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The swimming pool building is being constructed on an area of 17.72 acres land. The building will be 85 feet in length and 315 feet in width and the swimming pool 168 feet in length and 82 feet in width and 10 feet in depth. It also has diving pool, training pool.

From a bird’s eye’s view, the building looks like a boat. It has three levels with a basement, with over 80 rooms including press room, health care room. The swimming pool is targeted to be complete at the end of coming March.

Myanma Alinn: 3-2-2013
Trs: TKK

Wunna Theikdhi Swimming Pool nearing completion

**Union Minister for Health Dr Pe Thet Khin delivers an address at Consultative Meeting on Development of WHO Country Cooperation Strategy Myanmar 2013-2017.—MNA**

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Knowledge about danger of narcotic drugs shared to students

PYAPAN, 3 Feb—Talks on danger of narcotic drugs and crime reduction were held at Basic Education High Schools in Kyonkan and Thameinhtaw villages in Pyapun Township of Ayeyawady Region on 20 January. Chairman of Pyapun Township Narcotic Drug and Crime Reduction Association retired police captain Hla Toe made a speech. Secretary Anti-Narcotics Association Dr Than Htay gave talks on narcotic drugs and health.

SIP Aung Min Soe lectured dangers of narcotic drugs and legal affairs. Vice-Chairman of the Township ANA retired headmaster of BEMS U Khin Nyo talked about matters related to narcotic drugs. Myanna Ailinn

15th Anniversary of University of Nursing (Mandalay) Sept 2013

MANDALAY, 3 Feb—Mandalay University of Nursing will celebrate the 15th Anniversary Ceremony in early September 2013. The organizing committee held the coordination meeting at the hall of the university on 22 January. The meeting decided to invite old and former faculty members and old students to attend the ceremony and to publish the commemorative magazine.

Preparedness against natural disasters exercised in Pyapun

PYAPUN, 3 Feb—The demonstration on preparedness against natural disaster was performed with the participation of members of Fire Services Department, Auxiliary Fire Brigade and local people in Pyapun on 25 January. It was supervised by Staff Officer U Than Naing of District FSD and officials. Participants in the demonstration carried out rescue works with the use of life jackets and other equipment in Pyapun River. Myanna Ailinn

Old bomb shell found in NyaungU Township

NYAUNGU, 3 Feb—In a landslide of a hillock, an old shell of bomb was found beside the way of bullock cart from Taw Village to Gangaw, three miles west of Taw Village, NyaungU Township, on 25 January. The old shell is three feet and nine inches long and 38 inches in diameter.

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Invitational Football Tournament kicks off in Ottwin Township

OTTWIN, 3 Feb—As a gesture of hailing the 66th Anniversary Union Day, the Kyeni Invitational Men’s Open Football Tournament, sponsored by Kyeni Cheroott Family of Ottwin, was opened at the township sports ground in Ottwin on 20 January afternoon. On the occasion, Township Administrator U Kyaw Shwe made a speech. Dr Thu Lwin Tun (Kyeni Family) opened the tournament. Altogether 16 football teams participated in the tournament. Myanna Ailinn

Work proficiency course kicks off in Sittway

SITTWAY, 3 Feb—It was attended by Sittway Township Administrator U Tin Myint, staff, instructors and trainees. At first, the township administrator made a speech. Altogether 30 trainees are attending the four-week course. Kyemon

Judicial, management matters discussed at Yangon Region High Court

YANGON, 3 Feb—Chief Justice of Yangon Region High Court U Win Swe on 27 January met with district and township judges and gave instructions on judicial and management matters. It was attended by Region High Court judges, district and township judges totalling 50. Kyemon

Winners awarded in Pre-SEA Games Myanmar Traditional Chess Tournament

YANGON, 3 Feb—Sports and Physical Education Department under the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Chess Federation jointly organized the Pre-SEA Games Myanmar Traditional Chess Tournament at the hall of Myanmar Chess Federation in Aung San Stadium, here, on 28 January. On the occasion, U Thein Tun, handed over the championship shield secured by his father U Khin Swe in 1963 Myanmar Traditional Chess Tournament to President of MCF U Maung Maung Lwin who returned the certificate of honour. After that, the president extended greetings. Next, U Thein Tun presented first, second and third prizes to Win Tun, Win Zaw Tun and Myint Han in the regular event and Vice-President U Win Aung, first, second and third prizes to Win Zaw Tun, Maung Maung Latt and Aung Myo Hla in the 25 minutes blitz event. Later, the president awarded first, second and third prizes to Win Zaw Tun, Maung Maung Latt and Ohn Kyaw in the 10 minutes blitz event. Myanna Ailinn

Padaung national women produce traditional works in Bagan region

BAGAN, 3 Feb—Padaung ancient cultural region is dotted with pagodas and stupas as well as Myanmar traditional works. In addition, Padaung national women of about 70 years old, one 66 years old woman who acted for the Coffeemix commercial and 16 years old girl are making bags, shawls, clothes and silver wares. Padaung national Ko Kar Che explained, “We thought that works for us in Bagan regions may be more convenient than our native region. So we resettled here. We have experience in the production of traditional works in Inlay region for 10 years. We arrived here in 2010. In Bagan, job opportunity is not bad. We aim to introduce traditional works to the tourists.” The Padaung national old women perform entertainments to the guests at the receptions of hotels in the region in addition to weaving works by doing their businesses. Myanna Ailinn

Action speaks louder than words.
Biden raises possibility of direct US, Iran talks

MUNICH, 3 Feb— The United States is ready for direct talks with Iran if it is serious about negotiations, Vice President Joe Biden said on Saturday, backing bilateral contact many see as crucial to easing a dispute over Tehran’s nuclear programme.

Speaking at a security conference in Munich, Biden said Iran — which says it is enriching uranium for peaceful energy only — says it is enriching uranium to ensure it does not develop nuclear weapons. “But we have made clear that Iran’s leaders need not sentence their people to economic deprivation and international isolation,” Biden said. “There is still time, there is still space for diplomacy backed by pressure to succeed. The ball is in the government of Iran’s court.”

To date, fitful talks on Iran’s nuclear programme have been between Teheran and the EU’s top diplomat representing six world powers including Washington. But analysts have suggested that with his re-election behind him, President Barack Obama might have more leeway to take on direct negotiations with Iran. That makes the year ahead critical for chances of overcoming a stand-off which, if left to fester further, could see Iran approach nuclear weapons capability, possibly provoking military action by Israel that could inflame the Middle East.

Progress on Iran would also help ease regional tensions as the United States prepares to pull most combat troops out of Iran’s neighbour Afghanistan by the end of 2014.

Asked whether Washington might consider direct talks with Iran to smooth the process, Biden said, “When the Iranian leadership, Supreme Leader (Ayatollah Ali Khamenei), is serious. “We have made it clear at the outset that we would be prepared to meet bilaterally with the Iranian leadership, we would not make it a secret that we were doing that, we would let our partners know if that occasion presented itself.”

Reuters

Syrian opposition talks with Russia and Iran

MUNICH, 3 Feb— The Syrian opposition leader met the foreign ministers of Russia and Iran on Saturday, opening a window to a possible breakthrough in efforts to broker an end to Syria’s civil war.

Russia and Iran have been the staunchest defenders of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad throughout an armed uprising, and any understandings they might reach with Assad’s foes could help overcome the two sides’ refusal to negotiate.

At an annual international security conference in Munich, Syrian National Coalition leader Moaz Alkhatib had talks with Russia’s Sergei Lavrov that may have been made possible by Alkhatib signalling readiness to talk to Damascus.

“Russia has a certain vision but we welcome negotiations to alleviate the crisis and there are lots of details that need to be discussed,” Alkhatib said after the meeting.

After a 45-minute meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi, Alkhatib told Reuters: “We agreed we have to find a solution to end the suffering of the Syrian people.”

He also met separately with US Vice President Joe Biden and UN special envoy for Syria Lakhdar Brahimi.

Alkhatib’s purpose in his meetings was “to discuss finding a way to remove the regime with the least possible bloodshed and loss of life,” he said.

Russia has blocked three UN Security Council resolutions aimed at pushing out Assad or pressuring him to end the civil war, in which more than 60,000 people have died. But Moscow has also tried to distance itself from Assad by saying it is not trying to prop him up and will not offer him asylum.

“The talks about Syria are intensifying and the Iranians have been drawn in. Let’s see how it turns, the preliminary diplomatic source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.”

Reuters

Four killed, including French man, in Senegal’s Casamance

DAKAR, 3 Feb— Four people, including one French citizen, were killed in Senegal’s southern Casamance region when suspected separatist rebels clashed with government soldiers, a military source said on Saturday. “There are four dead including a French man,” said the source.

He said it was not clear whether the death of the French citizen was directly related to the rebels’ long-running low-intensity bush war for independence in the mostly-Christian southern region of predominantly Muslim Senegal.

The others killed in the attack late on Friday were Senegalese, the source said.—Reuters

Israeli president tasks Netanyahu with forming new government

JERUSALEM, 3 Feb— Israeli President Shimon Peres tasked incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday evening with forming the next government.

The two met at the presidential residence in Jerusalem on Saturday evening, after Peres received recommendations from 82 members of Knesset (parliament) who named Netanyahu the most suitable candidate for the task. “After receiving the recommendations of 82 elected members of the 19th Knesset, I have decided to task incumbent Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu with forming the next government,” Peres said during a press conference on Saturday evening.

“The state of Israel needs diplomatic and financial stability in order to have the ability to make the required decisions regarding issues on the agenda like the deficit, the need to equalize the burden in the Israeli society and the need to renew the peace process with the Palestinians,” Peres added.

He added he will strive to build a strong and wide government to handle the financial and security challenges facing Israel at present time.

According to the Israeli law, Netanyahu has 28 days to create his future government. If he fails a dead-end he is eligible to receive an additional week extension. If he does not comply with the task by this time, a new election would be announced.

Xinhua

Dynegy power plant blown up in southern California

CHULA VISTA, 3 Feb— Thousands of spectators turned out along San Diego Bay on Saturday to watch as demolition crews consigned an aging and decommissioned Dynegy Inc power plant to the dustbin of history. Forty rapid-fire blasts from strategically placed explosives toppled the 165-foot structure, as onlookers cheered and shock waves set off car alarms across a widespread area.

Most of the estimated 5,000 spectators gathered in Marina View Park in Chula Vista, about 1,000-foot north of the plant, for the early morning spectacle.

Often criticized by environmentalists as an eyesore, the plant was built in the late 1950s at the edge of an expanse of wetlands adjacent to the bay.

Like other plants along the California Coast, it burned oil when it was first fired up in 1960. It later converted to natural gas, according to Laura Hunter of the Environmental Health Coalition. “This is a symbol of the past way of generating power which we know now is not sustainable,” Hunter said. “There’s no better symbol for what we’re learning about how to live on this planet than that where a power plant stood, a park and open space will be built,” she said.

It took several years of planning before officials could move ahead with the final demolition of the plant, according to Kristine Zortman, of the Unificado Port of San Diego.—Reuters
Google moves closer to resolving EU investigation

BRUSSELS, 3 Feb— Google Inc has offered to change some of its business practices to appease European competition authorities and avoid billions of dollars in fines.

The European Commission said on Friday it had received detailed proposals from the world’s most popular search engine, which has been under investigation for two years following complaints from more than a dozen companies, including Microsoft, that Google has used its market power to block rivals.

If the Commission accepts the proposals under its settlement procedure, it would mean no fine and no finding of wrongdoing against Google.

Companies found to be in breach of EU rules can be fined as much as 10 percent of global turnover, which could mean up to $4 billion if there is no resolution in Google’s case.

EU Competition Commissioner Joaquin Almunia declined to give details of the proposal but told Reuters: “We are analyzing it”. Google spokesman Al Verney said the company continues to work cooperatively with the commission.

Google’s offer includes labeling its own services in search results to make them stand out from rival services and also imposing fewer restrictions on advertisers, according to people familiar with the matter, who declined to be named because the matter is not public.

They said the proposed deal does not mention the way Google enforces its patents against competitors as the company has already agreed with the US Federal Trade Commission that it would no longer seek sales bans when suing companies which infringe on key patents. The FTC ended its investigation last month.

The loading screen of the Facebook application on a mobile phone is seen in this photo illustration taken in Lavignon on 16 May, 2012.—Reuters

Facebook is spearheading the launch of 10 high-quality games created by third-party developers in 2013 that squarely target so-called hardcore gamers, an atypical audience overlooked thus far against the wealth of family-friendly offerings like Zynga Inc’s “Farmville” that now dominate the social network.

But Facebook Inc is betting nWay and a clutch of other developers this year can extend console-style action games beyond Microsoft Corp’s Xbox or Sony Corp’s PlayStation onto the world’s largest social network.

Google ranks first in search results to make them stand out from rival services and also imposing fewer restrictions on advertisers, according to people familiar with the matter, who declined to be named because the matter is not public.

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Coming soon to Facebook — more action, battle games

SAN FRANCISCO, 3 Feb— When nWay began a trial of its dark, sci-fi combat game “ChronoBlade” on Facebook last year, the San Francisco-based startup felt sure it had a hit on its hands.

“First of all, what comes to mind is, ‘Wow, I had no idea you could actually do a game of this quality on Facebook,”’ said Dave Jones, Chief Creative Officer of nWay, who has worked on “Grand Theft Auto.”

Then came some resistance: Jones admits some potential investors and partners questioned how an action-focused game with slick graphics can play to a Facebook audience more accustomed to “Farmville” and other less time-consuming casual games. Others wondered how the game — which launches this spring — would gain significant users and revenue on the social network.

But Facebook Inc is betting nWay and a clutch of other developers this year can extend console-style action games beyond Microsoft Corp’s Xbox or Sony Corp’s PlayStation onto the world’s largest social network.

Russian rocket falls into sea in failed launch

MOSCOW, 3 Feb— A rocket carrying a communications satellite suffered engine trouble and plunged into the Pacific Ocean shortly after launch on Friday, Russian news agencies reported.

The unsuccessful launch of the Intelsat-27 satellite was one of several setbacks for Russia’s space programme in recent years, including failed satellite launches and an unsuccessful mission to study the moon Mars phobos.

The Zenit-3SL rocket carrying the satellite suffered engine failure shortly after liftoff, state-run Itar-Tass reported, citing a Russian space industry source. The rocket is a joint product of Ukrainian and Russian companies, it said. Intelsat-27 was to provide services for media, government and other customers in the Americas and Europe, according to the website of Luxembourg-based Intelsat.

Russia is increasing space spending and plans to send a probe to the moon in 2015, but its celebrations in 2011 of the 50th anniversary of the Soviet achievement of putting the first man in space were marred by several botched satellite launches.
Jet Airways swings to profit ahead of potential Etihad deal

Revived search for a TB vaccine may be about to pay off

Deutsche Bank to cap bonus payouts at 300,000 euros: source

Religare Capital says tech error caused unusual trades
Mali hails “saviour” Hollande, he says fight not over

Abuja, 3 Feb—Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Saturday arrived Abuja, Nigeria’s capital city accompanied by 99 businessmen in a move to strengthen existing relations with the West African nation. President Goodluck Jonathan and his wife, Dame Patience Jonathan, received the Indonesian leader and his wife, Ani Susilo.

The president and his delegation’s visit to the country is to discuss existing relations and for bilateral and multilateral trade discussions.

On arrival, Yudhoyono inspected a guard of honor mounted by the Brigade of Guards, and also a 21 gun-salute in his honor.

The two leaders, members of the delegation, ministers and Nigerian top businessmen, thereafter, proceeded into a closed-door bilateral talks.

Yudhoyono is in Nigeria as part of state visit to three African countries, namely Liberia, Nigeria and Egypt, and some Mid- dle Eastern countries, including Saudi Arabia.

The visit is part of the country’s effort to strengthen bilateral and multilateral ties.

Over 2,000 IDPs flee conflicts between army, al-Qaeda in S Yemen

San’a, 3 Feb—Fears of battles between the Yemeni army and al-Qaeda militants in the country’s southern city of Radda in al-Bayda Province have forced at least 2,630 people to flee their home since last week, the official Saba news agency reported on Saturday.

The internally displaced people (IDPs) have been accommodated in houses of their relatives in several villages and towns of the neighboring Province of Dhamar, the agency said, adding that more displaced families are expected in the following days.

Iran unveils new indigenous fighter jet

Tehran, 3 Feb—Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad unveiled on Saturday a new home-made fighter jet, local media reported.

The advanced fighter jet, named Qaher-313 (Conqueror-313), which has been designed and built by the Iranian experts, can fly at low altitudes, the Iranian Defence Minister, Brigadier General Ahmad Vahidi, said on the sidelines of the ceremony, according to semi-official Mehr news agency. The bomber can carry a payload of domestic weapons and ammunition and enjoys low radar-detecting surface, Vahidi was quoted as saying.

Another feature of this fighter is “advanced unique hydroelectric system,” said Vahidi on the occasion of the Daheyn Fajir (Ten-Day Dawn) celebrations marking the victory of 1979 Islamic revolution.

According to Press TV, the fighter jet is similar to the US-built F/A-18, although its appearance looks similar to F-35E Ti ger II. The new single-seat bomber has the ability to track down enemy aircraft, engage in combat and target locations on the ground.

Iranian President receives delegation

Abu Dhabi airport customs seizes 128 kg of narcotic drugs

Abu Dhabi, 3 Feb.—Custom inspectors at the Abu Dhabi International Airport have foiled the smuggling of huge quantities of narcotics when searching three passengers arriving from India to the capital of the United Arab Emirates, and were accommodated in houses of their relatives in several villages and towns of the neighboring Province of Dhamar, the agency said, adding that more displaced families are expected in the following days.

The number of IDPs increased after last Monday’s suicide bomb attacks on the military sites that killed at least 14 soldiers and injured more than 70, according to the state media.

The terrorist attacks happened as the Yemeni army advanced into mountains surrounding hideouts of al-Qaeda militants in the tribal villages of Ghaf in the outskirts of Radda.

The new IDPs from al-Bayda left their hometown a few months after about 100,000 people who had fled months-long conflicts between the army and al-Qaeda militants in the southern province of Abyan returned home, according to recent statistics by the UN office in Yemen’s southern port city of Aden.

The Defence Ministry said the planned offensive “aims at driving the militants out of residential areas to reenforce the government control.” About seven military units, backed by fighter jets, fought against al-Qaeda fighters for about 10 hours in al-Thalq Mountain on Monday night. The defence ministry said the al-Qaeda suffered heavy blow during the battle, but gave no specific number of casualties.

Abu Dhabi airport customs seized 128 kg of narcotic drugs

In the bags of the second and third suspects, the officers found 35.1 kg and 41.1 kg of the same drugs respectively. The three passengers, all Indian nationals, were referred to a competent authority, said the report.—Xinhua
Five accused plead not guilty to Delhi gang rape, murder

NEW DELHI, 3 Feb—Five men pleaded not guilty on Saturday to charges they raped and murdered an Indian trainee physiotherapist, in a case that led to a wake-up of laws against sexual crimes after protests about a large number of attacks on women. Police say the gang hired the 23-year-old woman onto a bus in New Delhi, where they repeatedly raped and assaulted her with a metal bar before throwing her bleeding onto a highway. She died of internal injuries two weeks after the 16 December attack.

Islamist threatens to attack Germany

BERLIN, 3 Feb—A German Islamist has threatened to attack Berlin by blowing up its main train station and kill Chancellor Angela Merkel in a video posted on the Internet, a newspaper reported on Saturday. A spokesman for Germany’s intelligence service, the Office for the Protection of the Constitution, confirmed its agents had seen such a video. “This is an Islamist battle song. It is known to the security services and is being evaluated,” said the spokesman.

Merkel called on eurozone governments to be ratified by parliament. “Simply put, President (Barack) Obama and I continue to believe Europe is the cornerstone of our engagement with the rest of the world, and it’s the catalyst for our global cooperation,” Biden told the 49th Munich Security Conference here, adding that “it’s basic, nothing has changed.”

Biden reassures Europe on transatlantic ties

MUNICH, 3 Feb—In a bid to reassure Europe of the transatlantic ties, the Vice President of the United States Joe Biden has affirmed on Saturday that Europe remains the closest allies of the US.

“Simply put, President (Barack) Obama and I continue to believe Europe is the cornerstone of our engagement with the rest of the world, and it’s the catalyst for our global cooperation,” Biden told the 49th Munich Security Conference here, adding that “it’s basic, nothing has changed.”

Biden’s remarks came at a time when concerns are voiced about the possible cooling down of transatlantic relations as the US is shifting its foreign policy emphasis toward Asia.

While stressing that the US and Europe have been cooperating well on various fronts, Biden said, “you remain our closest allies.”

Commenting on the latest development of Europe, Biden saw positive steps especially in terms of the handling of eurozone crisis. He mentioned the measures taken by the European Central Bank to ease the market tensions and called on eurozone governments to remain focused on growth and jobs.

“These may be fundamental European problems requiring European solutions, but the resolution has a tremendous impact on the United States of America and the global economy,” he said. With regard to the transatlantic trade and investment agreement, Biden said the regulations and standards differ and are continuous to divide the US and Europe. But he believed the US and Europe can overcome the differences.

Biden pointed out that the mutual agenda of the US and Europe had shifted during the last four years. “One important thing remains unchanged: We need to work together, we need to stick together, we need you as much as you need us,” he stressed.

According to Biden, Europe remains America’s indispensable partner. He claimed to be a firm believer in transatlantic ties, which was deep, broad and important. “Time and again, when it comes to search for partners in this extremely complex world, Europe and America still look to each other before they look anywhere else,” he said.

Turkey says tests confirm leftists bombed US Embassy

A police van carrying five men accused of the gang rape and murder of an Indian student arrives at a court in New Delhi on 7 Jun. 2013.—Reuters

A Reuters witness saw the men file into the court room with their faces covered, where lawyers in the case said they were read thirteen charges including murder, which carries a maximum penalty of death. They left after 15 minutes. “After the judge read out the charges, the five pleaded not guilty and walked out,” said AP Singh, a lawyer defending Pawan Kumar—repre- sented by two other lawyers. Mukesh Singh has replaced a lawyer who claimed his client was tortured in police custody, and no longer claims mistreatment. A sixth person police said was part of the gang that attacked the woman and her friend is a juvenile and will be tried separately.

The brutality of the attack was shocking even to a nation numbed to a rising wave of sexual crimes against women. Thousands of young protesters took to the streets in the weeks that followed. In response to the public outcry, on Friday the cabinet fast-tracked new, tougher penalties for sex crimes.

Under the new rules, due to be signed into law by the president in the coming weeks, gang rape that leads to death will be punishable by death while minimum penalties will be raised to 20 years for gang rape and rape of a minor. The laws must later be ratified by parliament.

US Ambassador to Turkey Francis Ricciardone (L, with white hair) speaks to media outside of the US Embassy in Ankara, on 16 December. A suicide bomber from a far-left group killed a Turkish security guard at the US Embassy in Ankara on Friday, blowing the door off a side entrance and sending smoke and debris flying into the street.—Reuters

Turkey is an important ally in the Middle East with common interests ranging from energy security to counter-terrorism. Leftist groups including the DHKP-C strongly oppose what they see as imperialist US influence over their nation.

DNA tests confirmed that Sanli was the bomber, the Ankara governor’s office said. It said he had fled the country a year later, officials said. Interior Minister Muammer Guler said he had re-entered Turkey using false documents.

Erdogan, who said hours after the attack that the DHKP-C were responsible, met his interior and foreign ministers as well as the head of the army and state security service in Istanbul on Saturday to discuss the bombing.

Three people were detained in Istanbul and Ankara in connection with the attack, state broadcast-er TRT said. The White House condemned the bombing as an “act of terror,” while the US Secu- rity Council described it as a heinous act. US officials said on Friday the DHKP- C were the main suspects but did not exclude other possibilities.

Islamist, radicals extreme left-wing groups, ultra-nationalists and Kurdish militants have all carried out attacks in Turkey in the past.

Earthquake jolts north Japan, no tsunami—NHK

Tokyo, 3 Feb—An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 6.4 jolted Japan’s northern island of Hokkaido on Saturday, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. No tsunami was seen as a result of the quake and there were no reports of damage to local police as of 11:30 pm (1430 GMT), about 10 minutes after the quake occurred, public broadcaster NHK said. There were no abnor- malities at Tohoku Electric Power Co’s Higashidori nuclear plant in northern Japan, NHK said, citing the utility.

The 49th Munich Security Conference was held from 1-3 February. It brings together top officials from around the world to discuss common security challenges. This year’s conference focused on the future of transatlantic relations in a rapidly changing world. The US Vice President Joe Biden delivered a keynote address, reassuring Europe of the strong commitment of the US to the transatlantic partnership. He emphasized the importance of cooperation, particularly in the fields of defense, economy, and security. Biden’s speech was met with mixed reactions, with some applauding his words of reassurance and others expressing concerns about the growing bilateral tensions and shared responsibilities.

Merkel, the German Chancellor, also spoke at the conference, reaffirming her commitment to European unity and emphasizing the need for strengthened transatlantic cooperation. She highlighted the importance of the European Union in maintaining stability and prosperity in the region. The German Chancellor’s remarks were received positively, with many viewing her speech as a strong endorsement of the transatlantic partnership.

Among the key points of discussion at the conference were the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, the situation in the Middle East, and the role of the United States in the world. The conference also addressed the pressing issue of climate change and the need for global action to address this pressing challenge. The Munich Security Conference has long been a platform for high-level discussions on international security and cooperation, and this year’s event was no exception. The speeches and remarks delivered at the conference underscore the continued importance of transatlantic relations in shaping the future of global politics.
Good governance and democracy

The establishment of good governance in a society is a challenge for every nation. It cannot be established overnight. It is easier said than done. Even a developed nation cannot establish the good governance cent per cent. Inclusiveness of all the stakeholders is crucial for sustainable human development. Some individuals wrongly think it is just the matter of the government departments. The good governance is a must for sustainable development. Extents of social security of countries even with equal amount of natural resources and common social settings can not be the same. Poor governance slows down the development. Bribery, poor public administration and lack of accountability lead to human rights violations.

Measures should be taken to make the government departments and the public acquire democratic awareness. Only when it comes together with good governance, will the democratic process be successful. The entire people should put the emergence of the good governance in the forefront.

The government mechanisms play a key role in discharging administrative duties of a country in transition. The administrative affairs influence daily life of the people. The quality of government system is decided upon the effect on daily life of the people.

The good governance should be applied in both government mechanism and private sector and in both enterprises and departments. Not only government enterprises but also institutions and organizations should practice the good governance. Information and communication technology development is the main driving force of the government reforms.

The good governance is an essential requirement for building a modern developed democratic nation. Measures should be taken to make democratic practices entrenched deeply in the society to ensure the good governance. The good governance, in turn, contributes to the flourishing of democracy.

Loans presented in Thaphan Village of Wundwin Township held

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb—Union Minister for Cooperatives U Kyaw Hsan attended a ceremony to give small loan to small enterprises at Thaphan Village in Wundwin Township of Meiktila District in Mandalay Region yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, The Union Minister said that cooperatives system is materialized according to the need of human beings. The first cooperative society in Myanmar was formed in Myinmu Township of Sagaing Region on 3 January 1905, he said. The Union Minister urged those present to apply cooperative system in accord with real situation of the people.

Thaphan Village runs tailoring service and distributes all sorts of clothes to all parts of Myanmar and to India through Tamu and per production value amount to K 1,000 million, he added.

A&I Ministry committed to success in mechanized farming system in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb—Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has a responsibility to make continuous efforts for achieving success in shifting from conventional farming to mechanized farming system in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, said Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing.

Nay Pyi Taw should be a model area for mechanized farming as it is the Union territory, he added.

During his tour of inspection of a 100-acre corn plantation and a 50-acre sunflower plantation of the 3000-acre farmland in Dekkhinathiri Township, the Union Minister urged the local farmers to pass knowledge on those engaged in mechanized farming which is currently benefitting the farmers.

He also visited the 10-acre groundnut research plantation at the village of Gyaing and viewed the harvest with the use of machinery.

The purpose of disbursing loans and necessary capital for tailoring workers is to extend their businesses, he said. The Union Minister reaffirmed that microfinance bank will be established in townships in line with the law to get low interest loans. He also urged those present to establish self-reliant libraries to broaden horizons of local people.

The Union Minister presented K 95.5 million for tailoring workers and publications for village library. After that, the Union Minister looked round displaying clothes, disbursement of capital and running of tailoring works of the members.

A member had asked him to do so in July 2010. He said he had to give out the weapons and ammunition when they asked. He was arrested while preparing to carry drugs to Mandalay for his close cousin. Measures are being taken to search out the accomplices.

Drugs and ammunition seized in Tamu

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Feb—Drugs and ammunition were seized in Tamu Township this morning. Members of the local military column, drug squads and Tamu Township Police Force seized 100.8 kilograms of pseudo-ephedrine worth K 120,960,000, 96 assorted small arms, 60 assorted shells, 23 land mines, 7907 assorted rounds of ammunition, 195 publications for village library. After that, the Union Minister looked round displaying clothes, disbursement of capital and running of tailoring works of the members.

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In the history of Buddhism of Myanmar, the very First Congregation of the Sangha of All Ord- ers was successfully held in 1980 to carry out purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sanana throughout the world as well as to recognize the unity of the members of the Sangha all over the country. The unity of the members of the Sangha is very important because it was found in the history of Buddhism that, without the unity of the members of the Sangha, it was impossible to carry out the noble task of the purification, perpetuation and propagation of His Teachings.

Over 2556 years ago, after the noble demise of the Buddha, altogether six Buddhist great synods were held in order to purify, perpetuate and propagate the Buddha Sanana (The Teachings of the Buddha). The Buddha Himself urged the members of the Sangha to unite in implementing the purification, perpetuation and propagation of His Teachings.

Township Sangha Nayaka Committees in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

9. Dhammayotti Nikaya Mahayin Sect. These different schools and sects of the Sangha unified carry out the noble task of the purification, perpetuation and propagation of Buddha Sanana under the guidance of the different levels of the Sangha Organizations which have been formed throughout the country.

Different levels of the Sangha Organization:

1. StatePatron Committee of the Sangha
2. StateCentralWorking Committee of the Sangha of All Orders
3. State Sanghamanaya-nayaka Committee
4. State/Regional Sanghanayaka committees
5. Township Sanghanayaka Committees
6. Ward/Village-tract Sanghanayaka Committees

Township Sanghanayaka Committees

Over (542) Township Sanghanayaka Committees comprising over (3900) members of the Sangha have been formed throughout States and regions in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. In accordance with the fundamental principles of Sangha Organizations, members of Township Sanghanayaka Committees shall be elected only by majority of Sangha Working Committees members of respective towns and villages with their free consent. The main objectives of Township Sanghanayaka Committees are to carry out the noble task of the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sanana and other religious matters in their respective towns.

Punishing steps taken by Township Sanghanayaka Committees

1. Shall carry out their functions concerned in accordance with the fundamental principles approved and adopted by the Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders and novices (Sama-muras) dwelling in their township to know and follow the instructions of the higher levels of Sangha Organizations.

1. Shall perform their duties leading to the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sanana and the unity of the members of Sangha.

1. Shall make monks in their township to know and follow the instructions of the higher levels of Sangha Organizations.

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1. Shall perform their duties leading to the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sanana and the unity of the members of Sangha on advice and examinations occasioned to the monks and novices in the Sangha (Arama) Codes, and the court’s decision shall be informed to respective township authorities concerned to carry out the decisions to be obeyed.

11. Shall conduct and supervise the election and limitation of Vinayagadharas. Township Sangha Working Committee members and Ward/Village-tract Sanghanayaka committee members.

12. Shall give advice and admonitions occasioned to the monks and novices in the Sangha (Arama) Codes and the Sanghas of different schools and sects of the Sangha Organizations can only be decided and settled by members of the Sangha without affecting management of respective monasteries and monastic institutions.

13. If it is necessary, shall consult with Township authorities concerning the Sangha affairs in connection with Township authorities concerned.

14. Out of the matters, the important ones which had been done within a year shall be submitted to the annual meeting of the Township Sangha Working Committee.

15. If any representative of Sangha Sanmaiti or any member of Vinayadhars, Sangha Working Committee, Sangha-nayaka Committee and Patron Commit-tee falls vacant, it shall be informed to the respective State/Regional Sanghanayaka Committee and the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee within five days after vacancy has been learnt.

According to the functions and duties of the Township Sanghanayaka Committees, various matters and affairs in connection with the members of the Sangha or Sangha Organizations can only be decided and settled by members of the Sangha. Matters of disputes or disputes in connection with the members of the Sangha cannot be decided and settled by any civil court or authorities concerned.*

UN agencies, INGOs, NGOs urged to cooperate with regional authorities

NAY PYI TAW, 3 February—Magway Region Chief Minister U Phone Maw Shwe called on UN Agencies, International Non-Governmental Organizations and NGOs to cooperate with the region to develop poverty alleviation.

During the meeting at Magway Region Government Office on 1 February, the chief minister, departmental officials of the ministries which signed memoranda of understanding, responsible personnel from INGOs and NGOs discussed the tasks for the 2013-2014 fiscal year and the challenges for the region’s development, poverty alleviation and poverty alleviation.

There are altogether 31 UN agencies, INGOs and NGOs which have carried out regional development and poverty alleviation tasks in Magway Region in cooperation with Magway Region government.
Boeing 787 investigation making progress—US NTSB

WASHINGTON, 3 Feb—US officials on Friday said they are making progress in their investigation of a battery fire on Boeing’s 787 Dreamliner in Boston this month, as the grounding of Boeing’s entire fleet of 787s stretched into a third week.

All 50 Boeing 787s remain grounded as authorities in the United States, Japan and France investigate the Boston battery fire on 7 January and a separate battery failure that forced a second 787 to make an emergency landing in Japan a week later.

The US safety board said it continued to look at flight recordings aboard the 787 aircraft involved in the 7 January event at Boston airport for any information about the performance of the lithium-ion battery that caught fire, and its charging system, which was built by Securaplane, a unit of Britain’s Meggitt Plc.

“Our investigators are moving swiftly and we are making progress,” Kelly Nantel, a spokeswoman for the US National Transportation Safety Board, said after the US safety board issued a seventh update on the investigation. She did not elaborate.

Boeing welcomed the news and said it continued to work closely with authorities in the United States and Japan.

The NTSB said an expert from the Department of Energy had joined the investigation, and an NTSB investigator would travel to France on Sunday or Monday with a “battery contac- tor”, which connects the battery to the planes’ electrical systems, for further tests at the equipment’s manufacturer, Thales SA.

The NTSB experts at the US Naval Surface War- fare Centre laboratories were continuing to look at a second, undamaged lithium-ion battery pulled from the same Japan Airlines plane. Both batteries were built by GS Yuasa, a Japa- nese company.

Initial tests, including infrared thermal imaging of each cell in the undamaged battery, found no anoma- lies, according to the NTSB update. It said the battery’s eight cells were undergoing another scan to examine their internal condition.

US, Japanese and French safety inspectors —aided by industry offi- cials—have been trying to determine what caused the battery fire on the 787 in Boston and a separate bat- tery failure in Japan that involved smoke the following week.

The failure of investi- gators to identify the root cause of the incidents has sparked concerns that the 787 grounding will last longer, and hit Boeing and the airlines that operate the 787 harder than expected.

But Boeing’s chief executive, Jim McNerney, told investors this week that the company planned to speed up production of the jet as planned, and had not seen any reason to question its use of lithium ion batter- ies on the 787.—Reuters

US woman missing in Turkey found dead in Istanbul: report

ISTANBUL, 3 Feb—A US woman who had been missing in Turkey’s Is- tanbul for days was found dead, local daily Hurriyet reported on Saturday.

The woman, identified as Sarai Sierra, a 33-year- old mother of two, went missing while vacationing alone in Istanbul. Her family last heard from her on 21 Jan, the day she was supposed to return.

The body, which was sent to hospital, was report- edly killed by knife. Private broadcaster NTV claimed that police found Sierra’s driving license next to the body.

Senior police sources said that the woman may have died from a stab wound on her abdomen and con- firmed that at least 10 people have been detained at the crime scene.—Xinhua

FARC requests mediation to release three kidnapped officers

BOGOTA, 3 Feb—The Colombian FARC guerrilla said on Saturday it would only deliver three offic- ers—two policemen and a soldier — held in its cap- tivity to a Colombian civil society organization and the International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC).

“We will proceed to make arrangements of the case to release them through the civil society organiza- tion Colombians for Peace and the ICRC,” said the Revolutionary Armed For- ces of Colombia (FARC) in a statement.

The two policemen were kidnapped on January 25 in a rural area of the Co- lombian southwestern Valle del Cauca Province. The government requested this week for their immediate release.

“We also inform that in the attack occurred on Tues- day in Policarpa (south- west) with official army troops (…) we captured a soldier, which we are able to also release simultane- ously with the policemen, said the rebel group. “We inform to their relatives that they are in good conditions and treated with respect and dignity,” it added.—Xinhua

Heavy rains render 8,000 Bolivian families homeless

LAPAZ, 3 Feb—Hail storms, downpours and landslides have made 8,150 fami- lies across Bolivia homeless and damaged about 2,000 hectares of farmland, author- ities said on Friday.

Vice Civil Defence Minister Oscar Cabrera said 48 towns in eight states have been affected, with the south sustaining the most severe damage, where three states will receive priority emer- gency aid, particularly food aid. The government will devise a recovery plan to prevent refugee flows to Ar- gentina, Cabrera added.

The Civil Defence Min- istry has allocated some 2.5 million US dollars to cover nationwide emergency ser- vices such as buying blan- kets, food supplies and the machinery needed to carry out recovery work, he said.

Thirty-five killed as militants attack Pakistan checkpoint

DEERA EISMAIL KHAN, 3 Feb—Militants attacked an isolated army checkpoint in Pakistan’s restive north- west on Saturday, with at least 35 people killed in the initial assault, subsequent crossfire and a rocket attack on a house, officials said.

The Pakistan Taliban claimed responsibility, saying the attack was in re- sponse to a US drone strike in neighbouring North Wa- ziristan last month in which two commanders were killed. The Pakistani military and pro-government militias said since 2009 they had regained territory from the Pakistan Taliban, who once controlled land a few hours’ drive from the capital of Is- lamabad.

The militants attacked the post at Lakki Marwat early on Saturday. A security official said 12 militamen and 13 soldiers were killed in the clash. Two bodies had suicide bomb belts on them.

“Cross-firing between militants and security offi- cials continued for four hours,” one source said.

The militants also tar- geted a house next to the camp with rockets, killing 10 members of one family, including three children, the official said.

“Pakistan has been co- operating with the US in its drone strikes that killed our two senior commanders, Faizul Rehman and the Tani, and the attack on military camp was the revenge of their killing,” the Taliban spokesman said. He said four suicide bombers at- tacked the camp and blew themselves up. He said more than a dozen soldiers were killed.—Reuters

Soldiers are seen at an isolated army checkpoint after it was attacked by militants near Lakki Marwat in the outskirts of Deera Ismail Khan on 2 February, 2013.

Reuters

8 NATO service members die in Afghanistan in Jan

KABUL, 3 Feb—Up to eight soldiers with the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) had been killed in Afghan war in January this year, the lowest casualty in a month over the past four years.

According to iCasual- ties, a website tracking the casualties of NATO-led troops in the US-led war on terror, eight soldiers had been killed in the militarycy- hit country last month, three of whom are Americans.

A Polish soldier with the coalition was killed in a hostile fire incident on Jan. 23 in eastern Ghazni prov- ince, 100 km south of capi- tal city of Kabul, according to the website.

Out of all deaths last month, four soldiers had been killed in home-made bomb or Improvised Explode- Destructive Device (IED) attacks across the country.

The simple but diffi- cult to be detected Taliban weapon used in making suicide vests and roadside bombs, has proved a chal- lenge for Afghan and NA- TO-led forces in the central Asian country.

Three other service men were killed in sepa- rate small arms fire inci- dents in different part of the insurgency-hit country last month, including one Brit- ish soldier who was shot and killed by an Afghan army soldier.

The incident took place on 7 Jan, as the Af- ghan soldier opened fire against coalition forces in a military base in Nahr-e Saraj district of southern Helmand province, 100 km south of Kabul, the latest in the so-called green-on-blue insider attacks. —Xinhua

A Yemeni weapons dealer shows a pistol at his shop in Jihana district in eastern Sanaa, Yemen, on 1 Feb, 2013. Yemen, which has a population of 24 million, is awash of 60 million pieces of weapons leading to the highest guns-per-captia ratio in the world. —Xinhua
Two kidnapped hostages freed in S Philippines

Police sent them to a hospital for medical check-up and treatment, he added. As for the whereabouts about the Jordanian journalist, Cabangbang said they had no information about it, as the released victims said they had not seen Atyani a week after they were seized. The police and marines were verifying the fate of the Jordanian captive.

Jordanian broadcast journalist Baker Atyani and two Filipino companions declared “missing” in Jolo, Sulu since 13 June of last year. An Abu Sayyaf Group leader later claimed to have in custody the three victims. The 380-strong Abu Sayyaf group (ASG), founded in the early 1990s, is a violent Muslim terrorist group operating in the southern Philippines. The ASG engages in kidnappings for ransom, bombings, beheadings, assassinations, and extortion. The group’s stated goal is to promote an independent Islamic state in western Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago, areas in the southern Philippines. —Xinhua

China island resort alert to holiday overpricing

Sanya, 3 Feb—The mayor of Sanya on Sunday vowed tight monitoring of local tourism businesses to avoid a repeat of the overcharging allegations that dogged the renowned resort city last Spring Festival. Authorities of Sanya, in China’s island province of Hainan, will clamp down on illegal activities in the tourism industry during the upcoming holiday travel rush, said Wang Yong, who became the city’s leader later claimed to have in custody the three victims.

“The government will severely punish illegal tour guides, travel agents and tourism sites, he added. Especially in the management of seafood markets and bars, administrative departments will utilize an electronic order system that will allow them to keep tabs on pricing, the mayor said. "Wang also warned all businesses in Sanya to “keep their noses clean” or face tough penalties.

During last year’s Spring Festival, Sanya, a city with a population of 700,000, received about 500,000 tourists drawn to its warm weather, sea and sand. —Xinhua

Sri Lanka rescues 138 people from sinking boat

COLOMBO, 3 Feb—The Sri Lankan Navy rescued over 100 people from a sinking boat off the country’s eastern seas, a navy spokesman said on Sunday. Navy spokesman Kosalasana Warnakulasuriya told Xinhua that navy boats were deployed the previous night after information was received about a stranded boat. When the navy reached the boat they found 138 people crowded into a small boat and their lives were in danger. The navy immediately transferred the passengers onto the navy boats and brought them ashore, the navy spokesman said.

He said that most of them were suffering from dehydration and were admitted to a local hospital. Among those on the boat were women and children and it was still not clear if they were heading to some country to seek asylum.

In recent times hundreds of Sri Lankans had been arrested while attempting to go by boat to Australia to seek asylum. —Xinhua

Photo taken on 2 Feb, 2013 shows the broken chimney after an explosion occurred in the Yongxing chemical plant in Boxung County, east China’s Shandong Province. A chimney in the plant exploded on Saturday. No casualty has been reported yet. Rescue work is in progress. —Xinhua

Sinopec to sell cleaner gasoline in 2014

BEIJING, 3 Feb—Sinopec Corp, Asia’s biggest oil refiner, has said it is upgrading desulphurization facilities and will supply cleaner oil products from 2014 over public concerns about oil quality. Sinopec said in statement on Friday that it will build upgraded desulphurization facilities in 12 refineries by the end of 2013 and will sell oil products that meet the national 4 standard for pollutant emissions.

China has no countrywide standard on sulphur content in gasoline and such standards currently vary by region. Beijing is the only city in China to have adopted the national 5 standard, equal to the Euro V vehicle emissions standard, which caps sulphur content below 10 ppm (parts per million). China’s developed regions, including Shanghai, Jiangsu and Zhejiang, use the national 4 standard, 50 ppm or below, while remaining regions have adopted the national 3 standard, which allows the sulphur content in fuel to be as high as 150 ppm.

But cleaner fuel may also mean higher prices. When Beijing and Shanghai switched from national 3 standard to the stricter national 4 years ago, gasoline prices rose by 0.2 to 0.3 yuan ($0.03 to 0.05 US dollar) per litre.

Repeated bouts of smog this winter in China’s central and eastern parts have given rise to public outcry over oil quality, which contributes to air pollution. —Xinhua

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10 killed in traffic accident in Turkey

ANKARA, 3 Feb—At least 10 people were killed and some others injured in a traffic accident in Adiyaman province in southeastern Turkey on Saturday, private Dogan news agency reported.

A minibus collided with a truck on the road to Pazarcik town of Adiyaman, leaving 10 people dead and three others injured, according to the report.

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British filmmaker Duncan Jones

**Duncan Jones to direct “Warcraft” game movie**

**London**, 3 Feb—British filmmaker Duncan Jones has signed up to direct a movie based on the popular videogame World of Warcraft, according to a statement posted on its Facebook page.

The film, which industry estimates say will cost more than $100 million to make, would be a major step up for the director behind the acclaimed low-budget space drama “Moon” and sci-fi thriller “Source Code” starring Jake Gyllenhaal.

“We are pleased to announce that Duncan Jones... has signed on with Legendary Pictures to direct the upcoming live-action film based on the Warcraft universe,” the statement said.

In a post on his Twitter feed, 41-year-old Jones, who is singer David Bowie’s son, added: “So the gauntlet was thrown down ages ago: Can you make a proper movie of a video game. I’ve always said it’s possible. Got to Do it now!”

The script for the film, which is due to start production in 2013 and hit theatres in 2015, is being written by Charles Leavitt, who was behind the 2006 thriller “Blood Diamond.” Warcraft is one of the world’s most successful multi-player online role-play games.

**Los Angeles**, 3 Feb—Actress Kerry Washington was the big winner at the NAACP Image Awards on Friday, picking up awards for her roles in the slavery-era Western film “Django Unchained” and television drama “Scandal,” as well as a special honour for professional achievement and public service.

But on a night that celebrated the successes of artists of colour, actor and activist Harry Belafonte struck a somber note when he admonished the black community for failing to speak out in favour of gun control, saying “the group most devastated by America’s obsession with the gun is African-Americans.” Washington received the best supporting actress in a movie award for her role as a slave in Quentin Tarantino’s “Django Unchained” and best actress in a television drama for “Scandal,” in which she plays a crisis-management maven.

“This award does not belong to me. It belongs to our ancestors,” Washington said in accepting her award for “Django Unchained,” which has received a mixed reaction from the black community for its portrayal of slavery and its violence.

Both Washington and Beyonce Knowles’ family to cheer her at Super Bowl

**London**, 3 Feb—Beyonce Knowles’ family will be in New Orleans to cheer her on for her Super Bowl half time performance. The Halo hitmaker is set to announce that Duncan Jones... has signed on with Legend...y Pictures to direct the upcoming live-action film based on the Warcraft universe,” the statement said.

When Madonna performed but I’ll be done at 9 pm on Sunday. —PTI

Beyonce revealed she can’t wait until her performance is over so that she can spend time with Jay-Z and their daughter Blue Ivy. She explained: “I can’t wait until it’s all over. I’m gonna enjoy my daughter. I miss her so much and I keep saying ‘mommy is so busy but I’ll be done at 9 pm on Sunday.’—PTI

**Los Angeles**, 3 Feb—Kristen Stewart has sent a “long love letter” to Robert Pattinson, who reportedly agreed to a trial separation while the British actor films The Rover in Australia, and despite agreeing to no contact while he is away, the 23-year-old actress—who cheated on her Twilight Saga co-star with married director Rupert Sanders last summer—has penned her innermost feelings in a note to the hunky star in a bid to repair their fractured relationship.

“Kristen wrote a long letter...explaining her desire to fly out to Rob. Even if he can’t forgive her, she should know that she is closer to him than anyone else could ever be.” It was previously claimed Kristen was planning to fly out to Australia to repair their relationship in the hope of reconciling with Pattinson, who is singer Rihanna’s man.

A source said previously: “Kristen is desperate to get out to Australia because she misses Rob. But he’s being ambivalent about the whole thing. ‘It seems like she’s going to fly out there, despite the fact that he has cut their communication down a lot. He’s barely picking up her calls [or] responding to her messages.” However, after being advised against making the trip, Kristen decided to write the letter instead.—PTI

**Gisele Bundchen new face of Chanel beauty**

**London**, 3 Feb—Supermodel Gisele Bundchen has been named the new face of Chanel Beauty and will star in the brand’s campaign for its new Les Beiges makeup range The Brazilian supermodel will appear in the French fashion house’s advertising campaign, which is expected to be released on 15 March, reported Femalefirst.

**Los Angeles**, 3 Feb—Actress Kerry Washington holds her award to the press room at the 44th NAACP Im-age Awards at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, California, on 1 Feb, 2013.—Reuters

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A source said previously: “Kristen is desperate to get out to Australia because she misses Rob. But he’s being ambivalent about the whole thing. ‘It seems like she’s going to fly out there, despite the fact that he has cut their communication down a lot. He’s barely picking up her calls [or] responding to her messages.” However, after being advised against making the trip, Kristen decided to write the letter instead.—PTI

**Singer Frank Ocean wants peace, says no charges against Chris Brown**

**Los Angeles**, 3 Feb—Rising R&B star Frank Ocean said on Saturday he will not press charges against singer Chris Brown, who he said had “jumped” him last week in a parking lot fracas. The encounter between Ocean and Brown still could derail Brown’s efforts to remain in compliance with his probation stemming from his 2009 assault against singer Rihanna, his on-again, off-again girlfriend, a legal expert said. Earlier in the week, a spokesman for the Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department said Ocean was “desirous of prosecution in this incident,” which occurred on 27 January outside a recording studio in West Hollywood.

Representatives for Brown could not be reached for comment on Saturday. Sheriff’s deputies had cited albeit difficult, is wisdom. Peace, albeit trite, is what I want in my short life. Peace.” Brown and Ocean both are nominated in the best urban contemporary album category at the Grammys Awards, which will be announced on 10 February in Los Angeles.

**Frank Ocean is bathed in red light as he performs “Thinkin Bout You” during the 2012 MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles, on 6 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS**

**Los Angeles**, 3 Feb—Actress Kerry Washington holds her award to the press room at the 44th NAACP Image Awards at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles, California, on 1 Feb, 2013.—Reuters

**“Django” co-star Jamie Foxx, who received the entertainer of the year award,** thanked Tarantino for making the film. “‘Django’ was an absolute blessing of a movie,” Foxx said. “Thank you Quentin Tarantino for having the courage to do it.”—Reuters
Czechs set Davis Cup record as Serbia cruise

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Balogntset to debut against Udinese

Wang Meng wins women’s 500m in short-track World Cup

Brazil duo on target for Fluminense

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Minnesota’s Peterson runs away with top awards for 2012

Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson accepts the NFL MVP award during the NFL Honors awards show in New Orleans, Louisiana on Feb. 3, 2013. 

NEW ORLEANS, 3 Feb—Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson carried off two top awards, including Most Valuable Player honors, at the National Football League awards show on Saturday. Peterson, who overcame a career-threatening injury to lead the Vikings into the playoffs, was also named Offensive Player of the Year after Parcells, six others make Pro Football Hall of Fame

NEW ORLEANS, 3 Feb—Former Super Bowl winning head coach Bill Parcells was among seven men voted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame on Saturday. Parcells was joined by six former players, including three first-time nominees, to be inducted into the Hall of Fame, the greatest individual honour in the sport. Offensive linemen Larry Allen and Jonathan Ogden and defensive tackle Warren Sapp all were elected in their first year of being nominated while wide receiver Cris Carter, defensive tackle Curley Culp and linebacker Dave Robinson were voted in after missing out previously.

The seven men will be enshrined into the Hall of Fame in August. They were selected by a group of 44 voters from a pool of 17 nominees. The panel spent more than eight hours coming within nine yards of setting a single season NFL rushing record. While pleased to have won recognition for his performance, Peterson told reporters he was disappointed to have fallen short of his ultimate goal. “I was definitely hoping to get to the Super Bowl. That was my goal,” said the 27-year-old Peterson, whose 2011 season ended when he tore ligaments in his knee. “Come back, lead my team and help my team get to the Super Bowl. Unfortunately, that didn’t happen. But I played my heart out every opportunity I had … (and) I got a couple of good pieces of hardware to hang back and stack in my statue area. “So it feels good.”

The Houston Texans’ JJ Watt won the Defensive Player of the Year award.

“I can get a lot better, I’m only 23,” Watt said. “I’m still growing as a human being, and as a person and as a player.” Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning denied Peterson a clean sweep of awards available to him by winning Comeback Player of the Year honors. Former Indianapolis Colts leader Manning missed the entire 2011 season after undergoing a series of neck surgeries and returned to the field with the Broncos, leading them to the playoffs as top seed in the American Football Conference.

“I really did not know what to expect,” Manning said about his return. “I had the double variables of coming off an injury, not playing for a year and joining a new team, a new system, new team mates.

Author of “American Sniper” shot dead in Texas

HOUStON, 3 Feb—The author of “American Sniper” has been shot dead in the US state of Texas, US media reported on Saturday.

Chris Kyle and another man were found dead at Rough Creek Lodge, an upscale hunting lodge in northern Texas, on Saturday afternoon, according to local TV channel ABC13. Investigators have not released any details of the shooting.

Kyle, 38, was a former Navy SEAL and served four tours of duty in Iraq. In January 2012, Kyle’s best-selling autobiography “American Sniper” was released. A native Texan, Kyle claimed to have killed the most career sniper kills in US military history, according to reports.

Brazilians upset Bryans to deny US Davis Cup

JACKSONVILLE (Florida) 3 Feb—Brazil’s Marcelo Melo and Bruno Soares upset the world’s top ranked doubles team of Bob and Mike Bryan on Saturday to deny the United States a sweep of their Davis Cup first round tie. After taking both opening singles on Friday, the Americans had looked poised to make it a clean sweep, sending out the Bryans to face the underdog Brazilians on the lightning quick Jacksonville, Florida hardcourts.

The Brazilians entered the match with a sparkling 20-2 record together in Davis Cup competition, but could not put away the feisty Brazilian duo falling 7-6, 6-7, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3 in three hours and 29 minutes. It marked the first Davis Cup loss for the 13 time Grand Slam winners since 2006. The United States will now need a victory from John Isner or Sam Querrey in Sunday’s reverse singles if they are to avoid the upset to Brazil, who are back playing in the world group for the first time in nine years.

Needing a win to extend the tie, Melo and Soares, who had lost only once in five ties, came out and took the opening set in a tie-break 8-6 but Bryans answered right back taking the second also in a tie-break 9-7.

Bayern extends lead on top of German Bundesliga

BERLIN, 3 Feb—Unstoppable Bayern Munich continue their triumphant march as they cruised to a 3-0 win over Mainz whereas bottom side Stuttgart further flabbergasted Schalke 2-1 to wrap a last gasp win at the 20th round of Bundesliga on Saturday. Beautifully timed, Mainz staged a courageous performance on home soil to give the German record champion with Bastian Schweinsteiger and Javi Martinez. Thus Bayern did not manage to produce opportunities meanwhile Mainz came close twice through Shawn Parker. With four minutes remaining in the first half, Bayern midfielder Thomas Mueller rounded Mainz goalkeeper Christian Wetklo to break the deadlock out of the blue following a pass into path by Toni Kroos.

Mainz situation worsened at the 50th minute, as Mario Mandzukic exploited a David Alaba pass into the box, to double the lead, and to score his 12th goal of the season. Mandzukic was not done with the scoring and so he made it three on scoreboards, seven minutes later, following a combination via Philipp Lahm to destroy Mainz hopes of a comeback.

Visitors view flowers at a phalaenopsis exhibition in Yangon, 3 Feb, 2013. The eight-day exhibition was opened on 3 Feb to greet the upcoming Spring Festival, which falls on 10 Feb this year.

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Pyuchaung hydropower plant to generate 120 million kwh a year

Kunchaung hydropower plant is equipped with three 20-megawatt generators, producing 190 million kilowatt-hours per year.

Union Minister for Electric Power
U Khin Maung Soe views progress in installation of machinery at Pyuchaung Hydropower Plant in Pyu Township. — MNA

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

Myanmar-Japan Business Talks on 7 February
YANGON, 3 Feb— The Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and Japanese largest business organization KEIDANREN (Japan Business Federation) jointly organize Myanmar-Japan Business Consultation at Sedona Hotel, here, on 7 February.

Myanmar entrepreneurs wishing to attend the meeting may contact International Relations Department of UMFCCI head office.

Myanmar selected national football team has been undergoing training since 1 February, preparing for the qualifier matches to be hosted by Myanmar for AFC Challenge Cup.

The team has been formed with 26 tentatively selected players and begun preparation for tune-up against Philippine selected national team. Myanmar will play against Philippines at 5 pm at Thuwunna Youth Training Centre on 6 February after which training session will be stopped for a while for MNL League and resumed on 11 February.

Myanmar will then play against Malaysia U-23 at the same stadium on 22 February. The qualifier for AFC Challenge Cup will kick off on 2 March and Myanmar is in Group A with India, China (Taipei) and Guam.

The current line-up of Park Hsung-hua, the Myanmar’s team boss is as follows: Goal-Thiha Sithu (Yadanabon), Kyaw Zin Phyo (Magway); Pyae Phyo Aung (Southeastern); Presbyterian-Min Tun, Yan Aung Win, Thet Naing, Ye Zaw Htet Aung (Yadanabon); Thein Than Win, Nyana Lwin (Kanbawza), Zaw Zaw Oo (Ayeyawady), Aung Hein Kyaw (Zeya Shwemway), Pyae Phyo Aung (Yangon), Nanda Kyaw (Magway); Midfielder-Maung Maung Soe, Htoo Htoo Aung (Magway), Phyo Ko Ko Thein, Nyi Nyi Min, Nanda Lin Kyaw Chit (Ayeawyady), Yazar Win Thein, Aung Moe, Yan Aung Kyaw, Sithu Aung (Yangon); Forward-Kyaw Ko Ko (Zeya Shwemway), Kaung Sithu (Yadanabon), Kyaw Zayar Win and Soe Min Oo (Kanbawza).

Byline & Photo: Soe Nyunt

MR plying Mandalay-Lashio route

Myanma Railways is regularly running Mandalay-Lashio route with 131 Up and 132 Down trains with full coaches. Due to brake errors, an upper class coach was detached from the trains for a few days at the end of previous December and then they were replaced with first class coaches. The suspended upper class coach BDUEZ-12738 was reattached on 23 January.

There are 27 railway stations on Mandalay-Lashio railroad section. The train stops over at major stations and providing services to 600 passengers at once. A total of 250 foreign passengers took the ride of 131 Up train on 11 January alone. MR staff are providing satisfactory services to the passengers daily.

Kyemon: 3-2-2013
Trs: HKA