President U Thein Sein receives Executive Vice-President and CEO of International Finance Corporation (IFC) from World Bank

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received a delegation led by Executive Vice-President and Chief Executive Officer Mr. Jin Yong Cai of International Finance Corporation (IFC) from World Bank at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here at 11 am today.

Also present at the call together with the President were Union Ministers at the President Office U Soe Thane and U Hla Tun, Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw, Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein and officials.

At the call, both sides cordially discussed matters related to Myanmar’s agriculture, health, education, electric power sectors and Chief sharing of experience in public finance and rural area development.

Union Level Peace Making Committee holds peace talks with KIO

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—Peace talks between Union Level Peace Making Committee and KIO was held at Shwe lwi today.

It was attended by a six-member team led by Union Ministers U Aung Min and U Ohn Myint from Union Level Peace-Making Committee and a five-member team led by U Sung Lyut Gain and General Gwan Maw from KIO, a two-member team led by Ambassador Mr. Luo Zhuhui from Foreign Affairs Ministry of the People’s Republic of China, KNU General Saw Mutu Saec Pos and General Secretary Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win, three led by Brig-Gen Sai Lu of RCSS/SSA, U Han Nyaung Wai and Victor Biak Lian. Both sides issued a five-point joint statement at the talks. The following is the translation of the joint statement:

Joint statement
1. Talks between a delegation led by Vice-Chairman of Union Level Peace Making Committee Union Minister U Aung Min and KIO negotiation team, was held in Shwe lwi of Yunnan Province of the People’s Republic of China from 9 am to 16:15 pm today.

2. Ambassador Mr. Luo Zhuhui of Foreign Affairs Ministry of the PRC, KNU Chairman General Saw Mutu Saec Pos, General Secretary Pado Saw Kwe Htoo Win and one member, Brig-Gen Sai Lu of RCSS/SSA and two members, U Han Nyaung Wai and U Victor Biak Lian, have attended the talks as witnesses.

3. Talks focused on establishing communication channels, reducing military tension, preparing for next talks and the invitation of observers and organizations as witnesses in the next meeting.

4. KIO has agreed to hold the next talks before the end of February after making coordination with UNFC and to continue holding political talks between the government and KIO.

5. Both sides have agreed to continue to hold talks for emergence of a surveillance system in the conflict-affected areas for achieving ceasefire swiftly between the government and KIO.

4 February, 2013 Shwe lwi

ATR Co hands over ATR 72-600 flight to Air KBZ

ATR Company handed over one of two ATR 72-600 planes to Air KBZ Airlines, at ATR manufacturing workshop in Toulouse, France on 29 January. The handing over ceremony was attended by CEO of ATR Company Mr Filippo Bagnato and officials, Chairperson Daw Nan Lai Kham of Air KBZ Airlines and officials. ATR CEO and the Air KBZ Chairman delivered speeches and then met press. “This is the first order placed in the Southeast Asia,” ATR Company’s CEO said.

Currently, Air KBZ is operating flight schedules to Yangon, Mandalay, Nyaung U, Heho, Kangtung, Tachileik, Lashio, Myeik, Dawei, Kawthoung, Kalay, Myitkyina, Thandwe and Sittwe with four ATR 72-5000 airplanes. Flight schedules will be extended to Nay Pyi Taw, Bhamo, Putao, Kyaukpyu, Monywa and Homalin in addition to current schedules when two new flights arrive.

Myanma Alinn: 4-2-2013

Trs: MT
Rural people in Pathetegay Township enjoy electricity on self-reliant basis

Since early 2013, Hsinwayangyi, Nyeinchantan, Natsenin and Khemabaya villages of Pathetegay Township in Mandalay Region have been enjoying fruits of supplying electricity on a self-reliant basis.

Among 140 villages in Pathetegay Township, six villages are being supplied electricity with the use of diesel engines under the arrangement of the region government and 65 villages on a self-reliant basis. At present, 13 villages are trying to supply electricity to local people.

A ceremony to launch supply of electricity was held at the hall of Hsinwayangyi Village.

The supply power committee tried hard to switch on the lamp posts by the July 2012 and installed electric meters at the houses for supply of electricity round the clock the end of 2012.

Fire destroys five houses in Hainggyigyun

A fire broke out at the house of U Tin Tun on Thida in Patheingyi Township of Patheingyi District in Ayeyarwady Region on 28 January. Five houses were burned in the fire.

Development undertakings inspected in Pyapon Township

On the occasion, U Aung Zaw Myint, Dr. Daw Myat Myo Oun Khin donated K1.5 million, Myanmar Red Cross Society (Central) K10 million, Health Agency International K1.2 million, Action Air K1 million, Good Neighbors International K500,000 and Marics Stopes K300,000, amounting to K15.3 million.

The Union Minister also attended the opening of the vocational training school in Pyapon and donated cash to the fund for construction of the bus stop and a toilet in Dedaya.

Narcotic drugs seized at Mandalay Railway Station

A total of 64 ledger books were kept in the bags, and six packets which were suspected as raw opium were hidden in the books. Six packets weighed 7.148 kilos and another eight packets, 17.142 kilos.

Tube-wells sunk in Kyaukpadao Township

The department plans to sink tube-wells in the township with the use of machinery. On 11 January, the department sank a tube-well in Kainbauk Village.

AFC (C) Licence Coaching Course 5-18 Feb

Jointly conducted by Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and Myanmar Football Federation (AFF), the AFC (C) Certificate Coaching Course 2013 will be opened at MFF Head Office from 5 to 18 February. A total of 26 trainers including former star players See Myat Min, Min Thu and Nay Thu Hlaing enlistered at the training course.

Those wishing to attend the course may contact the technical section of MFF, not later than 4 February. The federation will open the course for the trainees free of charge.

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myo Oun Khin inspected medical treatment given by specialists to local people in Thameinhtaw Village of Pyapon Township of Pyapon District in Ayeyarwady Region on 28 January morning.

After that, the Union Minister donated fishing nets, clothes, slippers for the people and robes, solar lamps and alms to monasteries.

At Thari Annaya Hall in Pyapon on 29 January, the Union minister met members of Non-Governmental Organizations and INGOs, departmental personnel and students.

At the ceremony to disburse loans to the local people for ensuring rural development and poverty alleviation, the Union Minister made a speech.

Stimulant tablets seized

According to the information given by a dutiful people, a team comprising IP Khaing Thun, SIP Kyaw Ni Tun, Sgt Tin Lin Tun of Mawlamyine District Special Anti-Drug Squad and SIP Stibhu Kyaw of Crime Combating Unit and SIP Tun Tun Oo of Zayathiri Police Station together with witness searched the pockets of Kyaw Siwe (a) Rajin, 31 of towners from No. 863 from Thayetwin Street in Ngaingtaw Ward, at Lawun Restaurant in Mawlamyine Township on 3 January.

The authorities seized 180 WY brand stimulant tablets worth over K900,000 and one motorcycle. Zayathiri Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against him.

On 30 January, Police Station together with police personnel and local people, the fire could be put out within 30 minutes.

Narco drugs seized at Mandalay Railway Station

KAYAPADAUNG, 4 Feb—The Mawlamyine District in Mandalay Region received 13 packets under Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

The department plans to sink tube-wells in the township with the use of machinery. On 11 January, the department sank a tube-well in Kainbauk Village.

Moreover, the plans are underway to sink more tube-wells in Pyapon and Naban villages for enabling the local people to overcome scarcity of water in the township.

TUBE-WELLS SUNK IN KYAUPADAUNG

TUBE-WELLS SUNK IN KYAUPADAUNG

AMARAPURALA, 4 Feb—The Village Sports and Physical Education Committee of Football Tournament was held at the sports ground in Setkwa Village-tract in Amarapura Township of Mandalay Region on 25 January afternoon.

Local authorities formally opened the football tournament.

Chairman of Upper Myanmar Selected Football Association Committee U Zaw Win donated tracksuit and footballs to the football teams.

Upper Myanmar Selected Footballers Team played against Myohbingyi Village team and the Upper Myanmar team beat the latter 3-1.

After the football tournament followed. In the debut, Myohbingyi Village team routed Myaukkaing Village team with a 3-2 result.

A total of 35 football teams are taking part in the football tournament.

WIN MYO AUNG

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Donate Blood
Iran hedges on nuclear talks with six powers or US

Iran’s nuclear programme, which Tehran says is peaceful but the West suspects is intended to give Iran the capability to build a nuclear bomb, have been all but deadlocked for years, while Iran has continued to announce advances in the programme. Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi said on Sunday it was open to a US offer of direct talks, saying on its nuclear programme.

“This does not go along with this gesture (of talks) so we will have to wait a little bit longer and see if they are really faithful this time,” Salehi said. Iran is under a tightening web of sanctions. Israel has also hinted it may strike if diplomacy and international sanctions fail to curb Iran’s nuclear drive.

In Washington, Army General Martin Dempsey, the top US military officer, said in an interview broadcast on Sunday that the United States has the capability to stop any Iranian effort to build nuclear weapons, but Iranian “intentions have to be influenced through other means.”

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Kharkiv, 4 Feb—At least 33 people were killed in the Iraqi city of Kirkuk on Sunday when a suicide bomber detonated a truck packed with explosives outside a police headquarters and gunmen disguised as officers tried to storm the compound.

The blast was the third major attack in weeks in or near the multicentric city of Arabs, Kurds and Turkmen, at the heart of a dispute between Iraq’s central government and the autonomous Kurdistan region. Police said the bomber triggered the huge blast near a side entrance to the police building, demolishing part of a government office nearby.

“A suicide bomber driving a vehicle packed with explosives hit the entrance of the headquarters and after the blast gunmen in explosive vests attacked AK47s and grenades, but the guards killed them,” a police official said.

Guards and emergency workers dragged bloody survivors onto stretchers amid the wreckage of the blast, which left a large crater in the street.

Police said 33 were killed, including 12 employees at the government office. But a hospital official said only 16 bodies were at a hospital morgue and more than 90 were wounded.

Iraqi security personnel are seen at the site of a suicide bomb attack in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad on 3 Feb. 2013.—Reuters

Over 100 flights canceled as snow sweeps Beijing

BEIJING, 4 Feb—More than 100 flights were canceled on Sunday by Beijing Capital International Airport (BCIA), the world’s second-busiest airport by passenger volume, as snow hit China’s capital.

Altogether, 115 flights scheduled to depart from or arrive at the airport on Sunday were canceled as of 7 pm, including 14 international flights, according to flight status information on BCIA’s website. Some of the cancellations were due to foul weather in other cities, as many parts of China were influenced by a new cold snap.

The airport had mobilized more than 800 workers and 230 automobiles to remove ice and snow from planes, runways and parking aprons as of 3 pm on Sunday, a BCIA official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

More than 1,500 planes would have flown around 114,000 passengers from the airport on Sunday as planned originally, the official said.

I light to moderate snow and sleet will fall on northeastern and north China from Sunday to Tuesday while heavy rain will sweep central and east China, the China Meteorological Administration has forecasted.

BCIA saw passenger volumes grow 4.2 percent year on year in 2012 to reach 81.8 million people, a number second only to Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport in the United States.—Xinhua

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Iraqi security personnel are seen at the site of a suicide bomb attack in Kirkuk, 250 km (155 miles) north of Baghdad on 3 Feb. 2013.—Reuters

Change of int’l climate revives hope for political resolution to Syrian crisis

DAMASCUS, 4 Feb—A sudden change in the international climate revived hope that a political resolution for Syria’s long-standing conflict is still possible, particularly after the head of the main opposition abroad announced his readiness for talks with representatives from the Syrian government.

The head of the main opposition coalition, Moaz al-Khatib, has repeated his previous surprising statement that he is ready to embark on talks with Assad’s administration while setting release of detainees among others as conditions.

His remarks came during a late night panel talks on Friday with UN-Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi at the Munich Security Conference on Friday.

He first declared his controversial statement on his Facebook page last Wednesday. On Saturday, al-Khatib, for the first time, met with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, who invited him to come to Moscow for more talks, and met with Iran’s Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi on the sideline of Munich conference.

Al-Khatib reportedly said that his talks with Salehi have focused on the need to politically end the crisis, as Russia’s Lavrov reportedly said that al-Khatib appeared interested in having more understanding of the Russian stance.

Al-Khatib’s surprising step has also been welcomed by the United States, whose Secretary of State Hillary Clinton called the opposition leader’s step “not only courageous but smart.”

First responders assist injured passengers from a charter bus that crashed in Boston, Massachusetts on 2 Feb. 2012.—Reuters

Bus crashes into Boston overpass, injuring 34 people

BOSTON, 4 Feb—A bus carrying 42 passengers from Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to Pennsylvania crashed into a Boston overpass on Saturday night, injuring 34 people, according to emergency officials.

The crash happened about 7:30 pm EST on Interstate 95 in Boston, according to Boston Emergency Medical Services spokesman Jennifer Mehigan.

Medical workers transported 34 people to four area hospitals with minor injuries, three serious, and one life-threatening, Mehigan said. Some people had to be removed through the bus roof, strapped onto backboards, according to the Boston Fire Department’s Twitter feed.

Mehigan said the injured included teenagers and adults.

“A number of patients were trapped at some point during the incident,” Mehigan said.

All the victims had been removed from the bus by about 9:30 pm. She said the department had to remove part of the roof of the private Calvary Coach charter bus to perform the rescues.—Reuters
Central bank issues commemorative coins for navigation system

Bruno, 4 Feb—China's central bank has issued a set of two commemorative coins marking the official launch of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) last December.

The set includes one gold and one silver coin, both of which are fiat money of the People's Republic of China (PRC), according to the People’s Bank of China (PBOC).

The coins both feature a variety of decorative elements, including a national emblem, images of satellites and binary codes. The PBOC will issue 30,000 gold coins with a face value of 150 yuan ($26.05 US dollars) and 60,000 silver coins with a face value of 10 yuan.

The BDS was developed by the government in order to take a share of the GPS-dominated domestic navigation market. The first BDS satellite was launched in 2000. The system went into official use on 27 Dec, 2012 following a trial period that began in 2005.

The set includes one gold coin with a face value of 10 yuan.


Chipmaker Intel faces long march to mobile salvation

NEW YORK, 4 Feb—Intel Corp, the world’s biggest chipmaker, opened a new front on Thursday in a long and stuttering campaign to get its products into mobile phones, although it appears to still have a long way to go.

It joined PC maker Acer Inc in Bangkok to unveil the Liquid C1 smartphone, a $330 device running Google Inc’s Android operating system, which will be launched first in Thailand and then rolled out across Southeast Asia, one of the fastest-growing markets for mobile phones.

“We’ve made a conscious effort to go after these fast-growing markets as our first foray into the business,” Mike Bell, who leads Intel’s mobile division, said in a telephone interview.

The company’s ninth such device in nine months, the Liquid C1 represents how far Intel has come in convincing bigger name manufacturers to take a chance with its mobile chips as the sales of personal computers and laptops plunge. But analysts say it also shows how far it still has to go to get a foothold in a market dominated by the likes of Qualcomm Inc and Nvidia Corp.

“In the past, they have often been able to play in this space at all,” said Scott Bicheno, senior analyst at Strategy Analyst Inc. “There’s no obvious technical fault with Intel’s chips. It’s just that the in-roads are very well established.”

Intel has little choice but to get into mobile. It saw revenue fall 3 percent in the last quarter on weak sales of PCs, part of a steady decline in revenue growth since 2009.

It has also watched as devices like Apple Inc’s iPad cannibalize sales of PCs. So, in the past year, the company has launched phones with Intel chips in Europe, Africa, Latin America, Russia, India and China.

Some were effectively designed and built by Intel as it calls “dual-mode” phones, convincing carriers like Orange to brand and offer the phones on their own networks in France and the United Kingdom.

Last year, it persuaded Chinese hardware manufacturers like ZTE Corp and Lenovo Group Ltd to build their own phones with Intel chips. —Reuters

MTN says probe dismisses corruption allegations

JOHANNESBURG, 4 Feb—An external committee appointed by Afrcan mobile phone group MTN to investigate claims by rival Turkcell of corrupt dealings in Iran has dismissed the allegations as “a fabric of lies, distortions and inventions”.

The committee, chaired by retired British judge Lord Hoffmann, also found nothing to support claims that MTN had promised to get the South African government to supply Iran with defense equipment in exchange for a telecoms operating license.

MTN and its local partner won a lucrative license in 2005 to launch a new Iranian mobile-phone carrier, but the deal became embroiled in controversy when Turkcell filed a $4.2 billion lawsuit in the United States last year. Following a critical examination of the evidence, the Hoffmann Committee found that Turkcell’s allegations are “a fabric of lies, distortions and inventions”, MTN said in a filing to the Johannesburg Stock Exchange on Friday.

Turkcell declined to comment. The Turkish telecoms company’s allegations came against the backdrop of the Western world’s forceful economic sanctions designed to deter Iran from pursuing its nuclear development programme.

Turkcell claimed that MTN won the Iran contract by offering to use its influence in Pretoria to help Telesat to obtain military hardware and sway South Africa’s votes at the International Atomic Energy Agency. Backed by a collection of alleged MTN internal documents including emails, invoices, memory and presentation, Turkcell’s lawsuit accuses the South African company of a “staggeringly brazen orchestra of corruption.” —Reuters
**Brussels, 4 Feb — Dutch telecoms group KPN is widely expected to announce steps to cut debt when announcing full-year results next week, with some analysts bracing for a share issue.**

KPN, which will report 2012 results on 5 February, breached its own debt target of 2.0-2.5 times debt to core profit ratio in the second quarter. The ratio hit 2.7 in the third quarter.

Although it sold assets, notably Dutch and German mobile phone towers, KPN had to pay an above-average 1.35 billion euros ($2.13 billion) at a mobile frequency auction which finished in December. As a response, the group, in which Mexican billionaire Carlos Slim’s America Movil took a near 28 percent stake in 2012, cut its dividends for 2013 to 0.03 euros per share from a previous guidance of 0.35 euros. Analysts believe that will not be enough.

"We estimate that KPN may need to strengthen its balance sheet by up to 2 billion euros to remain on the safe side, which means a significant risk of share dilution," Reinhart analyst Frank Claassen wrote in a note to clients.

Issuing new shares is not an attractive proposition to shareholders given KPN’s share price has plummeted by almost 50 percent over the past year.

A large-scale rights issue would also require backing from KPN’s shareholders, including Slim, who controls America Movil. KPN could avoid a rights issue if it follows in the steps of Telekom Austria, also partially owned by Slim’s America Movil, which last week issued a 600 million euro hybrid bond to address its debt.

Companies generally have to pay higher interest on hybrid bonds, but credit rating agencies treat them as partially helping to impair debt ratios.

KPN is currently ranked one notch above the lowest investment grade rating by Moody’s and Standard & Poor’s who also have a negative outlook on KPN’s debt.

Fitch has already cut its credit rating to “BBB-”, the lowest rating at which many pension and investment funds are allowed to invest in the group’s bonds.

Nurmi wrote that KPN still had access to debt markers, but not addressing its debt problems could leave it a forced seller of assets in future.

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**New Light of Myanmar**

**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**KPN’s debt-cutting solution could be a new share issue**

**US, Mexico reach tomato deal to avert trade war**

**Workers assemble cars inside the Hyundai Motor India Ltd plant at Rancharpura district in Tamil Nadu on 4 Oct, 2012. — Reuters**

**Hyundai Motor’s India unit raises vehicle prices**

**Mexico’s Satyam Computer third-quarter profit before one-off loss tops estimates**

**J&J metal hip failed because of toxic debris — expert at trial**

**Tomatoes are displayed at a vegetable stall in La Merced market, downtown Mexico City on 31 Jan, 2013. — Reuters**
New US Secretary of State Kerry speaks to Netanyahu, Abbas about peace

WASHINGTON, 4 Feb—US Secretary of State John Kerry stressed his commitment to promoting Israeli-Palestinian peace on Sun­day in telephone calls to the leaders of both sides, the State Department said.

In separate conver­sations, Kerry, who took over as the top US dip­lomat from Hillary Clint­on on Friday, spoke to Israeli Prime Minis­ter Benjamin Netanyahu and to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

“Turning to Middle East peace, the secretary underscored his personal commitment and that of President (Barack) Obama to support Israel’s secu­rity and to pursue a last­ing peace between Israelis and Palestinians,” State Department spokes­woman Victoria Nuland said of Kerry’s conversation with Netanyahu. A spokesman for the Israeli prime minis­ter confirmed that the call took place but provided no details. Netanyahu assumed the responsibility on Satur­day of forming a new Is­raeli government following the 22 January election in which his right-wing Likud Beiteinu lost ground but still emerged as the biggest party, gaining 31 seats in the 120-seat Israeli parliament.

His new government is expected to include a new centrist party headed by former TV personality Yair Lapid, which with 19 seats is the second largest party in parliament, and the 12-seat far-right pro-settler Bayit Yehudi.

U.S. Senator John Kerry (D-MA) testifies during his Senate Foreign Relations Committee confirmation hearing to be secretary of state, on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., on 24 Jan, 2013. Reuters

Seven killed, 28 injured in bus accident in Egypt’s South Sinai

CAIRO, 4 Feb.—At least seven people were killed and another 28 in­jured on Sunday in a tour­ist bus accident on the Sharm al-Shaikh interna­tion­al highway in Egypt’s South Sinai, security source told Xinhua.

The bus overturned 60 kilometres away from Ras Sedr City during its trip to Sharm al-Shaikh. The bus ran over another car, in which all the people are predicted to be dead as well, the source security source told Xinhua.

According to the head of the South Sinai ambu­lance authority Khalid Abu Hashem, the Ambu­lance Authority sent a pri­vate plane to transfer the injured people to hospital in Cairo.

“…the ambulance au­thority sent a plane to transfer the injured people to Maadi military hospi­tal…” Also Hashem said, adding that most of the in­jured were in critical con­dition.—Xinhua

Pakistan army battles legacy of mistrust in Taleban heartland

CHINAR, 4 Feb.—In a Pakistan army base high in the mountains on the Af­ghan frontier, a general ex­plains a strategy for fighting the Taleban he calls simply “WHAM”.

The name has a dis­tinctly bullhorn ring. But the soldiers are hearing to fight a new kind of war in a region US President Barack Obama has called the most dangerous on Earth.

“WHAM winning hearts and minds,” explains the straight-talking General Nazir Bhatti, in charge of converting the army’s gains on the battlefield into durable security. “The plan is to turn militant sanctuar­ies into safe havens for the people.”

The term WHAM has been used before, but the focus this time is South Waziristan, an enclave on the Afghan border once the epicentre of a spreading Pa­kistan Taleban insurgency that shocked the country with its challenge to the au­thority of the nuclear-armed state.

According to the army narrative, the campaign in­cludes winning over the re­public and helping the army to secure the new approach, there are problems that won’t go away—threats of retalia­tion by the Taleban militants, a lack of effective civilian administration and endemic corruption.

And the campaign to win hearts and minds has an ignoble track record in other conflict zones which serve as a reality check for even the most optimistic—Pakistani officials. Reuters

One still missing in China mine flood

HUNAN, 4 Feb.—Rescu­ers have pulled most of the miners trapped in a flooded coal mine in east China’s Anhui Province to safety and are searching for the last missing work­er, said a mine manager late on Sunday.

The flooding occurred at 02:30 am on Sunday, when 444 miners were working underground at the Taoyuan Mine in Su­zhou City. Of 10 pm, 443 of them have been rescued.

“The 443 people who have been pulled out of the mine have no obvious health problems and have returned home for rest,” said Xu Xihua, the mine’s boss.

The mine’s work data showed a total of 444 min­ers were working under­ground when the flood­ing occurred, said Zhang Xianyu, another mine of­ficial. He added rescuers were searching for the last missing person.

The mine has sus­pended production. Xinhua

Georgian delegation starts Moscow visit to discuss wine issue

THURSDAY, 4 Feb.—A seven-member Georgian delegation left here on Sun­day for Moscow to start the country’s first official visit to its northern neighbor — the Russian Federation — since August 2008.

Levan Davitashvili, head of the delegation, told the press at the Tbilisi In­ternational Airport that the delegation would present Georgian wines in Moscow.

“We’ll hold presenta­tions about the (quality) control mechanism of the food and wines in Georgia … how the product is con­trolled in Georgia, how the export is certified … and then it will be discussed what further steps should be taken to return Georgian products to the Russian market,” said Davitashvili.

“…Apart from wines, natural water exports will also be discussed and on the next step: fruits and veg­etable,” Davitashvili added. Tengiz Kaladzadze, deputy chief of the Geo­rian state food agency, told the Press that the Georgians would be ready to talk with Russia’s chief sanitary doc­tor for Georgia Otarishvili.

Members of the Mos­cow-bound Georgian delega­tion also include Davit Grigolia, chief advisor for the Georgian state wine agency, officials from the phyto-sanitary department of the Georgian state food agency, as well as repre­sentatives from the coun­try’s wine and food indus­try.

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THURSDAY, 4 Feb.—A seven-member Georgian delegation left here on Sun­day for Moscow to start the country’s first official visit to its northern neighbor — the Russian Federation — since August 2008.

Levan Davitashvili, head of the delegation, told the press at the Tbilisi In­ternational Airport that the delegation would present Georgian wines in Moscow.

“We’ll hold presenta­tions about the (quality) control mechanism of the food and wines in Georgia … how the product is con­trolled in Georgia, how the export is certified … and then it will be discussed what further steps should be taken to return Georgian products to the Russian market,” said Davitashvili.

“…Apart from wines, natural water exports will also be discussed and on the next step: fruits and veg­etable,” Davitashvili added. Tengiz Kaladzadze, deputy chief of the Geo­rian state food agency, told the Press that the Georgians would be ready to talk with Russia’s chief sanitary doc­tor for Georgia Otarishvili.

Members of the Mos­cow-bound Georgian delega­tion also include Davit Grigolia, chief advisor for the Georgian state wine agency, officials from the phyto-sanitary department of the Georgian state food agency, as well as repre­sentatives from the coun­try’s wine and food indus­try.
**Egypt takes delivery of US fighter jets**

Cairo, 4 Feb — The United States has delivered four F-16 fighter jets to Egypt, its military and a US military delegation said on Sunday, highlighting military links between the two countries despite Egypt’s political upheaval.

A statement from the Arab news agency Anadolu News Agency said a US delegation and Egypt held a joint ceremony on Sunday to mark the arrival of the jets, the latest of 224 F-16s delivered to Egypt.

US aid, which has brought criticism in the US Congress, has given the United States leverage over Egypt for decades and given its warships preferential access to the Suez Canal.

The US delegation also discussed preparations for October’s Bright Star joint training exercises, the largest of their kind in the region, an Egyptian military source said.

Bright Star held every two years, was scrapped in 2011 following the political upheaval that saw the ouster of former President Hosni Mubarak and the installment of the military council as interim leaders until Mohamed Mursi was elected president in June of last year.

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**UAE minister urges Arab world to “stop blaming others”**

Dubai, 4 Feb — The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Anwar Gargash, said on Sunday that the Arab world should increase economic integration in order to overcome the fallout of the Arab turmoil.

Speaking at the inauguration session of the two-day Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Economic Forum in Sharjah, Gargash said the ongoing turmoil in some Arab countries was triggered by a lack of opportunity felt by the young generation, with no light at the end of the tunnel being visible.

“Despite globalization has finished many decades ago and we Arabs should stop finger pointing at other countries when looking for the cause of our problems,” said Gargash. “The UAE proved that an Arab country, with friendly economic atmosphere, over 30 free zones and the region’s biggest ports and airports, can attract capital and provide political stability at the same time.”

Gargash pointed out that despite some progress, economic integration in the MENA was still poor. “We lag behind the European Union and behind the North American free trade deal NAFTA.”

The minister affirmed that oil-importing countries in the MENA region were not able to manage the economic turmoil alone. --Unio

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**Pakistani girl shot by Taliban has successful skull surgery**

**Pakistani schoolgirl Malala Yousufzai (C) waves with nurses as she is discharged from The Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham in this handout photograph released on 4 Jan, 2013. —Reuters**

The procedures carried out were cranial reconstruction, aimed at mending parts of her skull with a titanium plate, and a cochlear implant designed to restore hearing on her left side, which was damaged in the attack.

“Both operations were a success and Malala is now recovering in hospital,” said a statement on Sunday from the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, central England, where she is being treated.

The girl’s condition was described as stable and the statement said her medical team were very pleased with the progress she has made. “She is awake and talking to staff and members of her family,” it added.

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**Syrian troops repel rebel attack on gunship**

Damascus, 4 Feb — Armed rebels tried on Sunday to attack a Syrian helicopter gunship in the northeastern province of al-Raqqa when its crew members opened fire, killing many of the assailants, a pro-government TV said.

The helicopter had to land 15 km away from the al-Thawra military airport in that area due to a malfunction, al-Ekhbaria TV said, adding that the gentlemen tried to attack the gun ship but they were repelled by the troops.

The TV also reported clashes between the armed rebels and government troops in the vicinity of the central prison of the eastern province of Deir al-Zour on Sunday, adding that many armed men were killed during the clashes.

Meanwhile, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a London-based activist group, said that the local council of the city of Alep, Ibrahim Azour, was killed on Saturday by rebel fighters along with his wife and daughter.

The Observatory on Sunday posted on its Facebook a video footage purporting to show Azour lying dead in an alley in the Sheikh Saeed District. It also posted a video showing the rebels executing four young men on charges of having connections with the Syrian security forces and the killing of a rebel fighter.

Another video posted by the Observatory showed bodies being pulled out from a destroyed building in what the network said was a result of a bombardment by the Syrian army on al-Assadi al-Shairi District in Alep.

However, pro-Syrian government online news websites said the building was destroyed when armed rebels tried to target a Syrian war jet with a rocket that missed the target and damaged the building at al-Assadi and killed many of its residents. Yet, neither report could be independently verified.

Blasts and attacks have become daily routines in Syria that has been gripped under a 10-month siege of a town that left more than 60,000 people killed amid filling efforts for peace, according to UN figures. —AFP

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**French planes pound Islamist camps in north Mali desert**

Pamuk, 4 Feb — French warplanes pounded Islamist rebel camps in the far north of Mali on Sunday, military sources said, a day after French President Francois Hollande was hailed as a savior during a visit to the West African country.

Thierry Burkhard, spokesman for the French army in Paris, said the overflights targeted logistics bases and training camps used by the al-Qaeda-linked rebels near the town of Tes sali, close to the Algerian border.

“These were important air strikes,” Burkhard told Reuters. “Tessaout, some 200 km (125 miles) north of the regional capital Kidal, is one of the main gateways into the Adrar des Ifoghas mountains where the rebels have sought refuge after fleeing major towns.”

France says the rebels are also holding hostage in these mountains seven of its citizens, seized in recent years in the Sahara region.

Malian military sources said French and Chad troops had clashed with members of the Ansar Dine militant group in the region around Kidal on Saturday.

French attack helicopters and transport planes carrying special forces left the city of Gao to reinforce the French and Chadian contingent stationed at the airport in Kidal.

The town of Kidal itself is under the control of the pro-autonomy MNLA (Mali National Liberation Alliance) group, which occupied it after Al-Qaida fighters fled six days ago.

France has deployed 5,500 ground troops, fighter jets and armored vehicles in the three-week-old Operation Serval (Wildcat) which has broken the Islamists’ 10-month grip on the towns of northern Mali, where they violently imposed sharia law. —Reuters
No mountain too high

Since the very start of human civilization mankind has been overcoming difficulties and challenges, what opening more and more ways for greater progress. So, mankind has the power to handle any kind of issue for its survival and advancement. That is why man is the smartest creature on Earth.

Truly, we in Myanmar too have difficulties and challenges we are dealing with in our democratization process. Some of these difficulties and challenges may linger till in the future as there is not a single problem-free country in this world. At the same time our present prospects and opportunities are brighter than ever before. We should not fail to grasp them.

But the question here is how are we going to surmount all our challenges and difficulties, and how are we going to make our dreams come true. In fact, we need a force powerful enough to settle all disputes, solve all problems, overcome all challenges and endure all kinds of hardships. This powerful force will make headway in every facet and for our perpetuation.

Yes we do have this kind of powerful force, and it is not other than the internal strength or in other words the united strength of the whole Union. As a heterogeneous society, our first priority is the unity of all the nationalities of the Union. We may have some disputes or disagreements among our brethren. But this does not mean that we lack unity, as we are finding all possible means, enlisting all available forces and employing all helpful ways in our efforts for national integration because unity is the greatest strength and asset for the Union in braving challenges and advancing with might and main.

So, it is crystal clear how important national unity is. With national unity we have no mountain too high and no country too far.
Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann receives guests from World Bank

At the meeting, they exchanged views on close cooperation between Myanmar and World Bank, rural poverty alleviation, development of agriculture and livestock breeding and financial and investment matters.

Together with Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, Hluttaw Committee Chairmen U Aung Than, U Maung Maung Aye, U Thurein Zaw and U Hlay Myint, Secretary U Maung Toe, commission members and officials from the Hluttaw Office were present at the meeting. The World Bank delegation was accompanied by Country Manager Mr. Kyaw Shantrar.

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received Executive Vice-President and Chief Executive Officer Mr. Jin-Yong Cai of International Finance Corporation (IFC) from World Bank at Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw Complex here this noon.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker
Thura
U Shwe Mann receives
Executive Vice-
President and Chief
Executive Officer
Mr. Jin-Yong Cai of
International Finance
Corporation (IFC) from
World Bank.

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives Allen & Overy team

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Sein received a delegation led by Partner Mr Simon Black of Allen & Overy from Tokyo at the meeting room No. 1 of Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Committee, here, this afternoon.

At the call, they cordially discussed legal consultation conducted by Allen & Overy Organization, ways of assistance for legal affairs of assistance for legal affairs in Myanmar, and plans on paper reading sessions and workshops.

Also present were Chairman of Bill Committee U T Khan Myat, members of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Committee U Mya Thein, Daw Than Than Yi, U Tin Win, U Aung Myint Tun, U Hla Hla and official concerned of Hluttaw office.

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—Drugs, rounds of ammunition and sniper were seized in Tachileik Township this morning. The members of local military column, anti-drug squads and Tachileik Township police members seized 9000 WY brand pink methamphetamine, 1,011,000 and 14 ticals of heroin, 200 grams of brown opium, 150 grams of caffeine worth K27,661,250 and Baht 1,011,000 and 14 ticals of jewellery, five small-asetted weapons, 180 bullets, six magazines and one sniper's telescope at Akbarsaykhan village in Lwetawkham village-tract of Tachileik Township, according to the Ministry of Defence.

In Mandalay such festivals are held occasionally on local scale. On 23rd October 1993, the Equestrian Festival made its debut in Yangon after decades of its disappearance. At the Aung San Sports Stadium, downtown Yangon, a week long display and contest of Equestrian Tourneys were held on a state level, providing a golden opportunity for every Myanmar and foreign visitor and resident to view the long forgotten royal pageant and colourful and exciting events.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Allen & Overy team

Drugs and ammunition seized in Tachileik

Pyitho, the month of royal...

(From page 8) Their Mongoloid tradition and custom including equestrian game like gu lee were brought into Myanmar. Historians say Gu-Lee game was mentioned in Myanmar chronicles and literature only in the 15th century, Form Toungoo Period (1486-1599 A.D) to the end of Konbaung Period (1752-1885 A.D) Gu-Lee was the popular game among ruling class.

Court bands composed different forms of verse describing this game in association with equestrian festival. The viruose ratu-poem composer of Toungoo Period Viceroy King Nat Shin Naung composed more than 100 ratu-poems about Gu-Lee games he played with his princely mates. In Myanmar traditional performing arts Gu-Lee game was sung, and mimed in dance. Thirty seven songs of propitiation for after his violent death, songs were sung in praise of his mystery of Gu-Lee game. It's statues have a Gu-Lee stick in one hand and a Gu-Lee ball in the other. These evidences show that Myanmar already had Gu-Lee game long before the British introduced it as polo game to Myanmar.

Royal regalia and equestrian tourney ceased in the colonial period though boat races were held at local pagoda festivals. The British introduced their horse races, building race courses at Yangon and Mandalay for revenue and fundraising many Myanmar wealthy men were ruined due to betting at horse races. New generations of Myanmar people learn about these festivals only from school textbooks.

Joint efforts of the Government and the public how revived these traditional monthly festivals to maintain Myanmar cultural heritage. In Mandalay such festivals are held occasionally on local scale. On 23rd October 1993, the Equestrian Festival made its debut in Yangon after decades of its disappearance. At the Aung San Sports Stadium, downtown Yangon, a week long display and contest of Equestrian Tourneys were held on a state level, providing a golden opportunity for every Myanmar and foreign visitor and resident to view the long forgotten royal pageant and colourful and exciting events.
Saudi Arabia expects 2000 housekeeping workers from Philippines

RIYADH, 4 Feb—Philippine government has approved the recruitment of more than 2,000 housekeeping workers from Saudi Arabia, according to Saudi Al Eqtisadiya newspaper on Sunday.

The workers are expected to arrive soon after the recruitment agencies complete all necessary procedures. Philippine Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Ezzedin Tago told the newpaper.

Saudi families have been waiting for the arrival of their housekeepers since October when the Philippine government lifted its ban on housekeeping workers.

The ambassador said earlier that no workers from the Philippines would be allowed to come to Saudi Arabia without approved working contracts with their employers. He said that the new contract protects the rights of both Saudi families and their workers.

Cuba elects new national, local parliaments

HAVANA, 4 Feb—Over 8.5 million Cubans on Sunday started to cast their votes for the picking of nearly 1,900 members of the country’s new national and provincial legislatures.

They are expected to elect 612 National Assembly members from an equal number of candidates, and select nearly 1,270 delegates to the 15 provincial people’s power assemblies, or the local legislatures, for a five-year term.

A total of 29,942 polling stations were set up across the island nation and are running from 7 am (1am GMT) to 6 pm (2am GMT) on Sunday. The elections involve 14,737 electoral commissions of various constituencies and over 225,000 election of counsels, everyone working in the polling stations.

According to Alina Balseiro, president of the National Electoral Commission (NEC), voters have received necessary training to ensure a smooth voting process, and the voting system was fully tested in a trial run conducted last Sunday. But it showed that some 67 percent of the new National Assembly’s members are expected to be new faces, and nearly half of its members will be female. Mariela Castro, daughter of Cuban President Raúl Castro and Director of the National Centre for Sexual Education (CENESEX), is running for the first time for the national legislature.

According to the Cuban constitution, candidates for the national and provincial legislatures must gain more than 50 percent of all valid votes to get elected.

Cuba’s Electoral Act also stipulates that within 45 days after the National Assembly election, the new Assembly should hold its inaugural meeting and appoint a 31-member Council of State, including its president, for a term of five years.

Incumbent President Raúl Castro is expected to secure a second term at the upcoming meeting. But he would also be his last due to a 10-year limit for any one to hold government offices introduced in 2011 by the ruling Cuban Communist Party.

Raul Castro, 81, is running for the new National Assembly as a candidate representing the municipality of “Second Front” in the eastern province of Santiago de Cuba. His elder brother and former president Fidel Castro, now 86 and retired since 2006, represents the district of Santiago de Cuba city.

Cuba former leader Fidel Castro (R) receives interview after casting his vote during the second phase of the general elections from 2012 to 2013, at the Revolution Square in Havana, capital of Cuba on 3 Feb, 2013. Xinhua

South Africa, Russia to enhance cooperation

JOHANNESBURG, 4 Feb—South Africa’s International Relations and Cooperation Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane on Sunday met with Russia’s Minister of Natural Resources and Environment Sergey Donskoy in Pretoria to explore ways of enhancing cooperation in various fields.

Donskoy is in South Africa to attend a meeting of South Africa-Russia Intergovernmental Committee on Trade and Economic Cooperation (ITEC), according to the South African Government Communication and Information System (GCIS).

The ITEC is a bilateral cooperation mechanism between South Africa and Russia that meets annually in order to strengthen mutually beneficial economic, commercial and social relations as well as technical cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting presents an opportunity for the ministers to follow up on decisions taken during the 11th ITEC meeting held in Moscow in November last year.

The ministers are also expected to finalize priority projects and agreements that will be concluded during President Vladimir Putin’s official visit to South Africa in March.

The agreements under consideration are in the fields of agriculture, education, energy, fisheries, justice, minerals resources, science and technology, and transport.

Donskoy’s visit came as Russia is showing growing interest in the continent’s mining industry. Russian mining companies will take part in this year’s Investing in African Mining Indaba conference scheduled for February, 4 to 7 February in Cape Town, organizers said.

US to give PHL 100,000 dollars for coral damaged by grounded Navy ship

MANILA, 4 Feb—The United States, committed on Sunday to give 4.1 million pesos (about 0.1 million US dollars) for the coral restoration efforts of the Philippines following the recent grounding of the USS Guardian at the Tubbataha Reef in Sulu Sea. A view of damage caused by the USS Guardian accident at Tubbataha Reef, the United States has expressed its regrets and is prepared to provide appropriate compensation to the Republic of the Philippines," a statement released on Sunday by the US Embassy in Manila.

According to the latest assessment by the Tubbataha Reef National Marine Park, over 4,000 square metres of the coral in the park was damaged by the Guardian which belongs to the Seventh Fleet of US Navy, “Through USAid’s (US Agency for International Development) Coral Triangle Support Partnership (CTSP), 4.1 million pesos (100,000 US dollars) will be granted to a Philippine university to support coral restoration research at Tubbataha Reef,” the embassy said. It is said that the amount will cover a study to develop a technical plan for coral reef rehabilitation. At the same time, the US government also planned to offer to fund a site survey for proposed improvements to the existing ranger station on Tubbataha Reef.

“In addition to compensation, the US government is planning a number of activities which will underscore its commitment to Tubbataha’s recovery and the protection of the marine resources of the Philippines,” it added.

The USS Guardian ran aground at the Tubbataha Reef, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, on 17 January, after a port call at the Subic Bay in northern part of the Philippines.——Xinhua
**Sri Lanka accuses international bar of violating visa rules**

KOLKATA, 4 Feb — The Sri Lankan government on Sunday accused four members of the International Bar Association (IBA) of attempting to violate the visa rules of the island nation.

A statement by the External Affairs Ministry said that following the detection of inaccurate information contained in the visa applications of the four member delegation representing IBA, which had unilaterally scheduled a visit to Sri Lanka, the government was constrained to withdraw visas for the four applicants.

In a statement issued on Friday, IBA said it was forced to postpone a visit to Sri Lanka after the visas of its members had been revoked.

The visit was to investigate the impeachment of its members who had been re-elected to the IBA’s Council. The IBA had also expressed concern over the Government’s handling of the Tamil issue.

**Singapore sends delegation for Cambodian former king’s cremation ceremony**

SINGAPORE, 4 Feb — Singapore is scheduled to send a delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam to attend the Royal Cremation Ceremony of the late King Father of the Kingdom of Cambodia, Norodom Sihanouk, on Monday.

The city-state’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on Sunday that during his stay in Phnom Penh, the deputy prime minister will also meet with Cambodian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Hor Nam-hong and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Economy, and Finance Keat Chhon.

**Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen in Kabul for Afghan raids**

KABUL, 4 Feb — Up to four armed Taleban insurgents have been killed and 10 others detained in different operations within the last 24 hours, the Afghan Interior Ministry confirmed on Sunday. During the operations, carried out by Afghan police supporting by army and the NATO-led coalition forces in eastern Kabul and western Herat provinces, the joint forces also found weapons, the statement added.

The Taleban insurgent group, which has been waging an insurgency of more than one decade, has yet to make comments.

Afghan forces and some 100,000 NATO-led coalition troops have intensified cleanup operations against Taleban and other militant groups recently but the insurgents responded by carrying out armed attacks and roadside bombings.

On Saturday, four members of a family and a driver were killed when a vehicle exploded on the roadside planted bomb in southern Helmand province.**—Xinhua**

**People gather around the site of a fire accident in a slum in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 3 Feb, 2013. About 100 shanties were destroyed in the accident, officials said.**

**Indian National Security Adviser Shivshankar Menon talks to the Munich Security Conference on Saturday that the Western construct of labeling India, China and other emerging countries as “re-emerging powers” did not do justice to their history, according to the newspaper.**

Speaking at the first-ever special session on “rising powers and global governance” at the Munich conference, Menon felt he was not sure if this label fit the description of newly rising economic powers like China and India. He said some people feel these countries are in the process of restoring the historical norm in the international power structure.

“Re-emerging powers would be less descending,” he suggested.

He said the notion was largely inspired by Western history that the re-emergence of these countries on the global stage would lead to conflict and dissonance in the global order.

Such concepts were a result of the European experience with the identity of the Westphalia, as four out of five instances of reordering of the balance of power had involved conflicts of massive proportions. This led to the assumption that the rest of the world will follow a similar course, he said.**—Xinhua**

**Four Taleban insurgents killed in Afghan raids**

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**Rescuers search for victims in the debris at the accident site of a suspected boiler explosion in Chittagong, Bangladesh, on 3 Feb, 2013. Two people were killed and six others injured on Sunday morning when a three-story building of a flour products plant collapsed in Chittagong’s Shishu Vatik Village.**

**Cambodian PM meets senior officials from Philippines, S Korea**

PHNOM PENH, 4 Feb — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Sunday afternoon met with Vice President of the Philippines Jejomar C. Binay as he visited Cambodia to take part in the cremation ceremony of the late Cambodian King Father Norodom Sihanouk.

The meeting was made at the capital’s Peace Palace. Binay expressed deep sympathy over the death of the King Father; he conveyed deep regret from the Government and the people of the Philippines to Hun Sen.

In a separate meeting with Hun Sen, South Korea’s Presidential Chief of Staff Ha Kim-lok also expressed condolences over Sihanouk’s death, saying the demise of the King Father was a great loss not only for Cambodia, but also for South Korea and the region.

Hun Sen thanked them for their participation in the cremation ceremony of the King Father, which will be held on Monday evening.

Born on 31 October, 1922, Cambodia’s most revered monarch ruled the country from 1941 to 1955 and again from 1993 until his voluntary abdication in 2004 in favour of his son, the current King Norodom Sihamoni. He died natural-ly and peacefully at the age of 90 in China’s capital of Beijing on 15 October last year.**—Xinhua**

**Workers prepare baskets in the making of the sweet cake “dodol”, a traditional delicacy served during Chinese New Year celebrations, in Tangerang, Indonesia, on 3 Feb, 2013.**

**Chinese communities in Indonesia prepare to celebrate the Year of Snake on 10 Feb, 2013.**

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China to accelerate modernization, boost developmental vitality in rural areas

BEIJING, 4 Feb—China will focus on accelerating agricultural modernization and boosting developmental vitality of rural areas, China’s first policy document said.

The document pointed out that ensuring grain security and supplies of major farm produce will always be the country’s top priority in development of modern agriculture.

The document, issued by the central committee of the Communist Party of China and the State Council at the beginning of every year, is also known as the "No.1 central document.”

This is the 10th consecutive year that the theme of the document has been rural issues.

China will set up a system to guarantee the effective supply of important agricultural products, increase income of the rural population and improve their well-beings, as well as push forward reforms in rural areas, it said.—Xinhua

Nine dead in SW China auto collision

KUNMING, 4 Feb—Nine people were killed after three vehicles crashed into each other early Sunday morning in Kunming, capital of southwest China’s Yunnan Province, according to government sources.

A 2.15-m truck collided with a passenger coach and a tractor on a road section near an expressway, said the press office of the Kunming municipal government.

Nine people on board the bus died at the site, and three other vehicles were also damaged.

No people have been reported injured in the accident.

The cause of the collision is being further investigated.—Xinhua

HK formula hotline receives 3800 calls within 2 days

HONG KONG, 4 Feb—Hong Kong’s hotline for milk formula, which was set up nearly two days ago to assist local parents who have infants and young children to order milk formula, has received more than 3,800 calls and been operating effectively, Secretary for Food and Health Ko Wing-man said Sunday.

Speaking to reporters, Ko said some calls were for enquiries only, and the total number of calls from local parents referred to infant formula suppliers for further processing was around 2,000.

“We will continue to closely monitor the situation of the overall supply and functioning of the retail chain in the next few days, hopefully could ensure that all these families in Hong Kong will receive the formula products they need before the Lunar New Year,” he said.

There has been a severe shortage of some popular brands of baby formula in the Hong Kong retail market recently due to the surging demand of buyers from the mainland. The government on Friday announced a string of measures to ease up milk powder shortage which included limiting the amount of baby formula taken away from Hong Kong to two tins per person.—Xinhua

Get the best out of others when you give the best yourself. —Unknown

New Light of Myanmar
Year of the Snake may smile on Psy, but health woes could bite

South Korean rapper Psy performs during a concert in Bangkok on 28 Nov, 2012.—Reuters

Pitt, Jolie learning Mandarin

London, 4 Feb—Hollywood couple Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie have developed an interest in China and are planning to learn Mandarin.

The language could come in handy as friends of Jolie say the actress wants to adopt yet another child and this time it could come from China, reported Sun online.

Brangelina have also enrolled their six kids for classes in the language as well as Jolie’s father John Voight, so he can help with the homework.

Affleck wins directors award as ‘Argo’ hurls to Oscars

Los Angeles, 4 Feb—Actor-turned-filmmaker Ben Affleck won the top honour from his peers at the Directors Guild of America on Saturday for the movie “Argo”, cementing the Iran hostage drama as a front-runner status for the Oscars.

The Hollywood director’s recognition for Affleck, however, is an awkward result for the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences, which failed to nominate him for Best Director in what is considered one of the biggest snubs of this year’s Oscars.

Since 1948, there have been only six occasions when the Directors Guild of America (DGA) winner has not gone on to win the Oscar for Best Director. “I have nothing but respect for the Academy,” Affleck said af- ter collecting his first DGA award. The Hollywood star, a producer of “Argo”, said he was thrilled the film was nominated for the Oscars’ Best Picture award. “You are not entitled to win anything,” he said.

“Argo” has picked up the top three awards from the industry’s guilds, whose members are also official members of the Academy. Last weekend, the film was the victor at both the Producers Guild and the Screen Actors Guild awards, leaving Steven Spielberg’s Civil War-era epic “Lincoln” in its wake. Affleck also won Best Director at the Golden Globes while “Argo” won Best Drama. The Oscars will be held on 24 February.

On Saturday, Affleck hosted four directors who had all previously won the top DGA honour and gone on to win the Best Director Oscar. It has been a particularly tough awards season for Spielberg, nominated by the DGA for the third time since 1994 and “Lincoln” and a two-time winner for “Schindler’s List” in 1993 and “Saving Private Ryan” in 1999. What an incredible year for movies,” said Spielberg. “Maybe I’ve had moments when I wished it wasn’t such an incredible year.” — Reuters

Demi Moore’s dinner date with Lindsay Lohan’s ex-boyfriend

New Delhi, 4 Feb—Demi Moore enjoyed a late dinner date with her rumoured new love interest on Friday night (01.02.13). The 50-year-old actress—who has three daughters Rumer, 24, Scout, 21, and Tallulah, 18 with her ex-husband Bruce Willis—was spotted dining in West Hollywood with Lindsay Lohan’s ex-boyfriend Harry Morton, 31, despite recently insisting they are just friends.

A source told USMagazine.com: “She looked really very happy,” as she enjoyed a romantic meal with the restaurant owner—who dated Lindsay in 2006—in the back of the restaurant. Demi reportedly looked flawless in a skin-tight dress and high heels, and seemed relaxed as she greeted other people in the club before leaving with Harry at around 10 pm.

The dinner date is the latest in a really good place at the moment and is hopeful about the future.” Demi’s new romance comes just weeks after she split from her toyboy love Vito Schnabel. The 25-year-old art dealer broke off their relationship last month after he became concerned that the attention surrounding their relation-ship would distract from his career. Harry was also previously linked to Jennifer Aniston, whom he reportedly dated briefly in 2010.—PTI

PTI Beyonce sings, reunites Destiny’s Child at Super Bowl halftime show

New Orleans, 4 Feb—Singer Beyonce strutted and shimmied her way through football’s Super Bowl halftime show and thrilled fans by reuniting with her former Destiny’s Child bandmates on Sunday in New Orleans.

Beyonce, wearing a revealing black leather jacket and mini-skirt combination, was surrounded by bursts of fire, smoke and silhouettes as she performed at the Mercedes-Benz Superdome. More than 100 million television viewers were tuned in to the NFL championship game between the San Francisco 49ers and Baltimore Ravens.

The singer called out to the crowd several times during her first songs, “Baby Boy,” to emphasize that she was singing live. On Thursday, Beyonce admitted she sang along with a pre-recorded track of the national anthem at President Barack Obama’s inauguration last month.

The lip-synching controversy threatened to derail the pop singer’s crafty comeback after giving birth to her first child with rapper and husband Jay Z in January 2012. Beyonce will also premiere her self-directed documentary, “Life Is But a Dream,” on HBO on 16 February.

During Sunday’s halftime show, the 31-year-old singer stomped and shook her hips and torso while video of Beyonce dancing was projected alongside her to give the appearance of a choreographed routine.

Beyonce (C) and Destiny’s Child perform during the halftime show of the NFL Super Bowl XLVII football game in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 3 Feb, 2013.—Reuters
New Light of Myanmar

SPORTS

Ski jumping: Takashashi 5th in Sapporo World Cup jump

SAPPORO, 4 Feb — Japanese teenager Sara Takashashi finished fifth in Sunday’s World Cup women’s ski jumping event at Miyamoto hill in Hokkaido.

The 16-year-old local product landed a pair of 86-metre jumps to amass 225.4 points as she missed a World Cup podium finish for the second straight day and the third time this season.

“There may have been something strange with my jumps,” Takashashi said. “I want to review the video until I figure it out.”

Kyodo News

Spain crash out, Czechs through in Davis Cup

LEON, 4 Feb — Top seeds Spain crashed out of the first round of the Davis Cup for the first time since 2006 when Milos Raonic beat Gilles Garcia-Lopez to give Canada an unassailable 3-1 lead in their world group tie on Sunday. The under strength five-times champions had struggled from the start of the tie in Vancouver and Raonic killed them off with a 6-3, 6-4, 6-2 win over Garcia-Lopez to secure Canada’s first ever triumph at this level of the men’s team competition.

Holders Czech Republic public earlier moved into the quarter-finals with Tomas Berdych outlasting Swiss opponent Stanislas Wawrinka a day after the pair competed from a marathon doubles encounter. Berdych enjoyed a comparatively easy 6-3, 6-4, 3-6, 6-7 victory over Wawrinka, to give the Czechs an unassailable 3-1 lead, a day after he and Lukas Rosol edged a punishing seven-hour clash with Wawrinka and Marco Chiudinelli 24-22 in the final set.

Reuters

New Orleans in party mode in lead up to Super Bowl

NEW ORLEANS, 4 Feb — New Orleans was transformed into one massive party on Sunday as the city prepared to host the 47th Super Bowl between the San Francisco 49ers and Baltimore Ravens.

The city’s French Quarter was packed with visiting fans soaking up the atmosphere before the biggest game in American professional sports was due to start at 6:30 ET. Across the country, millions of people were having their own Super Bowl parties in preparation for a game that has all the ingredients of a classic.

The two teams left their hotels in the early afternoon and took a short bus ride through the crowded streets to the Superdome, which will be packed with more than 70,000 spectators for the first time in the 47 years of the Super Bowl, two brothers will go head-to-head for the National Football League championship.— Reuters

Mickelson wins Phoenix Open by four shots

SCOTTSDALE, 4 Feb — Phil Mickelson held off a last-day charge by fellow American and playing partner Brandt Snedeker to clinch his 41st PGA Tour title.

The 43-year-old Californian, who never relinquished his grip after taking control of the tournament with a stunning first-round 60, joined Arnold Palmer, Gene Littler and Mark Calcavecchia as triple winners of the Phoenix Open. Mickelson sank a 14-footer at the 17th for his fifth birdie of the day, then safely two-putted for par at the last before removing his cap and giving a thumbs-up to the fans crammed around the 18th green. “It’s tough,” a beaming Mickelson told Golf Channel after sealing his first win on the PGA Tour since the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am 12 almost a year ago.— Reuters

Barca take point from tricky Valencia trip

MADEIRA, 4 Feb — FC Barcelona dropped just their sixth and seventh points of the season as they were held to a 1-1 draw in Valencia on Sunday night. Although some may be disappointed by the result, the fact is that Barca did well to take a valuable point in one of their most difficult games remaining this season, which came on the back of a draining match in midweek. Either side could have won in a game where both keepers made a series of good saves to stop the final score higher.

Barcelona had the best of the early exchanges in the first half, but were unable to create clear-cut chances, with Gerard Pique going closer. In a fast and furious 45 minutes, Valencia took the lead after 33 minutes through Ever Banega, who drilled home a loose ball from the edge of the Barcelona area. The Argentinian had been criticized for arriving late at training at the end of the week, but was in the right place at the right time to fire past Victor Valdes after Barca failed to clear a cross into the area.

Leo Messi equalized from the penalty spot just six minutes later after Joao Pereira clearly caught Pedro Rodriguez. Messi drilled the ball into the top corner of the net to give Giusa no chance. As the ball drew to a conclusion, Valdes saved well from Jose Guardado, who tried his luck from distance. Barca had the first chance in the second half as Messi worked his magic to set up Cesc Fabregas, who was unlucky to see his shot hit the base of the Valencia post. Barca had played a tough Copa del Rey semi-final first leg away to Real Madrid on Wednesday night and were not at their fluid best and struggled to break down a packed Valencia midfield, although Messi put a dangerous low cross into the Valencia area just after the break.— Xinhua

Jeev slips on final day, finishes 10th in Dubai Classic

DUBAI, 4 Feb — Jeev Milkha Singh slipped on the final day as he surrendered away a good start to manage only an even par 72 that saw him finish tied 10th after being in a position to challenge for the Dubai Classic title here yesterday.

Jeev Milkha Singh

Jeev stayed where he was after three days, at 14-under par, while Stephen Gallacher ended his nine-year wait for a second European Tour title in stunning fashion.— PTI

Spanish teenager Sara Takashashi

New Light of Myanmar

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Use of farming machinery demonstrated in Taikkyi Township

Yangon, 4 Feb—A demonstration on use of farming equipment was held at 18-acre farmland of U Myint Swe in Bham; Head of Yangon Region Agricultural Mechanization Department U Ko Ko, Head of Yangon North District AMD U Naing Min Thu and Head of Township AMD U Tun Tun Oo gave talks on advantage of using farming equipment and demonstrated use of machinery.

Italy’s Alitalia suspends Carpatair flights after accident

Rome, 4 Feb—Italy’s flagship air carrier Alitalia suspended its flights operated by Romanian airline Carpatair after 16 people were injured at Rome’s international Fiumicino airport on Saturday night when a turboprop plane went off the runway during landing in strong winds.

“Alitalia immediately launched an investigation and at the same time suspended all flights operated by Carpatair on behalf of it from Pisa and Bologna to Rome,” the airline company said in a statement.

On Saturday night, an ATR 72 aircraft operated by Carpatair from the Tuscan city of Pisa failed its attempt to land, rolled off and tilted to the right wing with 45 passengers and four crew members onboard. According to Corriere della Sera national newspaper, the airport was hit by strong winds late on Saturday, with only one runway operational, but the precise cause of the accident was unclear. Two of the injured, including one 30-year-old Romanian hostess, were reportedly in serious conditions though not in danger of life.

OBITUARY

AL-HAJ EBRAHIM ISMAIL ARIFF
(75 years)

Al-Haj Ebrahim Ismail Ariff (Padauk Myaing Cafe) only son of Late Al Haj Ismail Ebrahim Ariff & Hajjyi Amina Bi (a) Majaan Bi; grandfather of Amina Bi & Mohamed Razak, his older brother of late Hajjyi Amina Bi (a) Majaan Bi; beloved husband of Hajjiyani Farida Bi Azam Esmaiil; father of Hajjiyani Khatija Bi Ariff-Molvi Hafiz Ismail Bham; Hajjiyani Fatima Bi Ariff; Hajjyi Amina Bi Ariff-Al-Haj Hashim Bham; Hajjiyani Hafiza Najma Bi Ariff; Al-Haj Molvi Hafiz Qari Mohamed Ariff (ASADI) (Shwe Padauk Printing); Haji Hafiz Ismail Ariff; grandfather of Amina Bi & Mohamed Ebrahim; expired on Thursday the 31st January 2013 at 9.10 PM at his residence and buried on Friday 1st February 2013.after Jumma Prayers at Yayway Sunni Garden Cemetery, Yangon.

Bereaved family

Juve move three points clear at top of Serie A

Rome, 4 Feb—Juventus beat Chievo 2-1 to move three points clear at the top of the Serie A table on Sunday. Alessandro Matri put the visitors ahead in the 10th minute, followed by a second just before the break from Stephan Lichtsteiner. Cyril Thereau reduced the arrears for Chievo early in the second half.

Thereau had a chance to level the scores shortly after, but in truth it was a victory the league leaders deserved with Antonio Conte’s side missing Napoli at the top of the Serie A table.

Seedorf dedicates hat-trick to late grandfather

Rio de Janeiro, 4 Jan—Veteran Dutch midfielder Clarence Seedorf scored a hat-trick on Sunday as Botafogo defeated Macae 3-1 in Brazil’s Campeonato Carioca. The 36-year-old dedicated the goal to his father, who died last month.

“I am happy because we maintained our compo­sure and have managed to get a very important win for this club,” the result lifted Botafogo above Vasco da Gama to the top of Group A with 11 points from five games.

New Orleans, 4 Feb—The Baltimore Ravens survived a furious second-half rally by San Francis­co and a momentum sap­ping power outage at the Superdome to defeat the scrappy 49ers 34-31 in the Super Bowl on Sunday.

A Super Bowl record 148-yard kickoff return for a touchdown by Jacoby Jones gave the Ravens a 28-6 lead early in the third quarter but the 49ers scored 17 straight points after a 35-minute power outage and nearly pulled off a stunning comeback.

Trailied 34-29, the 49ers marched down to the Ravens’ seven but failed to score on four tries, surrendering the ball on downs at the five with less than two minutes remaining.

Baltimore used up the clock and on fourth down, punter Sam Koch ran out of bounds in the end zone for a safety with four seconds left.

San Francisco 49ers wide receiver Michael Crabtree (15) can’t reach a pass while being covered by Balti­more Ravens cornerback Jimmy Smith (22) and Ed Reed during the fourth quarter in the NFL Super Bowl XLVII football game in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 3 Feb, 2013. —Reuters

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL
(5-2-2013, Tuesday)

7:00 am  1. Patitta By Venerable Min Gun Sayawd
4:05 pm  14. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
7:25 am  2. Health Programme
5:05 pm  15. Documentary
7:30 am  3. Morning News
5:25 pm  16. Sweet Melody
7:40 am  4. International News
6:00 pm  17. Evening News
7:45 am  5. Nice & Sweet Song
6:15 pm  18. Weather Report
7:55 am  6. Documentary
7:00 pm  19. TV Drama Series
8:10 am  7. Songs of Yester Year
6:50 pm  20. Inda Drama Series
8:25 am  8. Dance of National Races
7:00 pm  21. News
8:35 am  9. 60th Anniversary Union Day Programme
7:15 pm  22. TV Drama Series
4:05 pm  10. “Road to 27th SEA GAMES” (Winshu)
8:00 pm  23. News
4:15 pm  11. Opening Song
7:40 pm  24. International News
5:05 pm  12. Musical Programme
7:45 pm  25. Weather Report
6:00 pm  13. Teleplay (Health)
8:25 pm  26. Bakker World
7:55 pm  27. Documentary
9:00 pm  28. Teleplay
8:45 pm  29. News
9:15 pm  30. India Drama Series

NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
Pyithu Hluttaw approves Disaster Management Bill

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann chairs 13th day meeting of Pyithu Hluttaw. — MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann chairs 13th day meeting of Pyithu Hluttaw.

The Disaster Management Bill which had been sent back from Amyotha Hluttaw was approved by Pyithu Hluttaw today at its 13th day session.

Before the bill was approved, amended paragraphs and sub-paragraphs of the bill were discussed by Pyithu Hluttaw Bill Committee, two representatives, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement U Phone Swe.

The bill has approved to set up a national committee and regional organizations to mobilize the whole people to actively participate in cooperation with INGOs and NGOs at home and abroad in disaster preparedness tasks, rescue and rehabilitation, environmental conservation tasks in the aftermath of disasters.

U Soe Paing of Wintho constituency asked three questions: if there were any gold or precious mineral mining by fraud though application for the mining are mentioned to extract low tax minerals, if there any plan, inspection or directives to be able to avoid such kinds of frauds, and if there any plan to allow manageable level gold panning.

Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung replied that Geological Survey and Minerals Exploration Department of the ministry carried out laboratory tests for the minerals exploration and the ministry granted permission for mining according to the report on the exploration and possibility.

The ministry held joint-management committee meeting every four months and supervised the mining companies and those who closely supervised the mines had to report on the inspection of the mines to do away with the frauds. The ministry could allow manageable-level gold panning in accordance with the Section 19 of the Myanmar Mining Law, he said.

However, the ministry had banned the manageable-level gold panning as small and medium machinery were used in the manageable-level gold panning, doing the environment and without supplying gold to the State, he added.

There were a total of 2539 blocks of manageable-level gold panning across the country.

The ministry decided to ban the manageable-level gold mining on 15 February, 2012, in order to carry out gold mining in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Myanmar Mining Law, to encourage the environmental conservation and to save the river system, to get correct figures for gold extraction, to reduce hazardous impacts from gold mining, to control use of machinery in gold mining and to control the labour problems.

Still, the ministry has not yet allowed the manageable-level gold mining in the country.

During today’s meeting, six questions were answered and one bill was approved.

MNA

Proposal on urging the Union government to cultivate democratic practices in Youth-centered BEHSs approved

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—Sixth regular session of first Amyotha Hluttaw continued for 13th day today. With regard to the question of Dr Min Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No. 2 said, “Ensuring of democratic practices in Youth-centered Basic Education High Schools approved.

Chairman of Public Complaints and Appeal Committee U Aung No. 8 Nyein of Magway Region Constituency No. 2 submitted the proposal on urging the Union government to ensure officials from every level of administrative bodies follow rules and regulations for emergence of clean government and good governance and take stern actions against law breakers and to scrutinize the lack of complaints by the government staff for expulsion from their jobs. Hluttaw decided to record Union government’s undertakings regarding above proposals.

U Khin Hein of Kachin State Constituency No. 2 said, “Ensuring of democratic practices in Youth-centered Basic Education High Schools approved.

Education U Aye Kyu also discussed that proposal and Hluttaw approved it. The meeting continues tomorrow.

MNA

Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills opened

YANGON, 4 Feb—The inauguration ceremony of the Certificate Course in Basic Diplomatic Skills (30/2015) conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held at Wunna Maung Lwin University. Also present on the occasion were Directors-General and responsible officials from every level of administrative bodies abide by law, taking stern actions against law breakers and to control use of staff without any complaint are very important basic factors”.

Five representatives held discussions on the proposal urging the Union government to nurture democratic practices in Youth centered Basic Education High Schools submitted by U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Kayin State Constituency No. 5.

Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu also discussed that proposal and Hluttaw approved it. The meeting continues tomorrow.

MNA

Slight earthquake hits Andaman Islands

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—A slight earthquake of magnitude 4.8 Richter Scale with its epicenter outside Myanmar (Andaman Islands, India Region), about 420 miles southwest of Kaba Aye seismological observatory was recorded at 7 hrs 49 min 24 sec M.S.T today, announced by Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

Dagon, PKNU universities broaden horizon of their scopes

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Feb—Dagon University in Yangon and Pukyong National University (PKNU) in Busan of the Republic of Korea signed an MoU on cooperation in teaching and research works, exchanging students and researchers, cooperation in some areas in which both universities are interested, exchanging students, academic information and collaboration, making field trip which will benefit both universities.

MNA

The New Light of Myanmar

Tuesday, 5 February, 2013