

Norinco

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port found Norinco sold more than \$20 million worth of weapons to South Sudan’s government in 2014, prompting the U.S. government to advocate for an arms embargo.

The company was sanctioned by the U.S. government in 2003 for allegedly providing ballistic missile systems to Iran and again in the 1990s after being implicated in a sting operation conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Flora said before a trip to China to meet with Norinco officials last year that he asked the company about those past sanctions and didn’t see any connection between the company’s rail transportation division and the arms production division.

Flora was not immediately available for comment Monday about whether there was any connection between the United Nations report and difficulty getting a visa for the Norinco executive.

Miles Williams, a member of the development authority’s board, suggested earlier this month that the Loring Development Authority could perhaps convince Norinco to broaden the scope of its project in Maine, as the company manufactures other construction equipment. “We’ve had those discussions with them, and they’ve mentioned sideline aspects to their railcar enterprise,” Flora said, “but the railcar, to date, is their central focus.”

Flora said new standards for tank cars still give shippers a five-year grace period to make upgrades.

“This is still an area where there is a lot of active interest, it just probably isn’t going to happen soon,” he said.

Those economic pressures aside, Williams said he’d hate to see any project delayed because of a technicality.

“I’d just hate to see them abandon the project because it might take two or three years for their executive to obtain a visa,” Williams said.

Bangor Daily News writer Darren Fishell contributed to this report.

ment of a 2007 law to end use of incandescent bulbs. While many consumers have switched, others may be able to find the older style a while longer.

— Saturday mail delivery. It continues, courtesy of the omnibus bill, despite years of efforts to cut the service to save money.

Consumer Forum is a collaboration of the Bangor Daily News and Northeast CONTACT, Maine’s all-volunteer, nonprofit consumer organization. For assistance with consumer-related issues, including consumer fraud and identity theft, or for information, write Consumer Forum, P.O. Box 486, Brewer, ME 04412, visit <http://necontact.wordpress.com> or email contact@live.com.

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petitor and other companies outside its core fleet fuel card business, and Cam den National became the largest Maine-based bank through its purchase of the Bank of Maine.

The utility world also had several major transactions. SunEdison completed its \$2.4 billion purchase of First Wind in January and in December announced plans to sell its Bingham and Oakfield projects.

Central Maine Power Co. became part of a new publicly traded regional utility company, Avangrid, earlier this month, after parent company Iberdrola’s purchase of utility UII Holdings Corp., announced in February. Emera Maine’s parent company also struck out for a little M&A, buying utility Teco Energy Inc., which operates in Florida and New Mexico, for \$6.44 billion.

Retailer L.L. Bean also named its next CEO, former Wal-Mart and Hannaford executive Stephen Smith, indicating a focus on global growth for the Freeport retailer.

And in distressed asset sales, a consortium of liquidators bought the Lincoln mill in a bankruptcy auction.

Neuman

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8. Plan time off
You need to take a break every now and then to rest and regroup. Business owners have the tendency to work 24/7. Sit down with your calendar as the new year begins and block out some vacation time. If you wait “until you have time,” you never will. Plan now to take a well-deserved break later.
This will be my last col-

Transportation upgrades

Construction continued on a rail connection to Portland’s International Marine Terminal, linking with the Icelandic container shipper Eimskip. The port of Eastport also started rebuilding a breakwater that collapsed in December, with the help of a federal grant.

That major project was joined with perhaps the biggest transportation news of the year: that Maine would get \$20 million from a federal grant to upgrade many of the bottlenecks in the state’s freight rail system.

The state still faces a shortfall in its budget for road and bridge improvements, but the rail upgrades stand to speed up the shipment of goods throughout the state and connect the rail system to a port with regular access to markets across the North Atlantic.

The state’s trade office has focused much attention on that region of the world, leading a mission to Iceland in October.

Elsewhere in transportation, the Nova Star luxury ferry left Maine for good after sailing for two years between Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, and Portland, with the help of millions in subsidy funds from the province of Nova Scotia.

Early and late resolutions

FairPoint workers ended a 131-day strike in February after conceding some ground

umn in this capacity as I begin a new chapter as president and chief executive officer of the Bangor Region Chamber of Commerce. I thank you and the Bangor Daily News for this opportunity to share what I hope has been some helpful information and insight.

Change is good and I hope any changes you make this year bring you much satisfaction and success. Stay in touch and I look forward to seeing you out and about in 2016. Let’s make it a great year!

to the struggling telecom company that turned around losses before and during the strike, posting in November profits for the second quarter in a row, fueled by lower post-retirement benefit costs.

While the contract dispute at FairPoint found a late and hard-won resolution, union members at Bath Iron Works hopped into negotiations early and narrowly approved a contract in advance of a big year for the shipyard, when it will bid on a contract to build a new class of U.S. Coast Guard cutters.

The company estimates it would lay off about 35 percent, or 1,200, of its manufacturing employees if it doesn’t win that contract.

In another perhaps late resolution, the University of Maine’s offshore wind project Aqua Ventus stayed in the running for a major federal grant, getting another \$3.7 million to design a full-scale demonstration project that could end up competing for a \$40 million in federal funds.

Energy costs avoided shock

Standard offer electric rates stayed flat or dropped for Maine residential customers, contrary to experts’ fears as New England faces power capacity constraints and the loss of major generators, including the nuclear power

plant Vermont Yankee that went offline at the end of 2014.

Maine and most other states also benefitted from gas prices that have remained low as output stayed steady from the Middle East and U.S. producers.

The drop in crude oil prices is a disproportionate economic boon for Maine, where the majority of homes still use No. 2 heating oil in the winter.

Bigger issues around energy still loom in the background for Maine and the region. A state group has started work this year on a new scheme for compensating small-scale solar generators, creating a plan legislators are set to consider when they reconvene in January.

In New England, regional proposals for natural gas pipeline expansions took shape and the announcement of a request for proposals for new renewable power capacity from Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut will have a large impact on development of new transmission and renewables projects that come out next year.

Meanwhile, demand continues to rise for transmission projects that would bring Canadian hydropower onto the New England grid and for wind projects in Maine that could require separate transmission upgrades to get its power into the regional ISO-New England system.

Coffee Club starting up for businesses

BELFAST — Our Town Belfast, the local Main Street organization seeking to strengthen Belfast’s historic downtown, is beginning a new series of networking events for downtown businesses in 2016.

Coffee Club will be an informal monthly get-together where businesses can meet their neighbors and network, get updates on news affecting local businesses, share news about their own businesses, share ideas for the downtown

area, stay connected with Our Town Belfast, the city, Chamber of Commerce and other organizations, and enjoy a cup of coffee and light breakfast.

The first meeting of Coffee Club will be held 7:45-8:45 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13, at the new Nautilus Seafood & Grill, near the Belfast City Landing. The next date and location will be announced at the Jan. 13 meeting.

For information, contact Our Town Belfast at 207-218-1158 or info@ourtownbelfast.org. “Coffee Club” is free. RSVPs are encouraged and appreciated.

Market Review

Consolidated Stocks							
	Close	Chg	Div		Close	Chg	Div
3M Co	151.22	+0.03	4.1	IntlBcsh	26.37	-0.13	0.6
ABB Ltd	18.16	+0.03		JPMorgCh	66.38	-0.22	1.8
AbbVie	58.75	+0.29	2.3	Kohls	47.24	+0.11	1.8
AbtLab	45.03	-0.07	1.0	LillyEli	85.49	-0.36	2.0
AEP	58.60	+0.20	2.2	Loews	38.34	-0.13	0.3
Aeropostl	0.28	-0.01		Lowes	76.44	+0.16	1.1
Aethna	108.95	-0.68	1.0	McDnlds	118.75	+0.18	3.6
AFLAC	60.39	+0.21	1.6	Merck	52.84	-0.01	1.8
AK Steel	2.23	-0.07	0.0	MtLife	48.26	-0.01	1.5
ALCATEL LUCENT	3.88	-0.02		Microsoft	55.95	+0.28	1.4
Allergan	308.88	-2.35		Mondelz	45.07	-0.28	0.7
Allstate	58.24	-0.50	1.2	Monsanto	98.86	-0.41	2.2
Altria	52.77	-0.02	2.3	MorgStan	32.17	-0.31	0.6
AMOVIL	14.21	-0.16	0.5	NewellRub	44.37	+0.76	0.8
Anadarko	49.69	-1.53	1.1	NextErEn	103.99	+0.06	3.1
Apache	44.92	-0.88	1.0	NipponTT	39.65	+0.16	0.8
ApidMatl	19.00	-0.11	0.4	NokiaCp	7.08	-0.05	0.2
Apple	106.82	-1.21	2.1	NorthropG	189.98	-0.13	3.2
AT&T Inc	34.76	-0.10	1.9	OneokPrs	28.67	-0.21	3.2
Autodesk	61.86	+0.01	0.0	Oracle	36.79	-0.22	0.6
AvidTch	7.32	-0.17		Orange	16.83	+0.03	0.7
BcoSanSA	4.99	-0.11	0.3	PennGmng	16.01	-0.19	
BestBuy	30.53	+0.03	0.9	Penney	6.91	-0.05	0.0
BkNYMel	41.14	-0.09	0.7	PepcoHold	26.22	+0.02	1.1
BioCr	17.13	-0.14	0.2	PepsiCo	100.68	+0.14	2.8
Boeing	144.54	+1.01	4.4	Pfizer	32.42	-0.20	1.2
Bp PLC	31.71	-0.41	2.4	PhilMmor	88.59	+0.27	4.1
BrklfAs	31.96	-0.19	0.5	PPL	34.14	-0.12	0.5
BrMysq	69.17	+0.20	1.5	Praxair	103.78	-0.73	2.9
Caterpillar	68.58	-0.80	3.1	ProctGam	79.92	+0.13	2.7
CBS B	48.83	-0.61	0.6	Prudentl	45.92	-0.11	1.2
CenterPnt	18.18	+0.07	1.0	QstDiag	71.80	+0.19	1.5
Chevron	90.36	-1.69	4.3	Rayonier	22.71	-0.08	1.0
Citigroup	52.38	-0.33	0.2	Raytheon	126.23	-0.06	2.7
CocaCola	44.49	-0.05	1.3	ReynAmer	46.28	-0.16	1.4
Corning	18.21	-0.35	0.5	RylCarb	100.32	+0.40	1.5
Deere	77.97	-0.82	2.4	Schwab	33.11	+0.06	0.2
Disney	107.25	+1.39	1.4	SeasHdgs	20.71	-0.08	0.0
DowChem	52.23	-0.08	1.8	Sherwin	284.23	-0.94	2.7
DukeEmrg	71.92	-0.12	3.3	SiderurNac	1.03	-0.02	0.1
DuPont	32.25	-0.01	1.9	Siemens	97.91	...	3.8
ExxonMbl	78.74	-0.59	2.9	SonyCp	24.67	-0.03	0.1
Facebook	105.93	+0.91		Starbucks	60.19	-0.13	0.8
FedExCp	148.41	-1.24	1.0	SwstAirt	43.82	-0.08	0.3
FidNatInf	11.63	-0.10	0.8	Symantec	21.13	+0.27	0.6
FidNatInfo	6.00	-0.11	1.0	Target	72.87	-0.30	2.2
FrontierCm	4.85	-0.01	0.4	Textron	42.56	-0.13	0.1
GenElec	30.90	+0.07	0.9	TimeWarn	185.05	+0.55	3.0
GlaxoSKin	40.92	-0.01	2.4	Toyota	124.47	-1.30	3.6
GoldmanS	181.62	-0.85	2.6	Travelers	113.48	+0.21	2.4
Google	762.51	+14.11		UPS B	97.00	-0.34	2.9
Hershey	90.39	+0.07	2.3	ValeroE	70.62	-1.31	2.0
HewlettP	116.3	-0.05	1.0	Vodafone	31.92	-0.14	1.7
Hitachi	56.80	...	1.0	WalterEn	0.02	...	0.0
HomeDp	132.68	-0.22	2.4	Waste Mngt	53.91	+0.48	1.6
Honda	32.22	-0.18	1.5	WellsFargo	54.68	-0.14	1.5
IBM	137.61	-0.64	5.2	Yahoo	33.60	-0.51	
Intel	34.93	-0.05	1.0	Zimmer	102.25	-0.66	0.9

Indexes							
	52-Wk High	52-Wk Low	Close	Chg	Chg%	Yr	1 Yr Chg%
Dow Jones indus.	18351	15370	17528.27	-23.90	-0.14	▲ ▼ ▲	-2.91
Dow Jones Transport	9257	7361	7566.70	-55.91	-0.73	▲ ▼ ▼	-17.75
Dow Jones Utility	657	540	582.40	+1.38	+0.24	▲ ▲ ▲	-8.36
Nasdaq composite	5232	4292	5040.98	-7.51	-0.15	▲ ▼ ▼	+4.87
NYSE AMEX composite	2556	2088	2165.93	-12.72	-0.58	▲ ▼ ▲	-12.83
NYSE composite	11255	9510	10217.41	-41.14	-0.40	▲ ▼ ▼	-6.99
S&P 500	2135	1867	2056.50	-4.49	-0.22	▲ ▼ ▲	-1.54
S&P Mid cap 400	1551	1345	1413.86	-2.24	-0.16	▲ ▼ ▲	-3.68
Wilshire 5000	22537	19619	21296.18	-58.38	-0.27	▲ ▼ ▲	-2.97
Russell 2000	1296	1079	1148.21	-6.54	-0.57	▲ ▼ ▲	-5.51

Local Stocks							
	52Wk Hi	52Wk Lo	Close	Chg	Chg%	Yr	1 Yr Div
Bank of America (BAC)	18.48	14.60	17.13	-0.14	-0.81	▲ ▲ ▲	-4.25 12.8 0.2
Bar Harbor (BHB)	37.98	28.97	34.77	-0.18	-0.52	▼ ▼ ▲	... 14.3 1.0
Camden Nat'l (CAC)	47.49	36.20	44.46	-0.53	-1.18	▲ ▲ ▲	+11.60 13.3 1.2
Cisco (CSCO)	30.31	23.03	27.31	-0.07	-0.26	▲ ▼ ▲	-1.82 14.7 0.8
Delhaize (DEO)	25.14	17.50	24.84	+0.15	+0.61	▲ ▲ ▲	+37.09 32.1 0.4
Domtar (UPS)	48.30	35.20	37.59	-0.28	-0.74	▲ ▼ ▲	-6.54 15.6 1.6
Dover (DOV)	78.21	55.50	62.31	-0.09	-0.14	▲ ▼ ▲	-13.12 16.0 1.7
Fairchild SC (FCS)	21.71	12.22	19.98	-0.05	-0.25	▼ ▲ ▲	+18.36 0.0
General Dynamics (GD)	153.76	130.91	139.59	-0.25	-0.18	▲ ▼ ▲	+1.43 15.7 2.8
General Electric (GE)	31.23	19.37	30.90	+0.07	+0.23	▲ ▲ ▲	+22.28 0.0 0.9
HCA Holdings (HCA)	95.49	43.91	68.04	-0.88	-1.28	▲ ▼ ▲	-7.29 14.4
Idexx Labs (IDXX)	168.51	61.58	74.16	+1.21	+1.66	▲ ▲ ▲	+0.03 39.7
ImmuCell (iccc)	11.40	4.82	7.44	-0.11	-1.42	▲ ▲ ▲	+53.15 22.5
International Paper (IP)	57.90	36.76	38.12	-0.40	-1.04	▲ ▼ ▲	-28.85 18.0 1.8
KeyCorp (KEY)	15.70	12.04	13.30	-0.03	-0.23	▲ ▼ ▲	-4.32 12.5 0.3
Kimberly-Clark (KMB)	128.23	103.04	128.23	+1.35	+1.06	▲ ▲ ▲	+10.98 85.3 3.5
Lake Sunapee Bank (LSBG)	16.35	13.50	13.82	-0.40	-2.81	▼ ▼ ▼	-11.52 12.3 0.6
Northeast Bancorp (NBK)	11.02	8.86	10.26	-0.08	-0.77	▼ ▼ ▲	+6.43 13.7 0.0
People's United Fin (PBCT)	16.95	13.97	16.34	-0.01	-0.06	▲ ▼ ▲	+7.64 19.4 0.7
Plum Creek Timber (PCL)	51.63	36.95	48.62	+0.14	+0.29	▲ ▲ ▲	+13.62 36.8 1.8
PNC (PNC)	100.52	81.84	95.94	-0.30	-0.31	▲ ▲ ▲	+5.16 13.0 2.0
RR Donnelley (RRD)	20.22	14.19	14.76	+0.05	+0.31	▲ ▼ ▲	-12.20 30.1 1.0
Sappi Limited (SPPJY)	4.53	2.67	4.20	▼ ▲ ▲	... 0.0
State Street (STT)	81.26	63.97	67.17	+0.03	+0.04	▲ ▲ ▲	-14.43 15.7 1.4
Sysco (SYS)	42.03	35.45	41.51	+0.21	+0.51	▲ ▼ ▲	+4.59 37.9 1.2
The First Bancorp (FNLC)	22.56	16.20	20.83	-0.08	-0.38	▼ ▼ ▲	+15.15 14.2 0.9
United Technologies (UTX)	124.45	85.50	96.09	-0.21	-0.22	▲ ▲ ▲	-16.44 14.7 2.6
Unum Group (UNM)	38.15	29.81	33.42	-0.01	-0.03	▲ ▼ ▲	-4.19 22.8 0.7
Verizon Comm (VZ)	50.86	38.06	46.75	+0.04	+0.09	▲ ▲ ▲	-0.06 19.4 2.3
WalMart (WMT)	90.97	56.30	60.75	-0.08	-0.13	▲ ▲ ▼	-29.26 13.0 2.0

Top Mutual Funds

Fund	Last	Chg	1Yr Rtn	Fund	Last	Chg	1Yr Rtn	Fund	Last	Chg	1Yr Rtn	Fund	Last	Chg	1Yr Rtn
AMERICAN FUNDS				FIDELITY				JPMORGAN				TEMPLETON			
AMCP A	26.08	-0.08	+0.8	Balanced	21.30	-0.04	+0.5	Core Bond Sel	11.59	+0.01	+1.3	GI Bond Adv	11.55	+0.02	-3.8
Bal A	23.95	-0.02	+1.7	Blue Chip Gr	69.27	-0.09	+6.4	LAZARD				Growth A	22.05	-0.12	-6.4
Bond A	12.61	unch.	+0.8	Capital & Inc	9.14	-0.01	-0.9	Emg Mkt Eq Inst	13.68	-0.06	-18.9	THORNBURG			
CIB A	56.22	-0.1	-3.1	Contrafund	99.53	+0.04	+6.1	LOOMIS SAYLES				Intl Val I	24.71	-0.1	+5.4
CWGI A	43.68	-0.12	-2.2	Dividend Gr	30.45	-0.07	-0.8	Bd Inst	12.89	-0.01	-6.6	VANGUARD			
EuPc A	45.60	-0.07	-1.1	Dvds Intl	35.20	-0.07	+2.8	OPPENHEIMER				500 Index Adm	189.58	-0.42	+1.1
Flnv A	51.05	-0.1	+3.3	Freedom 2000	15.06	-0.02	-0.1	Dv Mkts A	30.56	-0.09	-13.4	GNUMA Adm	10.66	+0.01	+1.6
Gro A	41.49	-0.06	+5.4	Freedom 2020	12.89	-0.02	unch.	PERMANENT				Health Care Adm	93.03	+0.03	+1.2
HI A	9.34	unch.	-7.8	Freedom 2030	15.79	-0.03	-0.1	Intl-Proct Inv				Infl-Proct Inv	12.85	unch.	-1.2
ICA A	33.56	-0.13	-1.6	Gro Company	137.66	-0.19	+8.2	Port Permanent	34.79	-0.18	-5.6	Ins T StMk Ins+	46.23	-0.11	+0.4
Inc A	20.32	-0.03	-1.7	Inc GNMA	11.52	+0.01	+1.4	PIMCO				Instl Indx Inst	187.71	-0.41	+1.1
Mut A	34.05	-0.08	-3.2	Low-Prct Stk	47.88	-0.14	-0.2	All Asset Inst	10.44	unch.	-8.5	Intl-Tm Inv Adm	9.65	unch.	+2.1
NPer A	36.21	unch.	+5.1	Magellan Fund	89.99	-0.14	+4.2	Comm RR Str Inst	6.43	unch.	-26.9	Intl-Tm TxEx Adm	14.26	unch.	+3.2
NWId A	50.21	-0.08	-6.0	Puritan	20.40	-0.01	+1.8	High Yield Inst	8.23	unch.	-2.3	Intl Gro Inv	21.20	-0.1	-1.0
SCMP A	43.73	-0.11	+3.2	S&P 500 Inv	72.22	-0.16	+1.0	Low Dur Inst	9.88	unch.	+0.7	Ltd-Tm TxEx Adm I	11.01	unch.	+1.4
Wash A	38.65	-0.08	-0.6	Srs Inv Gd Bd	11.06	+0.01	+0.3	Real Rtn Inst	10.53	unch.	-2.5	PRIMECAP Inv	100.29	-0.14	-2.2
BLACKROCK				Strat Inc	10.15	unch.	-1.5	Tot Rtn Inst	10.10	unch.	+1.4	Sh-Tm Inv Adm	10.57	unch.	+1.4
GI Alloc A	17.85	-0.03	-1.3	Total Bond	10.29	+0.01	unch.	Uncons Inst	10.64	unch.	-2.4	Sh-Tm Tx-Ex Adm I	15.80	unch.	+0.5
COLUMBIA				FIRST EAGLE				JPMORGAN				STAR Inv	24.52	-0.04	unch.
Accrn Z	19.47	-0.08	-1.0	Global A	51.56	-0.14	-1.2	Cap S&P 500 Idx	31.74	-0.07	+1.0	T StMk Idx Inv	51.08	-0.14	-0.2
DAVIS				FRANKLIN				T ROWE PRICE				TgtRt2015 Inv	15.28	-0.01	+0.3
NY Venture A	30.98	-0.08	+2.5	CA TF Inc A	7.52	+0.01	+3.9	BC Gro	72.73	+0.03	+11.2	TgtRt2020 Inv	28.39	-0.04	-0.5
DFA				Cust Inc A	2.10	-0.01	-7.8	Cap App	25.09	-0.01	+4.9	TgtRt2025 Inv	16.47	-0.02	-0.7
Emg Mkts Value I	20.70	-0.06	-17.3	GMO				Eq Idx500	55.27	-0.12	+0.8	TgtRt2030 Inv	28.88	-0.05	-0.9
DODGE & COX				Quality VI	19.45	-0.02	-6.5	Eq Inc	28.64	-0.12	-6.6	TgtRt2035 Inv	17.70	-0.04	-1.2
Balanced	94.75	-0.08	-3.1	HARBOR				Gro Stk	53.88	+0.02	+0.8	Tot Idx Adm	10.66	unch.	+1.0
Income	13.30	+0.01	-0.2	Cap Apprc Inst	61.07	+0.07	+10.4	MC Gro	73.54	-0.02	+5.9	Tot T Stk Inv	14.57	-0.04	-4.4
Intl Stock	36.85	-0.08	-11.5	J HANCOCK II				New Inc	9.37	unch.	+0.6	Wellesley Adm	59.85	-0.02	+1.6
Stock	163.61	-0.27	-4.9	Ls Bal I	15.22	unch.	-1.0	Rt Ret20	19.77	-0.03	-0.2	Wellington Adm	63.88	-0.01	+0.2
FAIRHOLME				Ls Gro I	16.22	unch.	-1.0	Value	31.43	-0.16	-1.6	Windsor II Inv	33.71	-0.19	-3.3
Fairholme	18.29	-0.15	-12.0												