The government has designated the 24-region special development project and is now implementing it for equitable development of all parts of the nation. At the same time, it is putting into action the border areas development projects and rural development tasks.

In the process, it has given priority to the development of border areas that lagged behind in development due to lack of security. It managed to make a significant progress in the sectors of economic infrastructures, transport, agriculture, livestock farming, education and health.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
From the message sent on the occasion of the 59th Anniversary Independence Day

Priority being given to development of border areas

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Poem

Achievement of the Industrial Sector in 2008

Inscribe future records with own concepts
Strive for perpetuation of national solidarity and development

Myanmar has stood tall among the international community as an independent and sovereign nation for years countable by the thousand. The national brethren have been living in the Union through thick and thin. Based on unity and amity, they have been able to forge friendship and consolidation among them.

In the late 19th century, the colonialists launched three aggressive wars on Myanmar and occupied her. However, the entire national people put up much of a fight against the colonialists with patriotism and nationalistic fervour. As a result, they were finally free from the yoke of the colonialists and the nation became independent and sovereign again.

Nowadays, the government is making all-out efforts for the emergence of a modern and developed nation in accord with Our Three Main National Causes, namely, Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty. In the process, it has laid down and is implementing the seven-step Road Map in line with the wishes of the entire people.

The national policies that are being implemented by the government are the national duties to be carried out by the people at present and in future as well.

At present, peace and tranquility prevails the length and breadth of the nation thanks to concerted efforts of the government and the people. Progress has been made in the cultural, trade and commerce sectors. Meanwhile, people put up much of a fight against the colonialists with patriotism and nationalistic fervour. As a result, they were finally free from the yoke of the colonialists and the nation became independent and sovereign again.

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Therefore, the entire national people are to make sustained efforts with Union Spirit for perpetuation of independence and sovereignty making better use of the already-achieved peace and stability, national solidarity and development.

People's Desire

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

Ministry of Labour marks 61st anniversary

Minister U Aung Kyi delivers an address at the ceremony to mark 61st Anniversary of Ministry of Labour. — MNA

NAV PYI TAW, 2 Jan—The 61st Anniversary of Ministry of Labour was held at the ministry here today.
Present on the occasion were Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung, directors-general, guests and personnel and staff of the ministry. Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi delivered an address and the minister, the deputy minister and directors-general presented gifts to those who performed their duties brilliantly. Altogether 39 prizes such as literary award, performance award, long service award, language proficiency award were presented to excellent performers.

K 10 million lucky draw winner honoured

YANGON, 2 Jan—A ceremony to present a K 10 million award to the winner in the lucky draw programme for Grand Royal of International Beverages Trading Co Ltd was held at Chatrium Hotel, here, this afternoon. Executive Director U Tin Oo of IBTC extended greetings and awarded K 10 million to lucky draw winner U San Thwin of Thakayta Township. The Executive Director also presented one Samsung brand 32-inch LCD TV to the owner of Shweyamin-2 Shop of Thakayta Township.

IBTC Executive Director U Tin Oo of IBTC presents prize to a shop owner. — MNA

School Family Day of Institute of Education Practising High School on 3 Jan

YANGON, 2 Jan—The Institute of Education Practising High School of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) will hold the School Family Day for 2008-09 academic year at the school on Pyay Road in Kamayut Township at 8.30 a.m. tomorrow.

In the compound of the school, parents, teachers and students will display books on general knowledge and aesthetic genres, teaching aid books, teaching aid materials and food stalls at the festivities.

Yangon/Mandalay market boat to be launched

YANGON, 2 Jan—Mya Ayeya (Yangon/Mandalay) market boat owned by Transportation Department of Inland Water Transport will leave from Yangon for Mandalay within this month.

Those wishing to sell their products in the market boat may contact Transportation Department on Bahtataungzay Street in person or dial 292199, 292319.

Vendors from townships of States and Divisions may contact township manager’s office of Inland Water Transport in Maubin, Dhaungbyu, Myaung, Kyangin, Pyay, Thayet, Aunglan and Magway.

MNA
Pakistan urges US to stop drone attacks

ISLAMABAD, 2 Jan — Pakistan Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi Thursday urged the United States to stop cross-border drone attacks inside Pakistan’s territory.

Speaking at private TV channel GEO’s programme, Qureshi said that Pakistan had asked the United States to put a halt to drone attacks.

He said that such attacks were not in the interest of the two countries and also urged the United States to review its policy.

A suspected US drone fired three missiles in Pakistan’s South Waziristan tribal region bordering Afghanistan on Thursday, killing five people, according to private DAWN NEWS TV channel.—Internet

An Afghan youth pushes a donkey laden with containers filled with drinking water in Kabul on 30 December. About only 28 percent of homes in urbanised Afghanistan have piped water, according to the government. Far fewer homes would have such a service in the country’s destitute rural areas. The water supply is also not always safe, sometimes being contaminated with domestic waste.—Internet

Iraq to expel Iran rebels as it takes over camp from US

BAGHDAD, 2 Jan — Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki said on Thursday that he would expel an Iranian armed opposition group from the country after taking over their base from US forces.

“Based on taking over everything and in accordance with our constitution and our policies of opening up to our neighbours... our forces are going to take full control of the camp where the People’s Mujahedeen Organization of Iran (PMOI) live,” Maliki said.

Maliki was speaking to reporters on the sideline of a ceremony during which the United States handed over to Iraqi forces security control of the Green Zone, a fortified swathe of central Baghdad off limits to most Iraqis, who widely view it as a symbol of occupation.

“I convey the armed forces’ vow — that they are able to take full responsibility, so that Iraq again will be secured by the hands of its own citizens,” Defence Minister Abdel Qader Jassim told dignitaries assembled under a marquee festooned with tinsel and balloons.

Col Steven Ferrari, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team commander responsible for US troops in the area, called it “a new day for sovereign Iraq.”

“AS a sovereign nation, Iraq assumes the full range of security responsibilities for this historically ancient land.”—Internet

A wounded Afghan boy receives treatment at a hospital after a suicide attack in Khost Province on 28 Dec, 2008. A suicide bomber killed at least six people, four of them children, and wounded 36 more in an attack on a government building in southeastern Khost Province on Sunday, officials said. Internet

Taleban ambush district chief, killing 20 in S Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, 2 Jan — A group of Taleban insurgents Wednesday ambushed the convoy of Musa Qala district chief Mullah Abdulsalih in southern Afghan province of Helmand, killing at least 20 security guards, an official said on Thursday.

Dawud Ahmadi, the spokesman for provincial governor told Xinhua that Taleban militants launched attack on the convoy of Mullah Abdulsalih on his way from Kajaki district to Musa Qala. Ahmadi said militants clashed with security guards of the district chief, killing 20 of them, but Mullah Abdulsalah escaped the life threat. “Those militants disguised themselves in police uniforms and drove police vehicles while carrying out assaults,” he added. “The investigation is going on at the battlefield.”—Internet
Pakistan, India exchange list of nuclear installations, facilities

ISLAMABAD, 2 Jan—Pakistan and India Thursday exchanged lists of their nuclear installations and facilities to safeguard them from each other’s attack during war.

The lists are exchanged on the first day of January every year under an agreement that prohibits the two countries attacking each other’s nuclear installations, the News Network International (NNI) news agency reported.

Israelis take cover in a stairwell as a warning siren for incoming rockets is sounded in the port city of Ashdod on 1 Jan, 2009. Israel’s Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on Thursday said Israel was fighting Hamas with an “iron fist”, his words backed by a series of air strikes in the Gaza Strip but challenged by rockets that have killed four people in southern Israel. Internet

Palestinian rocket-fire into Israel goes on despite raids

GAZA, 2 Jan—Palestinian militants on Thursday continued firing rockets into Israel despite constant Israeli bombing of the Gaza Strip.

Ezz el-Deen al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Islamic Hamas movement, claimed responsibility for launching tens of rockets into Israel since Thursday morning, including Soviet-made Grad missiles.

The armed wing of the less influential Islamic Jihad movement also claimed responsibility for several attacks.

Meanwhile, Israeli sources said the latest Palestinian attacks apparently caused casualties after a Grad rocket hit an eight-story building in Western Negev town of Ashdod, more than 30 km to the north of Gaza Strip. The sources added that more than 40 rockets have been fired from Gaza Strip since the morning. Internet

Israelis living with rocket threat support Gaza military operation

SDEROT, 2 Jan—All major gatherings have been canceled, and the streets remain empty, while families hide away in their bomb shelters.

However, for people of the Qassam-battered town of Sderot, this is not a new reality. Over the past eight years, more than 10,000 rockets have landed in this town alone. “This is the situation we have lived with for eight years,” Zohar Levi, 45, said Thursday while watching the news in a pizza bar.

It is news about Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni’s trip to France, where Livni said that Israel could not accept France’s cease-fire initiative in Gaza Strip as it would “enable Hamas to gain legitimacy.”

“Hamas’s agenda of hatred cannot be legitimized,” Livni told reporters at a Paris Press conference, following the meeting with French President Nicolas Sarkozy. She said Israel had right to defend itself and its citizens, and for this reason had embarked on the military operation in Gaza. Any other country would do the same, she added. Internet

Hamas must stop rockets in any truce

CAIRO, 2 Jan—Egypt’s foreign minister said Thursday that Hamas must ensure rocket fire stops in any truce deal to halt Israel’s assault on the Gaza Strip, criticizing the Palestinian militants for giving Israel an excuse to launch the bombardment.

Ahmed Aboul Gheit’s comments came as Turkey’s Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan met with Egypt’s president, part of a tour by the Turkish leader to work out an Egyptian-Turkish initiative to end the violence.

The initiative calls for a halt to Israel’s assault, a return to a Hamas-Israel truce and an international mechanism to ensure the opening of Gaza’s border crossings.

The Turkish leader, speaking in a news conference in the Egyptian resort town of Sharm el-Sheik after meeting with Hosni Mubarak, called on Israel to halt its attacks and on Hamas to stop firing rockets on Israel. Erdogan said there must be a cease-fire now before it is too late.

The Turkish leader met a day earlier with Syrian President Bashar Assad and was expected to be in Saudi Arabia on Saturday. Erdogan also said he sent a representative to meet Hamas leaders, but did not elaborate. Internet

Russia cuts off gas to Ukraine

MOSCOW/KIEV, 2 Jan—Russia cut off the gas to its neighbour Ukraine on Thursday after a contract dispute but increased supplies to other European states to try to reassure customers worried about possible disruption.

The European Union, which receives a fifth of its gas from pipelines crossing Ukraine, and the United States urged further negotiations to resolve the dispute and said all supply commitments must be met.

Energy firms in Germany, France, Poland, Romania, Austria and Italy said they had not yet seen any drop in supply. Europe has enough gas stockpiled to manage without Russian gas for several days, though not weeks, analysts said.

The row could raise new doubts about Moscow’s reliability as an energy supplier and fuel suspicions in the West — already running high since Russia’s war with Georgia last August — that the Kremlin bullies its pro-Western neighbors.

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko, the target of fierce criticism from Moscow over his drive to take Ukraine into the NATO alliance, said he wanted to resume talks with Moscow to settle a row over payment arrears and gas prices for 2009.

Yushchenko said in a statement he believed a compromise deal would give Russian Gazprom a monopoly. Yushchenko’s statement was achieved by Orthodox Christmas on 7 January. Internet
Abnormal floods in Vietnam cause at least seven dead or missing

HANOI, 2 Jan—At least seven Vietnamese people were dead or missing in the abnormal rains and floods in the central Quang Nam and Quang Ngai provinces of Vietnam in the past three days, the local newspaper Young People reported Friday.

In Quang Nam Province, with the estimated rainfalls from 200 to 300 millimeters, three people were reported dead or missing. More than 5,000 hectares of spring-winter crops have been flooded, said the newspaper.

Meanwhile, the unseasonal floods hitting Quang Ngai caused four dead or missing, more than 10,000 hectares of newly-cultivated rice paddy inundated, the newspaper said. Some streets in Quang Ngai were a meter deep under water, causing difficulties in transportation.

The Central Hydro-meteorology Forecasting Centre warned of more heavy downpours on Friday in central provinces. Waters are expected to exceed level difficulties in transportation.

The ministry said the global economic crisis has worsened since November, 2008, with sharp declines in global demand, trade and investments.

“The developments will affect the sectors in the Singapore economy that rely on the movement of goods and services in the region, such as the wholesale and retail sector, and the transport and storage sector,” the ministry said.—Xinhua

Shanghai sees growing foreign investment in office buildings

SHANGHAI, 2 Jan—The Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce on Friday reported a “jump” of foreign investment in the city’s office buildings in 2008 against a backdrop of slump real estate market across China.

The city approved 58 foreign-invested real estate projects in the first 11 months of 2008, involving a total investment of 3.94 billion US dollars, which was 66 percent more than that a year earlier, the commission said in a statistical report.

Nearly half of the investment was aimed at high-class office buildings, the report said.

A senior economic official attributed the boom of foreign real estate investment to the rising demand for luxury office buildings as the continuing arrivals of regional headquarters of international companies.

“The increase of foreign investment in Shanghai’s real estate market shows foreign companies are still confident in China’s economy,” said Liu Jiping, deputy head of a municipal leading group of foreign investment.

According to statistics provided by the commission, foreign investors established 77 regional headquarters, investment companies and offices and research and development centers in the municipality during the 11 months of 2008, bringing the total number of regional headquarters of international companies to 223.—Xinhua

Bolivia to export duty-free textile to Venezuela

LA PAZ, 2 Jan—Bolivia will export with zero duty the first batch of textile to Venezuela before 15 Jan, President Evo Morales said Thursday.

“Venezuela granted a zero-duty treatment to Bolivia after the United States suspended the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA) with the west South American country,” Morales said.

On the ATPDEA issues, I talked with some officials of the Venezuelan government and before 15 Jan, the first ton of textile will leave Bolivia for Venezuela,” Morales said.

The US congress approved the ATPDEA that was to last for one year for Peru, Colombia and Ecuador and six months for Bolivia on 2 Oct.

13 killed in clash between security forces and militants in SW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 2 Jan—Up to 13 persons were killed in a clash between security forces and militants in southwestern Pakistan on Thursday evening, official Associated Press of Pakistan reported.

Three Balochistan Frontier Corps (FC) personnel were killed and five others sustained injuries as a group of militants holed up in mountains surrounding Zain Koh area in Sui tehsil of Dera Bugti in Balochistan opened fire at their vehicle. The FC personnel were on routine patrol in the area as militants opened fire at their vehicle. As many as 10 militants were also killed when security forces retaliated. A heavy cache of arms and ammunition was seized.—Xinhua

S Korea’s Hyundai, Kia Motor to increase overseas car sales in 2009

SEOUL, 2 Jan—South Korea’s leading car makers Hyundai Motor Co and Kia Motors Corp announced on Friday that it will put top priority on boosting revenue by increasing overseas sales this year to survive in the global economic recession.

“To increase overseas sales is the only practical option as the global economic crisis is expected to worsen this year,” Hyundai Motor Group Chairman Chung Mong-koo said in a New Year’s message.

A ship leaves a port in Shanghai on 2 Jan, 2009. According to statistics, foreign companies are still confident in China’s economy,” said Liu Jiping, deputy head of a municipal leading group of foreign investment.

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THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 3 January, 2009 5
Palestinians said. — aircraft hit 15 houses belonging to Hamas militants, that killed two Israelis.

for sending one of his sons on a 2001 suicide mission personally participating in clashes with Israeli forces and 18 years, while the Israeli army said troops massed on the Gaza border were ready for any order to invade. The airstrike on Nizar Rayan was the first that succeeded in killing a member of Hamas' highest echelon since Israel began its offensive Saturday. The 49-year-old professor of Islamic law was known for personally participating in clashes with Israeli forces and for sending one of his sons on a 2001 suicide mission that killed two Israelis.

The attacks continued Friday. Before dawn, Israeli aircraft hit 15 houses belonging to Hamas militants, Palestinians said. — Internet

Satellite to explore Sun’s secrets

A Russian newcomer is to join other Sun-observing satellites in the orbit soon. The latest technology should show scientists the Sun they’ve never known.

A new Russian satellite will soon be launched into orbit to monitor the Sun. Russia already has two Sun-observing satellites in space, but unlike its predecessors the Koronas-Photon was constructed specifically to observe the Sun’s x-ray and gamma radiation.

Scientists hope to find out how increases in solar activity influence radiation levels and how these changes affect the Earth’s climate. And that this information will shed some light on whether global warming is man-made or Sun-made phenomenon.

The new satellite is the third in the KORONAS series (Space Orbital Circumterrestrial Supervision of the Sun’s Activity) — a long-term Russian space

Affordable cure for cancer on its way

A laboratory in Russia says it has built a proton accelerator for treating cancer victims that is 10 times cheaper then any similar device. It may provide salvation for millions of oncology patients around the world.

Treating cancer with proton beams is one of the most promising methods to date. The particles are accelerated in a device similar to the famous Large Hadron Collider scaled down to “just” a dozen meters and then fired at a tumour. The beam slices cancerous cells’ DNA and kills them.

Protons are much more efficient in treating the disease than the more common X-rays or electron beams. They have greater energy and can be focused on the tumour thanks to the so-called Bragg Peak — an effect that causes most of the protons to land on their target in the last few millimetres of their path — thus avoiding damage to healthy tissue. Proton therapy has a 90 percent success rate compared to about 40 to 60 percent for other forms of radiotherapy.

The biggest problem with the equipment is its price. For example, University of Texas MD. Anderson Cancer Center spent $125 million on their new proton therapy facilities in 2006. Proton accelerators also consume a lot of energy and are quite bulky.

Sri Lankan troops enter rebel headquarters

COLOMBO, 2 Jan — Sri Lankan soldiers fought their way into the Tamil Tiger rebel capital Friday for the first time in a decade, military officials said, following months of fierce battles on the outskirts that left scores dead.

Troops entered the northern town of Kilinochchi from two sides, senior military officials told the Associated Press on condition of anonymity in line with government rules. The level of fighting inside the town remained unclear. The military had predicted Thursday that soldiers would seize the town within two days.

The fall of Kilinochchi would be devastating to the separatist Tigers, who have used the town as their political and military headquarters for the past 10 years and have created structures for an independent state, such as a police, courts, and tax offices. — Internet

Toll in serial blasts in northeast India rises to six

GUWAHATI, 2 Jan — The toll from a series of bomb blasts in India’s restive northeastern region has climbed to six, a local minister said Friday.

“Four people were still in a critical state, the minister said.

In October, 71 people were killed and scores hurt when a series of bombs exploded in towns and cities across Assam. — Internet

Israel air strike kills a top Hamas leader

Gaza City, 2 Jan — An Israeli warplane dropped a 2,000-pound bomb on the home of one of Hamas’ top five decision-makers Thursday, instantly killing him and 18 others, while the Israeli army said troops massed on the Gaza border were ready for any order to invade. The airstrike on Nizar Rayan was the first that succeeded in killing a member of Hamas’ highest echelon since Israel began its offensive Saturday. The 49-year-old professor of Islamic law was known for personally participating in clashes with Israeli forces and for sending one of his sons on a 2001 suicide mission that killed two Israelis.

The attacks continued Friday. Before dawn, Israeli aircraft hit 15 houses belonging to Hamas militants, Palestinians said. — Internet
Tatmadawmen get agricultural...
(from page 16)

The 14 week-course is being attended by 96 trainees from the Tatmadaw (Army).

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party proceeded to Barlar-2 model water pumping project implemented by the Water Resources Utilization Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Hlegu Township.

At the briefing hall, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party heard a report presented by Director-General of WRUD U Kyi Htut Win on supply of water from Ngamoyeik Dam to farmland and pumping of water with the use of paddy husk-fired diesel engines.

After hearing the report, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party looked into the supply of water and fulfilled the requirements.

MNA

Minister meets local people of Sanpya Ward, Kungyangon

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi on 28 December met with local people at Sanpya Ward, Kungyangon, Yangon Division, and clarified programmes for reconstruction of houses in Kungyangon Township and regional development.

Altogether 524 houses, one school, dispensary, library and the administration office will be built in the ward with the contributions of Chiji Buddhists Foundation, and the project will be completed in 2009.

On 30 December, the minister attended the ceremony to present provisions including rice, edible oil and gram to 1218 households of Mankaleik and Tawkyaung village-tracts held at Mankaleik village-tract and explained matters on rehabilitation and reconstruction of the storm-hit regions.

MNA

Energy Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi attends ceremony to present provisions to 1218 households of Mankaleik and Tawkyaung village-tracts in Kungyangon Township. —MNA

Books distributed to Sarpy Beikman Book Association members

YANGON, 2 Jan—Sarpy Beikman Book Association distributes its 43rd book entitled “Yay-mok-hsoe short stories” by Maung Cheint who secured the first prize in the selected short stories genre of the Sarpy Beikman Manuscripts Award Contest.

The members of the association in Yangon may take out the book from the association at 529/531 on Merchant Street, here, and the books will be sent to the members across the nation through postal service.

Those wishing to join the association may contact the association, Tel: 381448 and 249031.— MNA

Cetana Phyo blood donors honoured

YANGON, 2 Jan—Hailing the 61st Anniversary Independence Day, the 4th ceremony to honour Cetana Phyo blood donors was held at Aung Myay Shwe Wah hall in Aunglan Township on 31 December.

Officials accepted K 1195000 donated by 39 wellwishers and presented gifts to 82-time blood donor Police WO I Myo Nyunt of Aunglan Township Police Station, 66-time blood donor U Tin Win, 12-time five blood donors, three-time 40 blood donors, Organizer U San Tint who made concerted efforts in seeking needed blood and five volunteers who helped blood donors. —MNA

MWEA holds New Year Market Festival

YANGON, 2 Jan—A New Year Market Festival of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association took place at Chatrium Hotel on Natmauk Street in Bahan Township yesterday.

Members of the association participated in it and sold a variety of items—clothing, cosmetics, medicines, construction materials at a discount.

Founder and Advisor to the association Professor (Retd) Daw Yi Yi Myint and the executives viewed the booths and bought the items.

MNA

Horse racing kicks off to mark Independence Day

YANGON, 2 Jan—To mark the 61st Anniversary Independence Day, a horseracing opened in the sport ground of Yangon Equestrian Association near the office of Myanmar Equestrian Federation in Dagon Myothit (North) Township this morning. Among the spectators were General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htike.

At the opening ceremony, the participating teams took position and President of MEF U Pyone Maung Maung spoke on the occasion.

Eight teams are participating in the racing which continues up to 4 January.— MNA

Founder and Advisor to MWEA Professor (Retd) Daw Yi Yi Myint and the executives view a booth.—MWEA

Camp Commandant Maj-Gen Hla Aung Thein presents championship shield to Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) team. —MNA

Camp Commandent’s trophy volleyball competition held

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—The final match of the Camp Commandant trophy of the Ministry of Defence’s (Army, Navy and Air) and presentation ceremony were held the Volleyball Ground of the ministry here this evening.

Present on the occasion were Camp Commandant of the ministry Maj-Gen Hla Aung Thein and senior military officers.

Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) team won the first prize and shield. The Camp Commandant presented the trophy and shield. —MNA

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Founder and Advisor to MWEA Professor (Retd) Daw Yi Yi Myint and the executives view a booth.—MNA
HAILING THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY:

Inscribe future records with own concepts

Kyei Sin Naing

Today, technological advancements have put the youth under the pressure of modern life in various sectors, of which media play the most dominant role. Media are thus used to launch dogmatic instigation and cultural domination over other countries at a high speed. Invasion of other countries' territories and economic hegemony, for example, are tangible. Territorial invasion can be resisted through military power; and economic hegemony, through strong national economy. Psychological invasion and cultural invasion are delicate and distinct. Invisible enemy is the most dangerous. So, the people need to remain constantly vigilant against such forms of invasion.

Empire, and King Alaungphaya, the Third Myanmar Empire. During those periods, the nation saw its people leading a peaceful life, and the Sasana flourishing with own monarchs.

Colonialists kept their eyes glued to a variety of natural resources of Myanmar. Out of their covetousness on the basis of abundant natural resources and strategic location, colonialists became desperate to occupy the nation. Therefore, they annexed the nation to their empire by waging the three aggressive wars: the First Anglo-Myanmar War in 1824, the Second Anglo-Myanmar War in 1852 and the Third Anglo-Myanmar War in 1885. As Myanmar is not a people that surrenders to its enemies, national people, arming themselves with whatever weapons they got, launched anti-colonialist battles throughout the nation. The people had to give up the territory of their motherland due to the fact that the nation lacked modern weapons and the Myanmar Tatmadaw was not a well-organized one then. However, they kept their anti-colonialist fervour flying high. The British colonialists conquered the territory of the nation, but they could never suppress Myanmar people's unyielding spirit.

Since the time the Myanmar king and queen were taken away abroad, people of all national races including Buddhist monks got involved in independence struggles. The First Students Boycott that took place in 1920, Peasants' Uprising led by Saya San that took place in 1930, and Oilfield Workers' Uprising led by Thakin Po Hla Gyi that took place in 1300 ME really gave frights to the colonialists.

Then, there emerged associations of patriots such as Young Men’s Buddhist Association (YMBA), General Council of Burmese Associations (GCBA) and Doh Bamar Asiayon (Our Burma Association). Doh Bamar Asiayon launched independence struggles, chanting the motto “Burma is ours, Myanmar language is ours, Myanmar speech is ours, love your country, cherish your language, respect your speech”.

With the concept that mental prowess alone was not enough and it also needed to build physical prowess in a bid to regain independence by driving out British colonialists, Thirty Comrades temporarily cooperated with Japanese to achieve the goal. Then, they formed the Anti-Fascist People’s Freedom League to wipe out inhumanity of Fascists in disguise of supporters. More than that, they engaged in the fight against British colonialists who re-entered Myanmar. So, independence cost a countless number of lives.

National brethren reaped the reward “independence” of sacrificing a large number of lives and a great deal of blood and sweat at 25 minutes, 4 a.m. on 4 January 1948, hoisting the National Flag of the Union of Myanmar.

(See page 9)
Nightmare of losing independence and sacrificing blood and sweat. Now, Myanmar has risen from the which their forefathers had to sacrifice a lot of lives, nation is enslaved with psychological warfare. and can lose own symbols. In such a situation, a domination of other countries' policies and cultures and culture, a country is likely to come under and own policies. Without own concepts, policies and cultural invasion are delicate and distinct. Invisible national economy. Psychological invasion and power; and economic hegemony, through strong enemy is the most dangerous. So, the people need to cultural invasion are tangible. Economic hegemony, for example, are tangible. Media are thus used to launch dogmatic instigation sectors, of which media play the most dominant role. Invisible national economy. Psychological invasion and cultural invasion are delicate and distinct. Invisible enemy is the most dangerous. So, the people need to remain constantly vigilant against such forms of invasion. Every country and people have their own cultures and own policies. Without own concepts, policies and culture, a country is likely to come under domination of other countries' policies and cultures and can lose own symbols. In such a situation, a nation is enslaved with psychological warfare. The youth of today inherit independence, for which their forefathers were born citizens of independent Myanmar. Due to the fruits of independence, they are no longer behind their counterparts of other countries in the Age of Knowledge enjoying opportunities to study latest developments of international affairs in the education, political, social and economic affairs. And due to the access to advanced technologies, they can stay in touch with what is going on around the world. Now, the world has been like a global village, and the global nations see their cultures flowing to one another.

Today, technological advancements have put the youth under the pressure of modern life in various sectors, of which media play the most dominant role. Media are thus used to launch dogmatic instigation and cultural domination over other countries at a high speed. Invasion of other countries' territories and economic hegemony, for example, are tangible. Territorial invasion can be resisted through military power; and economic hegemony, through strong national economy. Psychological invasion and cultural invasion are delicate and distinct. Invisible enemy is the most dangerous. So, the people need to remain constantly vigilant against such forms of invasion.

The youth of today inherit independence, for which their forefathers had to sacrifice a lot of lives, blood and sweat. Now, Myanmar has risen from the nightmare of losing independence and sacrificing life and limb to regain independence. And tasks for reconstruction of the independent nation have been carried out for many years. The youth were born in the transitional period to a peaceful, modern and developed nation. So, they learn painful experiences of falling under alien subjugation, evil consequence of world wars, and atrocities of the colonialists through books or speeches of elder persons. They have to value to the core the formidible efforts of forefathers to regain independence and bring about national development.

Hailing the 61st Anniversary Independence Day:
Inscribe future records with own concepts
Kyet Sin Naing

This year, Myanmar's independence is in its 61st anniversary. The youth of today were born citizens of independent Myanmar. Due to the fruits of independence, they are no longer behind their counterparts of other countries in the Age of Knowledge enjoying opportunities to study latest developments of international affairs in the education, political, social and economic affairs. And due to the access to advanced technologies, they can stay in touch with what is going on around the world. Now, the world has been like a global village, and the global nations see their cultures flowing to one another.

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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.
HAILING THE 61st ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY:

Photo shows Heavy Machinery Factory (Thagara) of Myanma Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries, Ministry of Industry-2 at Thagara Industrial Region in Yedashe Township of Toungoo District, Bago Division seen on 30 September, 2008.

Production process of transformers at Industrial Zone No. 1 in Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

Aerial view of 200-ton paper and pulp factory (Thabaung) and 50-ton paper factory (Thabaung) seen on 16, November 2008.
DPRK paper blasts US for using double standard over nuclear issues

PYONGYANG, 2 Jan—An official newspaper of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Friday accused the United States of using double standard over nuclear issues and fostering proliferation. The United States alleged that the DPRK and Iran, which it viewed as countries “with nuclear ambition,” proliferated nuclear weapons to terrorist groups, while it provided some other countries with nuclear fuel and technology, said a commentary carried by the Minju Jonson daily newspaper.

It proved that the United States had no clear gauge on nuclear issues and makes up its nuclear policy at will, the paper said. All the current nuclear issues were related, directly or indirectly, to the United States, which took the proliferation issue as a barrier, it said. The latest round of the six-party talks ended in early December in Beijing without a deal on nuclear verification, as the DPRK and the United States failed to close their gaps over related issues.

Survey shows Britain faces worst economic outlook since 1980s

LONDON, 2 Jan—Leading economists believe Britain is facing the worst economic outlook since the early 1980s.

This was revealed by an annual survey of the Financial Times published on Friday, which describes the Treasury’s forecast of a recovery in the second half of 2009 as “too optimistic.”

Howard Davies, director of the London School of Economics, told the newspaper: “I do not expect to see any significant economic recovery in 2009. I expect the British economy to bump along the bottom, at best.”

The survey also indicated concerns about the financing sector as two-thirds of economists thought the government lacked a credible policy for restoring health to the public finances, while similar proportion deemed the modest tax cuts and public spending increases to be desirable.

A large majority of the 67 economists surveyed believed unemployment was likely to rise close to three million and that house prices would continue to fall throughout 2009, said the report.

Car sales plunge in Spain

MADRID (Spain), 2 Jan—Car sales in Spain plummeted by 28 percent last year, the worst slump on record, manufacturers said Monday. Automobile trade association ANFAC said 1.16 million vehicles were sold in 2008, down from 1.61 million the previous year. Looking at monthly figures, the association also said sales slumped by 49.9 percent to 72,377 in December, compared to 144,441 sold in the same month of 2007. Spain, one of Europe’s best-performing economies over the last decade, is in a sharp downturn because of the international financial crisis, which has exacerbated a collapse in its key construction industry. Automakers such as Ford, General Motors and Volkswagen have all announced job and production cuts in Spain in recent months.

Hong Kong’s retail sales volume falls 2.8% in November

HONG KONG, 2 Jan—The global economic downturn had cooled off the retail sales in Hong Kong, a free port known for its convenience for shopping. The value of total retail sales in the cosmopolis moved up only 1.1 percent over a year earlier to provisionally estimated 20.5 billion HK dollars (2.65 billion US dollars) in November, said the Census and Statistics Department’s latest readings here Friday. After netting out the effect of price changes over the same period, however, the volume of total retail sales fell 2.8 percent over a year earlier in November.

The Census and Statistics Department said the global economic slowdown had put drag on consumer spending and inbound tourism in Hong Kong, with the volume of retail sales posting another month of year-on-year decline in November.

Crew fight off pirates with water jets off Somalia

Athens, 2 Jan—Crewmen fired high pressure water jets to repel heavily armed Somali pirates trying to board a Greek oil tanker in the dangerous Gulf of Aden on Friday in the fourth such attack since the start of the year, authorities said.

The pirates in three speedboats and armed with guns and rocket-propelled grenades twice tried to board the Greek-flagged Kriti Episkopi but were scared off when the crew turned fire hoses on them and EU aircraft scrambled from a nearby EU naval flotilla to help, company and Greek government officials said.

The attack came a day after Somali pirates seized an Egyptian cargo ship and its 28 crew in the vast waterway, one of the world’s most important sea routes, where incidents have continued after 111 attacks in 2008. A Malaysian military helicopter on Thursday saved an Indian tanker from being hijacked and a French warship thwarted an attack on a Panamanian cargo ship.
CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV OCEAN LOHAS VOY NO (15)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV OCEAN LOHAS VOY NO (15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.1.2009 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 12 noon and from 4 pm to 6 pm for the first three days 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

Suez Canal delays announcing new tolls for 2009
CAIRO, 2 Jan—The Suez Canal will not announce its tolls for 2009 until next week because of the uncertainty in the shipping industry caused by piracy and the global financial crisis, a canal authority official said on Thursday.

The new tolls will be announced at a press conference on Monday, the state MENA news agency said. Any changes are normally announced in December but a canal official told AFP that this year’s announcement had been delayed because of “big fluctuations in the shipping market and world commerce.”

But he predicted that they would be kept the same or even cut because of the impact on traffic of the economic slowdown and the threat of piracy in the Gulf of Aden.

Arms manufacturers in particular have rerouted their shipping round the Cape of Good Hope in recent months to avoid the pirates preying on vessels en route between the Suez Canal and the Indian Ocean.—Internet

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV AG JOS GERASSIMOS 1 VOYNO (-)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV AG JOS GERASSIMOS 1 VOYNO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.1.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T 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 12 noon and from 4 pm to 6 pm for the first three days 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: M/S KINGS WAY SHIPPING CO LTD
Phone No: 256919/256916/256912

A China Shipping Line cargo ship transits the Suez Canal at the port city of Ismailia, 120 kms north of Cairo, in November 2008. The Suez Canal will not announce its tolls for 2009 until next week because of the uncertainty in the shipping industry caused by piracy and the global financial crisis, a canal authority official said on Thursday.—Internet

Three gunned down in Calgary restaurant
CALGARY, 2 Jan—Three people were killed on Thursday afternoon when two gunmen entered a Vietnamese restaurant in western Canada and opened fire.

Investigators were trying to determine the motive for the massacre at Bolsa, a restaurant in a strip mall in southwestern Calgary, Alberta, the Calgary Herald reported.

Witnesses said the two men entered the restaurant, fired at people sitting at a table in the middle of the restaurant and then left in a silver car.

Two of the victims were killed inside and a third body was outside. The killings came about 12 hours after the city’s first homicide of 2009, a man who was fatally injured in a bar fight.—Internet

Panama Canal protected by detection tech
COLON, 2 Jan—New nuclear threat detection technologies are currently operating in Panama after a recent agreement with the US National Nuclear Security Administration.

The United States and Panama recently reached an agreement that paved the way for the NNSA, in partnership with the Manzanillo International Terminal and others, to install advanced radiation detection systems at the Panama Canal’s Atlantic and Pacific Ocean mega-ports, the NNSA reported.

The ports, located at Colon and Panama City, are currently operating the scanning technologies to prevent the smuggling of illicit nuclear materials in container cargos, as part of the Container Security Initiative.

“We are working closely with the Panamanian National Customs Authority and with the private terminal operators in Panama to prevent nuclear terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction,” William Tobey, NNSA deputy administrator for defense nuclear non-proliferation, said in a statement. “The success of this project reflects a strong commitment and desire on behalf of the government of Panama to secure its ports from illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive materials.”

DC house fire kills girl, her parents, 2 others
WASHINGTON, 2 Jan—A fire broke out at a Washington home Thursday morning, killing a 5-year-old girl, her parents and two others, fire officials said.

A critically injured 11-year-old boy was among four others hurt at the house, where Christmas lights hung from the front porch and crews removed charred debris in the afternoon, including a pink scooter and a toy truck.

An electrical failure between the basement and the first floor of the two-story home in the northeast part of the city is believed to have sparked the blaze, which broke out around 7 am, officials said. Fire officials believe the house was built in the 1940s or 1950s, and the style of its construction was meant to allow heat to pass easily from room to room, Fire Chief Dennis Rubin said.

The design also allowed the fire to travel rapidly through the structure, he said.

“This type (of) home would not be allowed by code today,” Rubin said. Officials hadn’t determined whether smoke detectors were working.—Internet
Bicycle makes a comeback in China, for fashion and health

Hangzhou, 2 Jan—To celebrate the New Year, Shen Kaijun, a white-collar in Hangzhou, capital of east China’s Zhejiang Province, rode a bicycle onto a full top in the “First Ride in 2009”—theme activity. The motorist used to commute by car developed the hobby of cycling for health from last year.

Born in 1978, Shen, like many of his peers, has a reminiscence about his experience of bicycles. A “Phoenix” brand bicycle was his parents’ wedding gift, a luxury at that time, which cost his father four months of salary. At the age of 12, he got his first bike. He rode it to school like most of his classmates did until finishing high school education.

In 1980s and 1990s, to the majority in China, pedaling was a means for everyday transportation and thus made China “kingdom of bicycles”. Throughout Shen’s undergraduate and postgraduate study, he witnessed soaring car ownership in China, which is no longer a symbol of wealth and achievement in this country, until he can afford one after a few years of work.

With the number of vehicles on roads nearly twenty-fold since 1978 (from 3 million to 60 million), China becomes one of the largest auto markets in the world.—Internet

Herbal chemical helps combat HIV

Los Angeles, 2 Jan—Scientists at a Los Angeles multidisciplinary think tank say the herb Astragalus root may help fight HIV.

University of California, Los Angeles, AIDS Institute researchers say a chemical from the Chinese medicinal herb may help immune cells stave off the progressive loss of disease fighting ability caused by HIV, infections associated with chronic diseases or aging. Immune cells are compromised as they age and their chromosomes—known as a telomere—become progressively shorter with cell division.

The Astragalus root chemical orients or at least slows down telomere shortening, the study said.

“This has the potential to be either added to or possibly even replace the HAART — highly active anti-retroviral therapy — which is not tolerated well by some patients and is also costly,” study co-author Rita Effros said in a statement. In a study published in the Journal of Immunology, Effros and colleagues show how the herbal plant chemical — called TAT2 — helped inhibit HIV replication.

“The ability to enhance telomerase activity and anti-viral functions of CD8 T-lymphocytes suggests that this strategy could be useful in treating HIV disease, as well as immunodeficiency and increased susceptibility to other viral infections associated with chronic diseases or aging,” the researchers said in a statement.—Internet

Cancer drug treats transplant rejections

Cincinnati, 2 Jan—US researchers have discovered a new therapy for transplant patients, targeting the antibody-producing plasma cells that can cause organ rejection.

Dr Steve Woodle and colleagues at the University of Cincinnati found that the cancer drug — bortezomib — used to treat multiple myeloma, or cancer of the plasma cells, is effective in treating rejection episodes caused by antibodies that target transplanted kidneys. B-lymphocytes, or B cells, play a large role in the humoral immune response by making immune proteins that attack transplanted organs, Woodle said.

“We found a body of literature demonstrating that bortezomib works well in suppressing transplant rejection in the laboratory,” Woodle said in a statement.—Internet

Scientists say comet triggered extinctions

Los Angeles, 2 Jan—A comet struck North America 13,000 years ago, triggering massive flooding and fires followed by a short ice age, researchers said on Friday. The team led by Douglas Kennett, an archaeologist, said its discovery of nanodiamonds — diamonds visible only under a microscope — associated with a layer of black soil containing burned debris shows that a comet was the cause, the Los Angeles Times reported. “There’s no other way we can interpret the presence of these diamonds other than an extraterrestrial—trial impact,” said James Kennett, a paleo-oceanographer and Douglas Kennett’s father.

At least 35 species of large animals — including mammoths and mastodons, the short-faced bear and the American camel—became extinct during the 1,300-year cold spell known as the Younger Dryas. The research team said at least 15 of the extinctions were within a century of the comet impact.

In a paper published in the journal Science, the researchers said the series of cataclysms also caused a sharp drop in the human population of North America. Some other scientists have questioned the findings, suggesting that the team has not yet proved its discovery of nanodiamonds.—Internet

Cholera sickens 30,000 in Zimbabwe

A boy rests on his bed in a cholera ward of Rudiro Polyclinic in Harare in this December 1, 2008 file photo.—INTERNET

Geneva, 2 Jan—More than 30,000 people in Zimbabwe have been diagnosed with cholera, the World Health Organization said Thursday, as the number of those contracting the deadly disease continues to mount.

As many as 31,656 suspected cases were diagnosed to date with one third of them in the capital of Harare, the WHO said. The organisation last reported some 29,131 suspected cases on Monday and 1,564 deaths from the water-borne disease.

Cholera also continues to plague neighbouring South Africa, where it has killed 13 people, mainly in the Limpopo border region where nine people have died from a total of 1,334 suspected cases, the WHO said citing South African sources. United Nations aid agencies fear Zimbabwe may be hit with up to 60,000 cases, with the upcoming rainy season likely to spread the disease more easily.—Internet

A handout photo taken by the Royal Malaysian Navy and released by the Kuala Lumpur-based International Maritime Bureau on 1 Jan, 2009, shows the Indian vessel MT Abul Kalam Azad. A Malaysian military helicopter, taking off from a warship sailing nearby, scared away Somali pirates trying to hijack the Indian vessel in the Gulf of Aden on Thursday, the International Maritime Bureau said.—INTERNET

A South Korean woman barred from entering Japan last year passed through its immigration screening system by using tape on her fingers to fool a fingerprint reading machine, reports said on Thursday.—INTERNET

Medical personnel treat firecracker-burn victims at a Manila hospital on 1 January. Twenty-two people were wounded by a grenade lobbed into a crowd in the Philippines, the latest in a spate of blasts in the restive south, the army said on Thursday.—INTERNET

A woman uses a biometric scanner at an airport. A South Korean woman barred from entering Japan last year passed through its immigration screening system by using tape on her fingers to fool a fingerprint reading machine, reports said on Thursday.—INTERNET

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Saturday, 3 January, 2009

13
Ronaldo reiterates he is happy at Man Utd

**London, 2 Jan** — Cristiano Ronaldo has reiterated he is happy at Manchester United, moving again to quash ongoing speculation about an eventual move to Real Madrid. The Portugal international told club television channel MUTV he was happy and settled in Manchester.

"There's always speculation, not just about me, but about the future of players all around the world," the 23-year-old said. "People were speaking about me this summer but that was normal because of what I did during the season." What people are saying now is not true.

"Who says that is a lie because I am happy at the club. I want to stay here. I feel at home here. I feel very happy here."

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Murray on hot form at Abu Dhabi tennis

**Abu Dhabi, 2 Jan** — Andy Murray and Nikolay Davydenko lived up to their world rankings and advanced to the semi-finals of the Capita World Tennis Championship, an exhibition tournament, here on Thursday.

Scotland's world number four Andy Murray and Russian world number five Nikolay Davydenko made a perfect start to the 2009 season with fluent wins at the Zayed Sports City tennis stadium over their respective American rivals, number 10 James Blake and number eight Andy Roddick.

Displaying a stunning array of groundstrokes from the baseline, Murray dominated Blake in his 6-2, 6-2 win, while Davydenko looked much sharper than Roddick in a 6-4, 6-4 rout. The Russian next meets world number one Rafael Nadal, while Murray will take on the second-ranked Roger Federer.

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Hull face Real Madrid for Pennant

**Portsmouth admitted on Thursday that England striker Jermain Defoe, is set to leave the club during the January transfer window.** — Internet

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Portsmouth's chairmain Peter Storrie conceded for the first time the 26-year-old is set to be on his way while also rubbing reports that the FA Cup holders are about to lose Glen Johnson and Peter Crouch. Storrie told the Portsmouth News: "We don't speak about transfers as a rule but this talk about there being a bid from Spurs for Glen and Peter is complete and utter rubbish."

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Football coach killed in car accident

**SUTLAND, 2 Jan** — Nick Lynch, the football coach and athletic director at Sutland (Md.) High School, was killed in a New Year’s Eve car accident, police said. Lynch, 43, won 117 games and Maryland state football titles in 2004 and 2006.

The Washington Post reported on Thursday that Lynch was killed early Wednesday morning in a two-car collision about a mile from his Brandywine (Md.) home. Maryland state trooper Wesley Brown told the newspaper Lynch’s 2008 Dodge Magnum was struck by a 2000 GMC Sierra. Brown added that Lynch was taken to Southern Maryland Hospital in Clinton, where he was pronounced dead and the driver of the Sierra suffered a broken leg.

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Hull demand investigation into penalty

**London, 2 Jan** — Unfashionable Hull City on Thursday muscled in on Real Madrid territory by revealing their interest in Liverpool winger Jermaine Pennant.

The 25-year-old, former Arsenal and Birmingham player, had been linked with a 3.5 million pound move to the Spanish champions, but that deal has stalled.

"I would be very interested in Jermaine Pennant if he was available at the right price. We will be making enquiries," said Hull boss Phil Brown.

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Unfashionable Hull City on Thursday muscled in on Real Madrid territory by revealing their interest in Liverpool winger Jermaine Pennant. Internet

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Women to earn more than men at Sydney International tennis

**Sydney, 2 Jan** — Women tennis players will earn more prize money than their male counterparts at next week’s Sydney International tournament, which is headlined by US player Serena Williams. Internet

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Cup or league is dilemma for Harry

**London, 2 Jan** — Tottenham boss Harry Redknapp says he is on the horns of a dilemma as the FA Cup third round match against Wigan approaches at a time when his thoughts are on Premier League survival.

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British tennis player Andy Murray is pictured during a press conference prior to the start of the 250,000 dollar Capitala World Tennis Championship in Abu Dhabi on 1 Jan, 2009. — Internet

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Murray on hot form at Abu Dhabi tennis

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Bolivia urges US to stop imposing aggressive M-E policies

La Paz, 2 Jan—Bolivian President Evo Morales on Thursday condemned Israel’s attacks on Gaza, and said the US Government should stop imposing aggressive policies in the Middle East.

“Something US imperialism does, through Israel, is this criminal invasion of Palestinian cities,” Morales told reporters.

“Israel must change its policies and the US Government should not continue using a country like Israel to invade countries that are seeking liberation,” he said.

Morales also praised the opposition from many countries to Israel’s air-strikes against Gaza. He said the United Nations and the whole world should make joint efforts to stop the Israeli raids.

“The killings are not a solution in this new millennium, so Israel should stop being a tool of US imperialism to humiliate the Palestinian people,” he said.

According to Palestinian sources, more than 400 people have been killed and some 2,000 others wounded in Gaza since Saturday when Israel launched attacks on the territory.—MNA/Xinhua

725 Mexicans die trying to cross US border in 2008

MEXICO CITY, 2 Jan—At least 725 Mexicans died in 2008 trying to cross border into the US territory, according to a Thursday report of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

Some 700,000 Mexicans, mostly women and children, emigrated to the United States in 2008 to look for work there, said the report released by a PRI migratory committee of the Chamber of Deputies.

About 100,000 of the Mexican children were deported by the US Government in 2008, said the report.

Two Mexicans perished each day on average trying to enter the United States, said Edmundo Ramirez, a coordinator of the committee.

The number has made the Mexico-US border “the biggest cemetery of migrants”, he said.—MNA/Xinhua

A layer of snow covers gondolas moored at the Orosei basin, in Venice, Italy, on Thursday, 1 Jan, 2009, after a light snowfall blanketed the city.—INTERNET

Yunnan becomes China’s vanguard to eliminate plastic bags

KUNMING, 2 Jan—Southwest China’s Yunnan Province set a model for the country to definitely ban the production, sales and use of plastic bags from the first day of 2009. Shoppers were prepared for the ban, as the provincial government announced the ban in all supermarkets, department stores, shopping outlets, hotels and restaurants as early as June, 2008. The ban is much stricter than the national requirement on restricting the production and use of plastic bags thinner than the 0.025 millimetre.

Elsewhere in the country, shops are allowed to offer environment-friendly shopping bags, either free or charged. The confidence of Yunnan to go ahead with the thorough ban is largely associated with its pilot practices on the ban in Shangri-La and Lijiang, two scenery areas in the province, which had fully banned the use of plastic bags for years.—MNA/Xinhua

WEATHER

Friday, 2 January, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr

MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States, Yangon Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3)°C to (4)°C above January average temperatures in Shan, Kayah and Mon States, (3)°C below January average temperatures in upper Sagaing Division, (5)°C below January average temperatures in Chin State and about January average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (-2°C), Loilim (0°C) and Namisam (3°C).

Maximum temperature on 1-1-2009 was 93°F. Minimum temperature on 2-1-2009 was 63°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 2-1-2009 was 68%. Total sunshine hours on 1-1-2009 was (9.2) hrs approx. Rainfall on 2-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mngladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mngladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) m/s from Northeast at (12:30) hours MST on 1-1-2009. Bay inference: Weather is partly cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Southeast Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Tatmadawmen get agricultural skills

BERLIN, 2 Jan — Researchers in Germany are reporting an advance toward development of technology that could make life easier for millions of people allergic to plant pollen. It could underpin the first automated, real-time systems for identifying specific kinds of allergy-inducing plant pollen circulating in the air.

In the study, Janina Kneipp and colleagues explain that current pollen counts and allergy warnings are based on visual identification of the specific kind of pollen by examining pollen grains under a microscope. That procedure takes time, making it impossible for allergy-sufferers to know the kinds of pollen that are airborne on an hour-by-hour basis.

Scientists have identified chemical structures in pollen — shown above covering the face and legs of a Marmelade fly—that could help provide a real-time pollen detection and warning system to help allergy sufferers. — Internet

Stank has no fear of Devils

MILAN, 2 Jan — Inter midfielder Dejan Stankovic insists he is happier facing Manchester United in the Champions League than Liverpool.

The Italian champions must negotiate the European champions if they are to succeed in their main mission this season. While the draw looks daunting, Serbian star Stankovic is just glad the Beneamata aren't taking on the side that knocked them out last year.

"I am not worried about Manchester United," Stankovic maintained in Il Giornale. "I was scared of facing Liverpool. "Liverpool are a side of the highest level and they have something extra in Steven Gerrard."

"When you play against Liverpool you see how Gerrard drags the team forward. He is a great leader."

"We are amongst the favourites for the Champions League but it's a long season and everyone is talking about Barcelona."—Internet

Nothing to sneeze at: real-time pollen forecasts

YANGON, 2 Jan—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence this morning inspected the demonstration on gauging of the humidity of paddy seeds, sample ingredients in making organic fertilizer, humus and cast at Myanmar Paddy Research Division of Myanma Agriculture Service under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division.

Accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and departmental officials, Lt-Gen Myint Swe attended the ceremony to open the Tatmadaw Agriculture Course No. 63 jointly conducted by the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation at the training hall of the Myanmar Paddy Research Division and made a speech on the occasion.

(See page 7)

New stamps to be issued

YANGON, 2 Jan — In commemoration of the 61st Anniversary Independence Day, Myanmar Post and Telecommunications of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs will issue two new kinds of stamps—200-kyat stamps and 300-kyat stamps at state/division/district/township post offices as of 4 January.

As a special programme, those who buy stamps at Nay Pyi Taw General Post Office, Yangon Post Office and Mandalay Post Office on 4 January will have their stamps cancelled. — MNA

Flag Hoisting and Flag Saluting Ceremony live on TV

YANGON, 2 Jan — The 61st Anniversary Independence Day Flag Hoisting and Flag Saluting Ceremony will be broadcast live through Radio Myanmar and the TV Myanmar from the square of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall starting from 6.45 a.m. on 4 January 2009.— MNA

Beware of Fire