Essaying to interfere

Nowadays, brazen annexation of a nation with the use of force is not as popular as before. However, it is found that some big nations are essaying to interfere in the domestic affairs of others and influence their political, economic, social and cultural tradition fields.

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 58th Anniversary Independence Day)

Unprecedented progress made in storm-hit regions thanks to concerted efforts of government, entrepreneurs, well-wishers

Senior General Than Shwe inspects rehabilitation of Hainggyigyun, Kyaukkalat, Pyinsalu regions

Photo shows the Communication Office of Pyinsalu.— MNA

Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann, Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein, member of the SPDC Lt-Gen Tin Aye, the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe, the ministers, the deputy ministers and officials, left Pathein by helicopter yesterday morning and arrived in Hainggyigyun at 10.50 a.m.

Along the route, Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected the development of Kyonku and Zeegyaingt villages.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party looked into rehabilitation and construction tasks in Hainggyigyun region, progress in reconstruction of residential structures, basic education schools, hospital, dispensary, departmental buildings and religious edifices in a motorcade.

(See page 6)
**PEERSPECTIVES**

Wednesday, 31 December, 2008

**Storm-affected areas enjoy better living conditions**

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe during his tour of storm-hit areas of Mawlamyinegyun and Labutta of Ayeyawady Division on 28 December inspected rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks, model villages, thriving plantations of summer paddy and cold season crops, mangrove forests and rows of wind-breaking trees.

In meeting with local authorities and people, the Head of State gave guidance on steps for economic growth of the division with the use of rich natural resources, development of towns and villages, and better transport.

Ayeyawady Division has potential for economic development thanks to its vast area of arable lands, fisheries, and salt farms. Despite a large number of watercourses in it, the region is easily accessible by car with a swift commodity flow thanks to new bridges spanning rivers and creeks and roads.

Now, the natural disaster-devastated areas have returned to normal, resulting from generous contributions made by well-wishers and national entrepreneurs under the aegis of the government. Agricultural farms and fisheries have been restored. Departmental offices, religious edifices, hospitals, dispensaries, schools, rural housing estates, gravel and laterite roads are being repaired and new ones are being constructed. Maubin-Yayyegalay-Shweuanghmaw-Kyaunkpi-Mawlamyinegyun Road, Mawlamyinegyun-Hlinbeine-Thitpok-Kwinpaung-Pyinsalu Road, Labutta-Thingangyun-Pyinsalu Road, Bogale-Kyeinhaung-Kadonkani Road, Labutta-Thongwa-Oaktin-Heikkin Road are under construction to help form a transport network of the delta.

The loss of the cyclone-torn areas in Ayeyawady Division was huge, but reconstruction and economic tasks are now in full swing. It is believed the catastrophe-ravaged areas of the region will be able to enjoy better living conditions than it was previously due to harmonious cooperation of local organizations and people in the ongoing tasks and measures for better transport.

**Fire drill demonstrated**

**NAV PYI TAW, 30 Dec—** Talks on fire preventive measures were given along with a fire drill demonstration for prevention of fires at the daily newspapers under the News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information at Myanma Alin Daily newspapers under the News and Periodicals Enterprise and Myanma Alin, the Kyemon, Director (Admin) of NPE U Tin Sein, managers and service personnel of the Myanma Alin, the Kyemon, the New Light of Myanmar, and Myanma Alin Press.

**Industry-2 Ministry holds technical seminar**

**NAV PYI TAW, 30 Dec—** Ministry of Industry-2 held its technical seminar in the assembly hall here today. It was attended by Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Deputy Ministers, departmental heads and staff.


**MHRB meets**

**MHRB Maj-Gen Maung Oo and members.**

Secretary of MHRB reported on condition of drafting responsibility and rights of ASEAN Human Rights Body.—**MNA**

**New Natawzar folio fertilizer introduced**

**YANGON, 30 Dec—** Natawzar folio fertilizer Distribution of National Development Co Ltd organized a ceremony to introduce a new product at Traders Hotel here today.

Chairman of the company U Soe Tun Shin extended greetings and agriculturalists explained facts about the new product.

Next, documentary video on production process of Natawzar fertilizer was shown. Responsible persons of the company gave accounts on sale policy of the company and arrangements for purchasing of crops and answered the queries raised by sales representatives.

Those interested may contact National Development Co Ltd at No (224), U Wisara Road, Bahan Township, Yangon (Ph: 01-374567, 09-8553498 and 01-686331), (Fax: 01-375413) and Email: nppc@myanmar.com.mm.

**Environmental conservation disseminated**

**YANGON, 30 Dec—** Environment Working Group of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation organized educational talks on environmental conservation as part of December Environmental Conservation Activity at Thingangyun Education College here yesterday with an address by leader of the working group Daw Nilar Thaw.

Daw LiLiTin of Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) of Yangon City Development Committee gave talks on Water Quality and Water Supply System of YCDC.

Next, deputy leader of the working group Daw Yin Yin Lay presented educative journals for the library of the college to Head of Department (Admin) Daw Mya Mya Aye.

It was also attended by the chairperson of Yangon East District Women’s Affairs Organization and members, the chairperson of Thingangyun Township WAO and members, Principal Daw Khin Swe Tint of the college and teachers and students.—**MNA**
Civilian deaths in Iraq 98,000 since 2003

Baghdad, 30 Dec—Sectarian bloodshed has dropped sharply in Iraq from the high levels of 2006-07, but attacks against US and government forces continue, claiming the lives of Iraqi civilians in step, a new study found on Saturday. Between at least 8,300 and 9,000 civilians were killed in Iraq in 2008, bringing the total of civilian deaths since the US-led invasion in 2003 to at least 98,400, human rights group Iraq Body Count said in a new report.

Twenty-five civilians died a day in 2008, the study found. While far below 2006-2007, when at least 48,000 civilians were killed, it is comparable to violence levels at the high levels of 2006-07, but attacks against US and government forces continue, claiming the lives of Iraqi civilians in step, a new study found on Saturday. Between at least 8,300 and 9,000 civilians were killed in Iraq in 2008, bringing the total of civilian deaths since the US-led invasion in 2003 to at least 98,400, human rights group Iraq Body Count said in a new report.

Roadside bomb kills Afghan child, injures 21 in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 30 Dec—A remote-controlled roadside bomb went off in Taleban former stronghold Kandahar of southern Afghanistan Monday morning, killing one child and wounding 21 others, an official said.

“The bloody incident occurred in the Spinboldak border town at 11:00 am local time (0630 GMT), leaving a two-year old child dead and 21 others injured, including mother of the child and one police,” a police officer in the town Saifullah told Xinhua.

Saifullah, who, like many Afghans, uses only one name, added that the condition of five injured is critical.

It is the second bombing in the war-torn Afghanistan in a single day on Monday. The first bombing which rattled Parwan’s provincial capital Charikar early morning left at least two civilians dead and 17 others injured, including two American soldiers.

More than 5,000 people, with some 2,000 civilians, have been killed in violent incidents since January this year in Afghanistan.

Pakistan army say we must ‘avoid conflict’ with India

ISLAMABAD, 30 Dec—Pakistan’s army chief stressed Monday the need to avoid conflict with India, days after he ordered troops toward the rivals’ shared border amid tensions following last month’s terror attacks on Mumbai.

Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayani made the remarks to a top Chinese diplomat who was visiting Islamabad to try and ease the situation between nuclear-armed Pakistan and India.

Kayani’s remarks were believed to be his first about the tensions with Pakistan’s traditional rival and could help reassure a jittery region that the country does not intend to escalate the crisis further.

On Friday, Pakistani intelligence officials said thousands of troops were being shifted toward the Indian border, though there has been no sign yet of a major buildup at the frontier.

Without referring specifically to the situation, Kayani told Chinese Vice Foreign Minister He Yafei of the “need to de-escalate and avoid conflict in the interest of peace and security,” a brief army statement said.
Volunteers with the Fernie Search and Rescue team prepare to head out to search for eight missing snowmobilers on 29 Dec, 2008 in Fernie, Canada. Eight snowmobilers buried in avalanches were missing Monday in a western Canada's backcountry, and rescuers feared some of the men were killed by the falling snow. Three other men from the group pulled themselves free on Sunday, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said.—INTERNET

Mild quake jolts S Philippines

MANILA, 30 Dec—A 4.7-magnitude earthquake rocked parts of Mindanao in southern Philippines before noon Tuesday, the Philippine seismology authorities said. The quake, tectonic in origin, occurred around 11:20 am with its epicenter at 158 kilometers southeast of General Santos City, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said. No casualties have been reported so far.—INTERNET

Pakistan suspends NATO supplies to tackle militants

JAMRUD, 30 Dec—Pakistan suspended supplies going to foreign forces in Afghanistan on Tuesday as security forces launched an operation against militants in the Khyber Pass region, a government official said. Militants have launched a string of attacks in recent months aimed at choking off supplies trucked to foreign forces in landlocked Afghanistan through northwest Pakistan from the port city of Karachi, Khyber’s top administrator, Tariq Hayat, told reporters that a curfew had been imposed and the main road leading to the Afghan border had been sealed.—INTERNET

Photo taken on 28 Dec, 2008 shows traditional Oroqen houses in Oroqen ethnic autonomous county in north China’s Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region.—XINHUA

Flooding the latest weather threat in Midwest

DETROIT, 30 Dec—Utilities in Michigan scrambled Monday to restore power knocked out by a gusty weekend storm as rain and melting snow caused flooding there and in other parts of the Midwest.

Power was restored to about 80 percent of the 413,000 Michigan homes and businesses that lost service, according to the state’s utilities. Some could remain without power until Wednesday because of Sunday’s storm, which carried winds gusting more than 60 mph.

Nearly 60,000 customers from central New York to Buffalo also lost power Sunday as wind gusts as high as 75 mph brought down trees and utility poles there.

About 4,400 New York utility customers remained without power on Monday. Flood warnings were posted throughout the Midwest as temperatures rose after a week of heavy snowfall.

Forecasters said flooding was possible in areas of Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and northwest Ohio.

In Michigan, roads in some Ottawa County subdivisions were under 2 to 3 feet of water, while the first floors of some homes were flooded, National Weather Service hydrologist Mark Walton said.—INTERNET

Russian FM urges Hamas to reiterate power of Abbas

MOSCOW, 30 Dec—Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Monday urged the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) to realize responsibility before the Palestinian people, restore reconciliation and reiterate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas’ powers. “Mahmoud Abbas is a legal leader of the Palestinian people and head of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). We insist Hamas to unconditionally share the position of the PLO,” Lavrov said during an interview with the Moscow-based Vesti TV channel. Russia is jointly working with other members of the United Nations Security Council and Arab League states on measures to stop violence in the Middle East, he said.

“We are convinced that direct talks between Palestinians and Israelis have no alternative,” he said, noting that Syria and Lebanon should be involved in the process.

Israel kicked off massive air raids against the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip on Saturday, while Hamas shelled Israeli territory after a six-month ceasefire between Israel and Gaza militants ended on 19 Dec and Hamas refused to renew it. The death toll has risen to 345 and more than 1,600 were wounded in the ongoing airstrikes, according to Palestinian security sources.

Hamas and the Islamic Jihad (Holy War) movements have rejected Abbas’ call for holding dialogue to study the deteriorating situation in the Gaza Strip.—INTERNET

Suicide attack kills two police officers in Iran

TEHERAN, 30 Dec—A suicide attack has killed two police officers in southeastern Iran, Iran’s satellite Press TV reported on Monday.

The incident happened in the city of Saravan, located in Iran’s southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan, the report said without referring to the date of the attack.

“The bomber carrying explosives tried to enter the Saravan police department with his car but failed and was killed in the explosion”, Press TV said, adding that “Two police officers were killed and nearly 20 others were wounded.”

Reportedly, the Jundullah (Soldiers of God) Sunni rebel group, headed by Abdulmalek Rigi, has been responsible for the deadly operation.

The Deputy Commander of Iran’s Police Forces, Brigadier General Ahmad-Reza Radan said last week that the Iranian forces had killed the chief agents of the rebel group in southeastern Iran.

The Jundullah group, the target of the operation, killed 16 policemen they kidnapped in southeast Iran in June.

The group captured the 16 policemen at a checkpoint in Saravan, and then took them across the border into Pakistan. The group has constantly been blamed for offense and kidnappings in southeastern Iran at the bordering zone with Pakistan.—INTERNET

Traffic queues on the South Africa-Zimbabwe border. South Africa has reversed a block on aid to Zimbabwe because of the worsening humanitarian crisis in the neighbouring country, a presidential spokesman said Monday.—INTERNET
BEIJING, 30 Dec—China is ready to continue cooperation with Russia in 2009, said Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on Monday during a telephone conversation with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov.

Yang said the Sino-Russia strategic partnership has reaped fruitful achievements in 2008, the growth of Sino-Russia ties has benefited the two peoples, and contributed significantly to maintaining world peace and stability. In 2009 when the two countries mark the 60th anniversary of their diplomatic ties and the Year of the Russian Language is held in China, China is ready to avail itself of the opportunity to further enhance high-level visits with Russia and bilateral exchange and coordination on major issues, Yang said.

Yang pledged further efforts to enhance friendship and mutual trust between the two countries, strengthen cooperation and promote the Sino-Russia strategic partnership. On his part, Lavrov praised the development of Sino-Russia relations, adding that Russia is willing to work closely with China and make a success the important activities scheduled by the two countries for 2009, and make continued efforts to push forward the strategic and practical cooperation with China.

Injured Palestinians arrive in Egypt for treatments

CAIRO, 30 Dec—A group of Palestinians who were wounded in the Israeli airstrikes on the Palestinian territory of Gaza Strip arrived in Egypt on Monday for medical treatments, a Palestinian official in Egypt said.

The first batch of the wounded Palestinians crossed into the Egyptian territory via the Rafah crossing at the Egyptian-Gaza border, Palestinian representative at the border town Mohamed Arafat told Xinhua. Some 170 wounded Palestinians are also on the way from Gaza to Egypt to receive treatments in Egyptian hospitals, Arafat added.

Meanwhile, contacts are under way to send more medicine, medical equipment and power generators offered by Libya, Qatar and Egypt into the coastal strip, which has been under intensive Israeli attacks in the past three days, said Arafat.

On Saturday, Israel launched massive air raids which were targeted at Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip. According to Palestinian security sources, the death toll has risen to 345 and more than 1,600 were wounded in the ongoing Israeli airstrikes.

Two Israelis killed in attacks from Gaza

JERUSALEM, 30 Dec—Two Israelis were killed Monday evening as Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip pelted southern Israel with rockets and mortar shells, a police spokesman told Xinhua.

According to the spokesman Micky Rosenfeld, an Israeli man was killed in a mortar shell attack in the western Negev, adding that another person was critically injured in the strike.

The Salah al-Din Brigades, the armed wing of the Popular Resistance Committees, said they were behind the strike, local news service Ynet reported. Meanwhile, a woman was killed in a rocket attack in the city of Ashdod, said Rosenfeld, adding that three others were injured in the attack, one critically and two moderately.

Local daily Ha’aretz said that the woman died from wounds she sustained when the rocket pounded a bus stop in Ashdod.

Bulgaria to increase forces in Afghanistan next year

SOFIA, 30 Dec—Bulgaria is going to increase its contingent in the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan next year, local Sofia News Agency reported on Monday, citing the chief of staff of the Bulgarian Army, General Zlatan Stoykov.

According to the general, NATO had asked Bulgaria to increase its troops in Afghanistan. The scope of the surge in Bulgarian forces in the central Asian country, however, remained unclear as Stoykov’s General Staff was first going to craft an expert opinion, which was then going to be presented to relevant national institutions. Bulgaria currently has 460 troops in Afghanistan.
Unprecedented progress made in storm-hit …

(from page 1)

At the meeting hall of Hainggyigyun, Brig-Gen Myo Myint Than of local station reported on rehabilitation of the storm-hit Hainggyigyun and work carried out for regional development to the Head of State and party. Details of his reports include salient points of Hainggyigyun, reconstruction of hospitals, schools, monasteries and religious buildings in storm-hit Hainggyigyun by Shwe Than Lwin, AryonOo, FMI, Moe Kye Sin, AMC and Tet Lan Companies, distribution of relief items, reconstruction of roads in wards and village-to-village roads and bridges, distribution of paddy seeds, tractors and cattle for timely cultivation of monsoon paddy, progress in cultivation of monsoon paddy, supply of fishing boats and nets, restoration of import of fish, prawn and crabs, distribution of water pumps, power tillers and fuel. Next, Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe reported on other salient points.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe greets residents in Pyinsalu. — MNA

Aerial view of housing in Kyaukalat Village in Ngapudaw Township, Ayeyawady Division. — MNA

Langyi village reported on tasks carried out in rehabilitation of Ngapudaw Township such as construction of Labutta-Thongwa-Ottwin-Hteiksun road and development of Chaungwa, Pyinhsayaing, Hteitsun and Phondawpyi villages. The Head of State and entourage were welcomed there by Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint who is supervising the rehabilitation and construction of Ngapudaw Township, departmental officials and local people. Later, Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected progress in reconstruction of houses, schools, dispensaries and offices in Kyaukalat, Phonsogyi and Konthaya villages and construction of gravel roads.

Residents in Phonesogyi Village welcome Senior General Than Shwe and party. — MNA

Senior General Than Shwe spoke of the need to make arrangements for ensuring drinking water, electricity and roads in rehabilitation of Hteiksun, Kyaukalat and Konthaya villages, for timely completion of Labutta-Thongwa-Ottwin-Hteiksun road as it plays a leading role in regional development and to strive for ensuring electricity with the use of bio-gas and solar energy.

Senior General Than Shwe continued to say that the strong cyclone hit some villages and left heavy loss and casualty. However, as the government, construction entrepreneurs and well-wishers were able to engage in rehabilitation and construction of the storm-hit regions, unprecedented progress has been made in those regions.

(See page 7)
Unprecedented progress made in…

(from page 6)

He said that those who observe the situation of the regions are now witnessing the fruitful results of development enjoyed by local people, and spoke of the need for officials concerned to make continued efforts for improvement of socio-economic status of local people including development of education, health and business of villages.

At the same time, cyclone shelters are to be built in case of a disaster and cyclone preparedness drills are to be launched for local people to be able to face natural disasters, he noted.

Next, the Head of State and entourage observed the beach from the briefing hall’s viewpoint and greeted local people of Kyaukkalap village.

Senior General Than Shwe and party left Kyaukkalat Village in Ngapudaw Township by helicopter. They inspected reconstruction of Thingangon, Thetkathaung, Thingangyi, Zinywe and Saluseik villages and villages where cyclone shelters are to be built.

At 2.30 p.m, they arrived in Pyinsalu where they were welcomed by departmental officials and entrepreneurs.

Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected construction of heights and cyclone shelters and cordially greeted local people, members of social organization and officials.

The Head of State inspected reconstruction of Pyinsalu, construction of houses, offices, hospitals, dispensaries and schools and growing of shade trees and windbreak plants.

Senior General Than Shwe and party went to the Max Myanmar office of rehabilitation and construction of Pyinsalu. Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt reported on massive losses and measures taken for rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Senior General Than Shwe observed a map showing Pyinsalu and its environs and gave guidance to officials.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe reported on production of monsoon paddy, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun on construction of Labutta-Thingangyi-Pyinsalu Road, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein on regeneration of fisheries, the chairman of Max Myanmar on provision of tractors, fertilizers, paddy seeds and fuel, construction of religious, education and health structures, offices, houses and staff quarters. Prime Minister General Thein Sein gave a supplementary report.

In his guidance, Senior General Than Shwe said Pyinsalu region was severely hit by the storm. Now Pyinsalu and villages nearby have developed. Efforts are to be made to become Pyinsalu and other villages model ones. He spoke of the need to return schools, hospitals and dispensaries to normal and to complete cyclone shelters in the regions close to the sea sooner in case of emergency.

On his way to Pathein, Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected construction of Labutta-Thingangyi-Pyinsalu road from the helicopter. They arrived in Pathein at 4 p.m.

Old Law students get-together

YANGON, 30 Dec—Old students of B.A (Law), LLB who joined in 1975 and graduated in 1980 at Law Department of Yangon University gave words of advice. Chairman of the organizing committee Daw Myint Myint Yi spoke words of thanks and Secretary U Thein Tun explained matters related to work carried out.

Afterwards, dinner was served and law-graduate artists entertained the audience with songs. Starting from this year, social fund will be set up in order to provide health care services to law-graduates (1975-80). —MNA
Hailing the 61st Anniversary Independence Day:

The youth of today to realize the value of independence

Hlaing Aung

Safeguard independence and sovereignty through might of patriotism

“The young generation born as independent citizens who are well convinced of the value of and taste of independence, are duty-bound to safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the motherland through the might of unity and harmony.”

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)

The guidance to the youth, who will shoulder State’s duties as the saying, “The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow”, stated in the message of the Head of State inspired me to clarify what the value and taste of independence is for the youth of the nation.

First and foremost, I would like to explain some points about the value of independence. Now, the world has seen 192 independent and sovereign countries. However, about 100 years ago, two-thirds of those countries were under the rule of one colonial empire or another.

The majority of the countries that had stood with own monarchs and sovereign for thousands of years were trampled underfoot by colonialists who had transformed themselves from pirates with the opinion that those who conquered the sea could conquer the world.

One of the victimized countries was Myanmar that had stood tall continuously with own monarchs since the time of King Abhiraja of Tagaung Period. Myanmar people smouldered for many years with the incident in which King Thibaw was taken away abroad in 1247. Myanmar became the minority under a variety of oppression in the new country established by the foreign immigrants.

Some countries are too large to be colonized by a colonial country alone. So, each of their commercial port cities and islets at the mouth of the sea was manipulated by a first-comer colonial country under the agreement of many colonial countries that none of them would have to manipulate the whole colony. Eventually, such a country became a common colony.

A certain country was colonized by two colonial powers at the same time but it did not lose its ruler and sovereignty. However, the country was reduced to a land in a way that a woman who got married to two men at the same time.

Myanmar stood as a country that its citizens showed unwavering spirit in the fights to repulse the attacks of the colonialists. Only after the three wars that took place in 1824, 1852 and 1885, for about 60 years, could the colonialists occupy the whole country.

Even though the entire country had fallen under alien subjugation, the people did not take things lying down. They rose against the colonialist government for many decades through guerrilla warfare, arming themselves with whatever arms they got. Their independence struggles came to a halt due to a great gap of arm power, and so they started to exert independence struggles based on mental prowess.

Only few of the colonies under the British Empire, which was said to be the one where the Sun never set, persisted in opposing the colonial governments.

Myanmar became a battlefield two times in the World War II, and its people went through the hell of the war. Nevertheless, Myanmar patriots launched anti-colonialist battles and Anti-Fascist Resistance to regain independence, sacrificing many of their lives.

From the First Anglo-Myanmar War that occurred in 1824 to the pre-independence time in 1948, Myanmar saw sacrificing a lot of lives, limbs, blood and sweat, and tears of Myanmar revolutionaries and people. So, the

Myanmar’s sacrifices for independence were very costly if compared with that of other colonies. Many countries fell victim to colonialism. Some of them yielded to the attacks of the colonialists, concealing their loss without showing much tenacity. In some regions, natives were uprooted by huge floods of aliens, and later they became the minority under a variety of oppression in the new country established by the foreign immigrants.

(See page 9)
Hailing the 61st Anniversary Independence Day:
The youth of today to realize the value of independence
Hlaing Aung

(from page 8)

drive to regain independence was very costly for Myanmar. In some way, it was worth it because Myanmar is a gifted country. It is blessed with impressive geographical features, natural resources in abundance, and rivers with fertile deltas, that ensure security of the basic needs of the people, mountain ranges that serve as natural walls in protecting it against alien intrusion, favourable climate pattern, gems such as ruby, jade and pearl, oil, tea, crops, and marine resources. So, unlike some other countries, Myanmar has never suffered chronic consequences of any crises up to now.

Moreover, it was also very costly to maintain independence. In the post-independence period, the nation saw disintegration of national unity and sectarian and racial instigations, so it was said that the nation was newly-independent but political conflicts were violent. And many revolutionaries of independence struggles turned their backs on their comrades, followed by a struggle for power within political elite. Therefore, the people did not get any opportunities to test the taste of independence. To make matters worse, the nation faced an alien intrusion of its border areas. The nation thus had to sacrifice a large number of lives to restore the costly independence.

It would be impossible for the youth of today to realize how hard it is to restore independence if they do not have knowledge of historic battles and military operations such as Insein battle in which bullets of small arms and shells of heavy weapons were like drops of rainfall in the time when Myanmar was ironically branded Yangon government as its administrative machinery stretched just to Thamaing Junction; the Operations “Yanggyi Aung” and “Mekong” in which servicemen, risking their lives at a high degree, had to occupy strong fortresses built of “Mekong” in which servicemen, risking their lives at a high degree, had to occupy strong fortresses built of services and critical areas. The operations thus had to sacrifice a large number of lives to restore the costly independence.

It would be impossible for the youth of today to realize how hard it is to restore independence if they do not have knowledge of historic battles and military operations such as Insein battle in which bullets of small arms and shells of heavy weapons were like drops of rainfall in the time when Myanmar was ironically branded Yangon government as its administrative machinery stretched just to Thamaing Junction; the Operations “Yanggyi Aung” and “Mekong” in which servicemen, risking their lives at a high degree, had to occupy strong fortresses built of services and critical areas. The operations thus had to sacrifice a large number of lives to restore the costly independence.

Making a study of the conditions of the global community, it can be noted that some developed countries were split into many pieces, resulting in armed conflicts between same nationals; some countries were invaded by other countries, following disunity of the people and they have not been able to put out the blazing infernos of armed revolts that caused casualties of many innocent people every day and hundreds of thousands of people had to flee their homes. Moreover, famine and hunger stemming from climate changes in some countries and crises due to sky-high prices of food in some countries receive coverage of international media daily.

Comparing prevailing conditions of Myanmar with that of such countries, a citizen can know well the taste of independence and peace, and the value of sovereignty and independence. While internal armed insurgency was raging in the nation, local people of many regions had to stay hiding just it got dark, local people had to sleep hidden under their houses or in paddy barns in fear of attacks of insurgents. The youth of today are very fortunate because the nation no longer sees such hard times. Now, even border areas that used to be reverberated often with fires of arms and weapons in the past have got schools. Battlefields and minefields have been changed into paddy fields. The whole nation including rural areas has seen dam clusters, river water pumping stations, underground water tapping stations, agricultural farms. Sufficient irrigation supply has led to boosting production of crops. And State-owned and private-owned factories can boost production of goods several times.

Many new railroads, roads and bridges, each of which is more than 1000 feet long, throughout the nation and remarkable development in the trade, communication and transport sectors are, indeed, fruitful results of independence and peace.

In the colonial days, the colonialists were very active in doing things from which they could gain maximum benefits and make profits, but they did not spend even a penny on anything that was not beneficial to them, culminating in a great development gap between hilly regions and plains and between rural and urban areas. Theirs was a political scheme cleverly designed to drive a wedge among national races. As a result, the nation lacked peace and stability owing to internal armed strife following disintegration of unity among national races and people in the post-independence period.

So, it can be deduced from the above-mentioned points that the nation cannot develop without independence and peace. And without development, independence and peace cannot be maintained in the long-run. It is because independence and peace are interrelated with development. Unity is essential for independence and peace and development.

The youth of today are mainly responsible for safeguarding of independence for which many of their forefathers had to sacrifice their lives, and generating freedom, peace and development of their motherland. In that case, I would like them to study the nation’s history, broaden their horizons, and continue to work hard with nationalistic fervour to be able to realize the duties. Instead if they do not take anything serious, put ostentation to the fore, and indulging themselves in ostentation to the fore, and indulging themselves in festivities, the people are likely to become again slaves who have to rely a lot on aliens for their living because today every sector is very challenging. And without patriotic spirit and national cohesion, the nation-building tasks will not work. In conclusion, I would, therefore, like to exhort the youth of today who will have to shoulder State’s duties to work hard with a sense of national unity for ensuring perpetual existence of very costly independence and the mother country.

Translation: MS

Four objectives of the 61st Anniversary Independence Day
* All the national people to constantly join hands for ensuring the perpetuity of independence and sovereignty of the State;
* All the national people to collectively strive for non-disintegration of the Union and non-disintegration of national solidarity;
* All the national people to harmoniously make all-out efforts for building up a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accord with the new State Constitution that has been approved by the votes of the great majority of national people;
* All the national people to cooperate in realizing the State’s seven-step Road Map with Union Spirit and patriotic spirit

POEM
Safeguard our heritage
* O, people of Myanmar
Aware of the guidance that
If taken for granted
Independence can be lost
All of a sudden subjugation
Of the alien aggression
* To get back our lost land of heritage
Many people had to sacrifice
Lots of blood, sweet, lives
For considerable length of time
We have noted
The guidance given often
By Head of State
* Entire Myanmar people
With unity and strength
Vitalize national spirit
Have independence awareness ever
For perpetuity of sovereignty
With never waning glory
Let’s safeguard our heritage
Po Yan Naing (Kyaukkyi) (Trs)
Hailing the 61st Anniversary Independence Day
HAILING THE 61st ANNIVERSARY
INDEPENDENCE DAY:

ACHIEVEMENT OF THE HEALTH SECTOR IN 2008

Photo shows newly-constructed 100-bed People’s Hospital in Homalin, Sagaing Division, on 11 March, 2008.

The archway and the main building of University of Traditional Medicine (Mandalay).

Photo shows 200-bed special hospital in Myeik, Taninthayi Division.

Photo shows newly-opened special care units in Nay Pyi Taw People’s Hospital (1000-bed) on 27 September, 2008.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Inauguration Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ingapu Township People’s Hospital, two-storey building, two-storey extended building</td>
<td>Ingapu Township, Ayeyawady Division</td>
<td>14-1-2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Minbu 200-bed People’s Hospital</td>
<td>Minbu, Magway Division</td>
<td>10-2-2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Zegon Village Rural Health Department (Branch)</td>
<td>Nay Pyi Taw Pyimmana</td>
<td>9-3-2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Homalin 100-bed People’s Hospital</td>
<td>Homalin, Sagaing Division</td>
<td>11-3-2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Paunglaung Station Hospital</td>
<td>Nay Pyi Taw Pyimmana</td>
<td>18-9-2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Kyinchaung Village Station Hospital</td>
<td>Kayan Township, Yangon Division</td>
<td>20-9-2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Special care units of Nay Pyi Taw People’s Hospital (1000-bed)</td>
<td>Nay Pyi Taw</td>
<td>27-9-2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Paediatric unit of Thethamein Station Hospital</td>
<td>Waw, Bago Division</td>
<td>4-10-2008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Photo shows newly-constructed 100-bed People’s Hospital in Homalin, Sagaing Division, on 11 March, 2008.
Malaysia seeks Indonesia’s help against military-style pirates

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 Dec — Malaysia has sought Indonesia’s help to crack down on pirates in military-style uniforms who have been menacing fishing boats in the southern Malacca Strait, a senior police official said on Tuesday. The action came after a fisherman was wounded earlier this month when sea raiders dressed in camouflage gear fired at his vessel, said Isa Munir, commander of Malaysia’s maritime police department.

“We are investigating it. We are trying to coordinate the operation (to provide security for fishing boats) with Indonesian authorities. We are intensifying our patrols,” he told AFP.

Isla said the attack took place in the waters off southern Johor state facing neighbouring Indonesia, part of the waterway which is a crucial lifeline to global trade and which just a few years ago was a piracy hot spot.

In the last few years, coordinated patrols from the countries bordering the strait — Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore — have virtually eradicated attacks. —Internet

New York, 30 Dec — Crude prices rose above 40 US dollars a barrel Monday on the Middle East tension. Israel launched massive air raids against the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip as Hamas declared Israeli territory after a six-month cease-fire between Israel and Gaza militants. The death toll has risen to 345 and more than 1,600 were wounded in the ongoing airstrikes. The tension in the Middle East raised concerns that supply might be disrupted.

Oil prices were also supported as the US dollar lost more than 2 percent against the euro.

Light, sweet crude for February delivery rose 2.31 dollars to settle at 40.02 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. —Internet

Cocaine suspect describes himself to Texas police

Galveston police knew who to look for — exactly — when they arrested an alleged delivery man in a call-for-coke investigation.

A 29-year-old Galveston man was caught Friday on a charge of manufacturing or delivering a controlled substance. Sgnt T. Barr, at the Galveston County Jail, told The Associated Press that John Patrick Lacour Jr was held on $250,000 bond.

Barr had no information on an attorney for Lacour.

Lacour is accused of taking delivery of a small amount of cocaine. They requested a delivery to a certain address, plus asked the person to call for it. He described himself to a call center, plus asked the person to describe himself so they would know who to expect.

Lt DJ Alvarez told the Galveston County Daily News that Lacour was arrested early Thursday when he arrived. Police confiscated a small amount of cocaine.

Foreign employees in Shanghai multiply

BEIJING, 30 Dec — The number of foreigners who registered for the city’s employment permits has increased by 13 times in 13 years.

According to the newest figures from Shanghai Municipal Human Resources and Social Security Bureau, a total of 68,648 foreign nationals had registered for employment permits by the end of November.

Japan, the United States, South Korea, Singapore, Germany and France lead the list of nationalities, and the top 10 countries represent 80 percent of all registered.

Of all the expats registered for employment, 32.1 percent are senior managers, 7 percent are senior technicians and 45.9 percent are in management roles.

Shanghai reported a two-digit increase in the number of foreign workers in 2008 — the 30th anniversary of China’s reform and opening-up.

Vietnamese PM calls for self-improvement in agricultural sector

HANOI, 30 Dec — Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung asked the country’s agriculture sector to improve forecasts and use of statistics to boost production and exports next year, the local newspaper Vietnam News reported on Tuesday.

Dung made the requirement at a conference in Hanoi on Monday, which discussed the sector’s plans for 2009. The conference was crucial as next year is predicted to be a harsh year for the country’s agriculture and farmers.

Dung praised the development of the agriculture sector for its remarkable growth of production in 2008 compared with that of 2007 despite difficulties such as world price fluctuations, rising input prices and severe cold spells earlier this year.

The food security was ensured and export revenue of six major products exceeded the one-billion-US dollar mark including coffee, rice, wooden furniture, rubber, shrimp and tra fish. —Internet

Hot gold puts mich postal worker in hot water

A Detroit-area postal worker has been charged with stealing gold from the mail after he tried to claim his treasure to the shop that had shipped it.

The postal worker sold the gold on 7 Nov to G&S Brokers pawn shop for $320. Authorities told The Detroit News that jeweler James Zelniske recognized the gold because he had sold and mailed it to a business in Ann Arbor. Zelniske had insured the parcel of gold for $1,000.

The postal worker has been charged with embezzling mail from the Mount Clemens post office. He appeared Thursday in federal court in Detroit. Court records did not identify his lawyer.

69 Rabbits discovered in 1-bedroom apartment

The DuPage County Animal Care and Control Center in Wheaton has some rabbits that were discovered during a recent eviction, and the female tenant told animal control workers her financial situation had overwhelmed her.

Authorities would not identify the woman nor the location of her apartment.

Center executive director Kerry Vinkler called it a typical pet-hoarding situation, but she said all the rabbits but one were in good shape when they were found.

Vinkler estimates the oldest rabbits to be about 18 months old and said Dutch rabbits have a life span of eight to 12 years.

Ice carver Mikhail Fedotov from Russia works on his masterpiece “Bremen’s Town Musicians” in the northern Germany city of Bremen. Some 40 artists turned out to carve 28 figures inspired by the Brothers’ Grimm fairy tales. The city’s ice sculpture festival opens its doors to the public on 22 Nov and runs through on 25 Jan, 2009.

A model presents a Walk-In-Heart, which is aimed at showing patients functions specific to the heart and possible heart diseases, in Dusseldorf.

The model heart is a preview of what a possible heart diseases, in Dusseldorf.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Wednesday, 31 December, 2008 11
TRADEMARK CAUTION

Smith/Kline Beecham (Cork) Limited of Cummins, Carrigaholt, County Clare, Ireland, is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trademark:

ROADSTONE
Reg. No. 1354/1992
Used in respect of: "tires for vehicle wheels and tubes for vehicle wheels."

Any unauthorized use, imitation or infringement of the above mark will be dealt with according to law.

Tin Ohnmar Tun
B.K(Law) L.L.B.L.M (U.K) P.O. Box 109,
Ph: 723184
For: Donnern Songiatt & Boorna, Attorneys at Law, Thailand.

Dated: 31 December, 2008

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ADMIRE-CORAL VOY NO (16)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ADMIRE-CORAL VOY NO (16) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.1.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: EASTERN CAR LINER LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

Researchers discover new use for human hair

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec—Studies by US researchers have shown that human hair, a readily available waste generated from barbershops and hair salons, is an additional nutrient source for crops if combined with additional compost.

Researchers from Mississippi State University recently published their study results in the current issue of journal Hort Technology.

Agricultural crop production usually relies on composted waste materials and byproducts, such as animal manure, municipal solid waste composts, and sewage sludge, as a necessary nutrient source.

Although human hair has become commercially available to crop producers in the past couple years, it has not been proven to be an exclusive source of nutrients in greenhouse container production.

Food phosphates might spur lung cancer

SEOUL, 30 Dec—A diet rich in the inorganic phosphates found in many natural and processed foods accelerated the growth of lung cancers in rats, South Korean researchers report.

“Our study suggests that dietary regulation of inorganic phosphates may be critical for lung cancer treatment as well as prevention,” Myung-Haing Cho, lead author of a report in the first January issue of American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, said in a statement.

But, “an individual shouldn’t act on these results as yet, other than to encourage funding organizations such as the National Institutes of Health to support research to see whether dietary phosphates encourage cancer,” said Dr John Heffner, a professor of medicine at the Oregon Health & Science University in Portland and past president of the American Thoracic Society, which publishes the journal.

Natural sources of dietary phosphates include leafy vegetables, fruits, meats and poultry products. Phosphates also are added to a number of foods, including baking powder, carbonated cola drinks, ice cream, bread, rolls, macaroni, fruit jellies and preserves.

Food phosphates are listed by the US Food and Drug Administration as GRAS—generally recognized as safe—with no limits on their use.
China’s Foton says clean energy car factory opened in Beijing

BEIJING, 30 Dec—China’s Beiqi Foton Motor Co has launched a five-billion-yuan (730-million-dollar) design and production base for clean energy vehicles in Beijing, the company said on Tuesday.

The facility will produce up to 5,000 clean-energy buses and 400,000 fuel-efficient engines a year, the company said in a statement. The design and production base, backed by the city government, is part of the capital’s efforts to fight pollution by reducing car emissions, the company said. The most prominent investor in green car technology in China is American investor Warren Buffett, who owns a 10 percent stake in another company, BYD Auto, which unveiled China’s first mass-produced hybrid electric car in December.—INTERNET

US-Japanese study finds genes for 1918 ‘Spanish flu’ pandemic

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec—A US-Japanese research team announced on Monday it had isolated three genes that explain why the 1918 Spanish flu, believed to be the deadliest infectious disease in history, was so lethal.—INTERNET

Researchers at a flu research laboratory. A US-Japanese research team announced on Monday it had isolated three genes that explain why the 1918 Spanish flu, believed to be the deadliest infectious disease in history, was so lethal. The pandemic killed between 20 and 50 million people — more than in all of World War I, which ended in November 1918 — and spread around the world.

The genes allowed the virus to reproduce in lung tissue, according to research published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. “Conventional flu viruses replicate mainly in the upper respiratory tract: the mouth, nose and throat,” said University of Wisconsin-Madison virologist Yoshihro Kawakita, who co-authored the study along with Masato Hatta, also of UW-Madison. “The 1918 virus replicates in the upper respiratory tract, but also in the lungs, causing primary pneumonia among its victims,” Kawakita said. “We wanted to know why the 1918 flu caused severe pneumonia,” he added.

Autopsies of Spanish flu victims often revealed fluid-filled lungs severely damaged by massive hemorrhaging. Virologists linked the virus’ ability to invade the lungs with its high level of virulence, but the genes that conferred ability were unknown, the researchers wrote.—INTERNET

Key gene linked to high blood pressure identified

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec—A gene that affects how the kidneys process salt may help determine a person’s risk of high blood pressure, a discovery that could lead to better ways to treat the condition, researchers said on Monday.

People with a common variant of the gene STK39 tend to have higher blood pressure levels and are more likely to develop full-blown high blood pressure, also called hypertension. University of Maryland School of Medicine researchers found.

They identified the gene’s role in high blood pressure susceptibility by analyzing the genes of 542 people in the insular Old Order Amish community in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

The researchers confirmed the findings by looking at the genes of another group of Amish people as well as four other groups of white people in the United States and Europe.

About 20 percent of the people studied had either one or two copies of this particular variant, the researchers said.

The gene produces a protein involved in regulating the way the kidneys process salt in the body — a key factor in determining blood pressure, the researchers said.

Yen-Pei Christy Chang, who led the study appearing in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, said the findings could lead to the development of new high blood pressure drugs targeting the activity of STK39.

“What we hope is that by understanding STK39 we can use that information for personalized medicine, so we can actually predict which hypertensive patients should be on what class of medication and know that they will respond well and have minimal risk for side effects,” Chang said in a telephone interview.

People with high blood pressure are more likely to develop heart attacks, heart failure, strokes and kidney disease.

Liver transplants from elderly donors are safe

NEW YORK, 30 Dec—Advanced donor age, per se, does not adversely affect the transplant recipient or the survival of the organ after liver transplantation, according to a report in the Journal of the American College of Surgeons. Previous reports have indicated that the age of the donor — older than 60 years — contributes to decreased organ and patient survival, as well as a poorer quality of life for the recipient, the authors explain. They hypothesized, however, that proper selection of donors older than age 60 and even over age 70” can produce outcomes comparable to those obtained with younger donors.

Dr William C. Chapman and colleagues from Washington University School of Medicine, St Louis, Missouri, analyzed their experience with 741 adult-to-adult whole organ transplants — 91 donors were 60 years or older and 650 were younger than 60 years.

There was no significant difference in the number of second transplants performed or signs that another transplant was going to be needed between patients who received organs from younger and older donors, the authors report.
Iniesta set to return for Barca

MADRID, 30 Dec—Barcelona midfielder Andres Iniesta, sidelined since the beginning of November with a muscle injury, has received the green light from doctors to return to action, the club said on Monday.

Iniesta strained his right thigh muscle during the second half of Barcelona’s 1–1 Champions League draw against Swiss side Basel at the Nou Camp on 4 November.

Despite that his absence has not prevented the club from maintaining its place at the top of the Primera Liga where it is now 12 points clear of its nearest rival, Iniesta is set to return for the run-in against ‘La Liga’s second-placed Real Mallorca this Sunday.

The 24-year-old Spanish international will join the squad to face Real Mallorca on Saturday.

Iniesta strained his right thigh muscle during the second half of Barcelona’s 1–1 Champions League draw against Swiss side Basel at the Nou Camp on November 4. Despite that his absence has not prevented the club from maintaining its place at the top of the Primera Liga where it is now 12 points clear of its nearest rival, Iniesta is set to return for the run-in against ‘La Liga’s second-placed Real Mallorca this Sunday.

The 24-year-old Spanish international will join the squad to face Real Mallorca on Saturday.

Real must choose between Huntelaar and Diarra

MADRID, 30 Dec—Real Madrid must choose between new signings Klaas-Jan Huntelaar and Lassana Diarra to play in the knock-out stages of the Champions League, UEFA spokesman William Gaillard said on Spanish radio.

“I am very sorry, but the rules are what they are and they cannot be changed in the middle of a season,” he said on Onda Cero radio. “That means that only one of the two players can play in the Champions League.

“We can include either Huntelaar or Diarra.”

The Spanish champions, plagued by injuries and poor form this season, signed Dutch striker Huntelaar and French midfielder Diarra this month from Ajax and English side Portsmouth respectively.

But under UEFA rules only one of them can play in the Champions League as both have already represented their former clubs in Europe this season.

Real had hoped to convince European football’s governing body to agree to a different interpretation of the rule so that both players could take part.

There are three in for the title, says Man U’s Fergie

MANCHESTER, 30 Dec—Sir Alex Ferguson insisted that the Premier League title race will be a three-way fight between Manchester United, Liverpool and Chelsea after Dimitar Berbatov’s second-half strike sealed a narrow 1–0 win against Middlesbrough at Old Trafford on Monday.

Berbatov’s third league goal in a United shirt—alleged to the club’s seventh successive Premier League clean-sheet—secured the victory that takes the reigning champions to within seven points of leaders Liverpool with two games in hand.

United struggled to overcome Gareth Southgate’s team for lengthy periods, but with the points in the bag, Ferguson predicted a tense run-in to the title in 2009.

“It’s going to be a great run-in, really exciting, but

I wouldn’t say that Liverpool are a great threat than Chelsea now,” said Ferguson.

“Chelsea are a great side too, but the important thing is to do our own job and we have always done that.”

Rooney’s agent loses ban appeal

LONDON, 30 Dec—Wayne Rooney’s agent Paul Stretford on Monday lost an appeal against an 18-month ban imposed by the Football Association in July for breaking regulations when signing up the England striker.

Stretford was also fined 300,000 pounds (then 377,000 euros) in July after being charged by the FA following his troubled appointment as Rooney’s agent in 2002.

Seven of the nine charges brought by the FA against Stretford for breaches of world football governing body FIFA’s players’ agent regulations were proved.

The charges included failing to protect Rooney’s interests and failing to respect the rights of third parties.

Stretford was also hit with an improper conduct charge in relation to the “making of false and/or misleading witness statements to police and giving false and/or misleading testimony to Warrington Crown Court” in a case about the circumstances of how he came to represent the England striker.

Stretford made it clear he would lodge an appeal, but an independent appeal board here Monday upheld the original punishment.

Liverpool captain Gerrard charged over bar brawl

LONDON, 30 Dec—Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard was charged Tuesday with assault and affray over an alleged bar brawl, police told AFP.

The football star, 28, was charged along with two other men who were also arrested early Monday after an incident at a late-night bar in Southport, north of Liverpool.

The venue’s disc jockey, a 34-year-old local man, required hospital treatment after suffering facial injuries.

“He was charged in the early hours of this morning with assault and affray,” a spokesman for Merseyside Police told AFP. The England midfielder was released on bail from Southport police station early Tuesday.

The disturbance occurred hours after Liverpool won 5–1 at Newcastle United on Sunday, with Gerrard scoring two goals.

Adebayor tops in Togo again

LOMÉ, 30 Dec—Emmanuel Adebayor has been voted Togo Footballer of the Year for the fourth consecutive year by local sports journalists it was announced on Monday.

The Arsenal striker returned to the national team during October after a row with officials over travelling conditions and scored four goals against Swaziland to keep Togo in contention for a place at the 2010 World Cup.

Adebayor is a finalist for the 2008 African Footballer of the Year award with Chelsea’s Didier Drogba of Ivory Coast and the latter’s club mate Michael Essien of Ghana and Egyptians Mohamed Aboutraika and Azz Zaka, who has scored 10 goals for his on loan Premier League club Wigan this season.

Jewell quits Derby

DERBY, 30 Dec—Derby manager Paul Jewell has resigned after only 13 months in charge of the Championship outfit, the club said on Monday. Former Wigan boss Jewell threw in the towel after Sunday’s 1–0 home defeat by Ipswich, his 50th game in charge of the Rams.

Jewell, 44, went ahead of an upcoming League Cup semi-final against Manchester United after a loss which left the side 18th in the table.

A statement said Jewell “feels he is no longer in a position to take the club forward” and assistant boss Chris Hutchings will take temporary charge to try to lift a side with only seven wins in 26 league matches.

Jewell took over as Derby’s freefall last season rooted to the foot of the Premiership. Chairman Adam Pearson told BBC Radio Derby that the club had put pressure on Jewell to go. But Pearson said: “It was probably one result too far for Paul. He came to see me after the (Ipswich) game and said that he felt it just wasn’t working out and didn’t want to club to suffer as a result. He just feels that the club needs a fresh impetus and a new direction.”

Hutchings takes charge for Saturday’s FA Cup third round tie at non-league Forest Green Rovers and then Derby host Manchester United in the first leg of their League Cup semi at Pride Park on 7 January.
Tech companies push stylish, personal design

SAN FRANCISCO, 30 Dec.—With consumers showing an appetite for stylish personal devices, PC and gadget makers will need more than just vibrant colors, rounded edges or an elegant metallic finish to stand out in a crowded market.

PC users are increasingly interested in what’s on the outside as much as what’s on the inside. And as the market shifts to laptops from desktops, computers are more portable and hence more visible, making them as much of a design statement as a purse or a pair of shoes.

Richard Shim, a PC analyst with IDC, said it’s all part of a larger trend of “hyper-specialization” in notebooks.

“Personalization is becoming a big differentiator. It’s just a question of how far you can take it and how much money you can get for it,” he said.—Internet

Home prices post 18 percent annual drop in October

NEW YORK, 30 Dec.—A closely watched index shows home prices dropped by the sharpest annual rate on record in October.

The Standard & Poor’s/Case-Shiller 20-city housing index released Tuesday fell by a record 18 percent from October last year, the largest drop since its inception in 2000. The 10-city index tumbled 19.1 percent, its biggest decline in its 21-year history.

Both indices have recorded year-over-year declines for 22 straight months. Prices are at levels not seen since March 2004.

Prices in the 20-city index have plummeted more than 23.4 percent from their peak in July 2006. The 10-city index has fallen 25 percent since its peak in June 2006. None of the 20 cities saw annual price gains in October for the seventh consecutive month.

WEATHER

Tuesday, 30 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 Tanintharyi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

Night temperatures were (3˚C) to (4˚C) below December average temperatures in Mon State, upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions, (6˚C) below December average temperatures in Chin State, (3˚C) above December average temperatures in Kachin State and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. Significant night temperatures were Hakha (-2˚C), Lotlem (-1˚C), Namsam (2˚C) and Pinlaung (3˚C).

Minimum temperature on 29-12-2008 was 90˚F. Minimum temperature on 30-12-2008 was 60˚F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 30-12-2008 was 64%. Total sunshine hours on 29-12-2008 was (9.3) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 30-12-2008 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 at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (11:30) hours MST on 29-12-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 31st December 2008: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State, upper Sagaing, Tanintharyi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 31-12-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 31-12-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 31-12-2008: Generally fair weather.
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

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

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

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

Independence Day special sales
YANGON, 30 Dec — Hailing the 61st Anniversary Independence Day 2009, the special sale festivals of the Ministry of Industry-1 will be held at Chanayethazan Township from 27 December to 2 January, Kyaukme of Shan State (North) from 27 December to 2 January, Toungoo of Bago Division from 31 December to 7 January and Thayawady of Bago Division from 3 January to 9 January.—MNA

Why locusts abandon solitary life for swarm
SYDNEY, 30 Dec — By applying an old theory that has been used to explain water flow through soil and the spread of forest fires, researchers may have an answer to a perplexing ecological and evolutionary problem: why locusts switch from an innocuous, solitary lifestyle to form massive swarms that can devastate crops and strip fields bare.

Their report, published online on December 18th in Current Biology, a Cell Press publication, concludes that once the insects’ ranks grow to a certain threshold size, banding together prevents predators from moving from one patch of insects to the next and easily picking the bugs off one by one.

“A predator can only move continually across a landscape, consuming locusts as it goes, if there is a landscape-spanning pathway of connected, high-yielding patches containing locusts in abundance,” said Andy Reynolds of Rothamsted Research.—Internet

No Real offer for Valencia yet
MADRID, 30 Dec — Antonio Valencia’s agent claims he has not had any contact with Real Madrid but admits the Wigan winger would jump at the chance to secure a move to the Bernabeu.

Speculation has been rife that the Spanish champions are set to table a 17million euro (£16.6 million) bid for Valencia, with reports suggesting they have already opened discussions with Wigan.

Diego Herrera remained coy about his client’s future but hinted the Ecuador international could be off as early as next week.—Internet

Safeguard our heritage
- O, people of Myanmar
- Aware of the guidance that
- If taken for granted
- Independence can be lost
- All of a sudden subjugation
- Of the alien aggression

A bird’s eye view of Pyinsalu.
(News on page 1) — MNA

Special features to hail 61st anniversary Independence Day
Photo shows newly-opened special care units in Nay Pyi Taw People’s Hospital (1000-bed) on 27, September 2008.

The youth of today to realize the value of independence
The youth of today are mainly responsible for restoration of independence for which many of their forefathers had to sacrifice their lives, and generating freedom, peace and development of their motherland.

Poem