Use of administrative power effectively and efficiently

The onus rests on each individual to cultivate democratic spirit that calls for responsibility and accountability in bringing about the freedom which is harmonious with our own culture and society of the nation at the present time of transition when the promotion of democratic practices is in process. The Union government is effectively and efficiently exercising the administrative power for the constant emergence of remarkable progress and tangible results in the process of translating the democratic practices into success.

President U Thein Sein
(From the address delivered on the first-day second regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 22-8-2011)

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends award presentation to outstanding students

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attended the award presentation ceremony to outstanding basic education students at Myanmar International Convention Centre here this morning.

Chairman of National Education Committee Union Minister for Education Dr Mya Aye delivered a congratulatory speech, pinning high hope on the human resources development for establishing democracy. He said seminars and workshops were held to promote the education standards of the country. A national level conference for adoption of the education and health policies was held in February 2012, he said. The Union Minister said comprehensive education sector review was conducted by local and foreign academicians. He said 11,000 students were granted stipends and salaries for teachers were increased.

Union Ministers Dr Mya Aye, Dr Ko Ko Oo, U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Thein Tun, U Win Shein presented awards to outstanding students.

The Vice-President cordially greeted those present and viewed the education promotion booth.—MNA

Summary of observations at 9.30 hr MST on 30-12-2012

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—During the past 24 hours, slight rain has been isolated in Taninthayi Region, weather has been partly cloudy in Upper Sagaing and Yangon Regions, Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States and generally fair in the remaining Regions and States.

Night temperatures were 3°C below December average temperature in Rakhine State, 3°C above December average temperatures in Mon State and about December average temperatures in the remaining Regions and States.

The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kawthoung 0.08 inch.

Bay Inference
Weather is generally fair at the North Bay and partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Outlook for subsequent two days
Generally fair in the whole country.—NLM

Road construction sites in Nay Pyi Taw inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—Union Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lwin visited road construction sites in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area this morning.

He called for meeting schedules and speeding up the works in open season. The Union Minister also demanded the upgrading of the roads in the area.—MNA

In this New Year ... May good luck and good fortune always be with you!
Shwedagon Pagoda witnesses record high tourist arrivals in 2012

YANGON, 30 Dec — According to the board of trustees of Shwedagon Pagoda, Shwedagon Pagoda sees record high tourist arrivals in 2012 as the number of globetrotters thronging to the Pagoda has increased.

From 1st to 26 December, the number of tourist visited Shwedagon Pagoda had reached 409,671 with an average daily arrival of 15,766. These figures show that this month tourist arrivals to the Pagoda is more than that of the whole month of December in 2011 when the number of tourists visited the Pagoda was 301,765. The board received an entrance fee of 204,835 US dollars and FECs and 158,455 US dollars and FECs as donation.

Among the visitor arrivals to the Pagoda, Thai visited stood first with the number of 65,066, followed by 29,162 French visitors, 26,701 Chinese visitors and 17,413 German visitors. The numbers of Brazilian, Iranian, South African, Finnish and Israeli visitors, were low.

Sinmakaw model village enjoys electricity supply

KYAUKTAN, 30 Dec — Sinmakaw model village in Tada Sub-township of Kyauktan Township of Yangon South District enjoys electricity supply. 11/0-4 KV, 315 KVA transformer is supplying electricity to forty-three meter boxes installed in the village. Kadatpama model village is the first-ever village that enjoys electricity supply in the sub-township. Kyawswa Company contributed a lot for availability of electricity to the village.

Overturned truck leaves two dead, seven wounded

OTTWIN, 30 Dec — A six-wheeled truck carrying soft drink boxes overturned at a place between mile post Nos (150/1) and (150/2) on Yangon-Mandalay highway on 26 December.

The truck driven by Win Zaw Moe of Kyimyindine Township left the road and plunged down an embankment while trying to avoid a cart driven ahead by Aung Myo Kyaw of Nyaungchayhtauk Township. Of the nine passengers on board the truck, Ko Latt (21 years) of Nyaungdon and Zaw Min (21 years) were pronounced dead and seven wounded. The injured were taken to the hospital. Nyaungchayhtauk police and Myanmar traditional thanakhabar vendors did a brisk trade.

Historic Relic Pagoda festival held in Yedashe

YEDASHE, 30 Dec — The 31st Buddha Puja Festival of Historic Relic Pagoda situated between Mingalakkan and Kayinchaung streets in ward-1 of Yedashe Township of Bago Region was held on a grand scale from 20 to 29 December. Local people thronged to the festive ground to take part in the funfairs and to enjoy entertainments. During the festive days, warm clothes and Myanmar traditional thanakhabar vendors did a brisk trade.

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

Small loans disbursed to Kayah State cooperative societies

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec — Next, Deputy Minister for Cooperatives U Than Tun gave an accounts of small loan disbursements and facts to be followed.

Then the chief minister, the deputy minister and officials handed over K 155.55 million for 1957 members of 34 cooperative societies in six townships—Loikaw, Dimawho, Pruho, Shadaw, Bawlake and Pasawng—of the state.

Mothers, babies receive medical check-ups in Tamway Township

YANGON, 30 Dec — Chairperson of the township Miswa Daw Win Thandar Soe and executives, doctors and midwives of the township Health Department supervised the contest and performed medical check-ups.

Substitution of concrete sleepers for Thazi-Shwenyaung railroad section

KALAW, 30 Dec — On Thazi-Shwenyaung railroad section, wooden sleepers were replaced with concrete ones produced by concrete sleeper factory of Myanmar Railways in Shwenyaung.

Moreover, substitution of old rail tracks with new ones, replacement of special concrete sleepers and maintenance of railroads are being carried out by Division-4 of Civil Engineering Department of Myanmar Railways. The Thazi-Shwenyaung railroad section is of vital importance in public transport and flow of commodities of Shan State (South).
Only political process can save Syria from “hell”

**Moscow, 30 Dec**—Syria faces “hell” if no deal is struck to end 21 months of bloodshed, an international mediator said on Saturday, but his talks in Russia brought no sign of a breakthrough after a week of intense diplomacy, UN-Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov both said there was still a chance for a negotiated solution to the conflict, which has killed more than 44,000 people and set world powers against one another.

But Lavrov repeated Russia’s stance that President Bashar al-Assad’s removal cannot be a precondition for a political solution, saying that such demands were “wrong” and that the opposition’s refusal to talk to the government was a “dead end.”

Brahimi said: “If the only alternative is really hell or a political process, then all of us must work ceaselessly for a political process. It is difficult, it is very complicated, but there is no other choice.”

Lavrov issued a similar exhortation in a joint appearance at an ornate mansion where he meets foreign dignitaries, saying: “The chance for a political settlement remains and it is our obligation to make maximal use of that chance.”

But no major new initiatives were announced and Lavrov, whose country has vetoed three United Nations Security Council resolutions meant to put pressure on Assad, gave no indication it would back down from that stance.

“When the opposition says only Assad’s exit will allow it to begin a dialogue about the future of its own country, we think this is wrong, we think this is rather counterproductive,” he said. “The costs of this precondition are more and more lives of Syrian citizens.”

Russia has tried to distance itself from Assad for months and seems to have stepped up its calls for a peaceful resolution as the rebels have gained ground against government forces in the conflict, which began with peaceful protests in March 2011 but which has descended into a civil war.

However, Lavrov noted that Assad has said publicly he would not go, adding that Russia “does not have the ability to change this”. Brahimi is trying to build on a plan agreed in Geneva in June by the United States, Russia and other powers that called for a transitional government but left Assad’s role unclear.

The United States said the agreement sent a clear signal that Assad should step down, but Russia said it did nothing of the kind.

“The core of that political process… is and must be the Geneva agreement,” said Brahimi, who took over as UN-Arab League envoy after Kofi Annan quit in frustration at divisions among world powers, chiefly the United States and Russia, and the failure of the Geneva accord to bring a resolution closer.

Four killed when Russian airliner crash lands

**Moscow, 30 Dec**—A Russian airliner flying without passengers broke into pieces after it slid off the runway and crashed onto a highway outside Moscow on Saturday, killing four of the eight crew on board and leaving smoking chunks of fuselage on the icy road.

The crash during peak holiday travel ahead of Russia’s New Year’s vacation, which runs from Sunday through 9 January, cast a spotlight on the country’s poor air-safety record despite President Vladimir Putin’s calls to improve controls.

Television footage showed the Tupolev Tu-204 jet with smoke billowing from the tail end and the cockpit broken clean off the front. Several witnesses told state channel Rossiya-24 they saw a man thrown from the plane as it rammed into the barrier of the highway outside Vnukovo Airport, just southwest of the capital, and a described pulling other pieces from the wreckage.

“The plane split into three pieces,” Yelena Krylova, chief spokeswoman for the airport, said in televised comments. Police spokesman Gennady Bogachyov said: “The plane went off the runway, broke through the barrier and caught fire.”

The pilot, co-pilot, flight engineer and a flight attendant were killed and the other four crew members aboard—all flight attendants—were in a serious condition in hospital with head injuries, the Emergency Situations Ministry said.

Officials said earlier that there were 12 crew on board. The mid-range Tu-204 Care was operated by Russian airline Red Wings and was travelling from the Czech Republic, Krylova said.

Seven injured, 20 missing in reoccurred Colombia landslide

**Bogota, 30 Dec**—At least seven people were injured and some 20 others went missing in a landslide on Saturday in southern Colombia, relief agencies said.

The incident occurred when a bulldozer was removing earth that blocked a driveway below the Andes Mountains in the aftermath of a previous landslide, and about 20 cars were waiting in a queue to pass at the time, said the Risk Management Department.

The injured have all been sent to the University Hospital of Neiva. Due to the unstable terrain, light and weather conditions, rescuers have decided to wait until Sunday to resume the search for the 20 missing persons.—Xinhua

**Osaka, 30 Dec**—Four people were killed and another four injured on early Sunday as two vehicles collided in Kagawa Prefecture on the Japanese island of Shikoku, local Press reported.

The accident occurred at around 3:50 am local time when a van carrying 7 young men collided with a car at a crossing in Utazumachi in the prefecture. Police said three people in the van and a male driver of the car died in the accident and four others were wounded and sent to a hospital.

The car was going straight and the van was trying to turn right at the crossing when the crash happened, police said, adding that further investigation is under way.—Xinhua

Russia’s Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov (L) shakes hands with UN-Arab League peace mediator Lakhdar Brahimi of Algeria, in Moscow on 29 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Former Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi gestures as he arrives at Milan train station on 29 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

The 76-year-old billionaire, who caught the train from Rome with his 27-year-old partner, Francesca Pascale, said he did not believe Italian voters would “fall into the trap”, which he said was aimed at stealing votes from the centre right. But Pier Ferdinando Casini, head of Italy’s oldest and largest centrist party, the UDC, which is cooperating with Monti, denied the accusations.

“Our initiative was not born with the support of the PD. It has not been started with a predetermined agenda … until election day what’s important is aiming for the majority,” Casini said at a news conference on Saturday.

Photo taken on 29 Dec, 2012 shows the Nanjing Yangtze River Bridge in snow in Nanjing, capital of east China’s Jiangsu Province. Nanjing witnessed a snowfall on Saturday, which also marked the 44th anniversary of the bridge’s opening to traffic in 1968.—Xinhua

**Four killed, four injured in collision in Japan’s Kagawa Prefecture**

A wreckage of a plane is seen on a highway near Moscow’s Vnukovo Airport on 29 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

The plane entered a conflicted airspace and crashed into the Andes mountains, the Ministry of Health said, Xinhua that according to the ministry’s laboratories “nine Palestinians died, while 189 were diagnosed to suffer the virus.”

“All dead were suffering from chronic illness due to medical deficiency, as the H1N1 virus caused severe pulmonary infections of which they died,” said Al-Ramlawi.

He noted that H1N1 was “a seasonal virus” that spread in the West Bank’s northern areas and continued spreading across central and southern areas. Xinhua
Apple to drop patent claims against new Samsung phones

SAN FRANCISCO, 30 Dec—Apple Inc has agreed to withdraw patent claims against a new Samsung phone with a high-end display after Samsung said it was not offering to sell the product in the crucial US market. Apple disclosed the agreement in a filing on Friday in US District Court in San Jose, California. Representatives for both Apple and Samsung declined to comment.

Last month Apple asked to add the Galaxy S III Mini and other Samsung products, including several tablet models, to its wide-ranging patent litigation against Samsung.

In response, Samsung said the Galaxy S III Mini was not available for sale in the United States and should not be included in the case. Apple won a $1.05 billion verdict against Samsung earlier this year but has failed to secure a permanent sales ban against several, mostly older Samsung models. The patents Apple is asserting against the Galaxy S III Mini are separate from those that went to trial.

Samsung started selling the Mini in Europe in October to compete with Apple’s iPhone 5. In its filing on Friday in US District Court, for the Northern District of California, Apple said its lawyers were able to purchase “multiple units” of the phone not available in US, the company claims.

But Samsung represented that is not “making, using, selling, offering to sell or importing the Galaxy S III Mini in the United States.” Based on that, Apple agreed to withdraw its patent claims on the Mini, “so long as the current withdrawal will not prejudice Apple’s ability later to accuse the Galaxy S III Mini if the factual circumstances change.”

The case in US District Court, Northern District of California is Apple Inc vs Samsung Electronics Co Ltd et al, 12-630.
**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**Obama: ‘modestly optimistic’ fiscal cliff deal can be reached**

**WASHINGTON, 30 Dec—** President Barack Obama held out hope for a last-minute agreement to avoid the “fiscal cliff” of tax increases and spending cuts after a meeting with congressional leaders, scolding Congress for leaving the problem unresolved until the eleventh hour. “The hour for immediate action is here,” he told reporters at the White House. “I’m modestly optimistic that an agreement can be achieved,” he said.

Obama and lawmakers are working to prevent around $600 billion in combined federal spending cuts and tax increases, a shock economists say could stop the economic recovery in its tracks and perhaps reverberate beyond US shores.

**Study links milk-producing protein to aggressive breast cancer**

**HONG KONG, 30 Dec—** The discovery that a protein which triggers milk production in women may also be responsible for making breast cancers aggressiver could open up new opportunities for treatments of the most common and deadliest form of cancer among women.

Found in all breast cells, the protein ELF5 tries to activate milk production even in breast cancer cells, which does not work and then makes the cancer more aggressive, according to scientists in Australia and Britain.

“The discovery opens up new avenues for therapy and for designing new markers that can predict response to therapy,” said lead author Professor Chris Ormandy from the Garvan Institute of Medical Research in Sydney. In 2008, Ormandy’s work linked ELF5 to milk production.

The latest research by Ormandy and his team, published in the journal PLOS Biology on Friday, went a step further to find the link between ELF5 and breast cancer.

“Cancer cells can’t respond properly (to ELF5), so they ... acquire some characteristics ... that make the disease more aggressive and more refractory (resistant) to treatment with existing therapies,” Ormandy said by telephone.

Ormandy and his team grew human breast cancer tissues, genetically manipulated to contain high amounts of ELF5, in petri dishes and saw how the protein proliferated aggressively.

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer and the top cause of cancer death among women, accounting for 23 percent of total cancer cases and 14 percent of cancer deaths in women.

To decide on treatment, doctors normally need to find out if the cancer has receptors for the hormones estrogen and progesterone, which, in the case of breast cancer patients, promote growth in their tumours.

Two-thirds of breast cancers are usually positive for estrogen receptors, which then require anti-hormonal therapies that lower estrogen levels in the patient or block estrogen from supporting the growth of the cancer.

For the remaining one-third of patients, their cancers do not have receptors, which means they won’t benefit from hormonal therapies. Such patients are usually given other treatments, such as chemotherapy.

“Ormandy’s team found that cancers with these receptors had low levels of ELF5, while those without receptors had significantly higher levels of the protein,” explained Jay Upadhya, a reproductive endocrinologist at Johns Hopkins Children’s Centre in Baltimore.

**Housing, factory data point to momentum in economy**

**WASHINGTON, 30 Dec—** Contracts for US home sales hit a 2½-year high in November and factory activity in the Midwest expanded this month, suggesting some strength in the economy despite the threat of tighter fiscal policy.

The National Association of Realtors said on Friday its Pending Home Sales Index, based on contracts signed last month, increased 1.7 percent to 106.4 — the highest level since April 2010 when the homebuyer tax credit expired.

November marked the third straight month of gains for signed contracts, which become sales after a month or two, and followed a 5 percent increase in October.

A separate report showed the Institute for Supply Management-Chicago business barometer rose to 51.6 in November from 50.4 in October. A reading above 50 indicates expansion in the regional economy. It was the second straight month of growth and was driven by a rebound in new orders. The data suggested some of the growth momentum from the third quarter carried into the final three months of 2012, even as businesses and households braced for sharp cuts in government spending and higher taxes in the new year.

Data so far in the fourth quarter ranging from consumer spending, housing, employment and the various manufacturing indicators have been fairly upbeat.

“Don’t see much evidence that the economy was slowing as we headed into the end of the year, but everything could change on 1 January,” said John Ryding, chief economist at RDQ Economics in New York. “There are fears that 2013 stands to be even more challenging, but we don’t think the current momentum suggests a recession.”

Poorest reading skills tied to risk of teen pregnancy

**NEW YORK, 30 Dec—** Seventh grade girls who have trouble reading are more likely to get pregnant in high school than average or above-average readers, according to a new study from Philadelphia.

Researchers found that pattern stuck even after they took into account the girls’ race and poverty in their neighbourhoods — both of which are tied to teen pregnancy rates.

“We certainly know that social disadvantages definitely play a part in teen pregnancy risk, and certainly poor educational achievement is one of these factors,” said Dr Krishna Upadhya, a reproductive health and teen pregnancy researcher from Johns Hopkins Children’s Centre in Baltimore.

Poor academic skills may play into how teens see their future economic opportunities and influence the risks they take — even if those aren’t conscious decisions, explained Upadhya, who wasn’t involved in the new research. Dr Ian Bennett from the University of Pennsylvania and his colleagues looked up standardized test reading scores for 12,339 seventh grade girls from 92 different Philadelphia public schools and tracked them over the next six years.

During that period, 1,616 of the teenagers had a baby, including 201 that gave birth two or three times. Hispanic and African American girls were more likely than white girls to get pregnant. But education appeared to play a role, as well.

Among girls who scored below average on their reading tests, 21 percent went on to have a baby as a teenager. That compared to 12 percent who had average scores and five percent of girls who scored above average on the standardized tests.

Once race and poverty were taken into consideration, girls with below-average reading skills were two and a half times more likely to have a baby than average-scoring girls, according to findings published in the journal Contraception.
Iran rejects reports of blocking Strait of Hormuz during naval drill

TEHRAN, 30 Dec—The spokesman for Iran’s naval exercise in southern country rejected on Saturday the media reports about Iran’s plans to block the Strait of Hormuz during the ongoing naval maneuver, Press TV reported.

After Iran’s naval maneuver started on Friday, Western reports said that the Islamic republic has warned foreign vessels to hold aloof from the region of exercise, including the Strait of Hormuz, until 3 January. Iran had warned in the past to close the Strait of Hormuz in case its interests in the Persian Gulf were threatened, but later Iran did not repeat the warnings.

In response to the Western media reports about the Navy’s warnings to foreign vessels, Rear Admiral Amir Rastegari said on Saturday that “the Navy has issued no warnings. In accordance with the international norms, announcements should be sent for the information of the ships passing by during any military drill in order to prevent any potential damages,” said the report.

Rastegari added that such announcements are issued to provide the security of the nearby commercial and naval vessels at certain times when the war games are underway. On Saturday, Iran’s Army started the second day of a 6-day massive naval exercise in its southern waters. The drill, dubbed Velayat 91, or Guardianship 91, will be run under the command of Hormuz, the Sea of Oman, the south of the Indian Ocean, the Gulf of Aden and the Bab-el-Mandeb Strait.—Xinhua.

Yale under fire for new campus in restrictive Singapore

NEW HAVEN, 30 Dec—For more than 300 years, Yale University has prided itself on training top students to question and analyze, to challenge and critique.

Now, Yale is seeking to export those values by establishing the first foreign campus to bear its name, a liberal arts college in Singapore that is set to open this summer.

The ambitious, multimillion-dollar project thrills many in the Yale community who say it will help the university maintain its prestige and build global influence.

But it has also stirred sharp criticism from faculty and human-rights advocates who say it is impossible to build an elite college dedicated to free inquiry in an authoritarian nation with heavy restrictions on public speech and assembly. “Yale’s motto is ‘Lux et veritas,’ or ‘Light and truth,’” said Michael Fischer, a Yale professor of computer science. “We’re going into a place with severe curbs on light and truth ... We’re redefining the brand in a way that’s contrary to Yale’s values.”

Yale President Richard Levin describes the new venture as a chance to extend Yale’s tradition of nurturing independent thinkers to a dynamic young nation at the crossroads of Asia.

In the 19th century, Yale scholars fanned out to launch dozens of American colleges, Levin noted in a 2010 memo presenting the concept to faculty. “Yale could influence the course of 21st century education as profoundly,” he wrote.—Reuters.

Over 130 dead in Ukraine’s cold snap

KIVY, 30 Dec—At least 133 people have died this month due to freezing temperatures although the recent cold spell has ended, local media reported on Saturday. Most of the victims were homeless people who lost their lives on the streets at night when the temperatures dropped below minus 5 degrees Celsius.

The authorities have set up over 3,000 heated tents for those in need, but not all homeless people ask shelter in them, said the report, noting that many preferred to stay on the streets because of alcohol or unreasonable fears.

The Ukrainian cabinet is mulling an idea to dispatch special social patrol teams to send the homeless to the tents. The units will include law enforcement and emergency officers as well as doctors and social workers. —Xinhua.

Secret files lift lid on Thatcher-Reagan Falklands contacts

LONDON, 30 Dec—Former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher wrote an emotional letter to US President Ronald Reagan during the 1982 Falklands War calling him the “only person” who could understand her position, formerly secret documents showed on Friday.

Newly declassified files from 1982 lift the lid on contacts between the two leaders over the crisis and reveal the extent of the pressure Thatcher felt she was under when Argentina invaded the remote South Atlantic archipelago to reclaim what it said was its sovereign territory, triggering a 10-week war.

In one file, the tough, outspoken Thatcher called the build-up of the Argentine invasion the “worst I think of my life”, while letters to Reagan from the time showed her reliance on the US president and their close working relationship.

“I am writing to you separately because I think you are the only person who will understand the significance of what I am trying to say,” Thatcher told Reagan in one letter, saying the principles of democracy, liberty and justice were at stake.

Britain held its breath when Thatcher dispatched a naval task force to the British-ruled Falkland islands following the Argentine invasion. Despite losing several warships, the British eventually reclaimed the South Atlantic islands 74 days later. Some 649 Argentines and 255 British troops were killed.

Elsewhere, the files show that Thatcher stressed the special relationship between the two countries as she requested Reagan’s help in a letter signed off with “Warm personal regards, Margaret.”

“I also believe that the friendship between the United States and Britain matters very much to the future of the free world,” she wrote.

The files provide a unique perspective on the first and only female British prime minister’s personal feelings as she waged war against Argentina, contemporary records specialist Simon Demissie told Reuters.

“You really hear how personally strained she was, how surprised she was. Her voice really comes through — her sense of shock that she would have to send forces to the other side of the world,” Demissie said.

“We get a sense that she is as decisive as ever and that is something which really appealed to the military officials close to her,” Demissie said in reference to minutes from the War Cabinet meetings ahead of the crisis, which were also released on Friday.—Reuters

Five journalists killed in Iraq in 2012

BAGHDAD, 30 Dec—Five journalists were killed in Iraq’s violence during 2012, bringing the number of the journalists killed in the country to 373 since the US-led invasion in 2003, an Iraqi journalists’ body said on Saturday.

“The ongoing violence against journalists indicates that media work in Iraq is still dangerous,” said a report made by the Iraqi Journalists’ Syndicate.

The report said that the Iraqi journalists were relatively unsafe and worried due to the failure of security forces to bring crimes to justice.

The report showed that 16 more offenses had been registered against the journalists during the year, ranging from assassination attempts by gunmen, detaining, beating and preventing by security forces not to cover some incidents and events.

Such killings and other offenses came despite some positive indicators in general, like the relative stability in security in most of Iraqis cities, the atmosphere of democracy as well as the approval of a law to protect the rights of the Iraqi journalists, the report added.

In 2010, Paris-based Reporters Without Borders group said that the US war with Iraq was the most lethal for journalists since World War II.—Xinhua
**Agricultural bank discusses loan repayment with farmers**

**Khin U, 30 Dec—** Myanma Agricultural Development Bank in Khin U Township urges the local farmers to pay back agricultural loans in growing monsoon paddy to the bank. The bank has so far disbursed K 2710.560 million to 13431 farmers from 56 village-tracts in the township. **Myanma Alinn**

**Inmya Thaya football ground ready to be used**

Despite of the facility, the football ground was covered with the use of lawn mower by local football enthusiasts and departmental officials. They cut the lawns with the use of machinery and labour on 25 and 26 December. Thus, the football ground is ready to be used for footballers. “Now, the football ground has been prepared for good plays. If the football ground area has been improved with filling soil, it will be the best,” said a local. **Myanma Alinn**

**Monghsat District clinches title in Chief Minister’s Cup**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 30 Dec—** According to the extended installation project of mobile phones of the Communications and Information Technology Ministry, a coordination meeting on sales of telephones and implementation of the project was held at the ministry on 27 December afternoon, with an address by Deputy Minister U Win Tha. Managing Director of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications U Aung Myat gave the championship trophy to Monghsat District team.

**CB Bank to join hands with Japanese BTMU**

**Yangon, 30 Dec—** Banks from foreign countries are interesting in the banking services of Myanmar that are growing development momentum day by day. Of them, Bank of Tokyo Mitsubishi UFJ (BTMU) of Japan and CB Bank will join hands for development of banking services soon.

A ceremony to sign the MoU between CB Bank and BTMU of Japan was held at Sedona Hotel in Yangon on 27 December. “BTMU will cooperate with Myanmar bank in the commercial banking service, foreign exchange and providing assistance of banking services,” said Managing Director U Pe Myint of CB Bank.

BTMU of Japan will provide banking service and techniques to the Myanmar bank. CB Bank and BTMU will give good services to the people for banking services in Myanmar and convenience of foreign direct investments. BTMU of Japan is representative for providing loans from ODA of Japan and other monetary assistance to Myanmar. Myanmar with worthy of natural resources is attracting the foreign companies as a new market in Asia. Myanmar banks will help foreign companies ease development of banking system and FDI of foreign countries.—**Myanma Alinn**

**Ministry of Education (2012-2013) academic year**

**Second Inter-Basic Education School Sports Competition**

From 22 to 31 December 2012

**Nay Pyi Taw**

**Tube-well launched in Nyaungshwe**

**Nyaungshwe, 30 Dec—** A gesture of hailing the 65th Independence Day, a ceremony to open the two-inch diameter tube-well, the waterwork and water tank was held at the tube-well on 28 December morning. The works were carried out in Nandawun Ward of Nyaungshwe by Nyaungshwe Township Development Affairs Committee for 2012-2013 fiscal year.

**Sales of mobile phone discussed at MPT**

**Nay Pyi Taw, 30 Dec—** The Shan State Chief Minister’s Cup Inter-District Men’s Open Football Tournament reached the final match on 24 December.

At KBZ FC Ground in Taunggyi, Tachilek and Monghsat district teams played in the final match and ended at goalless draw. In the penalty decision, Monghsat District emerged champion with a 2-1 victory over Tachilek District team. Shan State level officials awarded first prize to Monghsat District, the second to Tachilek. They also presented cash awards and medals to the winners. Shan State Chief Minister U Sao Aung Myat gave the championship trophy to the winners.

**Fund shared to Township DAC**

**Yangon, 30 Dec—** Mingala Taungnyunt Township Internal Revenue Department of Yangon Region shared five per cent from the revenue amounting to K 1,076,670.10 to the fund of Township Development Affairs Committee on 26 December for 2012-2013 fiscal year.

**5400 stimulant tablets seized in Nawngkhio**

**Nawngkhio, 30 Dec—** A squad from Nawngkhio mobile team of Lashio Anti-Drug Special Squad of Shan State (North) searched a van and 26 packets of stimulant tablets containing 5400 weighing 486 grams worth K 10 million.

**New Light of Myanmar**

Monday, 31 December, 2012
The southern hope

Taninthayi Region is rich in natural resources, especially, timber and other globally marketable hardwood species in the mountain ranges running from north to south and serving as its border with neighbouring Thailand.

Its equatorial climate brings a lot of rain and sunshine annually creating a favourable condition for agriculture. So, Taninthayi grows rice and other annual crops, and has large areas of rubber, oil palm and coconut plantations.

But it is the Andaman Sea that makes Taninthayi more beautiful and famous. The sea annually supplies Taninthayi with various resources, especially, teak and other globally marketable hardwood species.

As the blue sea is dotted with a large number of islands and islets, it is a tourist haven offering funs and thrills like swimming, angling, diving, snorkeling, rowing, yachting, boating, island exploration and adventure for visitors from around the world. Setes and Muangmahan have been hosting fun-loving visitors with their blue waters, silver sand and glorious sunsets.

Another bonanza for the coastal region is a special economic zone project at Dawei, which is its capital, but not the regional commercial hub. Thanks to the project, Dawei will have an industrial estate and cross-border road linking the two neighbours.

Taninthayi is a thin stretch of flat land lying in southernmost part of Myanmar between the mountain ranges bearing its name and the deep blue sea called the Andaman. Like all other places of the Union, Taninthayi is breathtaking. As the blue sea is dotted with a large number of islands and islets, it is a tourist haven offering funs and thrills like swimming, angling, diving, snorkeling, rowing, yachting, boating, island exploration and adventure for visitors from around the world. Setes and Muangmahan have been hosting fun-loving visitors with their blue waters, silver sand and glorious sunsets.

Another bonanza for the coastal region is a special economic zone project at Dawei, which is its capital, but not the regional commercial hub. Thanks to the project, Dawei will have an industrial estate and cross-border road linking the two neighbours.

Taninthayi is a thin stretch of flat land lying in southernmost part of Myanmar between the mountain ranges bearing its name and the deep blue sea called the Andaman. Like all other places of the Union, Taninthayi is breathtaking.

Amidst development plans including the Dawei SEZ project, aided with natural rewards like the sea, the islands and islets and other resources, bustling major town like Muang Maung will be our southern hope which is seeing brighter prospects as never before.

Border Affairs Ministry overseas rural development in self-administered division/zones

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—The Ministry of Border Affairs is undertaking rural development, peace building and human resources development tasks in border areas, Union Minister Lt-Gen Thein Htay said in meeting with authorities of Self-Administered Division/Zones yesterday evening.

He said the roads linking villages and regions must be built while calling on the authorities to oversee regional development. The departmental personnel and chairmen of leading bodies submitted reports.

The ministry has planned to construct 438 miles of the road in the self-administered division/zones, build 180 water supply stations and provide electricity to 2140 households in rural areas.

Kyemon: 30-12-2012
Trs: TMT
Movies, being able to depict histories, real life stories...

(from page 16)

Everyone would like to take pride of the fact that his country or society owns unique characters. In addition, the art could bridge the divide between different cultures. Because what the people see, hear or feel can deeply touch their heart.

Despite different political systems, values and languages, the common language of art has served as an important tool in establishing cordial diplomatic ties since yore.

The trend of the world’s film industry, objective condition of domestic movie industry and power of those engaged in the motion picture world for the sake of the nation and the public.

In conclusion, he urged people of Myanmar movie world —
- to make reforms in every process of setting-up, preparing, shooting, distribution, production and copyright, taking advantage of the plans to regenerate the movie industry which includes establishment of studios and cinemas, and funding. He also vowed for closer cooperation with the Information Ministry. The onus was on those of movie world to try their best for the development of the movie world.

He concluded his speech with the call for rejuvenating the declining movie industry of the country.

He also expressed the plans to regenerate the movie industry which includes establishment of studios and cinemas, and funding. He also vowed for closer cooperation with the Information Ministry.

Chairman of Myanmar Motion Picture Organization U Zin Waing submitted a report on development of Myanmar movie industry.

He recalled the reminiscences of the glorious days of the movie industry that was established about 100 years ago and returned to the reality revealing lacking of financial and other resources.

He revealed that the decline of the film industry due to absence of studio, technology, expertise, capital and competitiveness.

He revealed the positive contribution of changing policies of the Information Ministry.

He also expressed
PESHAWAR, 30 Dec—

Pakistan Taleban militants have executed 21 paramilitary forces who were captured in attacks on their posts late last week, government officials said on Sunday.

The men, who were kidnaped on Friday in attacks on three checkpoints near the city of Peshawar, were lined up before being shot one-by-one, officials said.

“They were tied up and blindfolded,” Naveed Anwar, a senior administration official in the Khyber region, said by telephone. One man was badly wounded but survived, Anwar said, adding that the 21 bodies had been found after local tribesmen notified security services.

“They were lined up and shot in the head,” said Habibullah Arif, another local official. He said the wounded man and another man had managed to escape. A Taleban spokesman claimed responsibility and pledged to carry out further attacks on Pakistani security forces. “We killed all the kidnapped men after a council of senior clerics gave a verdict for their execution. We didn’t make any demand for their release because we don’t spare any prisoners who are caught during fighting,” said Insamullah Ilson.

The men were from a paramilitary force recruited from members of ethnic Pashtun tribes in northwestern Pakistan. The militias support the government in its efforts against Islamist militants battling the state.

The killing of the men followed two high-profile attacks in Peshawar this month. Suicide bombers attacked Peshawar’s Airport on 15 December and a bomb killed a senior Pakistani naval officer. He said the EOT tourism board is remaining money-spinners strapped Greece’s few Tourism is one of cash—12-million-euro hole in

Athens, 30 Dec—Three Greeks were arrested on suspicion of trying to defraud the national tourism board, police said on Saturday, and the finance ministry is investigating a suspected 12-million-euro—euro in the EOT’s books.

The national tourism board, said it was investigating a criminal organization,” the police said. A tourist statement said a EOT adviser colluded with at least two accomplices to cash in a 12-million-euro—euro in the EOT’s books.

The tourism ministry said it was investigating why an EOT chequebook was handled by the 39-year-old adviser, who was not a career EOT official but rather an aide to the board’s outgoing secretary general, who resigned last week.

Separately, the finance ministry appointed an independent auditor to investigate what the EOT’s new secretary general has called “accounting irregularities” of 12 million euros in the EOT’s books, saying the agency was negligent, non-accountable and the cause for the endemic corruption that has bedeviled Greece, leading to fiscal profligacy, financial crisis and an international bailout in 2010.

Greece uncovers tourism scam, looks for unaccounted millions

A girl tastes fish soup at the site of a fish festival in Yuehai park in Yinchuan, capital of northwest China’s Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on 29 Dec, 2012. The fish festival, one of Ningxia winter tourism activities, attracts many local citizens to enjoy fish catching and tasting. Xinhua

Havana, 30 Dec—Venezuelan Vice President Nicolas Maduro arrived on Thursday in Cuba to visit President Hugo Chavez, who is recovering after his latest cancer surgery, the official Granma daily reported.

Upon arrival, Maduro headed directly to the hospital where Chavez is staying, the paper added. Before travelling to the island for his fourth surgery, Chavez appointed Maduro, who is also foreign minister, as his political successor in case he could not complete his new presidential

Four new subway lines set to ease Beijing traffic

A tourist takes photographs at the Acropolis hill overlooking Athens, on 10 July, 2011. Reuters

Beijing, 30 Dec—Beijing is scheduled to put four subway lines into operation on Sunday, part of the city’s efforts to expand rail transit to ease severe traffic congestion.

The newly-opened lines include the new No 6 Line, the southern section of the current No 7 Line, the northern section of the current No 9 Line and the southern and western stretches that complete a loop for the current No 10 Line.

The new lines bring the number of subway lines in Beijing to 16, with a total length of 442 kilometres, the Beijing Municipal Commission of Transport said in a statement on Saturday.

The city has turned to public transport, especially rail transit lines, to tackle massive traffic jams on the city’s vehicle-clogged roads.

The number of subway lines in Beijing will reach 19 by 2015, with a combined length of 561 km. By 2020, the total subway length is expected to increase to 1,000 km. Beijing’s public transportation system, including bus services, carried an average of 20.6 million people per day in 2012. About 44 percent of Beijing residents say they use public transport, the highest percentage of all cities nationwide.

Venezuelan VP arrives in Cuba to visit Chavez

Residents put ribbons on a fence during an outdoor ceremony on the eve of New Year celebration, in Bonfim Church, Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, on 28 Dec, 2012. —Xinhua

Four new subway lines set to ease Beijing traffic

Residents put ribbons on a fence during an outdoor ceremony on the eve of New Year celebration, in Bonfim Church, Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, on 28 Dec, 2012. —Xinhua

Morsi says new constitution’s approval means end of Egypt transition period

A Taleban spokesman said a team to finance ministry appointed an independent auditor to investigate what the EOT’s new secretary general has called “accounting irregularities” of 12 million euros in the EOT’s books, saying the agency was negligent, non-accountable and the cause for the endemic corruption that has bedeviled Greece, leading to fiscal profligacy, financial crisis and an international bailout in 2010.

Greece uncovers tourism scam, looks for unaccounted millions

A girl tastes fish soup at the site of a fish festival in Yuehai park in Yinchuan, capital of northwest China’s Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region, on 29 Dec, 2012. The fish festival, one of Ningxia winter tourism activities, attracts many local citizens to enjoy fish catching and tasting. Xinhua

Havana, 30 Dec—Venezuelan Vice President Nicolas Maduro arrived here on Saturday to visit President Hugo Chavez, who is recovering after his latest cancer surgery, the official Granma daily reported.

Upon arrival, Maduro headed directly to the hospital where Chavez is staying, the paper added. Before travelling to the island for his fourth surgery, Chavez appointed Maduro, who is also foreign minister, as his political successor in case he could not complete his new presidential

Four new subway lines set to ease Beijing traffic

Beijing, 30 Dec—Beijing is scheduled to put four subway lines into operation on Sunday, part of the city’s efforts to expand rail transit to ease severe traffic congestion.

The newly-opened lines include the new No 6 Line, the southern section of the current No 7 Line, the northern section of the current No 9 Line and the southern and western stretches that complete a loop for the current No 10 Line.

The new lines bring the number of subway lines in Beijing to 16, with a total length of 442 kilometres, the Beijing Municipal Commission of Transport said in a statement on Saturday.

The city has turned to public transport, especially rail transit lines, to tackle massive traffic jams on the city’s vehicle-clogged roads.

The number of subway lines in Beijing will reach 19 by 2015, with a combined length of 561 km. By 2020, the total subway length is expected to increase to 1,000 km. Beijing’s public transportation system, including bus services, carried an average of 20.6 million people per day in 2012. About 44 percent of Beijing residents say they use public transport, the highest percentage of all cities nationwide.

Venezuelan VP arrives in Cuba to visit Chavez

Residents put ribbons on a fence during an outdoor ceremony on the eve of New Year celebration, in Bonfim Church, Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, on 28 Dec, 2012. —Xinhua

Morsi says new constitution’s approval means end of Egypt transition period

CAIRO, 30 Dec—Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi said on Saturday that the approval of the country’s written constitution means the end of the country’s transition period.

In his speech during a session of the Shura Council, upper house of the parliament, Morsi said the new constitution ensures a new era to start to build the country toward its “renaissance.”

“The new constitution is the fruits of all efforts exerted, and it guaranteed equal rights to all Egyptians,” said the president, adding that Egypt is for all Egyptians. Morsi called for the unity of all social spectra to build a modern state, and reiterated the importance of free media and active civil society.

“I invite you all to cooperate with the government and the social authorities to issue legislation which would facilitate the state of building.”

“We are moving toward establishing state institutions and applying deep ruling to struggle against corruption. We have been through difficult economic status after an era of corruption,” he added.

For those who are talking about bankruptcy, the president affirmed that “Egypt will never kneel, as long as its people are productive.”

“Production and increasing services are the top of my priorities, and with your help and the efforts of the government, we could build a nation of strong will,” Morsi said, noting that an economic development council will be established to achieve economic reforms.

Residents put ribbons on a fence during an outdoor ceremony on the eve of New Year celebration, in Bonfim Church, Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, on 28 Dec, 2012. —Xinhua

Morsi says new constitution’s approval means end of Egypt transition period

CAIRO, 30 Dec—Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi said on Saturday that the approval of the country’s written constitution means the end of the country’s transition period.

In his speech during a session of the Shura Council, upper house of the parliament, Morsi said the new constitution ensures a new era to start to build the country toward its “renaissance.”

“The new constitution is the fruits of all efforts exerted, and it guaranteed equal rights to all Egyptians,” said the president, adding that Egypt is for all Egyptians. Morsi called for the unity of all social spectra to build a modern state, and reiterated the importance of free media and active civil society.

“I invite you all to cooperate with the government and the social authorities to issue legislation which would facilitate the state of building.”

“We are moving toward establishing state institutions and applying deep ruling to struggle against corruption. We have been through difficult economic status after an era of corruption,” he added.

For those who are talking about bankruptcy, the president affirmed that “Egypt will never kneel, as long as its people are productive.”

“Production and increasing services are the top of my priorities, and with your help and the efforts of the government, we could build a nation of strong will,” Morsi said, noting that an economic development council will be established to achieve economic reforms.

Residents put ribbons on a fence during an outdoor ceremony on the eve of New Year celebration, in Bonfim Church, Salvador de Bahia, Brazil, on 28 Dec, 2012. —Xinhua

Morsi says new constitution’s approval means end of Egypt transition period

CAIRO, 30 Dec—Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi said on Saturday that the approval of the country’s written constitution means the end of the country’s transition period.

In his speech during a session of the Shura Council, upper house of the parliament, Morsi said the new constitution ensures a new era to start to build the country toward its “renaissance.”

“The new constitution is the fruits of all efforts exerted, and it guaranteed equal rights to all Egyptians,” said the president, adding that Egypt is for all Egyptians. Morsi called for the unity of all social spectra to build a modern state, and reiterated the importance of free media and active civil society.

“I invite you all to cooperate with the government and the social authorities to issue legislation which would facilitate the state of building.”

“We are moving toward establishing state institutions and applying deep ruling to struggle against corruption. We have been through difficult economic status after an era of corruption,” he added.

For those who are talking about bankruptcy, the president affirmed that “Egypt will never kneel, as long as its people are productive.”

“Production and increasing services are the top of my priorities, and with your help and the efforts of the government, we could build a nation of strong will,” Morsi said, noting that an economic development council will be established to achieve economic reforms.
**Indonesian foreign tourist arrivals up 5 pct in first 11 months**

Jakarta, 30 Dec—The number of foreign holiday-makers coming into Indonesia from January to November was up by 5 percent to 7.277 million people on yearly basis, an official said here.

Deputy Minter for Tourism and Creative Economy Sapti Nirwandar said that he was optimistic that the target of 8 million foreign tourist arrivals this year is going to be passed.

“As (November), the number of foreign tourist arrivals was up by 5 percent,” he said Friday evening. His ministry expected 9 billion US dollars revenue from foreign tourist arrivals in 2012, a 18 percent rise from 2.8 billion US dollars in 2012, a 18 percent rise from 2.8 billion US dollars in 2012.

**Sri Lanka mourns the death of top cricket commentator**

Colombo, 30 Dec—Sri Lanka mourned the death of a leading international cricket commentator, who had been seen as a promot- er of Sri Lankan cricket.

Former England cricket captain and vet- eran commentator Tony Greig had aged 66 after being diagnosed with lung cancer.

Former Sri Lankan captain and leading bats- man Sanath Jayasuriya told Xinhua that the he was saddened by the news of Greig. Jayasuriya said that Greig was a big supporter of Sri Lanka cricket especially after the Sri Lankans won the 1996 cricket world cup beating Australia in the final.

Greig was also a huge fan of Jayasuriya and his former opening one day partner Romesh Kaluwitharana.

Both Jayasuriya and Kaluwitharana revolution- ized the 50 over one day cricket format by scoring runs fast in the first 15 overs.

Greig praised the bat- ting style of Jayasuriya and ultimately became a fan of Sri Lanka and its people. “They way he promot- ed me and Kalu was amaz- ing. He was like a Sri Lan- kan. His death is a big loss to us,” Jayasuriya said.

Former Sri Lankan cricketer Russel Arnold tweeted saying Greig’ s death was a shock. Arnold was a co-commentator with Greig. Greig was also a tourism ambassador to Sri Lanka and promoted the island as a place for foreigners to visit.

**Six killed, over 50 injured in Pakistan’s Karachi blast**

Islamabad, 30 Dec—At least six people were killed and over 50 others were injured when a bomb hit a passenger bus in Paki- stan’s southern port city of Karachi on Saturday afternoon, local police said.

Raja Umar Khattab, Su- perintendent of Criminal Investigation Department said that the blast hit a 47- seat passenger bus when it was passing by a bus stand in Cantonment area of Kar-achi, the capital city of the country’s southern Sindh Province.

He said that the blast occurred at the rear gate of the bus and the explosive materials were hidden in- side the vehicle so the passengers who were on the way to the country’s eastern city of Sargodha.

Doctor Seemi Jamali, the Medical Superintendent with Jinnah Hospital Kara-achi confirmed that she re- ceived six bodies and over 50 injured people includ- ing women and kids at the hospital, adding that at least eight of the injured people were in critical condition.

Police said that the targeted bus was com- pletely destroyed in the at- tack while another bus and several motorbikes parked nearby the blast site were also damaged.

Fire erupted in the area following the blast which caused damage to nearby shops.

Talking to media, a mechanic responsible for examining the busses at the bus stop said that there were around seven people and some fruit boxes on the bus when it left Sargodha.

Police and rangers cor- doned off the area and in- vestigation into the incident has been kicked off.

No group claimed re- sponsibility for the blast.

**Cooking gas canister explosion injures 12 in Cambodia’s capital**

Phnom Penh, 30 Dec—At least 12 people were injured in a cooking gas can- nister explosion on Satur- day afternoon here, a fire- fighting police chief said.

The accident occurred at 1:50 pm local time at a fast food and cafe shop near the capital’s central market due to the cook changed a cooking gas container care- lessly and triggered the explosion leading to a fire, Neth Vantha, chief of the Phnom Penh Firefighting Police Office, said.

“Six were critically injured and six others were slightly injured in the acci- dent,” he told Xinhua over telephone, adding that all the victims were sent to Calmette Hospital soon af- ter the event.

“We used 12 fire trucks to fight the fire and it was completely extinguished an hour after the explosion,” he said, adding that prop- erties in the shop were de- stroyed in the fire.

He said a couple from China’s Taipe, who run the shop, were also injured in the accident.—Xinhua

**Peugeot Citroen China JV sales hit 440,000 units**

Wuhan, 30 Dec—Dongfeng Peugeot Citroen Automotive Company Ltd in central China’s Hubei Province on Saturday sold a record-high 440,000 cars this year as of Friday.

In a Press release, the 50-50 joint venture be- tween Chinese carmaker Dongfeng Motor Corp and French carmaker PSA Peugeot Citroen said it sold 223,800 Citroen autos and 216,200 Peugeot autos this year.

The joint venture’s sales also jumped 8.2 per- cent year on year, outper- forming the industry aver- age. In the first 11 months of 2012, total vehicle sales in the world’s largest auto market increased 4.03 per- cent year on year to 17.49 million units, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers (CAAM).

Many Chinese customers have since snubbed Jap- anese auto brands, opting to buy from European and US brands instead.—Xinhua

**27 injured in ferry collision in Macao**

Macao, 30 Dec—Twenty seven people were injured in a ferry collision in Macao Outer Harbour Satur- day, according to sources from the local police author- ity.

The passenger ship car- rying 175 passengers and 8 crew members, leaving for Hong Kong on Saturday noon, knocked down a buoy about 15 min- utes after departure.

A passenger said, he heard a big sound when he was taking rest and he was not hurt with his seat belt on. But many people didn’t fasten their seat-belts got in- jured during the collision.

The ship sailed back to the ferry after the collision. The police authority con- trolled year on year 27 passengers were injured, 25 of them had been sent to hospital immedi- ately, and most of them were slight contuse and scratching.

Related government de- partments have launched the emergency mechanism after the collision.—Xinhua
Three New Jersey police officers shot; gunman reported dead

GLoucester Township, (New Jersey), 30 Dec—A shootout broke out in a suburban New Jersey police station on Friday when a 39-year-old man who had been taken into custody attacked a police officer, stealing her gun and shooting her and two other officers before he was killed.

One of the officers, Sergeant James Garber, underwent surgery for a gunshot wound to his stomach and was in stable condition, while the other two, Officer Ruth Burns and Sergeant Kevin Thyne, were treated at Cooper University Hospital and released, police said.

The assailant, Eddie Jones III, who had been arrested on charges of stalking his former girlfriend, was killed in the shootout, according to Gloucester Police Chief W. Harry Earle.

After his arrest early Friday morning outside his ex-girlfriend’s house, police brought Jones to the police station and removed his handcuffs while they processed him. “He then suddenly attacked the officer, tackling her to the ground, striking her on the head, and removing her department issued firearm from her holster,” Earle said at a news conference. “Two officers immediately proceeded to her aid. Mr Jones opened fire on the two officers.”

Earle said the handgun taken by Jones was a .40 caliber pistol holding 13 rounds. It was unclear how many rounds were fired.

Hours after the shootout, sections of the Gloucester Township municipal complex, which houses the police department, remained cordoned off by yellow police tape. Residents described it as a quiet community.

“It’s really a safe neighborhood,” said Kim Kavanaugh, 47, who lives across the street from the complex with her husband and two grown children.

Over 1,000 Afghan army personnel killed in 2012

Kabul, 30 Dec—More than 1,000 personnel of Afghan army had lost their lives in Taleban-led attacks, bombings and military operations in 2012 in the insurgency-hit country, said a spokesman of the country’s Defence Ministry on Sunday.

“Up to 1,050 Afghan National Army (ANA) personnel including officers and soldiers had been martyred in fight against insurgents and security incidents all over the country in 2012,” General Zahir Azimi told a press briefing.

About 85 percent of army casualties were caused by the Taleban home-made Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), he said.

However, he failed to give the number of army soldiers who sustained injuries over the same period of time.

Azimi also did not provide any statistics on casualties on the side of Taleban and other insurgent groups.

“An Afghan security forces in partnership with NATO-led coalition troops have killed, injured or captured thousands of anti-government elements over the past one year,” The Taleban, who ruled the country before they were ousted by a US-led invasion in late 2001, renewed armed insurgency, staging ambush and suicide attacks, killing combatants as well as civilians. Azimi also said the ANA had made significant progress and had important achievement besides being successful in providing security for the population.

Spokesman Azimi also reiterated that the Afghan government forces will take over full security charge from the NATO-led coalition troops by the end of 2013, a year ahead of schedule.—Xinhua

Sandy aid bill

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec—The US Senate on Friday approved a $60.4 billion aid package to pay for reconstruction costs from Superstorm Sandy, which ravaged mid-Atlantic and northeastern states, after defeating Republican efforts to trim the bill’s cost.

S enate Majority Leader Harry Reid urged the Republican-controlled House of Representatives to quickly take up the bill, which includes $12 billion to repair and strengthen the region’s transportation system against future storms.

“There is no time to waste,” Reid said.

Both chambers have agreed to a package by 2 January, when the current term of Congress is expected to end, or restart the process of crafting legislation in 2013. The Senate approved the bill 62-32, with most Republicans voting no.

“We beat back all of the crippling amendments,” said Senator Charles Schummer, a Democrat from New York, which suffered the largest monetary damage in the storm. “The century-old tradition of different parts of the country rallying to help those who are beleaguered because of difficult natural disasters continues,” Schummer said.

The bill’s chances in the next few days could depend on whether President Barack Obama and congressional leaders reach a deal to avert the “fiscal cliff” of tax increases and spending cuts set to begin taking effect in the new year.

House Republican leaders have not yet decided whether to take up the Senate bill, a Republican aide said.—Reuters

Iran to continue high-grade uranium enrichment

TEHERAN, 30 Dec—A senior Iranian law maker said on Saturday that Teheran is determined to continue uranium enrichment to the purity level of 20 percent and considered that as an indispensable right of the Iranian nation, semi-official Fars news agency reported.

Mansour Haqiqatpour, a member of Iranian Majlis (parliament) National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, said Iran would never exchange this right for the world powers’ content.

Irreversible of agreement or disagrement of the P5+1 (including the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China plus Germany), the Islamic republic will not give up its right to nuclear technology and the possibility of 20 percent enriched uranium, which is needed for radio-medicine, Haqiqatpour was quoted as saying.

In November, Head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Fereidoon Abbasi said the Islamic republic would “decisively” continue uranium enrichment.—Xinhua
Kate Winslet’s husband gifts her trip to space

Kate Winslet’s husband has given her a trip to space as a wedding gift.

The 37-year-old actress wed Ned RocknRoll in a private ceremony in New York earlier this week, and the newlyweds will celebrate their union with the extraordinary two-hour flight into orbit courtesy of Ned’s uncle, Sir Richard Branson, according to The Sun newspaper.

Ned, 34, works part-time for Richard’s space flights venture, Virgin Galactic, which aims to offer Commercial Flights above Earth’s atmosphere from next year, and suggested the gift to the billionaire tycoon, who offered a trip to his nephew and his new bride for free. Tickets for the space journey cost a whopping £163,124,000.

Taylor Swift’s “Red” tops Billboard chart after holiday season

Taylor Swift, 23, was able to hold off rapper T.I.’s new album “Trouble Man: Heavy Is The Head” from the top spot. The rapper came in at No 2 after selling 178,000 copies.

T.I.’s latest record was the only new release by an individual artist to debut in the top 10 this week. The entries comprised holiday favorites such as Michael Bublé’s “Christmas” at No 5 and some of this year’s chart-toppers, including One Direction’s “Take Me Home” at No 4 and “Babel” by Mumford & Sons at No 8.

Two compilation albums rounded out the top 10, with “12-12-12 The Concert for Sandy” at No 9 and the latest Now Music installment, “Now 44” at No 10. The star-studded “12-12-12” compilation was released to raise funds for victims of superstorm Sandy following a live concert at New York’s Madison Square Gardens on 12 December.

The album features live recordings of songs by Bruce Springsteen, Roger Waters, The Rolling Stones and Alicia Keys.

R&B singer Brandy engaged to music executive

R&B singer Brandy Norwood is engaged to music executive Ryan Press, a spokesman for the singer said on Thursday.

This will be the first marriage for the singer, who goes by the moniker Brandy. Press is an executive with music publisher Warner/Chappell Music. A date for the wedding has not been announced publicly.

Norwood, 33, has a 10-year-old daughter with her former boyfriend, music producer Robert Smith. Norwood has starred in numerous television and films since the 1990s and is best known as the lead character in the popular television series “Moesha” from 1996-2001 on the now-defunct channel UPN.

She also scored a hit song in 1998 with “The Boy Is Mine,” a collaboration with the singer Monica, which garnered the pair a Grammy award. Brandy released her sixth studio album “Two Eleven” in October this year.

Recording artist Brandy Norwood poses on the red carpet as she arrives at the 2012 Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas, Nevada on 20 May, 2012.

Kate Winslet told the Daily Mail that her children, Lev, 7, and Leo, 2, are excited that she and her new husband are having a “circle of friends,” and that they are excited to have a “circle of friends” for the children.

Kate Winslet and husband Ned RocknRoll

Kate Winslet’s new husband has given her a trip to space as a wedding gift.

The 37-year-old actress wed Ned RocknRoll in a private ceremony in New York earlier this week, and the newlyweds will celebrate their union with the extraordinary two-hour flight into orbit courtesy of Ned’s uncle, Sir Richard Branson, according to The Sun newspaper.

Ned, 34, works part-time for Richard’s space flights venture, Virgin Galactic, which aims to offer Commercial Flights above Earth’s atmosphere from next year, and suggested the gift to the billionaire tycoon, who offered a trip to his nephew and his new bride for free. Tickets for the space journey cost a whopping £163,124,000.

Taylor Swift’s “Red” tops Billboard chart after holiday season

Taylor Swift, 23, was able to hold off rapper T.I.’s new album “Trouble Man: Heavy Is the Head” from the top spot. The rapper came in at No 2 after selling 178,000 copies.

T.I.’s latest record was the only new release by an individual artist to debut in the top 10 this week. The entries comprised holiday favorites such as Michael Bublé’s “Christmas” at No 5 and some of this year’s chart-toppers, including One Direction’s “Take Me Home” at No 4 and “Babel” by Mumford & Sons at No 8.

Two compilation albums rounded out the top 10, with “12-12-12 The Concert for Sandy” at No 9 and the latest Now Music installment, “Now 44” at No 10. The star-studded “12-12-12” compilation was released to raise funds for victims of superstorm Sandy following a live concert at New York’s Madison Square Gardens on 12 December.

The album features live recordings of songs by Bruce Springsteen, Roger Waters, The Rolling Stones and Alicia Keys.

R&B singer Brandy engaged to music executive

R&B singer Brandy Norwood is engaged to music executive Ryan Press, a spokesman for the singer said on Thursday.

This will be the first marriage for the singer, who goes by the moniker Brandy. Press is an executive with music publisher Warner/Chappell Music. A date for the wedding has not been announced publicly.

Norwood, 33, has a 10-year-old daughter with her former boyfriend, music producer Robert Smith. Norwood has starred in numerous television and films since the 1990s and is best known as the lead character in the popular television series “Moesha” from 1996-2001 on the now-defunct channel UPN.

She also scored a hit song in 1998 with “The Boy Is Mine,” a collaboration with the singer Monica, which garnered the pair a Grammy award. Brandy released her sixth studio album “Two Eleven” in October this year.

Recording artist Brandy Norwood poses on the red carpet as she arrives at the 2012 Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas, Nevada on 20 May, 2012.

Kate Winslet and husband Ned RocknRoll

Kate Winslet’s new husband has given her a trip to space as a wedding gift.

The 37-year-old actress wed Ned RocknRoll in a private ceremony in New York earlier this week, and the newlyweds will celebrate their union with the extraordinary two-hour flight into orbit courtesy of Ned’s uncle, Sir Richard Branson, according to The Sun newspaper.

Ned, 34, works part-time for Richard’s space flights venture, Virgin Galactic, which aims to offer Commercial Flights above Earth’s atmosphere from next year, and suggested the gift to the billionaire tycoon, who offered a trip to his nephew and his new bride for free. Tickets for the space journey cost a whopping £163,124,000.

Taylor Swift’s “Red” tops Billboard chart after holiday season

Taylor Swift, 23, was able to hold off rapper T.I.’s new album “Trouble Man: Heavy Is the Head” from the top spot. The rapper came in at No 2 after selling 178,000 copies.

T.I.’s latest record was the only new release by an individual artist to debut in the top 10 this week. The entries comprised holiday favorites such as Michael Bublé’s “Christmas” at No 5 and some of this year’s chart-toppers, including One Direction’s “Take Me Home” at No 4 and “Babel” by Mumford & Sons at No 8.

Two compilation albums rounded out the top 10, with “12-12-12 The Concert for Sandy” at No 9 and the latest Now Music installment, “Now 44” at No 10. The star-studded “12-12-12” compilation was released to raise funds for victims of superstorm Sandy following a live concert at New York’s Madison Square Gardens on 12 December.

The album features live recordings of songs by Bruce Springsteen, Roger Waters, The Rolling Stones and Alicia Keys.

R&B singer Brandy engaged to music executive

R&B singer Brandy Norwood is engaged to music executive Ryan Press, a spokesman for the singer said on Thursday.

This will be the first marriage for the singer, who goes by the moniker Brandy. Press is an executive with music publisher Warner/Chappell Music. A date for the wedding has not been announced publicly.

Norwood, 33, has a 10-year-old daughter with her former boyfriend, music producer Robert Smith. Norwood has starred in numerous television and films since the 1990s and is best known as the lead character in the popular television series “Moesha” from 1996-2001 on the now-defunct channel UPN.

She also scored a hit song in 1998 with “The Boy Is Mine,” a collaboration with the singer Monica, which garnered the pair a Grammy award. Brandy released her sixth studio album “Two Eleven” in October this year.

Recording artist Brandy Norwood poses on the red carpet as she arrives at the 2012 Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas, Nevada on 20 May, 2012.
Shades of Henry as Walcott fires Arsenal hat-trick

LONDON, 30 Dec—Theo Walcott evoked memories of the great Thierry Henry when his dazzling hat-trick inspired Arsenal to a 7-3 win over Newcastle United on Saturday in one of the best Premier League games of the season.

The England winger has been pleading for the central striker’s role for some time and, playing in his new position, Walcott proved he has what it takes to fill the boots of the London club’s all-time top scorer. “He can play through the middle. I am convinced of that,” manager Arsene Wenger told reporters after Arsenal climbed to fifth in the table, 16 points behind leaders Manchester United.

“It’s only got stronger there. He has done very well and it just typifies what I think he can do.” Walcott was on target in the 20th minute and 3rd goal in all competitions before adding his third goal in stoppage time. Olivier Giroud (2), Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain and Lukas Podolski also struck for Arsenal while two-goal Demba Ba and Sylvain Marveaux replied for Newcastle. Former France striker Henry, who hit 228 goals in all competitions in two spells with the club between 1999-2012, applauded from the stands as Walcott produced his outstanding display in attack. The 23-year-old burst free down the left and cut in to deliver a clinical finish beyond Newcastle goalkeeper Tim Krul for the opening goal.

Three times Arsenal led and Newcastle hit back to equalise on each occasion before the visitors were finally buried under a late avalanche of goals in an end-to-end encounter.

Inter’s Sneijder could be perfect fit for Premier League

LONDON, 30 Dec—Inter Milan coach Andrea Stramaccioni is still holding out hope that Wesley Sneijder will play for the club again but a move to the Premier League looks the most obvious choice for the talented Dutch playmaker.

Sneijder, inspirational as Inter won the Champions League, Serie A and Italian Cup in 2010 under Jose Mourinho, has been dropped by the club for re-fusing to renegotiate his lucrative contract with purse strings being tightened at the San Siro.

A sale in the January transfer window therefore looks likely with reports saying the 29-year-old could be allowed to leave for as little as eight million pounds ($12.9 million). Tottenham Hotspur have been heavily linked with Sneijder in the media while Manchester United were previous admirers of a player who operates best behind the strikers and is notoriously difficult for Serie A defenders to pick up.

Players with a knack of finding that killer pass have thrived in the newly-cosmopolitan English top flight with Spaniards David Silva, Juan Mata and Santi Cazorla all excelling for Manchester City, Chelsea and Arsenal.

Sneijder is in that class, proving his worth again when helping the Netherlands to the 2010 World Cup final, even if he has gone off the boil a little in the last two seasons having possibly stayed at a faltering Inter too long.

The contract wrangle might suggest he has out-stayed his welcome but Stramaccioni is still leaving the door open for a return to the fourth-placed Serie A side.

Nadal to miss Australian Open due to illness

MADRID, 30 Dec—French Open champion Rafa Nadal has been forced to withdraw from next month’s Australian Open because of a stomach virus that has disrupted his recovery from a long-term knee injury, the world number four said on Friday.

“My knee is much better and the rehabilitation process has gone well as predicted by the doctors, but this virus didn’t allow me to practise this past week,” the Spaniard, who has also pulled out of the Qatar Open in Doha, said in a statement.

“Therefore I am sorry to announce that I will not play in Doha and the Australian Open, as we have initially scheduled.”

Nadal was due to make his competitive comeback after the knee injury sidelined him for six months at this week’s Mubadala World Tennis Championship, an exhibition tournament in Abu Dhabi that is not part of the ATP Tour.

The 26-year-old won the event in 2010 and 2011 but withdrew on 25th December citing the stomach virus. He has not played since June when he suffered a shock defeat in the second round of Wimbledon to Czech Lukas Rosol.

He was subsequently diagnosed with a partial tear of the patella tendon and inflammation in his left knee and was unable to defend his Olympic title at the London Games.

The 11-times grand slam singles champion also missed the US Open and

Cycling champion Wiggins knighted in UK New Year Honours

LONDON, 30 Dec—Bradley Wiggins, the first Briton to win the Tour de France cycling race, has been knighted in a special United Kingdom New Year Honours list which acknowledges the services of the home team at the 2012 London Olympics.

Just over a week after winning the Tour, Wiggins won a gold medal in the Olympic time trial, one of 65 medals collected by the British team who finished third in the medals table behind the United States and China.

Ben Ainslie, the most decorated yachtsman in Olympic history with gold medals in four consecutive Games, is also knighted as a decoration for his work representing Britain and his contribution to the UK’s success at the 2012 London Olympics.

Just over a week after winning the Tour, Wiggins won a gold medal in the Olympic time trial, one of 65 medals collected by the British team who finished third in the medals table behind the United States and China.

Ben Ainslie, the most decorated yachtsman in Olympic history with gold medals in four consecutive Games, is also knighted as a decoration for his work representing Britain and his contribution to the UK’s success at the 2012 London Olympics.

Del Piero needs more protection from referees, says coach

MELBOURNE, 30 Dec—Italy great Alessandro Del Piero needs more protection on the field after enduring another bruising match for Sydney FC in Australia’s uncompromising A-League, according to his coach Frank Farina.

The 38-year-old World Cup winner will miss the New Year’s Eve clash with Adelaide United on Monday after being targeted by defenders during Sydney’s shock 1-0 win over the league-leading Central Coast Mariners on Thursday.

“He got fouled eight or 10 times during the match and with the short turnaround he hasn’t been able to train and he’s not fit to play,” Farina told reporters on Sunday.

“It’s a blow for us and a shame for the people of Adelaide but I think there needs to be better protection for him on the field. “We play a physical game and Alessandro is a big boy who can handle himself but he is getting kicked repeatedly and if that continues he will miss games through injury.”

Spanish tennis player Rafa Nadal poses after an interview with Reuters in Madrid, on 18 Sept, 2012. —REUTERS

Inter Milan’s Wesley Sneijder reacts during the Serie A soccer match against Sturm, San Siro stadium in Milan on 23 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

Britain’s cyclist Bradley Wiggins attends the presentation of the itinerary of the 2013 Tour de France cycling race in Paris on 24 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

Former Juventus soccer player Alessandro Del Piero of Italy participates in his first training session with new club Sydney FC at Sydney Football Stadium on 18 Sept, 2012. —REUTERS
**Yangon Mayor oversees development tasks**

**Yangon, 30 Dec—** Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Region Minister for Development Affairs Mayor of Yangon U Hla Myint inspected sanitation on 11th Street between Anawrahta and Maha Bandoola Streets in Lammadaw Township yesterday morning. He also looked into placing of concrete at the jetty of Bayintnaung Brokerage and the car park for trucks at the brokerage, at Dagon-Ayeeya brokerage and highway bus terminal and passenger lounge. He also inspected tasks of waterworks and repaving of Khayaybin Road in Mingaladaw Township and Thunanda Creek Bridge in North Okakala Township.—MNA

**India’s oldest club hit with two-year ban**

**New Delhi, 30 Dec—** India’s oldest football club, Mohun Bagan, have been hit with a two-year ban from the Indian Football Federation (IFF) for having two foreign players instead of the stipulated three in its field during the last I-League season.

Mohun Bagan were trailing their arch-rivals 1-0 on 9 December in the eastern Indian city of Kolkata when one of their players was hit by a stone hurled from the stands.

The match resumed after a near 15-minute interruption but Mohun Bagan, founded in 1889, did not return to the field. The All India Football Federation (AIFF) appointed a retired judge to look into the case and his finding got the approval of an I-League Core Committee on Saturday.

An AIFF statement said Mohun Bagan had been thrown out of the ongoing I-League competition, their matches had been declared null and void, and they would be disqualified from the next two editions of the league.

The club would also have to “return to the I-League any financial stipends that had been paid to it by the I-League throughout the competition 2012-2013 or forfeit the right to the same,” the AIFF said in a statement.

A revised fixture and points table would soon be issued, the AIFF added.

The I-League committee will decide on any additional sanction or fine, said in a 9 January meeting where the club would be asked to present its case. —Reuters

**Another Bale booking takes shine off Spurs win**

**London, 30 Dec—** Tottenham Hotspur winger Gareth Bale is regarded as one of the most exciting players in the world but rightly or wrongly he now has a darker reputation as one of the game’s biggest divers after another booking on Saturday.

In-form Spurs won 2-1 at Sunderland to move third in the Premier League after the ball into his own net and paused for action on 9 January meeting where the club would be asked to present its case. —Reuters

**Dzeko inspires City as United seal win**

**London, 30 Dec—** Edin Dzeko shone to give 10-man Manchester City a battling 4-3 victory at Norwich City but leaders Manchester United also won as own goals and more controversial refereeing marked the last Saturday of 2012.

City striker Dzeko scored twice in the first two minutes and another of his

**Vilanova will be back in 15 to 20 days, say Barca**

**Madrid, 30 Dec—** Barcelona president Sandro Rosell says coach Tito Vilanova, who suffered a recurrence of cancer in his salivary glands earlier this month, will be back at work midway through January.

Vilanova underwent surgery on 20 December, a day after the club announced that the 44-year-old’s condition had returned. He first had treatment in 2011. “He’ll be back within 15 or 20 days, but he must spend some days at the hospital and rest,” Rosell told reporters in Dubai on Friday.

“He will mix work with his treatment. The most important thing is his health. Right now football comes second,” added Rosell.

Barcelona have made a record-breaking start to their first season under Vilanova, who replaced friend Pep Guardiola at the helm at the end of the last term, by dropping only two points in 17 matches to lead La Liga by nine points. Assistant Jordi Roura is taking charge in his absence. Barca’s next league match is at home to city rivals Espanyol on 6 January. —Reuters

**Manchester United maintain their seven-point advantage over City at the top after a 4-3 victory at Norwich City.**

**Manchester United**

Manchester United maintained their seven-point advantage over City at the top after a 4-3 victory at Norwich City. United boss Alex Ferguson told the BBC, “When I brought him and Paul Scholes on they settled the game down for us. West Brom dominated in the second half and kept pumping the ball into our box.”

“We’re in a good position. We’re halfway there.”

City striker Dzeko scored twice in the first two minutes and another of his

**Tottenham Hotspur’s Gareth Bale reacts after being booked for diving during their English Premier League match at Sunderland in Sunderland, northern England on 29 Dec, 2012.—Reuters**

**Man United**

Man United maintained their seven-point advantage over City at the top after a 4-3 victory at Norwich City. United boss Alex Ferguson told the BBC, “When I brought him and Paul Scholes on they settled the game down for us. West Brom dominated in the second half and kept pumping the ball into our box.”

“We’re in a good position. We’re halfway there.”

City striker Dzeko scored twice in the first two minutes and another of his
Movies, being able to depict histories, real life stories, future scenarios, common characteristics and unique qualities of national races communities of respective regions, can manifest national identity, crucial for the nation.

Union Minister U Aung Kyi addresses Myanmar Motion Picture Outstanding Awards (Academy Awards) Presentation ceremony 2011.—MNA

YANGON, 30 Dec — The ceremony to present Myanmar Motion Picture Outstanding Awards (Academy Awards) for 2011 was held this evening.

More movie fans, film artists and technicians attended the Academy award-giving ceremony held in Yangon this year.

Of 15 movies shown in 2011, Academy awards went to movies with outstanding artistic skills.

Union Minister for Information U Aung Kyi and wife Daw Thet Thet Swe, Union Minister at President Office U Soe Thein, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Chairman of Pyithu Hlutatw Sports, Culture and Public Relations Development Committee Thura U Aye attended the ceremony held at National Indoor-Stadium (1), Thuwunna, here.

Union Minister U Aung Kyi delivered an address at the ceremony.

At this ceremony film artists and technicians for their outstanding performances in the Myanmar movies screened in the year 2011 will be honoured. These award winners were selected by Myanmar Motion Picture Outstanding Award Scrutiny Committee Thura U Aye Myint, Pyithu Hlutatw and Amyotha Hlutatw representatives, Yangon Region Hlutatw Speaker U Sein Tin Win, Deputy Minister for Information U Paik Htwe, Yangon Region ministers, Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Sebastianus Sumarsono and ambassadors and charges d’ affaires ai of embassies in Yangon and their wives, departmental heads, members of the Committee for Development of Myanmar Motion Pictures and responsible persons of Movie and Video Censorship Committee, Myanmar Motion Picture Organization, Myanmar Music Organization, Myanmar Drama Artists and Artisans Organization, Myanmar Writers Association, invited guests, film artists and technicians and movie fans.

As Yangon is the place where a large number of movie fans live, once again the ceremony is organized in the commercial capital beginning this year in accord with the wish of the movie world. By the way, there is a good news that starting from the ceremony to present awards for the films screened in 2013, the Myanmar Motion Picture Association will be the main organizer of the Myanmar Motion Picture Outstanding Award Presentation ceremonies in the coming years. Since communication system and fiberglass-used infrared-red ray data relay system apart from the capacity of conventional networks to send electronic images easily have created a large audience who are enjoying still pictures and sound-aided moving pictures at home.

With this current speed of communication technology advancement, it is sure that within coming few decades there will be networks sending pictures and sound movies round the clock to every home in every place of the world. So, the potential for the movie market is extremely high.

If film artists and technicians create scripts and words for pictures having high imagination, giving deep emotion and showing distinctive action with synchronized sound and music, they will become the country’s valuable human resources shaping a brighter future for their own industry.

If all stakeholders can solve the two most basis problems of production, which are copyright and distribution, through coordination, the success of Myanmar movie world will be within reach.

Art is the cultural treasury of characters of a nation or a society. (See page 9)