

President hosts dinner to mark 65th Anniversary Independence Day

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

Present on the occasion were Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham and wife Daw Nan Shwe Hmon, Vice-President U Nyan Tun and wife Daw Khin Aye Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker Thura U Shwe Mann, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Khin Aung Myint, Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Vice-Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Election Commission Chairman U Tin Aye, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) General Soe Win, Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Mya Nyein and their wives, Chief of the General Staff (Army, Navy, Air) General Hla Htay Win, Union ministers, the Attorney-General of the Union, the Auditor-General of the Union, the Chairman of Union Civil Services Board,

President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Agga Maha Thayay Sithu, Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Sein and wife Daw Khin Khin Win cordially greet diplomats at 65th Anniversary Independence Day reception and dinner.

MNA



senior military officers from Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), chairpersons and secretaries of Hluttaw committees, the Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command,

deputy ministers and their wives, members of Nay Pyi Taw Council, departmental heads, Dean of Diplomatic Corps Singaporean Ambassador Mr Robert

Chua, ambassadors and diplomats from foreign missions and their wives, resident representatives of UN agencies and their wives, members of the central

committee for holding 65th Anniversary Independence Day, chairpersons of subcommittees, chairpersons of political parties and special guests. Artists

presented entertainment to the accompaniment of Myanma Modern Music Band before and during the reception and dinner.

MNA

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

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

1. Myanma Tatmadaw (Myanmar Army) troops cleared and captured Point-771 hill and its surrounding areas in Kachin State where the KIO/KIA troops were taking position and mainly blocked the Myitkyina-Bhamo Union Highway to lay land mines, ambush the Tatmadaw military columns and threatening people not to be able to use the high way.
2. With regard to the matter mentioned above, the Spokesperson of the Secretary General of the United Nations issued a statement on 2 January 2013, in which it was stated that the Secretary General has taken serious note of Tatmadaw's attack on KIA camps in Kachin State and called upon the Myanmar authorities to desist from any action that could endanger the lives of civilians living in the areas.
3. As the democratization process is being carried out in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with might and main, national reconsolidation and national unity are prerequisites for the peace, tranquility and development of the nation. The Government has been relentlessly working to achieve sustainable peace with various nationalities armed groups and have successfully reached peace agreements with all armed groups except KIO/KIA. Peace negotiations with KIO/KIA have already been conducted 11 times.

4. Although instruction has been given to the Tatmadaw to cease all offensive against the KIO/KIA, KIA constantly blasted mines to destroy railroads, roads and bridges, hampering the businesses, destroyed electricity gridlines and frequently laid landmines and ambushed security forces. Due to these circumstances, the Tatmadaw had to take military action as self defense and in order to protect the safety of lives and properties of the people, safe and smooth transportation and peace and tranquility of the region. Even though Tatmadaw had to take this action, it has exercised with maximum restraint in using force.
5. It is learnt that the areas captured and occupied by the Tatmadaw are the uninhabited hillocks that the KIA has set up strongholds to block the Myitkyina-Bhamo Union Highway.
6. The Government has provided temporary shelters, food, education and necessary healthcare to the families who were displaced from their homes since clashes between KIO/KIA and Tatmadaw troops broke out last year. The Government has also received assistance from the United Nations and International Organizations for the relief and rehabilitation works. It was found out that majority of the displaced persons were fled from their home because of the threat and disturbance made by the KIA and they have come to take refuge in places where law and order prevail.
7. The Government will continue to strive to achieve everlasting peace with all nationalities armed groups for nation reconciliation and national Unity. Peace negotiations with KIO/KIA will also be continued. The Government always welcomes to work together with all national races and the entire people of Myanmar to achieve success in democratization process, sustainable development for the people and for the prevalence of peace and rule of law.

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 Akihito,
King of Japan
His Excellency,**

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I have great pleasure in sending Your Excellency my heartfelt congratulations and sincere good wishes for your happiness and for the prosperity of the people of your country.

**Beatrix R.
Queen of Netherlands
His Excellency,**

As Myanmar celebrates its national day, I extend to your Excellency my congratulations and my best wishes for the well-being of the people of Myanmar.

From Mr Pranab

**Mukherjee
President of India
Excellency,**

I extend to you and to the friendly people of Myanmar my warm greetings and felicitations on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Our two countries share close and deep rooted ties based on shared bonds of history, culture, spirituality and ethnicity. Recent exchanges over the past year, including the State Visit of our Prime Minister to Myanmar in May 2012 and your visit to India in October 2011, have ushered in a new phase in the multifaceted cooperation between our two countries. We look forward

to continue working with Your Excellency to build upon the current momentum in our bilateral relationship.

Please accept, Excellency, my best wishes for your personal well-being as well as for the happiness and continued prosperity of the friendly people of Myanmar.

With the assurances of my highest consideration.

**From Mr Asif Ali Zardari
President of Pakistan
Excellency,**

It is a matter of great pleasure for me to extend to Your Excellency my heartiest congratulations and best wishes on the happy occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Pakistan and Myanmar enjoy close friendly relations. I am confident that these relations between our two countries will be further strengthened in future.

Please accept, Excellency,

the assurances of my highest consideration.

**From Mr Lee Myung-bak
President of ROK
Excellency,**

On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Korea and on my own behalf, I wish to extend to your Excellency and through you to the Government and people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar my warmest congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

The past years have witnessed significant growth in the mutual, understanding and cooperation between our two countries. I hope that our friendly and good relations can be further strengthened in various fields for the mutual benefit of our two peoples in the years ahead.

Please accept, your Excellency, my best wishes

for your continued good health and happiness, and success in all your noble endeavours.

From Mr Benigno S. Aquino III

**President of the Republic of the Philippines
Excellency,**

On behalf of the Government and People of the Republic of the Philippines, I extend my warmest felicitations to Your Excellency and to the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

This occasion marks an auspicious year for your country and your people, as Myanmar prepares to host the 27th SEA Games in December 2013. I believe that the success of this historic event will showcase the real value of Myanmar to the region and to the world, as your country continues to move forward with democratic transition, economic reforms, and national revitalization. The Philippines remain committed to supporting your efforts towards achieving these goals and ensuring the momentum built up since your inauguration as President in 2011.

As Myanmar celebrates this joyous occasion, I look forward to your visit to the Philippines. Let us strengthen and broaden our ties of friendship and cooperation, for the mutual benefit of our peoples.

**From King Bhumibol R.
Kingdom of Thailand
Excellency,**

I have the honour to convey the Royal Message from His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of

the Kingdom of Thailand, addressed to His Excellency U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, as follows:

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, I wish to extend to Your Excellency my cordial felicitations and best wishes for your health and happiness as well as for the progress and prosperity of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and her people.

**From Mr Tuanku Abdul Halim Mu'adzam Shah
Yang di-Pertuan Agong XIV
of Malaysia
Majesty of Malaysia
His Excellency,**

The Raja Permaisuri Agong joins Us in extending our warm greetings and felicitations to Your Excellency and Madam Daw Khin Khin Win, as well as the people of Myanmar on this auspicious occasion of the 65th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

We are heartened to learn of the excellent progress that Myanmar has been making under your leadership. Malaysia and Myanmar have always enjoyed strong and cordial ties. It is Our hope that Malaysia will continue to be your country's close and trusted partner as Myanmar continued to advance towards achieving its important national goals.

Please accept Our best wishes for Your Excellency's and Madam's good health, and the prosperity and happiness of the entire Myanmar nation. We look forward to receiving both of you in Malaysia in the near future.

UEC, political parties hold coordination meeting



**Chairman of Union Election Commission
U Tin Aye speaking at the meeting with UEC and
political parties.—MNA**

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Tin Aye stressed the importance of working together between the UEC and political parties with transparency and mutual respects to meet the responsibilities of the UEC.

In his opening speech at the coordination meeting of the UEC and chairpersons of the political parties at the UEC here on 2 January, UEC Chairman U Tin Aye said that Union Election Commission has the responsibilities to coordinate with political parties so that they can carry out the matters related to elections and their tasks in the interests of the country and the parties in accordance with the law as part of efforts for emergence of a democratic nation.

He also quoted the Section 7 of the Chapter 1:

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

According to the organizational set-up and policies of the political parties, it is found that every political party trusts in the multi-party democratic system and is committed to

working in the interests of the State and the people, he added.

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

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

He continued to say that it is important that such actions of political parties are not contrary to the constitution and existing laws. Political parties and party members, being the members of the greater society, have to abide by legal provisions. They are to set an example to the people having responsibility to adhere to party laws and disciplines besides the laws which people have to abide by. They are to take care of themselves in their actions as people's leaders whom people respect, envy and emulate. They are to

function with five outlooks—political outlook, economic outlook, administrative outlook, security outlook and international outlook—being the people's agents serving public interests. They are to be whiter than white if they want to win public trust and are to try harder and harder if they want to win people's reliance. They are to be broad-minded with foresightedness for stability and development of the nation. Party members are to subjugate their interests to party interests and sacrifice party interests for national interests.

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

Afterwards, chairpersons and personnel of Mro (a) Khami National Unity Party, National Unity Party, Lahu National Development Party, Pa-O National Organization, Democratic Party (Myanmar), Kayan National Party, Rakhine State National Forces Party Myanmar, Kayin Peoples Party, "Wa" National Unity Party, Taaung (Palaung) National Party, All Mon Regions Democracy Party, Democracy and Peace Party, Shan Nationalities League for Democracy Party,

88-generation Students (Union of Myanmar) Party, Union of Myanmar League for National Politics Party, National League for Political Alliances Party, Wunthanu Democratic Party, Modern Peoples Party, Diversity and Peace Party, Inn National Development Party, Rakhine Nationals Development Party, "Wa" Democratic Party, Phalon-Sawaw Democratic Party, Union Solidarity and Development Party, Kaman National Development Party, Khami National Development Party, National Democratic Forces Party, Unity and Democracy Party Kachin State, National Development and Peace Party, People's Democracy Party, New National Democracy Party, Unity and Peace Party, National

League for Democracy, Myanmar New Society Democratic Party, Myanmar National Congress Party, Kayin Democratic Party, Tailai (Shan-ni) Nationalities Development Party, Rakhine League for Democracy, Danu Nationalities Democracy Party, Mon Democracy Party, Shan State Kokang Democratic Party, Myanmar Peasants Development Party, Ethnic Development Party, and National Development Democratic Party reported on their functions and requirements respectively.

The UEC Chairman coordinated to fulfill the requirements and made concluding remarks. Present on the occasion were members of UEC, chairpersons, vice-chairpersons and personnel of political parties.—MNA

WORLD

Libyan police captain abducted in Benghazi

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

The corpse charred with hydrochloric acid and found in the Buhmeida



Libya's Prime Minister Ali Zeidan speaks during a news conference at the headquarters of the Prime Minister's Office in Tripoli, Libya on 3 Jan, 2013.
REUTERS

District was not that of the missing Captain Abdel-Salam al-Mahdawi, head of the city’s criminal investigation unit, Prime Minister Ali Zeidan said.

Al-Mahdawi was seized at gunpoint late on Wednesday night as he was poised to name suspects in the murder of a former Benghazi police chief, officials said.

“He was taken by force under the threat of weapons from a location close to the criminal investigation office,” said a police official who declined to be named because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Benghazi, cradle of the uprising that ended the rule of longtime leader Muammar Gaddafi, has been plagued by poor security and assassinations of police and military personnel by militias.

The US ambassador to Libya and three other Americans were killed in an attack on the US consulate in Benghazi in September.

Reuters



Sen Bill Nelson (D-FL)(L) raises his right hands while Vice President Joe Biden delivers the ceremonial swearing-in remarks in the Old Senate Chamber on Capitol Hill on Thursday, on 3 Jan, 2013. The new US Congress convened on Thursday with new members being sworn in.
XINHUA

Hillary Clinton aims to return to office next week

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

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

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

added.

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

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

As the State Depart-

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

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

Xinhua

Polish PM urges to create 400,000 new jobs

WARSAW, 4 Jan—Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk on Thursday urged to create 400,000 new jobs over the coming 12 months as the government seeks to bolster infrastructural investments.

He also announced plans of deregulating the working hours and extending the period employers have to settle the working time with their employees from four months to 12 months, adding that this measure should offer businesses more flexibility.

Its objective is to maintain the level of GDP and investments growth and to create jobs. It assumes raising the required investment capital through the sale of non-controlling interests of state-owned companies.

Unemployment among Poland’s college graduates may top 30 percent in 2013, the Polish Personnel Management Association reported on Wednesday.

Xinhua

Eleven dead in Damascus gas station blast

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

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

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

There was no immediate indication of who was responsible for the bombing in the Barzeh al-Balad District, whose residents include members of the Sunni Muslim majority and other religious and ethnic minorities. “The station is usually packed even when it has no fuel,” said an opposition activist who did not want

to be named. “There are lots of people who sleep there overnight, waiting for early morning fuel consignments.”

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

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

More than 60,000

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

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



Men stand amidst wreckage and debris, after a car bomb exploded at a crowded petrol station in Barzeh al-Balad district in Damascus, in this handout photograph released by Syria’s national news agency SANA on 3 Jan, 2013.—REUTERS



Passengers are trapped at Kunming Changshui International Airport in Kunming, capital of south-west China’s Yunnan Province, on 3 Jan, 2013. Affected by the dense fog, a total of 434 flights were cancelled and about 7,500 passengers were trapped in the airport until 9 pm Thursday.
XINHUA

UN chief welcomes summit meeting between Sudan, South Sudan

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

The Summit meeting between the two presidents will take place on 4 January and will be hosted by Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn of Ethiopia with the facilitation of President Thabo Mbeki, chair of the African Union High-Level

Implementation Panel (AUHIP), said a statement issued here by Ban’s spokesperson.

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

The UN Chief added

that the world body stands ready to support the parties in implementing their agreements and to assist in the resolution of all remaining disputes. The summit slated for Friday has been regarded by observers as a “crossroads meeting” to overcome issues of difference between the two countries. The meeting is also considered by Sudanese observers as the last chance and a crossroad for the leadership of the two sides to settle their differences within the African framework.—Xinhua

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY



The interior of a Microsoft retail store is seen in San Diego on 18 Jan, 2012.—REUTERS

Microsoft acquires start-up id8

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

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

Krikorian's Sling Media - which was sold to EchoStar Communications in 2007 - made the "Sling-

box" for watching TV on computers.

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

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

TEPCO prepares to remove spent fuels



TOKYO, 4 Jan—Tokyo Electric Power Company plans to start removing spent fuel rods from the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant this year. It will be the first major step in a decommissioning process that is expected to take 40 years. The 11 March, 2011 earthquake and tsunami triggered meltdowns in three reactors, and a hydrogen explosion damaged the structure that houses a fourth reactor. During the initial stages of decommissioning, TEPCO workers will need to remove the spent fuel and dismantle reactor buildings, all while keeping melted fuel cool.

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

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

TEPCO workers plan to begin the work in mid-November, with the aim of finishing it by the end of 2014. They have already started bringing in parts of cranes and other heavy machinery needed for the job.

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

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

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

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

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

The company's shares rose as much as 4.3 percent but eased a little to trade up 3 percent at \$546.11 by mid-day on the Nasdaq.

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

Apple's iPhone 5 bears the identifiers "iPhone 5.1" and "iPhone 5.2" and is powered by the iOS 6 operating system.

Developer logs show that the app requests origi-

Apple testing new iPhone, iOS 7

nate from an internet address on Apple's Cupertino campus, suggesting that Apple engineers are testing compatibility for some of the popular apps, the website said.

"Although OS and device data can be faked, the

unique IP footprint leading back to Apple's Cupertino campus leads us to believe this is not one of those attempts," the website said. Raymond James analyst Tavis McCourt, however, expects the next version of the iconic smartphone to be

called iPhone 5S and not iPhone 6.

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

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



Apple's iPhone 5 is seen on display at the Apple store in Manhasset, New York on 21 Sept, 2012.—REUTERS

Leading Chinese firms eye Israeli technology investments

TEL AVIV, 4 Jan—Leading Chinese companies are looking for investments in Israeli technology to help boost their growth and development, similar to what US companies have done in the past two decades.

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

The delegation, led by Ronnie Chan, chairman of investment holding company Hang Lung Group, included the heads of Lenovo Group, China's top grains trader COFCO, investment banking and private equity firm

Hina Group, China Merchants Bank and JP Morgan Chase in China.

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

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

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

Lenovo's operations in Israel had been limited to sales and support, but the company recently made its first technology investment, for an undisclosed amount, in venture capital firm Vertex.

"Definitely we are interested in Israel's technology, to grow our company, to grow our business," Chief Executive Yang Yuanqing said, adding that the investment in Vertex was just a first step.

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

Bilateral trade between China and Israel totaled \$8 billion in 2011, according to Israel's Foreign Ministry.

Chinese have invested \$3 billion in Israeli companies to date. The biggest investment was the \$1.4 billion acquisition of 60 percent of MA Industries, the world's largest maker of generic crop protection chemicals, by China National Chemical Corp (ChemChina) in late 2011.

"Since 2010, we saw for

the first time significant Chinese investments in the real economy in Israel — in traditional industries like MA Industries and also in the high-tech sector, in biotechnology and agrotechnology," Finance Minister Yuval Steinitz told *Reuters*.

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

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

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

T-Mobile confirms appeal over Austria telecom merger

VIENNA, 4 Jan—T-Mobile Austria confirmed it had filed an appeal against the allocation of radio frequencies that will result from Hutchison Whampoa's takeover of Orange Austria, in a move that could derail the 1.3 billion euro (\$1.7 billion) deal.

A source familiar with the matter had told *Reuters* last month that the Deutsche Telekom unit planned the appeal over fears it will be at a disadvantage to rivals who will have a head start of up to a year in building next-generation LTE networks.

The ability to build an LTE network, which will offer data speeds up to 10 times those now available, will be a key competitive advantage in Austria's hard-fought telecoms market. The country's four operators are engaged in a

price war as they fight over a population of just 8.4 million, with all-inclusive, no-strings offers available for as little as 7 euros per month.

T-Mobile said on Wednesday it had lodged an appeal on 31 December with Austria's higher administrative court against the decision of the country's telecom control commission, the TKK, for the transfer of frequencies that will accompany the merger.

It said it had asked for the transfer to be put on hold while its legal case is being heard. It said it expected the court to decide within days on whether to grant an injunction in the case, which it thought could last until March or April.

A court spokesman said the court had not yet received the appeal.—Reuters



Photo shows a J-15 taking off from China's first aircraft carrier.—REUTERS

BUSINESS & HEALTH

Budget deal leaves US defence sector in limbo

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

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

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

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

Defence shares were lifted by a rally in the overall market as investors breathed a sigh of relief about the last-minute deal, but some companies’ shares lagged

the broad market due to continued uncertainty about future military spending.

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

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

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

Lockheed’s shares closed 1.1 percent higher on the New York Stock Exchange, trailing 2.5 percent gains for the overall

Arca Defense Index .DFII and Standard & Poor’s 500 Index .SPX. The biggest defense industry trade group, the Aerospace Industries Association, urged lawmakers to work toward a long-term solution.

“If sequestration is not solved in the next 57 days, it would be an abdication of responsibility by the leaders of this country, one that will only heighten Americans’ cynicism and cement the public image of a gridlocked Washington that simply doesn’t work,” said the group’s president, Marion Blakey. Lockheed and other big arms manufacturers including Boeing Co (BA.N) and Northrop Grumman Corp (NOC.N) have complained about the difficulty of running their businesses while facing the potential indiscriminate, automatic spending cuts.

Reuters



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

Bayer’s Nexavar meets goal in thyroid cancer trial

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

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

Starbucks to open first outlet in Vietnam in early February

LONDON, 4 Jan—Starbucks Corp (SBUX.O) said it will set up its first outlet in Vietnam early next month as the US chain continues to expand in fast-growing Asian markets.

Starbucks said it will partner with Hong Kong’s Maxim’s Group to open its first store in Ho Chi

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

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

president, Starbucks China and Asia Pacific.

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

Vietnam is the second-biggest coffee producer in the world after Brazil.

Starbucks operates more than 3,300 stores across 11 countries in the China and Asia-Pacific region.

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

Reuters



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

Work toward practical application of iPS cells

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

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

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

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

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

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

conditions.

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

The project aims to develop new drugs and start clinical trial within 5 years.

Professor Yamanaka’s academic home, Kyoto University, has also launched a project to create and store iPS cells, which could be used for transplanting.

NHK



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

Asia stocks eke out gains on China hopes, oil eases

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

The MSCI Asia Pacific ex-Japan index of stocks .MIAPJ0000PUS rose 0.2 percent following Wednesday’s 2 percent jump on relief that US politicians had averted the “fiscal cliff”.

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

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

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

“Investors seem to have accepted that reforms are underway but they’re going to happen at a slower pace.”

Australian stocks .AXJO rose 0.7 percent to their highest in more than 19 months, with mining giants Rio Tinto (RIO.AX) up 2.4 percent and BHP Billiton (BHP.AX) up 0.8 percent, among the top gainers on the benchmark S&P ASX/200 index. .AXJO

South Korea’s Kospi .KS11 underperformed the region, falling 0.4 percent as automakers and other exporters slumped on a stronger Korean won, which hit a 16-month high against the dollar overnight.

In other currency markets, the Japanese yen bounced after

hitting a 29-month low versus the dollar earlier in the day but analysts warned that any strength is likely to be short-lived.

“Technically dollar/yen looks somewhat overbought here. It’s gone a long way in a very short time,” said Callum Henderson, global head of FX research for Standard Chartered Bank in Singapore, adding that the dollar could see some consolidation in the near term before heading higher.

The euro which in overnight trading was close to a 8-1/2 month high against the dollar, slipped 0.1 percent.

The US dollar rose 0.2 percent .DXY against a basket of major currencies.

Reuters



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

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President Office

Notification No. 1/2013

7th waning of Nadaw, 1374 ME

(4th January 2013)

(Continued from yesterday)

Nuns

17. Nun Daw Khemaçari, Ayemyochaung Mawlamyine Nunnery, Thawtapan Ward, Sagaing, Sagaing Region
18. Nun Daw Gandhasari, Parahita Sasana Weponlakari Nunnery, Industrial Zone Ward, Ywabe Region, Pyay, Bago Region

Title recipient nun from abroad

19. Dr Nun Daw Dhammavijaya, Kimdol Nunnery, Swayumbu Ward, Kathmandu, Nepal

Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Title

1. Bhaddanta Arindama, Zeyawady Monastery, Peinnedaw Ward, Dawei, Taninthayi Region
2. Bhaddanta Ñana, Sitha Monastery, Moehti Monastery, Upoktaw Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Region
3. Bhaddanta Vayama, Shwephonepwin Monastery, Shwebontha Taikkyaung, U Shwe Gun Street, Ward 7, Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region
4. Bhaddanta Revata, Theravada Hill Missionary Central Monastery, Anawrahta Road, Wamkaung Ward, Tachilek, Shan State
5. Bhaddanta Ñanadipa, Thaikkonkyau Monastery, Thaikkon Village, Maubin Township, Ayeyawady Region

Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Title

1. Bhaddanta Kossala, No 4 Monastic Education Post-Primary School, Nyaungzin Kyaungthit Kyaungtaik, Nyaungzin Model Village, Thayetchaung Township, Taninthayi Region
2. Bhaddanta Dhammapiya, Seiktathukha Monastery, Seinkantlant Village, Minhla Township, Bago Region
3. Bhaddanta Sundara, Maha Santisukha Dhammavamsa Monastery, Nyuntbin Village, Kyaukse Township, Mandalay Region
4. Bhaddanta Khemaçara, Atula Maha Myakyauk Monastery, at the foot of Yankin Hill, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region
5. Bhaddanta Paññasami, Kumarayama Monastery and Yenantha Tawya Pariyatti Monastery, Popa Hill, Kyaukpadaung Township, Mandalay Region
6. Bhaddanta Tejosarabhivamsa, Dhammagarawa Monastery, Nyaungthonbin Pariyatti Monastery, Mogok, Mandalay Region
7. Bhaddanta Dhammananda, Sagaing Monastery, Hninzigon A Ward, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region
8. Bhaddanta Janaka, Nay Nat Thar Monastery, Linlun (South) Ward, Sagyoung Township, Yangon Region
9. Bhaddanta Sobhita, Myatheindan Missionary Pariyatti Monastery and Parahita Monastic Education School, Wa Self-Administered Division, Hopan, Shan State
10. Bhaddanta Sudhammaçarabhivamsa, Mogaung Monastery, Hinthada, Ayeyawady Region
11. Bhaddanta Varasenapati, Sasanawdaya Monastic Education School, Katthawin Village, Pantanaw Township, Ayeyawady Region

Title recipient Sayadaws from abroad

12. Bhaddanta Ñanuttara, Theravada Dhammaçari Myanmar Monastery, George Shinan Meditation Centre, Japan
13. Rev. Ming Sheng (Sayadaw Ming Sheng), Guangxiao Temple of Guangzhou and the Putuo Monastery of Zhuhai, Guangdong Province, the People's Republic of China
14. Ven. Maha Masenay (Bhaddanta Masenay), Sisaket Temple, Chanthabouly District, Vientian Capital, Lao PDR
15. Ven. Jinadhammo Mahathera (Bhaddanta Jinadhammo Mahathera), Borobudu Temple, Midan, northern Sumatra Island, Indonesia
16. Bhaddanta Naradabhivamsa, Aungchantha Buddhist Monastery, 2252 Del Mar Ave, Rosemead, CA 91770,

the USA

Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Title

1. Bhaddanta Narada, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Myoma North Ward, Hopin, Mohnyin Township, Kachin State
2. Bhaddanta Varinda, Uttarayon Ayethukha Monastery, Ward 4, Papun, Kayin State
3. Bhaddanta Jotika, Hilly Region Missionary Centre, Ward 4, Myawady, Kayin State
4. Bhaddanta Rohana, Shwekyauingyi Monastery, Southern Ward, Pale, Sagaing Region
5. Bhaddanta Sujata, Thantayaaye Parahita Monastic Education Post-Primary School, Myeik, Taninthayi Region
6. Bhaddanta Indavudha, Maha Ledi Sankyaung Pariyatti Monastery, Yanaung-1 Ward, Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw
7. Bhaddanta Janinda, Neikbeindawuntha Singyan Hill Monastic Education Post-Primary School, Ywabe Region, Pyay, Bago Region
8. Bhaddanta Indaka, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Middle Kayan Special Region-3, Sib Village, Pekhon Township, Shan State
9. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Muni Central Missionary Monastery, Laukkai Township, Kokang Self-Administered Zone, Shan State

Title recipient Sayadaws from abroad

10. Ven. SAO Chanthol Chantanathero, Wat Lanka Monastery, Cambodia
11. Bhaddanta Silokasiri, Maha Sasanayanthi Myanmar Monastery, No 14, Taigyin Street, Singapore
12. Rev. Shi Guang Quan, Ling Yin Si Monastery, Hangzhou, People's Republic of China
13. Bhaddanta Khemaçara, Natkyaukywa Monastery, Razathahtawli, Ringamati Township, Ringamati District, Chittagong Hilly Region, Bangladesh
14. Bhaddanta Vanasara, Dibaung Pali Monastery, Assam State, India
15. Bhaddanta Visuta, London Vihara Mahasi Monastery, London, England

Laypersons

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

Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Title

1. Bhaddanta Çandajoti, Monastic Education Post-Primary School, Ayethaya Ywathitgon Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre, Mansi, Kachin State
2. Bhaddanta Paññavara, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre, Machanbaw, Kachin State
3. Bhaddanta Kusala, Hose Myothit Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre, Meisei Township, Kayah State
4. Bhaddanta Vijjananda, Parahita Myoma Missionary Monastery, Paingkyon Sub-Township, Hlaingbwe Township, Kayin State
5. Bhaddanta Sobhana, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre, Sanpya Ward, Mindat, Chin State
6. Bhaddanta Sumana, Theravada Buddhist Missionary (1 mile) Monastery, Talanlo Ward, Falam, Chin State
7. Bhaddanta Açintita, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Thayagon Village, Hkamti Township, Sagaing Region
8. Bhaddanta Vayama, TatU Monastic Education School, TatU Monastery, Thayetgon Ward, Mawlaik Township, Sagaing Region
9. Bhaddanta Sundara, Tekkatho MokU Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, 9th-Mile Village, Kalay Township, Sagaing Region
10. Bhaddanta Sumanamoli, Kyaungsu Monastic Education School, Kyaungsu Pariyatti Monastery, Kyaungsu Village, Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw
11. Bhaddanta Therinda, No 1 Monastic Education Middle School, Thiri Yadana Monastery, Kyauksayitgon Village, Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw
12. Bhaddanta Viriya, Aungmingala Taikthit Monastery, Nawin Ward, Pyay, Bago Region
13. Bhaddanta Kesara, Shwemingan Monastery, Mingan Village, Chauk Township, Magway Region
14. Bhaddanta Sundara, Kyaunggyi Monastery, Yenantha Village, Madaya Township, Mandalay Region
15. Bhaddanta Khemavamsa, Lediwuntha Parihita Monastic

Education Post-Primary School, Yadanamon Ward, Mogok Township, Mandalay Region

16. Bhaddanta Javana, Pyidawtha Monastery, Singainggyi Village, Singaing Township, Mandalay Region
17. Bhaddanta Paññadipa, Pariyatti Paragu Monastery, Hsathwa Middle Village, Gwa Township, Rakhine State
18. Bhaddanta Uttaravamsa, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Taraguhaung Village, Minbya Township, Rakhine State
19. Bhaddanta Suvara, Shweli Maokham Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 6, Lashio, Shan State
20. Bhaddanta Sobhita, Lakyinwe Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre, Youth Development Parahita School, Lakyinwe Village, Pehkon Township, Shan State
21. Bhaddanta Kheminda, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre, Wampyan Ward, Mongkhat, Shan State
22. Bhaddanta Dhammissara, Holi Village Missionary Monastery, Kunlong Township, Shan State
23. Bhaddanta Maginda, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Nankaw Village, Laukkai Township, Shan State
24. Bhaddanta Gandhabba, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Central Missionary Centre, Pangsai (Kyukok) Sub-Township, Muse Township, Shan State
25. Bhaddanta Paññadipa, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, 6th-Mile Village, Mongton Township, Shan State

Title recipient Sayadaws from abroad

26. Rev. Taegong, Song Wolju, # 39 Gumsanri, Gumsanmyun, Kimjesi, Jeollabukdo Geumsansa Temple, Seoul, Republic of Korea
27. Bhaddanta Jatila, International Theravada Buddhist Pariyatti Udayawihara Monastery, Butwal, Nepal
28. Bhaddanta Visuddhiñana, Bodhi Pariyatti Monastery, Hawkham Monastery, Panpon Ward, Shweli, Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China

Nuns

29. Nun Daw Therañani, Mahadhammawihari (women's) nunnery, Lawdhamma Ward, Loikaw, Kayah State
30. Nun Daw Indasiri, No (25), Yadanatheingi (Parahita) Nunnery, Thawtarpan Ward, Sagaing, Sagaing Region

Laypersons

31. U Sipo (a) U Subu, No (Nya-67), region (18), Shweku Ward, Mogok of Mandalay Region
32. U Soe Thein, No (206), at the corner of Thanthuma Road and Sayipin Road, (23) ward, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region
33. Daw Khin Thandar Oo, No (110), Thityarpin Road, (23) Ward, Thuwunna, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Region

Title recipient layperson from abroad

34. Daw Zin Khaing, Room No (201), No (D), North Building Road, Beijing Foreign Languages University Ward, Beijing, the People's Republic of China

Agga Maha Khammathanaçariya

1. Bhaddanta Visuddhiñana, Pyitawaye Meditation Centre, Shwehitha Ward, Kawthoung, Taninthayi Region
2. Bhaddanta Sutaçara, Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Monastery, Ywama Ward, Nattalin, Bago Region
3. Bhaddanta Devindobhasabhivamsa, Mogok Meditation Centre, Thabyepin Monastery, Bawgawadi Ward, Kyaukse, Mandalay Region
4. Bhaddanta Ñannobhasa, Shwenanthar Pariyatti Mogok Dhamma Monastery, Thauktawtwin Ward, Thanlyin, Yangon Region
5. Bhaddanta Suriya, Mahasi Sasana Meditation Monastery, Namtee Village, Namhkam Township, Shan State

Title recipient Sayadaw from abroad

6. Bhaddanta Ñandasiri, Europe Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Paris, French

Maha Kammathanaçariya Title

1. Bhaddanta Çandosara, Aung Mingala Mogok Yeiktha Monastery, Branch of Mogok Meditation No (43), No (13) Ward, Toungoo, Bago Region
2. Dr Bhanddha Çhekida, Dean of Patipatti Faculty, International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, No (5) Ward, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region

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3. Bhaddanta Virocana, NgwetaungU Meditation Monastery, Pontun Ward, Tachilek, Shan State
4. Bhaddanta Sukhaminda, Lweteinkham Monastery, Homon Ward, Muse, Shan State

Title recipient Sayadaw from abroad

5. Bhaddanta Rajinda, Thatipathan Yeiktha Monastery, No. 40, Jalan Malu Malu Semberwang, Singapore

Kammathanaçariya Title

1. Bhaddanta Kiççayana, Zabeyon Mogok Meditation Monastery, Manaung Monastery, Pyigyimythman Ward, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region
2. Bhaddanta Manijotasiri, Buddha Ayeyektha Tezaseki Meditation Monastery, Myahaywun Road, Myoma (4) Ward, Mudon, Mon State
3. Bhaddanta Kavidhaja, Mijimaramamankan (Mahasi Monastery), (Mankan) Selansusi Village, Muse Township, Shan State
4. Bhaddanta Paññaçara, Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Monastery, Sayaygon Ward, Wakema, Ayeyawady Region

Title recipient Sayadaws from Abroad

5. Bhaddanta Visuddhidhirañana, Panpothong of Thailand
6. Ven Bhikkhu Chandapalo (Ashinsantapalaw), Santacittarama Monastery, Frasso Sabino of Italy

Agga Maha Sirisudhamma Manijotadhara Title

Title recipient layperson from abroad

1. Mr Tongariodjo Angkasa, JI. Sumoto, No (201, 203, 205), Medan (2012), Sumatra Island, Indonesia

Agga Maha Siri Sudhamma Singi Title

1. Daw Aye Aye Cho, No (4), Htainkan Ward, Tharsi Township, Mandalay Region
2. Daw Mya Yin, No. (6/ka), Innaya Avenue, (10) Ward, Manyangon Township, Yangon Region
3. Daw Nan Mauk Lao Sai, No (152/154), 19th (Upper Street), (4) Ward, Latha Township, Yangon Region

Sihasudhamma Manijotadhara Title

1. U Soe Naing, Daungma Village, Sagaing Township of Sagaing Region
2. U Toe Toe Aung, No (2) Bogyoke Street, Kyaukmyaung Ward, Mawlaik of Sagaing Region
3. U Nanda, No (1) Myoma Ward, Anawrahta Road, Mogok of Mandalay Region
4. U Kyaw Win, No (653/16), Shanpwehweboneshein

5. Ward, Maha Aungmye Township of Mandalay Region
- Dr Hla Win Aung, No (69), Room No (507), Yuzana Condo Tower, Kominkochin Road, West Shwegondaing Ward, Bahan Township of Yangon Region

Sihasudhamma Singi Title

1. Dr Nilar Thein, No C2 (346), Kanthar (14) Road, Kanthar Ward, Magaway, Magway Region
2. Daw Khin Shein, No (235), Warden Street, East of Bazaar Ward, Meiktila, Mandalay Region
3. Daw Khin Hla Thin, No (Kha/36), 83rdx20th Street, Palengweyaung Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Region
4. Daw Nyein Nyein (a) Daw Nyein Nyein Naing, No (45/46), 68th Street, between Khaingshwewah Road and Manawhari Road, Sa-12 Ward, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Region
5. Daw Khin Khin Sein, No (25/E), "SeinGayHar" Thirimingalar Avenue, No (7) Ward, Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon Region
6. Daw Khin Le Le Win (a) Daw Le Le Win, No (27/ka), Phosein Road, Bo Cho (2) Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon Region
7. Daw Ohnma Myint, No (A-2), Building No (506), corner of 39th Street and Merchant Street, (Lower block), (7) Ward, Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region
8. Daw Sanda Win, No (W-66), Thirimon Housing Complex, Bayintnaung Road, (15) Ward, Hline Township, Yangon Region

Sudhamma Manijotadhara Title

1. U Kyauk Khe, No. Ta-ma-na (179), Aungmingalar Ward, ChaungU, Sagaing Region
2. U Maung Yu, Aungmyinmo Ice Plant, Yeiktha Road, Kanpyar Ward, Myeik, Taninthayi Region
3. U Tun Naing Oo, No (33), Bogyoke Street, West Ward, Dawei, Taninthayi Region
4. U Nyo Win, No-265, corner of 33rdx84th Sts, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region
5. U Shwe Maw, No (18), 45th Street, between 81stx82nd streets, Shwephoneshein Ward, Mahaangmye Township, Mandalay Region
6. U Chit Sein, No-46, Maungkalay Road, East Shangan Ward, Daingwunkwin, Mawlamyine of Mon State
7. U Hla Tun, No-541, Lower Street, Theingon Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State
8. Col Tin Shein (Retd), No (39/B), Shwetaungyar Street, Shwetaungyar (2) Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon Region
9. U Than Win, No (A/39), Naungyoe Street, (1) Ward, Mayangon Township, Yangon Region
10. U Tin Sein (a) U Ni Ni, No (Kha/2), Khayay Street, Bayintnaung Brokerage, (1) Ward, Mayangon

Township, Yangon Region

11. U Myo Nyunt, No (401/411), Bogyoke Aung San Street, (5) Ward, Pabedan Township, Yangon Region

Sudhamma Singi Title

1. Daw Sein Myint (a) Daw Nyunt Wai, No (15/1) Street, Myoma Ward, Letpadan of Bago Region
2. Daw Aye Aye (a) Daw Than Than Aye, Thahtaygon Village, Yesagyo Township, Magway Region
3. Daw Ohn (a) Daw Tin Ohn, No (127/1), 29th Street, between 81stx82nd streets, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region
4. Daw San San Wai (a) Daw San Wai, No (41), 73rd street, between 27thx28th Streets, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Region
5. Daw Ni Ni Myint, No (dha-9/50/59), between 42ndx43rd street and 65thx66th streets, Maha Myaing Ward, Mahaangmye Township, Mandalay Region
6. Daw Thein Thein Naing, (ha-11), No (45/46), 62nd Street, (Kha) Ward, Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay Region
7. Daw Pyone Thazin, No (17), Winsar Garden, Shin Saw Pu Road, Shin Saw Pu Ward, Sangyoung Township, Yangon Region
8. Daw San San Nwe, No (36/C), Aungmingaung Pagoda Road, Wendermere, No (10) Ward, Kamayut Township, Yangon Region
9. Daw Khin Swe Le, No (102), Myakanthar Street, Sawbwagyigon Ward, Insein Township, Yangon Region
10. Daw Yi Yi Myint, No (10), 8th Street, Patheinyunt Ward, Mingala Taunggyunt Township, Yangon Region
11. Daw Tin Tin Aye, No (22-ka), Bawdi Avenue, Shwetaungyar (2) Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon Region
12. Daw Mya Thida (a) Dr Mya Thida Swe Tin, No (33), corner of Nawadae Street and Boyarmyunt Street, Yawmingyi Ward, Dagon Township, Yangon Region
13. Daw Nan Toe Toe Shwe, Room No (002), Building (4), Tharyargon Street, (2) Ward, Pazundaung Township, Yangon Region
14. Daw Marlar Myint, No (61-B), Shwetaungyar Street, Shwetaungyar (2) Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon Region
15. Daw Cho Thar Khin, No (18/C), Shwetaungyar (1) Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon Region
16. Daw Nway Nway, No (ka ma ta/305), Circular Road, Kaunghumton Ward, Muse of Shan State

Sd/Thein Sein

President

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Purchase of reserve rice, development rice market coordinated



NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—A total of 1.01 million tons of rice and rice products were exported within nine months till December 2012; if export of rice continues in remaining three months of 2012-2013 fiscal year, the record will

development meeting at the Ministry of Commerce on 2 January morning.

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

The Union Minister stressed the need to release information for the farmers that the Ministry of Energy sells one bag of urea fertilizer at K 14400. He said that as of 2 March, the workshops and seminars at Myanmar rice mills and farming machinery shows will be held for sales of rice mills and machinery to the farmers at reasonable prices.—MNA

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

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—Investment of the private sector has increased thanks to ongoing economic reforms of the government.

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

Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe called for private investment either local or foreign to cut annual expenditure of the government and to increase power supply to the public.

Currently, there are two coal power plant projects under feasibility study, with MoU signed for three gas engine power plant projects and one gas combined

cycle factory project, and MOA signed for two gas combined cycle factory projects to be implemented with investments of local and foreign private investors as joint ventures. Also present on the occasion were Union Ministers and personnel of Union Resources and Engineering Co from China and Myanmar Resources and Engineering Co from Myanmar.—MNA



PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 5 January, 2013

Health comes first

Health is wealth, so goes a Myanmar saying, health lies at the centre of overall human functions. In this 21st century of Knowledge Age and IT Age, though the scientists are relentlessly and successfully pushing back the frontier of all subjects every day, pharmacological advancement could not keep pace with birth rate of new diseases while certain old diseases become to have stubborn resistance to certain drugs, demanding invention of more effective drugs.

Human mind is fairly prone to stress and anxieties and we would suffer a certain sort of exhaustion amidst woes and worries of daily life. Although physical exhaustion can be cured through a nice rest, mental exhaustion usually drags on for some time. Stress and anxieties must be filtered from mind regularly; otherwise they would accumulate in heart with the passage of time, resulting in depression complicating the normal functioning in our lives.

Health is the capital of life. Except a few notable exceptions like Stephen Hawking and Helen Keller, it is hard to survive and even much harder to be successful with certain disabilities. The popular word "human resource" has the connotations of being healthy and educated, none of which can be left out to amass human capital, a desperate need for the nation at present. How can feeble men resist and conquer the ever-increasing challenges of modern world?

While certain diseases are unpreventable, most of the chronic diseases are resulted from our unhealthy lifestyles and failure to notice malfunctions of body parts. While increasing health budget would do a lot for better health care service delivery, it still depends on you to take care of yourselves to avert avoidable premature death. All in all, prevention is better than cure.

UDNRPS holds school family day

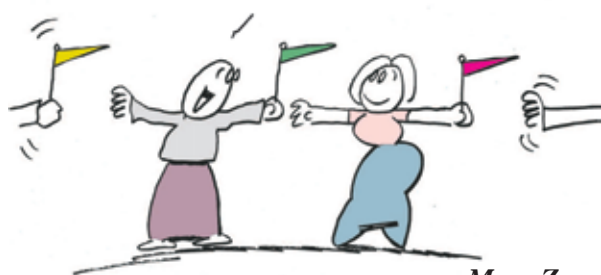
NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan— The school family day of University for Development of National Races Practising School was held at the school in Sagaing yesterday, with an address by Rector U Soe Tint.

The 2012-2013 academic year school family day of the University for

Development of National Races Practising School was celebrated with sport events from 23 December to 3 January. This was followed by prize presentation ceremony in which the rector and departmental heads gave away prizes.

MNA

Our leaders sacrificed their lives to regain the independence. We must perpetuate the independence they have handed down.



Myay Zar

HAPPINESS

ARTICLE

BY BA THAN

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

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

Mundane pleasures derived from happiness are temporary, transitory, elusive, and ephemeral in nature. When we are young we tend to focus more on physical attributes and achievement of life such as wealth, fame, honour and glory. We tend to react more on outside stimuli, conditioned by nature and environment. As we grow up we become more attuned to intellectual state of mind. We tend to reason more, study things on a higher perspective, gaining happiness and equanimity borne out of intellectual pursuits such as literature, science, philosophy, metaphysics, fine arts, poetry and music etc. Thereafter we advance to spiritual plane, emphasizing more on philanthropy, justice, fair deal, compassion, equanimity etc. On reaching that plane one can afford to make allowance for the failings of other less endowed plebians and cultivate a sense of patience, tolerance and equanimity. One's inner state of mind, tempered to purity through moral refinement and culture, will ultimately

reach the pristine plane of happiness. As we all are frail mortals living in this cosmos for a wee speck of time, should we not make it worthwhile to create a haven of happiness around us while we live?

Sometime ago a lifelong friend gave me a handout listing the maxims of life worthy to be read carefully and memorized. The author read through them and tried to live by its maxims. However it is easier said than done, don't you think? Irrespective of whether the author practices it or not, he feels that it be circulated to the reading public with wider reach like the NLM, thus rendering good service in general. So it is hereby reproduced as follows:

1. Make few promises.
2. Always speak the truth.
3. Keep good company or none at all.
4. Always live within your means.
5. Live up to your engagements.
6. Not indulge in any kind of intoxicating liquor or psychotropic drugs.
7. Be just before you are generous.
8. Never play at any game of chance.
9. Keep your secrets.
10. Maintain good character above all things.
11. Never borrow if you can avoid.
12. Keep yourself innocent if you like to be happy forever.
13. Make no haste to be rich if you like to prosper.
14. When you speak to a person, look at him in the face.
15. Do not marry until you are ready to support a wife.
16. Avoid temptation through fear that you may not be able to withstand it.
17. Never run into debt unless you can see a way out.
18. Good company and good conversation are the sinews of virtue.
19. Small and steady gains have competency with a tranquil mind.
20. When you retire to bed, think of what you have done for

the day.

21. Your character cannot be essentially tarnished except by your own acts.
22. If anyone speaks ill of you let your life be such that no one will believe him.
23. Never be idle, because an idle mind is the devil's workshop..
24. When your hands cannot be employed usefully, attend to the culture of the mind.

Now as we grow old, as my friends are, in the eighties, in the third stage of life, happiness is viewed in a different perspective, not as jubilant, vibrant attuned to outside stimuli, but more on a philosophical plane within, more detached from mundane matters, contemplative on supra-mundane aspirations, and more introspective of our inner self, mind and body (*panchakhandha*). His worldly ambitions have now been mostly realized and have reached an enviable position and status in society. His children are now well positioned and successful in their career, profession, vocations etc, with no more need for *daddy's* golden guidance.

He and his better half can now spend their life in serene happiness visiting pagodas and monasteries in charity, philanthropy and humanity, observance of precepts, contemplation and meditation. At times he revolves in mundane matters devoid of selfishness, pride and prejudice, but more on charity and humanity. He moves around enjoying casual rounds of talks and laughter reminiscent of the younger days of frivolity, lot of talk, everyone talking, sadly no one having ears for listening, at breakfast meets over a cup of coffee and snacks. The three R sessions: 'rejuvenation, recreation, reminiscing' are being replayed month after month. When breakfast is over, the oldies dispersed to meet again next month, the expenses *dan* borne in turn, a real merit indeed. His time is also shared between attending wedding receptions of daughters, sons and grandchildren of friends, and visits to offer condolence to deceased ones.

He also pays obeisance to the presiding Sayadaws of monasteries to discuss on religious issues, offer *Waso* and *Kathein robes* and alms food to the bargain. He attends the yearly *puja ceremonies* where university students, and high school students, now in position of affluence pay obeisance to the one time teachers and faculty members. Some University lecturers when young grumbled about frequent transfers to the outreach universities and colleges. Now they are busy travelling to those countryside institutions most willingly, accepting *puja dana* from students, no more grumbling but counting the proceeds, nice isn't it? Then there is the annual Sarsodaw Day held in the first waxing day of Nattaw (November/Decem-ber) when the doyen writers and journalists over eighty are being honoured by the executive members of the Writers' Association and the younger generations. The author is now eligible for the esteemed honour.

Released from the hustle and bustle of murky life, he can now retreat to a life of serene solitude in the seclusion of his own room, or prayer room, or to a meditation centre. He may now concentrate on the teachings of the Teacher Lord Buddha, the Omniscient, Self Enlightened and the All Knowing One. It is now 2556 years since the *Khanda Parinibbana* but His teachings embodied in the *Ti-Pitakas* "Vinaya, Suttanta and Abhidhamma" still guide us a beacons of happiness, peace and final cessation of suffering. Such realization is the real acme of perfection which every astute and reasoned personality should strive for supreme achievement of inner self, 'happiness equal to none'.

The first of January 2013 ushers in the New Year with love, serenity, joy, happiness, and good tidings. The Fourth of January 2013 heralds the 65th anniversary of our country's Independence as it aspires with relentless efforts and momentum in building a modern developed and democratic society. The author wishes one and all felicitations and blessings for peace on earth and goodwill to mankind.

LOCAL NEWS

Mon State ministers attend golden jubilee of Thanbyuzayat BEHS-1

THANBYUZAYAT, 4 Jan—Basic Education High School No. 1 in Thanbyuzayat celebrated the golden jubilee on 27 December morning.

Patron of the Organizing Committee retired Township Education Officer U Kyee Sein, Mon State Minister for Development Affairs Dr Toe Toe Aung and Mon State Education Officer Director U Nyunt Soe formally opened the ceremony.

Speaker of Mon State Hluttaw U Kyin Pe unveiled the stone inscription.

Director U Nyunt Soe pressed the button to open the golden jubilee library. The guests viewed round the books, wall magazines and photos displayed at the library.

They then opened the education booth, computer pool and Mon national race cultural booth.

State Minister for Development Affairs Dr Toe Toe Aung, State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Htay Myint Aung, State Minister for National Race U Saw Aung Kyaw Thein and Chief Justice of Mon State High Court U Khin Maung Kyi presented prizes to winners in the basic education level essay, painting and poem contests.

Myanma Alinn

Cultivation of cold season crops inspected

CHAUNGU, 4 Jan—Head of Sagaing Region Industrial Crops Development Department U Tun Shein and officials met staff and local farmers at Paukin farmland in ChaungU Tonwhsip on

26 December.

They discussed cultivation of cold season crops, wheat and gram.

The research staff reported on test cultivation of wheat and gram strains

of the farmers and use of fertilizers.

The head of the region department stressed the need to apply modern agricultural technology.

Myanma Alinn

Basic tennis course concludes in Myawady

MYAWADY, 4 Jan—Under the guidance of the Myanmar Tennis Federation, the Sports and Physical Education Department opened the U-10 basic tennis course in Myawady.

On 30 December, the tennis course concluded at Ground 1 and 2 of Shwemyanmar Tennis Court.

The course started on 22 December.

Coaches U Thein Soe and U Aung Moe Win who had attended the International Tennis Federation-ITF course trained 112 trainees.

Myanma Alinn



Shwe Parami Health Foundation gives health care to people

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

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

They then viewed health care services being provided to patients in cardiac, epidermis, women's diseases, child, kidney,

orthopaedic, ear, nose and throat, dental and eye care units.

With the assistance of the foundation, physicians, specialists and surgeons gave free health care services to

over 5000 members of the Sangha and people on 28 and 29 December.

A plan is underway to provide more health care services to the people.

Myanma Alinn

Extension of firewood plantations emphasized

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—Talks on use of high powered stoves and free distribution of stoves was held in Khinmon Model

Village of ChaungU Township and Kyeeok Village-tract in Monywa Township of Sagaing Region on 29 December,



Firewood distributed to local people

MADAYA, 4 Jan—A ceremony to distribute firewood to local people was held at Nathamyaing Village in Madaya Township on 29 December.

On the occasion, Township Administrator U Aung Swe Myint, Staff

Officer of Township Forest Department U Moe Zaw and township level officials presented 90 tons of fire

wood from 50 acres of village fire wood plantation to the local people and staff of the hospital.—*Myanma Alinn*

Hilux hits lamp-post on traffic island

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

A Hilux from Aungtagun Taikkyi-Thiri Mingala

Market bus line driven from Insein to Yangon hit the lamp-post on the traffic island.

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



Ministry of Health 41st Myanmar Health Research Congress

7th to 11th January, 2013

Department of Medical Research
(Lower Myanmar)

No. 5, Ziwaka Road, Dagon Township, Yangon

Gravel road commissioned into service

NYAUNGDON, 4 Jan—To mark the 65th Anniversary Independence Day, the Natpay-Sagyet gravel road was put into service for connection

with Nyaungdon-Tagway-Pathein Road, at the archway of the road in Nyaungdon Township on 30 December morning.

Assistant Engineer U Thant Zaw Lwin of Nyaungdon Township Development Affairs

Committee explained construction of the gravel road.

Local people spoke words of thanks.

After that, officials formally opened the road which 2500 feet long.

Myanma Alinn

Stimulant tablets seized in Momauk

BHAMO, 4 Jan—Stimulant tablets were seized from a person by motorcycle at the junction of 5th-Mile Sien Village in Bhamo Township of Kachin State.

A squad of SIP Aung Ko Naing from Bhamo Anti-Drug Special Squad searched Ko Yu Maung who rode Kanbo 125 motorcycle from Momauk at the junction at 2 pm on 21 December. The squad seized

five packets of 88 brand pink stimulant tablets containing 200 tablets each and one 180-stimulant-tablet packet totalling 1180 weighing 118 grams. Bhamo police station takes action against Ko Yu Maung, 35, son of U Myint Thein of 71, Aungzeya Ward in Indaw Township under Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Myanma Alinn*

Myanma Alinn

Ukraine PM eyes 3.5 pct GDP growth in 2013

KIEV, 4 Jan—Ukrainian Prime Minister Mykola Azarov said on Thursday that the country will aim for an economic growth of over 3.5 percent in 2013, compared with 1 percent in 2012.

The prime minister made the forecast on the country's gross domestic product (GDP) growth while he mapped out the agenda at his government's first meeting in the new year.

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

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

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



US Representative-elect Grace Meng (D-NY) attends the opening session of the 113th US Congress on Capitol Hill in Washington DC, capital of the United States, on 3 Jan, 2012. The new US Congress convened on Thursday with new members swearing in.—XINHUA

Egypt condemns UAE for arresting Egyptian expatriates

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

US mortgage applications dive in final two weeks of 2012

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

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

Meanwhile, the Refinance Index dipped 23.3 percent, with its share of mortgage activity shrinking to 82 percent of total applications, and the seasonally adjusted Purchase Index edged down 14.8 percent.

The average contract interest rate for 30-year mortgages remained little changed at 3.34 percent, a little higher than its record low of 3.32 percent. Fifteen-year mortgage rates were up

to 2.86 percent, also not far from its record low of 2.83 percent.

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



Image provided by Venezuela's Presidency shows Venezuelan Vice president Nicolas Maduro (R) greeting employees during an inspection to the coffee processing plant "Fama de America", in Caracas, Venezuela, on 3 Jan, 2013.

XINHUA

Roadside bombing kills three, injures 15 in Iraqi capital

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

A Baghdad police source, on condition of anonymity, told Xinhua that the attack targeted a bus

carrying Shiite pilgrims but so far no one has claimed responsibility.

Earlier on Thursday, a car bombing killed 20 people and injured at least 40 others some 60 km off Baghdad.

Shiites have recently been the major targets of terror attack in the restive country.—Xinhua

Israel preparing hospitals for WMD, massive missile attacks

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

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

of injuries.

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

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

There is no room for error," a Home Front Command source told *The Jerusalem Post*.

He underscored, however, that ongoing preparations—overseen by the Home Front Command's medical division and the Health Ministry—have been planned years in advance, and dismissed speculation that they are connected to recent threat assessments regarding Syria's stockpiles of chemical weapons.

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

Israel has repeatedly said that it is closely monitoring developments across its northern border, and would respond to any attempt to transfer chemical weapons to Hezbollah, the Iranian-

backed Lebanese militia.

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

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

"That's a casualty rate of one per 500 projectiles," he told *The Jerusalem Post*.

Averting that "some people are fear mongering," the source further noted that the 4,000 rockets fired by Hezbollah during the 2006 Lebanon war resulted in 44 casualties, while the 40 Scud missiles fired at central Israel in the 1991 Gulf War claimed a single life.

Xinhua



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

9.67 million Cambodians eligible to vote in July general election

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

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

Political parties are required to register their parties and candidates at the NEC from late April to early

May, according to a NEC Press release.

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

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

Xinhua

REGIONAL

Beijing marks New Year with shopping spree

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

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

Statistics from Beijing Commercial Information Consulting Centre show the 100 major commercial and

service enterprises in the city recorded 2.34 billion yuan (372 million US dollars) in sales during the three-day holiday, rising 8.4 percent from a year earlier.

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

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

Sales of household appliances was also

sanguine, with the troika of Suning, Gome and Dazhong Electronics reporting a year-on-year increase of 14.1 percent in the three days' sales revenue.

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

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

Xinhua



Airline stewardesses pose for group photos before the Press Conference in Taipei, on 3 Jan, 2013. China Southern Airlines, China Eastern Airlines, Xiamen Airlines from Mainland and China Airlines from Taipei on Thursday signed an cooperation contract and launched the "great China, fly together" programme, aiming at providing better services by sharing resources together.

XINHUA

Cambodian PM calls for border of peace with Thailand

PHNOM PENH, 4 Jan—Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen on Thursday appealed to both Cambodians and Thais along the border to get on with each other to build a border of peace, friendship, cooperation and development. "All authorities along the two countries' border provinces should try to build up good relations for the two peoples in order to honour the two governments' policy," Hun Sen said during an inauguration ceremony of achievements in western

Pailin Province bordering Thailand's Chanthaburi Province.

The ceremony was also attended by Phunsak Pranutnoraphan, governor of Chanthaburi Province, and other Thai military commanders along the border. "I wish to see people along the border to live in peace without worrying about gunfire exchange and house fire," he said. "I'd like to urge the governors, all levels of authorities, and armed forces of the two

nations' border provinces to be friendly to each other to build a border of peace and cooperation." Meanwhile, the premier warned that Thai side should not frequently close border checkpoints.

"Be careful, when you (Thai authorities) close the frontier, and Cambodia closes too, at that time, and Thailand will get loss because Thailand exports products to Cambodia in equivalent to more than 2 billion US dollars a year, while Cambodia exports

items to Thailand only around 200 million US dollars," he said.

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

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



Couples pose for a photo at the marriage registration office in Changchun, capital of northeast China's Jilin Province, on 4 Jan, 2013. Many couples here chose to tie the knot on 4 Jan, 2013, or 2013/1/4, which sounds like "Love you forever" in Chinese.—XINHUA

Philippine gov't hails leftist rebels' re-extension of truce

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

The Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP), which had cut short its declared ceasefire with

the government earlier this week, declared a re-extension of the truce until middle of this month.

"The government welcomes this change of heart from their earlier position. This gives our soldiers and members of the CPP-New People's Army-National Democratic Front (NPA-NDF) more time to be with their loved ones,"

presidential spokesman Edwin Lacierda said here in a statement.

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

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

Xinhua

Poorest Chinese province to settle 100,000 in new homes

GUIYANG, 4 Jan—A southwestern Chinese province with the largest impoverished population in the country will relocate more than 100,000 destitute rural residents into modern communities before spring 2013. The move was part of a poverty alleviation project initiated last year to move 2 million farmers out of the province's poverty-ridden mountainous and desert areas within nine years.

According to the province's office on poverty relief and ecological migration, Guizhou built

180 new communities for the project in 2012, with a cost of 1.81 billion yuan (287.9 million US dollars).

The first batch of 101,300 farmers are expected to move into their new homes before this year's Spring Festival, or Chinese Lunar New Year, falls on 10 February, an official from the office said.

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

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

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

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

Indonesian air forces to get 102 new planes this year

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

Speaking in a ceremony held at the air forces' headquarters in Cilangkap, East Jakarta, Putu Dunia said that the air forces is one of the country's essential components highly expected to boost up 'bargaining power' in settling disputes with other country.

"As one of the country's defence components,

Indonesian air forces continues to develop accordingly with national strategic developments," he said in his remarks in the ceremony. He said that the new planes ready to serve the air forces' fleet this year consist of F-16 fighter jets, T-50 Super Tucano anti insurgent planes, CN-295 and C130 Hercules military cargo planes, Cougar Helicopters, KT-1 Woongbi trainer planes and Boeing 737-500. Besides new planes, the air forces is also expecting deliveries of new radars to enforce its early detection warning system.—Xinhua



Photo taken on 3 Jan, 2013 shows the frozen sea surface at the Beitang port in north China's Tianjin Municipality. Sea ice continues to occur in some Chinese coastal provinces as a result of recent cold waves.—XINHUA

Four killed, eight injured in SW China pileup

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

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

The pileup occurred before 6 am on the expressway linking Quanzhou and Xing'an in the region, where cold snaps led to icy road.

The frost weather has also affected southern Province of Guizhou, where pileups involving 20 vehicles killed three people and injured many others Thursday evening on an expressway linking the province with Xiamen City in eastern Fujian Province.

Xinhua

ADVERTISEMENT & GENERAL

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HANNA MARIE VOY NO (1300)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HANNA MARIE VOY NO (1300) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.1.2013 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 212 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 CHINA SHIPPING (MALAY-SIA) AGENCY SDN BHD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BLPL BLESSING VOY NO (1205)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BLPL BLESSING VOY NO (1205) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.1.2013 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 ORIENT EXPRESS LINE
PTE LTD.
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



Jordanian peacekeepers Hassan Mizawoda and Haleem Al Sarhaan arrive at Khartoum Airport, on 2 Jan, 2013, after 136 days of captivity in Sudan's Darfur region according to local media.—REUTERS

Jordanian peacekeepers kidnapped in Darfur freed

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

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

Conflict has raged in

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

The UN says as many as 300,000 people may have died in the fighting. Sudan's government has put the death toll at about 10,000. The two Jordanians were kidnapped in Kabkabiya in northern Darfur in August. Both men were in good health after their release, the international force said.—Reuters

Basque nationalist party shuts down in France

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

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

"We affirm that we will achieve the project of building Euskal Herria (the

Basque Country) only by political means, in the face of the oppressive French and Spanish states," Goyenetxe said.

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

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

Xinhua

Gun checks soar 39 percent, set new record

WASHINGTON, 4 Jan—The number of FBI background checks required for Americans buying guns set a record in December, indicating that more people may purchase one after the Connecticut school massacre stirred interest in self-defence and prompted renewed talk of limits on firearms, according to FBI data. The FBI said it recorded 2.78 million background checks during the month, surpassing the mark set in November of 2.01 million checks — about a 39 percent rise.

The latest monthly figure was up 49 percent over December 2011, when the

FBI performed a then-record 1.86 million checks.

Consumer demand for guns appears to have accounted for the uptick in activity. There were no changes in FBI background check procedures that would have affected the December numbers, FBI spokesman Stephen Fischer said. December is typically the busiest month of the year for checks, however, due in part to Christmas gift sales. The figures do not represent the number of firearms sold, a statistic the government does not track. They also do not reflect activity between private parties, such as family members or col-



A dealer displays firearms for sale at a gun show in Kansas City, Missouri on 22 Dec, 2012. —REUTERS

lectors, because federal law requires background checks only for sales from commercial vendors with a federal license. Someone who passes a background check is eligi-

ble to buy multiple firearms.

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

Paris' Apple store loses million euros in New Year's Eve robbery

PARIS, 4 Jan—Apple's flagship store in the famous Opera district of Paris was hit and looted by four gunmen on the New Year's Eve, with million-euro-worth gadgets being robbed away, local media reported on Wednesday.

The robbery occurred on Monday night at around 9:00 pm local time (2000 GMT), three hours after the shop closing. According to

local newspaper *Le Parisien*, there were two employees in the store when four masked men burst in. They later spent an hour loading boxes full of iPhones, iPads and Mac computers into a nearby van.

The damage is still under evaluation. Paris police has not confirmed how much the store has lost in the robbery, but reports on Wednesday put estimate

of the loss worth at least 1 million euros (1.319 million US dollars). *Le Parisien* quoted sources as saying that the gang was well prepared, knew the layout of the store and struck at a time when many of the capital's police were on the crowded Champs Elysees.

This is the first time the Apple has been the victim of a robbery in France.

France also witnessed

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



Photo taken on 2 Jan, 2013 shows the under-construction Jiaxing-Shaoxing Sea-Crossing Bridge in Haining, east China's Zhejiang Province. The Jiaxing-Shaoxing Sea-Crossing Bridge, which will be the second sea-crossing bridge of Zhejiang Province, is expected to halve the driving time from Shaoxing to Shanghai in east China after putting into use in June of 2013.—XINHUA

ENTERTAINMENT

Showdown between James Bond, Goldfinger voted greatest 007 moment

LONDON, 4 Jan—The infamous Goldfinger dialogue ‘No Mr Bond, I expect you to die’ has been voted the best moment from the 007 movies.

The confrontation between Goldfinger and Sean Connery’s Bond was named as the favourite Bond moment in a new poll from Sky Movies HD. The poll took into account all the 23 Bond films in 50 years. More than 2,500 people were asked to name their favourite Bond scenes in the poll, the *Daily Mail* reported.

When informed of the winning moment, which received 10.3 per cent of the votes, current Bond star Daniel Craig said: “Yes,



Sean Connery

that would take some beating.”

Second in the poll was the breath-taking pre-title moment in *The Spy Who Loved Me* which showed Roger Moore skiing off the edge of an Austrian mountain to open a Union Jack parachute. The scene took

in 7.6 per cent votes to pipe the first ever ‘Bond...James Bond’ statement from Connery in 1962’s *Dr No*, which came third with 5.7 per cent of the votes. Daniel Craig’s thrilling chase at the start of *Casino Royale*

was the fourth most memorable moment in the Bond franchise with 5.3 per cent. It was ahead of *The Man With The Golden Gun*’s barrel roll car sequence, which saw Roger Moore’s Bond perform a daring car jump across a Bangkok river. Moore’s heroics earned 4.5 per cent votes.

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

Naomi Watts’ near death experience while filming *The Impossible*

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

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

Speaking to the *Metro* newspaper, she explained: “Some-thing went wrong tech-

nically with the chair they strap you to when they submerge you in the water. It spins you around under water and the crew just weren’t able to shut it off at the right point. I couldn’t get out and was really struggling for breath.”

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

She said: “It helps you to imagine. You can get tiny glimpses of what people went through.

Though even this incident was nothing compared to what it was really like.”

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

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

PTI



Naomi admits meeting the woman whose harrowing tale she retells on-screen was a powerful experience.

Emma Stone is “paranoid” about paparazzi

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

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

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

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

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

PTI

Actress Emma Stone

Jennifer Lawrence thinks acting is “stupid”

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

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

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

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

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



Jennifer Lawrence



Three Kings? Messi, Ronaldo and Falcao in action on 6 January

MADRID, 4 Jan — Spanish football fans will have to wait until Sunday for the three main courses of the weekend as the BBVA Primera Liga returns to action. 6 January is a holiday in Spain and is traditionally the day that children in the country receive their presents from the 'Three Kings'. However, it is likely that the three 'Kings' in

Ramos, Marcelo, Raul Albiol and Fabio Coentrao, while there is interest to see if Iker Casillas will return in goal after being surprisingly dropped for the defeat in Malaga.

Meanwhile Jose Mourinho will also be in the public eye after that decision and defeat and needs a win in order to maintain his diminishing credit with the

he underwent a cancer operation. Vilanova directed Wednesday's training session and his rapid return is the best possible way to start the New Year.

There is certain frustration among Atletico Madrid fans that their side is still mentioned after Real Madrid in the media and with Atletico eight points ahead of their neighbours in the

the battle against relegation and are in an institutional crisis following the resignation of club president, Jaume Cladera during the week. The weekend kicks off of Friday night with Zaragoza, who ended 2012 with a surprise win in Bilbao, at home to Betis, who were shocked by Mallorca a fortnight ago. Saturday sees Levante aim to continue with their impressive season against Athletic Club Bilbao, whose players insist they have recovered from the Zaragoza defeat and are looking to bounce back with a win.

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

Deportivo sacked former coach Jose Luis Oltra last weekend in a slightly surprising move. Saturday ends with Sevilla at home to second bottom Osasuna with Sevilla coach Michel Gonzalez still under pressure. Sunday sees Valladolid travel to struggling Celta and after the top three are in action the round of matches ends on Monday as Rayo Vallecano entertain Getafe in a south Madrid derby.

Xinhua



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

Golf — Players in paradise for PGA Tour season opener

LOS ANGELES, 4 Jan — If winning breeds winning, then the picturesque Hawaiian island of Maui is a paradise in more ways than one for the select group of players competing at this week's \$5.7 million Hyundai Tournament of Champions.

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

"Obviously you won on the PGA Tour the year

before so it's a great start and every player enjoys coming here and wants to start here. "It's exciting but it's also crazy ... I feel like the year never really ended last year, it just kind of keeps on going. But it's certainly fun to be here." Masters champion Bubba Watson agreed. "Who would not want to come to Maui and play golf?" the American left-hander smiled.

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



Cristiano Ronaldo, Leo Messi and Radamel Falcao

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

Ronaldo will be first into action on Sunday when Real Madrid entertain an in-form Real Sociedad in the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium. Madrid are without defenders, Pepe, Sergio

Madrid fans.

Messi has all the credit in the world after scoring an incredible 91 goals in 2012. He will expect to kick off 2013 in style in the Barcelona derby at home to an improving Espanyol, but the best news for Barca is the likely presence of coach Tito Vilanova in the dugout less than three weeks after

league table, they have reason to feel aggrieved. Falcao has been outstanding all season and will be optimistic of kicking off 2013 with a win against Mallorca, who are deep in trouble despite ending a run of 11 league matches without a victory away to Betis in the last game of 2012.

Mallorca are still in

Pato completes transfer to Corinthians

MILAN, 4 Jan — Brazilian striker Alexandre Pato has completed move to Corinthians pending a medical.

Both AC Milan and the Brazilian club on Thursday evening released statements confirming the 15-million euro transfer has been agreed pending a medical, and Pato will sign a four-year contract. Instead of a signing-on fee, Pato has secured 40 percent of any future sale.

"I wish to salute, but above all to thank, every-

one," wrote Pato in an open letter on the Milan website. "From the President to the



Brazilian striker Alexandre Pato

many people I worked with in these unforgettable years at Milan. "I am going to Brazil, to Corinthians, so I'll have the opportunity to play consistently. It won't, however, be easy to forget Milan.

"I am and always will be very tied to this jersey, the club colors and all the Rossoneri fans. Above all at this moment my thoughts and my biggest thanks go to them."

Pato arrived at San Siro as a 17-year-old, but at the age of 23 his career has been blighted by a series of muscular injuries. —Xinhua

LeBron James named USA Basketball Male Athlete of Year

NEW YORK, 4 Jan — Miami Heat's LeBron James had been named the 2012 USA Basketball Male Athlete of the Year after a successful year with one Olympic gold medal and the 2012 NBA championship, the US basketball governing body announced the award at Colorado Springs, Colorado, on Wednesday.

James is one of just two players in the history of the game to win MVP (Most Valuable Player), the NBA champion-

ship and the Olympics in the same year, along with Michael Jordan. "It's an honour that I have been named the 2012 USA Basketball Male Athlete of the Year," James was quoted as saying by a release of the asso-

ciation. "It's always an honour to represent my country."

"I never do it to be recognized or to receive an award. I do it because I love my country and the game of basketball. It is an honour to be recognized with this award, it's hum-

bling."

James is now one of three US players to participate in three Olympics. He owns two Olympic gold medals (2008, 2012) and one bronze (2004).

"LeBron was the central figure on this team," said Mike Krzyzewski, USA and Duke head coach, through the statement.—Xinhua



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

South African top biker killed in road accident

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

The 25-year-old South African died after colliding

with a taxi in the Kwazulu-Natal province on South Africa's east coast, the South African Sports Confederation and Olympic Committee said.

Stander finished fifth in last year's London Olym-

pics and he competed in Beijing 2008. He was also a former under-19 and under-23 world champion and South Africa's biggest star in the sport and one of the world's top riders.

Xinhua

GENERAL

Exhibition to honour Independence Day

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



Ramos: Perhaps we have more to give

MADRID, 4 Jan — Real Madrid defender Sergio Ramos admitted on Thursday that he was disappointed at the way his side's season has developed. Ramos is the third Madrid player to give a press conference in three days, after almost five months of players not speaking following their early training session. He was asked about the club's current position, 16 points behind FC Barcelona in the Primera Liga, as well as other issues such as the decision to leave Iker

Casillas on the substitution bench for the last game of 2012, which saw Madrid lose 3-2 in Malaga.

"I think that if you were to ask any Real Madrid member, they would say we were obliged to fight for every title," admitted Ramos. "It's true that the league is difficult, but it is not impossible for us. While there is a lot of affection for the Champions League and we will try and win it to give them reasons to be happy." Real Madrid have largely been disappointing since winning last season's

league title in Spain, but Ramos said nerves were not a problem. "I don't think it is that," he said. "You have good and bad runs in football and maybe things have not worked as we would have wanted in recent games. We have not been as effective in front of goal as last season, but maybe the holidays will have helped us to reflect."

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

Reuters



Real Madrid defender Sergio Ramos

Novak shines as Knicks end Spurs' win streak

New York, 4 Jan — Bench player Steve Novak led a sizzling three-point shooting display as the New York Knicks mixed spectacular offense with a much improved defence to stun the red-hot San Antonio Spurs with a 100-83 win at Madison Square Garden on Thursday. With Novak making five-of-seven attempts from beyond the arc to total 15 points and Carmelo Anthony adding a game-high 23, the Knicks snapped the Spurs' seven-game winning streak in rampant style.

There were further stellar contributions from the New York bench with JR Smith weighing in with 20 points and Amare

Stoudemire 10 as the home team outshot San Antonio by 44.4 percent to 26.5 from behind the three-point line. The Atlantic pacesetter Knicks broke the game wide open in the fourth quarter, starting out with a 15-2 run, to improve their record to 22-10.

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

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

The 2012 Olympic gold medalist revealed that former world number one Lendl, who was due to arrive in Brisbane on Friday, had not even considered the possibility of the Scot losing to Millman. Before the second-round match, Lendl had sent a text message to the 25-year-old's hitting partner

Murray makes hard work of qualifier Millman

Danny Vallverdu asking what time Murray's quarter-final against Uzbekistan's Denis Istomin would be on Friday. "December 22nd was the last day we trained in Miami before I went home. He messaged Danny and said, 'Can you send me the score and what time he's playing tomorrow before the match?' He hadn't heard of John before," said the Scot.

"He was obviously expecting me to come through, but it was very nearly a different story. The depth of the game now is so, so strong. None of the matches are easy. It was a bit different back in Ivan's day where they could kind of cruise a little bit the first couple rounds." Murray was horribly out of sorts in a tight second set, clutching at his

back, thigh and shoulder. His class shone through but it was not one of his finest efforts. "I had seen John's name before, but I hadn't seen him play," he said. "I think it's important when you don't know how someone plays to find out about their

character a little bit.

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

Reuters



Andy Murray of Britain greets John Millman of Australia after their men's singles match at the Brisbane International tennis tournament on 3 Jan, 2013. —REUTERS

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL

(5-1-13 09:30 am ~ 6-1-13 09:30 am) MST

- * News
- * "The Art of Peace" Art Exhibition
- * Framework on Economic & Social Reform
- * Fresh-water Fish Breeding Industry
- * News
- * Record Album
- * News
- * A Future Star for Myanmar Movie
- * News
- * Pioneer of 925 Silver Jewelry
- * News
- * Air Bagan Press Conference
- * The Fruits of Myanmar
- * News
- * A Way for Food Sufficiency
- * News
- * Secret Places for Yummy Foods (Episode-6) (Myanmar Rice Meal)
- * News
- * Beautiful hand-painted materials decorated with the art of painting
- * Myanmar Movies
- * "One Precept-2"

MYANMAR TV

(5-1-2013, Saturday)

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| <p>7:00 am</p> <p>1. Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw</p> <p>7:20 am</p> <p>2. Dhamma Puja Song</p> <p>7:25 am</p> <p>3. To Be Healthy Exercise</p> <p>7:30 am</p> <p>4. Morning News</p> <p>7:40 am</p> <p>5. Nice & Sweet Song</p> <p>7:50 am</p> <p>6. Health Programme</p> <p>8:00 am</p> <p>7. Poem Graden</p> <p>11:20 pm</p> <p>8. Game For Children</p> <p>11:50 pm</p> <p>9. Round Up Of The Week's TV Local News</p> <p>1:30 pm</p> <p>10. Dance of National Races</p> <p>4:00 pm</p> <p>11. Martial Song</p> <p>4:10 pm</p> <p>12. Musical Programme</p> <p>4:20 pm</p> <p>13. Cultural Dances</p> | <p>4:50 pm</p> <p>14. University of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Third Year (Eco)</p> <p>5:05 pm</p> <p>15. Songs For Upholding National Spirit</p> <p>5:10 pm</p> <p>16. Teleplay (Health)</p> <p>5:35 pm</p> <p>17. Beautiful ASEAN</p> <p>5:45 pm</p> <p>18. Documentary</p> <p>6:00 pm</p> <p>19. Evening News</p> <p>6:15 pm</p> <p>20. Weather Report</p> <p>7:00 pm</p> <p>21. TV Drama Series</p> <p>8:00 pm</p> <p>22. News</p> <p>10:00 pm</p> <p>23. News</p> <p>24. Myanmar movies</p> <p>25. Gitadagale Phwintbaohn</p> |
|--|---|

In loving memory of Dr. Aung Khin (Surgeon)
A dear friend, a wonderful companion, a kind helper

LOSSES

Of late, losses have come,
Faster and thicker, and greatly grown,
As one by one,
They leave for land unknown

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

One meets to part, truth asserts,
But it's difficult to adjust
In my heart, empty spaces losses will leave,
Irreplaceable indeed

Since a life has only one death,
While waiting for that
In my brain,
Little boxes of memories will be kept
(MMK 30 Apr 2012)

Myint Myint Khin

Independence Day (2013) marked in Nay Pyi Taw



Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham reads out the message sent by President U Thein Sein at State Flag-hoisting ceremony to mark 65th Anniversary Independence Day.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—Over 30,000 people attended the State flag-hoisting and-saluting ceremony for 65th Anniversary Independence Day (2013) held at the Nay Pyi Taw City Hall Square, here, this morning.

The flag-hoisting ceremony was held at 4.20

am. Staff from the ministries, officers and other ranks from Pobbathiri Station, members of Red Cross and Fire Brigade, local people took position at Nay Pyi Taw City Hall Square at 6 am.

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker, Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker, Union ministers, Chairman of Union Civil Services Board (UCSB), Chairman of Subcommittee for holding State flag-hoisting and-

saluting ceremony for 65th Anniversary Independence Day Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander, and guests also took position there.

The State flag-saluting ceremony took place at 6.50 am. After that, Chairman of Central Committee for holding the 65th Anniversary Independence Day Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham read the message sent by President Agga Maha Thayay Sithu, Agga Maha

Thiri Thudhamma U Thein Sein, to the 65th Anniversary Independence Day ceremony. Offices, Nay Pyi Taw City Hall, roundabouts, Myanmar Gems Museum, Mani Yadana Jade Hall, Jade Park, Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market, Thabyaygon market, buildings and staff quarters, were illuminated with colorful lights, yesterday and today night.—MNA



Nay Pyi Taw marks Independence Day

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—The 65th Anniversary Independence Day was held with the essence of freedom, happiness and discipline in Nay Pyi Taw overwhelmingly here today.

Under the supervision of the Ministries in Nay Pyi Taw, the funfairs were

conducted in respective sports grounds and schools with the attendance of the Union ministers, the deputy ministers, responsible persons and people.

The authorized persons presented prizes to winners. The National Landmark Garden, Zoological Garden,

Water Fountain Garden and some significant places in Nay Pyi Taw were packed with people today. The buildings and roundabouts, here were illuminated yesterday and today as a gesture of hailing the Independence Day.

MNA



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

KIA blow up two loaded trucks

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—A truck (7hta/7512) driven by Pho Zaw and another one (9hta/26489) driven by Soe Naing Win, which were on their way from Lwejel to Bhamo with oranges, apples and snack packages,

were intercepted between Yawyon and Byinwaing villages by about ten KIA members holding small arms at 9.30 am yesterday.

The armed group forced the drivers and conductors to get off the vehicles and leave their mobile phones

and K 100,000.

The KIA then blew up the two vehicles with mines.

The local security personnel are clearing the surrounding areas of the incident.

MNA

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

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—Union Minister for Transport UNyan Tun Aung and Union Minister for Livestock and Fisheries U Ohn Myint met with a delegation led by Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister of Japan Mr. Taro Aso at the office of the Ministry of Transport, here, yesterday evening.

At the call, both sides cordially exchanged views on construction of international-standard ports at Thilawa Special Economic Zone, programmes for resumption of new aids by Japan, starting construction of ports with the assistance of Japan Yen before the end of March, construction

of three meteorology radar stations, purchase of three ferry boats, purchase of airplanes for Myanmar Airways with Japan's loan, aid and technical assistance of Japan in Myanmar's off- and onshore fishery industries and meat and fishery production sector.

MNA

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

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

Yangon Region

Development Affairs Minister Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint and wife enjoyed funfairs and sports competitions in Mingala Taungnyunt Township.

Offices and buildings were illuminated with

colourful lights. Zoological Gardens (Yangon), Kandawgyi Aquarium Museum, the People's Square, the People's Park and other parks were packed with holiday makers.

MNA



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