President U Thein Sein receives Chairman of Tokyo-based KEIDENREN (Japan Business Federation) and party

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Feb—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein received a delegation led by Chairman Mr. Hiromasa YONEKURA of Tokyo-based KEIDENREN (Japan Business Federation).—MNA

IMF thoroughly endorses Government’s policies

NLM: Can you give us your comment on the current situation of Myanmar’s financial condition?
IMF: The government has made rapid strides over the last two years. The exchange rate regime has been changed from a peg to a managed float. The financial sector is being gradually modernized, starting with partial deposit rate liberalization and the relaxing of some restrictions on private banks. This year’s fiscal budget was debated in Parliament for the first time, yielding increased spending in critical areas such as health, education, and infrastructure. Laws to support the development goals of the government have been passed, including on land reforms, microfinance, and foreign investment. Discussions on clearing Myanmar’s external arrears are also progressing.

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein receives a delegation led by Chairman Mr. Hiromasa YONEKURA of Tokyo-based KEIDENREN (Japan Business Federation).—MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
( Order No.4/2013)
10th Waning of Pyatho, 1374 ME
(5th February, 2013)

Appointment of Union Minister

Under the section 232 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 12 of the Union Government Law, U Hsan Hsint has been appointed as the Union Minister for Religious Affairs.

Sad/Thin Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Business Federation) from Japan at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace here at 3:30 pm today.

At the call, they cordially discussed human resource and infrastructural development in Myanmar, natural disaster prevention and environmental conservation, cooperation in technology, energy, agriculture, livestock breeding, mining, communications technology and foodstuff production, cooperation in electric power generation through modern Japanese technology and cooperation in industrial sectors through long-term and short-term plans.

Present at the call together with President U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung, Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe, Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint, Union Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Kan Zaw, Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister U Thant Kyaw and officials.—MNA

Myanmar, FAO sign CPF to implement MDGs

Deputy Minister Dr Daw Khin San Yi and FAO Representative Ms Bui Thi Lan exchange notes after signing the Country Programme Framework (2012-2016).—MNA

Present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers U Ohn Than, Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin and officials.

FAO implements the CPF with the Ministries of Agriculture and Irrigation, Livestock and Fisheries and Forestry in order to assist the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Nos.1, 7 and 8.

Deputy Minister Dr Daw Khin San Yi and FAO Representative Ms Bui Thi Lan exchange notes after signing the Country Programme Framework (2012-2016).—MNA

MNA
Union I&P Minister attends opening of anti-corruption workshop

The Union Minister, who is also the Nine-membered State Councilor, attended the opening ceremony of the anti-corruption workshop held at Thiri Yadana Hall in Nyaunglebin.

The workshop was organized by the Ministry of Immigration and Population in collaboration with the Union Department of Immigration and the Union Development Initiatives Limited (SDI). The event was attended by officials from various government departments and regions.

Local Ministry of Immigration and Population and Sustainable Development Initiatives Limited (SDI) jointly organized the anti-corruption workshop at Tongha Puri Hotel yesterday morning, with an opening address by Union Minister for Immigration and Population U Khin Yi. The Union Minister stressed that the government is striving to ensure clean government and good governance and fighting against corruption. The Nine-membered Action Committee Against Corruption chaired by Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham was formed on 8 January. The ministry had conducted two anti-corruption workshops in 2012 and 2013 for high-ranking officials of the department and regions and states. He also urged those present to widely engage in anti-corruption and bribery preventive measures by combining the discussions from the workshop to promote the dignity of the State.

Country Programme Director Mr. John Rennie of Myanmar-based SDI explained the purpose of holding the workshop to fight against corruption and to give suggestions for the ministry. The Union Minister and party enjoyed news, articles, cartoon and wallpapers on show. The five-day workshop sponsored by Aus-Aid lasts till 8 February.

Use of farming machinery demonstrated

Mawlamyine, 5 Feb—The driving demonstration of farming equipment was held at the central agricultural farm in Mudon Township of Mon State on 26 January with the aim of enabling the local farmers to apply the modern farming machinery skillfully.

Heads of Mon State Agricultural Mechanization Department, Mawlamyine District and Township Administration Department U Moe Tun Win, WO Nay Tun and Sgt Tin Lin Tun arrested two motorcycle thieves together with motorcycles stolen from the busy places in Mawlamyine and Ye of Mon State on 28 January.

Beware of Fire

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On the occasion, Township Administrator U Nyi Nyi Aung made an opening address. Altogether 35 trainees attending the course that will last four weeks.

Thieves arrested with stolen motorcycles in Mawlamyine

Mawlamyine, 5 Feb—Police Inspector Khing Than from Mawlamyine District Police Force (Special) Criminal Eradication Section, IP Hsan Win of Myoma Police Station, SIP Naing Naing Win, WO Nay Tun and Sgt Tin Lin Tun arrested two motorcycle thieves.

The department sold farming machinery to the local farmers through installment and in cash systems and banking services provided by Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank.

Moreover, various items of farming equipment are available at the Agricultural Mechanization Stations in Mon State and Agricultural Mechanization Departments.

2013 66th Anniversary Union Day

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Iran’s Salehi says US is changing approach to Teheran

WASHINGTON, 5 Feb — The US military announced on Monday an anti-mine exercise in the “Middle East’s international waterways” in May with more than 20 nations participating, the latest show of global will to keep waterways open as tensions with Iran simmer.

The drill was characterized as defensive and a follow-up to the IMCMEX 12 exercise held last September, focused on keeping oil shipping lanes open by clearing mines that potentially Iran, or even guerrilla groups, might deploy to disrupt tanker traffic.

US, allies ready more anti-mine drills as Iran tensions simmer

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US Army to build soldier “resilience” to fight suicides, violence

TACOMA, 5 Feb — The US Army, grappling with a spike in military suicides, plans to take steps to improve soldiers’ resilience to mental health problems to combat such deaths as well as depression, substance abuse, and violent behaviour, Army Secretary John McHugh said on Monday.

McHugh ordered Army officials to lay out detailed plans by 15 February to boost soldiers’ “physical, emotional and psychological resilience,” but did not reveal program specifics, such as estimated costs or goals.

“Interventions are not coming as soon as I would like to see them,” McHugh said at a conference at Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Washington state. “Taking care of soldiers is one of our top priorities. It is not just a necessity but a moral imperative.”

The announcement came after the US military acknowledged in January that suicides had hit a record last year, outpacing combat deaths, with 349 active-duty suicides — almost one per day.

McHugh said in the order he hopes to eliminate “any stigma or barriers associated with seeking help,” and later acknowledged that there was widespread confusion over the resources available to help soldiers and bureaucratic red-tape.

However, he did not reveal the findings of a year-long review of the Army’s diagnosis and treatment of mental health problems going back to 2001.

UN Security Council reform can no longer be postponed

ROME, 5 Feb — Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Terzi said on Monday he approved the reform of the United Nations Security Council can no longer be postponed so as to reinforce the UN’s credibility as a champion of international peace and security and in laying the solid foundations of a new architecture of collective security.

Terzi made the remarks at a Rome meeting where United Nations members from over 60 countries met to foster political dialogue on the topic of UN Security Council reform, ahead of the resumed discussions in New York over the coming weeks.

At the ministerial meeting, co-chaired by Spanish Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Gonzalo de Benito Secades, Terzi said the world needed a Security Council “with which every UN member can identify” by expanding the number of members to make it more representative in consideration of states’ contributions to the maintenance of international peace and security.

More than 70 member states have never taken part in the UN Security Council in 68 years, and almost 200 countries are represented by only 15 states, five of which on a permanent basis with veto power.

Terzi said increasing the number of countries elected by all the UN members to a rotating seat on the Council would mean greater effectiveness, while an increase in permanent members would run the risk of “crystallizing situations that may not, over time, reflect the balance of international relations.”

US Army soldiers with Charlie Company, 36th Infantry Regiment, 1st Armoured Division head back to their vehicles at the end of a mission near Command Outpost Pa’in Kalay in Maidwand District, Kandahar Province, on 3 Feb, 2013.— Reuters

Three bodies found at Mexico Pemex blast site, toll reaches 36

MEXICO CITY, 5 Feb — Mexican rescue workers found three more bodies over the weekend amid the rubble of a deadly blast that tore through state oil firm Pemex’s main office complex, the government said, as search efforts appeared to near a close.

The death toll from Thursday’s explosion stands at 36, Pemex said via Twitter. Rescue workers had been digging through the last sections of the building’s basement and could soon call off their search. One person was reported still missing.

Attorney General Jesus Murillo said on Friday that it was too early to say if the explosion was due to an attack, an accident or negligence, but he promised results of an investigation in the coming days.

Murillo toured the site on Sunday, but did not publicly comment on the progress of the investigation. Officials have communicated details through social media about the disaster, which struck just before a long holiday weekend.

Rescue workers carry a stretcher with the body of the day 36th victim at the site of an explosion at the headquarters of state-owned oil giant Pemex in Mexico City on 3 Feb, 2013. —Reuters

But the anti-mine exercises are widely seen as a clear show of determination by a broad coalition of states to counter any attempt Iran might make to disrupt Gulf shipping in response to an Israeli or US strike on its nuclear facilities — a form of retaliation Iran has repeatedly threatened.

Central Command said the drill in May, IMCMEX 13, would focus on mine countermeasures, as well as maritime security operations and protecting maritime infrastructure. It did not provide further details.— Reuters

Russia to host G8 summit in Sochi

MOSCOW, 5 Feb — Russia will host the summit of the Group of Eight in the Russian city of Sochi in 2014, Kremlin announced on Monday.

It will be the second time for Russia to host such a high-level meeting. It also played the host to the summit of the G8 in another Russian city of St Petersburg in 2009.

President Vladimir Putin has signed a decree which sets Sochi, a renowned resort on the Black Sea, as a venue of the G8 events after Russia regained presidency in the group, said a document posted on the website of the Kremlin.

Sochi will also be the venue of the Winter Olympics which is to take place in February 2014.— Xinhua

Iran’s Salehi says US is changing approach to Teheran

BERLIN, 5 Feb — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Salehi said on Monday he sees US Vice-President Joe Biden’s offer this weekend of bilateral dialogue between their two countries as a sign of a change in approach to Teheran by Washington.

Iran is embroiled in a long stand-off with big powers over its nuclear programme. Teheran insists its atomic activity is for peaceful energy only while its atomic activity is for military purposes.

The US and other powers suspect it of seeking the United States and other nations to agree to a freeze in its atomic activity is for military purposes over its nuclear programme in exchange for some easing of Western sanctions.

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The US and other powers suspect it of seeking the United States and other nations to agree to a freeze in its atomic activity is for military purposes over its nuclear programme in exchange for some easing of Western sanctions.
Chinese archaeologists have unearthed an unidentified cluster of 102 tombs, 40 percent of which were made for infants, on the Pamirs Plateau in the westernmost part of the country. The tombs, found in Kezilesu Kirgiz Autonomous Prefecture of Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, contain wooden caskets with desiccated corpses, as well as stone ware believed to have been buried as sacrificial items, said Ai Tao from the Xinjiang Archaeological Institute.

“The cluster covers an area of 1.500 square meters on a 20-metre-high cliff, an unusual location for tombs,” Ai said. He added that his team was also very surprised to find such a large number of infant corpses. “But further research is needed to determine why so many people from that tribe died young.” Archaeologists said they have also unearthed a large number of well-preserved utensils made from gourds, some of which were placed inside the caskets.

“The burial custom is the first of its kind to be found in Xinjiang,” said Ai. It is believed that the cluster dates back to the Tang Dynasty (618-907). At that time, economic and cultural exchanges between China and the West flourished via the ancient Silk Road.

“The shape of the felt-covered caskets show that sinic culture had a great influence on the lives of local people’s some 1,300 years ago,” said Yu Zhuyong, head of the Xinjiang Archaeological Institute.

The tomb cluster was discovered amid the construction of a local hydro-power project last year. Kezilesu Kirgiz Autonomous Prefecture was an important pass on the ancient Silk Road. “Xinhuo Pamirs Plateau 1,300-year-old tomb cluster discovered on Pamirs Plateau

Twitter client Carbon for Android now available for download

The app offers a graphically background theme and sports features like the ability to refresh the Timeline by tilting the phone, Swiping up or down from the home screen, and Lists, Favourites and others, conversation view, background updates with quick actions for Jelly Bean (on the notification bar), and Filters for Hashtags, Users, and Keywords.

Dots & Lines said that they wanted to use all tokens for phone users who will be able to experience the full Carbon experience rather than offering an extended or tricked up experience of their phone app on tablets. The app does not support real-time updates at the moment.

Dutch architect to build house with a 3D printer

New Delhi, 5 Feb—A Dutch architect has designed a house “with no beginning or end” to be built using the world’s largest 3D printer, harnessing technology that may one day be used to print houses on the moon.

Janjaap Ruijssenaars, 39, of Universe Architectuur in Amsterdam, wants to print a building resembling a giant mobius strip—a continuous loop with one side—with around 1,100 square metres (12,000 square feet) of floor space using the massive D-Shape printer. The printer, designed by Italian Enrico Dini, can print up to almost a six-metre-by-six-metre square (20-foot-by-20-foot), using a computer to add layers 5-10 mm (a quarter to half an inch) thick.

Ruijssenaars says the building could serve as a home or a museum and would have parts usually made from a concrete-like material printed using broken up rocks and an emulsion binding, while steel and glass would provide the facade.

“It’s our ambition to have the first printed house, this printer has made art or objects for sea defences, but this is the first time to build something that can be lived in,” he told AFP.

“Ruijssenaars said the palace was not initially to print the building but the hi-tech medium turned out to be the most appropriate.

“We started to ask the question if a building could be like the landscape, in order to make a building that would not harm the landscape, or at least learn from the landscape,” he said.

“We analysed that the essence of landscape is that it has no beginning or ending, so it’s continuous, not only the fact the world is round but also water goes into land, valleys into mountains, it’s always continuous.”

A person talks on a mobile phone in front of a HTC advertisement board in Taipei on 7 Jan 2013. Reuters

The former contract manufacturer’s fortunes have been declining sharply since the second half of 2011, as the growing dominance of Apple Inc’s iPhone and Samsung Electronics Co Ltd’s Galaxy range quickly deflated the success of its own brand’s rapid rise. HTC said on Monday that it expects first-quarter revenue of T$50 billion to T$60 billion ($1.69-2.03 billion). That compares with T$60 billion in the fourth quarter and T$56.75 billion a year ago.

Analysts have forecast HTC would earn revenue of T$67.77 billion for the quarter, according to the average projection of 18 analysts polled by Thomson Reuters IBES. HTC also said it expects a first-quarter gross margin of about 21 to 23 percent, flat to lower from 23 percent in the prior quarter, and an operating margin of 0.5 to 1.0 percent, also flat to lower from 1 percent.

The weaker-than-expected first-quarter revenue outlook follows a 91 percent year-on-year slide in the Taiwanese company’s net profit in the fourth quarter that fell short of analyst forecasts. Analysts doubt that 2013 will be a turnaround year for HTC as the strength of its brand lags far behind Apple and Samsung.

Bharti Airtel, Apna Chaupal, voice—PTI

Airtel launches voice-based portal for Value Added Services

New Delhi, 5 Feb—Bharti Airtel on Monday launched a voice-based solution portal for value added services that will provide information in local language on activities such as agriculture, devotion, job updates, entertainment, education and health. ‘Apna Chaupal’, designed for rural and semi-urban market, will enable mobile customers across the country to browse and subscribe value added services by dialling toll free number 88080, the company said in a statement.

"...we are happy to launch the Apna Chaupal service for our customers who can now easily avail all the relevant value added services from a single portal at 58080 without having to memorise the individual dialling numbers of each of the service," Bharti Airtel CEO (Delhi/NCR) Rohit Gothi said.

The service will enable customers to access services like learning agricultural techniques, receive instant updates on “number rates and government jobs, access entertainment services like hello tunes, on their mobile phones with a voice call. For the latest technology news and reviews, like us on Facebook or follow us on Twitter.

Tags: Airtel, Apna Chaupal, voice—PTI

Rosetta

1,300-year-old tomb cluster discovered on Pamirs Plateau

A person talks on a mobile phone in front of a HTC advertisement board in Taipei on 7 Jan 2013. Reuters

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Swiss scientist wins US award for cancer research

WASHINGTON, 5 Feb—Swiss scientist Alex Matter has been awarded the eighth Szent-Gyorgyi Prize for Progress in Cancer Research for his contributions to the development of the first drug specifically targeting a molecular lesion in cancer, the US National Foundation for Cancer Research (NFCR) announced on Tuesday.

The first targeted cancer therapy, imatinib mesylate, or Gleevec, was approved to a major breakthrough in the treatment of Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia (CML), followed by its successful application to other malignant cancers by turning off the signal of the protein causing these cancers.

With Gleevec, the outcome of treating CML went from the dismal and often deadly to a nearly 90 percent long-term survival with little or no side-effects. Matter’s pioneering research in probing the molecular anatomy of tumour cells in search of cancer-causing proteins represents the start of a new era in cancer treatment. Gleevec was the first drug that translated the insights of molecular cancer biology into a highly effective anti-cancer drug, which offered proof that molecular targeting works in treating cancer. The successful development of Gleevec led to a paradigm shift in new cancer treatments. The preclinical research led by Matter demonstrated that it is possible to counteract cancer by specifically inhibiting the activity of key oncogenic molecules, while the impact of the research discoveries was nothing short of phenomenal. Matter’s research made it possible to turn deadly cancers into treatable diseases.

“Alex Matter is the father of targeted cancer therapies,” said Chinese Minister of Health Chen Zhu, who is also chair of the 2013 Prize Selection Committee. “Dr Matter’s leadership in building the synergy between pharmaceutical companies, universities, and research hospitals changed both the way we treat CML and our approach to developing new anticancer drugs.”

The NFCR has a leadership legacy dedicated to funding cancer research and public education relating to cancer prevention, earlier diagnosis, better treatments and, ultimately, cures for cancer.

Since 1973, the NFCR has provided about 300 million US dollars in direct support to discovery-oriented cancer research focused on understanding how and why cells become cancerous, and on public education relating to cancer prevention, detection and treatment.

Chinese scientists Wang Zhenyi and Chen Zhu were granted the seventh Szent-Gyorgyi Prize for 2012 in their innovative research that led to a new therapeutic approach to acute promyelocytic leukemia.—Xinhua

Bank of Baroda falls on earnings disappointment

NEW DELHI, 5 Feb—Shares in Bank of Baroda (BOB.NS) fell as much as 10.12 billion rupees compared with 12.90 billion rupees a year earlier, while non-performing loans increased to 1.12 percent versus 0.51 percent a year earlier.

“Bank of Baroda shares were down 7.34 percent at 2:37 pm.—Reuters

Research in Motion Chief Executive Officer Thorsten Heins is silhouetted during the BlackBerry World event in Orlando, in this file picture taken on 1 May, 2012. Reuters

BlackBerry searching high and low in India, Indonesia

NEW DELHI/ JAKARTA, 5 Feb—Research in Motion Ltd must chart a tough course in its two key emerging markets of India and Indonesia: quickly launch cheaper handsets to woo lower-end subscribers while restoring its tattered brand among the countries’ status-conscious users.

The company, which is rebranding itself BlackBerry after its best-known smartphone, has won millions of followers in these two Asian countries, mostly by selling cheaper handsets and offering service packages as low as $2 a month. So it’s unlikely that the Z10 model introduced last week, which operators in India expect to sell for around $750, will appeal to the users it must reach if it is to build market share.

“It’s clear that not only are India and Indonesia among the largest markets but in terms of future smartphone growth, they’re amongst the ones with the most potential,” said Melissa Chau, senior research manager at technology research group IDC in Singapore. “But the two devices that have been launched are not well aligned to the needs of these two markets.”

While the company does not break down its sales by country, data from IDC shows that Indonesia was BlackBerry’s biggest market outside the United States and Britain last year, while India was ninth.

ABI Research said that BlackBerry accounted for nearly half of Indonesia’s smartphone shipments in 2012. Compare this with a global share of just 5.3 percent.

In both countries, young people are drawn by low-cost handsets allowing them to communicate for free on the BlackBerry Messaging Service (BBM).

Almost all carriers offer services for the device. Indonesia’s XL Axiata Tbk PT, for example, saw a 45 percent jump in BlackBerry subscribers last financial year after offering packages for as little as 20 cents per day.

But this picture is changing rapidly.

The rise of messaging services such as WhatsApp that are not confined to any single operating system and the proliferation of cheap Android devices have diluted the BlackBerry’s appeal.

Mickey Nayaon, a 32-year-old product designer in Jakarta, swapped his BlackBerry for a Samsung phone six months ago and isn’t missing it.

Apple Inc’s iPhone 5 is on sale in the country for $544.

Asus MeMo Pad ME172V tablet comes with 7-inch screen that has a display resolution of just 1024x600 pixels. This tablet runs on Android 4.1 (Jelly Bean) and offers full support for Google Play. It is powered by VIA WM8850 processor clocked at 1GHz which is coupled with a Mali-400 GPU. There is a 1GB of RAM, and an option to choose between 8GB or 16GB of internal storage, which can be expanded to by up to 32GB via microSD.
Merkel tells Spain’s Rajoy she has full trust in his government

BERLIN, 5 Feb—Angelina Merkel told Spain’s Prime Minister on Monday she had full confidence in his government’s ability to push through reforms, brushing aside a growing corruption scandal in Spain which has prompted calls for Mariano Rajoy’s resignation.

The scandal has hit just as 57-year-old Rajoy, who had a reputation for being honest but clueless, appeared to make some headway in tackling the country’s deep financial crisis.

“We have a relation of full trust in the Spanish government,” Merkel told a joint news conference with Rajoy in Berlin, adding she believed Madrid was fully focused on driving down unemployment and pushing through structural reforms.

“I am convinced that the Spanish government and Mariano Rajoy as prime minister will be able to sort out these problems and the German government will support them with all of its powers,” Rajoy repeated his assertion made over the weekend but he did not do anything wrong.

Media reports allege the former treasurers of his People’s Party operated a slush fund with donations from construction industry executives that were then doled out to Rajoy and other party leaders.

Ion’s nuclear advance may be no empty boast

VIENNA, 5 Feb—Iran could be able to make thousands of next-generation uranium enrichment machines, according to a former chief UN inspector, adding credibility to Tehran’s claims of technical advances in its disputed nuclear programme.

As Iran and world powers prepare to resume joint talks this weekend, referring to a centrifuge which is estimated to refine uranium several times faster than those Iran operates today, it has for years been trying to develop centrifuges more advanced than the Russian 1970s IR-1 model it now uses. But their introduction for full-scale production has been delayed by technical hurdles, experts and diplomats say.

They say UN and Western sanctions have limited Iran’s access to special steel, carbon fibre and other components needed to make sophisticated centrifuges in larger numbers.

Iran, which denies supplied with materials needed for manufac- turing new centrifuges years ago when the sanctions on the country were not as strict as now, it was not clear how many of the upgraded centrifuges Iran aimed to put in place at its enrichment Natanz plant, which is designed for tens of thousands of machines. But the wording of a note from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to member states last week implied it could be as many as 3,000. “There are reasons to believe that it (Iran) can manufacture those 3,000 IR-2s,” Hennion told Reuters in an email at the weekend, referring to a centrifuge which is estimated to refine uranium several times faster than those Iran operates today.

Rajoy repeated his assertion made over the weekend but he did not do anything wrong.

Media reports allege the former treasurers of his People’s Party operated a slush fund with donations from construction industry executives that were then doled out to Rajoy and other party leaders.

Two Italian freed in Syria

Moscow, 5 Feb—Two Russians and an Italian have been freed in Syria in exchange for three captured rebels after being held hostage for nearly two months, the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Monday. The ministry said Viktor Gorelov, Abdessatar Hassun and Mario Belluomo, who were taken hostage by rebel forces on 12 December, had been released on Sunday and were in good health.

“This has already been brought to the Russian embassy in Damascus, “the ministry said in a statement on its website. “An Italian citizen who was kidnapped with them, M Belluomo, will be handed over to the Italian authorities through the Syrian Foreign Ministry.”

It said the three had been seized by rebels on the way to the Syrian port of Tartus from the city of Homs. Italian media have said that Belluomo, who was 63 when kidnapped, had been working in Syria as an engineer at a steel plant near the port city of Latakia.

The Russian Foreign Ministry did not say what the two Russians had been doing in Syria, but Russia media have suggested they also worked at the steel plant. Russia is Syria’s main supplier and has long been an ally of President Bashar al-Assad.

Moscow has blocked three UN Security Council resolutions aimed at putting pressure on Assad. It says its departure must not be a precondition for a negotiated settlement of the 22-month-old conflict that has killed more than 60,000 people.—Reuters

Two US schools on lockdown after high school student commits suicide with firearm

HOUSton, 5 Feb—Two public schools in the US state of Oklahoma were placed on lockdown Monday after a high school student killed himself with a firearm, local media reported.

Police confirmed that Coweta High School and Coweta Intermediate High School, in a suburb of Oklahoma city of Tulsa, were on lockdown after a nine-grader committed suicide in a bathroom in the Intermediate High School, according to CBS affiliate KOTV.

“The 15-year-old was found dead of a self-inflicted gunshot wound after police received a report of shots fired, according to the report.”

Police recorded the initial call at 8:35 am, reported the FOX affiliate, Fox23. com.—Xinhua

Two Russian hostages, one Italian freed in Syria

Two US schools on lockdown after high school student commits suicide with firearm

Alabama hostage standoff ends with child safe, gunman dead

FBI Special Agent in Charge Steve Richardson addresses the media near Midland City, Alabama, on 4 Feb, 2013 in this image courtesy of NBC. Authorities killed a gunman holding a 5-year-old boy hostage in an underground bunker in rural Alabama on Monday and placed the child to safety without injury, a local law enforcement official said.—Reuters

Steve Richardson, special agent in charge in Mobile, Alabama. The suspected kidnapper, identified as 65-year-old Jimmy Lee Dykes, had previously allowed authorities to deliver medication, colouring books and toys to the kindergarten student, who is due to celebrate his birthday on Wednesday.

But negotiations deteriorated in the 24 hours before agents entered the bunker, Richardson told a news conference. “Mr Dykes was observed holding a gun,” the FBI agent said. It was not immediately clear how Dykes died.

The standoff gripped a rural corner of southeast Alabama with dread, shut-tering local schools and prompting prayers and vigils for the boy identified only as Ethan.

By all accounts, Dykes had taken him from the bus at random, reinforcing concerns that have been raised about US school safety and gun violence since the December shooting deaths of 20 children and six adults at a Connecticut elementary school.

“Just shows you how close it can come,” one of Dykes’ neighbours, 42-year-old Angie Adams, said of the violence, adding she now plans one day to home school her 2-year-old daughter.

“We waited 10 years to have her and we would be devastated” if something happened, Adams said.

“I just shows you how close it can come,” one of Dykes’ neighbours, 42-year-old Angie Adams, said of the violence, adding she now plans one day to home school her 2-year-old daughter.

“We waited 10 years to have her and we would be devastated” if something happened, Adams said.

Two US schools on lockdown after high school student commits suicide with firearm

MIDLAND CITY, 5 Feb—US authorities stormed an underground bunker in rural Alabama on Monday, safely rescuing a 5-year-old boy held hostage for nearly a week and leaving his kidnapper dead.

After a standoff of more than six days, FBI agents entered the bunker when they feared the child was in “imminent danger” at the hands of his abductor, who had killed a school bus driver, said Steve Richardson, special agent in charge in Mobile, Alabama.

The suspected kidnapper, identified as 65-year-old Jimmy Lee Dykes, had previously allowed authorities to deliver medication, colouring books and toys to the kindergarten student, who is due to celebrate his birthday on Wednesday.

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Venezuela’s Chavez improving after tough cancer fight

HAVANA, 5 Feb—Former Cuban leader Fidel Castro said Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is getting “much better” as he recovers from cancer surgery almost two months ago in Havana, Communist Party newspaper Granma reported on Monday.

Chavez spoke to reporters as he voted on Sunday in Cuba’s parliamentary elections in one of his increasingly rare public appearances.

He said he gets daily reports on the condition of Chavez, who is Cuba’s top socialist ally and benefactor.

“He is much better, recovering. It has been a tough fight but he is improving,” the frail, white-bearded Castro was quoted as saying. “We have to cure him. Chavez is very important for his country and for Latin America,” he said.

Chavez, 58, is battling cancer in the pelvic region discovered in June 2011 by Cuban doctors.

He has undergone four cancer-related surgeries on the communist island, the last a six-hour operation on 11 December in Havana. Castro’s description of Chavez’s condition matches increasingly positive public statements from Venezuelan officials, but the Venezuelan leader has not been seen nor heard from publicly since the surgery.

He was unable to re-

Syrian opposition chief says Assad peaceful exit

BEIRUT, 5 Feb—Syrian opposition leader Moaz Alkhatib urged Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s government on Monday to start talks for its departure from power and save the country from greater ruin after almost two years of bloodshed.

Seeking to step up pressure on Assad to re-

Members of forces loyal to Syria’s President Bashar al-Assad walk with their weapons at Damascus in this handout photo-grah distributed by Syria’s national news agency SANA on 4 February. REUTERS

in his own opposition coa-

Belarus blames West for human rights abuses

MINSK, 5 Feb—Belaru-

The report, entitled “Human Rights Violations in Certain Countries in 2012,” illustrated by facts Malvi Tuaregs seize two fleeing Islamist leaders

KIDMAL, 5 Feb—Tuareg rebels in northern Mali said on Monday they had cap-

A map of Mali is seen at the French military base camp at Timbuktu’s Airport on 3 Feb. 2013. REUTERS

Israeli airstrike on Syrian research centre occurs in cooperation with rebels

DAMASCUS, 5 Feb—Syria’s Defence Minister Gen Fahd Jassem al-Freij said on Monday that the Israeli airstrike targeting a military research centre in Damascus’ suburb last week occurred in coopera-

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MaliTuaregsseizetwofleeingIslamistleaders

KIDMAL, 5 Feb—Tuareg rebels in northern Mali said on Monday they had cap-
tured two senior Islamist insurgents fleeing French air strikes toward the Algerian border and France pressed ahead with its bombing campaign against al Qaeda’s Saharan desert camps.

Pro-autonomy Tuareg MNLA rebels said one of their patrols seized Mohamed Moussa Ag Mohamed, an Islamist leader who imposed harsh sharia (Islamic law) in the desert town of Timbuktu, and Oumneini Ould Baba Akthedm, thought to be responsible for the kidnapping of a French hostage by al Qaeda splinter group MUJWA.

“We chased an Islamist convoy close to the fron-
nor due to gradually hand over to a UN-backed Af-
fican force of some 8,000 troops, known as AFISMA, of which around 3,800 have already been deployed.

Paris and its interna-
tional partners want to pre-
vent the Islamists from us-
ing Mali’s vast desert north as a base to launch attacks on neighbouring African countries and the West.

After meeting French President Francois Holly-

New Light of Myanmar

WORLD

Thursday, 6 February, 2013
Myanmar, Japan focus on further cooperation in investment and economic sectors

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Feb—
Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by Chairman Mr Hiromasa YONEKURA of KEIDENREN (Japan Business Federation) of Japan at Zabuthiri Hall of Hluttaw Complex, here, at 2.15 pm today.

Also present at the call were Chairmen of Hluttaw Committees U Maung Maung Thein, U Thein Swe, U Hla Myint Oo, U Hlay Myint and Secretary U Kyi THa, Committee members Dr Win Myint, U Win Oo, U Win Than and officials of the Hluttaw Office.

The Japanese delegation was accompanied by Japanese Ambassador Mr Mikio NUMATA.

At the call, they focused on further cementing friendly ties between Japan and Myanmar, development of human resources and further cooperation in investment and economic sectors.

Union Border Affairs Minister receives UNDP resident representative

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Feb—
Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thein Htay met a delegation led by UN Coordinator and UNDP resident representative Mr Ashok Nigam, at the ministry, here, this morning.

Both sides discussed relief and rehabilitation of affected two communities in Rakhine State, development of second national level sustainable development workshop, holding of IMF to help with crucial policies for macroeconomic stability

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Feb—
Can Myanmar really create an economic miracle and become the next tiger of Asia?

When she regained independence in 1948, Myanmar was expected to become the fastest-growing economy of Asia, but the result was the reverse. But again Myanmar is at a turning point along with drastic reforms put in place by the civilian government with opportunities and challenges awaiting us to be taken and tackled.

“Y a m m a n h a s embarked on a historic set of reforms to modernize and open up its economy. Manage well these reforms will facilitate strong and inclusive growth that reduces poverty,” remarks resident representative Mr Ashok Nigam, at the IMF Mission Chief Meral Karasu at the conclusion of his visit in last November.

Anoop Singh, Director of IMF Asia and Pacific Department as he met the press at Myat Mingala Hotel in the capital this noon, says, “We’ll help with crucial policies to make sure macroeconomic stability.”

Economics seems to be a closed book to most of the young journalists there who asked only a few questions about information in the media handout and most of the questions not much differ from each other.

It has recommended granting the Central Bank of Myanmar autonomy and price stability and decreased deficit monetization, improving the public financial management and reforming exchange rate system and the Myanmar government has adjusted the exchange rate in particular, says the IMF. IMF will also help with capacity building of government officials from financial sector and share the best practices from global countries. Myanmar has great potential to become the next economic engine of the region, but still has a long way to go, says IMF.

Union EP Minister, Vice President and CEO of IFC discuss cooperation in development of electric power

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Feb—
Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe received a delegation led by Executive Vice President and CEO Mr Jin Yong Cai of International Finance Corporation (IFC) of World Bank at his office, here yesterday and discussed cooperation in development of electric power sector.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers U Myint Zaw and U Aung Than Oo, departmental heads and officials.
Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Thai Supreme Commander, D-G of Israeli Ministry of Defence

Photo shows outbreak of fire at oil tankers in Hline Township.—NLM

**IMF thoroughly endorses…**

These reforms are already bearing fruit. Growth is expected to accelerate to around 6% percent in FY 2012/13, bolstered by foreign investment in natural resources and exports of commodities. Inflation has declined markedly and should remain moderate at around 6 percent next year. Meanwhile, the exchange rate has been stable in recent months, with international reserves increasing to US$4 billion.

**IMF:** The IMF thoroughly endorses the Government’s policies and, in coordination with other development partners, is supporting the Government in implementing them. This support will include hands-on technical advice from experts based in Myanmar and training and advice from experts based in our regional technical assistance office based in Bangkok.

**NLM:** IMF: IM is assisting some countries to get out of its monetary crisis. How can Myanmar avoid this kind of crisis and what are the measures that Myanmar should undertake to get constant financial stability? **NLM:** IMF: A key element of maintaining financial stability is ensuring that policies are credible and enjoy the confidence of the population. A clear vision that is clearly communicated provides confidence to the domestic and international private sector and builds credibility of reforms. Reforms therefore need to be designed in a structured and sequenced manner. They also need to be transparently communicated to a wide range of stakeholders who should be given the opportunity to contribute to policy development. Finally, open monitoring of progress is needed so that the public and the private sector can observe successes and adjust to any slippages in the reform process.

**NLM**
**NEAR EAST**

**Pirates**

**hijack French tanker off Cote d’Ivoire**

ABIDJAN, 5 Feb—A French tanker with 17 crew members on board was hijacked off Cote d’Ivoire, adding to reports of increasing piracy in the oil-rich Guinea Gulf, according to information reaching here on Monday.

The Luxembourg-flagged vessel went missing on Sunday, sparking fears of the nations of the region encircled by many other vessels ending in the hands of pirates being active off the West African coast.

The France-based SEA Tankers identified the missing ship as the M/T Gascon, saying the company is committing to ensure the safety of both the vessel and its crew.

Cote d’Ivoire’s port authority said it held an emergency meeting to discuss how to deal with the “hijacking.”

The attack was among the latest reported in the past week, during which at least three other attacks hit the headlines.

Pirates and armed robbery in the Gulf of Guinea, running from Guinea on Africa’s northwestern tip to Angola in the south, have been increasing in recent years, with Nigeria, Africa’s largest oil producer, recording 293 cases of sea robbery and pirate attacks between 2003 and 2008.

Despite eastern rise, Europe, Arab world need each other

DUBAI, 5 Feb—While the economic rise of East Asian nations, Europe and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) countries shall not neglect each other as they face similar economic challenges, experts said at a MENA forum on Monday.

At the two-day MENA Economic Forum which ended on Monday at the American University of Sharjah, a lively debate erupted among experts from the east and west on challenges and opportunities in the aftermath of the Arab unrest, Arvadun Asilani, a French lecturer and attorney specialized on MENA, said the US government’s interest in Europe was declining in favor of East Asian geopolitics. The United States is poised to overtake Saudi Arabia as the world’s largest oil producer by 2020, while Europe will remain vastly dependent on the “black gold” from Arab countries.

This would implicate that both regions on the backdrop of the crises must intensify their relations and avoid solely relying on increasing trade with East Asia, he added.

Jack Lang, the president of Paris-based Arab World Institute and former French culture minister, said the challenges both MENA and Europe were facing were quite similar.

“The Arab world and Europe strive for stability through prosperity,” he said, urging both regions to look at South Korea as an example about how a once poor nation can transform itself into a global economic powerhouse.—Xinhua

Yemen sentences 17 Somali pirates to 10 years in prison

SANAA, 5 Feb—A Yemeni court in the south-eastern coastal city of Mukalla on Monday sentenced 17 persons to 10 years in prison after convicting them of piracy in Yemen’s territorial waters in the Gulf of Aden.

Saba did not provide details on the date of their arrest.

The Yemeni authorities have arrested dozens of Somalis over charges of piracy throughout the past two years.

In May 2012, Yemen said it captured 14 Somali pirates off the country’s island of Socotra in the Gulf of Aden.

About 25,000 ships pass through the Gulf of Aden every year. The water off the northern coast of Somalia is ranked as the highest-risk area of piracy in the world.—Xinhua

Weekend bomb explosion kills one person, injures five in central Uganda

KAMPALA, 5 Feb—A bomb explosion over the weekend killed one person and injured five others near a military installation in Kaweweta in the central Ugandan District of Nakaseke, a police spokesman said here on Monday.

Lamec Kigozi, police spokesperson for central Uganda, told Xinhua by telephone that the device, suspected to be a bomb exploded on Saturday night as 20 men were burning charcoal.

“The six were burning charcoal. They were shocked when the device went off due to excessive heat. The device exploded killing one person on spot and injuring five others,” said Kigozi.

“The five were rushed to Nakaseke Hospital in critical condition,” he said.

He added, “We have launched the investigations to establish the device. It’s highly suspected to be a bomb which was left behind during the bush days.”

Nakaseke was the epicenter of the war in the 1980s that brought the country’s current President Yoweri Museveni into power after launching a five-year war.

During that time a lot of ammunitions were buried by the rebels as they moved place to place fighting government troops.

The police said the Saturday explosion is not linked to the terror threats faced by the country from the Somali militants, Al-Shaabab.

Over 80 people were killed in twin bomb explosions that rocked Kampala, Uganda’s capital in July 2010.—Xinhua

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Obama says assault weapons ban deserves a vote in Congress

MINNEAPOLIS, 5 Feb—President Barack Obama pressed Congress on Monday to at least hold a vote on banning assault weapons, the most contentious part of his plan to curb gun violence in the United States. Obama’s comments suggested a realization in the White House that it will be difficult to get such a ban passed by lawmakers, despite consistent public support for the measure.

Opposition is high in Congress, including among some Democrats, and by calling simply for a vote, Obama seemed to acknowledge that even getting that far—let alone having an assault weapons ban approved—would be a struggle.

“We should restore the ban on military style assault weapons and a 10-round limit on ammunition magazines,” Obama said. “We should move quickly on gun control before memories fade of December’s shooting at Newtown, Connecticut, that killed 20 children and six adults.”

A vote in Congress on the assault weapons ban might be held separately from other gun control measures.

Senator Dianne Feinstein has said Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid promised that even if the ban is left out of a broader package to curb gun violence, she will have the opportunity to offer it as an amendment on the Senate floor.

Obama seems to acknowledge that even getting that far—let alone having an assault weapons ban approved—would be a struggle. But if there’s even one thing we can do, if there’s just one life we can save, we’ve got an obligation to try,” Obama said.

With a busy agenda that includes immigration reform and climate change, Obama hopes to move quickly on gun control before memories fade of December’s shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, that killed 20 children and six adults.

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REUTERS

A police officer’s gun sits in its holster as US President Barack Obama speaks about ways to reduce gun violence during a visit to the Minneapolis Police Department Special Operations Centre in Minneapolis, Minnesota on 4 Feb, 2013.—Reuters

**UN starts delivery of safe water supplies for 10 million people in Syria**

UNITED NATIONS, 5 Feb.—A large-scale operation under way in Syria to secure safe water supplies for more than 10 million people—close to half the population—was reviewed by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) on Monday.

The UNICEF announcement came amid growing concerns that quality of water is continuing to deteriorate with negative impacts for children’s health.

“This shipment is very timely as supplies of chlorine in Syria have fallen dangerously low, making access to safe water challenging for many families,” said Youssouf Abdel-Jelil, the UNICEF representative in Syria.

“The puts the population—and children especially—at high risk of contracting diarrhea and other water-borne diseases,” he said. The first four trucks carrying 80,000 litres of hypochlorite water chlorination supplies crossed the Jordanian border into Syria on Sunday, heading for Aleppo, Hama, Idlib and Homs.

About 420,000 people—half of them children—need urgent humanitarian assistance, the UNICEF said last week, following a recent inter-agency mission to the Middle East country, which suffered from a political crisis and subsequent violence since March 2011.

Over the coming weeks, UNICEF, in coordination with the technical department of the Syrian Ministry of Water Resources and the Syrian Arab Red Crescent, will deliver 1,200,000 tons of chlorine to cities and communities across all 14 governorates in Syria.

Xinhua

**People walk on a snow-covered road in Moscow, capital of Russia, on 4 Feb. 2013. A heaviest snow hit Moscow Sunday, causes several flight delays in Moscow Airport.—Xinhua**
Thai PM visits Cambodia to attend Sihanouk’s cremation ceremony.

Pirom Pensi, 5 Feb—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Monday met with the Cambodian King Father Norodom Sihamouk. The meeting was held at the capital’s Peace Palace. On behalf of the Government of Thailand and Thai people, Yingluck offered her condolences to Hun Sen over the demise of former King Sihanouk. She also expressed her gratitude to Prime Minister Hun Sen for asking Cambodian King Norodom Sihamouk to grant a royal pardon to a Thai “yellow-shirt” activist Ratree Pippedapaboon and to reduce jail term by six months for another Thai Patriots Network activist Veera Somkwan Nid. Cambodia released Ratree and reduced the jail term for Veera last Friday to mark Sihanouk’s funeral. The duo was sentenced by Cambodian court to six years and eight years in prison respectively for unlawful entry into military base and espionage. During the meeting, Hun Sen thanked Yingluck for her visit to Cambodia to attend Sihanouk’s cremation ceremony, which will be held this Monday evening.

Sihanouk ruled Cambodia from 1941 to 1955 and again from 1993 until his voluntary abdication on 7 October, 2004 in favor of his son, the current King Norodom Sihamouk.

Hun Sen expressed his deep sympathy to the prevision of King Father. He also said that the King Father had actively contributed to developing bilateral ties between Laos and Cambodia. In a separate meeting, Nguyen Tan Dung, on behalf of the Vietnamese government and its people, extended his deep sorrow to Prime Minister Hun Sen over Sihanouk’s death.

On Monday, Hun Sen also met with Japan’s Prince Akishino who came to attend Sihanouk’s cremation ceremony.

Cotabato, 5 Feb—Five people were wounded in a bomb blast outside a restaurant on Monday in the southern Philippine Province of Lanao del Norte, local official said. A homemade explosive hidden in the compartment of a motorcycle went off around 11:00 am local time in front of a hotel in the town of Togonon in Lago del Norte, Northwestern Mindanao regional police spokesman Ronnie Francis Cariaga said.

Five civilians who were out to eat the restaurant were injured with one in critical condition. Investigations are ongoing to determine the nature of the incident.—Xinhua

Philippine gov’t vows to go after private armed groups.

Manila, 5 Feb—The Philippine government assured on Monday that it would go after politicians who maintain private armed groups as the country prepares for the midterm election this May.

The campaign of the Philippine National Police (PNP) to dismantle private armed groups and account for all loose firearms continues to make the upcoming election safe and orderly, Philippine Presidential Spokesman Edwin Lacierda said at a Press briefing on Monday.

“With the government to go after all those individuals who are holding lose or unlicensed firearms. Disbanding private armed groups is part of the directives of the President,” he said.

Lacierda said that the PNP will strengthen the security in areas where private armies and the proliferation of unlicensed guns continue to exist.

It is prevalent that key politicians have their private armed teams, which are behind many violent cases during the election periods.

Survey shows Singapore 6th most expensive city to live in.

Singapore, 5 Feb—Singapore now ranks the sixth most expensive city to live in among all cities in the world, up 3 places compared with the previous ranking, a survey conducted by The Economist Intelligence Unit showed on Monday.

The top five cities are Japan’s Tokyo, Osaka, Australia’s Sydney, Norway’s Oslo and Australia’s Melbourne, almost all cities in Asian countries or Australia. The survey said “one of the features of the cost-of-living ranking over the last few years has been the rise of many Asian cities offsetting traditionally

5.1-magnitude quake hits Izu Islands, Japan region.

Hong Kong, 5 Feb—An earthquake measuring 5.1 on the Richter scale jolted Izu Islands, Japan region at 23:04:18 GMT on Sunday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicenter, with a depth of 48.80 km, was initially determined to be at 29.3302 degrees north latitude and 141.8019 degrees east longitude.

A local resident rides a bike on a road covered with grapefruit, or snow pellets, in Zhengzhou, capital of central China’s Henan Province, on 5 Feb, 2013. Grapefruit, a 2.5-millimeter ball of rime, is formed when super-cooled droplets of water are collected and freeze on a falling snowflake.—Xinhua

Tourists take photos with the statue made of flowers on the Sentosa Island, Singapore, on 4 Feb, 2013. The flower show on the Sentosa Island to celebrate the Spring Festival opens from 9 to 17 February.—Xinhua

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Xinhua

Xinhua

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**Invitation**

Textile Industries, Ministry of Industry is producing yam, grey fabric, dyed and printed fabric, vest, t-shirt, sport-shirt, garment, mosquit net and looks from the following factories.

(a) No. (1) Textile Factory (Shwedaung)
(b) No. (1) Textile Factory Branch (Mayangone)
(c) No. (2) Textile Factory (Paleik)
(d) No. (2) Textile Factory Branch (Myingyan)
(e) No. (3) Textile Factory (Sagaing)
(f) No. (3) Textile Factory Branch (Sagaing)
(g) No. (4) Textile Factory (Pwint Pyu)
(h) No. (5) Textile Factory (Pakokku)
(i) No. (6) Textile Factory (Salay) 2
(j) No. (6) Textile Factory Branch (Monywa)
(k) No. (7) Textile Factory (Myittha)
(l) No. (7) Textile Factory Branch (Wundwin)
(m) No. (8) Textile Factory (Pyaywbre)
(n) No. (8) Textile Factory Branch (Yamethin)
(o) No. (9) Textile Factory (Kyanu)
(p) No. (9) Textile Factory Branch (Insein)
(q) No. (10) Textile Factory (Taungtha)
(r) No. (11) Textile Factory (Pakokku)

Contact person: Director, Material Planning Department
Textile Industries Ministry of Industry Building No. (37), Nay Pyi Taw.

Phone: Office - 95(67) 408070.408338
Fax: 95 (67) 408185

Email: amog912@email.com

Dated 06 February, 2013.

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**Announcement**

Under the auspicious of Myanmar Seamen’s Federation, Teatime Table Talk on “Job opportunity for Myanmar Seamen” will be held at Yuzana Hotel on 17th February 2013 (Sunday) from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM. Captain Dr. Tin Hlaing will act as moderator.

All seamen are invited to participate in the discussion.

Refreshments will be served.

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**Myanmar Seamen’s Federation**

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**Four civilians killed in N Afghan blast**

GARISSA, 5 Feb.—Unknown assailants on Monday evening shot dead a police officer in the latest incident in the restive northeastern Kenyan town of Garissa.

Divisional police command George Loski confirmed the 7.30 p.m. (1630GMT) incident, saying the slain Administration Police officer who is a Sergeant and based in Dadaab town was ambushed by two improvised Explosive Device (IED) went off in a tea stall at around 10:30 am local time on Tuesday, provincial police chief Nabi Jan Mulakhil told Xinhua.

More than 30 security officers and scores of civilians have been killed, many maimed and property worth millions were destroyed in Mandaer, Wajir, Garissa, Nariobi and Mombasa since the Kenyan soldiers entered Somali figures.

The latest incident caused anxiety in the busy restive Garissa town as residents who feared for their lives retreated to their homes early in the evening. The incident also forced security forces to close amid fears of an impending security operation in the area.

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**Gunmen kill police officer in northern Kenya**

The injured were shifted to hospital in the district in the province 425 km northwest of capital Kabul, he said.

The obvious target of the attack was Mohammad, who was also a local elder, the police official said, adding two suspected men were detained in connection with the attack.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack so far.

Afghan officials and pro-government figures have repeatedly been targeted by the militants over the past years as the Taleban insurgents intensified activities against government interest across the country.

In January, a district police chief and an administrative district chief had been killed in two separate attacks in the country’s Kaspa and Farah provinces.

In the conflict-ridden Afghanistan, civilians have mostly borne the brunt of conflict over the past three decades of instability as more than 3,400 civilians lost their lives in conflicts in 2012 in central Asian country, according to Afghan officials.

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**Four killed, 11 injured in car accident in Egypt**

CAIRO, 5 Feb.—At least four people were killed and 11 injured Monday in a car accident in Upper Egypt’s Minia governorate, about 220 km away from the capital Cairo, official news agency MENA reported.

The accident took place when a vehicle loaded with black oil overturned on a desert sub-road, causing a microbus to turn over as its driver lost control of the wheel due to the spilt oil.

The accident killed the microbus driver and three passengers and injured eleven, who were all taken to the nearest hospital.

On Saturday, three were killed and 11 others injured in a car accident in Qalyubya governorate in northeastern Egypt, when a overspeed microbus collided with a van. On the same day, two others were killed in similar car accidents in Fayoum and Hurghada, respectively.
Robert De Niro cements place in Hollywood movies

LOS ANGELES, 5 Feb — Double Oscar winner Robert De Niro cemented his place in acting history on Monday by placing his hands and feet in concrete in front of Hollywood's historic Chinese Theatre. De Niro, 69, gave a short talk you speak with a few punches of his own. “(Actor) Joe Pesci always said I’d end up with my feet in cement. I don’t think this is what he had in mind,” said De Niro, referring to the many gangster movies he has filmed over his 40-year career. “They say everyone in the film industry has three homes — the home where they live, the home where their first wife lives, and Hollywood. I love New York, and I’m proud to be a citizen of Hollywood. Thank you for this honor and thank you for making me feel at home here,” he said. De Niro, who founded the Tribeca Film Festival in 2002 in a bid to revive lower-Manhattan after the 11 Sept, 2001, attacks, is in the running for a third Oscar this month for his supporting role in comedy “Silver Linings Playbook.”

Bradley Cooper thinks his life is getting “crazier”

NEW DELHI, 5 Feb—Silver Linings Playbook actor Bradley Cooper—who is nominated for a Best Actor Oscar—feels that his life is getting eventful and admits he just trying to enjoy living in the moment during the run up to the prestigious awards ceremony on 24 February. He told People.com: “It just gets crazier and crazier.” The 38-year-old heartthrob also insisted that he isn’t heartbroken after allegedly being dumped by model Laura Simpson recently because he was obsessed by her feet, and that he was only in contact with her through his co-star Jennifer Lawrence. He said: “It’s been quite a week. Apparently I’m shirtless in Hollywood since 1972.

Akimoto wins Annie Award for music for “Wreck-It Ralph”

LOS ANGELES, 5 Feb—Japanese lyricist Yasushi Akimoto on Saturday was among the six recipients of an Annie Award for music for Disney’s “Wreck-It Ralph,” which was named the best animated film for 2012. Akimoto, also a record producer and creator of some of Japan’s top idol groups including the AKB48 franchise, wrote Japanese lyrics to be sung by AKB48 when the film hits Japanese screens on 23 March. The five other winners of the music prize were Henry Jackman, Skrillex, Adam Young, Matthew Thiessen and Jamie Houston. Rich Moore was named best director for the animated comedy in which a video game villain dreams of being a hero, while Alan Tudyk won the Annie for voice acting.

Oscar night to have something for everyone, producers say

BEVERLY HILLS, 5 Feb—With a high five from 9-year-old actress Quvenzhane Wallis, and a pledge that Oscar night will have something for everyone, the Academy Awards kicked into high gear on Monday at a luncheon for more than 160 nominees. Jennifer Lawrence, Steven Spielberg, Jessica Chastain, Naomi Watts, Joaquin Phoenix, Kathryn Bigelow, Anne Hathaway and Denzel Washington were among the Oscar-nominated actors, directors and producers who mingled over cocktails and lunch at a Beverly Hills hotel before gathering for the traditional group photo of the Academy Award class of 2012. “Beasts of the Southern Wild” newcomer Wallis, the youngest actress ever to be nominated in the lead actress category, slapped hands with Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences President Hawk Koch as her name was called to join her peers for the annual photo ahead of the 24 February ceremony.

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Phil Johnston and Jennifer Lee won the screenplay award. The Annies have been presented by the Los Angeles branch of the International Animated Film Association, ASIFA-Hollywood since 1972.

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**Flacco confident of new deal after Super Bowl triumph**

**NEW ORLEANS, 5 Feb** — Super Bowl Most Valuable Player Joe Flacco heads into new contract negotiations with the Baltimore Ravens in the strongest position of all — as a Super Bowl winner.

Flacco has just completed the last of his five-year rookie deal with the Ravens but, after leading his team to victory over the San Francisco 49ers, says he expects a new deal to be reached. “I’m pretty optimistic but who knows? There are all kinds of crazy things that can happen with these contracts that we have all seen before but this is a great organization,” he told a news conference on Monday.

“I love being in Baltimore, a great city, so I don’t really anticipate any problems.” Under National Football League rules, if a new long-term deal is not struck with the quarterback, the Ravens could secure Flacco for an additional year by placing a franchise tag on him. That is reported to be around $14.6 million for the season or around $20 million for an “exclusive” tag which would stop teams from bidding for his services.

Ravens’ Super Bowl win a boon for Vegas profit

**MADRID, 5 Feb** — Spanish BBVA Primera Liga club, FC Mallorca this Monday decided to sack coach Joaquin Caparros following a disastrous run of results. Sunday’s 3-0 defeat away to Real Sociedad means that Mallorca have won just one of their last 17 matches, taking just six points from a possible 51. Caparros leaves Mallorca with the club second from bottom of the BBVA Primera Liga with just 17 points from 21 games and four points from safety.

The most worrying thing for Mallorca is that the club had enjoyed a positive start to the campaign and was in the top-four with 11 points from their first five games of the campaign. The club were then hit by a series of injuries, but with the majority of the squad available results have failed to improve and the club confirmed the decision to sack Caparros, who replaced Michael Laudrup last season, making him the sixth Primera Liga coach to be sacked this season.

Mallorca sack coach Joaquin Caparros after dreadful run of results

But Flacco’s outstanding post-season form makes it hard to imagine the Ravens’ ownership would not come up with a long-term contract and probably one which would make him among the best paid in the league.

Murray calls for more blood testing

**LONDON, 5 Feb** — Olympic champion Andy Murray is demanding more blood testing in tennis to avoid the kind of damaging doping scandals that continue to plague cycling. World number three Murray, runner-up at last month’s Australian Open to Novak Djokovic, feels the sport’s authorities need to invest more heavily in anti-doping programmes, even if it means siphoning funds from players’ prize money.

“I’ve been asked a lot lately if tennis is clean or not but I don’t know how you judge if a sport is clean,” Murray told reporters on Monday at Queen’s Club in west London. “If one in 100 players is doping, in my eyes that isn’t a clean sport.

“We need to do everything we can to ensure that everyone competing at the highest level and below is clean. “That comes with biological passports and more blood testing. I know the training that I do and I know what goes in and out of my body and I know from my side that I’m clean and I hope that’s the same for all tennis players.”

Doping in sport has come under close scrutiny following the Lance Armstrong scandal. The American cyclist was stripped of all seven of his Tour de France titles last year following an investigation by the United States Anti-Doping Agency.

**But Flacco’s outstanding post-season form makes it hard to imagine the Ravens’ ownership would not come up with a long-term contract and probably one which would make him among the best paid in the league.**

Rafael Nadal could be vulnerable — 11-times grand slam champion Nadal has been trampled into the dirt by the public will be expecting a qualifier in the clay-court event.

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Nadal (L) before a training session at country club Las Salinas in Vina del Mar City, about 121 km (75 miles) northwest of northwest of Santiago, on 4 Feb, 2013.

**Spanish tennis player Rafael Nadal is assisted with his knee bandage as he talks to his uncle and coach Toni Nadal (L) before a training session at country club Las Salinas in Vina del Mar City, about 121 km (75 miles) northwest of northwest of Santiago, on 4 Feb, 2013.**

**New Light of Myanmar**

**Wednesday, 6 February, 2013**

**SPORTS**

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Entered Sunday’s game as 3-hop hoping for the 49ers, who in Las Vegas were initially $13 million in 2007. Casinos est since pocketing nearly kept last year and the high figures showed. That was lion from Super Bowl bets, kept a combined $7.2 mil-

Nevada sports books according to the Nevada Gaming Control Board.

...last year’s Super Bowl bet-

NFL Super Bowl XLVII —

San Francisco 49ers in the

Baltimore Ravens upset

...the 49ers in their NFL Super Bowl XLVII on 3 Feb, 2013.

**Baltimore Ravens inside linebacker Ray Lewis hoists the Vince Lombardi Trophy as he celebrates victory over the San Francisco 49ers in their NFL Super Bowl XLVII football game in New Orleans, Louisiana, on 3 Feb, 2013.**

**Andy Murray**

**Xinhua**

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Brazilian state fines builders over World Cup stadium faults

SAO PAULO, 5 Feb — The company in charge of preparing the Mineirao stadium for the 2014 World Cup was fined one million Brazilian reals ($502,900) on Monday for a series of serious shortcomings which became apparent when the stadium was reopened last weekend. The stadium in the state capital Belo Horizonte, also a venue for this year's Confederations Cup, hosted the Cruzeiro-Atletico Mineiro derby on Sunday but problems were identified with access points, car parks, bars and water supply.

“We were able identify some faults that are normal, like the issue of access, parking,” state government official Tiago Lacerda said in a statement. “They are faults that easily corrected, but we had grave faults in relation to the bars, lack of water. For this reason we are going to hand down a fine of one million reals,” Lacerda, head of the state’s special secretariat for the World Cup (Secopa-MG), said.

State governor Antonio Anastasia told the consortium to take steps to ensure everything worked properly for the next scheduled matches, starting with Cruzeiro’s state championship meeting with America on Wednesday.

“At least one killed, five injured in car bombing in northern Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 5 Feb — At least one was killed and five wounded in a suicide car bomb explosion targeting the Iraqi police near a prison north of Baghdad on Tuesday, an Interior Ministry source told Xinhua.

The attack occurred around midday when a suicide bomber blew up his explosive-laden car near a police patrol outside the entrance of al-Hot prison in Taj al Ali, some 25 km north of Baghdad, the source said on condition of anonymity.

The toll could rise as ambulances and police vehicles are evacuating the victims, as the Iraqi security forces sealed off the area to secure the scene, the source said.—Xinhua

Melo criticizes Isner after US Davis Cup win

RIO DE JANEIRO, 5 Feb — Brazilian doubles specialist Marcelo Melo has accused world No 16 John Isner of “unprofessionalism” after the United States defeated Brazil 3-2 in a tense Davis Cup first round tie in Jacksonville, United States, on Sunday.

Isner, who lost his reverse singles match on Sunday to Brazil’s Thomaz Bellucci 4-6, 6-4, 7-6, 6-4, 6-3, complained during and after the match of the opposition fans’ verbal support and use of a tambourine. “Isner should stop crying. Our fans did nothing untoward and supported us like any other fans would,” Melo said on Twitter on Monday.

“This isn’t the sort of behavior of a professional. Our fans were doing what they should do, encouraging us from the beginning until the end.”

His comments came after Isner said the visiting supporters had not shown the players the respect they deserved. “I don’t appreciate their fans at all. I think they are very rude,” he said after the match.

The United States advanced to the quarterfinals when Sam Querrey recovered from a set down to defeat Thiago Alves 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 7-6 (3) in Sunday’s final rubber.

Kagawa to use Latvia as springboard to spark United career

KÖBE, 5 Feb — Manchester United midfielder Shinji Kagawa will aim to get his club career going by making his first appearance for Japan on Wednesday since October.

Kagawa, who was absent for the Asian champions’ 2-1 away win over Oman in November with a left-knee injury, came home on Monday for the friendly against Latvia at Craven Cottage on Saturday.

Since returning from the injury on 29 December, Kagawa has played for Alex Ferguson but has not scored. The Japanese international also has yet to put in a full shift for United who are running away in the Premier League title race.

Kyodo News

Minnesota Wild acquire Rupp in trade with New York Rangers

MINNEAPOLIS, 5 Feb — The Minnesota Wild added some leadership and grit to their lineup by acquiring veteran forward Mike Rupp from the New York Rangers, the National Hockey League team said on Monday. The Wild, who made a major splash in the off season by signing free agents Zach Parise and Ryan Suter to matching $98 million deals, continue to tweak their roster, sending forwards Darroll Powe and Nick Palmieri to New York for Rupp’s 33-year-old Rupp.

The well-traveled Rupp has had stints New Jersey Devils, Phoenix Coyotes, Columbus Blue Jackets, Pittsburgh Penguins and Rangers during 10 NHL seasons, recording 53 goals, 41 assists and 76 penalty minutes.

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Reuters

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State governor Antonio Anastasia told the consortium to take steps to ensure it functioned properly. The Mineirao was the second stadium to be ready for the Confederations Cup, a mini World Cup dress rehearsal to be played in six Brazilian venues in June. The first, the Castelão in the northern city of Fortaleza, held its inaugural games last month. World soccer’s governing body FIFA has set a final deadline of mid-April, four months behind schedule, for the stadiums in Brasilia, Recife, Rio de Janeiro and Salvador to be handed over to the tournament organizers. ($1 = 1.9884 Brazilian reals) — Reuters
Pyithu Hluttaw approves Bill Amending the Penal Code

**NAY PYI TAW, 5 Feb—** The Bill Amending the Penal Code submitted by the Supreme Court of the Union was approved without amendment by Pyithu Hluttaw today.

The bill has amended the usages and situation which are not in conformity with the current age and increased the fines up to 100 folds, said Daw Khin Thandar, a representative from TadaU constituency.

During today’s meeting, Daw Khin Htay Kywe, a member of the bill committee of Pyithu Hluttaw, submitted a report on the bill revoking the emergency provisions.

**Proposal on setting up the Ayeyawady River Commission (ARC) approved**

**NAY PYI TAW, 5 Feb—** Amyotha Hluttaw continued for its 14th day session today. Regarding the question of Dr Myint Kyi of Yangon Region Constituency No.8 on if there is any analysis on the tapping of natural resources before the green light is given, Union Minister for Mines Dr Myint Aung replied that under 50-acre mine explorations are allowed by the Ministry and over-50-acre by Myanmar Investment Commission and the government.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker submitted Civil Servants Bill and Employment and Skills Development Bill sent back by Pyithu Hluttaw with amendment.

Six representatives held discussions on the proposal on urging the Union government to form the Ayeyawady River Commission (ARC) submitted by U Myo Myint of Mandalay Region Constituency No.6.

With respect to that proposal, U Soe Myint of Magway Region Constituency No.6 said, “No need to set up ARC because a total of 17 departments and divisions under the Ministries are carrying out Ayeyawady River conservation with 19 laws and rules.”

Deputy Minister for Transport U Han Sein said, “Ayeyawady River is the lifeblood, and its basin is crucial for socioeconomic development of the country. There should be water utilization policies and laws pertaining to basin development tasks. It needs a basin management commission like ARC for effective utilizations of water resource and basin conservation.” He seconded that proposal.

And the Ministry will make cooperation in respective role if the commission is set up.”

Hluttaw approved that proposal. U Khin Maung Yi of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No.6 said, “Eleven Ministries and eight Regions and States are doing their tasks to meet their set targets with the use of Ayeyawady River water. River conservation is being undertaken by Water Resources Utilization and Improvement of River Systems under the Ministry of Transport alone under the limitations such as fund allotments, heavy machinery and technology. In the long run, it is impossible to guarantee the sustainable development.”

As stated in that proposal, State-level commission should be formed for conservation and multi-purpose development with special fund, cooperation of all departments and projects, he added.

**Region Hluttaw members visit Pyithu, Amyotha Hluttaws**

**NAY PYI TAW, 5 Feb—** A 15-representative team of Mandalay Region Hluttaw led by the Deputy Speaker of the Region Hluttaw observed the sixth regular session of the First Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws at 10 am today.

After visiting the buildings, they left the Hluttaw Complex.