Established 1914

Volume XVII, Number 257 14th Waxing of Pyatho 1371 ME Tuesday, 29 December, 2009

The spirit of cherishing independence

In Myanmar history, the Myanmar people’s spirit of cherishing and safeguarding independence has been strong and prominent.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From the message sent on the occasion of the 49th Anniversary of Independence Day)

Hailing the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day:
Myanmar Railways building railroad network in public interest

Aung (Srekestra)

Better transport plays an important role in improvement of socio-economic life of the people. Improvements of road networks are important for traveling with the purpose of education, health and social matters from one place to another, better flow of commodities, stable prices and development of businesses. In addition, it contributes much to promoting friendships among the national brethren.

So, the government is constructing networks of roads across the nation in line with guidance of the Head of State in order to have harmonious developments in the country. Myanmar Railways is making endeavors for construction of railroads in all states and divisions. Myanmar Railways is constructing a network of railroads linking already-existing south to north railroads with east-to-west ones.

Due to the rapid development of communication in the world our country is becoming more strategic in the southeast and the south Asia. Being situated among China, India, Bangladesh and ASEAN countries, Myanmar becomes the main trade route for these countries. It can be seen that export and import from the middlewest and the southwest of China through Myanmar is a shorter and more profitable route.

Deep sea ports are being built in Kyaukpyu and Dawei. And plans are under way to establish economic and industrial development zones there. There

A train running on Magway-Kanpya railroad section.

Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
- National reconciliation
- Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives
- Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
- The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives
- Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
- Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
- Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
- Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

(See page 8)
**Extend cultivation of rubber plants of quality strains**

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe toured Mon State on 26 December and inspected regional development work.

In his guidance during his inspection tour, Head of State Senior General Than Shwe said that rubber plantations thrived well and there were still vast stretches of land for extended cultivation of rubber and that rubber was to be grown on an extensive scale in cooperation with local people after finding out how much cultivable area was available and how to increase the rubber sown acreage in the long term.

Rubber is an industrial raw material and rubber trade is becoming brisk in the international market. Nowadays, rubber is in good demand because it is used together with chemicals to produce a wide variety of consumer goods.

Various kinds of crops grow well in Myanmar because of its good climatic and soil conditions. Rubber has been grown in Mon State for many years. As the region gets a lot of rain, it is the biggest producer of rubber in the nation. Now, rubber can be grown not only in Mon State but also in Kayin State, Taninthayi Division, Kachin State and Shan State. Therefore, rubber cultivation is being extended on a commercial scale.

The government is providing plots of land, rubber saplings of quality strains and modern cultivation technology to rubber growers. It is also helping them replace old rubber trees with rubber plants of quality strains and to produce finished wood products from old rubber trees.

Rubber trees can be tapped, starting from the time when they are eight years old till they are 30 years old. Neighbouring countries offer good prices for rubber produced by Myanmar. Therefore, we would like to call on farmers and national entrepreneurs to extend growing rubber plants of quality strains on a commercial scale in order to serve national interests as well as their own.

**Minister inspects Ngwechi-6 cotton brokerage and factories**

NAY PYI TAW, 28 Dec—Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung, accompanied by officials, arrived at Ngwechi-6 cotton brokerage of Myanmar Textile Industries opened in Myaungmya town yesterday morning and met with cotton farmers and inspected cotton purchase, moisture test and storage of cotton.

Next, the minister looked into cotton purchase, moisture test and storage of cotton at cotton factory in Taungdwingyi and separate storage of purified Ngwechi-6 cotton and progress in grading cotton at the factory.

At the horse and sheep breeding farm project (Yanpel) of Myanma Pharmaceutical Industries in Taungdwingyi Township, the minister oversaw progress in breeding horses, birth rate, horses at the stables and good species of sheep and gave instructions on extended breeding of horses and sheep.

At the maize product factory (Yanpel) of Myanma Foodstuff Industries, the minister inspected production process of maize, production of glue powder and maize oil and grading of cotton seeds and gave instructions on manufacturing of good quality products.

Next, the minister met with the factory manager and officials at the briefing hall of the factory and urged them to abide by rules and regulations for the realization of production target.—**MNA**

**MAC holds diploma and prize awarding ceremony**

YANGON, 28 Dec—The ceremony to present certificates of Certified Public Accountant and Diploma in Accounting in CPA Course Nos 29, 30 (second semester) and 30 (second semester) held in February and July 2009. The officials of MAC presented gifts and cash to those who stood first, second and third grades in CPA Course Nos 29 and 30 (second semester) held in February and July 2009.

Chairman of Myanmar Accountancy Council Auditor-General Maj-Gen Lun Maung made an introductory speech there. The MAC also presented gifts and cash to the outstanding trainees.

**AA Electronics’ special sale promotion in progress**

YANGON, 28 Dec—AA Electronics, the sole agent for branded electronics such as Samsung, Star and Fuji for Myanmar, holds its special sale promotion programme at Samsung Showroom and Star Showroom at the corner of Maha Bandoola Street and 35th Street, and Samsung Showrooms on Pansodan Street, and at the corner of Maha Bandoola and Bo Aung Kyaw Streets from 23 to 31 December.

It discounts a LED TV worth nearly 3 million to less than 2 million kyats, offering special discounts on refrigerators, washing machines, air-conditioners, CRT, TV, VCD, DVD, EVD, aircoolers, fans, watercoolers.

AA Electronics’ excellent quality products are available not only at the ongoing exhibitions but also at the showrooms in other townships.—**MNA**
**Bombs kill seven in Iraq**

**Baghdad, 28 Dec —** A bomb killed five Shi'ite pilgrims in a procession in northeast Iraq on Sunday and blasts in Baghdad killed two more pilgrims as millions of people marched to commemorate the most important Shi'ite religious observance.

Pilgrims traveling to the southern holy city of Karbala have come under repeated attack during the 10-day religious ceremonies that culminated on Sunday with huge processions.

Dozens of pilgrims have been killed and more than 150 wounded during the Ashoura observance by insurgents hoping to intensify sectarian violence that reached a peak in 2006 and 2007, though the pace of violence has dropped sharply since then.

Tight security encircled Karbala, 50 miles (80 kilometers) south of Baghdad, where 25,000 additional security personnel deployed. Snipers watched marchers from rooftops, and bomb detection dogs were used in the search for explosives.

**Road accident rate in India is among the highest in the world, with some 100,000 people killed each year,**

**NEW DELHI, 28 Dec —** More than 10 people were injured when a speeding bus in which they were traveling hit a road divider in the Indian national capital. The injured have been admitted to the national capital. The injured have been admitted to a hospital, the official said.

The driver of the bus has been absconding, he said, adding that a probe has been ordered into the incident.

Road accident rate in India is among the highest in the world, with some 100,000 people killed each year, according to official estimates. —\[Xinhua\]

**Aviation kills seven in northern Italy**

**ROME, 28 Dec —** Seven people were killed in an avalanche in the Italian Alps at the weekend, among whom six were Italians and one German. Their bodies were found on Sunday. On Saturday afternoon, two tourists went missing while climbing a mountain in the northeastern region of Trentino-Alto Adige.

A group of seven mountain climbers went to their rescue but were hit by an avalanche on their way back. Four rescuers were killed. The six bodies were found on Sunday and all of them were Italians.

Meanwhile, three German youths were also caught in the avalanche while skiing in the Alps in the Bolzano Province, also in the Trentino-Alto Adige region.

A 12-year-old boy was killed in the avalanche while his brother survived. The third was airlifted to a hospital in Bolzano. —\[Xinhua\]

**Netanyahu says will visit Egypt on Tuesday**

**JERUSALEM, 28 Dec —** Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said on Sunday he would hold talks in Egypt on Tuesday with President Hosni Mubarak to seek ways to promote Middle East peacemaking.

"I believe we have an interest in moving the peace process forward in a variety of ways," Netanyahu told reporters at the start of the weekly cabinet meeting.

"I am mediating a prisoner trade between Israel and Hamas under which the Islamist group, in charge of the Gaza Strip, would release captured soldier Gilad Shalit and Israel would free some 1,000 of the 11,000 Palestinians in its jails.\[Xinhua\]

"Two Gaza-based Hamas leaders, Mahmoud al-Zahar and Khalil al-Hayya, were headed on Tuesday to Syria via Egypt, a Hamas spokesman said. They planned to discuss with Damascus-based Hamas leaders Israel’s response to a proposed swap.\[Xinhua\]

**125 pilot whales die on NZ beaches, 43 saved**

**Wellington, 28 Dec —** Some 125 pilot whales died in New Zealand after stranding on the beach over the weekend — but vacationers and conservation workers on Sunday managed to coax 43 others back out to sea.

Rescuers monitored the survivors as they swam in the surf. Department of Conservation workers and hundreds of volunteers helped re-float the 43 whales at high tide. The volunteers covered the stranded mammals in sheets and kept them wet through the day.

"A joint operation of Afghan and NATO-led troops in Balmirghab District on Sunday has left eight rebels dead," provincial police chief Syed Ahmad Sami told Xinhua. He also added that militants raided a police checkpoint in the neighbouring Qudis District on Sunday afternoon, killing two police constables. Three militants were also killed when police returned fire, he further said. However, he confirmed that three policemen had gone missing from the checkpoint. Locals said Taleban fighters apparently took them away. —\[Xinhua\]

**II militants, two policemen killed in NW Afghanistan**

**KAREL, 28 Dec —** Conflict and Taleban-related violence claimed the lives of more than a dozen people in the Northwest Badghis Province of Afghanistan, police said on Monday.

"A joint operation of Afghan and NATO-led troops in Balmirghab District on Sunday has left eight rebels dead," provincial police chief Syed Ahmad Sami told Xinhua. He also added that militants raided a police checkpoint in the neighbouring Qudis District on Sunday afternoon, killing two police constables. Three militants were also killed when police returned fire, he further said. However, he confirmed that three policemen had gone missing from the checkpoint. Locals said Taleban fighters apparently took them away. —\[Xinhua\]

**A police official said the Minister for Youth and Sports, Jassim Mohammed Jaafar, was among those in the targeted procession, but was unharmed. One of his bodyguards and a police captain were among the dead.\[Xinhua\]

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**Road accident rate in India is among the highest in the world, with some 100,000 people killed each year,**

**NEW DELHI, 28 Dec —** More than 10 people were injured when a speeding bus in which they were traveling hit a road divider in the Indian national capital on Sunday morning, a senior police official said.

"The mishap took place when the driver of the state-owned Delhi Road Corporation bus lost control of the vehicle and rammed into the road divider in south of the national capital. The injured have been admitted to a local hospital," the official said.

The driver of the bus has been absconding, he said, adding that a probe has been ordered into the incident.

Road accident rate in India is among the highest in the world, with some 100,000 people killed each year, according to official estimates. —\[Xinhua\]
China likely to become top global exporter in 2009

BEIJING, 28 Dec—China is likely to overtake Germany as the world’s largest exporter in 2009, despite a sharp fall in shipments as the global downturn took its toll, a high-ranking trade official has said.

The country’s share of global trade is expected to exceed nine percent this year, up from 8.86 percent in 2008, Vice Commerce Minister Zhong Shan said at a forum here on Sunday.

“China will probably surpass Germany to become the largest exporting country,” he said, according to a statement posted on the ministry’s website.

However, 2009 was a tough year for the Asian giant with full-year exports predicted to decline by 16 percent on-year, Zhong added—the biggest decline in at least three decades, according to available ministry data.

He blamed the drop on “severely weak international demand” and “ris ing trade protectionism”, adding the value of trade disputes brought against China in terms of potential losses doubled this year to 12 billion dollars.

The country will face an “even more complicated foreign trade situation and more arduous tasks” in 2010 given on-going uncertainties in international demand and the stability of the yuan’s exchange rate, Zhong said...—Internet

Japanese industrial output increases for ninth consecutive month in Nov

TOKYO, 28 Dec—Industrial Production in Japan continued to increase in November, according to a preliminary report released on Monday by the Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry (METI).

Production in Japan rose a seasonally-adjusted 2.6 percent in November from October to 88.3, against a 2005 base-average of 100 marking the ninth consecutive month production has increased in Japan. The report, however, noted a contraction of minus 3.5 percent from this time last year.

Industries cited by METI as predominantly contributing to November’s increase are transport equipment and general machinery. Commodities responsible for buoying November’s output are large passenger cars, small passenger cars, drive, transmission and control parts, in that order, according to the report.

Shipments also rose for a ninth successive month in November, increasing 0.9 percent from October, to 89.6, although on year the rate was down 3.1 percent.

General machinery, iron and steel and transport equipment are the major industries contributing to the latest shipments increase.

Following the upward trend in November, Industrial Inventory was up 0.2 percent from October, to 93.5, led by information and communication electronics equipment, chemicals and transport equipment industries, the report stated. On year, however, inventory has slumped 14.6 percent.—Xinhua...

Indonesia eyes $3.57b investment in mining, geothermal

JAKARTA, 28 Dec—Indonesia hopes to raise 3.57-billion-US dollars investment in mining and geothermal energy next year, representing an increase of more than 90 percent of realized one this year, the Jakarta Post quoted an senior official as saying on Monday.

“This year, the government predicted that investment in the sector would reach 2.33 billion dollars, but only 80 percent of the target has been achieved so far,” said Witoor Soelarno, the Secretary to the Directorate General for Mineral, Coal and Geothermal Energy at the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry. ...

Oil fuels new rally for Ghana’s once-booming stocks

ACCRA, 28 Dec—Ghana’s stock exchange was the best performing market in the world in 2008 but has suffered this year in the global economic crisis. Now, an oil boom is putting the west African nation back on track.

After rising 58.06 percent in 2008, the Ghana Stock Exchange (GSE) has fallen 47.87 percent so far this year as foreign investors shunned assets considered risky while local investors sought refuge in short-term securities. Market observers say the bourse will bounce back in the year ahead as Ghana prepares to pump out oil for the first time, with interest rate cuts, a strong local currency, the cedi, and falling inflation also boosting confidence.

“We are expecting GSE All Share index to climb to about 35 percent as commercial oil production will commence in the last quarter of next year,” Edeem Dewortor, a stock analyst with Ecobank Development Corporation, told AFP. The GSE-All Share index gained 2.04 percent from Monday to Thursday last week before closing for Christmas break.

“The outlook for the Ghanaian bourse next year is very bright as the local currency is holding against the major international trading currencies and inflation is on the decline,” said analyst Collins Appiah of Gold Coast Securities.—Internet

Peru to invest $840m in expanding oil pipeline

LIMA, 28 Dec—State run oil company PetroPeru said on Sunday it will reiterate in 2010 the expansion project for the North Peruvian oil pipeline to transport heavy oil from the country’s jungle region to the coast.

PetroPeru General Manager Miguel Celi told reporters the expansion project for the 544-km-long oil pipeline is expected to cost $400 million US dollars.

He added that PetroPeru wants to sign an agreement with the oil companies in Cuenca del Maranon, Amazonas Province, to guarantee the transportation volume so that Petroperu could recover the cost.

According to Celi, French company Perenco needed to confirm its production volume and then sign with Petroperu an agreement on the mode of payment. —Xinhua

An oil rig for oil exploration is pictured at the Port of Takoradi, Ghana in 2008. Ghana’s stock exchange was the best performing market in the world in 2008 but has suffered this year in the global economic crisis. Now, an oil boom is putting the west African nation back on track. —Xinhua

A worker is seen at a construction site in an industrial district in Tokyo on 28 December, 2009. Japan’s industrial output rose for the ninth consecutive month in November, the longest streak of gains in more than 12 years, driven by demand from the United States and Asia as well as domestic subsidies. —INTERNET

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China to launch Chang’e-2 satellite at the end of 2010

BEIJING, 28 Dec — China planned to launch the Chang’e-2, the country’s second lunar probe, at the end of 2010, the State Administration of Industry for National Science Technology and State Administration of China’s second lunar probe, the Chang’e-2, was to test key soft landing technologies for the test key soft landing technologies. The Chang’e-2 and Chang’e-3 are part of the second phase of the country’s lunar exploration programme. The Chang’e-1 lunar probe was launched in October 2007 as the first step of China’s three-stage moon mission. “Chang’e” is named after a legendary Chinese moon goddess.

Paraguay detains Brazil’s most wanted drug trafficker

BUENOS AIRES, 28 Dec — The Paraguayan National Anti-Drug Ministry (Senad) on Sunday detained Jarvis Chimenes Pavao, Brazil’s most wanted drug trafficker. According to information reaching here from Asuncion, capital of Paraguay, “the operation was carried out in the ranch ‘El Hotel’ in Yby Ya’u, in Concepcion department, north of the country.”

Representatives of the handicapped receivescarves presented by volunteers in an activity of Showing Solicitudes to the Disabled at the Library of Anhui Province, on 17 Dec, 2009.—Xinhua

Helicopter accident kills two in north Brazil

BRASILIA, 28 Dec — The Brazilian aeronautics command said on Sunday that they found two bodies on Sunday morning together with the remains of a Robinson R-44 helicopter of the Brazilian Aerial Force (FAB). The helicopter had seen last time on 23 Dec, when it took off from Sao Paulo heading for Sao Luiz, capital of Maranhao State in the north of the country, the sources said.

Acceding to the sources there were two people aboard the helicopter and none of them survived.

The last contact that the air traffic had with the helicopter was at 2:28 pm local time on 23 Dec, the sources said.

Meanwhile, the Brazilian National Centre of Aeronautic Accidents Investigation and Prevention are in charge of determining the causes of the accident.—Xinhua

Israeli soldier killed in shooting incident

JERUSALEM, 28 Dec — Israeli emergency services said that an Israeli soldier was killed in a shooting incident in southern city of Be’er Sheva on Sunday. Local media quoted emergency services as saying that the soldier was shot by a fellow soldier in a mall and died after being sent to hospital. The gunman has been arrested and local police forces have been investigating the incident.

The incident was believed a criminal incident, and local daily Haaretz reported that the shooting resulted from a quarrel between the two persons. Security situation in Israel became sensitive these days after Israeli forces killed six Palestinians, including three militants, in two attacks early on Saturday in northern Gaza Strip and the West Bank city of Nablus. Israeli army said the three persons they killed in Nablus were suspected of involvement in killing an Israeli last week.—Xinhua

China’s escort fleet completes 150 missions in Somali waters

GULF OF ADEN, 28 Dec — China’s naval fleet has completed 150 missions after escorting 14 vessels to protect them from possible pirate attacks in Somali waters on Sunday. The 11 Chinese and three foreign ships, including Yongsheng, Zhen Hua 14, Anning and Apollo, arrived peacefully in the waters of the eastern Gulf of Aden under the escort of China’s missile frigate Ma’anshan and supply ship Qiandaohu.

They set sailed on Friday morning from the waters of the western Gulf of Aden and travelled eastward. During their journey, all the Chinese ships were flying the Chinese national flag and whistled for 30 seconds to celebrate the anniversary of the Chinese navy escort mission in the Gulf of Aden and express thanks to the fleet over the year.—Xinhua

Indonesia to raise levies for forest restoration

JAKARTA, 28 Dec — Indonesia will raise levies in a bid to add 30 trillion rupiah (about 3.24 billion US dollars) in the state budget to finance its forest restoration programmes over the next 10 years, the Jakarta Post quoted a minister as saying on Monday.

“We’ll increase the forest levies as planned. We understand the forestry industry is in a slump, so we’ll proceed after listening to their opinion so that the increase will not impose too high burden on them,” said the Forestry Ministry Zulkifli Hasan over the weekend.

The levies, which are categorized as non-state budget revenue will be applied next year.

However, he noted, the increase would be designed to promote the forest restoration campaign and to encourage the public not to cut down trees irresponsibly, while allowing the forest industry to grow.
Let’s safeguard independence at risk to our lives

Padaung Than Kywe

Myanmar managed to throw off the yoke of the colonial rule and became an independent, sovereign nation again on 4 January 1948. The Independence Day entered into the 62nd anniversary on 4 January 2010. At 3rd century BC, Myanmar emerged with own monarchs and self-determination as city states such as Vishnu, Hanlin, Thuwunnabumi, Tagaung, Vesali, and Srikestra.

King Anawrahta unified scattered regions into the First Myanmar Empire, King Bayinnaung organized disunited regions into the Second Myanmar Empire with Toungoo in its centre. King Alaung Phaya established the Third Myanmar Empire with Shwebo in its core.

In the course of Myanmar history, all national races such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan have been living in unity with Union Spirit and mutual understanding, sharing joys and sorrows. They have all safeguarded the motherland at all costs, preserving and promoting the traditional and national values and arts and culture for ensuring perpetuity of the State and sovereignty. Now, Myanmar has stood tall as an independent, sovereign nation with self-determination in the world throughout successive periods.

Being situated in Asian mainland with a wide access to the sea, Myanmar occupies a geographically strategic position. It is adjacent to interior Asian regions in the northwest and north. It shares the border with heavily populated China and India and is close to southeastern, southern, and eastern Asian countries.

Myanmar has vast areas of farmlands with favourable climate pattern to grow crops on a large scale. More than half the nation’s total area is covered by resource-rich forests. Myanmar is a source of crops and is rich in natural resources including precious stones, tea and oil. Rich natural resources and strategic location of Myanmar drew the covetousness from the colonialists.

After annexing India into its empire, the British colonialists occupied Myanmar through three aggressive wars in 19th century. The British colonization of Myanmar led to loss of the monarchy, sovereignty and independence. Myanmar are a people of self-sacrifice in the interest of their motherland and own race, cherishing own race, sovereignty, culture, traditions and customs, and being sensitive to national cause. So, Myanmar people bravely fought back the colonialists, risking life and limb, and finally regained independence and sovereignty.

Sovereignty is the lifeblood of a country. If the three sovereign powers namely legislative power, executive power and judicial power fall down directly or indirectly to aliens or alien countries, the nation comes under slavery according to neo-colonialism.

Some countries are under the occupation of foreign troops that have entered the countries uninvited. So, those countries are in no position to take measures for national security and reconstruction. They are leading an uneasy life due to shambles and puppet governments. The peoples of those countries are now at the mercy of alien invaders, Indiscriminate bomb attacks and firing arms cost lives of thousands of civilians, from which good lessons can be taken.

Today, a nation may be broken into pieces on purpose even if it does not split itself into parts. Certain military powers do not hesitate to threaten and use force if they find it difficult to destroy their targeted countries. They are using the term of the World War III irresponsibly, thus showing disregard for international law and the sovereignty of other countries. The policy they stick to is might is right.

Only with a strong national force will it be possible for a country to defend its independence on self-reliant basis. And only with a strong sense of nationalistic spirit and consolidated unity will a nation be able to build up its strength. For a nation, national unity is a driving force for it to be able to stand shoulder to shoulder with other global partners.

Thereby the government has given top priority to national reconsolidation, putting an end to internal armed insurgency that made the nation lag behind other countries in development for about 40 years. Now, the entire people are pursuing the national goal of building a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation. In the process, State stability and peace, the rule of law, economic growth of the nation than 41,700 miles, compared with only more than 21,000 miles in 1988. It is improving the transportation by upgrading old railroads and building new ones. Up to now, it has built a large quantity of bridges including river-crossing ones. Now, the number of above-180-foot road bridges touches 233, and that of above-180-foot railroad bridges, 55. Moreover, it has been constructing new airports and upgrading old ones. Now, the number of over-5000-foot runway airports has risen to 37 from only 21 in 1988.

More than that, jetties that can deal with seagoing vessels has amounted to 28, up from only 13 in 1988. During the period, the government has established three container yards. In the communication sector, it has installed many more auto telephone and mobile phone lines.

Previously, the nation could generate only 228 megawatts of hydropower, but it now generates 1197 megawatts of hydropower a year, a sharp rise that has brought the total output of electric power to 2355.9 megawatts. When the 47 ongoing hydropower projects are completed, the nation will be able to generate 37,467.5 more megawatts of electric power. Now, the government is working hard to complete the construction of a network of grids with the aim of distributing electric power to many other regions. Now, the number of basic education schools across the nation has reached 40,679. So, the enrollment rate of children to primary school has gone up to 98.25 per cent, and adult literacy rate, to 94.89 per cent. The number of universities and colleges has surged from 32 to 159. In the health sector, the government has built 253 hospitals and upgraded 264 hospitals, thereby adding the number of hospitals to 884. And 16 universities of paramedical science have been set up. Therefore, the people have had more access to better health care and enjoyed better lifespan.

On the whole, fruitful results of nation-building tasks are tangible everywhere across the nation. Disintegration of national unity, riots and conflicts can make no contribution towards the transforming of the nation into a modern, developed one. The goal can be achieved only through national unity, patriotism, self-sacrificing fervour, thrift, hard work, self-discipline, and sense of abiding by the law.

In order to ensure perpetuity of independence and sovereignty of the nation, it is required of the entire national brethren to remain united and to uphold non-disintegration of the Union and non-disintegration of national solidarity. Besides, all are to do their bit in building a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accordance with the constitution that has been approved with the vast majority of the ballot. They are also exhorted to participate with heart and soul and a sense of Union Spirit and patriotism in the drive for successful completion of the State’s seven-step Road Map.

Translation: MS
Information Minister visits dailies in Yangon

YANGON, 28 Dec—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, accompanied by heads of department, and officials, inspected the Myanma Alin Daily press on Natmauk Lane (1) in Bahan Township here yesterday evening. Officials concerned conducted the minister round the editorial section, computer section, proof reading section, Administration Division, Budgets and Accounts Division, and printing presses.

The minister held a meeting with the staff and spoke words of encouragement and presented them cash awards.

Next, he inspected the computer room, image-setter room, and the printing press at The New Light of Myanmar Daily on Strand Road in Botataung Township. Officials concerned conducted the minister round the building. In meeting with the staff, the minister spoke words of encouragement and presented cash awards to them.

He also inspected the printing room at the Myanma Alin Printing Press that prints and publishes Kyemon Daily on Komin Kochin Road in Bahan Township. He met with the staff members and presented cash awards to them.

On his inspection tour, the minister called for more careful attention to the work for improvement of printing quality, minimizing loss and wastage of newsprint and office equipment, cooperation and coordination to meet the requirements, regular maintenance to printing presses, better staff welfare, and preventive measures against fire, and fulfilled the requirements of the staff.

MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan makes speech at The New Light of Myanmar Daily.—MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects printing room of The New Light of Myanmar Daily press.—MNA

Bawditahtaung dam...

(from page 16)

Assistant director (maintenance) U Kyaw Sein of Monywa District Irrigation Department explained to us about the dam, “For economic and regional development, more agriculture production and greening of the region, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation is building medium and big size dams as well as small dams like Bawditahtaung dam in line with the guidance of the Head of State. Construction of the dam began in September 2006 and completed in July 2007. The construction work only lasted for ten months. It contributes to greening of Bawditahtaung religious area and supply of water to 100 acres of farmlands.

Deputy staff officer U Than Swe conducted us round the dam and storage of water. Staff officer U Myaing of Irrigation Department, incharge of dam construction, explained to us, “At present, 30,000 gallons of water is pumped to hilly religious area daily. The region is now greening with thriving Bo trees. Monywa district is in arid zone. The average annual rain fall is 32 inches. Water that flows into the dam is 560 acres feet and the storage capacity is 683 acres feet. The main canal is 3,000 feet long and the dam has 43 buffer canal structure. The dam was built at a cost of K 518 million.”

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, Irrigation Department has been building small, medium and big dams to store water without being waste. And Bawditahtaung dam, were opened. And Inyintha, Ingyinbin and Ingyinthapow, Angliya and Ingyinthapow dams are under construction.

The Bawditahtaung dam is of earthen type and 670 feet long and 75 feet high. It was constructed by damming Yehtwat creek. It contributes not only to supply of water to 100 acres of farmlands but also to greening of Bawditahtaung religious area. It is also known that arrangements have been made to construct a small hydro power generator.

Translation: MT

Myanma Alin
(26-12-2009)
Hailing the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day:

Myanmar Railways building railroad network in public interest

Aung (Srekestra)

Safeguard independence and sovereignty through might of patriotism

will soon create opportunities for production of quality and improved natural resources, for development of human resources with the use of modern technologies and management, for gaining experiences in international trades, relations and banking services and for generating job opportunities. The road networks will contribute much to creating more economic and trade opportunities. So, the road networks in advance is the right step to cope with the opportunities that will soon emerge for the people.

Employing parallel development strategy, railroads are being constructed across the nation. Railroads to Bhamo of Kachin State, Kengtung of Shan State, Myeik of Taninthayi Division and Kyauktaw and Sittway of Taninthayi Division for speedier improvement of railroads. Moreover, three concrete sleeper manufacturing plants, each of which can produce about 0.6 million of sleepers annually, are now under construction in Myitnge, Pyuntanza and Mottama. Those factories produce around 0.6 million units of sleepers annually and wooden old sleepers have been replaced with concrete ones from those plants according to priority. Currently, a total of 10,457,611 units of sleepers have been used in all the railroads of MR and three more sleeper manufacturing plants, each of which can produce about 0.6 million of sleepers on a yearly basis, are now under construction in Oakshiptin (Bago Division), Pakokku and KhinU (Sagaing Division) for speedier improvement of railroads. Moreover, plans are under way to construct reinforced concrete sleeper manufacturing plants in Minbu for Minbu-An-Sittway railroad section and reinforced concrete sleeper manufacturing plants in Shwenyaung for railroad projects in Southern Shan State.

Before 1988, Myanma Railways ran 243 passenger trains, 18 cargo trains and 206 engines. Now, MR runs 412 passenger trains, 21 cargo trains and 319 engines. Before 1988, there were 1976.35 miles of railroads and 2793.86 miles of rail tracks. Up to the end of November 2009, there emerged 3305.65 miles of railroads and 4404.22 miles of rail tracks. There existed 487 railway stations and 5,650 rail bridges before 1988 and now are 840 railway stations and 10627 rail bridges. MR is constructing 1234.54 miles of railroads including Thaet-Kyunchaung rail road (183 miles), Dawei-Myeik (132 miles), Mongni-Kengtung (226 miles), Katha-Bhamo (98 miles), Yachangyi-An-Minbu (245.54 miles), Hinthada-Zalun-Danubyu-Nyaunlon (spanning Ayeyawady River) (48 miles) and Pathein (Begayet)-Nyaun gon-Yangon (Hlinethaya) (87 miles) in addition to Pyawbwe-Natman-Kanpya-Magway (95 miles) and Pyay (Shwe daga)-Toungoo (Kyauktaw) (120 miles) railroads laying from east to west.

In order to replace easy-to-decay wooden sleepers with reinforced concrete ones for convenience of train travellers, three concrete sleeper plants have been established in Myitnige, Pyuntanza and Mottama. Those factories produce around 0.6 million units of sleepers annually and wooden old sleepers have been replaced with concrete ones from those plants according to priority. Currently, a total of 10,457,611 units of sleepers have been used in all the railroads of MR and three more sleeper manufacturing plants, each of which can produce about 0.6 million of sleepers on a yearly basis, are now under construction in Oakshiptin (Bago Division), Pakokku and KhinU (Sagaing Division) for speedier improvement of railroads. Moreover, plans are under way to construct reinforced concrete sleeper manufacturing plants in Minbu for Minbu-An-Sittway railroad section and reinforced concrete sleeper manufacturing plants in Shwenyaung for railroad projects in Southern Shan State.

On observing the developments worldwide, there have been instances that once there emerged a transport corridor, trade activities developed along the corridor, which led to better healthcare and education, and the transport corridor would finally transform into economic corridor driven by economic growth as a result. Like these examples, areas with better communication links including railroads will pass through regions with boom in economy and thus will contribute to livelihood and improved socio-economic life of people.

Over 100 national brethren are residing in the Union. Creeks, rivers and mountain ranges pose as barriers, thus there was a limit in contacts among national brethren and national solidarity was weak in consequence. Playing upon these points, colonialists, with every tricks in the book, sowed discord among national brethren and they endured the evil consequences of misunderstanding and doubt between each other.

With the emergence of more and more transport networks, national, social and economic relations among national brethren will increase, and thereby further strengthening friendship, empathy and love towards each other and all-round development including peace and stability and improved socio-economic status would as a result. In accord with the guidance of the Head of State on improvement in rail transportation sector and with his fulfillments, ways and means have been sought for complete production of engines, coaches and carriages at home and so far 591 coaches and 373 carriages have been built from 1988 till now. Moreover, three engines have been built with related materials and three others have been built in search technology, totalling six. Now, six new engines are being assembled with generators and motors imported and home-made industrial materials, electronics, rubber materials, steel frame and framework. The first engine was completed in December and the remaining five will be completed before June, 2010. Since 1992 local entrepreneurs, foreign experts, technicians from universities and enterprises and experienced...
Hailing the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day:
Myanma Railways building railroad network in public interest

Aung (Srekestra)

(persons had held several discussions to help private entrepreneurs, factories and workshops to be able to produce spare machine parts domestically for repair and maintenance of engine and coaches. After order placements and trial-production, a total of 666 kinds of spare parts and machine parts could finally be produced. Consequently, there has been an increase in income and job opportunities of local entrepreneurs. Furthermore, it has contributed to use of locomotives and coaches at full capacity as MR now can purchase spare machine parts at low price and the time of waiting for spare parts has been reduced.

On 5 December, 2009, an exhibition of 418 kinds of machine parts and machine tools that are required for construction of engines, coaches and carriages was held at Insein loco shed in which local entrepreneurs were invited to manufacture these items and technicians and nine entrepreneurs were awarded recognition shield and cash awards for their effective innovations and pearls of wisdom. Now, train parts-production industry is growing with a great pace and especially almost all rubber spare machine parts and machine tools used by MR can be produced. Production of domestically-made locomotives will gain momentum soon with engines and related materials manufactured by Thagara multi-purpose engine plant, and machine parts and machine tools by factories in Sinte, Malun, Nyaungkyehtauk and Myaing, all of which are under Ministry of Industry-2.

Now, No 29 Up and No 30 Down expresses plying between Yangon and Mandalay have been equipped with air-con sleeper coaches since 5 December and Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay round-trip express equipped with air-con sleeper coaches will be launched. With newly-bought airconditioner-equipped upper class, passengers can travel with peace of mind.

In conformity with the slogan of MR, “MR serving the interest of the public, linking regions across the nation as network”, MR has been making endeavours in the nation-building tasks.

Rail Transportation sector

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>particular</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>now</th>
<th>progress</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Passenger trains (run)</td>
<td>243</td>
<td>412</td>
<td>169</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cargo train (run)</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Engine (unit)</td>
<td>239</td>
<td>319</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Railroads (mile)</td>
<td>1,976</td>
<td>3,305</td>
<td>1,329</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Rail track (mile)</td>
<td>2,793</td>
<td>4,402</td>
<td>1,609</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Railway station (unit)</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>840</td>
<td>353</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Rail bridge (unit)</td>
<td>5,650</td>
<td>10,627</td>
<td>4,977</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Number of passenger (million per year)</td>
<td>48.8</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>18.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Tonnage of transported goods (million per year)</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.5</td>
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New railroads under construction

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<th>Sr</th>
<th>Railroad section</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Thayet-Kyunchang</td>
<td>183.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Katha-Bhamo</td>
<td>98.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mongnai-Kengtung</td>
<td>226.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Pyawbwe-Natmauk-Kanpya-Magway</td>
<td>95.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Dawei-Myeik</td>
<td>132.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Yechanpyin-An-Minbu</td>
<td>245.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Pathein (Begayet)-Nyaungdon-Yangon (Hlinethaya)</td>
<td>87.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Pyay (Shwedaga)-Toungoo (Kyetaw)-Nay Pyi Taw</td>
<td>120.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Hinthada-Nyaungdon</td>
<td>48.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total (mile)</td>
<td>1234.54</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New railroads project to be implemented

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr</th>
<th>Road section</th>
<th>mile</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bago-Kayan-Thonegwa-Thanlyin (Okkphosa)</td>
<td>67.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Lashio-Muse</td>
<td>145.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Kalay-Tamu</td>
<td>84.35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total (mile)</td>
<td>296.60</td>
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</table>

Poem

On a misty 4th January

* In the morning mist
  In high spirits the people
  On that auspicious 4th January
  Regained they independence
  As fresh as a mist sprinkled flower

* We fell into colonialist quagmire
  Formed with multi means of wickedness
  In the darkness we were enslaved
  Colonialists trying to prolong their rule
  Applying tricks and ploys in various ways

* Although we lost independence
  Always kept in hearts
  Eternal national unity
  And unity as base
  As it alone led us to freedom
  Struggled we with formidable force
  Till independence was regained

* Overcoming hardships restored we independence
  Sacrificing lives, blood and sweat
  O, all our national races
  Let’s safeguard independence with unity
  For its perpetuation
  And in harmony and unison
  Will be developing like rising sun

Translation:

U Aung Mon-Maha Weikza (Trs)
Group urges kids spend more time outdoors

WASHINGTON, 28 Dec — US families — especially children — should spend more time outdoors, the National Wildlife Federation recommends.

Kevin Coyle, vice president of education at the National Wildlife Federation, says by making the Be Out There Resolution to spend more time outside in 2010, Americans will be making a resolution that’s both good for their families and fun to keep.

Outdoor time significantly enhances children’s physical and mental well-being but today’s kids don’t get much, Coyle says.

“In the last two decades, childhood has moved indoors. While previous generations ran around in nature until called in for dinner, modern children spend only four to seven minutes outdoors per day,” Coyle says in a statement.

Research in the fields of public health, psychology and medicine has documented the toll an “indoor childhood” takes on kids.

Coyle says children reap wide-ranging and numerous benefits when encouraged to interact with nature in an outdoor setting — including better eyesight, enhanced physical fitness, less obesity, increased classroom preparedness and lower levels of stress and depression.

Oil extends gains above $78 in Asia

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 Dec — Oil prices extended gains above $78 a barrel on Monday in Asia before the release of inventory figures later in the week that could send it through the $80 mark.

Benchmark crude for February delivery rose 48 cents to $78.53 at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Trading was thin due to the holiday season. The contract rose $1.38 to settle at $78.05 on Thursday, the first time in more than a month that it closed above $78. Oil markets were closed on Friday for Christmas.

Inventory figures from the Energy Information Administration later this week will determine if oil prices can end the year above $80 a barrel, said Clarence Chu, a trader with Hudson Capital Energy in Singapore.

The government last week reported a crude stocks drawdown of five million barrels and if inventories continue to decline — suggesting improved demand — it will be a boost to crude prices. Improved employment figures in the US last week also buoyed sentiment and raised expectations of stronger consumer spending.

A Chinese model shows off a gold bar at an exhibition in Hefei, eastern China. Explosive growth in economic and political power ensured that the past 10 years set the foundations for what many analysts predict will be the Asian Century as the world tilts firmly eastwards.

INTERNET

A fireman checks the depth of the water in a garden after a torrential rainfall in Ronda, southern Spain, on 26 Dec, 2009.

INTERNET

Part of DC airport floods, some gates closed

WASHINGTON, 28 Dec — Officials at Reagan National Airport have evacuated part of a terminal and closed a baggage claim area after a broken pipe caused flood.

A spokeswoman for the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority the flooding Saturday was ankle deep in the terminal C baggage claim area. Spokeswoman Tara Hamilton says a dozen gates in terminal C were also closed.

The gates were mostly for US Airways flights. Airline spokesman Todd Lemacher says US Airways has canceled the remaining flights in and out of the airport, but he doesn’t know how many were affected.

Lemacher says about 400 to 600 people were waiting for departing flights when the flooding started and were rerouted to another terminal. The problem was located and the water was turned off about two hours later.

INTERNET

Eight Taleban militants killed in N Afghanistan

KABUL, 28 Dec — Eight militant dead in clash with security forces in Afghanistan’s northern Kunduz Province, a private television channel Tolo reported on Saturday.

The clash occurred in 3rd precinct of provincial capital Kunduz city on Friday evening, leaving eight insurgents dead, the television report added.

Three more militants were injured in the firefight lasting for awhile, Tolo said.

There were no casualities on the security forces. Taleban militants have yet to make comment. A relatively peaceful Province until early this year, Kunduz has been experiencing spiraling militancy over the past several months.

INTERNET
Sino-Japanese chicken-raising project built in central China

ZHENGZHOU, 28 Dec—Two leading Chinese and Japanese food processing companies have started a chicken-raising project in central China’s Henan Province.

The project, jointly built by Shuanghui Group from Henan of China and Nippon Ham from Japan, will cost 1.72 billion yuan (252.2 million US dollars).

According to Wan Long, chairman of Shuanghui Group, the first-phase of the project will be able to produce 300,000 tonnes of feed, 50 million chickens and 120,000 tonnes of chicken meat products every year.

The project, located in Luobei city of Henan, is expected to be in operation in 2010.

Shuanghui is a leading meat processing company in China, and Nippon Ham is a multinational food-processing conglomerate headquartered in Japan.

French hotels polish up their star ratings

PARIS, 28 Dec—France, the world’s top tourism destination, is polishing up its hotel star ratings and introducing a new luxury five-star category to help travellers know what to expect.

The new rating criteria will apply to 18,000 hotels across France, many of which are showing off stars awarded under the previous ranking system that dates back to 1986.

The upgraded star system went into force at the weekend when details were published in the government gazette.

The most spectacular change is the new five-star category already claimed by some 60 hotels such as the world-class Paris Ritz or the Hotel Negresco in Nice.

Industry leaders say the five-star category will help France face tough international competition at a time when the hotel business is struggling to recover from the global downturn.

“The terms ofreference were out ofdate,” said Christine Pujol, president of the hotel owners’ main trade group Unifah.—Internet

China shoemakers call for appeal against EU’s extension of anti-dumping duties

WENZHOU, 28 Dec—Major Chinese shoe makers have urged the Chinese government to appeal to the World Trade Organization (WTO) against the European Union’s (EU) approval of a 15-month extension of anti-dumping duties on Chinese leather shoes.

Wang Zhentao, president of the Aokang Group, China’s second largest shoemaker based in southeast Zhejiang Province, said his company and other shoemakers were preparing documents and other materials necessary for China’s appeal to the WTO.

The EU began levying anti-dumping duties of up to 16.5 percent against Chinese leather shoes on 5 Oct, 2006. On Tuesday the EU governments approved the 15-month extension of anti-dumping duties on Chinese and Vietnamese leather shoes.

China’s Ministry of Commerce (MoC) said that China was “strongly dissatisfied” with EU’s decision.

The EU was “strongly disappointed at EU’s extension of the duties, and I think it harms both Chinese producers and European consumers.”—Xinhua

Motorcyclists watch Mayon volcano as pyroclastic ash billows from its slope in Legazpi City, Albay Province, south of Manila on 27 Dec, 2009. Philippine vulcanologists said on Saturday lava is clogging the volcano that could result in an explosive eruption.—INTERNET

Euro zone deficits must be cut from 2011 latest

BERLIN, 28 Dec—Banks must provide sufficient credit and governments in the euro zone must reign in public finances to support a global economic recovery in 2010, the President of the European Central Bank (EBC) said on Sunday. In comments made to the Bild am Sonntag weekly newspaper, Jean-Claude Trichet added that recovery from the financial crisis required concerted effort to offset joblessness.

“Banks must perform their central role in the supply of credit to the economy... Handling the consequences of the crisis for the labour market and public finances represents an additional challenge.” “Budget deficits in the euro area must be reduced by 2011 at the latest — in some countries as early as 2010 — in order to maintain confidence in public finances,” he said.—Internet

Argentina’s economy may grow in 2010

BUENOS AIRES, 28 Dec—Argentina’s economy could grow up to 7 percent in 2010 as the worst of the global financial crisis eases, Economy Minister Amado Boudou was quoted as saying in a local paper on Saturday.

When asked by the daily La Nacion if the country could grow up to 7 percent next year Boudou said: “Yes, we are not afraid of reaching the highest level possible.”

Critics say the Argentine government is usually too optimistic with its economic expectations.

Private experts forecast the economy will contract in 2009, though the government says the economy will grow slightly.

Boudou also said the government could allow retail “holdout” creditors not to subscribe to fresh capital in a swap of defaulted debt that aims to allow the South American country to return to the international debt markets.—Internet

A shop assistant (R) introduces to a customer energy-saving stationeries at a supermarket in Beijing, capital of China, on 26 Dec, 2009. The first batch of two energy-saving product supermarkets were opened in Beijing on Friday.—Xinhua

The photo taken on 26 Dec, 2009 shows the China Aviation Pavilion under construction for 2010 Shanghai World Expo in the Puxi zone of World Expo Park in east China’s Shanghai Municipality.—Xinhua

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Industry leaders say the five-star category will help France face tough international competition at a time when the hotel business is struggling to recover from the global downturn.

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Nine fires in western Massachusetts leave two dead

NORTHAMPTON, 28 Dec—Authorities say nine fires that left two people dead in a western Massachusetts town are “suspicious” and they’re treating them as potential crimes.

Federal, state and local fire and police investigators are trying to determine what caused the fires, which local District Attorney Elizabeth Scheibel says is suspicious.

Scheibel says the fires broke out in the downtown area of Northampton, Mass, between 2 am and 3:15 am on Sunday. She says five fires were in buildings and the rest in cars.

The two victims were found on the first floor of a house that was engulfed in fire. Police have not identified them, but state property records list Paul Yeskie Jr as the house’s owner. — Internet

Bomb alert forces brief evacuation of French train station

PARIS, 28 Dec—French police on Sunday ordered the emergency evacuation of a train station in Haute-Saone Province after receiving a bomb alert by telephone.

Police then evacuated more than 60 staff members and passengers from the station and cordoned off an area where they conducted a detailed search.

No bombs were found and after more than an hour, police gave the all-clear.

Trains running between Milhouse and Paris were delayed for up to one hour because of the bomb scare. — Internet

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 29 December, 2009

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Bangladesh clocks to go back one hour on 31 Dec

DHAKA, 28 Dec—The Bangladesh government clarified that clocks should be adjusted back one hour from 11:59 pm to 10:59 pm on 31 Dec, in an attempt to dispel widespread confusion over the introduction of Daylight Saving Time (DST).

Local media reported, quoting anonymous calls saying bombs had been planted at Vessel station, Haute-Saone Province, France.

On Sunday afternoon, police received several anonymous calls saying bombs had been planted at Vessel station, Haute-Saone Province, French media reported, quoting the country’s national railway company.

Police then evacuated more than 60 staff members and passengers from the station and cordoned off an area where they conducted a detailed search.

No bombs were found and after more than an hour, police gave the all-clear.

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A firefighter stands in front of the remains of a house fire on 17 Fair St in Northampton, Mass, on 27 Dec, 2009. A father and son died in the house fire early on Sunday morning as firefighters struggled to put out more than a half dozen blazes, authorities said. — Internet

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Alzheimer’s disease patients less likely to develop cancer

LOS ANGELES, 28 Dec—Alzheimer’s disease may protect against cancer and vice versa, a new study suggests.

The study involved a group of 3,030 people aged 65 and older who were enrolled in the Cardiovascular Health Study.

In the study, researchers at Washington University School of Medicine followed the participants for an average of five years to see whether they developed dementia and an average of eight years to see whether they developed cancer.

At the start of the study, 164 people (5.4 percent) already had Alzheimer’s disease and 522 people (17.3 percent) already had a cancer diagnosis. During the study, 478 people developed dementia and 376 people developed invasive cancer.

The findings showed that for people who had Alzheimer’s disease at the start of the study, the risk of future cancer hospitalization was reduced by 69 percent compared to those who did not have Alzheimer’s disease when the study started.

For Caucasian people who had cancer when the study started, their risk of developing Alzheimer’s disease was reduced by 43 percent compared to people who did not have cancer at the start of the study, although that finding was not evident in minority groups.

Lakes warming quickly

PASADENA, 28 Dec—New US scientific findings suggest that climate change may be affecting aquatic environments faster and sooner than the atmosphere.

Researchers from NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif, came to conclusions after noticing that Lake Tahoe, Clear Lake and four other big lakes in Northern California and Nevada are heating up faster than the surrounding atmosphere, The Sacramento Bee reported on Sunday.

The newspaper said the researchers tapped satellite sensor temperature data compiled over 18 years in what is believed to be the first time that long-range lake surface 22 temperatures have been dissected.

What the data reportedly showed is that the lakes’ water temperature rose two times faster, on average, than the surrounding atmosphere, The Bee.

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Many American women quit breast-feeding early

LOS ANGELES, 28 Dec—Many American women quit breast-feeding early due to insufficient maternity leave, according to a new study.

Though a growing percentage of American moms start their infants on human milk, relatively few continue breast-feeding for the baby’s first six months of life, let alone an entire year, said researchers at the University of California, Berkeley, School of Public Health.

The research findings were published by Health Day News on Sunday. Numerous obstacles can prove difficult for new moms, but returning to work soon after giving birth presents a major barrier to successful breast-feeding, the study noted.

A/H1N1 flue cases reach 737 in Tanzania

DAR ES SALAAM, 28 Dec—Positive A/H1N1 flue cases in Tanzania have reached 737 since the first case was reported in early July this year, Tanzanian senior medical officer said.

Out of the above cases, 45 are fresh and quarantined at a special camp in Mwanza Region in northwest Tanzania, the Tanzanian Sunday News quoted Chief Medical Officer Dr-o-gratisius Masiwa as saying. Masiwa said the fresh patients are all inmates at Butimba Prison, who are under close monitoring and medical care.

The latest development has come hardly a month after the disease broke out in Kwimba District also in Mwanza last month where 40 patients were quarantined, following the reports in which 42 people were suspected of being infected.

Following the dangerous situation in the area, the Tanzanian Ministry of Health and Social Welfare has taken several measures to contain the situation, including the closure of Ilula Primary School in Kwimba District where some students and teachers got infected, the chief medical officer said.

Ship yard owner, contractors sued in Bangladesh after deadly blast

DHAKA, 28 Dec—Bangladeshi police has lodged a case against the owner and the labour contractors of a ship breaking yard at Sitakunda in South Asian country’s southeastern Chittagong port city after an explosion aboard a scrap oil tanker killed four workers on Saturday.

Quoting police at Sitakunda, some 242 km away from capital Dhaka, local news agency bdnews24.com on Monday reported that the case was filed on Sunday against Md Israfil, the owner of Rahim Steel and Ship Breaking Yard, and five labour contractors for failing to ensure safety of workers.

The explosion aboard the out-of-commission oil tanker killed four ship breakers and injured 10 others in Sitakunda on Saturday, it said.

Sitakunda police chief Monirul Islam told bdnews24.com that a gas cylinder exploded at around 10:30 a.m. local time while workers were engaged in dismantling the ship.

Half adult population in Bangladesh carry TB germs

DHAKA, 28 Dec—About 50 percent of Bangladesh’s adult population carry tuberculosis bacteria, but very few of them carry active germs as the bacteria remain in hidden form, leading English news-paper The Daily Star reported on Monday.

Fahim Ahmed Chowdhury of Brac Health Programme, a non-governmental organization, revealed this Sunday, urging the government to step up preventive measures to control the disease.

“Bangladesh ranks sixth among the 22 hard burden countries of TB, which infects 9.3 million people and claims 2.3 million lives every year across the globe,” Fahim said at a roundtable on “TB control programme in Bangladesh” at the National Press Club in capital Dhaka.

Fahim said TB-detection and cure rates in the country have reached to 73 percent and 92 percent respectively.

“It is well above the target of millennium development goal — 70 percent for case detection rate and 85 percent for cure rate,” he said.

Snowflakes fall in Shanghai on Sunday, which amounted 1 to 4 millimeters across the city. Monday’s temperature was forecast to drop below freezing and to climb a little bit tomorrow.—INTERNET

Tigers roar during a photo opportunity for the upcoming New Year event at the Everland amusement park in Yongin, about 50 km (31 miles) south of Seoul on 28 Dec, 2009, three days ahead of the year of the tiger, according to the Chinese lunar calendar. The park operates a tiger safari with 32 tigers, of which 10 of them are white tigers.

Internet

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Internet
Top 10 world sports news in 2009

1. USA Swimming suspended Michael Phelps, the winner of eight Olympic gold medals in 2008, for three months for smoking marijuana.

2. Barcelona beat Manchester United 2-0 to win its third Champions’ League. The Spanish giant has claimed six trophies in 2009.

3. Swiss tennis star Roger Federer regained the world No. 1 ranking after completing a career Grand Slam at Roland Garros. He went on to surpass Pete Sampras by winning his 15th Grand Slam title at Wimbledon.

4. Portuguese footballer Cristiano Ronaldo signed a six-year deal with Real Madrid with a record-setting tag of 130 million US dollars.

5. Swimming ruling body FINA decided to ban the high-tech swimsuits that had helped bring down a dozen world records at the 2009 world championships from next year.

6. Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt shattered his own 100m and 200m world records at the world athletics championships in Berlin.


8. Jacques Rogge was re-elected as the IOC president at the 121st IOC Session, while golf and Rugby were confirmed to win the bid for the 2016 Olympic Games.

9. European soccer rocked with match-fixing scandals. More than 200 matches, including UEFA Champions League matches, were suspected to be riggled.

10. Tiger Woods took an “indefinite” leave from golf after allegations of numerous extramarital affairs surfaced. —Xinhua

Ronaldinho looks to playing third straight World Cup

RIO DE JANEIRO, 28 Dec — AC Milan forward Ronaldinho says he will try to make Brazil’s squad for next year’s World Cup in South Africa. “Sometimes I even try to avoid this question because it seems that I’m trying hard to be called,” he told Globo TV on Sunday. “Without a doubt it would be a dream to play in another World Cup. My wish is to go there and bring another trophy to the Brazilian people.” The 29-year-old hasn’t been selected by coach Dunga since the beginning of the year. The playmaker said he believes a good performance with AC Milan will be key for him to having a chance of playing at the World Cup for the third straight time.

I have adapted after a year in Italy and things are working well again,” Ronaldinho said. “I’m going through a wonderful moment. I’m happy. If I keep doing well and win titles with my club I will have more chances.” Ronaldinho had a disappointing performance in the 2006 World Cup in Germany, when Brazil was eliminated by France in the quarterfinals. He helped Brazil win the 2002 World Cup in South Korea and Japan. —Xinhua

City owner ‘wants to buy Real Madrid’

MADRID, 28 Dec — Manchester City owner Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan has made inquiries about trying to buy Real Madrid, according to an unconfirmed report here Sunday. AS said the Abu Dhabi-based billionaire would be prepared to pay one billion euros (dollars) for the Spanish giants, home to world class players like Kaka and Cristiano Ronaldo.

The Spanish sports daily did not name its source but claimed: “Sheikh Mansour Bin Zayed Al Nahyan has commissioned representatives to offer the sum (of one billion euros) to buy out the club.” AS added, however, that such a deal would be almost impossible. Real would need the permission of its shareholders fans to change its legal statutes, which would then pave the way for any deal to go through. Fans of Real vote on the election of most of the board and the club’s president.

AS added that a meeting between the Sheikh and Football president Florentino Perez could be held early in 2010. — Internet

Manchester’s Mancini reiterates top four target

MILAN, 28 Dec — Roberto Mancini has reiterated his belief that Manchester City can break into the Premier League’s top four this season after watching his new charges secure a 2-0 win over Stoke in his first match in charge.

The Italian was given a warm reception by City supporters and described himself as equally moved by the welcome he received from a squad that includes several players with close ties to his ousted predecessor Mark Hughes.

Mancini’s direction now is to ensure that the top 10 world sports news in 2009. —Xinhua

Wenger eyes January recruits for Arsenal

LONDON, 28 Dec — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger could launch a January transfer window raid to keep the Gunners’ Premier League title campaign on track after inspirational skipper Cesc Fabregas picked up a worrying injury.

Arsenal’s 3-0 win over Aston Villa on Sunday, inspired by two goals from substitute Fabregas, left Wenger’s team just four points behind leaders Chelsea in a game in hand over their London rivals.

However, some of the shine of victory over fourth-placed Villa was taken off by the sight of Fabregas going off with what appeared to be a recurrence of a hamstring injury sustained while scoring his and Arsenal’s second goal.

Wenger said he was now pondering bringing in new players in January, particularly a striker as Arsenal’s Dutch forward Robin van Persie is currently sidelined with an ankle injury. “I’ve said we will keep our eyes open and if a good opportunity turns up we will do it.”

Atletico’s Rodriguez set for Boca loan spell

MADRID, 28 Dec — Atletico Madrid’s attacking midfielder Maxi Rodriguez is due to be loaned out to Argentine club Boca Juniors for the rest of the season, Marca sports daily reported here on Sunday.

Rodriguez has failed to break into Atletico’s first team this term and wants the move to be assured playing time to press his case to be included in Argentina’s 2010 World Cup squad.

According to Marca an official from Boca Juniors describes the loan deal as “80 percent” certain to take place in the January transfer window.

Man Utd manager hails natural-born winner Rooney

HULL, 28 Dec — Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson hailed Wayne Rooney as a natural winner after the England striker inspired a 3-1 win at Hull.

Reigning champions United, who moved to within two points of leaders Chelsea with the victory, were indebted to Rooney, who scored the opening goal and also created both his team’s others in an inspired display.

Rooney’s only blip was conceding possession in the build-up to Hull’s equalising penalty.

Four-star Rangers hit back against Hibs

EDINBURGH, 28 Dec — Rangers came back from conceding the quickest-ever recorded goal in the Scottish Premier League to win 4-1 away to Hibernian on Sunday and restore their four-point lead at the top of the table.

Anthony Stokes fired the home side ahead at Easter Road with a goal timed officially at 12.4 seconds - beating the previous record set by Hearts’ Saulius Mikoliunas in 2006 - but that was as good as it got for the Edinburgh club, who still remained third after this defeat. — Internet

Internet

Internet

Manchester City’s forward Carlos Tevez (L) scores past Stoke City’s goalkeeper Thomas Sorensen during their English Premier League football match between The City Of Manchester Stadium in Manchester. — Internet

Atletico Madrid midfielder Maxi Rodriguez.
Singapore extends financing schemes for small businesses

SINGAPORE, 28 Dec—The Singapore government said on Monday that small companies here will continue to receive financing support from the government.

The government said it will extend for another year the financing schemes under the Special Risk-Sharing Initiative (SRI) and the enhancements to existing financing schemes that were introduced at the onset of the global economic downturn, according to a joint statement by Singapore’s Ministry of Trade and Industry.

With this extension, Singapore expects to support up to 8.4 billion Singapore dollars (5.87 billion U.S. dollars) of new loans till end-January 2011.

Since December 2008, the enhanced financing schemes have catalyzed more than 14,000 loans worth a total of 8 billion Singapore dollars (5.39 billion U.S. dollars).

“With this extension, Singapore hopes to take improvements in the situation and the Ministry of Finance. But the extension will be on revised terms, taking into account improvements in the global economic situation and the Singapore economy. With this extension, Singapore expects to support up to 8.4 billion Singapore dollars (5.87 billion U.S. dollars) of new loans till end-January 2011.

Since December 2008, the enhanced financing schemes have catalyzed more than 14,000 loans worth a total of 8 billion Singapore dollars (5.39 billion U.S. dollars).

A red panda looks up from a snack as animals at the Toronto Zoo receive their Christmas treats on 26 Dec, 2009 in Toronto. —INTERNET

WEATHER

Monday, 28th December, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine State and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (4°C) above December average temperatures in Mon State and Taninthayi Division, (7°C) to (8°C) below December average temperatures in Chin State and upper Sagaina Division, (5°C) to (6°C) below December average temperatures in lower Sagaina and Mayagaw Divisions, (3°C) below December average temperatures in Kachin, Shan and Rakhine States, Mandalay and Bago Divisions, about December average temperatures in Mon State and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-4°C), Loilem (-3°C), Pilaung and Heho (1°C) each, Mogok and An (2°C) each, Machanhaw, Katha and Shwebo (3°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 27-12-2009 was 88°F. Minimum temperature on 28-12-2009 was 56°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 28-12-2009 was 70%. Total sun shine hours on 27-12-2009 was (8.4) hours approx.

Rainfall on 28-12-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, at Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (111.69) inches at Mingaladon, (122.09) inches at Kaba-Aye and (129.41) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from West at (15:30) hours MST on 27-12-2009.

Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and generally fair in the elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of 29th December 2009: Expect for the possibility of isolated light rain in Taninthayi Division and weather will be generally fair in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (40%).

State of the sea: Seas will be slight to moderate in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Generally fair weather in the whole country.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 29-12-2009: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 29-12-2009: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 29-12-2009: Fair weather.
Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
Riots beget riots, not democracy
Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People’s Desire
- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
Do not allow ourselves to be swayed
By broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Bawditahtaung Dam contributes to greening of Monywa District

Byline: Kyaw Sein; Photos: Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)

For agriculture farming and greening of the region, the government of the Union of Myanmar is opening small and medium size dams that can be completed in a short time in the central Myanmar which has little rain.

We arrived at Monywa of Sagaing Division in central Myanmar about 500 miles from Yangon on 14 December in order to visit Bawditahtaung dam project completed in short time. We visited the office of the dam project in the south of Laygyunsekkya standing Buddha Image near Khatakan village in Monywa Township, Monywa District about 13 miles from Monywa.

(See page 7)

SPECIAL FEATURES TO HAIL 62nd ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY

On a misty 4th January

Poem

Byline

Cartoon

* In the morning mist
In high spirits the people
On that auspicious 4th January
Regained they independence
As fresh as a mist sprinkled flower