



Esteemed people,

I wish you the esteemed people happiness and peace in this New Year. I am heartened by the chance to speak directly to the esteemed people on radio.

Why I speak directly to the people is to bridge the

gap between the government and the people and to start a new direct communication link, a necessity for our society. The most important ingredient for success of Myanmar's democratic transition is the mutual trust between the government

President U Thein Sein's New Year radio message to the entire people far and wide the nation

and the people. To improve the communication between the government and the people, our new government has strived for developing transparent communication channel. For transparency, the cabinet member ministers have met the press, providing the people with information. I have also decided to speak on radio as it is still an effective channel of communication.

Popular expectations have soared as reforms in the previous year brought about political developments. What the esteemed people and our government need to be conscious of is the gap between demand of the people and capacity of our

government. I firmly believe that our efforts are bound to narrow it.

We all know that our once closed and isolated society has many aspects to reform. In this reform period, we need to work hard, aspiring to the best.

In the nature of things, people aspire to the best. They have a right to express their desires for hopes. But the most important thing for the entire society is to shape the promising future through ongoing reform processes. Only a response on a mature consideration to the free and transparent situation could help us achieve our common goal. The onus is on all of us

to strive for flourishing of realistic positive attitude and negotiated political culture without taking an extreme view in facing possible challenges ahead.

The world nations were amazed at Myanmar's impressive political progress in 2012. It can be said that we laid together a foundation of political system needed for ensuring better socioeconomic status on daily basis of our society. Plans are underway in accord with "Economic and Social Reform Framework" to enable each and every citizen to enjoy the fruitful results of general reforms upcoming years. We will constantly

inform the people of our government's stance and actions.

I would like to share my perspective on the upcoming Independence Day to the people. My perspective is if each and every citizen works together with united efforts like we once made during the time of independence struggles, surely we will overcome the challenges of change we are facing. As I believe, the majority of the people have the same view as I have, I would like to call on the entire people to join hands with us.

May the esteemed people be physical and mental wellbeing.

Coordinated approach should be adopted for budget allocation

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Dec—Chairman of Myanmar Financial Commission President U Thein Sein addressed the commission meeting (3/2012) at the Presidential Palace this morning.

It was also attended by Vice-Chairmen Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun, Union ministers, the Union attorney-general, the Union auditor-general, the chairman of Union Civil Services Board, Region and State chief ministers, deputy ministers and officials.

The President said in his opening speech that the Union government would

submit 2013-2014 budget approved by the meeting to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

He said economic development efforts of the Union government and region/state governments are based on the annual budget of the governments. He called for implementing projects that would contribute to the development of the country and serve the interests of the people, while attaching great importance to drawing the budget.

He underscored incremental changes in budget sharing among the Union and region/state governments. He stressed the

need to stick to suggestions and advices of MPs to internationalize the budget.

Coordination between the Union government led by Vice-Presidents and region/state chief ministers on budget allocation was in progress in accord with the constitution. Union government would take a coordinated approach to budget allocation for the states and regions. As it is required for ensuring harmonious development of the entire nation under the leadership of the Union government and region/state governments, thereby contributing towards better living standards and increased per capita income.

The President called on officials concerned to help develop profitable organizations which are contributing a lot to the State budget. Necessary measures should be taken for unprofitable organizations to be free from reliance on the State budget. It is necessary to invite local and foreign investments so that capital requirement of the country will be fulfilled. The President called for more effective public financial management system in the long run. The President



Chairman of Myanmar Financial Commission President U Thein Sein addresses the commission meeting (3/2012).—MNA

Agreement reached on provision of aids for Rakhine State and quake victims

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Dec—"The displaced persons in Rakhine State and quake victims would be provided with necessary aids. The three basic needs for human beings are of vital importance. She thanked those who provided necessary aids generously," said Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin at the signing of agreement on provision of aids for Rakhine State and

quake victims between the Ministry and the People's Republic of China held at the same ministry today.

Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua made clarification on donation of Modular House and bilateral cooperation. Deputy Minister U Phone Swe and the Chinese ambassador signed the agreement and exchanged the notes.

Deputy Minister U Phone Swe explained how to use the donations.—MNA

concluded his speech, urging those present to make suggestions on the budget for 2013-2014.

Next, Vice-Chairmen of the commission Vice-Presidents Dr Sai Mauk Kham and U Nyan Tun explained the process of scrutinizing the budgets for 2013-2014 of Union-level organizations and region/state governments. Commission Secretary Union Minister for Finance and Revenue U Win Shein, chief ministers, Union ministers, Attorney-

General of the Union and Auditor-General of the Union presented reports to the President.

In his concluding remarks, the President stressed the need for more appointments of accountants at the ministries, use of State budget effectively and efficiently, nurturing of disciplined service personnel, staff welfare and level management system.

The President called on ward/village/township administrators to exercise transparency, honesty and

goodwill to be able to win the public trust.

The President pointed out that unity was the major driving force for development, urging to strive for ensuring united efforts at the departments as well as among the people.

State budget for 2013-2014 was under scrutiny for four times before submitting to the commission. The President gave guidance on reviewing the budget to keep deficit and GDP ratio at certain level.

MNA

New school buildings for BEMS (Branch) in Ottarathiri Township

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Dec — The opening of new school buildings for basic education middle school (branch) of Phayartaung Village in Ottarathiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area was held yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Education U Aye Kyu and member of Nay Pyi Taw Council U Saw Hla formally opened the new school buildings, and Chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Union Minister at President Office U Thein Nyunt unveiled the signboard.

The Union Minister spoke on the occasion and

the ceremony to hand over the documents related to the new school buildings followed.

The 120-foot and 30-foot new building for the middle school (branch) and 80-foot and 30-foot new building for the primary school were built with the contribution of K 34.1 million by the Ministry of Education. Thanks to new school buildings, students from Kayinchaung Village, Htantabin Village and Sibinthaayay Village will be able to pursue middle school education in their own region.

MNA

Two motorbikes collide head-on in Sagaing



SAGAING, 31 Dec — Although surprise checks are being conducted at the busiest places in Sagaing by Sagaing District Traffic Rules Enforcement Committee and traffic police members, road accidents are frequent there due to some people who

violated traffic rules and were driving drunk. On 27 December morning, two motorbikes collided head-on near Hsinmyarshin Pagoda in Pabedan ward, causing heavy damage to one bike. — Kyemon

Bagan dwellers' alm-offering ceremony

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Dec — A collective alm-offering ceremony was held at a pavilion near Bu Pagoda on 28 December in Bagan with the participation of service personnel of the Ministry of Culture, member of the board

of trustees and local people. They offered alms to 100 members of the Sangha. It is planned to donate alms to members of the Sangha every days that are of religious significance.

Kyemon



Book show organized in Thaton

THATON, 31 Dec — Jointly-organized by Thaton District Information and Public Relations Department and University of Computer Studies (Thaton), a book show to assist the drive for cultivating reading habit among the local people was held at the convocation of the university on 26 December. Principal of the university Dr Win Htay stressed the need for widening the horizons of students who are leaders of tomorrow, urging them to more read.

Next, Chairperson of district Women's Affairs Federation Daw Sein Sein

Archway of Khaymarthiwm monastery in Pyinmana renovated

PYINMANA, 31 Dec — Renovation of archway of Khaymarthiwm monastery was completed recently. Wellwisher U Tin Myint and Daw Tin Kyi (Shwechi-Khayayyeik restaurant) contributed K 1.8 million to renovate the

archway.

The archway is 12 feet high and 12 feet wide. The pillar of the archway is 10 feet in diameter. It was renovated by Myanmar traditional work artisan U Khin Maung and party.

Kyemon

Event Management Course (2/2012) concludes



YANGON, 31 Dec — Organized by Myanmar Football Federation (MFF), Event Management Course (2/2012) concluded on 29 December.

General Secretary of Myanmar Football Federation U Tin Aung and Director U Soe Win of International Relations Department gave lectures at the course. Altogether 20 trainees from MFF and other organizations took the course in which they were given lectures theoretically and practically to be able to deal with matters of football world. The course provided the trainees with knowledge to be able to serve as match commissioner or general coordinator of the football matches at home and abroad.

Kyemon

Photo shows an overturned vehicle driven by Yazar Tun (20 years) near Thamanaygyaw monastery on Bago-Yangon motorway in Ward-6 of Bago at about 4 pm on 29 December.

KYEMON

National Objectives of 65th Anniversary Independence Day for 2013

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

Invaluable Mural paintings in Minbu



NAY PYI TAW, 31 Dec — Murals depicting characters and locations of some *Jataka* stories— Mahawhatha, Viduya, Taymi and Waithandayar— can be seen inside Wetgyi cave (a) Koekhangyi cave in the precinct of Hmankin monastery in Minbu of Magway Region.

The weather-beaten murals call for maintenance works. These mural

paintings are believed to have been drawn during Innwa and Toungoo eras. The cave is made up of nine chambers with full of murals on the walls. A Buddha Image is being kept in the centre of the cave.

Theses invaluable murals are totally different from those in Sagaing Tilokaguru, Zayguang and Arnanda brick building.

Kyemon

Bell from the US to arrive in Shwedagon in second week of January

YANGON, 31 Dec — Head of Office of Shwedagon Pagoda Board of Trustees U Win Kyaing said it is expected that a bell sent by a Buddhist association in the United States of America to be kept in Shwedagon Pagoda will arrive in Myanmar by water during the second week of the month of January in 2013.

The bell was donated by a Buddhist association in the US. According to the proposal of the Ministry of Religious Affairs, the agreement had been reached to keep the bell in the precinct of the Pagoda.

“According to the news, the bell will arrive in Singapore on 4 January and in Myanmar during the second week of January.

The bell will arrive at the Asia World Port. I have no idea whether the bell is cast in bronze or others. It is about two and a half tons in weight. This is all I know”, he continued. The bell will be kept next to the Buddha Image donated by India. There are 31 bells in the precinct of the Pagoda. The bell donated by Korean pilgrims is being kept at the south-west corner of the Pagoda since 2004.

Kyemon

WORLD

Nine killed, more than 25 hurt in Oregon bus crash



Rescue personnel respond to the scene of a charter bus crash on I-84, east of Pendleton, Oregon in this 30 Dec, 2012 handout photo.

REUTERS

PORTLAND, (Oregon), 31 Dec — Nine people were killed and at least 26 others injured on Sunday when a charter bus headed to Canada from Las Vegas skidded off an icy mountain highway and crashed down an embankment in northeastern Oregon. The Oregon State Police said a preliminary investigation showed the charter bus, carrying about 40 people through the Blue Mountains en route to Vancouver, British Columbia, “lost control on the snow/ice

covered westbound lanes of Interstate 84” near Pendleton.

The bus crashed through a guardrail alongside the road and went down an embankment of around 200 feet. Crews trained in rope rescue were needed to bring victims back up to the highway, police said.

State Police spokesman Lt Gregg Hastings said nine people had been confirmed killed in the crash.

“We are continuing to try and confirm the total number of passengers and number of injured persons transported to area hospital or secondary locations due to severity of injuries,” the state police said in a written statement. The bus driver survived the crash but investigators said he had not yet been interviewed because of the severity of his injuries.

St Anthony Hospital in Pendleton initially received 26 of the injured, spokesman Larry Blanc said. Five of those patients were stabilized and transported to

a secondary hospital by air for further treatment.

“About 10:30 this morning we got the call and declared a Code D, which means we bring in extra staff and supplies,” he said, adding that D stands for “disaster.”

“There are various types of injuries. Some of the injured were able to walk in on their own,” Blanc said. “We are taking a lot of CT scans and assessing the injuries. Blanc said that of the 21 patients who remained at St Anthony, some had been treated and released and were being provided food and shelter by the Red Cross. Some of them were children, he said. Brycie Jones, spokeswoman for Oregon Health and Science University said that hospital had received four patients from the bus crash.

Jones said she could not disclose their identities or condition and it was not immediately clear if the patients had come from another hospital.— Reuters

Merkel says euro zone crisis far from over

BERLIN , 31 Dec—The euro zone sovereign debt crisis is far from over even though reform measures designed to address the roots of the problem are beginning to bear fruit, German Chancellor Angela Merkel has said in her New Year’s address.

In a taped interview to be broadcast on Monday evening, Merkel urged Germans to be more patient even though the euro zone crisis has already dragged on for three years. She drew a line linking German prosperity to a prosperous European Union.

“For our prosperity and

the crisis was over.

Germany has been the paymaster in the euro zone crisis, to the chagrin of many German voters and a growing bloc of conservative lawmakers in Merkel’s coalition. Germans remain wary of euro zone bailout efforts but give Merkel high marks for what they consider to be her judicious handling of the crisis.

Merkel, who is seeking a third term in an election in September, proudly pointed out that unemployment in Germany had fallen to its lowest levels since reunification



Germany’s Chancellor Angela Merkel holds a news conference at the end of a European Union leaders summit, in Brussels on 14 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

our solidarity we need to strike the right balance,” Merkel said. “The European sovereign debt crisis shows how important this balance is. “The reforms that we’ve introduced are beginning to have an impact,” she said. “Nevertheless we need to have further continued patience. The crisis is far from over.” Merkel indirectly contradicted Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble with those comments. In an interview on Friday in *Bild* newspaper Schäuble said the worst of

in 1990 while the number of people employed had also risen to record highs.

“That means that many hundreds of thousands of families have a secure future,” said Merkel. “And that means that a lot of young people have the security of training and jobs and thus will get off to a good start in their careers.”

But in face of slowing economic growth, Merkel also warned that conditions could be more difficult in 2013 than in 2012.

Reuters

NATO fuel tankers catch fire in eastern Afghanistan, one killed

JALALABAD, 31 Dec—At least one person was killed when 11 oil trucks supplying fuel for the NATO-led coalition forces caught fire following a blast in eastern Afghan Province of Nangarhar on Sunday evening.

“Initially, an oil tanker caught fire after an explosion by a sticky bomb but later it engulfed 10 more trucks in the incident which took place at about 6 pm local time in Behsud district,” Mohammad Zahir police chief of the district told

Xinhua.

One driver who was wounded in the incident later died of his wounds in a hospital in the incident, he said.

No group claims responsibility for the incident. Taliban insurgent

group routinely claims attacking oil trucks.

Taliban has warned the civilians to stay away from official gatherings, military convoys and centres regarded as the legitimate targets by militants besides warning people against supporting government and foreign troops.—Xinhua



Firefighters work at the site where NATO oil tankers were burnt in the eastern Afghan Province of Nangarhar on 30 Dec, 2012. — XINHUA

Fiji makes headway on road to democratic election

SUVA, 31 Dec— The year 2012 has seen the Fijian government take several major steps to realize its promise to hold a democratic and free general election in 2014 to return the island-state into normalcy.

Improvement in relations with its Pacific neighbors has also created a favorable external environment for the island country that has been outcast since the 2006 military coup led by incumbent Prime Min-

ister Commodore Frank Bainimarama.

With progresses in electoral preparations and external relations, analysts say there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel.

Xinhua

War of blame but no solution after US school massacre

LOS ANGELES, 31 Dec— Pro-gun Americans blamed Hollywood for violence and called for arming school teachers while gun control supporters demanded more restrictions after the Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre in Connecticut.

The massacre, which took place on 14 Dec with 20 children and six adults killed, shocked the world and immediately started a heated debate on who is to blame and the gun control laws.

The war of blame was started by the National Rifle Association (NRA) which claimed that the Newton shootings were inspired by Hollywood and blamed the media and corporations for profiting from violence.

“There exists in this country a callous, corrupt and corrupting shadow industry

that sells and sows violence against its own people,” NRA President Wayne LaPierre said one week after the shootings.

“Through vicious, violent video games with names like ‘Bulletstorm,’ ‘Grand Theft Auto,’ ‘Mortal Kombat’ and ‘Splatterhouse.’ And here’s one: it’s called ‘Kindergarten Killers.’ It’s been online for 10 years,” LaPierre said.

The violent movies mentioned by him include “Natural Born Killers,” which he said aired on television like “propaganda loops” on “Splatterdays.”

LaPierre targeted violent music videos “that portray life as a joke and murder as a way of life. And then they have the nerve to call it ‘entertainment.’”

LaPierre also targeted

the media by saying: “Rather than face their own moral failings, the media demonize lawful gun owners, amplify their cries for more laws and fill the national debate with misinformation and dishonest thinking that only delay meaningful action and all but guarantee that the next atrocity is only a news cycle away.”

Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) head Chris Dodd noted that “those of us in the motion picture and television industry want to do our part to help America heal. We stand ready to be part of the national conversation.”

But many were skeptical over Hollywood’s commitment to explore the effects film violence may have on young viewers.

Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

China's Beidou system starts service in Asian-Pacific

BEIJING, 31 Dec—China's indigenous Beidou Navigation Satellite System (BDS) on Thursday began providing services to users in the Asian-Pacific region, according to a spokesman of the system.

The services include positioning, navigation, timing and short messages for China and surrounding

areas, said spokesman Ran Chengqi, also director of the China Satellite Navigation Office.

Ran further specified that the open service will be provided with positioning accuracy of 10 meters, velocity accuracy of 0.2 meters per second and one-way timing accuracy of 50 nanoseconds.—Xinhua

Ran Chengqi, the spokesman for the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System (BDS), introduces the symbol of BDS during a Press conference in Beijing, capital of China, on 27 Dec, 2012.
REUTERS



China spends 430 bln yuan on water conservation

HEFEI, 31 Dec—China spent 430.3 billion yuan (68.3 billion US dollars) on improving water utilities in 2012, a record total, an official said on Friday. Investment in water conservation amounted to 775.5 billion yuan in 2011 and 2012, surpassing the amount invested during the 11th Five-Year Plan period (2006-2010), Chen Lei, minister of water resources, said at a work meeting in Hefei, capital of east China's Anhui Province.

"In 2012, China reinforced 5,400 small-sized reservoirs and harnessed critical stretches of 2,209 mid- and small-sized rivers, bringing the death toll from floods down by 50 percent," Chen said. He called for more investment in water conservation projects while urging intensified efforts to improve water quality and

build irrigated farms. The government aims to harness more than 5,000 rivers by 2015 and speed up the construction of early warning systems for floods and storm tides, according to a central government statement issued in 2011. The government plans to double its average annual spending on water conservation during the 2011-2020 period from its 200-billion-yuan investment in 2010. Chen said that during the past two years, the central government has invested 48.2 billion yuan to improve the availability of safe drinking water for 148 million rural residents, teachers and students.

The country will continue to work to ensure safe drinking water, renovate key irrigation facilities and promote water conservation in 2013, according to Chen.
Xinhua

Wasabi plant now cultivated in Britain



Supplied photo taken in May 2012 shows wasabi which has been grown by a farm in Dorset, England. It is thought the farm is the first commercial venture in Europe to produce wasabi. —KYODO NEWS

Autonomy's Lynch defends record as HP confirms Federal probe

Tech

LONDON, 31 Dec—Mike Lynch, the founder of the software firm sold to Hewlett-Packard last year in a deal tainted by accusations of accounting fraud, said he would defend the company's accounts to US Federal investigators. HP confirmed in a filing late on Thursday that the US Department of Justice was investigating Autonomy's books.

The PC and printer maker bought the British company for \$11 billion last year to lead its push into the more profitable software sector.

Autonomy did not deliver the growth expected, resulting in Lynch's departure earlier this year. But worse was to come last month when HP wrote off some \$5 billion of the company's value and accused its former management of accounting improprieties that inflated its value.

The Silicon Valley company said it had passed information from a whistleblower to the US Department of Justice, the SEC and Britain's Serious Fraud Office. "On 21 November, 2012, representatives of the US Department of Justice advised HP that they had opened an investigation relating to Autonomy," it said in the filing.

"HP is cooperating with the three investigating agencies." Lynch launched a robust defence of his track record almost immediately after HP made the accusations.

He said on Friday that he was still waiting for a detailed calculation of HP's \$5 billion writedown of Autonomy's value and a published explanation of the

demands for more information about the allegations.

"While Dr Lynch is eager for a debate, we believe the legal process is the correct method in which to bring out



Mike Lynch, Founder and Chairman of Autonomy Corporation, poses for photographers at an awards ceremony in central London on 13 March, 2008—REUTERS

allegations. "Simply put these allegations are false, and in the absence of further detail we cannot understand what HP believes to be the basis for them," he said in a statement.

"We continue to reject these allegations in the strongest possible terms. Autonomy's financial accounts were properly maintained in accordance with applicable regulations, fully audited by Deloitte and available to HP during the due diligence process."

Lynch said he had not been approached by any regulatory authority, but he would co-operate with any investigation and looked forward to the opportunity to explain his position. HP has refused to concede to Lynch's

the facts and take action on behalf of our shareholders," it said in response to an open letter from Lynch last month.

"In that setting, we look forward to hearing Dr Lynch and other former Autonomy employees answer questions under penalty of perjury."
Reuters

3,500 kg of ancient coins excavated in N China

HOHHOT, 31 Dec—Archaeologists have excavated about 3,500 kilograms of ancient coins in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, sources said on Sunday.

The coins were found in three millennia-old coin pits in the ancient town of Huoluochaideg in Ordos

Huge flame shell reef discovered in west

Scotland

Science

EDINBURGH, 31 Dec—A huge colony of an elusive and brightly coloured shellfish species has been revealed in coastal waters in the west of Scotland, the Scottish government announced on Wednesday.

The Marine Scotland commissioned survey of Loch Alsh, a sea inlet between Skye, the largest and most northerly large island in the Inner Hebrides of Scotland, and the Scottish mainland, has uncovered an extensive bed of flame shells numbering at least 100 million, said a Scottish government statement.

This small, scallop-like

species has numerous neon orange tentacles that emerge between the creatures' two shells. Flame shells group together on the sea bed and their nests create a living reef that support hundreds of other species.

The Loch Alsh flame shell reef is much larger than expected, covering an area of 75 hectares, and is the largest known flame shell reef in Britain. Experts believe it could be the largest of its kind in the world.

Scottish Environment Secretary Richard Lochhead said that the seas around Scotland are a hotbed of biodiversity and the clean

and cold waters support many fascinating and beautiful species. "With Scottish waters covering an area around five times bigger than our landmass, it's a huge challenge to try and understand more about our diverse and precious sea life," he added.

He termed the discovery as important, noting that "the enigmatic shellfish form a reef that offers a safe and productive environment for many other species."

The Loch Alsh survey was carried out by Edinburgh's Heriot-Watt University on behalf of Marine Scotland.—Reuters

China to add 100 mln 3G subscribers next year

Tech

BEIJING, 31 Dec—China will add an estimated 100 million new 3G subscribers in 2013, according to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT).

The number of broad-

band Internet users will increase by 25 million, Miao Wei, minister of industry and information technology, said at the ministry's annual meeting on Thursday.

Next year, the telecommunications industry targets

an 8-percent increase in main business revenue.

The software and information technology service industry's revenue will grow by around 25 percent.

The ministry enhanced industrial supervision this year by allowing more private capital to enter the market, lowering service fees and improving service quality, Miao said.

By the end of November, the number of mobile phone users exceeded 1.1 billion, and 3G users had reached 220 million and broadband Internet users stood at 174 million.

City after police cracked three theft cases, said Lian Jilin, a researcher with the regional Institute of Cultural Relics and Archaeology.

Most of the coins were "Huoquan," coins commonly used in the Han Dynasty (202 BC - 220 AD), said Lian.

Archaeologists have

also excavated over 100 casting molds from the relics of a coin workshop. The molds are believed to date back to the rule of Emperor Wudi (156 BC - 87 BC) of the Western Han Dynasty and the short-lived Xin Dynasty (45 BC - 23 AD) founded by Wang Mang.

Xinhua

Xinhua

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Ford on track to sell 2.2 million cars in US this year

DETROIT, 31 Dec—Ford Motor Co is on track to sell 2.2 million cars under its main brand this year, up 7 percent from 2011, the automaker said on Saturday, but the company has acknowledged losing market share as it struggled to keep up with consumer demand.

It marks the second straight year the No 2 US automaker has surpassed the 2 million threshold.

The projected sales jump for the Ford brand falls short of the overall industry's gains, which many analysts

expect to exceed 13 percent in 2012.

This year is the third in a row that industry sales have climbed by double digits, as American automakers rebound from a deep recession that pushed Ford's rivals, General Motors Co and Chrysler Group LLC, into bankruptcy in 2009.

Earlier this year, Ford said it expected to lose market share in the United States because it could not build enough cars and



A logo of a Ford car is pictured during a press presentation prior to the Essen Motor Show in Essen on 30 Nov, 2012.—REUTERS

trucks to satisfy consumer demand. Consumers also are buying fewer pickup trucks than in past years.

Last year, Ford sold just under 2.1 million cars and

trucks under its main brand in the United States. When adding its upscale Lincoln brand, Ford sold more than 2.1 million cars last year.

Reuters

Starbucks expands cup campaign aimed at US fiscal deal

Business

BOCA RATON, (Florida) 31 Dec—Starbucks Corp (SBUX.O) is expanding its campaign of using messages written on coffee cups to inspire US lawmakers to reach a deal and avoid going over the “fiscal cliff” of automatic tax hikes and government spending cuts.

As President Barack Obama and congressional leaders were in a final effort to reach a budget agreement before year's end, Starbucks this week began urging workers in its roughly 120 Washington, DC-area shops to write the words “come

at US stores to start signing their customers' cups with Come Together through next Friday,” Olson said. Starbucks' cup campaign aims to send a message to sharply divided politicians and serve as a rallying cry for the public in the days leading up to the 1 January deadline to avert harsh across-the-board government spending reductions and tax increases that could send the US economy back into recession.

“We believe the (Washington) DC effort caught on so swiftly because they Come Together

Health

Two Czech H1N1 flu patients in critical condition

PRAGUE, 31 Dec—The condition of two H1N1 flu, also known as swine flu, patients hospitalized in Prague's General Teaching Hospital (VFN) remains extremely critical, VFN spokeswoman Petra Pekarova said on Saturday.

According to the hospital, the two patients, one man and one woman, were both hooked up to life-supporting apparatuses. They are suffering from pneumonia and are treated with antiviral drugs.

The man was admitted to the hospital on 23 December and the woman one day earlier. Both the patients were obese which makes them prone to complications.

But Pekarova said there is no swine flu pandemic in the country.—Xinhua

After US ‘fiscal cliff’ dive, more battles, new cliffs

WASHINGTON, 31 Dec—Whether or not the US “fiscal cliff” impasse is broken before the New Year's Eve deadline, there will be no post-cliff peace in Washington.

With the political climate toxic in Congress as the cliff's steep tax hikes and spending cuts approach, other partisan fights loom, all over the issue that has paralyzed the capital for the past two years: federal spending. The first will come in late February when the Treasury Department runs out of borrowing authority and has to come to Congress to get the debt ceiling raised.

The next is likely in late March, when a temporary bill to fund the government runs out, confronting Congress with a deadline to act or face a government shutdown. The third will possibly be whenever the temporary bill replacing the temporary bill expires.

While Congress is supposed to pass annual

spending bills before the start of each fiscal year, it has failed to complete that process since 1996, resorting to stopgap funding ever since.

Influential anti-tax activist Grover Norquist predicted in an interview with Reuters that conservatives would wage repeated battles with President Barack Obama to demand budget savings every time the government needs a temporary funding bill or more borrowing capacity. The so-called “continuing resolutions” to which a divided Congress has increasingly resorted to keep the government operating, provide a “very

powerful tool” to pry out spending cuts, said Norquist, president of Americans for Tax Reform.

Republican Senator Bob Corker of Tennessee said he will not be satisfied until there are substantial cuts to federal retirement and healthcare benefits known as entitlements, producing savings in the \$4.5 trillion to \$5 trillion range.

“Unfortunately for America,” said Corker, “the next line in the sand will be the debt ceiling.”

Most observers see the \$16.4 trillion debt limit as the true fiscal cliff in the new year because if not increased, it would eventually lead to a default on US Treasury debt, an event that could prove cataclysmic for financial markets.

The Treasury Department said on Wednesday it would start taking extraordinary measures by 31 December to extend its borrowing capacity for about two more months.

Reuters



US President Barack Obama.

Deutsche Bank co-CEO sees more Europe bank consolidation

FRANKFURT, 31 Dec—Consolidation of European banks is not yet at an end, and Germany's sector with its many small banks will have to change, the co-chief executive of Deutsche Bank (DBKGn.DE) told a German newspaper. “We need pan-European banks. Or else

growth countries like China, India, Brazil or Russia will leave us behind,” Juergen Fitschen said in an interview published in *Boersen-Zeitung* on Saturday.

He said consolidation would be unavoidable in Germany. “We have to get away from the idea that it's possible and necessary to have a branch in every small town, especially given the rising use of online services.”

Fitschen said Deutsche Bank was mostly in agreement with the proposals of a EU advisory group calling for a separation of banks' riskier activities from their deposit-

taking business.

He said, however, the bank did not find proposals worthwhile to separate off market-making once it goes past a certain level and that such a move would impact Deutsche.

On the sale of BHF Bank, which Deutsche has twice failed to get past German regulator BaFin, Fitschen said he was confident a deal to sell the unit to buyout firm RHJ International (RHJI.BR) would go through. “To the best of my knowledge, BaFin now has the full documentation,” he said.

Reuters

Daimler CEO wants Mercedes to regain top spot by 2020

Business

FRANKFURT, 31 Dec—Daimler (DAIGn.DE) Chief Executive Dieter Zetsche hopes to return the automaker to the top spot in the premium car market ahead of Audi (VOWG_p.DE) and BMW (BMWG.DE) by 2020, he said in an interview with a German paper. “I am confident that we will be ahead of our rivals by 2020 at the latest,” he told *Boersen-Zeitung* in an interview published on Saturday. He said he hoped to reach that target during his time in office. Zetsche's contract

currently runs until December 2013 but is expected to be extended by three years in February.

Daimler has already promised 2 billion euros (\$2.6 billion) in cost cuts at the Mercedes-Benz division by the end of 2014 after warning in October that it would miss its operating profit target this year by 1 billion euros. Zetsche told the paper Mercedes had failed to keep up with its rivals in the compact car market and in China.—Reuters



Juergen Fitschen, co-CEO of Deutsche Bank, delivers his speech during the “German Economic Forum”, organized by German weekly newspaper “Die Zeit”, in the St Michaelis church in Hamburg, on 8 Nov, 2012.

REUTERS

WORLD

Italy leftist PM candidate Bersani tops opinion poll, Monti second

ROME, 31 Dec—Centre-left leader Pier Luigi Bersani is favourite among Italians to lead the next government, with outgoing technocrat Prime Minister Mario Monti second most popular and Silvio Berlusconi coming a close third, a poll showed on Sunday.

Bersani scored 36.2 percent, Monti 23.3 percent and Berlusconi 21.8 percent, the poll, conducted by the CISE electoral research

institute for Il Sole 24 Ore daily, found.

Whoever wins the 24-25 February elections will have to tackle a deep recession and rising unemployment in the euro zone's third largest economy as well as keeping strained public finances under control.

Monti said on Friday he would lead a centrist alliance, setting up a three-way contest with Bersani's Democratic Party (PD) and Berlusconi's

People of Freedom (PDL). The poll of 1,309 Italians was carried out between 22 December and 28 December.

A former European Commissioner, Monti was appointed to lead an unelected government of experts to save Italy from financial crisis a year ago.

He is a favourite with international investors, the Catholic Church, and the business establishment, and has been widely credited with restoring Italy's credibility after the scandal-plagued Berlusconi years.

The coalitions that will back the prime ministerial candidates are not yet finalized but 34.6 percent of respondents in the poll said they would vote for Bersani's PD, 19.7 percent Berlusconi's PDL, and 14.3 percent the anti-establishment 5-Star Movement if parliamentary elections were held now.

The UDC, Italy's largest centrist party which is among those backing Monti, came in fourth place with 6.4 percent.

Reuters



Democratic Party (PD) leader Pier Luigi Bersani arrives to cast his vote at a polling station in Piacenza, northern Italy on 2 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS

Investigators identify Moscow plane crash victims

MOSCOW, 31 Dec—Investigators have identified all four people killed in an airliner crash in Moscow, authorities said on Sunday.

"The bodies of all the victims have been identified by now. As soon as the state of crew members injured in the air crash stabilize, they will be interrogated," Russian Investigative Committee spokesman Vladimir Markin told reporters.

A Tu-204 owned by Russian airline Red Wings veered off a runway and caught fire on Saturday while landing at Moscow's Vnukovo Airport with eight people, all of them crew members, aboard.

The four survivors were reported in critical or serious condition in Moscow hospitals.

The Emergency Situations Ministry confirmed on Saturday those killed in the crash included the captain, co-pilot, flight engineer and a stewardess.

"Investigators have taken samples of the fuel and recording of talks between the crew and the airport's dispatch service," Markin said. "The video recording of the accident's site, made by a witness, is in the materials of the case."

Red Wings said on Sunday that it would compensate the victims'

families and those injured, as well as cover all expenses for necessary medical treatment and rehabilitation programmes, the Transport Ministry said.

The Moscow municipal



Rescue workers search at the crashed plane at Vnukovo Airport in Moscow, on 29 Dec, 2012. —XINHUA

government also said that it would offer necessary financial aid to the victims' families, with each family expected to receive one million rubles (32,000 US dollars) in cash.—Xinhua

China's Xi urges greater poverty-alleviation efforts

BEIJING, 31 Dec—Chinese leader Xi Jinping urged local authorities to escalate poverty-alleviation work during his weekend visit to impoverished villages in north China's remote Fuping County.

Braving chilly weather around minus-10 degrees Celsius, Xi, General Secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, reached Fuping, an impoverished county set deep in the Taihang Mountains of Hebei Province, on Saturday afternoon.

On Sunday morning, Xi

visited farmers' homes in the villages of Luotuowan and Gujiatai in Longquanguan Township to get a first-hand look at people's lives there.

During chats with villagers, Xi paid special attention to difficulties in their daily life, such as problems concerning income, food, education and medical care.

He also visited village clinics and shops and talked with village officials.

During his visit, Xi said local officials should always bear in mind poverty-stricken groups

and work for them with their whole heart and soul. Local Party and government authorities should place more emphasis on the mission of helping people out of poverty, especially people in impoverished regions, he said.

Xi also said the authorities should strive to find the right way to bring the people out of poverty by adjusting policies to conditions in a scientific manner. Xi said policies designed to support agriculture, rural areas and farmers and alleviate poverty

must be implemented fully, calling the embezzlement of poverty-alleviation funds an "intolerable crime."

Statistics show that the annual net income per capita is only around 2,400 yuan (390 US dollars) for farmers in natural resource-poor Fuping County, a former revolutionary base 300 km from Beijing. "The most arduous and heavy task facing China in completing the building of a moderately prosperous society is in the rural areas, especially the poverty-stricken regions," Xi said.—Xinhua

EPA faces legal battles, might take easy confirmation road

WASHINGTON, 31 Dec—Regardless of who takes the reins, the US Environmental Protection Agency will likely face continued legal battles in President Barack Obama's second term as it tries to finalize pollution rules for power plants, analysts said.

EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson, who spearheaded the Obama administration's regulation of carbon emissions, said on Thursday she will step down after almost four years.

Her tenure was marked by opposition from industry groups and Republican lawmakers to the EPA's first-ever crackdown on carbon emissions, as well as other anti-pollution measures.

Analysts said whoever succeeds Jackson will probably face a spate of lawsuits to challenge rules that the EPA will finalize governing power plants, industrial sources and oil and gas production.

"This is shaping up to be four years of litigation," said Christopher Guith, vice



US Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lisa Jackson testifies at a hearing of the House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on Capitol Hill in Washington, on 22 Sept, 2011.—REUTERS

president for policy at the US Chamber of Commerce's Energy Institute.

Given the partisan divide, Guith said, legislators would struggle to draft laws that could serve as alternatives to the EPA's pending suite of carbon and air regulation.

"As we look to an even more divided Congress, the action will be in the federal courts," he said.

The US Court of

Appeals for the District of Columbia circuit, which hears most challenges to federal environmental rules, is likely to be busy as industry groups and states bring their cases against the EPA's rules after they are finalized.

The court sided with the agency in most of the recent challenges, most notably upholding its decision to use the Clean Air Act to regulate carbon dioxide emissions.

Reuters

American Airlines pilots approve MoU for agreements under merger

NEW YORK, 31 Dec—Union leaders who represent American Airlines pilots approved a tentative agreement on Saturday for how the airline could merge with US Airways.

The board of the Allied Pilots Association (APA) said it voted 11-5 to approve a so-called memorandum of understanding that, with approval of other parties, "would serve as a framework for an agreement" if the airlines merge.

The union declined to provide details of the agreement, citing a non-disclosure agreement it sign as a party to the merger talks.

American, which is restructuring in bankruptcy

court, is in talks to merge with US Airways. American could merge as part of the structuring process or exit bankruptcy and then decide whether to merge. A merger could be announced as soon as 9 January, when AMR's board is due to meet.

A framework for the unions' labour agreements are a crucial part of the merger discussions. The APA said it is in talks with officials from American's parent, AMR Corp, US Airways and the US Airline Pilots Association, which represents US Airways pilots. Also included in the talks is the Unsecured Creditors Committee, which represents creditors of American.

Reuters

Rain, snow to hit NE, SW China

BEIJING, 31 Dec—Rain and snow will hit parts of northeast and southwest China in the coming three days, the national observatory forecast on Sunday.

Snow or sleet is expected to hit Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, most of northeast China and some parts of Guizhou Province from Sunday to Tuesday, the National Meteorological Centre said in a statement,

adding that these regions may see moderate to heavy snow.

Meanwhile, Yunnan and Hainan Provinces and Taipei will see light to moderate rain, it said.

It also forecast that a cold front moving southeastward will drag temperatures down by 4 to 8 degrees Celsius on Tuesday and Wednesday in areas north of the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River.—Xinhua

LOCAL NEWS

65th Anniversary Independence Day
2013

Scene in Bagan

Suspension bridge helps rural people enjoy fruits of transportation

BAMAUK, 31 Dec—Thanks to contribution of a donor from Switzerland, a suspension bridge has been built across Meza Creek to link Kainggyi Village and Tonhlaw Village in Bamauk Township of Katha District in Sagaing Region.

At present, local people are pleased with construction of the bridge.

The suspension bridge, 240 feet long, can withstand 3-4 tons of loads.

"We all are pleased with construction of the suspension bridge. Its construction started at 7.30 am on 25 December and completed at 1 pm on 26 December," said Tonhlaw



Village-tract administrator U Shwe Meik.

Kainggyi Village is constituted with 156 houses and Tonhlaw Village 84.

Both villages face difficult transport in rainy season.

"Due to torrential rains, Meza Creek is a natural barrier for local people

particularly for students," said Kainggyi Village-tract administrator U Mya Hlaing.

Myanmar Alinn

Spill of crude oil destroys farmlands

THAYET, 31 Dec—Oil wells in Padaukpin oil field cause environmental degradation due to reckless acts in exploration of crude oil.

GS block, MS block and ES block on 1173 acres of permitted Padaukpin oil field as of April 2012 are being operated for exploration of crude oil. Farmland owners sell their plots to the oil explorers. The oil explorers sink oil wells on the cultivable lands without abiding by the prescribed rules and regulations.

Oil well explorers cut off trees and bamboo plants for their plots.



In addition, they destroyed 500 acres of village firewood plantations established in 1997-98, but they did not emphasize reforestation.

Due to spill of crude oil in the area, farmlands were damaged. So, local authorities, oil well companies and local people are to give top priority to environmental conservation.—Myanmar Alinn

Over 69 grams of marijuana seized in Pyay

PYAY, 31 Dec—Members from the combined team of Bago Region Anti-Drug Special Squad and witnesses searched the house of Than Zaw Oo (a) Nay Soe of Gandama Ywama Ward of Ywabe Ward in Pyay on 22 December.

They seized 57.15 grams of suspected marijuana leaves worth K 12000 under the box.

According to the confession of Than Zaw Oo (a) Nay Soe who bought the leaves of marijuana from Kyaw Zin Myint (a) Bo Kyaw of 372 in Muyabin Ward, the combined team searched the house of Kyaw Zin Myint (a) Bo Kyaw.

The authorities seized a gum bottle containing suspected marijuana weighing 37.07 grams and 32.66 grams of suspected marijuana leaves totalling 69.73 grams worth K 14643.

According to Kyaw Zin Myint (a) Bo Kyaw's confession who purchased the marijuana from Win Khaing from Kanzunin Village of Wethikan Station in Pyay Township, the authorities seized the house of Win Khaing but no one was found there.

Pyay Police Station No. 2 takes action against the drug possessors under the law.

Myanmar Alinn

Talks on anti-human trafficking given in Pyay

PYAY, 31 Dec—An educative talk on prevention against trafficking in persons, organized by Pyay District Police Force, was held at the Dhammayon of Irrigation Department in Khtitaya Ward of Pyay in Bago Region on 26 December evening.

Vice-Chairman of Pyay Township Anti-Human

Trafficking Committee Commander of Pyay Township Police Force Police Major Myint Oo made a speech.

Deputy in-charge of Bago Region Anti-Human Trafficking Squad IP Myo Thein gave talks on human smuggling and trafficking.

SIP Than Soe Aung of

Pyay District Traffic Police Force lectured traffic rules and disciplines for road users.

Furthermore, IP Hla Tun and SIP Zaw Min Naing of Pyay Police Station No. 2 disseminated knowledge about crime reduction and tasks of surveillance for the people.—Myanmar Alinn

Illegally sawn timber seized in Sagaing, Taninthayi, Bago regions

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Dec—Staff and workers of Katha Township Forest Department of Sagaing Region seized

453 pieces of illegally In sawn timber weighing 17.9740 tons, 285.15 tons of In timber weighing 16.5840 tons, totalling 34.5580 tons and a motorboat in Weswe Village in Katha Township on 22 December. Action is being taken against owner U Myo Wai of Ward 8 in Katha under Section 41(a) of Forest Law.

The staff of Kyunhla, Budalin, Mingin, Mawlaik and Phaungpyin Township Forest Departments also seized 93 In sawn timber weighing 1.5345 tons near Thaphanseik Dam, one mile northwest of Ngabat Oh jetty in Kyunhla Township, 29 In logs weighing 728 tons at Chaungpauk in Yebudalin of Budalin Township, 10 logs of In weighing 2.46 tons in Chindwin River near Tonkyun Village of Mingin Township, eight In logs weighing 3.204 tons, northeast of Phaungpyin Township. All the timbers and logs were ownerless. The authorities also seized

380 pieces of Kanyin sawn timber weighing 6.056 tons in Chindwin River in Mawlaik Township together with three persons. Action is taken against them under Section 33 (a) (ii) of Forest Law.

Likewise, staff of Forest Department and policemen of Yebu Township in Taninthayi Region seized 56 pieces of wood weighing 11.7396 tons from the truck at Mahlwetaung checkpoint in Kaleinaung Station of Yebu Township. Action is being taken against three persons under Section 41 (a) of Forest Law.

In addition, staff of Forest Department and policemen of Thayawady Township seized 28 pieces of teak sawn timber weighing 0.1518 ton, three motorcycles and three persons at mile post 76/0 on Yangon-Pyay Highway in Bedingon Ward of Thayawady Township. They are being taken action under Section 43 (a) of Forest Law.—Myanmar Alinn



Stimulant tablets seized in Yamethin Township

YAMETHIN, 31 Dec—IP Hai Za Oak and party of Mandalay Region Anti-Drug Special Squad, Police Sgt Than Hlaing Win and party of Nwalan police station, security persons from National Development Co. Ltd and local authorities from Waphyutaung village together with witnesses, acting on tip-off, searched the house of Daw Kya Yi Swan (a) Kya Yi Yin near

the waterfall in Htanthonbin Village of Moemi Moehti Region in Yamethin Township of Mandalay Region on 16 December morning.

The authorities seized 1100 WY brand pink stimulant tablets and 75 grams of pink stimulant powder.

The police station in Yamethin Township opened a file of lawsuit against her under the law.

Myanmar Alinn

AS WE RING IN THE YEAR 2013

Maung Hlaing

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 1 January, 2013

Auld Lang Syne

When the clock struck twelve we all bid farewell to the year 2012 as if we were saying goodbye to our good old pal, and welcomed the new year with immense joy and great hope we have in our hearts singing the old favorite song "Auld Lang Syne" in chorus.

Now we have ushered into another year, and started a new beginning. We all want to bring together with us only the good into the New Year, leaving behind all the bad things of the past. Can we all really do this?

In fact, the past is the legacy of the present, and the present is also the legacy of the future. So, the previous year is the legacy of the present year, and the present year is also the legacy of the succeeding year.

Good things as well as bad things accompany us into the new period. We cannot deny it. We must accept it and must live in conformity with the prevailing situation. We must transform the bad into good, and the good into better. That's our duty, because what we did last year becomes our present responsibility.

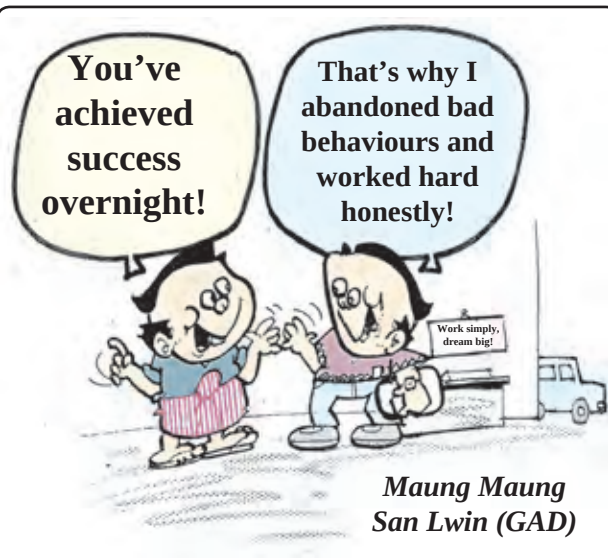
So, what we have failed or achieved in the previous year is what we are going to face again in the present year. Failures will become challenges to overcome and achievements will become rewards for further progress. We must find ways to amend our mistakes or weaknesses and turn failure into success. That is our main mission of the year 2013.

As we all sang "Auld Lang Syne" in chorus in welcoming the new year, we need love and unity and concerted efforts in solving problems, fixing errors, overcoming challenges, making greater progress and binging prosperity to our Union we all cherish.

For now, we wish you all a very happy New Year!

Union Foreign Affairs Minister felicitates Cuban Foreign Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Jan.—U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Bruno Rodriguez Parrilla, Minister of Foreign Relations of the Republic of Cuba, on the anniversary of the Liberation Day of Cuba which falls on 1 January 2013.—MNA



Maung Maung San Lwin (GAD)

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring happy bells, across the snow;
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

The new year has come round once again. Whenever new year comes, I cast my mind back to the above poem written by Alfred Tennyson, one of the most important English poets of the 1800's.

The New Year's Day indeed is a day of gaiety.

Although Myanmar people have their own New Year's Day, youngsters happily participate in the celebrations of the World New Year's Day, the first day of the calendar year. People in some countries celebrate this day even as a holiday. The celebrations are both festive and serious in most countries.

As far back in history as we can tell, people have celebrated the start of a new year. The people of ancient Egypt began their new year in summer. That is when the Nile River flooded its banks, bring water and fertility to the land. They held religious ceremonies because their economic life depended on the annual flooding.

The people of ancient Babylonia and Persia began their new year on 21 March, the first day of spring. Some American Indians began their new year when the nuts of the oak tree became ripe. That was usually in summer.

Many ancient peoples started the year at harvest time. They performed rituals to do away with the past and purify themselves for the new year. The ancient Mesopotamians held their new year festival at the time of the spring rains.

Now, almost everyone celebrates New Year's Day on 1 January. Today, as before, people observe the New Year's Day in many different ways.

According to a fable, believe it or not, the ancient Babylonians celebrated by forcing their king to give up his crown and royal clothing. They made him get down on his knees and admit all the mistakes he had made during the past

year. This idea of admitting wrongs and finishing the business of the old year is found in many ancient societies. So is the idea of making resolutions, a promise to change our ways.

Noise making is another ancient custom in the new year. The noise is considered necessary to chase away the evil spirits of the old year. People in some countries do different things to make a lot of noise. They may hit sticks together, beat on drums, blow horns or explode fireworks.

In Europe and in North America, people celebrate by holding family parties, giving presents and visiting friends. Some people make new year resolutions to correct bad habits.

Modern customs on New Year's Day include visiting friends and relatives; giving gifts; attending religious services; and making noises with guns, horns, bells and other devices. People write New Year's messages on decorated paper. In homes of some countries, the New Year's Day is celebrated with ceremonial housecleaning, feasting and exchanging visits and gifts.

Large numbers of people go to New Year's Eve parties. At midnight, bells chime, sirens sound, fireworks are let off, and everyone shouts, "Happy New Year!"

Whatever it may be, we have stepped into another new year, the year 2013, and we leave behind the old year 2012 with pride and satisfaction. Just as we ring out the old year and ring in the new year, we take stock of what has been achieved individually, in groups, or governments and nations. Generally, there have been advances in all spheres of human endeavours in all countries regardless of region and size.

In the past year, many nations were in the throes of economic downturn. Even some European countries had to face financial "Shock-wave". According to the recent reports, even in the United States, tax hikes and spending cuts at the start of the new year.

In the light of the present situation, the entire world has come under the threats of climate change

that has caused a growing number of natural disasters. Moreover, the people all over the world, especially in the have-nots, are facing food insecurity, fuel insecurity, the spread of epidemics and the scourge of terrorism. It is now shockingly alarming that food insecurity has posed a strong impact on about over one billion people around the world. Food insecurity and soaring prices of food have exacerbated the hardships of the people of the third world. In the past year, there were instances of less achievement, especially where the have-nots are concerned.

Myanmar, on the other hand, is in a better position than those in spite of her being a developing nation herself. The old year 2012 saw some considerable successes in efforts to develop Myanmar in the political, economic and social fields. The key to the success we scored in the old year is our ardent wish for reforms.

As for Myanmar, the year 2012 was an eventful year in our history. With the establishment of a new government, reform measures have simultaneously been implemented.

The first reform measure is to walk out from a centralized system that the country practised for half a century and eventually build a mature democratic State. Because democratic practice has been vanished from our country for many years, building a democratic State becomes the biggest challenge for the people and the country. To be able to build a strong democratic foundation, necessary reform measures have been taken in Executive, Legislative and Judiciary bodies. At the same time, the government is also taking necessary measures to review or revoke existing laws that no longer attend to the new system and the new era.

With the aim of achieving national reconciliation, amnesty has been granted to many prisoners. Regulations on media and telecommunications have been relaxed to make people enjoy

the facilities openly. Expatriates have also been invited to return to their homeland. What is encouraging is that printing and censorship procedures have also been eased on a step-by-step basis.

As the conflicts have emerged in our country since the time when Myanmar regained her independence, the second reform measure is being taken to achieve a long lasting peace in the country.

The third reform measure is to transform the centralized economy into a market-oriented economic system. As part of micro-economy exertion, programmes on development of rural areas and poverty alleviation are being implemented and Micro-finance Act has also been enacted.

In brief, the year 2012 saw tangible results of the reforms of the democratic government. Likewise, the past year saw some incidents and natural disasters.

As we have gained success, we have also had shortcomings in some of our efforts in the past year. In that case, the successes we have gained must be consolidated while we draw lessons from the past shortcomings and find ways and means to rectify them.

True to human nature, we have in us, our individual weaknesses and so some of us have failed to live up to expectations. If such weaknesses are sooner realized, we have a better chance of finding ways to remedy them and further develop ourselves into better citizens to serve the nation and the people.

Let us take lessons from the past year and endeavour to make greater progress in the future. And we have to look ahead with a firm resolve to consolidate the successes and continue to build our country into a peaceful and prosperous society.

Let us all make a resolution to contribute towards greater success in our endeavours in the new year.

Happy New Year!

OPINION

New democracy nation and ongoing reforms

Editorial Board

Myanmar is a nation with a great history. The entire national people have been living in the Union through thick and thin after establishing an independent and sovereign nation. The nation's independence will turn 65th anniversary on 4 January 2013.

Nowadays, the country is exercising a discipline-flourishing genuine democracy system in which independent people are in a position of enjoying rights, privileges and duty. It was about one year and nine months since the government elected by the people was in office serving the interest of the nation and its people. The government has embarked on a series of reforms in such a short time of democracy transition.

There are three phases of reform during the period of democracy transition. The first phase is political reform and the second phase people-oriented social-economic reform. The third phase is administrative reform of government department which will be undertaken under reform strategy for national development. Reforms have been and are being undertaken in a pragmatic way in the building up of a discipline-flourishing, genuine democratic nation.

The following is the excerpt of reforms being processed step by step for the emergence of a discipline-flourishing, democratic nation.

General election

As part of reform process, a genuine free and fair general election as per people's aspirations was held the length and breadth of the nation on 7 November 2010 before the new government taking office.

Election of Hluttaw speakers

The first Hluttaw meetings started to be held on 31 January 2011, and the Hluttaw speakers were elected at 8.55 am the same day exercising the authority and duty under section 443 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of

Myanmar and the Pyithu Hluttaw Law 32.

Election of President

The meeting of the President Election Committee including all the representatives of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held on 4 February elected the President and the Vice Presidents.

First speech

President U Thein Sein and the Vice-Presidents and Union ministers were sworn in the presence of the Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. And then, the President made the first speech, saying that the crucial task of the government is to foster good governance and clean government; that towards this end, they are to attach importance to the people's response; that both the people and the administrative bodies are to practice freedom and responsibility and freedom and accountability in a right way. Only then, will there be a Myanmar society where democracy is flourishing.

In meeting with members of the Union level organizations, Union ministers, chief ministers of the region and state and deputy ministers at the meeting hall of the President Office on 6 April, President U Thein Sein said that mindset and work styles need to be changed to be in accordance with the changing system; that the aspirations of the people who are desirous of changes should be realized; that bottom-up system is to be exercised instead of centralization; basic organizations therefore need to be strong; the people themselves are to exercise due diligence on self-reliant basis for development of their socio-economic status not relying only on the government; it is people who are to work and the government that is to create favourable working conditions and collect taxes; that those concerned are to be held responsible over their actions; and the wrong done out of goodwill could be pardoned but the wrong done out of personal affairs should be avoided.

Opening of first bridge

The Mamya creek bridge on Hinthada-Sonekon-Myanaung road in Ingapu Township, Hinthada District, Ayeyawady Region was the first to be opened on 28 April in the time of the new government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

First trip abroad

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein attended the 18th ASEAN Summit held in Jakarta of Indonesia on 5 May. It was the first trip abroad for the President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar after he had taken office.

Amnesty

The President on 16 May granted an amnesty for prisoners in order to turn them into the ones who could participate in the nation-building endeavours in whatever way they could. The amnesty has reduced the prison terms of those with death penalty to life imprisonment and has reduced one year from the prison terms of those with different penalties in addition to their usual cutting days.

Ten rural development tasks

President U Thein Sein attended the national level workshop on rural development and poverty alleviation held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre on 20 May and made a speech on the occasion. The meeting formulated ten work programmes that should be implemented in order to be able to more effectively carry out the rural development tasks.

Opening of the second bridge

Nantkwinchaung bridge on Shwebo-Myitkyina road in Hopin Township in Mohnyin District of Kachin State, the second bridge in time of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was opened on 21 May.

Astep towards cooperation

President U Thein Sein visited China on 26 May and signed nine memoranda of agreement and memoranda of understanding.

US Senator John McCain visited Myanmar

on 1 June and opened a new chapter in the history of Myanmar-US relations.

First railroad

Dawei-Thayetthaung railroad section of Dawei-Myeik railroad was opened on 4 June as the first-ever railroad section. It has the length of 19.31 miles, providing better transportation to Dawei and Myeik in Taninthay region.

Eight poverty alleviation tasks

Eight poverty alleviation tasks were adopted at rural development and poverty alleviation central committee meeting on 20 June.

Third bridge

Lower Natchaung bridge on Bogale-Sethsan-Htawpaing-Ahmar road in Bogale Township in Pyapon District of Ayeyawady region opened on 25 June was the third bridge to be opened in time of the new government.

Pension rate increased

Finance and Revenue Ministry announced on 30 June that the government employee and political pension rates to improve socio-economic status of the pensioners.

First guest

Mr Thongsing Thammavong, Prime Minister of Laos, who visited Myanmar on 11 July was the first Head of State/Government to visit Myanmar since President U Thein Sein took office. He exchanged views with Myanmar officials on eight rural development and poverty alleviation tasks.

On 25 July, Union Minister U Aung Kyi and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met at Seinle Kantha government guesthouse. They discussed matters on cooperation opportunities for the people, the rule of law and reconciliation.

Flood aid

President U Thein Sein on 27 July visited flood-hit Ayeyawady region and provided aids to flood victims.

Export tax cut

The government on 15 August exempted export tax on seven export products. It profited national entrepreneurs including farmers, rubber producer, marine workers, breeders,

contributing to economic development of the country.

Common ground

The President invited every stakeholder to find the common ground in meeting with members of social, economic and other organizations at Myanmar International Convention Centre in Nay Pyi Taw on 17 August.

The President said, "It is not the time to play blame game. The country has already possessed rich resources to achieve growth if we are united."

Olive branch

Armed groups are invited to preliminary peace talks to end the armed conflicts on 18 August. The income tax was reduced from 10 per cent to 2 per cent on the same day.

Common interests

President and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met on 19 August and discussed potential cooperation in common interests, putting aside differences.

Privatization

On the same day, the President said at national level workshop on reforms for economic growth, "The economic structure, as a part of good governance, must create ethical, accountable and healthy environment. We need to

create the advanced and systematic private sector that prefers changes. The market economy with appropriate functionality and competitiveness is also needed."

Good public servants

President U Thein Sein addressed second regular session of First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 22 August, the first day of the session.

The President said, "Though in its infancy, the government is putting the interests of the people before everything else in political, economic and social arenas. As a government of the people, we are vowed to serve the people. We are launching measures to educate the civil servants and warn and take actions against the corrupted government employees to turn them into reliable public servants in order to bring about public satisfaction."

Human Rights

UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Situation in Myanmar Mr Tomas Ojea Quintana visited Myanmar on 21-25 August. He recognized positive developments in Myanmar.

Myanma Alinn:
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31-12-2012

Trs: TS+HKA

A blooming flower

- * Independence like a blooming flower
Clear and cool as a spring
Brings always the aroma
Ever sweet and wonderful
- * Truly invaluable
Indisputable inheritance
Independence forever
Endeavors for its perpetuity
Duty of the people
- * Blooming is our independence
Brilliance is the glory
Opportunity so great
Take it we all as our pride
Like a celestial treasure
Ever graceful and heavenly
Liberty is the identity
Amity and faithfulness
We have courage and strength
Independence in our hearts forever

Po Lay Lone Thaug Ko Ko

Trs: TMT

WORLD

US plane leaves Iran after emergency landing

TEHERAN, 31 Dec—A US plane, which made an emergency landing in Iran's southwestern city of Ahvaz due to technical problems, has already left Iran, official IRNA news agency reported on Sunday.

The managing director of Iran Airports Company, Mahmoud Rasoulinejad, said the small US commercial plane made an emergency landing in Ahvaz 20 days ago due to the technical fault, according to semi-official Mehr news agency.

The plane left Ahvaz for the Netherlands after the repair work had been accomplished, said IRNA.

Xinhua



Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas (C) meets with Arab League chief Nabil al-Arabi (L) and Egyptian Foreign Minister Mohammed Kamel Amr in Ramallah, on 29 Dec, 2012. Al-Arabi and Amr paid Saturday an official visit to the West Bank city of Ramallah, aiming at offering moral support to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).—XINHUA

Egypt's foreign currency reserves at "critical" minimum level

CAIRO, 31 Dec—Egypt's foreign currency reserves have fallen to a "critical" minimum level, the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) warned on Saturday evening.

In a statement, the CBE also announced a new system of trading foreign

currency through auctions to help preserve foreign fund reserves.

The new system would take effect Sunday, the statement said.

Egypt's foreign cash reserves were 36 billion US dollars in January 2011, but decreased to 15 billion

AU chief arrives in Bangui to initiate dialogue

BANGUI, 31 Dec—African Union Chairman Thomas Yayi Boni, also president of Benin, arrived at the airport in Bangui of Central African Republic on Sunday to promote dialogue between the government of President Francois Bozize and the armed rebels known as Seleka.

Seleka forces have been positioned in Sibut since Saturday morning, a city around 160 km north of the capital. According to media reports, the rebels threatened to enter the capital

city pending the outcome of the meeting between the AU chief and the government of Central African Republic.

The country is facing the biggest challenge to its security since forming a government in January 2009 after an inclusive political dialogue in Bangui.

The weeks-old rebellion moved swiftly in its southward push, threatening all the peace accords signed in the past years.

Last week, the government rejected the charges by Seleka rebels

that it failed to respect the Libreville Global Peace Agreements signed between 2006 and 2007.

The Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC) held a summit last week in the Chadian capital N'Djamena, urging the belligerent parties in the Central African Republic to immediately cease hostilities and open talks on a solution. CEEAC leaders demanded the Seleka coalition withdraw from the towns they had seized within a week.—Xinhua



An injured policeman receives treatment at a hospital in southwest Pakistan's Quetta, on 29 Dec, 2012. At least three policemen were killed and one other injured on Saturday evening during a firing accident in Quetta, local media reported.

XINHUA

Three policemen killed in firing in SW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 31 Dec—At least three policemen were killed and one other was injured on Saturday evening in a firing incident in Pakistan's south-western metropolitan of Quetta, local media reported.

According to the reports, the incident took place when some unknown gunmen opened fire at a police mobile in the Satellite Town area of Quetta, the provincial capital of south-western Province of Balochistan.

The police official told media that the police mobile was on its routine patrolling when it came under attack.

The attack was so

intensive that the police personnel could not retaliate to the assailants.

The unknown miscreants ran away from the site quickly after the attack, killing three on spot and injuring one other.

Police and rescue teams rushed to the site and shifted the dead bodies and the injured to the hospital. The injured policeman was under treatment in the intensive care unit of the hospital and was reportedly in critical condition.

No group or militant organization claimed responsibility for the attack yet.—Xinhua

Reuters

Britain faces cold 2013 as Olympic glow fades

LONDON, 31 Dec—Prime Minister David Cameron's "odd-couple"

speech on Britain's relations with the European Union, expected in the next

UK Independence Party (UKIP).

"It has always been tricky for Cameron and Clegg to present themselves as united," said *The Observer*. "This tension will become more acute in the 12 months ahead."

Unable to win an outright victory in the 2010 general election, Cameron's centre-right Conservatives persuaded the much smaller, left-leaning Liberal Democrats to join them in coalition to help solve Britain's economic problems.

The unequal electoral strength of the two parties and the ideological gulf between them have long encouraged Britain's newspapers to speculate whether they will be able to last together until the next election in 2015.

Nowhere is the divide more marked than over Europe, with the Conserva-

tives increasingly divided on the EU as the euro zone's economic problems have worsened and the Lib-Dems staunch in their support for Britain's EU membership.

"The coalition has proved far stronger than many wiseacres had assumed and the two parties have agreed to differ in ways in which some had thought impossible - but Europe may prove a bridge too far," said the Sunday Times. *The Sunday Telegraph* warned: "The centre of gravity in the Conservative Party is shifting unambiguously towards a much steeper collective position on Europe."

"The question in 2013 is whether Cameron can keep pace with his party on Europe...and still hold together his governing partnership with the most Europhile party in the UK."



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

coalition government will come under increased strain in 2013, newspapers predicted, with the divisive issue of Europe aggravating tensions between them as the feel good factor of the Olympic Games and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee fades.

Two key moments will be Cameron's long-awaited

few weeks, and local government elections in May which could prompt a revolt against Liberal Democrat Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg.

Also expected to weigh on coalition sentiment in 2013 will be the improved standing of Labour opposition leader Ed Miliband and the rise of the anti-EU

Vietnam's real estate industry stagnates with no signs of recovery in 2013

HANOI, 31 Dec—Vietnam's real estate market has been in the doldrums for the past five years, but more especially in 2012, and there are no indications of recovery in the coming year.

"If the government does not intervene with appropriate and timely measures, the real estate sector would suffer more," an executive

of a real estate firm, who declined to be named, told *Xinhua* in an interview. The executive has been working in a city-run housing trading and brokerage company since 1989. The company has now been converted into a share-holding company. At one time, his company had up to 600 employees, but now it only has a staff of 60.

"I have to reduce my staff to the minimum, which helps in lowering our budget and in going through the current tough and competitive environment," the executive said. He said that in 2012, the year-end bonus for their employees would be equal to only one-month salary compared to three-month salary years ago.—Xinhua

Jordan to continue receiving Syria refugees

AMMAN, 31 Dec—Jordanian Foreign Minister Nasser Judeh said on Sunday Jordan will continue receiving Syrian refugees out of its historic duty toward the brotherly Syrians, the state-run *Petra* news agency reported.

Judeh said Jordan has received more than 250,000 Syrian refugees since the start of the unrest in Syria and underlined the need for

a political solution to put an end to the violence and bloodshed in Syria.

He made the remarks at a meeting with defecting Syrian former Prime Minister Riyad Hijab.

The minister stressed on Jordan's keenness to find a political solution that would enhance the unity and territorial integrity of Syria, as well as to start a transitional period that would

restore stability to Syria.

The solution, he said, should involve all political segments and social bodies in Syria.

At the meeting, Hijab voiced appreciation for Jordan's efforts in hosting the Syrian refugees, and expressed hope that Syria would restore its stability and security so the Syrian people could return home.

Xinhua

REGIONAL

China to start new mainland pass for HK, Macao residents

BEIJING, 31 Dec— The Ministry of Public Security will start issuing a new pass for Hong Kong and Macao residents to use to travel to the mainland, according to a statement from the ministry on Sunday.

From 2 Jan, 2013, Hong Kong and Macao residents can apply for the new pass that features upgraded anti-counterfeiting technology, including an embedded electronic chip, physical anti-forgery methods and digital safeguarding procedures, the ministry said.

The period of validity for people under 18 will be extended to five years from three years with the new pass, and Hong Kong and Macao residents can enter the mainland via a third country with the pass, the ministry said.

According to the ministry, relevant policies and services for Hong Kong and Macao residents to travel to the mainland remain the same, and old passes that have not expired can still be used.

The current pass for Hong Kong and Macao residents to travel to the mainland started in 1999. In 2011, 206 million travels from Hong Kong and Macao to the mainland with the pass were registered.

Xinhua



Photo taken on 30 Dec, 2012 shows the view of Mo Yan's former residence in Dalan Township of Gaomi City, east China's Shandong Province. Chinese novelist Mo Yan, winner of the 2012 Nobel Prize in Literature, once lived here since he was born in 1955 until he enlisted in the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in 1976. —XINHUA

Health, wealth at top of New Year list in New Zealand

WELLINGTON, 31 Dec— Getting fit and saving money are New Zealanders' most popular New Year's resolutions.

Exercising more, losing weight and eating a more healthy diet are at the top of the list for up to half of those surveyed in a Colmar Brunton poll released on Sunday. Increasing savings was the second most popular

goal, something Aucklanders will need to do, as 20 percent in the region said they were keen to buy a house in 2013.

For people in Christchurch, taking more holidays and reducing stress levels were popular ambitions. The South Island city was hit by a 6.3 magnitude earthquake in February 2011 in which 185 people were killed. The least

popular resolution was to quit smoking.

Getting married and moving overseas were low on the list for all but for the 18-29 age bracket, about a tenth of them had these as a priority. A clue to whether the goals will be achieved lies in another of the poll's findings — only 15 percent carried through their resolutions in 2012. —Xinhua



Nepalese Gurung girls wearing traditional costumes dance during the New Year parade of Tamu Losar in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 30 Dec, 2012. The indigenous Gurung community celebrates the year of the Snake during Tamu Losar (New Year) parade Sunday. —XINHUA

Police seize 165 kg heroin in NW Turkey

ANKARA, 31 Dec— Turkish police seized 165 kg of heroin in the north-western province of Edirne on Monday, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported.

During an operation, the Turkish police confiscated 165 kg of heroin stashed in a truck heading to

Greece at the Ipsala Border Gate in Edirne, said the report, adding that the driver of the truck was arrested.

The head of Anti-Smuggling and Organized Crime Bureau (KOM) of the Police Department in the Interior Ministry, Mehmet Yesilkaya, said last week that in 2011 and 2012, 117

tons of cocaine, 17.1 tons of heroin, 1 million pills of captagon and 3 million ecstasy pills were seized by the Turkish security forces.

Turkey has long been a key transit point along the drug smuggling route from Asia and Middle East to Europe.

Xinhua

Psychiatric centre fire leaves two dead in southern France

PARIS, 31 Dec—A fire broke out in a psychiatric centre on Sunday evening killed two people in the southern French town of Toulon, local media reported.

Three other patients were asphyxiated due to

the blaze, according to RTL radio report.

The cause of the fire, which broke out around 7:20 pm (1820 GMT) local time, was unknown yet, but local authorities have opened investigation. "A resident was

found with a lighter but it is not possible to accuse him to be behind the fire.

The gendarmes are investigating to determine its exact cause," Toulon prosecutor Xavier Tarabeux was quoted as saying. —Xinhua

Five sentenced to death for killing Saudi diplomat in Bangladesh

DHAKA, 31 Dec—A court here on Sunday awarded death penalty to five people in the murder case of Saudi diplomat Khalaf Al Ali.

Judge Mohammad Motahar Hossain of the Speedy Trial Tribunal-4 in Dhaka announced the verdict. Of the condemned killers, four are behind the bars while one is on the run. The punishment of the only fugitive will be effective from the day of his arrest or surrender.

Saudi Ambassador to Bangladesh Abdullah Bin Naser Al-Busairi and one of Khalaf brothers, Khalaf Al-Khaled, who were present at the courtroom, expressed their satisfaction over the verdict.

Khalaf, 45, a second secretary at the Royal Embassy of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Dhaka, was shot dead near his Gulshan house in Dhaka's diplomatic enclave in the wee hours of 6 March this year.

Belying speculations about third-party role, Bangladesh Police in July announced that Saudi diplomat's murder was related to street crime.

This is the first time a foreign diplomat was murdered in the Muslim-majority nation, which enjoys good relations with Saudi Arabia where over 2 million workers from the South Asian nation are living and working.

Xinhua



Siberian tigers tread on snow in Qingdao Forest Wildlife Park in Qingdao, east China's Shandong Province, on 30 Dec, 2012. —XINHUA

Gas surges through world's longest pipeline

BEIJING, 31 Dec— China's second west-to-east gas pipeline, the world's longest line, became fully operational when the last section of the line opened on Sunday, China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) announced.

The 8,704-kilometre pipeline, including one trunk line and 8 regional lines, will carry natural gas from central Asia to as far afield as Shanghai in east China and Guangzhou and Hong Kong in south China.

The 142.2 billion-yuan (22.57 billion US dollars) pipeline traverses 15 provincial regions and will benefit about 500 million people, according to the CNPC.

The pipeline's annual natural gas transportation capacity is 30 billion cubic metres. It runs from Huoerguosi, located on the China-Kazakhstan border in northwest Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, to Hong Kong.

Xinhua

154 kids die of measles in Southern Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 31 Dec— At least seven children died of measles in Pakistan's southern Province of Sindh on Sunday, bringing the death toll to 154 in such incidents over the last 29 days, local media reported.

Local Urdu TV channel Dunya quoted hospital sources as saying that the disease broke out in the children of two to nine years of age during the last week of October in the Upper Sindh areas which were affected by floods earlier in August and September this year.

The health officials said that over 1200 measles-affected children have been

shifted to various hospitals since November and more such patients are being brought into hospitals and dispensaries.

Local health officials said that the major reason behind such a massive spread of disease is malnutrition and unhygienic condition in which the affected kids are living.

Health Secretary Dr Aftab Ahmed Khatri said that most of the affected children were living together in congested streets and were passing the disease to other children.

Measles is highly contagious and it spreads by a virus that is preventable by

proper immunization but the disease became fatal in the province due to negligence of the health authorities.

Talking to media, families of the affected kids said that the concerned authorities did not provide any relief to them, and the stagnant rain water is still surrounding their houses even after the passage of three months.

According to an official Press release by the Sindh health ministry, an anti-measles vaccination drive has been launched in the affected areas during which 130,004 children have been vaccinated so far.

Xinhua



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MV KOTA RATNA VOY NO (867)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RATNA VOY NO (867) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PLATINUM JADE VOY NO (PJ/V11/12)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PLATINUM JADE VOY NO (PJ/V11/12) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W(1) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HUB SHIPPING SDN-BHD**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV OSSIAN VOY NO (12028N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OSSIAN VOY NO (12028N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: T.S LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV FORE SIGHTER VOY NO (7)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FORE SIGHTER VOY NO (7) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: EASTERN CAR LINER S'PORE
PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GATIMAJESTIC VOY NO (90713B)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GATIMAJESTIC VOY NO (90713B) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S GATI COAST TO COAST**

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (485)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TAMPAN VOY NO (485) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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P. O. Box 60, Yangon

Dated: 1 January 2013

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MV ILC FRIEND SHIP VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ILC FRIEND SHIP VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: RK SHIPPING & TRADING
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BIENDONG NAVIGATOR NO (005)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BIENDONG NAVIGATOR VOY NO (005) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
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Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



The 49-year-old will be awarded ahead of the European premiere of his new film Django Unchained in Italy next month.—PTI

Quentin

Tarantino to be honoured in Italy

LONDON, 31 Dec—Filmmaker Quentin Tarantino will be honoured with a lifetime achievement award at the International Rome Film Festival.

The 49-year-old will be awarded ahead of the European premiere of his new film Django Unchained in Italy next month.

Composer Ennio Morricone, who worked with the director on the movie, will present Tarantino with his latest accolade, reports contactmusic.com.—PTI

Zoey Deschanel always wants to look immaculate

LONDON, 31 Dec—Zoey Deschanel feels she always needs to look immaculate.

The New Girl star sees being groomed as part of her job but wishes she had the confidence to appear in public in her sweatpants with no make-up on.

She said: "There are

times I want to go out in my pyjamas and wear sloppy clothes and look bad, it's so annoying. Every time I leave my house, I'm supposed to look photographable and polished. I'm jealous of people who can put on sweatpants and go for a coffee. I don't feel like I could do that." Zoey also loves

highlighting her blue eyes, which she calls her "family trait". She said: "I like make-up that complements my eye colour. I stick to blacks and browns, never blue tones. I try to keep it neutral."

However, one area of her appearance Zoey doesn't put a lot of effort into is her nails.—PTI



SPORTS & ADVERTISEMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 4th JANUARY 2013 (Independence DAY) and 12th JANUARY 2013 (Karin New Year DAY), Loading; Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TABAH NO (527)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (527) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.12.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Suarez rebuilding reputation with consistent brilliance

LONDON, 31 Dec—Striker Luis Suarez sparked life into Liverpool's stuttering Premier League campaign as they thumped Queens Park Rangers 3-0 on Sunday in a match that highlighted the brilliance of the unpredictable Uruguayan.

In the opening 16 minutes, the 25-year-old almost single-handedly secured Liverpool's victory as he sliced through some feeble defending to score a superb individual goal before adding a second six minutes later.

It was vintage Suarez, the reason Liverpool paid more than 22 million pounds (\$36 million) to acquire his services, and Queens Park Rangers simply could not contain him.

Life has not, however, been all joy and success for Suarez since he arrived from Ajax Amsterdam in January 2011 and the south American's two-year stint on Merseyside has been

controversial.

The Uruguayan was handed an eight-match ban and 40,000-pound (\$65,000) fine for racially abusing Manchester United's Patrice Evra last year and subsequently refused to shake the Frenchman's hand before a game at Old Trafford to reignite the row.

There was another punishment for making an abusive hand gesture at Fulham before Suarez's reputation as a diver gained traction following a series of questionable incidents inside the penalty area.

Seven goals in 12 appearances since the start of November, however, serve as a reminder of how influential he can be for Liverpool as they seek a place at Europe's top table next season.

Club captain Steven Gerrard has long backed Suarez and after his two goals at Loftus Road, was fulsome in his praise. "He's



Liverpool's Luis Suarez (L) celebrates scoring a second goal as Queens Park Rangers Nedum Onuoha reacts during their English Premier League soccer match at Loftus Road in London on 30 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

amagician," England captain Gerrard told Sky Sports.

"He's been brilliant since he's come to the club. These players (QPR) only have to play against him twice a year - we have to train with him every day. Week in, week out, he shows his value."

As a team, Liverpool may be battling for consistency but Suarez is not.

His ability to pop up at crucial moments is unquestionable and his recent goalscoring record is proof he is at the top of his game.

"Luis Suarez is superb," Liverpool assistant manager Colin Pascoe said. "He's a maverick. He creates chances for himself, finishes them and is a great lad."

Reuters

Lampard double inspires Chelsea to 2-1 win at Everton

LONDON, 31 Dec—Frank Lampard underlined his value to Chelsea with a well-taken double that secured a 2-1 win at Everton on Sunday to move the

successive league win under interim manager Rafael

Benitez lifted them to within four points of second-placed Manchester City with a game in hand.

Reuters

Chelsea's Frank Lampard (L) celebrates scoring with Juan Mata during their English Premier League soccer match at Goodison Park in Liverpool, northern England on 30 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Londoners back up to third place in the Premier League.

The subject of intense speculation about his future at Stamford Bridge, midfielder Lampard reminded Chelsea's power-brokers of his class as he scored either side of halftime to cancel out Steven Pienaar's thunderbolt strike after just 63 seconds.

Chelsea's fourth



Distracted Williams sounds ominous warning in season opener

BRISBANE, 31 Dec—An angry and impatient Serena Williams overcame blustery conditions at the Brisbane International on Sunday in an ominous beginning to her only tournament before her charge at a 16th major title at the Australian Open next month. The American threw her hands in the air, shook her head, gesticulated towards her coach and stomped her feet in petulant protest—but that did little to help compatriot Varvara Lepchenko who suffered a 6-2, 6-1 first round defeat.

Howling with frustration in her first match since winning the WTA Championships at



Serena Williams of the US hits a return to compatriot Varvara Lepchenko during their women's singles match at the Brisbane International tennis tournament on 30 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

Istanbul in October, lacking rhythm in swirling winds on Pat Rafter Arena, Williams still delivered enough booming serves and punishing groundstrokes to prevail in a formidable if cantankerous display.

The reigning Wimbledon, Olympic and US Open champion told reporters a calendar-year grand slam was very much on her mind at the start of the season.

Williams held all four major titles in the so-called Serena Slam of 2002-2003 but the holy grail of professional tennis is to win the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and US Open tournaments in the same calendar year.

The American claimed world number one Victoria Azarenka and number two Maria Sharapova,

and perhaps a few fringe-dwellers, were eyeing off a near-impossible feat not achieved since Steffi Graf's unbeaten run through 1988.

"I think whoever wins the Australian Open will have that same thought," Williams said.

"I think there is no way that Victoria or Maria or maybe some other players don't have that same thought. I think I definitely feel that way." Both Azarenka and Sharapova are in a red-hot Brisbane field with Williams. Of the world's top 10, only Agnieszka Radwanska and Li Na are missing.

The predictability of her defeat of Lepchenko was matched by the level of emotion surrounding Australian wildcard Jarmila Gajdosova's victory on the opening day.—Reuters

Vikings make playoffs on rookie's field goal

MINNEAPOLIS, 31 Dec—The Minnesota Vikings claimed a wildcard playoff berth by beating the NFC North champion Green Bay Packers 37-34 on a 29-yard field goal by rookie Blair Walsh with no time remaining on the clock on Sunday.

The victory by the Vikings (10-6) set up a rematch with the Packers (11-5) next weekend at Green Bay in the opening round of the National Football League playoffs.

Minnesota got the trip to the postseason over the rival Chicago Bears thanks to a tiebreaker even Chicago improved to 10-6 with a 26-24 victory over the Detroit Lions.

The Vikings' win also denied the Packers a first-round bye in the playoffs.

Vikings running back Adrian Peterson led the way with 199 yards rushing on 34 carries, becoming the seventh man to surpass 2,000 yards rushing in a season as he finished just nine yards behind the record of 2,105 logged by Eric Dickerson of the Los Angeles Rams in 1984.

With 24 seconds left and the Vikings facing a possible 55-yard field goal attempt to win the game, Minnesota looked one more time to Peterson.

Quarterback Christian Ponder handed the ball off to Peterson, who burst up the middle, cut toward the

sideline and then slipped inside some would-be tacklers for a 26-yard gain to the 11-yard line that made the winning kick not much more than a chip shot for Walsh.



Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson (28) scores a touchdown past Green Bay Packers safety MD Jennings on a seven-yard carry in the first half of their NFL football game in Minneapolis, on 30 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS

GENERAL

Local people actively participate in mass walk of December



Mandalay, 31 Dec—The fifth and last week of mass walks for December 2012 was organized at the gathering point of Yanhnin Bridge in the eastern part of

Nanmyo at the corner of 19th and 66th streets in Mandalay on 29 December morning.

Members of the Mandalay Region government and their wives,

Speaker of Mandalay Region Hluttaw U Win Maung and officials, district and township administrators, football referees, departmental officials, officials of Sports and Physical Education Institute (Mandalay) and Sports and Physical Education Department, Education College and basic education schools, students, teachers and local people totalling over 14000 participated in the mass walk.

Myanma Alinn

Jimenez out for several months after breaking leg skiing

MADRID, 31 Dec—Spanish golfer Miguel Angel Jimenez will be out of action for at least three months after breaking his leg in a skiing accident on Saturday.

"I was skiing in Sierra Nevada, I lost control and fell," Jimenez was quoted as saying in local media on Sunday. "I felt a huge stab of pain and I knew straight away I had broken something," he said, adding that he had been operated on at a clinic in his native Malaga.

"I broke the top of the

tibia in my right leg, just where it meets the knee, and they put in two pins.

"It will take three, four or five months to recover and be able to return to competition. I was playing very well but... these things happen in life."

Jimenez, who will be 49 on Saturday, was named European Tour golfer of the month in November after his victory at the Hong Kong Open made him the oldest winner in Tour history at 48 years and 318 days. A lover of fine wines and cigars and



Miguel Angel Jimenez

known for his trademark ponytail, he said he had fashioned a love of skiing some years ago and was well aware of the risks.—Reuters

Syrian troops arrest 4 Turkish fighter pilots in Aleppo

DAMASCUS, 31 Dec—Syrian troops arrested four Turkish fighter pilots near a military airport in the northern province of Aleppo, a pro-government daily said Monday.

The guarding troops of the Koerc military airport arrested four Turkish officers who were trying to sneak into the airport with an armed group, al-Watan said, giving no further details about the fate of the Turkish pilots but saying that the incident came to explicitly implicate Turkey.

Also in Aleppo, the paper said more than 100 armed men were killed when the Syrian air

force bombarded the Finance Directorate in al-Sufaira town, where the armed men had been gathering.

In the central province of Homs, army units targeted armed groups' positions in al-Rastan town, killing scores of them, al-Watan said, adding that violence and clashes have renewed in the Yarmouk camp for Palestinian refugees in the capital Damascus between local committees and armed rebels.

Meanwhile, opposition activists reported shelling on many hotspots nationwide by the Syrian army on Monday.

Xinhua



The unveiling ceremony of China Public Diplomacy Association is held at Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing, capital of China on 31 Dec, 2012.—XINHUA

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(1-1-13 09:30 am ~

2-1-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * A Warm Welcome From the Golden Land
- * News
- * Music Programme
- * King Alaung Mintaya's Palace Site
- * News
- * Myanmar DVD Impact "Guy" (Part-I)
- * News
- * Myanmar DVD Impact "Guy" (Part-II)
- * News
- * "Topic on Journal" Care the olds! Be Blessed!
- * News
- * Youths & Invention
- * News
- * Great Shwedagon (Episode-1) The Sacred Hair Relics Hailing Pagoda
- * News
- * Use Ytune & Ytalk
- * Myanmar Movies "Heartbeat"

MYANMAR TV

(1-1-2013, Tuesday)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>7:00 am</p> <p>1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw -Uppatasanti Paritta</p> <p>7:25 am</p> <p>2. To Be Healthy Exercise</p> <p>7:30 am</p> <p>3. Morning News</p> <p>7:40 am</p> <p>4. Dhamma Puja Song</p> <p>7:50 am</p> <p>5. Nice & Sweet Song</p> <p>8:00 am</p> <p>6. New Year Wish</p> <p>8:45 am</p> <p>7. Musical Programme</p> <p>4:20 pm</p> <p>8. Teleplay (Health)</p> <p>4:45 pm</p> <p>9. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions</p> <p>4:50 pm</p> <p>10. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -First Year (English)</p> <p>5:05 pm</p> <p>11. Songs For Upholding National Spirit</p> | <p>5:15 pm</p> <p>12. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies</p> <p>5:25 pm</p> <p>13. Documentary</p> <p>5:40 pm</p> <p>14. Sweet Melody</p> <p>5:50 pm</p> <p>15. 65th Anniversary Independence Day Programme</p> <p>6:00 pm</p> <p>16. Evening News</p> <p>6:15 pm</p> <p>17. Weather Report</p> <p>6:20 pm</p> <p>18. Kyae Pwint Myaye Yin Khone Than</p> <p>6:35 pm</p> <p>19. Sing A Song</p> <p>7:00 pm</p> <p>20. TV Drama Series</p> <p>8:00 pm</p> <p>21. News</p> <p>22. International News</p> <p>9:00 pm</p> <p>23. TV Drama Series</p> <p>10:00 pm</p> <p>24. News</p> <p>25. India Drama Series</p> |
|---|---|

Donate Blood

Man City draw on recent memory for New Year title fight

LONDON, 31 Dec—Champions Manchester City go into 2013 facing a daunting seven-point deficit on Premier League leaders Manchester United and a testing encounter against stubborn Stoke City on Tuesday.

Roberto Mancini's side ended the year which delivered their first Premier League title with a gritty 4-3 triumph over Norwich City, proving their high-profile players also have the mettle for a fight.

It is early days in the long title run-in but United, who travel to Wigan Athletic on New Year's Day, are

traditionally strong in the second half of the campaign.

Mancini, however, does not need to trawl the memory banks too far for inspiration as United threw away an eight-point advantage with only six games left to play last season.

"We showed we are there for the title," Mancini said after his team displayed their steely core to beat Norwich despite Samir Nasri's sending-off just before halftime.

"We won't leave this title easily and will fight every game. With 10 players the guys were fantastic. For us, now it is not important to look



Manchester City's Edin Dzeko (C) celebrates after scoring his second goal against Norwich City during their English Premier League soccer match at Carrow Road in Norwich on 29 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

at the table.

"We only need to work, to win as many games in a row as we can, and maybe in February we will look again at the table." Stoke's trench-warfare approach may not win many plaudits from the aesthetically minded but they will certainly provide City with a physical challenge.

They are one of the Premier League's most

resilient teams and have gone 10 matches without defeat after clawing back from 3-1 down to draw 3-3 with Southampton on Saturday.

They are far from the league's best travellers, however, having won only once away from home all season, and will be without suspended midfielder Steven N'Zonzi.

Reuters

Barca end Real Madrid's winning run in ACB Basketball league

MADRID, 31 Dec—Barcelona shooting guard Juan Carlos Navarro scored 33 points to take his side to a 96-89 win at home to league leaders Real Madrid.

Navarro's display was the key factor as Barcelona ended their traditional rivals' 14 game unbeaten start to the season, one short of equalling the all-time Spanish record for a beginning to a

campaign.

The win also keeps alive Barca's hopes of qualifying for the Copadel Rey knockout tournament which is played by the top eight sides in the ACB Endesa League at the midway point of the season (17 games).

Barca's triumph moves them up to seventh in the table, level on wins with three other sides: Asefa

Estudiantes, Unicaja Malaga and Blusens Monbus.

Elsewhere, Caja Laboral's unstoppable form under coach Zan Tabak continued with an 84-77 win at home to Mad-Croc Fuenlabrada.

Valencia remain third thanks to an 82-64 victory against Unicaja Malaga: a result which leaves Unicaja's Cup place in the balance with

two games left to play.

CAI Zaragoza should reach the Cup after defeating Bilbao Basket 81-74, while Herbalife Gran Canaria assured they will be in the top eight at the halfway point of the season with a crushing 80-50 victory at home to DKV Joventut, who just about say goodbye to their Cup hopes with that defeat.

Xinhua

President U Thein Sein felicitates President of Cuba

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Jan—U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Raul Castro Ruz, President of the Council of State and of the Government of the Republic of Cuba, on the anniversary of the Liberation Day of Cuba which falls on 1 January 2013.—MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President Office

Order No. 41/2012

3rd Waning of Nadaw, 1374 ME
(31st December, 2012)

Resignation of Sagaing Region Minister allowed

Sagaing Region Minister for Agriculture and Livestock Breeding U Sein Win submitted his resignation letter on the grounds of health to the Sagaing Region government. The resignation has been allowed in line with Article 264 (a) of the Constitution and Section 52 (b) of the Region/State Government Law.

Sd/Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President Office

Order No. 42/2012

3rd Waning of Nadaw, 1374 ME
(31st December, 2012)

Reshuffle of Sagaing Region government

Under Article 262 (f) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Section 8 (g) of the Region/State Government Law, the following Sagaing Region ministers have been transferred to the ministries shown against them.

(1) U Saw Myint Oo Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock Breeding
(2) U Tin Win Ministry of Finance and Revenue

Sd/Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Vice-President U Nyan Tun enjoys joint-performance of Fine Arts Department, Xinxiang cultural troupe of the PRC

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Dec — Artistes of Fine Arts Department of the Ministry of Culture and Xinxiang cultural troupe of the People's Republic of China jointly-performed entertainments at Myanmar International Convention Centre in Zabuthiri Township, here, yesterday evening.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint enjoyed the joint-performance of two cultural troupes.

Among the audiences were Union ministers, senior military officers and their wives, members of Union Election Commission, deputy

ministers, the commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command and departmental heads, the Chinese ambassador to Myanmar and officials.

After the entertainment programme, the Vice-President and the Chinese ambassador presented a bouquet to the entertainers.

Then the Vice-President, Union ministers and guests posed for a documentary photo.

Cultural troupes will perform entertainment in Yangon tomorrow. —MNA

**Vice-President
U Nyan Tun
presents a bouquet to
the performers.—MNA**



New 3000-acre farmland to emerge soon in Nay Pyi Taw



Land reclamation task in progress.

The government is making committed efforts for rural development and poverty alleviation to serve 70 percent of the entire 59.13 population.

Ten farmlands have been reclaimed in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area,

including 369 acres in Ahlyinlo Village. The 11th farmland of 3000 acres is being reclaimed, according to staff officer (civil) U Zaw Won of Irrigation Department.

Farmlands are also being reclaimed in nine regions and states far and wide the country to introduce mechanized farming. The Ministry of Agriculture has issued detailed guidelines for mechanized farming including eight essential characters of the farmlands.

Government offices in Nay Pyi Taw, the new capital, have started their operation since 18 February, 2007.

The reclamation being

carried out by machinery is expected to complete by mid 2013, staff officer (civil) U Aung Thu Kywe said.

“Former owners of farmlands requested the reclamation with machinery on their own wish,” staff officer (civil) U Zaw Won said. “The sunflower plantation was

once a fallow land.”

Staff officer U Lin Lin Soe said, “Farmers Friend team was formed with two farmers from each canal. Their main duty is to bridge the gap of communications between the farmers and government employee.”

Kyemon: 31-12-2012

Trs: HKA

Ramanya-Thway Mon

Significant temperatures on (31-12-2012)

Putao	4°C
Pinlaung	4°C
Namhsam	5°C