Stand tall as citizens of independent nation

Myanmar nationals are well imbued with nationalistic fervour. In addition, the national people as citizens of an independent nation have stood tall and well realized the value and taste of independence throughout different periods.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

(From message sent on the occasion of the 59th Anniversary Independence Day)

Senior General Than Shwe inspects rehabilitation and construction tasks in Mawlamyinegyun, Labutta

Plentiful natural resources of Ayeyawady Division to be explored and fully exploited for economic growth

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe together with member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Natural Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein, member of the SPDC Lt-Gen Tin Aye, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commanders of Defence Services, Prime Minister General Thein Sein, the minister, the deputy ministers and officials, left Pathein by helicopter and arrived in Mawlamyinegyun at 10.30 a.m. yesterday.

Senior General Than Shwe and party were welcomed by Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, who is closely supervising the rehabilitation and construction tasks there, and officials concerned.

Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected rehabilitation tasks and development in the township in a motorcade.

Minister Col Thein Nyunt reported on storm-hit areas, relief and resettlement, areas of the township, land utilization, reconstruction of departmental buildings, religious structures, hospitals and schools, construction of houses by A 1 Co, TZTM Co and Original Group, construction of rural houses in model villages namely, Hlaingphone, Ngwezinyaw, Danichaung, Kyetshar, Hlaingphonelay and Kyarhone with the contribution of wellwishers including Myanma Economic Holdings Ltd, water supply, harvesting of monsoon paddy, targets for summer paddy, provisions for storm victims by local and foreign wellwishers, distribution of power tillers by Agricultural Mechanization Department, IDE (M), UNDP and ICDP and provision of cattle and poultry, fishing boats and nets.

Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe also reported on participation of local people in regional development tasks under the leadership of the government.

Senior General Than Shwe views new school building of BEHS in Hlaingphone model village.—MNA


(See page 6)
Endeavour for development of Myanmar literary world

Literature is the cultural pillar of a race. There has been a fine tradition that literature plays an important role in preserving traditions, culture, customs and national characters.

Patriots including learned monks and learned laity have served the interest of the State and the nation in successive eras. The literati organized the national people with the might of literature during the period of independence struggles, and that led the entire nation to regain independence after the people drove out the colonialists. And they have been able to safeguard the independence and sovereignty.

At present also, some powerful nations are making an attempt to dominate the global nations in various ways making better use of modern information technology. They are trying to export their idea, culture and life styles which are not fit for other sovereign nations economically and socially.

At such a time, all the literati are to be vigilant and guard against their instigation and ill attempts with national awareness. At the same time, they are to strive for producing literature capable of serving the interest of the State and the people.

The literati are the national forces who are to preserve the national culture. The government is making all-out efforts for enhancing the standard of national literature and development of Myanmar literary world. In that regard, it holds the national literary award presentation ceremony yearly.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon all the journalists, writers, cartoonists, artists, designers and publishers to make constant efforts with national outlooks for the emergence of literature capable of serving the national interest and development of Myanmar literary world.

MHA talk 1 Jan

YANGON, 29 Dec—Myanmar Hotelier’s Association will organize a talk on business strategy with the assistance of Silver View Resort (Ngwe Saung Beach). Professor Dr Aung Tun Thet will give a talk under the topic of Blue Ocean Strategy in Yuzana Hotel (Shwegondaing) in Bahan township here at 4 pm on 1st January 2009. Those interested are invited to participate in the talk which will be held on first Thursday of the every month.—MNA

Hmawby, Taikkyi hail Independence Day

YANGON, 29 Dec— As a gesture of hailing the 61st Anniversary Independence Day, the opening ceremonies of newly tarred roads in Hmawby and Taikkyi Townships were held at designated places this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint.

The opening ceremony of Konmyinttha tarred road in Hmawby Township was held and the executive officer of Hmawby Township Development Affairs Committee explained facts about the construction of the road.

Afterwards, the commander, the director of Yangon Division Development Affairs Committee and personnel concerned opened the road by cutting the ribbon. And then, the commander and officials opened the Hnatpyawtaw tarred road in Taikkyi Township.

The commander and party inspected the summer paddy field of farmer U Than Oo in Yintaik Village in Taikkyi Township and cordially met with local people.

The commander and party also looked into the supply of water to canal of Tabuhla Dam and Deputy Director U Win Aung of Yangon Division Irrigation Department and officials explained facts about the dam.

Next, the commander and party inspected construction site of University of Technology (Hmawby).— MNA

MWAF conducts educative talks at MOI

Nay Pyi Taw, 29 Dec—Information Department of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation conducted educative talks at Ministry of Information here yesterday.

It was attended by Head of the Information Department Daw Kyi Kyi Win, chairpersons and members of Nay Pyi Taw district, township Women’s Affairs Organizations and members of MWAF from Ministry of Information.

First, Head of the Information Department Daw Kyi Kyi Win briefed on MWAF.

Before the talks, Daw Nwe Nwe, wife of Director-General of MRTV U Khin Maung Htay, presented gifts to Daw Kyi Kyi Win.

The commander and party inspected the construction site of the dam.

Daw Than Than Aye, wife of Managing Director of Myanma Radio and Television U Khin Maung Htay, presented gifts to Daw Nwe Nwe. —MNA
Suicide bomber kills two north of Afghan capital

KABUL, 29 Dec — A suicide car bomber struck a governor’s compound north of the Afghan capital on Monday while US troops were inside, officials said. The blast killed two Afghan civilians and wounded two American soldiers.

A unit of US troops from the nearby American base at Bagram were meeting with the governor, and their Humvees were parked outside the gate when the bomber detonated his explosives, said Parwan Province’s police chief, Khalil Ziae.

The blast killed two Afghans and wounded 15, said Ziae. US Sgt 1st Class Joel Peavy said two American troops outside the compound were among the wounded. American forces inside the complex were not harmed.

Violence has spiked across Afghanistan in the last two years, and the US plans to send between 20,000 and 30,000 additional troops to Afghanistan over the next six months to reinforce the 32,000 US forces already in the country.

More than 6,100 people have died in insurgency-related violence this year, according to an Associated Press count of figures from Western and Afghan officials.

Afghan car bomb kills 14 children

KABUL, 29 Dec — A suicide car bomb blast near a voter registration site killed 16 people, 14 of them children, and wounded 58 in southeastern Afghanistan on Sunday, according to a senior police official and the US military.

A Taleban spokesman said one of his group’s fighters carried out the attack. When security guards stopped the car at the entrance to the Mandozai district headquarters, the driver detonated the explosives inside the car, Khosht provincial security chief Mohammad Yaqoub said.

A security guard and an Afghan National Army soldier were among the dead. There were no military casualties, said US Col Gregory Julian. Coalition and Afghan forces worked together to evacuate the wounded to military and civilian hospitals, he said.

The military released photos of the incident, saying they “provide further proof the Afghan militants are not interested in the welfare nor benefit of the Afghan people.”

Dozens of tribal elders were meeting nearby in the district administrative office at the time of the bombing, the police official said. The Mandozai district is in the Khosht Province.

Bomb kills 37 in North West Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 29 Dec — A suicide car bomb apparently targeting voters killed at least 37 people and wounded 16 others in the Bunair district of Pakistan’s North West Frontier Province on Sunday, a police official said.

A police officer was among the dead, a doctor said. Pakistani Taleban spokesman Muslim Khan said his group claims responsibility.

He said residents of the area had fought against the Taleban earlier this year, killing six Taleban members and driving them out of the area.

The blast happened outside a polling station where voters were casting ballots in an election to fill an empty seat in Pakistan’s national assembly.

Iraq allows British, other foreign troops to stay

BAGHDAD, 29 Dec — The Iraqi Presidency Council approved a resolution Sunday that will allow non-US foreign troops to remain in Iraq after a UN mandate expires at year’s end.

It was the last step for final adoption of the resolution, which won parliamentary approval on Tuesday.

Iraq’s main political parties hammered out the resolution a week ago, after an impasse among parliamentary factions threatened to continue beyond the 31 December deadline. A separate, previously approved agreement authorizes US troops to remain.

Britain has about 4,100 troops in Iraq, the second-largest contingent after the United States, which has about 142,500. Other countries covered under the resolution—El Salvador, Australia, Romania and Estonia—have a total of several hundred troops in the country.

The resolution authorizes Iraq to negotiate bilateral agreements with the countries, Kurdish lawmaker Mahmoud Othman said. If it had not been approved by year’s end, their troops would have been in Iraq illegally.

In November, the United States concluded a separate agreement with the Iraqi government authorizing the continued presence of its troops.

US combat forces plan to pull back from population centers in Iraq by July and to withdraw from Iraq by the end of 2011.

The British government says its forces will complete their mission of training Iraqi troops by 31 May and withdraw from the country by 31 July.

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,219

WASHINGTON, 29 Dec — As of 28 Dec, 2008, at least 4,219 members of the US military had died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003.

The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,398 military personnel died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

The British military has reported 178 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand and Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan and South Korea, one death each.
Irvine, 29 Dec—Late at night, the neighbours saw a little girl at the kitchen sink of the house next door. They watched through their window as the child rinsed plates under the open faucet. She wasn’t much taller than the counter and the soapy water swallowed her slender arms. To put the dishes away, she climbed on a chair.

But she was not the daughter of the couple next door doing chores. She was their maid.

Shyima was 10 when a wealthy Egyptian couple brought her from a poor village in northern Egypt to work in their California home. She was their maid.

She was their maid.

Shyima was 10 when a wealthy Egyptian couple brought her from a poor village in northern Egypt to work in their California home. She was their maid.

A girl of the family’s crystal.

She earned $45 a month to mop the marble floors and dust the family’s crystal. She worked up to 20 hours a day. She had no days off.

The trafficking of children for domestic labor in the US is an extension of an illegal but common practice in Africa. Families in remote villages send their daughters to work in cities for extra money and the opportunity to escape a dead-end life. Some girls work for free on the understanding that they will at least be better fed in the home of their employer.

Sri Lanka.—

Mexico sentences migrant smuggler to 60 years

Mexico City, 30 Dec—Mexican prosecutors say they won a 60-year prison term for a human smuggler who helped about 200 people sneak into the US, including Hezbollah supporters.

Salim Bouhader Mucharrafille was arrested in 2002 and convicted on organized-crime and immigrant-smuggling charges.

Bougler, a Mexican of Lebanese descent, ran a cafe in the city of Tijuana, across the border from San Diego, California. Among those he smuggled were sympathizers of Hezbollah, a Lebanon-based group, and immigrant-smuggling charges.

An Egyptian policeman checks a truck of medical aid waiting on the Egyptian side of the closed Rafah crossing point between Egypt and the Gaza Strip.

Sri Lankan police officers investigate the site of the suicide bombing in the Colombo suburb of Wattala. Seven security personnel and a civilian were killed in the attack at a base just outside Sri Lanka’s capital as troops mounted pressure on the rebels in the north.

ANKARA, 29 Dec—The Turkish army said on Sunday that Turkish warplanes struck several targets of the outlawed Kurdish Workers’ Party (PKK) in northern Iraq over the weekend.

Army sources told Internet Xinhua the army has carried out several operations during Saturday and Sunday, targeting the PKK along the Turkish-Iraqi border.

Turkish jets hit PKK targets in Hakurke region in northern Iraq on Saturday night and struck several targets in the Iraqi side near the border on Sunday. They also revealed that operations against the PKK were also carried out inside Turkey, in the border area with Iraq.---Internet

COMBO, 29 Dec—A suicide blast in Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital, has killed at least six security personnel and injured 15 other people.

The bomber detonated explosives at a checkpoint in the residential Wattala area on Sunday, police said.

“It was a suicide bombing... We have sent about 15 people to hospital and recovered five bodies,” a police officer said.

Security in Colombo has been stepped up recently due to concerns over an attack from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The blast came after the navy claimed that they had killed four LTTE fighters in a boat, about 20km off the Jaffna peninsula, in the northern sea.

Supplies headed for rebel personnel were onboard the 16-metre vessel which exploded and sank, D K P Dassanayake, a navy spokesman said.

The navy suffered no casualties in the attack, Dassanayake said.

The attack came amid intensified attempts by the military to destroy the LTTE’s de facto state in the north of the country in recent months.

The government pulled out of a 2002 Norwegian-brokered ceasefire with the LTTE in January.

The LTTE has been fighting since 1972 for a separate homeland for ethnic minority Tamils in Sri Lanka.---Internet
China’s Daya Bay nuclear power station records 15 years of safe operation

SHENZHEN, 29 Dec—The Daya Bay nuclear power station in south China’s Guangdong Province, which is the first large-scale commercial nuclear power station on the Chinese mainland, has recorded 15 consecutive years of safe and stable operation.

Construction of the station started in 1987. It went into commercial operation in 1994. By Sunday, the station had provided 200 billion kilowatt-hours to the power grid, including 137.3 billion kilowatt-hours to Hong Kong, according to a seminar held in Shenzhen to mark the 30 years development of the station.

In written instructions, Wu Bangguo, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, urged summarizing experience of the Daya Bay nuclear power station and making further great strides in China’s development of nuclear power.—Xinhua

Bangladesh to import 1.5 m tons refined petroleum from Malaysia

Dhaka, 29 Dec—The Bangladeshi government Sunday approved a proposal for import of some 1.5 million tons of refined petroleum from Malaysia, private news agency UNB reported.

Under the proposal of the country’s Energy Ministry, the state-owned Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) will make the bulk import of petroleum from Petco, a sister concern of the Malaysian state-owned Petronas Corporation, under a state-to-state deal. Of the total fuels, 1.2 million tons are diesel while 150,000 tons jet fuel and another amount of 150,000 tons kerosene, the report said.

The premium was fixed at 5.98 US dollars for a barrel of diesel and 6.60 US dollars for each barrel of jet fuel and kerosene.

It will cost about 48.97 billion taka (about 699.6 million US dollars).

The total petroleum fuels will be imported between March and December next year.

Israeli killed by rocket from Gaza

JERUSALEM, 29 Dec — An Israeli was killed and ten others wounded by a Palestinian Grad missile which exploded near a construction site in the coastal town of Ashkelon in southern Israel, a police spokesman told Xinhua.

According to Micky Rosenfeld, the spokesman, four of the wounded were in moderate condition while six suffered light injuries.

Magen David Adom medical crews immediately evacuated the wounded to a nearby hospital, Israel Radio reported.

At least five rockets have been fired into Israel since Monday morning—one hit Ashkelon and four others struck various towns in the western Negev, according to local daily Ha’aretz.

No injuries or damage have been reported in the other attacks, it added.

Militants continue to rain rockets and mortar shells upon southern Israel, the Jewish state is running out of patience with Hamas, and is ready to take military actions in the strip.

During the interview, Peres also accused Hamas, which Israel blacklists as a terrorist organization, of preventing the establishment of a Palestinian state.

China builds 2nd railway to Central Asia

URUMQI, 29 Dec—A railway tunnel running across northern Tianshan Mountain Range was completed Sunday after four years’ efforts.

This 13.6-km-long tunnel, which links Jinghe, Yining and Korgas, all in western Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, constitutes a vital part of a railway that is designed as a second railway to connect China and Central Asia. China’s first railway to Central Asia runs from Urumqi to Atalaw Pass on China-Kazakhstan border.

The railway with the tunnel just completed has a length of 285 km. Rail-laying work in the tunnel will start next March, according to the No. 2 company of China Railway First Group Co.Ltd, the builder.—Xinhua

Swans feed on a piece of bread on lake Zbilje near Medvod on 27 Dec, 2008. —XINHUA

Moderate quake rocks Afghanistan

KABUL, 29 Dec—A moderate earthquake measured 5.8-magnitude Monday morning shocked parts of Afghanistan including the capital city Kabul.

The quake struck at around 8:08 am local time (0338 GMT) and the center was in Badakhshan Province, 276 kilometres northeast of Kabul with a magnitude of 5.8 on Richter scale, according to the United States Geological Survey.

However, officials in Faizabad, the provincial capital of Badakhshan, said no report has been received on loss of life so far from districts.—Xinhua

Israeli President says no plan to re-enter Gaza

JERUSALEM, 29 Dec — Israel has no plan to invade the Gaza Strip in its efforts to end the continuing rocket attacks from the Hamas-ruled enclave, President Shimon Peres said in an interview published Saturday.

“Israel will take all steps demanded of it in order to stop the rocket fire,” he told the London-based newspaper Asharq al-Awsat, adding that “We will not go into Gaza. There are other ways. We didn’t leave Gaza in order go back.” The remarks came as Israeli airplanes launched simultaneous raids at tens of targets in Gaza, including police and security centers run by Hamas, and reportedly caused casualties. Israeli officials have recently been warning that as Gaza militants continue to rain rockets and mortar shells upon southern Israel, the Jewish state is running out of patience with Hamas, and is ready to take military actions in the strip.

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All items from Xinhua News Agency

Citizens visit the in Xiangfan City, central China’s Hubei Province, on 28 Dec, 2008. The museum, opened on Sunday covering an area of 3,200 square meters, displays more than 970 pieces of cultural relics of high values.—Xinhua

Swans feed on a piece of bread on lake Zbilje near Medvod on 27 Dec, 2008. —XINHUA

China’s Daya Bay nuclear power station in south China’s Guangong Province is seen in this file photo.—INTERNET

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**Senior General Than Shwe inspects…**

(from page 1)

Labutta-Thonwa-Oktwin-Htaiksoon road, arrangements for completion of the project before next monsoon and bridges to be built.

Chief-Engineer of Public Works U Sein Maung reported on model of Yazudaing Bridge and Mnyakon Bridge leading to Mawlamyinegyun and their clearance.

Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on construction of bridges. He said plentiful natural resources of Ayeyawady Division are to be explored and fully exploited for economic growth.

Construction of roads and bridges in the division was impossible in the past because of lots of rivers and creeks. It was thought that it can be done only in imagination. Due to efforts of the people, bridges crossing rivers and creeks and roads have emerged nowadays and means, to establish businesses and ensure better transport.

He spoke of the need to exploit land resources fully after seeking ways and means, to establish businesses and ensure better transport. The government on its part will provide necessary assistance for development of agriculture and fisheries important for the region, he added.

He urged the local people to make efforts for development of towns and villages in accord with their characteristics of towns and villages.

He called for conducting short-term courses on how to live long, eat and cook nutritious food, environmental

(See page 7)
Senior General Than Shwe

and personal hygiene, first aids, cultivation methods of kitchen crops and domestic science after formation of mobile teams so that they contribute towards regional development.

Senior General Than Shwe and party went to Hlaingphone model village in Mawlamyinegyun Township. They inspected construction of Kyarhone, Ngwezinyaw, Danichaung, Kyetshar, Hlaingphonelay model villages, construction of Mawlamyinegyun-Hlaingphone-Thitpok-Kwinpauk-Pyinsalu road, cultivation of summer paddy and other cold season crops, mangrove and windbreak plants. On arrival at Hlaingphone model village, Senior General Than Shwe was welcomed by local people. He toured the village and greeted the people living in the new houses, members of social organizations and service personnel.

Senior General Than Shwe and party left Hlaingphone model village by helicopter at 1 p.m. and inspected the development of Polaung, Thitpok and Theikpantgon villages along the route and condition of roads, vegetable plantations and salt businesses.

On arrival at Labutta, they were welcomed by departmental officials and entrepreneurs, who were participating in the reconstruction tasks in Labutta Township. Next, the Senior General and party went round Labutta by car viewing the development of the township, repairs of houses and offices, progress in construction of Ayeyawady jetty and repairing and construction of roads.

At Ywaynadi hall of Labutta, the Senior General heard reports presented by Minister Col Thein Nyunt on the area of Labutta and land utilization, loss and damage due to the storm, relief and rehabilitation work, development tasks, progress in construction of rural houses by 14 construction companies including Max Myanmar, Aye Ya Shwe Wah, IDE, Marlin and public well-wishers, supply of livestock, distribution of fishing boats and fishing equipment for restoring fishery, providing of loans for salt business and repairs of schools and hospitals.

In response to the reports, the Senior General gave guidance that as Labutta is progressing with the increasing population, plans have to be carried out for extending the town. Efforts are to be made to ensure more development of agricultural, fishery and salt businesses. Moreover, the region is to strive for the growth of its economy for ever.

Later, Senior General Than Shwe and party left Labutta by helicopter and arrived in Pathein at 3.50 p.m.—MNA
Myanmar fell under the yoke of British colonialists for more than 100 years, following the loss of sovereignty. The intruders annexed to their empire Rakhine and Taninthayi in 1825, lower Myanmar from Toungoo down in 1852, and upper Myanmar including Yadanabon Palace in Mandalay in 1885.

I am now 78, and I grew up in the time of the colonialists till I was 17. My parents and ancestors went through the hell of colonialism throughout their whole lives. It goes without saying that colonizing other countries is nothing more than to generate their economic strength by unjustly exploiting terrestrial and aquatic resources including oil and precious stones, agricultural produce and timber of their colonies.

We learnt by heart songs on anti-colonialist sentiment such as the song “Shwepyigyi” that was about the arrest and exile of the Myanmar king to a prison in Radana Giri, west of India composed by Yaphyat Minthaygi U Maung Lay and sung by U Phu Nyo pulling the strings of the princess marionette (Madi), and the song “Pardawmu” composed by Shwe Daing Nyunt and sung by Daw Sein Party. Singing those songs added to our anti-colonialist sentiment.

To the accompaniment of Gwegyiyat music association (GMA), Saya Tin together with members of Thakin group from Myingyan sang in chorus the song “Doh Bamar” composed by YMBA Thakin Tin of Mandalay, Thakin Ba Thaung of Doh Bamar Asiayon, Thakin Nyi and Thakin Thein Maung Gyi at Koehsaung Prayer Hall in Myingyan. Then, Thakin Ba Thaung, Thakin Lay Maung, Thakin Nyi and Daw Sein Party sang that song at Rahu Corner Prayer Hall of the Shwedagon Pagoda in July 1930.

While at school, we used to sing in chorus, being up in arms, the introductory part of that musical work “Hey… let’s try our best for national liberation… that is Bamars we are… like the sun rising in the east… surely time of our home rule will be ripe soon…that is Bamars we are… regard entire Myanmar as our home and land.. that is Bamars we are…” , and National Anthem. After the nation regained independence, several new songs were composed to replace the current National Anthem, but they could not dominate at all the National Anthem composed by YMBA Saya Tin. Therefore, Member of AFPFL Government Minister Bo Khin Maung Galay, Saya Zawgyi, Dagon Saya Tin, Dagon Pa Saya Tin and Saya Yan Naing Sein added some new lyrics to the National Anthem for the new National Anthem that represents independence to approve the new National Anthem. The introductory part of the song was replaced with a new one by Saya Yan Naing Sein as follows:—

(See page 9)
HAILING THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY:

It’s our country, our land where justice and independence prevail

Kyaw Zin Nyunt (Supreme Court Attorney)

(from page 8)

“Where prevail justice and independence
It’s our country… our land
Where prevail equal rights and correct policies
For people to lead a peaceful life
It’s our country… our land
We solemnly pledge to preserve
Union, the heritage, for perpetuity
Saya Yan Naing Sein also created some lyrics to the chorus part of the National Anthem. YMBA Saya Tin composed “regard entire Myanmar as our home and land” because Myanmar (at that time Myanmar was still under the rule of the colonialists) indeed belonged to national people. To make some changes in essence, Saya Yan Naing Sein created some lyrics that mean Myanmar has regained independence and has become a sovereign one, and so the people have to guard against threats at risk to life.

It is mandatory for the entire people to strengthen national economy, while generating already-achieved peace and development momentum. The standard of living of the people will get higher and higher if the nation’s economy goes upward as they are interrelated with each other.

With glory and dignity

* So significant is the Day
Reverberating the whole world
With nationalistic fervour we are
Flying high is our Flag
With glory and dignity

* Celebrating Independence
As nation’s glorious Day
Descending from same race
Powerful we are
Having awareness of Union perpetuity
Having will to consolidate National unity and amity
For existence of sovereignty
Till end of world
Our Three Main National Causes
As life and blood
With solemn pledge
Our land our territory
Our nation and race
For their peace and prosperity
Make all-out efforts
With correct thought
And nationalistic fervour
Serve we national interest

Yenatha Maung Kyaw Nyunt (Trs)

Hailing the 61st Anniversary Independence Day

Saya Yan Naing Sein represents the noblest and worthiest of worldly values such as justice, liberty, and equality. It is identical to the expression “Further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values such as justice, liberty and equality” manifested in sub-para (C) of Section (6) of Chapter (I) “State Fundamental Principles” of State Constitution (2008) adopted by the National Convention. So, the present national song (National Anthem) was decided to continue to be in force. The lyrics of the National Anthem represent a solemn pledge of the entire people to protect the Union, as the heritage of ancestors, for its perpetuity. So, it really suits the new constitution. The tune of the National Anthem by YMBA has won the hearts of Myanmar people for 78 years.

The 1974 constitution that represented Socialism was approved through a referendum. It was known as the Constitution of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Myanmar. At that time, many new national anthems were composed to represent Socialism, and were presented to the people, but they did not win the public satisfaction. Their tunes could not influence the predominant National Anthem composed in 1930. So, it was promulgated that the current National Anthem was in force till there was a new better one.

In the same way, in adopting fundamental principles for the State Constitution (2008) at the National Convention, it was decided with a voice to continue to use the current national song (National Anthem). That was adopted as a principle in the new constitution. The tune of the National Anthem by YMBA was adopted as a principle in the new constitution. The National Anthem means that the Union of Myanmar is blessed with expressiveness geographical features, temperate climate and natural resources; that it is home to more than 100 national races that have been living in harmony; that it produces various gems in abundance such as ruby, jade, sapphire, feather, pearl, gold and silver and so on; and that the people are duty-bound to protect and safeguard the nation in order that the sovereignty and the territory of the Union will last as long as the world exists.

The 1974 constitution that represented Socialism independence…it’s our country…our land…where prevent equal rights and correct policies…for people to lead a peaceful life…it’s our country…our land” by Saya Yan Naing Sein represents the noblest and worthiest of worldly values such as justice, liberty, and equality. It is identical to the expression “Further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values such as justice, liberty and equality” manifested in sub-para (C) of Section (6) of Chapter (I) “State Fundamental Principles” of State Constitution (2008) adopted by the National Convention. So, the present national song (National Anthem) was decided to continue to be in force. The lyrics of the National Anthem represent a solemn pledge of the entire people to protect the Union, as the heritage of ancestors, for its perpetuity. So, it really suits the new constitution.

I was one of the slaves of the British colonialists for 17 years. I had a 17-year firsthand experience of being a slave or evil consequences of losing sovereignty. And I learnt theoretically a wide range of untold stories of the people due to the loss of independence. The grievances of the people will be in record till the doomsday. Thus, I do not want to be a slave of colonialists, and I do not want the entire national brethren including my family members and relatives to place reliance on and trust in colonialists. Despite a variety of disruptions and sanctions, peace and stability have been restored in the Union. The whole Union has seen numerous infrastructures such as roads, bridges, dams, schools, universities, hospitals, factories and electric power plants that are necessary for economic growth. Their emergence is largely due to the fact that the nation is an independent one with sovereignty.

It is, therefore, mandatory for the entire people to strengthen national economy, while generating already-achieved peace and development momentum. The standard of living of the people will get higher and higher if the nation’s economy goes upward as they are interrelated with each other. In fact, the people’s improving living conditions some way reflect independence.

Translation: MS
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Inauguration Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Building for BEHS</td>
<td>Yathedaung, Rakhine State</td>
<td>2-1-2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Building for BEMS</td>
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<td>3.</td>
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<td>Kale, Sagaing Division</td>
<td>4-2-2008</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Main Building of Myeik University</td>
<td>Myeik, Taninthayi Division</td>
<td>3-3-2008</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Two-storey building for BEHS</td>
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<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>Building for BEPS</td>
<td>South Okkalapa, Yangon Division</td>
<td>27-6-2008</td>
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<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Building for BEMS</td>
<td>South Okkalapa, Yangon Division</td>
<td>27-6-2008</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Building for Post Primary School</td>
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<td>Building for BEPS</td>
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<td>Thakayta, Yangon Division</td>
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<td>23-11-08</td>
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<td>18.</td>
<td>Two-storey building for post primary school</td>
<td>Thingangyun, Yangon Division</td>
<td>12-12-2008</td>
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</table>

Inauguration of the main building of Myeik University

*The photo shows the four-storey main building, opened on 3-3-2008, of Myeik University.*
**Obesity surgery reverses diabetes in teens**

**New York, 29 Dec—** Obesity surgery can reverse diabetes in teens, just as it does in adults, according to a small study. All but one of the 11 extremely obese teens studied saw their diabetes disappear within a year after weight-loss surgery, the researchers reported. The 11th patient still had diabetes, but needed much less insulin and stopped taking diabetes pills. Previous studies have shown the diabetes benefits of obesity surgery for adults. Dr. Thomas Inge, a pediatric surgeon at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center, and his colleagues wanted to find out if the same was true for adolescents. Although more research is needed, Inge said the study “opens the door” to weight-loss surgery as a treatment option for severely obese teens with Type 2 diabetes. The results are in the January issue of Pediatrics and are being released on Monday. About a third of US youngsters are either overweight or obese. Increasing numbers of obese children are being diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes, the most common form of the disease and the one linked to obesity. It was seldom seen before in kids. Teen candidates for weight-loss surgery need to be carefully selected, he said, since the long-term consequences of the operation for children aren’t yet known.

—**INTERNET**

**Susilo calls for national unity against global crisis**

**Jakarta, 29 Dec—** Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono called on the nation to remain united in dealing with the global economic crisis and promote harmony among followers of different religions, the Jakarta Post reported on Sunday. “We have to be positive that our country will not plunge into crisis if we build togetherness and solidarity,” he told thousands of Christians during the national celebration of Christmas in Jakarta on Saturday. He added that as well as the economic crisis, the global community has to deal with various problems, such as terrorism, natural disasters and poverty, and take concerted action to address these issues.

Christmas celebrations across Indonesia were held in a smooth and peaceful manner on Thursday with tight security measures in place ensuring no major incidents.

**MNA/Xinhua**

**Human fat fueling cars!**

**What a plastic surgeon**

**Beijing, 29 Dec—** A US plastic surgeon recently lost his license due to a scandal that he used the body fat taken from his patients to fuel his and his girlfriend’s cars, according to media reports Monday.

Doctor Craig Alan Bittner who lived in Beverly Hills, California, claims that his intentions were good and he was attempting to help save the Earth despite having no proof to the claim.

Three specific patients have filed lawsuits claiming that Bittner took more fat from them than necessary, leaving them disfigured and deformed. But Bittner claimed that a high majority of his patients specifically requested that he use their fat to make fuel.

Public health officials from California made an official statement claiming that the practice was illegal, and that California law apparently forbids the use of human medical waste to power any types of vehicles. Bittner’s practice, Beverly Hills Liposculpture, was closed in November, and California public health department has opened investigations on the doctor.

**FDA approves first eyelash-lengthening drug**

**Beijing, 29 Dec—** The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved the first drug that will help with producing longer eyelashes, according to media reports on Monday.

Latisse, produced by the company of Allergan, is supposed to treat those who have hypotrichosis, a condition in which a person does not have enough eyelashes. It will be available by prescription starting in the first quarter of 2009.

The active ingredient in the once-daily prescription treatment is bimatoprost, the same ingredient that is in Allergan’s glaucoma treatment Lumigan.

Allergan stated that “Latisse users can expect to experience longer, fuller, and darker eyelashes in as little as eight weeks, with full results in 16 weeks.”

Latisse is stopped, eyelashes will gradually return to their previous appearance as new eyelashes grow in.

The company also stated, “Latisse is the first and only science-based treatment approved by the FDA to enhance eyelash prominence as measured by increases in length, thickness and darkness of eyelashes.”

Allergan noted that Latisse may cause darkening of the eyelid skin, which may be reversible, and it “may also cause increased brown pigmentation of the colored part of the eye, which is likely to be permanent.”

**Sculptor Robert Graham dies in California at 70**

**Los Angeles, 29 Dec—** Robert Graham, a California sculptor whose works were incorporated into civic monuments including the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in Washington, DC, has died at the age of 70.

Graham, who also created monuments to boxer Joe Louis and jazz legends Charlie Parker and Duke Ellington, died on Saturday at Santa Monica UCLA Medical Centre and Orthopaedic Hospital. At his side were his wife, Oscar-winning actress Angelica Huston, and other members of his family.

“Robert was an amazing sculptor who forever shaped the presence of sculpture art throughout California and the world,” California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger said in a statement. “His work was truly influential and he will forever remain an icon in this state.”

**MNA/Reuters**
Sunday.

cope with the casualties from Israeli air strikes, the international Red Cross said on territories, said it was essential to allow emergency supplies to enter Gaza.

"The hospitals are overwhelmed and unable to cope with the scale and type of injuries that keep coming in," Marianne Robyn Whittington, an ICRC health delegate in Gaza, said in a statement from the organization.

Pierre Wettach, head of the ICRC's delegation in Israel and the Palestinian territories, said it was essential to allow emergency supplies to enter Gaza.
The number of young black youths on rise

WASHINGTON, 29 Dec—The number of young black men and teenagers who either killed or were killed in shootings has risen at an alarming rate since 2000, a new study shows.

The study, to be released on Monday by criminologists at Northeastern University in Boston, comes as FBI data is showing that murders have leveled off nationwide.

Not so for black teens, the youngest of whom saw dramatic increases in shooting deaths, the Northeastern report concluded.

Last year, for example, 426 black males between the ages of 14 and 17 were killed in gun crimes, the study says. That marked a 40 percent increase from 2000. Similarly, an estimated 964 in the same age group committed fatal shootings in 2007 — a 38 percent increase from seven years earlier.

The number of offenders is estimated because not all crimes are reported, said Northeastern criminologist James Alan Fox, who co-authored the study.

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Hawaii Chevrolet dealer crushes auto competition

A Hilo Chevrolet dealer who tried to crush his Asian auto competition found the stunt a little harder to pull off than expected.

Island Chevrolet general sales manager James Severtson arranged for a Chevrolet Suburban SUV outfitted with massive tires costing $5,000 apiece to drive over a Honda Accord.

On the first attempt Friday, the monster truck blew a hydraulic hose and leaked vital fluid while the Honda remained intact and ready for more.

After several hours, the truck was repaired and driver Ryan Kepiki tried again, this time with a Hyundai Excel 5.

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High wind knocks out power to 413,000 in Mich

DETROIT, 29 Dec—Wind gusting more than 60 mph knocked out power to about 413,000 Michigan homes and businesses on Sunday as temperatures dipped back into the 20s and 30s.

Meanwhile, flood warnings were posted throughout the Midwest as temperatures rose after a week of heavy snowfall. Forecasters said flooding was possible in areas of Wisconsin, Ohio, Iowa, Michigan and Indiana.

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Afghan army discover two tons of explosive devices

KABUL, 29 Dec—Afghan troops discovered a huge weapon cache containing two tons of explosive materials and thousands of ammunition from southern Kandahar Province during an operation against insurgents, a statement of Defence Ministry released here Sunday said.

“This contraband which includes two tons of explosive materials, 15 mines and thousands of bullets were discovered from Ghurak District on Saturday morning,” the statement said. —Internet

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Domestic kills Bay Area homes

SILVIA, 29 Dec—Silvis firefighters go door-to-door to homes on River Road in Silvis, Ill, recommending evacuations as winds outpouched throughout the Midwest and power lines were down.

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Dead man receives calls in grave

New York defence lawyer John Jacobs continues to receive voice-mail messages three years after he was buried with his beloved cell phone.

Jacobs’ family buried him with his fully charged Motorola T720 phone after he died of pancreatic cancer, the New York Post reported on Sunday.

His wife, Marian Seltzer, also a defense lawyer, continues to pay his monthly $55 phone bill and his cell number is etched into his gravestone under the words “Rest in Peace.”

The first call after death came during the funeral from Jacobs’ son, Simon. “The poor grave diggers. I thought they’d have a heart attack,” Seltzer said.

Seltzer and her two sons, who regularly leave messages, hear this when they dial his number: “Hi, You’ve reached the voice mail of John Jacobs. After you hear the beep, leave a voice mail and I will return your call.”

Seltzer said she keeps her husband up to date on sports news and how their sons are doing.

“Some people talk to God,” Seltzer said. “I talk to my deceased husband.”

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A crane drive piles as the construction of the No.4 Cross Yangtze River Bridge started in Nanjing, capital of east China’s Jiangsu Province, on 28 Dec, 2008.

The 28.996-km-long bridge has a span of 5.448 km, the longest in China and again, this time with a Hyundai Excel 5.

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The pigs, tattooed with Disney designs, legendary stories, cartoons, and the Louis Vuitton logo, are work of Belgian artist Wim Delvoye in a suburb farm of Beijing. The maximum price of these tattooed pigs can hit one million yuan (about 150,000 US dollars).

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Angel Falls is seen at Canaima National Park in the state of Bolivar, southeastern Venezuela. Located at Canaima National Park, Angel Falls is the world’s highest waterfall at 979 meters. Established on June 12, 1962 and covering an area of 3,500,000 hectares, Canaima National Park is the second largest park in Venezuela and was listed a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1994 because of tepuis (tabletop mountains) that are characteristic of this area. Rainforest, grassland, rivers, and a cluster of waterfalls map out a magnificent scroll painting here attracting visitors from across the world.

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**SPORTS**

**Chelsea can catch Liverpool in 2009, says defiant Scolari**

London, 29 Dec—Luiz Felipe Scolari insists that the English Premier League title race was still open as his Chelsea side went into 2009 three points behind leaders Liverpool.

The Blues topped the table at the end of November but have faltered since with Liverpool taking full advantage. Only once in the last four seasons has a team ended the year in touch with the title, but Scolari is adamant the battle is far from over.—Internet

**Defoe going nowhere, says Pompey boss Adams**

London, 29 Dec—Portsmouth manager Tony Adams has denied England striker Jermain Defoe is about to leave the club.

Speaking following his side’s 1-0 defeat to Arsenal on Sunday, former Gunners captain Adams insisted reports that a “massive offer” for the 26-year-old had been made were inaccurate.

“Speculate all you want but we have had no offers from Jermain Defoe — not one,” he said.

The claim had been made by Tottenham manager Harry Redknapp, who had signed Defoe from Spurs 11 months ago when he was in charge of Portsmouth.—Internet

**Fulham goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer and Chelsea striker Didier Drogba in action. Chelsea were held to a dramatic 2-2 draw by Fulham in the west London derby.**

**Manchester City’s forward Robinho (L) gets past Blackburn Rovers’ defender Andre Ooijer (R) during their English Premier League football match at Ewood Park in Blackburn.—INTERNET**

**Tennis player Gasquet looks to new coach for 2009 revival**

Brisbane, 29 Dec—Frenchman Richard Gasquet has turned to a new coach to help him launch a successful Australian campaign and a return to the world’s top 10 rankings next year.

Gasquet was ranked seventh last February before a knee injury and a subsequent loss in form sent him tumbling to 25th, his ranking heading into this weekend’s Brisbane International tournament.

The 22-year-old Frenchman has seeded seventh in the inaugural Brisbane International, with Serbia’s Novak Djokovic and Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga on the top seeds.—Internet

**Gerrard talks up ‘best ever’ Liverpool’s title chances**

Newcastle, 29 Dec—Steven Gerrard branded the current Liverpool side “the best” he’d played in after the Merseysiders ended 2008 as Premier League leaders after thrashing Newcastle 5-1 here at St James’ Park.

Liverpool haven’t been crowned champions of England since 1990 - an interminable wait for a club that has won the domestic title a record 18 times. Reds captain Gerrard knows better than most people at Anfield the dangers of raising hopes which end in painful failure.

However, such was his self-belief following Sunday’s away win, where he scored twice himself, the England midfielder felt able to joyfully talk up his side’s prospects.

“This is the best team I have played with,” said Gerrard, a one-club man.

“Since Adam-heading the dressing room and from the keeper to the forwards we have some fantastic players and there is a confidence there,” added the 28-year-old, who made his Liverpool debut in 1998.

“You look around the dressing room and from the keeper to the forwards we have some fantastic players and there is a confidence there,” added the 28-year-old, who made his Liverpool debut in 1998.

**Robinho seals City comeback**

Blackburn, 29 Dec—Brazilian star Robinho ensured Blackburn Rovers suffered last-gasp despair for the second straight game as Manchester City came from two goals behind to draw 2-2 here on Sunday. Goals from South Africa’s Benni McCarthy and Jason Robert, two strikers signed by Mark Hughes when he was in charge at Rovers, looked to have ensured an unsatisfactory return to Ewood Park for the Manchester City manager.

But City, seemingly out of the game after Robert’s 54th minute goal, saw Daniel Sturridge pull one back before the substitute’s powerful run and precise cross set up Robinho in the fourth minute of stoppage-time as he rattled home his third goal in two games.

“When it got to the latter stages we were struggling but the lads showed fantastic effort and great character to get something out of it,” Hughes said.

“We lacked a bit of spark but we kept going and I think we deserved that.” It was another heartbreakingly finale for relegation-threatened Rovers, who’d seen Roberts miss an open goal during the dying minutes of Friday’s 0-0 draw against Sunderland.—Internet

**Federer and Nadal primed for early start**

Paris, 29 Dec—Roger Federer faces an early start to the 2009 season as he begins his campaign to reclaim fourth place in the Premier League with a 1-0 win at the Emirates Stadium here Sunday.—INTERNET

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The Swiss star was down to sixth in the rankings heading into this weekend’s Brisbane International tournament.

Federer will begin his 2009 season as well as four other top 10 players, will battle for the 250,000-dollar top prize.

“Never before have I started a tennis year as early as the one ahead. I will be back in action on January 1st,” said Federer ahead of the January 1-3 exhibition tournament in Abu Dhabi.—INTERNET

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*Elite Tennis 2009*
Knife fatalities rise in Britain

LONDON, 29 Dec—Britain has witnessed an increase in knife crimes in 2008 which killed five people each week on average, local media reported on Monday.

The overall figure of fatal stabbings in England and Wales this year amounted to 277, about a weekly average of five deaths, police statistics showed.

In London alone the number of knife fatalities this year has jumped to 86, one quarter more than that of last year.

“Knife crime is a scourge which claims too many lives and ruins countless others,” said James Brokenshire, a Conservative home affairs spokesman.

Still, as a proportion of all homicides, deaths caused by a knife or other sharp instrument have remained broadly stable for the past 30 years, police said.

Thirty-three percent of homicides in 1977 were a result of stabbing compared with 35 percent this year, said.

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Maserati recalls 659 sedans in China over suspension flaws

BEIJING, 29 Dec—Italian luxury carmaker Maserati began to recall 659 sedans sold in China starting on Monday due to flaws in the car suspension system, according to the country’s top-quality regulator.

The affected models, the Quattroporte, GranTurismo and GranTurismo S, were produced between 1 Sept, 2003 and 23 July, 2008, said the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine. Press

Internet

Indonesian President urges UN to interfere in Gaza conflict

JAKARTA, 29 Dec—Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Monday demanded the United Nations (UN) to hold a formal meeting for a resolution urging Israel to stop attacking Palestine’s Gaza border. The Jakarta Post reported.

He said that he had sent letters to the UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon and the UN Security Council and requested them to take firmer actions to stop the attacks, adding that the council’s move to hold an informal meeting and produce a written statement against the attacks was not enough to bring the violence to an end. —Internet

WEATHER

Monday, 29 December, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Kachin and Mon States, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Chin and Rakhine States, upper S Sagaing and Ayeayawady Divisions, (5°C) below December average temperatures in Magway Division and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Loilem and Hakha (0°C) each, Namsam, Pinlaung and Ann (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 28-12-2008 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 29-12-2008 was 60°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 29-12-2008 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 28-12-2008 was (9.6) hrs approximately.

Rainfall on 29-12-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (110.31) inches at Mingaladon, (120.95) inches at Kaba-Aye and (140.94) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed was Yangon, (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 28-12-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 30th December 2008: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin and Shan States, Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine and Mon States, upper S Sagaing, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain in Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 30-12-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 30-12-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 30-12-2008: Partly cloudy.
Kyaikhto enjoys fruitful results of development drives

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec—Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence accompanied by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win and departmental officials looked into arrangements for convenience of travellers in Thawwunabumi Taungdantaha Hotel and resort in Kyaikhto on 25 December and flowering plants and trees grown for beautifying the hotel.

Next, Lt-Gen Tha Aye looked into cultivation and livestock breeding works of the local battalion, samples of bunch of oil palm of research and reproduction farm of Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise (Phayalan), and construction of Kadak bridge in Zigon-Sindwin road section of No 2 inter-district road.

He also inspected construction of Saung-naing-gyi bridge at mile-post No. 85 on Kyapan-Winkan road section and building of Sindwin creek bridge (Khawa creek) at mile-post No. 91 on Mottama-Thein-Kyapan-Winkan road section.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye proceeded to No. 1 paper factory of Ministry of Industry-1 in Theinzayat model village in which he inspected production process and binding of books.—MNA

**SPECIAL FEATURES TO HAIL 61ST ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY**

**Article**

It’s our country, our land where justice and independence prevail

The National Anthem means that the Union of Myanmar is blessed with expressive geographical features, temperate climate and natural resources; that it is home to more than 100 national races that have been living in harmony; that it produces various gems in abundance such as ruby, jade, sapphire, feather, pearl, gold and silver and so on; and that so the people are duty-bound to protect and safeguard the nation in order that the sovereignty and the territory of the Union will last as long as the world exists.

**Poem**

With glory and dignity

* So significant is the Day
  Reverberating the whole world
  With nationalistic fervor we are
  Flying high is our Flag
  With glory and dignity

**Honeybees as plant ‘bodyguards’**

BERLIN, 29 Dec—Honeybees are important to plants for reasons that go beyond pollination, according to a new study published in the December 23rd issue of Current Biology. The insects’ buzz also defends plants against the caterpillars that would otherwise munch on them undisturbed.

The researchers, led by jurgen Tautz of Biozentrum University Wurzburg, Germany, earlier found that many caterpillars possess fine sensory hairs on the front portions of their bodies that enable them to detect air vibrations, such as the sound of an approaching predatory wasp or honeybee.—Internet

**Moratti backing for Adriano**

MILAN, 29 Dec—Inter Milan president Massimo Moratti insists the club have not shut the door on troubled striker Adriano.

The 26-year-old has endured a difficult season with coach Jose Mourinho. The 26-year-old has endured a difficult season with the Nerazzurri and has been linked with a move to Chelsea or a possible return to Brazil. Adriano, who is currently recovering from a thigh injury in Brazil, was left out of Inter’s team for five games earlier this season after a disagreement with coach Jose Mourinho.

Moreover, earlier this month Inter were forced to deny media speculation that the player had turned to training under the influence of alcohol.

—Internet