President U Thein Sein receives Indian Defence Minister

Mr AK Antony.—MNA

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Tin Naing Thein, Vice-Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Hsan Myint and departmental heads and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Dr VS Seshadri.—They frankly exchanged views on mutual friendship, multifaceted cooperation, inter-governmental and people-to-people cooperation, wider bilateral cooperation, joint efforts for border security, betterment of India-Myanmar road networks bridging South Asia and Southeast Asia. MNA

Htoo Foundation presents K 100 million for track and field

Mr AK Antony.—MNA

Cash contributions were made for track and field for its success at 27th SEA Games at Yangon United FC Ground yesterday evening, with an address by Vice-President U Min Thein of Myanmar Track and Field Federation. MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein.—MNA

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein.—MNA

Press release on the enactment of “the Bill amending the Auditor-General of the Union Law”

1. The Bill amending the Auditor-General of the Union Law was approved at the fifth regular session of the First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and it was sent to the President on 25-10-2012 to sign it. In accord with the provision of Section 106 (a) of the Constitution, the bill was sent back to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 1-11-2012 with the comments of the President in which the Bill includes provisions which are contrary to the Constitution and the democratic practices that ensure the three branches of sovereign power namely legislative power, executive power and judicial power are separated, to the extent possible, and to ensure reciprocal control, check and balance among themselves. (News reported on dailies issued on 26-11-2012)

2. The bill was under discussion again at the sixth regular session of the First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and it was approved and sent to the President in accord with the provision of Section 106 (b) of the Constitution to sign it for enactment. Although the amendments of the provisions of the Bill were similar to the provisions originally approved by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw before sending it, the President signed and sent it back to the Hluttaw in accord with the law, giving respect to the desires of the majority as Hluttaw representatives were in favour of the amendments. In order the make the massage known to the public, the full text of the translation of the message signed and sent by the President is as follow:-

“Reference: (1) Message with the letter number 1/Pa Hta (meeting) 9/2012-65 dated 25-10-2012 sent by the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to the President. (See page 9)


**Arrival of Gas engines makes hope high for adequate electricity supply in summer**

**Yangon, 22 Jan —** The Ministry of Electric Power is striving for fulfilling the demand of electricity in Yangon where electricity consumption will exceed the supply by 200 megawatts in summer. Arrangements have been made to generate more electricity to be able to meet the demand of electricity in summer of the year 2013 by installing new gas engines at Hlawga, Ywama, Ahlon and Thakaya power stations.

Of 26 gas engines which will be installed at Hlawga power station, eight gas engines with the generating capacity of 1 MW each arrived at the station on 17 January and installation works were in progress. One gas turbine and accessories arrived at Ahlon power station on 18 January. Works are being carried out to put it on the foundation. Four 3.3 MW gas turbines for Thakaya power station were installed on 19 January.

For sooner installation of gas engines which will arrive during the last week of February, building of foundation and switchyard are being carried out by staff of the Ministry of Electric Power. Plans are underway to generate more electricity from the newly-installed gas engines not later than 31 March.

**Safety measures taken along Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay Expressway**

**Yedashie, 22 Jan —** So far traffic signposts, warning signposts and reflection road signs have been installed for the safety of running vehicles along Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay Expressway.

As road accidents are frequent at turns and bridges where cars skidded out of control and overturned, concrete blocks were being placed at the place between mile post Nos (128/3) and (128/4) in Ottwin Township of Bago Region by Expressway Maintenance Group on 11 January.

An official said that the block helped road users notice them from a long distance as warning signs that turns and bridges are ahead.—Kyemon

**Head-on collision claims two lives on motorbike**

**Gyobingauk, 22 Jan —** A head-on collision between a Kenbo motorbike and a Faw truck occurred near Shwe Kyawdaw between mile post Nos (124/3) and (124/4) on Yangon-Pyay road in Gyobingauk of Bago Region on 12 January. Father and son on the motorbike were pronounced dead in the tragic incident.

The motorbike driven by U Min Tun, 45, and his son Maung Kyankyaung, 20, of Okpo Township from Zigon to Gyobingauk collided a head-on with the truck driven by Nay Lwin Kyaw (a) Duwun (a) Maung Kyauk Khe, 21, on the opposite direction. The fatal head-on collision claimed lives of father and son on the motorbike.

Gyobingauk Police Station opened a file and the investigation into the case is ongoing.—Kyemon

**Overturned Hino leaves 33 injured**

**Tatikon, 22 Jan —** A passenger bus overturned near Nay Pyi Taw Ottarathiri feeder road, north of Tatikon Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area on 18 January, leaving 33 passengers wounded.

The road accident happened at Tatikon-Okshiptin Hino bus carrying loads and passengers driven by Ko Aung Soe near Nay Pyi Taw Ottarathiri feeder road where the bus skidded out of control and turned over. A total of 33 passengers from Okshiptin and Thaphanchaung villages were injured in the accident and they were rushed to 100-bedded Tatikon Hospital.—Kyemon
Confident Obama lays out battle plan as he launches second term

WASHINGTON, 22 Jan—
A confident President Barack Obama kicked off his second term on Monday with an impassioned call for a more inclusive America that rejects partisan rancor and embraces immigration reform, gay rights and the fight against climate change.

Obama’s ceremonial swearing-in at the US Capitol was filled with traditional pomp and pageantry, but it was a scaled-back inauguration compared with the historic start of his presidency in 2009 when he swept into office on a mantle of hope and change as America’s first black president. Despite expectations tempered by lingering economic weakness and a politically divided Washington, Obama delivered a preview of the priorities he intends to pursue — essentially a reaffirmation of core liberal Democratic causes — declaring Americans “are made for this moment” and must “seize it together.”

The Democrat arrived at his second inauguration on solid footing, with his poll numbers up, Republicans on the defensive and his first-term record boasting achievements such as a US healthcare overhaul, financial regulatory reforms, the end of the war in Iraq and the killing of Osama bin Laden.

Obama had a formal swearing-in on Sunday at the White House because of a constitutional requirement that the president take the oath on 20 January. Rather than stage the full inauguration on Sunday, the main public events were put off until Monday.

Four years ago, it was the first black president,“ said local resident Greg Pearson, 42. “It doesn’t have the same energy. It’s more subdued. It’s not quite the party it was four years ago. Our expectations are pretty low (this time); let’s not default on the national debt, keep the government running.”—Reuters

US President Barack Obama (L) takes the oath from US Supreme Court Justice John Roberts as his wife Michelle Obama and daughters Malia Obama (2nd R) and Sasha Obama (R) watch during swearing-in ceremonies on the West front of the US Capitol in Washington, on 21 Jan, 2013.—Reuters

“Laughing” Chavez gives orders from Cuba

CARACAS, 21 Jan — Hugo Chavez is joking and giving instructions again, an ally said on Monday, in the latest positive comment from him.

Rumors earlier this month that Chavez was on life support have given way in the last few days to speculation that he may soon return to power.

The more positive talk has been fueled by comments from officials that Chavez has been gradually improving from a grave post-operation situation. “Comrades, I’m coming out of the meeting with our commander-president, Hugo Chavez,” recently appointed Foreign Minister Elias Jaua tweeted from Havana after a visit with Chavez.

“We shared jokes and laughed.” Chavez took decisions over Venezuela’s participation in an upcoming Latin American summit in Chile, added Jaua, the latest of a parade of officials to visit the president, who is presumed to be convalescing in Havana’s Cimeq hospital.

Though Venezuelan officials appear more upbeat, the usually garrulous and attention-seeking Chavez, 58, remains unseen and not been heard from in public since the 11 December operation, his fourth for a cancer first detected in mid-2011 in the pelvic area.

Opponents remain skeptical, asking why Chavez cannot speak to the nation if it is true that he can chat with ministers.

Algeria vows to fight Qaeda after 38 workers killed

ALGIERS, 21 Jan—
Algeria’s Prime Minister accused a Canadian of coordinating last week’s raid on a desert gas plant and, praising the storming of the complex where 38 mostly foreign hostages were killed, he pledged to resist the rise of Islamists in the Sahara.

Algeria will never succumb to terrorism or allow al-Qaeda to establish “Sahelistan”, an Afghan-style power base in arid northwest Africa, Abdelmalek Sellal told a news conference in Algiers where he also said at least 37 foreign hostages died. “There is clear political will,” the prime minister said.

Claimed by an Algerian al Qaeda leader as a riposte to France’s attack on his allies in neighbouring Mali the previous week, the four-day siege drew global attention to Islamists in the Sahara and Sahel regions and brought promises of support to African governments from Western powers whose topping of Libya’s Muammar Gaddafi helped flood the region with weapons.

The attack on a valuable part of its vital energy industry raised questions about the security capacity of an establishment that took power from French colonists 50 years ago, held off a bloody Islamist insurgency in the 1990s and has avoided the democratic upheavals the Arab Spring brought to North Africa. Chafik Mesbah, a former Algerian presidential security adviser, said: “The West did not criticize Algeria because it knows an assault was inevitable in the circumstances. The victims were a minimum price to pay to solve the crisis.”

Sellal said a Canadian citizen whom he named only as Chedad, a surname found among Arabs in the region, was among 29 gunmen killed and added that he had “coordinated” the attack. Another three militants were taken alive and were in custody.

Syrian opposition leaders fail to form government

ISLAMABAD, 22 Jan—
Syrian opposition leaders said on Monday they had failed to put together a transitional government.

Political efforts to resolve the conflict have largely faltered because of the rebels’ failure to form a unified front and because world powers are backing opposing sides. Talks held by representatives of the opposition Syrian National Coalition (SNC), a 70-member umbrella group dominated by Islamists and their allies, in Istanbul at the weekend only highlighted divisions in the coalition. “This is a big blow for the revolution against Bashar al-Assad,” said one opposition leader who attended the meeting but did not want to be named because he operates in secret in Syria.

A fighter from the Free Syrian Army's Tahir al-Sham brigade looks at a building destroyed during yesterday's Syrian Air force air strike in Mleha suburb of Damascus on 21 Jan, 2013.—Reuters

A poster of Venezuela’s President Hugo Chavez is seen during a Afro-Cuban Santeria ceremony to pray for his recovery, in Havana on 10 Jan, 2013.—Reuters

Israel set to re-elect Netanyahu, shift further right

JERUSALEM, 22 Jan—
—Israelis look set to elect Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to a third term with a smaller majority on Tuesday, pushing the Jewish State even further to the right, away from peace with Palestinians and towards a showdown with Iran.

Netanyahu has vowed to pursue the Jewish settlement of lands seized during the 1967 Middle East war if he stays in power, a policy that would put him at odds with Washington and deepened Israel’s international isolation. Polls predict Netanyahu’s Likud party, which has forged an electoral pact with the ultra-nationalist Yisrael Beiteinu group, will take the most seats in the parliamentary election.

But no Israeli party has ever secured an absolute majority, meaning that Netanyahu, who says that “made in Israel” nuclear ambitions is his top priority, will have to bring various allies onboard to control the 120-seat Knesset.

The former commando has traditionally looked to religious, conservative parties for backing and is widely expected to reach out to the surprise star of the campaign, self-made millionaire Naftali Bennett who heads the far-right JewishHome party. Bennett’s youthfulness has struck a chord among voters, most of whom no longer believe in the possibility of a Middle East peace deal, and has eroded Netanyahu’s right-wing support base.

Surveys suggest he may take as many as 14 seats, many at the expense of Likud-Beiteinu, projected to win 32.—Reuters

A former commando who heads the far-right JewishHome party, Bennett’s youthfulness has struck a chord among voters, most of whom no longer believe in the possibility of a Middle East peace deal, and has eroded Netanyahu’s right-wing support base.

Candidate for the split-wing Yisrael Beiteinu group, which supports a one-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, has made a strong showing in the 120-seat Knesset. Bennett’s unlikely run for premier has put Netanyahu on the back foot, with the prime minister looking to form a government with the new party.

A poster of Venezuela’s President Hugo Chavez is seen during a Afro-Cuban Santeria ceremony to pray for his recovery, in Havana on 10 Jan, 2013.—Reuters

Wednesday, 23 January, 2013
FRANKFURT, 22 Jan—Research in Motion will look into strategic alliances with other technology companies once it has launched its new BlackBerry 10 models, its chief executive told a German newspaper. German-born CEO Thorsten Heins told daily *Die Welt* in an interview published on Monday that the group’s strategic review could lead to the sale of RIM’s hardware production or the sale of licenses to its software, among other options.

“The main thing for now is to successfully introduce Blackberry 10. Then we’ll see,” Heins was quoted as saying.

RIM hopes its re-engineered line of Blackberry 10 touch-screen and keyboard devices will win back market share lost to rivals such as Apple’s iPhone and devices powered by Google’s market-leading Android operating system.

Sony to sell new Xperia tablet in Japan

Tokyo, 22 Jan—Japan this spring, the Nikkei reported, citing Kyodo News. The Xperia Tablet Z, whose price has not been announced, has a 10.1-inch display, is 6.9 mm thin and weighs 495 grams, according to the company’s website.

Rival Google Inc’s Nexus 10 tablet is 8.9 mm thick, while Apple Inc’s iPad mini measures 7.9 mm.

Former Microsoft executive says CEO Ballmer culls internal rivals to retain power

Seattle, 22 Jan—Microsoft Corp Chief Executive Steve Ballmer is not the right leader for the world’s largest software company but holds his grip on it by systematically forcing out any rising manager who challenges his authority, claims a former senior executive who has written a book about his time at the company.

“For Microsoft to really get back in the game seriously, you need a big change in management,” said Joachim Kempin, who worked at Microsoft between 1983 and 2002, over seeing the sales of Windows software to computer makers for part of that time.

“As much as I respect Steve Ballmer, he may be part of that in the end.”

As a senior vice president in charge of a crucial part of the company’s business with direct access to co-founder Bill Gates, Kempin is the most senior former Microsoft executive to write a book critical of the company, which is famous for the loyalty of its ex-employees.

His criticism echoes that of investor David Einhorn of Greenlight Capital, who called for Ballmer to step down in 2011.

Kempin left Microsoft under a cloud in 2002 after some of the aggressive contracts he crafted with PC makers were seen as fodder for the US government’s antitrust prosecution of the company, which started in 1998 and was largely resolved by 2002.

His book, titled “Resolve and Fortitude: Microsoft’s "secret power broker" breaks his silence”, is scheduled to be published on Tuesday. He talked with Reuters by phone on Monday.

Azerbaijan to launch first telecommunications satellite in February

Baku, 22 Jan—Azerbaijan will launch its first telecommunications satellite named *AzerSpace-1* in early February, the country’s ICT Minister Ali Abbasov told media in Baku on Monday.

According to the minister, the satellite has already been delivered to the launch site at Kourou, the space centre of French Guiana, where it will be sent into orbit by an Ariane 5 ECA rocket.

The satellite is leased from Malaysia’s Measat Satellite Systems, a company owned by the government of Malaysia. Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, Central Asia and North Africa will be included in the AzerSpace service area.

Produced by the American Orbital Sciences Corporation, the AzerSpace telecommunications satellite is designed to provide digital broadcasting, Internet access, data transmission, the creation of VSAT multiservice networks and governmental communications.

NTT DoCoMo to release low-cost tablet in Japan

Tokyo, 22 Jan—Mobile phone service provider NTT DoCoMo Inc will soon release a low-cost tablet computer in Japan priced between 10,000 yen ($110) and 15,000 yen, the Nikkei reported. The tablet will be made by China’s Huawei Technologies Co and feature a 10-inch screen, the Japanese business daily said.

The new tablet will be able to connect to the Internet via wireless LAN, but will not be compatible with 3G or LTE (Long Term Evolution) high-speed wireless services, the newspaper reported.

Telecom equipment maker Huawei has diversified into the mobile devices area selling dongles, mobile phones and tablet PCs, aiming to tap the fast-growing sector. The new product will be launched in spring, for sale at DoCoMo Shops and electronics mass merchandisers throughout Japan, the daily said.

Apple Inc, maker of the iPad, already faces stiffening competition in tablets from a growing crowd of rival products from makers, including Samsung Electronics Co Ltd with its Galaxy and Microsoft Corp’s Surface.
In China, signs that one-child policy may be coming to an end

Juiquan, 22 Jan—China could be considering relaxing its harsh one-child policy because of women like Hu Yanqin, who lives in a village at the edge of the Gobi desert. Hu lives in the Jiuquan region in Gansu Province, one of the rare places in China where those living in rural areas have been free to have two children since 1985. But even when she got married seven years ago, she knew she was going to have only one child, because it was too expensive to have more.

“Those people with two children are those who are better off,” said Hu, 32, who is saving money for their old age and to start breathing immediately after birth. The country’s elderly population will probably get 90 to 93 percent of babies breathing immediately after birth, to immediately dry the baby off... that drying will probably prevent stillbirths and newborn deaths in the developing world, new studies suggest.

So-called birth asphyxia — when babies are born not breathing — is one of the major causes of newborn death in regions with limited resources, researchers said. The Helping Babies Breathe program, launched by the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), trains birth attendants to immediately dry and warm babies — and to start breathing for babies with a bag and mask if they don’t breathe on their own within one minute.

Reducing infant mortality in the developing world is one of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals — but progress has been slow, according to Dr Jeffrey Perlman from Weill Cornell Medical College in New York, who helped implement Helping Babies Breathe in Tanzania.

“The majority of deliveries in resource-limited areas are done by the midwife, and the midwife wasn’t really taught how to deal with a baby once they were born,” Perlman told Reuters Health.

Instead, he said, midwives tend to focus on the mother immediately after the birth. “If you can just teach them, when the baby’s born, to immediately dry the baby off... that dries and a little bit of stimulating will probably get 90 to 93 percent of babies breathing that weren’t breathing before,” said Perlman, one of the authors of a study published on Monday in Pediatrics.

“That’s the most exciting part, that something very simple can save many, many lives,” Perlman and his colleagues compared about 8,000 babies born at eight hospitals before birth assistants were trained in the breathing programme to almost ten times as many babies born afterward.
**New Light of Myanmar**

**WORLD**

**Deadly blasts rattle Syria, UN official warns of “shocking” situation**

**Damascus, 22 Jan—** A suicide car bomber has killed at least 25 people in central Syria on Monday, as a UN humanitarian official said situation in Syria’s hotspots is “shocking” and “appalling.”

At least 25 people were killed and more than 50 injured Monday when a suicide car bomber detonated his explosive-packed car in Syria’s central province of Hama, the state-run media said.

The blast rocked al-Salamiyah area in Hama, the report said, adding that the blast has also left property damage to the city’s National Hospital and nearby buildings.

Syria’s state-TV branded the blast as “brutal massacre” while other Syrian TV’s urged people to donate blood for those injured in the deadly blast.

Meanwhile, the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, activists’ network, said dozens of people were killed in the blast, adding the car bomb went off before a makeshift headquarters of the pro-government local committee in Salamiyah.

Quoting medical sources, the Observatory said that among the dead are 30 members of the committee, while several civilians were also killed and the number of dead is likely to reach 50.

In the capital Damascus, meanwhile, an explosive device went off in the upscale district of Mushur Dunmar, causing property losses only, local media said.

Activists reported shelling and clashes between the rebels and the government troops, placing the death toll of Monday’s violence at 92. As the violence keeps grinding on, a visiting UN humanitarian official on Monday said that the humanitarian situation in Syria’s hotspots is “shocking.”

—Xinhua

**French troops take central Mali towns, rebels slip away**

**Diabaly, 22 Jan—** French and Malian armed columns rolled into the towns of Diabaly and Douentza in central Mali on Monday after the al Qaeda-linked rebels who had presence raising fears of the region becoming an an African launchpad for international militant attacks.

The stakes in Mali rose dramatically last week when Islamist gunmen chtested France’s intervention as the reason for attacking a gas plant in neighboring Algeria, seizing hundreds of hostages and sowing fears that the conflict would cross borders.

“This advance by Mali’s army into towns held by their enemies is a clear military success for the government in Bamako and for French forces supporting the operation,” French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said. —Reuters

**Tourists warned about rise in activity at New Zealand volcano**

**Wellington, 22 Jan—** New Zealand scientists said on Tuesday they are concerned about growing “volcanic unrest” at an active volcano off the country’s North Island.

Volcanologist Brad Scott, of the government’s Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS Science), visited White Island on Monday and found that hydrothermal activity in a small “hot lake” had increased.

The most common activity was “doming-up” of the lake surface by steam and gas, bringing large amounts of sediment to the surface, often with vivid white steam and gas “flash-in” from around the base, with stronger events every so often.

This activity had been increasing since late last year and was now semi-continuous, Scott said in a statement from GNS Science.

“The hydrothermal activity is some of the most vigorous I have seen at White Island for many years. This type of activity usually leads to stronger volcanic activity and is a significant concern,” said Scott.

The lava dome that was first observed in late November had not changed since the last observations on 1 Jan.

—Xinhua

**Brazil hails success of border control against organized crime**

**Rio de Janeiro, 22 Jan—** Brazil’s President Sunday highlighted the success of her plan in thwarting organized crime along the border.

Dilma Rousseff said in her weekly radio show, “Breakfast with the President,” that authorities have seized more than 3,650 tons of drugs and 2,200 firearms in a year and a half since the Strategic Border Plan was launched.

“Even though public security is a responsibility of the states, in accordance with the Constitution, the federal government must take part in the improvement of public security through special programmes,” she said.

Brazil’s vast size and 16,000 kilometres of borders, much of it in sparsely populated and heavily forested areas, make patrolting the borders a particular challenge that requires firm government action and constant vigilance, she said.

Rousseff stressed the importance of joining forces with neighbours, adding that Brazil has border agreements with several countries, such as Colombia, Bolivia and Peru. “With actions such as the Strategic Border Plan, we can build, along with neighbouring countries, a solid network of border protection, fighting drugs and weapons trafficking, and organized crime,” she said.

—Xinhua

**US boy accused of killing parents plans to kill more**

**Houston, 22 Jan—** A teenager accused of fatally shooting his parents and three siblings in the US state of New Mexico had allegedly intended to go to a populated area to murder more people, US media reported, quoting a sworn affidavit.

The teenager, identified as Nehemiah Griego, 15, said that after the killings Saturday at his home in a rural area southwest of Albuquerque, New Mexico, he reloaded the weapons so that he could drive to a populated area to murder more people, according to FOX News.

“Nehemiah stated he wanted to shoot people at random and eventually be killed while exchanging gunfire with law enforcement,” according to the report. Griego told police he had been plagued by “suicidal and homicidal thoughts,” Fox News reported, quoting a sworn affidavit provided to prosecutors by the arresting officer.

Griego, who was arrested following the shootings, remained in custody on Monday on charges of murder and child abuse resulting in death.

The victims were identified as Greg Griego, 51, who had been a pastor; his wife, Sarah Griego, 40, who home-schooled their children; Zephania Griego, 9; Jael Griego, 5; and Angelina Griego, 2.

Authorities said each victim suffered more than one gunshot wound, and several guns were found at the scene, one of which was a semiautomatic, military-style rifle. The teen allegedly shot his mother early on Saturday while she was sleeping after they had had a minor disagreement on Friday. He then allegedly shot his 9-year-old brother, who was sleeping in the same bed, and his two siblings in another room.

He waited several hours for his father to return at 6 am, allegedly killing him with multiple shots. Griego initially told police he came home early Saturday morning after being a friend’s house for several days and found his family dead in the locked home. —Xinhua

**Ecuador leader blasts US LatAm policy**

**Quito, 22 Jan—Ecuadorean President Rafael Correa said on Monday that Washington still pursues “double standards” in its foreign policy toward Latin America.**

Correa made the comment in the wake of US President Barack Obama’s inauguration for a second term.

“The double standards persist,” Correa told a local radio station. “Here, you are a good guy if you are a friend of the United States; you are a bad guy if you... refuse to submit to its whims.”

—Xinhua

**Brazilian ex-leader in court over corruption**

**Brasilia, 22 Jan—** Brazil’s former President displayed a defiant posture in court on Monday, as he opened his defense in a major corruption trial.

Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, alias “Lula,” appeared in court to present his defense in a federal corruption trial, in which he is accused of accepting illegal campaign contributions.

“Business is about money and money is about guns,” Mr. Lula told journalists before entering the courtroom. “I have my money and it is a clean one. I am the son of a father of the people and I am not afraid to say this.”

—Agencies

**John Ging, the UN Operations Director of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), speaks at a Press conference in Damascus, Syria, on 21 Jan, 2013. Xinhua**

**People take part in the Martin Luther King Parade in Houston, the United States, on 21 Jan, 2013. Xinhua**

**Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi attends the 3rd Arab Economic and Social Development Summit held in the Saudi capital of Riyadh on 21 Jan, 2013. Xinhua**
Union Defence Minister meets Indian Defence Minister and party

**NAVY TAW, 22 Jan—**Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Wai Lwin met Mr. A.K Antony, Defence Minister of the Republic of India at his ministry here yesterday afternoon.

They discussed matters on cooperation between the two countries. Present at the call were Deputy Minister for Defence Commodore Aung Thaw, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Zaw Win and officials.—**MNA**

Union Border Affairs Minister receives Head of OHCHR SEA Region

**NAVY TAW, 22 Jan—**Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay received Ms. Matilda Bonger, Head of Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights for South-East Asia and Ms. Heike Aftsen, Deputy Head of OHCHR Regional Office for South-East Asia at the ministry here on 20 January evening.

They held matters related to Rakhine incident, implementation of rehabilitation tasks in cooperation with UN agencies, international governmental organizations and non-governmental organizations. They also exchanged views on present cooperation in human rights issues and prospects of cooperation in human rights issues.

The meeting was also attended by directors-general and officials of the ministry.—**MNA**

Myanmar to cooperate more with WTO

**NAVY TAW, 22 Jan—**Union Minister for Commerce U Myint yesterday morning held a discussion with Consul Mr. Masahiro Hayashi from World Trade Organization based in Geneva of Switzerland at his ministry, focusing on further cooperation with WTO and coordination with line ministries according to trade policy analysis procedures in advance.

Also present on the occasion were the deputy commerce minister, departmental heads and others.—**MNA**

Private school opens football tournament

**MANDALAY, 22 Jan—**The opening ceremony of the men’s football tournament was held at ELC Private High School on 31st street between 83rd and 84th streets in Rangoon’s sports ground.

The opening ceremony was held up to 26 January. Among many events will be blitz chess and Myanmar traditional chess events age-wise groups.

Performing of artistes from SEAGF at opening and closing of SEA Games coordinated

**NAVY TAW, 22 Jan—**The coordination meeting for performing by artistes from SEAGF countries at opening and closing of SEA Games was held at the conference hall of Archaeology, National Museum and Library Department (Yangon Branch) on 20 January, with an address by Chairman of Preparation Committee for 27th SEA Games Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint Kyu. Arrangements are being made to perform representing dances of SEAGF countries in order to create the amity of regional countries, said the Union Minister. A total of 35 managers and artists from each country of SEAGF are invited to present their performances at opening and closing of 27th SEA Games, he added.

The meeting was attended by ambassadors, cultural officials from Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and China.—**MNA**

Power line installed for transformer in Bago Township

**BAGO, 22 Jan—**The electricians made concerted efforts for installation of a 315 KV transformer to supply electricity to the village round the clock.

Upon completion, a total of 250 households of the village will enjoy supply of electricity.

The library was opened by Indian Defence Minister and party at the ministry here yesterday afternoon.

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The meeting was attended by ambassadors, cultural officials from Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam and China.—**MNA**

Dedaye Township gets rural library

**DANYE, 22 Jan—**Khaing Mye Thar Library was put into service in Tawkyalik Village of Dedaye Township in Ayeyawady Region on 8 January morning.

The library was opened by Township Administrator U Tin Shwe, Staff Officer U Zaw Min of Pyapon District Information and Public Relations Department and Executive Officer U Aung Zaw Min of Township Development Affairs Committee.

The Township Administration and the Staff Officer of District PRD made speeches.

Next, departmental personnel donated books and one 21-inch TV worth K 150,000.

The library was built at a cost of K 1.25 million contributed by Ayeyawady Region Government and K 1,063,675 by the local people.—**Mya Amin**
**Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets South Korean National Assembly Speaker**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 22 Jan—** Speaker of the Pyidaungsu and Amyotha Hluttaws U Khin Aung Myint met a delegation led by Speaker of South Korean National Assembly Mr KANG Chang-Hee at the Amyotha Hluttaw Hall in Hluttaw Complex here this afternoon. Also present at the meeting were Amyotha Hluttaw Committee chairs and officials of the Hluttaw office.

*Kia sets fire to gems companies’ buildings, ambushes convoy*

Nay Pyi Taw, 22 Jan—Buildings of Max Myanmar and Kyayng gems companies which are in joint venture with the government in Phakant Township were attacked by KIA on 20 January. Fifty KIA members ambushed the convoy loaded with food and consumer goods for departmental personnel and local people yesterday afternoon, injuring some members of security forces and destroying one vehicle.

Since 28 December 2012, KIA has made 16 attacks. It has attacked civilian targets for eight times after announcement of Press Release (3/2013), said the Defence Ministry.

Nay Pyi Taw, 22 Jan—KIA on 20 January. Fifty KIA members ambushed the convoy loaded with food and consumer goods for departmental personnel and local people yesterday afternoon, injuring some members of security forces and destroying one vehicle.

Since 28 December 2012, KIA has made 16 attacks. It has attacked civilian targets for eight times after announcement of Press Release (3/2013), said the Defence Ministry.

**KIA mine blast claims one life, leaves two injured**

Nay Pyi Taw, 22 Jan—A mine planted by KIA exploded in Mansi Township in Kachin State as a motorbike crossed over at 10.30 am on 20 January. The incident killed one and left two injured seriously.

The mine blast occurred when a motorbike ridden by middle-school students Maung Myo Hlaing, Maung Gampna and Maung Hsan Maing of Manwainggyi Village, Mansi Township, Bhamo District, Kachin State, about 100 yards from Lapagdot Village hit the mine.

Maung Myo Hlaing aged 17, son of U Tan Gon, died on the spot in the mine blast. Maung Gampa aged 15, son of U Phaw John Gun Shong, with minor injury was admitted to the clinic in Manwainggyi Village, and seriously injured Maung Hsan Maing aged 14, son of U Gon Maing, was rushed to the People’s Hospital in Namkham Township.

KIA groups had previously committed three similar attacks near Zarnan Bridge in Sampraham Township and near Tyansop Village in Myitkyina Township on 14 January, and in Ahmikepone Village in Phakant Township on 15 January. The casualties in mine blast till yesterday have mounted to 10—five dead and five injured.

**KIA troops attack Tatmadaw military column in Lweje Tsp**

Nay Pyi Taw, 22 Jan—About 200 KIA troops attacked Tatmadaw military column near Ja Mai Village in Lweje Township in Kachin State from noon to 4.30 pm yesterday for forth time after the government’s announcement of truce and resumption of political dialogue, forcing the military column on to defensive.

Two officers and four soldiers sacrificed their lives while others sustained injuries. One M 22 rifle of KIA was seized, according to the Ministry of Defence.

**Thai Vice Foreign Minister presents humanitarian assistance for Rakhine locals**

Nay Pyi Taw, 22 Jan—In support of the Myanmar government’s relief and rehabilitation efforts for all of the affected communities in Rakhine State, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Thailand Mr Jullapong Nonsrichai made humanitarian contribution of USD 100,000 through Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw on 19 January.
Thura U Shwe Mann attends workshop, meets Korean lawmaker

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan—Organized by Amyotha Hluttaw Finance and Legal Affairs Commission, a workshop on budgeting system for State-owned enterprises was held at Hluttaw Building, here, this afternoon.

It was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw, deputy ministers, committee members of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, Hluttaw representatives, departmental heads and guests. First, Chairman of Amyotha Hluttaw Finance and Legal Affairs Commission U Aung Tun explained the purpose of holding the workshop.

Next, commission members U Kyi Shein and Daw Khin Thwe Thwe Myint, and Khin Maung Nyo (Economics) gave talks on budgeting system.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker received Speaker of South Korean National Assembly Mr KANG Chang-Hee at Zabuthari Hall in the evening. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker described the Hluttaw as a legislature constituted with represen-tatives from 17 political parties who are serving the interests of the nation and citizens without partisan-ship, dogmatism, regiona-lisn, racismand sectarianism, saying that close cooperation between governments, parliaments and peoples of the two countries would bring benefits to both countries. The South Korean National Assembly Speaker noted the rich natural resources and the size of the population of Myanmar and economic development of Korea as winning com-bination for a soaring success of two countries. He called for promotion of friendship and cooperation between the two parliaments. Present on the occasion were Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, committee chairpersons U Maung Maung Thein, U Htike Myint Oo and U T Khin Myat, committee secretaries of Pyithu Hluttaw.

Press release on the enactment of “the Bill amending... (from page 1)

(2) Message with the letter number 107/1osphate Office dated 1-11-2012 sent by the President to the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

(3) Message with the letter number 1/Pa Hta (meeting) 9/2013-3 dated 15-1-2013 sent by the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to the President.

1. I received the Bill sent back in accord with the Section 106 Sub-section (b) along with the message shown in reference (3) regarding the “Bill amending the Auditor-General of the Union Law” with the comments of the President along with the message shown in reference (2).

2. Regarding the Bill, it was sent back to the Hluttaw with the comments that it is contrary to the provision that “existing law shall remain in operation so far as they are not contrary to this Constitution until and unless they are repealed or amended by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw” stated in Section 446 of Constitution and the provision that the three branches of sovereign power namely legislative, executive power and judicial power are separated, to the extent possible, and to ensure reciprocal control, check and balance among themselves” stated in Section 11 (a) of the Constitution.

3. But the Bill was under discussion at the sixth regular session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the Bill with original provisions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the Bill with original provisions of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw as the majority was in favour of the Bill while seeking the approval of the Hluttaw.

4. Whether it is in compliance with the Constitution or is not subject to the decision of the waiting-to-form Constitutional Tribunal of the Union. I signed the Bill amending the Auditor-General of the Union Law” approved by the majority of the Hluttaw representatives, giving respect to the majority and sent the Bill back in accord with the provision of Section 106 (b) of the Constitution.

5. It is hereunder stated that provision in Section 198 Sub-section (a) should be paid special attention regarding the effect of laws in Chapter “Legislation” in the Constitution.- “198. The effects of Hluttaw at different levels and leading bodies of self-administered division/zones are as follows:-

(a) If any particular provision in a law enacted by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Region Hluttaw, State Hluttaw, leading body of self-administered division or leading bodies of self-administered zones or any particular law goes against a certain provision in the Constitution, then what is prescribed in the Constitution takes effect.

6. Therefore it here is asked to proceed with “Law amending the Auditor-General of the Union Law” signed by the President.

3. The original provisions in the bill passed by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, remarks of the President and the final draft of the bill sent by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to the President for his approval are shown against each other below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Original provisions of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw</th>
<th>Remarks of the President</th>
<th>Final draft</th>
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2. The clause “occasionally” is imposible unless the Attorney-General of the Union Law is to be amended or replaced by the clause “reporting at least a year the findings in auditing State’s budget and special conditions occasionally”.

3. The clause “his/her undertakings shall be reported to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw through the President” in Section 11 (j) of the Union Auditor-General Law must be replaced with the clause “his or her undertakings and findings shall be reported to the President and simultaneously to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw”.

4. Sub-section (m) after Sub-section (l) of Section 11 of the Union Auditor-General Law shall be added “(m) reporting to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw when the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw tasks to audit undertakings of Union-level organizations, Union ministries, government departments, government organizations and Nay Pyi Taw Council”.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the original provision.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the original provision.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the original provision.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved the original provision.
**NATIONAL**

**False bomb calls at Piraeus soccer stadium following Athens shopping mall attack**

**Athens, 22 Jan—**Unidentified people made two false calls warning of an impending explosion at a soccer stadium at the port city of Piraeus on Sunday evening, a few hours after a bomb attack at an Athens shopping mall caused two injuries.

The unidentified persons warned that a bomb would explode during a match for the Greek Cup. Similar warning calls had been made before the blast at the shopping mall on Sunday noon which had been evacuated in time. It was the first time ever such an attack hit a popular shopping centre in Greece.

Police experts on Sunday evening investigated the crowded stadium and evaluated that there was no real threat, therefore it was not evacuated.

In the meantime, counter-terrorism squads continue the investigation to track down the perpetrators of the attack inside the northern Athens suburb mall.

**Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives foreign guests**

**Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Indian Defence Minister Mr AK Antony and party,—MNA**

**Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hosted a luncheon to the Indian delegation.**

The C-in-C also received Japanese Member of House of Representatives and former Minister of Disaster Management Mr Masaharu Nakagawa at the same venue in the afternoon.

Also present at the call were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy, Air) General Hla Hay Win, Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear Admiral Thura Thet Swe, Commander-in-Chief (Air) Lt-Gen Myat Hein, senior military officers and Member of House of Councilors of Japan Mr Michihiro Ishibashi.

The meeting focused on internal peace and affected population.—MNA
Vietnam, Argentina vow to deepen bilateral ties

HANOI, 22 Jan—Vietnam wants to deepen the all-sided relations and cooperation at strategic partnership level with Argentina. Vietnamese President Truong Tan Sang said here on Monday during talks with his Argentine counterpart Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner.

Sang spoke highly of the visit to Vietnam by the Argentine President, saying it will be a strong impetus to further boost the bilateral cooperation with high-level and practical results, particularly in the context that the two countries will celebrate the 40th anniversary of their diplomatic ties this year.

The Vietnamese people highly appreciate the wholehearted support and solidarity rendered by the Argentine people to Vietnam in their fight for national independence in the past and national construction at present, said the Argentine leader.

For her part, Cristina confirmed that Argentina paid importance to consolidating and strengthening friendship and cooperation with Vietnam, which goes in line with its Asia-Pacific oriented master policy, especially in the areas of trade and investment, energy, biotechnology, pharmaceutical and medical industries.

The two leaders exchanged views and agreed on concrete measures aimed at promoting bilateral ties and cooperation, including organizing the 40th anniversary of their diplomatic ties (October 1973—October 2013), expanding operations of the joint governmental cooperation committees and the political consultancy dialogues between the two foreign ministries.

Bangkok election kicks off

BANGKOK, 22 Jan—Bangkok’s City Hall was overwhelmed with hustle and bustle on Monday morning as almost 20 candidates for the Bangkok governor election registered their candidacies for the 3 March poll, Thai News Agency reported.

Two strongest rivals, Pongsapat Pongcharoen of the ruling Pheu Thai Party and Sukhumbhand Paribatra of the Democrat Party, were given No 9 and No 16 respectively on the ballot and election campaign.

Most candidates arrived at Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) headquarters before sunrise, hours before the official registration which started at 8:30 am. All 16 candidates were subject to a lot-drawing procedure to get their respective numbers for the ballot and election campaign.

Sukhumbhand, Bangkok governor for the last four years, said ex-city governor Apirak Kosayodhan, also from Democrat Party, will be in charge of campaign strategy in which the social network is included while the traditional door-knocking campaign is compulsory. Charupong Ruangsuan, leader of the Pheu Thai Party, under which Pol Gen Pongsapat is contesting, said his party was asking for change for a new and better Bangkok after the rival Democrat Party has led the BMA for eight years.

Currently, Pongsapat was trailing behind Sukhumbhand in most surveys.

Operation against Taleban in Kabul ends

KABUL, 22 Jan—Operations against Taliban gunmen who seized a traffic police facility in western Kabul ended on Monday afternoon, with all the militants having been killed, the Kabul police chief said.

“The operation is ended. All militants, who seized the four-storey Kabul Traffic Police Headquarters’ building on early Monday morning, had been killed in the counter-attack operation,” Police Chief Mohammad Ayub Salangi told reporters near the site.

He did not disclose the number of the killed militants, saying the police have launched an investigation and more details will be released later to the media.

“Ast least three traffic police officers were killed and 22 other people including 18 civilians were wounded in the gunfight and explosions in today’s Taleban attack as we know,” a police official told Xinhua, adding “The number of the victims is still be counted.”

The attack started at about 5:50 am and was ended at about 2:15 pm local time on Monday.

Early reports by local media Tolo News suggested that the militants have held hostages an undermined number of traffic police employees causing the operations to last for long hours, however, no official have confirmed the hostage taking incident in the attack.

Seven Japanese killed in Algeria, three still missing

TOYKO, 22 Jan — The Japanese government on late Monday confirmed seven Japanese were killed in a hostage crisis in Algeria, local media reported.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe made the announcement at a meeting of a task force on the issue, adding three Japanese nationals are still unaccounted for. Abe said that it was “extremely regrettable” that the deaths had been confirmed and strongly condemned the terrorism attack as “despicable” and “unforgivable,” Kyodo News Agency reported.

Abe asked officials to take every possible measures to gather information so as to confirm the whereabouts of the three missing Japanese. He also said Japan will continue to seek cooperation with the international community to combat terrorism. The victims were among 10 Japanese employees of JGC, a Japanese construction company, which were killed in the attack.

Meanwhile, the death toll of foreigners in the crisis rises to 37, according to report — Xinhua

S Korea raises concerns over side effects from stronger won

SEOUL, 22 Jan—South Korea’s Finance Ministry raised its worrying voice over the potential side effects from stronger won such as worsening profitability of exporters and weaker price competitiveness of export items.

South Korean won’s appreciation against the US dollar will cause worsening profitability of export companies in the short term, while weakening export competitiveness amid higher export prices in the long run, the Ministry of Strategy and Finance said on Tuesday in a statement unveiled after the regular crisis-management meeting.

The won rallied 7.58 percent against the dollar over the past year due to quantitative easing by central banks in major economies and the relatively solid fundamental of the Korean economy.

The local currency surged about 20 percent versus the Japanese yen as expectations for expansionary monetary policy spread under the new government in Japan.

Small-and mid-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Seoul have been hit harder in profits by stronger won than large firms as smaller companies have less non-price competitiveness such as brand power and product quality along with passive response to currency risks, the ministry said.
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E-mail: contact@cbbankmm.com Website: www.cbbankmm.com Facebook: www.facebook.com/CBBankMyanmar
Jennifer Hudson wants another baby

LOS ANGELES, 22 Jan—Singer Jennifer Hudson says her son David Jr wants to have a sister, and she wants to add to their family with a second child.

The 31-year-old said that she wants to grant him his wish, and would like a daughter herself, reported E! online.

“I definitely want another baby. I want a little girl so bad and every day David Jr reminds me, ‘Mommy I want a baby sister. I want a baby sister’. And I said OK, maybe when he gets 4-years-old, but he is 3. He is almost 4 now so maybe when he gets 6 or 7 because...3 and 4 comes too fast,” Jennifer Hudson said.

The Think Like A Man hitmaker has been engaged to World Wrestling Entertainment (WWE) superstar David Otunga since 2008. He is all set to branch into acting with a role in The Call and Jennifer Hudson said that she has a new nickname for the wrestling star.

“We call him ‘Curtains,’ because when he got the role he was like, ‘Curtains for everybody. He’s so excited. I can’t wait to see the film ... He’s super excited about the project coming out and he got to play an officer ... I just got to see the preview for it. Like out, curtains for everybody,” she added.—PTI

Holy cow! Original Batmobile from TV series sells for $4.2 million

PHOENIX, 22 Jan—An Arizona man with a special fondness for caped crusader Batman and his sidekick Robin bought the original Batmobile driven in the iconic television series with a bid of $4.2 million at an auction on Saturday.

Rick Champagne, a Phoenix-area logistics company owner, came away with the black, futuristic two-seater featured in the “Batman” series starring Adam West and Burt Ward from 1966 to 1968, following a flurry of spirited bidding at the Scottsdale, Arizona, auction.

“I really liked Batman growing up and I came here with the intention of buying the car,” Champagne, 56, told Reuters in a brief interview moments after he bought the car. “Sure enough, I was able to buy it. That was a dream come true.”

The Barrett-Jackson auction was the first time the car was put up for public sale. In addition to the $4.2 million bid price, the buyer will have to pay an additional roughly $420,000 in premiums.

The Batmobile is based on a 1955 Lincoln Futura, a concept car built in Italy by the Ford Motor Co. In 1965, the concept car was bought for a nominal $1 by noted customizer George Barris, who had a mere 15 days and $15,000 to transform the vehicle for the show. He has owned it ever since.

The original Batmobile is displayed during the Barrett-Jackson collectors car auction in Scottsdale, Arizona on 19 Jan, 2013. The vehicle was sold for $4,200,000 according to the auction company.—REUTERS

Singer Randy Travis reaches plea deal in assault case: TV

DALLAS, 22 Jan — Country music singer Randy Travis has reached a plea agreement in a misdemeanor assault case arising from an altercation last summer in a Texas church parking lot, KVTV-TV reported on Saturday.

The Grammy winner will serve 90 days of deferred adjudication under a plea he entered on Friday in a municipal court in Plano, a Dallas suburb, the CBS-affiliated station in Dallas/Forth Worth reported. Deferred adjudication lets a defendant plead guilty or no contest in exchange for meeting requirements such as probation during the period. The defendant may avoid a formal conviction or have his case dismissed once the requirements are met.

London, 22 Jan—Kris- ten Stewart has revealed her celebrity crushes, including Harrison Ford and Amy Adams.

The 22-year-old actress is on a ‘trial separation’ from Robert Pattinson, who she had been dating since 2008, but she admits Amy is on her list of crushes.

In a new video which surfaced online, Kristen said: “I used to have a huge thing for Harrison Ford. “But Amy Adams

Who are Kristen Stewart’s secret Hollywood crushes?

PTI

PTI

PTI

They break comes as Robert is set to start filming for two months in Australia for Guy Ritchie’s The Rover.
MELBOURNE, 22 Jan — Li Na wore down Agnieszka Radwanska with a barrage of power-hitting to beat the fourth seed 7-5, 6-3 and advance to her third semi-final at the Australian Open on Tuesday.

The Chinese sixth seed overcame her customary slow start to edge the Pole in a tight first set and after trailing 2-0 in the second, reeled off five straight games to match the brink of victory in bright sunshine at Rod Laver Arena.

Li survived a late wobble conceding two break points when serving for the match, but reeled off five straight points to seal it after 102 minutes when Radwanska pushed a forehand long.

Li Na of China hits a return to Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland during their women’s singles quarter-final match at the Australian Open tennis tournament in Melbourne on 22 Jan, 2013.— Reuters

Melbourne, 22 Jan — Li Na won through Agnieszka Radwanska with a barrage of power-hitting to beat the fourth seed 7-5, 6-3 and advance to her third semi-final at the Australian Open on Tuesday.

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Murray reaches quarterfinals of Australian Open

MELBOURNE, 22 Jan — Third-seeded Andy Murray advanced to the quarterfinals of the Australian Open here on Monday with a 6-3, 6-1, 6-3 win over Frenchman Gilles Simon. The 14th-seeded Simon took a marathon third round victory over Gael Monfils on Saturday and he managed to break his world No 3 opponent twice today.

However, Murray still made into the last eight with his eighth break after a 95-minute encounter.— Xinhua

Cleveland Cavaliers’ Varejao to miss rest of season with blood clot

TORONTO, 22 Jan — Cleveland Cavaliers forward Anderson Varejao will miss the rest of the National Basketball Association (NBA) season undergoing treatment for a blood clot in his right lung, the team said on Monday.

The 30-year-old Brazilian, who was the NBA’s top rebounder until a knee injury requiring surgery sidelined him in December, was admitted to the Cleveland Clinic last Thursday where he is being treated with blood thinners. He will need to remain on blood thinning medication for approximately three months but is expected to make a full recovery, according to the Cavaliers.

“Clearly our players’ health is our top concern and we are disappointed for Anderson, and his family,” Cavaliers General Manager Chris Grant said in a statement. “We know what a competitor he is and how much he wants to be on the court helping his teammates. In the meantime, he has our full support and we look forward to welcoming him back as he recovers.”

Taken in the second round of the 2004 NBA Draft, Varejao was traded to the Cavaliers that same year and has spent his entire career in Cleveland.— Reuters

MURAT Hakan Dündar

Cleveland Cavaliers Anderson Varejao talks with a TV reporter during the second quarter of the team’s NBA basketball game against the Detroit Pistons in Cleveland on 9 Feb, 2011.— Reuters

Sneijder finally joins Galatasaray

ANKARA, 22 Jan — Dutch midfielder Wesley Sneijder has agreed to join Turkey’s Galatasaray sport club from Italian giants Inter Milan, Turkish Daily News reported on Monday, confirming that he would arrive at Istanbul for a medical examination on late Monday.

Earlier this month, Galatasaray announced to reach an agreement with Inter on the transfer of the midfielder, said the report, adding that the club and fans had been waiting for the answer for weeks. The contract is reported to be three and a half years and worth 5 million euro (6.66 million US dollars) per season. Sneijder had helped Inter to win the the Italian league and Cup and the Champions League in 2010 before falling out favor since the departure of coach Jose Mourinho.— Xinhua

Dutch midfielder Wesley Sneijder

New Light of Myanmar
Atletico Madrid to miss Falcao for three weeks

Atletico Madrid coach Diego Simeone has confirmed that the club will be without striker Radamel Falcao for around three weeks. Falcao was forced out of his side’s 2-0 win at home to Levante on Sunday night with a muscle injury and Simeone has confirmed that the club will be without him for between 20 and 25 days. That means he will start by missing this week’s Copa del Rey return leg away to Betis and next weekend’s league match away to Athletic Club Bilbao, as well as a league game at home to Betis and a possible Copa del Rey semifinal.

Falcao’s injury comes at a bad time for Atletico, who have a busy fixture schedule due to still having options in the Copa del Rey and the Europa League. Meanwhile on Sunday’s win has taken Simeone’s side to within eight points of league leaders FC Barcelona, who surprisingly lost to Real Sociedad on Saturday. The good news for Atletico is that Simeone has able replacements in Adrian Lopez, who scored the goal that won the game, and Simeone’s 100th atletico Madrid to miss Falcao for three weeks

Two weeks and counting for the HarBowl hype

Baltimore Ravens head coach John Harbaugh directs his team against the New England Patriots in the NFL AFC Championship football game in Foxborough, Massachusetts, on 20 Jan, 2013. Reuters

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Xi Jinping vows unswerving fight against corruption

BEIJING, 22 Jan—Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), vowed to unswervingly fight against corruption during a CPC disciplinary watchdog meeting on Tuesday.

“Xi said anti-corruption efforts must be consistent and will never slacken. We must have the resolution to fight every corrupt phenomenon, punish every corrupt official and constantly eradicate the soil which breeds corruption, so as to earn people’s trust with actual results,” he said.

Xi made the vow during a speech at a plenary meeting of the CPC’s Central Commission for Discipline Inspection (CCDI). Li Keqiang, Zhang Dejiang, Yu Zhengsheng, Liu Yunshan and Zhang Gaoli, members of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, were present at the meeting.

Wang Qishan, secretary of the CCDI and also a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, pressed over Tuesday’s meeting. The CCDI’s plenary session opened on Monday.

Xinhua

Two weeks and counting for the HarBowl hype

Baltimore, 22 Jan — With two weeks of hype left before the Super Bowl, Baltimore Ravens head coach John Harbaugh is already trying to play down the drama of facing his little brother for the National Football League championship. John used to share a room with his brother Jim and, like many siblings, they would place tape down the middle of the room to claim their turf. Their story has already been told. “Every story has been told,” he told reporters on Monday. “We’re not that interesting. There’s nothing more to learn. The tape across the middle of the room story, OK, you got it? It’s OK. “It was just like any other family, really,” Baltimore chopped the New England Patriots 28-13 on Sunday to win the AFC and reach the Super Bowl, while the San Francisco 49ers, coached by Jim Harbaugh, edged the Atlanta Falcons 28-24 in the NFC to set up a HarBowl on February 3 in New Orleans.

The brothers have already squared off in the regular season last year, US Thanksgiving 2011, when the Ravens defeated the 49ers 16-6 at M&T Bank Stadium in Baltimore. John Harbaugh, 50 years old and 15 months older than Jim, is hoping the spotlight of the Super Bowl would not be on the coaches. “I really hope the focus is not so much on that,” he said. “We get it, it’s really cool and it’s exciting and all that. But it’s really about the team, about the players, about the guys you’re talking about. It’s about the players, the guys out there on the field who are actually in the arena whose face is marred with dust and sweat and blood, you know?” “Remember that one (a Theodore Roosevelt quote)? That’s what it’s about. The more we focus on those guys, I think the better it is for everybody.”

The game will mark the first time that brothers will be competing against each other in a professional championship game as coaches. Reuters

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Xinhua
Bill amending the Penal Code submitted to Pyithu Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan—Four questions were answered at fifth day sixth regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw. In response to the question about the future programme for opening of new embassy/consulate abroad for the sake of international relations and to safeguard the interests of citizens and the number of embassies/consulate of ASEAN fellow countries worldwide, Deputy Foreign Minister U Zin Yaw said Myanmar opens 33 embassies, three permanent representative offices and four consult-general offices, totaling 40. Of those missions, Myanmar has nine embassies and one permanent representative office in ASEAN fellow countries. Myanmar has so far established diplomatic ties with 109 countries. New embassies will be opened accordingly depending on the extent of political and economic ties and cooperation with particular countries.

The proposal for opening the new embassies will be submitted to the committee at the third-day session. Secretary of the committee U Than Myint made a proposal and Hluttaw approved it. Supreme Court Judge U Aung Zaw Then submitted a proposal to discuss the Bill amending the Penal Code and member of the Bill Committee U Nyun Moung read out the report of the committee.

The Penal code was enacted on 1 May 1861 and 23 chapters and 511 sections are included in it. The Bill amending the Penal Code includes 51 sections. U Phyo Min Thein of Hlegu Constituency said that he welcomed the bill to amend the Penal Code which was enacted and has been used since the time of colonial period as some provisions of the law were inappropriate to the present time.

A total of 10 questions were answered, one report was discussed and one bill was submitted at the today’s Pyithu Hluttaw session which will continue tomorrow.—MNA

Myanmar maintains cordial relationship with global countries, establishes diplomatic ties with 109 countries

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan—The First Pyithu Hluttaw sixth regular session continued for fifth day this morning with 13 agendas.

Deputy Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Khin Zaw answered the question raised by Aye Maik of Mainglan Constituency on how much time will be taken to publish farmland ownership book and when will the farmers receive it that arrangements are being made by committees concerned for timely completion of farmland ownership registration and issuance of farmland ownership certificates.

U Pe Than of Myebon Township held discussion on the report of Pyithu Hluttaw Government’s Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee submitted at the third-day session. Secretary of the committee U Than Myint made a proposal and Hluttaw approved it.

No (5) submitted a proposal to put the proposal on record. The Hluttaw decided based on Myanmar traditional monastic education system and education system of other countries to improve rural-centered education.

One more KIA member returns to legal fold

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan—Private Naing Win (No. A 50134) of Brigade (5) of KIA returned to the legal fold by military columns and Plenipotentiary of Brigade (5) of KIA by force in December 2013, the number of KIA defectors returned to the legal fold is 63. They were given special care by military columns and local people in accord with the customary practice of Myanmar traditional culture. The Hluttaw decided to put the proposal on record. The session continues tomorrow.—MNA

Laotian National Assembly President and party arrive in Yangon

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan—At the invitation of Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, a delegation led by President of National Assembly of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic Madam Pany Yathotou arrived in Yangon by air this evening.

They were welcomed by Yangon International Airport by Chairperson of Amyotha Hluttaw Economic and Commerce Committee Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Sein Tin Win, Deputy Speaker U Tin Aung, Laotian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Nilahath Sayarat and embassy staff.—MNA

Appointment of Ambassador agreed on

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Jan—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr Jorge Juan Castaneda Mendez as Concurrent Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Peru to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Mr Jorge Juan Castaneda Mendez was born in Lima on 3 April 1949. He obtained a Bachelor Degree in International Relations from Peru’s Diplomatic Academy in 1978 and also earned a Master Degree in International Relations from Carleton University, Canada in 1993. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru in 1971 and served in various capacities at the Embassies in Poland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United States of America, Uruguay, Equador, Bolivia and Argentina. He also served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Peru to Poland in 1999 and to Canada in 2008. Currently, he is serving as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Peru to the Kingdom of Thailand and accredited as Concurrent Ambassador to Vietnam, Philippines and Lao PDR. Ambassador Mr. Jorge Juan Castaneda Mendez is married and has two children. He will reside in Bangkok and will be concurrently accredited to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. MNA

Fifth day sixth regular session of First Amyotha Hluttaw in progress.—MNA