

Enjoy fundamental rights of citizens

In the time of our government, we are amending and enacting laws and rules to ensure that all citizens enjoy such fundamental rights prescribed in the constitution as freedom of expression, freedom of association and religious freedom. We accept that our government is fully responsible for addressing difficulties and desires of the people reasonably to the extent possible.

President U Thein Sein

(Excerpts from the request made concerning the incidents in Rakhine State to the public on 10-6-2012)

All citizens' unity, law-abiding practices are of special importance for ensuring peace, stability, rule of law, reaching eternal peace

Each and every citizen needs to have their hands in nation-building endeavours

Esteemed nationals,

Today is the 65th Anniversary Independence Day which marks the triumph of our independence struggle. I wish the entire nationals who have been living the length and breadth of the country all the blessings.

Myanmar people have stood tall as a people of a sovereign country since yore, respecting others' customs and helping each other. Despite committed guerilla war

waged by the nationals against the colonialists in their respective areas, Myanmar lost out her independence in late 1800s.

Esteemed nationals,

The colonialists exploited natural resources above ground and underground in various ways. They systematically undermined religions, customs, literature and languages. They also adopted the policy of divide and rule. They

introduced the education system designed to keep the country longer under the yoke of colonialism. The educated nationalist youths led by General Aung San defied the colonialism with the nationalist fervour and the Union Spirit.

After repelling colonialists, people again were subject to tortures of Japanese fascists. So Tatmadaw joining
(See page 2)



*Myanmar regained
her independence to
restore the status of
a sovereign nation
at 4.20 am
on 4 January, 1948
(9th Waning of
Pyatho, 1309 ME)
with Union Jack
Flag down and
National Flag up.*

*Independence
Monument in
Maha Bandoola
Garden in Yangon
marking restoration
of independence on
4 January, 1948.*

*State flag hoisting
ceremony was
held at 4:20 am
on 4 January,
2012.*



All citizens' unity...

(from page 1)

hands with the people put a strong resistance to them and drove them out of Myanmar. Independence struggles continued under the leadership of General Aung San and leaders as the colonialists reentered Myanmar. Regardless of hilly and plain regions, united efforts of all national brethren were put on the fight for independence to be able to fully enjoy the taste of independence.

Esteemed nationals,

Myanmar regained her independence on 4 January 1948 thanks to collaborative efforts of all national races and statesmen who made supreme sacrifice for their country and Myanmar became a sovereign nation. It turns 65th anniversary in 2013. National brethren and our ancestors sacrificed their lives for Myanmar independence. That's why, the onus is on today's national races and future generation to strive for perpetuation of Myanmar independence till posterity.

Independence is the heart of a certain country. Only

independent state could create itself a peaceful and developed human society. Perpetuation of independence is of vital importance in ensuring self-determination and standing tall among the world nations.

All citizens are duty-bound to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes: (1) Non-disintegration of the Union, (2) Non-disintegration of National Solidarity and (3) Perpetuation of sovereignty. And each and every citizen is to maintain the perpetuation of Myanmar Independence until the end of the world exists.

Esteemed nationals,

Myanmar has lagged far behind some neighbouring countries in development due to the disunities between leaders and the people and prolonged armed conflicts in making efforts for the rehabilitation of the country after regaining its independence.

According to the past experience, the common desire of all Myanmar people is peace and stability, the rule of law and the development of the country. All citizens' unity and law-abiding practices are of special importance not only for

ensuring peace and stability and the rule of law but also for reaching eternal peace.

Peace and stability and development of the country are interdependence. Only when the country sees peace and stability, can a modern, developed country be built. In that regard, each and every citizen needs to have their hands in nation-building endeavours for ensuring peace and stability with a sense of duty.

Esteemed nationals,

Myanmar, a resource-rich country, is blessed with fertile soils. For economic development of a country, human resources development is more important than natural resources. It needs to nurture youths to become the ones with qualified human resources. And education standards need to be promoted as well. Only the youths equipped with better health, high education standards and true patriotism could create the development and peace and stability for the future Myanmar as well as performing duties handed down by ancestors for perpetuation of independence and sovereignty.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President Office

Notification No 1/2013

7th waning of Nadaw, 1374 ME

(4th January 2013)

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has conferred religious titles on the following Most Venerable Sayadaws, Ganthadhura Pariyatti Lecturer Sayadaws, Vipassanadhura Patipatti Kammathana Instructor Sayadaws, Mobile Dhamma Preachers, national foreign missionary figures and outstanding donors of the Four Essentials to the Buddha Sasana.

Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Title

1. Bhaddanta Çandavamsa, Zeyawady Monastery, Peinnedaw Ward, Dawei, Taninthayi Region
2. Bhaddanta Sujatasara, Dahattaw Monastery, Kungyan Ward, Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay Region
3. Bhaddanta Adiçça, Mahayin Pariyatti Monastery, Kado Village, Mawlamyine Township, Mon State
4. Bhaddanta Kesara, Maha Aungmye Yeiktha Monastery, Ward 7, Hlinethaya Township, Yangon Region

Agga Maha Pandita Title

1. Bhaddanta Sudassanabhivamsa, Botaung Tawya Monastery, Myeik, Taninthayi Region
2. Bhaddanta Vindaka, Shwemann Monastery, Shweyay Hall, Kyunlon Okshaung Ward, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region
3. Bhaddanta Sumana, Koenawin Pariyatti Monastery, Aungzeyer Ward, Meiktila, Mandalay Region
4. Bhaddanta Vimalabuddhi, Maha Gandayon Monastery, Hsinswepuk Ward, Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region
5. Bhaddanta Tejaniya, China Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 2, Natogyi, Mandalay Region
6. Bhaddanta Nanolankarabhivamsa, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Dawnabwa Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Region
7. Bhaddanta Kesarabhivamsa, Dhamma Banaka Monastery, Masoeysin Taikthit, Seinpan Ward, Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay Region
8. Bhaddanta Sujatabhivamsa, Aungsan Tawya Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 6/10, Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Region
9. Bhaddanta Vissuta, Thiri Wela Pariyatti Monastery, Thiri Khema Ward, Sangyoung Township, Yangon Region
10. Dr Bhaddanta Paññavamsa, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Ward 7, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
11. Bhaddanta Çandavara, Zeyamedani Monastery, Ward 8, Myaungmya, Ayeyawady Region

Title recipient Sayadaws from abroad

12. Ven Prof. Kumbur Ugamuwe, Vajira Thero, Weikzalinkaya Monastery, Kelaniya, Colombo, Sri Lanka
13. Bhaddanta Ñanapunnika Thero, Viswashanti (Kaba Aye) Monastery, Kathmandu, Nepal
14. Dr Somdet Phra Phutthachin nawong, Ven. Upasamo Thero, Wizaya Nyanikayama Monastery (Wamfichaira), Prachathipok Street, Bangkok,

Thailand

15. Ven. Dr Walpola Piyananda Thero, Dhamma Vijaya Buddhist Monastery, 1847, Crenshaw Blvd, Los Angeles, the USA

Maha Dhamma Kathika Bahujanahitadhara Title

1. Bhaddanta Çandima, Thiri Mingala Yanaung Monastery, Hsihsonlay Village, KhinU Township, Sagaing Region

Dhamma Kathika Bahujanahitadhara Title

1. Bhaddanta Tejosara, Myoma Missionary Monastery, Pyidawtha Ward, Haka, Chin State
2. Bhaddanta Sunanda, Dhammayanthi Mogok Yeiktha Monastery, Sator Myobyingyi Ward, Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region
3. Bhaddanta Çandasiri, Aungsekkyia Mogok Vipassana Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery, West Ward 7, Thakayta Township, Yangon Region

Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Title

1. Bhaddanta Ñanika, Lonpee Sasana Rekkhita Pariyatti Monastery, Talanlo Ward, Falam, Chin State
2. Bhaddanta Paññavamsa, NanU Pariyatti Monastery, Ingyinbin Ward, KhinU Township, Sagaing Region
3. Bhaddanta Indavamsa, Maha Ledi Monastery, Ledi Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Region
4. Bhaddanta Çintita, Taikkyauung Pali Tekkatho Monastery, Zaygyo South Ward, Gyobingauk, Bago Region
5. Bhaddanta Ukkamsa, Kyakhatwaing Monastery, Thun Phaya Ward, Bago, Bago Region
6. Dr Bhaddanta Viçakkhanalankarabhivamsa, Thamanaykyaw Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 6/18, Oktha Myothit, Bago, Bago Region
7. Bhaddanta Ariyavamsa, Maha Withutayama (Middle) Taik, Ward 10, Pakokku, Magway Region
8. Bhaddanta Paññasara, Myathukha Monastery, MyokanU Pariyatti Monastery, Myinbat Ward, Pyawbwe, Mandalay Region
9. Bhaddanta Thutivara, Maha Dhammikayama Shwegyin Taikmagyi Monastery, Ohbo Shwegyin Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Region
10. Dr Bhaddanta Nandaçara, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Dawnabwa Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Region
11. Bhaddanta Açininna, Myole Shwesigon Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 4, PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region
12. Bhaddanta Kesara, Mon Pariyatti Monastery, Ye Yeiktha Ward, Seikkan Township, Yangon Region
13. Bhaddanta Sumana, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Ward 7, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region

Nuns

14. Nun Daw Paññavati, Dhammamedani Nunnery, Ledi Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Region
15. Nun Daw Dhammasiri, Zeyatheingi Corner, Thawtapan Ward, Sagaing, Sagaing Region

Maha Gandavaçaka Pandita Title

1. Bhaddanta Viçitta, Dayu Pariyatti Monastery, Dayu Village, Banmauk Township, Sagaing Region
2. Bhaddanta Ñanalankara, Kantha Monastery, Myitnge Ward, Myeik, Taninthayi Region
3. Bhaddanta Puññananda, Ponnyakari Hsutaungpyae

Monastery, Ward 8, Shandan Myothit, Bago, Bago Region

4. Bhaddanta Tikkhañana, Bawdiyeiktha Monastery, Ywama North Ward, Gyobingauk, Bago Region
5. Bhaddanta Vayama, Dipinkara Pariyatti Monastery, Aungsan Ward, Natmauk, Magway Region
6. Bhaddanta Aggadhaaja, Maha Withutayama Taikthit, Zayma Ward, Salin, Magway Region
7. Dr Bhaddanta Kumuda, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Dawnabwa Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Region
8. Bhaddanta Sudassana, Weluwun Monastery, Thabeikkon Model Village, Hlegu Township, Yangon Region
9. Bhaddanta Koliya, Kanmein Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 12, Lashio, Shan State
10. Bhaddanta Mahosadhalankarabhivamsa, Weluwun Pariyatti Monastery, Kyaunggyisu Ward, Taunggyi, Shan State

Nun

11. Nun Daw Paññasingi, Thameikdawdaya Corner, Thawtapan Ward, Sagaing Region, Sagaing Region

Ganthavaçaka Pandita Title

1. Bhaddanta Kusala, Thiri Mingala Myoma Pariyatti Monastery, Nanma Village, Mohnyin Township, Kachin State
2. Bhaddanta Uttamasara, Shwezedi Pariyatti Monastery, Sunchet Ward, Sagaing, Sagaing Region
3. Bhaddanta Kheminda, Dhamma Paragu Pali Tekkatho Monastery, Sulegon Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Region
4. Bhaddanta Çandavamsa, Kawleik Kokko Pariyatti Monastery, Kanphya Ward, Myeik, Taninthayi Region
5. Bhaddanta Sujana, MyoU Taikthit Thanlan Pariyatti Monastery, Aungzeya Ward, Lewe, Nay Pyi Taw
6. Bhaddanta Kavinda, MahaWizitayon Sasana Wunhsaung Monastery, Aungzabu Ward, Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw
7. Bhaddanta Naga, Hanthayon Monastery, Kanyinhnitpin Village, Nyaunglebin Township, Bago Region
8. Bhaddanta Kovida, Shwemyinzu Monastery, Nyaungsayay Village, Shwedaung Township, Bago Region
9. Bhaddanta Vinaya, Aungwaiyan Pariyatti Monastery, Phaloh Village, Aunglan Township, Magway Region
10. Bhaddanta Viriya, Saddhamma Wunthayon Pariyatti Monastery, Nandawgon Ward, Meiktila, Mandadlay Region
11. Bhaddanta Pandita, Aungmye Bawdi Alodawpyae Monastery, Wetgyi-in Village, NyaungU Township, Mandalay Region
12. Bhaddanta Pandita, Myoma Pariyatti Monastery, Alesu Ward, Ponnagyun, Rakhine State
13. Bhaddanta Kesara, Maha Bawdi Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 2, Thongwa Township, Yangon Region
14. Bhaddanta Paññadipa, Shwekyauung Pariyatti Monastery, Momeik, Shan State
15. Bhaddanta Ñanavamsa, Maha Bawdayon Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 4, Lashio, Shan State
16. Bhaddanta Paññajota, Myatswedaw Zaykyauung Pariyatti Monastery, Kyonmange, Wakema Township, Ayeyawady Region

(to be continued)

WORLD

Paris fire kills five, injures 18 people

PARIS, 3 Jan—Five victims including a kid were found dead following a blaze in Gennevilliers city in Paris Suburbs that broke out early on Wednesday, according to local report. Two flats in a six-storey building were on fire at 04:15 am local time (0315 GMT), injuring 18 people including two firefighters. The causes of the fatal incident were not yet identified.

“The fire was developed in ignorance of the occupants, which is typical for midnight blaze,” Frederic Grosjean, deputy spokesman of Paris firefighters told BMTV news channel.

Xinhua



An Iranian soldier stands guard near a missile during the fifth day of the six-day naval drill dubbed Velayat 91 from the coastline of the sea of Oman in southern Iran on 1 Jan, 2013. Iranian navy test-fired on Tuesday the Noor long-range missile in the ongoing naval drill, the official IRNA news agency reported.

XINHUA

US drone strike kills important Taliban commander

WANA, 3 Jan—A US drone strike killed a Taliban commander, his deputy and eight others in north-west Pakistan, intelligence sources and tribal leaders said Thursday, weeks after he was wounded in a bomb attack believed to have been launched by Taliban rivals.

Maulvi Nazir Wazir, also known as Mullah Nazir, was killed on Wednesday night when missiles struck a house in Angoor Adda, near the capital of Wana, South Waziristan, near the Afghan border, intelligence sources and residents said.

His deputy, Ratta Khan, was also killed,

sources said.

Nazir favoured attacking American forces in Afghanistan rather than Pakistani soldiers in Pakistan, a position that put him at odds with some other Pakistani Taliban commanders but earned him a reputation as a “good” Taliban among some in the Pakistani military. The military has a large base in Wana, where Nazir and his men were based. Residents said the main market in Wana shut down on Thursday to mark Nazir’s death.

Nazir was wounded there in a bombing in November, widely believed to be a result of his rivalries

with other Taliban commanders. Six others were killed in the same bombing.

Both the Afghan and Pakistani Taliban draw support from ethnic Pashtuns, who live on both sides of the Afghan-Pakistani border. Rivalry between militant factions often reflects old rivalries between Pashtun tribes. Shortly after the bombing, Nazir’s Wazir tribe told the Mehsud tribe, related to Taliban leader Hakimullah Mehsud, to leave the area. Hakimullah Mehsud’s men frequently target the Pakistani army.

The army, an uneasy ally of the United States, has clawed back territory

from the Taliban since launching a military offensive in 2009.—Reuters



A pro-Taliban Pakistani tribal leader Mullah Nazir speaks during a news conference in Wana, the main town of the South Waziristan region bordering Afghanistan, on 20 April. 2007. —REUTERS

Sandy Hook kids prepare for 1st school day since attack

MONROE, 3 Jan—Many of the children who escaped last month’s massacre at a Newtown, Connecticut, elementary school got their first glimpse of their new school on Wednesday afternoon, welcomed to a building that has been decked out as a “Winter Wonderland” with the help of thousands of kids from around

the world.

More than 400 Sandy Hook Elementary School students in kindergarten through grade 4 will return to classes on Thursday for the first time since the 14 December attack. On Wednesday afternoon those children and parents who hadn’t yet visited the school were invited to walk

through their new location, in neighbouring Monroe.

The former Chalk Hill Middle School has been renamed Sandy Hook Elementary School and has been transformed into a “cheerful, nurturing” environment, Newtown School Superintendent Janet Robinson said at a Press Conference held by Newtown and Monroe officials at a town park near the school.

Officials have gone to great lengths to help the returning students recover from the nightmarish memory of the attack by Adam Lanza, which left 20 of their schoolmates, all first graders, and six staff members dead in the second-deadliest school shooting in US history.

“This does not look like the other elementary school,” Robinson said emphatically.—Reuters



The sign post that used to mark the entrance to the Sandy Hook Elementary school, and where a makeshift memorial for victims who died in the 14 December shootings once stood, is seen empty in Newtown, Connecticut on 2 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Teheran says hoping for nuclear talks “very soon”

NEW DELHI, 3 Jan—Iran hopes talks with six major powers about its atomic programme will begin very soon, the country’s top nuclear negotiator said on Wednesday during a trip to India.

Last week, Russian media said the six world powers — the United States, Russia, France, Britain, Germany and China — were still negotiating with the Islamic Republic on a possible date and venue for the talks.

“We gave our proposal to Russia and they expressed their readiness for a restart of the talks. We welcome them,” Saeed Jalili, Iran’s national security council secretary, said.

“The venue and the time... have not been finalised but we hope that these talks will start very soon,” he told reporters after a speech in Delhi.

The six powers want to rein in Teheran’s uranium enrichment programme, to ensure it is geared only for civilian energy, through a mix of diplomacy and sanctions. Iran denies Western assertions that it is seeking nuclear weapons capability.

The powers so far have failed to achieve a breakthrough in three rounds of talks since April. But neither side has been willing to break off totally, partly

because of concerns this could lead to a new war in the Middle East if Israel attacked its arch-foe.

Iran is refining uranium to a fissile concentration of 20 percent, which Western experts worry is a step towards the level required for bombs. Iran says it needs higher-grade uranium to run its medical research reactor in Teheran. Jalili is the second member of Iran’s nuclear team to visit India in the past month. Officials from both countries declined to say whether or not India was involved in getting the nuclear talks restarted.—Reuters

Russian navy to drill in Mediterranean, Black Seas

MOSCOW, 3 Jan—The Russian navy will drill in the Mediterranean and Black Seas late this month with participation of its main fleets, the Russian Defence Ministry reported on Wednesday.

The drills, with warships from the Northern, Baltic, Black Sea and Pacific Fleets involved, were “designed to improve control, ensure and practice multi-service force interaction of the fleets in the far-off maritime zones,” the ministry’s press office said.

The Press office also said the drills of this scope were “the first time over the past few decades.”

It added that the drills

were in line with the Russian Armed Forces’ 2013 combat training plan, and aimed at conducting joint missions as a united naval group. Exact drilling date range was not immediately known. The naval task forces from the fleets are currently heading towards the designated areas of the naval exercises, the RIA Novosti news agency reported.

Marine troops and paratroopers from the rough coast of the North Caucasus will also be loaded onto amphibious ships, and the Navy’s personnel would acquire necessary marine practice skills in the drills, the Press office said.

Xinhua

Gunmen kidnap seven Pakistani soldiers

ISLAMABAD, 3 Jan—Gunmen kidnapped seven soldiers from a bus in Pakistan on Wednesday, military officials said, just days after Taliban forces executed 21 pro-government paramilitaries they had seized.

The gunmen took the seven soldiers and let go a sweeper on the bus with them, one military official said. The gunmen were wearing military uniforms, other sources said.

The men were travelling between army headquarters in Rawalpindi and their stations in the northern Prov-

ince of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa when they were taken off their bus in Jand in Punjab Province.

Taliban commander Tariq Afridi, who has forces in the area, was not available for comment and no Taliban spokesman returned calls seeking comment.

Last week the Taliban kidnapped 23 paramilitary pro-government forces. Twenty-one of their bodies, bound, blindfolded and shot in the head, were discovered on Sunday. One man escaped and another was badly wounded.

A military offensive over the past two years has clawed back swathes of Pakistan from the Taliban.

But the insurgents are still able to organize kidnaps and killings over wide swathes of the country and high-profile attacks have increased over the past month. Elections are scheduled for the spring and the insurgency will be a key issue.

Poorly trained police, overburdened courts and corruption have hampered Pakistan’s ability to crack down on militancy.—Reuters

Firefighters try to extinguish fire at a lubricating oil factory in Santa Cruz, west of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 2 Jan, 2013. Six employees were working in the factory at the time of fire, according to local press.

XINHUA



SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Ban on demanding Facebook passwords among new 2013 state laws

CHICAGO, 3 Jan—Employers in California and Illinois will be prohibited from demanding access to workers' password-protected social networking accounts and teachers in Oregon will be required to report suspected student bullies thanks to new laws taking effect in 2013.

In all, more than 400 measures were enacted at the state level during 2012 and will become law in the new year, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL).

Some of the statutes, which deal with everything from consumer protection to gun control and healthcare, take effect at the stroke of midnight. Others will not kick in until later in the year.

The raft of measures includes a new abortion restriction in New Hampshire, public-employee pension reform in California

and Alabama, same-sex marriage in Maryland, and a requirement that private insurers in Alaska cover autism in kids and young adults, NCSL said.

In New Hampshire, a rarely used form of late-term abortion will become illegal except to save the life of the mother — and even then only if two doctors from separate hospitals certify the procedure is medically necessary.

John Lynch, the state's outgoing Democratic Governor, had vetoed the measure, saying it would threaten the lives of women in rural areas. But the state's Republican-controlled legislature later overrode him.

In California and Illinois, laws that take effect at 12:01 am local time will make it illegal for bosses to request social networking passwords or non-public

online account information from their employees or job applicants.

Michigan's Republican Governor Rick Snyder signed a similar measure into law earlier this month that took effect immediately. The Michigan law also penalizes educational institutions for dismissing or failing to admit a student who does not provide passwords and other account information used to access private internet and email accounts, including social networks like Facebook and Twitter.

But workers and job seekers in all three states will still need to be careful what they post online: Employers may continue to use publicly available social networking information. So inappropriate pictures, tweets and other social media indiscretions can still come back to haunt them.

Gun violence — in



The Facebook logo is shown at Facebook headquarters in Palo Alto, California on 26 May, 2010. —REUTERS

places where it's all too common, such as Chicago, and in places where it's unexpected, such as Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut — was big news in 2012. But only a handful of new state firearms laws are set to take effect in 2013.

In Michigan, the definition of a "pistol" under the law will now include any firearm less than 26 inches in length. The new definition encompasses some rifles with folding stocks and will make the weapons subject

to the same restrictions as pistols.

In Illinois, certain guns currently regulated by state law, including paintball guns, will be excluded from the definition of a firearm and participants in military re-enactments will be exempt from some weapons laws.

Another big story in 2012 was the effort by lawmakers in a number of cash-strapped states to put their public employee pension funds on a sounder financial footing.

Reuters

Cyberattack on agriculture ministry suspected

TOKYO, 3 Jan—Confidential documents including information linked to the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade initiative might have been targeted in a suspected cyberattack on Japan's agriculture ministry, according to informed sources.

An official of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, however, said late Tuesday an internal investigation had already been conducted and it was unlikely there was no leakage of information from inside the ministry.

The sources said the information involved include internal documents compiled between October 2011 and April 2012.—Kyodo News

Japan's new space programmes start in 2013



TOKYO, 3 Jan—New space programmes are scheduled to start in Japan this year. They include a launch of a new rocket, Epsilon, and a space mission by Japanese astronaut Koichi Wakata as commander of the International Space Station.

Five satellite-carrying rockets are to be launched

in the country in the period through March of next year.

Japan's mainstay H2A rocket will be launched 3 times. The first, later this month, will carry an information-gathering satellite. The launch of an H2B rocket is also planned. The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency plans to send up its new solid propellant launch

vehicle, Epsilon, in the middle of the year.

The cost of launching the Epsilon is about 44 million dollars, about one-third that of an H2A rocket.

That is expected to attract orders from foreign countries. Astronaut Wakata will start his 4th mission in space onboard the Russian spacecraft Soyuz near the end of the year.

He is scheduled to stay on the International Space Station for about half a year. In the final 2 months, he will serve as commander, the first Japanese to do so.

Wakata says he was given the task because of the trust won by other Japanese astronauts. He says he wants to follow in their footsteps and carry out the mission successfully.—NHK

Xperia Z and Xperia ZL images leaked via Sony official website

MANIK, 3 Jan—The CES is just around the corner, and the leaks are on the rise. After Huawei, this time it is Sony's turn. This time, you can blame Sony's official website.

The folks over at Xperia Blog spotted images of Sony Xperia ZL and Xperia Z (Yuga) on the Sony website. The company is yet to officially announce either of these devices, though they all-but-confirmed to be released at CES.

The Xperia Z (codenamed Yuga) which we saw in an earlier leak on Tuesday — is reported to be Sony's next flagship Android

smartphone. The hardware does look impressive. This flagship boasts a 5-inch 1080p (440ppi) screen, which is powered by Sony's Bravia Engine. That screen could give the likes of HTC Butterfly a run for its money. This Android 4.1.1 (Jelly Bean) device is powered by Qualcomm's quad-core S4 Pro (APQ8064) SoC and 2 GB of RAM. The rear has a 12-megapixel (AF) camera. The phone comes with 16GB of on-board storage, which is expandable via microSD card. Other features include Micro-USB, Wi-Fi 802.11 a/b/g/n, Bluetooth 4.0 and NFC.

The other device, the Xperia ZL is a slightly thicker, heavier, but smaller than the Xperia Z. This is the same device that was leaked as C650X 'Odin' earlier. The hardware specifications of this phone are yet to be confirmed, though some reports have indicated a 1.5GHz processor and Android Jelly Bean. One thing which could be noticed

from the image is that the front-facing camera is on the lower-right side. Other than that not much is known about this smartphone.

Looking at these two devices, Sony seems to be serious about their Android line-up this year. Here is hoping they showcase a few more aesthetically appealing, powerful Android devices at CES and MWC.—PTI



LG Elec starts taking orders for next-generation TVs

SEOUL, 3 Jan—LG Electronics Inc started taking orders on Wednesday for organic light-emitting diode (OLED) televisions, hoping to outdo rival Samsung Electronics Co Ltd in the next-generation technology that could change the face of electronics displays.

LG Electronics and Samsung showcased 55-inch (140 cm) OLED TVs a year ago and they are expected to be priced up to five times higher than liquid-crystal display (LCD) equivalents when they reach store shelves next month.

Considered the future of consumer electronics displays, the OLED technology is more energy-efficient and offers

higher contrast images than LCD, and is so thin that future mobile devices will be foldable like paper.

LG Electronics, the world's No. 2 TV manufacturer, said it would start delivery of the new TVs from early February, with plans to display them at 1,400 retail outlets in South Korea.

Display Co Ltd (034220.KS), which makes the OLED panel used in LG Electronics' TVs, also rose 1.8 percent.

Global OLED TV sales are forecast to explode from 50,000 units this year to 1.7 million units in 2014, according to research firm DisplaySearch. That is still only a fraction of the roughly



The logo of LG Electronics is seen at a store in Seoul on 25 July, 2012.—REUTERS

They would be launched in the United States, Europe and other Asian markets during the first quarter of 2013.

In South Korea, the 55-inch model would sell for 11 million won - nearly four times that of LG Electronics' LED-backlit LCD model and around five times that of more common LCD versions.

The OLED launch announcement helped propel LG Electronics shares 5.4 percent higher on Wednesday, their biggest daily percentage gain in five months. LG

250 million TVs of all kinds expected to be sold worldwide in 2013. "The launch has more of a symbolic meaning that LG has the technology ready to commercialise ahead of any of its rivals," said Sophia Kim, an analyst at Woori Investment & Securities.

"It will take another two to three years for OLED sets to become more affordable and thus commercially successful, because consumers will start buying them when prices halve to around 5 million won."—Reuters

BUSINESS & HEALTH



Gold bars are displayed at a gold jewellery shop in Chandigarh on 8 May, 2012. REUTERS

Gold jumps to two-week high, speculative buying seen

MUMBAI, 3 Jan—Indian gold futures extended gains to their highest level in two weeks after the finance minister hinted at making imports of the yellow metal expensive, triggering speculative buying from physical traders on rumours of a custom duty hike.

Worried by ballooning current account deficit, the minister hinted at making gold shipments more expensive, saying it was under the government's consideration, but he did not elaborate on the types of measures.

The most-active gold for February delivery on

the Multi Commodity Exchange (MCX) hit a high of 31,191 rupees per 10 grams, a level last seen on 18 December. It was 0.35 percent higher at 30,997 rupees as of 0945 GMT.

"The comment (from the finance minister) added more interest to the physical market," said a dealer with a private bullion importing bank in Mumbai, adding there were a few deals on a stronger rupee in the morning.

A firm rupee, which plays an important role in determining the landed cost of the dollar-denominated yellow metal, kept the

upside limited.

In the overseas market, gold rebounded from intraday lows after the US Congress finally passed a bill that avoids tax hikes and spending cuts worth \$600 billion, but the temporary reprieve drew muted reaction from bullion investors in Asia.

Silver also jumped to its highest level in a week. Silver for March delivery touched a high of 58,440 rupees, its highest since 27 December.

The following were the prices of gold and silver in rupees at 1:15 pm in the spot market, quoted by HDFC Bank:—Reuters

BHEL up 3 percent as India imposes duty on Chinese insulators

NEW DELHI, 3 Jan—Shares of Bharat Heavy Electricals (BHEL) were up 3 percent on Wednesday after the government imposed a 35 percent safeguard duty on electrical insulators imported from China, in a bid to protect domestic manufacturers from cheaper shipments.

State-run BHEL, India's biggest power equipment maker, and other companies had complained that Chinese producers were resorting to predatory pricing to capture the market. The customs and excise department of the finance ministry imposed the duty on Chinese imports for one year, to be lowered to 25 percent the year after that, according to a finance ministry notification dated 20 December.

The notification was posted on the customs department website earlier, but was not widely reported by media until Tuesday.

"The duty has been imposed to protect domestic

producers, and would be applicable on imported electrical insulators of ceramics or porcelain as well," a senior finance ministry official told Reuters.

He said imports of electric insulators mainly used by power transmission companies had gone up to 35,000 metric tonnes in the 2010/11 fiscal year, and said predatory pricing by Chinese producers was

hurting domestic firms.

Officials estimate that imports from China have captured over 40 percent of domestic demand, and now contribute to around 90 percent of total imports.

The new tax will not be applicable on insulators used by the telecom companies or retail consumers, and excludes imports from other countries, the official said.

Reuters



The sun sets behind electric pylons in Allahabad on 22 February, 2006.

REUTERS

Gambian leader says to build herbal AIDS-cure hospital

BANJUL, 3 Jan—AIDS patients would be offered an herbal cure at a 1,111-bed hospital in Gambia that the president said on Tuesday he plans to build despite medical concerns the treatment is dangerous.

President Yahya Jammeh said in 2007 he had found a remedy of boiled herbs to cure AIDS, stirring anger among Western medical experts who claimed he was giving false hope to the sick.

"With this project coming to fruition, we intend to treat 10,000 HIV/AIDS patients every six months through natural medicine," Jammeh said in his New Year's address, adding that he expected the 1,111-bed hospital to open

in 2015.

The World Health Organization and the United Nations have said Jammeh's HIV/AIDS treatment is alarming mainly because patients are required to cease their anti-retroviral drugs, making them more prone to infection.

Jammeh said in October that 68 HIV/AIDS patients undergoing his herbal remedy had been cured and discharged, the seventh batch since the treatments began five years ago.

Other African leaders have drawn criticism for extolling the power of natural remedies to combat AIDS.

The administration



Gambia's Al Hadji Yahya Jammeh attends the plenary session of the Africa-South America Summit on Margarita Island on 27 Sept, 2009.

REUTERS

of former South African President Thabo Mbeki was ridiculed for denying there was a link between HIV and AIDS while prescribing meaningless treatments such as beet root instead of internationally proven medicines.—Reuters

Omega-3s may not protect against faulty heart rhythm

NEW YORK, 3 Jan—Sorry, Charlie, but fish oil supplements did not prevent atrial fibrillation in patients who had already experienced episodes of the heart rhythm malfunction, a new clinical trial has found.

The study, published in the *Journal of the American College of Cardiology*, adds to a growing pool of disappointing evidence regarding the protective effects of omega-3 fatty acids on heart health.

"The results for atrial fibrillation are important negative findings, answering key clinical and research questions," said Dr Dariush Mozaffarian, an omega-3 expert at the Harvard School of Public Health, who was not involved in the current study.

The new research, combined with other trials, "indicates that short-term fish oil use is unlikely to prevent recurrent atrial

fibrillation," he said.

But if the supplements don't prevent heart rhythm problems, they don't appear to be dangerous, either. "In all these studies, fish oil was safe and well-tolerated, with no evidence for increased bleeding," Mozaffarian told Reuters Health. Atrial fibrillation, in which the heart's upper chambers beat out of step with those below, affects nearly one in 10 Americans in their 80s. The condition is linked to potentially life-threatening strokes and heart failure. Although doctors prescribe certain medications to treat the condition, none to date has proven particularly effective. As a result, most drug treatment focuses on preventing strokes by administering blood thinners to dissolve clots caused by the fibrillation.

Some evidence suggests that omega-3 fatty acids, found in oily fish like sardines and tuna, might

reduce the risk of atrial fibrillation, although exactly how they would produce their effect is not clear. A study published earlier this year in *Circulation*, for example, found that people with the most omega-3s in their blood had a 30 percent lower chance of developing an irregular heart beat than those with the lowest concentrations of the substances.

That 30 percent difference would work out to eight fewer cases of atrial fibrillation per 100 people - which would be a meaningful benefit if it could be enjoyed by those with fibrillation or at risk for it, just by consuming more omega-3s.

But the latest study suggests that it probably can't. The trial included 586 men and women with a history of atrial fibrillation who were given a gram a day of fish oil or dummy capsules for a year.—Reuters

Jet Airways front-runner for Etihad investment

NEW DELHI, 3 Jan—Jet Airways Ltd (JET.NS) is the front-runner for an investment by Gulf carrier Etihad Airways, a senior government source told

reporters on Wednesday, adding a deal was likely in 10 days.

Etihad Airways, seeking to widen operations in India and other Asian markets, is in

the final stages of talks to buy part of either Jet Airways or grounded rival Kingfisher Airlines (KING.NS), an government official had said on 17 December.—Reuters



A Jet Airways Boeing 777-300ER aircraft sits on the tarmac at Mumbai Airport on 13 May, 2007.

REUTERS

WORLD

NY Times loses bid to uncover details on drone strikes

NEW YORK, 3 Jan—A federal judge on Wednesday rejected *The New York Times*' bid to force the US government to disclose more information about its targeted killing of people it believes have ties to terrorism, including American citizens.

US District Judge Colleen McMahon in Manhattan said the Obama administration did not violate the law by refusing the *Times*' request for the legal justifications for targeted killings, a strategy the *Times* said was first contemplated by the Bush administration soon after the attacks of 11 September, 2001.

McMahon appeared reluctant to rule as she did, noting in her decision that

disclosure could help the public understand the "vast and seemingly ever-growing exercise in which we have been engaged for well over a decade, at great cost in lives, treasure, and (at least in the minds of some) personal liberty."

Nonetheless, she said the government was not obligated to turn over materials the *Times* had sought under the federal Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), even though it had such materials in its possession. "The Alice-in-Wonderland nature of this pronouncement is not lost on me," McMahon said in her 68-page decision.

The newspaper and two reporters, Charlie Savage

and Scott Shane, had sued the government for details about the government's drone programme, including the late 2011 killings of US citizens Anwar al-Awlaki and his 16-year-old son Abdulrahman in separate strikes in Yemen.

Civil liberties groups have attacked the drone programme, which deploys pilotless aircraft, as in effect a green light for the government to kill Americans without constitutionally required due process. US Attorney General Eric Holder has rejected that contention.

Among the materials sought by the *Times* was a memorandum that the newspaper had in early October 2011 reported had



The facade of the New York Times building is seen in New York, on 29 Nov, 2010. —REUTERS

been prepared by the US Department of Justice's Office of Legal Counsel. *The Times* cited people who had read the document. *The Times* said this memorandum

had authorized the "legal targeting" of Anwar al-Awlaki, a US-born Muslim cleric who joined al-Qaeda's Yemen affiliate and directed many attacks. —Reuters

Train collides with car in Britain, one killed

LONDON, 3 Jan—A freight train hit a car at a level crossing north of Oxford in Southern England on Wednesday, killing one man in the car, local police said.

The accident happened at the Sandy Lane crossing in the Yarnton village in Oxfordshire and was reported to the British Transport Police at 1540 GMT, local media reported.

"It is believed two people were in the vehicle at the time. Sadly one of them, a man, was pronounced dead at the scene," the British Transport Police said in a statement. Police said the train driver was "shaken but uninjured," adding "officers are working to establish the full circumstances including how the car came to be on the tracks at the time." —Xinhua

Israeli F-16 crew abandon jet during landing

JERUSALEM, 3 Jan—A pilot and his navigator ejected from their F-16 fighter jet while landing at the northern Ramat David airbase on Wednesday afternoon, Israeli local media reported.

Both men escaped without injury, but were taken for a medical evaluation, an Israeli military spokesman told *Xinhua*. A preliminary investigation pointed to a mechanical malfunction in the craft, not human error, he said.

Israel Air Force chief Maj-Gen Amir Eshel temporarily suspended all training flights of F-16 squadrons pending the findings of a committee that has been set up to investigate the accident.

The squadrons, however, continue to maintain routine operational alert.

The F-16 Falcon, a multirole fighter aircraft developed by General Dynamics, entered service in the Israeli Air Force in 1977, and has since been used in all its major operations.

In November 2010, a pilot and navigator were killed when their F-16I "Sufa" jet crashed into the Ramon Crater in the Negev desert shortly after taking off on a training sortie. —Xinhua



A member of the Free Syrian Army stands atop a truck while on patrol in Aleppo's Bustan Al Qaser District on 2 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

UN lifts Syria death toll to "truly shocking" 60,000

AMMAN/GENEVA, 3 Jan—More than 60,000 people have died in Syria's uprising and civil war, the United Nations said on Wednesday, dramatically raising the death toll in a struggle that shows no sign of ending.

In the latest violence, dozens were killed in a rebellious Damascus suburb when a government air strike turned a petrol station into an inferno, incinerating drivers who had rushed there for a rare chance to fill their tanks, activists said.

"I counted at least 30 bodies. They were either burnt or dismembered," said Abu Saeed, an activist who arrived in the area an hour after the 1 pm raid in Muleiha, a suburb on the eastern edge of the capital.

In the north, rebels launched a major attack to take a military airport, and said they had succeeded in destroying a fighter plane and a helicopter on the ground.

UN Human Rights

Commissioner Navi Pillay said in Geneva that researchers cross-referencing seven sources over five months of analysis had listed 59,648 people killed in Syria between 15 March, 2011 and 30 November, 2012.

"The number of casualties is much higher than we expected and is truly shocking," she said. "Given that there has been no let-up in the conflict since the end of November, we can assume that more than 60,000 people have been killed by the beginning of 2013."

There was no breakdown by ethnicity or information about whether the dead were rebels, soldiers or civilians. There was also no estimate of an upper limit of the possible toll. Previously, the opposition-linked Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group had put the toll at around 45,000 confirmed dead but said the real number was likely to be higher. —Reuters

Flight diverted to Houston after passenger dies on board

HOUSTON, 3 Jan—An international flight was diverted to the US City of Houston Wednesday morning after a passenger died on board, local media reported.

A spokesperson with the Houston Police Department confirmed that a 25-year-old Brazilian woman, who fell ill, died during the flight from

Sao Paulo, according to the local TV channel ABC13.

The woman, whose name had not been released, already passed away when the plane landed on Bush International Airport in Houston at about 6:20 am the report said. The medical examiner's office took custody of the woman's body. An autopsy will be

performed to determine the cause of her death.

The Boeing 777, which carried 220 passengers and 14 crew members, continued to fly to Dallas, the flight's original destination, after investigators interviewed other passengers, the report said. Houston police are investigating, according to the report. —Xinhua

Chinese language gains popularity in Serbian high schools

BELGRADE, 3 Jan—Chinese investments in Serbia have influenced more and more Serbian school children to take interest in learning Chinese language, said on Wednesday Vesna Fila assistant to Minister of Education and Science, to *Tanjug* news agency. According to her words, Russian investments in Serbia such as South Stream Pipeline, are having the same effect to earlier less popular Russian language.

"Pilot project of learning Chinese in our high schools, introduced in 2012, will be extended to 2013, and evaluation of this initiative is under way, with

help of Belgrade Confucius Institute and Beijing Hanban," said Fila, reminding that at present some 2,500 pupils in 35 Serbian high schools learn Chinese language. Chinese language is among other high schools learned in elite education institutions such as Belgrade Philology Gymnasium, Sremski Karlovci Gymnasium, and Ninth Belgrade Gymnasium, said Fila, adding that Serbian children are showing excellent results in international competitions in Chinese language.

However, most of them are still interested in English, and some 90 percent

start to learn it in first grade. Second foreign language is introduced from the fifth grade and it is mostly: French, Russian, German, dependant of the region and arrival of foreign investments.

In Kragujevac, fourth largest Serbian town in central part of the country, Italian language is learned by some 3,000 to 4,000 pupils, after arrival of Italian Fiat, and in Sothorn town of Pirot after arrival of French Michelin in local schools bilingual French/Serbian teachings are introduced, according to curriculums of the Serbian Ministry of Education. —Xinhua



A tourist takes a photo of the scenery in Bome County of Nyingchi Prefecture, southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, on 1 Jan, 2013. Nowadays, more and more tourists from home and abroad choose to visit Tibet in winter. XINHUA

NATIONAL

Ambassador Thiri Pyanchi U Tun Nay Linn concurrently appointed as Ambassador to Peru

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Thiri Pyanchi U Tun Nay Linn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Federative Republic of Brazil, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Peru.—MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker meets Iranian Ambassador to Myanmar

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw

Also present at the call were Pyithu Hluttaw International Relations



Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Nanda Kyaw Swa receives Iranian Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr. Hossein Kamalian.—MNA

Swa received Iranian Ambassador to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr. Hossein Kamalian at the committee hall of the Hluttaw Complex, here, at 2:00 pm today.

Committee Chairman U Hla Myint Oo, Pyithu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission member U Than Tun and officials of the Hluttaw Office.

Myanmar, Japan to strengthen parliamentary ties

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann received a goodwill delegation led by Japanese Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mr Taro Aso at Zabuthiri Hall in Hluttaw Complex here this evening.

They frankly exchanged views on matters related to Myanmar-Japan friendship and cordial relations and cooperation between the two parliaments.

Also present on the occasion were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Pyithu Hluttaw committee chairmen

U Soe Tha, U Thein Zaw, U Thein Swe, U Lun Thi and U Hla Myint Oo and personnel concerned.

MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann cordially shakes hands with Japanese Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mr Taro Aso at Zabuthiri Hall.

MNA

Myanmar, Korea eye agricultural cooperation

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—Chairman of the Food, Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Committee (FAFFC) and member of the 19th National Assembly of the Republic of Korea Mr Choi Kyu-Sung and party paid a call on Union Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation U Myint Hlaing at the ministry yesterday.

They discussed bilateral cooperation between the two countries in agriculture sector, agricultural technology transfer from Korea to Myanmar and areas of cooperation. The Union Minister discussed potential for mutual benefits through investment and technologies of Korea in Myanmar. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Minister U Ohn Than, departmental heads and personnel.—MNA



Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission

Nay Pyi Taw

Announcement No. (1/2013)

6th Waning of Nadaw, 1374 ME

(3rd January, 2013)

One Defence Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw Representative substituted

According to the request made in accord with Section 33 of Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law to substitute one Defence Services Personnel Hluttaw representative nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services in the first multiparty democracy general election held on 7 November 2010, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the following Defence Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw representative stated hereunder in Notification No. 39/2012 of the commission dated 1st October, 2012 with personnel shown against him.

Air 2608
Maj Than Htaik

Air 2796
Maj Pyae Phyo Kyaw

By order,
(Win Ko)
Member
Union Election Commission

ARTICLE

Let's nurture scout spirit to safeguard Independence

“According to historic events, Our Three Main National Causes: Non-Disintegration of the Union, Non-Disintegration of National Solidarity and Perpetuation of Sovereignty is the national duty not only present generations but also our posterity have to safeguard. So our government will uphold this national duty”.

(From address delivered by President U Thein Sein at the first regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 3-3-2012)

Our three main national causes is the lifeblood of Independence. Only when it strengthens,

will the perpetuation of independence be possible. So the onus is on all of citizens to uphold Our Three Main National Causes as the national duty. We have to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes. Safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes is safeguarding the independence. It is required to nurture good and able citizens to be able to safeguard the independence while upholding Our Three Main National Causes for perpetuation of the independence at present.

Basic education schools of the Ministry of Education play an

important role in nurturing good and able citizens. The basic education schools can produce good and able citizens. They are nurturing good and able citizens. In the time of the new government, good and able citizens are being nurtured to be strong, brilliant and active ones equipped with the nationalistic fervor, Union spirit and the spirit of safeguarding their own race and religion by forming scouts at basic education schools.

With the aim of nurturing the scouts to become obedient and duty-conscious citizens equipped with good morals

and morality, self-reliant personality type, unselfish and community-minded spirit and humanity to be able to determine the news whether it is accurate, exercise responsibility and accountability in harmony, the Scout teams are being formed in basic education schools and they are being given training in social activities without political and military views.

Each scout must try to be “trustworthy, loyal, helpful, caring, polite, kind, obedient, able, thrifty and pure”. They have to take three oaths to fulfill the duty of the religion and the country, to help others and

to try to have 10 characters of scouts for ever. They need to be ready at all times to take initiatives in tackling the challenges and performing duties.

Formation of scout teams and cultivating the scout spirits at basic education schools will strengthen social responsibility, compassion, helping nature, team spirit, the love for own country, nationals and religions, Union Spirit and patriotism. The good and able citizens who uphold Union Spirit and patriotism may be able to safeguard Our Three Main National Causes. Safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes would

perpetuate the independence of the country.

Only the brilliant human resources would guarantee the security, development and stability of the country. In other words, human resource development is the implementation of the defence, development and stability of the country. Let's nurture the good and able citizens who are key to the defence, security and stability of the country. These human resources must safeguard the independence against any dangers, upholding Our Three Main National Causes.

Trs: YM+HKA

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 4 January, 2013

Red-Letter Day

Today is a red-letter day for the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Regaining independence from the British turns 65 years. Myanmar, home to over 100 national races, is rich in natural resources. All national races have long been living through thick and thin since many years. After the Third Anglo-Myanmar War in 1885, the whole Myanmar fell under the Colonial rule. Myanmar national people repulsed the British intruders in the three wars. Myanmar could establish a sovereign Union of more than 100 national races amidst divide-and-rule plot and oppressive rule of the colonialists.

Under the leadership of YMBA, GCBA, Doh Bamar Asiayon, Bamar Htwetyet Gaing, Pha-Ta-Pa-La and Pha-Sa-Pa-La in the struggle for independence, Myanmar regained complete independence on 4 January, 1948. After regaining the independence, Myanmar had to suffer the bitter consequence of long civil wars. The country had lagged behind the other countries in the development. Myanmar had lost contact with the world since two decades because of closed door system. The new government has undertaken several major reforms since it takes office. The peace agreements with 10 of 11 armed groups have been reached. World countries have recognized Myanmar's reform processes.

This year Independence Day objectives are (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 mark 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. In accord with these objectives, we all have a bounden duty to preserve the independence, bringing about the eternal peace and prosperity of the Union.



(Continued from 28 December)

Fostering trust

Trust and good governance like two things moving around the same circle. Trusting government and people's representatives encourages good governance which in turn promotes trust. Practice of political trust and social trust are theoretically sound for good governance with a substantial number of perfect examples in practice as well. Each individual political leader therefore needs to strengthen the trust. We, in so doing, need to make sure following strategies are put into practice, according to some scholars.

- (1) To practice what you preach in other words saying one thing and doing the same thing to demonstrate genuine commitment to public welfare. This is "moral trust" emphasizing on virtue and morality.
- (2) While devoting to public welfare and economic growth of the nation, you should also put your utmost efforts in serving interests of your voters. This is "economic trust" focusing
- on economic efficiency and public concerns.
- (3) Political trust can be won directly and social trust indirectly through implementing political reforms. In public management, decentralization and reconstitution can help produce social improvement. This is "political trust" concentrating on formal acceptance in politics.
- (4) Including social reforms on the agenda will strengthen social organizations, making progress after political reforms. This is "social trust" with a focus on accumulating and strengthening social capital.
- (5) Employment of modern technologies will improve efficiency of e-government, increase public participation and bring about public convenience. This is "technological trust" with an emphasis on technical innovation, accountability and moderation.
- (6) Simplification of procedures and regulations in public administration functions will lessen such difficulties as filling in and

signing unnecessary forms both for the public and civil servants. This is "administrative trust", attaching particular importance to effective management and service delivery.

The ministerial meeting at the 7th Global Forum on Innovation of Government 2007 unanimously agreed that "the urgent need of global governments today is to set trust-building as the goal and to adopt credible strategies mechanisms in every aspect." Furthermore, political leaders adopted the conclusion that trust-building needs time and the government is to act repeatedly until trust thrives between the government and the people.

Governments today have begun to gather public opinions on policies and services of their departments. Once they are informed of public opinions and expectations, they have to employ the effective ways to fulfill their wishes. Tunisia has public complaint bureaus across the country and some other developing countries seek public opinions on government departments through many different ways. Luxembourg's electronic information programme contributes information and direct advices from all walks of life to the government, establishing of the direct link between the government and the people. South Korea has an internet network which thoroughly

manages people's requests, recommendations and suggestions to the administration mechanism to ensure social stability, and accountable and lasting political trust. China is employing a system in which the executive body is accountable for the rule of law.

Trust-building and democracy

There must be trust in any place and at any time if we think reasonably, with the belief in fairness and honesty, in the interest of all stakeholders. The entire political sphere including the three pillars and its departments, the trust is subject to each individual.

Despite many ways formulated by analysts to establish and perpetuate the trust, the most important methods are the rule of law, independent judiciary, free and fair and regular elections, legitimate parliamentary procedures, active society, combat against any forms of corruption, decentralization and e-government system.

The failure to build and perpetuate the trust could undermine the democratic governance and also the failure of the democratic governance could undermine the trust. The difference between the two factors is very subtle. The only difference is that the trust gives priority to dignity and legitimacy. As long as the trust is tangible and thrive, the democratic government will last.

(To be continued every Friday)

Trs: TKK+HKA

Sky Net holds lucky draw to mark its second anniversary

YANGON, 3 Jan—Sky Net Broadcasting organized lucky draw programme to mark its second anniversary at Chatrium Hotel on Natmauk Street here this morning.

According to head Ko Sai Thet Htwe of Sky Net Marketing Department, Bodh Gaya trips and Sky Net receivers were offered in the first anniversary. In this time, the first prize is 10 tical of gold, the second prize 5 tical of gold, third prize 2.5 tical of gold, three fourth prizes 1 tical of gold, 10 prizes of 0.5 tical of gold, 30 prizes of 0.25

tical of gold, ten prizes of 32-inch flat television and 30 prizes of HD receivers for the customers.

Movie stars Naing Naing and Melody chose the lucky draw winners, U Min Min Thein (Chanmyathazi) won the first prize, U Tun Win (Mayangon) the second prize and U Thaung Aye (Kyauktada) won the third prize.

Sky Net is currently broadcasting over 70 channels including news and religious channels apart from entertainment ones with plans for covering of various sectors like education and



livestock breeding beneficial to the public.

HD receivers are available at sale representatives in various townships at K 55,000 per

one. The customers can choose either yearly payment system or monthly payment system to watch for their content.

NLM



OPINION

New democracy nation and ongoing reforms

Editorial Board

(Continued from yesterday)

Holding of Union-level peace-making talks

On 3 July, the 1st meeting of the Union-level Peace making Central Committee was held. "It needs to create equal political and economic opportunities so as to ensure the end of national races conflicts," said President U Thein Sein at the meeting.

Economic sanctions eased

On 12 July, US President Obama announced that economic sanction against Myanmar is lifted in order that US companies can invest in Myanmar as of 11 July.

Meeting with Group of Friends of Democracy parties

On 18 July, President U Thein Sein met chairmen and general secretaries from the group of friends of democracy parties. He urged them to make cooperation in seeking a common interest that brings the benefits to the country.

Talks with political parties

On 4 August, President U Thein Sein met political parties. And he urged them to join hands in making peace with national races armed groups as a national duty.

Myanmar Core Press Council formed

On 9 August, Union Government issued the order No.61/2012 on the formation of Myanmar Core Press Council.

Foreign Currency Management Law enacted

Foreign Currency Management Law was enacted as Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No.12 and Important Goods and Services Law, as Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No.13.

Second Planning Commission meeting held

On 13 August, President U Thein Sein attended the 2nd Planning Commission Meeting. He urged officials to take stern actions against bribery and corruption which can tarnish the images of the government and the country.

Union-level peace agreement signed

On 25 August, Union-

level Peace-making Group signed an eight-point agreement with Pa-O National Liberation Organization (PNLO).

UN General Assembly



"Our government and other stake holders have now been able to foster a new political culture of patience and dialogues," said President U Thein Sein at 67th UN General Assembly held in New York in the United States of America, on 27 September.

Meeting with the UN Secretary-General

On 30 September, President U Thein Sein met UN Secretary-General Mr Ban Ki-moon in New York.

A goodwill visit to the ROK

On 7 October, President U Thein Sein paid a goodwill visit to the Republic of Korea. During his visit, he discussed extended implementation of new village activities and promoting cooperation in energy sector.

Foreign Investment Law enacted

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw enacted Foreign Investment Law as its Law No.21 on 2 November, 2012.

From the poorest country to the world's richest one

President U Thein Sein met the Norwegian Prime Minister on 3 November. At the call, the President said that he would like to thank the Prime Minister for sharing of Norway's experience in promoting to the richest country from the poorest one.

Poverty Alleviation

President U Thein Sein

attended the 9th Asia-Europe Meeting held in Laos on 6 November. He said that efforts are being to reduce Myanmar's poverty rate to 16 percent by 2015 from 26

percent.

Amnesty granted for the fourth time

On 15-16 November, President U Thein Sein granted the amnesty to 518 prisoners for the fourth time, and deported the foreign prisoners.

Information Team formed

Union Government issued the order No.81/2012 on formation of Information Team on 15 November.

Moving forward

President U Thein Sein and US President Barack Obama on 19 November. At the call, President U Thein Sein said that the government will move forward to further strengthen and promote bilateral relations with the United States.

Hluttaw Laws enacted

On 26 November, Pyithu Hluttaw Law (2012) was enacted as Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No.23 and Amyotha Hluttaw Law (2012), as Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Law No.24.

Leading Authority formed

On 14 December, Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative Leading Authority was formed so as to ensure better management for extractive industries of natural resources.

Asian of the Year

On 16 December, the Straits Times newspaper

chose President U Thein Sein as Asian of the Year for 2012.

Dawei Special Economic Zone

On 17 December, President U Thein Sein held discussions with Thai Prime Minister Ms Yingluck Shinawatra, at Dawei Special Economic Zone in Taninthayi Region on implementation of Dawei Special Economic Zone which is important not only for Myanmar and Thailand but also for ASEAN countries.

Government's better management and administrative capacity

On 26 December, President U Thein Sein delivered an address on reforms to improve the management and administrative capacity of the government.

Ten basic frameworks

President U Thein Sein attended third Planning Commission meeting at the Government Meeting Hall in Presidential Palace on 27 December. Ten basic frameworks for economic and social reforms were approved.

Daily private newspapers get green light

On 28 December, Ministry of Information announced that application for publication of daily private newspapers will be allowed.

Foreign aids

On 28 December, President U Thein Sein gave guidance on market and export policy, at the meeting of Foreign Aid Management Central Committee at the Government Meeting Hall in Presidential Palace.

Myanmar Academy Award-presenting ceremony

On 30 December, Myanmar Academy Award-presenting ceremony was held at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium (1) in Yangon.

The above-mentioned facts are significant reforms during two years after the new government took office. Among these reforms, political progress is to unquestionable. New government could make unprecedented reforms. Some political parties can participate in political

activities again. Many political prisoners are pardoned.

It can be said that as a first step, it opens doors to political dialogues and political activities. As a second step, it is heartening to see economic and social

reforms for promoting socio-economic status of the people. Our editorial board assumes that these reform processes is the undertakings of the government that can lead a democratic country.

Myanma Alinn (3-1-2013)

Translation: MT



Independence our heritage

- * A glorious twilight
A breeze so light
Like singing a song
So sweat and wonderful
All fresh with daring spirit
- * Our lives and blood
The real source for us
Clearly showing bravery
Glory is our sacrifice
Patriots of the country
Leaving behind the heritage
- * With heart and soul
Going to the top
All along country
Everywhere is beautiful
And prosperity together
All the accomplishments
Brethren they achieved
- * Like evergreen trees
Dancing gracefully in wind
Ever fresh and vigour
All destructive acts
Let's drive them out
Our land our heritage
Love and cherish we all
Building a new nation
Also a modernized society
All kith and kin
With fresh dynamism

Myinmu Maung Naing Moe
Trs: TMT

Tensed climate in Central African Republic after arbitrary arrests

YAOUNDE, 3 Jan— At least 50 people, including two former members of the Central African Republic Parliament, have been arrested and arbitrarily detained in Bangui where a tensed climate continues to persist, a human rights observer said on Tuesday.

The town has been under a curfew between 7 pm to 5:00 am local time that was declared by President Francois Bozize last week due to the advancement of the fighters of Seleka coalition of rebel groups which is demanding his departure.

“There have been some

arrests and some deaths. The people were arrested and detained by the criminal investigation officers. We are speaking of about 50 people who include two ex-parliamentarians,” Fulgence Zeneth, who is a member of the Central African Republic’s Human Rights Observatory (OCDH), told *Xinhua* on phone from Bangui.

According to the human rights defender, the two ex-parliamentarians whose identity he did not reveal, were originally from Birao and Ouanda Djalle, two localities in the country’s

North-Eastern parts which are under the control of the rebels. With 4,600 fighters, the Seleka coalition took up arms on 10 Dec to remove Bozize from power. Bozize had himself come to power through a coup d’etat against the regime of the late president Ange-Felix Patasse, on 15 March, 2003.

Having come closer to Bangui since the capture of Sibut locality which is situated 180 km North of the capital, the rebels have threatened to directly attack the government in the capital in case of the failure of talks that have been recommended

by the Economic Community of Central African States (CEEAC) and the African Union (AU). Unconfirmed figures from the rebels which *Xinhua* obtained indicated that within the last three days of fighting, over 100 people have died and they include 93 officers of the regular army and 12 people among the rebels.

The Territorial Administration Minister Josue Binoua, who spoke to *Xinhua* on Sunday, said that the assailants had looted and destroyed the country’s only sugar factory in the eastern town of Bambari.— *Xinhua*



An Afghan refugee elderly woman sits near her tent at a refugee camp in Kabul, Afghanistan on 2 Jan, 2013. *XINHUA*

Lebanon cannot close borders with Syria

BEIRUT, 3 Jan— The humanitarian condition of the refugees arriving in Lebanon from Syria “prevents us from closing the border with the neighbouring country,” Lebanon’s General Security chief Major General Abbas Ibrahim said on Wednesday.

Predicting in an interview with voice of Lebanon radio that “the crisis in Syria would last a long time,” Ibrahim said “what concerns us is how to counter the effects and repercussions of this crisis over Lebanon, and most particularly the issue of the displaced Syrians.”

“Therefore, we either act in a humane manner

or become racist,” he said.

UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHRC)’s latest report show that the number of Syrian refugees in Lebanon has now reached 170, 637. Some 10,000 Palestinian refugees have also poured into Lebanon since gunbattles erupted in the Yarmouk Palestinians refugee camp in Syria’s capital Damascus.

Some in the Lebanese ruling coalition had recently demanded the border with Syria be shut due to the heavy burden they are causing to Lebanon. But the proposal is criticized by a number of other officials.

Xinhua



Tourists visit a garden cosmos (*Cosmos bipinnatus*) field in Sanya, south China’s Hainan Province, on 2 Jan, 2013.

XINHUA

Death toll in Angola’s religious gathering stampede rises to 16

LUANDA, 3 Jan — The number of people killed by a stampede at a New Year’s religious gathering in Luanda has risen to 16 as of Wednesday, said police source. Deputy chief of Angola’s police force Paulo Gaspar de Almeida confirmed that as of Wednesday, 16 people including four children were

killed in this stampede.

Angolan state news agency *Angop* reported that 10 were killed and about 120 injured on Tuesday at the entrance of the Cidadela Desportiva stadium in Angola’s capital city Luanda, when an overcrowded Christian vigil was held in the stadium.

Xinhua

Kenyan plane makes emergency landing at Khartoum Airport

KHARTOUM, 3 Jan — A Kenyan passenger plane made an emergency landing at Sudan’s Khartoum Airport due to a fault on its engine, official *SUNA* news agency reported on Wednesday.

“A passenger plane, Boeing 737-700, belonging to the Kenyan Airways, made an emergency landing at Khartoum

Airport after a fault at one of its engines,” the agency said in its mobile news service.

The plane was heading from Khartoum to Cairo, carrying 56 passengers on board, the report said, noting that it returned to the airport 20 minutes after taking off with all passengers unhurt.

Xinhua

Severe heatwave to hit Australia

CANBERRA, 3 Jan — Australian emergency services and fire services have been put on high alert as forecasters predict temperatures over 40C for large parts of the country on Thursday.

According to the Bureau of Meteorology, a severe heatwave has already settled over the northern parts of South Australia and the south of Northern Territory. And the temperature is forecast to reach 46 degrees at Tarcoola in South Aus-

tralia’s north-west Friday, and 47 degrees on Monday.

From Friday, Adelaide is facing 41 or 42 degrees for the next several days. And temperatures will soar up to the 40s in Victoria’s north Thursday and are expected to stay that high until early next week.

The hot, northerly winds are also spreading further into western Queensland and New South Wales, Victoria and Tasmania.

Xinhua

Violence intensifies in Syria with raging military showdown

DAMASCUS, 3 Jan — Violence intensified on Wednesday in several areas of Syria, including a military airport in the north, near a military hospital in the capital Damascus and at the country’s main Palestinian refugee camp.

Armed groups attacked at early Wednesday the military airport of Taftanas in the northwestern Province of Idlib, local al-Ekhbaria TV said, adding government

troops repulsed the attack and rendered many of the assailants killed or injured.

The airport has been a top priority for the rebels who are hoping for taking over it and paralyzing the power of the Syrian air force in the northern slice of Syria.

Other media reports said the clashes at the airport were still incessant.

In the countryside of Damascus, armed rebels attacked the military hospital

of Harasta on Wednesday as the clashes there are still ongoing.

In another suburb of Damascus, Dahiet al-Assad, mortars fired allegedly by the rebels landed at a mosque in the pro-government suburb, causing material damage only, report said.

Clashes have also intensified in al-Yarmouk camp for Palestinian refugees in Damascus with mortar shells slamming several areas and snipers nesting on rooftops firing at people, reports said.

The area has seen intense fighting over the past month between the rebels and local committees loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Most of the camp’s families have fled the violence to nearby areas or to Lebanon. A couple of weeks ago, many of those displaced dared the violence and returned to their homes hoping for a reduced violence that hasn’t materialized yet.

Meanwhile, the fighting in hotspots around Damascus

intensified Wednesday amid reports of Syrian airstrikes on rebels’ strongholds in several hotspots.

The Local Coordination Committees (LCC), activists’ network, said that many people have been killed on Wednesday when an airstrike hit a gas station at Damascus’ suburb of Mlaih, a rebel stronghold in Syria’s 22-months crisis.

The LCC posted what it said images of human remains and charred bodies of those killed in the Mlaih airstrike.

The LCC also reported shelling and fighting elsewhere and placed the initial death toll of Wednesday’s chaos at 30. The activists’ account couldn’t be verified independently.

Syria’s civil war has been gaining momentum and showing no sign of backing down amid the increasing number of foreign jihadists fighting alongside the rebels across the country against the Syrian troops.

Xinhua



A citizen plays on the snow at a park in Jinan, capital of east China’s Shandong Province, on 2 Jan, 2013. Jinan underwent an extreme cold weather on Wednesday, with the lowest temperature dropped to minus 17 degrees centigrade. — *XINHUA*

REGIONAL

Indonesia to send rice for victims of Bopha Typhoon in Philippines

JAKARTA, 3 Jan—A government official said on Wednesday that Indonesia will send 2,000 tons of rice for the victims of Bopha Typhoon in the Philippines with the delivery of the relief aid scheduled for Friday.

“The rice will be retrieved from our rice depositor agency of Bulog in Manado, North Sulawesi Province, and be shipped to that country by our navy vessel KRI Makassar,” Safril Burhanuddin, Coordinating Minister for Public Welfare

affairs spokesperson said here.

Indonesian army troops will be dispatched to help the distribution of the relief aid to the victims, he said, adding that the logistic will first be deployed to Davao, Mindanao island in the Philippines. Besides rice, Indonesia will also bring along 2,500 blankets and sheets for the victims.

In his recent visit to the typhoon-affected area in Davao, Indonesian Coordinating Minister for

Public Welfare Affairs Agung Laksono delivered humanitarian aid to the victims.

“As a country that has similar potential natural disasters, Indonesia conveys sympathetic gesture to Philippines which is now in difficult time, particularly to those who have lost their loved ones,” he said in his visit conducted on 29 Dec.

Indonesia previously donated 1 million US dollars of assistance fund and 40 tons of staple food a few days

after the typhoon ransacked the affected areas, the Antara news agency reported.

According to the data released by the Philippines’ Disaster Risk Reduction Management Council (NDRRMC), 17,648 were killed in the typhoon with 569 others missing as of 17 Dec. Those injured from the typhoon tops 3,227 people, while 27,108 were displaced. Some 110 shelters were set up to accommodate the victims who sought refuge.

Xinhua



A Pakistani employee works at a textile factory in northwest Pakistan's Charsadda, on 2 Jan, 2013. According to reports, the textile industry in Pakistan, especially in Punjab Province, has incurred production loss of 125 million US dollars since disconnection of electricity and gas supply over the last few days.—XINHUA

A map showing PM2.5 intensity in China's 74 major cities is displayed at the website of China National Environmental Monitoring Centre (CNEMC), on 2 Jan, 2013. Starting from Tuesday, real-time air quality monitoring data on PM2.5 intensity and other air quality information in China's 74 major cities can be available at the website. —XINHUA



S Korea okays restart of troubled nuclear reactor

SEOUL, 3 Jan—South Korea has given the go-ahead to restart a nuclear reactor previously shut down for safety reasons, the country's nuclear watchdog said on Wednesday.

The Nuclear Safety and Security Commission said it approved the operation of the Unit 6 reactor at the Yeonggwang plant, located some 330 km southwest of Seoul, after

safety checks.

Two reactors at the nuclear plant — the Unit 5 and Unit 6 — were forced to shut down in November after they were discovered to contain parts with forged quality and safety warranties.

“All the parts that had been provided with fake certificates have been replaced, and safety checks required before

the resumption of the nuclear reactor have been completed,” the safety commission said in a statement.

The Unit 5 reactor was already given the green light to resume its operation on 31 Dec. South Korea operates 23 reactors nationwide, supplying about 35 percent of the country's electricity.

Xinhua

Girl raped by two men in Indian capital at New Year's party

NEW DELHI, 3 Jan—A 17-year-old Indian girl studying in class XI of a prominent south Delhi school was allegedly raped by two men at a New Year's party in a middle class residential zone in the Indian capital, local daily Times of India reported on Wednesday.

This time the alleged

rapists came from the country's booming middle class rather than spreading slums.

The two men, in their late 20s, work in leading IT companies and live in the well-off Sarojini Nagar. One is a computer engineer with an IT company, the other works in the human

resource department of a blue-chip tech and consulting multinational.

The police have arrested them after the girl went to police station to report the rape. The accused were produced in Saket court on Tuesday afternoon and later sent to Tihar jail in the Indian capital.—Xinhua

Metro tunnel collapse traps workers in S China

NANNING, 3 Jan—Two of three workers trapped in a collapsed tunnel of a metro line under construction in the southern Chinese City of Nanning have been rescued.

The accident happened at around 3 pm in the tunnel under Minzu Avenue in the capital City of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

One worker remained trapped

Rescuers said the three workers were working in the tunnel section, where there were two sewage pipelines. The cause of the accident is not immediately known.

The rescue work led by mayor Zhou Hongbo is continuing.

Xinhua



Rescuers work at the scene of a cave-in accident in Nanning, capital of south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 2 Jan, 2013. The tunnel of a metro line under construction in Nanning collapsed Wednesday afternoon, trapping three workers. Two have been rescued and one still trapped. —XINHUA

Afghan police kill one Taliban militant, detain 35

KABUL, 3 Jan—Personnel of Afghan police have killed one Taliban fighter and captured 35 others on charge of having link with the armed outfit during series of operations over the past 24 hours, Interior Ministry said in a Press release issued here on Wednesday.

In the operations which have been carried out in Baghlan, Kunduz, Kandahar, Uruzgan, Ghazni, Khost, Farah and Helmand Provinces, a number of arms and ammunitions including 73 mortar mines and an explosive-laden car were also seized by police.

The Press release did not say if there were any casualties on police personnel. Taliban militants fighting the government are yet to comment. —Xinhua

Gov't troops to unilaterally honour ceasefire with leftist rebels

MANILA, 3 Jan—The Philippine government troops will continue to honour the ceasefire with the Communist Party of the Philippines-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (CPP-NPA-NDF) despite the latter's decision to terminate earlier the joint truce, a senior government official said on Wednesday.

Alexander Padilla, Government of the Philippines (GPH) chief negotiator, said that the Aquino administration stands firm to the nationwide truce agreed upon with

the NDF, the political wing of the CPP-NPA, which commenced on 20 Dec, 2012 and will remain effective until 15 Jan this year.

“Our security forces will maintain its unilateral declaration of SOMO (suspension of offensive military operation) and SOPO (suspension of offensive police operation), despite the CPP's termination, and will stand ready to defend and protect our people,” the panel said.

The CPP declared an end to the ceasefire on 2

Jan and cited as an excuse the “failure of the GPH to comply with the agreement last 17-18 Dec to extend its own ceasefire order to 15 Jan.”

The GPH panel, however, said that it was a false claim. “Since the time that government made the ceasefire declaration, there have been no recorded violations by the military and police, which is a clear manifestation of our commitment to honor the ceasefire agreement,” it said.

Xinhua

Some 1,686 workers faint in Cambodia in 2012

PHNOM PENH, 3 Jan—Approximately 1,686 workers in garment and shoe factories got fainted last year due mainly to overwork, poor health, exposure to chemical substances, and hysteria, a Cambodian labor official said on Wednesday.

Pok Vanthath, vice-chief of the Labour Ministry's vocational training department, said the mass fainting incidents had occurred in more than 20 factories in 2012 and 1,686 workers got fainted.

He unveiled the figures after Free Trade Union of

Workers, the kingdom's largest trade union, issued an annual statement on Wednesday, reporting that 2,107 workers in 29 factories got fainted in 2012.

The causes of the mass fainting included more hours of overtime working, chemical substances in cloths, smell of insecticides, heat, bad working environment, workers' malnutrition, and panic.

The statement also said that in 2012, about 84,320 workers in 101 factories had staged protests to demand

pay rise and better working conditions.

Garment industry represented about 90 percent of Cambodia's total exports. The sector comprises more than 300 factories, employing some 335,400 workers — 91 percent of them are female.

During the first 10 months of 2012, the country exported garment and textile products in equivalent to 3.82 billion US dollars, up 7.6 percent from 3.55 billion US dollars in a year earlier, according to a report of the Commerce Ministry.—Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ER TURKU VOY NO (008)

Consignees of cargo carried on MVER TURKU VOY NO (008) 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 HAN JIN SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO (064)

Consignees of cargo carried on MVESM CREMONA VOY NO (064) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 ORINET OVERSEAS
CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANGPAKAEW VOY NO (200)

Consignees of cargo carried on MVBANGPAKAEW VOY NO (200) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (2) 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (330N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO (330N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.1.2013 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVER GREEN SHIPPING

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

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

TRADE MARK CAUTION

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unauthorised use of the
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with according to law.

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M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L.

for sanofi-aventis

P. O. Box 60, Yangon

Dated: 4 January 2013



*Six-month-old Arthur
Hammond and his mother
Emily Cleaver recreated
classic movie scenes. His
blog is already receiving
more than 50,000 hits per
month.*
XINHUA

US manufacturing sector expands in December

WASHINGTON, 3 Jan—The US manufacturing sector expanded in December, following a month of contraction, a leading industry survey showed Wednesday.

The US Institute of Supply Management (ISM) said the manufacturing index, also known as the purchasing managers index (PMI), rose from November's reading of 49.5

percent to 50.7 percent in December, indicating expansion in manufacturing for only the third time in the last seven months.

A reading above 50 percent indicates that the manufacturing sector is generally expanding, while a reading below 50 percent indicates contraction.

The new orders index

remained at 50.3 percent for the month, the same rate as in November.

The production index registered at 52.6 percent, a decrease of 1.1 percentage points. Of the 18 manufacturing industries, seven reported growth last month, including petroleum and coal products, as well as computer and electronic products. —Xinhua

EU becomes largest consumer of Vietnamese goods

HANOI, 3 Jan—The European Union (EU), replacing the United States America, has become the largest consumer of Vietnamese goods, Vietnam's state-run media reported on Wednesday.

Vietnamese exports to the European Union (EU) hit 20.3 billion US dollars in 2012, increasing 22.5 percent against 2011 and accounting for 17.7 percent of the country's total exports, the Communist Party of Vietnam Online Newspaper reported on Wednesday.

The former top export destination, the USA, was the second largest importer of Vietnamese goods, consuming 19.6 billion US dollars in value, representing a year on year rise of 15.6 percent and 17.1 percent of Vietnam's total exports.

Other ASEAN countries ranked the third, importing 17.3 billion US dollars Vietnamese goods, up 27.2 percent over 2011.

Japan and China came the fourth and the fifth, consuming 13.1 billion US

dollars and 12.2 billion US dollars respectively.

According to report from the Voice of Vietnam on Wednesday, the state-run radio station, Vietnam's major export items include telephone sets, footwear, computers and garments.

According to Vietnam's authorities' statistics, China was the largest trade partner of Vietnam in 2012, exporting 28.9 billion US dollars goods to neighboring Vietnam, up 17.6 percent against 2011.

Xinhua

Russia

imposes heavy fines to curb Olympic touts

Moscow, 3 Jan—Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a law imposing heavy fines on ticket touting for the 2014 Sochi Winter Olympics. Anyone who sells Sochi Olympics tickets above their face value will be fined up to a million rubles (33,000 US dollars), and the new federal law also impose price control on local hotels during the Olympics, the RIA Novosti news agency reported Wednesday.

The Winter Olympics in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, which features 98 medal events under the motto of "Hot. Cool. Yours," is slated on 7-23 February.

Selling an Olympic or Paralympic ticket with higher price than face value, including those for the opening and closing ceremonies, contracts a fine of 10 times face value for individuals, or 20 times if the tout is an official. —Xinhua

Shanghai Airport handles more passengers, cargo in 2012

SHANGHAI, 3 Jan—The Shanghai Airport Authority's passenger and cargo throughput continued to climb in 2012, scoring a record-high for passenger throughput, the company said on Tuesday.

Combined passenger throughput in two of the company's airports, Pudong Airport and Hongqiao Airport, rose 5.56 percent year

on year to 78.70 million last year, nearly triple that of a decade ago, a spokesperson with the Shanghai Airport Authority said. Meanwhile, cargo throughput increased to 3.38 million tonnes, also triple the volume in 2003.

The company expects to raise its passenger and cargo throughput to 100 million and 5.50 million tonnes, respectively, in 2015. —Xinhua

ENTERTAINMENT

Hands pretty full for 2013: Sonakshi Sinha

MUMBAI, 3 Jan—After a successful 2012 with hits like Rowdy Rathore, Son of Sardaar and Dabangg 2, the new year also looks quite promising for actress Sonakshi Sinha.

“In 2013 I have Lootera, Once Upon a Time in Mumbai 2... I am going to start shooting for Bullet Raja, Rambo Rajkumar with Prabhu Deva and Shahid (Kapoor) and Thuppakki remake. So yeah, hands are pretty full,” the 25-year-old said while celebrating the success of Dabangg 2 at an NGO.

Sonakshi is paired opposite Ranveer Singh in Lootera, with Akshay Kumar in Once Upon a Time

in Mumbai 2 and she will share screen space with Saif Ali Khan in Bullet Raja.

Sonakshi is happy that her hard work has paid off.

“(It) Feels good. I have always worked hard and when your hard work pays off in terms of people liking your film, it is amazing,” she said.

PTI

Actress
Sonakshi
Sinha



Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie already married?



News of their reported nuptials comes eight months after Pitt, 49, and Jolie, 37, announced their engagement in April 2012.—PTI

LONDON, 3 Jan—Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie are rumoured to have tied the knot on Christmas day in the Caribbean, reports have claimed. The Hollywood super couple apparently married in an intimate ceremony on the Turks and Caicos Islands, according to *The Telegraph*. The pair have been spending the Christmas and New Year holiday at the private Parrot Cay estate of fashion designer Donna Karan with their six children, Pitt's parents Jane and William, his brother Doug and sister Julie. News of their reported nuptials comes eight

months after Pitt, 49, and Jolie, 37, announced their engagement in April 2012 after seven years together.

Speculation they had finally wed comes after a magazine report in early December claimed the pair had picked up their wedding rings from celebrity jeweller Neil Lane. In November, Pitt told reporters on the red carpet of the New York premiere of his film *Killing Me Softly* the nuptials would be “soon”.

Pitt and Jolie started dating after meeting on the sets of the 2005 romantic comedy action film *Mr & Mrs Smith*. —PTI

Naomi Watts says her family life is “not all a bed of roses”

NEW DELHI, 3 Jan—Naomi Watts says that her family life has its share of struggles.

While the Impossible star admits her husband and fellow actor Liev Schreiber is a “brilliant dad” to their children, Sasha, five, and four-year-old Sammy Kai, and the quartet have a “good” family life, she admits they also have their “struggles”.

She said: “Our family life is good, Liev is a brilliant dad, but like any family we have had our struggles and a relationship between two successful people who travel and are passionate about what they do takes work - it's not all a bed of roses.”

But the 44-year-old star insists that she and Liev, 45, still “hold onto

our romance”, and she would love to add a daughter to their family unit in the future.

She added to *You* magazine: “I would love a daughter and it would be great to adopt but I kind of feel that my boys are finally getting on so well — so is it the right time?”

“Liev is great — we still hold on to our romance. It was love at first sight for me. In fact I had a big crush on him before I met him at a ball”.

“We had friends who had been trying to set us up for ages, but it was never the right time until that night. We exchanged numbers — I was in LA at the time and he was in New York — and at first we got to know each other through emails and phone calls.”—PTI



Naomi Watts

Lindsay Lohan grateful she got to spend New Year's Eve with family

LONDON, 3 Jan—Facing a possible eight-month jail sentence after getting her probation revoked, troubled actress Lindsay Lohan is grateful that she is able to spend time with her folks over the New Year.

“I feel very blessed to be able to spend time w/ my mom, family & very wonderful friends (sic). Very grateful. May only good things come this year,” Lohan tweeted.

The 26-year-old actress brought in the New Year in London with a low key dinner with those close to her and hit the sack early, reported *Daily Mail*.

Lohan has been spotted shopping up a storm in high end department store

Harrods in the city while carrying a Hermes Birkin bag despite struggling to pay her bills. A judge revoked her probation earlier this month after authorities learned she allegedly lied to police about a car crash in June.—PTI



Actress Lindsay
Lohan

Leonardo DiCaprio, Jonah Hill ring in new year at yacht party

LOS ANGELES, 3 Jan—Leonardo DiCaprio invited his *The Wolf of Wall Street* co-star Jonah Hill for a little get together on a yacht with a bevy of beauties to ring in

the New Year.

The two actors were spotted having a day of fun in the sun, while enjoying the company of numerous gorgeous women — some of whom chose to ditch their bikini tops, reported *E!* online.

The duo were cruising across Sydney Harbour in Australia, after 38-year-old DiCaprio was asked to go back to the land down un-

der to reshoot some scenes for Baz Luhrmann's *The Great Gatsby*.

Hill was photographed looking bewildered chatting up a topless sunbather on the deck.

The 29-year-old *Moneyball* star broke up with his longtime girlfriend, Ali Hoffman (Dustin Hoffman's daughter), in September.

PTI



Leonardo
DiCaprio,
Jonah Hill

SPORTS

Van Persie shines again as United march on



Manchester United's Robin van Persie (R) shoots to score against Wigan Athletic during their English Premier League soccer match at the DW Stadium in Wigan, northern England on 1 January, 2013.—REUTERS

Stoke City but the Premier League champions remain seven points behind rivals United following Van Persie's masterclass, with Tottenham Hotspur up to third after a 3-1 victory over Reading.

Dutchman van Persie was pinpointed by Mancini in the pre-match buildup as the reason why United may snatch back their title and the former Arsenal hotshot continued 2013

effort ruled out for off-side, gave United the lead at lowly north west rivals Wigan when he slotted the ball in after Patrice



Ferguson told the BBC.

"The game started slowly but once we got the first goal we were away and we were happy to go in at halftime 2-0 up," added Ferguson.

"Javier Hernandez is a goal-scorer, a real penalty box player. Van Persie's ability is exceptional and his first goal was magnificent—we expected him to be a major player and add something to us and that is exactly what he has done."

The New Year brought a rare goal for City defender Pablo Zabaleta before inform Edin Dzeko doubled the lead after the break to show Mancini that his strikers are still top class despite the failure to sign Van Persie from Arsenal in August.

Sergio Aguero, who later limped off, squeezed in a penalty to make it 3-0 after Steven N'zonzi had clipped the heels of David Silva—possibly outside the area. "Today we did a good performance," Mancini told Sky Sports.—Reuters

Contract talks with Real not important, says Ronaldo

MADRID, 3 Jan—Cristiano Ronaldo is to avoid public discussions of a possible contract renewal with Real Madrid and plans to focus instead on winning matches, he said on Wednesday. "The issue has already been talked about," the Portugal forward told a news conference when asked about his contract situation after training.

"I won't talk about my renewal any more," added the 27-year-old whose deal with La Liga champions Real runs until June 2015. "It's not the most important thing, the important thing is to win out next games."

"We are fighting for La Liga, the King's Cup and the Champions League—the important thing is to be united. I am feeling very comfortable at the club and I hope to give the best of me for this shirt as I always have done."

Ronaldo, the

world's most expensive player, raised eyebrows earlier this season when he said he was feeling sad "for professional reasons" and that Real officials knew why. He did not explain further, leading to media speculation he was unhappy with the terms of his deal and wanted more money.

Some reports have suggested Ronaldo might be lured to a big-spending club like Paris St Germain or that he may return to Manchester United who sold him to Real for a record fee of 94 million euros (76 million pounds) in 2009. Real play United in the last 16 of the Champions League, with the first leg in Madrid on 13 February and the return in Manchester on 5 March.

"I have feelings of strong friendship, a lot of warmth," Ronaldo said of the tie.—Reuters



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo smiles during their Spanish First Division match against Espanyol at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid on 16 Dec, 2012.

REUTERS

Ambitious Lucas wants to become world's best with PSG

PARIS, 3 Jan—Lucas wants one day to be regarded as the best player in the world, the young Brazil midfielder said after linking up with his Paris St Germain team mates for the first time on Tuesday.

According to media reports Qatari-backed PSG paid a fee of 45 million euros (\$59.3 million) for the exciting prospect in August, with an agreement that he would arrive in January.

The five-year deal was completed on Tuesday after Lucas, who helped his former club Sao Paulo to clinch the Copa Sudameri-

cana last month, joined the Ligue 1 leaders at their training camp in Qatar.

"I will fight to fulfil this goal to become number one. It's the dream of all the Brazilian players so it's mine (too)," the 20-year-old told a news conference in Doha.

"I know Brazilian players have made history at this club and I hope I will do the same," added Lucas who has won 22 caps for his country and has likened his style to that of World Player of the Year Lionel Messi of Argentina.

Reuters



Paris Saint-Germain's Lucas Moura (L) of Brazil fights for the ball with Mamadou Sakho during a training session at the Aspire Academy of Sports Excellence in Doha on 1 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS

Picky Azarenka overpowers Lisicki in Brisbane

BRISBANE, 3 Jan—Ever dissatisfied world No 1 Victoria Azarenka began her build-up to the Australian Open with an imposing 6-3, 6-3 victory over big-serving Sabine Lisicki in the Brisbane International second round on Wednesday.

The defending Australian Open champion made light work of the German to set up a quarter-final clash against qualifier Ksenia Pervak. "I'm such a picky person that I probably never will be satisfied," Azarenka told reporters.

"That's a good thing because I have a lot more

matches to play and I can always improve. But it was pretty good. I felt like the things that I've been working on are there. I'm getting into the competitive groove and I'm happy where I'm at right now."

Azarenka faces a challenge to her top ranking from world No 2 Maria Sharapova and No 3 Serena Williams when the Australian Open begins at Melbourne Park on 14 January.

"I actually don't really look at defending anything—I'm just looking to win," she said. "I'm going to have the same mindset for as long as I'm playing. That's

Evra's effort was saved in the 35th minute.

The Mexican then grabbed his second after 63 minutes to underline his abilities as an able deputy to the injured Wayne Rooney.

"Wigan are a difficult team to play against, particularly at their own ground, so 4-0 is a good result for us," United manager Alex



Sabine Lisicki of Germany.—REUTERS

what I'm looking forward to—improving my game as I always do and match those big challenges, the big players.

"At the beginning of the year, you're obviously hungry to play. The atmosphere here in Australia

brings out the best in me. The motivation is always extraordinary. I really like it here." Williams will follow Azarenka on to Pat Rafter Arena on Thursday when she plays fellow countrywoman Sloane Stephens.

Reuters

Chelsea planning to rotate Torres more, says Benitez



Fernando Torres (front) of Chelsea and an unidentified player of Mexico's Monterrey fight for the ball during their Club World Cup semi-final football match in Yokohama, south of Tokyo on 13 Dec, 2012.—REUTERS

LONDON, 3 Jan—Fernando Torres is Chelsea's most-used outfield player this season and interim manager Rafael Benitez said on Wednesday he wanted to start rotating the Spain striker more in the second half of the campaign.

Attacking options have been limited for the European champions following the exit of Didier Drogba and Salomon Kalou in the close season and the decision to

allow Romelu Lukaku to join Premier League rivals West Bromwich Albion on loan.

England forward Daniel Sturridge, who seems poised to join Liverpool in a big-money move in the January transfer window, has also had an injury-interrupted season with the Stamford Bridge club. "We are trying to manage the team so as soon as I can change Fernando I have to do it," Benitez told

the club's website (www.chelseafc.com). "He is the centre forward but we will try to manage him and do things properly."

"He wants the team winning games so he will understand that is the way and he will accept this. All the players want to play every game but I think they understand now that if we want to achieve something important we have to use the squad."

Reuters

GENERAL

NyaungU IPRD launches book rental service

NYAUNGU, 3 Jan—Organized by NyaungU District Information and Public Relations Department launched book rental service to local people in ward and village of the township starting from first week of October. The department rents magazines, journals and books in the service. Local people and government servant can now borrow the books easily.

Myanma Alinn



Novak Djokovic of Serbia hits a return to Bernard Tomic of Australia during their men's singles match at the Hopman Cup tennis tournament in Perth on 2 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

Djokovic suffers shock loss to Tomic

PERTH, 3 Jan—World No1 Novak Djokovic suffered a shock loss to Australian Bernard Tomic at the Hopman Cup team event on Wednesday, two weeks before the defence of his Australian Open title.

Two days after Djokovic sustained a minor injury when a crowd barricade fell into his shin while he was signing autographs, Djokovic was defeated 6-4, 6-4 as Australia took a 1-0 lead in the tie against Serbia.

Australia's Ashleigh Barty was due to play Ana Ivanovic in the women's singles later.

Tomic had a poor 2012

in which he fell to outside the top 50 in the world rankings but the 20-year has vowed to return to the top 10 this year.

He has recorded back-to-back victories at the Hopman Cup against Germany's Tommy Haas and Djokovic.

"I'm thankful to get the opportunity to play against Novak," Tomic said. "I was very nervous before the match. I've worked hard on my serve and technique in the off-season and I think that's why I won. And I've been working on my head a lot, trying to not get distracted."—Reuters

Battered Sri Lanka look to Durban spirit for third test

SYDNEY, 3 Jan—Sri Lanka will use the example of their remarkable turnaround on their last tour of South Africa to try and rescue a face-saving third test victory against Australia, captain Mahela Jayawardene said on Wednesday.

The bruised and battered tourists were thrashed by an innings and 201-runs inside two and a half days at the Melbourne Cricket Ground (MCG) last week to give Australia an unassailable 2-0 lead in the series. They also lost four players to injury which left the captain struggling to name a side for Thursday's start to the match with wicketkeeper Prasanna Jayawardene and fast bowler Nuwan Kulasekara still major doubts.

Jayawardene said that however painful the Melbourne loss had been, a first test win for his country in Australia and a victorious end to his second stint as captain were still possible.

"The emphasis has been to try and get over that

test match," Jayawardene, who will step down as skipper after the tour, told reporters. "It happened to us in Centurion last summer where we lost in two and a half days to South Africa and we bounced back in Durban to win the test match. "So it's about guys owning responsibility and doing something about it. We are up against a strong Australian side, who are playing some really good cricket. We need to play to our potential and show we can stand up to that."

Sri Lanka lost by an

innings in Cape Town in late 2011 before beating the South Africans by 208 runs in Durban, although they lost the third test and the series.

Jayawardene conceded the Sri Lankans had not been at their best in Australia and to make the most of prolific wicket-taker Rangana Herath's spin bowling, they needed to be in the match in the closing stages.

"If you sit down and look at what we've achieved in this series, it's not hard to say that we haven't done enough and that we need to

stand up and be counted," he said. "The best way that we can win a test match is to try and create a situation for Rangana on a slow turner so we just have to make sure, until the fourth or fifth day, we execute a good game plan and stay in the game," he said.

Although Prasanna would need a late fitness test to determine if he could play at all let alone keep wickets with an injured thumb, Dinesh Chandimal will definitely replace the injured Kumar Sangakkara, Jayawardene said.

"He's a middle-order batsman who we've always wanted to invest in," said the captain. "Prasanna did not keep wickets the other day, we wanted to give him a couple of days to see how his finger is doing.

"Today he'll have a fitness test to see whether he can bat and keep ... (and) once we'll make a call on Prasanna then we'll decide where we need to go with that extra vacant position in the line-up."

Reuters



Sri Lanka's test cricket team pose for a photo in front of the member's stand at the Sydney Cricket Ground January 2, 2013. The third test match between Australia and Sri Lanka begins in Sydney on Thursday.—REUTERS

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(4-1-13 09:30 am ~

5-1-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * Towards A Peaceful Disciplined Democratic Nation
- * News
- * Record Album
- * News
- * "Those who never give up" (Part-I)
- * News
- * Computer Arts Diploma Certificate Conferring Ceremony
- * Seminar for Occupational Safety & Health Landscapes in Myanmar 2012
- * News
- * Myanmar International Machinery Industrial Fair (MIMF 2013)
- * Physical Fitness For All
- * News
- * Travel to the Southern Part of Myanmar
- * News
- * "Myanmar Mega Factories" Industrial Training Centre (THAGAYA)
- * News
- * Myanmar Movies "On the shelf"

MYANMAR TV

(5-1-2013, Friday)

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| <p>7:00 am</p> <p>1. 65th Anniversary Independence Day-Flag Hoisting and Ceremony (Live Broadcast)</p> <p>7:40 am</p> <p>2. 65th Anniversary Independence Day</p> <p>7:55 am</p> <p>3. Independence Day Programme</p> <p>8:20 am</p> <p>4. Joint Performance by State Traditional Orchestra</p> <p>8:45 am</p> <p>5. 65th Anniversary Independence Day</p> <p>4:00 pm</p> <p>6. Martial Song</p> <p>4:05 pm</p> <p>7. Musical Programme</p> <p>4:15 pm</p> <p>8. Song of National Races</p> <p>4:20 pm</p> <p>9. Songs of YesterYears</p> | <p>4:45 pm</p> <p>10. Songs For Upholding National Spirit</p> <p>4:50 pm</p> <p>11. Myanmar Language</p> <p>5:05 pm</p> <p>12. Documentary</p> <p>5:20 pm</p> <p>13. India Drama Series</p> <p>6:15 pm</p> <p>14. Weather Report</p> <p>6:20 pm</p> <p>15. Amazing World</p> <p>7:05 pm</p> <p>16. TV Drama Series</p> <p>8:00 pm</p> <p>17. News</p> <p>18. International News</p> <p>19. Documentary (Independence Day)</p> <p>20. Independence Day Programme</p> <p>10:00 pm</p> <p>21. News</p> <p>22. Teleplay</p> |
|--|--|

Arsenal held at Southampton, Henry loan ruled out

LONDON, 3 Jan—A new year is born but Arsenal still frustrate their fans after summing up the season by beating Europa League

combatants Newcastle United 7-3 at the weekend and then needing an own goal to draw 1-1 at lowly Southampton.

Saturday's English

Many of his team mates had a worse game with the defence and especially full back Bacary Sagna all at sea for Gaston Ramirez's opener.



Arsenal's Theo Walcott (2nd L) breaks through the Southampton defence but fails to score during their English Premier League soccer match at St Mary's Stadium in Southampton on 1 Jan, 2013.

REUTERS

Premier League classic featured a hat-trick from Theo Walcott and prompted comparisons with Arsenal great Thierry Henry but his return to former club Southampton on Tuesday was far less spectacular and proved he is still a work in progress up front.

Walcott's cross was deflected in by Guilherme do Prado but the England winger also had a goal rightly ruled out for off-side and showed a renewed tendency to shoot too early when there was precious little space.

Southampton's record signing almost grabbed a winner when the Uruguayan's strike was chalked off for a minor push as the 17th-placed hosts went for broke and Arsenal struggled to fashion any clear-cut chances.

"We were not very good offensively, we didn't create enough. We lacked sharpness and desire to get into the box," Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger told Sky Sports before being asked why they had been so lacklustre.

Reuters

President U Thein Sein receives Japanese Dy Prime Minister and Finance Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein met a delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mr Taro Aso of Japan, at Credentials Hall of Presidential Palace, here, this morning.

The Japanese Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister presented the message of newly-elected Prime Minister Mr Shinzo Abe to the President.

He said that Japan will provide assistance for development of national races affairs and public's social status, human resources development for better administrative system and development of basic infrastructures separately.

Both sides discussed matters related to industrial sector, legal firms, more investment in State-



President U Thein Sein and Union ministers pose for documentary photo with Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mr Taro Aso of Japan and party.—MNA

level enterprises, placing emphasis on cooperation between private sectors in addition to the government sector and development of SMEs, upgrading of culture, sports, electricity,

drinking water, public transport sectors in Yangon, universities and hospitals and providing necessary assistance to national races groups.

President U Thein Sein

extended invitation via the Deputy Prime Minister to the Japanese Prime Minister to pay visit to Myanmar.

Also present at the call together with the President were the Union ministers

from the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry at President Office, Ministry of Finance and Revenue and Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development

and departmental heads.

The delegation was accompanied by officials from Nippon Foundation and Japan-Myanmar Friendship Association.

MNA

Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to President U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of State/Government sent to President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein, on the occasion of the 65th Anniversary Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

From Mr Barack Obama, President of the USA Excellency,

On behalf of the people of the United States of America, I congratulate

you and the people of your country on your Independence Day, January, 4.

As 2013 begins, let us build on the success of my recent visit to your beautiful

country to further deepen positive engagement between our countries. I am confident our growing bilateral relationship will serve to increase freedom and prosperity for both our peoples.

On this joyous day of national celebration I wish all of you peace and happiness in the coming year.

From Hu Jintao President of the PRC, Excellency,

Upon the auspicious occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to, on behalf of the Chinese people and in my own name, extend to your Excellency, and through you to the people of Myanmar the warmest congratulations and best wishes.

In recent years, the Myanmar government

enhance bilateral relations between the two armed forces and cooperate in providing health care services and development aid to national races and discussed prospects in bilateral cooperation between the two nations.

Also present at the call were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy and Air) General Hla Htay Win, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air) and senior military officers of Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Mikio Numata and Japanese Military Attaché Colonel Yuji Sato.

has undertaken active and positive efforts to maintain stability, advance development and improve livelihood of the people, while achieving new progress in promoting domestic political reconciliation and enhancing international exchanges. China cherishes the "Pauk-Phaw" friendship between our two countries and is ready and willing to join hands with Myanmar to

further enhance traditional friendship, deepen mutually beneficial cooperation, and push China-Myanmar Comprehensive Strategic Cooperative Partnership to a new level.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my best wishes for the profound prosperity to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and well-being to the Myanmar people.

Myanmar Tatmadaw to cooperate with Japan in all potential areas

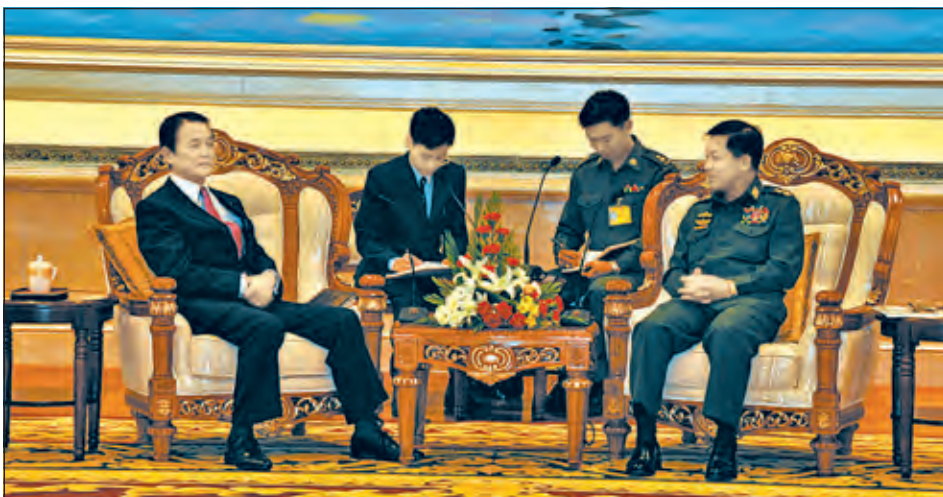
NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Japanese Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mr. Taro Aso at the hall of Zeyathiri Beikman, here, this afternoon.

Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing called for cooperation in all potential

areas including health care services for national races and development tasks, enhancing bilateral relations between the two armed forces. He said that Myanmar Tatmadaw believed the country's pursuit of democracy and their new generation Tatmadaw leaders would never deviate from the track they pursue,

underscoring that only when peace and stability, will the nation develop.

The Japanese Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister, Chairman of Myanmar-Japan Friendship Association and former House of Councilor Mr. Hideo Watanabe and Nippon Foundation Chairman Mr. Yohei Sasakawa vowed to



Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Japanese Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mr. Taro Aso at Zeyathiri Beikman.—MNA

NOBLE SPIRIT

- * With own kings and sovereignty
With a high level civilization
As a proud independent nation
Myanmar has a long history.
- * Colonialists waged three aggressive wars
Sowing discord among national brethren
Torturing people of the land
Meant to rule Myanmar forever.
- * Myanmar was enslaved by colonialists
Evil forces violated our independence
With unrelenting zeal and perseverance
People fought back pernicious imperialists.
- * Sacrificing lives, blood and sweat
Our lost independence was regained
It's been safeguarded and maintained
Happy with our own wealth.
- * When Independence Day comes round
We're urged to cherish independence
Awareness is kept for observance
Anniversary activities have been performed.
- * Spirit of safeguarding the independence
Is kept alive and dynamic
Let's cherish and safeguard it
Noble spirit is given prominence.

(Honouring the 65th Anniversary Independence Day, 2013)

Maung Swe Ngae

MNA