**Senior General Than Shwe on inspection tour of Delta**

Local people themselves to put more efforts into rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks

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

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**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

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**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
Create better conditions for turning out good citizens

High qualification of teachers contributes towards turning out human resources that can maintain stability and enhance development in the time of building a new nation based on education.

With a view to ensuring equal development in states and divisions, the government has built basic infrastructures such as roads, railroads and bridges and created education and health opportunities and favourable conditions.

The government has opened basic education schools and established universities and colleges in states and divisions in order to produce human resources and provide schools and classrooms with modern teaching aids.

Teachers are to be well-versed in educational theories and they are to equip themselves with management and leadership skills. They also are to improve their knowledge of information and communication technology and international languages in view of social and economic challenges in the 21st century. By doing so, they can nurture younger generation to become national forces capable of facing the challenges of the 21st century.

It is necessary for the teachers to train younger generation to become good citizens with high qualifications and to propagate the Union spirit among the young.

Therefore, it is the duty of teachers to make efforts to help perpetuate the Union, ensure peace and tranquility in the nation and hand down favourable conditions to the younger generation.

Export Gas Sales and Purchase Agreement inked

YANGON, 28 Dec— Sellers Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise of the Ministry of Energy, Daewoo International Cooperation of the Republic of Korea, ONGC Videsh Ltd and GAIL (India) Ltd of India and Korea Gas Corporation of the Republic of Korea and purchaser China National United Oil Corporation held a ceremony to sign the Export Gas Sales and Purchase Agreement, Shwe Project, Myanmar, at Sedona Hotel, here, on 24 December evening.

Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi delivered an address. Managing Director U Myint Htay, Chairman of Daewoo International Cooperation Mr. Jae-Yong Kim, ONGC Videsh Ltd Vice-Chairman Mr. Sharad Terway, Korea Gas Corporation Executive Vice-Chairman Mr. June-Sun Kil and Chairperson Mdm Wang Luhua of China National United Oil Corporation and Director-General U Soe Aung of Energy Planning Department signed the agreement and exchanged notes.

The agreement was signed to export natural gas to China from Shwe natural gas project at Block A-1 and A-3 at Rakhine coastal region through pipelines.

Also present on the occasion were Minister for Communications, Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw, Attorney-General U Aye Maung, Deputy Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Korean Ambassador Mr Key-Chong Park, Chinese Ambassador Mr Guan Mu and officials.—MNA

Basic driving course concluded

YANGON, 28 Dec — Fire Services Department of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Road Transport concluded No. 23/2008 basic driving course at the department here on 26 December. Director-General of the department U Myint Tun delivered an address at the concluding ceremony. A total of 30 trainees from states and divisions took the six-week course. Present on the occasion were officials concerned of the Fire Services Department and Road Transport.

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi attends signing ceremony of export gas sales and purchase agreement.— ENERGY

Corporation Mr. Liao Yongyuan gave introductory speeches. Managing Director U Myint Htay, Chairman of Daewoo International Cooperation Mr. Jae-Yong Kim, ONGC Videsh Ltd Vice-Chairman Mr. Sharad Terway, Korea Gas Corporation Executive Vice-Chairman Mr. June-Sun Kil and Chairperson Mdm Wang Luhua of China National United Oil Corporation and Director-General U Soe Aung of Energy Planning Department signed the agreement and exchanged notes.

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All this needs to be known

* Do not be frightened whenever intimidated
* Do not be bolstered whenever flattered
* Do not be softened whenever appeased

* Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy
* Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
* Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
* Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
* Do not be softened whenever appeased
Three teen sisters killed in Kabul rocket attack

KOBL, 28 Dec—A rare rocket attack in the Afghan capital on Saturday night demolished two rooms of a mud-brick home and killed three teenage sisters, the family and police said.

The rocket attack on the southern end of Kabul landed on a house adjacent to an Afghan police training centre. The attack crushed a mud home and killed three sisters, ages 13, 15 and 16, said Sayed Farah Muz, the girls’ uncle.

“There are 40 countries in Afghanistan, and still we are hit by rockets. What is the benefit?” said Sayed Shah Barat, a cousin of the three girls. “The Iraqi people hit (President George W) Bush with their shoes, but we should do the same with our leaders.”

There are 41 nations involved in NATO’s security coalition in Afghanistan.

The house hit by the rocket was a simple six-room, mud-brick home that housed some 20 people, said Barat. Men swept up the shattered bricks of mud while women mourned out loud in another room.

Gen Ali Shah Pakiwal, the head of criminal investigations for the Kabul police, said two rockets were fired into Kabul after nightfall Saturday. Kabul once suffered greatly from rocket fire, during the country’s 1990’s civil war, but such attacks have been a rarity the last several years.—INTERNET

Pakistan seeks to reduce tensions after troop move

ISLAMABAD, 28 Dec—Pakistan told India on Saturday it did not want war and was committed to fighting terrorism — a move apparently aimed at reducing tensions after Pakistan moved troops toward their shared border.

Intelligence officials said on Friday that the army was redeploying thousands of troops from the country’s fight against militants along the Afghan border to the Indian frontier — an alarming scenario for the West as it tries to get Pakistan to neutralize the al-Qaeda threat.

Islamabad also announced it was canceling all military leave — the latest turn of the screw in the rising tensions between the nuclear-armed neighbours following last month’s terror attack on the Indian financial capital of Mumbai.

India has blamed Pakistani militants for the terrifying three-day siege. Pakistan’s recently elected civilian government has demanded that India back up the claim with better evidence but has also said it is committed to fighting the “cancer of terrorism.”

“We ourselves have accepted that we have a cancer,” said Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari in a televised speech on Saturday. “They are forcing their agenda on us.”

Zardari has pledged to battle militancy, repeatedly reminding critics that his wife, Benazir Bhutto, was herself killed in a gun-and-suicide bomb attack blamed on terrorists.

Tens of thousands of Pakistanis visited her grave on Saturday to mark the first anniversary of her assassination.—INTERNET
Power blackout in Hawaii left Obama family in dark

HONOLULU, 28 Dec — US President-elect Barack Obama was without electricity for 12 hours at his vacation home on Oahu after a suspected lightning strike blacked out Hawaii’s most populous island, an aide said on Saturday.

The outage on Friday night left hundreds of thousands of people, including Obama and his family, in the dark as an electrical storm rolled over the island. The Obamas are staying at a heavily guarded beachfront villa in eastern Oahu.

“Power was restored to the residence during the 6 o’clock hour this morning. The Obama family is grateful for the offers of assistance from local officials,” said Ben Labolt, a spokesman for Obama.

Those offers included a generator from the Hawaiian Electricity Company, but an Obama aide said the family did not use one. It was not immediately clear why.

No additional security measures were visible on Friday night at the compound, which is guarded by Secret Service agents, and no attempt was made to move the Obamas through darkened streets to a nearby Marine Corps military base.

Malaysia’s former king dies

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 Dec — Malaysia’s former king Tuanku Jaafar Tuanku Abdul Rahman, who was the longest serving ruler of his southern state, has died at age 86, a report said on Sunday.

He died in hospital on Saturday after complaining of dizziness and chest discomfort, state secretary Norzam Mohamad Nor was quoted as saying by the Sunday Star newspaper.

“Tuanku Jaafar was still conscious when two doctors reached the palace. He was rushed to the hospital’s intensive care unit,” the secretary said.

Norzam said he was given emergency treatment and several attempts were made to revive him, but he was pronounced dead about three hours later.

Tuanku Jaafar, who took over the state throne after his brother Tuanku Munawir’s death in 1967, leaves behind his wife, consort Tuanku Najihah, two sons and three daughters. — Internet

China’s first road tunnel under Yangtze River opens to traffic

WUHAN, 28 Dec — China’s first road tunnel beneath the Yangtze River was open to traffic on Sunday in central China’s Hubei Province.

The 3.63-km, bi-directional four-lane road tunnel started a three-month trial operation at about 10 am in Wuhu City.

The tunnel cuts travel time to seven minutes from half an hour between the city’s major areas — Wuchang, where government offices and universities are based, and Hankou, the business centre.

The tunnel will allow 50,000 vehicles to travel at 50 kilometres per hour each day. It can withstand flooding (300-year-flood plain) and an earthquake measuring up to six on the Richter Scale, Yin said.

The 1.7-billion yuan (250 million US dollars) project began in November 2004 as one of the city’s efforts to improve transportation infrastructure and relieve congested roads.

Wuhan, capital of Hubei Province, is one of the largest cities in central China with a population of eight million. — Internet

Japan likely to drop plan to buy F-22 fighters

Tokyo, 28 Dec — Japan is likely to drop its attempts to buy state-of-the-art US F-22 Raptor stealth fighter planes since it expects the United States to stop producing them, a newspaper reported on Sunday.

The Japanese government had been trying to persuade the United States to sell it F-22 Raptors to replace its own aging F-15 fleet, despite Washington’s reluctance.

Malaysia’s AirAsia X to expand routes amid economic crunch

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 Dec — Malaysian budget carrier AirAsia X said it can weather the storm of a sharply deteriorating global economy and is hiring pilots to expand its routes to China, India, South Korea and Japan.

Chief Executive Azran Osman Rani told AFP that while it was a challenging period for the aviation industry as many countries slip into a recession and carriers go bust, there were “a lot of business opportunities for us.”

Bookings for its direct London flight on its leased Airbus 340-300, due to begin 11 March, were overwhelming, he said, with 30,000 seats sold.

Demand was great as ticket prices cost about 2,000 ringgit (580 dollars), less than half the price of a regular non-budget flight AirAsia X will fly five times a week between the Malaysian capital Kuala Lumpur and Stansted Airport on the outskirts of London.

Azran said AirAsia X was looking to expand its routes in 2009 into northern India including New Delhi, Amritsar and Mumbai, and to Beijing.

In 2010 it aims to target South Korea and to Tokyo, Hokkaido in northern Japan and Kyushu in the south.Azran said it was taking on new staff for its expansion. — Internet
UN Security Council to meet on Israel-Palestine conflict

UNITED NATIONS, Dec—The UN Security Council is scheduled to meet behind closed doors at 10:00 pm EST on Saturday (03:00GMT on Sunday) to discuss the latest violence and bloodshed in the Israel-Palestine conflict, diplomatic sources said here.

The 15-member council’s meeting came after Israeli warplanes pounded dozens of security compounds across the Hamas-ruled territory in unprecedented waves of air strikes on Saturday to retaliate for rocket fire from the Gaza Strip, killing over 200 people and wounding many more in the single bloodiest day of fighting in years.

Earlier on Saturday, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called for an immediate halt to the violence in Gaza and southern Israel, condemning excessive use of force leading to civilian casualties and ongoing rocket attacks by militants.

In a statement issued by his spokesperson, Ban said that he is “deeply alarmed” by the heavy violence and bloodshed in Gaza, and the continuation of violence in southern Israel, and called for “an immediate halt to all violence.” —Xinhua

Security beefed in Nepali capital’s Intl airport

KATHMANDU, Dec—Security has been beefed up at the Tribhuvan International Airport in Nepali capital Kathmandu following a minor explosion at the entrance gate of the airport on Saturday morning.

According to Sunday’s The Rising Nepal, the national police headquarters of Buddha Air’s office in the airport, the only international airport in the country. According to Ganga Pant, Inspector at the Gaushala Metropolitan Police Circle said that a woman sustained injuries in the incident and it caused minor damages to the counter of Buddha Air.” —Xinhua

Russia urges India, Pakistan to prevent use of force

MOSCOW, Dec—Russia on Saturday asked India and Pakistan to show restraint to prevent the use of force amid the raising tension between the two nuclear rivals.

“Russia urges India and Pakistan to show maximum restraint and prevent the use of force on the border,” the Foreign Ministry said in a statement posted on its official website. Tensions between the two nuclear rivals increased since the Mumbai attacks, as New Delhi accused Pakistan-based Islamic extremists of carrying out the attacks and elements within the Pakistani government and army of complicity in supporting terrorism in the region.

The Pakistani government has denied the accusations, warning India to refrain from waging any strikes against Pakistan.

Moscow is “extremely concerned” by reports that massive concentration of troops and military hardware is under way on both sides of the India-Pakistan border, said the statement, adding that tensions in that region have reached a dangerous level.—Xinhua

Arab League, Egypt push for Arab unified measures

CAIRO, Dec—The Cairo-based Arab League (AL) has been busy preparing for an emergency meeting of Arab foreign ministers set to be held next Wednesday following deadly attacks by Israeli troops in the Gaza Strip that killed more than 200 Palestinians on Saturday.

Earlier in the day, AL Secretary General Amr Moussa told reporters the Arab foreign ministers’ meeting will be held either on Sunday or Monday to discuss the situation after Israeli strikes.

Meanwhile, Moussa’s spokesman Abdel-Aleem al-Obayyed also told Xinhua later in the day that the Arab foreign ministers’ meeting is likely to be held on Sunday evening, also calling for an urgent meeting of the UN Security Council to adopt a stance on the Israeli raids on Gaza. But after a meeting of AL permanent delegates in Cairo on Saturday evening, the pan-Arab body decided to hold the foreign ministers’ meeting next Wednesday. —Xinhua

China to produce 189 min tonnes of crude oil this year

BEIJING, Dec—China is forecast to produce 189 million tonnes of crude oil in 2008, a growth of 1.61 percent over the 186 million tonnes last year, according to a recent report released by the nation’s leading oil producer, PetroChina.

The production would rank the nation fifth among all the oil producing countries around the world. The report said China had verified oil deposits of 20.7 billion tonnes over the past 30 years.

In the three decades, Daqing Oilfield in northeastern China pumped out 5.576 billion tonnes of crude oil, or more than 40 percent of China’s total onshore crude output for the period. It kept annual crude oil output at more than 50 million tonnes for 27 consecutive years.

Shengli Oilfield on the eastern coast produced 805 million tonnes of crude in the 30 years, or more than 20 percent of the onshore crude output nationwide for the period. In 2007, it continued to maintain annual crude production at 27.7 million tonnes.

The report said China’s annual natural gas output increased from 13.9 billion cubic metres in 1978 to 69.8 billion cubic metres in 2007. This year the production would reach 76 billion cubic metres, the report predicted.—Xinhua
Racial disparities in hospice use

PHILADELPHIA, 28 Dec — Rules on hospice care for those with limited life expectancy restrict usage by those most in need, disproportionately affecting blacks, US researchers said. The study, scheduled to be published in the 1 Feb issue of Cancer, said eligibility criteria for hospice services should be reconsidered.

To enroll in hospice, patients must have a prognosis of six months or less if their illness runs its usual course. They must also accept the palliative nature — reducing the severity of symptoms instead of striving to cure the disease — of hospice care.

Dr David Casarett and colleagues at the University of Pennsylvania interviewed 283 patients who were receiving cancer treatment at six oncology clinics. Patients were asked about their perceived need for five hospice services and their preferences for continuing cancer treatment, and they were followed for six months or until death.

Casarett’s team found that African-American patients had stronger preferences for continuing their cancer treatments as well as greater perceived needs for hospice services — poorer patients wanted more services. — Internet

Malaysia uses satellite to fight illegal logging

KUALA LUMPUR, 28 Dec — Malaysia is zooming in forests with a satellite in order to fight illegal logging which its government says is harming the major timber exporting country, a report said on Sunday.

Daruss Ahmad, deputy director-general with the Malaysian Remote Sensing Agency, said the “eye in the sky” program was put in place in October.

“There is always criticisms that our forests are diminishing,” he was quoted as saying by the New Sunday Times newspaper. Darus said that using satellite images the authorities can establish a national forest inventory of the country’s total area of forest cover.

They can check whether logging in a particular area is legal or not, he said, adding that the facility was currently available in the western peninsula of Malaysia only.

Darus also said the system can be used to prevent air pollution by detecting forest fires and illegal land clearing. — Internet

Pocket-sized ultrasound breakthrough

An inexpensive, pocket-sized therapeutic ultrasound device has been developed by a graduate student at Cornell University in New York. The university said the device “packs enough punch to stabilize a gunshot wound or deliver drugs to brain cancer patients.”

George Lewis, a PhD student in biomedical engineering, said the pocket-sized prototype he designed can be built with $100, compared to current ultrasounds that can weigh 30 pounds and cost $20,000. His goal is to see therapeutic ultrasound machines in every hospital and medical research lab.

The device is detailed in the journal Review of Scientific Instruments.

Lewis said the ultrasound could be used to treat conditions as prostate tumors or kidney stones. It could also be used to relieve arthritis pressure and help treat brain cancer by pushing drugs quickly through the brain following surgery.

His new devices are currently being tested at Weill Cornell Medical College.

Man sets self on fire during stunt to impress date

STOCKHOLM, 28 Dec — A Swedish man’s attempt to impress his date went horribly awry on Friday, as he ended up lighting himself on fire and going into shock.

The 33-year-old man also faces allegations of endangering the public as he recovers from serious burn injuries in a hospital in Vastervik. The Local reported.

The unidentified man’s girlfriend said he was attempting a stunt when he poured gasoline over his arm and set the fuel on fire.

“It obviously didn’t go well. He burned his arm and other parts of his body and was in a state of shock,” Kalmars police spokesperson Reine Johansson told the TT news agency. “Don’t ask me what the point of the trick was supposed to be.”

Police told The Local the man will likely need specialized care at the burn clinic of Linköping University Hospital. — Internet

Mexican woman fights off 500-lb lion with machete

A Mexican woman said she used a machete to fight off a 500-pound lion that attacked her donkey along a road where the lion went after the animal’s legs.

Celsa Aleman, 35, said she and her 7-year-old niece were riding a donkey along a road when the lion went after the animal’s legs.

The woman says she fought the courage to fight the lion because she thought it would attack her niece. She hit the animal with a machete until the beast ran away. Aleman and her niece were unharmed.

A huge abacus made of sandalwood is displayed at China Abacuses Museum in Nantong, east China’s Jiangsu Province. The abacus, 781 centimetres in length and 1.81 centimetres in height, has been on display here since Saturday.

A girl in a typical dress stands next to a giant cup containing the typical Mexican cocktail “margarita”, made with 200 liters of tequila, lemon and sugar, in Los Cabos, Baja California state, northern Mexico, during an attempt to break a Guinness record of the biggest margarita in the world.

Hauna the mermaid swims in the new Mermaid Lagoon display at the Sydney Aquarium in Sydney, Australia, during the introduction of two dugongs. It is said that dugongs, an aboriginal word meaning young child, in olden times were mistakenly identified as mermaids to mariners that had been at sea for a long time.

Arkansas family welcomes 18th child, a girl

An Arkansas woman has given birth to her 18th child. Michelle Duggar delivered the baby girl by Caesarean section on Thursday at Mercy Medical Centre in Rogers. The baby, named Jordyn-Grace Makiya Duggar, weighed 7 pounds, 3 ounces and was 20 inches long.

“The ultimate Christmas gift from God,” said Jim Bob Duggar, the father of the 18 children. “She’s just absolutely beautiful, like her mom and her sisters.”

The Duggars now have 10 sons and eight daughters.

Jim Bob Duggar said Michelle started having contractions on Wednesday night. She needed the C-section, her third, because the baby was lying sideways. Jim Bob said both baby and mother were doing well on Thursday night. “We both would love to have more,” he said.

The cable network TLC broadcasts a weekly show about the Duggars, called “17 Kids and Counting.” Chris Finnegan of TLC — who handles public relations for the Duggar family — said the show’s name would be updated to reflect the latest addition to the family. He said TLC also will air a show on Monday on the baby’s delivery.

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Climate protection

PHILADELPHIA, 28 Dec — The climate protection gap grew during the past decade, according to a study published in this week’s issue of Nature Climate Change.

The study, which analyzed data from 131 countries in 2006, 2009 and 2012, found that developing countries had more climate protection programs in place in 2012 than they did in 2006.

However, the study also found that developed countries had more climate protection programs in place in 2012 than they did in 2009.

The study’s authors said the results show that climate protection efforts are progressing, but that more needs to be done.

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Newly opened concrete sleeper factory will help meet local demand

**YANGON, 28 Dec—** A ceremony to open the Concrete Sleeper Factory (Mottama) built by Myanmar Railways under the Ministry of Rail Transportation in Mottama, Paung Township, Mon State took place in front of the factory this morning with address by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of Southeast Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win and Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min.

Also present on the occasion were Deputy Ministers for Rail Transportation Thura U Aung Min, Transportation Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Ministers for Rail Transportation in Myanma Railways under the Ministry of Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan, Transportation Maj-Gen Thura U Aung Min, Transportation in Myanma Railways under the Ministry of Basic Education MNA U Aung Kyi, heads of department under the Ministry of Information, doyen literati, Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), the Vice-Chairmen and CEC members, committee members, winners and guests.—MNA

In his address, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min said that as the construction of the concrete sleeper factory started on 15-7-2007 and the facility was opened today, the project took one year and five months in total.

The life of wooden sleeper is three years and its one square inch can bear 800 pounds of weight while the life of concrete sleeper is 60 years and its one square inch can bear 7,000 pounds of weight. As the life of concrete sleeper is 20 times the wooden sleeper and its bearing capacity is nine times more than the latter, steps were taken to substitute concrete sleepers for wooden sleepers, he said.

In accord with the guidance of the Head of State, three more sleeper factories each of which in Khin U, Sagaing Division, Pakokku, Magway Division and Orshiptin, Bago Division are being constructed, he said.

He said that the Myanmar Railways has already opened the concrete sleeper factory (Myitngwe) and the concrete sleeper factory (Pyontaza), and the opening of the concrete sleeper factory (Mottama) today adds the total number of sleeper factory to three.

The newly opened sleeper factory will be able to produce 600 sleepers per day on average and 200,000 sleepers per year on average. The factory will supply sleepers to Bago, Mawlamyine, Ye and Dawei where sleepers are required. —MNA

Information Minister hosts dinner in honour of literary award winners

**NAY PYI TAW, 28 Dec—** Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan hosted a dinner in honour of life-time achievement literary award and Sarpay Beikman manuscript award winners for 2007 and members of prize scrutiny and selection committee at Shwenantaw Hotel of Nay Pyi Taw Hotel Zone, here, this evening. Present at the dinner were Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi, heads of department under the Ministry of Information, doyen literati, Chairman of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association U Hla Myaing (Ko Hsaung), the Vice-Chairmen and CEC members, committee members, winners and guests.—MNA

Thaung Lwin and U Pe. Than, senior military officers, departmental officials, social organizations, local people and others.

In his address, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win said that the opening of a concrete sleeper factory in Mottama, Paung Township, Mon State will satisfy the demand for sleepers in building a network of railroads the length and breadth of the nation in line with the guidance of the government. The emergence of the facility is something to be proud of not only for Mon State but also for the State, he added.

The Head of State has given guidance, saying that only when there is better transport will economic, social and administration sectors between one region and another improve; and that better transport between one region and another will contribute a lot to boosting socio-economic status of the people and forging friendships among national brethren, he said.

In view of the guidance of the Head of State, it is found that better transport plays an important role in building a modern and developed nation. It is safe to say that the factory will contribute much towards ensuring better transport as it will produce a large number of sleepers needed in construction of railroads, he disclosed.

In conclusion, the commander stressed the need for local people in Mon State to strive together for regional development by doing their bit.

Next, U Ye Kyaw Ya, on behalf of local people, expressed thanks for the opening of the new sleeper factory.

At the auspicious time, Commander Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win and Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min formally opened the new concrete sleeper factory and had a documentary photo taken together with local people.

After the opening ceremony, the commander and the minister and guests inspected the production line of sleeper factory.

The Myanmar Railways has been constructing a network of railroads and is renovating the old ones for regional development and better transport in accord with the guidance of the Head of State. As a result, the current total length of railroads has reached 4288.9 miles, thereby needing 9,332,646 sleepers in total. The use of concrete sleepers has helped prevent the deforestation.

The newly opened sleeper factory will be able to produce 600 sleepers per day on average and 200,000 sleepers per year on average. The factory will supply sleepers to Bago, Mawlamyine, Ye and Dawei where sleepers are required.

Prizes presentation for Yangon Division School Sports Competitions

**YANGON, 28 Dec—** A prize presentation ceremony of Yangon Division School Sports Competitions of No 3 Basic Education Department for 2008-09 academic year was held at Aung San Stadium here yesterday.

At the ceremony, students demonstrated their skills and officials concerned presented championship shields to winning schools of the districts and townships. —MNA

**SAY NO TO DRUGS**
Senior General Than Shwe on inspection ...

(from page 1)

At the Thiri Annawa Hall, Minister Maj-Gen Soe Naing, who is closely supervising the rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks, reported on population of Pyapon, location of villages and wards in the townships, loss and damage during the storm, accomplishment of relief and rehabilitation tasks, resuming of agriculture, fisheries and salt industry, reconstruction of buildings in education and health sectors, measures taken for ensuring better transport in the region, comparison of conditions after the storm and present conditions, output of monsoon paddy for 2008-2009, cultivation of summer paddy, establishment of villages and construction of houses with the contribution of well-wishers and assistance of World Food Programme (WFP), UNICEF, non-governmental organizations such as Save the Children, World Vision, Care International in Myanmar, IOM and PACT Myanmar.

Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe reported on harvesting of monsoon paddy in the township and arrangements for summer paddy to meet targets and rehabilitation tasks.

In his guidance, Senior General Than Shwe said the storm-hit areas have now much improved. Achievements have been made in relief and resettlement and care services with the efforts of all the national people. Measures could be taken to prevent the outbreak of infectious diseases.

Moreover, resettlement tasks are being carried out with greater momentum.

He spoke of the need to complete the construction of schools, hospitals, dispensaries, houses, cy.

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Storm-hit areas must develop more than the condition before the storm. Rehabilitation and construction and preparedness of natural disaster are the national project and systematic arrangements are to be made.
Senior General Than Shwe on inspection

(from page 8)

All-out efforts are to be made for boosting production and improving economy with the combination of natural resources and workforce and harmonious cooperation of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw.

New buildings of primary school in Kadonkani Village, Bogale Township.—MNA

A library in Kadonkani Village.—MNA

A clinic in Kadonkani Village.—MNA

A bird’s eye view of houses in Kadonkani Village in Bogale Township.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe and party left the village and inspected Eya, Kyeingyaunggyi and Htngphone villages, allotment of houses and construction of Kyeingyaunggyi-Kadonkani Road, mango grove, windbreak plants from the helicopter.

All-out efforts are to be made for boosting production and improving economy with the combination of natural resources and workforce and harmonious cooperation of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw.

Vietnam

ASEAN.

Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe and Minister Maj-Gen Huay Oo gave supplementary reports.

Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on full development of agriculture and fisheries in the region, cultivation of kitchen crops for sufficiency of households, creation of basic data that can be counted for regional economic growth, completion of houses and cyclone shelters in time, construction of roads in the township as shelter embankments and recultivation of mangrove.

Senior General Than Shwe and party left Bogale for Kadonkani Village by helicopter. They inspected development of Sethsan, Kyonkadon, Kalathik, Dawmyein, Naukmye, Seikma and Amar Villages, construction of Sethsan-Kyonkadon road, Pyapon-Kyonkadon-Amar road, thriving of paddy and cold season crops and mangrove and windbreak plants from the helicopter.

On arrival at the village, Senior General Than Shwe and party were welcomed by officials and entrepreneurs. They inspected reconstruction of the village and construction tasks by Dagon International Co and Htoo Trading Co and cordially greeted the local people.

Senior General Than Shwe and party went to the briefing hall where Minister Brig-Gen Thein Aung reported on arrangements for natural disasters preparedness and shelters and the chairman of Htoo Trading Co on model of cyclone shelters and land preparations.

Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe and Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun reported on requirements for construction of cyclone shelters.

Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on some points to be careful in connection with tidal waves in construction of cyclone shelters and offices near the sea and resuming of businesses of the local people.

They inspected development of the village and the villagers welcomed them.

Senior General Than Shwe and party left the village and inspected Eya, Kyeingyaunggyi and Htngphone villages, allotment of houses and construction of Kyeingyaunggyi-Kadonkani Road, mango grove, windbreak plants from the helicopter.

They reported on requirements for construction of the tasks.

Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected Pyapon-Bogale Road and cultivation of crops and arrived in Bogale by helicopter.

They were welcomed by Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung and departmental officials.

Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected conditions of Bogale and rehabilitation tasks in a motorcade.

At the office of Town-ship Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the minister reported on progress of work, area of the township, losses, reconstruction of houses, yield of monsoon paddy for 2008-2009, cultivation of summer paddy, provision of power tillers, fuel and cattle, maintenance of embankments that prevent flowing of salt water, cultivation of cold season crops and stockpiling of seeds, cultivation of kitchen crops, distribution of poultry and pigs, fishing boats and nets, repair of storm-hit schools, reoperation of rice mills and hullers, supply of drinking water, construction of Bogale-Kyeingyaunggyi-Kadonkani Road, arrangements for construction of cyclone shelters and recultivation of mangrove and study tour of diplomats and delegates of INGO and ASEAN.

Senior General Than Shwe welcomed Rear-Admiral Nyan Tun and expressed gratitude and presented him with a gift.

The Tatmadaw as Ayeyawady Division is rich in land and water resources. He said after the storm, the people from all parts of the country including entrepreneurs provided assistance provided assistance provided assistance.
Throughout history, Myanmar has existed...

(from page 16)

Being able to publish more Myanmar journals and magazines that have been good in terms of both quality and quantity year after year are the efforts of the Myanmar literati. Throughout the long history, Myanmar has existed in the world with her own literature, culture, customs and traditions. The fact that Myanmar is able to stand firm in the world with her own national character is thanks to the Myanmar literature achievements.

The Secretary-1 went on to say that owing to the efforts of the patriotic literati including monks and lay people of all successive periods, the national people fought back the imperialists unitedly.

Nowadays, some powerful countries are attempting to influence the global nations in various ways taking advantage of the advancing information technology. They are trying to export their cultures and life styles which are not fit for other sovereign nations. Therefore, the national literati are to be vigilant and defend against their instigation and ill attempts with national awareness. Likewise, they also need to promote and maintain the national culture.

The Secretary-1 added that the government is striving in all aspects for perpetuity and peace and development of the nation. Physical infrastructures are being built nationwide to promote the living standard and socio-economy of the people. At the same time, measures are being taken for human resource development and physical and spiritual development of the people.

In accord with the motto of Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association 'to promote the national prestige and literature, the association is found to be striving for the successful realization of its motto in collaboration with other social organizations. In doing so, it is incumbent upon them to produce their works of literature that are filled with national essence helping the people to develop both technologically and mentally.

The journalists, writers, cartoonists, artists, designers and publishers are to make all-out efforts for development of the Myanmar literary world. The literati are also to participate in development projects, national level education and health plans being undertaken in respective regions of the union while implementing the aims and objectives of the Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, he said.

The Secretary-1 added that at a time when the new nation is being built by centring the education sector, the education learning centres have been opened to contribute to livelihoods of the people and development of the regions. With the assistance of the Ministry of Information, the self-reliant village libraries have been established for widening the scope of knowledge of the people and for enabling them to better serve the interest of the State.

He continued to say that indeed, the literature is the national and cultural character portraying the livelihoods of the people. All the people took the lessons from the historical events through the literature. Therefore, the literati are to compile their works with the national outlook.

He said that the development or downturn of a nation and the people depends on the quality of the literati who are disseminating the educative knowledge to the nation and the people concerned. The preservation of cultural heritage that had been handed down by the forefathers through the variety of literature is the historical duty of all the literati. At the same time, they are to try hard to disseminate the classical literature of Myanmar and the world to the Myanmar readers for widening their knowledge scope. Moreover, the literati are also to strive for enabling the national people to realize the changing world events with the national outlook and for enabling the new generation youth to have access to advancing technology. Therefore, the literati are always to uphold the national duties for serving the interest of the people.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 urged them to hand down the Myanmar cultural heritage to the new generation while preserving the fine traditions; for the literati to harmoniously try hard for progress of the Myanmar literary world; to strive for serving the interests of the State and the people in the national culture sector; and to make utmost efforts for flourishing of the Union Spirit among the national people by upholding Our Three Main National Causes.

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thihla Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presents Life-time Achievement National Literary Award to U Kyi Aye (Hsinbyukyun Aung Thein) through Secretary of National Literary Award Scrutinizing Committee U Maung Hlaiang (Maung Swe Nge).—MNA

Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin gives award to Maung Myint Tun. —MNA

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan presents award to Maung Than Swe (Dawei).—MNA

Chief Justice U Aung Toe gives first prize to Lu Mon (Pakokku).—MNA

Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint presents third prize to Aung Kyaw Hsan. —MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thihla Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presented Life-time Achievement National Literary Award to U Kyi Aye (Hsinbyukyun Aung Thein) through Secretary of the National Literary Award Scrutinizing Committee U Maung Hlaiang (Maung Swe Nge).

The Secretary-1 also presented prizes to Hlaing Thin for the collections of verse; to Maung Than Swe (Dawei) in the poetry category; to Hlaing Thin for the romances; to Maung Than Swe (Dawei) in the short stories category; to Maung Than Swe (Dawei) in the belles-lettres category; to Maung Than Swe (Dawei) in the collective poems genre; to Maung Than Swe (Dawei) in the collective short stories genre; to Maung than Swe (Dawei) in the belles-lettres category; to Maung Than Swe (Dawei) in the belles-lettres genre; to Sanda Khin in the fine arts category; to Maung Than Swe (Dawei) in the belles-lettres genre; to Linkar Yikyaw in the belles-lettres category; to Maung Than Swe (Dawei) in the belles-lettres genre.

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan gave prizes to Hlaing Thin in the translation (general knowledge) genre, Tin Maung Myint in the translation (aesthetics) genre, Maung Than Swe (Dawei) in the

(see page 11)
Throughout history, Myanmar has existed...

(from page 10)

general knowledge (arts) and Dr. Chit in the general knowledge (applied science) genre of the National Literary Award.

Next, the winners were awarded in the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript contest. Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein presented first, second and third prizes to Thu Theim, Min Bay Dah (Pwinbyu) and Myaylat Min Lwin in the novel genre; and Thwe Htar Nyo (Thakhala), Khin La Pyae Win and Myat Noe Ein (Zwegabin) in the collective short stories genre.

Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint handed first, second and third prizes to Aye Kyi Sein, Kyaw Zayar Hlaing (Institute of Economics) and Maung Ni Hmaing (Kyautkan) in the collective poems genre; Htin Lin Kyaw, Saw Kyu Maung (Yawnmyay) and Maung Yin Hline (Pymwamaing) in the general knowledge (arts) genre.

Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi presented first, second and third prizes to Aung Soe (Agriculture-107), Maung Maung Myint Thein (Seinmu Takkatho) and Goal Hla Maung (Myoma) in the general knowledge (science and applied science) genre; Aung Soe, Thaung Nyunt Thit and Aung Min Myint in the belles-lettres genre.

Minister U Aung Kyi gave third prize to Goal Hla Maung (Myoma).—MNA

Cheif Justice U Aung Toe gave first, second and third prizes to Ma Aye Chan (Myanmarsar), Thein Than Win (Mhaing) and Aung Nyein Chan (Mann University) through U Khin Soe in the Myanmar culture and fine arts genre; and Lu Mon (Pakokku), Tekkatho Taw Thar through U Nyunt Han and Myat Wai Toe (Institute of Education) in the child literature genre.

Deputy Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Brig-Gen Kyaw Myint awarded first, second and third prizes to Maung Kyi Thant, Maung Htaik (Thonze) and Aung Kyaw Hsan in the youth literature genre; first prize to U Aung Soe Oo in the translation genre; and second and third prizes to Zin Min (Thameinhtauw) and Maung Hsanda (Lewe) in the drama literature genre.

On behalf of the winners, Dr. Chit spoke words of thanks.

Next, the Secretary-1 and party posed for documentary photo together with the winners in the National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award.

Minister U Aung Kyi gives third prize to Goal Hla Maung (Myoma).—MNA

Minister Vice-Admiral Soe Thein gives third prize to Myaylat Min Lwin.—MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint presents third prize to Maung Ni Hmine (Kyautkan).—MNA

Minister-Toung Hla Maung (Myoma).—MNA

Documentary film “Nanook of the North” screened to mark the World Film Day

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Next, the Secretary-1 and party posed for documentary photo together with the winners in the National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award.

Afterwards, the Secretary-1 and party greeted the award winners and literati.

Later, they viewed the documentary photos of the Life-time Achievement National Literary Award winners, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award winners for 2007, prize winning books, winners of Myanmar movie outstanding award from 1952 to 2005, the document-
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Tin Ohnmar Tun B.A (LAW) LL.B, LL.M (U.K)
P.O.Box. 109, Ph: 723043
For. Domnern Somgiat & Boonma Attorneys at Law, Thailand

Dated. 29 December, 2008.

The New Light of Myanmar
Monday, 29 December, 2008

We, Water Doctor Group, Supreme Group of Companies have been providing exclusively Free of Charge expertise and services for the installed and yet to be installed water purifying equipment, hassle-free and in perfection to meet the required quality of the original design, complying to customers requirements.

Very special prices and prompt installation services are offered for all types of Reverse Osmosis (RO) Equipment which are the sole solution to the saline and arsenic traced water.

The New Light of Myanmar
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Dated. 29 December, 2008.
Bird flu found in poultry in northern Vietnam

HANOI, 28 Dec — Bird flu has resurfaced in poultry in northern Vietnam after many months without any cases, killing ducks and chickens at two farms, a state-run newspaper reported on Sunday. Animal health officials confirmed on Saturday the H5N1 virus had killed several birds among a flock of more than 100 ducks in Thai Nguyen province, the Ho Chi Minh City Communist Youth League-run Tuoi Tre newspaper said. Officials had also detected the virus in dead chickens at a farm in the same city and nearby 4,200 chickens had been slaughtered to prevent the virus from spreading, the report said without giving a timeframe.

Deputy Health Minister Trinh Quan Huan said this week that there was a very high risk of bird flu returning during the winter and spring in northern Vietnam. The H5N1 strain seems to thrive best in low temperature.

Five Vietnamese have died of bird flu so far this year out of six reported H5N1 infections and all were found in northern Vietnam during the first quarter of the year.

Vietnam has 106 infections, the second highest number of cases among 15 countries with known human cases after Indonesia.

Missing nurse was stuffed in car boot

LONDON, 28 Dec — A nurse found in the boot of her car suffering from hypothermia and dehydration could have been there for up to 10 days, British police said today.

Magdeline Makola, 38, was wearing nightclothes and had been tied up so she could not escape. She was discovered in her vehicle in the town of Airdrie, east of Glasgow, on Friday.

The nurse, a South African-born British citizen, was said to be suffering from minor injuries and “extremely traumatised” by her ordeal, making it difficult to interview her.

Ms Makola, from Livingston, east of Edinburgh — 37km from Airdrie — had not been seen since she left work at Edinburgh Royal Infirmary on 15 December. She was reported missing after failing to turn up for work on 18 December. Her bank card had been used in Airdrie and a police officer searching the town’s streets heard her cries for help. Officers smashed the car windows to get to the boot.

He said police believe Makola could have been in the boot for up to 10 days. Police said it was fortunate that temperatures last week had been reasonably mild for the time of year. He said police believe Makola could have been in the boot for up to 10 days. Police said it was fortunate that temperatures last week had been reasonably mild for winter time.

Rescuers suspect shark grabbed missing snorkeler

PERTH, 28 Dec — A full-scale search is on for a man in Australia believed to have been taken by a shark while out snorkelling with his son.

Brian Guest, 51, was looking for crabs early on Saturday morning with his 24-year-old son off a beach in Port Kennedy, about 30 miles south of Perth, when he suddenly disappeared.

His son told police he saw a “commotion” in the water before his father vanished. He quickly swam to shore and sounded the alarm. “It’s believed he’s been taken by a shark,” Western Australia state police Sergeant Greg Lambert said.

Witnesses spoke of seeing flashes of fins in the area and the water was coloured by blood.

The beach was immediately closed, and police on jet skis, several marine rescue patrols and at least three helicopters began scouring the waters.

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Too much beer, wine linked to cancer

LONDON, 28 Dec — Downing a pint of beer or large glass of wine every day increases the risk of liver and bowel cancer, says the World Cancer Research Fund in Britain. While some studies suggest moderate alcohol consumption can reduce heart disease, the same amount of alcohol may damage a person’s DNA, increasing their risk of cancer by 20 percent, said Dr Rachel Thompson, a spokeswoman for the cancer research fund.

“When you consider how many cases of these types of cancer are diagnosed in the (United Kingdom) every year, it is clear that drinking even relatively small amounts of alcohol can make a significant difference,” Thompson said.

Erratic weather hurts Britain’s wildlife

LONDON, 28 Dec — Britain’s puffins are among the wildlife suffering from a second year of erratic weather, the National Trust said on Saturday.

This year’s cold spring, wet summer and dry autumn have made tough going for puffins, the marsh fritillary butterfly and lesser horseshoe bats, the media reported. A wet summer in 2009 could be disastrous for insects — an integral part of the wildlife food chain, the National Trust said.

Bees struggled through frost and snow in April, while birds, including blue and great tits, failed to nest because of heavy rain in late May and a lack of insects for food. The puffin population of the Farne Islands was reported down by 35 percent while the common autumn cranefly was nearly non-existent, the organization said.

“Climate change is not some future prediction of what might happen, it’s happening now and having a serious impact on our countryside every year,” said Matthew Oates, a spokesman for the National Trust.
Rooney are to be kings of The England of Rio 2010. the Italian’s team as many observers tipping first year in charge of the but Capello’s impressive Cup success back in 1966 land to their only World late by transforming Eng- the man he hopes to emu- pared to Sir Alf Ramsey, yet deserve to be com-

**Capello shrugs off Ramsey comparisons**

LONDON, 28 Dec— Fabio Capello insisted on Saturday that he does not yet deserve to be com-
pared to Sir Alf Ramsey, the man he hopes to emu-
late by transforming Eng-
land into world-beaters.
Ramsey coached Eng-
land to their only World Cup success back in 1966 but Capello’s impressive first year in charge of the national squad already has many observers tipping the Italian’s team as champions in South Af-
rica in 2010. But Capello says there is plenty of work ahead if the England of Rio Ferdinand, John Terry, Theo Walcott and Wayne Rooney are to be kings of the world.

“Someone spoke to me about this big manager (Ramsey) but we have to wait. He’s up here - I’m still down here,” said Capello.

“It’s a very long way to arrive at the level of Sir Alf Ramsey — it is diffi-
cult and very, very long.”

**Sbragia is new coach at Sunderland**

LONDON, 28 Dec—English Premier League side Sunderland on Saturday ap-
pointed Ricky Sbragia as manager follow-
ing a successful short spell in charge as caretaker coach. The 52-year-old Scot has won an 18-month contract from chairman Niall Quinn on the back of his four games in charge since the resignation of Roy Keane earlier this month.

Those games saw Sunderland claw their way out of the relegation zone with two victories, a draw and a single defeat, away to Manchester United.

Former Manchester United skipper Keane stood down after 27 months in charge at the Stadium of Light saying he had taken the club as far as he could.

“Ricky Sbragia is a thoroughly professional football person,” Quinn said.

The appointment comes on the heels of Friday’s Boxing Day 0-0 home draw with Blackburn, which followed vic-
tories over West Brom and Hull.

Sbragia (right) shakes hands with Blackburn Rovers manager Sam Allardyce before their match on 26 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

**Redknapp rules out Defoe return**

LONDON, 28 Dec—
Tottenham coach Harry Redknapp said on Saturday that he will not be forced to pay an inflated transfer fee to bring England striker Jermain Defoe back to White Hart Lane from Pre-

mer League rivals Portsmouth.

Redknapp took Defoe to Portsmouth in January when he was in charge at Fratton Park, but admitted he may now switch his at-
tention to Middlesbrough’s international winger Stuart Downing.

“They have a massive offer from somebody for him (Defoe). I paid about nine million pounds for him,” Redknapp said.

“He is a good player but we’re not going to pay over the top for anyone. I like Downing but I don’t know whether Middlesbrough want to sell him.”

**Berbatov voted best Bulgarian footballer, again**

SOFIA, 28 Dec— Dimitar Berbatov has been voted best Bulgarian footballer for the third time in a row. The Man-
chester United player beat Levski Sofia keeper Georgi Petkov and Slavia Sofia midfielder Blagoy Georgiev.

Berbatov, who is only 27 years old and has a whole future ahead of him, has now won the tro-
phy five times and moves into joint first place with Bulgarian legend Hristo Stoichkov.

Berbatov began his ca-

reer at CSKA Sofia in 1999 and moved to Bayer Leverkusen in January 2001. While not that suc-

cessive in the Bundesliga during his first months in

Germany, he did help to lead Bayer to the Cham-

pions League final.

After five years, the forward tried his luck in the Premiership where he joined Tottenham Hotspur. With 27 goals in 70 games, he eventually arrived at the level of Sir Alf Ramsey this sum-

mer.—INTERNET

**Great Scott leads Aussie SPL charge**

Glasgow, 28 Dec—
Scott McDonald and Danny Invincibile made Australian strikers head-

line news on Saturday in the Scottish Premier League. McDonald, with his eighth goal of the sea-

son, was on target as Celtic defeated city rivals Rangers 1-0 in the Old Fir-

derby at Ibrox as the champions opened up a seven-point lead.

Celtic manager Gordon Strachan described McDonald as “phenom-
enal” after seeing the Aus-

tralian score in the 58th minute after linking with Georgios Samaras before turning Kirk Broadfoot and volleying past Rang-

ers goalkeeper Allan McGregor.

“I thought McDonald was phenomenal”, Strachan said whose team are comfortably on course for a fourth successive league title. McDonald said he couldn’t describe his memorable strike as the best goal of his career.

Meanwhile, Invincibile marked his return from inj-

ury with two goals for 10-man Kilmarnock in a 4-2 victory at Hibernian.

Man City owners target Inter Milan boss Mourinho

LONDON, 28 Dec—Inter Milan coach Jose Mourinho is a target for Manchester City’s Abu Dhabi owners. The Mail on Sunday says current manager Mark Hughes is believed to have until the end of the season to convince Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed, of Abu Dhabi’s ruling family, that he is the man to satisfy their lofty football ambitions.

But if Hughes fails, then City will make serious efforts towards securing a big-name appointment.

City’s new target is former Chelsea boss Mourinho, now in Italy with Inter Milan.—INTERNET

**Answers to yesterday’s Crosswords Puzzle**

W A R T A F F R O N T S
E A R N A B E E
A N D E S A M N I E S
R T R A I E E
E Y E N I N C O G N I T O
U R E U N E R
S I P H O N D E C E N T
U H V M S
T O R P E D O S S A W
U I R M A
R A T A R C E S H O R T
E I W N H W C
S U S P E C T S S I N C H

Ricky Sbragia (right) shakes hands with Blackburn Rovers manager Sam Allardyce before their match on 26 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

**Barclays Premier League**

(28-12-2008)

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<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
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<td>1-0</td>
<td>Portsmouth</td>
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<td>Manchester City</td>
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U H V M S
T O R P E D O S S A W
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</table>

**Redknapp rules out Defoe return**

Tottenham coach Harry Redknapp said on Saturday that he will not be forced to pay an inflated transfer fee to bring England striker Jermain Defoe back to White Hart Lane from Premier League rivals Portsmouth.—INTERNET

Redknapp took Defoe to Portsmouth in January when he was in charge at Fratton Park, but admitted he may now switch his attention to Middlesbrough’s international winger Stuart Downing.

“Think they have a massive offer from somebody for him (Defoe). I paid about nine million pounds for him,” Redknapp said.

“He is a good player but we’re not going to pay over the top for anyone. I like Downing but I don’t know whether Middlesbrough want to sell him.”

**Answers to yesterday’s Crosswords Puzzle**

W A R T A F F R O N T S
E A R N A B E E
A N D E S A M N I E S
R T R A I E E
E Y E N I N C O G N I T O
U R E U N E R
S I P H O N D E C E N T
U H V M S
T O R P E D O S S A W
U I R M A
R A T A R C E S H O R T
E I W N H W C
S U S P E C T S S I N C H

Ricky Sbragia (right) shakes hands with Blackburn Rovers manager Sam Allardyce before their match on 26 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

**Barclays Premier League**

(28-12-2008)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Opponent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arsenal</td>
<td>1-0</td>
<td>Portsmouth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blackburn</td>
<td>2-2</td>
<td>Manchester City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolton</td>
<td>0-1</td>
<td>Wigan Athletic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Everton</td>
<td>3-0</td>
<td>Sunderland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fulham</td>
<td>2-2</td>
<td>Chelsea</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newcastle</td>
<td>1-5</td>
<td>Liverpool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WBA</td>
<td>2-0</td>
<td>Tottenham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Ham Utd</td>
<td>2-1</td>
<td>Stoke City</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Philippine rebel bomb expert nabbed

COTABATO, 28 Dec—A suspected Muslim rebel bomb expert was caught by Philippine security forces in the restive southern Mindanao region, local police reported on Saturday.

Badrudin Ambao Balawag, 45, believed to be working with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) commander Ameril Ombra Kato, was nabbed in a raid at his hideout in the township of Lambayong in Sultan Kudarat on Wednesday, said local police commander Superintendent Joel Limson.

“He is a suspect in previous attacks in the region. A fragmentation grenade was also recovered from his possession,” Limson said. Manila has suspended peace talks ordered a massive assault after two rebel commanders launched a string of deadly attacks all over Mindanao.

The military authority on Saturday said the most wanted rebel leader Kato might have been killed in one of the recent military operations.

Morocco seizes largest haul of drug in 2008

RABAT, 28 Dec—Customs in the northern Moroccan port of Tangier on Saturday seized 4.11 tons of hashish aboard a TIR truck that was about to leave for Spain, local MAP news agency reported. This catch, the largest hashish haul this year, was loaded on a truck that belongs to a Spanish company operating in the Atlantic city of Agadir in Morocco, the report said.

According to the report, the load was discovered thanks to the scanner imaging that showed suspicious forms inside the trailer, and customs and police agents then unloaded the pepper cases to find large hashish bundles at the bottom of the trailer. The driver of the truck, a 60-year-old Spanish, was arrested.

WEATHER

Sunday, 28 December, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain or thunder-showers has been isolated in Shan State and Mandalay Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine and Kayah States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Bago Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (6 C) below December average temperatures in Chin State and Magway Division, (3 C) to (4 C) above December average temperatures in Kachin and Shan States, Bago Division and about December average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures was Hakha (-2 C). The noteworthy amounts of rainfall recorded were Lashio (0.24) inch and PymoOoLwin (0.20) inch.

Internet
Throughout history, Myanmar has existed in the world with her own literature, culture, customs and traditions

Secretary-1 addresses ceremony to present Life-time Achievement National Literary Award, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 Dec—A ceremony to present Life-time Achievement National Literary Award, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award took place at the Ministry of Information here with an address by Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo. It was also attended by Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, ministers, the chief justice, deputy ministers, the director-general of the SPDC office, departmental heads, members of Myanmar Historical Commission, members of the committees for selecting award winners, literati, journalists, prize winners, the staff of the ministry and guests.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary-1 said being the ones who have cherished their literature throughout the history, the Myanmar people hail the month of Nadaw, one of the 12 Myanmar traditional seasons, by admiring and praising those from the literary world. And this is a significant characteristic of Myanmar among the world’s nations. He said such a ceremony to award the literati has been held annually, adding that he was very pleased to have the opportunity to award the literati.

The literati are national forces striving for Myanmar to be able to stand tall among the international community by preserving the national literature that is the life-blood of the country and the people. The aims of awarding the brilliant literati yearly are to praise the goodwill of the literati, who have been maintaining and preserving the national literature, to promote the standards of the national literature and literary world and to turn out the literati of new generations.

(See page 10)

Measures are being taken for human resource development and physical and spiritual development of the people.

Winner to receive Life-time Achievement National Literary Award at home

Nay Pyi Taw, 28 Dec—Secretary of National Literary Award Scrutiny and Selection Committee U Maung Hlaing (Maung Swe Nge) accepted the Life-time Achievement National Literary Award for 2007 on behalf of winner U Kyi Aye (Hsinphyugyun Aung Thein) because he was ill and could not attend the prize presentation ceremony.

Officials concerned will visit the winner’s house in Yangon to present the award.—MNA