



Bounden duty

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

President U Thein Sein

(From the address delivered at the first anniversary of the government's inauguration on 1-3-2012)

Independence Day State flag-saluting live on TV

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—State flag-saluting ceremony of the 65th Anniversary Independence Day will be broadcast live through MRTV, Nay Pyi Taw Myanmar Radio, MRTV-4 and Myawady Variety programme from the Square of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall as of 6:40 am on 4 January, 2013.

MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President Office
Order No. 1/2013

5th Waning of Nadaw 1374 ME
(2 January 2013)

Appointment of Sagaing Region Minister

In accordance with the provisions of Article 262 (e) and (f) and Article 264 (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Section 19 (c) and Section 82 (c) of Union Government Law and Section 8 (g) and Section 56 (a) of Region/State Government Law, Region Hluttaw Representative U Tint Hlaing Myint of Monywa Township Constituency No (1) has been appointed as Sagaing Region Minister for Development Affairs.

Sd/ Thein Sein

President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Home Affairs Ministry, INTERPOL to cooperate in law enforcement, security

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan— Union Home



Affairs Minister Lt-Gen Ko Ko received Secretary General Mr. Ronald K. Noble of France-based INTERPOL, at the Ministry of Home Affairs, here, this morning.

Both sides discussed matters related to mutual cooperation in the rule of law and security.

MNA



Union Minister for Home Affairs
Lt-Gen Ko Ko holds talks with Secretary General Mr. Ronald K. Noble of France-based INTERPOL at Home Affairs Ministry.

MNA

New democracy nation and ongoing reforms

Editorial Board

(Continued from yesterday)

Signing of peace agreement

State level peace-making group and KNU peace-making group signed preliminary peace agreement on 12 January. The President issue an

order to stop attacks.

Opening of Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan) as 11th facility

The opening ceremony of Ayeyawady Bridge (Sinkhan) was held in Bhamo Township of Kachin State on 4 February. The bridge is the 11th of its kind with a length

of above 180 feet built in the time of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Cooperation between Myanmar and United Nations

President U Thein Sein received a UN delegation

led by Special Advisor to the UNSG Under-Secretary-General Vijay Nambiar on 14 February in Nay Pyi Taw. They held talks on mutual cooperation between Myanmar and the United Nations.

IMF resumes its functions

IMF returned to Myanmar after 25-year absence and resumed its functions on 17 February.

Meeting with ASEAN Secretariat

President U Thein Sein met ASEAN Secretary-General Dr. Surin Pitsuwan and party on 20 February in Nay Pyi Taw, and they discussed matters related to regional cooperation.

Speech to mark one-year anniversary of presidency given

President U Thein Sein delivered a speech to mark the first anniversary of his presidency at the third regular session of

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 1 March, 2012.

Statement on peace agreement issued

Union level peace-making group and KIO central delegation announced a joint-statement after peace talks in Ruili of the People's Republic of China on 10 March.

Cash assistance for service personnel

The Union government announced that service personnel were allowed to enjoy extra cash assistance monthly on 15 March.

Enactment of law to provide families of servicemen

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw enacted a law to provide disabled servicemen and families of the deceased or fallen servicemen with aids on 30 March.

By-elections held

For 37 seats of Pyithu Hluttaw, six of Amyotha Hluttaw representatives and two of Region/State Hluttaw totaling 45, 2012 by-elections were held at every region and state

including Nay Pyi Taw at 6 am on 1 April.

Peace talks

At the invitation of the government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, KNU held peace talks with Union level peace-making group of the government.

Joint-statement issued by President and Japanese PM

President U Thein Sein and Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihiko Noda announced a joint-statement regarding the fourth Mekong-Japan Summit held at Hagoromoma hall of State guest house in Japan on 26 April.

Message to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

On 29 April, the President sent a message to the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw regarding reduced annual allowance of members of Union level organization, increased pension rate and formation of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission.

(See page 8)



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

Insein Township sees two road accidents within three days

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

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

Ywama Ale ward. Due to the accident, Aung Aung who was on board the taxi sustained injuries and he was taken to Insein Hospital. Action was taken against the case.

Likewise, a container truck crashed into the back of a motorbike in front of Thein Gabar Store at the top of Wah Oo street in Phawtka Ward of Insein Township at about 10.50 am on 28 December.

Of two on the bike, a man was pronounced dead

on the spot and the other man wounded and sent to the hospital.

The driver of the container truck who left the scene of the accident was arrested near Kwathit ward administrator's office, and a lawsuit was filed against him. —Kyemon

Mandalay Hill Biking Contest organized

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

Altogether 120 cyclists including eight selected Myanmar cyclists and those from eight cycling clubs in Mandalay started the race in front of the Sedona Hotel on

26th Street in Chanayethazan Ward and the mountain biking journey of 3.25 miles ended in front of the elevator of Mandalay Hill.

Next, the hard bike ride followed with the participation of women cyclists at 8 am.

Participants crossed the finishing line at Po Po Gyi Natmann at the foot of the Mandalay Hill.

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

Kyemon



Cyclists taking part in first Mandalay Hill Biking Contest.

Community Cup 2013 goes to Yangon United FC



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

Before the match, Myanmar Football Federation

President U Zaw Zaw and Yangon United FC Chairman U Pyae Phyo Tay Za and responsible persons greeted players of both teams.

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

It was sweet revenge for

the defeat of Yangon United FC earlier by penalty shoot-out at the 2012 Community Cup match. Although both teams had a good game, the game ended at 1-0 as the winning goal for Yangon United FC came from its Striker Czar at 23 minute in the first half.

Kyemon

MFF organizes MNL pre-season press conference



YANGON, 2 Jan — Myanmar Football Federation organized a MNL pre-season press conference at its office on 31 December.

On behalf of MFF President U Zaw Zaw, MFF General Secretary U Tin Aung spoke on the occasion, and responsible persons answered the queries raised by media persons.

In his answer to follow-up tasks of MFF, Media Director U Soe Moe Kyaw

replied that Myanmar selected football players would have 170 days in the schedule to take training for 2013 SEA Games and explained preparations for meeting success in AFC Challenge Cup qualifiers and 2013 SEA Games.

Next, MFF General Secretary U Tin Aung said that MFF sent a letter to the Asia Football Federation to postpone the days when matches of AFC Cup in

which Yangon United FC and Ayeyawady United FC would take part and that of AFC Challenge Cup in which Myanmar selected football team would participate as matches of two events coincide.

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

Shwe Myanmar to operate its maiden flight on 17 January

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

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

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

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

Kyemon

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

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

Although the expressway was put into service for the convenience of passengers meeting smooth and speedy transport

service, substandard characteristics of the expressway and reckless driving have caused road accidents frequently.

Plans are underway to upgrade the expressway into four-lane each motorway, to repave and set up barriers along the expressway. Construction

of 365-mile expressway started in October 2005.

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

So far, fourteen police

posts have been stationed along the expressway.

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

Hot line is available in case of emergency (Ph: 067-810087 and 09 47324126).

Kyemon

WORLD

Iran warns off foreign planes during naval drill: report

DUBAI, 2 Jan—Iran has warned off foreign surveillance planes that have tried to approach its forces during naval drills in the Strait of Hormuz, an Iranian military spokesman said on Tuesday.

The drills, which began on Friday, are aimed at showcasing Iran's military capability in the shipping route through which 40 percent of the world's sea-

borne oil exports pass.

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

"So far about 30 warnings have been given to reconnaissance and surveillance planes of extra-

regional forces that wanted to approach the area where the drills are taking place," Commander Amir Rastegari told the semi-official Mehr news agency.

He said the planes had been warned to keep out of Iranian air space and away from the site of the exercises.

The official IRNA news agency quoted Rastegari as saying the foreign planes kept away after Iran issued warnings because they were "afraid of being destroyed" by Iranian forces.

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

State television reported that naval forces had successfully test fired Qader (Capable) coast-to-sea and Nour (Light) surface-to-surface missiles.

Rastegari was quoted as saying by Iran's English-

language Press TV that the Qader cruise missile with a range of 200 km had "successfully and precisely hit and destroyed its mock enemy target".

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

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

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

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

Reuters



Soldiers cordon off the site of a motorcycle bomb blast in Karachi on 1 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Bomb kills two, injures 50 in Pakistani city of Karachi

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

Two of the injured were in a critical condition, police spokesman Imran Shaukat said. The bomb appeared to have been planted on a motorbike. It was not

immediately clear who or what was the target of the blast in the Aisha Manzil area of Karachi, although a political rally was happening nearby. The explosion was heard several kilometres (miles) away. Karachi, home to 18 million people, is the financial capital of Pakistan but has been plagued by Islamic militancy as well as violent crime.—Reuters



Chinese Marine Corps under the Navy of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) conducted an amphibious combat training recently.—REUTERS

Wildfires still smolder in America's West as 2013 approaches

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

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

According to Jones,

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

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

Forest fires burned 9.2 million acres across the United States in 2012, the third worst season since re-

cord taking began in 1960, and closely following 2006 and 2007, according to the National Interagency Fire Centre (NIFC) in Washington.

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

The rampant 2012 wildfires also tapped federal resources.

Xinhua



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

XINHUA

Thousand of vehicles burnt in France on New Year's eve

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

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

Setting cars ablaze has become quite a tradition in French suburbs on New Year's eve these years as a display of vandalism.

On this New Year eve 53,000 policemen and gendarmes were mobilized across the country to secure safety in roads, in the famous Champs Elysee and in the Eiffel Tower where hundreds of thousands of people gathered for the New Year countdown.

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

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

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

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

"The 11 people who lost their lives were in the matatu which was heading to Nairobi.

The accident took place at Salgaar, a black spot area when the matatu which was speeding hit a trailer which was being driven at a slow pace.

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

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

Xinhua

Trade, tax, transparency on June G8 meet agenda



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

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

Prime Minister David

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

"At the heart of my agenda for the Summit are

three issues—advancing trade, ensuring tax compliance and promoting greater transparency," Cameron said in a letter to other G8 leaders.

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

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

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

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Vomiting Larry battles “Ferrari of the virus world”

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

Yet their lack of concern for Larry is made up for by their intense interest in how far splashes of his vomit can fly, and how effectively they evade attempts to clean them up. Larry is a “humanoid simulated vomiting system” designed to help scientists analyze contagion. And like millions around the world right now, he's struggling with norovirus - a disease one British expert describes as “the Ferrari of the virus world”.

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

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

Norovirus is hitting hard this year — and earlier too. In Britain so far this season, more than a million people are thought to have suffered the violent vomiting and diarrhea

it can bring. The Health Protection Agency (HPA) said this high rate of infection relatively early in the winter mirrors trends seen in Japan and Europe.

“In Australia the norovirus season also peaks during the winter, but this season it has gone on longer than usual and they

which can be projectile, and diarrhea, which may be profuse and watery. Some victims also suffer fevers, headaches and stomach cramps.

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



Paramedics dressed in protective attire walk in front of the ship, the Bellriva, in Wiesbaden on 8 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS

are seeing cases into their summer,” it said in a statement. In the United States, the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) say norovirus causes 21 million illnesses annually. Of those who get the virus, some 70,000 require hospitalization and around 800 die each year.

Norovirus dates back more than 40 years and takes its name from the US City of Norwalk, Ohio, where there was an outbreak of acute gastroenteritis in school children in November 1968.

Symptoms include a sudden onset of vomiting,

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

At the Health and Safety Laboratory in Derbyshire, northern England, where researcher Catherine Makison developed the humanoid simulated

vomiting system and nicknamed him “Vomiting Larry”, scientists analyzing his reach found that small droplets of sick can spread over three metres.

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

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

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



Samsung unveils full-HD touch-screen monitor optimised for Windows 8 ahead of CES

MUMBAI, 2 Jan—Samsung has unveiled the Series 7 SC770 Touch Monitor optimised for Windows 8, days before CES.

The 24-inch Series 7 SC770 Touch Monitor is Samsung's first multi-touch display optimised for Windows 8. It supports up to 10 points of simultaneous multi-touch, letting users drag, rotate or select objects on the monitor using their fingers. The full-HD monitor provides a contrast ratio of 5000:1 and viewing angles of 178 degrees/178 degrees. It also comes with a USB hub and in-built speakers (3W x 2).

Samsung also announced 27-inch Series 7 SC750 that focuses on design and performance, minus the frills like touch-screen, speakers and USB hub. At 300 cd/m2, it is rated brighter than the SC770

(250 cd/m2).

“We are committed to serving an expanding market of aspiring young professionals with the professional-grade monitors that match their needs,” said Junghwan Kim, Senior Vice President of the Visual Display Business at Samsung Electronics. “As the industry leader for seven consecutive years, Samsung is exploring new technology that provides discerning users with affordable, cutting-edge monitors that deliver a differentiated user experience.”

As per Samsung, both monitors will be available worldwide in Q1 2013. It will also be showcasing the two monitors later this month at CES 2013, alongside the Series 9 SB970 monitor, that was released in the US second half of 2012.—PTI

Angry Birds, YouTube among top apps of 2012



A visitor is seen at the YouTube stand during the annual MIPCOM television programme market in Cannes, southeastern France, on 3 Oct, 2011.

REUTERS

TORONTO, 2 Jan—Angry Birds, Instagram and Facebook continued to be among the most downloaded apps of the year but rising stars also earned coveted spots on smartphones and tablets.

This year consumers spent on average two hours each day using mobile applications, an increase of 35 percent over last year, according to analytics firm Flurry. The number is expected to continue growing in 2013.

“2012 was a transformative tipping point in the

way consumers use apps,” said Craig Palli, a vice president at mobile marketing company Fiksu, adding that the biggest shift is in consumers' eagerness to turn to apps for a broad range of day-to-day tasks.

Categories such as social networking, media and entertainment, photo editing, and games, continued to captivate consumer interest, with YouTube and Angry Birds being the top free and paid apps respectively at Apple's App Store.

Meanwhile, several apps released this year

quickly joined the ranks of the top downloaded and revenue grossing apps of the year.

The game Draw Something for iPhone and Android quickly gained widespread popularity when it was released in February, and despite dropping off, is still the second most downloaded paid app of the year Android and Apple devices.

“It had a big run and other multi-player puzzle-oriented games like newcomers LetterPress and ScrambleWithFriends proved popular, too,” Palli said. “But in many respects these titles were inspired by the more revolutionary Words With Friends.”

Songza, a music-discovery app for iPhone, Android and Kindle Fire, saw significant growth in both the United States and Canada, where it is now one of the top free apps on the App Store.—Reuters

Zynga carries out planned games shutdown, including “Petville”

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

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

The San Francisco-based company announced the “Petville” shutdown two weeks ago on its Facebook page. All the 11 shutdowns occurred in December.

The 11 titles shut down or closed to new players include role-playing game “Mafia Wars 2,” “Vampire Wars,” “ForestVille” and “FishVille.”

“In place of ‘Petville,’ we encourage you to play other Zynga games like

‘CastleVille,’ ‘Chefville,’ ‘Farmville 2,’ ‘Mafia Wars’ and ‘Yoville,’” the company told players on its ‘PetVille’ Facebook page. “PetVille” players were offered a one-time, complimentary bonus package for virtual goods in those games.

“Petville,” which lets users adopt virtual pets, has 7.5 million likes on Facebook but only 60,000 daily active users, according to AppData. About 1,260 users commented on the game's Facebook page, some lamenting the game's shutdown.

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

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

Zynga shares were up 1 percent at \$2.36 in afternoon trade on Monday on the Nasdaq.—Reuters



The corporate logo of Zynga Inc, the social network game development company, is shown at its headquarters in San Francisco, California on 26 April, 2012.

REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Economy would dodge bullet for now under fiscal deal

Business

WASHINGTON, 2 Jan—A deal worked out by US Senate leaders to avoid the “fiscal cliff,” was far from any “grand bargain” of deficit reduction measures.

But if approved by the US House of Representatives, it could help the country steer clear of recession, although enough austerity would remain in place to likely keep the economy growing at a lackluster pace.

The Senate approved a last-minute deal early on Tuesday morning to scale back \$600 billion in scheduled tax hikes

and government spending cuts that economists widely agree would tip the economy into recession.

The deal would hike taxes permanently for household incomes over \$450,000 a year, but keep existing lower rates in force for everyone else.

It would make permanent the alternative minimum tax “patch” that was set to expire, protecting middle-income Americans from being taxed as if they were rich.

Scheduled cuts in defence and non-defence spending were simply

postponed for two months.

Economists said that if the emerging package were to become law, it would represent at least a temporary reprieve for the economy. “This keeps us out of recession for now,” said Menzie Chinn, an economist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

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

That is in line with what many financial firms on



US Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (C) departs the senate floor with an aide after a senate vote in the early morning hours at the US Capitol in Washington on 1 Jan, 2013. REUTERS

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



A logo of Sharp Corp is pictured at CEATEC JAPAN 2012 electronics show in Chiba, east of Tokyo, on 2 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

TOKYO, 2 Jan—Struggling Japanese TV maker Sharp Corp (6753.T) is considering raising

more than 100 billion yen (\$1.2 billion) this spring to bolster its capital base, the Yomiuri newspaper

Sharp considering raising \$1.2 billion to beef up capital

Business

reported on Tuesday.

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

Sharp's capital-to-asset ratio is likely to fall to around 8 percent in March. Its main creditor banks want

it to raise that ratio to above 10 percent with a mixture of steps including public and preferred share offerings as well as subordinated loans, the Japanese daily said, without citing sources.

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

The company was not immediately available for comment.

Shares of Sharp have slumped and its credit rating was downgraded to junk status as the company struggles to turn its business around. It recently agreed on a capital and business tie-up with Qualcomm Inc (QCOM.O) in which the US chipmaker will invest as much as \$120 million.

Sharp's shares closed at 303 yen in Tokyo on Friday, well off its year-low of 142 yen hit in October but less than half its value at the outset of 2012.

Reuters

Business

S Korea's posts 2.03 bln USD trade surplus in December

SEOUL, 2 Jan—South Korea's trade balance posted a surplus of 2.03 billion US dollars in December 2012, keeping the surplus trend for 11 straight months, a government report showed on Tuesday.

Trade surplus reached 2.03 billion dollars in December, down from 4.38 billion dollars in the previous month, according to the Ministry of Knowledge Economy.

Exports contracted 5.5 percent on-year to 45.1 billion dollars in December, and imports retreated 5.3 percent to 43.07 billion dollars, said the ministry report.

Both exports and imports logged an on-year contraction for the first time in three months, it said.

Xinhua

Major banks close to big settlement on home loans

Business

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

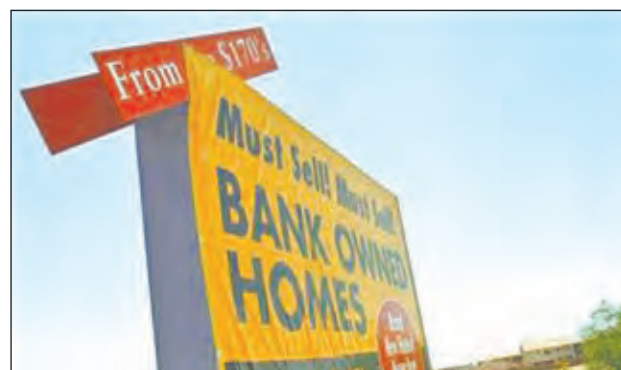
The settlement with five big banks would be part of a larger deal that the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency hopes

will include 14 banks and total about \$10 billion, the source said. Such a settlement would address an outstanding issue that was left unsettled after the \$25 billion deal that the banks reached in February with the Justice Department, housing authorities, and state attorneys general.

In 2011, the OCC had separately required the big banks to “look back” and compensate borrowers wrongfully foreclosed

upon in 2009 and 2010. It appears that the case-by-case analysis is proving too cumbersome, and the banks are instead opting for a lump-sum settlement.

The top five mortgage lenders — Bank of America Corp, Wells Fargo & Co, JPMorgan Chase & Co, Citigroup Inc and Ally Financial Inc — may reach a deal in the coming days, the source said. The largest banks would pay the majority of the \$10 billion



A sign offering bank owned homes for sale is seen in a subdivision in Maricopa, Arizona in this file photo from 27 May, 2009.—REUTERS

target. That money would be paid out to a group of borrowers foreclosed upon during the period of time

covered by the review, said the source, who was not authorized to speak publicly.—Reuters

Health

Italian Nobel scientist Montalcini dies at 103

Italian neurologist Rita Levi Montalcini is greeted by Italian President Giorgio Napolitano in this undated file photograph. Rita Levi Montalcini, joint winner of the Nobel Prize for Medicine and an Italian Senator for Life, died on Sunday at the age of 103, her family said.—REUTERS



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

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

cells grow by stimulating surrounding nerve tissue.

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

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

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

After the war she moved to St Louis in the United States to work at Washington University,

where she went on to make her groundbreaking NGF discoveries.

She also set up a research unit in Rome and in 1975 became the first woman to be made a full member of the Vatican's Pontifical Academy of Sciences in 1975. She won several other awards for her contributions to medical and scientific research.

Reuters

WORLD

Twisted guard rail and debris line road side where tour bus careened off a mountain highway and plunged down a snow-covered slope, killing nine passengers and injuring at least 27 others, in Oregon on 31 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS



PORTLAND, 2 Jan—Oregon authorities said on Tuesday they have managed to positively identify one of nine people killed on Sunday morning after a

charter bus skidded off an icy mountain highway and crashed down an embankment.

Identification of the victims has been complicated

because some were foreign nationals, said Eugene Gray, forensic administrator for the Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office.

The Korean Consulate

One of nine deceased victims of Oregon bus crash identified so far

in Seattle, Wash sent a team to work with investigators, since many of the 47 people on the bus were of Korean origin and citizens of Korea.

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

"We do positive identifications with fingerprints, dental records and DNA," Gray told *Reuters*. "None of this is available to us. We don't know how long it will take. We have to wait

until we're provided the information."

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

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

The Oregon State Police said on Tuesday that one of the people killed in

the crash may be a juvenile female. Of the nine people killed, four are male and five are female.

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

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

Armed robbers hit Paris Apple store

PARIS, 2 Jan—Armed robbers targeted an Apple Inc store in central Paris on New Year's Eve, taking thousands of euros (dollars) worth of goods, a police official said on Tuesday.

The robbery took place at about 9 pm (1900 GMT) on Monday, three hours after closing time at one of Apple's flagship stores behind the Paris Opera which sells products ranging from iPhones and iPads to Mac computers.

The police official declined to comment on reports the thieves walked away with about 1 million euros (\$1.32 million) of loot, saying the company was still evaluating the loss.

Christophe Crepin from the police union UNSA told reporters four masked and armed individuals forced their way into the shop and afterwards escaped in a van.

"They were well prepared. As the majority of police were busy watching the Champs Elysees (for New Year's Eve celebrations), the robbers took advantage of this opportunity," he said.

Reuters

Ten crushed to death, 120 injured at Angola church event

LISBON, 2 Jan—Ten people were crushed to death and 120 injured in the Angolan capital Luanda as they tried to enter an overcrowded stadium for a vigil organized by a Pentecostal church, the state news agency *Angop* reported on Tuesday. *Angop* cited an emergency services spokesman as saying the victims, including four children, were crushed at the gates of the Cidadela Desportiva

stadium, where the Universal Church of the Kingdom of God (IURD) organized a vigil on Monday night.

IURD is a Pentecostal Christian church created in 1977 in Brazil, where it has over 8 million followers, according to its own website. IURD says it is present in most countries of the world. Ferner Batalha, IURD's deputy bishop for Angola, said the vigil had been overcrowded.—*Reuters*



A view of a street in Plateau District where a stampede occurred after a New Year's Eve fireworks display in Abidjan on 1 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

At least 61 crushed to death in Ivory Coast stampede

partment Issa Sacko.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Reuters

Japanese passenger plane struck by lightning

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

The Jetstar Japan's GK 127 flight bound for Fukuoka from Tokyo's Narita Airport was struck by lightning at around 3:00 pm lo-

cal time just before it was landing at Fukuoka Airport, the report said, adding that the plane landed safely after the incident and none of the 181 passengers and crew members was injured.

As the plane needs checks and possible repair work after the incident, the airline had to cancel its three flights to the Kansai Airport in western Japan, according to the report.

Xinhua



An injured driver (in white) who survived a shooting by unidentified gunmen in Swabi, arrives at the Lady Reading Hospital in Peshawar on 1 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

Gunmen in Pakistan shoot dead seven aid workers near capital

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

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

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

The organization is in-

involved in health education in underdeveloped parts of the country, Akhtar said. It had run a school and dispensary in Swabi and helped vaccinate children against polio, a disease that can cripple or kill within hours of infection.

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

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

Two weeks ago, gunmen killed nine health workers taking part in a national polio vaccination drive in a series of attacks. Most of the victims were young women earning about \$2 a day.

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

Reuters

WORLD

Rival Sudans hold summit on Friday, signal concessions

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

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

The African Union, backed by Western powers, had urged holding the meeting in order to end a stalemate over how to set up a demilitarised buffer zone

along the disputed border after the countries came close to war in April. Bashir and Kiir agreed in September in Ethiopia to resume oil exports from the landlocked South through Sudan.

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

Neither country has yet withdrawn its respective army 10 km (six miles) from the border to set up a buffer zone, a condition to restart oil flows. Both accuse each other of supporting rebels on the other's territory. In a speech on New Year's Eve, Kiir said the new republic he leads was willing to withdraw its troops from the 1,800-km (1,200-mile) long border.



Sudan's President Omar Hassan al-Bashir (3rd R) arrives with Somali President Hassan Sheikh Mohamud (2nd R) to inaugurate the height increase of the Roseires Dam in Damazin, at the conflict-stricken Blue Nile state, on 1 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

"To be able to establish the border monitoring mission, we are temporarily withdrawing our forces from the immediate border areas," Kiir said. "This will allow for a demilitarised border zone to be operational,"

he said, without giving a date for the pullout. "We hope that these arrangements will make sure that peace and stability is maintained along our common border."

Reuters

Colombian army kills 13 FARC rebels

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

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

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

The FARC said in a

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

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

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

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

Putin calls for show of patriotism amongst Russians

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

Putin said in a statement released on the New Year's Eve on the Kremlin website that positive personal changes were inseparable from Russia, "from our heartfelt, noble feelings

toward our fatherland."

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

"After all, only together can we, the people of Russia, move confidently forward, withstand all challenges, resolve the most difficult

problems, and build a powerful, successful nation and a modern, prosperous, free society," Putin said.

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

Meanwhile, he urged Russians to be more responsive and benevolent, more generous, and caring

toward their loved ones.

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

From the final moments of 2012 to the early hours of 2013, as many as 8,200 holiday events took place in Russia, the Interior Ministry.—Xinhua



Libyan policemen take part in a police graduation ceremony at a police academy in Tripoli on 1 Jan, 2013.—XINHUA

Six people killed in Iraq's violence

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

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

The Awakening Council

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

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

apparently missed its target, the source said.

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

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

Gabon sends 120 soldiers to Central African Republic

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

The 30 soldiers in the first group went to Central African Republic on board a military aircraft early in the

morning. The second group left before midday after being received by Defence Minister Ruffin Odzounga.

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

On Monday, the Republic of Congo also sent 120 troops to Bangui to reinforce a regional peace consolidation mission MICOPAX, which has been in the country since deployed

in 2008 by the 10-member Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC).

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

Xinhua

Turkish fighter jets hit over 20 PKK targets in northern Iraq

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

Eight Turkish F-16 fighter jets hit the targets, after a Turkish army's unmanned aerial vehicles

detected some moving PKK groups in Zap, Avasin and Baysan regions in Northern Iraq, according to the report.

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

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

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

Xinhua



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

OPINION & POEM

The need for initiative

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

Although the explosion claimed no lives, the coach BBEZ 10584 of the train was derailed and two-feet long rail tracks and some sleepers were destroyed. Myanmar Railways staff are making concerted efforts in repair works to resume the service as quick as possible.—MNA

First meeting of Planning

Trs: YM

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

Despite the fact that

Po Lay Lone Thaung Ko Ko
Trs: TMT



LOCAL NEWS



65th Anniversary Independence Day 2013

Night scene in Nay Pyi Taw

Books, CDs, VCDs donated to village library in Myaung Township

MYAUNG, 2 Jan—Under the auspices of U Win Htein and Daw Tin Tin Hlaing of Officer Housing at Thakin Mya Park in Ahlon Township

Diesel bowser hits lamp-post in Mawlu

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

Myanma Alinn

of Yangon, sons and daughter donated books, CDs and VCDs to the village library in Kutohgon Village of Myaung Township, Sagaing Region, on 20 December.

Wellwisher U Win Htein explained the purpose of

donation and handed over books, CDs and VCDs to village administrator U Nyo Win.

The donations included 414 books and 70 pieces of CD and VCDs worth K 351,200.

Myanma Alinn



Buddha Dhamma Desana recited

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

The contestants

Fine arts works accepted for display

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

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

Myanma Alinn

recited 11 Paritta Suttas, Dhammacakka Sutta, Anattalakkhana Sutta, Pathana Desana and Maha Satipathana Sutta in the presence of members of the Sangha.

Altogether 64 university students from Yangon Institute of Education, Yangon University of Foreign Languages, Dagon

University, staff members from Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar), students from Workers' College, University of Dental Medicine, National Management College, Yangon East University, Yangon West University and Yangon University took part in the recitation contest.

Myanma Alinn

New school buildings opened in Lewe Township

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

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

The building of Kantha BEHS Branch cost K 17

million by the State and the people and that of Chaungkyo



BEPS, K 13 million.

Myanma Alinn

Five per cent tax handed over to DAC fund

AUNGLAN, 2 Jan—A ceremony to hand over five per cent of tax levied from taxpayers for first quarter in 2012-2013 fiscal year was held at the hall of Aunglan Township General

Administration Department of Magway Region on 26 December.

Head of Township Internal Revenue Department U Maung Than handed over

K 455,250 as five per cent tax to Executive Officer of Township Development Affairs Committee U Maung Maung Aye.

Myanma Alinn

Literary Day marked

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

Primary School in South Zaingganai Ward on 28 December.

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

Speaker of Bago Region Hluttaw U Win Tin

and Chairman of Region Journalists Association U Sein Hlaing Bo, on behalf of the PAT and SBT, presented gifts to the writers.

Myanma Alinn

Loans disbursed to vendors of Taungdwingyi

TAUNGDWINGYI, 2 Jan—As part of efforts to alleviate poverty, Taungdwingyi Township Development Affairs Committee disbursed loans to 200 vendors of the development market in Taungdwingyi on 27 December.

The committee presented K 50,000 each to 200 shoppers at its office.

On the occasion, Head of the Township DAC Assistant Director U Aung Htut gave a speech. Township level officials presented K 50,000 each to 200 vendors.

The committee disbursed loans to 200 vendors on 26 December last year. After that, the shoppers had pay back loans to the committee.—Myanma Alinn

Tube-well launched in Thayet Township

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

Deputy Commissioner U Hla Wai, Executive Officer U Mya Lin of Township Development

Affairs Committee and village-tract administrator U Kyaw Aung cut the ribbon to open the tube-well.

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

Free clinic opened in Yinmabin Township

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

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

Wellwishers donated medicines to Shwe Hsannwe Dhamma Dhara Ashin Vayamananda and cash to the fund.

Next, the Sayadaw and officials formally opened the clinic.

After that, general practitioners provided free medical treatments to the local people from Monywa District.—Myanma Alinn

Drifting Shell drill ship grounds on rocks off Alaska

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

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

The 18-member crew had been evacuated by the Coast Guard late Saturday

because of risks from the storm.

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

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

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

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

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

Reuters



A Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak MH-65 Jayhawk helicopter crew delivers personnel to the conical drilling unit *Kulluk*, southeast of Kodiak, Alaska in this on 31 Dec, 2012 handout photo obtained by Reuters on 1 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Seven arrested after central China shooting

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

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

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

All the injured were being treated in two hospitals in Wuhan. Doctors said most of them were out of danger.

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

Xinhua



Citizens wait for the arrival of 2013 New Year at the Angel of Independence monument in Mexico City, capital of Mexico, on 31 Dec, 2012.—XINHUA

AU hails Africa successes in 2012, warns of challenges ahead

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

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

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

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

Meanwhile, Zuma called for continued attention and resolution to the

crises of Mali, Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). "The situations in Mali, Central African Republic, and the DRC require our continued attention and resolution," She said.

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

China-Russia oil pipeline records 30 mln tonnes in delivery

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

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

Operation of the pipeline has been praised for reducing cost and raising efficiency of China's oil import from Russia, which

had previously relied on railway, said Wu Zhenning, an official with the Pipeline Branch of Petro China Co, Ltd (PBPC), the operator of the Chinese section of the pipeline.

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

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

between 2011 to 2030.

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

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



Vanessa Natalie Manjarrez (C) reigns as Rose Queen during the 124th Annual Rose Parade in Pasadena, California, the United States, on 1 Jan, 2013.—XINHUA

Largest New Year celebration in US West held with rose parade

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

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

People came from dif-

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

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

The route has actually become a camping site since the New Year's Eve with many people sleeping along the street to wait for

the parade starts at 8:00 am (1600 GMT).

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

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

Xinhua

Singapore doctor to testify in Delhi gang rape trial

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

the *Press Trust of India* reported on Tuesday.

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

as saying.

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

The rape victim died last Saturday at the Mount Elizabeth Hospital in Singapore.—Xinhua

REGIONAL

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

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

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

Times reported, quoting the police.

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

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

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

Police said the case is classified as a Breach of Prohibition Against False

Threats of Terrorist Acts, local broadcaster Channel NewsAsia said.

The offence is punishable with a fine not exceeding 100,000 Singapore dollars (80,000 US dollars) or imprisonment for a term not exceeding five years, or both. The Internet is freely available in Singapore but the authorities encourage responsible use of the internet. Irresponsible comments online could lead to legal cases like defamation or libel.—Xinhua

India exchange nuke list with Pakistan

NEW DELHI, 2 Jan—India on Tuesday said that it has exchanged with Pakistan a list of nuclear installations and facilities covered under the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear installations agreement between the two arch rivals.

“India and Pakistan

today exchanged, through diplomatic channels simultaneously at New Delhi and Islamabad, the list of nuclear installations and facilities covered under the Agreement on the Prohibition of Attack against Nuclear installations between India and Pakistan,” the Indian

Ministry of External Affairs said in a release.

The annual list exchange has been taking place since 1992 under a bilateral pact between the two countries signed in 1988. Both India and Pakistan are nuclear powers and have fought three major wars since 1947.—Xinhua

Tokyo, Osaka bourses launch joint holding company to merge operations

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

The two bourses’ operations merged under Japan Exchange Group Inc with

their cash stock trading set to be integrated in July, Japanese media reported

OSE President Michio Yoneda, who has become the holding firm’s chief operating officer, has said he will seek integration of commodities trading, even though Tokyo Commodity

said in a statement released here on Tuesday.

“These operations have been conducted in Nangarhar, Kapisa, Kunduz, Maidan, Wardak, Logar, Ghazni and Helmand Provinces during

which two Taliban rebels were killed and 26 others detained,” the statement added.

There were casualties on police forces, it said. Taliban militants have yet to comment on it.

Xinhua

Indian warship visits Vietnam

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

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

The visit by the Indian training vessel, commanded by Lieutenant Colonel Nshyam Sundar, marks the 20th anniversary of ASEAN-India relations and the 40th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and India.

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

Xinhua



Staff pose for photos with a 3-metre snake cake during the new year celebration at a department store in Seoul, South Korea, on 1 Jan, 2013. The year of 2013 is the Year of Snake.—XINHUA

Afghan police kill two Taliban fighters, arresting 26

KABUL, 2 Jan—Afghan police during series of operations across the country have killed two Taliban militants and captured 26 others over the past 24 hours, Interior Ministry

said in a statement released here on Tuesday.

“These operations have been conducted in Nangarhar, Kapisa, Kunduz, Maidan, Wardak, Logar, Ghazni and Helmand Provinces during

which two Taliban rebels were killed and 26 others detained,” the statement added.

There were casualties on police forces, it said. Taliban militants have yet to comment on it.

Xinhua



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

Abe’s new year greeting emphasizes economy revitalization

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

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

The prime minister said the government has to restore Japan’s economy, education and diplomacy so as to win back public confi-

dence in politics.

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

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

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

Since 18 Dec, 2012, the licensing department of Delhi Police has received a total of 274 applications from women while it has also been flooded with hun-

Indian women hurry to obtain guns after gang rape

dreds of queries on how to obtain a license, said the report.

“We have received over 1,200 calls since that day. These include not only the average working women, but even students who travel long distances to colleges and even their concerned parents. They were eager to find out more on the procedure to acquire arms,” said a Delhi police officer, quoted

by daily newspaper *Times of India*.

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

Xinhua



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

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL



The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Union Civil Service Board
Vacancy Announcement
Announcement No. 25 / 2012
Fullmoon Day of Nadaw 1374 ME
(28 December 2012)

1. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has issued an announcement of vacancies for the following position-

Position	Vacancy	Educational Qualification
Head of Branch -2 / Third Secretary	25	Any University Degree

2. The applicants

- must be citizens of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
- must not be over 25 years of age (30 years if service personnel from other ministries and Master Degree holders) on 25 January 2013.
- must not be over 35 years of age for service personnel of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (40 years if Master Degree or Ph.D Degree holders.)
- must be physically fit and possess well intact limbs, must be in good health and capable of serving the duty at any assigned place.

3. Candidate shall attach a copy of degree or diploma certificate for his/her completion in other foreign languages proficiency course if any, in addition to English language.

4. Application forms are available at Office No. (17) of the Union Civil Service Board in Nay Pyi Taw or the respective offices of the Region and States Government and it must be submitted to the above mentioned offices in person or through the mail service not later than 25 January 2013. The applicant must specifically describe the desired exam center to sit for written examination either at Nay Pyi Taw or the Region and States Government. Late submission of application will not be accepted.

5. With regards to filling in the application form, documents to be attached, mode of payment of Ks.500/ for examination fee, subjects to be studied for written examinations and personal interview, candidates applying for the vacant positions will have to follow the instructions manifested in the Guide Booklet published under Letter No. 950 / Selection (Main)/ 2012, dated 1 October 2012.

6. **For service personnel**, his or her original application altogether with the recommendation of the ministry concerned and a passport photo of the applicant must be sent to Office No. (17) of the Union Civil Service Board in Nay Pyi Taw through the Head of Department. Another application form together with an extra passport photo must be sent to the Union Civil Service Board or the respective offices of the Region and States Government by 25 January 2013.

7. Written examinations will be held in **Nay Pyi Taw, Region and States Government**. Candidates will be examined in Myanmar and General Knowledge examination papers for 2 hours each on 6 April 2013 (Saturday) and English examination paper for 3 hours (from 09 00 am to 12 00 am) on 7 April 2013 (Sunday).

8. Identity cards for candidates sitting for the examination will be issued at Nay Pyi Taw and the respective offices of the Region and States Government on 4 April 2013.

9. For more information, applicants may contact Office No. (17) of the Union Civil Service Board, Nay Pyi Taw (067 - 409052, 067 - 409430) or the respective offices of the Region and States Government in person or by phone.

10. This announcement and the guide booklet for applicants may be browsed on Websites: ucsb.imis.com.mm and www.ucsb.gov.mm.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV BANGSAOTONG VOY NO (150)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSAOTONG VOY NO (150) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.1.2013 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: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO LTD.

Phone No: 256916/256919/256921

Ministry of Information
Printing and Publishing Enterprise
Open tender invitation for
construction of retaining wall at
Upper Myanmar Government
Printing Press (Mandalay)

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

2. Open tender applications, rules, architectural design of the wall and necessary data for the work are to be taken out from the following address from 9:30 hr to 16:00 hr from 7-1-2013 to 11-1-2013 daily.

3. The open tender applications are to be submitted in the presence of the members of the tender committee at the Office No 7, Nay Pyi Taw of the Ministry of Information from 13:00 hr to 15:00 hr on 18-1-2013. The overdue tenders will not be considered.

4. Those wishing to view the construction site and take detailed information may inquire Upper Myanmar Government printing press (Mandalay) and phone 067-412215 and 02-62926 within office hours.

The address to taken out the tender forms
 Printing and Publishing Enterprise
 Ministry of Information
 Office No 7, Nay Pyi Taw
 ph - 067 402205

The address to submit tender forms
 Procurement Committee
 Ministry of Information
 Office No 7, Nay Pyi Taw
 ph - 067 402205

Nine murdered on farm in NW Colombia

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

The victims were believed to have been killed, in Envigado, a town in north-western state of Antioquia, to settle accounts between drug traffickers, said police.

Several people entered the "luxurious" farm early Monday morning and shot

the victims in the head with short- and long-range guns, said Yesid Vasquez, police commander of Medellin, Colombia's second-largest city and capital of Antioquia.

"So far, the identity of the victims is still unknown," said Vasquez. "There are nine bodies, four women and five men, but so far they haven't been identified."

Vasquez said a taxi

driver discovered one of the bodies, then notified police, who entered the farm and discovered the remaining victims.

Local media reported that police were questioning a woman who survived the massacre. The police have offered a 20 million-peso (11,100-US-dollar) reward in exchange for information leading to the capture of the assailants.

Xinhua

New York
bomb suspects
had "terrorist
encyclopedia"

NEW YORK, 2 Jan—Police arrested a New York City couple in their apartment on Saturday after authorities investigating a credit card theft found a highly explosive compound, bomb-making manuals, a sawed-off shotgun and ammunition, officials said on Monday.

Morgan Gliedman, 27, and Aaron Greene, 31, are being charged with two counts of suspicion of criminal possession of a weapon, for the shotgun, court documents show. One sheaf of papers found in the apartment had a cover page that read "The Terrorist Encyclopedia," according to court documents.

Greene has been arraigned and held without bail, according to a law enforcement official involved in the investigation, who was not authorized to discuss the ongoing investigation.

Gliedman had not yet been arraigned on Monday morning, said a spokeswoman for Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus Vance Jr.

Police went to the couple's Greenwich Village apartment Saturday to question Gliedman, the daughter of a prominent New York doctor, to investigate a credit card theft, according to a second law enforcement official.

At the apartment, detectives discovered a plastic bottle containing seven grams of Hexamethylene triperoxide diamine, or HMTD, court documents show.

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

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

Reuters

Monti aims for Italy vote majority, pro-Europe alliance

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

While not explicitly saying so, Monti appeared to indicate he was open to an alliance with the centre left—led by Pier Luigi Bersani, who polls say is on track to win the election—although not until after the vote.

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

his fifth term as premier, has accused Monti of striking a hidden deal to favour the left.

Due to the complexities of the electoral law, Bersani's two-party coalition could win a comfortable

majority in the lower house without taking a secure command of the Senate, possibly making an alliance with Monti's bloc crucial to creating a stable parliamentary majority.—Reuters



Outgoing Italian Prime Minister Mario Monti (4th R) walks during a private visit with his family in Venice on 29 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

ENTERTAINMENT

James Bond film Skyfall joins the USD 1 billion club



Daniel Craig

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

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

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

Skyfall is also the third movie of 2012 to

cross USD 1 billion in worldwide ticket sales after Disney and Marvel's The Avengers (USD 1.51 billion) and Warner Bros' The Dark Knight Rises (USD 1.08 billion). Only 14 films have grossed USD 1 billion or more so far.

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

"To see a film connect with audiences is always gratifying, but the success of this film is nothing short of extraordinary. After 50 years of entertaining audi-

ences all over the world, Skyfall is the most successful James Bond film of all time," Sony's vice chairman Jeff Blake said.

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



Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe

Daniel Radcliffe modelling acting career on Dustin Hoffman

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

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

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

"The person I've been looking at is Dustin Hoffman. In fact, I passed him the other day and he is absolutely on the shorter side, as am I. But he was in all those great roles, from action thrillers

to romantic stuff. So there is a way of doing it unconventionally if you don't necessarily look like the 6ft romantic lead," he said.

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

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

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

Tom Cruise's date goes into hiding

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

The 26-year-old manager at Beauty and Essex landed on the cover of In Touch magazine for her 18 December date with Cruise.

Jorge has now gone into hiding at her mother's house in Fresh Meadows and has sworn to friends that she did not leak the



Superstar Tom Cruise

news of their partying at Le Baron, *New York Post*

reported. "She is freaked out, as

she didn't invite this attention and is very upset. Jorge had a doubt that maybe Beauty and Essex leaked it, as Cruise called there three times for her and stated his name," a friend of Jorge's said.

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

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

Lindsay Lohan to stay in on New Year's eve

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

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

The actress wants to

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

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

PTI



Actress Lindsay Lohan

Freida Pinto signs Bollywood film, finally

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

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

Looks like Freida is gearing up for her first Bollywood film. And according to sources, filmmakers Vikramaditya Motwane and Navdeep Singh have been working on a script that they have offered to her. A source says, "While her films abroad haven't really worked wonders for

her career, she has managed to stay in the spotlight thanks to her immaculate dressing sense and her so-called exotic looks. But this film could change her fortunes."

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

PTI



Sharapova pulls out of Brisbane International

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

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

The French Open champion also pulled out of an exhibition match against Caroline Wozniacki at the end of December in Seoul because of a sore collarbone.

"That's why I had to pull out of the exhibition match I had in Korea," she

said at a news conference on Tuesday.

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

"So to be fair, I haven't really given myself a chance to pretty much hit any serves or anything over my head. Just been practicing groundstrokes.

"So I just kind of ran out of time here." While the season's first grand slam is set to start on 14 January, Sharapova was not overly concerned about her preparations. "I still have quite a bit of time to prepare for the Australian Open," she added. "I'm on the right track, been training really well, so I just don't want to jeopardise what I've gained in the off-season so far. "I just have to make a smart



Maria Sharapova of Russia celebrates match point to defeat Nadia Petrova of Russia during their match at the US Open women's singles tennis tournament in New York, on 2 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

move here."

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

"I have my own fair share of experience, and know that it's much more important to be healthy to go into a big tournament like the Australian Open

than to go into something big with a lot of matches and feel like you're not prepared health-wise," she said.

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

Reuters

Recovering Vilanova sees out 2012 with a game of padel

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

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

"This afternoon I said farewell to the year playing a game of padel with a special person," Adria wrote. "Happy New Year to everyone!" Barca announced last month that Villanova needed a second round of surgery following an operation to remove a tumour from



Barcelona's coach Tito Vilanova gestures to his players during their Spanish first division soccer match against Real Sociedad at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona on 19 Aug, 2012.—REUTERS

Neymar voted South America's best player

Soccer

SAO PAULO, 2 Jan—Santos and Brazil superstar Neymar has been voted South America's best player for the second successive year by Uruguayan newspaper *El Pais*. The 20-year-old beat Corinthians striker Paolo Guerrero, who scored the winning goal in the World Club Cup final against Chelsea, and compatriot Lucas Moura to the prize.

Neymar received 199 votes from sports journalists

across Uruguay, giving him the award by some distance. Guerrero came in second with 50 votes.

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



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

REUTERS

Argentine legend Juan Roman Riquelme also received recognition. The former Barcelona midfielder retired after this year's Copa Libertadores when Boca Juniors were defeated by Corinthians.

According to reports in the Brazilian press he could be ready to return however, with Paulista club Palmeiras reportedly ready to offer the player a short-term deal.

Reuters

Spurs keeper Cudicini agrees to Los Angeles move

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

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

"We are delighted to be able to add Carlo Cudicini to our roster," Galaxy head coach and general manager Bruce Arena told his club's website, www.lagalaxy.com.

"Carlo is an experienced and accomplished goalkeeper

er who we believe will be a great addition to our team and our defensive unit."

Cudicini, who began his career at AC Milan in 1992, joined Chelsea in 1999, initially on loan, and was part of their Premier League-winning squads of 2005 and 2006. After signing for Spurs he suffered a motorcycle accident in 2009, fracturing his wrists and injuring his pelvis. Although he recovered fitness, the club's acquisition of Frenchman Hugo Lloris this year pushed Cudicini down to third-choice at White Hart Lane behind Lloris and the American Brad Friedel.

Reuters



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

REUTERS

Murray knows must do more to become 'Sir Andy'

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

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

Bradley Wiggins, the first British cyclist to win

the Tour de France, and Ben Ainslie, the most decorated Olympic yachtsman, received knighthoods but Murray said he would have to accomplish much more before he could perhaps one day join them.

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

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



Andy Murray of Britain hits a return to Radek Stepanek of the Czech Republic during their men's singles quarterfinals tennis match at the Shanghai Masters tournament on 12 Oct, 2012.—REUTERS

GENERAL

View of New Year

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



Missing out on Van Persie has hurt City, says Mancini

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

The Dutch striker joined United from Arsenal for a reported 24 million

defending champions City.

"At the moment, he is the difference between us," Mancini told local media. "He has scored 14 Premier League goals and it is clear he has changed their situation."

"We were very close three or four months before he joined United. We were sure he was for us but it

Champions League. We were very close to signing him, I know what the reason was (why he opted for United) but I won't say. It was not about money."

When Van Persie, 29, joined United in the close season he said he had "listened to the little boy inside me". "In these situations, when you have to make a hard decision in your life, I always listen to that little boy inside me. What does he want? That boy was screaming for Manchester United," he said.

With Van Persie forming a deadly partnership with Wayne Rooney, United have scored 50 goals in their first 20 games - 12 more than City, who are the league's top scorers last season having racked up 56 goals in their first 20 games.

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

Reuters



Manchester United's Robin van Persie celebrates his goal against West Bromwich Albion during their English Premier League soccer match at Old Trafford in Manchester, northern England on 29 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS

pounds (\$39 million) last August and his 14 goals in 20 league games have helped Alex Ferguson's team open a seven-point Premier League lead over

didn't happen. "We wanted Van Persie because we knew he was totally different from our other strikers. We wanted to improve our team, particularly for the

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(3-1-13 09:30 am ~

4-1-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * Towards A Peaceful Disciplined Democratic Nation
- * News
- * Myanmar Heritage to the World (Part-II)
- * News
- * Music Programme
- * News
- * SnowFlakes...Scenic Confluence...To Kachin State
- * News
- * Zinathuka Yan Aung Chan Tha Reclining Buddha
- * News
- * Culture Stage
- * Merry Parents Day
- * News
- * Unique and Motivating Chap Char Kut Festival
- * News
- * Flying without Wings My Great Limitless Adventure (Bagan)
- * Myanmar Movies
- * "Essence of Devotion"

MYANMAR TV

(3-1-2013, Thursday)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 7:00 am | Environment |
| 1. Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw | 5:15 pm |
| -Uppatasanti Paritta | 13. 65th Anniversary Independence Day |
| 7:30 am | 5:30 pm |
| 2. Morning News | 14. India Drama Series |
| 7:40 am | 6:00 pm |
| 3. Dhamma Puja Song | 15. Evening News |
| 7:50 am | 6:15 pm |
| 4. Nice & Sweet Song | 16. Weather Report |
| 8:00 am | 6:20 pm |
| 5. Health Programme | 17. Myanmar Series |
| 8:05 am | 6:40 pm |
| 6. Dance of National Races | 18. Approaching Science Discovery World |
| 8:20 am | 7:00 pm |
| 7. Dance Variety | 19. TV Drama Series |
| 4:00 pm | 8:00 pm |
| 8. Martial Song | 20. News |
| 4:05 pm | 21. International News |
| 9. Cute Little Dancers | 22. CLEVER |
| 4:25 pm | 23. Dovumentary (65th Anniversary Independence) |
| 10. Teleplay (Traffic) | 10:00 pm |
| 5:00 pm | 24. News |
| 11. Songs For Upholding National Spirit | 25. TV Drama Series |
| 5:05 pm | |
| 12. Science and | |

Lampard heading for Chelsea exit with no talks planned

LONDON, 2 Jan—Frank Lampard's goals have ensured he will always have a fond place in Chelsea fans' hearts but with no contract extension on the horizon his future at the heart of the club looks increasingly doubtful.

The midfielder's 191st and 192nd goals for Chelsea in their 2-1 win over Everton on Sunday took him to within one of Kerry Dixon in second place in the club's all time scorer list, but there appears to be no room for sentiment as Chelsea's powerbrokers

prepare for next season.

"We haven't been talking about a new contract in the last couple of weeks," Lampard told the BBC.

"At the moment nothing has been said and my contract is up in the summer."

Lampard, 34, has made more than 500 appearances for the club since joining from West Ham United in

the legs may not be able to carry him from box to box as they did in his heyday, his ability to be in the right place at the right time remains.

"I'm enjoying playing, I'm working hard in training, I'm loving being part of the team," he added.

"That is all I can tell you for the minute and that is enough for me I am happy



Chelsea's Frank Lampard reacts after their English Premier League soccer match against Everton at Goodison Park in Liverpool, northern England on 30 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

2001 for 11 million pounds (\$17.77 million).

He arrived with a bagful of potential but was moulded into one of Europe's most feared attacking midfielders with an uncanny knack of timing runs into the box and a magnet for the loose ball.

His two goals against Everton showed that while

with that - to keep playing well and to contribute to days like today."

Chelsea have a new generation of attacking midfield players in Juan Mata, Oscar and Eden Hazard who are all capable of playing in the 'hole' while the high-energy Ramires patrols the central areas.—Reuters

Nepal gets more tourists in 2012 despite political impasse

KATHMANDU, 2 Jan—Nepal welcomed 598,204 tourists in 2012, a 10 percent rise over 2011, making tourism one of the largest sources of revenue.

The figures released by Nepal's Immigration Office and compiled by Nepal Tourism Board (NTB) on Tuesday showed that 53,219 more tourists visited the Himalayan country in 2012 than in 2011.

"Without any substantial investment in this field and despite government's failure to purchase new aircraft the growth in the number of tourists in 2012 is encouraging," Kashiraj

Bhandari, director of the Research, Planning and Monitoring Department of Nepal Tourism Board, told Xinhua.

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

Nepal celebrated 2012 as the "Visit Lumbini Year" to promote Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha, and attract more tourists. Nepal had celebrated 2011 as Nepal Tourism Year.

The Ministry of Culture,

Tourism and Civil Aviation termed tourism as "one of the major sources of employment in the rural and urban area". Chinese tourists increased 17.6 percent in Nepal in 2012. The number of Chinese tourists visiting Nepal in 2011 was 45,400 and it increased to 53,373, according to the NTB data. 2012 was also celebrated as the China-Nepal Friendship Exchange Year.

Indian tourists visiting Nepal rose to 164,680 in 2012 from 145,338 in 2011.

Likewise, 41,908 tourists from the United States visited Nepal in 2012. NTB said there was an increase of

10 percent in American tourists in 2012 over 2011. According to NTB each tourist in average stays for 13.12 days in Nepal.

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

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

India interested in Myanmar agriculture research & education

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

Indian government would provide technical assistance including laboratory equipment and Indian agriculturalists are to train the post-graduate students of the university.

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



Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing drives stake for construction of Advanced Centre for Agriculture Research and Education Centre.—MNA

bilateral cooperation in the agricultural sector.

During the ceremony, the Union minister, Indian ambassador and officials of

the ministry drove the stakes for building the three-storey centre which would launch the research and education trainings in the 2012-2014

fiscal year. Nearly 200 post-graduate students are currently learning at the university.

NLM

KIA group disrupts regional development, security

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

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

The same day, 20-member group led by Kyaukgyi Station Commander Tan Gwan of KIA Battalion (11) also

attacked security members in the compound of Mayan village Monastery in Mogaung Township.

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

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

Chinese artistes join Myanmar counterparts for joint-performance

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

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Region Hluttaw Speaker

U Sein Tin Win, Region ministers and their wives, Chinese ambassador to Myanmar Mr Li Junhua and officials and guests enjoyed the entertainments. After the entertainment programme, the Chief Minister, the Chinese ambassador and Chairman of Chinese Merchants Association U Kyi Sein presented bouquets to the entertainers.—MNA

Former Prime Minister of Japan arrives in Yangon

YANGON, 2 Jan—A delegation led by Mr Taro Aso, Former Prime Minister of Japan and Member of House of Representatives, arrived here by air at 4.35 pm today.

They were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by Region Chief Minister

U Myint Swe, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Thant Kyaw, Yangon City Development Committee Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint, Electricity and Industry Minister U Nyan Tun Oo, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Mikio Numata and officials.—MNA

Kawthoung TV retransmission station in service since 17 Dec

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan — Under the extended television programme, Aungba retransmission station in Kawthoung Township of Taninthayi Region was put into service

on 17 December 2012.

Starting from 6 pm on that day, the station is broadcasting TV programmes through UHF Channel 4 with 50 watts.

MNA

The floating Gorinjay beach bridges Chailay village and Gorinjay island, 25 miles from famous Ngwehsaung beach in Ayeyawady Region.

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

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

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

"It was completely water of about one mile

when we were young," U Nay Win, a local, said.

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

"It's amazing that the wells on this beach give fresh water."

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

There are many caves on the island of which the ecosystem is still unspoiled.

The nature also offers dwellers and villagers the shield against huge waves.

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

Myanma Alinn:

20-12-2012

Trs:HKA

A beach to visit on the sidelines of Ngwehsaung trip



Byline: Pe Thaw Yi