Weather Bulletin

Bay Inference

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec—Weather is generally fair in the North Bay and partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

State of the Sea

Strong easterly winds with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Deltaic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach 30-35 mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters. Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair in the whole country.

Summary of observations at 9.30 hr MST on 25-12-2012

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec—During the past 24 hours, rain have been isolated in Taninthayi Region, weather has been partly cloudy in Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, Rakine and Mon States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

As KIA group blasted Mandalay-Myyitkyna No. 937 Up Train near Milepost No. 643/22 between Nanma and Myothitkalay railway stations on Mandalay-Myyitkyna railroad section at about 1.15 am on 21 December, about 70 feet of rail tracks were destroyed and four cargo compartments derailed and one other slipped. Three Myanma Railways staff were hurt.

As staff of Myanma Railways repaired the damaged railroad section urgently, the derailed train was cleared and the section was open to regular train routes since 6.15 am the next day.

KIA insisted that the train they blasted was the military one carrying ammunitions while the Ministry of Rail Transportation claimed it was a mere freight train.

The train with seven cargo compartments, two compartments of chicken food and one driver’s compartment and one brake compartment carried food and consumer goods to be supplied to the people of Kachin State and chicken feed. No. 40805 compartment carried merchant U Hlay Hlaing’s cosmetics, soaps, glicerine, Coffee Mix, Tea Mix and milk powder, canned soft drinks, towels, detergents, candles, condensed milk, instant noodles, wheat powder, papers, chopsticks, tea, bean powder, alternative meat, Thito seeds, vermicelli, groundnut and pulses and beans, fried bean, dried grapes, sticky rice and onion and garlic and consumers weighing 18620 viss.

No. 40852 compartment with merchant U Win Hlaing’s pork sausages, coffee mix, tea mix, edible oil, ceramic wares, CI sheets, footwears, mug bean, kitchen wares and other food weighing 18445 viss.

No. 40843 with merchant U Maung Ko’s chicken feed weighing 18445 viss; No. 40852 compartment with merchant U Win Hlaing’s pork sausages, coffee mix, tea mix, edible oil, ceramic wares, CI sheets, footwears, mug bean, kitchen wares and other food weighing 18620 viss.

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Nay Pyi Taw, 25 Dec—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Shwe Mann received a delegation led by President Mr. Zhang Guoqing from China North Industries Corporation at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall.

LNM

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann cordially shakes hands with President Mr. Zhang Guoqing from China North Industries Corporation at Pyithu Hluttaw Hall.

The state suffering from poor transportation, heavily relying on rail transportation to link the state with major cities of Myanmar such as Mandalay and Yangon. Train is the only option for local people despite expensive flight routes. Motor road is currently serviceable only in open season. As the motor road is being upgraded to an all-weather tarred road, this will become an alternative for local people upon completion.

The production of food and consumer goods of Kachin State does not meet local demand. (See page 9)

Aung Theinga
CASH AND KIND FOR LOCAL PEOPLE, STUDENTS IN MANSI TOWNSHIP

Minsi, 25 Dec — A cash and kind donation for more than 300 locals and 49 outstanding students in Minsi Township and nearby seven villages was held in Minsi Township on 17 December. Chairman of Thiyawmani Gems Company Agya Maha Thiri Thudhammajotikadhaja U Tin Win and family presented cash assistance for students and clothing for locals amounting to K12.8 million. The donor said he provided cash and kind for those in the township and nearby villages on humanitarian grounds. More than 300 local people from 76 households of Chaungthauk, Kyaw-khaung, Mannyaht, Mhanhtet, Honelo, Phagayein and Khapaya villages who are now staying at the temporary camp of the township will be provided with cash and kind. The donor presented K500,000 to the six-distinction winner, K400,000 each to two five-distinction winners, K300,000 each to two four-distinction winners, K200,000 each to four three-distinction winners, K100,000 each to two distinction winners, K1000 each to one-distinction winner, K200,000 each to two high school students, K200,000 for teachers of post-primary school and monastic education school, K700,000 for teachers and staff of Namaput village Basic Education Primary School and K50000 each and clothing for 76 households.— Kyemon

A YOUNG WOMAN HANGS HERSELF IN TOUNGOO

Toungoo, 25 Dec — A young woman who apparently killed herself was found dead in an upstairs room of a house on Gamani street in Minginyo ward of Toungoo at about 2 pm on 21 December.

Ma Zin Mar Myo (23 years), daughter of U Tin Win in Toungoo had apparently committed suicide by hanging herself in an upstairs room of the house of Daw Than Yi, grandmother of suicide committer. The young woman, who is believed to have killed herself, was taken to Toungoo Hospital for further investigation. Toungoo Police Station has opened a file against the case. — Kyemon

NATIONAL OBJECTIVES OF 65th ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY FOR 2013

1. All the national people to live together in the Union through thick and thin
2. All the national people to constantly safeguard non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
3. All the national people to participate in the tasks for bringing about genuine, eternal peace putting an end to the armed conflicts
4. To make relentless efforts, in building a modern, developed and democratic nation, in order to better serve public interest, to ensure poverty reduction and bring about righteous legislative, administrative and judicial pillars

MOTORCYCLIST KNOCKED DOWN BY A CAR

Kyaukpyadaung, 25 Dec — A motorcycle was knocked down by a car running from the opposite direction on Kaung-hanta motorway near Tawmawvill age near of Kawlinton Township north of Kawlin Township, in Sagaing Region on 15 December.

Kyaw Zin Tun (21 years) on the unregistered motorbike of Thit-seint-kon Village of Kaution Township was knocked down by the car driving from the opposite direction while he parked by roadside as he saw the beam of headlights form the opposite direction. He was pronounced dead on the spot with serious injuries.

— Kyemon

SMART SEALIONS AT ZOOLOGICAL GARDEN (NAY PYI TAW)

Nay Pyi Taw, 25 Dec — Under the animal exchange programme between the Forest Department of the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and Shanghai Wild Animal Park, two couples of sealions arrived in Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw) on 11 October 2012. Each sealion is being kept at separate holdings with special care.

Chinese instructors and two Myanmar staff gave training lessons to the two male and two female sea lions step by step. As a result, sea lions became skillful in their demonstrations under the supervision of Myanmar instructors. Sealions show kicked off at Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw) yesterday. Visitors can enjoy their performing abilities four times a day on weekends and two times a day on weekdays.

— MNA

INSEIN TOWNSHIP ORGANIZES MASS WALKS

Yangon, 25 Dec — Insein Township of Yangon Regional organized December mass walks. Participants led by Head of Insein Township General Administration Department U Tin Naing Soe started the mass walk from the gathering point, at Insein Garden in front of Insein Township Health Department, and walked along Nantakon street and Mindhamma street. The mass walks ended in front of White Elephant Shed, west of Kyauktawgyi Buddha Image and took physical exercises there. — Kyemon

NATIONAL OATHS FOR 2013

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NATIONAL O B J E C T I V E S OF 6 5 t h A N N I V E R S A R Y INDEPENDENCE DAY FOR 2013

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A fighter from Syrian rebel group Jabhat al-Nusra takes his position on the front line during a fight with Syria forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad in Aleppo countryside, Syria December 25, 2012. Reuters

Ambushed NY firemen shot dead; two police killed elsewhere

NEW YORK, Dec 25 – A gunman, who spent 17 years in prison for murder, ambushed and killed two volunteer firefighters and wounded two others on Monday near Rochester, New York, as they responded to a house fire he deliberately set, police said.

William Spengler, 62, shot and killed himself after a gunfight with a police officer in Webster, a Rochester suburb, Webster Police Chief Gerald Pickering said.

“It was a trap set by Mr. Spengler, who laid in wait and shot first responders,” Pickering told a news conference.

Separately, a police officer in Wisconsin and another in Texas were shot and killed on Monday, according to police and media reports.

The attacks on first responders came 10 days after one of the worst mass shootings in U.S. history that left 20 students and six adults dead at an elementary school in Newtown, Connecticut, and intensified the debate about gun control in the United States.

Spengler was convicted of manslaughter in 1981 for beating his 92-year-old grandmother to death with a hammer, according to New York State Department of Corrections records. After prison he spent eight years on parole.

“We don’t have an easy reason” for the attack on the firefighters, Pickering said, “but just looking at the history... obviously this was an individual with a lot of problems.”

Spengler opened fire around 5:45 am after two of the firefighters arrived at the house in a fire truck and two others responded in their own cars, Pickering said.

Pickering appeared to wipe tears from his eyes at an earlier news conference when he identified the dead firefighters as Lieutenant Michael Chiapperini and Tomasz Kaczowka. Chiapperini was also a police lieutenant.

Rebels surround air bases across Aleppo

ALEPPO COUNTRYSIDE, 25 Dec – Syrian rebels are surrounding bases and military airports loyal to President Bashar al-Assad across the northern province of Aleppo, a commander said, but are struggling to counter attacks from jets governments which want Assad removed from power.

Oqaidi, who leads between 25,000-30,000 troops across Aleppo Province, said the rebel strategy had shifted from fighting Assad’s forces in the cities to surrounding his bases in the countryside—aiming to encourage defections and weaken the sites so they can be stormed.

This thrust has helped to loosen Assad’s grip in the north and east of the country during a 21-month civil war which activists say has already killed more than 44,000 Syrians.

“We decided on this strategy lately,” Oqaidi said in an interview at his command centre in the Aleppo countryside. “The situation for us on the ground is really good.”

Sitting behind a desk, next to the revolutionary tricolour Syrian flag, Oqaidi said his forces were now fighting less in heavily-populated urban areas.

“At the beginning... we were forced to attack the (Assad) forces in the districts to kick them out so that they do not harm civilians,” said Oqaidi, a soft-spoken man who wore two pins—one a flag, the other a crest of the rebels’ revolutionary flag— on his fatigues.

“After achieving fighting experience, we went back to the countryside to liberate the big military bases. These bases are fortified with tanks, rockets, artillery, mortars, in addition airplanes.” Reuters

Afghan policewoman kills coalition contractor in Kabul

KABUL, 25 Dec – An Afghan woman wearing a police uniform shot dead on Monday a civilian contractor working for Western forces in the police chief’s compound in Kabul, NATO said.

The incident is likely to raise troubling questions about the direction of an unpopular war.

It appeared to be the first time that a woman member of Afghanistan’s security forces carried out such an attack.

There were conflicting reports about the victim. A spokesman for the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said a US police adviser was killed by an Afghan policewoman. Then ISAF said in a statement only that it was a “contracted civilian employee” who was killed.

Weather swings between extremes in Russia

MOSCOW, Dec 25 — The harsh cold, which occupies most of Russia’s territory in recent days and has claimed 90 lives, is going to persist in several regions, the Emergencies Ministry said on Monday.

A cold front moving in from the Arctic region is likely to bring temperatures of −30° to −40° C in eastern Russia and −20° C to −25° C in western Russia.

Russian weather service Rosgidromet, the cold is touch to stirring the European part of the country Tuesday, when the temperatures will leap by as much as 20 degrees, sometimes to above-zero level, within less than two days.— Xinhua

A house burns after a man set fire and then shot and killed a responding police officer and a firefighter while injuring two other firefighters in Webster, New York, on Dec 24, 2012. Reuters

New Light of Myanmar
China to open world's longest high-speed rail line

BEIJING/ZHENGZHOU, 25 Dec—China will open the world’s longest high-speed rail line in this week when a link between Beijing and the southern metropolis of Guangzhou is inaugurated, officials said on Saturday, underscoring its commitment to a trouble-plagued transport scheme.

The 2,298-km (1,428-mile) route, which is already in operation, will begin full service on Wednesday, halving travel time to less than 10 hours on trains which will run at 300 kph (186 mph).

The new route offers a chance for China’s railways ministry, which has been dogged by scandals and missteps, to redeem itself. A July 2011 crash of a high-speed train killed 40 people and raised concerns about the safety of the fast-growing network and threatened plans to export high-speed technology.

“We have developed full range of effective measures to manage safety,” Zhou Li, head of the ministry’s science and technology bureau, told reporters on a trial run from Beijing to the central city of Zhengzhou.

“We can control safety management,” he added.

Last year’s accident near the booming eastern coastal city of Wenzhou occurred when a high-speed train rammed into another stranded on the track after being hit by lightning. Rail investment slowed sharply in the wake of that tragedy and the government had cut planned railway investment by 500 billion yuan ($80.27 billion) to 2.3 trillion yuan under a five-year plan to 2015. But that may reflect cuts that have already taken place as the Ministry of Railways is 70 per cent through its planned investment budget three times this year as part of government efforts to bolster a slowing economy.

Aattendants pose for pictures inside a high-speed train during an organized experience trip from Beijing to Zhengzhou, as part of a new rail line, on 22 Dec, 2012.— Reuters

Apps to help achieve New Year’s resolutions

A new app called 5K Runner suggests it might be better to ease into things slowly and focus on building sustainable habits. The iPhone app helps accident-prone runners up their running distance to 5km over the course of eight weeks.

“You’re slowly building this route into your daily life with a lot of success and after eight weeks you’re literally running 5K, which is pretty big if (initially) you’re not running at all,” said David-M (chef Davies, the executive director of The Webby Awards, an annual ceremony honoring Internet companies.

The app guides runners through each run, alternating periods of running and walking for 35 minutes.

The lawsuit, filed by San Diego-based law firm Finkelstein & Kruis, asks customers who do not agree with Instagram’s terms can cancel their profile but then forfeit rights to photos they had previously shared on the service.— Reuters

Amazon, Google on collision course in 2013

SAN FRANCISCO, 25 Dec—When Amazon Inc CEO Jeff Bezos got word of a project at Google Inc to scan and digitize product catalogs a decade ago, the seeds of a burgeoning rivalry were planted.

The news was a “wake-up” call to Bezos, an early investor in Google. He saw it as a warning that the Web search engine could encroach upon his online retail empire, according to a former Amazon executive.

“He realized that scanning catalogs was interesting for Google, but the real win for Google would be to get all the books scanned and digitized,” and then sell electronic editions, the former executive said.

Thus began a rivalry that will escalate in 2013 as the two companies’ areas of rivalry grow, spanning online advertising and retail to mobile gadgets and cloud computing.

It could used the last remaining areas of cooperation between the two companies. For instance, Amazon’s decision to use a stripped-down version of Google’s Android system in its new Kindle Fire tablet, coupled with Google’s ambitious plans for its Moto- rola mobile devices unit, will only add to tensions.

The confrontation marks the latest front in a tech industry war in which many combatants are crowding onto each other’s turf. Lingering in the shadows for both Google and Amazon is Facebook with its own search and advertising ambitions.

“Amazon wants to be the one place where you buy everything. Google wants to be the one place where you find everything, of which buying things is a subset,” said Chi-Hua Chien, a partner at venture capital firm Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers. “So when you marry those facts I think you’re going to see a natural collision.”

Both companies have a lot at stake. Google’s market capitalization of $235 billion is about double Amazon’s, largely because Google makes massive net earnings, expected by analysts to be $13.2 billion this year, based on a huge 32 percent net profit margin, according to Thomson Reuters I/B/E/S.— Reuters

Instagram furor triggers first class action lawsuit

NEW YORK, 25 Dec—Facebook’s Instagram photo sharing service has been hit with a lawsuit that appears to be the first civil lawsuit to result from changed service terms that prompted howls of protest last week.

In a proposed class action lawsuit filed in San Francisco federal court on Friday, a California Instagram user leveled breach of contract and other claims against the company.

“We believe this complaint is without merit and we will fight it vigorously,” Facebook spokesman Andrew Noyes said in an e-mail.

Instagram, which allows people to add filters and effects to photos and share them easily on the Internet, was acquired by Facebook earlier this year for $1 billion.

In announcing revised terms of service last week, Instagram spurred suspicions that it would sell user photos without compensation. It also announced a mandatory arbitration clause, forcing

paid services, sponsored content, or commercial communications as such.”

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The lawsuit, filed by San Diego-based law firm Finkelstein & Kruis, asks customers who do not agree with Instagram’s terms can cancel their profile but then forfeit rights to photos they had previously shared on the service.— Reuters

Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos demonstrates the Kindle Paperwhite during Amazon’s Kindle Fire event in Santa Monica, California on 6 Sept, 2012.— Reuters

On 1 Jan, 2012.— Reuters
M aruti Suzuki fallson outlook

Ahmedabad, 25 Dec—
Maruti Suzuki shares fell 1.5 percent on concerns about the domestic passenger car sales outlook.

A nagel Broking says Maruti Suzuki expects "muted" volume growth of around 6 percent in fiscal 2013 and 6-7 percent in fiscal 2014, according to a note on Monday, citing the automaker’s management.

The fiscal 2013 growth expectations are in line with A nagel’s forecasts but lower than the estimates below the brokerage’s 10-12 percent growth expectations.

"The management expects the domestic demand to remain challenging going ahead due to macroeconomic pressures and higher fuel prices. Further, the exports growth will also remain under pressure due to economic concerns in Europe," A nagel says.— Reuters

Allergies, extra weight tied to bullying

New York, 25 Dec—
Kids who have food allergies or are overweight may be especially likely to get bullied by their peers, two new studies suggest.

Not surprisingly, researchers also found targets of bullying were more distressed and anxious and had a worse quality of life, in general, than those who weren’t picked on.

Bullying has become a concern among parents, doctors and school administrators since research and news stories emerged linking bullying — online “cyberbullying” — with depression and even suicide.

"There has been a shift in how we think about bullying in the last 20 years or so," said Dr. Mark Schuster, chief of general pediatrics at Boston Children’s Hospital and a professor at Harvard Medical School, who wrote a commentary published with the new research.

"But allergies aren’t the only cause of teasing and harassment by peers."

In another study, researchers from Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, found that almost two-thirds of 361 teens enrolled in weight-loss camps had been bullied due to their size.

"There were all between age eight and 17 with a diagnosed food allergy. Just over 45 percent of them said they’d been bullied or harassed for any reason, and 32 percent reported being bullied because of their allergy in particular."

"We find bullying is entirely consistent with what you find with children with a disability," said Shemesh, who also has food allergies.

"A food allergy, he said, “is an unverifiable cause that can be very easily exploited, so of course it will be exploited.”

"The kids in these studies were mostly white and well-off, the researcher said — a group that you’d expect would be targeted less often. So bullying may be more common in..."

How US retailers are building up their online muscle

Martinsburg, 25 Dec—
The brave new world for US retailers can be found in small cities like Martinsburg, West Virginia.

That’s where department store chain Macy’s Inc recently opened a facility the size of 43 football fields — big enough to stock 1 million pairs of shoes — just to fulfill orders made online.

"$150 million building, its third one dedicated primarily to supporting macys.com, has already been handling 60,000 orders on a busy day this holiday season, Macy’s expects that figure to triple in two years."

"Customer is increasingly important to us," said John D.Malek, chief executive officer, said on a call with analysts. "We are fully committed to getting it right."

"Today, tomorrow and going forward, we are comparing the experience in our store to the experience of sitting in your living room, in the comfort of your home, ordering something on your laptop, your smart phone or your iPad."

"So the brand name of Maruti Suzuki is pictured on a Swift car at the company’s stock yard in Ahmedabad on 25 April, 2011.— Reuters

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Russia’s R DIF, SBI to invest $2 billion in projects

New Delhi, 25 Dec—
Russian Direct Investment Fund (RDIF), a sovereign wealth fund, and the State Bank of India will jointly invest up to $2 billion to promote trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

China starts background checks on IPO applicants — paper

Shanghai, 25 Dec—
China has started to run checks on the more than 800 companies that have applied for domestic share sales, the latest move aimed at shortening the IPO waiting list and easing pressure on the stock market, the official China Securities Journal said.

The move comes after China lowered the barriers to overseas listings, and launched a pilot scheme allowing some brokerages to trade on over-the-counter exchanges, aiming to raise the Shanghai or Shenzhen stock market's financing channels.

Stock market watchdog the China Securities Regulatory Commission (CSRC) has started to scrutinize IPO applicants, including examining their application materials and financial authenticity, and will disqualified unsatisfactory applicants, the newspaper reported on Monday.

The CSRC has said it wants Chinese companies to list overseas, sell bonds or trade on over-the-counter equity markets as regulators keep a tight grip on supply, as a result of concerns about the strength of the stock market.

More than 800 Chinese companies are currently seeking approval to list on the Shanghai or Shenzhen exchanges, aiming to raise an estimated $30 billion yuan ($80 billion) in total.

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Gaza rocket attacks on Israel unlawful

Jerusalem, 25 Dec— Palestinian militants violated the laws of war by launching rockets at Israeli cities from the Gaza Strip during last month’s fighting, Human Rights Watch (HRW) said on Monday.

The New York-based group also said that militant groups in the territory, which is ruled by the Islamist movement Hamas, put Palestinian civilians in harm’s way by firing the rockets from within densely populated areas.

Hamas spokesman Sami Abu Zuhri dismissed the charges: “This report is biased because it equates a nuclear-armed country using all means of aggression against civilians and a people subject to the occupation who are defending themselves against Israeli violations of international accords amid the silence of the international community,” he said.

Israel launched a 14-21 November offensive aimed at ending persistent rocket barrages on its territory.

Medical officials in the Gaza Strip said some 170 Palestinians, mostly civilians, were killed in the hostilities. HRW said two of the Palestinian dead were apparently hit by rockets that fell short of their intended targets in Israel.

Six Israelis, including two soldiers, were killed in rocket strikes, the Israeli police and military said.

“Palestinian armed groups made clear in their statements that harming civilians was their aim. There is simply no legal justification for launching rockets at populated areas,” HRW said in a report.

It said rocket crews fired from areas “near homes, businesses and a hotel, unnecessarily placing civilians in the vicinity at grave risk from Israeli counter-fire”.

“A shrewd authority in the GazaStrip, Hamas should, stop unlawful attacks and punish those responsible,” HRW said. “The laws of war prohibit reprisal attacks against civilians, regardless of unlawful attacks by the other side”, it added.

In reports issued earlier this month, HRW said Israel had targeted journalists and killed 12 members of a single family in a strike on their home, violating the laws of war.

The Israeli military said in response to the HRW allegations that it “acts in accordance with the laws of armed conflict, despite the ongoing deliberate violations and abuse of these laws by the terrorist organisations in the Gaza Strip”.

Filipino nurse kidnapped in Yemen released

Sanaa, 25 Dec— Yemen’s security services on Monday set free a Filipino nurse two hours after she was kidnapped in the Yemeni capital, the official Saba news agency reported.

“The 20-year-old Filipina, who works with one of the Yemeni government hospitals, was released unharmed earlier Monday nearly two hours after she was kidnapped,” Saba quoted a spokesman of Interior Ministry as saying.

The nurse was forced into a car by two gunmen late Sunday in a Hadda Street in downtown Sanaa.

“The security services traced a blue Suzuki Vitara on a highway in the southeast of Sanaa, captured the kidnappers and set the Filipina nurse free,” the spokesman said.

The incident came less than two days after militants snatched two Finns and an Austrian in central Sanaa, just a few metres east of the Presidential Palace.

Damascus not to use chemical weapons:

Moscow, 25 Dec— The Syrian government has ensured Russia that it would not use chemical weapons under any circumstance, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said.

“Every time we hear rumours that the Syrians are doing something with the chemical weapons, we double-check, we triple-check, we go directly to the source of information collected by Moscow, the latest reports about "some movements" of the chemical weapons were actually for the better storage of them, as Damascus gathered the chemical stuff into two sites from various locations.

It would be a "political suicide" for the Syrian government if it uses chemical weapons, Lavrov added.

Meanwhile, Lavrov criticized the "strange western logic" that if the rebels take hold of the chemical weapons, it would still be the fault of the Syrian government.

"At the same time, those very people encourage rebels not to negotiate with the government but to continue fighting, and giving them arms, money, and moral and political support," Lavrov said.

The encouraged violent approach of rebels was very dangerous, he warned.

Two policemen killed in Iraq’s violence

Baghdad, 25 Dec— Two policemen were killed and six people wounded in gunfire and bomb attacks in central Iraq on Monday, the police said.

Gunmen in their car opened fire on a police checkpoint in central Samarra city, some 120 km north of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, killing two policemen, a local police source told Xinhua.

A sticky bomb attached to a KIA minibus carrying passengers detonated in Baghdad’s northeastern district of al-Shaab, wounding four people, an Interior Ministry source anonymously told Xinhua.

In a separate incident, another sticky bomb attached to a civilian car went off in the same district during the day, wounding two people, the source said.

Violence in Iraq has decreased from its climax in 2006 and 2007, when sectarian conflicts pushed the country to the brink of a civil war, but tensions and sporadic shootings and bombings are still common across the country.

Russia-US talks on anti-missile deployment in stalemate

Moscow, 25 Dec— The talks of missile defence deployment between Russia and the US have stalled, Russian Deputy Defence Minister Anatoly Antonov said on Monday.

“The situation is a stalemate. There is no advance. Our concerns have been ignored,” Antonov told reporters during a news briefing.

According to Antonov, the defence ministers of Russia and the US are going to meet in 2013 with the focus on anti-missiles deployment and Afghanistan.

“in the start of the next year we’ll decide when and where our ministers can meet,” he added.

The situation in Afghanistan disturbed Moscow very much. “We are very much worried about what will be happening in that region after 2014 when the international forces leave Afghanistan,” the official said. As for the implementation of the new START treaty, Moscow was satisfied with the cooperation with Washington, he added.

According to the official, 64 inspections, including 34 by Russian inspection teams, have been carried out since the treaty came into force.

Two crushed by falling iron plates in Hiroshima, W Jap

Osaka, 25 Dec— Two people have been seriously injured after they were crushed under sheets of steel carried by a lorry, following a traffic collision that occurred at a main road in west Japan’s Hiroshima Prefecture Tuesday morning, local Press reported.

Blast rocks religious school in Afghan’s Badakhshan Province, wounds 13

Faizabad, 25 Dec— A blast ripped through a Madressahreligious school in Badakhshan Province 315 km northeast of Kabil on Monday, injuring 13 Taleban or seminarians, spokesman for provincial administration Abdul M aruf Rasikh said.

“The blast took place inside a Madressah religious school in Shinoi village of Yawan District today as a result 13 Taleban (seminarians) were injured of them in critical condition,” Rasikh told Xinhua.

He also said “it might be gas cylinder blast”, adding investigation has been initiated to identify the reason for the incident.

It is the first time that a blast has rocked Madressah religious school and injuring Taleban or seminarians in the militancy-plagued Afghanistan where government interests including schools and teachers attacked— Xinhua
**New Light of Myanmar**

**LOCAL NEWS**

**Pyay, 25 Dec**— Organized by Pyay Township Writers Association and Saya Sein Kho Traditional Medicine Industry, the literary talks to mark the Literary Day 1374 ME were held at the sports ground in Baiki Education High School No 1. Pixy on 14 December.

**Yoma Yangon International Marathon on 27 January**

**Yangon, 25 Dec**— Yangon City Development Committee and First Myanmar Investment (FMI) Co. Ltd will jointly organize the 27 International Marathon on 27 January 2013. The marathon will start from the People’s Park. It will include 42 km men’s and women’s race, 10 km men’s and women’s race and 3 km women’s race, 10 km men’s and women’s events, US$ 800 each to the first prize winners, US$ 400 each to the second and US$ 250 each to the third. The entrance fee will be donated to the philanthropic associations. Those wishing to take part in the race are to contact at No. 327, Grand Meeyahtar Hotel on Bogyoke Aung San Street in Yangon and browse website www.yangonmarathon.com.

**Thai entrepreneurs hold talks with UMFCCI officials**

**Yangon, 25 Dec**— A team led by Chachoengsao Province of Thailand Mr Rergsal Majhavinit chairman met with Vice-President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Zaw Min Win and party at the federation in Lanmadaw Township on 18 December. They discussed the bilateral regular trade, border trade, agriculture, fishery, livestock breeding, industry, tourism, uplifting of education and culture, paddy trading, manufacturing of auto parts and cooperation matters.

**New Tawwin bus line launched in Padaung**

**Padaung, 25 Dec**— Padaung Township of Pyay District is formed with four wards and village-tracts with the location of factories and workshops. Tawwin bus line is now plying along the route passing No. 3 Defence Industry in Hsinde, No. 5 Defence Industry in Kamying, No. 6 Defence Service in Nyaungchauk, No. 9 Defence Industry in Kyain Village and No. 16 Defence Industry in Maton, No. 92th Infantry Regiment, No. 2 Base Ordnance Unit, Battery Unit and Rocket Unit for smooth transportation. The bus will leave Okshiptin for Nay Pyi Taw at 5.30 pm daily with K 5600 bus fare per passenger. Along the route, the buses will stop over in Pyay, Aunglan and Taungdwingyi and finish at Nay Pyi Taw (Bawgathiri bus terminal).

**Literary talks given in Pyay**

Next, wellwishers donated cash to the fund for free reading room.

On the occasion, writers Nyanja Thaing and Akyidaw gave literary talks. Later, Dr Yin Wai Lwin (Yin Wai Lwin-Pyay) and Saya U Sein Kho presented gifts to the writers.— Myanmar Ailinn

**Save the life with your blood.**

**Localized News**

**Pyay, 25 Dec**— First prize winner will secure family race. And women’s race and 3 km women’s race, 10 km men’s from the People’s Park. It is held at the sports ground in Baiki Education High School No 1. Pixy on 14 December.

**Emergency response team for Chin State**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 25 Dec**— Chief M inister of Chin State U Hong Ngai delivered an address at the concluding of Emergency Response Team ERT Training at the hall of Haka People’s Hospital on 23 December afternoon.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said the trainee are to participate in the emergency rescue works in line with the guidance of the Myanmar National Disaster Preparedness Committee and National Rescue Teams.

**Chin State Minister for Social Affairs Dr Ba Maung presented prizes to outstanding trainees.**

**Chairman of Chin State Red Cross Supervisory Committee Head of Chin State Health Department Dr Nye Oo and officials gave completion certificates to the trainees.**

**END**

**TUNE-UP MATCH HELD:** Player of Yangon United defends attacks of T-Team of Malaysia in the tune-match between Yangon United and T-Team of Malaysian Super League at YUSC Ground in Yangon on 22 December. (In the match, T-Team beat Yangon United 3-1.)

**Myanmar Ailinn**

**Kamining, 25 Dec**— A mobile team comprising staff and members of Border Trade Department, General Administration Department CCI, Border Trade Camp (One Stop Services OSS) and Myanmar Police Force led by Director U Win Tin of Tamu Border Trade Camp checks the illegal trading and illegal importing at the camp as of 16 December. The team will discharge duties up to 31 December to give educative talks to the traders and merchants not to break the prescribed rules. After the due date, they will take action against the offenders.

**Myanmar Ailinn**

**Mandalay NBB to honour blood donors**

**Mandalay, 25 Dec**— As a gesture of honouring the 36th Blood Donors Day which falls on 14 December, the ceremony to honour the blood donors, organized by the National Blood Bank of Mandalay General Hospital, will be held at the Yadanabon Hall of Myanmar Medical Association (Mandalay) in Mandalay at the corner of 70th and 31st streets in Mandalay at 7 am on 19 January 2013. The blood donors of 25, 40, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100 and above 100 times from 1-12-2011 to 30-11-2012 at the National Blood Bank are invited to attend the ceremony.

Wellwishers wishing to donate cash and kind to the blood donors are to contact Blood Bank Supervisory Committee of Mandalay General Hospital and the National Blood Bank.

**Myanmar Ailinn**

**New ward/village administrators elected in Sagaing**

**Sagaing, 25 Dec**— New ward and village administrators will be elected by December.

In Sagaing, under the supervision of existing ward administrators, five town councillors and the clerk elected leaders of 10-house groups inwards. Then, the lists of leaders of 10-house groups have been announced at the ward administration office.

Local people welcome the election of new ward/village administrators. MYANMAR AILINN
Independence Day, simply unforgettable

The basic part of a tree is its roots. When the roots are not firm, the trunk would sway. No matter how magnificent a building is, it would surely collapse without solid footings. Likewise, independence is the lifeblood of a nation. Independence is like water without which people cannot survive.

Similarly, loss of independence is nothing less than death. The river of sovereignty can flow constantly only if its source originates on the peak of independence.

Independence means sovereignty, the right to control own destiny and full reliance on own power. Independence allows one for self-improvement with the right to have it on one’s own. This is the very essence of independence and it is the bounden duty of each and every citizen to safeguard independence.

Our country, Myanmar stood as an independent nation with own monarchs throughout successive dynasties. National brethren have lived on the native soil for better or worse along the course of history. Being content with what the ancestors had left for them, our forefathers have never ever come up with the idea of occupying others’ territories. They never dreamed of imperialists, driven by greed for Myanmar’s natural resources, colonized our country, undermining her territorial integrity.

Waging three aggressive wars, colonialists occupied our country as well as all the national properties and heritages.

When the independence was lost, Sibanni Sayawd wrote like this:

No sovereign, no sovereignty, and no own place

Born in this era of hopelessness and disgrace

Better die than live the life of a slave.

Myanmar people did not surrender even after the country had lost independence and fallen under colonial rule. They fought back the intruders fiercely with whatever weapons available having the popular perception that “better die on battleground than live the life of underdog.”

Different national races from all walks of life joined the independence struggles and Phonkan Duwah and Bo (Lieutenant) Poe Saw from Kachin State, Kyunbi and Prince Shwe Gyobyu from Kayah State, Wuntho Chieflain U Aung Myat from Shan State and Bo Min Yaung and so forth repulsed the colonialists with an unyielding spirit. Patriotic litterati like Thakhin Kodaw Hmaing and Akyoketan Saya Pealso wielded power of pen in independence movement. The first student boycott in 1920 aroused the nationalistic fervor and continuous efforts were made since then for liberty. And Saya San led popular peasants’ revolution in 1930 to colonialists’ alarm.

Myanmar Armed Forces known BIA, BDA born as a result of 1300 ME Revolution drove the imperialists out of Myanmar’s territory. Unfortunately, Myanmar fell into the fire of fascism out of the frying pan of colonialists to suffer years of oppression in its administration, economy, education and other areas. National brethren saw no breathing room going through hell everyday under the fascist regime and again had to risk life and limb to escape from hellish days. They fought tooth and nail, showing their great value in anti-fascist movement under the banner of liberty despite the death of one comrade after another and despite the defeat of one troop after another.

Though the fascists used every trick in the book to suppress the national brethren, they could not undermine their national prestige and integrity. The nationalistic fervor is such great that Myanmar could reach the goal of independence with the unity and patriotic spirit of entire nation under the leadership of General Aung San.

For the sake of national unity, Panglong Conference was held on 12 February, 1947, showing the unity between hilly and plain regions. Aung San-Atlee Agreement was signed, demanding total independence. Though General Aung San and martyrs fell into the fire of fascism instigated assassination plot before independence could be restored, Nu-Atlee Agreement was inked and complete independence could be claimed back on 4 January, 1948 declaring independence as an independent and sovereign nation.

Smiling faces and tears of joy were right and left across the nation on that day with the Union Jack down and national flag ran up. The Union flag was fluttering in the breeze with blue sky in the background, an eye-pleasing scene to every citizen.

Independence Day is a red-letter day for Myanmar people. Every Independence Day reminds them of independence struggles which are engraved in their hearts. Myanmar people well understand the value of independence which cost a lot of lives and blood.

To make the long story short, like an efficient medicine can help patients recover and the shade of trees protects one from scorching sunlight, independence can offer mental and physical wellbeing.

Like a curry without salt is tasteless, a nation without independence is meaningless.

The national celebration of Independence Day aims to remind Myanmar people with strong patriotic spirit to cherish and safeguard the independence which the entire national people had won back in unity at the expense of lots of lives and blood. Independence Day should not be forgotten and would never be forgotten from the memories of Myanmar people.

*****

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Vietnam to make investment in Myanmar’s fisheries sector

NAT PHI TAW, 25 Dec—Deputy Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Khin Maung Aye held talks with Tangshan-member delegation led by Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Ms. Nguyen Thi Xuan Thu and Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Chu Cong Phung yesterday noon on implementation of MoU signed on cooperation in meat and fisheries sectors between Myanmar and Vietnam, formation of technical task forces for follow-up tasks and investment in meat and fisheries sectors of Myanmar and promotion of trade in fisheries products between the two countries.—MNA
Myanmar celebrates X’mas at Myanmar Baptist Church of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana

Yangon, 25 Dec—Myanmar Baptist Church of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana hosted Christmas celebration this morning. The celebrations are being attended by Rev Dr Tin Maung Aye and guests.

St Michael Catholic Church in the same township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area also celebrated the birth of Jesus Christ.

St Mary Cathedral and Emmanuel Church of Yangon also celebrated Christmas today.

U Hnaw Baptist Church held the celebration on Christmas Eve yesterday.

Christmas holiday is one of the public holidays in Myanmar in which Christians population celebrate the secular festival, perform rituals and attend service.

Christian people enjoy celebration of X’mas at the Cathedral on Bogoke Aung San Street in Yangon in progress—MNA

Cooperation with understanding of genuine goodwill...

(from page 1) Construction materials are supplied by Yangon, Mandalay and other major cities with cargo trains. Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad is the lifeline of the people of Kachin State. The price of food and commodity soars if the railroad is closed due to derailment, mine blast or bad weather.

It is not the first time that KIA blasted the trains. From 15 June, 2011, to date, Myanmar’s railroads have witnessed 51 mine blasts. Strictly speaking, 49 blasts took place on Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad in Kachin State and two others on Mandalay-Lashio railroad in Shan State. Two innocent people were killed and some others injured in the blast. Many sleepers, 36 rail tracks and 10 bridges were damaged and three trains derailed.

The worst thing is that the people heavily suffered from sudden price rise. Moreover, KIA group destroyed bridges on the motor roads and heavy machinery of road and bridge construction projects. Starting from the mine blast occurred on Nammyitkha bridge on Mandalay-Lashio-Bhamo-Myitkyina road in Waingmaw Township on 18 December 2012, the number of KIA group’s mine blasts in Kachin State has reached 101. Most of the bridges which were under mine attacks are situated on major roads—Mandalay-Lashio-Bhamo-Myitkyina road, Shwebo-Myitkyina road, Mandalay-Tagaung-Bhamo road and Myitkyina-Sumprabum-Putao road—and main roads for the region—Myitkyina-Sadon-Kpaiktee road, One-Stop-Shop road, Shwebo-Myitkyina road, M. Shwebo-Myitkyina road, Shinbweyann-Mennyun road and Maddy road. The State has lost the budget of K 6574.818 million due to bridge attacks, and local people have to rely on the road encountered traffic delays, thereby bringing flow of com-modities to an abrupt halt and contributing towards prices soaring.

According to the latest news, bridge No (4/199) at mile post No (198/7) on Mandalay-Sumprabum-Putao road was also under mine attacks, leaving 22 State-owned heavy machinery worth K 663.350 million destroyed. The bridges not only in Kachin State but also in northern Shan State were blown up by KIA group. Starting from the mine blast occurred on bridge No (2/37) on Kyaikto-Myitkyina road, on 16 December 2011, KIA group had destroyed 10 bridges with mines in Shan State (North) up to date. Bridges on Union Highways—Mandalay-Lashio-Muse road and Mandalay-Lashio-Bhamo-Myitkyina road—were among the bridges under mine attacks. A though KIA group is making pious sounding noises that they have only attacked military targets, the incidents show that they are destroying railroads and bridges with mines again and again.

Only locals in Kachin State including Kachin national race are victims who suffered the most. Moreover, public-owned railroads, rail-cum-road bridges, trains and machinery were destroyed. So attacks on railroads and rail-cum-road bridges should be stopped right now.

Loss of lives of a KIA member and Tatmadawman in the unavoidable confrontations are loss of lives of Myanmar citizens. Losses of lives on both sides have caused the great loss to the country.

The worst of it is that local people in Kachin State are the victims. They were displaced due to instability in the region. They were forced to take shelter at the relief camps. Life is difficult for them.

The effects of trauma on the victims are untold misery. Myanmar had suffered the impact of more than 60-year-old armed conflict which was born together with the Independence. Efforts have been made for cessation of armed conflicts and flourishing of eternal peace across the nation in the time of the new government. Accordingly, peace agreements have been reached with 10 out of 11 armed groups. The sound of guns fell silent, local people are enjoying the taste of peace and infrastructures like schools, clinics, roads and bridges built by the government for regional development emerged.

Only Kachin State remains as a place with instability. Although KIA group is holding talks with Union government, peace is still out of reach. Now is the time for joining hands with the government for bringing peace and stability to local people, understanding the genuine goodwill of the government which is making eternal peace.
Four foreign oil workers abducted off Nigerian coast

YENAGOA, 25 Dec—Nigerian police on Monday confirmed the abduction of four expatriate oil workers off the coast of oil-rich Bayelsa State.

The police made confirmation after receiving information about the abduction of the expatriates on Sunday morning. Odonna, the state police spokesperson, told reporters in Yenagoa, the state capital, that the identities and nationality of the oil workers had not been ascertained. No group has claimed responsibility for the abduction or demanded ransom in exchange for the hostages, according to the spokesman. “We have received report on the abduction of the four expatriate oil workers off the coast of the state in the early hours of Sunday, on 23 December,” he said.

“As we speak, details of the incident are still sketchy. However, the command has commenced investigation as we have sent out a team to get to the matter,” he added.

Odonna assured that details of the kidnapping would be made available to the media when the command received it.—Xinhua

Iraq to extend pipeline for exporting Iraqi crude oil

AMMAN, 25 Dec—Jordan and Iraq on Monday agreed to implement a project to extend a crude oil pipeline from Iraq to Jordan’s Aqaba port, the state-run Petra news agency reported.

The pipeline, which will have a total capacity of exporting 1 million barrels of oil per day, will be used to export crude oil from Iraq to the Aqaba port located at the Red Sea, the report said.

Meanwhile, Iraq agreed to increase its exports of heavy fuel to Jordan from 30,000 tons per month to 60,000 tons.

These statements were made by Iraqi officials in the Jordanian capital of Amman, where Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki met with King Abdullah II of Jordan on Monday.

At the meeting, the Jordanian leader Underlined the need for developing ties with Iraq at different levels, stressing his country’s support to Iraq and efforts to restore its stability and security. Also on Monday, Jordanian Prime Minister Abdullah Ensour and his Iraqi counterpart signed the minutes of meetings of the Iraqi-Jordanian higher committee.

Ensour underlined the need to increase trade cooperation between the two countries, stressing the importance of the visit. Maliki, for his part, said Iraq will boost cooperation with Jordan in fields of energy, transport and agriculture, adding that the discussions covered measures to facilitate trade between the two countries.—Xinhua

British house prices expected to drop 1 pct in 2013

LONDON, 25 Dec—House prices in Britain is forecast to decline by one percent in 2013 as more areas in the country has recorded the trend of house prices falling for the last two years, said the property research body Hometrack on Monday.

It expected house transactions to total £121,000 in 2013 with the average household moving the equivalent of once every 25 years, while the house price in Britain is estimated to fall 0.3 percent in 2012 despite price rise across 20 percent of the country.

According to the monthly national house price survey conducted by Hometrack, house prices fell by 0.1 percent in the last month of this year, the sixth consecutive month in a row prices have decreased.

The seasonal slowdown saw new buyer registrations fall of 4.8 percent in December and the volume of property listings drop of 3.1 percent decrease.

Also, the sales agreed dropped 0.9 percent in December, said the property research body.

House prices in London are now 10 percent higher than they were at the peak of the market in 2007, and are expected to make moderate growth over 2013 with prices rising by 2 percent.

Central London price growth are set to slow down, following the introduction a 7 percent stamp duty rate placed on homes worth over £2 million pounds in March.

Hometrack held that prospects for the London market will have an important bearing on overall house price growth in 2013. Affordability constraints and unwillingness by households to take on debt will continue to act as a drag on the housing market in 2013, it added.

The official figures show that house prices continue to remain relatively stable across most areas of Britain, although prices in London are increasing and prices in Northern Ireland are falling. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said that house prices rose by 0.2 percent on October, leaving it 1.5 percent higher than a year ago.

The average home price in Britain stood at £231,000 pounds in October.

Colombian Leader “cautiously optimistic” about peace talks

BOGOTA, 25 Dec—President Juan Manuel Santos on Monday voiced confidence that Colombia’s 50 years of armed conflicts could stop next year, and said he was “cautiously optimistic” about ongoing peace talks.

The negotiation with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) guerrilla group should proceed with caution and overcome some skepticism, due to the failure of earlier attempts of its kind, he told radio network RCN.

“I arrived at the process with cautious optimism and I am still cautiously optimistic. We have to be very careful. You need to have a sufficient amount of skepticism as well, given everything that has happened in the past, the failed attempts,” said the president.

The previous round of peace talks started in 1999 and broke down three years later. Santos, however, said the conditions for a successful outcome to the talks were better.

“We are making progress. I wish we could progress faster, but we are progressing. And I continue to be cautiously optimistic, because I believe that if there really is an opportunity (for peace), this is it,” he said.

Santos said he was confident the armed conflict would end in 2013, but highlighted the complexity of the negotiations, saying “nothing is agreed is agreed.”

The new round of peace talks began in October and has been organized with the help of Norway, Cuba, Venezuela and Chile.

Number of visitors to Dutch museums increases significantly in 2012

THE HAGUE, 25 Dec — The re-opening of contemporary art museum the Stedelijk, the Maritime museum and the new film museum Eye in Amsterdam helped boost museum visitors by 1.5 million to 19.5 million this year, the Dutch museum association said on Monday.

The Eye and the Stedelijk together attracted almost 400,000 visitors in 2012. Amsterdam’s Van Gogh museum was the most popular attraction in the list, compiled by the Dutch museum association, attracting 1.175 million visitors before its renovation in September.

Turkey to donate 37,000 tons of flour to Syria

ANKARA, 25 Dec—Turkish Deputy Prime Minister and government Spokesperson, Bulent Arinc on Monday said that the Turkish cabinet had signed a decree to approve a donation of 37,000 tons of flour to Syria.

Arinc said at a press conference following the cabinet meeting that Syria could use the flour that is immediately donated by Turkey to make bread.

A bread crisis has hit several cities and towns across Syria, especially the northern city of Aleppo, where the shortage of bread and flour has heaped more misery of local residents.
New Delhi, 25 Dec — Air and train services have been badly affected on Monday due to dense fog which has enveloped the Indian capital even as several parts of northern India continued to reel under intense cold wave for the second day in a row, officials said.

"At least 50 domestic and international flights have been hit. Some 35 flights originating from Indira Gandhi International Airport in the national capital have been delayed and 15 others cancelled because of poor visibility due to fog," an airport official said.

"Runway visibility has reduced to less than 100 metres in the morning. The situation is likely to improve later in the day," the official said. More than 100 flights were held on Sunday due to fog.

Meanwhile, train services in northern India, including those approaching the national capital, have also been badly affected due to dense fog.

"Over 100 trains are running behind schedule in northern India. In fact, some trains were reaching the national capital between 12 to 22 hours late," a senior Indian Railway official said.

Every year air and train services get affected in the Indian capital and parts of the northern region due to dense fog particularly during the winter months of December and January. — Xinhua

Factory fire in Thailand costs 1.7 million USD

Bangkok, 25 Dec — The fire at a Toyota factory near Bangkok caused an estimated 50 million baht (about 1.7 million USD) damage, but will not affect production, the company said on Monday.

Hirunruangrong, senior vice president of Toyota Motor Thailand, told the Bangkok Post that the explosion and ensuing blaze burnt down a factory warehouse for storing engine oil, a pallet used for oil transportation and 10 forklifts.

The amount of oil lost in the accident was equivalent to a daily delivery, he said. Earlier reports put the loss at 100 million baht (about 3.4 million USD). Toyota has sent staff out to inform people living nearby of the situation and will hear any complaints about problems, said Pairoj.

He added that the incident does not affect production at the factory or its transportation of car parts to retailers. The factory remains in operation. — Xinhua

Eleven children killed in latest Chinese bus crash

Beijing, 25 Dec — At least 11 Chinese kindergarten children died when their minivan plunged into a pond on Monday, the official Xinhua news agency reported.

Police detained the driver of the van, which was carrying 15 children in a rural part of the southern Province of Jiangxi.

The deaths of 18 nursery school children in a bus crash in November last year caused a wave of public anger and prompted Premier Wen Jiabao to pledge more money for school bus services.

Despite the pledge, there have been a string of similar accidents. Transport is notoriously dangerous in rural China, where buses and trucks are old and badly maintained. With more schools and trucks are old and badly maintained. With more schools numbered in the millions, many of the country's children will have to board away from their families. — Reuters

Eleven children killed in latest Chinese bus crash

89 children rescued in Chinese trafficking ring bust

Fuzhou, 25 Dec — Police have rescued 89 children and arrested 355 suspects after busting nine child trafficking rings, the Ministry of Public Security said on Monday.

Police officers from nine provincial-level regions, including Fujian, Yunnan, Sichuan, Anhui and Guangdong, took part in a joint operation beginning on 18 December to break trafficking networks, according to Chen Shiqiu, Director of the anti-trafficking office of the ministry's criminal investigation division.

The children are being cared for at local nursing homes and police are searching for their parents.

"We will collect the children's DNA and use it to find their parents within a national DNA database established for anti-trafficking purposes," Chen said. Human trafficking is a serious problem in China. Infants, particularly males, are sold to couples who have otherwise been unable to have a child.

Wang Xizhang, deputy head of the criminal investigation division of the Fujian provincial public security department, said large profits have also led to rampant child trafficking.

Wang said a healthy male infant bought with 30,000 yuan (4,810 US dollars) in poverty-stricken provinces such as Yunnan can be sold for 70,000 to 90,000 yuan in the comparatively well-off Provinces of Fujian and Guangdong. — Xinhua

Air and rail services badly hit due to dense fog in Indian capital

Over 2,000 Fijians expected to spend Christmas in evacuation centres

Suva, 25 Dec — As Fiji and the world were embracing the festive season, over 2,000 people are expected to spend their Christmas in various evacuation centers still open around the country following the impact brought about by tropical cyclone Evan.

National Disaster Management Office Director Manao Taqicakau said on Monday that 55 evacuation centres remained open with more than 2,000 evacuees as their homes were completely damaged by Evan.

A relief ration would be sent to all Fijians across the country. — Xinhua

9th international elephant race all set to go in Nepal

Kathmandu, 25 Dec — Final preparations have been completed for the much awaited 9th international elephant race that will start on Wednesday in Chitwan, Nepal's tourist hub, organizers said.

"We are trying to make it more interesting and we are trying for betterment," Suman Ghimire, General Secretary of Regional Hotel Association and also a member of the organizing team, told Xinhua.

Elephant race, elephant beauty contest and other cultural shows will be organized in the three-day festival, popularly known as Chitwan Elephant Festival for many tourists.

24 elephants will take part in the race, 8 elephants in the football match, and 5 elephants in the beauty contest, said Ghimire.

Tourists have already thronged into Chitwan for the festival. "I think it will be a good event. It's an international event. Elephants are wonderful creatures," Neville Neil, 60, who came all the way from Australia told Xinhua.

Organizers said they expect more tourists would visit Chitwan during the festival.

Though political stalemate continues in Nepal, cultural and adventurous activities have been a driving force for many tourists to visit Nepal. — Xinhua

Five Afghan policemen die in checkpoint attack in N Province

Shiberghan, (Afghan) 25 Dec — Five Afghan policemen died following an attack by militants in the country's northern Province of Jawzjan overnight, the provincial police chief said on Monday.

"A total of five members of Afghan National Police (ANP) were beheaded by militants after their checkpoint was seized in Shiberghan district late Sunday night," Abdul Azziz Ilat told Xinhua.

The initial investigation indicates that a member of Afghan Local Police (ALP) named Dur Mohammad might facilitate the militants in the attack in the province 390 km north of capital city of Kabul, the police chief said.

"Dur Mohammad, who joined the ALP recently, was a member of Taliban militants but surrendered to the government a couple of months ago," Ilat said, adding "Mohammad was suspected to be involved in the attack since he has been disappeared from the ALP post locating near the attack site and our police forces are searching to capture him," Xinhua
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New Light of Myanmar

ADVERTISEMEN & ENTERTAINMENT

Wednesday, 26 December, 2012

Invitation for Open Tender

Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications (MPT), would like to purchase by Myanmar Currency (in Kyats) for the following Transmission equipments to be used for Overseas Department.

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</table>

Bidder should submit open tender on between (26-12-2012) to (3-1-2013) in office hours at Chief Engineer Office, Overseas Communications Department, Kaba Ayag Pagoda Road, 8 miles, Mayangon Township, Yangon, Myanmar. For any detail information please contact + 95 1 650118 within office hours.

Tender invitation for establishment of joint ventures

1. Pollution Control and Cleaning Department of Yangon City Development Committee is collecting and transporting 1500 tons of waste collected from 33 townships in YCDC area and discarding the following tons of waste at the two final disposal Sites daily:
   (a) 800 tons of waste at Heinbin final disposal site in Hlaingthaya Township,
   (b) 600 tons of waste at Daweichanga final disposal site in Dagon Myothit (North) Township.
2. It is now planning to take the following measures in order to produce scavenging energy through waste to energy process at the above mentioned dumping grounds:
   (a) Electricity generation by generator fuelled by Methane extracted from the dump,
   (b) Production of 98 percent pure gas (CNG-substitute gas) by transforming Methane extracted from the dump into Compressed Biomethane.
   (c) Electricity generation through Incineration Process. (Incineration Plant)
3. Local companies or foreign companies or joint ventures of local and foreign companies which are willing to establish joint ventures to operate the above mentioned schemes are to submit tender proposals to Pollution Control and Cleaning Department of Yangon City Development Committee by 28-2-2013, fully mentioning the following facts:
   (a) The proposed process and period of feasibility study,
   (b) The proposed final dumping ground and the estimated timeframe for completion of the construction,
   (c) The proposed system (e.g. Build-Operate-Transfer system, Build-Own-Operate system or Public-Private-Partnership system), mentioning the term of the joint venture,
   (d) The detailed process (investment rate, share ownership, annual maintenance cost, dividend, project timeframe, breakeven point and others),
   (e) L and requirement,
   (f) The agreement of daily waste requirement (whether it requires tipping fees or not),
   (g) The usage of water,
   (h) Rate of the generated electricity for consumption/sale,
   (i) Plan for selling and sharing Carbon Credit (Certified Emission Reduction),
   (j) Other information and documents attached.

Remarks:
(1) Letterheads with companies’ logos are required in tender proposals.
(2) Detailed information and figures regarding the tender are available at Pollution Control and Cleaning Department of Yangon City Development Committee at 38th street market (upper floor), nine-storied office, third floor, No. 8 ward, Kyauktada Township, Yangon (Ph: 01246571, 095087221 and 095187854). Pollution Control and Cleaning Department Yangon City Development Committee.

Invitation for Open Tender

Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications (MPT), would like to purchase by US dollars for the following Transmission equipments to be used for Overseas Department.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
<th>Unit</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
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<td>MPLS Router</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>set</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cisco 10006B</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>set</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>L3 Switch · Cisco Catalyst 3560V 2-48TS</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Nos.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>STM 64 Card</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Nos.</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>L.64-2E (Alcatel Shanghai Bell)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>P4 SIN with module (for STM1) (Alcatel Shanghai Bell)</td>
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Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications

NEW DELHI, 25 Dec—Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt are an example of a Hollywood couple who don’t like to spend Christmas in one place.

The Hollywood couple raise six children together, Maddox, 11, Pax, nine, Zahara, seven, Shiloh, six, and four-year-old twins Knox and Vivienne, and when it comes to the festive holidays, they like to travel around the world instead of staying at their expensive gifts.

She said: “I love to travel in the holidays, because I feel like I’d rather give the kids the gift of a new country than a box of presents. But I still give them some presents!”

The family are known for their globe-trotting adventures but Angelina says she and Brad have a pact that only one of them will be away from the children at one time so they fit their work schedules around that.

She added: “I have a great partner in Brad and before we had all of our children, we agreed that in order to have a big family, we would never work at the same time. When he is shooting a film, I am not filming and I’m home and I’m just focusing on the children and on occasion I take trips and I do my UN work.—PTI

Jamie Foxx

LONDON, 25 Dec—The Django Unchained actor— who is one of approximately 50 celebrities that have banded together in a new US ad campaign demanding a plan against gun attacks following the recent Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre in Newtown, Connecticut, in which 20 children and six adults were killed—says Hollywood can’t ignore that it is partially responsible for inspiring the people behind such attacks.

The 45-year-old Oscar winner, who has an 18-year-old daughter Corinne, said: “We can’t turn our back or say that violence in films or anything that we do doesn’t have a sort of influence. It does.”

Jamie’s comments come just one day after a new public service announcement, featuring him and dozens of other celebrities such as Beyoncé, Selena Gomez, Jennifer Aniston, Michelle Williams, Steve Carell, Reese Witherspoon, Jennifer Garner, Gwyneth Paltrow, Cameron Diaz, MAdL enstar Jon Hamm, comedian Will Ferrell and Jason Bateman was released demanding a plan to end gun related atrocities.
Liverpool eager to extend Gerrard contract

LONDON, 25 Dec—Liverpool manager Brendan Rodgers has expressed his desire to extend Steven Gerrard’s contract as soon as possible to ward off potential suitors for the inspirational Reds captain.

The 32-year-old, who has 18 months left on his current deal, capped a dynamic performance with a clinical goal in Liverpool’s 4-0 home win over Fulham at the weekend.

“Rob (Robinho) is a key player who has come in and done well,” said Rodgers, who took over from Kenny Dalglish at the start of the season, asserted that Gerrard remained a pivotal part of his plans at Anfield.

“I can’t think there’s anything we want to extend his contract,” Rodgers told Liverpool’s official website (www.liverpoolfc.com).

“It’s vital. Steven has a real hunger to succeed. He’s 32 years of age but he’s still got so much left.”

Liverpool’s official website (www.liverpoolfc.com).

Table-topping United face testing nine days

Mancunian United manager Alex Ferguson has presided over enough festive fixtures to know rotation is the key as he prepares for a busy period starting with the visit of Newcastle United in the Premier League on Wednesday. A disappointing 1-1 draw at Swansea City on Sunday saw United’s lead at the top cut to four points over Manchester City and maximum points at home to Newcastle and W est Bromwich Albion and away to Wigan Athletic are on Ferguson’s holiday menu.

He can take heart from the fact that Newcastle, who languished in 14th place, have not won at Old Trafford since 2-0 victory in the old first division way back in 1972.

Ferguson has been cheered by the return of key defenders from injury including Serbian international Nemanja Vidic, who made his first start since September at Swansea, and Jonny Evans, who also started the match in Wales.

“We now have three games in the next nine days,” said Vidic. “Obviously we are coming back from injury and they will be important for that period.”

Anthony leads K nick s over Timberswolves

NEW YORK, 25 Dec— Carmelo Anthony took over in the last two minutes to carry the New York Knicks to a 94-91 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves Sunday.

Anthony, who was ejected during Friday’s loss to the Chicago Bulls, finished with 33 points, scoring 19 in the fourth quarter, as the Knicks came from behind to secure the home win.

“We didn’t want to look back at this game later in the season and say this was a game we shouldn’t have lost,” Anthony told reporters.

“We picked it up defensively in the second half and we won the game.”

The Knicks’ 14th straight win was fuelled by Anthony, who went on an 80- run in the final two minutes to put the K nick s up by four. Anthony scored the K nick s’ last 12 points to seal the win.

“That was kind of an MVP performance there.”

Anthony leads K nick s over Timberswolves.

“Ashley (Smith) scored 19 off the bench for New York Knicks forward Carmelo Anthony (7) and guard Raymond Felton (2) in the first quarter of their NBA basketball game at Madison Square Garden in New York, on 23 Dec, 2012. —Reuters

Anthony leads K nick s over Timberswolves.

Unforgotten names.

Anthony leads K nick s over Timberswolves.

Unforgotten names.
Van Persie has made same impact as Cantona, says Ferguson

MANCHESTER, 25 Dec— Robin van Persie’s impact at Manchester United has been similar to the stunning transformation brought about by the signing of Eric Cantona, according to manager Alex Ferguson.

Dutch striker Van Persie has scored 15 goals since signing from Arsenal, drawing comparisons with Frenchman Cantona whose arrival at Old Trafford was the catalyst for United to win the league title for the first time in 26 years.

“I reckon here at Manchester United we got our Christmas present early in 2007, quit the national team two years ago and I do not know why every time I have to persuade him to end his international exile. The team but I will not return,” Chivu added. “The team is not a situation where both are we a one-man place in the table. But he galvanized the side with his flair and a regular supply of goals, his arrogance and charisma inspiring a team who went on to win the 1993 title by 10 points, the first of Ferguson’s 12 Premier League crowns.

Bikes for bonuses as China’s wealthy reminisce

Bucharest, 25 Dec— Inter Milan defender Cristian Chivu has refused to come out of international retirement to help Romania in next year’s 2014 World Cup qualifiers.

“I was clear and concise two years ago and I do not know why every time I have to repeat the same thing,” Chivu, capped 75 times by the Balkan country, told local media on Monday.

The versatile 32-year-old defender, who joined Inter from AS Roma for a reported fee of 16 million euros ($21.08 million) in 2007, quit the national team in May last year, saying that age and injuries were behind his decision.

This month, however, Romania coach Victor Piturca said he was planning to meet Chivu in Milan before Christmas or at the beginning of 2013, to persuade him to end his international exile.

“I miss the national team but I will not return,” Chivu added. “The team can do without me, I liked how they played in Turkey (when Romania beat Turkey 1-0 in a world qualifier in October).” Reuters

A man walks with his bicycle in front of a screen showing propaganda displays near the Great Hall of the People at Beijing’s Tiananmen Square in this on 7 Nov, 2012.— Reuters

Lance Armstrong walks back to his car after running at Mount Royal park with fans in Montreal on 29 Aug, 2012.— Reuters

Armstrong, who was stripped of his seven Tour de France titles from 1999-2005 in October, received 300,000 pounds from the Sunday Times as payment towards his legal fees after the paper raised questions about the American’s success following his recovery from testicular cancer.

“It is clear that the proceedings were baseless and fraudulent. Your representations that you never taken performance enhancing drugs were deliberately false,” read the letter to Armstrong’s lawyers.

The case was settled in 2006.

Bikes are a status symbol for wealthy executives. Picture taken showing propaganda displays near the Great Hall of the People at Beijing’s Tiananmen Square in this on 7 Nov, 2012.— Reuters

Bikes for bonuses as China’s wealthy reminisce

Hong Kong, 25 Dec— Rich Chinese are buying bicycles that cost more than the average citizen makes in three years, motivated by nostalgia for the days when two wheels were the primary means of transport.

China is now the world’s biggest auto market, but high-end bike sales are expected to grow by 10 percent a year as they become a status symbol for wealthy executives.

Yu symbolizes a new Rolls-Royce of bicycles. Very classical, purely hand-made,” said the 40-year-old Yu, who has about 35 high-end bikes.

“I remember my father used to ride me to the city in the winter - about 40 km and minus 30 degrees centigrade. Back then, it was a means of transport that fulfilled your dream of travelling afar, which was relatively cheap but required brawn.”

Yu symbolizes a new bike culture in China, where wealthy, health-conscious executives are upgrading their lifestyle, in some cases abandoning flashy cars and taking to the road on high-end bicycles that can cost more than a car.— Reuters

Van Persie has made same impact as Cantona, says Ferguson

Manchester United’s Robin van Persie celebrates his goal against Sunderland during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England, on 15 Dec, 2012.— Reuters

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Two died, nine injured in Heho plane accident

Local people view wreckage of Air Bagan's XY-AGC F-100 aircraft that made crash landing at Heho Airport in Shan State.

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec — An accident happened to Air Bagan’s Fokker-F 100 Flight No. XY-AGC carrying six crew members, 48 foreign passengers and 17 local passengers, totaling 71, that left Mandalay International Airport for Heho at about 8.28 am this morning while making landing at Heho airport from south to north, at about 8.51 am today.

The plane hit Kalaungthabye 66 KVA power grid that link from east to west about one mile from Heho airport runway and trees on Taunggyi-Meiktila roadside and then hit the ground as mist covered the roadside and then hit the trees on Taunggyi-Meiktila-Heho airport runway and west about one mile from Aungthabye 66 KVA power grid.

Two from US, one France, one China (Taipei), two pilots, two tour guides and one motor cycle rider, totaling nine were sent to Sao San Tun Hospital in Taunggyi for treatment.

The Union Minister for Transport, the Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism, the Shan State Chief Minister and officials concerned inspected the accident and comforted nine injured passengers at Sao San Tun Hospital in Taunggyi. US citizen Mr. Janis Greer, her son and the owner of the plane, and Thai national Mr. Aung Wai and his wife were among those killed.

Investigation Commission formed to probe into plane crash in Heho

JICA and the Department of Meteorology to make concerted efforts for installation of radars

Significant night temperatures (25-12-2012)

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Pinlaung</td>
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<tr>
<td>Haka</td>
<td>1°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hkamti</td>
<td>1°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putao</td>
<td>2°C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Loilem</td>
<td>3°C</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Myanmar establishes diplomatic relations with Iceland

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec — The Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Iceland, guided by the willingness to promote the friendly relations and mutually beneficial cooperation on the basis of the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of International Law, agreed to establish diplomatic relations at Ambassadorial level with effect from 19 December 2012.

The Joint Communique on the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries was signed by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations and the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Iceland to the United Nations in New York on 19 December 2012.

Myanmar has been making efforts to expand diplomatic relations with countries all over the world, and the Republic of Iceland has become the 110th country with which Myanmar has established diplomatic relations. — MNA

Labour issues for Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand discussed

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec — At the invitation of the minister of Labour, Employment and Social Security U Maung Mynint held discussions with Minister of Labour of Thailand Mr. Phademchai Sasomsubit and party at Millennium Hilton Hotel on 22 December in Bangkok on Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand.

The Union minister made discussion with his counterpart on implementation of temporary passport issuance, renewal of temporary passport and three months more extension of currently five passport issuing camps in Thailand.

After coordinating measures for Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand with Deputy Prime Minister of Thailand Mr. Chalerm Yoobanrung yesterday, the Union minister arrived back here in the evening.

Investigation Commission formed to probe into plane crash in Heho

NAY PYI TAW, 25 Dec — A four-member investigation commission has been formed today, chaired by Deputy Director-General U Win Swe Tun of Department of Civil Aviation to make an investigation into the crash of Air Bagan Airline’s XY-AGC F-100 aircraft that occurred when it was landing at Heho Airport in Shan State this morning.

DMH, JICA to make concerted efforts for installation of radars

Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been formed today, chaired by Deputy Director-General U Win Swe Tun of Department of Civil Aviation to make an investigation into the crash of Air Bagan Airline’s XY-AGC F-100 aircraft that occurred when it was landing at Heho Airport in Shan State this morning.

“Radar will be installed in 2013. It will be the second time for Myanmar. The first time installation of radar was carried out in Kyaukpyu with the assistance of the World Meteorology Organization and Japanese Government. Now, JICA will provide assistance for installation of this radar,” an official of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology explained.

In Myanmar, fall of storms was lesser in this year. However, many parts of Lower Myanmar were hit by floods whereas Upper Myanmar was badly affected by droughts the whole year.

That is why agriculture including cultivation of paddy and livestock breeding tasks suffered loss and waste.

Up to now, the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology could issue information on weather on its Yangoon-Mandalay-Heho-Yangon flight, in accord with the Union of Myanmar Aviation Rule 75 (1937), according to Ministry of Transport.

MNA

Investigation Commission formed to probe into plane crash in Heho

By Minn Ohn Waihan

forecasts to the people in time.

Myanma Alinn: 25-12-2012 Trs: TTA