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Lofty goal of the nation

The government, in pursuance of the lofty goal of building a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline, is implementing the 24-special region development project, the border area development project and the rural development project it has laid down for community peace and the rule of law, constructing more and more economic infrastructures, development of human resources and ensuring equitable development of all parts of the nation.

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

(from the message sent on the occasion of 61st Anniversary Independence Day)

11th AGM of Myanmar Fisheries Federation held

YANGON, 2 Jan—The 11th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Fisheries Federation was held in conjunction with the opening ceremony of Myanmar

marine products sales 2009-2010 at the federation in Insein Township here this morning, with an address by Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence.

It was attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of (See page 10)

Hailing the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day:

Sufficient irrigation by dams, reservoirs shows signs of development of agricultural sector

Article : Zaw Moe Thauk

In the past, powerful and far-sighted kings had encouraged building dams and reservoirs to irrigate farmland as part of efforts for fulfilling sufficiency of food in the country.

During the period of Bagan Era, Zawgyi,

Panlaung, Samon and Dokhtawady rivers in Kyaukse comprising nine districts in central Myanmar were dammed up for irrigation purposes, and today, Kyaukse bears the testimony to the rice basket of Bagan Era.

Today, while the country is stable, the socio-

economy of the people is thriving showing some signs of improvement. One of the positive signs that have happened in Myanmar within two decades is a growing number of dams and reservoirs for irrigation across the country. (See page 8)



Photo shows Ma Mya Dam and its control tower.

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 3 January, 2010

Produce literary works serving national interest

For many years countable by thousand, honorable, patriotic Myanmar people including literati have been able to preserve and hand down national literary heritage.

Those from literary world are to continue to maintain such good legacies. They are also to strive to guide the people through the literary might to improve morals and manners, foster Union Spirit and the spirit of helping one another, preserve the noble national identity and promote knowledge and technology for national development.

Men of letters are duty-bound not only to take part in national development tasks through their pen but also to fight neo-colonialists through the literary might.

Playing on the developing media sector, the neo-colonialists are interfering in Myanmar's internal affairs by penetrating alien culture and manufacturing fabricated news. So, literary men are to resolutely thwart their interferences.

Moreover, literary men are to strive to nurture new men and women of letters, to put on record books on Myanmar lifestyles and to help promote new ideas and disperse knowledge and technology.

Overall, it is a historic duty for literati to produce literary works that serve the best interest of the people while fighting against the neo-colonialists.

New stamp to be issued to mark 62nd Anniversary Independence Day

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan — Myanma Posts and Telecommunications of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs will issue a new stamp to mark the 62nd Anniversary of Independence Day on 4 January.

The new stamps worth K 100 and K 200 will be on sale at post offices in states and divisions as of Monday, 4 January.

As a special programme, a special mark will be stamped on the stamps at general post offices in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon and Mandalay on 4 January.

MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspects Nay Pyi Taw International Airport construction project.

MNA

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

A&I Minister attends work coord meeting for boosting agricultural products

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—The work coordination meeting for boosting agricultural products in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon and Nay Pyi Taw Lewe in Nay Pyi Taw District was held at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation on 1 January.

It was attended by Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo, departmental heads and officials concerned.

The minister said that the ministry is applying two agricultural methods — boosting agricultural production, and per acre yields of crops; that the first method covers not only extensive reclamation of vacant lands but also launching mixed cropping patterns; that to meet the second method, high-yield strains, introduction of hybrid strains, and advanced methods

State Flag saluting ceremony to be broadcast live

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—Myanma Radio and Television will screen live the ceremony to salute State Flag on the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day from the square of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall at 6:45 am on 4 January 2010.

MNA

are used; and that steps are under way to figure out issues triggered by changes in climate pattern to avert adverse effects on outputs of crops. The minister underscored the thrifty practice to minimize loss and wastage. He stressed the need for those responsible to collect correct figures and data for development in the agricultural sector, and meeting the targeted output of summer paddy. In conclusion, the minister called for exerting goodwill to improve the socio-economic life of local farmers.

He also called for improving the agricultural sector, after hearing the reports presented by departmental heads. He discussed matters on boosting agricultural production with departmental heads and those in-charge from districts and townships.—MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo addresses coordination meeting for boosting agricultural production of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon, Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Townships.—MNA

Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspects Nay Pyi Taw International Airport construction project

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan — Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe inspected progress in building

of entrance road to the airport, main passenger lounge, laying of concrete and welding work, progress of work of sanitation department and construction of north pier and construction of runway at the worksite of Nay Pyi Taw International Airport Construction Project this evening. The minister gave necessary instructions.

At the briefing hall of the airport, the minister heard reports on construction of VIP Lounge, car park, control tower, earthwork of the entrance road, drains and laying of concrete presented by the managing director of Asia World Co Ltd and officials and gave instructions on worksite safety, supply of adequate water to the airport building and construction of water treatment plants meeting set standards.

MNA



US airstrike kills 3 in NW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 2 Jan—A suspected US missile struck a car in northwest Pakistan's tribal region on Friday, killing at least three men in a second attack in less than a day, local TV channels reported.

The morning attack by a drone aircraft struck a vehicle carrying militants in Navana village in North Waziristan. This was the second drone attack in the area during the last 24 hours.

At least three people were killed and two others wounded on Thursday in a US drone attack.

Sources said that shortly after Friday's attack, Taliban arrived at the scene of the attack and shifted the bodies to an undisclosed location.

Xinhua



A woman makes red lanterns in YangZhao Village of Jifeng Township in Yuncheng City, north China's Shanxi Province, on 31 Dec, 2009. The handmade red lanterns sell well as the New Year nears.—XINHUA

Iraq disappointed by US judge dismissal of Blackwater case

BAGHDAD, 2 Jan—The Iraqi government said on Friday it regretted the decision by a US judge to dismiss the charges against five Blackwater security guards who allegedly

killed innocent Iraqi civilians in 2007.

"The Iraqi government regrets and is disappointed by the decision," said Ali al-Dabbagh, spokesman for the Iraqi

government in a statement.

"The investigations conducted by the Iraqi authorities confirm clearly that the Blackwater guards committed murder and violated the rule of only using arms under the circumstances of being threatened," he said.

The spokesman added that the Iraqi government would continue its procedures to prosecute the criminals and protect the rights of the victims, their families and others who suffered losses in the incident.

Ricardo Urbina, the US federal judge, dismissed the charges against the five on Thursday, claiming incriminating statements were used by federal prosecutors in the case.

Xinhua



The brides react during a group wedding ceremony in Tianyahaijiao, or "the end of the earth", a famous scenery site in Sanya, south China's Hainan Province, on 1 Jan, 2010.—XINHUA

Somali pirates hijack Singapore-flagged chemical tanker

LONDON, 2 Jan—A Singapore-flagged chemical tanker was hijacked in the Gulf of Aden on Friday, the European Union naval force (EU Navfor) said.

The 20,000 deadweight-ton *M/V Pramoni* was seized when it was heading to Kandla in India, the Northwood-based EU Navfor said in a statement. The ship has a crew of 24.

It was the first attack in the new year by Somali pirates who have made tens of millions of dollars from seizing ships for ransom in the Gulf of Aden.

"The ship's master reported by radio that the ship was hijacked and all the crew are well," the EU Navfor said.

On Monday, Somali pirates seized a British tanker with 26 crew members and a Yemeni freighter with a crew of 15. —Xinhua

Heavy fog causes flight delays at Los Angeles Airport

LOS ANGELES, 2 Jan—Heavy fog caused flight delays at the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) on Friday, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) said.

A check with several airlines serving LAX showed northbound flights were delayed by

about 35 minutes at midmorning, but southbound flights appeared to be on schedule, said the FAA. Aircraft flying into San Francisco International Airport at midmorning were delayed an average of 51 minutes, with many planes kept idling on the ground be-

fore departing for the Bay Area, the FAA said.

Air travel to and from the rest of the nation appeared to be moving smoothly, the FAA's Web site said. The delays ended with the dissipation of the San Francisco Bay Area fog at noon.

Xinhua

New Year's Day celebrations result in 129 deaths, 1,315 injuries in L America

MEXICO CITY, 2 Jan—While people all over the world are enjoying the New Year's Day celebrations, feelings in Latin America, however, are mixed because of 129 deaths and 1,315 injuries associated with different tragedies.

Rodolfo Palomino, director of the Road Police of Colombia, said on Friday that during the New Year's Day celebrations in his country, 36 people died and 45 were injured.

According to Paraguay's National Police, at least 13 people were killed during the celebrations. Worse still, the figure could rise during the weekend.

In Argentina, authorities have not reported the death toll during the New Year's Day celebrations, but disclosed that the number injured was 766, most of them in traffic and firework accidents.

Jorge Melendez, director of El Salvador's Civil Protection, said on Friday that a total of 19 people died and 96 others were injured during the New Year's Day celebrations in the Central American country.

In Honduras, the National Direction of Criminal Investigation said on Friday that at least 34 people died in different violent occurrences and road accidents. A 9-year-old girl who was hit by a car was among the victims.

In Guatemala, the Guatemalan firefighting authorities said that at least 12 people were killed and 61 others were injured in different circumstances. Among those killed, seven were killed by firearms, two in traffic accidents, and one was murdered.

The Dominican Republic's Centre of Emergency Operations (COE) said on Friday that during the New Year's Day celebrations, seven people died in traffic accidents and one person died of alcohol intoxication. Meanwhile, 114 others were injured or intoxicated.

The Panamanian National Police said on Friday that seven people died as the result of different violent causes, including street fights, traffic accidents, or drowning. —Xinhua

A 40-day-old south China tiger is seen in the incubator in Suzhou, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 1 Jan, 2010. A female south China tiger, which is the only survival one of the base breeding multiple births in the past four years, weighed 2,700 grammes in its 40 days old on Friday.—XINHUA



Ethiopia rejects warning of hunger after drought

ADDIS ABABA, 2 Jan — An Ethiopian minister has denied reports that millions of people need urgent food aid after failed rains. Disaster Prevention Minister Mikitu Kassa told the BBC that the government was helping those hit by the drought.

He was speaking after the US-funded Famine Early Warning System warned of increased hunger in parts of the country in the coming months. Ethiopia has been extremely sensitive to images showing its people as starving since the famine of 1984-5.

Mr Mikitu said the report was “not evidence-based”. “It is baseless, it is contrary to the situation on the ground,” he

told the BBC’s Focus on Africa programme. He admitted that 5.7 million people were currently getting food aid but argued that “in the Ethiopian context, there is no hunger, no famine” and that the situation was not as bad as in recent years.

“The government is taking action to mitigate the problems,” he said. The latest Famine Early Warning System (Fewsnet) projections show parts of the country in the extreme east, north-east and south-west as “extremely food insecure” — one level below that for a famine — in the period January-March 2010. The UN has already said it is aiming to feed 20 million people in East Africa over the next six months. — *Internet*

China finds 8,500 tons of smuggled tyres

GUANGZHOU, 2 Jan — More than 8,500 tons of tyres illegally shipped from the United States to China for disposal have been found at a Chinese port, officials said.

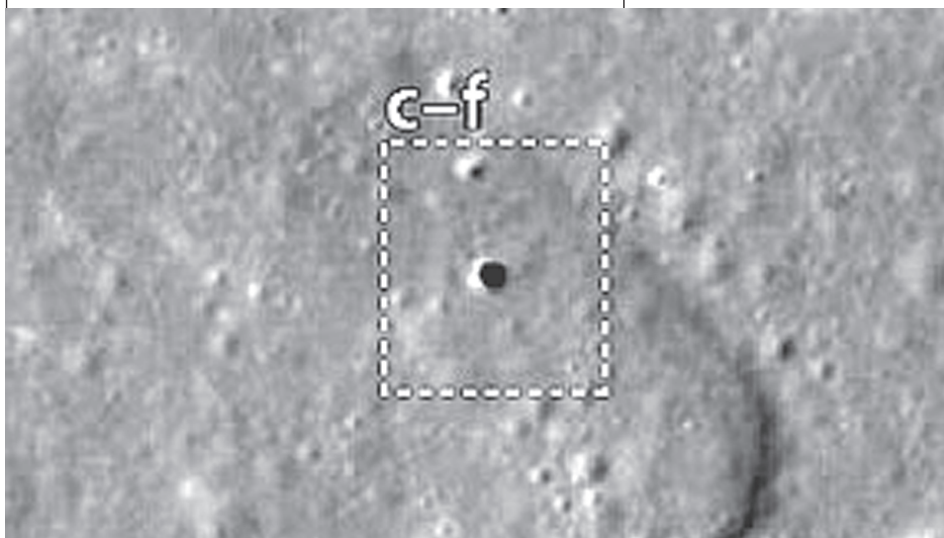
Huangpu Customs officials found the tyres in late December in 366 containers at Dongjiangku Port in South China, *Xinhua*, the official government news agency, said. Chen Wen, a Customs official, said investigators believe the tyres were shipped between December 2008 and February 2009 and may have been at the port for almost a year.

Importing waste tyres to China is illegal, officials say. But the profits from selling tyre materials for oil refining and retreading can be significant, while the cost of shipping the tyres from the United States is no more than \$10 a ton. Three suspected smugglers were arrested, Cai Huangyu of Huangpu Customs said.

Internet

Scientists report finding a lunar hole that might make a good candidate for a moon colony.

INTERNET



Moon hole might be suitable for colony

WASHINGTON, 2 Jan — Building a home near a moon crater or a lunar sea may sound nice, but moon colonists might have a much better chance of survival if they just lived in a hole. That’s the message sent by an international team of scientists who say they’ve discovered a protected lunar “lava tube” — a deep, giant hole — that might be well suited for a moon colony or a lunar base.

The vertical hole, in

the volcanic Marius Hills region on the moon’s near side, is 213 feet wide and is estimated to be more than 260 feet deep, according to findings published in *Geophysical Research Letters*, a journal of the American Geophysical Union.

More important, the scientists say, the hole is protected from the moon’s harsh temperatures and meteorite strikes by a thin sheet of lava. That makes

the tube a good candidate for further exploration or possible inhabitation, the article says.

“Lunar lava tubes are a potentially important location for a future lunar base, whether for local exploration and development, or as an outpost to serve exploration beyond the Moon,” writes the team, led by Junichi Haruyama, a senior researcher with the Japanese space agency JAXA.

Internet



French troops are stationed in Kapisa Province as part of the NATO-led force.

INTERNET

French reporters kidnapped in Afghanistan ‘alive’

KABUL, 2 Jan — Two French journalists kidnapped in Afghanistan are alive and in good health, French media have reported. The reporters were kidnapped along with three Afghan assistants in Kapisa Province north-east of Kabul earlier this week, officials said.

A spokesman for the journalists’ employer, French TV Channel FR3, said they were in good condition. French news agency *AFP* also quoted a source involved in efforts to free them as saying they were well. “The two French journalists appear to be alive, in good health and being well treated,” said the source. There was no word, however, on the condition of the three Afghans.

Suspected Taliban militants ambushed the reporters as they were being driven through the war-torn region between Surobi and Tagab on Wednesday, a French colleague told *AFP*. Italian news agency *Ansa* quoted a spokesman for the local Afghan governor as saying the group had been taken to a remote Taliban stronghold. — *Internet*

PFLP militants fire two rockets from Gaza at southern Israel

GAZA, 2 Jan — The armed wing of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) claimed responsibility on Friday of firing two rockets from the Gaza Strip at southern Israel on Thursday night. Abu Ali Mustafa Brigades, the PFLP armed wing, said in a leaflet sent to reporters on Friday that its members fired two (Grad) Russian-

made rockets on Thursday night from Gaza at the southern Israel town of Nitivot.

“Firing the two rockets is to reiterate that armed resistance will continue against the Israeli occupation and its massacres and wars against our innocent people,” said the leaflet.

It added that “the armed resistance and the national Palestinian unity are the shortest way to liberate the occupied territories and get rid of the military occupation,” calling on other factions to strongly hit Israel by all means.

Meanwhile, Israeli Radio reported that two *Grad* rockets fired from the Gaza Strip landed on Thursday night at an opened area in Negev in southern Israel causing no harms or casualties. — *Internet*

Sweden culls its resurgent wolves

STOCKHOLM, 2 Jan — Sweden is to launch its first wolf cull in 45 years, following a decision by Parliament to control the species’ numbers.

Some 10,000 hunters are reported to be planning to take part — hoping to get a rare opportunity to bag a wolf. But it is thought there are only about 180-220 wolves in

Sweden, and the Environmental Protection Agency has said only 27 can be shot. Hunters insist there are measures to prevent them shooting too many.

“There’s a lot of regulation, hunters have to check the quota every hour,” Gunnar Gloersson, of the Swedish Hunters Association, told Radio

Sweden. Nevertheless, the Swedish Society for Nature Conservation is critical of the decision, claiming it is against EU legislation as the Swedish wolf population has not reached a healthy level. A formal complaint will be issued to the EU Commission, Radio Sweden says.

Internet



Grey wolves have made a comeback since hunting was banned.— INTERNET



A girl glances at a sign reading "High Risk of Terrorist Attack" as she stands in the departure security line at Reagan National Airport in Washington on 29 Dec, 2009. A failed attempt to blow up an airplane over Detroit has reignited debate about airport security and the role of new technology such as full-body scanners.—INTERNET

All items from Xinhua News Agency

China's FDI policies aim to boost industry upgrading

BEIJING, 2 Jan—China's efforts to boost more foreign investment in high-tech and new energy sectors were congruent with the nation's industry upgrading goals, Chinese economists said.

Zuo Xiaolei, chief economist with the Galaxy Securities, said when China started its reform and opening-up drive three decades ago, the inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI) played an important role in boosting economy growth and creating jobs.

"However, with the rapid development of Chinese economy, if foreign investment is only pooled into low-end manufacturing industries, that is not in agreement with China's efforts to change its economic growth pattern," Zuo said. China encouraged overseas investors to invest in new energy, en-

vironmental protection, high-tech, modern service, advanced manufacturing sectors, according to a statement issued on Wednesday after an executive meeting of the State Council, or the Cabinet, chaired by Premier Wen Jiabao.—Xinhua



An aerial view of Pousada Sankay hotel buried by a mudslide in Angra dos Reis, Rio de Janeiro state on 1 Jan, 2010. —XINHUA

Evacuees head home as Mayon volcano eruption less imminent

MANILA, 2 Jan—After involuntarily spending the holidays away from home, residents in the Albay Province of the Philippines were allowed to go home to the foothills of Mount Mayon on Saturday after state volcanologists declared that an eruption was no longer imminent.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (Phivolcs) lowered the alert level

around Mayon Volcano from "4" to "3" on Saturday morning as a result of decreased volcanic activity recorded from Mayon Volcano. But Alert Level 3 still means Mayon is in a state of "relatively high unrest" and if it continues, an eruption is still "possible within weeks," said a local volcanologist.

After the change in status, Albay Governor Joey Salceda ordered the partial decampment of

evacuation centres, which are located mostly in public schools set to resume classes after the holidays. In its Jan. 2 bulletin, the Phivolcs said "a declining trend in Mayon volcano's activity" includes no more "ash ejections" from the crater.

Xinhua

Over 300 strong men perform dragon dance with an 80-metre-long dragon model to greet the New Year in Aojiang Township of Pingyang County, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 1 Jan, 2010.

XINHUA



NATO tankers attacked in west Pakistan's Quetta

ISLAMABAD, 2 Jan—Unknown militants damaged two NATO tankers in west Pakistan by opening fire on one of them and torching the other, local TV channel reported on Friday.

Police sources said that the incident took place early Friday on the outskirts of capital city Quetta, Baluchistan. The tankers were on their way to the border town of Chaman carrying fuel from the south port city of Karachi for NATO forces in Afghanistan.

The militants opened fire on one of the tankers, smashing its windscreen, the private TV DAWN News reported. They torched the other truck and damaged seriously the vehicle's front.

However, loaded fuel remained safe and no casualty has so far been reported, the channel said. Police rushed to the site and cordoned off the area. An investigation was underway.—Xinhua

Israeli warplanes, tanks strike eastern, southern Gaza Strip

GAZA, 2 Jan—Israeli F16 warplanes and tanks had carried out late on Friday night five successive air and ground strikes on targets in eastern and southern Gaza Strip, wounding five people, medics and witnesses said.

The witnesses said that Israeli F16 warplane fired two missiles, while tanks fired two shells that all landed at empty zones east and northeast of Gaza City, adding that five people were injured.

Paramedics said that

local ambulances took five Palestinians from eastern Gaza for medical treatment at Gaza hospitals after they were injured. They said that the five have been lightly injured.

Meanwhile, Hamas security sources said that Israeli F16 warplanes carried out a fifth air raid on a post that belonging to militants from Islamic Hamas movement in southern Gaza Strip, no injuries were reported.

The five successive Israeli air and ground

strikes came hours after militants from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) fired two Russian-made Grad missiles on Thursday night from Gaza at southern Israel.

The Popular Resistance Committees (PRC) had claimed responsibility earlier on Friday for launching four mortar shells at Israeli army vehicles near the borders between southeast Gaza Strip and Israel. No injuries were reported.

Xinhua

Mudslide kills 16 in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, 2 Jan—The Civil Defence of Rio de Janeiro state said on Friday that at least 16 people were killed in two mudslides occurred in Andra dos Reis municipality in the South of the Brazilian state.

The Brazilian Presidency said on Friday that President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva has ordered the National Integration Ministry to give all the needed resources "for the immediate rescue and reestablishment of normality" in the area.

One of the mudslides hit the Sankay lodge in Grande Island and destroyed several houses nearby.

According to Colonel Pedro Machado, head of the local firefighters, the

rescue teams have found 11 bodies and a girl of 18 years old alive.

Machado said that 80 firemen and 20 Military Police agents are working at the scene with help from the Navy and local volunteers.

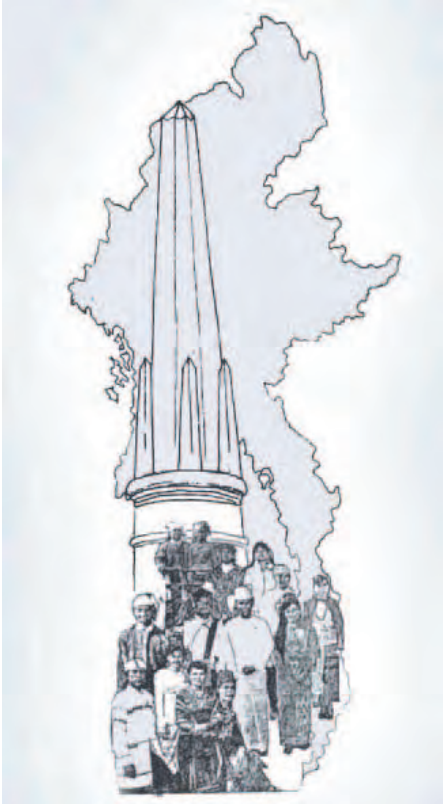
The rescue efforts are advancing slowly because excavators could not be used for fear of causing new mudslides, Machado said.

Machado added that the number of victims could rise, for there could have been some 40 people inside the lodge, and more in the nearby houses.

The other mudslide occurred in Angra dos Reis city, destroying at least five houses.

The rescue teams have recovered five corpses, but they said more people could be buried under the mud.

Xinhua

Hailing the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day:**Work in concert to achieve goal of building new nation***Yan Gyi Aung***Safeguard independence and sovereignty through might of patriotism**

How long does it take to build a nation into a developed one? We cannot realize such a very demanding plan in a couple of years — it is out of the question. In my opinion, however, a nation can enjoy remarkable development over a couple of decades if the people work hard in harmony with tenacity.

In this regard, I would like to present some instances, referring to experiences of some of neighbouring regions. Japan, for instance, is a land where natural resources are scarce with harsh climate and frequent outbreaks of natural disasters such as earthquake and tsunami. In the agricultural sector, it has to make all-out efforts to ensure even food security, let alone food surplus. It joined the World War II, exploiting its natural resources at the highest degree. But, nuclear bomb and incendiary bomb attacks reduced the country to ash and a loser. In the post-war period, Japan did not have much with which it reconstructed itself, and was at the mercy

of the victors. At that time, the majority of the people had to spend much time in queues in supply camps for some food. About 20 years later, Japan overtook the United States of America in iron and steel industry; about 30 years later, Japanese car companies defeated those in Detroit; and about 40 years later, Japan overtook its all rivals securing a leading position in electronics in the world. Due to firm determination, great perseverance, and mental power of its people, Japan became world's second largest economy.

Another country to which I would like to refer is the People's Republic of China, which was reconstructed on 1 October 1949. At that time, the majority of the people were in the mire of sufferings triggered by the World War II and very long civil war. The majority of the Chinese farmers, who had just liberated themselves from feudal lords, had to start their new life with one-fourth or half of an acre of land each without harrows, ploughs and draught cattle. Millions of people died in the Great Leap Forward due to food shortage resulting from the defects in the policies. The nation was even on the point of collapse due to the Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution. Amidst the deteriorating conditions, the nation in 1978 launched modernization in far aspects and reforms under the guidance of visionary leader Deng Xiaoping. In compliance with his policy that a cat was acceptable so long as it catches mice regardless of its colour, the nation launched Socialist Market Economy. For about 30 years in a row, China's economic growth rate stood at more than 10 percent yearly, accounting for the highest rate in the world. In 2008, the whole world came under global financial crisis. But, China did not suffer much, except fairly slow economic growth. It even provided the US, the world's largest economy, with huge loans. China, which once used to be branded "Sick Man of Asia", is now poised to reach world's superpower position. It is widespread forecast that China will become the world's largest economy by 2050.

Myanmar regained independence in 1948. Myanmar President Sao Shwe Thaik in Declaration on government's policy and objective delivered at the Constituent Assembly says that "...The initial objective of the people of us who constantly make reviews is to revoke the capitalism of the Union of Myanmar and to build a Socialist country in which the people have exclusive right to manage responsibilities of the State.

Socialism is meant to bring prosperity to the people without any discrimination, not to forcibly nationalize public property. Ours will be a good country only if the entire people, regardless of status, have a prosperous future.

"Our government has drawn plans systematically to bring economic prosperity to the entire nation, and to avert unnecessary mistakes in reconstructing war-torn industries. Our government will try to reconstruct the nation in accordance with the plans and to expedite the tasks for economic development of the nation."

The objectives of the nation in the post-independence period reflected the government's benevolent attitudes for economic growth of the nation, irrespective of status, to reconstruct the war-torn nation, and generate a better future of the nation.

*(See page 7)***POEM:****Our independent country**

* Our independent country....
Sovereignty it has
And ruling government also
So powerful is our country
In interest of people
Building nation we
Country we are safeguarding
Ensuring its perpetuity
Exerting efforts by ourselves
Food we are producing
Safeguarding nation
Enhancing our own dignity
Glory we have

* Our independent country...
Running its own economy
Prospering we all are
On own way we are marching
Possessing dignity
Also high is our pride
Never relying on others
Myanmar, the Thadde Thaki
We in this world
Endeavouring with dignity
To reach the new age

* Our independent country.....
Never divided we are
Because of outsiders
Believing in internal strength
Own way we are paving
Uplifting our society
Unity till future
We are the national races
Helping one another
In amity and undivided
Consolidated we are

Hailing the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day
Zaw Min Min Oo (Trs)

- * **By blaming one another, we cannot build a developed nation in a short time.**
- * **Only when the people work hard in concert will it be possible for our country to catch up with regional countries that are now much more developed than ours. And we can bring a prosperous future to the entire people, as aspired by the nation founders.**

Hailing the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day:**Work in concert to achieve goal of building new nation***Yan Gyi Aung***Objectives of the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day (2010)**

- * 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 to build up a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accordance with the new State Constitution that has been approved by the votes of the great majority of the people,
- * All the national people to cooperate in realizing the States seven-step Road Map with Union Spirit and patriotic spirit.

(from page 6)

However, the government's benevolent attitude and wishers could not be realized over a decade after independence. Political forces that collaboratively got involved in the national liberation movements, sharing common goal, came to be locked in armed conflicts due to dogmatism and racism. In consequence, international newspapers branded Myanmar as Yangon six-mile radius government. Being caught in the snare of power-craving sense, members of the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League, the national leading front, became disunited and the AFPFL split into factions such as

Staple AFPFL-Clean AFPFL, U group, Bo group, and Thakin group.

The goal of building a Socialist country, the initial aim of the nation builders, was deviated from its course. Some national people tried to break up the Union, taking full advantage of the provisions of the 1947 constitution of the right to secede from the Union. Therefore, the nation saw political changes in 1962. Nevertheless, due to the effects of international economic decline, and defects of the new system, the nation could not draw investments, and the then investments were being withdrawn gradually. The problems could not be worked out owing to weakness of those responsible. A lot of

natural and human resources were wasted in the long internal insurgency. After all, the Socialism of Myanmar way collapsed 26 years after its introduction.

Then, the whole nation passed through real hard times, stemming from political unrest. Despite State instability, outside pressure and sanctions, the Tatmadaw managed to restore peace and stability and improve economic infrastructure necessary for building a new nation. The prudent drive has begun to yield fruits over 20 years, but the nation still has a lot to do for full development.

Independence of the nation has passed over 60 years, nation-building tasks waxing and waning.

In fact, according to the experiences of the cited countries above, a period of 60 years is much more than enough for development of a nation. But, the nation lagged behind other countries in the region in development due to various reasons.

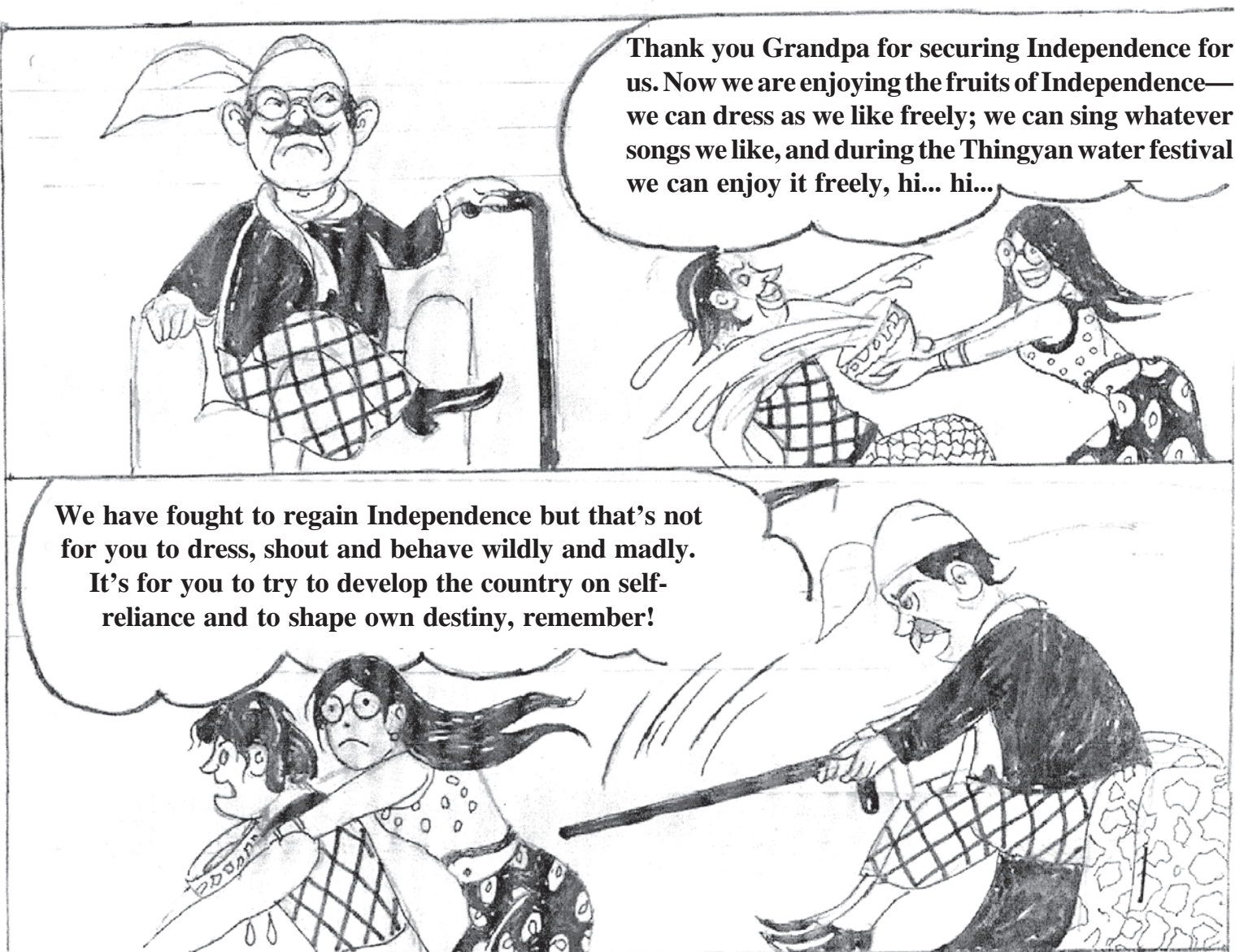
Here, I do not want to put all the blame on any particular person. By blaming one another, we cannot build a developed nation in a short time.

Only when the people work hard in concert will it be possible for our country to catch up with regional countries that are now much more developed than ours. And we can bring a prosperous future to the entire people, as aspired by the nation founders.

Myanmar is gifted with fertile soil, temperate climate pattern, rich natural resources, a reasonable size of population, a large area, and a strategic location. According to many experts, Myanmar has the potential for economic growth.

Yet, the nation has not been able to embrace the golden opportunity for development for more than 60 years.

In this regard, it is not wise to hold any particular person responsible for that. The people are all responsible for their brighter future. They are required to remain cohesive. Putting blame on others can cause nothing more than irresponsibility and disunity among the people. Today is the most opportune time to build a new nation. It is time the entire people work hard with renewed vigour to achieve the lofty goal. Let's do our bit in the noble drive.

Translation: MS**The taste of Independence****U Ba Galay**

Sufficient irrigation by dams....

(from page 1)

The country has enjoyed the sufficient supply of irrigation and water resources which is the lifeblood for the farming.

Though successive governments had made endeavours for development of the farming sector for nearly 40 years after the country gained the independence, they could build only 138 dams including reservoirs from 1948 to 1988 due to unstability of the State and some circumstances.

Only 1.3 million acres had been fed by irrigation and over 3.8 million acres had been used for double cropped farming.

After 1988, new dams and reservoirs have been built across the country. The new dams, reservoirs, river water pumping projects, underground water pumping projects have boosted the agricultural production in the country.

Farmland and water resources play a vital role in boosting agricultural production. As the government has made efforts for reclamation of farmland and irrigation, the number of farmland has increased 23.8 million acres in 1988 to 56.9 million acres in 2008-2009.

As part of efforts for irrigation, the government built a total of 228 dams, 322 river water pumping projects and sank 8001 wells and renovated reservoirs from 1988 to 2009.

Dam Projects

Thaphanseik Dam located in Kyunhla Township, Sagaing Division and inaugurated on 17 April, 2001 is the largest one in Myanmar and the longest in south-east Asia. The earthen-type dam is 108 ft high and 22,587 ft (over four miles) long and it is considered as an inland sea. The dam has enough water storage capacity to



Kadatpana sluice gate near Katatpana village in Kyauktan Township, Yangon Division.

irrigate over 500,000 acres in Shwebo, KhinU, Kanbalu, Taze, YeU, Dabayin, Butalin and Ayadaw townships all-year round.

There were only 138 dams built before 1988 could irrigate

1.3 million acres in total. As 228 dams were built from 1988 to November, 2009, the number of farmland has reached 2.82 million acres and total number of farmland has reached over 4.152 million acres.

A total of 27 dams are under construction by the Irrigation Department. Upon completion, those dams will irrigate more 1.23 million acres and can produce 2,136.30 Megawatts of hydro electric.

Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation built 322 River Water Pumping Projects that can irrigate 467028 acres of farmland including special projects. Among them were a total of 188 River Water Pumping Projects including 16 special projects in order to benefit 326795 acres of farmland in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions, central part of Myanmar.

Underground Water

Likewise, major agricultural projects for availability of underground water have been implemented. A total of 8001 wells — 5022 tube wells and 2979 pumps including 99 artisan wells in Yinmabin, Monywa District, Sagaing Division, artisan wells in Ayadaw-KhinU region and artisan well in Meiktila-Thazi region in Mandalay Division and some artisan wells in Pyawbwe-Phaya Ngahsu region have been built with the aim of benefiting 98355 acres of farmland and supplying drinking water.

Moreover, 377 tube wells and pumps that can benefit 5410 acres of farmlands in Meiktila-Thazi region and 30 tube wells that can benefit 450 acres in Pyawbwe-PayaNgazu region supply water to 5860 acres.

(See page 9)



Mone Yin Dam in Namtu Township, Kyaukme District, Shan State (North).

Dam projects which are underway in states and divisions for development of agricultural sector

Sr.	State/Division	Number of dams	Benefited area (acre)	Water storage capacity (acre feet)	Hydropower that can be generated
1.	Kachin	1	5000	22586	
2.	Kayin	1	3000	36000	
3.	Sagaing	7	1064550	27550809	(1584) megawatts
4.	Taninthayi	1	3200	220780	(5.0) megawatts
5.	Bago	3	117000	848530	(40) megawatts
6.	Magway	5	12840	2474971	(306) megawatts
7.	Mandalay	5	6400	6038000	(60.30) megawatts
8.	Rakhine	1	-	-	-
9.	Shan	2	-	704900	(36.00) megawatts
10.	Ayeyawady	1	25000	148800	(5) megawatts
Total		27	1236990	32627976	(2036.30) megawatts

With the increase in population, demand for food also increases. Hence, it is necessary to boost crop production and to extend land reclamation. It is learnt that Irrigation Department has planned to implement 100 irrigation projects as supply of irrigation water plays an important role in boosting agricultural production.

River Water Pumping Projects

Up to the end of December, 2009, Water Resources Utilization Department of the

**Hailing the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day:**

Projects being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and work programmes for long term benefit are foundations of the future of the nation.

(from page 8)

As planned river water pumping projects, 41 projects that can benefit 262,781 acres of farmlands including 20 special projects that can benefit 232,300 acres of farmland, 21 projects of the department that can benefit 30,481 acres



Paunglaung Diversion Weir built near Thitseikpin village in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township.

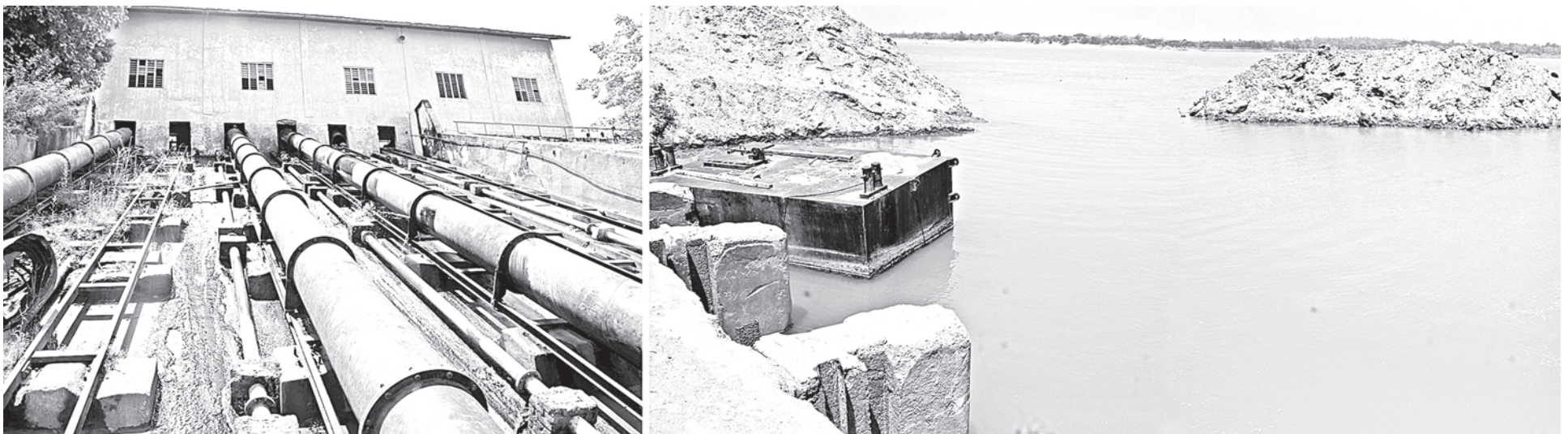
Under the arrangement of the State, Myanma agriculture has developed as infra-structures have been constructed in agricultural sector within a short period of time.

of farmland are under way. For ensuring irrigation water sufficiency through underground water, construction of tube wells and manual pumps are being implemented in Meiktila-Thazi region and Pyawbwe-Phaya Ngahsu region.

Under the arrangement of the State, Myanma agriculture has developed as infrastructures have been constructed in agricultural sector within a short period of time. Agricultural production capacity jumped from 120 per cent in 1988 to 171.1 per cent in 2008-2009.

Projects being implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation and work programmes for long term benefit are foundations of the future of the nation.

Lush and green plantations irrigated by dams,



Water pumps of Nathmaw river water pumping project implemented in Shwedaung Township, Pyay District, Bago Division (West).

Availability of irrigation water and benefited acres in the time of Tatmadaw government

Type	Unit	From the time of Myanmar Kings to 1988	From 1988 to 2009	Progress
Dam, Lake, Reservoir				
-completed	nos	138	366	228
-under construction		-	27	27
Benefited areas	acre	1336199	4162474	2826275
River water pumping and underground water work (River water pumping)				
-completed	nos	-	322	322
Benefited area	acre	-	467028	467028
Tube well	nos		8001	8001
Benefited area	acre		98355	98355
River water pumping / underground water				
-Follow-up tasks	nos	-	41	41
-benefited area	acre	-	262781	262781
Damming creek				
Benefited area	acre	-	184570	184570

lakes and creeks, houses roofed with CI sheets, worksites of farmers with the use of farm machinery and their higher living standards can be seen all parts of the nation.

I would like to urge all national people, in response to the goodwill of the government, to grasp the opportunity for promotion of living standards and for boosting production in agricultural sector through the effective utilization of god-given natural resources.

Translation: AMS+YM

11th AGM of Myanmar...

(from page 1)

Yangon Command Maj-Gen Win Myint, Patron of Myanmar Fisheries Federation Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, heads of departments, the presidents and members of the federation, chairmen and members of brother asso-

ciations.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe gave a speech, calling for achievement of guidance of the Head of State on extended distribution of pedigrees, striving for development of prawn breeding tasks with added momentum and for breeding taks in rural regions.

Minister Brig-Gen Maung

Maung Thein also spoke on the occasion. Next, the president of MFF elaborated on works and progress of the federation.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe presented cash awards to outstanding offspring of members of the federation. The commander, the minister and the vice-mayor presented cash awards and gifts to those who had written theses on fishery for PhD,



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence visits Myanmar Marine Products Sales 2009-2010.

MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence delivers an address at 11th Annual General Meeting of Myanmar Fisheries Federation. — MNA

technicians, and the CEC member of the federation who got PhD.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, the commander, the minister, the vice-mayor and responsible persons accepted cash presented by donors and presented certificates of honour to them.

The commander,

the minister, the vice-mayor and the president of the federation opened Myanmar Marine Products Sales 2009-2010. Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party then looked round the booths, documentary photos, sea foods and stalls selling ready-made marine products.—MNA

Monywa-Bawditahtaung railroad...

(from page 16)

Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min thanked the commander for his close supervision and workers of MR for their efforts. Next, a local spoke

officials sprinkled scented water on the special train of the railroad opening ceremony and greeted the locals aboard the train. They presented gifts to them and waved

to Aungtha station and then to Bawditahtaung railway station. The construction of railroad section started on 23 June, 2009 and it was inaugurated today.—MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Soe unveils signboard of Monywa-Bawditahtaung railroad section.— MNA

words of thanks.

Afterwards, the commander and the ministers formally opened Monywa-Bawditahtaung railroad section. The commander unveiled the archway and posed for documentary photos together with locals.

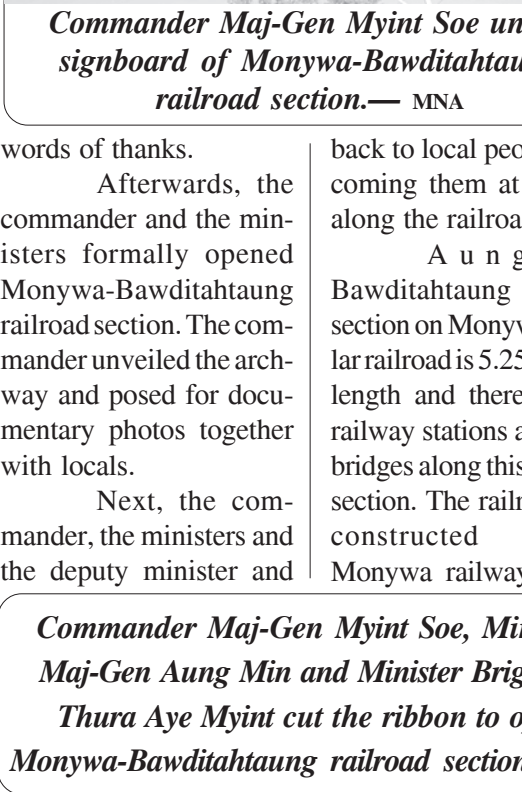
Next, the commander, the ministers and the deputy minister and

back to local people welcoming them at stations along the railroad.

A u n g t h a - Bawditahtaung railroad section on Monywa circular railroad is 5.25 miles in length and there are six railway stations and three bridges along this railroad section. The railroad was constructed from Monywa railway station



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Soe sprinkles scented water on special train. — MNA



Commander Maj-Gen Myint Soe, Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint cut the ribbon to open Monywa-Bawditahtaung railroad section.—MNA



Cancer cure hope for Tasmanian devils

LONDON, 2 Jan—Scientists fighting a cancer that threatens to wipe out Australia's Tasmanian devils say they have made a breakthrough. A contagious facial tumour has cut the number of the animals by more than half in 10 years.

But researchers say they have now identified the cell type that prompts the cancer and are developing a test to diagnose tumours at an early stage. Tasmanian devils are

famed for their spine-chilling shrieks and bad temper. They are the world's largest marsupial carnivores and only found on the island state of Tasmania. Tumours spread among groups of devils through biting, and infected animals die within months of the symptoms first appearing.

An international team of researchers has been working on finding a cure and their breakthrough was re-

ported in the latest edition of the journal *Science*.

"Our findings represent a big step forward in the race to save the devils from extinction," Elizabeth Murchison, of the US Cold Spring Harbour Laboratory and the Australian National University, wrote in the study.

Internet

Illusionist Hezi Dean emerges from Tel Aviv ice cube

TEL AVIV, 2 Jan — An Israeli illusionist gave an icy reception to the New Year, emerging at midnight from 66 hours in an 8-tonne block of ice, breaking the record of American magician David Blaine.

Hezi Dean, 29, had himself sealed into a specially constructed transparent ice cube in Tel Aviv's Rabin Square, where he apparently stayed for nearly three days wearing just jeans and a thin T-shirt. At the stroke of midnight, assistants cut open the ice block and removed a weak-looking Dean, taking him straight to a waiting ambulance. His condition was not immediately

clear.

Some 200 onlookers celebrated the arrival of the new decade with Dean, many of them carrying signs - from the encouraging "Hezi the great" to the more practical "Don't die Hezi Dean". Dean had been attempting to break the record of Blaine, who spent 63 hours in a similar ice cube in New York's Times Square in 2000.—Internet



Hezi Dean is pictured in the ice block as he tries to set a new record.

INTERNET

The Tasmanian devil

Listed as endangered after deadly cancer has slashed population

Sarcophilus harrisii

➤ Meat eater that carries its young in a pouch

➤ Weight: up to 5 kg (juvenile); up to 12 kg (adult male)

➤ Length: up to 1.1 m

Behaviour

Activity nocturnal, shelters during day

Roams up to 16 km in a day

Diet scavenges, eats anything available, feeds communally

Display under threat growls, releases foul smells, makes fierce noises

Challenging others sneezes

Devil Facial Tumour Disease

Origins First noticed in 1996 in northeast Tasmania

Type Form of cancer, fatal to devils

Transmission Through bites from one devil to another

Effect 70 percent reduction of



Spread across island Farming areas, coastal heath, mountains, forests

Extinct on mainland Believed killed off by wild dogs over 600 years ago

TASMANIA AUSTRALIA Sydney CANBERRA

100 km

Fact file on the Tasmanian devil. Scientists have made a breakthrough in the genetic analysis of a facial cancer killing the endangered animals, raising hopes that the species' future may be secured.—INTERNET

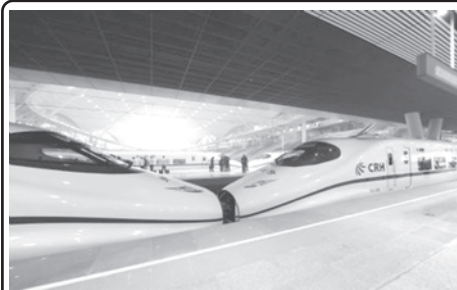
Chub now rare in Great Lakes

MILWAUKEE, 2 Jan—Chub, a small fish found only in the Great Lakes, has become a rare find in stores in the US Midwest thanks to zebra mussels and other invasive species.

Fishermen say catches have become so small in Lake Michigan going out for chub is no longer worth the fuel, the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* reported on Thursday. Dan Anderson of Milwaukee said the last time he went out he got 45 pounds of chubs out of 18,000 feet of nets. The chubs he did bring in were not the fat fish prized as a holiday treat in Wisconsin.

"The larger chubs that are marketable aren't out there. There are a lot of smaller ones that, with enough food, will grow to market size," Anderson said. "But quite honestly, I don't think there's enough food in the lake."

Zebra mussels, tiny shellfish native to Russia, were first reported in the Great Lakes in 1988 and have multiplied and become a major nuisance. Anderson said when he hauls in his nets he pulls in large amounts of zebra mussels.—Internet



A high-speed train stops at Wuhan Railway Station, in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province.

Australian mother charged for locking baby in 60-degree Celsius car

An Australian mother was charged on Wednesday with leaving her little boy locked inside her vehicle in extremely hot conditions while she went shopping.

The woman, who has admitted making a "stupid mistake", was charged with leaving a child unsupervised in a motor vehicle.

The 18-month-old was rescued by shopkeepers who used a hammer to smash their way into a four-wheel drive in the car park of a shopping centre at McGraths Hill in northwest Sydney.

The temperature inside the vehicle was estimated to be more than 60 degrees Celsius.

The boy's 34-year-old mother, who has five children, had been contacted by caseworkers investigating the matter, authorities said.

Bangladesh bans 'painful' greeting practice

Bangladesh has ended a British colonial era practice that forces children to line the streets in front of their schools every time a senior official visits, a minister said on Wednesday.

Last month, a government official came under fire in the Bangladeshi media when hundreds of students were made to wait more than two hours under a scorching sun to greet him.

Many Bangladeshis recall similar experiences from their school days and visits from senior bureaucrats and other dignitaries can be frequent in rural areas.

"We've stopped this practice because it does not set a good example. It's unnecessary. It's painful for the students and it makes their guardians angry," HYPERLINK "<http://uk.news.yahoo.com/fc/education.html>" Education Minister Nurul Islam Nahid told AFP.

NEWS ALBUM



A ship makes its way through the ice floes in the harbour at the northern German port of Hamburg on Wednesday. Traffic has continued to flow through Europe's third largest port despite this week's freezing temperatures.



People dressed as cartoon characters perform on the 22nd Taiyangdao Island International Snow Sculpture Expo in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province.

"Get away from me! I'm a penny pincher of a thief!"

A thief stole 3.5 yuan (50 cents) from a woman, but wound up calling for help from the police in Xi'an, capital of Shaanxi Province.

Zhang, a 19-year-old migrant worker, mugged a woman on the morning of 9 August, but was soon followed by his victim and five others. Scared for his life, he fled to police for help. He ended up being detained for 15 days.

"Where's our camaraderie?"

One of four crooks that robbed a woman had to seek police help after they fought over the loot.

The four stole 160 yuan (23 US dollars) from a woman on a street in Nanbu county, Sichuan Province. Afterwards, one thief, surnamed Li, tried to keep all the money. The three others beat him up and stole his share. He flagged down a police car and asked for help.

The police arrested all four of them and returned the money to the woman.

"Can I steal your cellphone for a whopping 10,000 yuan?"

A bank customer in Tianjin grabbed someone's cell phone that was lying on the counter and left his own 10,000 yuan (1,462 US dollars) behind on 9 June.

The cell phone owner called police who identified the thief as a man surnamed Liu through the bank's surveillance camera.

After Liu returned to the bank to retrieve his money, while police were waiting for him.

He was reprimanded and let go.

INVITATION FOR TENDER

TENDER NO. BRIDGE/PKU/2009-2010/NPT/ST-004

1. Sealed Tender is invited by Public Works, Ministry of Construction, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar for the supply of **Steel Truss and Accessories for AYEYAWADY BRIDGE (PAKOKKU) Motor-cum-Rail Construction Project** across Ayeyawady River on Nyaung-Pakokku Road in Magway Division.
2. Tender application form of **PAKOKKU BRIDGE** (including Technical Specifications, Terms of Tender, Tender Schedule and Offer Form) can be purchased with USD 3000.
3. The Payment for tender application must be paid to Public Works's Account No. **SEE 01015**, Myanma Economic Bank (2) through Myanma Foreign Trade Bank.
4. The Tender document can be obtained from Bridge Division, Building No.(11), Public Works, Ministry of Construction, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar only with the Payment Receipt to Myanmar Foreign Trade Bank.
5. Tender should be submitted to the above address not later than 16:30 hours on 5th March, 2010.
6. For further detail information, Please contact to Telephone No. 067-407276, 407466.

Managing Director
Public Works

United flight lands over security concern

ST LOUIS, 2 Jan—A United Express jetliner returned to the St Louis airport shortly after takeoff on Friday because of security concerns about a passenger, officials said.

United Express Flight 7445 was about 15 minutes into its 8 am flight to Chicago with 66 passengers when it returned without incident to the St Louis Airport, St Louis *Globe-Democrat.com* reported.

"After the flight took off, there was a security concern and the flight returned to St Louis where the issue was resolved," Megan McCarthy, a spokeswoman said.

While McCarthy and a

spokesperson from the Transportation Safety Administration were unable to provide specifics of the security concern, St Louis Airport spokesman Jeff Lea said there may have been a concern about getting information from a passenger.

The aircraft was back in the air by 9:40 am and arrived in Chicago at 10:27 am.

"Ultimately, everything was fine," said Fred Oxley, vice president of communications for Trans States Holdings, which operates United Express flights under the GoJet name.—*Internet*

A swarm of carps scramble for banana at the Zoo of Nanning, southwest China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 31 Dec, 2009. The swarm of carps who especially like eating bananas attracts lots of visitors in recent days.— XINHUA



CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV XIANG XIU VOY NO (1010)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG XIU VOY NO (1010) are hereby notified that the vessels will be arriving on 3.1.2010 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.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 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm 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 Claim Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING
(MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Myanma Port Authority Holiday Notice

As the wharves warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on 4th January 2010 (Independence Day) being the public holiday. Goods will be received shipped or delivered on payment of Holiday Fees.

UK twins turn 102 on New Year's Day

LONDON, 2 Jan—Britain's oldest twins, Betty Richards and Jenny Pelmore, celebrated birthday No. 102 on New Year's Day with family and friends.

The doctor who delivered them in Manchester, England, arrived on horseback on 1 Jan, 1908, when King Edward VII was on the throne, the *Daily Express* reported on Friday.

Jenny and Betty, both widowed, live near each other in Cornwall. Betty, a secretary, married Brandon Richards in 1936 and had two chil-

dren. Jenny was a teacher who married Hugh Pelmore, an RAF pilot who also raced Bentleys, the newspaper said.

Others may make their age an issue, but it's not for Jenny.

"We never think about our age much," she said.

"Life is much faster now but the only thing I don't understand is computers," Betty added.

The secret to longevity is simple, Jenny said: "Having a busy life and not sitting still for too long is the key. The secret is to keep smiling and keep going."—*Internet*



A Tarantula spider is examined by a scientist. Tarantula lovers be warned: if you are going to get up-close-and-personal with your hairy eight-legged friend, do it from the other side of an aquarium pane or wearing a pair of glasses.—INTERNET

Spider attacks owner with 'mist of hair'

LEEDS, 2 Jan — Tarantula lovers be warned: if you are going to get up close and personal with your hairy eight-legged friend, do it from the other side of an aquarium pane or wearing a pair of glasses.

That's a lesson that a 29-year-old man from Leeds in Britain learned the hard way, the British medical journal *The Lancet* has reported. In February of 2009, the man turned up at St James's University Hospital in Leeds after three weeks of stinging pain in one eye, which had become red, watery and light-sensitive.

Doctors prescribed antibiotics, assuming he was afflicted with a particularly stubborn case of conjunctivitis, but the treatment did not relieve the symptoms.

When they re-examined the patient with high-magnification lenses, doctors spotted ultra-thin, hair-like projections sticking into the cornea.

Internet

Part one of tsunami system completed

JAKARTA, 2 Jan—Indonesia has completed the first part of a three-part system to provide rapid early warnings against tsunamis, officials said.

The first part determines earthquake sizes and scopes "and the potential for tsunami generation," said Fauzi, head of the Tsunami and Earthquake Centre in Jakarta.

The second part, scheduled for completion in April, monitors the sea level. And the third part, projected to be in place by 2011, will include computer modeling of tsunamis, said Fauzi, who goes by only one name like many people in Indonesia.

His update comes five years after a 9.1-magnitude undersea earthquake on 26 Dec, 2004, triggered a se-

ries of devastating tsunamis, killing nearly 230,000 people in 13 countries and inundating coastal communities with waves up to 100 feet high.

The Indian Ocean tsunami was one of the deadliest natural disasters in history. Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India and Thailand were the hardest hit.

Under Indonesia's early-warning system — supported by the United States, Germany, France and China, along with United Nations agencies — a tsunami warning is issued for an undersea earthquake with a Richter scale magnitude of 7.0 or higher and a depth of less than 44 miles, the Integrated Regional Information Networks reported.

Internet



Canadian country music sensation Shania Twain lights the Olympic Cauldron with the Olympic Flame at Hollinger Park in her hometown of Timmins, Ontario on 1 Jan, 2010. The Olympic flame is passing through more than 1,000 communities on a 106-day journey before arriving in time for the Vancouver Games on 12 Feb.—INTERNET

Calif police building rigged to explode

HEMET, 2 Jan—Police officers and other members of a gang task force in Southern California found their building had been rigged to explode on Thursday, authorities said. At the headquarters of the Hemet-San Jacinto Valley Anti-Gang Task Force, a gas line had been rerouted through the office, said Hemet police Lt Duane Wisehart. Given the amount of gas that had accumulated, a spark could have ignited the building,

Wisehart told *KABC-TV*, Los Angeles.

"It could have easily levelled that building — that's about a 1,700-square-foot building — and killed anyone inside," he said. "It was planned to blow up the building and anyone in it. We're not really sure why it didn't." When officers arrived for work on Thursday "they immediately smelled natural gas very thick within the office," Wisehart said. Authorities evacuated the

building and shutdown the gas as investigators examined the office.

Wisehart told the *Los Angeles Times* it's "an educated guess" that gang members are responsible. The gang task force, formed five years ago, includes members of the Hemet Police Department, the Riverside County Sheriff's Department, the county probation office, the state parole office and the district attorney's office.—*Internet*

650 militants killed in Pakistan in three months

ISLAMABAD, 2 Jan—Pakistani security forces have killed some 650 militants in operation in South Waziristan tribal region in three months, the military said on Thursday.

Thousands of Pakistan troops launched a major offensive against the militants in South Waziristan in October.

Some 30,000 troops took part in the operation and the army has now taken control most of the areas and the militants have fled.

Military spokesman Major General Athar Abbas said that Pakistan Army is carrying out successful operation against terrorists in tribal areas and have killed 650 militants so far in South Waziristan.

"The Army has achieved tremendous success in very short time in the on-going war on terrorism and has taken control of major towns in South Waziristan," General Abbas said, according to state radio. He said operation is continuing as militants have fled into other areas and the Army is chasing them.

Xinhua

Arabic study may have been cover for bomb suspect

SANAA, 2 Jan—The Nigerian suspected of trying to bring down a US airliner with explosives might have used Arabic studies as a pretext for entering Yemen before disappearing for months, perhaps into one of the lawless country's al-Qaeda strongholds, fellow students and teachers said.

Interviews with staff and students at the Institute for the Arabic Language this week have revealed that Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab was frequently absent from classes and spent at most one month at the school in Yemen's capital, San'a, starting in late August before vanishing. Authorities say he didn't leave the country until December and that his whereabouts during that period remains a mystery.

Adding to the notion that his studies were a ruse, one teacher at the institute said the young man stood out because he already spoke Arabic with a considerable degree of fluency. "I noticed he understood the language very quickly and he was eloquent and convincing in his speech," Ahmed Moajjib said.

Internet



The San'a Institute for the Arabic Language in Sanaa, Yemen is seen on 29 Dec, 2009.—INTERNET

Degas artwork stolen from museum

MARSEILLES, 2 Jan—An artwork by Impressionist artist Edgar Degas has been stolen from a Marseilles museum, police have said. Les Choristes (The Chorus) was missing when staff at the Catini Museum opened the premises on Thursday morning. There were no signs of a break-in, said Jacques Dalles, the French city's public prosecutor.

Local police originally said that its value was £26m, but France's national museum service subsequently put its worth at £710,000. The item was on loan

from the Musee D'Orsay, in Paris, as part of an exhibition of Degas' work which was due to come to an end on 3 January and travel to Italy and Canada.

The museum will now remain closed while the theft is being investigated, including the examination of CCTV footage from security cameras. Mr Dalles also told *Agence France Presse* that police are looking into the possibility that the artwork was stolen by an intruder, a visitor or a museum insider.

Internet

CIA probes Afghan base security after bomber kills seven

WASHINGTON/KABUL, 2 Jan—The CIA vowed on Thursday to avenge the deaths of seven officers in a suicide bombing in Afghanistan and to investigate security breaches that allowed the second deadliest attack in agency history. The Taliban claimed the attacker was a sympathizer from the Afghan army who detonated a vest of explosives at a meeting with CIA workers on Wednesday. An Afghan was also killed and six CIA employees were wounded, US officials said.

"This deadly attack was carried out by a valorous Afghan army member," Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid told *Reuters*. In a letter to CIA employees, US President Barack Obama mourned the deaths of those he said "served in the shadows." The death toll was the intelligence agency's highest since eight employees were killed in a bombing of the US Embassy in Beirut in 1983.

Internet

22 Koreans land at shoreline of N Philippines after ship capsized

MANILA, 2 Jan—Twenty-two Koreans swam to safety on Friday after their cargo ship capsized off the waters of Claveria town in northern Philippine province of Cagayan, a police official reported.

Cagayan Valley police director Chief Supt Roberto Damian said one of the Koreans was injured and was taken to a hospital in Claveria town for treatment. The 21 others stayed at the residence of the village chieftain.

The group led by the ship captain Jon Ki Ung—landed at the shoreline of Taggat Norte village in Claveria town around 7 am after abandoning ship, Damian said.

The ship, carrying 2,615 magnetite, left the port of Appari at 6 pm on Thursday. At around 9 pm while at approximately 6 nautical miles off Taggat Norte, the ship leaned on the left side listed because of the unbalanced wet magnetite.—*Xinhua*



Rescue workers carry an injured man who was injured in a bomb blast to hospital for treatment in the town of Lakki Marwat on 1 January, 2010.

XINHUA

SPORTS

Mancini salutes Tevez as United clash nears

MANCHESTER, 2 Jan—Manchester City coach Roberto Mancini hailed Carlos Tevez's goal-scoring record on Saturday as the Argentine striker eyed an emotional cup clash with former club



Manchester City's Argentinian player Carlos Tevez

Manchester United. Tevez has hit 12 goals since leaving Old Trafford last year and will get the chance to add to that total when the Manchester rivals clash in the League Cup semi-finals on Wednesday.

Before that, City travel to Middlesbrough on Saturday for an FA Cup third-round tie. "Carlos Tevez has been outstanding," said Mancini. "He is a world-class striker who is in top form. "He is playing with a smile on his face and to score eight goals during December was an incredible effort.—Internet

Wenger rules out Chamakh swoop

LONDON, 2 Jan—Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger on Friday ruled out a transfer window swoop for Moroccan international striker Marouane Chamakh, a long-time Gunners target. "Chamakh is in the Champions League with Bor-



Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger on Friday ruled out a transfer window swoop for Moroccan international striker Marouane Chamakh, a long-time Gunners target.—INTERNET

deaux and at the top of their league, so he will not move now," said Wenger. "He has four months of his contract to go with Bordeaux and they have no interest in selling him."

Twelve months ago, Wenger concluded a January deal for Russian playmaker Andrey Arshavin, but with Robin van Persie out for most of the rest of the season, the Frenchman desperately needs a new striker. But as yet he insists he has no specific target in mind. "For now I am like I was when I was a student and I had to study for an exam, and I do not know what I will write," he said.—Internet

Ancelotti backs Cech

LONDON, 2 Jan—Chelsea goalkeeper Petr Cech, in the firing line for some recent error-prone showings, Friday received a vote of confidence from coach Carlo Ancelotti, who described him as one of the best goalkeepers in the world. Cech's relative loss of form in recent weeks was highlighted by Chelsea taking just nine points from a possible 18 in December - but Ancelotti rode to his defence.

"I said Petr Cech is one of the most important players for this team, one



Chelsea goalkeeper Petr Cech

of the best goalkeepers in the world," Ancelotti said. "I like him because he takes on responsibility in the box, he likes to come out to catch the ball. Above all, that's important in England, to have this kind of goalkeeper.

Internet

Tennis star Nadal wins, Federer sinks in desert

ABU DHABI, 2 Jan—Rafael Nadal gets an early New Year opportunity to avenge the worst defeat of his career Saturday when he tackles bitter rival Robin Soderling, the man who dumped him out of the French Open.

World number two Nadal was defeated for the first time at Roland Garros in 2009, where he was four-time champion, by the towering Swede, a setback which sent his season into a downward, injury-hit spiral.

Nadal, who also lost to Soderling at the ATP World Tour finals in London, gets his chance for revenge when the two meet in the final of the Capitala World Tennis Championship, an exhibition tournament, here on Saturday.

Soderling made the final by beating world number one Roger Federer 6-7 (8/10), 7-6 (7/1), 6-2 in his semi-final on Friday. "I'm very happy to be here in Abu Dhabi, it's the perfect place to prepare for Doha and the Australian Open," said Nadal who heads for the Qatar Open next week before defending his title in Melbourne.—Internet



Rafael Nadal returns to fellow Spaniard David Ferrer during their semi-final tennis match at the 250,000-dollar Capitala World Tennis Championship at Abu Dhabi's International Tennis Complex in Zayed Sports City. INTERNET

FA Cup out to prove its worth again

LONDON, 2 Jan—How much the FA Cup still matters is a much discussed topic of conversation among English football fans. It is a subject brought into even sharper focus at this time of year when the

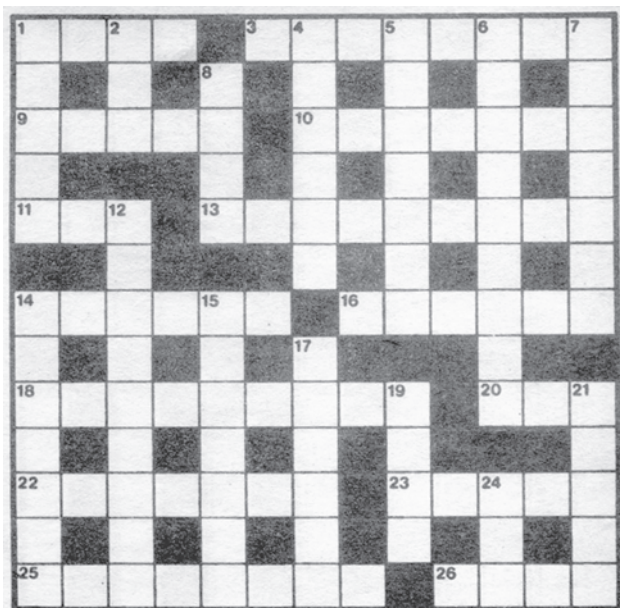
world's oldest senior knockout football tournament reaches the third round stage, the point when teams from England's top two divisions enter the event.

Conventional wisdom has it that the FA Cup

has now lost much of its lustre. The advent of the Champions League concentrates the minds of sides at the top of the English Premier League, whose domestic focus is on winning the league title or at least finishing in the top four to guarantee themselves a place in European club football's elite competition.

Internet

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



ACROSS

- 1 Twice two
- 3 In the shade
- 9 Meal
- 10 Pygmalion's creation
- 11 Signal agreement
- 13 Sacking
- 14 Prance
- 16 Whirled
- 18 Aeronautical aid
- 20 Chart
- 22 Unimportant
- 23 Bury
- 25 Testators
- 26 Wine dregs

DOWN

- 1 Criminal
- 2 Jar
- 4 Argue
- 5 Dunce
- 6 Amusing remark
- 7 Pulled forcibly
- 8 Employ axe
- 12 Amusing
- 14 Money invested
- 15 Acknowledgement
- 17 Cloth cleanser
- 19 Ireland
- 21 European capital
- 24 Bind

Ferguson backs Leeds for big-time return

MANCHESTER, 2 Jan—Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson confidently expects FA Cup opponents Leeds United to be back in the Premier League and reignite one of English football's most bitter rivalries.

Leeds, former English champions and one-time Champions League semi-finalists, have endured a spectacular fall from grace but are currently topping League Two, the third tier of English football. On Sunday, they will play at Old Trafford for the first time since 2004 and will have an opportunity to see how they measure up against the English champions.

Internet



Manchester United boss Sir Alex Ferguson



Barcelona's Dani Alves (right), captain Carles Puyol (left) and Bojan Krkic are seen during a training session at Ciutat Esportiva Joan Gamper, near Barcelona, in November.—INTERNET

High-flying Barcelona hope for more joy in 2010

MADRID, 2 Jan—After a memorable 2009 in which they won a record six trophies, league leaders Barcelona hope for more success in 2010 and aim to start on the right note with a home win over Villareal on Saturday.

Champions Barca lead the table by two points from Real Madrid after going the first 15 league games unbeaten and should be full of confidence after winning the World Club Championship before the Christmas break.

"We don't know how things will go in 2010 but with the coach (Pep Guardiola) we've got there is no way we are going to relax," said Brazilian defender Dani Alves.

"We are hoping to start the year well, like we finished this one."

Internet



Russia announces anti-crisis program for 2010

Moscow, 2 Jan—The Russian government has announced an anti-crisis program that lists social stability, improvement in social security and continued economic growth as priorities.

According to the program posted on the government's website Friday, the government plans to inject 36.3 billion rubles (about 1.21 billion U.S. dollars) in the job market and continue to fulfill the economic stimulus packages announced in 2009.

It will also maintain measures in support of regional credit markets and facilitate major enterprises' debt restructuring.

To reform the economic structure, the government will set up a fund to provide subsidies and loans in order to resolve the problem of single-industry cities. The government also intends to map out measures to tap the potential of the pension and insurance systems to activate the financial market.—Xinhua



A white whale kisses a Kimono-clad trainer at a show to celebrate the New Year at the Hakkeijima Sea Paradise in Yokohama, near Tokyo on 1 Jan, 2010.—INTERNET

MRTV-3

Programme Schedule
(3-1-2010) (Sunday)

Transmissions

	Times
Local	- (09:00am~10:00am)MST
Europe	- (19:30pm~21:30pm)MST
North America	- (23:30pm~07:30am)MST

Local Transmission

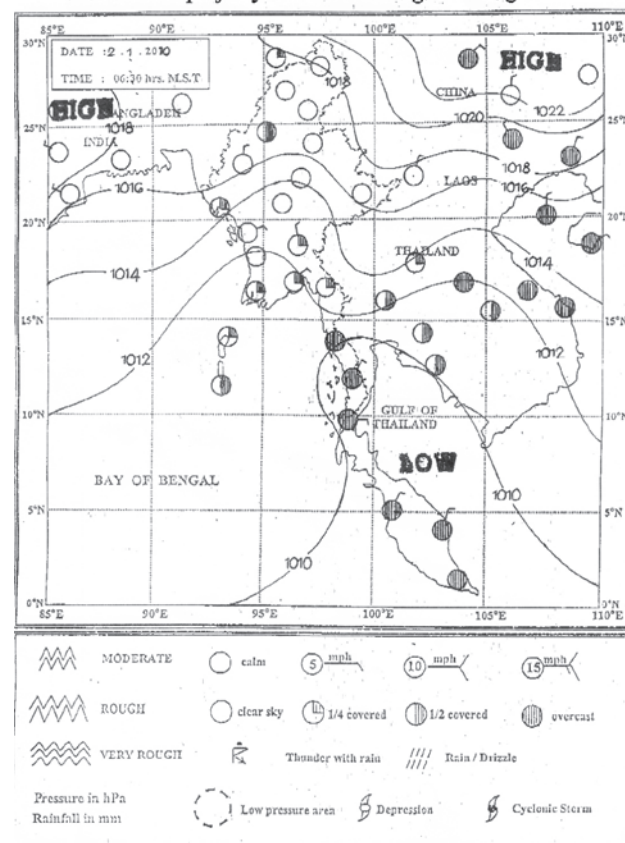
- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights
- * Bagan, Our Pride and Glory of the Past
- * Mandalay, The Golden City
- * National Solidarity For National Development
- * "Rural and Border Areas"
- * The Longest Solar Eclipse of the 21st Century
- * Recent Discovery of Late Anyathian Culture
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights
- * Bagan, Our Pride and Glory of the Past
- * Mandalay, The Golden City
- * National Solidarity For National Development
- * "Rural and Border Areas"
- * The Longest Solar Eclipse of the 21st Century
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * Recent Discovery of Late Anyathian Culture
- * Pottery, A Home Industry
- * A Wonderful Trip To Ngwe Hsaung
- * Beauty of the Women of Myanmar (Pre-War Period)
- * National Dance
- * Myanmar Ancient Ornaments Show
- * Songs on Screen
- * Hand-made Bags
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Saturday, 2nd January, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Mon State and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (5°C) to (6°C) below January average temperatures in Chin State and upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) below January average temperatures in Shan and Rakhine States, Bago and Yangon Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Mon State and Taninthayi Division and about January average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Loilem (-3°C), Haka and Pinlaung (-2°C) each, Namhsan and He ho (0°C) each, An (2°C), Lashio and Pyin Oo Lwin (3°C) each, Putao, Machanbaw, Katha, Mindat, Shwebo and Mogok (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 1-1-2010 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 2-1-2010 was 56°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 2-1-2010 was 55%. Total sun shine hours on 1-1-2010 was (9.2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 2-1-2010 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2010 was (111.69) inches at Mingaladon, (122.09) inches at Kaba-Aye and (129.41) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northeast at (17:30) hours MST on 1-1-2010.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 3rd January 2010: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Mon, States and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in remaining States and Divisions.

State of the sea: Strong Easterly winds with moderate at to rough seas are likely at times Delatic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (35)mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 3-1-2010: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 3-1-2010: Fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-1-2010: Fair weather.

Myanmar

TV

Sunday, 3
January
View on today

7:00 am

1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်၊ ယောဆရာတော်ဟောကြားတော်မူသောဥပ္ပါယ်သဒ္ဓိပိဋ်တော်

7:25 am

2. To Be Healthy Exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning News

7:40 am

4. အဝံ့ဇယမင်္ဂလံ

(ယဉ်ဝေယံထွန်း၊ တေးရေး-ဝိတစာဆိုမျိုးနွယ်ဆွေ)

7:50 am

5. Nice & Sweet Song

8:05 am

6. ယဉ်ကျေးလိမ္မာ(၃၈)ဖြာမင်္ဂလာ

8:20 am

7. Dance Of National Races

8:30 am

8. International News

8:35 am

9. Crossroads Cafe (Episode-21) (Walls and Bridges)

11:00 am

1. Martial Song

11:10 am

2. (၆၂)နှစ်မြောက် လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

11:20 am

3. Round Up Of The Week International News

11:30 am

4. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

“ဟာသကမ္ဘာ” (အပိုင်း-၆၀)

12:30 pm

5. Golf Magazine (TV)

12:50 pm

6. မြန်မာရုပ်ရှင် “တိုက်ပွဲခေါ်သံ” (သီဟတင်စိုး၊မင်းဦး၊ညွန့်ဝင်း၊ဇော်လင်း၊ဇင်မာဦး၊ဆွေဇင်ထိုက်)(ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်တင်ဦး)

2:40 pm

7. International News

3:45 pm

1. Myanmar National League MNL (2009) ဘောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲ တိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှု အစီအစဉ် (မကွေး FC အသင်း နှင့် Southern Myanmar FC အသင်း)

5:45 pm

2. Musical Programme

6:00 pm

3. Evening News

6:15 pm

4. Weather Report

6:20 pm

5. တစ်မျက်နှာတစ်ကွက်စာ

“ပွင့်ခြောက်သံစဉ်”

(သီရိထွန်း၊ဖြိုးမြင့်မိုးရဲလှိုင်၊ နှိုင်းထက်ခင်၊သီရိဝေ၊ အိန္ဒြာကျော်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်မင်းသန်းထွဋ်)

6:45 pm

6. (၆၂)နှစ်မြောက် လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

7:00 pm

7. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “တော်ဝင်နန်းသား” (အပိုင်း-၁)

7:45 pm

8. အချုပ်အခြာအာဏာ ဇွန်ရှည်ကြာခိုင်မာစေမှု ခွံချေးမှု

8:00 pm

9. News
10. International News
11. Weather Report
12. ကာတွန်းအစီအစဉ် “ဒိုင်နိုဆောမိသားစု စွန့်စားခန်း” (အပိုင်း-၇၄)
13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “နေဦးကဗျာချစ်သံသ” (အပိုင်း-၂၆)
13. “ရုပ်သံကြယ်ပွင့်များ”



- ★ Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
- ★ Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

- ★ Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
- ★ Riots beget riots, not democracy
- ★ Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People's Desire

- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

- VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
- RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
- Do not allow ourselves to be swayed
- By broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Monywa-Bawditahtaung railroad section inaugurated



NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—Hailing the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day 2010, Myanma Railways today opened Monywa-Bawditahtaung railroad section of Monywa circular railroad project in Monywa, Sagaing Division, at Aungtha railway station in Monywa.

It was attended by Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Myint Soe, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin, departmental personnel, members of social organizations and locals.

Commander Maj-Gen Myint Soe in his speech said that Tatmadaw Government had been upgrading old railroads and building new ones and Aungtha-Bawditahtaung railroad, the first phase of Monywa circular railroad, would contribute to smooth and secure transportation for students of Technological University and 11411 residents of seven villages.

(See page 10)

Special Train runs on Aungtha-Bawditahtaung railroad section of Monywa circular railroad.—MNA

SPECIAL FEATURES TO HAIL 62nd ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY



Article

Work in concert to achieve goal of building new nation

PAGES 6+7

YAN GYI AUNG

Poem

*
Our independent country....
Sovereignty it has
And ruling government also
So powerful is our country



C
A
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