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Make sustained efforts for ensuring perpetuity of the motherland

It is required of the entire national people to remain vigilant at all times against dangers posed by neo-colonialists, and to make sustained efforts, putting the national policy in the fore and exerting patriotism for ensuring perpetuity of the motherland. Now, many projects are ongoing simultaneously for ensuring equitable development of all parts of the Union, and improving the living conditions of the people. Pursuing the national goal of building a peaceful, modern and developed nation with might and main is, in fact, laying substantial foundations for a prosperous future of the nation.

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 62nd Anniversary Independence Day)

Honouring the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day:

Emphasis placed on emergence of technocrat younger generations to be able to keep pace with international community

MPT making endeavours to overcome challenges of IT Age

I am very pleased to learn news about all-round development across the nation broadcast and stated on television and newspapers. While the motherland was under the yoke of colonial rule, natural resources were exploited unfairly by imperialists. Myanmar, if it had not been annexed by colonialists, would have stood tall as a modernized nation in the international community, doubtlessly.

Today, the Government, having laid down political, economic and social objectives, have been working hard day in, day out to ensure the prosperous future of the nation. Such infrastructural buildings as motor roads, railroads, river-crossing bridges, creek-crossing bridges, dams, reservoirs emerged in the time of Tatmadaw Government are tangible results of the nation’s development.

Along with the emergence of these infrastructures, the standard of living of Myanmar people has also become higher and I would like to present development of communication sector, one of the material development for higher living standard.

Telegrams were first used in 1861 and it was able to launch telephone service in 1884. A total of 1,300 lines were installed in Yangon in 1884. (See page 6)

Four political objectives
- Stability of the State, community peace and tranquility, prevalence of law and order
- National recomposition
- 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

Yatanarporn Teleport.
Work together to constantly turn out students of high caliber

School Family Day for 2009-2010 Academic Year took place at the stadium of No (1) Basic Education High School in Nay Pyi Taw Zeyathiri on 3 January.

At the ceremony, prizes were awarded to the students who excelled at primary and middle school-level English proficiency tests, mathematics contests, the eighth Olympic contest, Myanmar and International diplomacy contest, international level painting contests, and international level sports events. Prizes were also given to schools for their outstanding performance in greening school compounds and environs.

Nurturing new generations of high caliber for the future nation is for the emergence of all-rounders. Giving awards at such grand ceremonies can result in emergence of more outstanding and well-disciplined students.

The government is currently implementing the 30-year national education promotion plan. Systematic measures are being taken to improve the learning skills of students at basic education schools of the basic education sector. At the same time, the government is conducting 3-R classes and adult literacy classes to raise adult literacy rate and carrying out the plans for enhancing the reading power of the neo-literate.

In the higher education sector, altogether 159 colleges, degree colleges and universities have been opened and master's degree courses and PhD courses are being conducted.

In the world today, progresses are being made in science and technologies every day and as a result, the socio-economic life of world nations is changing dramatically. Therefore, parents, teachers, and all those responsible are to work together to constantly turn out students of high caliber and to be able to cope with a series of challenges in various fields.

* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stogies, holding negative views
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

Japan Cup Judo Bout ends

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan— Under co-arrangement of Myanmar Judo Federation and Japanese Embassy, the 6th Japan Cup Judo Bout was held at National Stadium (1) Thawunma here on 26 and 27 December. The right honorable ambassador of the Embassy of Japan and responsible personnel, responsible persons from the Ministry of Sports and Myanmar Judo Federation and winners of the bouts attended the prize giving ceremony held on 27 December.

In 60kg Class, Win Hlaing Hteo (Defence) won the most progressive (Man) Athlete Prize, in 75kg Class, Ei Phyu Zin (Industry-I) won the most Progressive (woman) Athlete Prize, Zin Mi Mi Than (Rail Transportation) won the Best (woman) Athlete prize, in 55 kg Class, Kap Kyim Paun (Forest) won the Best (Male) Athlete prize and, Ministry of Industry-I won the Over-all Judo Cup with 6-gold, 5-silver and 7 bronze medals.—MNA

FOREIGN HEADS OF STATE FELICITATES

Senior General Than Shwe

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan— The following are the messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of State sent to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, on the occasion of the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

From Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka Your Excellency,

I have great pleasure in conveying to Your Excellency, the Government and the people of the Union of Myanmar warm congratulations and best wishes of the people and the Government of Sri Lanka and those of my own, on this auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

For centuries, relations between Sri Lanka and Myanmar bonded and strengthened by our common heritage of Buddhism. The frequent high-level visits and increasing people-to-people exchanges have strengthened our relations over the years. Our two countries celebrated 60 years of diplomatic relations last year. I have every confidence that we will build upon the foundation of our excellent relationship and deepen it further in the years to come.

Please accept, Excellency, my sincere wishes for your personal health and happiness and for the continued progress and prosperity of the peoples of the Union of Myanmar.

From Viktor Yuschenko, President of Ukraine Your Excellency,

On behalf of the people of Ukraine and myself please accept my congratulations on the occasion of the National Day of the Union of Myanmar— the Independence Day.

Availing myself of this opportunity I wish to express my hope that the bilateral relations between Ukraine and the Union of Myanmar will further develop for the benefit of peoples of our states.

Please accept, Excellency, sincere wishes of good health and happiness, as well as peace and prosperity to the friendly people of Myanmar.

FOREIGN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT SEND MESSAGES OF FELICITATIONS TO MYANMAR PRIME MINISTER

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan— The following are the messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of Government sent to General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

From Mr. Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka, M.P., Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Your Excellency,

I have great pleasure in congratulating Your Excellency on this auspicious occasion of the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

For many centuries Sri Lanka and Myanmar have enjoyed the friendliest and close relations based on our common legacy of Buddhism. The frequent high-level visits and increasing people-to-people exchanges have strengthened our existing bilateral relations. Last year we celebrated 60th anniversary of establishing Diplomatic relations between our two countries.

I firmly believe that the bonds of friendship and cooperation that so happily exist between our two countries will be further strengthened and consolidated in the years to come.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurance of my highest consideration.

From Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, Prime Minister of Nepal

On the happy occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the government and people of Nepal and on my own, I extend to Your Excellency and through you to the people of Myanmar my sincere congratulations.

I wish Your Excellency's good health and happiness as well as progress and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

I am confident that the friendly relations existing between our two countries will grow further in the years ahead.—MNA
Bolivia refuses to be US slave

LA PAZ, 5 Jan—The Bolivian government said on Monday that it refuses to blindly cater to the economic or political desires of the United States.

Bolivia’s Vice President Alvaro Garcia Linera said that as a state it wanted to reset its diplomatic ties with Washington, based on mutual respect, the country should not become a slave of the United States, which he described as “the most important power and the market of the world.”

In an interview with Radio Erbol, Bolivia’s national radio, Garcia said Bolivia had been “the most subordinated” Latin American country to the United States in the past. “We do not want a market in exchange for them (Americans) telling us who must be the master. We do not want tax preference in exchange for them telling us what must be our economic policy, because that will make us become a slave and a colony again,” Garcia said.

According to Garcia, US President Barack Obama, like his predecessors George W Bush, had a “strong war policy” which did not allow ties between the two countries to improve. “When he (Obama) learns to recognize that the world is a community of sovereign states, which voluntarily are independent, we will have better ties with the United States,” Garcia said.

However, he added that Bolivia was open to establishing ties with all the countries in the world based on mutual respect of sovereignty.

Bolivian-US ties were frozen since September 2008, when La Paz expelled US Ambassador Philip Goldberg for allegedly interfering with internal affairs, and Washington took the same retaliatory measure.

Afghan, NATO troops kill two Taleban militants, wound five others in E Afghanistan

KHOST, 5 Jan—A gun battle between Afghan-international forces and Taleban fighters left two militants dead and five others wounded in eastern Afghan province of Laghman, provincial police chief said on Tuesday.

“Taleban attacked a police checkpoint in Sorkhakan area on Kabul-Jalalabad road on Monday night at around 8 pm local time and police called on Afghan National Army and NATO-led forces,” Abdul Karim Ommaryar told Xinhua.

Taleban militants ambushed the joint forces after they arrived in the area, and troops returned fire, killing two militants and wounding five others, he added.

No casualties on joint forces have been reported, he said. A local resident, Samuillah, told Xinhua, via cell phone that the firefight lasted for over an hour, adding that “the high way was blocked for hours.”

Taleban militants fighting Afghan and NATO forces have yet to make comments.

Court officer, gunman killed in Las Vegas shooting

LOS ANGELES, 5 Jan—Police shot dead a gunman who opened fire in a federal courthouse in downtown Las Vegas on Monday, killing one court officer and wounding a second.

Previous reports said at least two guards were wounded in the shooting which occurred in the courthouse’s lobby at about 8 am local time. Authorities confirmed later that one of the victims died in hospital.

The US Marshals Service said the victims included a deputy US marshal and a court security officer. The 48-year-old deputy marshal was hospitalized, and the 65-year-old security officer died.

Witnesses said they heard about 30 to 40 gun shots in the shooting. FBI Special Agent Joseph Dickey said the gunman died across the street shortly after the shootout. Chief Deputy US Marshal Roxanna Lea Irwin said authorities believe the shooter acted alone.

There was no immediate word on the gunman’s identity and motive. The building was evacuated and police cordoned-off the area for several blocks in a “standard procedure,” Dickey said. —Xinhua

S Korea’s defence exports hit record high last year

SEOUL, 5 Jan—South Korea’s defence exports in 2009 jumped 13 percent to a record high of 1.17 billion US dollars, helped by the government support and more companies breaking into overseas market, an arms procurement agency said on Tuesday.

The record-high sales are slightly short of the original goal of 1.2 billion US dollars but is still a major achievement considering the global economic downturn, the Defence Acquisition Program Administration (DAPA) said.

The sales were also boosted by diversification of the defence items, with many small firms, whose number local media say stands at 104, entering the industry and faring well, according to the agency.

South Korea, whose main arms export items include aircraft parts and submarine systems, is eyeing to increase its weapons sales to 1.5 billion US dollars this year, a possible 28 percent year-on-year increase, the agency said.

The agency has previously said main buyers of the country’s defence items include the United States, Germany and Indonesia. South Korea has said it aims to become one of the top 10 countries weapons exporters by 2012.

Russian Air Force to update helicopters

MOSCOW, 5 Jan—The Russian Air Force expects the share of its modern helicopters to reach 40 percent by 2015, Air Force Commander Alexander Zelin said on Monday.

The Russian Air Force has been equipped with attack helicopter Mi-28N, dubbed “night hunter”, since 2009, and will be armed with attack helicopter Ka-52 in 2010. Zelin was quoted as saying by Inter-Tass news agency.

A new generation of multi-purpose helicopter system, which includes refueling aircraft, spy drones and rescue helicopters, is under development, he said.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 6 January, 2010
Troubled British bank splits into two parts as buyers move in

LONDON, 5 Jan—The troubled British bank Northern Rock, which had to be saved from collapse by the government, has been split into two parts.

Monday was the first day of business for the two parts of the bank, which formally split on 1 Jan.

The bank was saved from collapse by the government in February 2008, when it became the first British victim of the global financial crisis and Northern Rock was fully nationalized in early 2008, to prevent the first run on a British bank since the 19th century, the government guaranteed savings. That guarantee will still apply to the new banks, but it could create unfair competition for other banks and mortgage lenders.

Northern Rock plc said in a statement: “The Government guarantee of the retail savings transferred to Northern Rock plc remains in place.”

Georgian Airways to run charter flights to Moscow this month

MOSCOW, 5 Jan—Georgian Airways will perform direct charter flights from its capital Tbilisi to Russian capital Moscow on 8-10 Jan, the Interfax news agency reported on Monday.

Both the Russian Transport Ministry and the Federal Civil Aviation Agency Rosaviatsia have given permission for charter flights from Tbilisi to Moscow and St Petersburg, Nino Giorgobiani, the spokesman for Georgian Airways, was quoted by Interfax as saying.

The company will run Tbilisi-Moscow-Tbilisi charter flights on 8-10 Jan, she said, adding that the decision on charter flights to St Petersburg on 9-10 Jan will be made later.

She said Georgian Airways might also do charter flights to Moscow on 16 Jan, 20 and 22 if allowed.

“We hope talks will be held soon between Russian and Georgian officials on the resumption of regular flights between the two countries,” Giorgobiani said.

Direct flights between Tbilisi and Moscow were halted in 2006 over a spy row between the former Soviet neighbours.

The flights were resumed for a short time in 2008, but were suspended again after a five-day war between the two countries in August the same year. The Russian Transportation Ministry had earlier approved charter flights from Tbilisi to Moscow on 29-30 Dec, but Georgian Airways later announced that the dates for the flights would be postponed for at least a week.

LG Electronics reveals TV model with video calling capability

SEOUL, 5 Jan—South Korea’s LG Electronics announced on Tuesday its new line of TVs with video calling and conference calling capabilities developed in conjunction with Skype, the leading web-based phone calling service provider.

The electronics brand unveiled in a Press release its new TV product named “Skype TM on Your TV,” with broadband features that enable web-communications even while watching TV programmes simultaneously.

The new TV line will feature Skype’s advanced broadband technology and an integrated microphone, allowing the user to communicate without a separate headset or microphone.

The release said the new product will first be showcased at the Consumer Electronics Show 2010 in Las Vegas starting on Thursday and will be on sale in the first half of this year.

Brazil has lowest trade surplus in eight years

RIO DE JANEIRO, 5 Jan—Brazil registered a trade surplus of 24.62 billion US dollars in 2009, the lowest since the beginning of the Lula administration in 2002, official figures showed on Monday.

The 2009 figure, down 0.2 percent from 2008, was the third consecutive fall.

Exports totalled 152.22 billion dollars and imports totalled 127.63 billion dollars, said the Development, Trade and Industry Ministry. The drop in trade surplus was mainly attributed to the growth of the Brazilian economy in the second half of the year, which led to the rise of machinery imports and to more consumption of imported goods, the figures showed. It is estimated that Brazil’s trade surplus will further drop to 11.3 billion dollars in 2010.

Indonesia to scrap oil, gas cost recovery cap

JAKARTA, 5 Jan—Indonesian government planned to abandon the recently-adopted practice of putting a limit on the annual recovery payment reimbursed to contractors. The Jakarta Post reported here on Tuesday.

“The policy of capping cost recovery is not appropriate. This is not supposed to be capped. We will fix this matter,” Coordinating Economic Minister Hatta Radjasa said on Monday.

Indonesia is pressured by the oil production and failure to attract enough investors to develop new oil and gas blocks.

Indonesia’s oil and gas Production Sharing Contract (PSC) scheme previously required the government to reimburse all contractor cost items within the scope of the cost recovery payment rules.

The payment will be reimbursed after the contractors enter the production stage.

But following strong criticism over the alleged lack of transparency in the implementation of cost recovery, as of last year, eligible expenses due for payment from the state budget have been capped annually.

Iraqi security forces are seen after a car bomb exploded near a market in Bartela, 240 miles (390 kilometres) northwest of Baghdad Iraq, on 4 Jan 2010. Police said the blast injured eight people.

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“The policy of capping cost recovery is not appropriate. This is not supposed to be capped. We will fix this matter,” Coordinating Economic Minister Hatta Radjasa said on Monday.

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But following strong criticism over the alleged lack of transparency in the implementation of cost recovery, as of last year, eligible expenses due for payment from the state budget have been capped annually.
German architects criticize world’s tallest building in Dubai

BERLIN, 5 Jan—German architects on Monday criticized that the world’s tallest building opened in Dubai has set a bad example for building design.

This huge glass and ferroconcrete tower “hardly represents a sustainable contribution to current world building practices,” said Christian Baumgart, president of German architects’ association DAI.

The building is just a symbol of showing power without rational and economical thinking, said German architect Meinhard von Gerkan, who designed Berlin’s central train station. Suffered by astronomical building and maintenance costs, such kind of buildings are hard to make profits, he said.

The Burj Dubai, opened on Monday is 828 meters tall, more than 300 metres taller than the Taipei 101 towers. It was designed by American architect Adrian Smith. It has 160 floors, using 330,000 cubic metres of reinforced concrete and the total area of glass reaching 103,000 square metres.

16 killed in road accident in western India

NEW DELHI, 5 Jan—Sixteen people were killed and 28 others injured when a fully loaded truck they were travelling on overturned early on Tuesday in the western Indian state of Maharashatra, said police.

The dead, including five women and six children, were mostly laborers from the neighbouring state of Karnataka who were travelling in the truck which overturned on a highway near Sholapur of Maharashatra at 01:30 am local time, after the driver lost control, said police.

Most of them were crushed to death by the huge grain bags loaded on the truck, said police.

Road accident rate in India is among the highest in the world, with at least 100,000 killed every year, according to official estimates.

Flood mudslide kills 85 so far in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 5 Jan—Brazil’s flood mudslide death toll rose to 85 and is expected to rise further as five people were still reported missing, local authorities said late on Monday. The deaths were reported from the country’s Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro and Minas Gerais states.

Flood mudslides claimed 72 lives in the Rio de Janeiro state alone, where the disaster hit a holiday resort on the Grande Island and hit houses at the town of Angra dos Reis on the mainland.

A gigantic mudslide hit the Sankay Inn and seven other houses on the island, and killed 29 people including four children.

Another giant mudslide hit the Morro da Carioca neighbourhood at Angra dos Reis, killing 21 people including nine children.

Twelve of the 21 deceased at Angra dos Reis were from the same family. The mudslide left at least 125 people homeless and 238 others had to be evacuated as the local authorities ruled that over 200 houses at Angra dos Reis are uninhabitable.

Mudslides killed 10 people in the Sao Paulo state and three people lost their lives to flooding in the Minas Gerais state.

Angra dos Reis mayor Cacilda Jordao said that at least 100 houses had to be demolished for safety reasons and the direct loss caused by the flood mudslide was estimated to between 200 million and 250 million reais (between 116 million and 145 million US dollars). Government authorities and rescue workers have so far rescued 111 tons of food and 28,000 litres of bottled water at Angra dos Reis.

UN helping to monitor volcanic eruption in eastern DRC

UNITED NATIONS, 5 Jan—Following the eruption of a volcano in the far east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the United Nations peacekeeping mission in the country is using its aviation force to help to keep a close eye on lava flow, UN officials said here on Monday.

Mount Nyamulagira, which sits some 40 kilometres northwest of Goma, the capital of North Kivu Province, erupted on Saturday. While it has not affected any people, the lava has spewed into a non-populated area of the Virunga National Park.

The UN mission, known as MONUC, has put its Indian aviation force and helicopters at the disposal of local authorities, scientists with the Volcanic Observatory of Goma and the National Institute for the Conservation of Nature (ICCN) to help monitor volcanic activity, said the officials.

MONUC said that for now, the population of Goma and its surrounding areas seem to be safe from any lava flow, but that the mission stands ready to provide additional support to officials, who have assured people that the nearby volcanos of Nyiragongo will be unaffected by the eruption of Nyamulagira. The ICCN has expressed concern over the threat posed by the volcanic eruption on Virunga National Park’s ecosystems and wildlife, including the possible migration or death of animals in the site.
Emphasis placed on emergence of ...

(from page 1)

In 1962, the number of telephone exchange reached up to 80 and 14,754 lines could be installed. A total of 143 telephone exchanges were set up in Yangon after 1970, with 17,400 lines. As for the whole nation, there were 22,000 lines that time. Before 1988, there were only 74,855 lines.

There were only thousand of telephones in spite of the country’s population of 35 million that time and it can be seen that Myanmar was underdeveloped. So, in the time of the Tatmadaw Government, emphasis was put on upgrading communication facilities and further development of communication network in response to the guidance of the Head of State. The below table shows remarkable development in communication sector in 20 years during which the Tatmadaw Government took the State's responsibilities.

Table shows achievement in the communication sector in all parts of the nation from 1988 to date

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>1988</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>Progress</th>
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<td>345</td>
<td>312</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Fiber cable link</td>
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</table>

The graph above shows that there were only 74,855 lines in 1988 and 2,008,069 more have been installed up to now that around 2 million of lines are in service. The ratio between the population and availability of telephone stands at 25:1.

In 2009-2010 financial year, Myanmar Post and Telegraph opened seven new post offices, upgraded 19 post offices, opened three telegraph offices, upgraded four offices, installed 45,629 auto exchange lines, 91,540 mobile telephone lines, set up 46 exchanges, and 14 microwave connections. As a result, towns and cities in states and divisions have now access to modern communication devices such as internet, email, fax and so on and rural villages have telephones.

It was targeted to install 40,000 lines, 130,000 mobile lines and set up 70 Auto Exchanges in 2010-2011. As regards overseas communication, MPT is working, connecting with satellite communication system, fiber communication system, underwater cable communication system and transnational communication system. There are over 2,621 international communication channels. In addition, plans are under way to equip 12 more microwave connections via Bangladesh, China and India which are currently connected with Myanmar.

With a view to keeping pace with international community in IT Age, Yatanarpon Teleport Project was implemented in PyinOoLwin in 2006 and was inaugurated in December, 2007. Yatanarpon Myothit covers an area of over 1,000 acres of land. Encouraged by the Head of State, the town which is established with a view to improving the communication facilities, now can manufacture hi-tech communication devices, following the investment of IT companies at home and abroad.

I read the news of the Head of State’s inspection of Yadanarpon Techno City Project in dailies circulated on 10.12.2009 and found the investment of IT companies in the city to be very encouraging. Just in two-year’s time, advanced communication devices like fiber cables, CDMA 450 MHz BTS communication devices, CDMA 800 MHz communication devices, Fixed Wireless Terminals, Digital TV-Set-top Box, KT-WLL, Mc Will can be produced, and if only this momentum could be kept on, our nation would be able to overcome the challenges of IT Age within five or ten-year period, I thought and rejoiced at our country’s future.

Honouring the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day:

Telecommunication tower in Myitkyina.

Production line of advanced telecommunication devices in Yatanarpon Teleport.
Emphasis placed on emergence of …

(from page 6)

Above-mentioned communication sector development are just within the range of my knowledge. Today’s development projects of the Government is massive and far-reaching. In striving for all-round development of the nation, in addition to huge expenditure spent, technology applied and human resources utilized, the Government also had to overcome all forms of obstacles such as being put pressure on by using political power, economic sanctions, and destabilization of the State.

At present, the government is striving for emergence of modern and developed nation to keep pace with international community taking bitter lessons from the past. In pursuance of building a modern and developed nation, emphasis is being placed on development of the sector of information and communication technology. With the aim of surmounting a number of challenges that are likely to be encountered in political, economic and social spheres, modern communication infrastructures like Yatanarpon Teleport will be established.

There has been unprecedented development in communication sector of Myanmar if compared with the situation in a decade after post-independence. When I was young, it was even difficult in town to find a house with a telephone to make a call. There is only an exchange or a post-office without having a telephone booth.

In the past, our township had only a manual exchange and long-distance call could only be made from a nearby township. We had to wait long to get through as only few lines were available at that time. Today, our township have access to GSM mobile phones, and Auto Exchanges that can make direct calls. Moreover, villages around 20 miles from the township have rural Auto Exchanges and even overseas call can now be made, as a sign of development.

Today’s communications services in Myanmar have developed. Telephones can be seen in every street an every house in town and there are post-offices and telegraph offices in every town. Internet network can be witnessed in every street.

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Honouring the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day:

At present, the government is striving for emergence of modern and developed nation to keep pace with international community taking bitter lessons from the past.
Honouring the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day:

Take strong resolution for perpetuity of independence

Safeguard independence and sovereignty through might of patriotism

Khaing Thitsar (Psychology)

The independence of Myanmar

* Never harbour hatred
* Smiles and joys ever
* The celebrated people
* Myanmar's of the ancient days
* Equality for all
* Never harbour hatred
* Smiles and joys ever
* The celebrated people
* Myanmar's of the ancient days

The government is well convinced of the fact that consolidated national unity is a must for ensuring perpetuation of the State sovereignty and independence. With this concept, it has given top priority to making peace with national race armed groups since 1989. So far, it has worked considerably for development of the regions of national races, and national solidarity. National race peace groups have transformed themselves into border guard forces of the Tatmadaw and have assumed charge of national defence duties.

POEM:

The independence of Myanmar

* When evil colonialists and fascists
  Trying to harm national prestige

Myanmar War in 1885. Myanmar people have never invaded other countries, and are hypersensitive to colonial rule over the motherland. Equipping themselves with a stronger sense of patriotism and nationalistic spirit and arming themselves with whatever arms available such as swords and spears launched anti-colonialist movements to defend the mother country, own race and religion. Despite a strong sense of patriotism and great bravery, a large number of Myanmar revolutionaries lost their lives due to a constant rain of bullets and shells fired with modern weapons by the British colonialists. In the end, Myanmar conceded to loss of British attacks.

In November 1885, the whole Myanmar fell under the British colonial rule. It was on 28 November 1885, British army took away Myanmar King Thibaw and Queen Su Phayar Latt to India, followed by loss of Myanmar’s sovereignty.

Taking painful lessons from the colonial rule over Myanmar, Venerable Monk Hsebanni composed a poem, implying that suffering from evil consequences of alien subjugation was even worse than the death. Throughout the colonial period, Myanmar people did not remain indifferent. Many patriots organized anti-colonialist campaigns across the nation. Myanmar revolutionary leaders such as Bo Min Yaung under the title of Mingyi Shwe La Yaung, Bagun Bo Cho, Wuntho Chieftain U Aung Myat, Bo Ottama, General Maha Min Hia Min Khaung, and Bo Ywe fought back the colonialists with bravery and nationalistic fervour. However, Myanmar went through the hell of colonial yoke for more than 100 years. In a bid to regain independence, Young Men’s Buddhist Association (YMBA) rekindled the nationalistic spirit of the people through the mottoes “Love your own race”, “Uphold your religion”, “Boost the Sasana” and “Promote national education”. Do Buddhism, the Sasana, and the annals of the history of Myanmar independence struggles.

(See page 9)

All Myanmar people, old and young, love and cherish independence. I also have a sense of cherishing and valuing Myanmar independence in my youth. Therefore, I happened to compose a poem “Independence Resolution” in my school days.

I was born in 1944, and I was only four in 1948, in which Myanmar regained independence. At that time, I was too young to realize the legacy of colonialism. However, I came to understand the evil consequences of alien subjugation gradually due to my grandparents and parents sharing with me a wide variety of untold miseries caused to the people by colonial rule. I therefore feel extremely bitter about the people’s experiences of colonial days and love and value independence to the marrow.

The fourth of January 2010 is the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar. Myanmar is a multicultural land, where over 100 national races including Shan, Chin, Kachin, Kayin, Kayah, Rakhine, Mon and Bamar have been living in unity sharing joys and sorrows for thousands of years.

In the course of its history covering Tagaung, Pyu, Bagan, Innwa, Toungoo, Hanthawady, and Konbaung (Yadanabon) periods, Myanmar stood tall with own monarchs, sovereignty, races, religious faith, literature, language and culture.

Myanmar is rich in natural resources. Not only precious stones, but also various species of crops are abundant in the nation. Colonialists thus cast covetous eyes on Myanmar’s teak. Therefore, the colonialists annexed Myanmar through the three aggressive wars: the First Anglo-Myanmar War in 1824, the Second Anglo-Myanmar War in 1852, and the Third Anglo-Myanmar War in 1885. Myanmar people have never invaded other countries, and are hypersensitive to colonial rule over the motherland. Equipping themselves with a stronger sense of patriotism and nationalistic spirit and arming themselves with whatever arms available such as swords and spears launched anti-colonialist movements to defend the mother country, own race and religion. Despite a strong sense of patriotism and great bravery, a large number of Myanmar revolutionaries lost their lives due to a constant rain of bullets and shells fired with modern weapons by the British colonialists. In the end, Myanmar conceded to loss of British attacks.

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(See page 9)
Honouring the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day:

Khaing Thitsar (Psychology)

Not only the government but also the entire national brethren are duty-bound to ensure perpetuity of independence for which the nation had to sacrifice lives of a huge number of its people.

Owing to earnest efforts of the Myanmar Tatmadaw comprising troops of various national races under the leadership of General Aung San, and brilliant performances of patriot leaders, the Union of Myanmar regained independence at 4.20 am on 4 January 1948. The same day, the Union Jack was lowered, whereas the State Flag of the Union of Myanmar was hoisted atop the mast proudly. That day is the most auspicious day for Myanmar. And entire Myanmar people’s hearts were completely filled with joys.

Moreover, countless number of roads and bridges have been built for smooth transport between one region and another. The government is well convinced of the fact that consolidated national unity is a must for ensuring perpetuation of the State sovereignty and independence. With this concept, it has given top priority to making peace with national race armed groups since 1989. So far, it has worked considerably for development of the regions of national races, and national solidarity. National race peace groups have transformed themselves into border guard forces of the Tatmadaw and have assumed charge of national defence duties.

In line with the motto “Only when the Tatmadaw is strong, so will be the nation”, the nation has built strong armed forces composed of qualified servicemen for safeguarding the State sovereignty or independence. The government has made all-round arrangements to achieve the lofty goal. In response, the entire people on their part are to do their bit in shaping the nation into a modern, developed democratic nation, upholding Our Three Main National Causes namely (1) non-disintegration of the Union, (2) non-disintegration of national solidarity, and (3) perpetuation of sovereignty, and realizing the four objectives of this year’s Independence Day for perpetuity of Myanmar independence.

(Honouring the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day)
Translation: MS
Information Minister attends concluding ceremony of multiplier course No 1/2009 of IPRD

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan — Information and Public Relations Department of the Ministry of Information concluded the multiplier course No 1/2009 at the ministry here today.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan urged the trainees to make endeavours to do their best for the country and the department while making consciousness raising to enable the people to also make endeavours in the interest of the country.

As the trainees have completed the training to promote their skills, they are to use the skills effectively in their respective field, the minister said.

The course is aimed at training the staff of the department to become the media men who can serve the interest of the country and upgrading their skills enabling them to be in right thinking at work, he said.

In conclusion, the minister urged the trainees and staff of the ministry to work hard to become good media men who serve the interest of the country, to improve their skills and to become dutiful service personnel.

The minister presented the best presentation award to U Yin Min Aung and certificates to trainees through the leader of the trainees.

A total of 25 trainees from the IPRD attended the five-week course.— MNA

Apple Cosmetic and Topsyne Medicated Cream open Lucky Draw

YANGON, 5 Jan—The fourth Lucky Draw of Apple Cosmetic Production Co Ltd and the seventh Lucky Draw of Topsyne Medicated Cream took place at Chatrium Hotel on Natmauk Yeiktha Street here yesterday.

Topsyne Medicated Cream (10g) was distributed till last year and it would be sold directly by the company starting from 2010. Topsyne UV 2 Way Cake, Topsyne Liquid Foundation (15ml) and (8 ml) and Mobbish hair tonic are available now.

Movie stars and journalists drew lots for customers of Topsyne Medicated Cream, wholesale centres and retail outlets and the list of the prize winners will be announced soon. The special sales of Apple Ginseng Hair Coat, Apple Medicated Cream, Apple 2 Way Cake, Apple facial foam, Cecilia shampoo, Apple Lotion, Topsyne UV 2 Way cake, Topsyne Liquid Foundation was along with Lucky Draw. Contact is to be made to No (972/ B) Thanthuma Street, Ward 5, South Okkalapa Township, here, Ph: 01-570112, 566925, 720283, and No. 50/51 Tata (12), Sa Ward, Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay, Ph: 09-5047868 and 09-8613266.

The 4th Lucky Draw programme of Apple Cosmetic Production Co Ltd, 7th Lucky Draw programme of Topsyne Medicated Cream and special sales taking place at Chatrium Hotel.— MNA

3rd junior swimming contest of Denk Pharma Cup held

YANGON, 5 Jan—To mark 62nd Anniversary Independence Day, 3rd junior swimming contest of Denk Pharma Cup co-organized by Myanmar Swimming Federation and TTO Trading Co Ltd was held at National Swimming Pool here this morning.

It was attended by those of the Ministry of Sports, MSF and TTO Trading Co Ltd, managers and coaches, guests and fans.

Joint-Secretary U Than Kyaw of MSF presented K 50,000 to Kandawgyiteam that stood fifth; Executive Dr Zaw Tun Aye, K 100,000 to Kokkaing swimming team that stood fourth; Deputy Director U Kyaw Hsan of Sports and Physical Education Department, K 200,000 to Hard Body team that stood second and Vice-President U Cho Maung of MSF and Secretary U Kyaw Oo, 400,000 and cup to ILBC team that stood first.

Vice-President U Cho Maung presents prize to a winner.

MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents completion certificates to the leader of trainees at the concluding ceremony.— MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan greets course instructors, trainees and staff at the concluding ceremony.— MNA
Quake in Atlantic near S Sandwich Islands

WASHINGTON, 5 Jan—A major 6.7-magnitude earthquake struck the southern Atlantic ocean early on Tuesday east of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands, a sparsely populated British territory, a US monitor said. The quake struck at 3:55 am (04:55 GMT) in waters 685 kilometres (425 miles) east of Brit- tol Island, part of an chain inhabited mainly by sci- entists on a series of bases, the US Geological Survey reported. The earthquake, about 2,800 kilometres (1,740 miles) east of the Falkland Islands, occurred at a depth of 10 kilometres (six miles) according to USGS.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Centre issued an alert stating there was no threat of a destructive widespread tsunami, but warned “there is the small possibility of a local or regional tsunami that could affect coasts” near the epicentre.—Internet

Mexican anarchist group claims responsibility for bank bombings

MEXICO CITY, 5 Jan—A Mexican anarchist group on Monday claimed responsibility for two bank bomb- ings in December. The group, Conspira 1970, said on its website that the two bomb attacks in the southern state of Mexico were part of a scheme of nine bombings. Eight of the attacks were planned in the state of Mexico, targeting a slaughterhouse, a car showroom and foreign-owned banks. The other one was in the central state of San Luis Potosi. The two simultaneous attacks in December targeted cash machines in Bancomer and Banamex, owned by Spanish banking group BBVA and the US Citigroup respectively.—Xinhua

US spy work lacking in Afghanistan

KABUL, 5 Jan—Eight years into the war, the US intelligence community is only “marginally rel- evant” to the overall mis- sion in Afghanistan, a sen- ior intelligence official for the international forces wrote in a report released less than a week after seven CIA employees died in a suicide attack.

The acting assess- ment of US intelligence work in Afghanistan, US Maj General Michael Flynn wrote: “US intelli- gence officers and ana- lysts can do little but shurg in response to high- level decision makers seeking the knowledge, analysis and information they need to wage a suc- cessful counterinsur- gency.”

The 26-page report, released on Monday by the Centre for a New American Security think tank in Washington, reco- mends sweeping changes to focus the intel- ligence community less on the enemy and more on the Afghan people. Because the US has focused most of its collec- tion efforts and analysis on insurgent groups, the intelligence network is unable to answer key questions about situations troops face on the ground, Flynn and two other intel- ligence advisers wrote.—Internet

Santa Claus always comes to your house by sled. In order to be a more effective gift deliverer, Santa decides to upgrade his driving machine in this Christmas. New sled No 1: The concept sports car of Land Rover, which is equipped with 3D-Navigator. Santa can even hand the gifts out with Laser-guidance controller!

News Album

“”I’ll clean up the kitchen before the robbery.””

After breaking into a house in Dalian, Liaoning Province, a burglar headed straight for the kitchen to hide any cutlery that could be used against him as a weapon, in case he got busted.

One of the family members—a woman—wakened up to see a rattle and spotted the intruder. As it turned out, the thief wasn’t as daring as he thought. He ran miles from the house without stealing a thing, not even the cutlery.

The woman alerted the rest of the family, and they realized the thief had only broken in and managed to hide a couple of kitchen knives behind a pile of vegetables.

“”I’ll go on a blind date with the victim of my robbery””

A woman sent 80 text messages to a man who stole her purse, persuading him to meet her, so that she could have him arrested.

The 23-year-old woman, a student in Heilongjiang Province, was on a train to her hometown in Heilongjiang Province, when she realized her bag, which contained her mobile phone and bankcards, was missing. She started sending text messages to her own phone, asking whoever was holding it to meet her.

The man agreed to meet her at the Shenyang railway station in Liaoning Province, where cops were waiting for him.

“”Hummingbird robot””

gets ideas from natural life forms

Japanese researchers, getting ideas from the effective mechanism of natu- ral life forms, have developed a “hum- mingbird robot” that can flutter around freely in mid-air with rapid wing move- ments, according to media reports on Tuesday. The robot, a similar size to a real hummingbird, is equipped with a micro motor and four wings that can flap 30 times per second, said Hiroshi Liu, the researcher at Chiba University east of Tokyo.

It is controlled with an infrared sen- sor and can turn up, down, right or left. The robot, which weighs 2.6 grammes (0.09 ounces), can fly in a figure- of-8 more stably than a helicopter with rotor blades, said Liu.

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Indonesia’s Telkom to issue $214 mln of bonds in first half this year

JAKARTA, 5 Jan—Indonesia’s largest telecommunication firm, PT Telekomunikasi Indonesia (Telkom), planned to issue bonds in domestic currency denominated at $214 million in the first half this year, the Jakarta Post reported on Tuesday.

Telkom President Director Rinaldi Firmanasyah said the bond issue was intended to finance the firm’s expenditure this year, adding that the process to select underwriters for the bond issue is underway at the moment.

China reports nine hantavirus deaths in 2009

SANTIAGO, 5 Jan—Chile registered nine deaths of the rodent-spread hantavirus in 2009, local health authorities said Monday.

The country reported a total of 31 cases of hantavirus last year, according to the Epidemiology Department of the Chilean Health Ministry. The latest case was reported last Thursday, a 44-year-old patient in the central Maule Region. He is in stable condition, the ministry said.

Chile confirmed its first hantavirus case in November. People infected with the virus may develop symptoms of fever over 38.3 degrees Celsius, headaches and gastrointestinal dysfunction.

China’s auto sales rise 36.5% on year in December

TOKYO, 5 Jan—Japan’s domestic sales of new cars, trucks and buses increased 36.5 percent from a year earlier in December as government buying incentives boosted sales of fuel-efficient cars, the Japan Automobile Dealers Association said on Tuesday.

Sales, which rose for the fifth consecutive month, totalled 250,474 vehicles in December, the association said.

Sales at top-ranked Toyota Motor Corp, excluding its premium Lexus line, jumped 52.4 percent and 115,467 vehicles were sold, while Nissan Motor Co Ltd sold 31,201 units, a rise of 15.8 percent. Sales of Honda Motor Co Ltd automobiles surged 79 percent, on year in December and 49,225 vehicles were sold.

Of all Japan’s automakers, only Suzuki Motor Corp posted a loss from a year earlier in December. Suzuki sold 3,781 units, a drop of 18.7 percent.

The figures do not include sales of mini cars or trucks with engine capacities of 660 cubic centimeters or less. For the calendar year 2009, auto sales dropped 9.1 percent to 2.92 million vehicles, marking the sixth straight year of decline. Auto sales, as measured by government vehicle registrations, are a key economic indicator, since they are the first consumer spending figures released each month.

More bones broken by icy roads

BEIJING, 5 Jan—The emergency room in Jishuitian Hospital, Beijing’s largest orthopedics hospital, was filled with patients yesterday due to the heavy snow.

“We had 70 patients with bone injuries as a result of the snow on Sunday morning. Most are middle aged and the elderly,” said Zhang Yuqing, head nurse of the emergency room in Jishuitian Hospital. She said the majority of patients had hurt their arms and legs, and four cases needed operations.

“Bone injury cases this year have increased compared to the snowy days of last year,” she said.

According to statistics released by the Beijing health bureau yesterday, 720 people fell on icy roads with 160 of them breaking their bones. The Beijing emergency medical center received 1,200 calls on Sunday.

A 43-year-old farmer surnamed Jin broke both of his feet while repairing his roof in Fengtai District.

He said he slipped from the icy roof and is deciding now whether to accept an operation due to the heavy price.
**Smoking increases aged-related macular degeneration**

**Los Angeles, 5 Jan**—Smoking continues to increase one’s risk for age-related macular degeneration (AMD), the leading cause of blindness in Americans over 65, according to a new study.

The finding was based on analysis of 1,958 women who underwent retinal photographs at five-year intervals, starting with a baseline exam at age 78. Four percent, or 75 of the women, smoked.

In the study, researchers at the University of California in Los Angeles (UCLA) compared the retinal images at ages 78 and 83 to check for the appearance of AMD, and evaluate whether smoking affected the women’s likelihood of developing the disease.

The researchers found that overall, women who smoked had 11 percent higher rates of AMD than other women their same age. In women over 80, however, those who smoked were 5.5 times more likely to develop AMD than women who had not smoked. “We saw a slightly higher rate of AMD in women after age 80, but the rate was dramatically higher in older women who smoked,” said lead author Dr Anne Coleman, professor of ophthalmology at the Jules Stein Eye Institute at UCLA.—Xinhua

**Ancient DNA distinguished from modern DNA**

**Leipzig, 5 Jan**—It’s now possible to distinguish between ancient DNA and modern DNA that contaminates an archaeological site, a German scientist said.

The new techniques were used in sequencing the genome of a young adult male known as the Markina Gora skeleton, the BBC reported on Saturday.

The 30,000-year-old skeleton, that of a young adult male, was excavated in 1954 from Kostinki near the river Don in southern Russia, said Svante Paabo, a researcher with the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany.—Internet

**New species of fox found in California**

**SACRAMENTO, 5 Jan**—A subspecies of red fox living in California’s Sacramento Valley — long believed to be a non-native pest — is in fact native to the area, scientists say.

For almost 100 years the red foxes were thought to have escaped from fur farms and hunting parties in the 1900s, but they’re actually genetically different than non-native foxes elsewhere in California, The Sacramento Bee reported on Saturday.

They are also genetically distinct from gray foxes native across most of California, the newspaper said. Ben Sacks, a biology professor at the University of California-Davis, says genetic testing shows the subspecies, which he calls the Sacramento Valley red fox, is unique to lowland areas north of the American River and the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.—Internet

**Bolivian writer Eduardo Acsarrunz holds a copy of The Miami Herald front page dated on 21 July, 1969 in La Paz, on 2 Jan, 2010. The arrival of man on the moon four decades ago was as unexpected to witness as an alien spacecraft, reveals one of the US astronauts quoted in Acsarrunz’s book.**

**Explorers hail historic Antarctic plane find**

**Sydney, 5 Jan**—Australian explorers on Sunday credited record low tides and a blue moon for the “one-in-a-million” discovery of one of the world’s first aeroplanes buried in Antarctic ice.

The monoplane, which was the first aircraft off the Vickers factory production line in Britain just eight years after the Wright brothers’ first flight, was taken to Antarctica by Australian explorer Douglas Mawson in 1911. It had crashed on the Australian mainland during a pre-polar test flight and had its badly damaged wings removed, but Mawson decided he wanted to take it to the Antarctic to use as an “air tractor” to pull his sledges, officials said.

“What wasn’t terribly successful but he did take the engine back with him,” Australian conservationist David Jensen told AFP.

“He left the aircraft and they fitted it out with special skis and also a special tail rudder.”

Mawson abandoned the plane in the Antarctic in 1931. Armed with magnetic imaging equipment and other technology, three successive teams of conservationists and scientists from the Mawsons’ Huts Foundation searched for the fuselage, which was fast sighted almost totally buried in ice in 1975.—Internet

**Children scoop marshmallows out of a mug holding nearly 500 gallons of hot chocolate. The event also serves as a reminder for people to drink milk during winter months to ensure adequate levels of vitamin D and calcium in their diet.**

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**China reports 648 deaths from A/H1N1 flu**

**Beijing, 5 Jan**—The Chinese mainland reported 648 deaths from the A/H1N1 influenza as of 31 Dec, the Ministry of Health said on Saturday. More than 120,000 A/H1N1 flu cases were reported up to the last day of 2009, 110,000 cases of which had recovered, the ministry said. A/H1N1 accounted for 85.9 percent of flu cases, a minor drop from November, it said. The Ministry of Health said on Saturday. More than 648 deaths from the A/H1N1 influenza as of 31 Dec, according to the ministry.

—Xinhua

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**Iraqi anti-narcotics policemen stand guard next to a concrete barrier built to prevent drug smugglers from crossing into Iran in Milak in 2009. Drug traffickers have killed 11 policemen in eastern Iran, local police were quoted as saying by the official IRNA news agency on Saturday.**

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Rosicky’s contract extended at Arsenal

LONDON, 5 Jan—Arsenal midfielder Tomas Rosicky has extended his contract on Monday at the Gunners but no specified time revealed in the new deal.

The Czech international spent about 18 months on the sidelines with injuries over the previous two seasons, missing the entire 2008-2009 season.
The 29-year-old Rosicky has made 15 appearances in all competitions this season and scored one goal.
Rosicky has made 76 appearances overall for Arsenal, scoring 14 goals, and has played 69 times for the Czech Republic.

He signed with Arsenal in 2006 from Borussia Dortmund.

Barcelona coach Guardiola expects no new signing

MAADRID, 5 Jan—FC Barcelona coach Pep Guardiola said on Monday that he is not expecting his side to make any signings during the winter transfer window.

Speaking on the eve of his side’s King’s Cup tie at home to Sevilla, Guardiola insisted he was not looking to bring in any new players, despite Saturday’s 1-1 draw at home to Villarreal.
Barca have lost midfielders Toure Yaya and Seydou Keita for a month on African Nations Cup duty, but that has not altered the coach’s plans.

“As far as I know, we don’t have anyone in mind. We are well covered in midfield and I have five more players in Barcelona Athletic (Barcelona’s B Team) and we want to give them a chance,” said Guardiola in declarations that were reproduced on the club’s official website.

Guardiola preferred to discuss the rivals for a place in the last eight of the Cup, one of the six competitions that Barcelona won in 2009.

“I think they are a side that can compete with anyone. They were exceptionally good in the Champions League and have got one of the best squads in the league.”

“I worry about a lot of things in the Sevilla team. It is a very direct side, they use the spaces well and we are well covered in midfield and I have five more players in Barcelona Athletic (Barcelona’s B Team) and we want to give them a chance,” said Guardiola.

The good news for the Barcelona coach is Leo Messi returns to his starting 11 for the game. Sevilla will be without strikers Luis Fabiano and Freddy Kanoute as well as midfielders Didier Zokora and Aldo Duscher in their trip to the Camp Nou Stadium.

England coach Capello reported to have knee surgery

LONDON, 5 Jan—England head coach Fabio Capello is due to undergo knee surgery this week, British media reported on Tuesday.

The Sun newspaper said Capello was due to have a surgery in Italy to replace his left kneecap and likely to need crutches for the next six weeks.

Capello, 63, led England to the 2010 World Cup finals in South Africa.
England is scheduled to play a friendly against Egypt at Wembley in March.

Federer wants to stay at top as long as possible

DOHA, 5 Jan—World number one Roger Federer Monday said he would like to stay as the top tennis player as long as possible.

Federer, 28, replaced Rafael Nadal to reclaim his crown as the world’s top singles player after victories at Wimbledon, the French Open and the Cincinnati Masters in 2009.

The Swiss told reporters before his match in Qatar Open that he hoped to hold on to the position as long as possible.

“I would like to stay the top player in the world because going from number two to number one was hard work and not an easy thing to do especially with Rafa playing so well,” Federer said.

Tiger Woods shown shirtless, pumping iron

BEIJING, 5 Jan—Tiger Woods is photographed shirtless and pumping iron on the February issue of Vanity Fair.

The menacing shot, by famed photographer Annie Leibovitz, was taken in January 2006, long before the world learned the married father of two cheated on his wife with a harem of leties.

In addition to “raw” and “never-before-seen” photos, the issue features an essay by Pulitzer Prize winner Buzz Bissinger, who explores the 33-year-old golfer’s fall from grace.

While Woods attempted to live a largely private life, Bissinger writes that it was inevitable for the golfer’s personal and professional lives to collide. “In the end it was the age-old clash of image versus reality, the compartmentalization of two different lives that inevitably merge at some certain point, wherever you are.”

Frenchman Peterhansel aims to win Dakar Rally for 10th time

BUENOS AIRES, 5 Jan—Frenchman Stephane Peterhansel, winner of the third stage at the Dakar Rally Argentina-Chile 2010 in car category, said on Monday that he is more interested in winning the Rally for the 10th time than just “the stages”.

After his triumph on Monday at the third stage between Argentine cities of La Rioja and Fiambala, the 44-year-old Peterhansel tops the overall standings with a total time of 9 hours, 14 minutes and 28 seconds, followed by Spaniard Carlos Sainz of Volkswagen team 4:33 behind.

Meanwhile, Qatari driver Nasser Al-Attiyah of Volkswagen team is third at 7:31.
Peterhansel said after his victory on Monday that “it has been a good day. We began the stage at the sixth place and we arrived first. It has been an easy day, with a special trail of few kilometers (182).” “At the moment I am not interested in winning the stages. I am interested in winning the Rally. Today we have made a good base. We will see what happens next,” Peterhansel said.

Top player Patrick Vieira to leave Inter Milan

BEIJING, 5 Jan—Patrick Vieira, one of the best French players in the history of English Premier League, is to leave the Italian team Inter Milan and is welcomed by other European teams, according to news reports on Tuesday.

The team where he served as captain, Arsenal, showed signs of welcoming him back. Coach Arsene Wenger already admitted last summer that he would be tempted to take the midfield player back to Arsenal.
Moreover, Totenham Hotspurs, Lyon as well as Barcelona also wanted to buy Vieira. However, Inter expressed the idea that although Vieira is not so important nowadays, he is still a worthy player.

Vieira, also served as the current French soccer team captain, was neglected by the national team coach Raymond Domenech.

He is zealous to find his next manager and teammates as to earn his place back in the team.

Golf star looks forward to South African contest

JOHANNESBURG, 5 Jan—Rising golf star Danny Lee of New Zealand said he is looking forward to getting his 2010 season off to a strong start in South Africa, the South African Golf Association reported on Monday.

The 19-year-old, who charged to a dramatic victory and worldwide headlines in the Johnnie Walker Classic last year, will join a stellar line-up of European and Sunshine Tour winners at the one million US dollar Africa Open, which tees off at East London golf club in South Africa on Thursday.

After his stint at cracking the big time in the US, Lee said he is eager to sample the experience of the European Tour, starting in South Africa.

“I’m really looking forward to teeing it up at the Africa Open,” said Lee, who is based in Dallas, Texas.

“This is my first visit to South Africa and from what I hear we can expect a stiff challenge at the East London Golf Club. I can’t think of a better way to start my European Tour season”

Lee enjoyed a prolific amateur career, becoming the youngest winner of the US Amateur in 2008 at the age of 18 years and one month, earning the number one spot in the World Amateur Golf Ranking and beating the previous record set by Tiger Woods in 1994.
Lee, who was born in South Korea but moved to New Zealand at the age of eight, is pleased with his progress to date, but feels that there is more to come.—Xinhua

James Blake of the US serves against compatriot Sam Querrey during their match at the Brisbane International tennis tournament on 5 Jan, 2010. Xinhua
Clijsters storms into third round at Brisbane Int’l

CANBERRA, 5 Jan.—Belgium’s US Open champion Kim Clijsters showed no mercy against her childhood friend Alicia Molik at the Brisbane International tennis tournament on Tuesday, whipping the Australian 6-0 and 6-3 to cruise into the third round. Both players have come out of retirement, but 28-year-old Molik was trashed in just 60 minutes by the merciless Belgian, who has been her friend since they were teenagers starting out on junior circuit, in their much-hyped second round clash. Former Australian Open runner-up Marcos Baghdatis of Cyprus kicked off his 2010 season with a 7-5, 7-5, first-round win over American Mardy Fish.

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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

Signing ceremony between Ministry of Mines and DELCO held

NAV PSI TAW, 5 Jan—The ceremony to sign the contract on apportionment of product quotas for Kanpauk mine field between No. 2 Mining Enterprise of the Ministry of Mines and DELCO Co Ltd was held at the ministry here this morning.

It was attended by Chairman of Myanmar Investment Commission Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Ohn Myint, departmental heads, Managing Director U Win Oo of DELCO Co Ltd, Executive Director U Dain Yein and guests.

Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint extended greetings. Managing Director U Hla Thein of No. 2 Mining Enterprise explained fact about the mine field and MD U Win Oo expressed thanks for contracting.

The managing directors from both sides signed the agreement and exchanged the documents. Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein presented permit of the commission and Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint, permit of the ministry to the executive director of DELCO Co Ltd.

MNA

The signing ceremony of contract on apportionment of product quotas for Kanpauk mine field between No. 2 Mining Enterprise of the Ministry of Mines and DELCO Co Ltd in progress.—MNA

SPECIAL FEATURES TO HONOUR 62nd ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Article
Take strong resolution for perpetuity of independence

Poem
Never harbour hatred
Smiles and joys forever
The celebrated people
Myanmars of the ancient days

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KHAING THITSA (PSYCHOLOGY)