the Roksanda Ilincic Fall/Winter 2011 collection at London Fashion Week on 22 Feb, 2011.—Xinhua

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Thursday, 24 February, 2011
Reid shock at ‘devastating’ New Zealand quake

New Zealand international footballer Winston Reid.—INTERNET

London, 23 Feb—New Zealand international footballer Winston Reid spoke of his shock and sadness on Tuesday after learning of the deadly earthquake which rocked his homeland.

Reid said his delight at helping West Ham reach the FA Cup quarter-finals with a 5-1 win over Burnley on Monday had disappeared as soon as he awoke on Tuesday to learn of the devastation in Christchurch.

“It was a fantastic night for me and for the team, but obviously a thing like this happening puts it all into perspective,” said Reid, who headed home his first goal for the London club in the win over Burnley.

“I heard about the earthquake and then saw the pictures of it all on the news. It is devastating and my heart goes out to everyone back home,” Reid said on the West Ham official website.—INTERNET

Heinze sorry over bitter exit from United

Marseille, 23 Feb—Marseille’s veteran Argentine defender Gabriel Heinze said on Tuesday he was sad that his spell at Wednesday’s Champions League opponents Manchester United had ended on a sour note.

The 32-year-old—a member of the 2004 Olympic gold medal winning side—left United in 2007 for Real Madrid after Manchester manager Sir Alex Ferguson replaced him at left back with Patrice Evra and then refused to sell him to bitter Premier League rivals Liverpool.

Marseille’s Argentine defender Gabriel Heinze.—INTERNET

Anelka doubles eases pressure on Ancelotti

COPENHAGEN, 23 Feb—Nicolas Anelka eased the pressure on Carlo Ancelotti as his double-strike inspired Chelsea’s 2-0 win over FC Copenhagen in the first leg of their Champions League last 16 tie at the Parken Stadium on Tuesday.

Anelka’s 15th and 16th goals of the season put Chelsea on course for the quarter-finals and they should have no trouble finishing off the lacklustre Danish champions in the return at Stamford Bridge next month.

It was a crucial victory for Ancelotti as the Chelsea manager fights to save his job following a woeful run of results which left the Blues in turmoil.—INTERNET

Santander’s Indian owner paying off debt

Madrid, 23 Feb—The new owner of Racing Santander, Indian tycoon Ahsan Ali Syed, has begun to pay off the 13 million euros (17.7 million dollars) in debts the club holds with the Spanish Treasury, the regional government said on Tuesday.

Syed “has faced up to Racing’s debts with the Treasury and paid part of the debt that was urgent to avoid a seizure of the club,” said the finance minister of the northern region of Cantabria, Angel Agudo.

He said Syed had paid around two million euros, and had agreed with the Treasury on a schedule of payments to cover the rest of the debt.

“The government of Cantabria would like to say that Mr Ali meets his commitments,” Agudo said in a news conference, accompanied by Syed.

I’m not a stopgap for Ancelotti, says Montella

Rome, 23 Feb—New Roma coach Vincenzo Montella denied on Tuesday that he is merely steering the boat until Carlo Ancelotti’s arrival at the club.

On Monday Montella took over from Claudio Ranieri, who resigned on Sunday, as the Romans’ coach in his first senior posting having been promoted from youth team duties.

Chelsea’s French player Nicolas Anelka jumps to control the ball during the game against FC Copenhagen.—INTERNET

New Roma coach Vincenzo Montella

Ancelotti is known to covet the Roma job and despite winning a domestic double in his first season at Stamford Bridge, he and the team have struggled this time around.—INTERNET

Blackpool halt slide as Spurs downed

LONDON, 23 Feb—Blackpool dealt a blow to Tottenham’s hopes of securing Champions League qualification on Tuesday, steering their first win in seven matches with a 3-1 victory at Bloomfield Road.

First half goals from Charlie Adam and DJ Campbell and a late Ben Ormerod strike secured three precious points for Ian Holloway’s side, who had slipped close to the relegation zone after losing five of their six previous matches.

The win saw Blackpool advance to 12th spot, five points clear of the relegation places.—INTERNET

Courier hopes for fit Roddick in Chile

MIAMI, 23 Feb—Jim Courier hopes to have a healthy Andy Roddick in his squad when he makes his debut as the US Davis Cup captain when the Americans face Chile on outdoor clay in Santiago from 4-6 March.

Roddick was ruled out of the tournament in February after sitting out his squad when he made his debut as the US Davis Cup captain when the Americans face Chile on outdoor clay in Santiago from 4-6 March.

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Players stake out territory at Match Play

MARANA, 23 Feb—More than ever, the World Golf Championships are living up to their name.

The series enters its 13th year when the Match Play Championship gets under way Wednesday at Dove Mountain with Lee Westwood of England as the fifth player to occupy the No. 1 seed in the 64-man field.

There are players from 15 countries, which is not unusual or even a record. But as the boundaries of golf become more blurred, there is a certain vibe in the high desert north of Tucson that a rivalry is taking shape — not between two players, but two continents.

The Americans have the most players in the 64-man field with 25. The Europeans have the highest-ranked players — eight of the top 16 seeds, led by Westwood and Martin Kaymer.—INTERNET

Benzema gives Real Madrid edge in Champions League

LYON, 23 Feb—Karim Benzema scored against his former club Lyon to earn Real Madrid a 1-1 draw here on Tuesday that puts them in a strong position to reach the Champions League quarter-finals.

Benzema put the visitors 1-0 up moments after coming on as a second-half substitute at a damp and chilly Stade Gerland, only for Bafetimbi Gomis to equalise seven minutes from time.

Gomis’s late volley extended Lyon’s remarkable unbeaten record against Real to seven matches, but Benzema’s away goal means Jose Mourinho’s side slight favourites to progress ahead of the second leg in Madrid on 16 March.

Madrid’s French forward Karim Benzema (L) fights for the ball with Lyon’s French midfielder Jeremy Touzalan (R) during the Champions League football match Olympique de Lyon versus Real Madrid.—INTERNET

Spain’s Alvaro Quiros, left, walks along the first fairway with his caddie during a practice round of the Accenture Match Play Championship golf tournament on 22 Feb, 2011, in Marana, Ariz.—INTERNET

Blackpool’s English forward Brett Ormerod celebrates scoring the third goal.—INTERNET

Santander’s owner buying Real Madrid out of debt

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WEATHER

Wednesday, 23rd February, 2011

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T.
During the past 24 hours, rain have been scattered in Taninthayi Region, isolated in Upper Sagarang and Mandalay Regions, Rakhine and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Night temperature were (3°C) to (4°C) above February average temperature in Mandalay and Magway Regions, Mon State, (7°C) above February average temperature in Rakhine State, (4°C) below February average temperature in Kachin State, (6°C) below February average temperature in Upper Sagarang Region and Chin State. and about February average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States. The significant night temperatures were Haka (1°C), Putao and Pintaung (6°C) each. The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Dawei (0.28) inch and Kawthoung (0.08) inch.

Nay Pyi Taw
Maximum temperature on 22-2-2011 was 97°F Minimum temperature on 23-2-2011 was 60°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 23-2-2011 was (65%).
Rainfall on 23-2-2011 was (Nil).
Yangon (Kaba-Aye)
Maximum temperature on 22-2-2011 was 98°F Minimum temperature on 23-2-2011 was 68°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 23-2-2011 was (58%). Total sunshine hours on 22-2-2011 was (9.7) hours (Approx).
Rainfall on 23-2-2011 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kabaye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2011 was (1.97) inches at Mingaladon, (1.89) inches at Kaba-Aye and (3.54) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Northeast at (12:30) hours MST on 22-2-2011.
Bay Influence: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.
Forecast valid until evening of the 24th February: 2011: Light rain are likely to be isolated in Upper Sagarang and Taninthayi Regions, Kachin State and weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Chin, Shan, Rakhine, Mon and Kayin States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States. Degree of certainty is (60%).
State of the sea: Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.
Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the Whole country.
Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 24-2-2011: Generally fair weather.
Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 24-2-2011: Partly cloudy.
Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 24-2-2011: Generally fair weather.
Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
Riots beget riots, not democracy
Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People’s Desire
- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

★ VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
★ RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
★ Do not allow ourselves to be swayed by killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon)—pride of the nation

Article: Kayan Soe Myint; Photos: Kyaw Moe Lwin

On arrival at Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon) construction project, we saw multi-coloured flags along the bank of Ayeyawady River.

The ceremony to fix the first iron frame at Ayeyawady Bridge (Nyaungdon) was held on the bank of Ayeyawady River in Kyeinbinse Village in Nyaungdon Township, with the attendees of local people from Maubin District and Nyaungdon Township.

Chairman of Ayeyawady Region Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Tin Maung Win and Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Myint fixed the gold nuts at the first frame and then lifted it on the bridge.

With the farsightedness to serve the interest of the State, the government is building roads and bridges for ensuring equitable development all parts of the Union. Especially, a road network with 11 roads and many bridges has been constructed to link between towns and villages in Ayeyawady Region.

(See page 9)

Significant night temperatures
23-2-2011

- Haka (1°C)
- Putao (6°C)
- Pinlaung (6°C)