Established 1914

Our Three Main National Causes
* Non-disintegration of the Union
* Non-disintegration of National Solidarity
* Perpetuation of Sovereignty

President U Thein Sein receives Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Feb—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Jean Asselborn of Luxembourg and party at the Credentials Hall of the President Residence, here, at 4 pm today.

Also present at the call together with President U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Industry U Soe Thein, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development U Tin Naing Thein and departmental heads.

They cordially discussed and exchanged views on friendly ties and cooperation between the two countries.—MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein cordially greets Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Jean Asselborn of Luxembourg.

MNA

Ayeawady River Crossing Maubin Bridge contributing to development of socio-economic status of local people in Ayeawady Region

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Third regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw meeting continues for Fourth day

PAGE 6

Third regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw continues for fourth day

PAGE 7
**Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Dy Prime Minister of Luxembourg**

**NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—**Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg Mr Jean Asselborn and party.—**MNA

Speakers of Pyithu Hluttaw U Shwe Mann explained the role of the Hluttaw in the political reform process and expressed his warmly welcome to the delegation.

Also present at the meeting were chairmen, secretaries and members of the committee of Pyithu Hluttaw.

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**Union I&P Minister, Special Adviser to UNSG hold talks**

**MNA**

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**Experts discuss communications bill in detail**

**NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—**As part of efforts for enacting proper rules and regulations to improve the communication sector, responsible personnel and experts held a meeting to discuss the communications bill in detail at Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs here today.

During the meeting, officials of the ministry and Attorney-General’s Office discussed the details of the bill which encourages inviting technology and investment from foreign countries in the communication sector.

Responsible personnel of Telenor communication company from Norway participated in the discussion, stressing the need for enacting strong rules and regulations in Myanmar and opportunities for cooperation in the communication sector.

The meeting ended with concluding remarks by Deputy Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs U Thaaw Lwin.

The meeting was also attended by managing director, director-general, Chief engineers of the departments and enterprises under the ministry and officials of the Attorney-General’s Office.—MNA

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**Meat and fish sector entrepreneurs meet**

**NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—**Relaxations have been seen in tax, catching fish in Myanmar’s sea, fish export and investment, Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries UKhin Maung Aye said in regular coordination meeting of meat and fish sector entrepreneurs held at Myanmar Fisheries Federation in Yangon yesterday.

He also called for cooperation of all stakeholders in livestock sector for sustainable development, quality control for AFTA in 2015, exporting value-added products, penetrating international market and disbursing loans.

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**PERSPECTIVES**

**Think right, view straight**

Nothing in this world is easier than to criticize others. In fact, it is an aspect of our daily life. Critical judgements, good or bad, may be positive, negative or balanced. However, the world is just full of armed chair critics.

It takes all sorts to make a world but sometimes we are criticizing others just because their meat is poison to us. Every ass loves to hear himself brays. Why? The answer is self-importance. You should look yourself before you criticize others. No man in this world is perfect. If you are living in the glass house, why should you throw stones and invite foes?

There needs to have right view to make balanced criticism and critical thinking is of crucial importance here. Most of us tend to criticize out of ego and pride, neglecting the real situation. We are weak in cause and effect analysis. Differences can be seen here and there in this world and the best option is of cooperation on common ground. Only we think right, can we view straight.

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**Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi receives Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General and Under-Secretary-General Mr Vijay Nambiar and party.—**MNA

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**UMFCCI Vice-President meets Belarusian Ambassador**

**YANGON, 15 Feb—**Belarusian Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr Valery Sadokho called on Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Zaw Min Win, and Dr Maung Maung Lay and party at UMFCCI office, here, on 10 February.

They held discussions on visit of Belarusian delegation including entrepreneurs engaging in farming equipment, rice and marine products to Myanmar, and invitation to Myanmar entrepreneurs to Belarus in December 2012.

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**Tobacco Kills**
NATO regrets airstrike that killed eight young Afghans

KABUL, 15 Feb — The US-led military coalition says it regrets the killing of eight civilians in a NATO airstrike this month in eastern Afghanistan.

The coalition dropped two bombs on 8 Feb in Najrob District in Kapisa Province, after movements by eight people on the ground were assessed as a threat to Afghan police and NATO forces in the area.

Air Commodore Mike Wigston, the director of NATO air operations, said on Wednesday the international forces believed they were “young teenagers” who were armed.

Local officials say seven were boys between the ages of 6 and 14 and one was a mentally ill young man around 20 years old.

US Gen John Allen, the top commander in Afghanistan, has met with the provincial governor to express his condolences.—Internet

Drug maker for ‘El Chapo’ seized in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 15 Feb — Mexican officials said Tuesday they have arrested a man who manufactured methamphetamine for the Sinaloa drug cartel run by Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman.

The arrest of suspect Jaime Herrera Herrera was latest in a series of detentions of associates of Guzman, the most wanted man in Mexico.

The arrest also came amid mounting evidence that Guzman’s Sinaloa cartel has moved into meth production on an industrial scale. Officials say several enormous seizures of meth precursors and large labs for processing the drug are probably linked to Sinaloa.

Federal police said in a statement that Herrera Herrera, 43, was captured in Sinaloa state, on the Pacific coast. It said he was one of the principal producers of methamphetamine in the United States. Police said he has acknowledged moving tons of methamphetamine to the United States. Also Tuesday, a conference on drug policy in Mexico City turned into a discussion on drug legalization, one day after Guatemalan President Otto Perez proposed a broad legalization. Former Brazilian president Fernando Henrique Cardoso said “the failed war against drugs has strengthened organized crime, destabilized governments, violated human rights and devastated lives everywhere.”—Internet

Red Cross urges aid to avoid Sahel disaster

SAHEL, 15 Feb — More funding is needed to avert a humanitarian disaster in Africa’s Sahel Region where up to 14 million people are suffering from food shortages, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) said.

The UN estimates that as many as 23 million people could be hit by the food crisis in Niger, Chad, Mali, Burkina Faso, Mauritania and Senegal, spurred by poor harvests last year. The Sahel belt is vulnerable because of chronically poor harvests and frequent droughts, according to the UN World Food Programme.

“If we don’t start paying attention to the plight,” he said. “It could quickly develop into a humanitarian disaster.”

Mamoudou Lamin Fye, who represents the IFRC in the Sahel, has just returned from a visit to Mauritania.

“A few people have been killed in violent protests this summer,” he told a journalists’ briefing.

“It could quickly develop into a humanitarian disaster if the world does not start paying attention to the plight,” he said.

The UN World Food Programme said it would host a meeting of humanitarian agencies and donor governments on Wednesday to address the need to increase aid.—Internet

Pakistan releases US man after “bullets found in baggage”

PESHAWAR, 15 Feb — A US embassy employee was released after being held for questioning in Pakistan on Tuesday when airport security officials discovered bullets in his baggage, police said.

The American was about to fly from the northwestern city of Peshawar to the capital Islamabad when he was taken into police custody, said Tahir Ayub, a senior police superintendent.

He was released after four hours when officials from the US consulate in Peshawar produced documents to show the man worked at the consulate.

“He’s been released to the consulate,” a US official in Islamabad said. “He’s at the consulate now.” The American is an embassy employee usually based in Islamabad but was temporarily assigned to the Peshawar consulate, the official said.

Cyclone Giovanna kills three on Madagascar

ANTANANARIVO, 15 Feb — Officials in Madagascar say a cyclone that hit the Indian Ocean island left three people dead.

Cyclone Giovanna struck land about 1 am Tuesday, bringing heavy rain and high winds. About 70 families, including 45 in the capital, were flooded out of their homes.

According to national disaster officials, one of the dead was struck by an electricity pylon toppled by high winds in Brivikville, some 160 miles (260 kilometres) east of the capital, Antananarivo.

The collapse of a house in Brivikville killed another victim there, and a third drowned in Moramanga, about 60 miles (100 kilometres) east of Antananarivo.

The worst of the storm was over by afternoon.—Internet

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The worst of the storm was over by afternoon.—Internet
**Bacteria used to fight sleeping sickness**

**LONDON,** 15 Feb — Scientists believe they have found a way to beat sleeping sickness using a bacterium that spreads the disease to humans. In the same way that we have friendly bacteria in our intestines, the tsetse fly harbours bacteria in its midgut, muscle and salivary glands.

Experts in Belgium have genetically modified these “good bugs” so they attack the culprit parasite carried by the fly. But work is needed to hone the process. The latest findings are published in the open access journal *Microbial Cell Factories.*

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**Aspirin could beat cancer spread: Australian study**

**MELBOURNE,** 15 Feb — Aspirin and other household drugs may inhibit the spread of cancer because they help shut down the chemical “highways” which feed tumours, Australian researchers announced on Tuesday. Scientists at Melbourne’s Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre said they have made a biological breakthrough helping explain how lymphatic vessels — key to the transmission of tumours throughout the body — respond to cancer.

“We’ve shown that molecules like the aspirin... could effectively work by reducing the dilatation of these major vessels and thereby reducing the capacity of tumours to spread to distant sites,” researcher Steven Stacker said.

Doctors have long suspected that non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs such as aspirin may help inhibit the spread of cancer but they have been unable to pinpoint exactly how this is done. By studying cells in lymphatic vessels, the researchers found that a particular gene changed its expression in cancers which spread, but not when the cancer did not spread.

The results published in *Cancer Cell* journal reveal that there is a link between the dilatation of the vessel’s growth and the cellular pathway which can cause inflammation and dilatation of vessels throughout the body. Once these lymphatic vessels widen, the capacity for them to act as “supply lines” to tumours and become more effective conduits for the cancer to spread is increased. But aspirin acts to shut down the cellular process.

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**Aspirin and other household drugs may inhibit the spread of cancer because they help shut down the chemical “highways” which feed tumours, Australian researchers announced on Tuesday.**

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**China Premier Wen Jiabao vows to help on eurozone debt**

**BEIJING,** 15 Feb — China has promised to help resolve the eurozone’s debt crisis, after talks with EU leaders in Beijing. Premier Wen Jiabao offered co-operation with European Council President Herman Van Rompuy and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, Mr Wen said China was willing to “increase its involvement” in attempts to stabilize the eurozone.

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**Firm tries to block iPad on mainland China**

**SEOUL,** 15 Feb — A Shenzhen-based firm has challenged Apple’s iPad trademark in China, saying it is confusing an established Apple trademark, while sales in China only make up 2 percent of worldwide sales, according to media reports.

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**Samsung shares hit record on spin-off news**

**SEOUL,** 15 Feb — South Korean giant Samsung Electronics said it is considering spinning off its loss-making liquid crystal display (LCD) business, sending its shares to a record high. Samsung, the world’s largest maker of flat panels, memory chips and flat-screen televisions, made the announcement in a regulatory filing on Wednesday. It said no final decision has been taken.

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**Scars become visible after a heart attack.**

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**Bone marrow stem cells give ‘some’ heart healing**

**LONDON,** 15 Feb — Bone marrow stem cell therapy offers “moderate improvement” to heart attack patients, according to a new study. EU leaders have long courted Chinese investment in a European bailout fund. Premier Wen Jiabao offered co-operation with European Council President Herman Van Rompuy and European Commission President Jose Manuel Barroso, Mr Wen said China was willing to “increase its involvement” in attempts to stabilize the eurozone.

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**A shopper is seen with a box of LCD Samsung TV at a shopping centre in Fairfax, Virginia.**

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**Sleeping sickness parasite gets into the bloodstream.**

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**The sleeping sickness parasite travels through the body.**

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**trypanosomiasis, is a potentially fatal disease that plagues many regions of Africa. Although the number of people being infected with the disease has been going down thanks to better diagnosis and treatment, there were still more than 7,000 new cases recorded in 2010.**

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**China’s biggest trading partner, with trade worth 560bn euros flowing between the two last year. European leaders have long counted Chinese investment in their bailout fund a joint news conference and publishing those back into the heart may reduce scar tissue and lead to new heart muscle.**

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**A shopper is seen with a box of LCD Samsung TV at a shopping centre in Fairfax, Virginia.**

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**“We plan to file the complaints to customs by the end of this month and ask for an embargo on the import and export of the iPad,” said Xie Xianghui, a lawyer representing Proview Technology Shenzhen. “We are asking for the ban on the iPad 3,” Xie said.**

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**“We’re happy to have a house. If we didn’t have any iPad products, is exploiting Apple’s sales volume in China accounts for 10 percent of the company’s global revenue, while sales in China only made up 2 percent two years ago, according to media reports.”**

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**Details were not given, but Samsung shares rose 5.1 percent to a historic high of 1,135,000 won ($1,012) as the potential spin-off is expected to strengthen profitability. Samsung’s LCD business suffered losses in every quarter last year due to a supply glut. The possible spin-off sparked speculation that Samsung may merge its LCD unit with Samsung Mobile Display, which produces organic light-emitting diode (OLED) displays for mobile devices such as smartphones.**

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Ayeyawady River Crossing Maubin Bridge contributing to development of socio-economic status of local people in Ayeyawady Region

- The emergence of Maubin bridge has enabled people from Ayeyawady to travel to Yangon, 50 miles away from Maubin in a short time, and they then can proceed to Pathein and other cities by car easily.
- The agriculture, marine and other products produced by Maubin District can be transported to other cities including Yangon through the bridge in a short period of time, thereby contributing much to further improvement of the socio-economic status of local people.
- In the past, it took five days to travel from Yangon to Maubin. And at present the trip takes only one and a half hour by car.

Facts about Maubin Bridge
1. Maubin Bridge is 720 meter long.
2. It is complete with 8.50 meter wide motorway flanked by 1.80 meter wide pedestrian lane.
3. It is of reinforced concrete type.
4. Its clearance area is 110 meter wide and 17 meter height.
5. It can withstand 60 tons of loads.
6. The construction of the bridge started on 1-3-1994 and it was opened on 10-2-1998.
7. Maubin Bridge is situated Taloaklat east village of Maubin Township and Taloaklat west village.

Translation: TLA

Archive: Maung Nyein Aye

Return of displaced families in Kachin State discussed

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win speaks at the coordinative meeting to help those fled their native due to instability of the state for their homecoming. — MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Feb—Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe, state ministers, Pyithu Hluttaw Representatives U San Tun and U Khat Htein Nan, Secretary of National Human Rights Commission U Sit Myaing and officials met in Kachin State government office on 13 February to help those who fled instability of the state since 15 June, 2011 return home.

The chief minister explained about assistances provided by the state government, the Union government and UN agencies and necessities of displaced persons.

The deputy ministers said they were there for fulfilling wishes of the ethnic people in coordination with the state government and statistics were needed to compile to thoroughly operate rehabilitation tasks.

Officials participated in discussion. Resettlement, measures of the government for ending conflicts in the state and making eternal peace and education were put on the table.

Families who temporarily settled in Myitkyina, Waingmaw, Bhamo, Momauk, Mansi and Shwegu Townships were provided with cash and kind by the Kachin State government, departmental personnel, social organizations, international organizations, MPs, and wellwishers.

The state government has made arrangements for allowing students of the displaced families to pursue their education in respective areas. — MNA
Regarding the question of Dr Than Win of North Okkalapa Constituency on “How would you handle unemployment problem in urban and rural areas”, he said that the State will carry out availability of up-to-date labour market information for creating more job opportunities, adopting strategies that can links job opportunities and job hunters, creation of new job opportunities, access to penetrating into foreign labor market, flow of foreign investment, the emergence of local labour markets, giving training to job seekers so as to land jobs easily.

At the meeting, raising questions and replying answer, seeking approval of Hluttaw, submitting two proposals and two bills were carried out.

In his speaking, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker urged those present to carry out Hluttaw works in unison for the interests of the State, the people and the Union regardless of party attachment, sectarian, regionalism, racism, creeds and departments attachments.

At question-raising session, Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye replied the question raised by Dr Soe Yin of Kamayut Constituency on “Whether or not there is any plan to conduct Post-Graduate journalism diploma course in Universities like Yangon University and Mandalay University.” He said that B.A. (Journalism) course has been conducted in National Management College since 21-1-2008. The trainees have to take three-and-half-year course—three years in theory and six months in practice there. Those trainees who graduated B.A. (Journalism) in 2010-2011 are now engaging in outside media world. Plans are under way to open M.A. (Journalism) for those qualified graduates.

With respect to the question raised by Dr Daw Aye Myint of Shwetaung Constituency on “Is there any plan to renovate People’s sports ground in Maingpyin “, he replied that these four fire engines in foreign countries and in addition to facts like deployment of fire stations and over-aged fire engines, priority will be given on a priority basis. For substitution plans for over-aged fire engines, priority will be given for new fire engines in foreign countries in addition to city, state/region city, township, sub-township and village-tract in order.

Regarding the question raised by Dr Daw Aye Myint of Shwetaung Constituency on “whether or not there is any plan to substitute four fire engines in four villages in Shwetaung Township and whether or not there is any plan to substitute fire engine in Thayetwar ward because of facing many difficulties in case offire”, he replied that these four fire engines are over forty years. There are 418 over forty-year fire engines in the country. Starting the 2012-2013 financial year, plans have been adopted to substitute new ones on a priority basis. For substitution plans for over-aged fire engines, priority will be given for new fire engines in foreign countries in addition to city, state/region city, township, sub-township and village-tract in order.

So, the first question regarding the four over-aged fire engines is not first priority. For temporary convenience of these village-tracts, four light fire engines have already been provided on 6 February this year.

Regarding the latter question, that over-40-year-old fire engine is still in good condition. That engine can extinguish fire without breaking down, but has weakness in physical appearance. On 6 February this year, a light fire engine has been provided in Thayetwar ward at present. Shwetaung township in which there are so many projects will be provided with one fire engine in 2012-2013 financial year because fire station that is in Unit Level.

Union Minister for Sports and Physical Education U Tint Hsan replied three sport questions raised by Thure Hluttaw representatives.

Regarding the question raised by U Win Myint of Myingyan Constituency on “Is there any plan to renovate People’s Sport Ground in Myingyan District” and on “Is there any plan to upgrade sport ground in Maingyin”, Union Minister U Tint Hsan answered that Ministry of Sports is giving priority to construction of sport grounds, gymnasiums and sport villages for successful holding of XVII SEA Games to be held in Nay Pyi Taw in December 2013 as a host country. So, upgrading of sport grounds is not possible during this financial year and would be only after the SEA Games.

With respect to the question raised by Dr Daw Aye Myint on “Is there any plan to promote part-time sport technical officers appointed in Shwetaung into permanent ones” Union Minister U Tint Hsan replied that Sports and Physical Education Department has appointed technical officers as instructor (Technical) on a piece-work basis since 21-9-2009. In addition, they also enjoy salary, cash assistance etc. and other technical officers.

Union Minister for Communication, Posts and Telegraph U Thein Tun replied the four questions raised by four Hluttaw representatives.

Regarding the question raised by U Sai Naung Hsi Hein of Maumakai Constituency on “Progress in construction of GSM/CDMA towers in Maungdaw, Mongyang, Langkho, Mongyan and Homein sub-townships in Langkho district and completion time”, Union Minister for Communication, Posts and Telegraph U Thein Tun replied that for installation of 750 CDMA-450 telephone lines in Langkho of Shan State (South) “machine building and other foundation have been completed. Construction of tower, installation of transmission and radio are under progress. In the end of February, 2012, CDMA-450 mobile phone service can be available in April, 2012. A total of 1500 GSM lines will be added in the end of August. 1500 GSM lines will be installed in Mohne at the end of August, 2013 as the second phase of GSM mobile project.

As to Mongun, equipment are being transported for installation of 1250 CDMA-450 lines; mechanical and tower construction are in the course of implementation and CDMA-450 mobile service can be launched commencing the end of April this year; 1500 GSM lines would be installed at the end of August, 2013 as the second phase of GSM mobile project and the same would be carried out for Homain.

U Tin Maung Win of Mingladalon Constituency asked if the CPT Ministry has a plan to open a phone bill office in Mingladalon Township, Yangon Region and the Union Minister replied that phone bill stations in Pabedan, General Post Office, Tanwe, Thyangguny, Ahlon, Hline, Mayagon, Insein, Kyimyindaing, Pazundaung, Thuwanna and Bayintnaung under the account department of the Myanmar Post and Telecommunications is handling 148432 auto telephone users and 284000 mobile phone users in addition to online billing payment system of Yatanarpon Web Portal through Myana Economic Bank and Asia Green Development Bank; the MPT has initiated to shift to prepaid system and phone users can now buy prepaid cards from the prepaid card sellers of the nearest towns.

U A’Yun Mon of Memon Constituency asked if the CPT Ministry has a plan to provide GSM or CDMA service in Memon Township and the Union Minister replied that 1500 GSM lines would be installed in Memon Township of Wa Self-administered Division at the end of August, 2013 as the second phase of GSM mobile project. (See page 7)
The President said, regarding Constituency (3) raised the question about donation. and the Amyotha Hluttaw recorded the donated by U Pe Myint will be kept in U Pe Myint level monthly emolument of financial and of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint of Hluttaw Complex here at 10 am today.

Third regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw continues for fourth day

NAV PYI TAW, 15 Feb—Third regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw continued for the fourth day at Amyotha Hluttaw Hall of Hluttaw Complex here at 10 am today. The session was attended by Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint and 201 Amyotha Hluttaw representatives. The Hluttaw approved supplement to level monthly emolument of financial and legal commission with that of Hluttaw representatives. The Speaker announced that 41 books donated by U Pe Myint will be kept in U Pe Myint Corner of Amyotha Hluttaw Library and the Amyotha Hluttaw recorded the donation.

U Nyan Lin of Ayeyawady Region Constituency (3) raised the question about “progress in negotiations with ethnic armed groups for peace till now”. Leader of Union-level peace-making group Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Aung Min answered: The President said, regarding national races affairs, national unity is top priority and the government always keeps the door open for peace in his first address to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30-3-2011. The Union government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued Notification No 1 (2011), inviting armed groups for ending armed conflicts in the country, making peace and implementing development tasks around the country hand in hand with the government and the entire people. The President assigned a 10-member Union-level peace-making group to hold peace talks with RCSS/SSA, KNPP, CNF, and NMSP armed groups on 24-11-2011. The President gave three-step guideline for building eternal peace that is to discuss at the state level, at the Union level and before Pyidaungsu Hluttaw by all the national races to sign an eternal peace agreement.

After four meetings with Kayin national armed group KNU, Union-level agreement in principle was signed. After three meetings with Shan national armed group RCSS/SSA, Union-level agreement was inked. After two meetings with Chin national armed group CNF, State-level ceasefire agreement was signed. After two meetings with Mon national armed group NMSP, State-level agreement was signed. The Union-level peace-making group met twice with Kayah national armed group KNPP and PaO national armed group PNLO respectively. Among 11 national races armed group in UNFC, the peace-making group has contacts with the small groups—National Unity Party (Arakan) and Lahu Democratic Union. Leader of Union-level peace-making group U Aung Thaung said: The President assigned a group with Pyithu Hluttaw Representative U Thein Zaw of Myitkyina Township as the deputy leader to discuss peace at Union-level.

Armed groups were invited to discuss peace on 18-8-2011 as it was found the government, the people and the entire ethnic armed groups to establish peace as required by the country. After three meetings with “Wa” Special Region (2) peace-making group, Union-level peace agreement was signed. After three meetings with Special Region (4) peace-making group, Union-level peace agreement was signed.

After two meetings with Kalo Htoo Baw squad (former DKBA) peace-making group, Union-level peace agreement was signed. Negotiations with KIO/KJA and SSP/SSP are under way.

After peace meetings around the country are accomplished, the final historical peace agreement will be signed with armed groups, other national races leaders and other appropriate persons before the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Hluttaw representatives.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than answered five questions raised by five Hluttaw representatives.

Regarding the proposal of Daw Tin Wai of Hluttaw Complex (8) asked “whether there is proposal of Thura U Aung Ko to discuss the proposal of Thura U Aung Ko enlisted in the evening. The proposer asked to seek the opinion of the Hluttaw which rejected the proposal as the majority voted against the proposal. The Hluttaw decided to put the proposal on record.”

Hluttaw representatives wishing to discuss the proposal of Thura U Aung Ko enlisted in the evening.

U Thura U Aung Ko of Mandalay Region/State agriculture ministers need to address the issue: to reserve paddy strains suited with the region in advance, to grow reserve paddy strains, and to grow plants of the same age from farms which are not inuated immediately.

By releasing paddy strains, strains suited with the region are available, high cost for transportation will be reduced and systematic storage of reserve paddy strains help recover quickly.

Region/State agricultural ministers need to be aware of weather conditions of their own Region or State.

U Hlay Maung of Mandalay Region Constituency (12) asked “whether there is plan to repair No 6 (North) feeder canal of Nyaungyan-Minbha Lake in Thazi Township”. The deputy minister answered: The original irrigation area of the lake through seven canals was 27205 acres. It could irrigate the area sufficiently in years of higher rainfall.

The said canal has the length of 11225 ft and the width of five feet. If the rainfall is lower, it has difficulties to irrigate farmlands at the edge of its irrigation area.

It was repaired in 2004-2005 fiscal year by machinery. Although it was damaged by heavy rain in 2011, the irrigation/Department is repairing and managing to irrigate farmlands sufficiently. The repair will be completed by February, 2012.

Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency (8) asked “whether there is plan to help farmers obtain hybrid seed for producing hybrid rice”. The deputy minister answered: The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is making test production of four kinds of hybrid seed in cooperation with China, the Philippines, Vietnam and India. In this monsoon, China and Myanmar agriculturalists are carrying out test productions of hybrid seeds in 200-acre farmlands of Shwetaung farm in Win Myaw Pagoda, Mandalay Region and Yezin University of Agriculture. Private companies are doing the same in 550-acre farmlands of Thanbyuzayat Region.

Thura U Aung Ko of Mandalay Region/State agricultural ministers need to address the issue: to reserve paddy strains suited with the region in advance, to grow reserve paddy strains, and to grow plants of the same age from farms which are not inuated immediately.

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Region/State agricultural ministers need to be aware of weather conditions of their own Region or State.
While educating farmers to abide by Good Agricultural Practice (GAP), the ministry is targeting to yield 20-30 baskets of paddy strains per acre. China started applying hybrid paddy technology for food sufficiency of 1974 and put 60 percent of farms under hybrid paddy.

Innovators of expert's fields contributes much to improvement of technological experiences, and quality of rice gets better market.

Thanks to innovation of Chinese agriculturalists from International Rice Research Institute-IRRI from People's Republic of China and the Philippines, hybrid paddy produce higher rate of per-acre yield than that of existing paddy strains and better quality for enabling the farmers to earn income through cost effective status. Thus, the rice exporter countries including India are performing from 2007 till now the improvement of national entrepreneurs from respective states and regions can produce and distribute hybrid paddy seeds in the respective regions by joining, to promote GAP of hybrid paddy in the farms.

He invited the Hluttaw representatives to visit modern hybrid paddy seed production farms that can double the income of farmers.

With regard to the proposal for farmers of Maubin and Nyangdong townships to enjoy full rights of farming works asked by U Thet Lin of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No. 8, the deputy minister replied that the farmland law compilation commission was formed with 14 members chaired by the Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation under Announcement issued on No. 44/2011 on 19-10-2011 by the Union government.

Two provisions at Section 23 (a), Section 29 (a), 248 and (249) of the 2008 Constitution of the Union of Myanmar were exactly prescribed on political system and economic system of the State, basis of national entrepreneurs from respective states and regions can produce and distribute hybrid paddy seeds in the respective regions by joining, to promote GAP of hybrid paddy in the farms. The region/state government will solve the problems for enabling the local farmers to enjoy rights of farming works. A total of 14 company entrepreneurs attained 6950 acres of paddy fields, 5474 acres of Maubin and 1076 acres of Nyangdong townships of Ayeyawady Region. Of them, 6115 acres of farmlands are retrained and there remain to retrain 8345 acres of land. Among the retrained lands, a total of 33354 acres of land are put under agriculture and livestock breeding works. Thus, there remains 27803 acres of land to be retrained and cultivate.

The State leaders assigned duties to company entrepreneurs to reclaim the vacant and abandoned farmlands in Ayeyawady Region. The entrepreneurs took risks for creating job opportunities in rural areas and regional development though they do not have economical cost effectiveness in their farming works. Due to effective undertaking of farming works, the aim of entrepreneurs can be realized to develop the farmlands of Ayeyawady Region, Falam, Kyaukme and Virgin Lands Management Law will be promulgated soon, so the problems can be solved effectively under the law.

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A plan to allot adequate fund for the leadership of the State, all the people are encouraged to take drug preventive measures. Under national race, organization and country were promoted their ranks. Likewise, the 아래에 따라 부표를 작성하여, 어떤 항목이 열거되어야 하는지 확인하고, 필요하다면 추가 항목을 메모에 포함시킵니다. 이 와에는 다음과 같은 내용이 포함되어야 합니다.

- 경우가 적용되는 경우에만 적용할 수 있는 조항 (예: 경우 1, 경우 2 등)
- 각 단계에 따른 필요한 조치 (예: 단계 1, 단계 2 등)
- 추가로 협력하거나 지원해야 할 단계 (예: 단계 3, 단계 4 등)
- 종료 단계 (예: 종료 1, 종료 2 등)

과정 후에는 메모에서 필요한 정보를 간단히 정리하고, 추가로 필요한 정보를 포함하지 않은 경우에만 메모에 포함시킵니다.
Union Commerce Minister receives Japanese guests

Nin Pyi Taw, 15 Feb—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint received a delegation from the Singapore Business Federation (SBF) led by Mr Tony Chew. The delegation comprised Mr Hideo Watanabe and his party, members of the Parliamentary League for the Friendship between Myanmar and Japan and a member delegation group led by Mr Tony Chew of the Singapore Business Federation (SBF).

Mr Watanabe and his party then held discussions on making potential investment to improve trade sector between the two countries. They also discussed matters related to promotion of bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on the issue.

Union FM holds talks with Deputy PM of Luxembourg

Nin Pyi Taw, 15 Feb—Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin held talks with a delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister of Luxembourg and Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr Jean Asselborn at his ministry here today. During the meeting, the two sides discussed matters related to promotion of bilateral cooperation and exchanged views on the issue.

Union Commerce Minister U Win Myint receives President of Singapore Business Federation (SBF) Mr Tony Chew and party.

Nin Pyi Taw, 15 Feb—Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint receives former member of the House of Councillors of Japan & Senior Adviser of the Parliamentary League for the Friendship between Myanmar and Japan Mr Hideo Watanabe and party.
EP-2 to review current electric supply system

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise signed an MoU with China Three Gorges Corporation and HydroChina Kunming Engineering Cooperation for formulating Myanmar electricity plan yesterday evening as the Ministry of Electric Power No (2) is planning to upgrade Myanmar’s electricity system from 230 KVA to 500 KVA to reduce voltage irregularity.


The minister said the project planning will be completed within one year and surveys and on-job trainings will be conducted for young Myanmar engineers.

The project planning process will study and review current electricity supply systems in detail.

Vice-President Mr Bi Yaxiong of China Three Gorges Corporation spoke words of thanks.

Managing-Director of MEPE U Khin Maung Zaw and Mr Bi Yaxiong signed and exchanged the Memorandum of Understanding.—MNA

Myanmar, UNICEF sign Country Programme Action Plan

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—Political parties have been applying for setting up political party. A 18-member group including U Sai Aung Min Hlaing applied to the Union Election Commission for setting up of Asho Chin National Party today. Regarding their application, the Union Election Commission (UEC) has made coordination with respective ministries in order that they are scrutinized in accord with Political Parties Registration Law’s section Nos. 4 and 6.—MNA

Deputy Minister for Labour U Myint Thein being welcomed by DPRK Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Kim Sok Chol at reception to mark 70th birthday of National Leader of Democratic People’s Republic of Korea Mr Kim Jong Il held at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon on 15 February.—MNA

Gas plant investment signals confidence in New Zealand economy

WELLINGTON, 15 Feb—The investment of 70 million NZ dollars (58.65 million US dollars) in a new gas plant to supply a New Zealand Steel plant is a strong sign of confidence in the New Zealand economy, Economic Development Minister Steven Joyce said in a statement.

"It shows the confidence the companies have in investing in our economy and recognizes the importance of having a strong manufacturing industry in New Zealand. The 120 new jobs are clear evidence that nothing creates sustainable employment more than business confidence and growth."

Once operating in early 2014, the new plant would enhance reliability of supply to the steel plant and allow increased quantities of liquid oxygen, nitrogen and argon to the broader New Zealand air gases market that could be used in hospitals, food production and metal fabrication.—Xinhua

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—Accompanied by Ambassador of Norway to Myanmar Mrs Katja Christina Nordgaard, a business delegation from Norway called on Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Hla Myint Oo at Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Building here today.

During the meeting, Mrs Katja Christina Nordgaard discussed matters related to opportunities for Norwegian businesses to invest in the private sector in Myanmar.

U Hla Myint Oo welcomed the offer, saying that Myanmar has been making endeavours for economic development of the country in accordance with the democratic reforms since 2011 when the Hluttaws were formed.

The Hluttaws are responsible for legislation and are making efforts for enacting laws including the investment law, he added.

The delegation comprises businessmen from Statoil company which has invested in oil and natural gas exploration in Norway and Telenor company, a communication company.

Also present at the meeting were Secretary of the Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations Committee U Ko Ko Tun, Secretary of Economic and Trade Development Committee U Khin Maung Oo and members of the committee U Aung San Oo and U Khin Maung Bioe.—MNA

Jobs market shows signs of stabilisation

LONDON, 15 Feb—The number of Britons out of work inched down in December from the 17-year high hit in November as employment rose by 6,900 in January to 1.604 million — the highest level since January 2010, data from the Office for National Statistics showed on Wednesday.

The number of people without a job on the wider ILO measure stood at 2.671 million in the three months to December, down from the 17-year high of 2.685 million in the three months to November. However, this was 48,000 higher than in the July-September period.—Reuters
Britain again raises the pitch for Typhoon for fighter deal

BANGALORE, 15 Feb—Britain today sought to raise the pitch for Eurofighter Typhoon, positioning it as the ‘strongest offer’, two weeks after it lost out to French-made Rafale in the multi-billion-contract for the supply of 126 Medium Multi-Role Combat Aircraft (MARCAS) to India.

“We feel that the Typhoon is the strongest offer...obviously, otherwise we wouldn’t be hoping that the competitive bid. Obviously, there are still some considerations that need to be made”, UK Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Jeremy Browne, told reporters in reply to questions.

Eurofighter Typhoon is made by EADS and financed by the four-nation consortium of Britain, Germany, Spain and Italy.

He said Britain feels that Typhoon is the best technology for India and also offers the right mix of technology and transfer and it’s the best operationally and it’s the best in technology terms’. —Internet

India interested in building Med-Red Sea railway in Israel

NEW DELHI, 15 Feb—India has expressed deep interest in participating in building a railway between the Mediterranean and the Red Sea coasts in Israel, reported local media on Tuesday.

Indian Urban Development Minister Kamal Nath told Indian officials in Jerusalem that “once this project is formed and the road map is clear, Indian companies will evaluate their participation”, according to Press Trust of India.

The proposed rail link, which was unanimously approved by the Israeli cabinet last week, offers a new Asia-Europe trade route that will compete with the Suez Canal. —Xinhua

Experts say Iranians’ Internet access blocked temporarily

SAN FRANCISCO, 15 Feb—Most computer users in Iran were blocked from accessing email, social networking and other services in recent days, US-based Internet experts said on Monday, raising fears the government is extending the reach of its surveillance on ordinary citizens.

Internet service providers presumed to be acting at the Iranian government’s behest began blocking the most common form of secure connections on Friday, according to the outside experts and Iranian bloggers.

Traffic rebounded to normal levels on Monday. The cutoff apparently affected all encrypted international websites outside of Iran that depend on the Secure Sockets Layer protocol, which display addresses beginning with https, according to Earl Ziemkowski of Renesys, a US company that tracks Internet traffic worldwide. Google, which uses SSL for its Gmail service, reported that traffic from Iran to its email system fell precipitously. Gmail use, which typically drops by about 80 percent at night, dropped by roughly 95 percent Friday and remained that low during daylight hours through the weekend before recovering Monday, according to Google’s publicly posted access statistics.—MNA/Reuters

Israeli lawsuit: Radiation caused cancer

DIMONA, 15 Feb—Former workers at an Israeli nuclear reactor suffered cancer and other diseases caused by exposure to radiation while searching for uranium ore, a lawsuit says.

The class-action suit, in Petah Tikva District Court, says 44 former employees of Negev Nuclear Research Centre in Dimona had been sent to search for uranium ore across Israel without the necessary protection, Haaretz reported.

The workers had been involved in a search for uranium in weeklong stints and were equipped only with goggles and masks that did not protect them from radiation, the lawsuit said.

Government and reactor officials said if the former workers had been exposed to radiation it was at levels equal to what they would have been exposed to in everyday life, Haaretz reported. The suit also names family members of the former workers as plaintiffs.—Internet

US, N Korea to hold nuclear-related talks next week

WASHINGTON, 15 Feb—US and North Korean officials will meet in Beijing next week for talks Washington hopes may clarify whether Pyongyang’s new leadership is willing to curb its nuclear programmes, the State Department said on Monday. However, Korean analysts said they expected little progress on the nuclear issue during the 23 February talks between US Ambassador Glyn Davies and North Korean First Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kye-gwan.

Pyongyang agreed to abandon its nuclear programmes under a September 2005 aid-for-denuclearization agreement hammered out in so-called six-party talks among North and South Korea, China, Japan, Russia and the United States.

Since then, however, it has twice conducted nuclear tests and it has disclosed the existence of a uranium enrichment programme, giving it a second path to obtaining fissile material for bombs in addition to its long-standing plutonium programme.

New Trade Centre security to be high-tech

New York, 15 Feb—Officials with New York’s Port Authority said they plan to deploy military-level technology to protect the new World Trade Centre once it’s complete.

The high-tech system would use thousands of “intelligent” cameras and computer processors that can recognize people’s faces and retinas and then compare the facial information with databases such as terrorist watch lists, sources told the New York Post in a story published Monday.

Security measures at the 16-acre site, scheduled to be completed next year, include the cameras, along with infrared and heat sensors that can be modified to include explosive and radiation detection, the officials said.

The Port Authority also is authorizing the use of “artificial intelligence” computers that can track the behavior of people to determine how to spot “unusual movements” that can be flagged, the Post said. Behavioural Recognition Systems will set up most of the system, estimated to cost tens of millions of dollars.

While not speaking specifically about the World Trade Centre system, John Franzini, president of the Houston-based Defence Contractor company, said the system doesn’t retain personal information and no security monitors are installed in private areas such as restrooms.

The Twin Towers of the old World Trade Centre were destroyed in the 11 Sept, 2001, terror attacks.—Internet

Thousands of people create a human chain along the Elbe river in front of the Dresden historical city centre, eastern Germany, to protest against a non-Nato “funeral march” commemorating the 67th anniversary of the allied bombings during World War II.—Xinhua
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GREAT MOTION VOY NO (+)

Consignes of cargo carried on MV GREAT MOTION VOY NO (+) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.2.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

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INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING CO LTD

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JAPAN-planned review of tsunami risk, but too late

Tokyo, 15 Feb—Four days before a tsunami devastated a Japanese nuclear plant, its operator promised a fuller assessment of the risk of such a disaster—but not for seven months.

The disclosure in a three-page briefing paper obtained by The Associated Press raises questions about whether the utility and regulators were too complacent about studies that suggested the tsunami could overwhelm the defences at the 40-year-old Fukushima Dai-ichi plant.

It also highlights Japan’s slow pace of decision-making on an issue that experts had been warning about for at least 20 months.

“If they had made the decision earlier, then they could have been prepared on 11 March,” said Hideyuki Hirakawa, an Osaka University expert on governance and the sciences.

“There is absolutely nothing you can do in four days.”

On 11 March, 2011, a 9.0-magnitude offshore earthquake triggered a tsunami that killed about 19,000 people along Japan’s northeastern coast.

Boy genius’s book reveals life in college at age eight

LOS ANGELES, 15 Feb—The one thing 14-year-old Moshe Kai Cavalin dislikes is being called a genius.

All he did, after all, was enroll in college at age 8, graduating with a perfect 4.0 grade point average at age 9, graduating with a total commitment. He’s hoping it will show people that he’s a hard worker.

Cavalin says he limits his television time to four hours a week. Not that he lacks for recreational activities or feels that his parents pressured him into studying constantly.

In this 11 March, 2011 file photo released by Tokyo Electric Power Co (TEPCO), tsunami waves gush into a complex near the Unit 3 reactor at the Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear complex in Okuma town, Fukushima Prefecture, northeastern Japan.—INTERNET

Ten killed, 24 injured in bus-truck collision in Thailand

BANGKOK, 15 Feb—Ten people were killed and 24 others were injured in a bus-truck collision in northeast Thailand early Wednesday, police said.

The passenger bus, en route from the capital Bangkok to Si Sa Ket Province, crashed head-on with an 18-wheel truck at around 03:45 am local time in Surin Province, the police said. Seven people were killed and 24 people were injured in the collision.

In this 2 May 2008 file photo, Moshe Kai Cavalin, 10, strikes a martial arts pose as he poses for photos at his home studio in Downey, Calif.—INTERNET

Iran, Europeans discuss sanctions

TEHERAN, 15 Feb—Iran’s semi-official Mehr news agency says six European ambassadors are meeting Iranian officials to discuss the European Union sanctions against Teheran over its nuclear programme.

Mehr says envoy from Italy, Spain, France, Greece, Portugal and Netherlands were invited to Iran’s Foreign Ministry on Wednesday.

The report says the talks are focused on EU sanctions, which include a boycott of new oil contracts with Iran.

Iran has strongly denounced the EU action.

Mehr didn’t provide further details. The United States and its allies accuse Iran of seeking nuclear weapons, a charge Teheran denies.—INTERNET
news

Man allegedly built dungeon in old house

A Canadian man was formally charged on Tuesday with breaking into an abandoned farmhouse near Toronto and installing a dungeon there.

Robert Edwin White, 44, of Oshawa, Ontario, was being held pending a bail hearing on Wednesday, The Globe and Mail of Toronto reported. He was charged with breaking and entering with intent to commit a crime.

Contractors discovered the dungeon, or confinement room, in the basement of the old farmhouse in November, about a year after the building was last inspected. It is a property that Transport Canada plans to develop into an airport.

Officials in Pickering, a suburb north of Toronto, had been trying to find someone to move the farmhouse, which was considered historic. The house burned down in January in a fire that is considered suspicious.

Victoria names handbag after daughter

LONDON, 15 Feb — Singer-turned-fashion designer Victoria Beckham has named a handbag collection after her daughter Harper Seven. The 37-year-old showcased her new autumn-winter collection at New York Fashion Week and revealed that she had named a bag after her seven month old daughter, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

“It’s all about construction and quality,” her label said in a news release.

Victoria’s collection also includes feminine, fitted shapes, finished with military detail and biker boots, which were partly inspired by her husband.

“My daily life is my inspiration. I took the beanie hats from David’s wardrobe and there are some boyfried jackets that are all him...It looks so cool,” she said.—Internet

Rita Wilson records first solo CD

NEW YORK, 15 Feb — The first solo album of Australian actress, producer and writer Rita Wilson is set for release this spring, Decca Records announced.

The “Sleepless in Seattle” cast member’s 14-track CD “A&M/FM” will go on sale on 8 May, the label said. Wilson, who is the wife of double Oscar winner Tom Hanks, produced the film “My Big Fat Greek Wedding” and the movie musical “Mamma Mia!”. She also starred in the Broadway musical “Chicago”.

For her first solo album, she chose songs “that resonated emotionally with her, that told a story and evoked the era of the ’60s and ’70s which sparked her singing desires,” her label said in a news release.

“That time period was hugely influential on me as a kid and as a teenager,” she said in a statement. “I spend hours and hours lying on my bed, holding up the albums, reading the liner notes, and learning all the words to these songs that expressed what I was feeling or fantasizing about.”—Internet

Tony Bennett honoured on Valentine’s Day in SF

SAN FRANCISCO, 15 Feb — More than 1,000 people crammed into San Francisco’s City Hall on Valentine’s Day to honour singer Tony Bennett and the 50th Anniversary of his famous song, “I Left My Heart in San Francisco.”

The San Francisco Chronicle reports that a symphony, children’s chorus and the Gay Men’s Chorus all sang the famous song to Bennett during a ceremony he attended on Tuesday.

The tune had its first public performance in December 1961 in the Venetian Room of the Fairmont Hotel, where Bennett was scheduled to sing later Tuesday night. Bennett’s version of the song has been played throughout the city on radio and in public performances at Union Square in honor of the holiday.

The song has become a part of San Francisco culture, and is played after every home victory for the Giants.—Internet

The late pop diva Whitney Houston at the Beverly Hilton hotel in Beverly Hills on 12 Feb, 2011.

Internet

Whitney Houston climbs pop charts again after death

LOS ANGELES, 15 Feb — Whitney Houston’s songs were rocketing up the pop charts Tuesday, in some cases a quarter-century after their initial release, as fans sought to recapture the magic of the diva’s iconic voice in the wake of her death.

Amazon.com said on its website that seven of the top 10 bestselling music recordings were from Houston, while her “Greatest Hits” album was the top seller on iTunes. Meanwhile, British music tracker Official Charts said that sales from Sunday through to midnight on Monday were so brisk that seven of Houston’s recordings were “heading for the Top 40.”—Internet

Tony Bennett sings “I Left My Heart in San Francisco” during a sound check for a Valentine’s Day benefit concert in the Venetian Room at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco, on 14 Feb, 2012.—INTERNET

Internet

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Street cleaner finds Rolex in drain

An English street cleaner who found an 18-carat Rolex Oyster Daytona watch in a drain turned it over to police after getting a jeweller to assess its value.

The watch’s estimated value is 21,000 pounds ($32,000), This Is Total Essex reported. If no one claims it in the next month, it will become the property of the man who found it. Police said the watch has not been reported missing. “This was a hugely unusual find, and it’s hard to imagine how something so valuable has not been reported lost or stolen by its owner,” said Police Constable Calley Mackay, a specialist in stolen property in Southend Police. “It is possible, seeing as the drain was near Leigh trap station, that the watch was dropped by a commuter.”

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Victoria’s collection also includes feminine, fitted shapes, finished with military detail and biker boots, which were partly inspired by her husband.

“My daily life is my inspiration. I took the beanie hats from David’s wardrobe and there are some boyfried jackets that are all him...It looks so cool,” she said.—Internet

Madonna’s necklace up for grabs

LONDON, 15 Feb — Madonna’s necklace she wears in the promo for new single “Give Me All Your Luvin’.” The 53-year-old dazzled the Swarovski Montage accessories in the video, and now bosses of the jewellery brand have teamed up with the pop star to offer it as a prize in an online competition, reports contactmusic.com. Hopeful fans need to log on to Facebook page account and connect with their Facebook page account and connect with the pop star to offer it as a prize in an online competition, reports contactmusic.com. Hopeful fans need to log on to Facebook page account and connect with her Facebook account to win.

“My niece for the past couple of years, quite honestly has been kind of taking things. It hasn’t been anything big, but it never really has to be,” Scales said. She said the girl’s mother had been good about reminding the girl that if she is caught stealing, she would have to pay for it. The lucky winner will be announced next month.—Internet

An English street cleaner who found an 18-carat Rolex Oyster Daytona watch in a drain turned it over to police after getting a jeweller to assess its value.

The watch’s estimated value is 21,000 pounds ($32,000), This Is Total Essex reported. If no one claims it in the next month, it will become the property of the man who found it. Police said the watch has not been reported missing. “This was a hugely unusual find, and it’s hard to imagine how something so valuable has not been reported lost or stolen by its owner,” said Police Constable Calley Mackay, a specialist in stolen property in Southend Police. “It is possible, seeing as the drain was near Leigh trap station, that the watch was dropped by a commuter.”

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Lin sanity breaks heart of Raptors on Valentine’s Day

Jeremy Lin (11) of New York Knicks controls the ball during the NBA game againstToronto Raptors at Air Canada Centre in Toronto, Canada, on Feb. 14, 2012. Knicks won 90-87.—Xinhua

most in his young career. Lin started the game slowly, scoring his first two points and five assists into the opening frame. His struggles continued into the third quarter as he struggled on both ends of the floor.

In the first three quarters, Lin allowed Raptors point guard Jose Calderon to score 25 points on 11 of 15 field goals. Lin on the other hand had 15 points, a less efficient six of 15 shooting along with six turnovers. Once the fourth quarter started, Knickcoach Mike D’Antoni switched to a more defensive look, holding the Raptors to only 12 points on five of 15 shooting in the final frame. The most noticeable substitution was that of Inman Shumpert, who was assigned to defend Calderon and kept him off the score sheet for the entire quarter.—Xinhua

Arsenal star Henry hoping to go out with a bang

hopping to leave an equally latching impression at the SanSiro. These twosomes met this stage of the competition for the second time in four years.

Back in 2008/09 Milan came away from the Emirates with a goalless draw but two goals in the final six goals in Italy from Cesc Fabregas and Emmanuel Adebayor, Arsenal triumph 2-0 on aggregate.

That was the start of a mini-revival for the rossoneri who were also knocked out at the second round stage by English opposition in the next two seasons with Manchester United and Tottenham both winning at the San Siro so well.

Until that juncture Milan had never lost at home on an English side but now they will be looking to end this run of three successive reverses. And they will have to keep an eye on Henry who at 34 proved during his six-week spell with Arsenal that he can still cut it at the top level, even though he was mostly used as a substitute.—Internet

Clijsters withdraws from Indian Wells

Indian Wells, 15 Feb.—Kim Clijsters announced on Tuesday that she has withdrawn from next month’s BNP Paribas Open because of an injury to her left ankle. Clijsters said in a statement that she is disappointed she won’t be playing in the tournament, saying she has great memories of Indian Wells.

The Belgian plans to retire at the end of the season. Clijsters has already retired once— in 2007—but was tempted back in 2009 and has since won three Grand Slam titles.

She won the Australian Open a year ago but the remainder of the season was marred by shoulder, wrist and abdominal injuries. A twisted ankle almost curtailed the defense of her Australian Open title last month. Clijsters lost to eventual champion Victoria Azarenka.—Internet

Djokovic awarded Serbia’s top honour from president

Belgrade, 15 Feb.—Novak Djokovic has been awarded the top state honour in Serbia. President Tomislav Nikolic has decorated the tennis great with the Karadjordjeva Star Medal, the highest honour in the Balkan country.

Tadic said on Tuesday Djokovic deserves the medal for “special merits in representing Serbia.” Djokovic was the world’s top-ranked player, and won the last three Grand Slams. Djokovic will formally receive the medal at a ceremony on Wednesday marking Serbia’s statehood day.—Internet

Zambia soars in FIFA rankings; Germany up to No 2

Lawrence, 15 Feb.—Zambia has soared in the FIFA rankings after winning the African Cup of Nations, and Germany climbed to second behind World Cup winner and European champion Spain. Zambia’s rise from 47th to 32nd place is the biggest climb in the continent’s fourth-ranked nation after starting the African Cup in 16th place. Ivory Coast, which lost Sunday’s final in a penalty shootout, is the highest African nation at No 15.

Egypt plummeted 25 places to No 61. The three-time defending African champions failed to qualify for the tournament. Germany moved up one, dropping the Netherlands to third. South American champion Uruguay is fourth, followed by manager-less England. Portugal rises to No 6, dropping Brazil to seventh. Denmark relegates Argentina a spot to No 11. —Internet

A late start for Adam Scott; a snub for Mike Weir

Los Angeles, 15 Feb.—Adam Scott was on the range at Riviera on Tuesday and had every reason to feel like a stranger. He is the only player from the top 10 in the world who has yet to play a tournament this year. “I may have to introduce myself to a fair bit of people,” Scott said. Waiting until the Northern Trust Open to begin his 2012 season was only partially by design. Scott had planned to be at Kapalua for the PGA Tour opener, but he had his tonsils taken out in December. He said the recovery time an adult is about three weeks.

Scott said he had tonsills at least five times a year for the last couple of seasons, and when it happened at the Deutsche Bank Championships—he was tied for the lead through 36 holes—that was the last straw. “It was the first time that I had it during a tournament,” he said. “I figured if I had it during a major, it would be one less chance of getting one.” The three-month break was the longest of his career, and it was the first time in 10 years Scott has spent so much time at home in Australia. It allowed him to get his mind off golf, and he made him eager to return.

“I treasured ready to play, and that’s important, too,” Scott said. “I’ve been starved of tournament golf at the moment.” The majors were all behind his late start to the year.—Internet

FC Barcelona’s Alexis Sanchez celebrates a goal against Bayer Leverkusen during their Champions League soccer match in Leverkusen on 14 Feb, 2012. Internet

Sanchez double and Messi magic delights Barca

Leverkusen, 15 Feb.—Two goals by Alexis Sanchez — his first in the Champions League —led Barcelona to a 3-1 first-leg win at Bayer Leverkusen on Tuesday to put the holders in the driving seat in their round of 16 tie. Barca, who are now unbeaten in 13 Champions League games and have scored in 28 consecutive matches in the competition, are trying to lift the trophy for the third time in four years.

While Chile forward Alexis struck twice, it was Lionel Messi who once again stole the show with another sublime exhibition of ball skills capped by a late third goal from the World Player of the Year. “We are very satisfied with the result because scoring three goals away is very important,” said Barca coach Pep Guardiola. The visitors grabbed the lead in the 41st minute after a brilliant left-footed flick by Messi sent Alexis racing through on goal.

Michael Ballack equalized in the 52nd minute but the 23-year-old Chilean made it 2-1 three minutes later. Messi completed the win, starting an 88-minute move that also involved Dant Alves and finishing it with a volley at the far post as Barca avenged their 2007 defeat by Leverkusen, the last German club to beat them.

Asked whether he was planning to rest Messi, who has now scored a remarkable 25 goals in his last 24 Champions League matches, Guardiola replied: “Why? People want to see players like him. ‘His life is football. He doesn’t care. ‘He’s just happy when he plays. For us it’s very important when he plays.”—Internet
Soldiers find, detonate car bomb in north Nigeria

MADUGURI, (Nigeria), 15 Feb—Authorities say soldiers have found and safely detonated a car bomb in a northeast Nigeria city that’s the spiritual home to a radical Islamist sect. Military spokesman Col Victor Ebhaleme told journalists Wednesday that soldiers discovered the car that morning in the city of Maiduguri in a neighborhood that has seen attacks by the sect known as Boko Haram. Boko Haram is blamed for killing at least 286 people so far this year, according to an Associated Press count. At least 185 people died in the sect’s coordinated assault in January on Kano, the largest city of Nigeria’s north. On Tuesday, a police anti-bomb squad member died in the city of Kaduna after an explosive detonated inside a plastic bag he was examining. No one has claimed responsibility for that attack.

Fukushima weighs heavy at Berlin film showcase

TKYO, 15 Feb—The Fukushima nuclear disaster has come under the spotlight at Berlin’s film festival with three films exploring its impact on Japanese society less than a year on. The 11-day festival, which prides itself on its political, socially conscious films, “No Man’s Zone” by Toshi Fujiwara journeys inside a 20-kilometre area which was evacuated after the disaster, to talk to “normal” people and Japanese officials. “I’m more than happy to be here because the...”

New school building opened

WAHEMA, 15 Feb—A new building was opened at Basic Education Primary School in Dononchaung Village of Wakema Township on 7 February. Township Administrator U Soe Tun, Ayeayawady Region representative U Kyaw Lwin and village administrator U Zaw Oo spoke on the occasion. The local authorities and school construction committee chairman U Hsiy formally opened the new building. The 60x30 feet building was constructed at a cost of over K 17 million.
Successive governments conferring religious titles on members of the Sangha, nuns and laypersons for their performances in ensuring perpetuity of Theravada Buddhism

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends coord meeting to confer religious titles and offer rice to monks

Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Feb—A coordination meeting to confer religious titles and offer rice to members of the Sangha was held at the hall of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, here, at 2 pm today, with an address by Patron of the Religious Title Conferring and Rice Offering Ceremony Holding Committee—Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Dr Sai Mauk Kham.

Also present at the meeting were Chairman of the Leading Committee for Organizing the Religious Title Conferring and Rice Offering to members of the Sangha Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung, Vice-Chairman of the Leading Committee Union Minister at the President Office Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Thein Nyunt, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Tin Hsan, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Maung Maung Aye, deputy ministers who are chairmen of subcommittees, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council, the Chief of Myanmar Police Force, departmental heads and officials.

Speaking on the occasion, the Vice-President said that successive governments have been conferring religious titles on members of the Sangha, nuns and laypersons for their performances in ensuring perpetuity of Theravada Buddhism countable by the years in the thousands. Since 1915, Agga Maha Pandita titles for Pariyatti literature have been conferred on the monks. In 1953, he said that not only Agga Maha Pandita title but also Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru title was conferred on the prominent monks. In 1953 when the Sixth Buddhist Synod was held, Tipitakadhara Dharmabhuddharakajit title was offered to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vicittassaraarhobba ama, he said. After 1963, the conferring of religious title was suspended, and beginning 1979, Agga Maha Pandita, Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru and Tipitakadhara Dharmabhuddharakajit titles were conferred for Pariyatti genre The State Law and Order Restoration Council continued the conferring of the titles in 1989 and 1990, he said. In 1991, he added that a total of 20 religious titles were prescribed to confer three types of titles on Pariyatti learners, three types of titles on meditation instructors, two types of titles on Dhamma preachers, four types of titles on missionary and eight types of titles of Sasana Nuggaha on lay persons in addition to existing three types of titles. Thus, he said that there are 23 types of religious titles.

In the time of the new government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, an announcement was issued on 4 January 2012 to confer 23 types of religious titles on 121 members of the Sangha, eight monks and 31 lay persons for their outstanding performances, he said.

He said that the patrons and the leading committee were formed for successfully holding the ceremony to confer religious titles and offer rice for 2012.

Moreover, he added that the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and wife and party will offer alms meal to State level members of the Sangha and religious title recipient monks and nuns at Sasana Maha Beikman on Nay Pyi Taw Uppatasanti Hill on 5 March, two days ahead of the religious title conferring ceremony.

He continued to say that the religious title conferring ceremony will be observed at the Beckman on Nay Pyi Taw Uppatasanti Hill at 12 noon on 7 March 2012 (Fullmoon) (See page 9)

Zenit 3-2 Benfica: Shirokov strikes late winner to decide end-to-end contest and given Russians narrow victory

A brace by Roman Shirokov stole the show for the hosts, who will not look kindly on keeper Yuri Zhevnov for two errors that cost them two away goals

Roman Shirokov

Moscow, 15 Feb—Zenit St Petersburg ran out 3-2 winners over Benfica after a thrilling Champions League Round of 16 at the Petrovsky Stadium.

Maxi Pereira opened the scoring for the visitors 20 minutes in, but a pair of well taken goals in either half from Roman Shirokov and Sergey Semak gave the hosts the advantage.

A late equaliser from Oscar Cardozo appeared to restore parity for the second leg, but Shirokov rounded off his brace with two minutes to go to send the tie to Lisbon on a knife’s edge.

Conditions were well below freezing, and with the home side playing their first competitive match in two months, it was no surprise that the first half unfolded in fits and starts with both teams struggling to establish a rhythm.

Perhaps befitting the disjointed tone of the opening exchanges, it was a scrappy goal from Benfica that broke the deadlock after 20 minutes. A free kick by Cardozo was fumbled by Yuri Zhevnov, which gave Pereira an empty net to poke home the rebound.

With three minutes to go, Benfica grabbed an equaliser through Cardozo after another fumble by Zhevnov allowed the Guaranyan the simplest of finishes from barely a yard out.

The drama was not done, and Zenit regained the lead a minute later after a failed clearance by Pereira and a spill by Artur allowed Shirokov an open goal to give the Russian outfit a slender advantage heading into the second leg, which takes place on 6 March in Lisbon.—Internet

Frank de Boer: It is a big surprise to be facing Manchester United in the Europa League

Amsterdam, 15 Feb—Ajax coach Frank de Boer has admitted his surprise at seeing Manchester United drop into the Europa League, although he concedes that teams like the Red Devils and their rivals Manchester City do bring a lot to the competition.

Ajax found themselves in a similar position to United going into their final group game of the Champions League, knowing a win would see them through to the second round.

Internet