President U Thein Sein sends felicitations to Indian President, Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the Republic Day of India which falls on 26th January 2013, His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, President of the Republic of India, and His Excellency Dr. Manna Mohan Singh, Prime Minister of the Republic of India.—MNA

President U Thein Sein felicitates Governor-General, Prime Minister of Commonwealth of Australia

NAY PYI TAW, 26 Jan—On the occasion of the anniversary of the Australia Day which falls on 26 January 2013, U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent messages of felicitations to Her Excellency Ms. Quentin Bryce AC, Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia, and Ms. Julia Gillard, Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia.—MNA

President U Thein Sein meets Laotian National Assembly President

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan — President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by President of the National Assembly of Lao People’s Democratic Republic Madame Pany YATHOTOU at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace, here, this morning.

Also present at the call together with the President were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung, Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw, Chairperson of Myanmar-Laos Friendship Bridge and strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries.—MNA

Shangri-La resumes Yangon twin tower construction

The number of businessmen visiting Myanmar is soaring alongside with the influx of tourists to the Southeast Asian country which has opened up to the outside with the dramatic political, economic and social reforms. The construction of a serviced apartment Shangri-La Residence, aimed at foreign residents who are doing business in Myanmar, has resumed and set to finish in 2013.

The lakeside twin tower on landmark Kandawgyi Lake is being built by Hong Kong-based Shangri-La Group on the land of 15 acres. The 21-storied building will have 240 rooms plus gymnasium, swimming pool, gourmet shop, deli shop and playing ground.

Daw Yin Mar Nyo, Marketing and Sale Director of Yangon’s Traders Hotel a subsidiary of the Hong Kong-based consortium said, “Our country is one of the best places for tourism business. Now is high time for hotel industry related to tourism. Along with the boom of tourism industry, we are also extending our muscle around the world.

Shangri-La Group is fluxing its muscle around the world, extending hotels and resorts. We are also extending our operation in Myanmar.”

The group started the construction in 1997. It’s also running Traders Hotel and establishing Hotel in the busiest economic district of Yangon.

Shangri-La Group has 76 hotels and resorts around the globe. Myanma Alinn; 23-1-13 Trs: HKA

Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee hands over newly-built Dhammayon

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan—The consecration for Buddha Image and handing over ceremony for Dhammayo took place at the religious building here this morning. The State Ovadacariya Pyinmana Mahawithutayama Zegon Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Aung. Shwekyarpin ward administrator U Kyaw Aung.

The newly-built Dhammayon was constructed with K 82.5 million contributed by Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee.

The Union Minister then met locals from nine villages in Shwekyarpin ward at the Dhammayon and attended to their needs.—MNA
National Culture and Fine Arts Universities Council meets

A availability of clean, safe water a key to promotion of health, lifestyle of people

YANGON, 25 Jan — Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe was accompanied by region ministers, departmental officials and Chief Representative Mr. Masaiko TANA KDJICA (Myanmar) visited Kayan sluice gate in Thanlyin Township of Yangon South District, here, on 22 January.

The chief minister oversaw irrigation water storage capacity of the dam supplied by Zaungtu, Kodokwe, Salu and Shwe Laung dams and measures for ensuring 30-mile radius greening of Yangon.

Next, the chief minister inspected progress of installation of machines at the power station of Kayanchaung river water pumping project near one Thabye Kay Village in the township, Shwehlay sluice gate at the area bordering Kayan Township and Kawa Township of Bago Region, construction of Kayan-Myangmar road, Myangmar-Shwe Hla Hray road and Oakpo bridge and Ye M on bridge.

In the afternoon, the chief minister attended the Symposium for the Applied Research Study on Arsenic in Drinking Water, Myanmar, jointly-organized by Water Resources Utilization Department and Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar), at Art Hall of Yangon University and spoke on the occasion.

MNA

Cash and sports gear for Myanmar Track and Field

YANGON, 25 Jan — A ceremony to present cash and kind by Htoo Foundation and A GD Bank for Myanmar Track and Field sports to achieve success in the 2013 XXVII SEA Games which will be held in Myanmar was held at YUSC in Hline Township, here, on 21 January.

Executive Director Daw Yamin Lwin of Htoo Foundation presented K 100 million to the federation and A GD Bank for Myanmar Track and Field sports.

Thuriya and Duwum will take part in the three-day Track and Field sports to achieve success in the 2013 XXVII SEA Games which will be held in Myanmar.

Cash: U Phone (Datu), U Thet Lwin Shwe, Son, Tin Shwe, Yar Pyae, and Pe Myint of the federation and A GD Bank.

Sports gear: Sports gear for instructors and athletes through U Tun Myint and an athlete.

— Kyemon

Drunken man hit by train

YEDASHE, 25 Jan — A man lost his leg in the train accident while crossing over the railroad at a place between mile post Nos (191/12) and 191/13 in ward-1 of Swa in Yedashe Township, here, at about 11:15 am on 20 January.

U Thein Aung, 47, knocked down by a cargo train entering the station at low speed driven by U Aung Kyaw Soe of Toungoo while he was crossing over the railroad and was4 knocked down by a cargo train entering the station at low speed driven by U Aung Kyaw Soe of Toungoo while he was crossing over the railroad and was

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U Thein Aung, 47, drunken road user, was knocked down by a cargo train entering the station at low speed driven by U Aung Kyaw Soe of Toungoo while he was crossing over the railroad. The man lost his right leg and suffered injuries to his left leg and left arm in the train accident. He was rushed to Swa Station Hospital. — Kyemon

P MDA to organize book fair, literary talks on 31 January in Yangon

YANGON, 25 Jan — Myanmar Publishers and Distributors Association will organize book fair and literary talks at National Theater on Myma Kyuang Street, here, from 31 January to 3 February.

Different kinds of journals, magazines and bookshops like eSuuPyaeon, Today, Unity, Sarpay-Lawka, Gangaw Wutyi, Thiba Yadan, Alinkar Wutyi, Shwe M Inthamee, Thitsar Mandaing, Pyinnya Shin, Manaw Puyl, Y An Aung, Pyae Son, Tin Shwe, Yar Pyae, Thiurya and Duwum will take part in the book fair.

Literary talks will be given daily at the National Theater where Ledwinthar Saw Chit, Dr Khin Swe Myint (Myannmar) and Ma Sandar will give talks on 31 January, M Aung Sein Win (Padignon), Saw Ko and Than M yint Aung on 1 February, U Phone (Datu), Lin Theik Nyunt (Myannma Myay) and ju on 2 February.

Local and foreign investment basic course in Kayah State

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Jan — Kayah State Road Transportation Minister U Chit Hla delivered an address at the opening of local and foreign investment basic course held at the office of Union Solidarity and Development Part Nuangyar (A) ward in Loikaw on 21 January.

Next, Director Daw Kinh Lay Tin of Directorate of Investment and Companies and Chit Do Nyo, K yaw Win and Pe M yint on 3 January. — Kyemon

Availability of clean, safe water a key to promotion of health, lifestyle of people

He called on departmental officials, responsible persons of INGOs and NGOs and experts to seek effective ways and means for giving health education to rural people who are enjoying contaminated water as drinking water, saying that availability of safe and clean water is a key to promotion of health and lifestyle of the people. Then, a paper-reading session followed.

Prof. Dr Myo Thwe and writer Thetkypan Hmi Tun extended greetings and Director-General U Kyi Htu Win of the department explained study on drinking water contaminated with arsenic before the session.

MNA

9 mm rounds found in drain in Sangony Township

YANGON, 25 Jan — Fourteen rounds of ammunition were found while dredging a drain in Linn Loon (North) ward of Sangony Township, here, on 22 January. U Win Kyemon

Ferry bus plunges down into drain in Hlinethaya Township

YANGON, 25 Jan — A ferry bus of the University of Computer Studies plunged down into a drain at the corner of Nyaungdon Road and N wadyaw street in ward-3 of Hlinethaya Township, here, at bout 4.40 pm on 21 January.

The ferry carrying 30 students of the University of Computer Studies driven by Moe Lwin, 45, skidded out of control and plunged down into the drain. Officials f the township rushed there and helped the victims and there were no injuries in the car accident. The driver and bus-conductor went away from the scene.

MNA

Photo shows an undisciplined vehicle on the wrong side of the road after overtaking other car at the traffic light near Insein Garden in Insein Township of Yangon North District on 22 January morning.— Kyemon

Photo shows an overturned Hilux on Bago-Yangon motorway near 10-Mile in the area of Indakaw Police Station in Bago. The Bago-Nyaunglein-Yangon passenger car driven by Po Haung skidded out of control and overturned on 22 January.— Kyemon

Photo shows an overturned Hilux on Bago-Yangon motorway near 10-Mile in the area of Indakaw Police Station in Bago. The Bago-Nyaunglein-Yangon passenger car driven by Po Haung skidded out of control and overturned on 22 January.— Kyemon

Take Fire Preventive Measures

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MNA
Afghan bombing helped shape Panetta’s views on women in war

Washington, 25 Jan—Three years before he lifted the US military’s ban on females in front-line combat, Leon Panetta grew acutely aware that women in senior positions— including one who headed the CIA base — were among the seven Afghans killed. A senior aide cited it among the experiences that helped shaped Panetta’s thinking about women in war even before he took over the Pentagon in 2011, and inherited the difficult job of writing condolence notes to the families of fallen troops—men and women.

More than 150 women have died in the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq since 2001, and nearly 1,000 have been wounded.

“Every time I visited the war zone … I’ve been impressed with the fact that everyone — men, women and men alike — everyone is committed to doing the job,” Panetta told reporters on Thursday.

Panetta took an important step toward making more resources available to women last year, with an initial move to open around 14,000 additional jobs for women but leaving more than 230,000 off-limits. At the time, the aide recalled Panetta being unsatisfied, asking privately “why can’t we do more?”

Panetta on Thursday credited the military’s top brass for putting forward the proposal this month to lift the ban on women in front-line combat roles. An OK from the generals and admirals was crucial buy-in that would be necessary for the proposal to work. The integration will be gradual, through 2016, and it’s unclear which roles may remain off-limits.

But the revisions drew praise from President Barack Obama, who said in a statement, “Too often over the past four years, a single senator or a handful of senators has been able to unilaterally block or delay bipartisan legislation for the sole purpose of making a political point.

Sixty votes will still be needed in the 100-member chamber to end a filibuster — despite calls by some Democrats to reduce the figure to as few as 51.

In exchange, Republicans will no longer be able to stop senators from beginning consideration of a bill — provided both sides are given votes on at least two amendments.

Rule changes would also expedite consideration of low-level presidential nominations, reduce debate time before votes and require filibustering senators to list objections known.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Democrat, and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican, drafted the rule changes after weeks of negotiations. — Reuters

Senate changes its rules to ease gridlock

The Democratic-led Senate changed its rules on Thursday in a bid to ease partisan gridlock blamed for turning the chamber into a legislative graveyard.

Senators approved the changes on bipartisan votes of 78-16 and 86-9.

The changes fell far short, however, of what many Democratic reformers wanted. They preserved the right of minority Republicans to block votes on legislation with procedural roadblocks known as filibusters.

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Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, a Democrat, and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican, drafted the rule changes after weeks of negotiations. — Reuters

Money to save it. The PD is leading in opinion polls.

“M’onti is a more modern man than the Pammalat case. They tried to save M’onti Paschi with a capital increase, but that only transfers the burden to what Italians have paid for (housing tax) IMU,” centre-right MP Stefano Saglia said in a note on Thursday.

Monti responded: “I don’t think there is an issue of (regulatory) oversight.”

Speaking at a news conference on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos he added that he was ready to discuss the issue in parliament.

Monti said his board was shocked by how its situation was being used by politicians for campaign motives before the elections.

“People are worried about the issue of recapitalization of the bank, and it is being treated,” the bank said.

“The situation is completely under control.” — Reuters

Italy’s M Monti steps into M one Paschi scandal

US man who aided M umbrella plotters sentenced to 35 years in prison

Chicago, 25 Jan—David Headley, an American who admitted scouting targets for the 2008 militant raid on Mumb raised and later agreed to testify against the plotters to avoid the death penalty, was sentenced on Thursday to 35 years in prison.

The sentence, handed down by US District Judge Harry Leinenweber, was the maximum sought by federal prosecutors.

The attacks killed more than 160 people, including six Americans. Headley, a 52-year-old US citizen of Pakistani descent, admitted videotaping sites that were targeted by the Mumbai attackers.

He was arrested in 2009 and pleaded guilty to 12 charges, including conspiracy to bomb places of public use and assist murder and plotting an attack on a Danish newspaper. After entering his plea in 2010, Headley cooperated with US investigators and foreign intelligence agencies to avoid the death penalty and extradition to India, Pakistan or Denmark, agreeing to testify in foreign judicial proceedings, the government said.

In a memorandum filed with Judge Leinenweber earlier this week, the government said “there is little question that life imprisonment would be an appropriate punishment for Headley’s incredibly serious crimes but for the significant value provided by his immediate and extensive cooperation.” Last week, Judge Leinenweber sentenced Pakistani-born businessman Tahawur Rana to 14 years in federal prison for providing support to the Lashkar-e-Taiba, the group blamed for the Mumbai attacks. — Reuters

The landing site that US citizen David Headley located for the Pakistani militants who carried out the 2008 assault on Mumbai, is seen in this undated handout photo provided by the US Attorney’s office. — Reuters
Tokyo, 25 Jan — Fish of the Antarctic, be very afraid. There’s an unlikely stealth predator on the loose — a deepwater penguin.

View from the unlikely waddling on land or comi-
calling bobbing at the ocean’s surface. As soon as these penguins dive into the icy Antarctic ocean, they be-come calculating, efficient killing machines, say Japa-nese researchers.

“You could say the penguins have an amazing stealth mode,” said Yuuki Watanabe, a researcher at Japan’s National Institute of Polar Research. “They’re great at sneaking up on their prey and taking them unawares.”

Watanabe this week released footage recorded in December 2010 showing a bird’s eye view of a hunt for fish: small crusta-
cans called krill, captured using a small video cam-
era strapped to the back of more than a dozen penguins.

“The krill wiggles their bodies about, they clearly note an attempt to swim off at full speed and es-
cape,” Watanabe said of his findings, published in the US-based Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences this week.

“But that doesn’t make the slightest difference to the penguins. They just gobble up the krill that are trying to get away and swallow them whole.” Using the “penguin
cams,” which were set to au-
tomatically switch on when a penguin entered the water and shoot for 90 minutes, Watanabe and his team were able to capture the secrets of penguins on the hunt.

A additional information came from two accelerom-
eters strapped to each bird that measured its head and body movements to calcu-
late how fast it devoured its prey. “We didn’t really know if the penguins caught krill one by one. I’d thought maybe they just got into their stomachs when they were af-
ter other prey,” Watanabe said.

“But we saw the footage it turned out the penguins were doing just that, eating a krill at a time. So from this, we’re able to estimate the hunting conditions when the penguins consumed about 244 krill in roughly 90 minutes.”

This version has been priced identical to the red and black variants already available in the country at 4,799 yuan. The J Butterfly was launched at an event in New Delhi on 23 Jan to coincide with the release of the 5-inch screen exclusive to its first 1000p device, the HTC Butterfly.

The J Butterfly was launched in Japan in Octo-
ber last year and is the first full-HD smartphone of the world with the device sport-
ing a huge 440ppi display. Other features of the HTC are: inclusion of 1.5GHz Qualcomm S4 Pro quad-
core processor, 2GB RAM and 16GB internal storage.

One of the patents in US charges three over “Gozi” computer virus

New York, 25 Jan — Three foreign nationals, accused of creating and distributing a computer virus that infected more than a million computers around the world, have gone on trial in New York.

The defendants — Denis Calovski, 27, an Albanian; Nikita Kuzmin, 25, a Russian; and Mihai Ionut Pascu, 28, a Romanian— were charged with running a cybercrime ring that released the so-called Gozi virus, which prosecutors said was one of the most financially destructive computer viruses in history.

The virus infected at least 40,000 computers in the United States, authori-
ties said. It was used to ac-
cess personal bank account
data, steal millions of dollars from customers ac-
counts globally, according to papers filed in US Dis-
trict Court in Philadelphia.

The defendants — Den-
is Calovski, 27, an Alb-aian; Nikita Kuzmin, 25, a Rus-
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nescu, 28, a Romanian— were charged with a variety of counts, including conspir-acy to commit computer

A US trade panel that specializes in patent disputes will review a potentially key decision in the patent fight between Samsung Electronics and Apple Inc over smartphones and tablets.

The panel, the Interna-
tional Trade Commission, also sent part of the dispute back to judge, who ruled in October that Samsung, the world’s top maker of smartphones, infringed four Apple patents but did not violate two others. The full commis-
sion said on Wednesday it would review the judge’s de-
cision, and asked the agency judge to take a second look at portions of two patents where he had found that Samsung infringed.

One of the patents in

SanDisk’s modest revenue forecast prompts sell-off

Mumbai, 25 Jan — Chipmaker SanDisk Corp’s modest revenue outlook disappointed investors looking for a recovery in memory chips widely used in smartphones and tablets, sending its shares down 4 percent. Like other memory chipmakers, SanDisk has been hurt in recent quar-
ters by a drop in prices for NAND flash chips used in smartphones, cameras, stor-
age drives and tablets to store data such as movies and photos.

The company’s quarter-
ly results on Wednesday beat analysts’ expectations and Chief Executive Sanjay Mehrotra told analysts on a conference call he expects improved NAND pricing this year, giving SanDisk’s stock a brief boost.

But the company’s rev-

ence forecast for the first quarter fell short of Wall Street’s estimates, prompting a sell-off.

SanDisk estimated revenue in the March quarter of $1.225 billion to $1.3 billion,
a $1.372 billion, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S. SanDisk said its fast-
growing solid-state drive

business accounted for 10 percent of fourth-quarter revenue. Chief Financial Officer JudyBruner said solid-state drives would be SanDisk’s b

ITC to review Apple patent complaint against Samsung

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Bird flu studies, halted over terrorism fear, to resume

A member of the Rapid Response Team (RRT) culls a rooster in a poultry farm infected by H5N1 bird flu virus at Bode in Bhaktapur on 15 Oct, 2012.— Reuters

Mitsubishi recalls 14,700 electric cars globally over brakes

TOKYO, 25 Jan—Mitsubishi Motors Corp (7211.T) said it would recall about 14,700 electric vehicles (EV) globally due to a brake problem unique to the electric-motor powered cars in one of the biggest callbacks involving the new generation of eco-friendly cars.

Mitsubishi Motors said that in Japan it would recall nearly 3,400 M iNICA-B-MiEV vehicles. Overseas, mostly in Europe, it said it was recalling about 8,900 i-MiEV vehicles.

‘This is a matter of one part, and it’s too much to apply the issue to say there is something wrong with electric vehicles,’ said Tsu tsu Yoshida, a senior analyst at Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley Securities in Tokyo. ‘The cause of the problem is identified and there were no accidents. But the problematic part is the brake, an important part for safety, and that means Mitsubishi Motors’ quality check procedure is too weak.’

Barclays to cut at least 70 jobs in Asia investment banking

HONG KONG, 25 Jan—Barclays Plc (BARCL) is firing at least 70 people from its Asian investment banking division, sources familiar with the matter told Reuters on Thursday.

A spokesman for the bank declined to comment.

Hyundai posts surprise profit drop as won dells winning edge

SEOUL, 25 Jan—Hyundai Motor Co (005380. KS), ranked fifth in global sales with affiliate Kia Motors (000270.KS), posted a surprise quarterly profit drop as a stronger Korean won dented its overseas earnings, sending its shares falling the most in three weeks.

The won rose almost 8 percent against the dollar last year, its biggest gain since 2009, cutting the value of Hyundai’s overseas revenue in local currency terms and hurting the carmaker’s price competitiveness abroad. To make matters worse, the yen eased by 11 percent, handing Hyundai’s competitive edge back to its Japanese rivals.

The profit decline came even as Hyundai Motor sold a record 1.23 million vehicles in the fourth quarter, the company said, which have enjoyed years of strong growth by offering stylish, yet affordable models such as the Sonata and Elantra, will face pressure to unroll new models to revive growth and lean even more on the China market—the sole bright spot on the horizon.

‘With the yen seen weakening further, while the won is set to keep rising, Hyundai’s ability to overcome worsening external factors will be put to the test this year,’ said Lim Hyung-jeun, a fund manager at GS Asset Management.

‘With no major new cars planned this year, it’ll be very challenging year for Hyundai,’ Lim said, adding that he has already offloaded some of his Hyundai Motor shares.

‘It’s not yet a true global leader like Samsung Electronics (005930. KS), which can resiliently overcome adverse currency moves.’

Hyundai Motor’s Chief Financial Officer Lee Won-hee warned that the won’s gains will accelerate in the second quarter, economic effects will be limited as the company counters the impact of the strengthening currency by moving more production overseas.

The company’s profit was also hit after Hyundai set aside 240 billion won ($225.10 million) to cover the cost of compensating customers for overstated fuel-economy claims on some cars sold recently in the United States and Canada, Lee told reporters after the earnings announcement on Thursday.

Hyundai and affiliate Kia said they would help drivers pay for the additional fuel costs. Analysts projected provisions of about 300 billion won to 400 billion won.

Shares in Hyundai Motor extended their losses on Thursday after the earnings announcement, erasing 4.6 percent lower, versus the wider market’s .KS11 0.8 percent fall.

Hyundai posted a 1.89 trillion won ($1.77 billion) net profit for October-December, missing a consensus forecast of 2.15 trillion won in a Reuters poll of 15 analysts.

The decline, down from 2 percent from 2 billion won a year earlier, was the first profit fall since Hyundai Motor switched accounting rules in 2011.

The company aims to increase its US sales by 4.4 percent this year, while its Europe sales would fall 6.5 percent, CFO Lee said. By contrast, its Europe sales grew 10.2 percent last year while US sales increased 8.9 percent.

Mitsubishi Motors Corp’s vehicles and a passer-by are reflected on an external wall at the company headquarters in Tokyo on 20 Jan, 2011.— Reuters

Netflix in surprise holiday-driven profit, shares jump 35 percent

NEW YORK, 25 Jan—Netflix Inc surprised Wall Street on Wednesday with a quarterly profit after the video subscription service added nearly 4 million customers in the United States and abroad, sending its shares 35 percent higher in after-hours trading.

The dominant US video rental and streaming company had warned three months ago a letter to investors that it was likely to see a loss for the October to December period, attributing it to startup costs for its expansion into Scandinavia. But Netflix underestimated the impact of the busy holiday season, when sales of tablets, phones and Internet-connected TVs helped boost subscriptions even as the company faced competition from companies such as Hulu and Amazon.com Inc.

Netflix reported $8 million in net income for the fourth quarter, or 13 cents per share. Revenue rose 3 percent to $945 million from the same quarter a year earlier. ‘We just saw tremendous growth over the holidays,’ Netflix CEO Reed Hastings said in an interview.

The company also forecast it will add 1.7 million members in the first three months of 2013, though it predicts net income will be ‘relatively flat’ due to declining DVD profits and higher global operating costs.

Shares of the company surged 35 percent to $139.80 in after-hours trading. They closed at $103.26, up nearly 6 percent before its earnings announcement.— Reuters

Barclays cuts to at least 70 jobs in Asia investment banking

Hong Kong, 25 Jan—Barclays Plc (BARCL) is firing at least 70 people from its Asian investment banking division, sources familiar with the matter told Reuters on Thursday.

A spokesman for the bank declined to comment.

The cuts form part of a firm-wide strategic review initiated by Chief Executive Antony Jenkins, who took over in August after the departure of Bob Diamond when the bank was fined for interest-rate rigging.— Reuters

Labourers work at an assembly line of Hyundai Motor's plant in Asan, about 100 km (62 miles) south of Seoul, on 22 Jan, 2013.— Reuters

Mitsubishi recalls 14,700 electric cars globally over brakes

Electric vehicles are struggling to make inroads into the autos sector despite a big push by the Obama administration to boost sales, as the green cars often fall short of consumer expectations especially in running distance.

‘This is a matter of one part, and it’s too much to apply the issue to say there is something wrong with electric vehicles,’ said Tatsu u Yoshida, a senior analyst at Mitsubishi UFJ Morgan Stanley Securities in Tokyo. ‘The cause of the problem is identified and there were no accidents. But the problematic part is the brake, an important part for safety, and that means Mitsubishi Motors’ quality check procedure is too weak.’

The recalled vehicles may carry an improperly shaped or damaged electric pump, which sends air to the brake booster, the Japanese automaker said.— Reuters
John Kerry warns of disaster in failed Middle East peace efforts

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan—US Senator John Kerry, awaiting his confirmation as the country’s next secretary of state, warned on Thursday of “disastrous” consequences in the event of an eventual failure to make peace between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

Addressing a hearing on his nomination at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, the Pennsylvania lawmaker argued for moving forward the moribund peace process.

“We need to try to find a way forward, and I happen to believe that there is a way forward,” said Kerry, whose quick confirmation by the Senate has been widely expected.

“But I also believe that if we can’t be successful, the door, window, whatever you want to call it to the possibility of a two-state solution could shut on everybody, and that would be disastrous in my judgment,” he warned.

Relenting his commitment to Israel, Kerry said he “will not stand back from my understanding of the interests of Israelis and others and those who are caught up in the swirl of this.”

President Barack Obama made the two sides sit down together for direct talks in Washington in early September 2010, but the talks broke down weeks later due to Israel’s refusal to renew a freeze on settlement building in the West Bank. Declaring that Obama “is deeply committed to a two-state solution,” Kerry rejected speculation about the president’s commitment to the peace process in his second term that started on Sunday.

“I think a lot of it is simply wrong, blown out of proportion,” the senator said, noting “The president understands the stakes and the implications in the Middle East.”

Kerry said he has “a lot of thoughts” about confronting the challenge of peacemaking in the region, but refused to give details.

“I’m not going to say anything that prejudices our ability to try to get a negotiation moving in the appropriate way, in the appropriate manner. And I’m not even going to go into what that is,” he said—Xinhua

Mexican drug boss sentenced to seven years in US prison

MCALLEN, 25 Jan—A top figure with a Mexican drug cartel was sentenced to seven years in a US prison on Thursday after pleading guilty to immigration and weapons charges.

As part of a plea deal, Jose Luis Zuniga Hernandez, 44, admitted he was a leader of Mexico’s brutal Gulf Cartel, a drug gang that authorities say has smuggled countless narcotics into the United States.

US Border Patrol agents arrested Zuniga Hernandez, known as “El Wiacho,” in October 2011 near Brownsville, Texas, where he is said to have been based.

The agent declined to comment on how many members of the gang he arrested, according to court records.

“El Wiacho” went on his way on charges that he was part of the Gulf Cartel and was involved in smuggling narcotics.

In court documents, prosecutors said Zuniga Hernandez paid $57,000 for a diamond, gold and ruby-engraved, 38-caliber hand gun. After he was arrested, he attempted to bribe one of the agents with the jewel-encrusted gun, according to court records.

The agent declined the offer. In addition to the prison term, Judge Hanen ordered Zuniga Hernandez to pay a $10,000 fine.

The Gulf Cartel has battled its former paramilitary organization, known as Los Zetas, in northeast Mexico since they split in early 2010.

The Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto has vowed to curb the drug violence that raged under his predecessor, Felipe Calderon, who launched an offensive against drug cartels when he took office in late 2006.

People gather around a police van damaged following a blast outside a hospital in southern Pakistani port city of Karachi on 24 Jan, 2013. At least six people including police personnel were killed and some others were injured on Thursday evening in a twin bomb blast incident that hit Pakistan’s southern port City of Karachi, local media and police said. —Xinhua

Chinese Vice Premier Li Keqiang, who is also head of the food safety committee, presides over the commission’s fifth plenary meeting in Beijing, capital of China, on 23 Jan, 2013.—Xinhua

Obama nominates chiefs for SEC, consumer financial protection body

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan—US President Barack Obama on Thursday announced new nominees to lead two federal agencies in charge of oversight of the financial industry, a move following the recent reshuffle of the new administration.

In his announcement made at the White house, Obama said he had selected Mary Jo White to serve as chair of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).

Ms White was experienced at prosecuting large-scale, white-collar financial crimes in complex securities and financial institution fraud, according to Jay Carney, the White House Press Secretary.

The SEC plays a central role in fighting against wrongdoing that is related to the sophisticated financial products. In the fiscal year ending 30 Sept, 2012, it filed 734 enforcement actions and collected more than 3 billion US dollars in penalties and disgorgement under the leadership of previous chair Mary Shapiro, who resigned in December.

The US president also renominated Richard Cordray to head the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB), a federal body funded by the Federal Reserve and tasked with protecting consumers when they use financial products such as mortgages and credit cards.

Obama made a recess appointment of Cordray to the post in January 2012, as Republicans repeatedly blocked the nomination previously and demanded the agency be transformed into a commission as a way to check the clout of Democrats.

After Cordray taking the post, the CFPB has functioned at full swing and released a series of rules governing credit card companies and mortgage servicers. Both nominations still need the Senate’s confirmation.—Xinhua

Cleveland announces new foundation to expand students exchanges with China

WASHINGTON, 25 Jan—US Secretary of States Hillary Clinton on Thursday announced the creation of the 100,000 Strong Foundation to expand opportunities for US students to learn Chinese and study in China.

The new foundation is a nonprofit organization housed at the American University in the capital, with the mission to strengthen the US-China strategic relationship through study abroad.

“I am happy today that we are launching a permanent, independent, nonprofit organization focused not only on our goal of 100,000 American students in China by 2014, but on strengthening the students exchanges for years to come,” said US Secretary of States Hillary Clinton at the press conference.

Clinton noted that people-to-people exchanges will contribute to the “consequential relationship between the United States and China, a relationship now with “most pressing challenges and the most exciting opportunities.”

With the government-to-government relations “obviously essential”, she said people-to-people ties will “determine the quality of the relationship for the future.”

According to media agencies, Oymyakon village in Russia is labelled as the coldest place in the world, in which the average temperature is -50 degree centigrade in January, while the minimum temperature could reach -71.2. Mobile phone signal could cover the whole village, but mobiles are still not able to be accessed due to the strong cold snap.—Xinhua

Yemeni gov’t says AQAP

SANAA, 25 Jan—The Yemeni government on Thursday said the second-in-command of al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), Saeed al-Shihri, had sustained injuries he sustained from an airstrike in November last year, the state Saba news agency reported.

“As part of anti-terrorism efforts by the Yemeni government in coordination with its international partners, the security services managed to carry out an airstrike on 28 Nov 2012 in (Yemen’s) northern province of Saada, which resulted in injuring Saudi national Saeed al-Shihri, and later he died of his wounds,” Saba said, citing an official statement by the country’s Supreme Security Committee.

“The slain terrorist al-Shihri has been buried in an undisclosed location,” it said without giving further details.

The AQAP has yet to confirm it.

On 10 Sep, 2012, the Yemeni government announced the killing of al-Shihri in a military operation in the southeastern province of Hadramout, but he appeared on 22 Oct, in a video message, denying the government allegations.

Al-Shihri, a Saudi national and AQAP’s No 2 leader, was the main target of several military raids over the past months.

Al-Shihri had served a prison term in the US military prison in Guantanamo before he was deported to Saudi Arabia, where he fled to Yemen along with other hundreds of Saudi wanted militants to form the AQAP in January 2009.

The AQAP, known locally as Ansar al-Sharia (Partisans of Islamic Law), took advantage of a political upheaval in 2011 in Yemen to take over several towns of the southern restive regions.

New Light of Myanmar

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LOCAL NEWS

Sports contests mark Kayah State Day in Loikaw

Lost, 25 Jan—The boat race, fishing contest, Kayah wrestling and greasing pole contest and other sports contests and other cultural activities were held in commemoration of the Kayah State Day which falls on 15 January at Naunyana Kanta Lake in Loikaw on 12 and 13 January. Other various festivities and sports contests were held on a grand scale at Kayah State Sports Ground. Local people joyfully participated in the sports contests.

National Objectives of 66th Anniversary Union Day

- For all the national races to perpetuate the Union and to cultivate the Union Spirit
- For all the national races to live in unity and harmony
- For all the national races to build up the prevailing national reconciliation
- For all citizens to participate in tasks for tranquility and the rule of law
- For all the national races to join efforts for modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic nation

Illegal timber, logs seized in Bago Region

Toungoo, 25 Jan—Staff and workers of Forest Department led by Assistant Director of Toungoo Forest Department seized seven logs of teak weighing 2.33 tons on Thagara-Kkabin Road in Yedashe Township on 13 January. Staff of Gyobingauk Township Forest Department and members of Myanmar Police Force also seized 2.634 tons of ironwood and other 0.2192 ton in Block 51 of Bawbin forest reserve on 14 January. Likewise, staff of Bago Township Forest Department seized one Nissan truck loading five logs of ironwood weighing 2.3174 tons driven by U Tin Htay Aung in Minlan Ward of Phayyagi Ward in Phayyagi forest area on 16 January. Action was taken against him under section 42(b) of Forest Law.

Similarly, staff of Gwa Township Forest Department and workers from West pathin timber Extraction Region seized 18.6146 tons of saw timbers and log from two places of Block 55 in Gwachaung protected public forest on 12 January. The seized timbers were handed over to Myayna Timber Enterprise.

Drunk driver turns over Hino

Tatkon, 25 Jan—A Hino driven by Ko Aung Soeturned over at Ottarathiri Junction, north of Tatkon Township, at 2.35 pm on 18 January, leaving 33 passenger injured. The injured from Okshitgon and Thaphayang villages were warded at Tatkon Township Hospital (100-bed). Due to drunkard driving, the car couldnt be controlled in the incident.

New library building opened in Machanbaw

Machanbaw, 25 Jan—A ceremony to open the new building of library was held in Namkhham Village of Machanbaw Township in Putuo District in Kachin State on 15 January.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Tin Myo Aung, Staff Officer of Township Planning Department U Soe Myint Aung, Head of Township Information and Public Relations Department U Nan Zae Pho Hsna, Village Administrator U Khaw Khun Thing Hsna and townserder U Yaw Hsotormly opened the new building of the library. After that, wellwishers donated as one book shelf and K 80,000, 150 publications worth K 250,000 to the library through Chairman of the library committee.

Child care course opened

Magway, 25 Jan—Magway Region Social Welfare Department and Save the Children jointly organized the child care course that concluded at Pre-Primary School on 1st Street in Magway on 19 January.

Head of Magway Region SWD Daw Khin

Head of Magway Region SWD Daw Khin

School Family Day marked in Labutta

Labutta, 25 Jan—As a triangle relationship among teachers, parents and students, the School Family Day was held at No 1 Basic Education High School in Labutta on 20 January. At first, students sang the song to open the ceremony. Next, Acting Township Adminniator U Pyae Phyo Maung and officials presented prizes to outstanding students for 2012-2013 academic year.

Residences fumigated in Mingala Taungnyunt Township

Yangon, 25 Jan—As part of efforts to take preventive measures against dengue haemorrhagic fever, ward administrator U Kyaw Zin Oo, members of social organizations and local people participated in the sanitization and fumigating on 14 streets in Thabyegon Ward of Mingala Taungnyunt Township in Yangon Region on 19 January. The local authorities and departmental officials plan to fumigate there to be free from dengue haemorrhagic fever.

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MYANMAR ALINN

Fire breaks out in Myothit Township

Myothit, 25 Jan—A fire broke out at the house of U Maung Myint in Myaynaingyi Village in Myothit Township of Magway Region at 12.15 pm on 15 January. The local people in harmonious efforts fought the fire with traditional fire extinguishers and totally put out the fire at 12.30 pm.—Myanma Alinn

Stimulant tablets seized in Lashio

Lashio, 25 Jan—A stimulant tablets seizure was held in commemoration of the era of 100 million. The seized timbers were handed over to Myayna Timber Enterprise.

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MYANMAR ALINN
Myanmar takes Laos as brother since establishment of diplomatic ties: Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker

Pyidaungsu and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint attends ceremony at which Laotian National Assembly President Madame Pany Yathotou signs the visitors’ book. — MNA

U Khin Aung Myint, President of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, and Madame Pany Yathotou, President of the Laotian National Assembly, are seen at the ceremony.

Union FM felicitates Foreign Affairs and Trade Minister of Commonwealth of Australia

Nay Pyi Taw, 26 Jan — On the occasion of the anniversary of the Australia Day which falls on 26 January 2013, His Excellency U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to the Honourable Mr. Bob Carr, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Commonwealth of Australia. — MNA

Formulation of cooperation strategies for Rakhine State discussed

Nay Pyi Taw, 25 Jan — Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Maung Hla Thaung held talks with UN Resident Representative Humanitarian Coordinator Mr A Shok Nagjam and party at the hall of the Ministry of Border Affairs, here, yesterday.

Both sides discussed matters related to conducting one more workshop on formulation of cooperation strategies with the participation of the government, people, UN agencies and INGOs for ensuring rescue and rehabilitation works, rule of law and sustainable development in Rakhine State. — MNA

One civilian dead, four wounded in exchange of fire between KIA and Tatmadaw

Nay Pyi Taw, 25 Jan — An exchange of fire between KIA group and a Tatmadaw military column broke out at a place between Whaykhar village and Khaykan village of Seikmu village-tract in Phakant Township of Kachin State from about 12.30 pm to 5.30 pm on 23 January.

Maung Hla Thaung, 23, of Whaykhar village was killed and three men and one woman wounded in the incident.

According to the Kachin State government, five houses at Khaykan village were reduced to ashes due to artillery shells. — MNA
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Lao National Assembly President

Nay Pyi Taw, 25 Jan—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by Lao National Assembly President Madame Pany Yathotou at Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw Complex, here, at 3 pm today.

The meeting focused on promotion of inter-parliamentary cooperation and further cementing relations between the two countries including bilateral cooperation.

Also present at the call together with Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann were Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Pyithu Hluttaw Committee Chairmen U Hla Myint Oo and U T Khun Myat, Pyithu Hluttaw Representatives and officials from the Hluttaw Office. The Lao National Assembly President was accompanied by Chairmen of National Assembly Committees and Lao National Assembly President was accompanied by Chairmen of National Assembly Committees and Lao National Assembly Representatives and officials concerned.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives Lao National Assembly President Madame Pany Yathotou.—MNA

Computer training course at parliamentary E-library concluded

Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa speaking at concluding ceremony of computer training course.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 25 Jan—A part of UNDP’s support to parliamentary E-library, a concluding ceremony of the computer training course was held at the media room of Zabuthiri Hall in the Hluttaw Complex, here, this afternoon. It was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Chairman of the parliamentary E-library establishing committee and members, officials concerned from the Hluttaw Office, course instructors, and trainees from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw. After delivering a speech, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa awarded first, second and third prize winners together with Committee Chairman Dr U Soe Yin and Committee Member U Maung Toe.

Next, gifts were presented to the course instructors. The course lasted 8 days from 16 to 25 January.—MNA

MNA

Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa speaking at concluding ceremony of computer training course.—MNA

KIA attacks military column near Lajyayan

Nay Pyi Taw, 25 Jan—About 100 KIA troops attacked military column undertaking administration duties near Lajyayan yesterday afternoon and withdrew after more-than-three-hour attack.

Five Tatmadawmen were injured in the attack and the Tatmadaw captured 25 bodies of KIA members and 22 weapons. KIA launched two mine attacks, one attack on logistic convoy and two attacks on military columns yesterday. A cing on tip-off, the local military column and militia seized 10 weapons hidden by KIA in Monghaung/ Monghaung area, according to the Ministry of Defence.

MNA

MNA

Myanmar provides humanitarian assistance for Typhoon victims in Philippines

Nay Pyi Taw, 25 Jan—A ceremony to hand over cash donation of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Government of the Republic of the Philippines as humanitarian assistance to the victims of the Typhoon Bopha in the Philippines, was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, here, today.

A letter conveying words of sympathies on behalf of the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, handed over cash donation of US$50,000 to Mr. Bryan Jess T Baguio, Charge d’Affairs a.i. of the Embassy of the Republic of Philippines in Yangon who spoke words of thanks.

The ceremony was also attended by senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and staff members of Philippine Embassy.

MNA

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin hands over cash donation for Filipino Typhoon victims.

MNA

Myanmar basketball team shares experience

Yangon, 25 Jan—A press meet on training experience of the Myanmar basketball youth athletes group, who received training from 7 to 21 January in Washington and North Carolina under the Sports Visitors Programme and at the invitation of Sport United of the US Department of State, was held at Western Park Royal, here, yesterday afternoon.

Vice-President of Myanmar Basketball Federation U Maung Maung Myint, the official from cultural affairs department of US Embassy to Myanmar, General Secretary of MBF U Kyaw Kyaw Win and Joint Secretary of MBF Assistant Director of the Sports and Physical Education Department Daw Ohnmar Aung shared knowledge on training programme, and answered queries raised by media men.—MNA

MNA
UN chief welcomes Bahraini King’s call for national dialogue

UNITED NATIONS, 25 Jan—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday welcomed the call by Bahraini King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa for a new round of national dialogue, as well as the positive response of opposition groups to the invitation in the Persian Gulf country.

“The Secretary-General welcomes the initiative of King Hamad bin Isa Al-Khalifa of Bahrain to convene a political dialogue and the affirmative response from six opposition societies and other societies,” said a statement issued here by Ban’s spokesperson.

“The Secretary-General has considered the call for dialogue and hopes that the parties will follow through on their announcements and ensure that the dialogue is well-prepared, meaningful, fully inclusive, and addresses the legitimate aspirations of the Bahraini people,” the statement said.

According to the statement, the UN chief expects that all communities in Bahrain will be represented fairly and freely in the proposed dialogue, calling the initiative “an important first step toward this end.”

Ban also urged all Bahrainis to contribute to creating a conducive atmosphere for a successful dialogue.

Political groups in Bahrain welcomed the call by the leadership for a new round of national dialogue to end the political stalemate, with several leaders expected to have closed-door meetings in the coming days to discuss their demands for the second round of talks.

“The Bahrain opposition group Al-Wefaq National Islamic Society said Tuesday that it reiterated its ‘seriousness to engage in a genuine process of dialogue and political negotiations.’

Bahrain was hit by a series of protests last year, some of which turned violent and led to serious bloodshed. —Xinhua

Pacific Plan 2012 Annual Report released

SUVA, 25 Jan—The Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat released the 2012 Pacific Plan Annual Progress Report and Reporting Annex that highlights some of the challenges in the region. According to Tuiloma Naroni Slade, Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Pacific Plan Annual Progress Report and the accompanying Reporting Annex provided a comprehensive overview of the work of key actors in support of greater regional integration and cooperation.

“This 2012 Annual Progress Report demonstrates the progress that is being made by member countries and regional agencies in delivering on the objectives of the Pacific Plan,” said Slade.

The Annual Report includes details on progress in sectors such as climate change, fisheries, gender equality and disability inclusive development, according to a statement of the secretariat.

“The Pacific Plan remains central to the development aspirations of our region, and is an important platform for supporting engagement with relevant global processes, such as the outcomes of Rio+20, preparations for the SIDS (Small Island Developing States) 2014 Conference and the post-2015 development agenda,” Slade said.

The Annual Report also highlights some of the challenges that are faced by the countries in the region.

“On behalf of the United States government, I wish to convey to the Philippine government and people my profound regret over the ground-breaking of the USS Guardian on Tubbataha Reef,” said Ambassador Harry Thomas Jr in a statement issued by the US Embassy in Manila.

“This was an unfortunate accident, and I recognize the legitimate concerns over the damage caused to a unique and precious wonder of nature, internationally recognized for its beauty and biological diversity,” he added.

The US Embassy issued the statement after the Philippine government revealed that 1,000 square metres of the 90,000-square-metre Tubbataha Reefs were damaged by the USS Guardian that has been stuck in the area since 17 January. —Xinhua

US apologizes to Philippines for ship stuck on Tubbataha Reef

Manila, 25 Jan—The US Embassy in Manila on Friday apologized to the Philippines for the grounding of its minisubmersible USS Guardian on Tubbataha Reef in the Sulu Sea.

“On behalf of the United States government, I wish to convey to the Philippine government and people my profound regret over the ground-breaking of the USS Guardian on Tubbataha Reef,” said Ambassador Harry Thomas Jr in a statement issued by the US Embassy in Manila.

“This was an unfortunate accident, and I recognize the legitimate concerns over the damage caused to a unique and precious wonder of nature, internationally recognized for its beauty and biological diversity,” he added.

The US Embassy issued the statement after the Philippine government revealed that 1,000 square metres of the 90,000-square-metre Tubbataha Reefs were damaged by the USS Guardian that has been stuck in the area since 17 January. —Xinhua

Landslide kills seven in Ecuador

QUITO, 25 Jan—At least seven people were killed and 17 were injured by a landslide Thursday in Ecuador’s mining zone of Bella Rica in the southern province of Azuay, local authorities said. Patricio Lopez, the mayor of Ponce Enríquez, told reporters the landslide occurred early in the day due to heavy rains, causing damage to two mines in the region.

The mayor said several miners may have been trapped in the mines and the death toll may rise over the next few hours. Four homes have also been damaged and Ponce Enríquez has been left without electricity. Rescue units are at the disaster site, which is located in a rural area accessible only on foot or by plane, local authorities said.

Ponce Enríquez has a population of more than 10,000 and most residents work in gold mining or agriculture. The region was previously affected by landslides that killed several miners. Ten days ago, a Peruvian and an Ecuadorian died in another landslide in the same area. —Xinhua

Relief workers erect a tent of 2,000 refugees, near the desert town of Mafraq, northeast of Amman, on 24 Jan, 2013. The past six days witnessed a record surge in the number of Syrian refugees seeking safety in Jordan. The number of refugees who has pushed the Syrian population in Jordan to around 300,000.—Xinhua

Munich Security Conference to focus on global hotspots

MUNICH, 25 Jan—The 49th Munich Security Conference (MSC), to be held in the German city on 1-3 February, would discuss such global hotspots as the situation in Mali, the Syria unrest and the eurozone crisis, MSC president Wolfgang Ischinger said on Thursday.

This year’s event is expecting more important delegates from different countries and areas than ever, including high-ranking officials from China, Russia, the United States and Germany, Ischinger told reporters, adding that “the upcoming conference will be extremely exciting.”

China is playing a more and more important role on the stage of world politics, he said. Among the more than 400 attendees would be high-ranking officials, representatives of international organizations, security issue experts and economic celebrities from more than 90 countries and regions worldwide. —Xinhua

Three Taleban militants stand handcuffed after they were detained by Afghan security forces during an operation in western Afghanistan’s Herat Province, on 24 Jan, 2013. Afghan security forces detained three terrorists and discovered explosive devices and remote controls from their vehicles, police chief of Herat Province Abdul Hameed Amidi said. —Xinhua
Sri Lanka increases minimum age for female migrant workers after housemaid execution

Colombo, 25 Jan—The Sri Lankan government has decided to increase the age limit for female migrant workers in Saudi Arabia as the first step in the process to curtail their employment in that country after a housemaid was executed earlier this month, an official said here on Thursday. The Cabinet approved the decision presented by Foreign Employment Promotion Minister Dilan Perera. Accordingly the minimum age for women seeking employment in Saudi Arabia and seven other Middle Eastern countries is 25 years old. Singapore, which has better working conditions, will receive female workers at 21 years.

“Taj Kalam, who now heads the ministry's construction general directorate, said in his official Press release on Friday. The report said from the Ministry of Planning and Construction Department said that the ministry's construction general directorate provided licenses to 1,694 factories.
Airstrikes targeting militants kill 9 people in Yemen

San‘aa, 25 Jan—A US drone strike targeting armed militants mistakenly hit a house in Yemen’s southeastern province of al-Bayda late on Wednesday, killing two children, witnesses said, while police sources said another drone strike on the east of the capital Sana‘a killed seven more people. Residents in Radda town in al-Bayda Province said the pilotless warplane struck the house of Abdu Mohammed al-Jarrah, killing two of his children and injuring three others of the family.

A provincial police official told Xinhua by phone that the airstrike was targeting four al-Qaeda operatives driving two motorbikes near the village of Kaftah but mistakenly hit a civilian house. It was the fourth time that US drones have mistakenly hit civilian targets in Yemen after air raids killed 13 civilians in Radda in September last year and 40 women and children in the southern province of Abyan in 2010. Such strikes sparked mass protests across the country against the Yemeni government and US governments. Tribal relatives of the victims usually block roads linking major cities or cut off oil supplies to protest the air raids. Meanwhile, another drone strike hit a vehicle on a road about 30 km east of the capital Sana‘a, killing at least seven al-Qaeda militants, including two Saudi nationals, the Yemeni Interior Ministry said in a statement which was obtained by Xinhua.

The drone fired four missiles on the pick-up vehicle laden with explosives in San‘an, an al-Qaeda stronghold in a 10-minute drive from Yemen’s largest arms market in Jihana district, the ministry said. The fresh air raids brought the death toll of al-Qaeda suspects to 22 after five successive US drone strikes on several targets in the Yemeni provinces of Marib and al-Jawf over the past four days.

Dozens of al-Qaeda members have been killed in such airstrikes since Yemen President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi was sworn in in February 2012, after a yearlong unrest weakened the control of the central government and allowed the militants to take over swaths of territory in the south.—Xinhua

United Nations, 25 Jan—The Middle East peace process is entering a critical period that requires “courageous” steps by Israelis and Palestinians to save the two-state solution, a senior United Nations envoy told the UN Security Council here on Wednesday, warning that “the consequences of inaction could be dire for everyone.”

“No international effort alone is sufficient for progress absent the requisite will from the parties themselves,” said Robert Serry, the UN special coor-
New Delhi, 25 Jan—Actor James Franco insists false rumours about his sexuality don’t bother him because he has been subjected to them for many years, and was even the subject of high school gossip that alleged he was having a secret relationship with a male friend.

He told MTV News: “In high school these girls got mad at me and so they spread this rumour that I was having a gay relationship with one of my closest friends. And they even made up a little dance they would do in the girls’ locker room about me being gay. I still don’t know what the dance was.”

The 34-year-old actor — who dated his Whiplash co-star Marla Sokoloff for five years and then had another five-year relationship with actress Ahna O’Reilly, but has been single since they split in 2011—insists he doesn’t care if people think he is gay and isn’t “frightened about being the subject of such rumours.”

Discussing the speculation that still surrounds his sexuality, James—who has played gay characters in several films including Milk and Howl—added: “It wasn’t like it was anything new. And in fact, it wasn’t something that frightened me, like if people think that, it’s fine. I really don’t care.”

Daniel Radcliffe's Kill Your Darlings co-star Erin Darke.

Daniel Radcliffe flirts with Erin Darke—PTI

Marrying Shane Warne is top priority for Liz Hurley

LOS ANGELES, 25 Jan—Elizabeth Hurley no longer wants to be super skinny. The 47-year-old actress and swimwear designer has relaxed her diet and fitness routine because she believes having more curves helps her look younger.

The mother-of-one told the March issue of Tatler Russia: “I keep my eye on what I eat all the time, because now that we’re older we have to make a conscious decision if we want to stay relatively slim... But as you get older, it doesn’t actually look that attractive to be super skinny.”

The former ‘Gossip Girl’ star recently revealed she has given up sugary foods and reduced her coffee intake after over-indulging over the Christmas holidays. In a series of Twitter posts earlier this month, she wrote: “My 2013 health kick starts. Yes! Long, fast walk with dogs and zero sugar or anything with white flour... And a bit less caffeine... And more vegetables.”

Meanwhile the actress has revealed that marrying her fiancé Shane Warne is her top priority this year, as soon as she gets engaged very early on their to-do list, but to get married, and it’s getting more difficult, because half the family are in Australia and half the family are here [in the UK].”

“We got engaged very early because we thought it was very important for the kids to know that there was serious intent behind it, and that we were really setting out to make our own family on a different level—of course Shane’s kids are their mother, and Damian still has Arun—but we getting married is really about the children and us.”

She also insisted that her son Damian, 11, is still the most important man in her life, saying: “Damian always comes first. Work comes second, attempting to be a nice friend to my friends and a nice fiance to my fiance is third, and everything else is unmitigated chaos.”

Women still struggling in Hollywood: study

LONDON, 25 Jan—Only nine percent of directors of the top 250 grossing Hollywood films in 2012 were women, a study has found. The Centre for the Study of Women in Television and Film at San Diego State University said that despite the low figure, it was a four percent increase from the numbers in 2011, BBC reported.

The research found women comprised 18 percent of all directors, executive producers, writers, cinematographers and editors.

It also showed women were more likely to work in the documentary, drama and animated film genres.

The centre has been conducting the industry survey for more than a decade to track trends, BBC said.

The number of female producers has held steady at 25 percent for the past two years, while female writers rose to 15 percent, up from a low of 10 percent in 2006.

The number of female editors between 1998-2012 has remained fairly constant in the 20-21 percent range.

Cinematographers have fluctuated between 2-4 percent, although figures for 2012 were on the low end of the range. No women have made it onto the shortlist for best director at this year’s Oscars.

Zero Dark Thirty is the only Best Picture nominee to have been directed by a woman, Oscar-winner Kathryn Bigelow.

Another study by the Sundance Institute and Women in Film in Los Angeles showed women fared better in the independent film sector. Looking at films shown at the Sundance Film Festival over the past decade, and accounting for 820 narrative and documentary films, researchers found women represented 29.8 percent of 11,000 filmmakers.

There are more women working in documentary films than narrative films.
**Sumo: Harumafuji closes in on New Year title as Hakuho crashes again**

Tokyo, 25 Jan—Harumafuji took apart Kotoshogiku and closed in on his third championship title in four meets on Thursday as chief rival and fellow Mongolian grand champion Hakuho crashed to a second loss at the New Year Grand Sumo Tournament.

Harumafuji watched Bulgarian ozeiki Kotoshogiku and took full advantage, slapping about ozeiki Kotoshogiku (9-5) and dragging him down to improve to 12-0. Harumafuji can secure the title with two days to spare on Friday if he beats ozeiki Kisenosato (10-2) and if 23-time Emperor’s title winner 17 seasons, and many wondered if the 34-year-old Reed would retire at the end of the postseason on his “last ride,” Reed, who has wondered if the 34-year-old Reed plans to play next season.

Baltimore Ravens safety Ed Reed celebrates the last minute of the Ravens’ win over the Kansas City Chiefs in their AFC NFL football game in Kansas City, Missouri on 7 Oct, 2012.—Reuters

**Real Madrid President Perez denies ultimatum from players over Mourinho**

Madrid, 25 Jan—Real Madrid President Florentino Perez this Thursday called a Press conference to deny written stories about the club in the Spanish Press. Perez reacted to a front page headline story printed in Spanish sports paper, ‘Marca’, which stated he has met with goal-keeper Iker Casillas and defender Sergio Ramos in the offices of his construction company ACS on Tuesday and the pair said that unless coach Jose Mourinho left the club at the end of the season, they would ask for transfers.

“The story has stunned Spain and Perez acted quickly to try and at a press conference held in the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium he rejected M arca’s claims. “It is totally false that in the meeting that the two captains, gave anything like ultimatum,” said Perez.

Real Madrid coach Jose Mourinho said on Thursday.

“Has what happened is so serious that I am breaking my rule of not speaking. We had a fine meeting and what has been written is not true,” said Perez, who asked for at the club.

“I am denying false information which has the objective of destabilizing the most prestigious insti-tution in the world,” he concluded. Whether or not Real Madrid is the ‘most prestigious institution in the world,’ may be open to debate; but it is the football club which earned the most money in 2012 according to the ‘Football Money League,’ elaborated by the bank Deloitte’s.

Massa first to test new Ferrari

Rio de Janeiro, 25 Jan — Brazil’s Felipe Massa will be the first driver to test Ferrari’s 2013 Formula 1 car, the Italian team confirmed on Thursday.

The 31-year-old will be the designated driver for tests at Jerez from February 5-7 before two-time world champion Fernando Alonso returns from his off-season break two weeks later, Fer-rari confirmed on its website. Buoyed by being given a 12-month contract exten-sion late last year, Massa recently revealed plans to challenge for the 2013 F1 drivers’ championship.

Brazil’s Felipe Massa

M arch at Melbourne’s Al bert Park circuit.—Xinhua

Snederke, Choi share lead as Tiger lursks

San Diego, 25 Jan—While most eyes were on six-times champion Tiger Woods as he briefly moved within a stroke of the lead at the Farmers Insurance Open on Thursday, Brandt Snedeker launched his title defense in barnstorming style. Snedeker, who has posted four top-10s in his previous six appearances in the PGA Tour event at Tor-rey Pines, charged into a tie for the lead with South Ko-rean K J Choi after carding a flawless seven-under-par 66 in the opening round.

The fast-balking American birdied four of his first nine holes before picking up three more shots after the turn on the easier North Course, one of two layouts hosting the fourth PGA Tour event of the year. “Obviously, a great start,” FedExCup champi-on Snedeker told reporters after a mainly overcast and calm day at Torrey Pines.

“It was nice to be back here defending the golf course is in great shape and to play the way I played today was nice. “I drove the ball really well, didn’t make too many mistakes and, when I did, my putter saved me. “It was a great day, but I re-alize we’ve got three more of them (rounds) to go and I’ve still got the hard course to go, so not too much excite-ment yet.” Choi birdied three of his last four holes on the tougher South layout to join Snedeker at seven under while Woods, who got to six under after a storming seven-under run from the fifth to the 13th, finished bogey-par-bogey-par for a 68 on the South.

“I made a few mistakes out there, but I made some nice plays as well,” said Woods, whose charge came after he had double-bogeyed the fourth. “We couldn’t ask for better conditions to score than we had today.”

Canadians

US golfer Brandt Snedeker

Mike Weir and Adam Had-win, who both started on the North course, and Britain’s Ross Fisher were among a group of eight players tied for 17th. Weir had his best round of the week, a two-under 69, but lost his lead after the opening round.

**Real Light of Myanmar**

Satuday, 26 January, 2013
Illegal timber seized in Kyaukme

KYAUKME, 25 Jan—Under the supervision of Kyaukme District Deputy Commissioner U Soe Naing and the commander of Kyaukme District Police Force, a combined team led by A ssistant Director U Kyaw Myo Htwe of Kyaukme District Forest Department seized four vehicles with the loads of hardwood timber which were driven from Naingkhio to Lashio on Mandalay-Muse Union Highway at Asia World Toll Gate in Kyaukme at about 7 am on 19 January. The seized hardwood weighing 58.184 tons was worth K 100 million. Myanma Alinn

Palmeiras rules out Riquelme deal

RIO DE JANEIRO, 25 Jan—Brazilian club Palmeiras has rubbished signing international midfielder Juan Roman Riquelme, less than a week after inviting the Argentine to come and we would love to sign him, but we have to be responsible. We are doing what we believe is in the best interests of the club.” Last week Riquelme told Argentine media that he was “inclined to sign” with the Brazilian outfit after a meeting with outgoing president Tirone in Buenos Aires.

LPGA Tour to launch international team event in 2014

SAN DIEGO, 25 Jan—The LPGA Tour has created an eight-nation tournament that will identify the best team in the world when it makes its debut in 2014, two years before golf returns to the Olympic Games. The inaugural International Crown, a biennial matchplay event featuring four-player teams, will be held at Caves Valley Golf Club in Owings Mills, Maryland, outside Baltimore from 24-27 July.

“IT’S something worth to be proud of.” Sharapova, who only lost a historical tournament-low nine games in her previous five matches, struggled with her serve from the very beginning of the match. She double faulted twice in her first serve game, allowing Li to break her in the first game. Li held to lead 2-0 and then broke again for 4-1 with a cross-court return. Sharapova fought her way to three break points in the sixth game and secured the chance when Li missed a return. Li returned the favour in the following game to lead 5-2. The No.6 seed served for the set, racing to 40-0 and wrapped the first set up in 48 minutes. Li took the first service break in the second set to remain on track with a 3-2 lead, grabbed a second at 5-2 and served out the match. Sharapova saved one match point but Li made an ACE to take advantage again and didn’t waste the second chance.

“In the beginning of the match I was nervous. I was happy I come back to semis again, but for some reasons I really want to win the match,” said Li.

Reuters

Senator Myo Htwe of Kyaukme

Kyaukme District Police

Commissioner U Soe Naing

Kyaukme District Deputy

Commissioner of Forest

Department

(26-1-13 09:30 am – 27-1-13 09:30 am) MST

* News
* The First ITAB Meeting for 2014 Census (Press Briefing)
* News
* Music
* News
* Youthful The Future (Graffiti)
* News
* McNam Travel (Episode-2)
* Pyin Do Lwin
* News
* Culture Stage
* Myanar Women’s Art Exhibition
* News
* The difference between Samatharthikana meditation and Vijayasana meditation (Part-3)
* News
* Easily Cooked & Tasty Dishes “Fish Soup”
* News
* Myanar Movation Picture A cademy Awards Presentation 2011 (Part-1)
* Myanar Movies “Only Mon Can...”

**MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL**

25 Jan—Former French Open champion Li Na of China swept second-seeded Russian Maria Sharapova 6-2, 6-2 to reach her second Australian Open final here on Thursday. The China’s top player reached her first Grand Slam final at the Melbourne Park in 2011 but lost to Kim Clijsters in Belgium in the final, just before she won Asia’s first Grand Slam title in the French Open. “I’m very happy now. Not so many players can reach the Grand Slam finals three times,” said Li. “I missed a return. Li returned the favour in the following game to lead 5-2. The No.6 seed served for the set, racing to 40-0 and wrapped the first set up in 48 minutes. Li took the first service break in the second set to remain on track with a 3-2 lead, grabbed a second at 5-2 and served out the match. Sharapova saved one match point but Li made an ACE to take advantage again and didn’t waste the second chance.

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Reuters

**MYANMAR TV**

(26-1-2013, Saturday)

7:00 am
1. Parita By M Ingun
Sayadaw
-Uppatathandi Paritta
7:40 am
2. Dhamaha Puja Song
7:50 am
3. Nice & Sweet Song
8:00 am
4. Health Programme
8:25 am
5. Poem Graden
8:40 am
6. Hetta Bhavana by M Ingun Sayadaw
11:10 am
7. Musical Programme
11:25 am
8. Game For Children
11:55 am
9. Round Up Of The
Week’s TV Local News
1:10 pm
10. Teplay
1:30 pm
11. Song of National Races
2:35 pm
12. International News
2:40 pm
13. “Road to 27th SEA
GAM” (Table Tennis)

**NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR**

Saturday, 26 January, 2013

R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.
Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham sends felicitations to Indian

The eight-day session of Pyithu Hluttaw was held today, answering questions and holding discussion on one Bill.

Union Minister for Rail Transportation U Zeyar Aung replied the question on renewal of vehicle licence to be extended up to two or three years instead of one-year vehicle licence registration raised by U Bo Ni of Yamethin Constituency.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun felicitates Indian counterpart

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“Brand new” licence covers longer term: Union Minister

He extended when roads were upgraded, new vehicles were assembled at home and more brand new vehicles were imported. He defended the policy that one-year vehicle licence registration was needed for the sake of road safety as most of imported vehicles were used cars.

MNA and brand new saloons had been granted three-year vehicle registration since 15 November 2012. When the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker called on the ministry to take it into consideration, the Union Minister replied that decision would be made after seeking the approval at the cabinet.

At the session to discuss theAmyotha Hluttaw-proposed Bill on employment and capacity building, the Hluttaw representatives took part in the discussion and Union Minister for Labour, Employment and Social Welfare U Maung Myint made clarifications.

The session came to an end and the ninth day session continues tomorrow.

U Bo Ni of Yamethin Constituency asking questions.— MNA

The deputy minister said Union Peace-making Central Committee and Work Committee were formed on 3 May, 2012. Twenty parliamentarians are among the 52 members of the central committee. The President has outlined three-stage roadmap for establishing lasting peace with ethnic armed groups apart from not seeking from the Union, safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes and adhering to 2008 Constitution. A National Peace Center was established in October 2012 to assist in all the administrative matters required for acceleration of the peace process. As a result, the government could reach peace agreement with 10 out of 11 ethnic armed groups. Of those, KNU, KNPP, SSA, RCSS and NMSP shared the common historical background with KIO/KIA. Nonetheless, Htein Nam who urged the MPs on the proposal of U Khet MinThaw, said Deputy Minister U Aung Thein at KIO/KIA. Nonetheless, the peace negotiations have recently been restored between the two countries.

The Hluttaw approved the proposal. The Hluttaw session continues 28 January. MNA

The government with full confidence would continue political dialogue without ceasefire as demanded by KIO/KIA. Nonetheless, Hlein Min at KIO/KIA. Nonetheless, the peace negotiations have recently been restored between the two countries.

The Hluttaw approved the proposal. The Hluttaw session continues 28 January. MNA

Minaw L and to resurrect memorable events

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The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Press Release


2. The Government is endeavoring in good faith to achieve cease-fire and peace agreement with all ethnic armed groups with the aim of national reconciliation and national unity.

3. As a result, peace agreements have been achieved at various stages with all ethnic armed groups except KIO/KIA.

4. The peace door remains open for the KIO/KIA and the government has repeatedly invited them to the peace talks. As the President has ordered the Tatmadaw to cease military actions in Kachin State on January 19, 2013, the Tatmadaw forces followed the instructions of the President. Likewise, the KIA/KIO also needs to reciprocate in military actions in Kachin State on January 24, 2013.

5. Immediately following the President’s instruction to cease all offensive operations, the KIA troops attacked a Tatmadaw military column with strong forces near a Ma village in Lweje Township, and a military camp near Phakhant. Kar M Lwone Police Station was raided and destroyed. Two Gems company buildings in Phakhant Township were torched, civilians were abducted and a civilian vehicle was exploded by a landmine laid by the KIA near Nam-Um village on M use-Lacho motorway.

6. As KIA troops have constantly launched such terrorist attacks, the Tatmadaw had to take military actions just to protect and safeguard the peace and tranquility of the community and for the prevalence of law and order. The Government has been issuing press releases from time to time on every account of the events, in order to provide true information to the public.

7. Although the Government has been exerting such efforts for the national unity and peace, the US Embassy press release has mentioned the continuation of Myanmar Tatmadaw’s military offensive in the vicinity of KIA’s Headquarters and its strong opposition quoting sources from some media and NGOs. The press release could cause misunderstanding in the international community as it did not mention anything about terrorist actions and atrocities committed by the KIA against the innocent people, destruction of life and property and abduction, but on the other hand, elaborating the events as if only the Myanmar Government and the Tatmadaw launched the offensive.

8. During his visit to Myanmar on 19 November 2012, and also at the ASEAN-US Summit held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 20 November 2012, President Obama duly addressed the Republic of the Union of Myanmar as “Myanmar”.

9. Myanmar strongly objects the usage of the words “Burma”, “Burmese Government” and “Burmese military” in the US Embassy’s press release not using the name recognized by the United Nations and the whole international community, which are not in line with the international ethics. Myanmar hopes that the US Embassy will avoid in future actions that may affect mutual respect, mutual understanding and cooperation which have recently been restored between the two countries.

10. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar reiterates that it is ready to join hands with all nationalities including KIO/KIA to build peace and national reconciliation.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Nay Pyi Taw

25 January 2013