**ADB to assist in Myanmar’s infrastructural development**

_Nay Pyi Taw, 7 Feb—_President U Thein Sein received a delegation led by President of Asian Development Bank-ADB Mr Haruhiko Kuroda at Myanmar International Convention Center here this morning.

The meeting focused on ADB’s assistance for development of Greater Mekong Sub-region countries, development of Myanmar’s delta region vital for food production, utilization of fresh water from three major rivers of Myanmar and water courses conservation for hydropower generation, and construction of India-Myanmar-Thailand motor road as Myanmar being the bridge between South-East Asia and South Asia, construction of Myanmar-Laos Mekong Bridge and regional cooperation, technical and financial help in infrastructural development, communication links development and sustainable energy development fundamental for development of Myanmar.

_MNA

**Appointment of Philippine Ambassador to Myanmar agreed on**

_Nay Pyi Taw, 8 Feb—_The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Honorable Mr. Alex Garcia Chua as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in succession to Her Excellency Ms. Maria Hellen B. De La Vega.

Mr Alex Garcia Chua was born in Manila on 8th November 1956. He obtained Bachelor of Laws from the Lyceum of Philippines University, the Philippines in 1982. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines in 1978 and has served in various capacities at the office of Cultural Affairs and Information, Office of Asian and Pacific Affairs, Office of Consular Affairs, Office of Legal Affairs and served in various capacities at the Embassy and Consulate Generals in Beijing, Hong Kong and Guangzhou to the People’s Republic of China. He is currently serving as Deputy Chief of Mission to the Philippines Embassy in the People’s Republic of China since 12th February 2011.

Mr. Alex Garcia Chua is married.

_MNA

**Norway welcomes agreement on Kachin talks**

Barth Eide commented in this statement that the agreement reached between the government and KIO to continue talks with a view to finding a peaceful solution to the violent conflict in Kachin State was an encouraging news for him.

Over the last year there have been very positive developments in Myanmar. Ceasefire agreements have been signed with ten of the major armed ethnic groups. Norway has acknowledged this progress and that a reconciliation process between the country’s various ethnic groups and the government would be improved.

Both parties to the Kachin conflict now have a responsibility to make courageous decisions and come to the negotiating table and commit themselves to engaging in genuine political dialogue. Only when Kachin achieves ceasefire, will the first nationwide ceasefire get successful since Myanmar gained independence.

The Minister of Foreign Affairs said in his comment that it was a historic opportunity to bring about peace and Norway calls on the government and KIO to allow humanitarian aid to reach the conflict-affected population.

_MNA

**UNSG hopes silencing of the guns in Myanmar for the first time since its independence**

_Nay Pyi Taw, 7 Feb—_Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr Ban Ki-moon issued a statement about negotiation between the government and KIO in Shweli on 4 February.

The UNSG in the statement said he welcomed the joint statement issued by the Union Peace-making Work Committee and the KIO delegation in Shweli of the People’s Republic of China, and urged to continue efforts towards genuine and sustainable peace in Kachin State, and hoped that the latest developments would result in silencing of the guns in Myanmar for the first time since its independence.

Special Advisor to the UNSG Mr Vitjay Nambia visited the IDP camps together with government officials in Kachin State and met civil society organizations and stakeholders. He said the United Nations remains committed to continuing to extend all necessary help and support to the people of Myanmar, including through its good offices and the country team.

_MNA
Chief Justice of the Union calls for adherence to Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct

NA\Y Pyi Taw, 7 Feb—Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo called for making rational decision based on virtue, probity and expertise in jurisdiction at the fourth coordination meeting of the Supreme Court of the Union with region/state high courts and district courts at the meeting hall of the Supreme Court here yesterday morning. He called for logical consistency in making judgement of a case, urging them to cultivate moral courage to resist outside influences. He demanded emergence of reliable jurisdiction in line with principles embodied in Bangalore Principles of Judicial Conduct.

Officials, KEIDANREN discuss economic policy

NA\Y Pyi Taw, 7 Feb—Officials from the governmental departments and KEIDANREN (Japan Business Federation) held talks over economic policies on development of Myanmar yesterday at Myanmar International Convention Centre (MICC) here.

Stake driven for World tallest Buddha image

MON\WA, 7 Feb—A ceremony to drive stake for construction of the highest Buddha Image across the world, mounting to 242 feet, was held on Bandaw Hill in the precinct of Maha Bawditahtaung of Sagaing Region on 24 January morning.

Untimely rain, strong winds hit Kyangin Township

KYAN\NG, 7 Feb—Trees fell down and some houses collapsed in the strong winds and untimely heavy rains in Kyangin Township of Ayeyawady Region at 1.45 pm on 30 January.

In the strong winds, the supervisory committee office of Township Community Transport Service was blown off in Ywathit Ward of Kyangin and some parts of the highway terminal damaged. Moreover, 11 houses in Shwetaungsu, Ayeeyang and Kyaikpon wards collapsed and 12 houses lost roofs. There was no death in the incident.

Union A&I Minister receives Turkish, Thai delegations

NA\Y Pyi Taw, 7 Feb—Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing held talks with Turkish Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Murat Yavuz Ates and Expert Mr Mikail Tasdemir of Turkish International Corporation and Development Agency of Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Mr Murat Ates and Expert Mr Mikail Tasdemir, in Yangon on 28 January morning.

Union Transport Minister meets VP of Sky Perfect Broadcasting Corporation of Japan

NA\Y Pyi Taw, 7 Feb—Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung received a delegation led by Sky Perfect Broadcasting Corporation, Broadcasting Business Group Vice President Mr Minoru Yonezawa of Japan here, yesterday morning.

Car loses control, hits bridge

MEIK\TIL, 7 Feb—Toyota Voxy Azago Saloon driven by Han Tun Zaw, 30, from Sweedaw Street in Kyanittha Ward of Bagan Myoht hit the bridge at the entrance to Kyawdawon Ward in Meiktila on Yangon-Mandalay Road on 28 January morning.

In the incident, two posts of the bridge were broken and the left part of the Saloon damaged. Driver Han Tun Zaw was seriously injured in the incident. Meiktila Police Station No 2 opened a file of lawsuit against driver Han Tun Zaw.

Myanmar Alinn

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Myanmar Alinn
Syrian rebels fight close to heart of Damascus

ABU DHABI, 7 Feb—Syrian rebels battled President Bashar al-Assad's forces on the edge of central Damascus on Wednesday, opposition activists said, seeking to break through to the heart of the capital.

Their offensive aims to break a stalemate in the city of 2 million people, where artillery and air strikes have prevented rebels entrenched to the east from advancing despite their capture of army fortifications, the activists said.

“We have moved the battle to Jobar,” said Captain Islam Allooush of the rebel Islam Brigade. The district links rebel strongholds in the suburbs with district links rebel strongholds. The town of Jobar, “said Captain Allooush of the battle to Jobar,” said Cap. Allooush, who is now under protection.

Moscow, 7 Feb—Russia said it had shot dead the last surviving militant involved in twin bombings that killed 40 people on the Moscow metro in 2010 during a night-time sweep of the capital.

The National Anti-Terrorism Committee (NAK) released a crossed-out photo of the alleged militant on Wednesday, his face framed by a thick beard.

The local Public Security Department said on Wednesday that killed 37 at Moscow’s busiest airport in 2011.

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Russia kills last man wanted for Moscow metro bombing

A Dassault Rafale combat aircraft, which has been selected by the Indian Air Force for purchase, performs during the inauguration ceremony of Aero India 2013 at Yelahanka air force station on the outskirts of the southern City of Bangalore, on 6 Feb, 2013.—Reuters

France’s Foreign Minister said the national anti-terrorism force had been shot dead late on Tuesday after the pirates took it off the coast of Nigeria and siphoned off around 200 tonnes of its cargo of diesel fuel.—Reuters

India says budget cuts won’t delay Rafale talks

A bulletin released by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre/NOAA/NWS issued on 6 Feb, 2013, shows the area affected by the tsunami warning following a major earthquake measuring 8.0 magnitude off the Solomon Islands. —Reuters

India pledged on Wednesday not to let defence cuts disrupt efforts to finalize a potential $10 billion (6.3 billion pounds) purchase of French warplanes, but both sides played down expectations of a landmark deal in time for a visit by French President Francois Hollande next week.

India picked the Rafale combat jet, made by Dassault Aviation, for exclusive negotiations over a year ago after a hotly contested bidding war with rival manufacturers, but is still to finalize the 126-aircraft deal.—Reuters

India never signs military contracts without extensive negotiations, said Antony. “There are no guarantees of a deal because of the budget cuts,” Antony said at an air show in the southern City of Bangalore. “There is no question of the budget cuts future arms importer in recent years, plans to spend around $100 billion over the next 10 years in upgrading its mostly Soviet-era military hardware to keep pace with China’s ramping up of defence spending.

Despite the modernization push, India’s defence budget will not escape a tightening of government spending this year, Antony said, as New Delhi looks to rein in its fiscal deficit. —Reuters

French tanker hijacked off Ivory Coast freed, crew safe

A French-owned petroleum products tanker hijacked off Ivory Coast was freed, French police officers said on Wednesday.

France’s Foreign Minister said the national anti-terrorism force had been shot dead late on Tuesday after the pirates took it off the coast of Nigeria and siphoned off around 200 tonnes of its cargo of diesel fuel.—Reuters

The French-owned petroleum products tanker, the vessel Gascogne, was hijacked off Ivory Coast at the week end.

French police officers freed, the vessel’s owner said on Wednesday.

SEA-Tankers, which owns the vessel Gascogne, was hijacked off Ivory Coast at the weekend. The French-owned petroleum products tanker was hijacked off Ivory Coast at the weekend.

The local Public Security Department said on Wednesday that it issued warnings for the entrance of the Mumbai underground.—Reuters

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Russia kills last man wanted for Moscow metro bombing

Iraqi authorities had previously said the crew comprised seven Togolese, two Senegalese, two Ivorians, one South Korean, one Chinese and four sailors from Benin. The company gave no further details on how the two men had been injured or the circumstances of the Gascogne’s release.

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Nine Mexican police officers killed in ambush

Mexico City, 7 Feb—Gunmen killed nine Mexican police officers and wounded another in an ambush in the southern state of Guerrero, an official report said on Wednesday.

According to the report, the police officers were patrolling an area in the town of Tepoztepec, in the municipality of Apaxtla de Castroregua, when they were attacked Tuesday night by a group of heavily armed men believed to have ties to organized crime.

The local Public Security Secretary said the nine officers died instantly and a tenth suffered injuries.

According to Mexican Daily Excelsior, Guerrero’s Prosecutor’s Office confirmed that the attack occurred on Tuesday at 10 pm local time (0300 GMT), and the site of the incident is now under protection. —Reuters

Xinhua

New Light of Myanmar

Partially destroyed houses are seen after a tsunami hit the town of Tepoztepec, in the southern state of Guerrero, Mexico, 6 Feb, 2013.—Reuters

The view was the second tank ever to have been deployed in India, two days after the prime minister inaugurated the new $10 billion (6.3 billion pounds) arms import program, saying it would boost the country’s defences and deter aggression. That view was the second tank ever to have been deployed in India, two days after the prime minister inaugurated the new $10 billion (6.3 billion pounds) arms import program, saying it would boost the country’s defences and deter aggression.

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Russia launches six communication satellites with Soyuz rocket. — Xinhua

Moscow, 7 Feb—A Russian Soyuz-2.1a rocket carrying six satellites blasted off on Wednesday from Pad 31 of the Baikonur space centre in Kazakhstan, the Russian space agency Roscosmos said. The launch was originally scheduled for Tuesday, but postponed due to bad weather. The rocket lifted off at 8.04 pm Moscow time (1604 GMT), tasked with sending six Globalstar telecommunication satellites into an orbit some 900 km from the Earth. The satellites, expected to enter the orbit in about 1.5 hours, were placed atop of a Firecat booster, which was the third stage of the rocket.

The satellites were developed by a European company, Thales Alenia Space, on orders of the Globalstar corporation, and designed to provide high-quality global personal mobile communication services. Each satellite has a weight of 700 kg and a service life of 15 years.

Baidu profit growth drops for eighth quarter

Beijing, 7 Feb—Baidu Inc, China’s largest search engine, saw the growth rate of its net profits decline for the eighth consecutive quarter since the first quarter of 2011, as attempts to find a way to fuel growth after years of quick development failed to bear fruit.

Analysts remain conservative on the company’s progress in translating traffic into revenue in the mobile sector, which Baidu said is the focus of its future strategy. The company generated most of its revenue from search advertising. The year-on-year growth rate of its net income reached 171.3 percent in the fourth quarter of 2010, after rival Google Inc. shut down its Chinese mainland service and redirected traffic to Hong Kong that year.

However, the rate dropped to 36.1 percent last quarter, according to the company’s financial reports. The company has pinned its hopes for the future on the mobile sector, as an increasing number of Chinese people access the Internet with mobile devices. Robin Li, chairman and CEO, said on Tuesday that Baidu will increase its workforce in research and development this year to boost growth in the sector.

“Desktop search has become a part of everything we do, so we are extending our services to mobile devices,” Li said in a conference call. The company has released an updated version of its mobile browser and increased cooperation with handset brands in recent months. However, Li said it will take two years to properly generate income from mobile services, the same situation faced by most Chinese Internet companies that find mobile traffic rising but have not been able to make much money from it.

Rio de Janeiro, 7 Feb—Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff on Wednesday urged scientists to design a programme to promote biotechnology research and industrial production.

"We recommended creating a biotechnology programme to be developed by the Science and Technology and Education ministries," said Minister of Science, Technology and Innovation Marco Antônio Raupp.

Roussff made the remarks at a National Science and Technology Council meeting. She urged council members to focus on key sectors to promote biotechnological and industrial technology and industry, calling for investment in laboratories that can be used by both academics and companies, according to Raupp.

The government also wants to expand the network of laboratories at state universities, Raupp added, saying that “the federal university system is expanding and we need to equip labs, and students) need to learn by doing experiments, using laboratories.” Meanwhile, the National Industry Confederation released a statement Wednesday describing 2012 as “a lost year” for a 27 percent slip in Brazil’s industrial production, which grew 10.5 percent in 2010 and a scant 0.4 percent in 2011. — Xinhua

EU to order banks, energy firms to report cyber attacks

BRUSSELS, 7 Feb—Around 42,000 firms in the European Union, including airports, banks and hospitals, would have to inform regulators whenever their computers are hacked, under a proposed EU law to be published on Thursday. The law could set a global precedent for safeguarding critical infrastructure against digital attacks that have hit companies and government departments in an era of increasing “cyber-crime” and “cyber-terrorism.” But some businesses worry they face extra costs.

Under the draft law, EU member states would have to draw up a monitoring system for companies that are critical to the economy. Those firms would then have to report any major attacks to national authorities and reveal security breaches. Almost 15,000 transport companies, 8,000 banks, 4,000 energy firms, and 15,000 hospitals will have to report cyber attacks if the proposals are approved by EU governments and the European Parliament. Public administrations and operators of critical Internet services would also have to report. Firms with fewer than 10 employees were automatically pushed into networks that attack firms and conduct other types of computer crimes.

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Baidu’s year-on-year growth rate

The Chinese search company’s profit growth slowed to 36.1 percent for 2012, down from 171.3 percent the year before, as the company worked to reduce costs and invest in new areas.

The results are in line with analyst expectations and suggest that Baidu is on track to continue its strong performance in 2013.

"We are pleased with the results for the fourth quarter of 2012," said Robin Li, Baidu’s CEO.

Baidu’s revenue grew 36.1 percent in 2012 compared to the previous year, with the majority of growth coming from mobile advertising.

The company’s profit margins widened in 2012, with net income rising 36.1 percent to 1.6 billion yuan ($260 million) from 1.2 billion yuan in 2011. Gross margin rose to 53.6 percent from 49.3 percent.

Baidu’s management said it expects revenue to grow at a rate of 40-45 percent in 2013, with mobile advertising expected to be a key driver of growth.

The company said it would continue to invest in new areas such as video and education, and would also look to expand its international operations.

Baidu’s stock closed at 155.5 yuan on Wednesday, up 2.8 percent from the previous day’s close.

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Sharp drop in drink deaths follows alcohol price rise

LONDON, 7 Feb—Increasing the minimum price of alcohol by 10 percent can lead to immediate and significant drops in drink-related deaths and may also have long-term beneficial health effects, according to a study published on Thurs-

day. Canadian researchers found that deaths caused by alcohol between 2002 and 2009 in the western Province of British Columbia dropped when the minimum alcohol price was increased, while alcohol-related deaths rose when more private alcohol stores were opened.

The findings will be keenly scrutinized by alcohol policy makers, particularly in Britain where the government plans to introduce a minimum price on alcohol to try to clamp down on binge drinking and anti-social behaviour. The United States does not currently set a minimum alcohol price. “This study adds to the scientific evidence that, despite popular opinion to the contrary, even the heaviest drinkers reduce their consumption when minimum alcohol prices increase,” said Tim Stockwell of the University of Victoria’s Centre for Addictions Research of British Columbia, who led the study.

Along with meds, brain stimulation may aid depression

NEW YORK, 7 Feb —Treating people with depression using weak electrical currents passed into the brain through a headband could relieve some their symptoms when combined with an antidepressant, a new study suggests. Researchers found that after six weeks of treatment with a combination of brain stimulation and sertraline, marketed as Zoloft, nearly two-thirds of depressed par-
ticipants got significantly better.

But by itself, brain stimulation was no better than medication. “In the field of depression, it’s im-
portant to know about treatment options, and medica-
tions alone don’t work for everyone,” said Dr Sarah

Alzheimer’s to triple by 2050 as baby boomers age

CHICAGO, 7 Feb —The number of US residents aged 65 and older with Alzheimer’s disease is expected to nearly triple to 13.8 million by 2050 as aging baby boomers swell the ranks of those living with the brain-wasting disease, US researchers said on Wednesday.
The new estimates, published in the journal Neurology, confirm prior estimates and make clear the need for new and better treatments for Alzheimer’s, the leading cause of dementia that now affects some 5 million Americans and 38 million people worldwide.

The latest US estimates paint a grim picture as more and more of the nation’s baby boom generation pass through the years at higher risk for Alzheimer’s, an age-related disorder that slowly robs its victims of memory and their ability to care for themselves. “Our study draws attention to an urgent need for more research, treatments and preventive strategies to reduce this epidemic,” said study co-
author Jennifer Weuve, an assistant professor of medicine at Rush University Medical Centre in Chicago. —Reuters

Asian shares, euro pause ahead of ECB decision

TOKYO, 7 Feb —Asian shares and the euro paused from recent gains on Thursday, as investors awaited the European Central Bank’s policy meet-
ing later in the day and President Mario Draghi’s view on euro zone growth prospects, optimistic that the worst may be over.

“Risk assets traded heav-
ily as market participants exercise caution ahead of the ECB, particularly with Europe’s political crisis hampering sentiment,” said Stan Shamu, market

Daimler sees flat earnings for 2013

STUTTGART, 7 Feb —German auto maker Daim-
ler (DAIGn.DE) forecast earnings this year would be roughly stable after meeting its profit target for 2012 and keeping its dividend flat.

“Earnings are expected to improve in the second half of 2013 compared with the level of the first half,” it said in a statement ahead of its annual press conference on Thursday.

Daimler expects 2013 earnings before interest and taxes (EBIT) from its ongo-
ing business will be in the magnitude of last year’s 8.1 billion euros, which repre-
sented an annual drop of 10 percent.

The group had warned in October that it would miss by about 1 billion eu-ons its original 2012 target of stable operating profit of 9 billion euros. It also posted to a “later date” its 2013 milestone EBIT margin targets of 8 percent at Daimler Trucks and 10 percent at Mercedes, the latter of which was first put in place back in May 2010. —Reuters

Google to buy e-commerce firm Channel Intelligence for 125 mn USD

SAN FRANCISCO, 7 Feb—US e-commerce company Channel Intelligence on Wednesday announced that it has entered into an agree-
ment to be acquired by Internet search giant Google.

“For over ten years, we have focused on making it easy for consumers to find and buy products online and help our clients grow their business. We’ve worked with Google for years, and look forward to the great things we will be able to do together,” Channel Intelligence said in a blog posted on its website. In a separate press release, ICG Group, Channel Intelligence’s par-
tent company, said that Google has agreed to pay 125 million US dollars in cash and the deal is expected to be completed in the first quar-
ter of 2013. Headquartered in Orlando in the US state of Florida, Channel Intelligence provides technology to other companies to drive product sales online. Accord-
ing to information posted on its website, Channel Intelligence has been working with over 850 retailers worldwide and drives 2 billion dollars in sales online annually in computing, home improve-
ment, appliances, consumer electronics, toys and other goods.—Xinhua

Year’s Nikkei stock aver-

Japan’s Nikkei stock aver-

of “mad cow” disease, (CJD), the human version of “mad cow” disease, which causes a fast decline in mental functioning and generally death within a year. —Reuters
France wants Mali UN force in place by April

PARIS, 7 Feb—France wants to have a United Nations peacekeeping force in place in Mali by April, Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said on Wednesday. “Once security is assured, we can certainly envisage, without changing the structures, that it (Mali mission) can be put in the framework of a peacekeeping operation,” Fabius said. Asked when if it is possible to achieve the aim by April, Fabius said yes. “Our experts and partners are aiming for that,” he said.

Earlier Wednesday, Fabius said France will start to withdraw its troops from Mali in March. “We will continue to act in the north where some terrorist havens remain. I think that from March, if everything goes according to plan, the number of French troops should decrease,” the top diplomat told the free daily Metro.

John Kerry prefers peaceful resolution of conflicts

WASHINGTON, 7 Feb—John Kerry on Wednesday vowed to resolve conflicts by peaceful means in the first place as he was publicly sworn in as the US secretary of state.

“I am proud to take on this job because I want to work for peace and because the values and ideals of our nation are really what represents the best of the possibilities of life here on earth,” Kerry said as the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in December 2004 after then chairman Biden was elected vice president.

As the Democratic nominee, Kerry launched a bid for the White House in 2004 but lost to then incumbent George W Bush by a margin of 34 electoral votes.

Referring to the episode, Biden said he only regretted that Kerry had not been sworn in as president in 2004.

“How different the world might be today had that occurred?” said the vice president.

US Secretary of State John Kerry

Iran’s Ahmadinejad seeks strategic axis with Egypt

CAIRO, 7 Feb—President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, on the first visit to Cairo by an Iranian leader in more than three decades, called for a strategic alliance with Egypt and said he had offered the cash-strapped Arab state a loan. In a step by Iran to advance ties that were broken in 1979, the Iranian foreign minister said Egyptian tourists and merchants would no longer require visas to visit, Egypt’s state news agency reported. The effort drew a cool response, however. Shi’ite Islamist Iran is still looked on with suspicion by many in Egypt, a predominately Sunni Muslim nation.

Signs of contention include Iran’s support for Syrian rebels. During his one-day visit to Mali last Saturday, French President Francois Hollande stressed that French soldiers would return home once the conflict-torn state has restored sovereignty and a UN-backed African military force could take over from the French soldiers. At the request of Malian President Dioncounda Traore, France has already poured 3,500 soldiers into the West African country and carried out air strikes since 11 January in the rebel-held northern half of Mali.

Xinhua

A Malian transports wood with a donkey cart on the road between Timbuktu and Douenza on 4 Feb, 2013. Reuters

Russia to return Gabala radar station to Azerbaijan

BAKU, 7 Feb—Russia is working with Azerbaijan to return the Gabala radar station to the central Asian country, local media Thursday quoted Russian Ambassador to Azerbaijan Vladimir Dorokhin as saying.

This week, the Russian-Azerbaijani working group held a meeting discussing the withdrawal of Russian equipment from the Gabala radar station. “We need to return the station to Azerbaijan in the form we leased it,” Dorokhin said.

Russia and Azerbaijan signed an agreement in 2002 on leasing the Gabala radar station. “The equipment that was imported after the agreement is the property of the Russian Federation. Now we are working to determine what Russia has the right to take out of the station,” the ambassador said, adding that the station will be completely handed over to Azerbaijan soon.

Partly because of cost concerns, Russia decided not to rent the Gabala radar station after its lease expired in December. The Gabala station, located in northwest Azerbaijan, was built during the Soviet era as one of the most important elements of the Soviet Union’s missile defence system.—Xinhua

Iran’s President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad (C) greets people as he visits the Al-Hussein mosque, in old Cairo on 5 Feb, 2013. Reuters

Three immigrants drown in Texas police chase

HOUSTON, 7 Feb—Three young men died on Wednesday as a sport utility vehicle carrying them and at least 10 other suspected illegal immigrants plunged into a stock tank during a police chase in Texas.

The incident happened about 2 am near the town of Poth, southeast of the Texas city of San Antonio, police said.

Wilson County Sheriff Joe Tackitt told reporters that one of his deputies reported spotting one SUV that only a day earlier was interrogating in Bahrain, where a Shi’ite majority lives under minority Sunni rule.

Reuters

Poachers kill 11,000 Gabon elephant in under a decade

LIBREVILLE, 7 Feb—Poachers have killed more than 11,000 elephants in Gabon’s Minkebe National Park rainforest since 2004, Gabon’s government said on Wednesday, with the massacre fuelled by increasing demand for ivory in Asia.

The densely forested central African country is home to about half the world’s roughly 100,000 remaining forest elephants, the smallest species of elephant and coveted by ivory dealers for their harder and straighter tusks.

A study conducted by Gabon’s government along with advocacy groups World Wildlife Fund and the Wildlife Conservation Society found two-thirds of the forest elephants in Minkebe park had been killed off since 2004, or about 11,100.

“If we don’t reverse this situation rapidly, the future of elephants in Africa will be compromised,” Lee White, executive secretary of Gabon’s national parks agency, said in a statement issued by Gabon’s president.

Demand for ivory for use in jewellery and ornamental items is rising fast in Asia. Conservationists say growing Chinese influence and investment in Africa has opened the door wider for the illicit trade in elephant tusks.

Poachers are often armed with large-calibre rifles and chainsaws to remove tusks, the statement issued by the presidency said. They have secret camps in the rainforest, evading small deployments of park guards and leaving rotting elephant carcasses in their wake.

Reuters

Iran’s Ahmadinejad seeks strategic axis with Egypt

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Reuters
Ivory poachers, grave threat to elephant population

Ivory tusks seized from poachers.

Ngapudaw Township around 8 am on 8 August, 2012. It is a black male around 10 and was estimated to have been killed nearly seven days ago. Nine have been arrested in relation with the case from Ngapudaw Township. One is still at large. They have been prosecuted in advance under 1994 Section 35 (a) and Section 37 (a) of Protection of Wildlife, Wild Plants and Conservation of Natural Areas Law 1994. A total of 18 elephants died within two years from 2001 to 2012. Seven died because of disease and 11 were killed by humans.

U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin
Bago Region Forest Department

Q: How was the illegal elephant hunting in Bago Region?

A: It happened in Block No. 109 of Baingda Forest Reserve in Kyaukdaga Township in Bago District. An elephant was killed on 28 January and one of the three killers was arrested the following day. It is a male around 15. Its trunk and tusks were taken. The two killers are still at large. Actions are being taken under Section 37 (a) of Protection of Wildlife, Wild Plants and Conservation of Natural Areas Law 1994.

Q: What are the punishments according to that section of the law?

A: Sub-section (a) of Section 35 is about hunting without license. The punishment for violation of this is up to three-year prison term or a fine of up to K 100,000 or both. Sub-section (a) of Section 37 is about killing, hunting or hurting any of totally protected wild animals and keeping, selling, and Myanmar’s biodiversity and have been under proper vigil of the time of ancient monarchs.

The natural habitats of elephants have been established as natural areas and Shwe-ohn-daung Wildlife Sanctuary was set up in 1927. Alaungdaw Kassapa National Park in 1989, Rakhine Mountain Range Elephant Sanctuary in 2000 and Hukaung Valley wildlife Sanctuary in 2002. In cooperation with Monitoring of the Illegal Killing of Elephant (MIKE), we have set Shwe-ohn-daung Wildlife Sanctuary and Alaungdaw Kassapa National Park as MIKE sites.

Q: How about the conflicts between humans and elephants?

A: Local residents in desperate search for alternative sources of livelihood are increasingly colonizing the habitats of elephants. Besides, their habitats have been narrowed due to mining and logging, making them to seek foods in farmlands and croplands of humans outside their habitation. So it has become usual that elephants raid farmer’s fields for crops at harvest time. This has resulted in confrontation between humans and elephants. Conflict between human and elephant is most common in Thayawady, Letpadan, Taikkyi and Kyaukdaga townships. How it is going on.

A: Yes, we are preparing to build a safe haven for elephants in Myauk Zamayi region between Hamhawady District and Bago District. It covers an area of 379.59 square miles (242938.48 acres). Trees grow well there and water is available from creeks throughout the year. There are also nice pastures for elephants. After we have made proper preparations, we’ll take actions to drive the wild elephants inhabiting near town and villages into the haven.

U Ye Htut
Deputy Director Nature and Wildlife Conservation Division Forest Department

Q: Let me know about elephant conservation in Myanmar.

A: Elephants are symbol of natural forests and barks of trees due to scarcity of their pastures. Both male and female of Elephas leedontia from Africa have tusks. Though authority from Africa asked permission from the Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species (CITES) to legally sell the tusks from those elephants, Asia Elephant Specialist Group had objected the action because, elephants in Asian countries might be poached for their tusks to illegal markets along with the ivory tusks from Africa.

However, today, elephants in Asian countries have been poached for their tusks and illegal ivory markets have been emerged. Therefore, to investigate the poaching and to control the illegal wildlife trading, the Convention on International Trade on Endangered (CITES) and TRAFFIC has worked together with ASEAN countries, and INTERPOL has also sent information to ASEAN countries.

An agreement was reached at the ministerial level meeting of ASEAN countries held in Thailand in December, 2005, to form ASEAN-WEN (ASEAN Wildlife Enforcement Network) and ASEAN countries have worked together to prevent wildlife poaching in region.

National Wildlife Enforcement Task Force was formed in Myanmar by the Ministry of Forestry, Myanmar Police Force and other ministries concerned in 2007 to control the poaching of wildlife and their parts.

Please clarify the smuggling of ivories in Myanmar.

A: Ivories from African and Asian countries have been smuggled into China via elephant leg as golf bags and some use them as stationery on tables.

Q: Please let me know prices for them at illegal markets.

A: The illegal market prices for wildlife and their parts are: K 500,000 for a viss of ivory, K20,000 for a viss of elephant leather, K 8,000 for apamgolin. Besides, hairs from elephant tail are used to make rings and smuggled at the markets. Elephant meat is sold as sambur meat at markets. The meat of a elephant which was hit by poisonous arrows can also harm a man who eat the meat. In some countries, some rich personnel use the meat as sambur.

Dead body of an elephant after removing skin.

Ivories from African countries.

A: According to report of elephant expert G. Caughley, there were about 6,000 elephants in Myanmar in 1972. According to survey conducted by employees of Ministry of Forestry in 1991, there were 4639 wild elephants in Myanmar. It is estimated that there are around 3000 wild elephants currently on Dawa Mountain Range and in Taninthayi Region. There are around 3000 elephants owned by Myanmar Timber Enterprise and around 2000 elephants owned by private sector. In Asia, Myanmar stands as the second largest population of elephants after India.

Q: Which measures should be taken to conserve wild elephants?

A: Myanmar regards elephants as the sign of the nature and as a jewel. Myanmar loves elephants and they have sentimental value for Myanmar. Elephants play an important role in Myanmar’s culture and literature. However, valuable elephants are facing extinction in Myanmar due to greedy poachers and the people should be aware of the threat. All are obliged to prevent poachers and wildlife and wild parks, and to inform the authority if they see the suspicious acts of poaching wild life.
**NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR**

**NATIONAL**

Dinner hosted to mark 66th Shan State Day in Nay Pyi Taw

**NAY PYI TAW, 7 Feb—** A dinner to mark the 66th Shan State Day was hosted at Mawkhunmon Restaurant here this evening.

Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Khin Aung Myint, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa, committees chairmen from Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, MPs and guests.

During the ceremony, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and PyithuHluttawrepresentative U Thein Zaw donated K1 million each to the fund of the self-reliance station hospital in Tawkywein and Daw Khin Lay Thet K 1 million to the Shan Literature and Cultural Committee. Vice-Chairman of the Union Solidarity and Development Party Thura U Aye Myint, on behalf of the party, presented the cash to responsible personnel.

Appointment of Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar agreed on

**NAY PYI TAW, 8 Feb—** The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Pham Thanh Dung as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in succession to His Excellency Mr. Chu Cong Phung. Mr. Pham Thanh Dung was born in Myanmar on 15th May 1962. He obtained Integrated Master in International Relations from the University of Diplomacy, Viet Nam in 1988.

He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Viet Nam in 1991 and has served in various capacities of the Faculty of International Relations and Foreign Policy, Institute for International Relations in Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam. He is currently serving as Director General of the Center for Information and Diplomatic Academy of Viet Nam since April 2011.

Mr. Pham Thanh Dung is married with two children.

Workshop on Treaty Banning Chemical Weapons held

**NAY PYI TAW, 7 Feb—** National level workshop on implementation of the Treaty Banning the Chemical Weapons, took place at Golden Palace Hotel here from 4 to 6 February.

The workshop focused on detailed facts for implementation of the Treaty, drawing a law, setting up of a national authority, demanded righteousness of judicial pillar and reliable legal system.

A total of 131–68 district judges and 63 law officers from Supreme Court of the Union took oath before the chief justice and the remaining district, township judges and region/state law officers will reportedly take oath at respective region/state high courts.—MNA


Trainees of Global MBA visit Thailand

**YANGON, 7 Feb—** Under the programme of business trip series to Thailand and ASEAN, trainees from “Global MBA Offshore Program (Batch-1) from Training Institute of UMFCCI visited Thailand from 13th to 19 January.

They visited Loxley Company, Department of International Trade Promotion, Thai Gems and Jewellery Traders Association, Bangkok Bank, Amata Nakom Industrial, Leamchabang Port, University of Thai Chamber of Commerce, Board of Investment in Thailand. They also met with the principal and faculty members of the UTCC and discussed for MA degree.

The MBA Offshore Program was jointly conducted by Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and University of Thai Chamber of Commerce (UTCC)
**Folk performing arts of Union ethnic nationalities**

Myanmar, a geopolitical entity historically the second largest member state in the regional community of ASEAN (TEN), with a wide range of biodiversity and a mosaic of ethnic nationalities who have made their presence felt here both firmly and since time immemorial. Mother Nature has been kind to provide her bounty of natural resources to Myanmar. A mosaic of ethnic nationalities well integrated under the network of Myanmar features of snow-capped mountains, forested hill ranges, highlands, valleys and plains, aquatic bodies of water, and mountainous regions. In short, the indigenous populations of Myanmar have lived in a simple and peaceful life of agriculture, hunting, fishing, husbandry, small industry and trade. Inher long history there has been three Unions—namely the Union of Burma (1886-1937) led by U Aung San, Anawratha (1044-1077 A.D) which lasted nearly three centuries, the second Union founded by King Bagyidaw (1791-1794 A.D) which lasted two centuries and the third Union founded by King Alunathaw (1673-1674 A.D) which lasted 133 years. The fourth union was founded in 1947 by the Panglong Agreement on the 14th of February. The other two Unions by the then leaders of ethnic nationalities led by Bogyoke Aung San. It is this article, it is deeply realized that we celebrate annually as the Union Day without fail.

Over hundred ethnic nationalities have gone through the ups and downs of their long past and have stood together through thick and thin of their lives Despite differences and variations due to regional, local and climatic differences of their habitation, the respect and similarity are strong in their daily lives and cultural traditions. To choose only one area of their communalities inculcultural heritage would be to watch and understand their folk performing arts which they stage on the Union Day as well as on the occasions of their festivals and social occasions. Cultural anthropologically folk performing arts of Myanmar ethnic nationalities may be broadly classified into four categories—(1) religious or ritualistic (2) economic or occupational (3) social and (4) recreational. Ritual or religious performing arts are those that are performed in conformity with the benevolent nat-spirits and beg favours from them or to propitiate the angry nat-spirits to harm the individual to the community or to drive out the evil spirits that molest men, women and children. Economic or occupational performing arts are those that are performed at the time of occupational activities. Since agriculture is the main means of livelihood of the nation, their performing arts are a larger share of their attention and serves as a basis for making their agricultural activities and monotonous activities, requiring unity of action. The practice of working to the rhythmic beating and chanting or dancing so as to get a greater productivity, efficiency of movement and better result is prevalent among the agricultural folk. In those areas where hunting is practiced as a secondarily occupation, hunting dances, music and songs are performed at the time of hunting and hunting dance is a category. Though tribal warfare is dead and gone war dances are still performed to protect the community's culture and manly spirit among male youths and to build group solidarity. In all such dances nat-spirits are called upon to provide supernatural powers so that there be good harvest and good hunting.

Social and recreational performing arts are much more diverse than those under the previous two categories. Birth, name day, marriage, puberty, engagement, marriage, divorce, healing ailments and death etc. are not only the concerns of the persons involved, but also matters of significant social importance to the community. Therefore from the cradle to the grave social events of a person are marked by rituals, feasts of merit or communal singing, dancing and rejoicing. As such the community has the obligation to celebrate them. In many ethnic nationalities a greater importance is given to death ceremonies and funerals for it is a grievous event which deserves more sympathy and attention of the community. Besides Myanmar nationalities are more concerned for the life hereafter than the present life.

Due to space constraint in this article, it is deeply regretted and humbly apologized for giving each one sample performing art of the various groups as follows.

**(1) Khaung Cawi dance of the Chins**

Among many folk dances, in Falom area Cawi dance is most common. It is performed at the Khaung Cawi festival, the greatest religious festival in the Falom areas. The purpose of the dance is to honor the wife of the person who is holding Khaung Cawi festival lasting several years. Relatives, friends and people from neighbouring villages are invited to that festival. Only men of the age of 15 years are slaughtered for ritual sacrifices and for feeding the celebrators. Relatives and friends bring mithans, rice beer and country spirit as their contribution to the festival. On the last day, the wife of the Khaung Cawi host is seated on a gaily decorated palanquin which is raised on the posts. She is dressed in ornately embroidered silk costumes and carries a crown of gold, silver and amber, her head dress is a crown decorated with feathers of peacock, peafow. The palanquin with the Lady is carried by young bachelors and maidens who sing and dance to honour her as they proceed in procession. Childern and elders also follow the procession singing and playing musical instruments—buffalo horns, a big bronze frog drum, six drums, a pair of copper cymbals, a pair of bamboo chappers. Doun yein both performed by men and women jointly. Movements and gestures are quick and jerky. Songs are choruses. They chant “Than chat” ridiculing the enemy and implores and demanding immediate reforms. Women wave their scarlet silk scarves making a spectacular scene.

**Doun (Houldite) dance of the Kayins**

Well-known and most popular Kayin folk dance is doun dance. There are about 12 categories of Kayins folk dances. Plain douns and ballet douns are two major types. Plain douns are performed by men or women or men and women jointly. Movements and gestures are quick and jerky. Songs are choruses. They chant “Than chat” ridiculing the enemy and implores and demanding immediate reforms. Women wave their scarlet silk scarves making a spectacular scene. Ballet doun depicts a story of the Kayins with mimetic dance gestures of war and peace, etc. Men dancers carry on with the nat-spirits that have done good and evil deeds. These two dances are performed both by men and women jointly. Movement is performed by two to four rows of dancers. They make different formations as they sing and dance.

**Harog hnite** is one of the popular dances among people of Chin state in Kachin State and Shan State. It is a traditional Aragon dance. People join the dance after the harvest season, cattle go to better water and grass. Men and women jointly dance around the steppes and hills while they dance to enjoy the beauty of the steppes and hills. As such, the dance is performed by men and women of all ages and from all walks of life, in gala costumes. Men dancers carry on with the nat-spirits or when propitiating the nat-spirits. Liquor and rice beer are also offered. After the rites are performed in a customary manner, a big feast is held every day during the festival from early in the evening to dawn. All are welcome to it. Abundance of food, meat, fruit, wine and rice beer are lavishly served to all comers.

**Manao dance** is led by a leader, dressed in ornately embroidered silk costumes and carry an encased sword slung at his waist. He wears brightly made headdress and a boot made of peacock feathers. He commands the procession of dancers, who are men and women of all ages and from all walks of life, in gala costumes. Movements and gestures are quick and jerky. Songs are choruses. They chant “Than chat” ridiculing the enemy and implores and demanding immediate reforms. Women wave their scarlet silk scarves making a spectacular scene. Ballet doun depicts a story of the Kayins with mimetic dance gestures of war and peace, etc. Men dancers carry on with the nat-spirits that have done good and evil deeds. These two dances are performed both by men and women jointly. Movement is performed by two to four rows of dancers. They make different formations as they sing and dance.

**Oil lamp dance** is performed by young women to pay homage to the Buddha. They show their skilful dance to the music of oil lamps, in a supplesness and graceful movements.

**Keinnara and Tonaya dances of the Shan**

These two dances are popular and favourite of the Shans. Keinnara is a mythical fairy bird and Keinnari is a mythical female bird after appeared in Buddha’s Jataka stories. They have long wings, long short legs and wings. A young and a young girl dressed like them dance like birds manipulating their dance with long wings and tails of a bird.

Tonaya is a mythical roaring beast with a snake body and legs, a scaly body, long horns and tail and dragon’s face. It exists in folk tales and is believed to be connected with health and wealth to mankind. Two men enter the Tonaya dummy, one taking front and the other the back to animate it clever performers can make the dummy move realistically. These dances are performed on auspicious occasions.

**Light of Myanmar**

**New Light of Myanmar**

**Friday, 8 February, 2013**
S Korea’s IT exports rise as global tech market recovers

SEOUL, 7 Feb—South Korea’s exports in the information technology (IT) sector rose the most in 27 months as global tech market showed signs of recovery, a government report showed on Thursday.

Exports in the IT industry increased 16.4 percent to 13.11 billion US dollars in January compared with a year earlier, the highest expansion in 27 months and keeping the growth trend for five straight months, according to the Ministry of Knowledge Economy.

The rise came amid the global IT market recovery. According to an IT research firm Gartner, the global IT market was expected to grow 4.2 percent in 2013 after expanding 1.2 percent in the prior year.

Strong shipments of smartphones such as Samsung Electronics’ Galaxy S3 and LG Electronics’ Optimus G led the January growth. Handset exports jumped 32.7 percent in January, with those to China and Vietnam surging 77.2 percent and 291.9 percent each.

The ministry expected mobile phone exports to maintain a growth trend, boosting expectations for the company’s earnings of tech firms. Samsung Electronics’ fourth-quarter operating profit topped prior record high for five straight quarters.

LG Electronics saw its smartphone sales breach those for feature phones for the first time in the company’s history.

Helped by brisk exports, trade surplus in the IT sector reached 6.11 billion dollars in January, around 7 times the surplus for the overall industry. Imports in the sector rose 10.2 percent to 7 billion dollars.

Semiconductor exports stayed above 4 billion dollars for six straight months due to demand for system chips. Exports of those chips, including mobile application processor for smartphones, increased for 41 straight months.

Memo- ry chip shipments declined amid the sluggishness in the global personal computer market.

Shipments of display panels increased 15.2 percent in January after rising 10.4 percent in the prior month. Those for TVs made the first growth in 15 months as demand for LCD TVs strengthened amid the launch of premium smart TVs. Exports of computer and computer-related products such as printers and monitors increased 14 percent after falling 14 percent in December last year due to demand for solid state drive (SSD).

Indonesia to depend import restriction policy in WTO after US protests

JAKARTA, 7 Feb—The Indonesian government is ready to clarify and defend its import restriction on horticulture products in the World Trade Organization (WTO) after the protest of the United States, a minister said here on Thursday.

“We must give protection to our farmers, because it is linked with the prosperity of many people,” said Coordinating Minister for Economy Hatta Rajasa.

The minister argued that Indonesia has difficulties in exporting its horticulture products to foreign markets and it is reasonable if Indonesia takes such policies.

“We also face difficulty in exporting our products. So should we give protection to our farmers, what’s wrong with that. If there is a legal suit to the WTO, we will face it,” said Hatta, quoted by inilah. com, one of leading portals in the country.

Previously, the United States has complained the restriction on the importation of horticulture products by Indonesia and planned to file the complaint to the WTO.

2013 Aero-India Air Show kicks off

BEIJING, 7 Feb—The 2013 Aero-India Air Show has kicked off in the City of Bangalore. The 5-day show provides a significant platform in bolstering business opportunities for companies from both home and abroad in the international aviation sector.

A win-win chance for India and global equipment and aircraft makers, the world’s aviation heavyweights are landing in India in hopes of securing a share of the country’s defense budget, which is expected to see increases in the billions of dollars. They were warmly welcomed by India, which is trying to upgrade its largely Soviet-era military equipment.

Plans are under discussion with Israel to build a gas pipe to the south Cyprus shores and the possible construction of a liquefaction plant to process both Cypriot and Israeli natural gas in adjoining blocks.

Total investment for the two projects has been estimated at 10 billion euros.

Total obtains hydrocarbons exploration licenses in Cyprus

Nicosia, 7 Feb—French foreign energy company to obtain hydrocarbon exploration licenses in the Cypriot exclusive economic zone.

Cyprion Commerce Minister Neoclis Syllokito and Total’s Middle East President for oil exploration and production, Amaud Breuillac, on Wednesday signed contracts giving the French energy company exploration rights in two blocks off the south coast of the eastern Mediterranean island.

Italian-South Korean ENI-Kogas consortium signed similar contracts on Jan. 24, giving it exploration rights in three fields and Texas-based Noble Energy has already tapped considerable reserves of natural gas in a block next to those allocated to Total.

In remarks after the signing ceremony, Syllokito said that the signing of the deal marks the successful conclusion of the second licensing round for hydrocarbons licensing. However, he added that more fields may be allocated at the end of a six-month extension period.

Breuillac said Total will proceed with oil and natural gas drilling, but added that it is too early to say which one will come first. Total plans a new drilling shortly to confirm and evaluate the gas reserves it tapped last year, which were originally estimated at 5 to 8 trillion cubic feet.

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Gunmen abduct Fil-Canadian boy in S Philippines

ZAMBOANGA CITY, 7 Feb—Unidentified gun- men abducted Thursday a Filippo-ino-Canadian boy and his nanny in the southern Philippine city of Pagadian.

According to Chief Supt. Juanito Vano, West- ern Mindanao police director, the one-year old victim, Timothy Mata Sokolov and his 17-year old nanny Caroline Remetre were abducted while strolling in their subdivision around 6:30 a.m. local time.

Vano said the suspects were on board a blue-colored Honda Jazz without a plate number dragged. The suspects snatched the vic- tims and hurriedly sped off towards unknown directions.

Police and military forces in the nearby towns were alerted about the kidnap- ping. The police also blocked all the exit routes with checkpoints in Pagadian City.

Policemen inspect the site of road acci- dent in Yameng Township under an industrial and tour- ist development zone near Kunming, capital of Yunnan, on 6 Feb. 2013. Twelve people were killed and three others injured after a vehicle fell off a moun- tain cliff in Yunnan Province on Wednes- day afternoon.

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Egyption president to visit India next month

NEW DELHI, 7 Feb—Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi is to visit India in March, local media reported on Thursday.

Though both India and Egypt have given their consent to a visit by Morsi next month, the exact dates are yet to be finalized, ‘The Times of India’ newspaper reported.

Morsi’s visit assumes significance as he had earlier told India that Egypt has the potential to join BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) nations, going on to even suggest a new name for the grouping, eBRICS, the report said.

Morsi, belonging to Muslim Brotherhood party, became Egypt’s President in 2012 a year after the Arab Spring toppled Hosni Mubarak who had ruled the country for over three decades.

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A girl looks at a swimming ray at Vancouver Aquarium in Vancouver, Canada, on 6 Feb. 2013. The Secret World of Sharks and Rays exhibition showcased different rare species of the ocean animals to boost the awareness of protecting endangered marine life.—Xinhua
Business leaders hold seminar in Kyoto, W Japan

OSAKA, 7 Feb—A two-day business seminar seeking for a new economic development model from Japan’s Kansai Region has started in Kyoto City, western Japan, on Thursday, attracting more than 500 business leaders and officials.

The Kansai Economic Seminar, co-organized by the Kansai Economic Federation and Kansai Association of Corporate Executives, was kicked off on Thursday morning in Kyoto International Conference Center with the aim of booting discussions about possible national and regional development to produce what they are proud of in the people in the next generation.

During the opening session on Thursday morning, Shousuke Mori, chairman of the Kansai Economic Federation, stated participants should give their ideas from pragmatic point of view to work out the “acceptable” business approaches.

According to the organizers, participants are expected to join in workshops this afternoon and tomorrow, which will focus on several key themes such as “Establishment of resilient country”, “Japanese companies facing new capitalism”, “Development of business environment towards participation in the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) free trade agreement negotiations and "Innovative Kansai”.

During the 51st conference, students from universities are also invited to exchange their views with top business leaders.

ASEAN Secretary-General, CPR vow to strengthen coordination

JAKARTA, 7 Feb — ASEAN Secretary-General and the Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR) to ASEAN agreed to further strengthen coordination and cooperation between ASEAN Member States and the ASEAN Secretariat in order to effectively implement the goals and objectives of the association.

Secretary-General Le Luong Minh said that although ASEAN has made significant achievements in recent years, there remains much to be done. “There is a need for the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN Member States to improve our coordination, cooperation and communication as well as among the ASEAN sectoral bodies in implementing the three ASEAN Community Blueprints. Time was also of the essence in view of the ASEAN Community 2015 target,” he said in the meeting held on Wednesday.

Both the Secretary-General and the CPR also agreed that the central role of ASEAN remains important in ASEAN’s agenda. Narrowing the development gap was also highlighted as one of the priorities of ASEAN.

During the meeting, the Secretary-General shared with the CPR his perspectives on the progress and challenges in ASEAN Community building efforts in the ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC), the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC). The secretary general and CPR also agreed to hold frequent and regular consultations in order to enhance their coordination and cooperation. The CPR expressed their full support and cooperation to assist the secretary general throughout his tenure.

200,000 Chinese tourists to come to Thailand for Lunar New Year

BANGKOK, 7 Feb—Thai public and private sectors are preparing Thailand for Chinese New Year as at least 200,000 tourists from China are expected to celebrate in the country, Thai News Agency reported on Thursday.

Thannita Savetsila Mancke, Deputy Permanent Secretary for Tourism and Sports, said the ministry expected about at least 200,000 tourists from China to choose Thailand as their destination during the Chinese New Year holiday, started Sunday and extending through next week. Apart from Bangkok and northern Province of Chiang Mai, the southern west coastal Province of Surat Thani and touristic island of Phuket, are among the destinations expected to be crowded with Chinese tourists.

Because of large numbers of tourists, the ministry has cooperated with several state and private agencies to arrange facilities for the tourists’ convenience in Thailand.

Three killed in under-construction bridge collapse in Mumbai

NEW DELHI, 7 Feb — At least three persons were killed and several others injured when parts of an under-construction bridge collapsed near the Mumbai Airport late Wednesday night, a senior police official said on Thursday.

The bridge collapsed suddenly at 10.30 pm when several construction workers were working at the site. They were all trapped under the debris and were rescued by fire tenders. While one died on the spot, three others succumbed to their injuries at the hospital where they were admitted,” he said, on condition of anonymity.

Local TV channels beamed footage of rescuers pulling out those trapped under the debris at the under-construction bridge which, when completed, will connect international and domestic terminals of the Mumbai Airport.

The police have booked the private contractor of the site for negligence, the official added.

Shallow quake hits Sumatra, Indonesia

JAKARTA, 7 Feb—An earthquake measuring 5.3 on the Richter scale struck off North Sumatra of Indonesia earlier Thursday, the Indonesian Meteorology and Geophysics Agency reported.

The quake struck at 07:41 am Jakarta Time (00:41 GMT) with epicentre at 25 km southeast of Sibolga of North Sumatra and with the depth at 64 km under the sea, an official of the agency told Xinhua over the phone.

An earthquake 5.6-magnitude was reported by the agency that hit West Sumatra at 05:12 am on Thursday.

Indonesia sits on a vulnerable quake-hit zone called “Pacific Ring of Fire”.

Malaysia offers rewards for information leading to arrest of elephant killers

KUALA LUMPUR, 7 Feb—Malaysian authorities are offering a 50,000-ringgit (16,000 US dollars) reward for information that leads to the arrest of the culprits behind the death of 14 rare pygmy elephants last month if they were confirmed to be poisoned.

Sahabat state tourism, culture and environment ministry said on Wednesday it hopes to have new leads with the offer.

Police are already investigating workers of several logging companies.

Ten elephants were found dead on 29 January on the eastern tip of Borneo for suspected poisoning after autopsies showed their intestinal tracts were ruptured.
The Prequalification Evaluation Committee formed by the Ministry of Transport has evaluated the prequalification documents submitted by nineteen applicants for the Yangon International Airport Project and has selected the best qualified eleven firms based on (a) financial strength (b) experience record (c) qualified personnel and (d) equipment resources.

Accordingly, the Department of Civil Aviation, Ministry of Transport hereby announce the following list of firms which are prequalified to submit tenders for the Yangon International Airport Project.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Reg. No.</th>
<th>Leading Firm</th>
<th>Consortium</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>005</td>
<td>Toyota Tsusho Corporation</td>
<td>Serbia</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>008</td>
<td>Vinci Airport</td>
<td>Vinci, Malaysia</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>010</td>
<td>ITNL International Pte., Ltd</td>
<td>ITNL International Pte Limited.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>012</td>
<td>Incheon Airport Consortium</td>
<td>Incheon International Airport Corporation, Kunocho Industrial Co, Ltd, Halla Engineering and Construction Corporation</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>013</td>
<td>Okkar Thiri</td>
<td>Okkar Thiri Co., Ltd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>014</td>
<td>Pioneer Aerodrome Services</td>
<td>Pioneer Aerodrome Services Co., Ltd.</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>017</td>
<td>Sojitz Corporation</td>
<td>Sojitz Corporation, Maeda Corporation, Japan Airport Terminal Co., Ltd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>020</td>
<td>Bouygues Batiment-First Pacific-Yoma-FMI</td>
<td>Bouygues Batiment, First Pacific, Yoma Strategic Holdings</td>
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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>025</td>
<td>Yongnam-CAPE-JGC Consortium</td>
<td>Yongnam Holdings Limited, JGC Corporation, Changi Airport Planners and Engineers Pte.Ltd.</td>
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</tbody>
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Note: The list is in order of the registration number of the firms at the time of purchase of prequalification documents from the Department of Civil Aviation.

The Department of Civil Aviation will inform in writing to each of the firms in the above list the date and terms and conditions for purchase of the tender documents.
Netflix, Queen Latifah’s film company strike
TV distribution deal

LOS ANGELES, 7 Feb—Online video streamer Netflix Inc has struck a deal to show the films produced by Flavour Unit Entertainment, the companies said on Tuesday.

The deal will give Netflix the right of first refusal over the films by the production company, which has made films such as “Beauty Shop” and “Bringing Down the House.” Netflix and Flavour Unit said in a joint release.

This means the films will bypass premium cable channels like HBO and Showtime that have controlled the market of films to TV subscribers in the past. Flavour Unit is owned by actress and rapper Queen Latifah.

“We are delighted to work with Queen Latifah to be the exclusive distributor for what are sure to be relevant, entertaining movies,” Ted Sarandos, Netflix’s chief content officer, said in a statement. The deal will begin in spring 2013, Netflix said. Netflix’s agreement with Flavour Unit comes on the heels of a deal it has with Walt Disney Co in December.

Reuters

The headquarters of Netflix is shown in Los Gatos, California on 20 Sept, 2011.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV DELPHINUS VOY NO (330)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV DELPHINUS VOY NO (330) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.P. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: FORTUNE SHIPPING & AGENCY PTE LTD.
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (022)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA LAHN VOY NO (022) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORIENT OVERSEAS CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV FISHER BRIDGE VOY NO (029)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV FISHER BRIDGE VOY NO (029) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8-2-2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S G-LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD.
Phone No: 256924/256914

Netflix, Queen Latifah’s film company strike
TV distribution deal

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
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Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

What worries Katie Holmes?

“However, at the same time, she also misses being with someone special to share experiences with and she doesn’t want to be alone for the rest of her life.”

Katie currently spends most of her time with the couple’s six-year-old daughter, Suri, and while she loves being with her, she knows it’s important for her to have other important people in her life. The couple added to Radaronline.com: “Katie’s got Suri for the time being, and she is her best friend, but she does eventually want to have a man she can be that close with as well. She’s just a little nervous and cautious about relationships still right now.”

PTI

New Delhi, 7 Feb—Katie Holmes is worried about dating again. The former Dawson’s Creek actress has been single since splitting from actor Cruise last June and while she is keen to start seeing new guys, she doesn’t want to lose her newly found freedom.

A source said: “Katie’s in a dilemma, because she wants to date but is concerned where it could lead her from. ‘She’s worried that if she commits herself fully to another man, she will have to give up the freedom she’s enjoying so much at the moment. As a single woman, she has no one to tell her what is to do or who to see and she absolutely loves it!”

UK celebrity chef Delia Smith hangs up her TV apron

London, 7 Feb—Celebrity chef Delia Smith, who was inspired by the awfulness of British food, has decided to quit television, saying entertainment had overtaken education in modern cookery shows.

Smith, 71, the UK’s best-selling cookery author with more than 21 million copies sold, told fans at a trade show that she was leaving TV after 40 years to focus on a new venture, the Delia Online Cookery School.

The chef said she is still passionate about teaching people how to cook in a no-nonsense style but she wanted to work online with her followers who have coined the phrase “doing a Delia” to refer to preparing one of her recipes. “This is the future for me and the population. It’s miles ahead. If you do a TV program now, it’s got to entertain,” Smith was quoted by the Telegraph.

The couple is working with the Nederlander Organization on the show that will trace their lives from leaving Cuba to international stardom. “The Estefans’ journey of success, led by raw talent and passion, is captivating as it drove them from relative obscurity to global sensations,” Jimmy Nederlander, the organization’s president, said in a statement announcing the deal.

Singer Gloria Estefan, husband, plan
Broadway show of their lives

Gloria Estefan introduces Christina Aguilera’s performances of the 40th American Music Awards in Los Angeles, California, on 18 Nov, 2012.—Reuters
**Lakers’ Gasol out indefinitely with foot injury**

LOS ANGELES, 7 Feb—Los Angeles Lakers forward Pau Gasol has been sidelined indefinitely after sustaining a tear in his right foot, his team said on Wednesday. Gasol was injured during the Lakers’ victory over Brooklyn on Tuesday and received scans which confirmed an injury serious enough to keep him off court for a while.

Los Angeles has not given a specific timetable on his return and the 7-foot (2.13m) Spaniard will meet with team doctors on Thursday to sketch out a plan for his recuperation.

Los Angeles Lakers’ Pau Gasol sits on the floor with a member of the Lakers medical staff after suffering an injury to his right leg in the fourth quarter of their NBA basketball game against the Brooklyn Nets in Brooklyn, New York, on 5 Feb, 2013.—**Reuters**

Gasol had been moved to a reserve role to make room in the paint for Howard, but over his last three games had averaged 20 points and 8.6 rebounds in the starting lineup.

**AUSTRALIANS WIN RACE TO TOP OF EMPIRE STATE BUILDING**

New York, 7 Feb—Australians Mark Bourne and Suzy Walsham were the fastest man and woman to race up the 1,576 steps of the Empire State Building on Wednesday in the run up of the iconic New York landmark.

Bourne finished in 10 minutes, 12 seconds and Walsham clocked 12:05 in the race up 86 floors that is described as a vertical marathon, the New York Road Runner (NYRR), which organizes the annual Empire State Building Run-Up, said.

About 600 runners from 18 countries took part in the race, now in its 36th year. “Obviously I’m very happy to win it and it’s nice to have all the training pay off,” said Bourne. “I wanted to pace myself well and fortunately it paid off.”

Four-time champion Walsham was equally delighted. “I had a bear on my back after my crash in 2009 and I trained specifically for this race. It’s a personal best time for me and I couldn’t be happier,” said Walsham who lives in Singapore.

Australian Darren Woolson came in second among the men, followed by Ricky Gates of San Francisco. Brooke Logan of Australia was the second woman to reach the top, ahead of Erika Aklufi, of Los Angeles, who placed third.

German Thomas Dold, the defending men’s champion who has won the race a record seven times, did not compete because of illness.

About 30 elite men and women vertical racers, or tower runners, who storm up skyscrapers around the globe, along with fitness enthusiasts and some 200 charity runners ran from the top of the landmark building to the iconic New York landmark.

**Lakard commands spotlight at Pebble Beach**

LOS ANGELES, 7 Feb—Celebrities such as actor Bill Murray and singer Huey Lewis have established a high profile at the Pebble Beach National Pro-Am but no one will command a greater share of the spotlight this week than defending champion Phil Mickelson.

Fresh from a scintillating display of dominant golf at the Phoenix Open where he clinched his 41st PGA Tour victory by four shots on Sunday, Mickelson returns to the picturesque surrounds of Pebble Beach Golf Links close to the best form of his career.

The American left-hander has long been renowned for his magical short game and exciting shot-making but he is especially excited by his much improved accuracy since acquiring a new driver which he put into play for the first time last week.

“It just changed my whole deal,” a beaming Mickelson told reporters after closing with a four-under-par 67 on the Stadium Course at the TPC Scottsdale.

“The fact that this club is so easy to hit now, I think it’s going to change the rest of the year for me. I really do. ‘My iron play has always been the strength of my game ... but to drive it as easily as I did in play and to have the misses be so much less is going to set up for a very good year, I believe.” Armed with his new Callaway RAZR Fit Xtreme driver, four-times major champion Mickelson pounded the ball long and straight for most of the week at Scottsdale, and came within a whisker of shooting a 59 in the opening round.

“To be able to make a driver that spins this low with this much loft for me has never been done,” said the 42-year-old, who previously used a less-lofted model while adopting a more upward swing plane.

“Now I’m able to make US golfer Phil Mickelson hits off the 11th tee of the north course at Torrey Pines during first round play at the Farmers Insurance Open in San Diego, California, on 24 Jan, 2013.—**Reuters**

**Okinazaki double leads Japan past Latvia in World Cup warm-up**

KOBÉ, 7 Feb—Shinji Okazaki struck twice as Japan made a winning start to 2013 with a comprehensive 3-0 victory over Latvia on Wednesday in a tune-up for next month’s crunch World Cup qualifier against Jordan.

The Stuttgart striker rattled in off the post to open the scoring late in the first half and sealed victory with a cool finish, seconds after Keisuke Honda had doubled the Asian champions’ lead at Home’s Stadium in Kobe.

“We haven’t been together as a team for about two months so we looked a bit rusty in the first half,” said Japan coach Alberto Zaccheroni.—**Kyodo News**

**OKAZAKI SCORES HIS SECOND AND JAPAN’S THIRD GOAL DURING THE SECOND HALF OF A FRIENDLY AGAINST LATVIA IN KOBÉ ON 6 FEB, 2013. JAPAN WON 3-0 AHEAD OF A WORLD CUP QUALIFIER IN MARCH AWAY TO JORDAN. —**KYODO NEWS**

**SHINJI OKAZAKI (9) SCORES HIS SECOND AND JAPAN’S THIRD GOAL DURING THE SECOND HALF OF A FRIENDLY AGAINST LATVIA IN KOBÉ ON 6 FEB, 2013. JAPAN WON 3-0 AHEAD OF A WORLD CUP QUALIFIER IN MARCH AWAY TO JORDAN. —**KYODO NEWS**

**NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR**

**SPORTS**
Gokteik Viaduct

The largest railway trestle in the world upon its completion in 1901, the Gokteik Viaduct is the highest bridge in Myanmar. Located in the center of the country about 600 miles (100 kms) northeast of the largest city of Mandalay.

Construction was overseen by Sir Arthur Rendel, engineer for the Burma Railroad Company. Stretching 2,260 feet (689 mt) from end to end, the viaduct has 14 towers that span 40 feet (12 mtrs) along with a double tower 80 feet (24 mtrs) long. These 15 towers support 10 deck truss spans of 120 feet (37 mtrs) along with six plate girder spans 60 feet (18 mtrs) long and an approach span of 40 feet (12 mtrs).—NLM

Hodgson warns Lampard against US move

LONDON, 7 Feb—Frank Hodgson underlined his importance to England with a superb winner in his side’s 2-1 victory over Brazil on Wednesday but his chances of reaching his 100-cap milestone could be scuppered by a move out of Europe, coach Roy Hodgson said. The 34-year-old Chelsea midfielder’s 60th-minute curler after Hodgson, whose mix of youth and experience ensured a vibrant display from England, sees no reason why Lampard cannot emulate the feat of club colleague Ashley Cole who played his 100th international in the prestige Wembley friendly.

However, Lampard’s future at Chelsea is unclear and with no new contract finals, providing England quality.

“He was excellent tonight,” Hodgson told reporters. “I think he can (reach 100 caps). I hope we keep him Frank in Europe but it’s not for me to discuss his future with his current club, that’s between him and the club. “I know he will have a lot of offers if Chelsea do decide they are prepared to let him go and I would rather hope that we will see him still, if not in England, then in Europe because that would make my task easier.”

If he does follow David (Beckham) and goes further afield it complicates things but it doesn’t necessarily mean your career ends. “But he is of course he understands that the further afield you go the more problematic it does become for him and for the media to follow you and the national team manager.”

With Arsenal’s Jack Wilshere producing a classy midfield display alongside Steven Gerrard, Lampard’s place in the starting team is no longer assured but as he proved his eye for goal is undiminished.—Reuters

Blast rocks N Afghan, casualties feared

KUNDUZ (Afghanistan), 7 Feb—A powerful blast rocked northern Kunduz town, the capital of Kunduz Province, 250 km north of Kabul on Thursday, casualties feared, a local official said.

The blast took place at 10:40 am local time in front of the house of provincial governor. Thursday morning, the official told Xinhua.

He also added that a police vehicle was damaged due to the blast. However, he declined to be identified, saying authorized officials would brief the media after investigation.

Meantime, police spokesman in the province, Sayed Warwar Hussaini in talks with Xinhua confirmed that the blast killed one civilian and injured another. However, he added that there were no casualties; adding investigation has been initiated into the incident.—Xinhua

Seven killed in avalanche in northern India

NEW DELHI, 7 Feb—At least seven people have been killed in an avalanche in Himachal Pradesh as heavy snowfall brought life to a standstill in the northern Indian state of Himachal Pradesh, a senior police official said on Wednesday.

The victims were killed when the avalanche hit Kafnu village in the state’s remote Kinnar district last Tuesday night. More people are feared to be trapped in the avalanche as efforts are going on to search for any more survivors,” he said, on condition of anonymity.

Meanwhile, heavy snowfall has brought life to a standstill in the entire district. “The entire Kinnar district is experiencing continuous heavy snowfall. While four feet snow was recorded till Tuesday, another one-and-half feet was recorded this morning. Already a high alert has been sounded in the district,” Kalpa Prashant Deshta, a local government official told the media.

However, power has been restored in the district which faced a blackout last evening.—Xinhua

Leftist rebels kill 1 civilian every week in 2012

MANILA, 7 Feb—The Philippine military accused Wednesday the leftist New People’s Army (NPA) of killing one civilian every week in 2012.

The Armed Forces of the Philippines issued the statement by citing the atrocities committed by the rebels last year. The leftist rebels were responsible for 374 violent incidents last year, which caused the death of 53 civilians over the country, military spokesman Colonel Arnel Burger said.

“Rounding up the statistics, an innocent civilian is killed by the NPA every week last year,” he said. Aside from the killings of civilians, he said that the violent incidents perpetrated by the rebels also resulted to the death of 81 military personnel, eight policemen, and 22 paramilitary.

“Such atrocities is a clear manifestation of the NPA’s continuing war against the government and its armed wings including private firms and individuals, even poor folks in far flung villages of the country to give in to their demands since the NPA has lost its mass base support,” Burgos said.

In January this year, Burgos said NPA staging several attacks that killed three soldiers and 10 civilians. However, Burgos said the Armed Forces was able to neutralize 555 rebels in 2012, of them, 367 voluntarily surrendered to the government.

As of end 2011, security officials pegged the strength of the NPA at 4,043 men. The NPA, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines-National Democratic Front, has been waging war against the government for over four decades.—Xinhua

England’s Frank Lampard (C) scores past Brazil’s goalkeeper Julio Cesar during their international friendly soccer match at Wembley stadium in London on 6 Feb, 2013.—REUTERS

coming on as a half-time substitute for his 94th appearance was his 27th England goal since his first cap in 1999.

Presidential polls in Maldives set for September

MALÉ, 7 Feb.—The Maldivian Elections Commission said on Thursday that presidential elections in the island will be held on 7 September this year.

This will be the first presidential polls held in the nation after President Mohamed Waheed replaced former president Mohamed Nasheed in February last year. The Elections Commission announcement also comes days after mounting international pressure by the European Union and other nations reiterating calls for free and fair polls in the Maldives. President Waheed on Sunday announced that he and his government was fully committed to a free and fair election and also urged the Elections Commission to declare the election date “as soon as possible”. In April last year, just two months after Nasheed was replaced, Waheed announced that the presidential polls will be held in July 2013 due to wide protests demanding for an early election by Nasheed’s supporters.—Xinhua

Vehicles run on a flooded street in northwest Pakistan’s Peshawar on 6 Feb, 2013. At least 17 people were killed, 31 injured and many others displaced after moderate to heavy rainfall lashed several areas of Pakistan over the last 72 hours, local TV Dunya reported on Tuesday.—Xinhua

Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk came to an end on Thursday when part of his cremains were taken from the king father Norodom Sihanouk due to a procession in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, on 7 Feb, 2013. A week-long funeral of Cambodia’s late King Norodom Sihanouk came to an end on Thursday when part of his cremains were taken from the cremation site to keep in the royal palace in a procession.—Xinhua

King Father Norodom Sihanouk’s father, Cambodia’s late King Norodom Sihamoni, (Afghanistan), 7 Feb—A powerful blast rocked northern Kunduz town, the capital of Kunduz Province, 250 km north of Kabul on Thursday, casualties feared, a local official said.

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New Light of Myanmar

Friday, 8 February, 2013

R/489 Printed and published by the New Light of Myanmar press in Nay Pyi Taw, the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information.
The ministry has decided to put in the coming eight kinds of sports, swimming and table tennis. Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htaik replied that out of eight sports, badminton, basketball, cycling, golf, swimming and table tennis will be put in the coming SEA Games. Myanmar has no chance to win medals for eight kinds of sports. The ministry has decided to put such sports in the 27th SEA Games, upholding the motto of the 27th SEA Games “Green, Clean, Friendship.” The ministry is providing necessary assistance to athletes and upgrading international-standard sports grounds and gymnasiums. Asia Youth and Junior Weight Lifting Championship was held in Yangon from 5 to 12 November, 2012. South East Asia Archery Competition was also held in Nay Pyi Taw from 9 to 14 January, 2013. Plans are under way to host similar invitational competitions. U Aung San said, “I am very pleased with the deputy minister’s reply” Hluttaw decided to record the proposal on promulgating a law to ensure and protect standard fundamental rights of citizens submitted by U Thein Aung of Thanbyuzayat Constituency and an urgent proposal on urging the government to conserve High Court (Yangon) and Combined Office between Strand Road and Bank Road in Yangon as ancient cultural heritages by Thura U Aung Ko of Kanpetlet Constituency.

Diplomatic relations established between Myanmar and the Armenia

MNA Nay Pyi Taw, 8 Feb—The Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Armenia, with the purpose to promote the friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation, agreed to establish diplomatic relations at Ambassadorial level with effect from 31 January 2013. The Joint Communiqué on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries was signed by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations and the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Armenia to the United Nations in New York on 31 January 2013. Myanmar has been making efforts to expand diplomatic relations with countries all over the world, and the Republic of Armenia has become the 115th country with which Myanmar has established diplomatic relations.

U Aung San of Pabedan Constituency asks questions—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 7 Feb—Six questions were raised and one proposal submitted at today’s Pyithu Hluttaw Session.

Regarding the question of U Aung San of Pabedan Constituency on winning chances for eight kinds of sports for which Myanmar did not win the medals in 26th SEA Games and hosting of international-friendly matches, Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htaik replied that out of eight sports, badminton, basketball, cycling, golf, swimming and table tennis will be put in the coming SEA Games. Myanmar has no chance to win medals for eight kinds of sports. The ministry has decided to put such sports in the 27th SEA Games, upholding the motto of the 27th SEA Games “Green, Clean, Friendship.” The ministry is providing necessary assistance to athletes and upgrading international-standard sports grounds and gymnasiums. Asia Youth and Junior Weight Lifting Championship was held in Yangon from 5 to 12 November, 2012. South East Asia Archery Competition was also held in Nay Pyi Taw from 9 to 14 January, 2013. Plans are under way to host similar invitational competitions. U Aung San said, “I am very pleased with the deputy minister’s reply” Hluttaw decided to record the proposal on promulgating a law to ensure and protect standard fundamental rights of citizens submitted by U Thein Aung of Thanbyuzayat Constituency and an urgent proposal on urging the government to conserve High Court (Yangon) and Combined Office between Strand Road and Bank Road in Yangon as ancient cultural heritages by Thura U Aung Ko of Kanpetlet Constituency.

Ivory poachers, grave threat to elephant population

Recently, we have read news about killing of wild elephants in Ngapudaw Township of Pathein District in Ayeyawady Region and Kyaukda Township in Bago Region. Following this, we went to Forest Department under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry to interview about those incidents and the habitat of wild elephants in Myanmar. U Zaw Win Director Ayeyawady Region Forest Department Q: Let me know about the killing of elephants.
A: It happened in Block No. 2 in Sinhmoe Forest Reserve, Moe-thinmyin Village-tract in Ngayokekaung Sub- township, Ngapudaw Township, Pathein District. An elephant was found killed on 3 January afternoon. It is a black male (See page 7)