President U Thein Sein sends message of felicitations to Serbian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Tomislav Nikolic, President of the Republic of Serbia, on the occasion of the National Day of the Republic of Serbia, which falls on 15 February 2013.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar President Office (Order No 9/ 2013)
4th Waxing of Tabodwe, 1374 ME
14 February, 2013

Resignation of Ayeyawady Region Minister allowed

Under the Article 163 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and Section 13 of the Region/State Hluttaw Law, Social Affairs Minister U Tin Soe of Ayeyawady Region government has been allowed to resign from his post as he was elected as the Speaker of Region Hluttaw.

Sd/ Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Heated debate on 2013-2014 FY National Plan Bill goes on

NAY PYI TAW, 15 Feb—“Laws should not be just for show,” says Daw Mi Myint Than of Ye Constituency, calling for translation of the government’s doctrine “good governance, clean government” into actions.

She stressed agricultural loans should be reached to farmers and not into the pockets of those who misuse power and suggested adding the word “the sufficient amount of” between “to provide” and “agricultural loans to farmers” in the proposed agricultural plan on 2013-2014 FY Bill.

The heated debate over 2013-2014 FY National Plan Bill went on at the ninth-day sixth regular session of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw today as the parliamentarians put forward large numbers of recommendations.

Daw Nan Wah Nu of Kunhing Constituency questioned the credibility of commitment made at the Parliament, criticizing the Electric Power Ministry for failing to build a power station in Kunhing Township which was promised to establish nearly two years ago.

Daw Nan Wah Nu portrayed red-tape as a reason for illegal trade, a threat to national income. “Despite the virtual instability, timber extraction and minerals mining have never ceased in the region,” she said.

Daw Dwe Bu of Ingyanyan Constituency called for pragmatism in policy-making, stressing the need for operability on the ground.

She welcomed the Information Ministry’s plan to extend parliamentary news and ethnic communities TV channels, suggesting establishing FM stations in rural areas so that people are in touch with functions of the parliament.

U Than Myint of Taninthayi Region Constituency No (10) warned against the apparent planned economy of the State, calling for granting greater autonomy to regions and states.

MPs urged the Union government to consider pay rise for public servants. Union Ministers for Communications and Information Technology U Myat Hein, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Thet Naing Win and Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Hsan Hsint took oath in the presence of the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

Note: All the reports have been taken from the New Light of Myanmar.
Industrial wastewater pollutates Mandalay and its vicinity

Mandalay, 14 Feb — Due to the irresponsible dumping of wastewater from factories in Mandalay Industrial Zone and the surrounding areas, there has been a high risk of water pollution in Taungtaman Lake and its surroundings in Amarapura Township causing deteriorating of ecosystem. Because of south and north natural lake regions subject to water pollution, the Ayeyawady is under the threat of water pollution when the polluted water from the lakes has reached the River via Dohtawady River. According to zoologists and scholars in chemistry, the death of fish occurred due to the impact of dumping wastewater in Taungtaman Lake.

In order to reduce levels of environmental pollution in Mandalay, an agreement between officials of Mandalay City Development Committee and industrialists was reached on 1 February to formulate a wastewater treatment system as soon as possible and to launch punitive actions against reckless dumping of wastewater from factories. There are 90 factories dumping wastewater in the municipal area of Mandalay. Factories are to carry out their own wastewater treatment system until MCDC operates its wastewater treatment system in the middle of the year 2013.

Kyemon

Traffic rules violators charged in Mandalay

Mandalay, 14 Feb — Members of Mandalay Region traffic police corps are making great strides in ensuring traffic rule enforcement and free from possible dangers of road accidents.

Starting from 1 January, reckless drivers of 652 vehicles were charged with violation of traffic rules by four traffic police groups in the municipal area of Mandalay. Actions had been taken against 126 drivers who were without driver licences, 60 without work licences, 166 who violated traffic rules and 307 who committed other cases. A total of 1667 motorcyclists were charged with traffic rules violation.

Kyemon

Mandalay General Hospital provides emergency patients with free medical treatment

Mandalay, 14 Feb — “Thanks to an increase in health budget, emergency patients in Mandalay General Hospital are being given free health care services starting from 21 January”, Medical Super-intendent Dr Maung Win said.

He continued that K 550 million had been allocated to the hospital for buying medicines and medical equipment for 2012-13 fiscal year. A committee formed with consultants, surgeons and nurses that has responsibility for the procurement of medicines and medical equipment in the hospital provided necessary medicines.

Now, skilled health staff are providing 24-hour free health care services to the poor and those who are affordable to receive medical treatment under the costs-sharing health care system.

Kyemon

Road/bridge works gaining momentum in Ayeyawady, Yangon Regions

Nay Pyi Taw, 14 Feb — In his inspection tour of Ayeyawady Region, Deputy Minister for Construction U Soe Tint oversaw repair works of Kyakkal-Pyapon road, laying of gravel from mile post No (50) to (51) and tarmacking of road, maintenance works for Pyapon bridge, Pyapon-Dedyaya road and Dedyaya bridge and road works along Dedyaya-Kungyankon.

Kawhmu road section on 8 February. OnhisarrivalatKawhmu Township in Yangon Region, the deputy minister inspected the groundwork for Kawhmu-Wah Balalhauk-Thamminchan-Thayettaw road and stockpiling of gravel along the road, loading gravel onto trucks from the ship at Thayettaw Village, upgrading of Dala-Thakhut-Latkhokkone road and maintenance of Twantay bridge.

Then he proceeded to the construction site of Hime river crossing No (2) Bayintnaung Bridge project. The deputy minister called for sooner completion of the project meeting set standard, ensuring worksite safety and fire preventive measures and systematic use of heavy machinery.

MVA

Mandalarians donate blood in commemoration of the Union Day

Mandalay, 14 Feb — Hailing the 66th Anniversary Union Day, a collective blood donation ceremony was held at a prayer hall in the compound of Thiri Haymar Ashae Eindawya Pagoda on 11 February.

Responsible persons led by Dr Daw Khin Sein Win and U Tun Tun, chairman of blood donation association, spoke words of encouragement while 54 donors are donating blood.

Next, the chairman and executives of association handed over 54 blood bags to In-charge of National Blood Bank Dr Daw Khin Sein Win who presented certificates of honour to them. Those who wish to donate blood may contact the association at No (53/6) junction 26th and 27th streets.

Kyemon

Two-digit dealers arrested in Mahaaungmye Township

Mandalay, 14 Feb — Mandalay Region Police Force is cracking down on two- and three-digit dealers as a drive for curbing gambling in Mandalay.

According to a tip-off, police members led by Police Sub-inspector Myo Min Kyu of No (9) Police Station in Mahaaungmye Township arrested Ma Khine Mar Oo and Daw Pyone and seized K 6.8 million and instruments — laptop, mobile phone, calculator and papers that carry names — used for illegal betting while searching the house of Ma Khine Mar Oo in Maharymyine ward-1 in the township.

While the house search was in progress, Daw Pyone swallowed the memory stick that stores data of illegal betting.

No (9) Police Station of Mahaaungmye Township filed a lawsuit against gambling dealers Ma Khine Mar Oo and Daw Pyone.

Kyemon
Chavez undergoing “delicate” cancer treatment

CARACAS, 14 Feb — Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez is undergoing “complex” alternative treatments more than two months after having cancer surgery in Cuba, his vice president said on Wednesday.

The 58-year-old socialist leader has not been seen in public since he went to Havana for the operation on 11 December, his fourth surgery for cancer in 18 months.

Vice President Nicolas Maduro did not give details of the alternative treatments the president was receiving. Chavez has never said what type of cancer he is suffering from, and critics accuse the government of excessive secrecy over his condition.

“My command is undergoing alternative treatments... they are complex and difficult treatments that must, at some point, end the cycle of his illness,” Maduro said in comments on state TV.

The government, which rejects allegations it has not been transparent about Chavez’s health, says he has completed a difficult post-operative period and has started a “new phase” of his recuperation. It has not given details of this new phase.

Any new vote in South America’s top oil exporter would probably pit Maduro, Chavez’s heir apparent, against Henrique Capriles, the opposition candidate.

The campaign season officially ends midnight Wednesday, semi-official Fereidoon Abbasi on

Iran continues installation of new uranium enrichment centrifuges

TEHERAN, 14 Feb — Iran is continuing the installation of new uranium enrichment centrifuges at the central Natanz facility, said Head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Fereidoon Abbasi on Wednesday, semi-official Fars news agency reported.

The remarks came after experts of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and Iran started a new round of talks in Tehran’s capital of Teheran on Wednesday with hopes to resolve the differences between the UN nuclear watchdog and Iran over the latter’s quoted nuclear programme.

The installation started one month ago, and according to the schedule, the Islamic republic intends to double the number of centrifuges in Natanz, according to Abbasi.

Teheran Times quoted an IAEA report as saying that the number of Iran’s first-generation IR1 centrifuges at Natanz site amounted to 10,500 at the end of last year.

The Iranian nuclear chief added that new centrifuges will be used for generating enriched uranium below five percent and will not be used for producing 20 percent enriched uranium.

On 30 January, Iran informed the IAEA of the installation of its new uranium enrichment centrifuges in Natanz.

Pakistan asks Taleban to announce 30-day cease-fire for talks

ISLAMABAD, 14 Feb — Pakistani Interior Minister, Rehman Malik on Wednesday asked the Taleban militants to declare a 30-day cease-fire if they want dialogue with the government, local media reported.

It was the first formal government’s response to the Taleban dialogue offer. Taleban’s attacks have killed nearly 40,000 people including security forces, in the past 10 years.

“The government is ready to hold dialogue with Taleban provided they announce cease-fire and appoint some sincere religious scholars to achieve purposeful results,” Malik told reporters in Islamabad.

If “Taleban are sincere in holding talks, they should have announced a cease-fire and formed a Jirga (council of elders), comprising some serious and thoughtful people,” Malik said. The government have not yet responded to the government’s fresh proposal however they had previously rejected similar calls.

The Interior Minister said Taleban should know that Pakistan have seen their actual face and the nation would not forgive the crimes of killing of innocent citizens.

“The nation has rejected Talebanization. Taleban should announce cease-fire first to hold talks,” he said.—Xinhua
Tycoons Slim, Gates open Mexico agricultural research centre

TECUZCO, 14 Feb — Carlos Slim and Bill Gates, the two richest men on the planet, inaugurated a new agricultural research centre outside Mexico’s capital, touting the millions they have donated to bolster global food security. The two tycoons participated in a ribbon-cutting ceremony for new laboratories at the headquarters of the International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre, known by its Spanish acronym CIMMYT.

The new complex will double the centre’s capacity to develop better seeds and more productive farmers in the developing world, officials said. “These laboratories will help attract the best talent in the world to come and work here,” said Gates, founder of Microsoft and co-chair of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Slim’s charitable foundation donated $25 million to build the new complex, while the Gates foundation has given more than $90 million for ongoing CIMMYT projects, including an $18 million grant that was announced on Wednesday to help boost small-farm yields in South Asia.

“We have climate change but we also have significant volatility in raw materials, and that makes improved efficiency and food productivity indispensable,” said Slim, who controls a business empire that includes Latin America’s biggest telecommunications company, América Móvil. Mexico’s agriculture minister, Enrique Martínez, told the assembled dignitaries that new advances and left messages purporting to be from organizations like Europol and the police, saying users could only regain access to their machines if they paid a fine. “It’s impossible to know for sure how many citizens were affected by this, but we estimate hundreds of thousands of Europeans were.” Europol Director Rob Wainwright said at a news conference in Madrid on Wednesday. “If we take into account that the average fine was 100 euros ($130) and 3 percent, paid it, then the estimated damage is millions of euros,” he said. Wainwright added his own name was once been used to trick Internet users.

The virus was known as “Ransomware” and had up to 48 different mutations to overcome anti-virus software. The leader of the fraud network, a 27-year-old Russian citizen, was arrested in December in the United Arab Emirates, Spain’s secretary of state for security, Francisco Martínez, said at the news conference. Spanish police arrested 10 members of the group last week on the country’s southern Costa del Sol, a popular tourist destination, Martínez said.—Reuters

Apple loses right to use iPhone trademark in Brazil

NEW YORK, 14 Feb — Brazil’s copyright regulator on Wednesday stripped Apple Inc of the rights to use its iPhone trademark in that country, the Wall Street Journal reported on its website on Wednesday.

The agency that oversees patents in Brazil said Gradiente Electronica SA, a Brazilian consumer electronics maker, already owned the rights to the iPhone name, according to the report. Apple will be able to challenge the ruling in the Brazilian courts.

Earlier this month, sources told Reuters that the regulator, the Brazilian Institute of Intellectual Property, was likely to make the decision that Apple did not have the rights to the trademark. Gradiente Electronica registered the “iphone” name in 2000, seven years before Apple launched its popular smartphone, a spokesperson for Apple in the United States was not immediately available to comment.—Reuters

Adobe reports re봐न of another security bug in its software

BOSTON, 14 Feb — Adobe Systems Inc is investigating a report by a cybersecurity firm that hackers exploited previously unknown bugs in its Reader and Acrobat software to launch sophisticated attacks on personal computers. FireEye, a Silicon Valley company that helps businesses fight cyber attacks, told Reuters it obtained so-called PDF files tainted with malicious software, which can take advantage of the newly discovered bugs. It declined to identify any victims of the attacks. A company spokeswoman for Adobe said that the company is investigating the report, which surfaced late on Tuesday. She declined to elaborate. This has been a busy year so far for Adobe’s security team. In January, the company pushed out security fixes to tighten vulnerabilities in Reader, Acrobat and Flash, as well as a program known as ColdFusion that is used to build websites. Last week, it rushed out a fix for Flash Player after security software maker Kaspersky Lab identified a critical bug that enabled hackers to install “back doors” and take control of PCs running on Microsoft Corp’s Windows operating system or Apple Inc’s Mac OS X. Adobe’s software has long been a popular target for hackers, who attack PCs by finding bugs in widely used programmes that they can then exploit to insert viruses on computers. Experts estimate that Reader and Acrobat programs for accessing PDF documents and Flash Player for accessing Internet content are installed on more than 1 billion PCs. Hackers exploiting the most recently discovered vulnerability use PDF files to infect PCs, according to FireEye.

Europol breaks up multi-million euro Internet fraud gang

Madrid, 14 Feb — A network of online fraudsters who masqueraded as European crime-fighting agency Europol and collected millions of euros in fake fines has been broken up — by Europol. The group, which worked across 30 countries over the past two years, paralyzed computers with a virus and took over 70% of all-in-one PCs.—Reuters

No “Plan B” for Microsoft’s mobile ambitions

SEATTLE, 14 Feb — Microsoft Corp has not made much of a dent in Apple Inc’s and Google Inc’s domination of mobile computing, but a top executive hinted on Wednesday that it will not stop trying and does not have an alternative strategy. “We’re very focused on continuing the success we have with PCs and taking that to tablets and phones,” Microsoft’s Chief Financial Officer Peter Klein said at the annual Goldman Sachs Technology and Internet Conference in San Francisco, which was webcast.

Given Microsoft’s lack of success so far, he was asked if there was an alternative strategy or “Plan B” in reserve. “It’s less ‘Plan B’ than how you execute on the current plan,” said Klein. “We aim to evolve this generation of Windows to make sure we have the right set of experiences at the right price points for all customers.”

Microsoft now has two versions of its own brand Surface tablet for sale and released its newest Windows phone software last year. But the company has not made big inroads into either market.

Gartner estimates that Microsoft sold fewer than 900,000 Surface tablets in the fourth quarter, which is a fraction of the 23 million iPads sold by Apple. Microsoft has not released its own figures but has not disputed Gartner’s.

Windows phones now account for 3 percent of the global smartphone market, Gartner says, which is almost double their share a year ago but way behind Google’s Android with 70 percent and Apple with 21 percent.

To grab more share, Klein said Microsoft was working with hardware makers to make sure Windows software is available on devices ranging from phones to tablets to offer in all-in-one PCs.—Reuters

A robot waiter brings dishes of food to consumers in a restaurant in Harbin, capital of northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, on 13 Feb, 2013. The restaurant, offering service by 20 robots, started operating on Wednesday, attracting many consumers.—Xinhua

Ministerio del Interior

Director of Europol Rob Wainwright (R) speaks next to Spain’s Security State Secretary Francisco Martinez during a news conference at the Interior Ministry in Madrid on 13 Feb, 2013. — Reuters

Adobe reviews report of another security bug

Adobe’s software has long been a popular target for hackers, who attack PCs by finding bugs in widely used programs that they can then exploit to insert viruses on computers. Experts estimate that Reader and Acrobat programs for accessing PDF documents and Flash Player for accessing Internet content are installed on more than 1 billion PCs. Hackers exploiting the most recently discovered vulnerability use PDF files to infect PCs, according to FireEye.
**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**New Light of Myanmar**, 14 Feb—

**Electric cars still prohibitively expensive for New Zealand market**

**Wellington, 14 Feb**—Energy-efficient hybrid electric vehicles will only become competitive in the New Zealand car market in about seven years, an electrical engineering expert said on Thursday. Electric vehicles were still too expensive for New Zealand, but the country could benefit substantially from them in terms of reduced greenhouse gas emissions and reduced air pollution, University of Canterbury researcher Dr Allan Miller said at the national energy conference in Wellington.

“The price of an electric vehicle is largely determined by the cost of the battery system. Until this cost is reduced by improved technology and increased manufacturing volumes, they will remain prohibitively expensive,” Miller said, according to a statement from the university. “The key tipping point at which the battery cost per kilowatt-hour drops below an affordable level is expected to occur around 2020. This will result in these vehicles reaching near price-parity with standard vehicles and consequently increasing market volume.”

Hybrid vehicles had been on the New Zealand market for about 10 years and offered considerable fuel savings, but the 5,000 to 6,000 registered hybrids made up just 0.2 percent of the New Zealand fleet last year. Even if the balance tipped in favour of electric vehicles now, at the current rate, it could take 50 to 100 years to replace the 2.6 million private vehicles currently in New Zealand, he said. The University of Canterbury was conducting a project that would lead to a national smart grid project, funded by the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment.—**Xinhua**

**Global mobile phone sales decline in 2012: research**

**San Francisco, 14 Feb**—Market research firm Gartner said in its latest research on Wednesday that worldwide mobile phone sales declined in 2012 for the first time since 2009. “Tough economic conditions, shifting consumer preferences and intense market competition weakened the worldwide mobile phone market this year,” said Anshul Gupta, principal research analyst at Gartner.

According to the research, with smartphones continuing to drive overall sales, worldwide mobile phone sales to end users totaled 1.75 billion units in 2012, a 1.7 percent decline from 2011. Demand for feature phones remained weak in 2012 and was down by 19.3 percent year-on-year in the fourth quarter of 2012, said the research. It is expected to keep falling in 2013. But in the fourth quarter of 2012, smartphone sales rose by 38.3 percent compared to the same period the previous year.

Gartner predicted that overall mobile phone sales to end users would reach 1.9 billion units in 2013 with smartphone sales accounting for almost 1 billion units. Among smartphone vendors, Apple and Samsung together raised their worldwide smartphone market share to 52 percent in the fourth quarter of 2012 from 46.4 percent in the third quarter.

Samsung claimed the No 1 position in both worldwide smartphone sales and overall mobile phone sales in 2012.

Meanwhile, China’s Huawei reached the No 3 spot in global smartphone sales for the first time. Garner said international markets are key for Huawei’s growth in 2013, and the company would be able to improve its product mix to a higher tier.

The research predicted that 2013 would be the rise of the third ecosystem as the battle between the new BlackBerry 10 and Windows Phone intensifies.—**Xinhua**

**Hyper-parents can make college-aged children depressed**

**London, 14 Feb**—Turbo-charged parents still running their university-aged children’s schedules, laundry and vacations could be doing more harm than good with a study on Wednesday showing these students were more likely to be depressed and dissatisfied with life. Researcher Holly Schiffrin from the University of Mary Washington in Virginia found so-called helicopter parenting negatively affect college students by undermining their need to feel autonomous and competent.

Her study found students with over-controlling parents were more likely to be depressed and less satisfied with their lives while the number of hyper-parents was increasing with economic fears fuelling concerns over youngsters’ chances of success. “You expect parents with younger kids to be very involved but the problem is that these children are old enough to look after themselves and their parents are not backing off,” Schiffrin, an associate professor of psychology, told Reuters. “To find parents so closely involved with their college lives, contacting their tutors and running their schedules, is something new and on the increase. It does not allow independence and the chance to learn from mistakes.”

Schiffrin’s study, published in Springer’s *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, was based on an online survey of 297 US undergraduate students in which students described their mothers’ parenting behavior and their own autonomy and researchers assessed their happiness and satisfaction levels.—**Reuters**

**Britain reports to WHO another confirmed case of new coronavirus infection**

**Geneva, 14 Feb**—Another British resident, relative of the previous case, was confirmed to be infected with the novel coronavirus, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Wednesday. The latest confirmed case didn’t have any recent travel history outside Britain, which indicates that infection was acquired in the country, the WHO said in a statement.

“Although this case is suggestive of person-to-person transmission, on the basis of current evidence, the risk of sustained person-to-person transmission appears to be very low,” it said. The WHO said that this patient has pre-existing medical conditions that may have increased susceptibility to respiratory infections.

Britain’s Health Protection Agency (HPA) is following up on all close contacts, including family and healthcare workers, who may have been exposed to either of these two new confirmed cases, and according to the WHO. As of Wednesday, a total of 11 confirmed cases of human infection with the new coronavirus have been notified to WHO and the death toll, which is five, has not changed since April 2012.—**Reuters**

**LG says OLED TV pre-orders top 100, eyes 15 percent rise in 2013 TV sales**

**Seoul, 14 Feb**—LG Electronics Inc said on Thursday pre-orders for its 55-inch next-generation televisions costing over $10,000 have topped 100, and the firm will start selling the TVs on Monday in South Korea as it tries to steal a march on rivals.

Aiming to outdo competitor Samsung Electronics Co and burnish its reputation for TV technology, the world’s No 2 TV manufacturer started taking pre-orders for organic light-emitting diode (OLED) TVs some six weeks ago. Tipped as the technology most likely to replace liquid-crystal display (LCD) TVs, LG’s OLED model costs up to five times more than LCD equivalents due to flat-screen production challenges.

Samsung has yet to announce when it will start production of OLED TVs. Given the high price, the new technology is unlikely to sharply boost profit margins, but LG hopes an early move to OLED will help it revive its sinking profitability at a time when Japanese rivals are benefitting from a weakening yen. December-quarter profits in LG’s TV division tumbled to around one tenth of year-earlier levels, as it bumped up promotional spending in the year-end holiday season.

LG said it was aiming to raise flat-panel TV shipments by 15 percent this year. OLED technology is more energy-efficient and offers higher contrast images than LCD, and is so thin that future mobile devices will be foldable like paper.

OLED displays are already used on Samsung’s popular Galaxy S and Note smartphones, but panel makers have yet to address manufacturing challenges to lower costs to compete against LCD panels, particularly for large screens for televisions and computer monitors.—**Reuters**

**Students take their seats for the diploma ceremony at the John F Kennedy School of Government during the 361st Commencement Exercises at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts on 24 May, 2012.—**Reuters
Turkey adds pressure on EU to crack down on terrorist networks

ANKARA, 14 Feb—Turkey has ratcheted up pressure on the European Union (EU) member countries to crack down on long-running terrorist networks that are operating in their territory with impunity. Ankara alleges that the EU has for years turned a blind eye to the activities of terror groups that target Turkey, European countries and interests using the logistical support and funds garnered in the EU soil. For the last two weeks, the outspoken Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan has not let up his intense criticisms of the EU for failing to take the necessary measures to prevent the outlawed Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK) and far-left Revolutionary People’s Liberation Party/Front (DHKP/C) from operating on their territory.

Both PKK and DHKP/C were listed as terrorist organizations by Turkey, the EU, and the United States.

“The government has recently launched talks with the jailed leader of the PKK in order to pave a way for the disarmament of the group. It does not want any renegade faction in Europe to derail the process,” political analyst Idris Gursoy told Xinhua.

“Since the PKK front organizations commands huge financial network in Europe, the government fears that some may not be interested in laying down the arms or give up huge money business. By putting pressure on the EU, Erdogan wants action on PKK finances in Europe,” he said. Erdogan’s strategy may have worked well as Spanish and French authorities have arrested 23 alleged members of the PKK on charges of extortion to raise money for the terrorist organization. German authorities have filed charges this week against a PKK suspect who was the former head of financial affairs for the illicit group.—Xinhua

UN Security Council extends peacebuilding mandate in Burundi

UNITED NATIONS, 14 Feb—The UN Security Council on Wednesday unanimously adopted a resolution to extend the mandate of the UN peacebuilding office in Burundi, known as BNUB, for one year until 15 Feb , 2014.

The 15-nation council welcomed “the continued progress that Burundi has made towards peace, stability and development,” said the resolution.

The resolution called for continued efforts to support the government of Burundi, including strengthening the legal frameworks of the country, protecting human rights, as well as promoting the socio-economic development of women and youth and conflict-affected populations.

Strengthening the institutions may be key to these goals, it said, as the 15-member council encouraged renewed “efforts to pursue structural reforms aimed at improving political, economic and administrative governance and tackling corruption, with a view to setting up strong drivers for sustained and equitable social and economic growth.”

The council also “calls upon the government of Burundi to foster inclusive elections in 2015 by continuing to improve dialogue between all national actors, including civil society, and to guarantee a space for all political parties,” said the resolution.

The peacebuilding office in Burundi was originally established in 2006, to consolidate peace efforts in a country that has been plagued by decades of factional fighting between the Hutus and Tutsis.

Prolonged armed fighting between different factions has created severe problems of poverty, arms proliferation and tensions that threaten regional stability.

The council therefore called on “the government of Burundi to pursue its efforts of peace consolidation and reconstruction in a regional perspective, especially through projects fostering peace” with intergovernmental bodies like the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR).—Xinhua

Knock-on effect of euro zone crisis

WASHINGTON, 14 Feb—US Treasury Secretary nominee Jacob Lew testifies before the Senate Finance Committee on the Capitol Hill in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 13 Feb, 2013.—Xinhua

US Treasury Secretary nominee warns of govt’s spending cuts

WASHINGTON, 14 Feb—US Treasury Secretary nominee Jacob Lew testifies on Wednesday warned of the harms to be caused by the looming government spending cuts scheduled to kick in on 1 March.

“We cannot allow the series of harmful automatic spending cuts known as the sequester to go into effect,” Lew contended.

That means making it easier to sell US goods abroad and expand manufacturing in the United States. It means working with US partners around the globe and through organizations like the Group of Twenty (G20) to bolster the international financial system and promote global economic stability, he said.

“It means moving forward on the work to complete financial reform so that the system is less vulnerable to crisis, with greater protections for investors and consumers. And it means reforming the tax system so American businesses can thrive and remain competitive,” Lew noted.

As we move forward with deficit reduction, we need to make sure we leave sufficient room for critical investments in education, research, and infrastructure that we need for our economy to grow and compete globally,” he argued at the committee hearing on his nomination.

“Our top priority is to strengthen the recovery by fostering private sector job creation and economic growth at a time when we must make sure our economy remains resilient to headwinds from beyond our shores,” he continued.

A vendor prepares flowers ahead of Valentine’s Day at Pak Klong Talad market in Bangkok, Thailand, on 13 Feb, 2012. Pak Klong Talad market in Bangkok is a very large and busy wholesale market for fresh flowers. —XINHUA

Fake zombie attack alert issued after New Mexico TV station hacked

HOUSTON, 14 Feb—A TV station in the US state of Mexico sent out an emergency alert this week warning people that dangerous zombies were attacking, after the stations’ alert system got hacked, US media reported on Wednesday.

Public television station KENW in Portales, New Mexico, were among several around the country whose emergency alert systems were hacked, according to CBS-affiliated television station KRQE.

The alert read, “Local authorities in your area have reported the bodies of the dead are rising from their graves and attacking the living. Do not attempt to approach or apprehend these bodies as they are considered extremely dangerous.” KRQE said it appears the TV station had not updated the passwords on its emergency alert system, making it possible for hacker attacks.

The same hoax reached around 10 stations in Montana, Michigan, California, Utah and New Mexico, USA Today reported on Wednesday, quoting Greg MacDonald, the CEO of Montana Broadcasters Association. The FBI and the FCC are investigating the cases, and initial findings have officials believe the hoax originated somewhere overseas, MacDonald said. The suspect had quarrels and physical clashes with the family of his former wife when an explosive-loaded car he drove into the village exploded suddenly, the spokesman added. The husband had been admitted to three hospitals. Zheng Runying, a neighbour of the suspect’s father-in-law and also one of the injured, said after hearing the quarrel she was about to go to the neighbour’s home to check, but she lost consciousness in a big bang. Zheng’s husband also suffered severe injuries.—Xinhua

Colombian police searching for hostages freed by rebels

BOGOTA, 14 Feb—Colombian police were searching for five hostages allegedly freed on late Tuesday by the rebel National Liberation Army (ELN). The ELN, Colombia’s second largest rebel group, announced on its website that it had freed two Peruvians and three Colombians after keeping them as hostages since January.

Police chief of Colombia’s northern department of Bolivar, Jorge Octavio Vargas, said they started search overnight and would continue operation till the five people were found.

Asked about the fate of Canadian citizen Jernoc Wibert, who was also abducted by the ELN along with the five hostages, Vargas said: “We will find him soon, because the idea is for the six of them to be able to return to their homes.”

The captives were seized on 18 January at a mining camp by the ELN, which has about 2,500 members operating in northeastern Colombia.—Xinhua
Students study Buddhism culture

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—Under the auspices of Sayadaw Agga Maha Ganthavaca Pana of Bhaddanta Adicissavuma of Wegyi Paxiayttir Monastery in Pobbatthiri Township, Buddhism cultural course is being conducted for the students from 8 am to 11 am every Sunday in Wegyi Village. Over 150 students are attending the course. On 3 February, U Wai Moe-Daw The Zin Zin and family fed the students fried chicken noodle. —Kyemon

Ephedrine powder, stimulant tablets seized in Tamu Township

TAIBE, 14 Feb—A squad comprising a team led by IP Min Swe of Tamu Anti-Drug Special Squad of Sagaing Region, SIP Myint Win of the police station and Lt Aung Chan Tha of the local battalion together with witness, acting on a tip-off, searched Access 125 brand black motorcycle driven by Chit Win from Nathalon Market to Tamu on the Tamu-Zed Road in Myoma 12/A Ward of Tamu Township at 9.40 am on 24 January. The authorities seized three packets of ephedrine powder packaged with white plastic bag in tool box of the motorbike, weighing nine kilos.

According to the confession of Chit Win that the ephedrine powder would be kept in the house of his sister-in-law, the team led by IP Aung Moe, together with witness, searched the house of Khin Myint Mu in Myoma Ward 9 at 10.15 am. They seized 638 packets of omonge WY brand stimulant tablets containing 200 tablets each totalling 127,600 weighing 12.76 kilos. Tamu Police Station opened files of lawsuit against Chit Win, 61, of Zaytan Ward 2 of Tamu and Khin Myint Mu, 43, of Myoma Ward 9 under Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.

MCDC gets advisory committee

MANDALAY, 14 Feb—With the aim of contributing to implementing the various sectors of Mandalay City Development Committee so as to develop the city and satisfy the requirements of the local people, an advisory committee was constituted for the committee, said Chief Minister U Ye Myint of Mandalay Region on 31 January in meeting with members of MCDC and the advisory committee.

The advisory committee comprises townswelders U Po Myint (Chanayethazan Township), U Nyunt Maung (Aungmyethazan Township), U Aung Than (Aungmyethazan Township), U Mya Win (Chanayethazan Township), U Hla Tun (Chanayethazan Township), U Win Pe Myint (Mahaungmye Township), U Kyaw Win (Mahaungmye Township), U Hla Kywe (Chammyathazi Township), U Myint Aung (Pyigiyudgin Township) and U Than Myint (Amarapura Township).

The advisory committee will give advice not only for development affairs but also for staff affairs. —Myannya Alinn

Basic education schools get three new buildings in Lewe Township

LEWE, 14 Feb—A ceremony to open three new school buildings was held at the basic education schools in Lewe Township on 4 February morning. A one-storey school building constructed by Diamond Mercury Co with K 36 million contribution was opened at No 22 Basic Education Middle School Branch in Khayangaz Village-tract of Lewe Township. Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myint Swe, Assistant Director of Township Education Department U Thein Win and townswelder U Thein Toe formally opened the new building.

A similar ceremony was held at BEHS No 3 in Thabyin Village-tract. The building was constructed with K 43.2 million contribution of Diamond Mercury Co. One more school building constructed by Nawngton Co with K 64.8 million contribution was opened at Lewe Basic Education High School No 2. The member of Nay Pyi Taw Council pressed the button to open the new school building. —Myannya Alinn

Outstanding policemen honoured in Bago Region

BAGO, 14 Feb—A ceremony to honour outstanding policemen who performed brilliant efforts in exposing criminal cases was held at the hall of the commander of Bago Region Police Force in Bago on 6 February.

Bago Region Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Thet Tun made a speech. Commander of the region police force Police Col Mya Win and Deputy Commander Police Lt-Col Zaw Khin Aung presented prizes to outstanding policemen. —Myannya Alinn

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The advisory committee will give advice not only for development affairs but also for staff affairs. —Myannya Alinn

German team helps community-based tourism development in Myanmar

NYAUNGU, 14 Feb—A two-member delegation led by Mr Achim Munz of Germany-based Hanns Seidel Foundation conducted seeking data and information in Bago region, doing research in tourist attraction regions and meeting departmental personnel with the assistance of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and Myanmar Tourism Federation with the aim of drawing development policies on community-based tourism in Myanmar on 1 and 2 February.

The discussion was held at Bagan Cooperative Hotel in Bagan-NyaungU Township.—Kyemon

Capacity-building on CITES Policies and Identification of Threatened Species

Mandalay, 14 Feb—Workshop on Capacity-building Training Course on CITES Policies and Identification of Threatened Species concluded at the Central Forest Development Training Centre on 31 December.

Trainees from the Border Trade Department, Myanmar Police Force, Customs Department, Immigration and National Registration Department, Union Attorney-General Office, General Administration Department, Forest Department and non-governmental organizations participated the four-day training course.

Similarly, a total of 30 trainees learnt skills for identification of threatened species and CITES policies from 21 to 24 December at the Central Forest Development Training Centre in Hmawby.

Sponsored by the Ministry of the Environment of the Government of Japan and Secretariat and Southeast Asia, Biodiversity Information Initiative (BSABII), the courses are meant to assist in reducing wildlife trade and

An official presents prize to an outstanding trainee. CITES works in ASEAN region.—NLM

Community Shield income goes to social organizations

YANGON, 14 Feb—Myanmar Football Federation and chairmen and owners of football clubs donated entrance fees from community shield football tournament of MNL 2013 at the office of the federation, here, on 5 February.

President of MFF U Zaw Zaw and organizer U Zaw Het Hwe made speeches. Then, the federation, the chairmen and owners donated K 3 million to Mingala Parahita Monastery in Twantay Township, Ayeyawady Foundation K 2.5 million and five footballs, Dr Sai Hsam Tun of Yadanaung FC K 2.5 million to Pyinnya Beikmar Parahita Monastery in Shweygin Township, Ayeyawady Foundation K 2.5 million and five footballs, Yangon United FC CEO U Min Swe Oo K 2.5 million to Myitizima Lwinbyin social network of Minbu Township and Ayeyawady Foundation K 2.5 million and five footballs.

As of 2012 football season, MNL football club owners have donated cash obtained from the fee of opening cup of football tournament for MNL League to social organizations. —Myannya Alinn

New Light of Myanmar

Friday, 15 February, 2013

7

NLM
Keep our fine tradition

Every country in the world has its own traditions and customs. Myanmar has long been in existence with her own cultures and literature since many centuries. Myanmar with a population of 60 million, which is home to 135 national races, has a rich history of religion, literature, culture and dress. Today is the age of globalization. With the rapid development of IT, cultures from other countries are penetrating into our country through mobile phones. That is why we have no idea of the latest events in the world immediately.

Nowadays, no country in the world is possible to close their country’s doors. We must open the doors to get enough oxygen and light. Opening doors brings the good and the bad things to the country. Due to cultural imperialism, the tradition and cultures of other countries are disappearing. We must be well aware of it. Some people’s bad behaviors could tarnish the images of Myanmar culture.

These days, it is not a strange thing to see young ladies enjoying beer together with men. It is not a Myanmar tradition. And, some young girls’ dress style is a real eyesore. Other countries’ dresses would not be suitable for Myanmar weather condition. We should imitate the good things only from other countries.

Due to the recent changes, the country is more likely to receive a flood of tourists soon. So, foreign visitors could have assumed that behaviors to be a Myanmar tradition and looked down on us. Thus, we must show what our tradition is and keep in our minds that we are Myanmar. We should act in the words ‘Think Globally, Act Locally’.

Coordination meeting for holding Zaykabar Myanmar Open 2013 Golf Tournament

YANGON, 14 Feb—A coordination meeting for holding International invitational Zaykabar Myanmar Open 2013 Golf Tournament presented by Alpine, was held at Royal Mingaladon Golf & Country Club Albatross Loung in Mingaladon Township, here, on 11 February.

Vice-Chairman of Myanmar Olympics Committee Deputy Minister for Sports U Thaung Htaik made a speech on the occasion. After that, Chairman of Zaykabar Co Ltd Dr Khin Shwe gave suggestions and Vice-President of Myanmar Golf Federation U Aung Kyi explained the arrangement made for holding the golf tournament. Afterwards, the deputy minister left necessary instructions and made a concluding remark.

Golfers from Australia, Bangladesh, China, England, Finland, French, Hongkong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, Russia, Scotland, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Taipei, Thailand, USA, Vietnam and 15 professional golfers and six amateurs will take part in the tournament to be held at Royal Mingaladon Golf & Country Club from 21 to 24 February, 2013.

The 66th Anniversary Union Day celebration-2013 was held in Nay Pyi Taw on 12 February on a grand scale. The responsible persons of Peace Groups attended the celebration together with national race delegates to the Union Day for the very first time. Peace-making process is taking good shape in the time of the new government. The ceasefire agreements had been reached with 11 national race armed groups. A ray of peace is going to fall on the soil of Kachin State as the meeting with KIA group in Ruili on 4 February produced better outcomes. At the time when the people long for a lasting peace, a ceremony to support the peace agreement between the Union government and Karen National Union (KNU) was organized in Pantanaw of Ayeyawady Region on 11 February. It was the first-ever mass rally in support of the peace-making process. I had a chance to conduct an interview with KNU CEC chairman Mahn Thein Hla acted as the chairman, Dr Mahn Khin Maung Soe as vice-chairman and Saya Khin Maung Soe Win as secretary of the ceremony. Apart from local people of Pantanaw Township, 10000 people participated in the ceremony. While asking permission for organizing the ceremony, Union Minister U Aung Min willingly allowed us to hold the ceremony. The Ayawady Region Government and local authorities not only gave permission for the ceremony but also provided necessary assistance.

Q: Who encouraged the people to hold the ceremony?

There was no one who encouraged the people to hold the ceremony. People

Q: Let me know how the ceremony was organized.

Under the leadership of Pantanaw Township Literature and Culture Committee, the ceremony was held on 11 February. The township committee chairman Mahn Thein Hla

Q: What did you say in your address?

We had seen a more than 60-year-old armed conflict in the country. Never in all my life have I seen such kind of successful negotiation. Nation races have been treated with respect and as equals in the time of the new government led by the President. All national races are granted recognition. Today’s negotiations were held without preconditions. We were able to open the peace door and this was a first step towards a lasting peace. We are trying to dispel suspicions that existed on both sides. I accepted that there are many people who are suspicious of our peace-making process. Only the negotiation is the best way to bring a lasting peace for the country. We chose this way as it can guarantee the country to see the minimum losses, at the very least. If there is other ways and means that are better than this way, show

**INTERVIEW**

Mass rally gives government and peacemakers a great strength

KNU CEC member Pado Mahn Nyein Maung

Q: What are the other items included in the agenda?

On behalf of the Region Chief Minister, Region Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Ko Ko addressed the ceremony. The proposal in support of the peace-making process being implemented by the Union government and Karen National Union was submitted and sought the approval of the people.

Q: What is your view on holding the ceremony?

It will be a push for peace-making process if the entire people hold the ceremonies the far and wide of the nation so did in Pantanaw.

Q: Let me know the KNU’s steps in the peace-making process.

We signed a ceasefire agreement on 12 January 2012. Talks are in progress to be able to draw a lasting peace. As for me, I have met the President for two times. The first time was the meeting between the President and the KNU chairman. The second time was at the meeting between the President and peace groups today (13 February).
Union Foreign Affairs Minister felicitates Serbian counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya NYein received the visiting delegation led by Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana at Hluttaw Committee Building (2), the Hluttaw Complex, here, at 3 pm today.

It was attended by Amyotha Hluttaw Committee Chairmen U Zaw Myint Pe, U San Tun, Dr Aye Maung, U Aung Nyein, Daw Nan Ni Ni Aye, Col Maung Maung Htoo and officials concerned from the Hluttaw Office.

During the meeting, the deputy speaker and the committee chairman answered queries on practicing democracy system at the Hluttaws, taking measures for human rights including participation of the defence services personnel.

—MNA

Ambassador U Kyaw Tin concurrently accredited as Ambassador to Republic of Cuba

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Kyaw Tin, Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations, New York, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Cuba. MNA

Union Foreign Affairs Minister visits Belgium, Luxembourg, UK and France

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—A Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin arrived back this afternoon by air after paying official visits to Belgium, Luxembourg, the United Kingdom and France from 4 to 13 February 2013.

During his European round of tour, the Union Minister attended and gave the keynote speech at the EU-Myanmar Roundtable discussions co-organized by Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES) of Germany and Myanmar Institute for Strategic and International Studies (MISIS).

In the afternoon, he called on Ms Catherine Ashton, the EU High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy.

The Union Minister for Foreign Affairs received Mr. Jonathan Prentice, Senior Political Advisor of the International Crisis Group at the Myanmar Embassy in Brussels on 7 February.

He also called on Ms Kristalina Georgiva, Commissioner for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Assistance and Crisis Response of the European Commission, and Mr Andris Piebalgs, Commissioner for Development.

The Union Minister visited Luxembourg on February 8, and held bilateral meeting with Mr Jean Asselborn, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Luxembourg. He also met with Mrs Marie-Josee Jacobs, Minister of Cooperation and Humanitarian Action and also met with Mr Laurent Mosar, President of the Chamber of the Deputies.

—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana

MNA

Union Minister U Wunna Maung Lwin poses for documentary photo together with Ms Catherine Ashton, the EU High Representative for Foreign and Security Policy. MNA

Indian parliamentary delegation visits Mandalay

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—The visiting Indian parliamentary delegation led by Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar visited Mandalay this noon.

The delegation visited the Hluttaw Office.—MNA

Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw receives Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana

MNA

Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Citizens’ Fundamental Rights, Democracy and Human Rights meets Mr Quintana

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—Chairman of Pyithu Hluttaw Citizens’ Fundamental Rights, Democracy and Human Rights Committee U Htay Oo received Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana at Hluttaw Committee meeting hall No.1, here, this afternoon.

At the meeting, they cordially discussed the matters related to human rights situations, legislative measures, activities inside and outside of Hluttaw, national unity, peace and stability and international relations.

It was also attended by seven members from the committee and officials from the Hluttaw office.—MNA

Speaker of Lok Sabha Smt. Meira Kumar and party of Indian visit Myanamar Sankyaw Golden Palace in Mandalay.—MNA

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya NYein holds talks with Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana.—MNA

Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Mya NYein talks with Mr. Tomas Ojea Quintana.—MNA

Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw receives Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana

—MNA

New Light of Myanmar
Two shot outside US county courthouse

WASHINGTON, 14 Feb—Two people were shot outside of a county courthouse in the US state of South Carolina, local media reported on Wednesday.

The shooting took place outside the Chesterfield County Courthouse on Wednesday afternoon, and the victims were shot in a vehicle, WBTV, which serves the Charleston area, reported.

Sheriff Sam Parker said the incident happened just before 1 pm outside the courthouse. Deputies were quoted as saying that someone pulled up to a car sitting outside the courthouse and fired shots at the two people inside.

At this point there was no report of injuries or fatalities. Deputies chased the suspect 12 miles into Page-land, forcing the suspect to crash his vehicle. The suspect has been arrested, but his identity has not been released. The investigation is still ongoing.—Xinhua

Russia denies supplying Syria with Iskander missiles

MOSCOW, 14 Feb—Russia has never supplied Syria with Iskander, a tactic missiles system, or other offensive weapons, head of Russia’s military exporting corporation said on Wednesday.

“We have no contracts of the shipments.” Anatoly Isaikin, director general of the state-run Rosoboronexport, told the reporters.

Russia had only delivered to Syria ground-to-air systems while Iskander is an advanced ground-to-ground first-strike complex with a range of 500 km, said Isaikin, adding Moscow sustained military-technical cooperation with the war-torn country because Damascus had not yet been under the UN Security Council’s sanction.

“We are continuing to fulfill our obligations on contracts for the delivery of military hardware,” the Interfax news agency quoted him as saying, citing Syria ranked 12th or 13th place among the clients of Russian arms trade.

Isaikin also denied that Russia was planning to supply MIG-29M fighters to Damascus while confirming that it had a deal for Yak-130 training planes.

IAEA experts arrive in Iran for new round of talks on nuclear deal

TEHERAN, 14 Feb—Experts of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) arrived in Teheran on Wednesday morning, hoping to resolve the differences between the UN nuclear watchdog and Iran over the latter’s disputed nuclear programme.

On Tuesday, before leaving the Vienna airport, Herman Nackaerts, IAEA’s deputy director general for safeguards, said “this time we will try to work hard to resolve the differences.”

The agency’s goal “is to finalize the structured approach document,” said Nackaerts.

The IAEA and Iran met twice last December and in January to finalize a deal over the nuclear programme, but they failed to reach any agreement.

On Tuesday, head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Fir- edoon Abbasi said that it is necessary for the negotiations to be conducted “rationally” and to avoid any “unwieldy and ambiguous” that could set.

Also, Iran’s Foreign Ministry spokesman Kamin Mehmounparast on Tuesday said that his country is prepared to address the IAEA’s concerns over certain aspects of the country’s nuclear activities provided that Iran’s nuclear rights on the basis of the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT) directives are recognized.

Iran and the West are locked in a bitter dispute over the former’s nuclear activities, with the latter accusing Teheran of developing nuclear weapons under the cover of peaceful purpose, a charge Iran has consistently denied.

Iran has insisted that its rights to peaceful nuclear activities, and above all the right to uranium enrichment should be recognized by the IAEA and world powers.

S Africa to host BRICS investor conference ahead of summit

JOHANNESBURG, 14 Feb—The South African gov- ernment will host the first BRICS-EXPO and Inter- national Trade and Tour- ism Conference later this month ahead of the fifth BRICS summit.

With the theme of “Pioneering business and investment opportunities between the BRIC countries and North West prov- ince”, the four-day confer- ence will kick off on 21 February at the Mbhatho Convention Centre in Ma- hikeng, the North West Province.

North West Premier Thandi Modise, who is organizing the event on behalf of Pretoria, said the conference is aimed at creating a platform for the public and private sector to explore business opportu- nities with international businesses from BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, Chi- na and South Africa).

“One of the provincial priorities is to increase in- vestment inflows into the province. Engagements with investors will af- ford us with opportunities to learn best practices in manufacturing, renewal energy, mining, mineral beneficiation, tourism, in- frastructure development and agriculture beneficia- tion projects,” she said in a statement.

The North West Pro- vincial tractor the South Africa economy be- cause of mining activities which generate more than half of the province’s gross domestic production and provides jobs for a quarter of its workforce.

According to Modise, besides positioning South Africa’s North West Pro- vincial as a preferred in- vestment destination, the province has prioritized the development of key eco- nomic sectors to contribute towards job creation and increase contribution to the province’s GDP.

She said the province is looking forward to en- gagement and discussion with BRIC partners to fur- ther strengthen and solidify close ties in trade, tourism and investment.

About 300 delegates are expected to converge for the conference. South Africa is to host the BRICS summit in Durban on 26- 27 March.—Xinhua

US oil dips on easing tension between Iran and IAEA

NEW YORK, 14 Feb—US crude oil price dipped on Wednesday as crude inven- tories in the world’s largest oil consumer increased, and Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) had reportedly agreed on “some points” during talks in Teheran. “In addition to removing some differences and agreement on some points in the text...the two sides decided to review and exchange views about the new proposals that were given in this meeting, in the next meeting,” said Ali As- ghar Soltanieh, Iran’s envoy to IAEA, media reported.

US crude inventories rose by 560,000 barrels in the week ending 8 Febru- ary, the International En- ergy Agency (IEA) said on Wednesday in its weekly report.

Meanwhile, average daily production for crude oil in the United States was more than 7 million barrels in Janu- ary, a multi-year high, accord- ing to the IEA monthly report on Wednesday. Besides, IEA cut its outlook for global oil demand growth by 90,000 barrels per day, also dragging on oil prices. On the eco- nomic front, US retail sales rose 0.1 percent in January, compared with an increase of 0.5 percent in the prior month, as payroll taxes hikes imposed negative influences to consumers’ purchasing will, Commerce Department figures showed on Tuesday.
Two chairs found on elevated rail tracks in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 14 Feb—Two chairs were found last month on a segment of elevated rail tracks in Singapore during pre-operation checks by the staff of a subway system operator, local daily The Straits Times reported on Thursday.

The chairs were promptly removed after they were found on 13 January, but train services operator SMRT later put up notices warning residents against the haphazard disposal of foreign objects onto the tracks, which could “impede operations” and “disrupt services.”

A police report has been lodged over the latest incident. SMRT said its findings indicate that the chairs were thrown from nearby blocks.

The company said it has encountered 14 cases of foreign objects landing on the Bukit Panjang LRT line since 2004.

“Most objects are small items like clothes and slippers. Depending on the type of object found on our tracks, delays to service could range from a few minutes to even longer,” a spokesperson was quoted as saying.

“The object can damage equipment on the track, or under the train carriage if a train runs over it,” she said.

In 2007, a youth was placed on two years’ probation for tossing tubes of silcone sealant onto the track, causing an eight-minute disruption and 4,100 Singapore dollars (3,306 US dollars) in damage.

A lawmaker said the issue is a matter of civic consciousness. “We need to appeal to residents to stop these inconsiderate acts that put people’s lives in danger,” he said.

“Whether it’s a disgruntled resident or someone playing a prank, it’s about being considerate.”—Xinhua

Laos donates 30,000 USD to Bopha survivors in S Philippines

MANILA, 14 Feb—The Government of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic has extended 30,000 US dollars in financial assistance for the victims of typhoon Bopha (local name Pablo) which wrought havoc to southern Philippines last December, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said on Wednesday.

Philippine Ambassador to Laos Maria Lumen Isleta received the check from Lao Deputy Foreign Minister Bounkeut Sangsomsak at a ceremony held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Vientiane recently, the department said.

Sangsomsak expressed the sympathy and condolences of the Lao Government and people to those affected by the large-scale devastation caused by the natural disaster. He also said that Laos shared the pain and suffering of the Philippines and hoped that nature would spare the country from future major calamities.

Isleta conveyed deep appreciation for Laos’ generous gesture and support during this difficult time.

She also briefed Sangsomsak on the ongoing relief and reconstruction efforts in the affected areas and the extent of the loss and damage caused by the typhoon.

Meanwhile, the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is appealing for more than 1.3 billion pesos (31.94 million US dollars) in additional funding to help Bopha survivors.

According to Alain Aeschlimann, ICRC’s head of operations for East Asia, South-East Asia and the Pacific, the additional funding will be used to provide food, tarps, mosquito nets, cooking utensils, and hygiene items to 300,000 people who lost everything during the typhoon.

He added that the ICRC will help in repairing damaged water supply systems and health facilities, and restoring livelihoods through cash-for-work programmes and distributing free seedlings and farming tools to the typhoon survivors.—Xinhua

Curfew imposed after attack in restive S Thailand

BANGKOK, 14 Feb—Curfew has been imposed in one of Thailand’s violence-plagued southern provinces after an attack at a Thai Marine base last Saturday, which resulted in the death of 16 militants on Wednesday morning.

About 1 am Wednesday, over 30 fully armed militants raided a military base in Bacho District of Narathiwat Province.

The military had learned of the attack in advance from detected militants, said Southern army spokesman Colonel Pramote Promin on Wednesday.

Sixteen assault rifles, a motorcycle and a pick-up truck were seized.

After the incident, the Thai security agency decided to impose a 24-hour curfew in four sub-districts and two nearby sub-districts from 6 am Wednesday.

Curfew imposed after attack in restive S Thailand

S Korea’s President-elect nominates six ministers

SEOUL, 14 Feb—South Korea’s President-elect Park Geun-hye named six ministers on Tuesday, tapping her foreign policy advisor as foreign minister and a former Army general to lead the defence ministry.

Yun Byung-se, a former deputy foreign minister who has long advised Park on foreign policy issues, was named as the top diplomat in the incoming Park administration.

Kim Byung-kwan, a retired Army general who also served as deputy commander of the South Korea-US Combined Forces Command, was named to be the next defence minister.

Park, who replaces President Lee Myung-bak later this month, also appointed ministers of education, justice, public administration and culture.—Xinhua

5.5-magnitude quake hits Kyushu, Japan

HOKKAIDO, 14 Feb—An earthquake measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale jolted Kyushu, Japan at 03:57:47 GMT on Wednesday, the US Geological Survey said.

The epicentre, with a depth of 41.50 km, was initially determined to be at 30.2809 degrees north latitude and 131.4039 degrees east longitude.—Xinhua

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Fire disrupts subway train service in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 14 Feb — A fire broke out at a subway train station in Singapore on Wednesday morning, disrupting the train services on one of the subway lines for more than two hours.

The northbound train services between the stations of Newton and Toa Payoh were disrupted from 9:00 am in the morning after a traction power cable caught fire.

The cable was supplying electricity to the third rail.

No one was injured in the incident.

Firefighters arrived at the scene shortly after the fire broke out. The fire was extinguished at 10:06 am.

Railway technicians and the police and firefighters tried to make sure that the track is safe before it resumes full service at around 11:30 am, train services operator SMRT said in a statement.

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CB Bank is happy to announce that we have started Merchant Service Registration to help your business accept payments from all three Major International Cards in one single terminal:

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Actor Steve Martin is first-time dad at age 67

LOS ANGELES, 14 Feb—Actor, writer and comedian Steve Martin has become a dad for the first time at age 67—and managed to keep it secret from the media for more than a month. Martin and his second wife, Anne Stringfield, 41, “are new parents and recently welcomed a child,” a spokesperson for the actor said on Wednesday.

The spokesperson gave no details, including the sex of the child or the date of birth. But the New York Post cited unidentified sources as saying the baby arrived in December. The multi-talented Martin, whose career as a writer and performer dates back more than 45 years, has played a father in movies such as “Parenthood,” “Cheaper by the Dozen,” and “Father of the Bride.”

Martin, who has hosted the Oscars ceremony three times, married Stringfield, a former writer at the New Yorker magazine, in 2007. His eight-year marriage to British actress Victoria Tennant ended in divorce in 1994.

F.1 Front View (The Whole Bottle)  F.2 Side View (The Whole Bottle)  F.3 Top View  F.4 Bottom View (From the bottom of the Bottle)

F.5 Front View (Close Up)  F.6 Side View (Close Up)  F.7 Bottom View (Close Up from the front of the bottle appearing embossed words “PROPERTY OF M B L” in upper case)

The above mentioned bottle design is used in respect of “Beer Bottles or Similar Articles” (Subclass 01 of International Design Class 09)

Any unauthorized use, imitation, infringements or fraudulent intentions of the above registered bottle design will be dealt with the existing laws of Myanmar.

Tin Ohnmar Tun (Advocate)
B.A.(LAW) LL.B, LL.M(U.K)
Ph: 09 73 150 632
Email : law_chambers@seasiren.com.mm
(For, Myanmar Brewery Limited, Myanmar)
Dated 15 February, 2013.

Not scared of stepping into character roles: Akshay

Mumbai, 14 Feb—After moving away from solo-hero projects and tasting success with off-beat movies like ‘Oh My God’ and ‘Special Chabbis’, actor Akshay Kumar says that he would not shy away from doing character roles. “I will keep doing these (‘Special 26’) kind of films even if it’s a character role. I am not scared of going towards character actor zone.”

Actor Steve Martin arrives at the 2012 Vanity Fair Oscar party in West Hollywood, California on 26 Feb, 2012.—REUTERS

 REUTERS
Ministry of Information

News and Periodicals Enterprise

Invitation to Open Tender for Purchase of Nikon Camera

1. Open tenders are invited to purchase five items of Nikon Camera D-7000 for News and Periodicals Enterprise.

2. Open tender forms may be drawn from the following address from 9:30 hr to 16:30 hr daily during the period from 14-2-2013 to 25-2-2013.

3. Open tender forms are to be submitted in the presence of members of the Tender Board at Office No.7, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw from 9:30 hr to 16:30 hr on 26-2-2013. The overdue forms will not be considered.

4. For further information, may dial 067-412123 and 067-412128 during the office hours.

News and Periodicals Enterprise
Ministry of Information
Office No.7, Nay Pyi Taw
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Unheralded Nuggets playing with chip on their shoulders

TORONTO, 14 Feb — The Denver Nuggets are happy flying under the radar, but a lack of attention despite an impressive campaign has given them added motivation to make noise in a competitive Western Conference. Before Sunday’s overtime loss to the Boston Celtics, Denver owned the NBA’s longest active winning streak with nine straight victories in which they topped the 100-point plateau in each.

Despite their longest win streak in nearly eight years which lifted them to second place in the Northwest, the Nuggets remain overlooked as talk about who will represent the Western Conference in June’s NBA Finals centres around the San Antonio Spurs, Oklahoma City Thunder and Los Angeles Clippers. “We like to be under the radar. We like being made to feel like we are an underdog and people look down upon us,” Denver coach George Karl told reporters before his team’s 109-108 road loss to the Toronto Raptors on Tuesday.

The Nuggets (33-20) have gone 1-1 in games against each of the three Western Conference favourites this season and have the fifth best record in the 15-team Western Conference with a balanced attack powered by Italian forward Danilo Gallinari and speedy guard Ty Lawson. Entering Tuesday’s game, Denver had six players averaging double figures, something the Spurs (five), Thunder (four) and Clippers (four) could not say.

“There’s a lot of good teams out there, the San Antonio Spurs and so forth we have a lot of depth, but we feel like we have depth and can compete with those teams,” said Denver center Kosta Koufus.

Rafael Nadal
Nadal faces Souza in Brazil Open second round

SÃO PAULO, 14 Feb — Former world No 1 Rafael Nadal will face Brazilian qualifier Joao Souza in his opening singles match at the Brazil Open on Thursday, Souza advanced to the second round of the ATP 250 clay-court event after opponent Ruben Ramirez Hidalgo was forced to retire hurt with an ankle problem during their first round match on Wednesday. At the time of the injury the 140th-ranked Brazilian led the Spaniard 7-6 (8-6) and 30-0 in the first game of the second set.

Nadal, who earned a first-round singles bye, progressed to the second round of the doubles event with David Marrero during the event in his only previous appearance in Brazil as an 18-year-old in 2005.
Cardinals running back James banned four games for doping

NEW YORK, 14 Feb — Arizona Cardinals running back Javarris James has been suspended for four games for violating the league’s policy on substance abuse, the National Football League (NFL) said on Wednesday. James, who spent the 2012 NFL season with Arizona on injured reserve after suffering a knee injury during the pre-season, has not played a regular season game since 2010 when he was with the Indianapolis Colts.

If he makes a roster for next season, James, the cousin of former NFL standouts Edgerrin James, would serve his ban for the first four games of the 2013 campaign. James was released by the Colts after he was arrested for marijuana possession in 2011 and made stops with the New England Patriots and Washington Redskins before joining Arizona. — Reuters

China-LatAm relations expected to enter new phase

SANTIAGO, 14 Feb — The next Chinese government to be in place in March will usher in a new phase in China-Latin America relations, an Latin American official told Xinhua on Wednesday.

At the latest summit of the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC) in Santiago, leaders of the member states ordered their foreign ministers to work toward the establishment of a CELAC-China cooperation forum, said Osvaldo Rosales, director of International Trade and Integration at the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC).

The installation of the new Chinese government will coincide with CELAC’s new focus to seek permanent dialogue with China, especially around the cooperation agenda proposed by Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao during his visit to Latin America in 2012, Rosales said.

The ECLAC official said there are political will and strategic needs from both sides to build direct dialogue. He believed that 2013 will be a very active year for bilateral exchange.

This June, Chinese and Latin American agriculture ministers will meet in Beijing, which was one of Wen’s proposals, he said, adding that ECLAC has organized regional talks to prepare an agenda for the meeting.

He said Latin America offers multiple investment opportunities and a very dynamic market.

Finland’s Kekalainen becomes NHL’s first European GM

NEW YORK, 14 Feb — Finland’s Jarkko Kekalainen became the National Hockey League’s (NHL) first European general manager when the Columbus Blue Jackets entrusted him to run the struggling franchise on Wednesday.

Kekalainen, who was the president and general manager of Jokirin in the Finnish Elite League since 2010, was named to the position a day after Columbus fired Scott Howson.

“Hockey is a truly global game and there are very few people whose knowledge of the game in North America and abroad surpasses that of Jarkko Kekalainen,” John Davidson, the Blue Jackets’ director of hockey operations, said in a statement. “He is intelligent, hard-working and a tremendous evaluator of talent. He is a terrific addition to the Blue Jackets family and will play an important role in our efforts to move our organization forward in the coming years.”

Kekalainen, who spent eight seasons with the NHL’s St Louis Blues from 2002-10 where he was involved in all facets of hockey operations, takes over a Columbus team that has not made the playoffs since 2009 and finished last overall in 2012. Prior to working for the Blues, Kekalainen spent eight years with the Ottawa Senators as their top European scout and later as director of player personnel. He also played three seasons in the Finnish JHL and three with the Dallas Stars in the National Hockey League with the Boston Bruins and Senators.

Columbus hired Howson after a 4-7-2 start to the current campaign left them in last place in the Western Conference’s Central division, 13 points behind the first place Chicago Blackhawks.

“We have a great challenge before us, but I am confident through hard work, organization and the investment that we will achieve our goal of building a Stanley Cup contending team,” Kekalainen said in a statement.

Until Kekalainen’s immigration status is settled, assistant general manager Chris MacFarland will accompany the team on its upcoming six-game road trip, which starts Friday in Los Angeles. — Reuters

Afghan president, ISAF welcome US forces pullout

AFGHANISTAN, 14 Feb — Afghanistan’s President Hamid Karzai and NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) welcomed the US President Barack Obama’s decision to withdraw US forces from Afghanistan.

“Afghanistan welcomes the announcement by President Obama, who is in his state of the union address said that the US would be pulling out another 34,000 troops over the next year from Afghanistan,” said a statement posted on Karzai’s website on Thursday.

In his State of Union address on Tuesday night, Obama announced that 34,000 US forces will be repatriated home from Afghanistan over the next year. Currently there are about 100,000 NATO-led ISAF forces, with nearly 66,000 of them Americans, stationed in the country. Under Obama’s withdrawal plan, 33,000 US forces pulled out of the country in September last year.

“This spring, our forces will move into a support role, while Afghan security forces take the lead,” Obama was quoted in the statement as saying.

This is something that Afghanistan has wanted for so long now. The withdrawal in spring of foreign forces from Afghan villages will definitely help in ensuring peace and full security in Afghanistan,” the statement noted.

Meantime, the NATO-led ISAF also hailed the announcement, saying that the announcement is consistent with the strategy agreed upon by US and coalition partners and the Afghan government at the London Summit in 2010, and is evidence of that strategy’s success. — Xinhua

Local people participate in Myanmar traditional sport competition at the Liekan ward of Thaton Township Mon State on 12 February. To mark the 66th Anniversary Union Day, over 20 traditional games and sports were held during the occasion. — XINHUA
Indian parliamentary delegation, Pyithu Hluttaw hold meeting

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—India’s parliamentary delegation held talks with Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann and chairpersons and secretaries of Hluttaw committees at Zabuthiri Hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building here yesterday.

During the meeting, Thura U Shwe Mann and Honourable Smt. Meira Kumar, Speaker of LOK SABHA of India, exchanged views over further bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Thura U Shwe Mann expressed thanks for the meetings during his visit to India as the visit had benefited the bilateral relations, and the experiences and knowledge gained during the visit had been much helpful to the Hluttaw.

He expressed Myanmar’s commitment to economic reforms after gaining achievements in the political reforms and also expressed their willingness to cooperate in economic, investment and trade and technology sectors between the two countries.

Mrs Meira Kumar also expressed her hope that the friendship between the two countries would be strengthened further due to the visits of the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Speaker and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to India and the visits of the Indian Prime Minister and the Indian parliamentary delegation.

Indian government has planned to send a delegation to Myanmar to conduct parliamentary courses to staff of offices of the Hluttaw, she said.

She also pledged to give more assistance to reforms in Myanmar.

After observing the habits, culture and charac-
ters of Myanmar peoples, she found the future of Myanmar has a rosy picture, she said.

Mrs Meira Kumar also offered to share experiences of power sharing and budget sharing between the Central Government and state gover-

ments of India.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the matters between the two parliaments.

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet hosted a dinner in honour of the Indian parliamentary delegation at the dinning room of Hluttaw.

Writs, vital for rule of law, justice and human rights: Union Attorney-General

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—Writs are necessary for the rule of law, justice and human rights, said Union Attorney-General Dr Tun Shin as he opened the academic seminar on writs embodied in the constitution of Myanmar at Amara Hotel here this morning.

He said the seminar would raise public awareness about the writs.

The seminar was jointly organized by the Office of the Union Attorney-General and International Court of Justice.

Former ICJ Chairman Mr John Dowd AO QC said ICJ recognized the historic reforms of the country and guaranteed aids for the rule of law and wider reforms.

The seminar is held through 15 February.—MNA

Shwe Yanpyay Kyaungdaw in Nyaungshwe Township attracts flock of globetrotters

Most of globetrotters who thronged into Nyaungshwe Township in Shan State (South) visit Shwe Yanpyay Atumashi Shwe Kyaungdaw situated at the entrance to the town first before flocking to Inlay Lake.

Shwe Yanpyay Atumashi Shwe Kyaungdaw situated in Ywadaw Village (a) Shwe Yanpyay YwA-U in Tilaw Haakhamgyi village tract in Nyaungshwe Township was built and donated by Nyaungshwe Chieftain Sao Ohn and Maha Dewi and local people on 5th Waning of Nayon 1251 ME.

The building supported by 167 wooden posts is 85 feet long and 55 feet wide. The outer posts are mosaic ones designed to resist impacts of bad weather. The multi-tiered-roofed building is a magnificent one with oval-shaped widows.

Two statues of lion stand in at the bottom of East Mingala stairs at the north side of the building which was rooted with sawn teak under CI sheets. The trak posts and ceiling are decorated with mosaics. Altars where Buddha Images are being kept and thrones are also decorated with mosaics. So the building with ancient cultural works attracts a flock of tourists.

Have grasped a chance to conduct an interview with a tour guide of the 20-member German tourist group there. He said that globetrotters were very happy to study ancient cultural works and to photograph novices reciting Buddhist literature.

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Trs: YM
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Byline & photo: Htay Aung (Kyemon)

Myanmar to host Women’s Forum in December

NAY PYI TAW, 14 Feb—Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin met French Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Thierry MATHOU and Vice-President of Women Forum (France) Ms. Jacqueline Franjou at the ministry, here, this noon. At the call, they discussed pre tasks and subjects to be discussed at Women’s Forum which will be held in Myanmar in December.3.—MNA

MRTV invites companies to broadcast live 27th SEA Games

Local and foreign Companies have been invited to carry out broadcasting services such as live broadcast of the opening and concluding ceremonies of the 27th SEA Games, working for IBC (International Broadcasting Centre) and broadcast of seven sport events.

Those interested companies at home and abroad may submit their proposals to the director-general of

Myanmar Radio and Television (Tatkon) not later than 28th February, 2013, and the day on which the officials of companies would meet will be announced.