President hosts dinner to mark 65th Anniversary Independence Day

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 Jan—President Agga Maha Thayaw Sithu, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win hosted the 65th Anniversary Independence Day reception and dinner at the lawns of the Presidential Palace here this evening.

Present on the occasion were Vice-President Dr Sai Maik Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmion, Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein and their wives, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy, Air) General Hla Hay Win, Union ministers, the Attorney-General of the Union, the Auditor-General of the Union, the Chairman of Union Civil Services Board, senior military officers from Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), chairpersons and secretaries of Hluttaw committees, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command, deputy ministers and their wives, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council, departmental heads, Dean of Diplomatic Corps Singaporean Ambassador Mr Robert Chua, ambassadors and diplomats from foreign missions and their wives, resident representatives of UN agencies and their wives, members of the central committee for holding 65th Anniversary Independence Day, chairpersons of subcommittees, chairpersons of political parties and special guests. Artistes presented entertainment to the accomplishment of Myanmar Modern Music Band before and during the reception and dinner. MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Information Team
Press Release (1/2013)
4 January 2013

The armed conflicts between Myanmar Tatmadaw (Myanmar Army) and KIO/KIA in Kachin State

1. Myanmar Tatmadaw (Myanmar Army) troops cleared and captured Point-771 hill and its surrounding areas in Kachin State where the KIO/KIA troops were taking position and mainly blocked the Myitkyina-Bhamo Union Highway to lay land mines, ambush the Tatmadaw military columns and threatening people not to be able to use the high way.

2. With regard to the matter mentioned above, the Spokesperson of the Secretary General of the United Nations issued a statement on 2 January 2013, in which it was stated that the Secretary General has taken serious note of Tatmadaw’s attack on KIA camps in Kachin State and called upon the Myanmar authorities to desist from any action that could endanger the lives of civilians living in the areas.

3. As the democratization process is being carried out in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with might and main, national reconsolidation and national unity are prerequisites for the peace, tranquility and development of the nation. The Government has been relentlessly working to achieve sustainable peace with various nationalities armed groups and have successfully reached peace agreements with all armed groups except KIO/KIA. Peace negotiations with KIO/KIA have already been conducted 11 times.

4. Although instruction has been given to the Tatmadaw to cease all offensive against the KIO/KIA, KIA constantly blasted mines to destroy railroads, roads and bridges, hampering the businesses, destroyed electricity gridlines and frequently laid landmines and ambushed security forces. Due to these circumstances, the Tatmadaw had to take military action as self defense and in order to protect the safety of lives and properties of the people, safe and smooth transportation and peace and tranquility of the region. Even though Tatmadaw had to take this action, it has exercised with maximum restraint in using force.

5. It is learnt that the areas captured and occupied by the Tatmadaw are the uninhabited hillocks that the KIA has set up strongholds to block the Myitkyina-Bhamo Union Highway.

6. The Government has provided temporary shelters, food, education and necessary healthcare to the families who were displaced from their homes since clashes between KIO/KIA and Tatmadaw troops broke out last year. The Government has also received assistance from the United Nations and International Organizations for the relief and rehabilitation works. It was found out that majority of the displaced persons were fled from their homes because of the threat and disturbance made by the KIA and they have come to take refuge in places where law and order prevail.

7. The Government will continue to strive to achieve everlasting peace with all nationalities armed groups for nation reconciliation and national Unity. Peace negotiations with KIO/KIA will also be continued. The Government always welcomes to work together with all national races and the entire people of Myanmar to achieve success in democratization process, sustainable development for the people and for the prevalence of peace and rule of law.
Chairman of Union Election Commission U Tin Aye speaking at the meeting with UEC and the Royal pair – MNA

Basic Principles of the Union of the Constitution saying that the Union practices genuine, disciplined multi-party democratic system and quoted the Section 404 of the Chapter 10: Political Parties, of the Constitution, saying that a political party shall set the objectives of the Our Three Main National Causes and shall be loyal to the State, and quoted the Section 405 of the Chapter 10 saying that a political party shall accept and practice a genuine and discipline-flourishing multi-party democratic system; abide by and respect the Constitution and the existing laws.

According to the organizational set-up and policies of the political parties, it is found that every political party trusts in the multi-party democratic system and is committed to working in the interests of the State and the people, he added.

He continued to say that the UEC has believed that the political parties play a major role in practicing the genuine and discipline-flourishing multi-party democratic system and has recognized the political parties as the organizations which, within and without the parliament while organizing and leading the people, are participating in the reforming process of the State and in implementing the peace and developmental tasks.

Regarding the objectives and activities of the political parties, the UEC Chairman welcomed and supported their activities of educating, holding discussion, getting announcements of the political parties with regard to the political, economical and social affairs in the interests of the people.

He continued to say that it is important that such actions of political parties are not contrary to the constitution and existing laws and all political parties and party members, being the members of the greater society, have to abide by legal provisions. They are also bound to appreciate and respect the role of the State and the people's reliance. They are to try harder and harder if they want to win public trust and are to try harder and harder if they want to win public reliance. They are to be broad-minded with foresight, and the political outlook, economic outlook, function with five outlooks – being the people’s agents serving public interests. They are to be whiter than white if they want to win public trust and are to try harder and harder if they want to win people’s reliance. They are to be broad-minded with foresight for stability and development of the nation. Party members are to subjugate their interests to party interests and sacrifice personal interests for national interests.

Though parties are different in tactics, they have the same objective – peace and stability of the State and socio-economic development of the people. They therefore need to cooperate for common goals setting aside the differences in interests of the nation, he added.

Libyan police captain abducted in Benghazi

Tripoli, 4 Jan—A police investigator was missing after being abducted in the militia-ridden Libyan City of Benghazi, police said on Thursday, but tests on a charred body showed it was not his. “The body that was found in Bengahzi was that of another man’s and not Captain al-Mahdawi,” Zeidan told reporters. “We wish that he is returned home safely to his family.”

Tripoli, Libya

Hillary Clinton aims to return to office next week

Washington, 4 Jan—The US State Department said on Thursday that Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is aiming to return to her office as early as next week following treatment for blood clot in her head.

“She’s resting at home. Some of the senior staff who spoke to her about half an hour ago say that she’s sounding terrific, upbeat, rating to go,” department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said at a regular news briefing.

“She’s looking forward to getting back to the office. She is very much planning to do so next week,” she added.

And Clinton is “committed to testifying” in Congress over the deadly attack on the US consulate in Bengahzi, Libya, an appearance she had set for 20 December but canceled later due to her illness, Nuland said.

Clinton, 65, was discharged from a New York hospital on Wednesday evening following days of treatment of a blood clot in a vein in her head, which was discovered after she sustained a concussion two weeks ago when she fainted and hit her head.

As the State Department put it, the top American envoy fainted as a result of dehydration caused by a stomach virus developed during her European tour last month.

Since taking office in January 2009, Clinton has visited 112 countries with a total mileage of over 950,000 miles, making her one of the most-traveled secretaries of state in American history. She has stated her intention to step down at the start of President Barack Obama’s second term in January, and the president has nominated Senator John Kerry to succeed her.

Kerry’s planned departure means that the top diplomat will be absent from State for the start of 2014, when the United Nations will be addressing the situation in Syria and will also host a conference of Middle East states to address the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

It also means that State Department will be responsible for the ensuing negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, as well as with regional partners. The department also has to deal with the changes in the region brought about by the Arab Spring, including the rise of ISIS in Libya, Egypt, and Iraq.

Eleven dead in Damascus gas station blast

Azaz, 4 Jan—At least 11 people were killed and 40 wounded when a car bomb exploded at a crowded petrol station in the Syrian capital Damascus on Thursday, opposition activists said.

The station was packed with people queuing for fuel that has become increasingly scarce during the country’s 21-month-long insurgency aimed at overthrowing President Bashar al-Assad. The semi-official al-Ikhbariya television station showed footage of 10 burnt bodies and Red Crescent workers searching for victims at the site.

The opposition Revolution Leadership Council in Damascus said the explosion was caused by a booby-trapped car.

There was no immediate indication of who was responsible for the bombing, in the Barzeh al-Balad District, whose residents include members of the Sunni Muslim majority and other religious and ethnic minorities. “The station is usually packed even when it has no fuel,” said an opposition activist who did not want to be named. “There are lots of people who sleep there overnight, waiting for early morning fuel consignments.”

It was the second time that a petrol station has been hit in Damascus this week. Dozens of people were incarcerated in an air strike as they waited for fuel on Wednesday, according to opposition sources.

In northern Syria, rebels were battling to seize an air base in their campaign against the air power that Assad has used to bomb rebel-held towns.

More than 60,000 people have been killed in the uprising and civil war, the United Nations said this week, a much higher death toll than previously thought.

After dramatic advances over the second half of 2012, the rebels now hold wide swathes of territory in the north and east, but they cannot protect towns and villages from Assad’s helicopters and jets. Hundreds of rebel fighters were attempting to storm the Taftanaz air base, near the highway that links Syria’s two main cities, Aleppo and Damascus.

UN chief welcomes summit meeting between Sudan, South Sudan

United Nations, 4 Jan—UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday said he “welcomes the holding of the Summit meeting between President Omar Al-Bashir of Sudan and President Salva Kiir of South Sudan” in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa.

The Summit meeting between the two presidents will take place on 4 January and will be hosted by Prime Minister Hailierimam De-salegn of Ethiopia with the facilitation of President Thabo Mbeki, chair of the African Union High-Lever Implementation Panel (AUHIP), said a statement issued here by Ban’s spokesperson.

“The Secretary-General encourages both Presidents to address decisively all outstanding issues between Sudan and South Sudan including security, border demarcation and the final status of the Abyei Area” and “to urgently activate agreed border security mechanisms, and implement all other agreements signed on 27 September 2012,” the statement said.

The UN Chief added that the world body stands ready to support the parties in implementing their agreements and to assist in the resolution of all remaining disputes. The summit slated for Friday has been regarded by observers as a “crossroads meeting” to overcome differences and reduce the economic and political tensions between the two countries.

The meeting is also considered by Suda- nians and South Sudanese as the last chance and a crossroad for the leadership of the two sides to settle their differences within the African framework. —Xinhua
New Light of Myanmar

Microsoft acquires start-up id8

S AN FRANCISCO, 4 Jan—Microsoft Corp bought start-up id8 Group R2 Studios Inc as it looks to expand further in technology focused on the home and entertainment, a person familiar with the situation said on Wednesday.

id8 Group R2 Studios was started in 2011 by Silicon Valley entrepreneur and investor Blake Krikorian. It recently launched a Google Android application to allow users to control home heating and lighting systems from smartphones.

Krikorian’s Sling Media - which was sold to EchoStar Communications in 2007 - made the “Slingbox” for watching TV on computers.

Krikorian will join Microsoft with a small team, accordinfg to the Wall Street Journal, which reported the acquisition earlier on Wednesday. Microsoft also purchased some patents owned by the start-up related to controlling electronic devices, the newspaper added.

Krikorian and a Microsoft spokesman declined to comment. Krikorian resigned from Amazon.com Inc’s board in late December after about a year and a half as a director at the company, the Internet’s largest retailer. —Reuters

TEPCO prepares to remove spent fuels

TOKYO, 4 Jan—Tokyo Electric Power Company plans to start removing spent fuel rods from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant this year. It will be the first major step in a decommissioning process that is expected to take 40 years.

The 11 March, 2011 earthquake and tsunami triggered meltdowns in three reactors, and a hydrogen explosion damaged the structure that houses a fourth reactor. During the initial stages of decommissioning, TEPCO workers will need to remove the spent fuel and dismantle reactor buildings, all while keeping melted fuel cool.

The first step in that process involves the removal of 1,533 spent fuel rods stored in the pool in the reactor 4 building. There is more used fuel there than in any other reactor building at the plant.

It will be a delicate operation, made even more sensitive by the fact that the hydrogen explosion raised concerns about the earthquake resistance of the structure.

TEPCO workers plan to begin the work in mid-November, with the aim of finishing it by the end of 2014.

They have already started bringing in parts of cranes and other heavy machinery to the site.

But high levels of radiation at the site and other problems have continued to slow the decommissioning process.

Last September, workers accidentally dropped a steel beam weighing 470 kilograms into the fuel pool of the reactor 3 building.

Nearly two years after the Fukushima accident, TEPCO must also speed up a survey in preparation for its plan to remove the melted fuel within 10 years.

In addition, it needs to accelerate efforts this year to develop remote-controlled robots that will help with that work. —NHK

Apple testing new iPhone, iOS 7

WASHINGTON, 4 Jan—Apple Inc has started testing a new iPhone and the next version of its iOS smartphone software, news website The Next Web reported.

The company’s shares rose as much as 4.3 percent but eased a little to trade up 3 percent at $5.46.11 by mid-day on the Nasdaq.

Application developers have found in their app usage logs references to a new iPhone identifier, iPhone 6.1, running iOS 7 operating system, the website reported.

Apple’s iPhone 5 bears the identifiers “iPhone 5.1” and “iPhone 5.2” and is powered by the iOS 6 operating system.

Developer logs show that the app requests originating from an internet address on Apple’s Cupertino campus, suggesting that Apple engineers are testing compatibility for some of the popular apps, the website said.

“Although OS and device data can be faked, the unique IP footprint leading back to Apple’s Cupertino campus leads us to believe this is not one of those attempts,” the website said.

Raymond James analyst Tavis McCourt, however, expects the next version of the iconic smartphone to be called iPhone 5S and not iPhone 6.

Apple typically tags the interim version of its phones with an “S” before moving on to a new version. iPhone 3GS followed iPhone 3G and iPhone 4S followed iPhone 4. McCourt also said he wouldn’t be surprised if Apple looked at an earlier launch because of the stress on its supply chain caused by late-year launches.

Apple launched iPhone 5 in September and it has been reported that the new iPhone will be released in the middle of 2013. Techdard.com reported last month that Apple could unveil the next version of its iPhone as early as the spring of 2013. —Reuters

Leading Chinese firms eye Israeli technology investments

TEL AVIV, 4 Jan—Leading Chinese companies are looking for investments in Israeli technology to help them keep pace with digital development, similar to what US companies have done in the past two decades.

A delegation of senior Chinese government leaders visited Israel last month in search of opportunities, pressing ahead with the trip despite rockets that fell near the commercial centre of the country during fighting with Gaza militants.

The delegation, led by Romania Chan, chairman of investment holding company Hang Lung Group, included the heads of Lenovo Group, China’s largest tech company; COFCO, investment banking and private equity firm Hina Group, China Merchants Bank and JP Morgan Chase in China.

Chan noted that many technologies in applications and products from companies such as Google and Intel originated in Israel, and Chinese companies would like to explore similar ventures.

“The sky is the limit,” Chan told Reuters. “Some companies can set up research and development centers here, some can bring Israeli companies to China, some can open up the Chinese market for Israeli companies. I have no idea where this will lead.”

Chan, a property magnate, said his family business owns technology companies around the world but has no investments in Israel.

Lenovo, which is on track to become the world’s No 1 PC maker, is interested in information and mobile technology.

Bilateral trade between China and Israel totaled $8 billion in 2011, according to China’s Foreign Ministry. Chinese have invested $3 billion in Israeli companies to date. The biggest investment was the $1.4 billion acquisition of 60 percent of MA Industries, the world’s largest maker of generic crop protection chemicals, by China National Chemical Corp (ChenChina) in late 2011.

“Since 2010, we saw for the first time significant Chinese investments in the real economy in Israel — in traditional industries like MA Industries and in the high-tech sector, in biotechnology and agrotechnology,” Finance Minister Yuval Steinitz told Reuters.

Edouard Cukierman, managing partner of private equity funds Catalyst Investments, which organized the delegation’s trip to Israel with the Foreign Ministry, said the visit by the Chinese companies could lead to acquisitions, investments in research and development centers and even the establishment of their own local operations.

“We are following up with each one of them, preparing specific action plans for each one of them,” Cukierman said. “They believe they can benefit from innovation in Israel more than the Americas did.”

Catalyst Partners is establishing a $100 million China-Israel technology fund that is expected to close in the first half of 2013. Cukierman hopes to eventually reach $200 million. —Reuters

Photo shows a J-15 taking off from China’s first aircraft carrier.—Reuters
BUSINESS & HEALTH

Budget deal leaves US defence sector in limbo

WASHINGTON, 4 Jan—Pentagon officials and weapons makers on Wednesday expressed relief after Congress approved a two-month delay in huge budget cuts, but warned that a longer-term fiscal solution is urgently needed to lift the uncertainty hanging over the sector.

“Congress hasn’t prevented the worst possible outcome by delaying sequestration for two months. Unfortunately, the cloud of sequestration remains,” Defence Secretary Leon Panetta said in a statement. “Congress cannot continue to just kick the can down the road.”

Votes by Congress on New Year’s Day delayed automatic budget cuts known as “sequestration” until 27 March, when lawmakers must vote to increase the US debt ceiling.

The 157-page deal reached on Tuesday to avert the “fiscal cliff” delayed $109 billion in US spending cuts including $54.7 billion due to come out of military spending, but left many larger issues unresolved.

Defence shares were lifted by a rally in the overall market as investors breathed a sigh of relief about the last-minute deal, but some companies’ shares lagged the broad market due to continued uncertainty about future military spending.

“Merely delaying sequestration by a couple of months will do little to resolve the uncertainty and chaos surrounding the defence budget,” said Todd Harrison, an analyst at the private Centre for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments.

Lockheed Martin Corp (LMT.N), the Pentagon’s biggest supplier, said it hoped the agreement would help eliminate the need for automatic across-the-board cuts it said would harm government programmes and national security.

Until then, “there will be an overhang on our industry that stirs investment in plant, equipment, people, and future research and development essential to the future health of our industry,” said Jennifer Whitlow, spokeswoman for the maker of F-35 fighter jets and Aegis missile defence systems.

Lockheed’s shares closed 20 percent higher on the New York Stock Exchange, trailing 2.5 percent gains for the overall

Asia stocks eke out gains on China hopes, oil easens

HONG KONG, 4 Jan—Most Asian stocks edged higher on Thursday on hopes of a steady economic revival in China, although oil gave back part of the previous session’s strong gains as investors took some money off the table and braced for more US budget battles.

The MSCI Asia Pacific ex-Japan index of stocks .MXP .AU rose 0.2 percent following Wednesday’s 2 percent jump on relief that US politicians had averted the “fiscal cliff”.

Data from China showing the services sector expanded in December continued to underpin expectations of an economic recovery that has helped spur a strong rally in Hong Kong-listed Chinese shares .HSCE over the past month.

The China Enterprises index .HSCE which rallied more than 4 percent in the previous session eased 0.2 percent. Onshore Chinese markets will resume trading on Friday.

“China looks like it’s improving at the margin and the market has momentum that could last for at least a few months,” said Christian Keilland, head of trading at BTIG in Hong Kong.

A trader walks at the Hong Kong Stock Exchange during morning trading on 15 Dec, 2011.—Reuters

Work toward practical application of iPS cells

Tokyo, 4 Jan—Several groups of Japanese researchers plan to accelerate work this year to put iPS cells to clinical trial and practical use.

The cells, developed by last year’s Nobel laureate in medicine Shinya Yamanaka, can be grown into any kind of human cell.

A team at RIKEN Kobe Institute hopes the cells will help blind patients regain their vision. It plans to create retina tissue and transplant it into patients suffering from an illness called age-related macular degeneration.

A hospital in Kobe is screening the team’s application. If approved, the world’s first clinical trial of iPS cells will start within this year.

A government-led research project will also start to develop drugs for incurable diseases using iPS cells.

Scientists at 5 research institutions, including Kyoto and Keio Universities, will create iPS cells from the tissues of patients suffering from Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s diseases, and from hereditary heart conditions.

They will transform the healthy iPS cells back into diseased tissue. Working with pharmaceutical firms, the researchers will use the tissue to study how diseases happen and how to treat them.

The project aims to develop new drugs and start clinical trial within 5 years. Professor Yamanaka’s academic home, Kyoto University, has also launched a project to create and store iPS cells, which could be used for transplanting.

A F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter is seen at the Naval Air Station (NAS) Patuxent River, Maryland on 20 Jan, 2012.—Reuters

Starbucks to open first outlet in Vietnam in early February

Minh City and reiterated that Asia continues to be a significant growth driver for the company.

“Vietnam is one of the most dynamic and exciting markets in the world and we are proud to add Vietnam as the 12th market across the China and Asia-Pacific region,” said John Culver, president, Starbucks China and Asia Pacific.

Starbucks already buys some of the highest-quality arabica coffee from Vietnam and said it is committed to sourcing more from the region in the long-run.

Vietnam is the second-biggest coffee producer in the world after Brazil. Starbucks operates more than 3,300 stores across 11 countries in the China and Asia-Pacific region.

Through its licensed partner, Coffee Concepts (Hong Kong) Ltd, a unit of Hong Kong’s Maxim’s Group, Starbucks operates more than 130 stores in Hong Kong and Macau. Last year, Starbucks opened its first store in India.

A sign is seen outside a Starbucks Coffee shop in central London on 3 Dec, 2012.—Reuters

Bayer’s Nexavar meets goal in thyroid cancer trial

FRANKFURT, 4 Jan—German drugmaker Bayer said its drug Nexavar reached a goal of improving the survival of patients with a certain type of thyroid cancer in a late-stage trial.

The logo of Germany’s largest drugmaker Bayer HealthCare Pharmaceuticals is pictured on the front of its building in Berlin on 28 April, 2011.—Reuters

It said on Thursday it plans to submit data from the trial as the basis for marketing approval of Nexavar to treat radioactive iodine refractory differentiated thyroid cancer.—Reuters

The cells, developed by Kyoto and Keio Universities, will also start to develop drugs for incurable diseases using iPS cells.

A hospital in Kobe is screening the team’s application. If approved, the world’s first clinical trial of iPS cells will start within this year.

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
Notification No. 1/2013
7th waning of Nadaw, 1374 ME (4th January 2013)

(Continued from yesterday)

Nuns

17. Nun Daw Khemaçari, Ayemyochaun Mawlaymine Nunery, Thawtapan Ward, Saguing, Sagaing Region
18. Nun Daw Gandhasari, Parahita Sasa Waponlatkar Nunery, Industrial Zone Ward, Ywabe Region, Pyay, Bago Region

Title recipient nun from abroad

19. Dr Nun Daw Dharmavijaya, Kimdol Nunery, Swayumbu Ward, Kathmandu, Nepal

Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Title

1. Bhaddanta Arindama, Zeya Waddy Monastery, Peinneedaw Ward, Dawei, Taninthayi Region
2. Bhaddanta Nan, Sitha Monastery, Moethei Monastery, Upektaw Ward, Aungmymethazan Township, Mandalay Region
3. Bhaddanta Dayama, Shwehonepewint Monastery, Shwebonwa Taikkyayu, U Shwe Gun Street, Ward 7, Pazandozaung Township, Yangon Region
4. Bhaddanta Revata, Theravada Hill Missionary Central Monastery, Anawrahta Road, Wamkaung Ward, Tachileik, Shan State
5. Bhaddanta Nanadipa, Thakhtatunyya Monastery, Taikkon Village, Maubin Township, Ayejayawady Region

Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Title

6. Bhaddanta Kossala, No 4 Monastic Education Post-Primary School, Nyaungmin Ward, Mogok Township, Mandalay Region
7. Bhaddanta Dhammiya, Seikthaka Monastery, Seinkantalan Village, Minla Township, Bago Region
8. Bhaddanta Sundara, Maha Santisukha Dhammavamsa Monastery, Nyunthi Village, Kyaukswe Township, Mandalay Region
9. Bhaddanta Kemaçara, Atula Maha Myakkyaw Monastery, at the foot of Yankin Hill, Patheingyi Township, Ywama Ward, Yangon Region
10. Bhaddanta Paññasami, Kumarayana Monastery and Yenmyin Tawya Parayyati Monastery, Popa Hill, Kyaukpaudaw Township, Mandalay Region
11. Bhaddanta Tejosarabhivamsa, Chanyawadi Monastery, Nayungthinbun Pariyatti Monastery, Mandalay Region
12. Bhaddanta Dhammi, Sagaing Monastery, Hninziiong X Ward, Thingyangyun Township, Yangon Region
13. Bhaddanta Janaka, Nay Nat Thar Monastery, Linlin (South) Ward, Swayumby Township, Yangon Region
14. Bhaddanta Sobhana, Myathetbyin Missionary Partyati Monastery and Parahita Monastic Education School, Wa Self-Administered Division, Hpan, Shan State
15. Bhaddanta Sundhammarambivamsa, Mogaung Monastery, Hinthada, Ayejayawady Region
16. Bhaddanta Varasenapati, Sasanadwyada Monastic Education School, Kathawin Village, Pantanaw Township, Sagaing Region

Title recipient Sayadaws from abroad

17. Bhaddanta Ñandasiri, Aungmingala Taikthit Monastery, Branch of Mogok Meditation No (43), No 14 Monastic Education Post-Primary School, Yadanamon Ward, Mogok Township, Mandalay Region
18. Bhaddanta Narada, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Myoma North Ward, Hopin, Mohinyin Township, Kachin State
20. Bhaddanta Jotika, Aungminla Monastery Region Missionary Centre, Ward 4, Myawady, Kayin State
22. Bhaddanta Sujata, Sthitthayaayee Parahita Missionary Education Post-Primary School, Myeik, Taninthayi Region
23. Bhaddanta Indaka, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Middle Kayan Special Region-3, Sib Village, Pekhon Township, Shan State
24. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Muni Central Missionary Monastery, Tmahkkhak Townshp, Kokeang Self-Administered Zone, Shan State

Title recipient Sayadaws from abroad (Continued from yesterday)

25. Ven. SAO Chanthol Chananthara, Wat Lanka Monastery, Cambodia
26. Bhaddanta Sotikasala, Maha Sasanayantyi Myanamar Monastery, Kyaungsu Township, Yangon Region
27. Rev. Shii Goung Quan, Ling Yin Si Monastery, Hangzhou, People’s Republic of China
28. Bhaddanta Khemaçara, Natkyaukyaw Monastery, Razarahtawil, Ringamonti Township, Ringam Township, Chittagong Hillgy Region, Bangladesh
29. Bhaddanta Vanarastra, Dibun Pali Monastery, Assam State, India

Laypersons

31. U Han Maung, Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College, Sittoung Road, Ward 61, Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township, Yangon Region

Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Title

32. Bhaddanta Candajoti, Missionary Education Post-Primary School, Ayethaya Waththi Monastery, Thanllama Meditation Centre, Mandalay Region
33. Bhaddanta Phuthavara, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre, Machanbaw, Kachin State
34. Bhaddanta Kusala, Hsoe Myothit Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre, Meisei Township, Kayah State
35. Bhaddanta Vijjuna, Parahita Myo Monastery Monastery, Pauk Khu Sub-Township, Hlainghwe Township, Kayin State
36. Bhaddanta Sobhana, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre, Sampya Ward, Mindat, Chin State
37. Bhaddanta Sumana, Theravada Buddhist Missionary (1 mile) Monastery, Talanlo Ward, Falam, Chin State
38. Bhaddanta Ācintita, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Thayagon Village, Hkamti Township, Sagaing Region
39. Bhaddanta Vayama, TaTU Monastic Education School, TaTU Monastery, Mahtaw Ward, Mawlaik Township, Sagaing Region
40. Bhaddanta Sundara, Tekkatho Mokk Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, 9-Mile Village, Kalay Township, Sagaing Region
41. Bhaddanta Sunaramolit, Kyaungsu Monastic Education School, Kyaungsu Monastery, Kyaungsu Township, Kyaungsu Village, Pobuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw
42. Bhaddanta Therdina, No 1 Missionary Education Monastery, Thiri Yadana Monastery, Kyauksaygiong Village, Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw
43. Bhaddanta Piriya, Aungmingla Taikthit Monastery, Branch of Mogok Meditation No (45), No 13 Ward, Toungoo, Bago Region
44. Bhaddanta Khemaçara, Natkyaukyaw Monastery, Mandalay Region

Title recipient Sayadaws from abroad

45. Bhaddanta Åd GREEN, Pyithayawde Mission Centre, Shwehiitha Ward, Kouwthong, Taninthayi Region
46. Bhaddanta Sutacara, Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Monastery, Ywama Ward, Nattalin, Bago Region
47. Bhaddanta Devindobhassabhivamsa, Mogok Meditation Centre, Thaybyin Monastery, Bawgawadi Ward, Kayakse, Mandalay Region
48. Bhaddanta Naemobhussa, Shwehhattha Parayyati Monastery, Mogha Monastery, Thawkutswin Ward, Thanlyin, Yangon Region
49. Bhaddanta Surya, Mahasi Sasana Missionary Monastery, Nantwe Village, Namkham Township, Shan State

Title recipient Sayadaws from abroad (Continued from yesterday)

50. Bhaddanta Chandara, Europ Buddha Missionary Monastery, Paris, French

Maha Kammathanacariya Title

51. Bhaddanta Chandara, Aung Mingala Mogok Yeiktha Monastery, Branch of Mogok Meditation No (43), No (13) Ward, Toungoo, Bago Region

(See page 7)
Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
Notification No. 1/2013
7th waning of Nadaw, 1374 ME
(4th January 2013)
(from page 6)

3. Bhaddanta Viroçana, NgweetaungU Meditation Monastery, Pontun Ward, Tachileik, Shan State
4. Bhaddanta Sukhaminda, Lwetienkham Monastery, Homon Ward, Muse, Shan State

Title recipient Sayadaw from abroad
5. Bhaddanta Rajinda, Thatpathan Yeiktha Monastery, No. 40, Jalan Malu Malu Semberweng, Singapore

Kamathanaçariya Title
1. Bhaddanta Kiçayaba, Zaybenog Mogok Meditation Monastery, Maung Monastery, Piyigymeythman Ward, Chanayetazan Township, Mandalay Region
2. Bhaddanta Manuñapasi, Buddha Yeiktha Monastery, Mandalay Region, Monas
3. Bhaddanta Honda Maha Sirisudhamma Singi Title
4. Bhaddanta Kavinda, Mijimamaramanakan (Mahasi Monastery), (Mankan) Selansusui Village, Muse Township, Shan State

4. Bhaddanta Paññaçarà, Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Monastery, Sayagong Ward, Waka, Aeyawady Region

Title recipient Sayadaws from Abroad
5. Bhaddanta Visadhidhiratana, Panpoothong of Thailand
6. Ven Bhikkhu Çhandapalo (Ashinsantapalaw), Santacittarama Monastery, Frasso Sabino of Italy

NATIONAL

Purchase of reserve rice, development rice market coordinated

MoU signed for feasibility study on gas and thermal power plant project

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 Jan—Investment of the private sector has increased thanks to ongoing economic reforms of the local government.

The Ministry of Electric Power and Union Resources & Engineering Co Ltd signed MoU on conducting feasibility study, for establishment of natural gas and thermal power plant in Thakayta of Yangon, at Nay Pyi Taw on 2 January.

Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe called for private investment either local or foreign to cut annual expenditure of the government and to increase power supply to the public. Currently, there are natural gas and coal power plant projects under feasibility study, with MoU signed for three gas engine power plant projects and one gas combined cycle factory project, and MOA signed for two gas combined cycle factory projects to be implemented with investments of local and foreign private investors as joint ventures. Also present on the occasion were Union Ministers and personnel of Union Resources and Engineering Co from China and Myanmar Resources and Engineering Co from Myanmar.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 Jan—A total of 1.01 million tons of rice and rice products were exported within nine months till December 2012; if export of rice continues in remaining three months of 2012-2013 fiscal year, the record will be put on exceeding that of 1995-96and2001-2002fiscal years, and it will be the largest volume of rice export in 46 years, said Union Minister for Commerce U Win Myint at the meeting to purchase reserve rice and rice market development meeting at the Ministry of Commerce on 2 January morning.

Rice will be purchased as quickly as possible for reserve stocking so as to prevent declining of price of rice. The reserve rice supervisory committee is to release its plans for the farmers through newspapers as of 3 January, he said.

The Union Minister stressed the need to release information to the farmers that the Ministry of Energy sells one bag of urea fertilizer at K14400. He said that as of 2 March, the workshops and seminars at Myanmar rice mills and farming machinery shows will be held for sales of rice mills and machinery to the farmers at reasonable prices.—MNA

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Happiness is a state of well-being agreeable to one’s nature, appeals to one’s state of mind, and satisfies one’s equanimity. Happiness is different in how it is interpreted such as contemplating on material aspects of life such as fame, wealth, position in society etc. It can also be equated to physical aspects such as emotional, intellectual or spiritual etc. Whatever we do, we do it essentially to achieve happiness. Happiness is a stage which can be gained through culture of the mind.

Happiness has different shades of meaning to different persons. Every individual tends to spend his lifetime in search of happiness, depending on the way he sees it, interprets it, enjoys it, abuses it, accepts it or renounces it. Dictionaries abound definitions of happiness such as good fortune, a state of well-being, contentment, pleasurable satisfaction etc. Anepicure’s measure of happiness: “Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die,” will surely be different from that of an ascetic and his Spartan code of discipline and frugality.

The mundane pleasures derived from happiness are temporary, transitory, elusive, and ephemeral in nature. When we are young we tend to focus our mind on physical attributes and achievement of life such as wealth, fame, honour and glory. We tend to react more on outside stimuli, conditioned by nature and environment. As we grow up we become more attuned to intellectual state of mind. We tend to reason more, study things on a higher perspective, gaining happiness and equanimity borne out of intellectual pursuits such as literature, science, philosophy, metaphysics, fiction, poetry and music etc. Thereafter we advance to spiritual plane, emphasizing more on philanthropy, justice, fair deal, compassion, equanimity etc. Owing to the limitations of life we can afford to make allowance for the failings of other less endowed beings and cultivate a sense of patience, tolerance and equanimity. One’s inner state of mind, tempered to purity through moral refinement and culture, will ultimately reach the pristine plane of happiness. As we all are frail mortals living in this cosmos for a wee speck of time, should we not make it worthwhile to create a haven of happiness around us while we live? Some time ago a lifelong friend gave me a handout listing the maxims of life worth to be carefully studied and memorized. The author read through them and tried to live by its maxims. However it is easier said than done, don’t you think? Irrespective of whether the author practices it or not, he feels that it be circulated to the reading public with wider reach like the NLM, thus rendering good service in general. Supposably, it is hereby reproduced as follows:

1. Make few promises.
2. Always speak the truth.
3. Keep a good company or none at all.
4. Always live within your means.
5. Live up to your engagements.
6. Not indulge in any kind of intoxicating liquor or psychotropic drugs.
7. Be just before you are generous.
8. Never play at any game of chance.
10. Maintain good character above all things.
11. Never borrow if you can avoid.
12. Keep yourself innocent if you like to be happy forever.
13. Make no haste to be rich if you like to prosper.
14. When you speak to a person, look at him in the face.
15. Do not marry until you are ready to support a wife.
16. Avoid temptation through fear that you may not be able to withstand it.
17. Never run into debt unless you can see a way out.
18. Good company and good conversation are the sinews of virtue.
19. Small and steady gains have competency with a tranquil mind.
20. When you retire to bed, think of what you have done for the day.
21. Your character cannot be essentially tarnished except by your own acts.
22. If no one speaks ill of you let your life be such that no one will believe him.
23. Never be idle, because the mind is the devil’s workshop.
24. When your hands cannot be employed usefully, attend to the culture of the mind.

Now as we grow old, as my friends are, in the eighties, in the third stage of life, happiness is viewed in a different perspective, in general. Supposably, it is hereby reproduced as follows:

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Ministry of Health
41st Myanmar Health Research Congress
7th to 11th January, 2013
Department of Medical Research
(Lower Myanmar)
No. 5, Ziwaka Road, Dagon Township, Yangon

Gravel road commissioned into service

BHAMO, 4 Jan—Stimulant tablets were seized from a person by motorcycle at the junction of 5th Mile Sien Village in Bhamo Township of Kachin State. A squad of SIP Aung Ko Naing from Bhamo Anti-Drug Special Squad searched Ko Yu Maung, 35, son of U Myint Thein of 71, Aungzeya Ward in Indaw Township under Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanma Alinn

Shwe Parami Health Foundation gives health care to people

NAVPYTAW, 4 Jan—Under the leadership of Ayeyawady Region Government and Region Health Department, the health care services, sponsored by Shwe Parami Health Foundation, was launched at the hall of Basic Education High School in Dakhla of Kangaidaut Township on 29 December.

Presiding Nayaka of the foundation Saydaw Bhaddanta Chandadhika of Shwe Parami Tawya, Ayeyawady Region Minister for Social Affairs U Tun Soe, the Deputy Head of Region Health Department and the chairman of the foundation cut the ribbon to launch the services.

They then viewed health care services being provided to patients in cardia, epidermis, women’s diseases, child, kidney, orthopaedic, ear, nose and throat, dental and eye care units.

With the assistance of the foundation, physicians, specialists and surgeons gave free health care services to over 5000 members of the Sangha and people on 28 and 29 December. A plan is underway to provide more health care services to the people.—Myanma Alinn

Extension of firewood plantations emphasized

NAVPYTAW, 4 Jan— Talks on use of high powered stoves and free distribution of stoves was held in Khinnmon Model Village of ChaungU Township and Kyeeok Village-tract in Monywa Township of Sagaing Region on 29 December.

Officer of Township Forest Department U Aung Myo Win who attend the presentation about the use of high powered stoves and free distribution of stoves.

The deputy minister inspected forest plantation at Phowintaung forest reserve in Yankinbin Township and Kaungmhudaw nursery in Sagaing Township.

The deputy minister met staff members of Dry Zone Greening Department and Forest Department at the Phowintaung nursery and gave necessary instructions on work.—Myanma Alinn

Stimulant tablets seized in Momauk

BHAMO, 4 Jan— Stimulant tablets were seized from a person by motorcycle at the junction of 5th Mile Sien Village in Bhamo Township of Kachin State. A squad of SIP Aung Ko Naing from Bhamo Anti-Drug Special Squad searched Ko Yu Maung who rode Kanbo 125 motorcycle from Momauk to Bhamo take action against Ko Yu Maung, 35, son of U Myint Thein of 71, Aungzeya Ward in Indaw Township under Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanma Alinn

Firewood distributed to local people

YANGON, 4 Jan—A car accident occurred in front of CP Fresh Market on Yangon–Insein Road in Kamayut Township at 6 pm on 30 December.

A Hilux from Aungtagun Taikkyi-Thiri Mingala Market bus line driven from Insein to Yangon hit the lamp-post on the traffic island.

Witness said that there was no injury although five passengers were on board the car.—Myanma Alinn

Hilux hits lamp-post on traffic island
Ukraine PM eyes 3.5 pct GDP growth in 2013

KIEV, 4 Jan—Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov said on Thursday, the country will aim for an economic growth of over 3.5 percent in 2013, compared with 1 percent in 2012. The prime minister made the forecast on the country’s gross domestic product (GDP) growth while he mapped out the agenda at his government’s first meeting in the new year.

“We need to step up efforts to promote economic growth and get GDP growth to more than 3.5 percent in 2013,” Azarov said.

Azarov called for more efforts to improve investment climate, effectively implement deregulation and create mechanisms for the promotion of investment.

Ukraine’s President Viktor Yanukovych said last week the economy is expected to grow by 1 percent in 2012, down from a previous estimation of 3.9 percent. According to the state budget of Ukraine for 2013, the nation’s GDP will grow by 3.4 percent while inflation is expected to stand at 4.8 percent and deficit will be at 3.2 percent of GDP.—Xinhua

Israel preparing hospitals for WMD, massive missile attacks

JERUSALEM, 4 Jan—The Israeli army’s Home Front Command is readying hospitals for multiple threats, including large-scale missile and chemical attacks, The Jerusalem Post reported on Thursday, citing a senior military official.

According to the report, all of the country’s 27 hospitals periodically undergo “intensive” emergency drills that test medical crews’ ability to deal with “mega-mass casualty” scenarios involving hundreds of injuries.

These drills, some of which are held unannounced, involve ambulances unloading as many as 700 volunteers simulating victims exposed to chemical and biological agents. Medical staff trained to identify VX, sarin, mustard gas and all other types of lethal agents, then employ standard treatment procedures, the report said.

“We train a lot for chemical weapons. This is our business, and only ours.”

However, the Home Front Command source told The Jerusalem Post Wednesday that he underscored, however, that ongoing preparations—overseen by the Home Front Command’s medical division and the Health Ministry—have been planned years in advance, and dismissed speculation that they are connected to recent threats assessments regarding Syria’s stockpiles of chemical weapons.

Tensions have been running high in Israel and the West in recent weeks over the possibility that an allegedly “desperate” Bashar Assad could use chemical weapons against rebel forces inching closer to Damascus, as fighting in and around the Syrian capital continues to exact a high number of civilian fatalities.

Israel has repeatedly said that it is closely monitoring developments along the northern border, and would respond to any attempt to transfer chemical weapons to Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed Lebanese militia.

Thursday’s report cited Home Front Command evaluations that Israel can expect a low casualty rate in the event of widespread conventional rocket and missile attacks from neighboring countries.

The evaluations are mainly based on statistics from previous conflicts that saw thousands of projectiles fired into Israel. The military source noted, for instance, that upwards of 10,000 rockets fired from the Gaza Strip between the year of 2000 and November 2012 resulted in 22 Israeli fatalities.

“That’s a casualty rate of one per 500 projectiles,” he told The Jerusalem Post.

Averring that “some people are fear mongering,” the source further noted that the 4,000 rockets fired by Hezbollah during the 2006 Lebanon war resulted in 44 deaths, while 30 Scud missiles fired at central Israel in the 1991 Gulf War claimed a single life.—Xinhua

US mortgage applications dive in final two weeks of 2012

WASHINGTON, 4 Jan—US mortgage applications lost momentum as mortgage rates ceased to decline further, the US Mortgage Bankers Association (MBA) said Thursday.

The association said the Market Composite Index of US mortgage applications, a measure of mortgage loan volume, dropped 21.6 percent in the week ending 28 Dec on a seasonally adjusted basis from two weeks ago.

The average contract interest rate for 30-year mortgages remained little changed at 3.34 percent, a little higher than its record low of 3.32 percent. Fifteen-year mortgage rates were up to 2.86 percent, also not far from its record low of 2.83 percent.

Therecord low mortgage rates have been acting as an important incentive for house refinancing and buying. With constant modest improvements recently, the US housing crash is said to have reached its bottom. However, many economists hold that the market still needs years to recover entirely as the bottom will be prolonged.—Xinhua

Egyption condemns UAE for arresting Egyptian expatriates

CAIRO, 4 Jan—Egypt’s Shura Council, the upper house of parliament, condemned on Thursday recent arrests of Egyptian expatriates in the United Arab Emirates over charges of spying and holding secret meetings for the Muslim Brotherhood.

Some officers of the notorious dissolved State Security Police in Egypt are currently working for a security apparatus in the UAE and using their tools against the poor Egyptians living there,” Gamal Heshmat, a Egyptian Shura Council member and leading member of the Muslim Brotherhood, told Xinhua.

Heshmat called on the Egyptian Foreign Ministry to adopt a strong position on the violations against Egyptian expatriates.

Egyptian Shura Council’s Committee for Arab and Foreign Affairs and National Security held a meeting on Thursday, during which they discussed the issue of Egyptian detainees abroad, particularly in the UAE, official news agency MENA reported.

On Wednesday, an Egyptian delegation, led by presidential adviser for foreign affairs Essam al-Haddad, went to the UAE in an attempt to defuse the crisis.

“The talks between Al-Haddad and the Emirati officials focused on enhancing bilateral relations and all ways and mechanisms to settle disputes so as to maintain strategic relations between the two countries,” MENA quoted Egypt’s ambassador to UAE Tamer Mansour as saying.

Al-Khaleej Emirati newspaper recently reported that the UAE security forces busted a cell linked to the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt, which had been holding secret meetings to recruit Egyptian expatriates, raising huge amount of fund and illegally transferring it to the group in Egypt.—Xinhua

Roadside bombing kills three, injures 15 in Iraqi capital

BAGHDAD, 4 Jan—Three people were killed and 15 others wounded by a roadside bombing in the New Baghdad area in the southeastern part of Iraqi capital Baghdad on Thursday, said the police.

A Baghdad police source, on condition of anonymity, told Xinhua that the attack targeted a bus carrying Shi'ite pilgrims but so far no one has claimed responsibility.

Earlier on Thursday, a car bombing killed 20 people and injured at least 40 others some 60 km off Baghdad. Shiites have recently been the major targets of terror attack in the restive country.—Xinhua

9.67 million Cambodians eligible to vote in July general election

PHNOM PENH, 4 Jan—Some 9.67 million Cambodians will be eligible to cast their ballots in the general elections on 28 July, the National Election Committee (NEC) announced on Friday.

Havan Sivilay, NEC’s member, told a press briefing there will be 19,009 polling stations in the forthcoming elections to elect the 123-seat parliament.

Political parties are required to register their parties and candidates at the NEC from late April to early May, according to a NEC Press release.

Cambodia holds a general election once in every five years. The last one was conducted in July 2008.

At that time, the Cambodian People’s Party of Prime Minister Hun Sen went 90 seats in the National Assembly, followed by the Sam Rainsy Party with 26 seats, the Human Rights Party with 3 seats, the Norodom Ranariddh Party and the Funcinpec Party with 2 seats each.

A citizen rides in snow on a street in Hangzhou, capital of east China’s Zhejiang Province, on 4 Jan, 2013. A heavy snow hit many parts of Zhejiang on Friday.—Xinhua

9.67 million Cambodians eligible to vote in July general election
Beijing marks New Year with shopping spree

Beijing, 4 Jan—Beijing’s major commercial outlets started the year 2013 with a business boom as shoppers prevailed over travelers as citizens’ favorite activity during the New Year holiday.

Beijing marked the “coldest New Year” from 1 to 3 January, with temperatures constantly dropping below minus-10 degrees Celsius, and the bitter cold might have contributed to the business boom by luring many holidaygoers into air-conditioned shopping malls.

Statistics from Beijing Commercial Information Consulting Centre show the 100 major commercial and service enterprises in the city recorded 2.34 billion yuan (372 million US dollars) in sales during the three-day holiday, rising 8.4 percent from a year earlier.

Gold products were among Beijingers’ most favoured shopping items due to traditional affections in the precious metal as New Year gifts and the upward trend in the gold price globally, according to the centre.

Cashikou and Guohua, two major gold markets in Beijing, raked in more than 400 million yuan from the three-day sales of gold products, the centre said.

Sales of household appliances was also sanguine, with the troika of Suning, Gome and Dazhong Electronics reporting a year-on-year increase of 14.1 percent in the three days’ sales revenue.

Despite the chilly weather, Beijing remained a magnet for domestic and foreign tourists. The city received 1.53 million visitors during the holiday, up 19.2 percent year on year, according to tourist authorities.

Beijing and Shanghai on Tuesday started the 72-hour visa-free stay policy, a move to encourage transit foreign visitors to travel and shop in the two cities.

Philippine govt’ hails leftist rebels’ re-extension of truce

Manila, 4 Jan—The Philippine government welcomed on Thursday a leftist rebel group’s decision of re-extending the ceasefire until 15 Jan, noting that this will benefit combatants on the ground.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), which had cut short its declared ceasefire with the government earlier this week, declared a re-extension of the truce until mid of this month.

“The government welcomes this change of heart from their earlier position. This gives our soldiers and members of the CPP- New People’s Army-National Democratic Front (NPA-NDF) more time to be with their loved ones,” presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda said here in a statement.

“The government is fully committed to honouring this ceasefire — a clear indication of our sincerity and determination to maintain peace and stability,” he added.

Representatives from the government and the CPP-NPA-ND met in The Hague, Netherlands, last month and agreed on a 90-day holiday truce that would last from 20 Dec, 2012 to 15 Jan, 2013.

Xinhua

Indonesian air forces to get 102 new planes this year

Jakarta, 4 Jan—Indonesian air forces commander Air Marshall Idag Bagus Putu Dunia said on Wednesday that 102 new planes of various types would join air forces’ fleet this year.

Speaking in a ceremony held at the air forces’ headquarters in Cilacapang, East Jakarta, Putu Dunia said that the air forces is one of the country’s essential components highly expected to uphold the country’s sovereignty and become a “power’’ in setting disputes with other country.

“As one of the country’s defence components, the government earlier this week, declared a re-extension of the truce until mid of this month.

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Representatives from the government and the CPP-NPA-ND met in The Hague, Netherlands, last month and agreed on a 90-day holiday truce that would last from 20 Dec, 2012 to 15 Jan, 2013.

Xinhua

Cambodian PM calls for border of peace with Thailand

Phnom Penh, 4 Jan—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Thursday appealed to both Cambodians and Thais along the border to get on with each other to build a border of peace, friendship, cooperation and development.

“All authorities along the two countries’ border provinces should try to build good relations for the two peoples in order to honour the two governments’ policy,” Hun Sen said during an inauguration ceremony of achievements in western Palin Province bordering Thailand’s Chanthaburi Province.

The ceremony was also attended by Phunusk Pranuthorphan, governor of Chanthaburi Province, and other Thai military commanders along the border.

“I wish to see people along the border to live in peace without worrying about gunfire exchange and house fire,” he said. “I’d like to urge the governors, all levels of authorities, and armed forces of the two nations’ border provinces to be friendly to each other to build a border of peace and cooperation.” Meanwhile, the premier warned that Thai side should not frequently close border checkpoints.

“Be careful, when you (Thai authorities) close the frontier, and Cambodia closes too, at that time, and Thailand will get lose because Thailand exports products to Cambodia in equivalent to more than 2 billion US dollars a year, while Cambodia exports items to Thailand only around 200 million US dollars,” he said.

Cambodia shares 805 km of border with Thailand to the west and northwest.

The two neighbours have had sporadic border conflicts over territorial dispute near Cambodia’s Preah Vihear Temple since the UNESCO listed the temple as a World Heritage Site on 7 July, 2008, but Thailand claims the ownership of 4.6 square kilometers of scrub next to the temple.—Xinhua

Poorest Chinese province to settle 100,000 in new homes

Guiyang, 4 Jan—A southwestern Chinese province with the largest impoverished population in the country will relocate more than 100,000 destitute rural residents into modern communities before spring 2013.

The move was part of a poverty alleviation project initiated last year to move 2 million farmers out of the province’s poverty-ridden mountainous and desert areas within nine years.

According to the province’s office on poverty relief and ecological migration, Guizhou built 180 new communities for the project in 2012, with a cost of 1.81 billion yuan (287.9 million US dollars).

The first batch of 101,300 farmers are expected to move into their new homes before this year’s Spring Festival, or Chinese Lunar New Year, according to the office.

Guizhou is home to 11.49 million rural residents who are struggling below the national poverty line for farmers, which was raised to 2,300 yuan per capita annual income in 2011.

The official said most of the communities were adjacent to towns and industrial parks where job opportunities abound, and the local governments will offer job training to help the farmers adapt to their new lives.

Those relocated near towns would have access to education, medical services and other social welfare enjoyed by urban dwellers.

Officials in Guizhou said the project would relocate another 250,000 farmers in 2013.—Xinhua

Four killed, eight injured in SW China pileup

Nanning, 4 Jan—At least four people were killed and another eight injured in a pileup of five vehicles on an ice-clad expressway section in south China’s Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region on Friday morning.

The Qianzhu City Fire Department said all the casualties were people in the two sedans which were deformed after being squeezed by a truck and an oil tanker.

The pileup occurred between the expressway linking Quanzhou and Xiang’an in the region, where cold snaps led to icy road.

The frost weather has also affected southern Province of Guizhou, where pileups involving 20 vehicles killed three people and injured many others Thursday evening on an expressway linking the province with Xiamen City in eastern Fujian Province. —Xinhua
**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 with 9 square inches reinforced concrete pile) and for adding the 1270 feet long old walls with three feet high and nine inches thick one.

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 16:00 hr from 7-1-2013 to 11-1-2013 daily.

3. The tender applications are to be submitted in the presence of the members of the tender committee at the Office No 7, Nay Pyi Taw of the Ministry of Information from13:00 hr to 15:00 hr on 18-1-2013. The overdue tenders will not be considered.

4. Those wishing to view the construction site and take detailed information may inquire Upper Myanmar Government printing press (Mandalay) and phone 067-412125 and 02-626926 in office hours.

The address to taken out the tender forms

Printing and Publishing Enterprise
Ministry of Information
Office No 7, Nay Pyi Taw
ph - 067 402205

The address to submit tender forms

Procurement Committee
Ministry of Information
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**Gun checks soar 39 percent, set new record**

WASHINGTON, 4 Jan—The number of FBI background checks required for Americans buying guns set a record in December, indicating that more people may purchase one each time the Connecticut school massacre stirred interest in self-defense. The FBI said it recorded 2.78 million background checks during the last three months, surpassing the mark set in November of 2.01 million checks—about a 39 percent rise. The latest monthly figure was up 49 percent over December 2011, when the FBI performed a then-record 1.86 million checks.

Consumer demand for guns appears to have accounted for the uptick in activity. There were no changes in FBI background check procedures that would have affected the December number, FBI spokesmanphen Fischer said. December is typically the busiest month of the year for checks, however, due in part to Christmas gift sales. The figures do not reflect the number of firearm sales, a statistic the government does not track. They also do not reflect activity between private parties, such as family members or colleagues, because federal law requires background checks only for sales from commercial vendors with a federal license. Someone who passes a background check is eligible to buy multiple firearms.

FBI checks for all of 2012 totaled 19.6 million, an annual record, and an increase of 19 percent over 2011—Reuters

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**Paris’ Apple store loses millions euros in New Year’s Eve robbery**

PARIS, 4 Jan—Apple’s flagship store in the famous Opera district of Paris was hit and looted by four gunmen on the New Year’s Eve, with million-euro worth of gadgets being robbed away, local media reported on Wednesday. The robbery occurred on Monday night at around 9:00 pm local time (2000 GMT), three hours after the shop closed. According to local newspaper Le Parisien, there were two employees in the store when four masked men burst in. They later spent an hour loading boxes full of iPhones, iPads and Mac computers into a nearby van.

The damage is still under evaluation. Paris police also have not confirmed how much the shop has lost in the robbery, but reports on Wednesday put estimate of the loss worth at least 1 million euros ($1.319 million US dollars) Le Parisien quoted sources as saying that the gang was well prepared, knew the layout of the store and got away at a time when many of the capital’s police were on the crowded Champs Elysees.

This is the first time the Apple has been the victim of a robbery in France. France also witnessed other damages during this New Year eve, although 53,000 policemen and gendarmes were mobilized across the country to secure safety places where hundreds of thousands of people were gathered for the New Year celebration, accidents still occurred as earlier reports said that a total of 1,193 vehicles were burnt on the New Year’s eve in France.—Xinhua

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**Basque nationalist party shuts down in France**

PARIS, 4 Jan—Basque nationalist party Batasuna announced on Thursday its dissolution in France where it continued to operate after being outlawed in 2003, local media reported.

“We are announcing the dissolution of Batasuna,” Maite Goyenetxe and Jean Claude Aguirre, two members of the party, told journalists at Bayonne in France’s Basque region, according to a report of local TV France24.

“We affirm that we will achieve the project of building Euskal Herria (the Basque Country) only by political means, in the face of the oppressive French and Spanish states,” Goyenetxe said.

The French branch of the Basque nationalist party, seen by Spain as the political wing of the armed separatist group ETA, has remained active in France after it was banned in Spain.

The party’s move to close down in France came after ETA announced a permanent end to its armed struggle in 2011 following a four-decade campaign that has cost 829 lives. —Xinhua

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**Jordanian peacekeepers kidnapped in Darfur freed**

KHARTOUM, 4 Jan—Two Jordanian peacekeepers abducted in Darfur four months ago were freed on Wednesday, the international force overseeing the conflict-torn region said.

A plane carrying the pair landed at Khartoum Airport, the force led by the African Union and United Nations said in a statement that did not identify the kidnappers or say where the soldiers were released and whether a ransom was paid.

Conflict has raged in Darfur since insurgents took up arms against Sudanese government forces in 2003, complaining that Khartoum had neglected the vast, arid region.

The UN says as many as 300,000 people may have died in the fighting. Sudan’s government has put the death toll at about 10,000. The two Jordanians were kidnapped in Kabadkaya in northern Darfur in August. Both men were in good health after their release, the international force said.—Reuters
Showdown between James Bond, Goldfinger voted greatest 007 moment

Daniel Craig said: "Yes, the votes, current Bond star received 10.3 per cent of winning moment, which reported. scenes in the poll, the Daily Mail reported.

When informed of the winning moment, which received 10.3 per cent of the votes, current Bond star Daniel Craig said: “Yes, that would take some beating.”

Second in the poll was the breath-taking pre-title moment in The Spy Who Loved Me which showed Roger Moore skiing off the edge of an Austrian mountain to open a Union Jack parachute. The scene took in 7.6 per cent votes to pipe the first ever ‘Bond...James Bond’ statement from Connery in 1962’s Dr No, which came third with 5.7 per cent of the votes. Daniel Craig’s thrilling chase at the start of Casino Royale was the fourth most memorable moment in the Bond franchise with 5.3 per cent. It was ahead of The Man With The Golden Gun’s barrel roll car sequence, which saw Roger Moore’s Bond perform a daring car jump across a Bangkok river. Moore’s heroics earned 4.5 per cent votes.

Pierce Brosnan made his entry into the poll in sixth place with 3.3 per cent for his tank chase through St Petersburg in Goldeneye, beating Roger Moore’s crocodile ‘stepping stone’ escape in Live And Let Die.

Emma Stone is “paranoid” about paparazzi

NEW DELHI, 4 Jan—Actress Emma Stone is so wary about being caught on camera doing something embarrassing that she acts differently to how she would if there was no one following her.

She revealed: “It’s weird in Los Angeles—[paparazzi are] hiding out everywhere. The hardest thing is that it makes me act like an a**hole because I now have this weird level of paranoia that I never had before.”

“It feels like having a private investigator on you or something. You find yourself walking around holding your head up like you’re looking in the mirror—and your friends are wondering what’s wrong with you. Then I feel like a jerk because half the time there’s nobody there... still, I really don’t want to be caught with a burger all over my face.”

Emma, who is dating her Amazing Spider-Man co-star Andrew Garfield, always wanted to be an actress and was so determined to reach her goal that she once told her mother Krista she would “die” if not given the chance to act.

She added to the UK edition of Glamour magazine: “My parents knew that there was something a little off about me. So it made sense when I asked, aged 11, if I could take acting classes. Apparently I said to my mum, ‘If I can’t act, I’ll die.’ And then she knew—that she knew that only an actress would say something like that.”

Naomi Watts’ near death experience while filming The Impossible

LONDON, 4 Jan—Naomi Watts thought she was going to die while filming a scene that went wrong for The Impossible.

The 44-year-old actress plays a mother who, along with her husband and three children, is caught up in the Indian Ocean Tsunami in December 2004, and she has revealed that art eerily imitated life after a technical hitch left her submerged under water without air.

Speaking to the Metro newspaper, she explained: “Something went wrong technically with the chair they strap you to when they submerge you in the water. It spins you around under water and the crew just weren’t able to shut it off at the right point. I couldn’t get out and was really struggling for breath.”

Naomi—who has two children, Sasha, five, and Sammy, four, with actor Liev Schreiber—insists the incident gave her just a small sense of what people endured in the natural disaster, which claimed 275,000 lives.

She said: “It helps you to imagine. You can get tiny glimpses of what people went through. Though even this incident was nothing compared to what it was really like.”

The movie is based on the true story of a Spanish family’s experience of the tsunami and Naomi admits meeting the woman whose harrowing tale she retells on-screen was a powerful experience.

The Hollywood star said: “The thing that really surprised me was that she said she felt so connected to her instincts at the time of the disaster and she was so sure about the big decisions she had to make.

Jennifer Lawrence thinks acting is “stupid”

LONDON, 4 Jan — Jennifer Lawrence thinks she is “vastly uneducated”.

The Silver Linings Playbook star—who was nominated for an Oscar in 2010 for her performance in Winter’s Bone has zero time for self-obsessed celebrities and has admitted she believes acting is “stupid”.

The 22-year-old newly brunette beauty told the February issue of Vanity Fair magazine: “Not to sound rude, but [acting] is stupid. Everybody’s like, ‘How can you remain with a level head?’ And I’m like, ‘Why would I ever getcocky? I’m not saving anything. There are doctors who save lives and firemen who run into burning buildings, I’m making movies. It’s stupid.”

But despite being underwhelmed by life in Hollywood, the actress admitted that she does sometimes still get starstruck.

She said: “Once I’m obsessed with somebody, I’m terrified of them instantly. I’m not scared of them—I’m scared of me and how I will react. Like, for instance, one time someone was introducing me to Bill Maher, and I saw Meryl Streep walk into the room, and I literally put my hand right in Bill Maher’s face and said, ‘Not now, Bill!’ and I just stared at Meryl Streep.”
Three Kings? Messi, Ronaldo and Falcao in action on 6 January

Cristiano Ronaldo, Leo Messi and Radamel Falcao

The three ‘Kings’ in the country receive their presents from the ‘Three Kings’. However, it is likely that the three ‘Kings’ in Madrid fans. Messi has all the credit in the world after scoring an incredible 91 goals in 2012. He will expect to kick off 2013 in style in the Barcel- lonas derby at home to an improving Espanyol, but the best news for Barca is the likely presence of coach Tito Vilanova in the dugout less than three weeks after he underwent a cancer operation. Vilanova directed Wednesday’s training session and his rapid return is the best possible way to start the New Year.

There is certain frustra- tion among Atletico Madrid fans that their side is still mentioned after Real Ma- drid in the media and with Atletico eight points ahead of their neighbours in the battle against relegation and are in an institutional crisis following the resig- nation of club president, Jaume Cladera during the week. The weekend kicks off of Friday night with Zaragoza, who ended 2012 with a surprise win in Bilbao, at home to Betis, who were shocked by Mallorca a fortnight ago.Saturday sees Llevanto aim to continue with their impressive sea- son against Athletic Club Bilbao, whose players insist they have recovered from the Zaragoza defeat and are looking to bounce back with a win.

That is followed by Granada — Valencia as Ernesto Valverde looks to continue with the Valencia revival before Domingos Paciencia makes his debut as Deportivo la Coruña coach as the side bottom of the table entertain high-flying Malaga.

Deportivo sacked for- mer coach Jose Luis Oltra last weekend in a slightly surprising move.Saturday ends with Sevilla at home to second bottom Osasuna with Sevilla coach Michel Gonzalez still under pres- sure. Sunday sees Vallado- lid travel to struggling Celta and after the top three are in action the round of matches ends on Monday as Rayo Vallecano entertain Getafe in a south Madrid derby. Mallorca are still in the hunt to take the top six with round of matches.

Pato completes transfer to Corinthians

Milan, 4 Jan—Brazili- an striker Alexandre Pato has completed move to Cor- inthians pending a medical.

Both AC Milan and the Brazilian club on Thursday evening released statements confirming the 15-million euro transfer has been agreed pending a medical, and Pato will sign a four-year contract.

Instead of a signing-on fee, Pato has secured 40 percent of any future sale.

“I wish to salute, but above all to thank, every- one,” wrote Pato in an open letter on the Mi- lan website. “From the President to the league, they have rea- son to feel aggrieved. Fal- cao has been outstanding all season and will be opti- mistic of kicking off 2013 with a win against Mallor- ca, who are deep in trouble despite ending a run of 11 league matches without a victory away to Betis in the last game of 2012. Mallorca are still in the hunt to take the top six with round of matches.

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LeBron James named USA Basketball Male Athlete of Year

New York, 4 Jan—Mi- ami Heat’s LeBron James had been named the 2012 USA Basketball Male Ath- lete of the Year after a suc- cessful year with one Olym- pic gold medal and the 2012 NBA championship, the US basketball governing body announced the award at Col- orado Springs, Colo- rado, on Wednesday.

James is one of just two players in the histo- ry of the game to win MVP (Most Valu- able Player), the Na- tional (2008, 2012) and one bronze (2004). “LeBron was the central figure on this team,” said Mike Krzyzewski, USA and Duke head coach, through the statement.—Xinhua

South African top biker killed in road accident

JOHANNESBURG, 4 Jan — Burry Stander, a two- time mountain bike Olympian, was killed in a road accident while training near his home on Thursday.

The 25-year-old South African died after colliding with a taxi in the Kwazulu-Natal province on South Africa’s east coast, the South African Sports Con- federation and Olympic Committee said.

Stander finished fifth in last year’s London Olym- pics and he competed in Beijing 2008. He was also a former under-19 and un- der-23 world champion and South Africa’s biggest star in the sport and one of the world’s top riders.

Bubba Watson of the US tees off on the second hole during the second round of the World Challenge golf tournament in Thousand Oaks, California, on 30 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

Golf — Players in paradise for PGA Tour season opener

LOS ANGELES, 4 Jan — If winning breeds winning, then the picturesque Ha- waiian island of Maui is a paradise in more ways than one for the select group of players competing this week’s $5.7 million Hyun- dai Tournament of Cham- pions.

The only way to qual- ify for the elite field of 30 in the PGA Tour’s season-opening event was through victory on the US circuit last year and, with no cut and a guaranteed check after Monday’s final round, the pickings are certainly favourable. “It’s always great to be here,” Ameri- can Hunter Mahan, a twice champion on the 2012 PGA Tour, told reporters at the Kapalua Resort while pre- paring for Friday’s opening day.

“Obviously you won on the PGA Tour the year before so it’s a great start and every player enjoys coming here and wants to start here. “It’s exciting but it’s also crazy ... I feel like the year never really ended last year, just kind of keeps on going. But it’s cer- tainly fun to be here.” Masters champion Bubba Wat- son agreed. “Who would not want to come to Maui and play golf?” the Ameri- can left-hander smiled.

“Ride in a golf cart in the pre-am and practice rounds wearing shorts and then the tournament starts and you have to walk. But other than that it’s great.” A great time for the family, hanging out with friends and seeing the scenery. Playing the golf course is a challenge,” Watson said of the par-73, 7,411-yard Plantation layout, “but it’s a fun time to start off the year here in Maui.” —Reuters

LeBron James (R) of Miami Heat drives the ball during the NBA China Games basketball game against Los Angeles Clippers in Shangh hai, east China, on 14 Oct, 2012.—Xinhua

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LeBron James named USA Basketball Male Athlete of Year

Brazilian striker Alexandre Pato

The Primera Liga will be the same trio that ended the year capturing headlines: Leo Messi, Cristiano Ron- aldo and Radamel Falcao.

Ronaldo will be first into action on Sunday when Real Madrid entertain an in-form Real Sociedad in the country receive their presents from the ‘Three Kings’. However, it is like-
Exhibition to honour Independence Day

Manday, 4 Jan—To mark the 65th Anniversary Independence Day, the Mandalay District IPRD office hosted cartoon paint and photo exhibition on 2 January. Every person can enjoy the exhibition from 9 am to 4 pm, 25 cartoons 273 photos and 125 Photos are being shown at that exhibition.—Kyemon

Ramos: Perhaps we have more to give

Madrid, 4 Jan—Real Madrid defender Sergio Ramos admitted on Thursday that he was disappointed with the way his side’s season has developed. Ramos is the third Madrid player to give a press conference in three days, after almost five months of players not speaking following their early training session. He was asked about the club’s current position, 16 points behind FC Barcelona in their book of life, and how we played then. “One Precept-2”

Novak shines as Knicks end Spurs’ win streak

New York, 4 Jan — Bench player Steve Novak led a sizzling three-point shooting display as the New York Knicks mixed spectacular offense with a much improved defense to stun the red-hot San Antonio Spurs with a 100-83 win at Madison Square Garden on Thursday. With Novak making 10-of-17 from beyond the arc, the Knicks snapped the Spurs’ seven-game winning streak in rampant style.

There were more stellar contributions from the New York bench with JR Smith weighing in with 20 points and Amare Stoudemire 10 as the home team outshot San Antonio by 44.4 percent to 26.5 from behind the three-point line. The Atlantic pacersetting Knicks broke the game wide open in the fourth quarter, starting out with a 15-2 run, to improve their record to 22-10.

“After a great start this season defensively, the last 10 games we went down,” Knicks reserve point guard Pablo Prigioni, an NBA rookie at the age of 35, said courtside after finishing with six points and nine assists. “The coach showed clips to us and showed how we were playing now and how we played then. Today we came back to that level.”—Reuters

Murray makes hard work of qualifier Millman

Brisbane, 4 Jan—Andy Murray narrowly avoided the wrath of coach Ivan Lendl after laboring to a 6-1, 5-7, 6-3 win over Australian qualifier John Millman in his opening match at the Brisbane International on Thursday. The US Open champion ran hot but mostly cold against the 199th ranked player in a match of wildly fluctuating tennis that lasted two hours and four minutes at Pat Rafter Arena.

The 2012 Olympic gold medalist revealed that former world number one Lendl, who was due to arrive in Brisbane on Friday, had not even considered the possibility of the Scot losing to Millman. Before the second-round match, Lendl had sent a text message to the 25-year-old’s hitting partner Danny Vallerdu asking what time Murray’s quarter-final against Uzbekistan’s Denis Istomin would be on Friday. “December 22nd was the last day we trained in Miami before I went home. He messaged Danny and said, ‘Can you send me the score and what time he’s playing tomorrow before the match?’ He hadn’t heard of John before,” said the Scot.

“He was obviously expecting me to come through, but it was very nearly a different story. The depth of the game now is so, so strong. None of the matches are easy. It was a bit different back in Ivan’s day where they could kind of cruise a little bit the first couple rounds.”Murray was horribly out of sorts in a tight second set, clutching at his back, thigh and shoulder. His class shone through but it was not one of his finest efforts.”I had seen John’s name before, but I hadn’t seen him play,” he said. “I think it’s important when you don’t know someone plays to find out about their character a little bit.

“His very consistent... he can play quite a long way behind the baseline and doesn’t take too many risks. And then, you know, he was going for absolute bombs and making them,” he added.

The Art of Peace, Art Exhibition

The Art of Peace, the Art Exhibition, will be held for the third time in 2013. —Myint Myint Khin

30 Photos are on track and we have always had a good attitude,” insisted the defender, who added that things had not changed much between this season and last. Ramos was also asked about Iker Casillas’ relegation to the bench in the defeat to Malaga, a move which surprised almost everyone in Spain and which even led to Barca keeper Victor Valdes to wish Casillas all the best for the future.

Losers

The Art of Peace, Art Exhibition

* Beautiful hand-painted materials decorated with the art of painting
* Myanmar Movies “One Precept-2”
* Fresh-water Fish Breeding Industry
* Pioneer of 925 Silver Jewelry
* IPRD office hosted cartoon paint and photo exhibition on 2 January. Every person can enjoy the exhibition from 9 am to 4 pm, 25 cartoons 273 photos and 125 Photos are being shown at that exhibition.

In loving memory of Dr. Aung Khin (Surgeon)

A dear friend, a wonderful companion, a kind helper

LOST.

One meets to part, truth asserts,
Faster and thicker, and greatly grown,
As one by one,
They leave for land unknown

Lessons learnt, wisdom derived
From their book of life,
Left marks on things they touched
And were appreciated much

One who needs to do more of ourselves and I am the first who needs to do that, because maybe we can all give a bit more, but we are on track and we have always had a good attitude,” insisted the defender, who added that things had not changed much between this season and last. Ramos was also asked about Iker Casillas’ relegation to the bench in the defeat to Malaga, a move which surprised almost everyone in Spain and which even led to Barca keeper Victor Valdes to wish Casillas all the best for the future.

Of late, losses have come, one meets to part, truth asserts, But it’s difficult to adjust in my heart, empty spaces losses will leave, Irreplaceable indeed

Since a life has only one death, one meets to part, truth asserts, In my heart, empty spaces losses will leave, Irreplaceable indeed

In my heart, empty spaces losses will leave, Irreplaceable indeed

Myint Myint Khin

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Saturday, 5 January, 2013

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Independence Day (2013) marked in Nay Pyi Taw

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 Jan—The 65th Anniversary Independence Day was marked in Nay Pyi Taw by enjoying funfairs organized by the authorized persons from the Ministry of Transport and Communications. The authorized persons presented prizes to winners. The flag-hoisting ceremony was held at 4.20 am and the State flag-saluting ceremony for 65th Anniversary Independence Day Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander, and guests also took position there.

At the call, both sides cordially exchanged views on construction of international-standard ports at Thilawa Special Economic Zone, programmes for resumption of new aids by Japan, starting construction of ports with the assistance of Japan Yen before the end of March, construction of three meteorology radar stations, purchase of three ferry boats, purchase of airplanes for Myanmar Airways with Japan’s loan, aid and technical assistance of Japan in Myanmar’s off- and onshore fishery industries and meat and fishery production sector.

Union Ministers hold talks with Japanese Dy PM and Finance Minister and party

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 Jan—Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung and Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint met with a delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Japan Mr. Tarō Asō at the office of the Ministry of Transport, here, yesterday evening. The authorized persons are clearing mines.

Funfairs, sports competitions to mark Independence Day in townships in Yangon

Yangon, 4 Jan—To mark the 65th Anniversary Independence Day 2013, funfairs and sports competitions were held in townships in Yangon Region this morning.

KIA blow up two loaded trucks

Nay Pyi Taw, 4 Jan—A truck driven by Pho Zaw and another one driven by Soe Naing Win, which were on their way from Lwejel to Bhamo with oranges, apples and snack packages, were intercepted between Yawyon and Byinwaing villages by about ten KIA members holding small arms at 9.30 am yesterday. The armed group forced the drivers and conductors to get off the vehicles and leave their mobile phones and K 100,000. The KIA then blew up the two vehicles with mines. The local security personnel are clearing the surrounding areas of the incident.

Family members of the staff of the News and Periodicals Enterprise mark 65th Anniversary Independence Day by enjoying funfairs organized by Manager U Kyaw Lwin Oo in their compound in Khayaban Junction in Zeyathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area in the evening of 4th January 2013.—NLM

Children joyfully participate in funfairs to mark 65th Anniversary Independence Day at their residence in Yangon.—MNA