Bounden duty

Our government as elected by the people has been carrying out the bounden duty of national integration aspired by the entire nation, not because of push and pressure of any person or any organization but because of the desire of our people.

President U Thein Sein

(From the address delivered at the first anniversary of the government’s inauguration on 1-3-2012)
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 rightful legislative, administrative and judicial pillars

Insein Township sees two road accidents within three days

Yangon, 2 Jan — A container truck crashed into a taxi in front of Ywama Pariyyati Sarthintauk in Bayintnaw Road in Insein Township of Yangon Region at about 8.45 pm on 26 December.

The road accident occurred when the container truck driven by U Chit Swe of Thongwa Township hit the taxi driven by U Tin Tun Oo of Thongwa Township. The accident took place near Thanmani street in the township who drove out of Thanmani street in taxi driven by U Tin Tun Oo of Thongwa Township. The accident took place near Thanmani street in the township who drove out of Thanmani street in taxi driven by U Tin Tun Oo of Thongwa Township.

Next, the hard bike ride of Mandalay Hill Biking Contest organized

Mandalay, 2 Jan — Hailing the XXVII SEA Games, Mandalay Free Rider Association organized the first Mandalay Hill Biking Contest under the supervision of the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Cycling Federation at 7 am on 23 December.

Altogether 120 cyclists including eight selected Myanmar cyclists and those from eight cycling clubs in Mandalay started the race in front of the Sedona Hotel on 26th Street in Chanayethazan Ward and the mountain biking journey of 3.25 miles ended in front of the elevator of Mandalay Hill.

First, second and third prize winners were presented handsome prizes.

Community Cup 2013 goes to Yangon United FC

Yangon, 2 Jan — MNL League Champion Yangon United FC won Community Cup 2013 after defeating the Knockout Champion Ayeyawady United FC 1-0 at the match held at Aung San Stadium on 30 December.

Before the match, Myanmar Football Federation President U Zaw Zaw and Yangon United FC Chairman U Pyae Phyo Tay Za and responsible persons greeted players of both teams.

Next, those present took a one-minute silence for Air Bagan aircraft accident occurred in Heho Airport.

It was sweet revenge for the defeat of Yangon United FC air-baggy penalty shootout at the 2012 Community Cup match. Although both teams had a good game, the game ended at 1-0 as the winning goal for Yangon United FC came from its Striker Czar at 23 minute in the first half.

MFF organizes MNL pre-season press conference

Yangon, 2 Jan — Myanmar Football Federation organized a MNL pre-season press conference at its office on 31 December. On behalf of MFF President U Zaw Zaw, MFF General Secretary U Tin Aung spoke on the occasion, and responsible persons answered the queries raised by media persons.

In his answer to follow-up tasks of MFF, Media Director U Soe Moe Kyaw replied that Myanmar selected football players would have 170 days in the schedule to take training for 2013 SEA Games and explained preparations for meeting success in AFC Challenge Cup qualifiers and 2013 SEA Games.

Next, MFF General Secretary U Tin Aung said that MFF sent a letter to the Asia Football Federation to postpone the days when matches of AFC Cup in which Yangon United FC and Ayeyawady United FC would take part and that of AFC Challenge Cup in which Myanmar selected football team would participate as matches of two events coincide.

2013 MNL League will be held with the participation of 12 clubs on 5 January at Nay Pyi Taw, Taunggyi, Yangon, Mandalay and Monywa under home and away system.

So far, fourteen police posts have been stationed along the expressway.

During the period from July to December 2012, 51 were killed and 132 injured in 86 road accidents on the expressway.

Hot line set up to give quick response to traffic accidents on Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay expressway

Nay Pyi Taw, 2 Jan — Ministry of Construction will upgrade Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay expressway into an international standard expressway.

Although the expressway was put into service for the convenience of passengers meeting smooth and speedy transport service, substantial characteristics of the expressway and reckless driving have caused road accidents frequently.

Plans are underway to upgrade the expressway into four-lane each motorway, to revape and set up barriers along the expressway. Construction of 365-mile expressway started in October 2005.

To reduce traffic accidents, to enforce traffic disciplines and perform quick response to accidents, Expressway Police Corps was jointly-formed by the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Construction.

So far, fourteen police posts have been stationed along the expressway.

Shwe Myanmar to operate its maiden flight on 17 January

Mandalay, 2 Jan — Plans are underway to operate its maiden flight, Yangon-Mandalay route, with the Air Bus that can seat 108 passengers on 17 January 2013 by Shwe Myanmar Airlines.

The flight will leave Yangon at 8 am and arrive at Mandalay International Airport at 8.45 am on that day.

The return flight will leave here for Yangon at 9.30 am. Air fares for Yangon-Mandalay and for Mandalay-Yangon routes will be within the reach of the public.

The airlines will introduce a cheap fare at K 27000 for each way.

Hot line set up to give quick response to traffic accidents on Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay expressway
Dubai, 2 Jan—Iran has warned off foreign surveillance planes that have tried to approach its forces during naval drills in the Strait of Hormuz, an Iranian military spokesman said on Tuesday.

The drills, which began on Friday, are aimed at showcasing Iran’s military capability in the shipping route through which 40 percent of the world’s seaborne oil exports pass.

Iran has threatened to block the strait if it comes under military attack over its disputed nuclear programme. The United States has said it would not tolerate any obstruction of commercial traffic through the strait.

“So far about 30 warnings have been given to reconnaissance and surveillance planes of extra-reconnaissance and surveillance ships,” said Rastegari as saying the foreign planes kept away after Iran issued warnings because they were “afraid of being destroyed” by Iranian forces.

Six days of drills are taking place in an area of about 1 million sq km in the Strait of Hormuz, the Gulf of Oman and northern parts of the Indian Ocean.

State television reported that naval forces had successfully tested fire Quadruple-capable ‘coast-to-coast and ‘Nour’ (Light) surface-to-surface missiles.

Rastegari was quoted as saying by Iran’s English-language Press TV that the Qader cruise missile with a range of 200 km had “successfully and precisely hit its enemy target”.

On Sunday, Iran said its special forces and diving units had drilled defending ports and the coastline against attack.

Iran held a similar 10-day drill in December 2011 and sent a submarine and a destroyer into the Gulf four months just as US and allied navies were conducting exercises in the same waters to practice keeping oil shipping lanes open.

Israel has threatened to launch military strikes against Iran’s nuclear programme which many in the West fear is aimed at developing a nuclear weapons capability.

Iran is said it only is interested in generating electricity and other peaceful projects.

Wildfires still smolder in America’s West as 2013 approaches

CARRUTHERS, 2 Jan—Despite frozen, snow-covered ground, 2012 ended with smoke coming from a dozen smoldering wildfires in America’s West, as record dry conditions and an unprecedented number of huge fires in seven states resulted in the third worst fire season in US history.

“Even snow hasn’t put the fires out completely...the unburned fuels are slow to extinguish,” said Jennifer Jones, public affairs specialist for the US Forest Service in Oregon.

According to Jones, firefighters in the West now consider the wildfire season to be 12 months long, due to extreme heat and dryness during the past decade.

“After the New Year we start watching the Southwest carefully — states like Arizona and New Mexico,” Jones said. In 2012, the 297,000-acre Whitewater-Baldy Fire in New Mexico began in May and burned for seven months.

Forest fires burned 9.2 million acres across the United States in 2012, the third worst season since record taking began in 1960, and closely following 2006 and 2007, according to the National Interagency Fire Centre (NIFC) in Washington.

Across America, a total of 4,244 homes and structures were engulfed in 2012, well above the 10-year average of 2,598, according to the Fire and Aviation Management division of the US Forest Service in Washington.

The rampant 2012 wildfires tapped federal resources.

Trade, tax, transparency on June G8 meet agenda

Britain’s Prime Minister David Cameron leaves Downing Street in London on 19 Dec, 2012. REUTERS

London, 2 Jan—Trade, tax compliance and promoting greater transparency will be the main focus of the next meeting of leaders of the Group of Eight major economies in June, Britain said on Wednesday as it announced the group’s rotating presidency.

Prime Minister David Cameron said he hoped the group’s seven other member nations—the United States, France, Russia, Italy, Japan, Canada and Germany—would join Britain in trying to “fire up economies and drive prosperity”.

“At the heart of my agenda for the Summit are three issues—advancing trade, ensuring tax compliance and promoting greater transparency,” Cameron said in a letter to other G8 leaders.

The next G8 meeting is expected to be held in Lough Erne in Northern Ireland.

On trade, Cameron said deals between the European Union and Canada, Japan and the United States was on the table, and efforts are also expected to be made to close international tax loopholes and strengthen global tax standards.

Cameron also hopes to boost transparency and accountability of aid spending. —Reuters

At least 11 killed in Kenya road accident on New Year’s Eve

Nairobi, 2 Jan—At least 11 people were killed in a grisly road accident involving three vehicles in northwestern Kenya on New Year’s Eve, police said on Tuesday.

Deputy Traffic Police Commander Samuel Kimaru said the accident occurred after a speeding 14-seater public service vehicle heading to Nairobi from Busia in western Kenya rammed into a trailer also heading to the Kenyan capital.

“The 11 people who lost their lives were in the matatu which was heading to Nairobi. The accident took place at Salgaar, a black spot area when the matatu which was speeding hit a trailer which was being driven at a slow pace,” police said.

The matatu then lost control and hit a bus head on, Kimaru told Xinhua by telephone on Tuesday.

“We have lost many lives in Salgaar in the recent past despite our appeals to drivers to be more careful. We have started the New Year on a bad note but we hope our campaign to bring sanity on our roads will be successful this year,” he added. —Xinhua

Bomb kills two, injures 50 in Pakistani city of Karachi

Karachi, 2 Jan—A bomb exploded in a crowded area of Pakistan’s southern port city of Karachi on Tuesday, killing at least two people and wounding 50, police said.

Two of the injured were in a critical condition, police spokesman Imran Shahid said. The bomb appeared to have been planted on a motorbike. It was not immediately clear who or what was the target of the blast in the Aisha Manzil area of Karachi, although a political rally was happening nearby.

The explosion was heard several kilometres away. Karachi, home to 18 million people, is the financial capital of Pakistan but has been plagued by Islamic militancy as well as violent crime.—Reuters

Thousands of vehicles burnt in France on New Year’s eve

PARIS, 2 Jan — A total of 1,193 vehicles were burnt on the New Year’s Eve in France, in comparison with last official figure of 1,147 torched cars in 2009, French Interior Minister said on Tuesday.

“When it concerns insecurity, there is nothing to hide... There is no significant change from torched cars and two-wheelers of recent years,” Manuel Valls said.

Setting cars ablaze has become quite a tradition in French suburbs on New Year’s eve these years as a display of vandalism. On this New Year eve 53,000 policemen and gendarmes were mobilized across the country to secure safety in roads, in the famous Champs Elysee and in the Eiffel Tower where hundreds of thousands of people gathered for the New Year countdown.

One young man was killed in the Bas-Rhin in Monday’s celebration due to an explosion of a mortar type firework, while three policemen and four gendarmes suffered from slight injuries, according to the minister.—Xinhua

A Yemeni farmer stands in his Qat farm while he irrigates it on the outskirts of Sanaa, Yemen, on 1 Jan, 2013. Yemen is one of the most arid countries on the earth and relies almost exclusively on groundwater for its water supply. The amount of water used in agriculture in Yemen is currently about 91 percent with 40 percent for shrub irrigation, mildly narcotic leaves that are commonly chewed by most of Yemenis. Xinhua

A Yemeni man stands in a Qat farm near the capital, Sanaa, on 1 Jan, 2013. Xinhua
Vomiting Larry battles “Ferrari of the virus world”

**London, 2 Jan**—Poor Larry isn’t looking too good. He’s pale and clammy and he’s been projectile vomiting overnight and over again while his carers just stand by and watch.

Yet their lack of concern for Larry’s discomfort is not because of their intense interest in how far splashes of his vomit can fly, and how effectively they evade attempts to clean them up. Larry is a “humanoid simulated vomiting system” designed to help scientists analyze contagion. And like millions around the world right now, he’s struggling with norovirus—a disease one British expert describes as the “Ferrari of the virus world”.

“Norovirus is one of the most infectious viruses of man,” said Ian Goodfellow, a professor of virology at the department of pathology at Britain’s University of Cambridge, who has been studying noroviruses for 10 years.

It takes fewer than 20 virus particles to infect someone. So each droplet of vomit or gram of feces from an infected person can contain enough virus to infect more than 100,000 people.

Norovirus is hitting hard this year—and earlier too. In Britain so far this season, more than a million people are thought to have suffered the violent vomiting and diarrhea it can bring. The Health Protection Agency (HPA) said this high rate of infection relates closely to the winter months and says cases seen in Japan and Europe.

“In Australia the norovirus season also peaks during the winter, but this season it has gone on longer than usual and they are seeing cases into their summer,” it said in a statement. In the United States, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) say norovirus causes 21 million illnesses annually. Of those who get the virus, some 70,000 require hospitalization and around 800 die each year.

The HPA added that norovirus dates back more than 40 years and takes its name from the US City of Norwalk, Ohio, where there was an outbreak of acute gastroenteritis in school children in November 1968. Symptoms include a sudden onset of vomiting, which can be projectile, and diarrhea, which may be profuse and watery. Some victims also suffer fever, headaches and stomach cramps.

John Harris, an expert on the virus at Britain’s HPA, puts it simply: “Norovirus is very contagious and very unpleasant.”

What makes this such a formidable enemy is its ability to evade death from cleaning and to survive long periods outside a human host. Scientists have found norovirus can remain alive and well for 12 hours on hard surfaces and up to 12 days on contaminated fabrics such as carpets and upholstery.

In still water, it can survive for months, maybe even years. At the Health and Safety Laboratory in Derbyshire, northern England, where researcher Catherine Makinson developed the humanoid simulated vomiting system and nicknamed him “Vomiting Larry”, scientists analyzing how he vomits found that norovirus can spread over three metres.

“The dramatic nature of the vomiting episodes produces a lot of aerosolized vomit, much of which is invisible to the naked eye,” Goodfellow told Reuters.

Larry’s projections were easy to spot because he had been primed with a “vomitus substitute”, scientists explain, which included a fluorescent marker to help distinguish even small splashes—but they would not at all easily visible under standard white hospital lighting. Add the fact that norovirus is particularly resistant to normal household disinfectants and even alcohol hand gels, and it’s little wonder the sickness wreaks such havoc in hospitals, schools, nursing homes, cruise ships and hotels.

During the two weeks up to 23 December, there were 70 hospital outbreaks of norovirus reported in Britain, and last week a cruise ship that sails between New York and Britain’s Southampton docked in the Caribbean with about 200 people on board suffering suspected norovirus.

...Zynga carries out planned games shutdown, including ‘Petville’

**San Francisco, 2 Jan**—Social games publisher Zynga confirmed on Monday that it has carried out 11 of the planned shutdowns of 13 game titles, with “Petville” being the latest game on which it pulled the plug.

Zynga in October said it would shut down 13 underperforming titles after warning that its revenues were slowing as gamers fled from its once-popular titles published on the Facebook platform. The company projected large revenue and sharply revised its full-year outlook.

The San Francisco-based company announced the “Petville” shutdown two weeks ago on its Facebook page. All the 11 shutdowns occurred in December. Ten titles shut down or closed to new players include role-playing game “Mafia Wars 2”, “Vampire Wars” and “Petville”, the company toldtold on its Facebook page, some lamenting the game’s shutdown.

Zynga has said it is shifting focus to capture growth in mobile games. It also applied this month for a preliminary application to run real-money gambling games in Nevada.

Zynga is hoping that a lucrative real-money market could make up for declining revenue from games like “FarmVille” and other failing titles that still generate the bulk of its sales.

Zynga shares were up 1 percent at $2.36 in afternoon trade on Monday on the Nasdaq. —Reuters
Economy would dodge bullet for now under fiscal deal

WASHINGTON, 2 Jan—A deal worked out by US Senate leaders to avoid the “fiscal cliff,” was far from any “grand bargain” of deficit reduction measures. But if approved by the US House of Representatives, it could help the country steer clear of recession, although enough austerity would remain in place to likely keep the economy growing at a lacklustre pace.

The Senate approved a last-minute deal early on Tuesday morning to scale back $600 billion in scheduled tax hikes and government spending cuts that economists widely agree would tip the economy into recession. The deal would hike taxes permanently for household incomes over $450,000 a year, but keep existing lower rates in force for everyone else.

It would make permanent the alternative minimum tax “patch” that was set to expire, protecting middle-income Americans from being taxed as if they were rich. Scheduled cuts in defence and non-defence spending were simply postponed for two months. Economists said that if the emerging package were to become law, it would represent at least a temporary reprieve for the economy. “This keeps us out of recession for now,” said Menzie Chinn, an economist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The contours of the deal suggest that roughly one-third of the scheduled fiscal tightening could still take place, said Brett Ryan, an economist at Deutsche Bank in New York.

That is in line with what many financial firms on Wall Street and around the world expect. S&P is forecasting for economic growth of around 1.9 percent for 2013 would likely hold.

At midnight Monday, low tax rates enacted under then-President George W Bush in 2001 and 2003 expire. If the House agrees with the Senate — and there remained considerable doubt on that score — the new rates would be extended retroactively.

Otherwise, together with other planned tax hikes, the average household would pay an estimated $3,500 more in taxes, according to the Tax Policy Centre, a Washington think tank. Budget experts expect the economy would take a hit as families cut back on spending.—Reuters

Sharp considering raising $1.2 billion to beef up capital

TOKYO, 2 Jan—Struggling Japanese TV maker Sharp Corp (6753.T) is considering raising more than 100 billion yen ($1.2 billion) this spring to bolster its capital base, the Yomiuri newspaper reported on Tuesday.

The debt-laden company, whose displays are used in Apple Inc’s (AAPL.O) iPads and iPhones, was forced to seek a bailout from banks in September and has forecast a loss of 155 billion yen for the fiscal year to March 2013, hit by rising costs from a strong yen and tough competition from its South Korean rivals.

Sharp’s capital-to-asset ratio is likely to fall to around 8 percent in March. Its main creditor banks want Sharp’s capital-to-asset ratio to fall to about 10 percent with a mixture of steps including public and preferred share offerings as well as subordinated loans, the Japanese daily said, without citing sources.

Sharp will announce plans for a capital increase in February and hopes to use the proceeds to strengthen its capital base and its main liquid crystal display (LCD) panel business, according to the paper.

The company was not immediately available for comment.—Reuters

Major banks close to big settlement on home loans

WASHINGTON, 2 Jan — US regulators are close to securing another multi-billion-dollar settlement with the largest banks to resolve allegations that they unlawfully cut corners when foreclosing on delinquent borrowers, a source familiar with the talks said.

The settlement, which five big banks would be part of a larger deal that the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency hopes

Indian Nobel scientist Montalcini dies at 103

ROME, 2 Jan—Rita Levi Montalcini, joint winner of the Nobel Prize for Medicine and an Italian Senator for Life, died on Sunday at the age of 103, her family said.

The first Nobel laureate to reach 100 years of age, she won the prize in 1986 with American Stanley Cohen for their discovery of nerve growth factor (NGF), a protein that makes developing cells grow by stimulating surrounding nerve tissue.

Her research helped in the treatment of spinal cord injuries and has increased understanding of cardiovascular diseases, Alzheimer’s and conditions such as dementia and autism.

One of twins born to a Jewish family in Turin in 1909, Montalcini was the oldest living recipient of the prize.

During World War Two, the Allies’ bombing of Turin forced her to flee to the countryside where she established a mini-laboratory. She fled to Florence after the German invasion of Italy and lived in hiding there for a while, later working as a doctor in a refugee camp.

After the war she moved to St Louis in the United States to work at Washington University, where she went on to make her groundbreaking NGF discoveries.

She also set up a research unit in Rome and in 1975 became the first woman to be made a full member of the Vatican’s Pontifical Academy of Sciences in 1975. She won several other awards for her contributions to medical and scientific research.—Reuters
Twisted guard rail and debris line road side where tour bus careered off a mountain highway and plummeted from a snow-covered slope, killing nine passengers and injuring at least 27 others, in Oregon on 31 Dec, 2012.

PORTLAND, 2 Jan—Oregon authorities said on Tuesday they have managed to positively identify one of nine people killed on Sunday morning after a charter bus skidded off an icy mountain highway and crashed down an embankment.

Identification of the victims has been complicated because some were foreign nationals, said Eugene Gray, forensic administrator for the Oregon State Medical Examiner’s Office. The Korean Consulate in Seattle, Wash sent a team to work with investigators, since many of the 47 people on the bus were of Korean origin and citizens of Korea.

Some other passengers were Canadian and others were from the United States.

“We do positive identification with fingerprints, dental records and DNA,” Gray told Reuters. “None of this is available to us. We don’t know how long it will take. We have to wait until we’re provided the information.”

The same identification provided by authorities so far is that of Dale William Osborn, 57, from Spanaway, Washington, who was killed in the crash, officials said in a Press release on Tuesday.

His wife, 65-year-old Darlene Sue Osborn, was being treated at St Anthony Hospital, Pendleton.

The Oregon State Police said on Tuesday that one of the people killed in the crash may be a juvenile female. Of the nine people killed, four are male and five are female.

The tour bus veered off an icy highway on Sunday morning, crashed through a guardrail and plunged 200 feet down an embankment, killing nine and injuring most of the other 38 people on board.

The injured were taken to 10 hospitals in three states and at least nine remained hospitalized on Tuesday.—Reuters

ABIDJAN, 2 Jan—At least 61 people were crushed to death in a stampede after a New Year’s Eve fireworks display at a stadium in Ivory Coast’s main city Abidjan early on Tuesday, officials said.

Witnesses said police had tried to control crowds around the Felix Houphouet-Boigny Stadium following the celebrations, triggering a panic in which scores were trampled.

“The estimate we can give right now is 49 people hospitalised ... and 61 people dead,” said the chief of staff of Abidjan’s fire department Issa Sacko.

Crying women searched for missing family members outside the stadium on Tuesday morning. The area was covered in patches of dried blood and abandoned shoes.

“My two children came here yesterday. I told them not to come but they didn’t listen. They came when I was sleeping. What will I do?” said Assetou Toure, a cleaner.

Sanata Zoure, a market vendor injured in the incident, said New Year’s revellers going home after watching the fireworks had been stopped by police near the stadium.

“We were walking with our children and we came upon barricades, and people started falling into each other. We were tram- pled with our children,” she said. Another witness said police arrived to control the crowd after a mob began chasing a pickpocket.

Alasane Ouattara called the deaths a national tragedy and said an investigation was under way to find out what happened.

“I hope that we can determine what caused this drama so that we can ensure it never happens again,” he said after visiting the injured in hospital.

The country, once a stable economic hub for the continent, is struggling to recover from a 2011 civil war in which more than 3,000 people were killed.

Ivory Coast’s security forces once were among the best trained in the region, but a decade of political turmoil and the 2011 war has left them in disarray. At least 18 people were killed in another stampede during a football match in an Abidjan stadium in 2009.

Japanese passenger plane struck by lightning

OSAKA, 2 Jan—A passenger plane of a Japanese low-cost carrier was struck by lightning in the southwestern Japanese Prefecture of Fukuyuka on Tuesday, but all passengers and crew members were safe, local press reports said.

The Jetstar Japan’s GK-127 flight bound for Fukuyo- ka from Tokyo’s Narita Airport was struck by lightning around 3:00 pm local time just before it was landing at Fukuyuka Airport, the report said, adding that the plane landed safely after the incident and none of the 181 passengers and crew members was injured.

As the plane needs checks and possible repair work after the incident, said New Year’s Eve fireworks display in Abidjan on 1 Jan, 2013.—Reuters

Gunmen in Pakistan shoot dead seven aid workers near capital

PESHAWAR, 2 Jan—Gunmen ambushed and shot dead six Pakistani women aid workers and a male doctor on Tuesday, police said, and the charity they worked for said it suspected the attacks were linked to recent murders of polio vaccination workers.

Their vehicle was raked with gunfire as they returned home from work at a children’s community centre run by Pakistani charity Ujala, or Light, said district police officer Abdur Rashid Khan. Their driver was seriously wounded in the attack.

The shooting in Swabi District, about 75 km (45 miles) northwest of the capital of Islamabad, was the first attack on aid workers in the area. The victims worked at the centre for aid agency Support With Working Solutions, whose head Javed Akhtar said a tape had told their other 160 staff to suspend work following the killings.

The organization is involved in health education in underdeveloped parts of the country, Akhtar said.

It had run a school and dispensary in Swabi and helped vaccinate children against polio, a disease that can cripple or kill within hours of infection.

He suspected the shoot- ings might be linked to a string of attacks on polio vaccinators last month.

“This seemed to be part of the campaign against the polio drive by certain anti-polio elements,” he said.

Two weeks ago, gun- men killed nine health workers taking part in a national polio vaccina- tion drive in a series of at- tack. Most of the victims were young women earning about $2 a day.

Aid workers have fre- quently been kidnapped or killed in Pakistan, a nuclear- armed nation of 180 million that is struggling to contain a Taliban insurgency and plagued by endemic corrup- tion and violent crime.

Reuters

Ten crushed to death, 120 injured at Angola church event

LEBONI, 2 Jan—Ten people were crushed to death and 120 injured in the Angolan capital Luanda as they tried to enter an overcrowded stadium for a vigil organized by a Pentecostal church.

The event was held over the weekend in the southwestern Japanese Prefecture of Fukuyuka on Tuesday, but all passengers and crew members were safe, local press reports said.

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Ten crushed to death, 120 injured at Angola church event
Six people killed in Iraq’s violence

Baghdad, 2 Jan — Six people were killed and five wounded in separate attacks mainly targeting Iraqi security forces in northern and central Iraq on Tuesday, the police said.

A leader of a government-backed Awakening Council group and his aide were killed when gunmen attacked their car in a town near the city of Kirkuk, some 250 km north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, a local police source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The Awakening Council group, or Sahwa in Arabic, consists of armed groups, including some powerful anti-US Sunni insurgent groups which fought al-Qaeda militants in the Sunni Arab areas after the US-led invasion of Iraq.

Two civilians were killed and a third wounded in a roadside bomb explosion targeting a police patrol in Abu Ghrabi area, some 20 km west of Baghdad, a local police source anonymously told Xinhua. The police patrol was not hurt by the blast which apparently missed its target, the source said.

In a separate incident, a soldier was killed and another wounded when a roadside bomb struck their patrol in al-Shurta District in central Fallujah city, some 50 km west of the capital, the source added.

Meanwhile, a roadside bomb went off near an Iraqi army patrol in Tarmiyah area, some 40 km north of the capital, killing an officer and three of his soldiers, a local police source said.

Gabon sends 120 soldiers to Central African Republic

Libreville, 2 Jan — Gabon on Tuesday sent 120 soldiers to an interposition force of the Mission for Peace Consolidation in Central African Republic, where a newly formed Seleka rebellion is threatening the capital Bangui after targeting 10 northern and central towns since 12 Dec. 2012. The troops left the Gabonese capital Libreville in two groups.

The 30 soldiers in the first group went to Central African Republic on board a military aircraft early in the morning. The second group left midday after being received by Defence Minister Ruffin Odzounga.

“Please go there in honor of our country and accomplish conscientiously your mission,” said the Gabonese defence chief, who accompanied the soldiers on their way to the airport.

On Monday, the Republic of Congo also sent 120 troops to Bangui to reinforce a regional peace consolidation mission MICOPAX, which has been in the country since deployed in 2008 by the 10-member Economic Community of Central African States (CEECAC).

In late December 2012, the CEEAC held a summit in the Chadian capital N’Djamena to decide an interposition force of the Mission for Peace Consolidation in Central African Republic. The interposition force will be deployed between the government troops and the rebels which have advanced within 150 km of Bangui.

Putin calls for show of patriotism amongst Russians

Moscow, 2 Jan — President Vladimir Putin is calling on all Russians to show their patriotism and help “build a powerful, successful nation.”

Putin said in a statement released on the New Year’s Eve on the Kremlin website that positive personal changes were inseparable from Russia, “from our heartfelt, noble feelings toward our fatherland.”

Russia’s development and advancement fully depend on all citizens’ joint efforts and energy, unity and responsibility, aspirations and enthusiasm, Putin said.

“After all, together we can, the people of Russia, move confidently forward, withstand all challenges, resolve the most difficult problems, and build a powerful, successful nation and a modern, prosperous, free society,” Putin said.

Putin said 2012 was an important year for Russia and thanked all citizens for their work, trust and support.

Meanwhile, he urged Russians to be more responsive and benevolent, more generous, and caring toward their loved ones.

“Let there be joy and harmony in every home and in every family. Then Russia, too, will stand strong and indestructible,” Putin said.

Putin quoted from the final moments of 2012 to the early hours of 2013, as many as 8,200 holiday events took place in Russia, the Interior Ministry said.

Rival Sudans hold summit on Friday, signal concessions

Khartoum/Juba, 2 Jan — The leaders of Sudan and South Sudan will meet on Friday to discuss how to improve border security and resume vital oil flows, both sides said on Tuesday as the feuding African neighbours signalled possible concessions.

The countries, which fought one of Africa’s longest civil wars ending with a peace deal in 2005, signalised concessions ahead of the summit. Sudan’s President Omar Hassan al-Bashir and South Sudan’s Salva Kiir accepted an invitation from Ethiopia to meet in Addis Ababa, spokesmen for both governments said.

The African Union, backed by Western powers, had urged holding the talks to ease the stalemate over how to set up a demilitarised buffer zone along the disputed border after the countries came close to war in April. Bashir and Kiir agreed in September in Ethiopia to resume oil exports from the landlocked South through Sudan.

Juba shut down its oil production, a vital source of revenue for both countries, in January after failing to agree with Sudan on an export fee, one of several conflicts left over from South Sudan’s secession in 2011.

Neither country has yet withdrawn its respective army 10 km (six miles) from each other’s border, a condition to restart oil flows. Both accuse each other of supporting rebels on the other’s side, a speech on New Year’s Eve.

Kiir said the new republic he headed was willing to withdraw its troops from the 1,800-km (1,200-mile) long border.

Turkish fighter jets hit over 20 PKK targets in northern Iraq

Ankara, 2 Jan — Turkish fighter jets bombed over 20 targets of the outlawed Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK) in northern Iraq late Monday, private Dogan news agency reported on Tuesday.

Eight Turkish F-16 fighter jets hit the targets, after a Turkish army’s unmanned aerial vehicles detected some moving PKK groups in Zap, Avasin and Baysan regions in Northern Iraq, according to the report.

Turkish army targeted PKK members for two hours and destroyed targets including anti-aircraft batteries and hideouts which was set up by the PKK militants for winter conditions, said the report.

The PKK, listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the United States and the European Union, took up arms in 1984 in an attempt to create an ethnic homeland in southeastern Turkey.

Since then, more than 40,000 people have been killed in conflicts involving the group.

A similar operation was held in central Iraq in August, targeting the PKK’s infrastructure.

Colombian army kills 13 FARC rebels

Bogota, 2 Jan — Colombian troops killed at least 13 members of the rebel Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) in an air raid, a senior air force commander said on Tuesday.

The raid on early Monday targeted a rebel outpost in a rural area of Chigorodo in northeastern Antioquia state, killing seven men and six women from the FARC’s Fifth Front, said Gen Hugo Acosta, the operative commander of the Colombian Air Force.

President Juan Manuel Santos also revealed the anti-guerrilla operation via Twitter, saying “a total of 13 guerrilla members died in the operation against the FARC’s Fifth Front in Chirigoto (Antioquia).”

The FARC said in a statement that one of its prominent women guerrilla members was among the injured in the raid.

The government and the leftist FARC rebels had been holding peace talks in Cuba since 19 Nov in a new bid to end their five-decade armed conflict. The talks, which were suspended for the Christmas and New Year holidays, are to resume on 14 Jan.

Before the talks started, the rebels declared a unilateral two-month ceasefire lasting until 20 Jan as a goodwill gesture and called on the government to follow suit.

Santos, however, refused, insisting that the government would continue to fight the rebels until a definitive peace agreement is in place.

Hikers walk along Qinghai Lake, northwest China’s Qinghai Province, on 1 Jan, 2013. Over 700 people attended a 13-kilometre hike along Qinghai Lake to celebrate the New Year and promote the ideal of low-carbon lifestyle.

Xinhua
The need for initiative

As an old Myanmar saying goes, “When the boss nods his head, the good servant knows what it exactly means.” Myanmar was once a kingdom, a sweet remembrance for the nationalist people. The servants of Myanmar kings were so clever that they knew what to do to convince their superiors of their performance without needing a single word of command.

“Initiative” is the thing what most bosses demand, besides productivity. The government is also encouraging its employees to take initiative. Effective governance and transparency of the government are included in the framework adopted at third planning commission. But the decentralization is still intangible. While Myanmar is turning to democracy, its deeply-entrenched bureaucracy has yet to say “Goodbye”.

Elections could only make changes in the government which is constituted with a group of policy makers over government organizations. The administration mechanism formed with public servants could not be changed totally. However good policies the cabinet could adopt, there would be no success story if the mechanism is still corrupted.

In Myanmar, there is a custom that subordinates try to please superiors on routine visits with fantasies, concealing hideous realities. The civil servants used to keep quite silent for a long time, making them hard to speak out once again. There may be many issues to fix at the lower levels of the administration mechanism, but the responsibility of turning these passive servants to active ones falls on the upper structure because, if they lose the public trust, their career will no more survive.

Mine exploded on Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad

Nay Pyi Taw, 2 Jan—A mine blast occurred between Hopin and Nantkwim railway stations on Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad at about 11:10 pm yesterday. When the 43-uprain train arrived at No.3 and 4 Telegraph Rooms between the two stations, the mine started to explode.

Although the explosion claimed no lives, the coach BBEZ10584 of the train was derailed and two-feet long rail tracks and some sleepers were destroyed. Myanmar Railways staff are making concerted efforts in repair works to resume the service as quick as possible.—MNA

Tatmadaw seizes heavy weapons, arms, ammunition from transit point of KIA

Nay Pyi Taw, 2 Jan—The government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has made peace with ten armed groups so far to bring peace to the whole country and as conducted negotiations with KIA/KIO 11 times including Union-level peace talks.

Similarly, at the request of KIA to effectively solve the issue related to posting military outposts of KIA and the Tatmadaw, the Tatmadaw sent one Lt-Gen as a member of the peace making committee to hold talks with the KIA/KIO on 30 October, 2012. However, important issues could not be discussed as military leaders from KIA failed to participate in the talks.

Meanwhile, KIA blasted mines to attack the members of the Tatmadaw and some soldiers were injured and lost their lives during the attack when the Tatmadaw raided the quarry of Wai Aung Kabar Company in Phakant township acting on a tip-off on 29 August, 2012, that KIA was destroying the quarry and machinery.

On 18 December, 2012, KIA attacked the Kamai Police Station in Phakant Township and members of the Police Force and their families died due to an attack from the police station were lost.

KIA also blew up the Mandalay-Myitkyina freight train on 21 December, 2012, damaging rails, destroying coaches, damaging goods and leaving some employees injured.

On 30 December, 2012, KIA stormed the Taungmi militia outpost based at Taungmi Village-tract in Mogaung Township providing security to the rail transportation. During the raid, the militiamen were injured and arrested and arms were seized by KIA. KIA also sabotaged the rail tracks.

KIA blasted rail trucks over 30 times and sabotaged machinery for construction of road and bridge over 100 times as from June, 2011. KIA constantly damaged Myitkyina-Bhamo Road as the Tatmadaw is carrying out the security along the route.

Despite the fact that the Tatmadaw military columns informed the KIA of transportation of rations to Lagayyan military outpost ensuring the security of the route, the armed group attacked the Tatmadaw logistic troops in all the three times, causing casualties of soldiers of the Tatmadaw.

In another informed trip on 23 December, 2012, the logistic troops fell under attack, causing casualties. The Tatmadaw participated in peace talks, and did not launch offensives. The Tatmadaw troops cleared Point-771 hill and its surrounding areas where the KIA troops which were attacking the Tatmadaw logistic troops along the route were taking position and occupied the hill on 30 December, 2012. The air cover was used in the attack. Weapons and ammunition were seized from the KIA camp. The Tatmadaw troops are clearing remnants along the road, according to the Ministry of Defence. —MNA

New democracy nation...

Sanctions lifted

The United States of America issued an announcement on lifting some sanctions on money transfer to Myanmar on 8 May and Canada also suspended most of sanctions imposed against Myanmar.

On-arrival visa introduced

Visitors from 26 countries were allowed to get on-arrival visa at Yangon International Airport on 1 June. It is a significant sign for ensuring convenience of investors and economic development.

K 10000 notes into circulation

Central Bank of Myanmar announced on 7 June that K 10000 notes would go into circulation on 15 June.

Opening of Shwechaung Bridge No.1

Shwechaung Bridge No.1 (1) was put into service in Pakokku of Magway Region on 9 June.

Peace-making process recognized

Peace Donor Support Group showed full support for peace-making process led by Chairman of Union Peace-Making Central Committee President U Thein Sein in a meeting on 12 June.

Most sanctions lifted

Ministry of Labour released a statement that Myanmar citizens would enjoy special benefits in trading with EU thanks to lifting of most sanctions against Myanmar by E.U.

Reform speech

President U Thein Sein delivered a speech on reform process to be implemented for national development at the meeting hall of President Office on 19 June.

First meeting of Planning Commission

President U Thein Sein called for changes in mindset, ways of thinking and procedures for improvement in basic needs and socioeconomic status of the people at the first meeting of Planning Commission. Projects that guarantee profits to be chosen

President U Thein Sein stressed the need to choose projects that would guarantee profits to the nation and its people and strive for getting loans.

Opening of Social Protection Conference

In his address at the opening of Social Protection Conference on 30 June, President U Thein Sein said that enactment of new laws, amending and revoking of unpractical laws were ongoing for improvement in rights of labour and farmers.

Political pension increased

Finance and Revenue Ministry issued an order on 30 June that the pension rates of government employee and political pension rate has increased to improve socioeconomic status of the pensioners.

Many 65th Independence Day

We all are responsible to perpetuating the independence...

New Light of Myanmar

OPI ON & POEM

Our Independence

So bitter the situation was
Our country and people faced
Living under enslavement
Sovereignty and king were lost
Destroyed the colonialists
Our independence
And also our soul
The plans they used
And their wickedness
Went beyond limits
We once lost independence
But it is ever in memory
Our future and visions
They all descended
Whenever needed
Unity we restored
With daring spirit
Our blood and sweat
We all sacrificed
For the independence
We give everything
For people and nation
We love and cherish
Like our veins
And we treasure
Our Main Causes
Ever as our soul
Truth and justice
We keep in hearts
Ever devotedly
Never unfaithfully

Po Lay Lone Thaung Ko Ko

Trs: TMT
Books, CDs, VCDs donated to village library in Myaung Township

MYAUNG, 2 Jan—Under the auspices of U Win Hein and Daw Tin Tin Hlaing of Officer Housing at Thakin Mya Park in Ahlon Township, Diesel bowser hits lamp-post in Mawlu

MAWLU, 2 Jan—A diesel bowser hit the lamp-post with its rear near Mawlu railroad and police station at 5 pm on 27 December after unloading diesel barrels from it at the fuel station in Myanmar Ward in Mawlu.

Myanmar Alinn

Buddha Dhamma Desana recited

YANGON, 2 Jan—The recitation contest of Buddha Dhamma Desana, organized by Universities’ Buddhist Association (Yangon), was held at the Universities’ Dharmayon in Kamayut Township of Yangon Region on 30 December.

The contestants accepted for display

YANGON, 2 Jan—Myanmar Traditional Artistes and Artisans Association has invited fine arts works to be displayed at the Tatmadaw Convention Hall on U Wisara Road in Dagon Township of Yangon Region from 4 to 7 January 2013.

From 15 to 25 December 2012, the association accepted 949 items of fine arts works including paintings and sculptures.

Myanmar Alinn

New school buildings opened in Lewe Township

LEWE, 2 Jan—The opening ceremonies of school buildings were held at Kantha Basic Education High School Branch in Kantha Village-tract of Lewe Township and Chaungkyo Basic Education Post-Primary School in Chaungkyo Village-tract in Lewe Township on 30 December morning.

Member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Myint Swe and Lewe Township Administrator U Aung Lwin formally opened the school buildings.

The building of Kantha BEHS Branch cost K 17 million by the State and the people and that of Chaungkyo BEPS, K 13 million.

Myanmar Alinn

Five per cent tax handed over to DAC fund

AUNGLAN, 2 Jan—A ceremony to hand over five per cent of tax levied from tax payers for the first quarter in 2012-2013 fiscal year was held at the hall of Aunglan Township General Administration Department of Magway Region on 26 December.

Head of Township Internal Revenue Department U Maung Than handed over K 455,250 as five per cent tax to Executive Officer of Township Development Affairs Committee U Maung Maung Aye.

Myanmar Alinn

Literary Day marked

BAGO, 2 Jan—Jointly organized by Parent-Teacher Association and School Board of Trustees of South Zaingganai Ward Basic Education Primary School, the 5th literary talks in commemoration of the Literary Day was held at Malan Basic Education Primary School in South Zaingganai Ward on 28 December.

National Literary Award winners Poet Myinmu Maung Naing Moe and writer Kyu Kyu Thin gave talks on literary affairs.

Speaker of Bago Region Hutthaw U Win Tin and Chairman of Region Journalists Association U Sein Hein presented half of the PAT and SBT, presented gifts to the writers.

Myanmar Alinn

Students Futsal contest goes on in Pyapon

PYAPON, 2 Jan—Pyapon People’s Sports Ground was hit by natural disaster in recent years. After repairing the ground, sports contests are being held one after another so as to turn out outstanding athletes who would bring honour to the State.

On 29 December the U-19 student Futsal tournament was held at the sports ground in commemoration of the 65th Anniversary Independence Day. Among the spectators were Assistant Director U Aung Than of the Sports and Physical Education Department, townsmen, the township education officers and officials.

Altogether eight boy’s teams and four girls’ teams are taking part in the contest from 29 December to 4 January.

Myanmar Alinn

Tube-well launched in Thayet Township

THAYET, 2 Jan—The launch of a two-inch tube-well took place in Yethya Village-tract in Thayet Township of Magway Region on 29 December morning.

District Commissioner U Hla Wai, Executive Officer U Mya Lin of Township Development Affairs Committee and village-tract administrator U Kyaw Aung cut the ribbon to open the tube-well.

The tube-well was sunk with the contribution of K 2.5 million by the Township DAC for 2012-2013 fiscal year on the plot donated by wellwisher Daw Myint Myint Than of Htanay Village. Thanks to the tube-well, over 700 local people consume potable water at any time.—Myanmar Alinn

Free clinic opened in Yinmabin Township

YINMABIN, 2 Jan—A ceremony to open a free clinic by the name of Shwe Hsannwe Dhammda in Yinmabin Township was held in Hsinte Village of Yinmabin Township, Sagaing Region, on 27 December.

GP Dr Daw Khin Khin Htar and other surgeons explained the purpose of providing healthcare services.

Wellwishers donated medicines to Shwe Hsannwe Dhammda and cash to the fund.

Next, the Sayadaw and officials formally opened the clinic.

After that, general practitioners provided free medical treatments to the local people from Monywa District.—Myanmar Alinn
Drifting Shell drill ship grounds on rocks off Alaska

ANCHORAGE, 2 Jan—A large drill ship belonging to oil major Shell ran aground off Alaska on Monday night after drifting in stormy weather, company and government officials said.

The ship, the Kulluk, broke away from one of its tow lines on Monday afternoon and was driven to rocks just off Kodiak Island, where it grounded at about 9 pm Alaska time, officials said.

The 18-member crew had been evacuated by the Coast Guard late Saturday because of risks from the storm.

With winds reported at up to 60 miles an hour and Gulf of Alaska seas of up to 35 feet, responders were unable to keep the ship fromgrounding, said Coast Guard Commander Shane Montoya, the leader of the incident command team.

“We are now entering into the salvage and possible spill-response phase of this event,” Montoya told a news conference late on Monday night in Anchorage.

There were three minor injuries to people responding to the incident but all personnel have returned to duty.

There is no known spill and no reports of damage yet and a US Coast Guard helicopter overflight conducted shortly after the grounding detected no visible sheen.

A spokeswoman for the command team said it would do another overflight during daylight on Tuesday, weather permitting.

Reuters

China-Russia oil pipeline records 30 mln tonnes in delivery

HARBIN, 2 Jan—A China-Russia oil pipeline has transported 30 million tonnes of crude oil two years since it began operating, the Chinese operator of the pipeline said on Tuesday.

The pipeline, which delivers oil from Russia’s far-eastern region to fuel-hungry China through its northeastern provinces, has been regarded as a milestone project in the two countries’ energy cooperation.

Operation of the pipeline has been praised for reducing cost and raising efficiency of China’s oil import from Russia, which had previously relied on railway, said Wu Zhenming, an official with the Pipeline Branch of Petro China Co. Ltd (PBPC), the operator of the Chinese section of the pipeline.

The 1,000-km-long line originates in the Russian town of Skovorodino in the Amur region, enters China at Mohe and terminates at the Daging City in Heilongjiang Province. It was put to use on January 1, 2011.

According to an agreement signed between the two countries, the pipeline will transport 15 million tonnes of crude oil from Russia to China annually between 2011 to 2030.

China consumed 450 million tonnes of crude oil in 2011, of which 250 million tonnes were imported, and both the oil consumption and the proportion of import will continue to rise, according to China National Petroleum Corporation, China’s largest oil producer and supplier.

China is planning the construction of a natural gas pipeline linking Russia, and it has hoped to increase the annual oil transport volume on the pipeline to 30 million tonnes, Zhao Yujian, head of China Petroleum Pipeline Bureau, said previously.

Xinhua

Singapore doctor to testify in Delhi gang rape trial

NEW DELHI, 2 Jan—The Singaporean doctor who carried out the postmor-tem of the 23-year-old gang-rape victim will be included as a witness in the 50-page charge sheet to be filed against the six thugs who committed the crime at a fast-track court in the Indian capital on Thursday, the Press Trust of India reported on Tuesday.

The boyfriend of the victim will be the main witness in the case while the Singapore doctor, and the Indian embassy official in Singapore who received her death certificate would be asked to testify, the report quoted Delhi Police sources as saying.

Three sources said under the Indian law, it was mandatory for a doctor carrying out a postmortem in a medic-ico-legal case to be made a witness.

The rape victim died last Saturday at the Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singa-apore.

Xinhua

AU hails Africa successes in 2012, warns of challenges ahead

ADDIS ABABA, 2 Jan—In her New Year statement, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC), said Africa celebrated many successes in 2012 and that challenges await the continent in 2013.

She said Africa celebrated successes in many fields in 2012 as it sought to achieve its common vision of development, peace, and integration.

The AUC chief noted that the development outlook for the continent looks bright as Africa is now considered the next growth pole.

She declared that 2013 is the Golden Jubilee of the pan-African bloc and has the important events such as the 2013 African Cup of Nations.


The AU would continue working with member states on its different development programmes to build on the achievements registered so far, the AUC chief added.

Xinhua

Largest New Year celebration in US West held with rose parade

PASADENA, 2 Jan—The largest New Year celebration in the US West was held here on Tuesday morning with an estimated one million spectators watching the world famous Rose Parade along the 5.5-mile route and about 39 million viewers on television.

The traditional New Year celebration that can be traced back to 124 years ago in Pasadena, California, has gradually become a nation-wide event with world participation.

People came from different parts of the country, some from other countries, to watch the parade of 42 floats, all decorated with roses and fresh flowers and cost between 100,000 to 400,000 dollars each to be built.

The parade provided a best chance for people to participate and celebrate along the 5.5-mile Colorado Blvd. in Pasadena.

The route has actually become a camping site since the New Year’s Eve with many people sleeping along the street to wait for the parade starts at 8:00 am (1600 GMT).

Joe, a man in his 40s, told Xinhua that he came from Palm Spring, a small town about 150 miles away with his girl friend and two other friends.

He said he slept on the street with a blanket to keep warm. “It is my first time to watch the parade, but several years ago I volunteered to decorate the float and dreamed that I would have a chance to watch those floats on parade,” said Joe.

Xinhua

Seven arrested after central China shooting

WUHAN, 2 Jan—Police in central China’s Hubei province said on Tuesday they have arrested seven people for their suspected roles in a shooting that killed one and injured ten others on Monday evening.

A statement from the public security bureau of Wuhan, capital of Hubei, said home-made shotguns were used during the shooting that occurred in an abandoned house at around 9 pm. The incident was caused by a gambling dispute, it added.

The bureau did not provide more details, saying the investigation was under way.

There were three minor injuries being treated in two hospitals in Wuhan. Doctors said most of them were out of danger.

Criminal cases involving firearms are rare in China, which prohibits most private ownership of guns.

Xinhua
13-year-old arrested over alleged bomb threat in Singapore

SINGAPORE, 2 Jan—A 13-year-old boy was arrested in Singapore after he allegedly threatened to plant bombs in local casino resort Marina Bay Sands, police said on Tuesday.

The boy, believed to be from India but attending school in Singapore, said in a Facebook post that the day he leaves Singapore, he is going to take “a big big revenge” and “spit everywhere” and “plant bombs on Marina Bay Sands,” the online edition of Straits Times reported, quoting the police.

The post also contained an expletive and was critical of Singapore.

Police said earlier that they were also in touch with the school the student listed on his Facebook page.

The boy, who cannot be named as he is a minor, is believed to have posted the threat on his Facebook page last Saturday.

Police said the case is classified as a Breach of Prohibition Against False Threats of Terrorist Acts, local broadcaster Channel NewsAsia said.

The offence is punishable with a fine not exceeding 100,000 Singapore dollars (80,000 US dollars) or imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or both.

The Internet is freely available in Singapore but the authorities encourage responsible use of the internet.

Irresponsible comments can lead to legal cases like defamation or libel.—Xinhua

Afghan police kill two Taleban fighters, arresting 26

KABUL, 2 Jan—Afghan police during series of operations across the country have killed two Taleban militants and captured 26 others over the past 24 hours, Interior Ministry said in a statement released here on Tuesday.

“These operations have been conducted in Nangarhar, Kapisa, Kunduz, Maidan, Wardak, Logar, Ghazni and Helmand Provinces during which two Taleban rebels were killed and 26 others detained,” the statement added.

There were casualties on both forces, it said.

Taleban militants have yet to comment on it.—Xinhua

Indian warship visits Vietnam

HANOI, 2 Jan—Indian naval warship INS SUVARNA, carrying six officers and 70 sailors, docked at Tien Sa port in Da Nang city in central Vietnam on Tuesday, kicking off a three-day visit.

During their stay the crew will meet with the leaders of Da Nang’s People’s Committee, visit famous natural beauty spots and heritage sites near Da Nang city, and play a friendly volleyball match with soldiers of Navy High Command Zone 3 of Vietnam, according to Vietnamese state-run news agency VNA.

The visit by the Indian training vessel, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Nishyam Sundar, marks the 40th anniversary of ASEAN-India relations and the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and India.

Vietnam and India have intensified their ties in various fields, particularly defence and security, and held a defence dialogue in New Delhi last September, said VNA.—Xinhua

Abe’s new year greeting emphasizes economy revitalization

TOKYO, 2 Jan—Japan’s Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Tuesday that Japan’s top priority is to curb deflation and appreciation of its currency through bold monetary easing and flexible financial policies so as to revitalize its economy.

Abe made the remarks in his new year greeting and said duty of his government is to break through crises, namely slow reconstruction in quake-hit north Japan, prolonged deflation and challenges in territories.

The prime minister said the government has to restore Japan’s economy, education and diplomacy so as to win back public confidence in politics.

Abe called bold monetary policy, flexible financial policy and private sector stimulation as three pillars that to revitalize Japan’s economy, adding his government will spare no efforts to grab tangible results.

Abe emphasized that the most important thing is to quickly implement the policies, rather than shooting out words that can not be carried out. He also said Japan will enhance its alliance with the United States and rebuild relations with its neighbouring countries through an overall perspective.—Xinhua

Indian police say hundreds more had also turned up at office itself. The victim of the gang rape, a 23-year-old medical student, died last Saturday in a Singapore hospital, 13 days after being raped and brutalized by six thugs on a moving bus in south Delhi on 16 Dec.—Xinhua

Indian women hurry to obtain guns after gang rape

NEW DELHI, 2 Jan—The horrific gang rape in the Indian capital last month has spurred Indian women to apply for gun licenses and buy guns, local media reports.

The two bourses’ operations merged under Japan Exchange Group Inc with Indian Ministry of External Affairs said in a release. The annual list exchange has been taking place since 1992 under a bilateral pact between the two countries signed in 1988.

Both India and Pakistan are nuclear powers and have fought three major wars since 1947.—Xinhua

Kabul, Afghanistan on 1 Jan, 2013. Hundreds of refugee families received winter relief assistance on Marina Bay Sands,” the online edition of Straits Times reported, quoting the police.

An Afghan refugee carries winter relief assistance donated by Japan government for refugee people in Kabul, Afghanistan on 1 Jan, 2013. Hundreds of refugee families received winter relief assistance on Tuesday.—Xinhua

Tourists visit a beach resort in Sanya, south China’s Hainan Province, on 1 Jan, 2013, the New Year’s Day.—Xinhua

Tokyo, Osaka bourses launch joint holding company to merge operations

TOKYO, 2 Jan—Tokyo Stock Exchange Group Inc (TSE) and Osaka Securities Exchange Co (OSE) on Tuesday launched a joint holding company to further merge their operations.

The two bourses’ operations merged under Japan Exchange Group Inc with Indian women to apply for gun licenses and buy guns, local media reports.

The post also contained an expletive and was critical of Singapore.

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Tokyo, Osaka bourses launch joint holding company to merge operations

TOKYO, 2 Jan—Tokyo Stock Exchange Group Inc (TSE) and Osaka Securities Exchange Co (OSE) on Tuesday launched a joint holding company to merge operations.

The two bourses’ operations merged under Japan Exchange Group Inc with Indian Ministry of External Affairs said in a release. The annual list exchange has been taking place since 1992 under a bilateral pact between the two countries signed in 1988.

Both India and Pakistan are nuclear powers and have fought three major wars since 1947.—Xinhua

Kabul, Afghanistan on 1 Jan, 2013. Hundreds of refugee families received winter relief assistance on Marina Bay Sands,” the online edition of Straits Times reported, quoting the police.

An Afghan refugee carries winter relief assistance donated by Japan government for refugee people in Kabul, Afghanistan on 1 Jan, 2013. Hundreds of refugee families received winter relief assistance on Tuesday.—Xinhua

Tourists visit a beach resort in Sanya, south China’s Hainan Province, on 1 Jan, 2013, the New Year’s Day.—Xinhua
Monti aims for Italy vote majority, pro-Europe alliance

Rossi, 2 Jan—Outgoing Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti said on Monday he was aiming to win a majority in a parliamentary election in February and would seek alliances with parties agreeing with his pro-Europe agenda.

While not explicitly saying so, Monti appeared to indicate he was open to an alliance with the centre left — led by Pier Luigi Bersani, who polls say is on track to win the election — although media reports say Bersani's two-party coalition could win a comfortable majority in the lower house without taking a secure command of the Senate, possibly making an alliance with Monti's bloc crucial to creating a stable parliamentary majority.—Reuters

Nine murdered on farm in NW Colombia

Bogota, 2 Jan—Nine people were killed Monday on an upscale farm in the country's northwest in possible connection with drug traffickers, police said.

The victims were believed to have been killed in Envigado, a town in northwest state of Antioquia, to set accounts between drug traffickers, said police.

Several people entered the “luxurious” farm early Monday morning and shot the victims in the head with short- and long-range guns, said Yesid Vasquez, police commander of Medellin, Colombia's second-largest city and capital of Antioquia.

“So far, the identity of the victims is still unknown,” said Vasquez.

“There are nine bodies, four women and five men, but so far they haven't been identified,” Vasquez said a taxi driver discovered one of the bodies, then notified police, who later confirmed and discovered the remaining victims.

Local media reported that police were questioning a woman who survived the massacre.

The police have identified some of the victims, but so far they haven't been released to the press. The victims' remains were later identified by family members.

New York bomb suspects had “terrorist encyclopedia”

New York, 2 Jan—Police arrested a New York City couple in their apartment on Saturday after authorities investigating a credit card theft found a highly explosive compound, bomb-making manuals, a sawed-off HMTD, court documents show. One sheet of papers found in the apartment had a cover page that read “The Terrorist Encyclopedia,” according to court documents. Greenberg has been arrested and held without bail, according to a law enforcement official involved in the investigation, who was not authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation.

Gledマン said he had yet been arraigned on Monday morning, said a spokesman for Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr.

Police went to the couple's Greenwich Village apartment Saturday to question Gledマン, the daughter of a prominent New York doctor, to investigate a credit card theft, according to a second law enforcement official. At the apartment, detectives discovered a plastic bottle containing seven grams of Hexamethylene triperoxide diamine, or HMTD, court documents show.

HMTD is commonly used in homemade bombs. The discovery prompted the evacuation of nearby buildings, the second source said.

Police also discovered a cache of bomb-making manuals and handwritten notebooks containing chemical formulas, the second source said.

Ministry of Information

Printing and Publishing Enterprise

Open tender invitation for construction of retaining wall at Upper Myanmar Government Printing Press (Mandalay)

1. Open tenders are invited for construction of retaining wall (300 feet in length, 9 feet in height and 9 inches in thickness) and for adding the 1270 feet long old walls in thickness with 9 square inches reinforced concrete pile) and for adding the 1270 feet long old walls in thickness with 9 square inches reinforced con

2. Open tender applications, rules, architectural design of the wall and necessary data for the work are to be taken out from the following address from 9:30 hr to 11-1-2013 daily.

3. Written examinations will be held in Nay Pyi Taw, Region and States Governments, Candidates will be examined in Myanmar General Knowledge examination papers for 2 hours each on 4 April 2013 (Thursday) and English examination paper for 3 hours (from 09:00 am to 12:00 am) on 7 April 2013 (Sunday).

4. Open tender applications are to be submitted to the Ministry of Information from 13:00 hr to 15:00 hr on 18-1-2013. The overdue tenders will not be considered.

5. Those wishing to view the construction site and take detailed information may inquire Upper Myanmar Printing and Publishing Enterprise, Printing Department, Information Office 7, Nay Pyi Taw, Office 067-402205

6. Information from Office 7, Nay Pyi Taw - 067-402205

The address to submit tender forms

Procurement Committee

Ministry of Information

Office 7, Nay Pyi Taw

The address to submit tender forms

Procurement Committee

Ministry of Information

Office 7, Nay Pyi Taw

Phone No: 256916/256912/256921

The statement came a day after Bersani pressured Monti to choose sides. Silvio Berlusconi, the conservative

Mario Monti aims for Italy vote majority, pro-Europe alliance — led by Pier Luigi Bersani, who polls say is on track to win the election — although media reports say Bersani's two-party coalition could win a comfortable majority in the lower house without taking a secure command of the Senate, possibly making an alliance with Monti's bloc crucial to creating a stable parliamentary majority.—Reuters

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“So far, the identity of the victims is still unknown,” said Vasquez.

“There are nine bodies, four women and five men, but so far they haven’t been identified.”

Vasquez said a taxi driver discovered one of the bodies, then notified police, who later confirmed and discovered the remaining victims.

Local media reported that police were questioning a woman who survived the massacre. The police have offered a 20 million-peso (11,100-US$) reward in exchange for information leading to the capture of the assailants.
James Bond film Skyfall joins the USD 1 billion club

Los Angeles, 2 Jan—Daniel Craig starrer Skyfall has become the most successful James Bond film in the 007 spy series by crossing the USD 1 billion mark worldwide.

Directed by Sam Mendes and marking Craig’s third turn as the iconic spy, the movie reached the milestone yesterday when its worldwide tally hit USD 1 billion, by far the best showing of any Bond picture, not accounting for inflation, the Hollywood Reporter said.

“It is truly thrilling to reach this incredible milestone,” said MGM chairman-CEO Gary Barber.

Skyfall is also the third movie of 2012 to cross USD 1 billion in worldwide ticket sales after Disney and Marvel’s The Avengers (USD 1.51 billion) and Warner Bros’ The Dark Knight Rises (USD 1.08 billion). Only 14 films have grossed USD 1 billion or more so far.

Skyfall has grossed USD 289.6 million domestically and USD 710.6 million internationally, becoming the highest grossing film in Sony’s history and the first to jump USD 1 billion.

“TO see a film connect with audiences is always gratifying, but the success of this film is nothing short of extraordinary. After 50 years of entertaining audiences all over the world, Skyfall is the most successful James Bond film of all time,” Sony’s vice chairman Jeff Blake said.

The film, from Eon Productions, is the 23rd installment in the iconic British spy franchise. Skyfall also stars Javier Bardem, Judi Dench and Ralph Fiennes.—PTI

Daniel Radcliffe modelling acting career on Dustin Hoffman

London, 2 Jan—Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe has claimed that Dustin Hoffman is inspiring his ambitions to be a leading man.

The 23-year-old actor will next be appearing in the upcoming Kill Your Darlings, starring as the poet Allen Ginsberg.

Radcliffe said that he wants to follow in the footsteps of his idol Hoffman and is looking at the veteran star and his career, reported Daily Star.

“The person I’ve been looking at is Dustin Hoffman. In fact, I passed him the other day and he is absolutely on the smaller side, as am I. But he was in all those great roles, from action thrillers to romantic stuff. So there is a way of doing it unconventionally if you don’t necessarily look like the 6ft romantic lead,” he said.

Radcliffe also said that his controversial role in the explicit stage play Equus in 2007 helped establish him as a serious actor.

“Doing Equus was important. It showed people that I wasn’t just here to capitalise on the Potter fame for as long as I could. I think ultimately, I’m ambitious because I want to prove everyone wrong who thinks that it’s impossible to emerge from Harry Potter and do well,” he added.

Radcliffe was named the fifth best-value actor (based on salary to movie-gross ratio) in Hollywood in a recent list, placing behind Natalie Portman, Kristen Stewart, Shia LaBeouf and Robert Pattinson.—PTI

Tom Cruise’s date goes into hiding

New York, 2 Jan—Superstar Tom Cruise’s restaurant manager date Cynthia Jorge has gone into hiding after the media attention she got for going out with the actor.

The 26-year-old manager at Beauty and Essex landed on the cover of In Touch magazine for her date with Hollywood film. And stated his name,” a friend of Jorge’s said.

The friend added that Jorge was also thinking that maybe one of her two friends that went with her to Le Baron could have leaked the news.

“Jorge is concerned of Cruise thinking that she sold him out,” the friend added.—PTI

Lindsay Lohan to stay in on New Year’s eve

Los Angeles, 2 Jan—After a troublesome year with several run-ins with the law, actress Lindsay Lohan is reportedly planning to usher in 2013 quietly at home this time.

Her decision to stay in comes to avoid being sent back to jail for probation violations. According to sources, the 26-year-old has been telling friends that she will not be part of any wild parties this time, reported TMZ Online.

The actress wants to start the new year in a clean way and will return back to her hotel room in London after having a quiet dinner with friends. The Liz and Dick star is facing 245 days in prison after she failed to appear in court in Los Angeles for three misdemeanor charges, including lying to the police about a traffic incident this summer.

Lohan has been on probation after she was found guilty of stealing a necklace in July 2011.

The actress wants to change her fortunes.” Earlier apparently, Shoqit Sear had approached Freida for his upcoming John Abraham starrer. Our sources add that Motwane had asked his friend Navdeep (Manorama Six Feet Under) to make a film for his production house. We hear that the film will be heroine-oriented and the script has been penned by Navdeep.

Freida Pinto signs Bollywood film, finally

Mumbai, 2 Jan—Four years after making her big screen debut, sources say Freida Pinto has finally signed a Hindi film.

The actress became an overnight sensation after her first film Slumdog Millionaire won a bevy of international awards, be it the BAFTAs or the Academy Awards. The actress went on to star alongside Hollywood hottie James Franco and even inked a film with Woody Allen. But what remained on everyone’s mind is when she would actually sign a Bollywood film.

Looks like Freida is gearing up for her first Bollywood film. And according to sources, filmmakers Vikramaditya Motwane and Navdeep Singh have been working on a script that they have offered to her. A source says, “While her films abroad haven’t really worked wonders for her career, she has managed to stay in the spotlight thanks to her immaculate dressing sense and her so-called exotic looks. But this film could change her fortunes.”

Earlier apparently, Shoqit Sear had approached Freida for his upcoming John Abraham starrer. Our sources add that Motwane had asked his friend Navdeep (Manorama Six Feet Under) to make a film for his production house. We hear that the film will be heroine-oriented and the script has been penned by Navdeep.
Sharapova pulls out of Brisbane International

BRISBANE, 2 Jan—Maria Sharapova withdrew from the Brisbane International on Tuesday due to inflammation around her collarbone and the world No 2 is still unable to hit a serve just two weeks before the start of the Australian Open.

Sharapova, who spoke optimistically about the new season on Monday, was forced to pull out from her second-round match against Australia’s Jarmila Gajdosova in Brisbane, saying it was the “smart move” to make.

The French Open champion also pulled out of an exhibition match against Caroline Wozniacki at the BNP Paribas Masters in Paris last week because of a sore collarbone.

“That’s why I had to pull out of the exhibition match I had in Korea,” she said at a news conference on Tuesday.

“I had a bit of inflammation in my collarbone. My doc in New York told me I couldn’t really do much overhead training for about a week.

“So I’m still a bit, I haven’t really given myself a chance to pretty much hit any serves or anything over my head. Just been practicing getting my serve back.

“So I just kind of ran out of time here.” While the season’s first grand slam is set to start on 14 January, Sharapova was not overly concerned about her preparations.

“I still have quite a bit of time to prepare for the Australian Open,” she added. “I’m on the right track, been training really well, so I just don’t want to jeopardise what I’ve gained in the off-season so far. “I just have to make a smart move here.”

Sharapova said she expected to travel straight to Melbourne rather than make a late entry into the Sydney International next week.

“I have my own fair share of experience, and know that it’s much more important to be healthy to go into a big tournament like the Australian Open than to go into something big with a lot of matches and feel like you’re not prepared health-wise,” she said.

“You never know with these things. I mean, there are so many parts of the body where I’m sure if every one of us did an examination we would find a lot things wrong with us.”

Recovering Vilanova sees out 2012 with a game of padel

MADRID, 2 Jan—Barcelona coach Tito Vilanova, who has stepped aside temporarily while he recovers from a throat operation last month, was well enough to see out 2012 with a game of padel with his son Adria on Monday.

Adria, who is 15 and plays for Barca’s youth team, posted a photo of himself and his father standing on a court on his Twitter feed. Padel is a racket sport similar to tennis played in Spain and Latin America.

“This afternoon I said farewell to the year playing a game of padel with a special person,” Adria wrote.

“Happy New Year to everyone!” Barca announced last month that Villanova needed a second round of surgery following an operation to remove a tumour from his saliva glands in November.

Assistant coach Jordi Roura has stepped in until the 44-year-old is well enough to return.

He was released from hospital on 22 Dec and began a course of chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Club president Sandro Rosell said on Friday he should be back midway through January and would alternate work and his treatment.

Under his leadership, Barca have made a record-breaking unbeaten start to their La Liga campaign and top the standings with nine-point lead over second-placed Atlético Madrid. Their opening match of 2013 is at home to city rivals Espanyol on Sunday.

Neymar voted South America’s best player

SÃO PAULO, 2 Jan—San- tos and Brazil superstar Ney- mar has been voted South America’s best player for the second successive year by Uruguayan newspaper El País. The 20-year-old beat Corinthians striker Paolo Guerrero, who scored the winning goal in the World Club Cup final against Chel- sea, and compatriot Lucas Moura to the prize.

Neymar received 199 votes from sports journalists across Uruguay, giving him the award by some distance. Guerrero came second with 50 votes.

Recent Paris Saint-Ger- main acquisition Lucas was third, with Ronaldinho Gaúcho fourth and Flamíneus’s Fred fifth. The Santos striker continues to attract interest from the world’s biggest clubs but has insisted that he will stay at his boyhood club until after the World Cup in 2014.

 Auckland, 2 Jan—Los Angeles Galaxy have agreed to sign Italian goalkeeper Carlo Cudicini from Tottenham Hotspur on a free transfer, the Major League Soccer club said on Monday.

Cudicini, the 39-year- old former Chelsea player, has spent nearly four years at Spurs but has appeared in just one game so far this English Premier League season.

“Tottenham Hotspur’s goalkeeper Carlo Cudicini (R) makes a save on Los Angeles Galaxy’s Robbie Keane (L) during the first half of an international friendly soccer match in Carson, California on 24 July, 2012.”

Reuters

Spurs keeper Cudicini agrees to Los Angeles move

Murray knows must do more to become ‘Sir Andy’

BRISBANE, 2 Jan—Andy Murray is coming off a sea- son in which he became the first British man in 76 years to win a Grand Slam singles title and won Olympic gold at the London Games but the Scot does not think he has done enough to deserve a knighthood yet.

The 25-year-old received the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in a special UK New Year Honours list, though some of his supporters thought his vic- tories at the US Open and Olympics warranted a higher honour.

Bradley Wiggins, the first British cyclist to win the Tour de France, and Ben Ainslie, the most deco- rated Olympic yachtsman, received knighthoods but Murray said he would have to accomplish much more before he could perhaps one day join them.

“You need to do a lot, for a long time, to deserve an honour like that,” Murray told a news conference at the Brisbane International on Tuesday.

“A lot of the sportsmen and women have been given that just because their sport isn’t necessarily in the spotlight all the time, it’s easy to forget what they’ve done for 10, 15 years.—Reuters

Neymar (L) of the Ronaldo and Friends team controls the ball next to Christian Karembeu of the Zidane and Friends team during their “Match against Poverty” charity soccer match in Porto Alegre on 19 Dec, 2012.

Reuters

ReuterS
**View of New Year**

For the New Year 2013, some commodities were sold at 50% discount at Supermarkets and Department Store at Yangon. Many customers were crowded at Ruby Mart Supermarket and surrounding. You can see amazing animal under the Yangon Railway Station Bridge. Street Vendor sold polar bear came from Japan. It was so small. You cannot call it guinea pig. One bear costs 8000 k's.—Kyemon

**Missing out on Van Persie has hurt City, says Mancini**

**London, 2 Jan—Robin van Persie’s decision to join Manchester United instead of Manchester City is proving the difference in the race to the Premier League title, according to City manager Roberto Mancini.**

The Dutch striker joined United from Arsenal for a reported 24 million pounds ($39 million) last August and his 14 goals in 20 league games have helped Alex Ferguson’s team open a seven-point lead over Manchester, northern England on 29 Dec, 2012. He didn’t score in any of his last two appearances for United and Ferguson admitted he was not happy to the club’s second place, 13 points behind the league leaders. “At the moment he is unhappy for us but it is the difference between us,” Mancini told local media. “He has scored 14 Premier League goals and it is clear he has changed their situation.

“We were very close three or four months before he joined United. We were sure he was for us but it didn’t happen. “We wanted Van Persie because we knew he was totally different from our other strikers. We wanted to improve our team, particularly for the Champions League. We were very close to signing him, I know what the reason was (why he opted for United) but I won’t say. It was not about money.” When Van Persie, 29, joined United in the close season he said he had “listened to the little boy inside me”. “In these situations, when you have to make a hard decision in your life, I always listen to that little boy inside me. What does he want? That boy was dreaming for Manchester United,” he said.

With Van Persie forming a deadly partnership with Wayne Rooney, United have scored 50 goals in their first 20 games - 12 more than City, who are the league’s top scorers last season having raked up 36 goals in their first 20 games.

Sergio Aguero has been in superb form for most of the season but Carlos Tevez and Mario Balotelli have been off-form and Edin Dzeko has been forced to operate much of the time from the bench. —Reuters

**Nepal gets more tourists in 2012 despite political impasse**


Nepal, with eight out of 10 highest mountains in the world, has been one of the favourite destinations for tourists, including mountaineers, rock climbers and people seeking adventures.

Nepal celebrated 2012 as the “Visit Lumbini Year” to promote Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha, and attract more tourists. Nepal had celebrated 2011 as Nepal Tourism Year. The Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation termed tourism as “one of the major sources of employment in the rural and urban area”, Chinese tourists increased 17.6 percent in Nepal in 2012. The number of Chinese tourists visiting Nepal in 2011 was 45,400 and it increased to 53,373, according to the NTB data. 2012 was also celebrated as the China-Nepal Friendship Exchange Year.


But there are a few things Nepal government needs to increase number of tourists. “The first thing we need is direct flights from Kathmandu to major capitals in Asia and Europe,” Bhandari told Xinhua.

Nepal’s population has been increasing as the travel guidebook “Lonely Planet” has recently listed Nepal's Mustang district as one of the top three destinations for visitors in its new edition “Best in Travel 2013”. —Xinhua

He arrived with a bag of potential but was moulded into one of Europe’s most feared attacking midfielders with an uncanny knack of timing runs into the box and a magnet for the loose ball. His two goals against Everton showed that while the legs may not be able to carry him from box to box as they did in his heyday, his ability to be in the right place at the right time remains.

“Finding playing, I’m working hard in training, I’m loving being part of the team,” he added.

“That is all I can tell you for the minute and that is enough for me I am happy with that — to keep playing well and to contribute to days like today.”

Nepal has a new generation of attacking midfield players in Juan Mata, Oscar and Eden Hazard who are all capable of playing in the ‘hole’ while the high-energy Ramires patrols the central areas. —Reuters
India interested in Myanmar agriculture research & education

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan — The government of India would help Myanmar to establish the Advanced Centre for Agriculture Research and Education (ACARE Centre) at the University of Agriculture (Yezin) here to produce agriculturalists.

Indian government would provide technical assistance including laboratory equipment and Indian agriculturalists to train the postgraduate students of the university.

In his speech at the ceremony to drive stakes for building the centre today, Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing expressed thanks to Indian Ambassador Dr Viflur Sundararajan Seshadri for India’s commitment to development of the agricultural sector of Myanmar and expressed hopes for promoting bilateral cooperation in the agricultural sector.

During the ceremony, the Union minister, Indian ambassador and officials of the ministry drove the stakes for building the three-storey centre which would launch the research and education trainings in the 2012-2014 fiscal year. Nearly 200 post-graduate students are currently learning at the university.

KIA group disrupts regional development, security

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan— The government is making strenuous efforts for ensuring regional security, peace and stability and development in Kachin State. At the same time, talks with KIA group continue for reaching eternal peace. But KIA group still pursues destructive acts against regional development and security.

On 30 December, one KIA member died while planting a mine on Lonkhin-Tawkhmaw road (about four miles of Lonkhin police station) between Wahkyae village and Kahtan village in Phakant Township.

The same day, 20-member group led by Kyaukgyi Station Commander Tan Gwan of KIA Battalion (1) also attacked security members in the compound of Mayan village Monastery in Mogang Township.

In the incident, U Inphaw Hsin Wah (30 years) of Mayan village injured his right thigh and now is receiving medical treatment at Mogang People’s Hospital.

On 31 December, KIA group attacked surrounding areas of Myothit village from the hills about one mile east of Myothit Police Station in Momauk Township, with heavy weapons. Six shells were fired in the attack. They also destroyed pylon No.179 that links Waingmaw main power station, near Manwein village with three mines causing the pylon to tilt about 70 degree.

Chinese artistes join Myanmar counterparts for joint-performance

YANGON, 2 Jan— Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture and Xinxiang cultural troupe of the People’s Republic of China jointly performed entertainments at National Theatre in Dagon Township yesterday evening.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Region Hluttaw Speaker U Sein Tin Win, Region ministers and their wives, Chinese ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua and officials and guests enjoyed the entertainments. After the entertainment programme, the Chief Minister, the Chinese ambassador and Chairman of Chinese Merchants Association U Kyi Sein presented bouquets to the entertainers.

A beach to visit on the sidelines of Ngwehsaung trip

The floating Gorinjy beach bridges Chailay, Manwein villages and Gorinjy island, 25 miles from famous Ngwehsaung beach in Ayeyawady Region.

The double-sided beach is blessed with natural caves, coral reefs and other natural beauties, making it unique.

If anyone wants to visit the beach, they need to make the motorboat trip from Ngwehsaung along the coast. The trip also offers the scenic views of Hsinmakyun, Myinsi, Thityaung, Nghehtapaw, Migyaunggaung and Sabathar islands, and Taikthonelone coral reefs. The visitors could also enjoy the taste of natural beauties.

The visitors could also buy the dried fish on the beach which are products of fishing boats in the sea.

“It was completely water of about one mile when we were young,” U Nay Win, a local, said.

The silt has gathered and formed the land there since 20 or 30 years, he said.

“It’s amazing that the wells on this beach give fresh water.”

The island has the length of 9000 ft and the width of 2250 ft on which the highest hill is Busoe hill with a pagoda at the hilltop 275 ft above the sea level. The beautiful sunset could be enjoyed from the hilltop.

There are many caves on the island of which the ecosystem is still unspoiled. The nature also offers dwellers and villagers the shield against huge waves.

Local people claimed that their island could well become the smokeless industry, holding high potentials for ecotourism.

Byline: Pe Thaw Yi

MNA

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