Isolated Philippine typhoon victims running out of food

DAVAO CITY, 11 Dec—Isolated communities in the Philippines including hill tribes are facing hunger a week after a typhoon struck, and with roads blocked, supplies will have to be dropped by air, authorities said on Tuesday.

Typhoon Bopha killed 714 people and caused crop damage worth 10.3 billion pesos (155 million pounds) when it hit on Tuesday last week. Nearly 900 people are unaccounted for and about 2,000 were injured, the national disaster agency said.

The most intense storm to hit the disaster-prone Philippines this year wiped out communities near the coast in the southern provinces of Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley. But villages inland were also hard hit by floods and landslides and many are cut off. The Philippines has asked for help from allies and the private sector to get help in by air.

“their food is fast dwindling, their roads are blocked by fallen trees and boulders and it will not be long before everyone in these upland villages will go hungry,” Manggob Masinaring, a member of a moun-tain tribe and a volunteer relief worker, told reporters. Compounding the problem was that the source of water for many villages had been blocked or polluted by mud and debris.

“The streams, which are their only source of water, are too murky for drinking,” Masinaring said. International agencies including the Red Cross and World Food Programme have appealed for nearly $100 million for food and shelter for 5.4 million people affected by the typhoon. Nearly 400,000 people lost their homes and farms.

For the convenience of gem merchants, Managing Director U Thein Swe and officials supervised the sales. Today, gems and pearl lots were sold out through open tender and competitive bidding system.

VISA introduces mobile payment

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—From the world’s major cities to remote areas without banks, people are increasingly relying on digital currency along with mobile technology to use their money any time, make purchase online, transfer funds and access basic financial services. VISA started introducing first ever mobile payment at Myanmar mobile and electronic payments conference, at Myanmar International Convention Centre, here, today.

Mobile payment (branchless banking) is a solution that removes traditional brick and motor retail outlets and replace them with small, cheap access points that can reach a large area of a once difficult to serve population living in rural areas. “It needs to transform cash-based payment to electronic payment system for secure and efficient payments,” said Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein.

Electronic payments can open a country to the wider global economy by attracting greater foreign investments and provide a boost to country’s GDP, reduce a nation’s grey economy and lead to increased tax revenues.

“Mobile payment can be made on any mobile device from an expensive smart phone to a cheap feature phone,” said Niki Manby, Head of Emerging Products AP/CEMEA of VISA.

“It is very easy to use mobile payment like phone prepaid card we use,” said Rajiv Ramanathan, Head of Payment Systems Partnerships of VISA. VISA is global payment technology company that connects consumers, businesses, banks and governments in more than 200 countries and territories, enabling them to use digital currency instead of cash and checks.

The opposition, made up of secular, left-wing, liberal and other groups, have called for marches to the presidential palace Tuesday afternoon to protest against the hastily arranged referendum, which they say is undermining secular tra-ditions, human and gender rights, and the independence of the judiciary.

Morsi’s supporters, opponents to demonstrate ahead of Egypt’s constitutional referendum

CAIRO, 11 Dec—Both supporters and oppo-nents of Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi will take to the streets in Cairo on Tuesday over the planned referendum on a constitu-tional constitution this Sat-urday.

The opposition, made up of secular, left-wing, liberal and other groups, have called for marches to the presidential palace Tuesday afternoon to protest against the hastily arranged referendum, which they say is undermining secular tra-ditions, human and gender rights, and the independence of the judiciary.
YANGON, 11 Dec — Jointly-organized by the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Track and Field Federation, the 45th Inter-ministry track and field contest-2013 concluded with the prize-giving ceremony at Thuwunna Stadium on 9 December. The Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Construction and the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry stood first in respective events. Officials of the Ministry of Sports and Vice-President of Myanmar Track and Field Federation U Mo Thet Hlaing, and Director General of Sports Federation, the 45th Inter-ministry track and field contest-2013 presented championship shields to winning teams.—Kyemon

Arid zones to see water stress in summer

KYAUKPADUAU, 11 Dec — The monsoon had withdrawn from the arid zones in the central part of Myanmar since the last week of September and the monsoon season drew to a close in Myanmar during the second week of October. There will be water stress for the people and animal in coming summer as this year’s monsoon rains did not make village lakes in arid zones full. “We can use lake water up to the end of the month of Tabangur previous years. It is okay if the monsoon comes early. This year’s monsoon season came to an end early. As the monsoon rains stopped in the month of Thadinganu, village lakes were no longer filled to the brim with rainwater,” U Maung Ko of Indaw village in Kyaukpaduau Township said.

“For the people, tubewell can facilitate water supply but animals will be in difficulty,” he added. As Kyaukpaduau Township had a rainfall of 21.96 inches this year, an influx of rainwater into lakes was low. That is why, possible influx of rainwater into lakes will no longer be possible as Kyaukpaduau, Pyu, Kanyutkwin, Nyaung-U, Thabyedan village was made dry due to withdrawal from the arid zones to see water stress in summer and necessary measures for water pumps and necessary apparatus to be taken in advance for water stress in cooperation with township development affairs committee and local and foreign donors before summer.—Kyemon

Harvest time makes great demands on combine harvester

YEDASHE, 11 Dec — During the monsoon paddy harvest time, combine harvesters are in high demand. According to a combine harvester manufacturer, 150 sets of combine harvester are sold out from seven workshops in Thabyedan village of Yedashe Township in Bago Region in harvest season. Delivery of combine harvesters manufactured in Thabyedan village was made to DaikU, Nyaunglebin, Pyu, Kanyutkwin, Nyaung-chedaaw and Penwegon in Bago Region, Nay Pyi Taw, Yamethin and Pyaybwe in Mandalay Region and San Tun presented Championship shields to winning teams.—Kyemon

Mainteance for waterpumps and necessary apparatus to be taken in advance for water stress in cooperation with township development affairs committee and local and foreign donors before summer.—Kyemon

Upgrading of Koebin-Thagara Yoma crossing road in progress

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec — Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin oversaw maintenance works of Yangon-Pyay-Taungdwingyi-Magway road section and upgrading of the 96-mile and three-furlong long Koebin-Thagara Yoma crossing road at mile post No.157/2 on Yangon-Magway road on 8 December. In meeting with senior engineer and officials at the briefing hall, the Union minister called for timely completion of road works, to Magway. 11 Dec — There was about 150-year-old rest house in a forest near U Awinbasa library in Minbu of Magway Region. The background history of the rest housed said that Hmunkinyauk Sayadan U Labha of Myaukphyar Wyama village in Minbu moved there to do meditation peacefully in the late Koungbha era. Some years later, a rest house was built with the contribution of laypersons led by Sayadaw U Labha. It was said that the rest house was very large and it had 114 wooden posts. At some parts of the weather-beaten rest house were destroyed. According to a monk, the rest house was constructed with the aim of providing shade for farmers from villages, south to Minbu, on their way to the town. Nowadays, seven monasteries and an ancient house was constructed with the aim of providing shade for farmers from villages, south to Minbu, on their way to the town. Nowadays, seven monasteries and an ancient

MNMA observes World AIDS Day

YANGON, 11 Dec — Myanmar Nursing and Midwifery Association marked World AIDS Day at Aye Yeik Nyein Nursing Hall on Industrial Zone Street-1 in Dagon Myothit (South) in Yangon Region on 8 December. Chairperson of the association Professor Dr Nann Hitawm Hla spoke on the occasion, and CEC member Daw Khin Mar Shwe gave an account of this year’s motto for World AIDS Day.

Then responsible persons presented prizes to outstanding students in the general knowledge test. According to a responsible person of the association, the ceremony was annually observed to generate the public awareness of health, prevention against the disease, cure and care for infected persons.

Purchasers make a loss on onion trade

YANGON, 11 Dec — The wholesale prices of a viss of Seikpyu onion ranged from K 1450 to 1850 on 4 December at Bayintnaung commodity market, and there has been a slight drop of K 300 each in one viss price on 6 and 7 December. The prices went down to 850-1050-1150 per viss for Seikpyu onion and 850-950-1050-1150 per viss for Myitthar onion on 7 December.

According to the market price, onion traders enjoyed net proceeds of K 150 million for 400,000 viss of onion that entered the Banyintaung market from 1 to 5 December as the onion prices went up. During the period from 19 to 23 November, 800,000 viss of onion were available in the market while the price was stable. With the entry of 600,000 viss of onion into the market, there has been an increase in onion prices with a speculation that there were no more onions in the hands of local traders. According to the nature of the market, the rumour triggers enormous demand on onions, thereby contributing to price increases within days. Due to market manipulation, purchasers who bought onion in high prices in the Bayintaung commodity market made losses of K 100 million on onion trade.

Ancient public rest house over 100 years old

MAGWAY, 11 Dec — There was about 150-year-old rest house in a forest near U Awabasa library in Minbu of Magway Region. The background history of the rest housed said that Hmunkinyauk Sayadan U Labha of Myaukphyar Wyama village in Minbu moved there to do meditation peacefully in the late Koungbha era. Some years later, a rest house was built with the contribution of laypersons led by Sayadaw U Labha. It was said that the rest house was very large and it had 114 wooden posts. At some parts of the weather-beaten rest house were destroyed. According to a monk, the rest house was constructed with the aim of providing shade for farmers from villages, south to Minbu, on their way to the town. Nowadays, seven monasteries and an ancient

A girl knocked down by a passenger bus in Yekyi Township

YEKYI, 11 Dec — A passenger bus hit a girl who was crossing over the road near Kwninthoshin village of Yekyi Township, Pathein District of Ayeyawady region at about 11 am on 6 December. Ma Ei Mon Soe was knocked down by the Myanmar-Yangon passenger bus driven by Zaw Min Naing of Myanmar while she was crossing over the road between mile post Nos (45/5) and (45/6) near Kwninthoshin village. She died on the spot in the road accident. Alikho Police Station of Yekyi Township filed a lawsuit against the driver of the passenger bus for his reckless driving.
China pledges more contribution to world peace

BEIJING, 11 Dec—Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on Monday addressed an event for foreign diplomats and representatives of international agencies and said that China will work with other nations toward world peace and development.

“China will, together with all other countries, share opportunities, tackle challenges, and make new and greater contribution to the lofty cause of peace and development,” Yang said at a New Year Reception hosted by the Foreign Ministry.

Briefing the guests on the 18th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, Yang said China will continue to hold high the banner of peace, development, cooperation and mutual benefit; promote equality, mutual trust, inclusiveness, mutual learning and mutually beneficial cooperation in international relations; firmly pursue an independent foreign policy of peace; unwaveringly follow the path of peaceful development and growth friendship and cooperation in all fields with other countries; and observe the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence.

According to the foreign minister, 2012 has seen fresh and important progress in China’s diplomatic work, as evidenced by the country’s growing international standing and influence.

“We have advanced our ties with other countries and deepened good-neighborly friendship and cooperation with our neighbors,” Yang said. He told the audience that China had played the responsible and constructive role of a big country in dealing with international and regional hotspot issues, worked actively to push for peaceful settlement of disputes and issues, and stood for non-intervention in other countries’ internal affairs.

While acknowledging the Taliban can still carry out attacks at the same level as last year, the report said the greatest threats to stability were elsewhere.

“The insurgency’s safe havens in Pakistan, the limited institutional capacity of the Afghan government and endemic corruption remain the greatest risks to long-term stability and sustainable security in Afghanistan,” said the semi-annual Pentagon progress report on Afghanistan.

US officials, briefing reporters on the document, described the Taliban, U.S. military and police forces was on track for them to take the lead security role nationwide by next summer.

The strategy guiding international forces calls for Afghans to take the security lead next year and full security responsibility by the end of 2014, when most foreign combat forces are due to withdraw.

Ghana’s Mahama reaches out to defeated rivals

ACCRA, 11 Dec—Newly elected Ghanaian President John Dramani Mahama on Monday urged his defeated political opponents to join him “as partners in the activity,” can maintain its reputation for free and fair elections, which was widely acknowledged as the legitimacy of the 7 December results.

Trenton Mayor Mack’s indictment last week, which accuses him of taking bribes in connection with a proposed parking garage on city-owned land, affects his ability to do his job, Christie said at a news conference.

“I think that once you’re indicted, you should resign,” Christie said.

But Akufo-Addo said the deal involved selling city-owned land, about two blocks from the federal courthouse to the would-be developer for a fraction of its value and getting money back in exchange, prosecutors said.

New Light of Myanmar

Pentagon reports Taliban attacks up during Afghan fighting season

WASHINGTON, 11 Dec—Attacks by Taliban insurgents rose slightly during the main part of the Afghan fighting season this year as some US forces withdrew and the transition to a lead role for Afghan security forces picked up pace, according to a Pentagon report released on Monday.

Provincial police chief killed in Afghan blast

New Jersey governor says indicted mayor of state capital should resign

TRENTON, 11 Dec—New Jersey Governor Chris Christie on Monday urged the mayor of the state capital Trenton to resign following his indictment on federal corruption charges.

Trenton Mayor Mack’s indictment last week, which accuses him of taking bribes in connection with a proposed parking garage on city-owned land, affects his ability to do his job, Christie said at a news conference.

“I think that once you’re indicted, you should resign,” Christie said.

But Akufo-Addo said the deal involved selling city-owned land, about two blocks from the federal courthouse to the would-be developer for a fraction of its value and getting money back in exchange, prosecutors said.

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie visits fifth grade students at Berkeley Elementry School in Westwood, New Jersey, on 6 Nov, 2012 in this handout photo courtesy of the governor’s office.

Reuters
Yahoo and NBC Sports Group to combine sports content

**Tech**

**New York, 11 Dec—**Yahoo! Inc and NBC Sports Group said they will integrate and promote each others sports content on the Internet as well as on television in a move that would help both companies draw on their respective strengths across both mediums.

The collaboration will increase NBC’s digital presence as well as bolster its college and fantasy game coverage, while Yahoo will gain access NBC’s video content, live sports coverage and big name television personalities.

The two companies will maintain separate websites and independent newsrooms, but will collaborate on big sports events coverage both online and on the air, the companies said in a statement late on Sunday.

Yahoo has looked to increase its involvement with television content, when it announced a major financial sharing deal for financial news with CNBC in June.

The sports news providers will also jointly develop for-web video programmes that will appear on both Yahoo Sports and NBCSports.com as well as collaborate in how they provide advertising.

The alliance will include, Yahoo’s Sports, the Rivals Network, NBCSports.com, NBC Sports Regional Networks, Golf Channel, com, Rotorworld.com and Allisports.com. NBCSports.com will continue to provide services for NBCNews.com.

NBC Sports is part of NBC Universal Media, a unit of Comcast Corp.

Reuters special moments with artists, celebrities, or politicians, photos have always been this special thing for Twitter,” said Sabet, a partner at Spark Capital, a venture capital firm that also holds a stake in Aviary and brought the two companies together for the partnership talks.

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg similarly argued for the importance of photo-sharing when he shocked Silicon Valley earlier this year by making an offer to Instagram valued at the time at $1 billion. “Providing the best photo sharing experience is one reason why so many people love Facebook and we knew it would be worth bringing these two companies together,” he wrote in a Facebook post justifying the deal.

**Tech**

**San Francisco, 11 Dec—**Twitter launched photo filters to battle Instagram, Facebook.

Twitter’s new release came as Instagram photos and videos were on display on election night in November, when an image of President Obama hugging his wife Michelle sent the moment he claimed victory, broke the record as the most widely circulated tweet of all time.

“From ordinary life to these big events coverage both online and on the air, the companies said in a statement late on Sunday.

Yahoo has looked to increase its involvement with television content, when it announced a major financial sharing deal for financial news with CNBC in June.

The sports news providers will also jointly develop for-web video programmes that will appear on both Yahoo Sports and NBCSports.com as well as collaborate in how they provide advertising.

The alliance will include, Yahoo’s Sports, the Rivals Network, NBCSports.com, NBC Sports Regional Networks, Golf Channel, com, Rotorworld.com and Allisports.com. NBCSports.com will continue to provide services for NBCNews.com.

Google’s Gmail service suffers disruption

**Tech**

**San Francisco, 11 Dec—**Several Google Inc Web products, including the popular Gmail service, appeared to go dark for users on several continents on Monday.

Google confirmed that “service disruptions” had affected Gmail and Google Drive, its online storage service. The two products are part of Google’s Apps suite, a Microsoft Office rival that caters to both consumers and businesses.

By 10:10 am Pacific Time (1:10 pm EST), Google’s Apps Dashboard monitoring service reported that Gmail and Drive service had resumed. The company did not specify how many users were affected, or where, but the outage prompted widespread complaints on social media on both coasts in the US and other major markets, from the United Kingdom to Brazil.

Some users additionally reported that the outage had affected Google Docs, the company’s word-processing and spreadsheet programmes, while Chrome, Google’s Internet browser, also crashed unexpectedly.

“We are currently experiencing an issue with some Google services,” Google spokeswoman Andrea Freund said in a statement.

“For everyone who is affected, we apologize for any inconvenience you may be experiencing.”

But without the internet, which has been pushing a corporate version of the email service and its Apps suite to businesses to compete with Microsoft, said this month that the package will no longer be free to business customers.

**Apple Australia map glitch: Snakes! In the desert!**

**Canberra, 11 Dec—**Australian police have warned travellers off using Apple’s troubled iPhone mapping software after several motorists became stuck in a snake-infested, desert corner of the country while using their phone for directions.

Police in eastern Victoria state said they had been forced to rescue a number of motorists who had become stuck for up to 24 hours “without food or water” after being directed to the arid Murray Sunset National Park, instead of the tourist town of Mildura, 70 km (43 miles) away.

“We had a fellow trapped in there just on Friday night after his car became bogged. He saw a snake, a goat, and a fox, and he was too scared to get out of the car,” Mildura police Inspector Simon Clemente told Reuters on Tuesday.

The Murray-Sunset National Park is in Victoria’s far northwest, a relatively untouched semi-arid region accessible only by four-wheel-drive vehicle.

Clemente said at least six vehicles had become stuck on the desert park’s sandy tracks after being directed by the iOS mapping system to turn off a long and infrequently sign-posted stretch of highway between South Australia state and Victoria.

“These people have still been rescueable. But we’ve just had a 46C day (115 degrees F). If they were out there in that temperature and out of phone range, they would have been in serious trouble,” he said.

Clemente said police had contacted Apple over the issue. But while the world’s most valuable company had now rectified Mildura’s location for people travelling from South Australia, motorists seeking directions from Melbourne city were still being directed off course by iOS.

“If you punch in Melbourne to Mildura, it still puts you in the middle of the park,” he said. “So they’ve got it half right.”

Police said people should not blindly rely on technology to get them to their location, although in fairness he said people could easily become misdirected over long stretches of road along the 377-km Mallee Highway.

**Science & Technology**

**NASA adds $30 million for space taxi work**

**Cape Canaveral** (Florida), 11 Dec—The US space agency awarded $10 million to Boeing to own and operate the company’s CST-100 capsule, Space Exploration Technologies to help the firms get their vehicles certified to fly to the station.

Since the retirement of the space shuttles last year, NASA has been dependent on Russia to fly astronauts to the $100 billion orbiting outpost, a research laboratory owned and operated by 15 countries that flies about 250 miles above Earth.

The companies have separate agreements with NASA to develop space transportation systems, with the aim of breaking Russia’s monopoly by 2017. Boeing was awarded $460 million for its CST-100 capsule, Space Exploration Technologies received $440 million to upgrade its Dragon cargo capsule to carry people and Sierra Nevada was awarded $212.5 million for work on its winged Dream Chaser.

The earlier awards were to help fund the space shuttle projects, while the new awards will help fund the process of certifying that they meet NASA safety requirements to carry humans. “These contracts represent important progress in restoring human spaceflight capabilities to the United States,” Phil Micauser, who oversees NASA’s commercial spaceflight programmes, said in a statement.

“NASA and its industry partners are committed to the goal of safely and cost-effectively launching astronauts from home within the next five years,” he said.

The contracts run from 22 Jan, 2013, through 30 May, 2014.

**Tourists take a picture of a NASA sign at the Kennedy Space Center visitors complex in Cape Canaveral, Florida on 14 April, 2010.—Reuters**

**The Yahoo logo is seen at the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) in Las Vegas, Nevada on 7 Jan, 2008. —Reuters**

**Apple Australia map glitch: Snakes! In the desert!**

**San Francisco, 11 Dec—**Twitter on Monday introduced the ability to add colour filters to user-uploaded photos, a step that sharpened the battle for photo-sharing rivalry with Facebook Inc.

Twitter’s filters mimic the popular feature that has defined Instagram, the booming photo-sharing service acquired by Facebook this year for $1.7 billion.

Although the new filters represent a modest product announcement addressing a small slice of Twitter’s overall user experience, the move carries symbolic weight in the escalating battle between Facebook and Twitter for dominance in the social media sector.

“From ordinary life to these big moments, the companies draw on their respective strengths across both mediums. We are currently experiencing an issue with some Google services, Google spokeswoman Andrea Freund said in a statement.

“For everyone who is affected, we apologize for any inconvenience you may be experiencing.”

But without the internet, which has been pushing a corporate version of the email service and its Apps suite to businesses to compete with Microsoft, said this month that the package will no longer be free to business customers.

**New Light of Myanmar**

**Wednesday, 12 December, 2012**
Nearly 1 million Australians suffer eating disorder

By Nicole Prendergast

Almost 1 million are currently suffering from an eating disorder, a latest research report shows on Tuesday.

The report entitled “Paying the Price: economic and social impact of eating disorders” by Deloitte Access Economics, commissioned by the non-profit Butterfly Foundation for Eating Disorders, looked at the economic and social impact of eating disorders including anorexia, bulimia, obesity and binge-eating.

The report estimates there are 913,986 Australians with an eating disorder, with Deloitte Access Economics putting the total social and economic cost at 69.7 billion Australian dollars (almost 73 billion U.S. dollars) this year.

“The number of annual deaths, for eating disorders, is higher than the 2011 Australian road death toll,” CEO of the Butterfly Foundation Christine Morgan said in a statement. The Butterfly Foundation is urging state, territory and federal governments to invest more in an area of mental health funding.

Minister for Mental Health Mark Butler said just over 1.9 million Australian dollars (almost 1.9 million USD) would be provided to the Butterfly Foundation for its support and information services for people with an eating disorder.

Butler also announced that up to 150,000 Australian dollars (almost 157,287 USD) will be provided to the Butterfly Foundation to identify possible improvements to programs provided by the Australian state and territory governments and privately-funded services.—Xinhua

HIV epidemic stabilizes in South Africa

By Cuthbert Banda

CAPE TOWN, 11 Dec—The HIV epidemic has shown significant signs of stabilization over the last six years in South Africa, thanks to unremitting efforts to fight the scourge, a survey released on Monday.

The HIV prevalence has seen a 1.3-percent decline in the age group between 15 to 24 years—from 21.8 percent in 2010 to 20.5 percent in 2011, according to the 2011 National Antenatal Sentinel HIV Prevalence Survey, released by Health Minister Aaron Motsoaledi.

Another decrease was among the 15-19 year olds from 14 percent in 2010 to 12.7 percent in 2011, shows the survey. The HIV prevalence, however, remained the highest among women in age group 30-34 years, increasing from 41.5 percent in 2009 to 42.2 percent in 2011. Among the 35-39 year-olds, the prevalence rate has increased from 35.4 percent in 2009 to 39.4 percent in 2011.

The reason for the higher prevalence rates among older women was that these age groups got infected earlier in their lives, and were now moving into a higher age group, Motsoaledi said.

The KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Province, which has kept higher HIV prevalence rate, has recorded a notable 2.1-percent decrease to 37.4 percent in 2011, compared with the estimates of 39.5 percent in 2009 and 2010.

Motsoaledi attributed the decline in KZN to the hard work of the provincial branch of the National AIDS Council, which includes key role players such as district mayors, who report on matters of maternal and child mortality; the success of the HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT) campaign and the circumcision campaign.

Other provinces which reported a decrease in the HIV prevalence were Gauteng (with a 28.7-percent prevalence rate in 2011, compared with 30.4 percent in 2010); Eastern Cape (with a prevalence rate of 29.3 percent in 2011); the Northern Cape (with 17-percent prevalence rate) and Western Cape (with an 18.2-percent prevalence rate).

However, Mpumalanga, the Free State, the North West and Limpopo Provinces all have recorded an increase in the prevalence rate.

HIV/AIDS is South Africa’s prominent health concern. The country is believed to have more people with HIV/AIDS than any other country in the world.

But the country has increased its scale of HIV treatment by 75 percent, allowing almost two million people to have access to the life-saving treatment, according to the latest report, the United Nations Programme on HIV and AIDS (UNAIDS).—Xinhua

Spain's new solar power plants

By Guillermo Paternina

One of top 10 junk foods harmful to your health — Canned foods

Wall Street higher despite “fiscal cliff” concerns

By Mike Poole

NEW YORK, 11 Dec—US stocks closed higher on Monday with Dow logging four-consecutive gains, though the “fiscal cliff” talk was still on its way.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 14.75 points or 0.1 percent to close at 13,169.88. The S&P 500 Index gained 0.48 points, or 0.03 percent to close at 1,418.55. The Nasdaq Composite Index advanced 8.92 points, or 0.3 percent, to settle at 2,986.96.

With major economic reports, investors still focused on the ongoing talks about the “fiscal cliff” problem. Some analysts pointed out that the issue could be solved by bipartisanship before the end of this year.

US President Barack Obama reiterated his stance of raising taxes for the wealthiest Americans. On Sunday, the President met with Speaker of the House of Representatives John Boehner, but no details about the meeting was disclosed.

However, the “fiscal cliff” effect could still harm the economy given that the US economic recovery was still weak.

“The dire rhetoric surrounding the Fiscal Cliff negotiations is depressing investors’ confidence and is causing business leaders to delay hiring and expansion, thus threatening a potentially harmful downdraft to this already low-flying recovery,” said Sam Stovall, Chief Equity Strategist of S&P Capital IQ.

“Today’s trade is very light. It appears that traders want to wait for the FOMC on Wednesday,” said Stephen Guilfoyle, an economist at Meridian Equity Partners Inc.

On corporate front, Apple continued to fall after investment bank Jefferies cut its price target to 800 dollars from 900 dollars. — Xinhua

Spanish GDP to contract by 1.3 or 1.4 percent in 2012: economy minister

By Carles Crespo

MADRID, 11 Dec—The Spanish economy would contract by 1.3 or 1.4 percent in 2012, Spanish Minister of Economy and Competitiveness Luis de Guindos said here on Monday.

In an interview with the Spanish National Radio, de Guindos said the economic contraction would be milder than previous forecasts which predicted that Spain’s GDP would fall by 1.5 percent, but it would all depend on the last three months of this year.

The minister said Spain would not witness any economic growth until the third or fourth quarter of 2013, although he underlined a number of positive aspects that would lead to the economic recovery such as declining family and business debts as well as an increase in exports.

He also assured Spain was on track to reduce its fiscal deficit thanks to the recent increases in sales taxes. Asked to comment on the bond-buying programme of the European Central Bank (ECB) and a possible EU bailout for Spain, De Guindos said the government “will take the best decision at the best moment,” although he also said it was very difficult to get funding given the country’s current high borrowing costs.—Xinhua

New Light of Myanmar

BUSINESS & HEALTH

India to invest in Iranian wind, solar power plants

TEHERAN, 11 Dec—Iran and India have finalized an agreement under which New Delhi will invest in the construction of wind and solar power plants in the Islamic republic, Press TV reported on Monday.

According to the agreement, India side will transfer “technical know-how” and invest in the “design, construction, installation and launch of power plants” in Iran, Youssef Armodeli, head of the Iranian Renewable Energy Organization, was quoted as saying.

Armodeli said using the potentials of Iran’s private sector in the production of renewable energy is one of the government’s policies, adding that so far several contracts have been inked with the private sector to construct power plants capable of generating 12,000 megawatts of electricity through renewable energy, according to the report.

The Iranian official further said the production capacity of renewable energy in Iran will double by the end of the country’s fifth five-year economic development plan (2010-2015).—Xinhua

Construction vehicles work at a hilly region in Lamjung, capital of Nepal's Gandaki Province, on 10 Dec, 2012. A project of land development has been under construction here since this October as the city planned to remove some of its barren hills to provide land of 25 square kilometres in half a year for city development. —Xinhua

Purchasers weigh cumquat at a market in Rong’an County of Ganzhou City, south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 9 Dec, 2012. Cumquat covering an area of over 80,000 mu (about 5,333.3 hectares) in Rong’an County went to market recently. —Xinhua

Philippine peso gains ahead of FOMC meeting

By Julian Baronda

BONITO, CEBU PROVINCE, 11 Dec—The Philippine peso gained 9.9109 pesos per US dollar as of Thursday morning, on average, ahead of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting on Wednesday.

In an interview with the Philippine Daily Inquirer, Bangkok-based SE Asia economist Christian Baden said that US dollar would fall by 1.5 percent, but it would all depend on the last three months of this year.

One of top 10 junk foods harmful to your health — Canned foods

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE. (ASEP) would fall by 1.5 percent, but it would all depend on the last three months of this year.
Parents of ex-US Marine jailed in Mexico say he’s losing hope

Jon Hammar, a former US Marine jailed in northern Mexico is seen in an undated photograph provided by his family. Hammar was heading to Costa Rica on a surfing expedition when he was arrested for “possession of a deadly weapon” because of the length of the barrel of his shotgun, even though he registered the weapon with Mexican customs officials before entering Mexico. — Reuters

Parents of ex-US Marine jailed in Mexico say he’s losing hope

Jon Hammar, a former US Marine jailed in northern Mexico is seen in an undated photograph provided by his family. Hammar was heading to Costa Rica on a surfing expedition when he was arrested for “possession of a deadly weapon” because of the length of the barrel of his shotgun, even though he registered the weapon with Mexican customs officials before entering Mexico. — Reuters
Mawlamyine BEMS No 2 gets new building

Nay Pyi Taw, 11 Dec—A ceremony to open Bo Yaza new school building was held at No 2 Basic Education Middle School in Mawlamyine on 5 December morning.

On behalf of well-wisher U Zaw Win, U Khin Win explained the purpose of donation and donated K 10 million to equip one transformer 315 KVA at Mawlamyine Township People’s School to Mon State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Hla Oo.

Mon State Hluttaw Speaker U Kyin Pe, Minister Dr Hla Oo, U Khin Win and Mon State Education Officer U Nyunt Soe formally opened the new building.

Mon State Chief Minister U Ohn Myint unveiled the plaque of the school and visited there. The Chief Minister then attended the coordination meeting of fund-raising of Mon State at the Mon State Government Office.

SEA Games torch conveyed rehearsed

Pantanaw, 11 Dec—A ceremony to hand over the upgraded Basic Education Middle School in Pyalinchaung Village BEMS (Branch) and Pyalin Yegyaw Post-Primary School.

Nay Pyi Taw, 11 Dec—A ceremony to put records on carrying the torch of XXVII SEA Games was held from Myanmar International Convention Centre to Wunna Theikdi Sports Complex at 7 am on 8 December.

It was viewed by Chairman of the Opening and Closing Preparation Subcommittee Union Minister for Culture U Aye Myint and officials.

A total of 27 relay teams conveyed the torch. The training was participated by artists and staff from the Ministry of Culture, Myanmar Police members, athletes from Ministry of Sports, and liaison officers who will join the XXVII SEA Games, totalling 100.—MNA

10th Myanmar-China Joint Drug Control Meeting held

Mandalay, 11 Dec—The 10th Myanmar-China Joint Drug Control Meeting took place at Mandalay Hill Resort in Mandalay on 5 December morning.

The meeting was attended by a 14-member delegation led by Member of Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control of Myanmar Vice-Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Brig-Gen Zaw Win from Myanmar side and a 10-member delegation led by China National Drug Control Commission Deputy Secretary-General Mr Wai Xiaojun from Chinese side.

Both sides discussed the reviews of tasks for cross-border drug elimination, opening of BLOs, progress of alternative development, construction of police command centre in Mandalay, exchange of information on combating narcotic drugs between the two countries, conducting joint survey of poppy cultivation, training for drug elimination, reviews of excision and cooperation in alternative development.

Traditional boxing challenge in Mandalay on 14-15 December

Mandalay, 11 Dec—With the sponsorship of Cobra Soft Drink, Saya Datha will organize the Myanmar Traditional Boxing Challenge at the Sibin Thaya Sports Ground in Mandalay at 5 pm on 14 and 15 December.

The fixtures of the boxes are: Tun Tun Min (Mudon) vs Saw Gaparay Hmu (T&T), Letthee Bayin Lay (Shwepu) vs Moe Ma Kha (Mandalay), 12-taung Kyar (Shwekyaphyu) vs Shwe Kyar (Madaya), Ye Yint Tun (Mudon) vs The Dwapint (Mada), Kywe Gyi (Shwekyaphyu) vs Aung Ba Din (Golden Butterfly), Tiet Lu (Mudon) vs Zwe Kyun Tah (Sagaiang), and Dein (Mada) vs Pawphyu (Hpa-an).

Euphoria Auto Service Centre opened

Yangon, 11 Dec—The All Myanmar Churches Association celebrated the ceremony to mark the X’mas at Myanmar Convention Centre on Mindamma Road in Mayangon Township on 6 December evening.

At first, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Aung, Region Minister for Social Affairs Dr Myint Thein, Region Minister for Kayin National Races Affairs U Saw Tun Aung Myint, Region Minister for Rakhine National Races Affairs U Aye Aung, Bago Region Minister for Kayin National Races Affairs U Saw Jibilee San Hla and officials formally opened the celebration.

Arch Bishop Steven Than Myint Oo of Myanmar Christian Churches gave a bless.

Next, the Chief Minister of the region delivered an address.

After that, Euphoria Auto Service Centre was opened at its building at the corner of Wazayana and Ngwekyayan Streets in South Okkalapa Township on 7 December morning.

The Region Chief Minister and U Thant Hauk of Euphoria Auto Service Centre cut the ribbon to open the centre and visited there.

The centre gives service to vehicles with the use of machinery made in US and repairs computer control boxes of cars and install softwares to the cars.—MNA

Rubber trading cool in Ye

Ys, 11 Dec—Rubber latex is being collected at rubber plantations of Ye Township in mid-September. The latex collection period is about seven months only.

At present, dried rubber latex is sold at K 1030, R latex K 1030-K 900, R5latex K 820-K 930 and one pound of rubber in block mould K 550-K 650. As price of rubber is K 300 lower than that of last year, rubber trading between sellers and buyers is cold, according to the rubber entrepreneurs.

Myanmar Alinn

Myitkyina Airport upgraded

Myitkyina, 11 Dec—Kachin State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai and State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Than Aung and officials inspected the site for construction of the passenger lounge and upgrading the taxiway of Myitkyina Airport to be undertaken by Strong Destiny Company on 4 December morning.

The in-charge of Myanmar Airways, Myitkyina engineer-in-charge Daw Thin Tin Zaw of Department of Civil Aviation and Project Manager U Soe Win of the company reported on progress of tasks.

The Chief Minister gave instructions on timely completion of the tasks.

Myanmar Alinn

Rubber trading cool in Ye

Ys, 11 Dec—Rubber latex is being collected at rubber plantations of Ye Township in mid-September. The latex collection period is about seven months only. At present, dried rubber latex is sold at K 1030, R latex K 1030-K 900, R5latex K 820-K 930 and one pound of rubber in block mould K 550-K 650. As price of rubber is K 300 lower than that of last year, rubber trading between sellers and buyers is cold, according to the rubber entrepreneurs.

Myanmar Alinn

New school building handed over

Pantanaw, 11 Dec—A ceremony to hand over the upgraded Basic Education High School was held in Pyalin Meinmapyay Village in Pantanaw Township of Ayeyawady Region on 1 December morning.

Ayeyawady Region Hluttaw Speaker U Hsan Htint, Region Minister for Social Affairs U Tin Soe and Deputy Director U Aung Kyi of Ayeyawady Region Education Department formally opened the archway of the school.

The Region Hluttaw speaker made a speech.

In the afternoon, the Speaker met local people and school boards of trustees at Pyalinchaung Village BEMS (Branch) and Pyalin Yegyaw Post-Primary School.

Myanmar Alinn

6th Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Basketball Tournament commences

Nay Pyi Taw, 11 Dec—The basketball tournaments are being held with the aim of ensuring the active participation of State service personnel for their fitness and happiness and of building friendly relations between them in discharging State duties, said Deputy Minister for Sports U Thant Htaik at the opening ceremony of the 6th Nay Pyi Taw Inter-Ministry Basketball Tournament 2012 at Paunglaung Gymnasion, here, on 7 December morning.

Mandalay, 11 Dec—With the sponsorship of Cobra Soft Drink, Saya Datha will organize the Myanmar Traditional Boxing Challenge at the Sibin Thaya Sports Ground at the former of 35th and 71st Streets in Mandalay at 6 pm on 14 and 15 December.

The fixtures of the boxers are: Tun Tun Min (Mudon) vs Saw Gaparay Hmu (T&T), Letthee Bayin Lay (Shwepu) vs Moe Ma Kha (Mandalay), 12-taung Kyar (Shwekyaphyu) vs Shwe Kyar (Madaya), Ye Yint Tun (Mudon) vs The Dwapint (Mada), Kywe Gyi (Shwekyaphyu) vs Aung Ba Din (Golden Butterfly), Tiet Lu (Mudon) vs Zwe Kyun Tah (Sagaiang), and Dein (Mada) vs Pawphyu (Hpa-an).

Myanmar Alinn
Boost Myanmar tourism through information technology

Tourism in Myanmar has been developed since 1996, “Visit Myanmar Year”. Myanmar tourism is based on Myanmar’s natural and cultural richness. Myanmar is a place of authenticity where visitors can feel something genuine. The unsullied culture and natural resources, people with a sense of genuine hospitality and friendliness, who still take pride in wearing traditional costumes and practising age old customs, adds up to a rich and authentic trip.

Myanmar tourism should take advantage of social networking as a tool to attract new visitors while carefully monitoring bad corporate image. The increasing popularity of social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter as well as using YouTube and blogs as marketing tools allows tourists to share their experiences and suggestions about the country. There are achievements in some countries that already use social networking sites, for at least 50 per cent of travellers do their research over the Internet prior to embarking on their trip. Many of these travellers who use the Internet use social networking sites. So, if the country uses networking sites it will be easier to reach those travellers and have a beneficial effect on its tourism.

However, the country and tourism operators should be aware of carefully monitoring feedback and responding to negative opinions rather than ignoring and deleting negative views. In today’s economic environment, the tourism industry relies heavily on Information Technology, which is embedded within every stage of the travel lifecycle. This being so, tourism operators in Myanmar are required to have knowledge of how technology can empower their businesses to do better.

The people of Myanmar are obsessed with the motto, "The origin, the prestige." It always motivates the duty-bound people of the country to smarten up themselves.

The saying portrays the pride that people have in with pride of being Myanmar, citizens of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

There are more than 200 countries of all sizes around the world. These includes the countries which have long and colourful history. There are also new nations that were born a few years or decades ago. Citizens of each country used to take pride in the history of their country. A saying goes, “Civilization started from five rivers.” These five rivers are Nile River of Egypt where the earliest civilization flourished, Euphrates River and Tigres River which bounded Babylon (now Iraq), Indus River of India and Huang He River (Yellow River) of China. The advanced civilization was found in these settlements.

Politics, architecture and performing arts had been created in Tagaung era which is said to be the earliest chronicle period of the history of Myanmar more than 2500 years ago. With the findings of Stone-Age weapons and mural paintings in Pyradalin Cave in Ywangan Township of Taunggyy District and along the Ayeyawady River, the history of Myanmar can be claimed to date back more than 10000 or 20000 years.

Primates which have limbs and teeth including vital ones were unearthed in Pantaungponnya region. US French and Japanese researchers visited the region and studied the primates together with Myanmar scholars. They unanimously approved the age of the primates to be 40 million years after experimenting on samples through advanced carbon method. As the primates found in Northern Africa and Egypt were approved to be 33 million years old, Myanmar is said to be seven million years older than those civilization. We could now claim, “The mankind started up in Myanmar and Myanmar started up in Pantaungponnya.”

Since Tagaungmonarchy of more than 2500 years ago, Myanmar was ruled by its own kings in Srikestra, Vishnu, Hanlin, Mongmar era of Bagan, Pinya, Inwa, Sagaing, Myinsaing, and authentic trip.

Maung Nwe Sit

Toogoo, Nyaungyan, and Konbaung (Yadanabon) eras. Fine and commercial arts had been created in these times. Myanmar people of these times erected various pagodas and temples in Bagan and breathtaking Schwedagon Pagoda.

Myanmar is rich in agricultural resources with abundant farms and lands. More than 50 or 60 million acres of lands have been put under paddy and crops in multiple cropping patterns. It is also blessed with great water resources: freshwater from creeks and streams and rain water. More than half of the country is covered with valuable teak, hardwood, Mahagoni and Lightwood forests. It owns vast natural resources underground and seabed.

Inland and offshore oilfields are commercially producing oil and gas. The nation saw internal armed conflicts triggered by political disunity as soon as she regained her independence. Myanmar is endowed with ruby, sapphire, jade and pearls which are the biggest in the world. The motherland could feed her children sufficiently. Due to the lack of dynamism and unity among them, advancement in modern technology and high competitiveness in the world, she could not catch the development it should have to gain.

While staying under the yoke of colonialism for more than 100 years, life was then difficult for Myanmar people. That's why, they strived for regaining Myanmar independence, making the supreme sacrifice.

There was an armed forces equipped with courage and military strategy in the time of monarchs. Although it was better in the time of bravery and military performance, the nation had fallen to the colonialists armed with modern weapons because it lacked modern armaments. So this tragedy reminded us to establish a defence forces with the highest military capability so that territorial integrity, people and national sovereignty could be protected.

Setting up of the bronze and concrete statues of Maha Bandooola is not just a decoration. It is a motivation for following the steps of Maha Bandoolla’s courage, military leadership, mental faculty and martial prowess in defending the nation. Likewise, statues of King Anawrahta, King Bayintnaung and King Alaungpaya are reminiscent of their mental faculty and martial prowess and defending the nation. Setting up of the bronze statue of King Anawrahta, King Bayintnaung and King Alaungpaya is to remember the instigation of colonialists who were driven out, in bravery and military performance, the nation had fallen to the colonialists armed with modern weapons because it lacked modern armaments. So this tragedy reminded us to establish a defence forces with the highest military capability so that territorial integrity, people and national sovereignty could be protected.

Setting up of Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar. Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar. Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar. Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar.

Inland and offshore oilfields are commercially producing oil and gas. The nation saw internal armed conflicts triggered by political disunity as soon as she regained her independence. Myanmar is endowed with ruby, sapphire, jade and pearls which are the biggest in the world. The motherland could feed her children sufficiently. Due to the lack of dynamism and unity among them, advancement in modern technology and high competitiveness in the world, she could not catch the development it should have to gain.

While staying under the yoke of colonialism for more than 100 years, life was then difficult for Myanmar people. That’s why, they strived for regaining Myanmar independence, making the supreme sacrifice.

There was an armed forces equipped with courage and military strategy in the time of monarchs. Although it was better in the time of bravery and military performance, the nation had fallen to the colonialists armed with modern weapons because it lacked modern armaments. So this tragedy reminded us to establish a defence forces with the highest military capability so that territorial integrity, people and national sovereignty could be protected.

Setting up of the bronze and concrete statues of Maha Bandooola is not just a decoration. It is a motivation for following the steps of Maha Bandoola’s courage, military leadership, mental faculty and martial prowess in defending the nation. Likewise, statues of King Anawrahta, King Bayintnaung and King Alaungpaya are reminiscent of their mental faculty and martial prowess and defending the nation. Setting up of the bronze statue of King Anawrahta, King Bayintnaung and King Alaungpaya is to remember the instigation of colonialists who were driven out, in bravery and military performance, the nation had fallen to the colonialists armed with modern weapons because it lacked modern armaments. So this tragedy reminded us to establish a defence forces with the highest military capability so that territorial integrity, people and national sovereignty could be protected.

Setting up of Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar. Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar. Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar. Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar. Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar. Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar. Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar. Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar. Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar. Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar. Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar. Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar. Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar. Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar. Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar. Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar. Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar. Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar. Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar. Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar. Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar. Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar. Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar. Independence stone pillars inculeate us with nostalgic memories for Myanmar independence struggle and remind us to safeguard the Union and sovereignty (liberty) established with the unity of national races and Bamar.

Kachin State Red Cross Society to take rehabilitation measures in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—Kachin State Red Cross Society which will undertake rescue and rehabilitation tasks in Rakhine State received cash assistance from the State Chief Minister U La John Ngan Hsai and the chief of the state Red Cross Society at the Kachin state government office on 7 December.

The chief minister also participated in the December mass walk activities on 8 December and viewed progress in upgrading of roads in Myitkyina.
**Course in Diplomacy (1/2012) concludes**

_**Yangon, 11 Dec—**_ The Graduation Ceremony of Course in Diplomacy (1/2012) conducted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was held at Wunminminyar Hall of the Ministry at 9:30 am yesterday, with an opening address delivered by Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin. Also present on the occasion were U Myint Lwin, Deputy Director General, Training, Research and Foreign Languages Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, responsible officials, retired Myanmar ambassadors, professors and instructors. 

_The Course in Diplomacy is a 12-week training course for Junior Officers, the new intake of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs._

At the opening ceremony, the chairman of UCSB presented a certificate of Appreciation to the representative of IMG for their assistance of computers and training equipments. The opening ceremony was also attended by the heads of department under the UCSB, officials from the Europe-based International Management Group (IMG), course instructors and the trainees. 

_MNA_
Lawyers for accused Colorado shooter to subpoena Fox News reporter

NEW YORK, 11 Dec—An attorney for accused Colorado theater gunman James Holmes said in court on Monday he will subpoena a Fox News reporter to reveal her source for a news story about the massacre, setting up a potential First Amendment showdown.

Public defender Daniel King said he plans to subpoena New York-based correspondent Jana Winter, who days after the July 20 rampage reported Holmes had sent a notebook to a psychiatrist detailing his plans to commit mass murder. Holmes, a 24-year-old former neuroscience graduate student, is charged with multiple counts of murder and attempted murder for the shooting spree in the Denver suburb of Aurora.

Bus crash kills 8, injures 32 in Colombia

BOGOTA, 11 Dec—At least eight people were killed, including two minors, and another 32 were injured Monday when a passenger bus returning from a Christmas outing crashed in the town of Ibague in Colombia that killed 12 people and wounded 58. King said the story, which cited an unnamed law enforcement source, violated a gag order imposed by Arapahoe County District Judge William Sylvester. “We have not received a subpoena on Jana Winter’s behalf and will evaluate once we do,” a Fox News spokesperson told Reuters. The psychiatrist, Lynne Fenton, is on staff at the University of Colorado, where she observed Holmes as a patient before he started the process to withdraw from the university before the massacre.

The move by King came after a court hearing in which more than a dozen law enforcement officers who saw the package containing the notebook in a university mail room denied under oath that they were the source of the leak.

On the night of the shooting, Holmes bought a ticket to the movie, but left the theater minutes later at a gas station after being turned away at a drive-in movie theater.

A Greek girl smiles in front of a stand at a Christmas charity bazaar in central Athens, Greece, on 10 Dec, 2012. The annual Chinese Community Christmas charity bazaar was hosted in Athens on Sunday, reaffirming the friendship, cooperation and mutual respect between China and Greece. The event was organized by Chinese Communities in Greece in collaboration with the Chinese Embassy in Athens and the Municipality of Athens.—Xinhua

Sudan and US have asked the Afri- can Union to help hammer out details of a proposed withdrawal of troops from their disputed border, defense ministers from both countries said on Monday, as stalled talks continued to delay oil exports from landlocked South Sudan through Sudan.—Reuters

Four Al-Qaeda militants caught by security forces

WASHINGTON, 11 Dec—Veteran US diplomat Princeton Lyman is stepping down as Presi- dent Barack Obama’s special envoy for Sudan and South Sudan, the White House said on Monday.

Lyman’s departure comes after a nearly two-year stint as Obama's trou- bleshooter for the region, a tenure that saw South Sudan seize last year under a US-backed peace deal that ended decades of civil war. But unresolved disputes between the two countries, including re-newed border hostilities, have impeded normaliza- tion of ties. Princeton has done a tremendous job in help- ing to realize the promise of an independent South Sudan, and working to- ward the international vi- sion of Sudan and South Sudan living side by side in peace,” Lyman said in statement.

“The people of Sudan and South Sudan, who have suffered so much, have the opportunity to seize a brighter future be- cause of Princeton’s ef- forts to urge both sides to put the interests of their people first.”

The Obama adminis- tration did not provide any immediate explanation for the departure of Lyman, 77, who was named to the post in March 2011. Before that, he led a US team that supported negotiations for Sudan’s 2005 peace agreement, and also served previously as deputy assistant secre- tary of state for African affairs. US ambassador to Nigeria and South Af- rica as well as assistant secretary of state for in- ternational organization affairs.

US envoy to Sudan, South Sudan stepping down

WASHINGTON, 11 Dec—The United States on Monday wished ailing Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez “a speedy recovery” but ruled out the restoration of diplomatic relations at the ambassa- dorial level for now.

“As with anybody who is suffering what he is suffering, we do,” State Department spokeswom- an Victoria Nuland replied when asked whether Washington wished the Venezuelan leader, the loudest critic of the US in the hemisphere, “a speedy recovery.” Chavez, 58, re- turned to Cuba earlier in the day for an emergency surgery, his fourth in the island nation in his bat- tle against cancer in his pelvic region since June 2011. The president is due to take office for another six-year term on 10 Jan following his re-election on 7 Oct. Prior to his de- parture for Cuba, he had announced that his vice president, Nicolas Ma- duro, would take control of the country if he is not able to fulfill his respon- sibilities.

Venezuela’s constitu- tion calls for elections to be convened in 30 days if the president becomes incapacitated.

“Obviously we would want to see any succes- sion follow the terms of the Venezuelan constitu- tion, we’re obviously watching events there carefully,” Nuland said at a regular news briefing.

She said Washington wants “the best possible communications” with the Venezuelan government on all issues of mutual interest including counter-narcotics, coun- terterrorism, rule of law and commerce.

“But we don’t cur- rently have any plans to re-establish relations at the ambassadorial level with Caracas,” she added.

The two countries’ relations have been tense in recent years, and the two countries have not ex- changed ambassadors in the past two years.

Four Al-Qaeda militants caught by security forces in south Yemen

ADEN, (Yemen), 11 Dec—Yemeni security troops arrested four mem- bers of the Al-Qaeda ter- rorist group in the southern Province of Lahj on Mon- day, a government official told Xinhua.

The security forces managed to capture four Al-Qaeda members and seized several homemade bombs from the terrorist group suspected of plan- ning attacks against mili- tary bases in Lahj Prov- ince, the local government official said on condition of anonymity.

“Two of them ar- rested worked to recruit new terrorists and taught several members of the al- Qaeda group how to make bombs,” the source said.

Security authorities are continuing to search for other Al-Qaeda mem- bers in the restive south- ern region, according to the official. Meanwhile, an army officer told Xinhua anony- mously that experts of the anti-bomb disposal unit defused two mines during a military operation launched in neighboring southern province of Abyan. Al-Qaeda militants are yet to comment.

In January 2009, Al-Qaeda affiliates in Saudi Arabia and Yemen offi- cially merged and formed Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP), the group, mainly en- treching itself in Yemen’s southern provinces of Ab- yan and Shabwa, is on the terrorist list of the United States, which considers it as an increasing threat to national security. The AQAP under- scores the challenges faced by Yemen’s new President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, who won support from ma- jor Yemeni political forces, the United States and Saudi Arabia.

Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez (C) gestures before leaving for Cuba at the Simon Bolivar International Airport in Maiquetia, Venezuela, on 10 Dec, 2012. President Hugo Chavez returned to Cuba early Monday for emergency surgery.

Xinhua

The defence team including public defender Daniel King (C) and Tamara Brady arrive for the second court appearance of James Holmes, in Centennial, Colorado on 30 July, 2012.—Reuters

WASHINGTON, 11 Dec—On Monday Uganda named two ministers to the region, an official.

Dec—Uganda named two ministers to the region, a —Xinhua

The loudest critic of the US has been the Venezuelan leader, the loudest critic of the US in the hemisphere, “a speedy recovery.” Chavez, 58, returned to Cuba earlier in the day for an emergency surgery, his fourth in the island nation in his battle against cancer in his pelvic region since June 2011. The president is due to take office for another six-year term on 10 Jan following his re-election on 7 Oct. Prior to his departure for Cuba, he had announced that his vice president, Nicolas Maduro, would take control of the country if he is not able to fulfill his responsibilities.

Venezuela’s constitution calls for elections to be convened in 30 days if the president becomes incapacitated.

“Obviously we would want to see any succession follow the terms of the Venezuelan constitution, we’re obviously watching events there carefully,” Nuland said at a regular news briefing.

She said Washington wants “the best possible communications” with the Venezuelan government on all issues of mutual interest including counter-narcotics, counter-terrorism, rule of law and commerce.

“But we don’t currently have any plans to re-establish relations at the ambassadorial level with Caracas,” she added.

The two countries’ relations have been tense in recent years, and the two countries have not exchanged ambassadors in the past two years.

Xinhua

Four Al-Qaeda militants caught by security forces in south Yemen

US wishes ailing Venezuelan president well

WASHINGTON, 11 Dec—On Monday Uganda named two ministers to the region, an official.

Dec—Uganda named two ministers to the region, a —Xinhua

The loudest critic of the US has been the Venezuelan leader, the loudest critic of the US in the hemisphere, “a speedy recovery.” Chavez, 58, returned to Cuba earlier in the day for an emergency surgery, his fourth in the island nation in his battle against cancer in his pelvic region since June 2011. The president is due to take office for another six-year term on 10 Jan following his re-election on 7 Oct. Prior to his departure for Cuba, he had announced that his vice president, Nicolas Maduro, would take control of the country if he is not able to fulfill his responsibilities.

Venezuela’s constitution calls for elections to be convened in 30 days if the president becomes incapacitated.

“Obviously we would want to see any succession follow the terms of the Venezuelan constitution, we’re obviously watching events there carefully,” Nuland said at a regular news briefing.

She said Washington wants “the best possible communications” with the Venezuelan government on all issues of mutual interest including counter-narcotics, counter-terrorism, rule of law and commerce.

“But we don’t currently have any plans to re-establish relations at the ambassadorial level with Caracas,” she added.

The two countries’ relations have been tense in recent years, and the two countries have not exchanged ambassadors in the past two years.

Xinhua
Japan LDP and partner on track for big election win—surveys

Tokyo, 11 Dec—Hawkish former Prime Minister Shunzo Abe’s opposition Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its smaller ally are on track for a resounding victory in Sunday’s election, winning more than 300 seats in parliament’s 480-member lower house, media surveys showed on Tuesday.

Abe, 58, who resigned abruptly as premier in 2007 after a troubled year in office, has vowed to press the Bank of Japan for radical monetary easing and spend to beat persistent deflation and drive the yen. He has also promised to take a bolder stance on security policy.

The conservative Sankei said an LDP-New Komeito party coalition could even win the two-thirds majority needed to override parliament’s upper house, where no party has a majority and which can block bills. But the paper cautioned that almost 40 percent of those surveyed had not decided how to vote.

Right-leaning Japan Restoration Party (JRP), led by popular Osaka Mayor Toru Hashimoto and octogenarian nationalist Shinzaro Ishihara, could win around 50 seats, the polls showed.

A solid LDP-New Komeito majority would make any formal coalition with the JRP less likely, but the party’s showing could make it a force to contend with in the future.

The Bank of Japan will likely ease monetary policy next week, sources say, as looming risks such as the potential fallout from the US fiscal cliff and weak Chinese growth cloud the outlook for an economy already seen as in recession.

The most likely option is for the central bank to expand its asset-buying programme, currently at 91 trillion yen ($1.1 trillion), by another 5-10 trillion yen, at the meeting on 19-20 December, sources familiar with its thinking have said.

For now, many in the central bank want to hold off on any new initiatives unless the US Federal Reserve, which holds its policy-setting meeting this week, surprises markets with a bigger-than-expect-ed stimulus and triggers a sharp yen rise.—Reuters

Cambodia unveils memorial for slain reporters in 1970-75 war time

Phnom Penh, 11 Dec—Cambodia on Monday inaugurated a memorial to 37 foreign and Cambodian correspondents and journalists who died or were missing while covering a savage five-year war from 1970 to 1975, a government official said.

The monument, which was erected in a public park in front of Hotel Le Royal in the west of the capital’s Wat Phnom historical site, was unveiled in 2012. Speaking at the memorial inauguration, the Government Spokesman and Minister of Information Khieu Kanharith said, “The memorial is to commemorate all journalists who were killed during the 5-year war.”

“We remember their bravery and sacrifice for the cause of freedom and the cause of the press,” he said.

The memorial displayed with the photos of the dead so that their relatives and friends could visit and pay their homage to them, he added.

At least 37 reporters were killed or are listed as missing from the 1970-75 war time, which pitied the US-backed Lon Nol government against the Khmer Rouge.

New Zealand, Japan update double tax pact to promote investment

Wellington, 11 Dec—New Zealand and Japan have signed a new double tax agreement that aims to encourage two-way investment, New Zealand Revenue Minister Peter Dunne announced on Tuesday.

The new agreement, which replaced a 1963 treaty, included lower withholding taxes on interest, dividend and royalty payments between the two countries, making it easier for businesses to invest and bring back profits, Dunne said. “Japan is one of New Zealand’s largest trading partners and the existing treaty is our oldest tax information exchange agreement,” he said in a statement.

“This agreement will help New Zealand-based businesses compete in Japan and help make New Zealand a more attractive place to invest in, and it will modernize our tax treaty arrangements with Japan bringing them more into line with best international practice.”

Double tax agreements help reduce tax impediments to trade and investment between countries by preventing cross-border business income being taxed twice, giving greater certainty about how that income would be taxed.

“They are also a valuable tool in combating tax avoidance, which is a high priority for us,” Dunne said.

The updated agreement was signed by officials in Tokyo late Monday and would come into force once both countries give legal effect to it.—Xinhua
KBZ BANK LTD. is pleased to inform all that we have successfully opened Sawbwagyigone branch, Insein Township, Yangon Region, as 89th branch to date-effective 12.12.12. All honored persons are kindly requested to come and enjoy our cordial banking services at our newest branch.

KBZ Bank: The Strength of Myanmar

Contact Address:
Sawbwagyigone branch,
No. 86/87, Lan Thit Road, Nantha Gone Quarter,
Sawbwagyigone, Insein Township, Yangon Region.
Phone: (01) 647941/42/43/44
Fax: (01) 647933, 647940, 647945/46/47/48
www.kbzbank.com
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV JASA AMAN VOY NO ( 4)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV JASA AMAN VOY NO (4) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: SEALS CO. LTD.
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SN QUEEN VOY NO ( )
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SN QUEEN VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SEA NET SHIPPING CO. LTD.
Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Detroit fire-fighters, holes in boots, honoured in “BURN”

Detroit, 11 Dec—It was the death of Walter Harris, a 17-year veteran Detroit fire-fighter, in an abandoned building four years ago that inspired Tom Putnam and Brenna Sanchez to film their documentary “BURN”.

“(Harris) was killed in the collapse of an abandoned building while fighting a fire. We heard that story and asked ourselves a pretty obvious question outside the fire service: Why is someone risking his life fighting a fire in an abandoned building? … It seemed like there was a very compelling story here,” Putnam told Reuters.

For an entire year, producers Putnam and Sanchez, 39, a Detroit native now living in Los Angeles, followed the fire-fighters of Engine Company 50 (ESO) on Detroit’s downtrodden east side, chronicling their triumphs and tragedies, as well as their private moments.

Now their film “BURN,” which won the audience award at the 2012 Tribeca Film Festival, is helping to raise much-needed money for Detroit fire-fighters, even as the filmmakers seek funds to get their documentary released nationwide.

Their first two nights with ESO, Putnam and Sanchez went to 21 fires.

“The sheer volume and scope of the work that these guys were dealing with was shocking,” said Putnam. “We didn’t know what they were getting into.”

Added Sanchez: “Being from Detroit, you become immune. It wasn’t until I left that I realized not everyone is burning their city down.”

Since 1950, racial tensions and vanishing industry have cut Detroit’s population in half from 1.8 million to 714,000. As a result, there are more than 80,000 abandoned homes all over the city. The film makers found that the city has an average of 30 fires daily, and one of the highest arson rates in the world.

As if things weren’t tough enough, Detroit is seeking to avoid bankruptcy and firehouses all over the city have been hit by budget cuts. ESO’s exception.

The fire-fighters told Putnam and Sanchez they haven’t been given a raise in 10 years, they have holes in their boots and they don’t have the proper tools needed to fight fires.

Yet that doesn’t stop them from going out and risking their lives daily.—Reuters

Information of Bilateral Roaming Agreements

As Ministry of Communications and Information Technology is undertaking reforms for the telecommunications sector, international mobile roaming is being extensively expended in order to facilitate smooth communication with international countries.

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar will be hosting the SEA Games and World Economic Forum (WEF) on East Asia in 2013 and Myanmar will take over the ASEAN Chairmanship in 2014. In order to make sure that the sports people and visitors especially from ASEAN member states and ASEAN Dialogue Partners for the events can seamlessly use their GSM mobile phones from their respective countries while they are in Myanmar, Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications has been taking necessary measures to enter into bilateral roaming agreements with GSM Mobile operators from other countries including ASEAN Member countries.

In this connection, we would like to inform foreign GSM Mobile Operators who would like to enter into roaming arrangement with Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications to present respective Permanent Reference Document to the following address for roaming agreement:

Chief Engineer (Mobile Department)
Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications
Email-hatywin@mptngw.net.mm

ADVERTISEMENT & ENTERTAINMENT

A visitor views the Mary Hogarth room of the Charles Dickens Museum in central London on 10 Dec, 2012. REUTERS

London home of Charles Dickens open after renovation

LONDON, 11 Dec—The former London home of Charles Dickens reopened on Monday, after an eight month, 3.1 million-pound refurbishment celebrating the author’s bicentenary.

Dickens lived at 48 Doughty Street in central London with his family between 1837 and 1839. There, in his mid-20s, he wrote “Oliver Twist” and “Nicholas Nickleby”, novels that made him a literary star.

The four-storey brick row house was restored to its early Victorian splendour to feel less like a museum and more, atmosphere, museum director Florian Schweizer told Reuters.

“We wanted to recreate it like a home, so visitors could feel like they’re actually visiting Charles Dickens and that he might step back in at any time,” Schweizer said.

Inaugurated in 1925, the museum is the author’s only surviving London house, its redesign, largely funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund, comes in the £3 million-pound anniversary of Dickens’s birth in Portsmouth, Hampshire, and opens the house’s kitchen and attic to the public for the first time.

Visitors are guided through the dimly lit home not by museum signage on the walls but painted signs and videos of young Dickens, with long hair and no beard, challenging the mainstream image of “the older Dickens”, said Schweizer.

They can tour the writer’s dining room, wine cellar (”Dickens loved his booze”), bedroom and study. There, surrounded by ceiling-high bookshelves, stands the author’s original desk, where he finished “The Pickwick Papers” and dreamed up the characters of Oliver Twist and Nicholas Nickleby.

“He could have just been a one-season sensation, but it was here that he built on that first reputation made with The Pickwick Papers, and by the time he moved out it was pretty clear he was there to stay,” Schweizer said, noting the house had an “inspirational” dimension, especially for young visitors.

“It’s the beginning of a career - that makes it special.

Dickens lived in the house with his wife Catherine, the eldest three of their 10 children and his sister-in-law Mary.

Mary died in the house at age 17, a heartbreaking episode which left Dickens incapable of writing for London’s first time. “X Factor” castoff Cheryl Cole files $2.3 million lawsuit against producers

LOS ANGELES, 11 Dec—Cheryl Cole, who was originally hired as a judge for the American version of “The X Factor” but was replaced by Pussycat Doll Nicole Scherzinger before the show premiered, is now suing the producers of the show for $2.3 million dollars, according to court papers obtained by TheWrap.

In the complaint against Blue Orbit Productions, filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, Girls Aloud singer Cole claims that she entered a pay-or-play agreement with Blue Orbit Productions in April 22, 2011, that guaranteed her $1.8 million for the first season of the show, and $2 million for the second.

The suit also says that Cole was also due to receive other expenses for housing, wardrobe, styling and general living expenses.

Cole claims that she received the $1.8 million for the first season, but the producers didn’t pony up for the wardrobe/styling allowance, housing allowance (which, according to the suit, was $15,000 per month) or living allowance.

She also didn’t receive her guaranteed $2 million for the second season, the suit claims.

Now Cole wants damages “in excess of $2.3 million,” plus interest at the legal rate, and court costs.

TheWrap was unable to reach Blue Orbit Productions for comment.

Musician Cheryl Cole waves as she arrives for the European premiere of ‘What to expect when you are Expecting’, in London on 22 May, 2012.—Reuters

Los Angeles, 11 Dec—The former London home of Charles Dickens reopened on Monday, after an eight month, 3.1 million-pound refurbishment celebrating the author’s bicentenary.

Dickens lived at 48 Doughty Street in central London with his family between 1837 and 1839. There, in his mid-20s, he wrote “Oliver Twist” and “Nicholas Nickleby”, novels that made him a literary star.

The four-storey brick row house was restored to its early Victorian splendour to feel less like a museum and more, atmosphere, museum director Florian Schweizer told Reuters.

“We wanted to recreate it like a home, so visitors could feel like they’re actually visiting Charles Dickens and that he might step back in at any time,” Schweizer said.

Inaugurated in 1925, the museum is the author’s only surviving London house, its redesign, largely funded through the Heritage Lottery Fund, comes in the £3 million-pound anniversary of Dickens’s birth in Portsmouth, Hampshire, and opens the house’s kitchen and attic to the public for the first time. Visitors are guided through the dimly lit home not by museum signage on the walls but painted signs and videos of young Dickens, with long hair and no beard, challenging the mainstream image of “the older Dickens”, said Schweizer.

They can tour the writer’s dining room, wine cellar (”Dickens loved his booze”), bedroom and study. There, surrounded by ceiling-high bookshelves, stands the author’s original desk, where he finished “The Pickwick Papers” and dreamed up the characters of Oliver Twist and Nicholas Nickleby.

“He could have just been a one-season sensation, but it was here that he built on that first reputation made with The Pickwick Papers, and by the time he moved out it was pretty clear he was there to stay,” Schweizer said, noting the house had an “inspirational” dimension, especially for young visitors.

“It’s the beginning of a career - that makes it special.

Dickens lived in the house with his wife Catherine, the eldest three of their 10 children and his sister-in-law Mary.

Mary died in the house at age 17, a heartbreaking episode which left Dickens incapable of writing for London’s first time. “X Factor” castoff Cheryl Cole files $2.3 million lawsuit against producers

LOS ANGELES, 11 Dec—Cheryl Cole, who was originally hired as a judge for the American version of “The X Factor” but was replaced by Pussycat Doll Nicole Scherzinger before the show premiered, is now suing the producers of the show for $2.3 million dollars, according to court papers obtained by TheWrap.

In the complaint against Blue Orbit Productions, filed in Los Angeles Superior Court, Girls Aloud singer Cole claims that she entered a pay-or-play agreement with Blue Orbit Productions in April 22, 2011, that guaranteed her $1.8 million for the first season of the show, and $2 million for the second.

The suit also says that Cole was also due to receive other expenses for housing, wardrobe, styling and general living expenses.

Cole claims that she received the $1.8 million for the first season, but the producers didn’t pony up for the wardrobe/styling allowance, housing allowance (which, according to the suit, was $15,000 per month) or living allowance.

She also didn’t receive her guaranteed $2 million for the second season, the suit claims.

Now Cole wants damages “in excess of $2.3 million,” plus interest at the legal rate, and court costs.

TheWrap was unable to reach Blue Orbit Productions for comment.
**New Light of Myanmar**

**SPORTS**

**Benfica pile misery on Sporting with comeback win**

**Lisbon, 11 Dec—** Benfica scored three second-half goals to earn a thrilling 3-1 comeback win over struggling Sporting on Monday to stay top of the Portuguese Premier League while their Lisbon rivals endure their worst league start in nearly 80 years.

Benfica’s Paraguayan striker Oscar Cardozo netted twice in the last 10 minutes having pressed defender Marcos Rojo into scoring an own goal after an hour to cancel out Sporting’s first-half opener from Ricky van Wolfswinkel. Cardozo converted a penalty after Sporting’s Dutch centre back Khalid Boulahrouz was sent off after handling a goal-bound shot from Eduardo Salvio and then sealed the points with a neat header in the 86th minute.

The battle for the title is still wide open with Benfica and Porto locked on 29 points after 11 matches, the champions having earned a hard-fought 1-0 home win over Moreirense on Saturday. Sporting, knocked out of the Portuguese Cup and Europa League, the defeat left them in ninth place, are now 18 points behind the leaders.

**Bologna**

**Rome, 11 Dec—** Fourth-placed Bologna missed the chance to keep pace with leaders Juventus when they were held to a 0-0 draw at the weekend top of the table. Bologna, who looked to create several chances throughout the first half as they sought to leave with a victory.

Bologna have not been so effective, stalling a Lazio side who looked to create chances throughout the first half as they sought to leave with a victory.

The home side, by shutting down Brazilian playmaker Arturo Vidal, left the visitors with little space to operate. Benfica is learning to make do, Barbara Berlusconi says

**Bologna**

**Rome, 11 Dec—** Fourth-placed Bologna missed the chance to keep pace with leaders Juventus when they were held to a 0-0 draw at the weekend top of the table. Bologna, who looked to create several chances throughout the first half as they sought to leave with a victory.

Bologna have not been so effective, stalling a Lazio side who looked to create chances throughout the first half as they sought to leave with a victory.

The home side, by shutting down Brazilian playmaker Arturo Vidal, left the visitors with little space to operate. Benfica is learning to make do, Barbara Berlusconi says

**Lazio fail to keep pace after draw at Bologna**

**Rome, 11 Dec—** Fourth-placed Lazio missed the chance to keep pace with leaders Juventus when they were held to a 0-0 draw at struggling Bologna in Serie A on Monday and are now eight points off the top spot.

Bologna were not pretty but they were certainly effective, stifling a Lazio side who looked to create chances throughout the first half as they sought to leave with a victory.

Bologna are not pretty but they were certainly effective, stifling a Lazio side who looked to create chances throughout the first half as they sought to leave with a victory.

The Rome club started with talismanic striker Miroslav Klose on the bench, with the German international still working his way back to match fitness after a recent ankle injury.

The visitors had their chances, with Candreva testing goalkeeper Federico Agliardi in the 13th minute and Giuseppe Biava misdirecting a Michael Ciani cross just before the break.

**Lazio’s supply lines, leaving Antonio Candreva, cut off**

**Bologna**

**Rome, 11 Dec—** Fourth-placed Lazio missed the chance to keep pace with leaders Juventus when they were held to a 0-0 draw at the weekend top of the table. Bologna, who looked to create several chances throughout the first half as they sought to leave with a victory.

Bologna have not been so effective, stalling a Lazio side who looked to create chances throughout the first half as they sought to leave with a victory.

The home side, by shutting down Brazilian playmaker Arturo Vidal, left the visitors with little space to operate. Benfica is learning to make do, Barbara Berlusconi says

**Lazio fail to keep pace after draw at Bologna**

**Rome, 11 Dec—** Fourth-placed Lazio missed the chance to keep pace with leaders Juventus when they were held to a 0-0 draw at struggling Bologna in Serie A on Monday and are now eight points off the top spot.

Bologna were not pretty but they were certainly effective, stifling a Lazio side who looked to create chances throughout the first half as they sought to leave with a victory.

Bologna are not pretty but they were certainly effective, stifling a Lazio side who looked to create chances throughout the first half as they sought to leave with a victory.

The Rome club started with talismanic striker Miroslav Klose on the bench, with the German international still working his way back to match fitness after a recent ankle injury.

The visitors had their chances, with Candreva testing goalkeeper Federico Agliardi in the 13th minute and Giuseppe Biava misdirecting a Michael Ciani cross just before the break.

**Lazio fail to keep pace after draw at Bologna**

**Rome, 11 Dec—** Fourth-placed Lazio missed the chance to keep pace with leaders Juventus when they were held to a 0-0 draw at struggling Bologna in Serie A on Monday and are now eight points off the top spot.

Bologna were not pretty but they were certainly effective, stifling a Lazio side who looked to create chances throughout the first half as they sought to leave with a victory.

Bologna are not pretty but they were certainly effective, stifling a Lazio side who looked to create chances throughout the first half as they sought to leave with a victory.

The Rome club started with talismanic striker Miroslav Klose on the bench, with the German international still working his way back to match fitness after a recent ankle injury.

The visitors had their chances, with Candreva testing goalkeeper Federico Agliardi in the 13th minute and Giuseppe Biava misdirecting a Michael Ciani cross just before the break.

**AC Milan are learning to make do, Barbara Berlusconi says**

**AC Milan**

**Paris, 11 Dec—** AC Milan are learning to live within their means and will concentrate on using home-grown talent rather than buying in expensive, big-name players, club director Barbara Berlusconi said on Monday.

“The club has to be able to rely on its own resources,” Berlusconi, daughter of club president Silvio Berlusconi, told French newspaper L’Equipe.

Milan, once bankrolled by former Italian prime minister Berlusconi, upset fans with an austerity drive helping to promote our sport, therefore I am delighted to win their award,” he said in a statement.

“Wherever we play the golf writers are there helping to promote our sport and give a voice to golf and therefore I am delighted to win their award,” he said in a statement.

“I hope to give them plenty more good things to write about in 2013,” added McIlroy who claimed a total of five tournament victories this year.

**Juventus win on Conte’s return**

**Milan, 11 Dec—** Juventus coach Antonio Conte enjoyed a winning return to the touchline on Sunday as the Serie A leaders celebrated the end of his four-month ban with a 1-0 victory at Palermo.

Stephan Lichtsteiner scored early in the second half of a game in which both teams struggled on a pitch that cut up badly following a hailstorm at halftime.

AC Milan continued their revival with a third league victory in a row, coming from behind to win 4-2 at Turin with Robinho, Antonio Nocerino, Giampaolo Pazzini and Stephan El Shaarawy scoring the goals.

Pescara beat Genoa 2-0 in a clash of two teams stuck in the relegation zone and two goals from Gonzalo Bergessio gave Catania their first win of the season, 3-1 at Siena. Second-placed Napoli play at third-placed Inter in the evening game (07:45 pm) Juve’s win, their 12th in 16 league games, took them on to 38 points and ensured they will finish the weekend top of the table.

Conte was initially banned for 10 months in August for failing to report a match-fixing attempt when he was coach at Siena in Serie B, but his suspension was later reduced to four months on appeal. Palermo playmaker Fabrizio Miccoli had a first-half goal disallowed for offside before Switzerland fullback Lichtsteiner settled the match following a clever backheel by Mirko Vučinić five minutes after the re-start.

**Newcastle, who beat Wigan Athletic last time out to end a run of four league defeats in a row, equalised through a brilliant dipping 20-metre strike by midfielder Hatem Ben Arfa which flew into the net off the bar early in the second half.

Rodalega rose to head home Damien Duff’s free kick after 63 minutes although Newcastle almost levelled again when Fabricio Coloccini’s powerful shot struck the crossbar.—Reuters

**McIlroy scoops European Writers Award**

**London, 11 Dec—** World number one Rory McIlroy won the 2012 European Golf Writers Trophy on Monday after a spectacular season during which he landed his second major title and topped the money-list on both sides of the Atlantic.

The 23-year-old Northern Irishman, who added the US PGA Championship to the US Open crown he bagged in 2011, finished ahead of Europe’s triumphant Ryder Cup team in the voting.

“We believe we have some great people, are there helping to promote our sport and give a voice to golf and therefore I am delighted to win their award,” he said in a statement.

“I hope to give them plenty more good things to write about in 2013,” added McIlroy who claimed a total of five tournament victories this year.

**Juventus coach Antonio Conte arrives before the Serie A soccer match against Palermo at the Renzo Barbera stadium in Palermo on 9 Dec, 2012.—Reuters**

**Soccer**

**Newcastle, who beat Wigan Athletic last time out to end a run of four league defeats in a row, equalised through a brilliant dipping 20-metre strike by midfielder Hatem Ben Arfa which flew into the net off the bar early in the second half.

Rodalega rose to head home Damien Duff’s free kick after 63 minutes although Newcastle almost levelled again when Fabricio Coloccini’s powerful shot struck the crossbar.—Reuters

**McIlroy scoops European Writers Award**

**London, 11 Dec—** World number one Rory McIlroy won the 2012 European Golf Writers Trophy on Monday after a spectacular season during which he landed his second major title and topped the money-list on both sides of the Atlantic.

The 23-year-old Northern Irishman, who added the US PGA Championship to the US Open crown he bagged in 2011, finished ahead of Europe’s triumphant Ryder Cup team in the voting.

“We believe we have some great people, are there helping to promote our sport and give a voice to golf and therefore I am delighted to win their award,” he said in a statement.

“I hope to give them plenty more good things to write about in 2013,” added McIlroy who claimed a total of five tournament victories this year.

**Juventus coach Antonio Conte arrives before the Serie A soccer match against Palermo at the Renzo Barbera stadium in Palermo on 9 Dec, 2012.—Reuters**
Heavy storm rattles Turkey’s Aegean region, killing one

ANKARA, 11 Dec.—At least one person was killed and another missing as heavy rain and wind hit the provinces of Aegean region in Turkey, local newspaper Today’s Zaman reported on Monday.

In the Cesme town of Aegean Izmir Province, a fishing boat capsized early on Monday, killing one businessman, who was one of three on the boat when the storm capsized it, according to the report.

The Antalya Governor’s Office said in a statement on Sunday that heavy rain and storms were expected across Antalya on Monday and schools in the central region and 17 additional districts would be closed.

In Koçegiz town of Muğla Province, a group of 14 students were stranded on Sandras Mountain at 1,300 meters of altitude when a snowstorm hit the mountain area on Sunday.

The students sent a distress signal and rescue teams were deployed to the area, said the report.

Xinhua

UNESCO calls for actions to ensure girls’ right to education

PARIS, 11 Dec.—The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) called for actions to ensure girls’ right to education at an event on Monday.

The event, “Stand up for Malala: girls’ education is a right,” coincided with the United Nations Human Rights Day.

It was co-organized by UNESCO and Pakistan government in honour of Malala Yousafzai, a brave young girl who survived an assassination attempt two months ago for her determined efforts to defend girls’ education in Pakistan, after the Taleban outlawed schools for girls in Swat Valley.

“Girls’ education is a basic right. It’s also a lever for development that profits the whole of society, girls and boys, men and women,” said UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova.

According to Bokova, too many girls in too many countries are held back simply because they are girls. “They are forced to work, they are married off, they are taken away from school.”

Today, there are 32 million girls out of primary school, and a similar amount out of secondary school, she said.

For his part, Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari said, “Malala represents the forces of peace ... We need the whole world’s support to help all Malalas go to school.”

“Malala’s story also teaches us that we are right to make education, and especially girls’ education, a priority in development aid,” said French Prime Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault.

During the meeting, participants adopted a Statement of Commitment to Girls’ Rights to Education, promising “to actively strive to Girls’ Rights to Education, with the whole world’s support to help all Malalas go to school,” the statement said.

Xinhua

Man shot dead in broad daylight in Midtown Manhattan

NEW YORK, 11 Dec.—A man was shot dead in Midtown Manhattan, New York City, Monday afternoon, and the spot scene has been cordoned off by the police, according to the report.

The shooting took place just before 2 pm in front of Saint Thomas Choir School near Columbus Circle between Broadway and 7th Avenue in Midtown Manhattan, where is filled with midday tourists, shoppers and office workers.

A shooting took place as the victim was walking down the street, a gunman walked up behind him, pulled out a silver pistol, and fired a single shot into the back of his head. The gunman then got into a waiting grey car and drove off.

Xinhua

Russia sets price limit for hotels during Sochi Olympics

MOSCOW, 11 Dec.—The Russian government has set a cap of 435 dollars for hotels during the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics, Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said on Monday.

“I have signed a government decree on the maximum price for hotels accommodations in the City of Sochi during the Olympic Games,” Medvedev told his deputies during a meeting.

According to the Russian government’s website, this will be a temporary measure. “This is exactly the case when the state takes responsibility for the prices in spite of market expectations,” Medvedev said, adding the entrepreneurs must be shut off an opportunity to bypass these restrictions.

“Our people are canny, one may even say quirkly. We’ve got to check that the tourist agencies, hotels not to invent some hidden payments to compensate the losses,” he stressed.

“Competition is good but you should monitor prices,” Medvedev said.

According to Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Kozak, the hotel prices in Sochi during major sports events hit 157,000 rubles per night (over 5,000 US dollars). He vowed the price of a five-star suite would not exceed an equivalent of 435 dollars per night during the Olympics.

Kozak promised the three-star hotel room in the Black Sea resort of Sochi would cost about 130 dollars. Russian government plans to double the number of hotel rooms in Sochi by October 2013, which should also facilitate the price fall by the time the Games start in February 2014.

Xinhua
Union S&T Minister participates in 7th Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo attended in the seventh Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology at Brunei Darussalam on 2 December.

Also present at the meeting were ministers from ASEAN countries, high-ranking officials and the under-secretary-general of ASEAN Secretariat.

The meeting approved reconstitution of ASEAN science and technology committee for ASEAN innovation, digital camera, connectivity between new media and society, green technology, food security, energy security, water management, healthy and prosperous biodiversity and innovations in science and technology, setting up of ASEAN Innovation Funds and making analysis of implementation of subcommittees of the committee.—MNA

Reinsurance Protection & IT System workshop held

YANGON, 11 Dec — In his address at the workshop on Reinsurance Protection & IT system, jointly organized by Myanmar Insurance of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue and Sompo Japan Insurance of Japan, at Traders Hotel, here this morning, Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Dr Maung Maung Thein emphasized the role of insurance sector in rapid changing weather patterns, saying that only insurance could protect the economy.

He envisioned the outcomes of the workshop would bring about knowledge on insurance sector not only for emerging insurance companies in Myanmar but also for the public.

Next, Managing Director U Aye Min Thein of Myanmar Insurance and Executive Office Mr. Keishi Nakamura of China & Asia Pacific Regional Headquarters of Sompo Japan Insurance Inc spoke on the occasion. Executive Officer Mr. Masato Fujikura and Chief Executive Officer Mr. Yoshinori Hashimura gave talks on Reinsurance Protection, General Manager Mr. Yoshihisa Miyazaki of the Third Development Headquarters of NKSJ System Inc and System Manager Mr. Koji Iwai, on IT System Section-1, and Senior Deputy Manager Mr. Toshiyuki Haga of Global Planning Department of Sompo Japan Insurance Inc, on IT System Section-2.

Then Chief Representative of Yangon Representative Office of Sompo Insurance Inc Mr. Keiji Okada spoke words of thanks.—MNA

Japanese contributor opens renovated school

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—Mr Takao Yamamoto of Iizuka of Japan opened a renovated school on 17 Dec.

The meeting focused on mutual cooperation in civil aviation, hydropower, oil and gas exploration, education, health, rural development, poverty alleviation and plantation.—MNA

Business Meeting and Matching on 17 Dec

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—The 25-entrepreneur delegation from Board of Trade of Thailand and Thai Chamber of Commerce, led by Chairman of Board of Trade of Thailand Mr. Phongsak Assakul, will launch Business Meeting and Matching in conjunction with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at the first floor of the office tower (UMFCCI) at 9 am on 17 December. Those wishing to attend may register at UMFCCI Web site: www.umfcci.net (Ph-214344 to 49) (Ex-117 or 150).—MNA

Mobile healthcare reaches out to 6665 in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—Six mobile medical teams of Tatmadaw provided healthcare services to local people in Rakhine State on 4-9 December.

The teams provided medical treatment to local people in Yanbye, MraukU and Sittway Townships. The healthcare of the teams within six-day period covered 6665 local people of whom 39 were transferred to Sittway military hospital.—MNA

Union Minister for Science and Technology Dr Ko Ko Oo attends the seventh Informal ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Science and Technology at Brunei Darussalam.—MNA

Tonsi Bridge crossing Namee Creek in Katha nearing completion

KATHA, 11 Dec—Tonsi Bridge, which is No. 4/32 bridge on Katha-Indaw-Mansi road section, crossing Namee Creek in Indaw Township of Sagaing Region, being built by Bridge Construction Special Group No 14 of Public Works under the Ministry of Construction, will complete soon. Thanks to the bridge, vehicles and local people will enjoy fruits of smooth transport in the near future.

“Tonsi Bridge is 250 feet in length. The bridge is constituted with two 60 feet long spans and two 65 feet long spans. The facility will have 24 feet wide for two-way motor road. The motorway will be flanked by 3.6 feet wide pedestrian on either side. The lower structure of bridge is built with reinforced concrete pile foundation and RC structure. The upper structure is of RC floor.

The facility can withstand 36-ton loads. Upon completion, the bridge will contribute to smooth transport of local people,” said in-charge of the bridge construction project U Thein Tin.

Tonsi Bridge will help Indaw Township of Katha District of Sagaing Region and Bhamo Township of Kachin State develop economic, education and social sectors of the region.

Myanmar Bridge Construction Project

Myanmar Alinn

Japanese contributor opens renovated school

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—Mr Takao Yamamoto of Iizuka of Japan opened a renovated school on 17 December.

The meeting focused on mutual cooperation in civil aviation, hydropower, oil and gas exploration, education, health, rural development, poverty alleviation and plantation.—MNA

Business Meeting and Matching on 17 Dec

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—The 25-entrepreneur delegation from Board of Trade of Thailand and Thai Chamber of Commerce, led by Chairman of Board of Trade of Thailand Mr. Phongsak Assakul, will launch Business Meeting and Matching in conjunction with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at the first floor of the office tower (UMFCCI) at 9 am on 17 December. Those wishing to attend may register at UMFCCI Web site: www.umfcci.net (Ph-214344 to 49) (Ex-117 or 150).—MNA

Mobile healthcare reaches out to 6665 in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—Six mobile medical teams of Tatmadaw provided healthcare services to local people in Rakhine State on 4-9 December.

The teams provided medical treatment to local people in Yanbye, MraukU and Sittway Townships. The healthcare of the teams within six-day period covered 6665 local people of whom 39 were transferred to Sittway military hospital.—MNA

Tonsi Bridge crossing Namee Creek in Katha nearing completion

KATHA, 11 Dec—Tonsi Bridge, which is No. 4/32 bridge on Katha-Indaw-Mansi road section, crossing Namee Creek in Indaw Township of Sagaing Region, being built by Bridge Construction Special Group No 14 of Public Works under the Ministry of Construction, will complete soon. Thanks to the bridge, vehicles and local people will enjoy fruits of smooth transport in the near future.

“Tonsi Bridge is 250 feet in length. The bridge is constituted with two 60 feet long spans and two 65 feet long spans. The facility will have 24 feet wide for two-way motor road. The motorway will be flanked by 3.6 feet wide pedestrian on either side. The lower structure of bridge is built with reinforced concrete pile foundation and RC structure. The upper structure is of RC floor.

The facility can withstand 36-ton loads. Upon completion, the bridge will contribute to smooth transport of local people,” said in-charge of the bridge construction project U Thein Tin.

Tonsi Bridge will help Indaw Township of Katha District of Sagaing Region and Bhamo Township of Kachin State develop economic, education and social sectors of the region.

Myanmar Bridge Construction Project

Myanmar Alinn

Japanese contributor opens renovated school

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—Mr Takao Yamamoto of Iizuka of Japan opened a renovated school on 17 December.

The meeting focused on mutual cooperation in civil aviation, hydropower, oil and gas exploration, education, health, rural development, poverty alleviation and plantation.—MNA

Business Meeting and Matching on 17 Dec

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—The 25-entrepreneur delegation from Board of Trade of Thailand and Thai Chamber of Commerce, led by Chairman of Board of Trade of Thailand Mr. Phongsak Assakul, will launch Business Meeting and Matching in conjunction with the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry at the first floor of the office tower (UMFCCI) at 9 am on 17 December. Those wishing to attend may register at UMFCCI Web site: www.umfcci.net (Ph-214344 to 49) (Ex-117 or 150).—MNA

Mobile healthcare reaches out to 6665 in Rakhine State

NAY PYI TAW, 11 Dec—Six mobile medical teams of Tatmadaw provided healthcare services to local people in Rakhine State on 4-9 December.

The teams provided medical treatment to local people in Yanbye, MraukU and Sittway Townships. The healthcare of the teams within six-day period covered 6665 local people of whom 39 were transferred to Sittway military hospital.—MNA

Tonsi Bridge crossing Namee Creek in Katha nearing completion

KATHA, 11 Dec—Tonsi Bridge, which is No. 4/32 bridge on Katha-Indaw-Mansi road section, crossing Namee Creek in Indaw Township of Sagaing Region, being built by Bridge Construction Special Group No 14 of Public Works under the Ministry of Construction, will complete soon. Thanks to the bridge, vehicles and local people will enjoy fruits of smooth transport in the near future.

“Tonsi Bridge is 250 feet in length. The bridge is constituted with two 60 feet long spans and two 65 feet long spans. The facility will have 24 feet wide for two-way motor road. The motorway will be flanked by 3.6 feet wide pedestrian on either side. The lower structure of bridge is built with reinforced concrete pile foundation and RC structure. The upper structure is of RC floor.

The facility can withstand 36-ton loads. Upon completion, the bridge will contribute to smooth transport of local people,” said in-charge of the bridge construction project U Thein Tin.

Tonsi Bridge will help Indaw Township of Katha District of Sagaing Region and Bhamo Township of Kachin State develop economic, education and social sectors of the region.

Myanmar Bridge Construction Project

Myanmar Alinn