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Wednesday, 2 January, 2008



Make collaborative efforts to enable the Union of Myanmar to stand as independent nation

To enable the Union of Myanmar to stand staunchly among the world's nations as an independent nation and to safeguard its sovereignty perpetually, all of us must make collaborative efforts and also strive for greater consolidation of national unity, maintenance of stability and enhancement of national development.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
(From message sent on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary Golden Jubilee Independence Day)

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo attends opening ceremony of School Family Day

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Jan — The opening ceremony of School Family Day was held at No 1 Basic Education High School, here, this morning, attended by Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo.

Also present were Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, the ministers, the deputy ministers, members of Myanmar Education Committee, senior military officers, directors-general of the State Peace and Development Council Office and the Government Office, heads of departments, officials of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation, Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association, the Ministry of Education, education officers of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Lewe and Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon, school heads, students and guests.

Fourteen outstanding students formally opened the school family day for 2007-2008 academic year in front of the gymnasium of Nay Pyi Taw No 1 BEHS.

The Secretary-1 and party observed booths of practical development on education, information and technology, records of educational performance, art studio of students, machines of science equipment workshop of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar),
(See page 6)



Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo views teaching aids, IT equipment and laboratory apparatuses at booths of educational development. — MNA

SPECIAL FEATURES TO HAIL 60th ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Article

People should not be complacent about independence

Building a new nation after regaining independence is like building a house in a plot of land of one's own after living in a small room annexed to other's house.



Achievements of the transport sector



POEM

Safeguard Independence

* Land Myanmar
Lived under enslavement
For years over hundred
So deprived was she
Having only few bridges
Transport so poor

CARTOON



Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 2 January, 2008

Safeguard independence and sovereignty, wipe out dangers of destructionists

Myanmar has stood magnificently as a sovereign nation with own monarchs for years countable by the thousand.

In the past, Myanmar once lost sovereignty, following aggressive wars waged by the colonialists. National people who felt bitter to live under alien subjugation launched anti-colonialist movements with Union Spirit and patriotic spirit, and, the nation regained independence, as a result.

Myanmar's independence that cost a lot of lives, blood and sweat of national brethren will pass its 60th anniversary on 4 January 2008.

Therefore, the entire nation people have to protect the costly independence.

Now, the government, the Tatmadaw and the people are working hard together to transform the nation into a new democratic one. So far, the National Convention has been completed in accordance with the State's seven-step Road Map and fundamental principles and detailed basic principles have been adopted for drafting a State constitution. The drafting of the State constitution is now under way.

Neo-colonialists and saboteurs with negative views persist in resorting to various means to intrude on the fruits the State is enjoying in the political, economic and social sectors.

Onus is therefore on the entire people to defend the motherland from the dangers of internal and external subversive elements, while cherishing, valuing and safeguarding the independence and sovereignty successive generations of ancestors managed to help the nation regain.

ပညာရေးစုံညီပွဲတော်

နိုင်ငံတစ်ဝန်းလုံးရှိအခြေခံပညာကျောင်းအားလုံး
ပါဝင်ဆင်နွှဲစဉ်။



၂၀၀၈ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလ ၁ ရက်မှ ၃ ရက်
SCHOOL FAMILY DAY
1-3 January, 2008

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

Workshop on development of value-added beans and pulses held

YANGON, 30 Dec — Under the leadership of the Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries and the Ministry of Commerce, the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry organized a workshop on development of value-added beans and pulses at UMFCCI Office Tower on Minyekyaw Swa road in Lanmadaw Township, here, today.

Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe, Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein and UMFCCI President U Win Myint spoke on the occasion.

General Manager U Toe Myint Aung of Myanma Agricultural Produce Trading and the two responsible personnel discussed reviews of export and production of value-added beans and pulses.

Bwetgyi bridge construction project inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Jan — Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun, accompanied by officials of Public Works, on 29 December looked into progress in construction of Bwetgyi Bridge and approach structures on either side of Pyay and Aunglan.

At the briefing hall, Deputy Superintending Engineer U Tint Lwin of Special Construction Group-1 and Deputy Superintending Engineer U Win Tint of Special Construction Group-15 reported on progress of work to the minister who gave necessary instructions.

The 1,770 feet long reinforced concrete bridge is 24 feet wide with two pedestrian lanes on either side, each of which is three feet wide. It can withstand 60 tons of load. —MNA

The responsible persons answered queries raised by those present and Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein made the concluding remarks.—MNA



President of UMFCCI U Win Myint delivers an address at the workshop on development of value-added beans and pulses.—UMFCCI

F&R Minister meets with officials of IRD

YANGON, 31 Dec — Yangon Division Internal Revenue Department Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun held a meeting with officials of Internal Revenue Department at the

Yangon Division Internal Revenue Department here, today.

He stressed the need for the officials to make concerted efforts in the

drive to achieve aims and objectives of the State according to laws and procedures, and then heard reports of officials concerned on target of works,

completion of works and future programmes.

The minister looked into office of Yangon Division Internal Revenue Department where officials concerned reported work progress.

Next, he went to Bank Branch No 3 of Myanma Economic Bank and instructed officials to offer systemic, swift and smooth services to people by the bank.

Later, he viewed export and import services at Bo Aung Kyaw container inspecting station and Asia World container inspecting station of Internal Revenue Department and left necessary instructions. —MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun inspects export and import services at Bo Aung Kyaw Jetty. —MNA

Chart Thai Party confirms joining PPP coalition govt

BANGKOK, 1 Jan — Banharn Silapaarcha, leader of the Chart Thai Party, confirmed Monday his party would join the coalition government led by the People Power Party and dismissed the allegation that he was trying to negotiate the allocation of Cabinet seats.

“The People Power Party (PPP)’s deputy leader Somchai Wongsawat agreed to accept the five-point demand that we

advised, hence I told him that joining the government won’t be a problem,” Banharn said, in reference to the invitation by the PPP deputy leader for Chart Thai and Puea Pandin parties to join the coalition alliance.

Banharn said he was pleased with the PPP’s stand on national solidarity.

During the general election held on December 23, the PPP won 233

parliament seats while the Democrat Party got 165. Banharn’s Chart Thai Party won 37 and the Puea Pandin Party won 24.

Last week, Banharn outlined five conditions under which he would accept a position in a People Power coalition government.

They were reverence for the monarchy, respect for Privy Council President and elder statesman General Prem Tinsulanonda, no reprisals, Thaksin Shinawatra’s return to face due process of law and no meddling with the work of the Assets Examination Committee.

MNA/Xinhua

Iran ready for N-tech coop with Egypt

CAIRO, 1 Jan—Visiting Iran’s former chief nuclear negotiator Ali Larijani said here on Sunday that his country has the willingness to cooperate with Egypt in the field of nuclear technology, Egypt’s official MENA news agency reported.

Speaking at a Press conference held at the Egyptian Press Syndicate, Larijani said that Iran is fully ready if asked to cooperate with Egypt on nuclear technology.

The cooperation with Egypt would “come through the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and under its supervision”, Larijani said.

Larijani, an adviser to Iran’s supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, also said his country is willing to cooperate with Egypt and all other Arab countries to reach security and stability throughout the Arab world, especially in Iraq and Lebanon.— MNA/Xinhua



Villagers and policemen inspect the wreckage of a car at the landslide-affected area at Karang Anyar district near Solo, Indonesia’s Central Java province, on 31 Dec, 2007.

INTERNET

Pakistan suffers “colossal” damage in violence

ISLAMABAD, 1 Jan — Pakistan has suffered colossal losses in rioting that erupted when opposition leader Benazir Bhutto was assassinated with damage of about 200 million US dollars to the railways alone, the government said on Monday.

Former prime minister Bhutto was killed

in a gun and bomb attack as she left an election rally in the city of Rawalpindi on Thursday. Violence began as news of her death spread, particularly in her home province of Sindh in the south.

Sporadic violence flared again in Sindh on Monday but there were no reports of further deaths after four days of

in Iraq, General David Petraeus, said on Saturday.

In an end-of-year briefing for journalists in Baghdad, Petraeus said he viewed Sunni Arab al-Qaeda as the main enemy in Iraq because it aims to reignite sectarian violence. He also described progress by Iraq’s neighbours, saying attacks using Iranian weapons had declined, and praising Syria and Saudi Arabia for curbing the flow of foreign fighters. Assessing the overall security situation in Iraq, Petraeus said progress toward curbing sectarian violence was “tenuous in many areas and could be reversed”.

disturbances in which 47 people were killed.

“The loss to public property and infrastructure has been colossal,” the caretaker government said in a statement after a cabinet meeting in Islamabad. “Manufacturing, revenue, exports have all suffered badly.”

MNA/Reuters



Fireworks explode over the Red Square during New Year’s celebrations in Moscow on 1 Jan, 2008. — XINHUA

North Korea slams US ahead of nuclear deadline

SEOUL, 1 Jan—North Korea, facing a looming deadline in a nuclear disarmament deal, blamed the United States on Monday for hurting the prospects for peace on the

Korean Peninsula with plans to attack the reclusive state.

North Korea is almost certain to miss an end-of-year deadline to give a full accounting of its

nuclear arms programmes under a disarmament-for-aid deal it struck earlier this year with regional powers, including the United States.

“The reality testifies once again that there is no change in the US intention to invade us with force and occupy the whole of Korea, although the US is uttering ‘peace’ and ‘dialogue’,” the North’s Communist Party newspaper said in a commentary. “Dialogue and war attempts can’t stand together.”

The US Government has said Washington has no plans to attack North Korea. In Washington, US officials on Sunday said North Korea has not yet fully accounted for its nuclear activities.

MNA/Reuters



Residents of Montevideo try to avoid getting soaked while walking in the financial district of the city on 31 Dec, 2007. On the last working day of the year, workers in the financial district throw water over pedestrians to celebrate the end of the year.—INTERNET

Britain tops western Europe in teenage mom number

LONDON, 1 Jan — The British Government has admitted for the first time that sex education initiatives are failing to control teenage pregnancy rates.

Every year, almost 50,000 girls under 18 fall pregnant and the number who conceive is at its highest level since a multi-million-pound(US dollar) teenage pregnancy crackdown almost a decade ago, *Sunday Telegraph* reported.

Britain therefore tops the league table of teenage mothers in Western Europe, despite its record number of school-age abortions.

The government has invested over 150 million pounds (some 300 million US dollars) to stem the

tide of conceptions, pledging to cut teenage pregnancy rates by half by the end of 2010.

A performance report on the Department of Health website confirmed that progress towards the target has been hit by “slippage”.

Contrasting the 50 per cent target, the conception rate has dropped by only 11 per cent since 1998.

At the same time, the overall number of teenage pregnancies has gone up to more than 47,000 a year.

Britain now has the highest teenage birth rate — six times that of Holland, four times that of Italy and three times higher than in France, said the report.

MNA/Xinhua

Iraq bomb kills eleven, including five children

Baghdad, 1 Jan— A suicide car bomb killed five children and six neighbourhood patrol volunteers on the outskirts of Baghdad on Monday, an Interior Ministry source said.

The bomber struck a checkpoint manned by neighbourhood patrol volunteers near a school in Tarmiya, north of the Iraqi capital. Seven patrol volunteers were wounded. The child victims were attending the school.

MNA/Reuters



A Hungarian climber stands under a giant column of a frozen waterfall, the largest man-made ice-climbing territory of Hungary near Felsőhamor at the Bukk Mountain, during their night-training on a 40 metres tall ice wall.

INTERNET

Belarus threatens to expel US ambassador

MINSK, 31 Dec— Belarus will expel the US ambassador and ban trade in US dollars if Washington decides to impose substantial new sanctions on the country, President Alexander Lukashenko said on Sunday.

The Bush Administration, which has dubbed ex-Soviet Belarus “the last dictatorship in Europe”, has introduced a series of punitive measures against

Belarus, including a ban on Lukashenko visiting the United States.

Washington also prohibited Americans from doing business with Belarus’ oil refiner Belneftekhim and froze any assets it has under US jurisdiction.

In mid-December US Ambassador Karen Stewart said Washington may extend sanctions against state companies in Belarus

controlled by people she said were responsible for infringements of democracy. Lukashenko said on Sunday if new sanctions were broad, she would be expelled.

“As soon as substantial sanctions against our economy are imposed, we will retaliate in a toughest possible way on all fronts,” Belarus’ state media quoted Lukashenko as saying.—MNA/Reuters

Russia to choose cosmonauts for piloted flight to Mars

Moscow, 31 Dec— Russia plans to pick out and train a group of cosmonauts in February for a piloted flight to Mars years later, *ITAR TASS* news agency reported on Saturday.

The selection of participants for a “Mars expedition” is under way and four Russians plus

two Europeans will be enrolled, said Anatoly Grigoryev, director of the Medico-Biological Studies Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

The candidates are required to be able to speak Russian and English, with excellent physical conditions and

professional skills, typically specialization in several fields, he said.

Six Russian volunteers five men and one woman including a biologist, a physician and four engineers have participated in the first experiment that involved a two-week isolated stay in a “Mars craft” model, much shorter than the planned 520-day “piloted flight to Mars”.

The first experiment ended on 29 November and the second 105-day phase will begin in mid-February, Grigoryev said.

The cosmonaut list will be announced in late 2008.

They will be isolated in a 550-cubic metre “Mars vehicle” that was developed by Grigoryev’s institute with all life-support systems loaded in.

MNA/Reuters



A group of youth get themselves photographed with a balloon seller as they take part in the festivities on New Year’s Eve in Bangalore, India, on 31Dec, 2007. — INTERNET

Gunmen kidnap 11 truck drivers in northern Iraq

TIKRIT (Iraq), 1 Jan — Gunmen attacked a convoy of trucks in the province of Salahudin north of Baghdad on Sunday, kidnapping 11 truck drivers, a provincial police source said.

The unknown gunmen set up a faked checkpoint on the main road near the town of Sulaiman Bek, 90 kilometres east of the provincial capital of Tikrit, and kidnapped the drivers of the trucks that were carrying food stuff to the northern city of Mosul, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

MNA/Xinhua

118 killed in Thai road accidents within 2 days

BANGKOK, 1 Jan — A total of 118 people were killed and 1,254 others were injured in road accidents across Thailand in the first two days of the weeklong New Year holidays, the Interior Ministry announced Sunday. Nirand Jongwut, deputy permanent secretary for Interior, said that 1,147 road accidents happened on Friday and Saturday, the first two days of the “seven dangerous days” when authorities step up security measures to try to reduce the number of road accidents.

MNA/Xinhua

Italy’s Arianna Follis (R) and Finland’s Pirjo Muranen compete during a semifinal heat of the women’s 1 km race of the Tour de Ski World Cup cross country sprint skiing event in Prague on 30 Dec, 2007.

INTERNET



ECONOMIC NEWS

China's commuter aircraft receives 20 new orders

BEIJING, 31 Dec — China's self-developed commuter aircraft, the Modern Ark 60 (MA60), has received new purchasing or leasing orders of 20 aircraft over the weekend to make its total orders to 116.

The China Aviation Industry Corporation I (AVIC1) announced on Sunday that its subsidiary, the Xi'an Aircraft Industry (Group) Company Ltd (XAC), has signed contracts with Yunnan Ying'an Airlines and AVIC1 Leasing Company for the purchasing and leasing of the 20 MA60 twin turbo-prop commuters.

Of the 20 planes, 10 are purchasing and leasing contracts while the other half are orders of intent.

The first 10 planes will

be delivered in three batches starting in May 2008. MA60 is the most successful civil aviation aircraft developed by China so far.

It has a maximum take-off weight of 21,800 kilograms and a seating capacity of up to 60 passengers.

The XAC said the plane has been designed and developed according

to the requirements of CCAR-25 and FAR-25, its safety, reliability, comfort, economy and maintainability have reached to or are close to the level of similar advanced commuter aircraft in the world. MA60 has been exported to Zimbabwe, Zambia, Indonesia and other countries.

MNA/Xinhua



A South Korean girl grapples with clay in a pottery workshop on 30 Dec at Jiangnan University in Wuhan, capital of central China's Hubei Province.

INTERNET

China to crack down on illegal food production, sale

BEIJING, 1 Jan — China will launch another nationwide campaign on 1 January next year to crack down on unlicensed production and sale of food, in a fresh effort to ensure food safety, the country's top quality inspection watchdog said.

The campaign will target 28 categories of foods, including rice, cooking oil, meat, dairy products, instant noodles, tea and beer, according to the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine.

Sales of such food products without quality and inspection certificates will also be cracked down on.

Those who break the law will be severely punished, the administration said.

A total of 192,400 unlicensed food shops were closed and some 1,254 tons of substandard food were withdrawn from

the Chinese markets over the last four months, according to the State Administration for Industry and Commerce.

MNA/Xinhua

Tax reform bill approved in Ecuador

QUITO, 31 Dec — Ecuador's constitutional assembly has approved a tax reform bill introduced by President Rafael Correa, media reports said on Saturday.

Under the bill, approved late on Friday, companies must make anticipated payments of their income tax, and it will also impose a 0.5 duty on capital outflows and special levies on unproductive lands.

In addition, the new law will levy a 70 percent tax on future revenues generated by mining companies above a set contractual price.

The tax will be appli-

cable for oil companies.

Opposition leaders say the new law will increase the tax burdens of the poor and middle-class people.

And business leaders have threatened not to

comply with new taxes.

The new law is expected to generate an additional 300 million US dollars in revenues per year, government figures show.

MNA/Xinhua

Peru's exports to hit record high in 2007

LIMA, 31 Dec — Peru's export value is expected to hit a record high of 27.5 billion US dollars in 2007, up 18 per cent from last year, according to a recent report from the country's national association of exporters.

The report also predicted that the export would reach 30 billion dollars in 2008.

The export of minerals still took the lion's share, accounting for 75 per cent of the total.

And exports for processed agricultural products and ready-made garments enjoyed biggest increases, the report said.

□MNA/Xinhua



Design of Shanghai Expo Performance Centre. World Expo Shanghai organizers announced the start of construction on the Expo Performance Center located in the southeast of the Expo site, on 30 Dec, 2007.—XINHUA

Brazil's Christmas e-commerce rises 55%

RIO DE JANEIRO, 31 Dec — This year's Christmas online commercial operations increased 55 percent in Brazil over the same period in 2006, according to a study released by consulting firm E-bit on Saturday.

The rise was registered in the 40-day period that preceded 25 December.

The study reported that e-commerce had revenues of 1.081 billion reais (610.7 million US dollars) in Brazil, up from 693 million reais (391.5 million US dollars) in Christmas 2006.

Electric and electronic devices represented 17 per cent of the e-commerce, followed by books, magazines and newspapers, which accounted for 16

per cent of the operations.

Computer devices (13 per cent) and cell phones (11 per cent) also occupied significant positions in the ranking, which was traditionally led by CDs and DVDs up to 2006.

Those products, however, represented 11 per cent of all online purchases this Christmas, occupying the fifth position. Ordinary retail, which includes street shopping and malls, remains as the most popular type of commerce in the country. But it reported a rise of only 9.9 per cent in Christmas 2007, in relation to the results achieved in the

same period last year.

E-bit also estimated that Brazil's online customers will exceed 9.5 million in 2007, up 35 per cent from 2006, as the fall in prices for computers and the expansion of broadband services led approximately 2.5 million citizens to make their first purchase on the Internet this year.

The firm added that total online sales will top out at 6.4 billion reais (3.6 billion US dollars) in 2007, up 45 per cent from 2006. In 2008, E-bit expects that growth to range from 35 per cent to 40 percent.

MNA/Xinhua



A young boy, wearing a bear fur, watches New Year ritual dances in Comanesti, 300 kilometers north of Bucharest, Romania, on 30 Dec, 2007.

INTERNET

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura
Tin Aung Myint Oo ...

(from page 1)

renewable energy research conducted by Yangon Western University, lab equipment, scale model of cold storage built by Physics Department of Yangon University, windmill built by Physics Department of Toungoo University, books compiled and published by Myanmar Language Commission, teaching aids on English and chemistry, use of IT in basic education sector, outstanding students of 2007-2008, literacy rates of successive periods and measures taken for non-formal education.

The Secretary-1 and party enjoyed the musical performance of the school family day at the gymnasium.

The musical performance included songs and dance of students, skill of gold, silver medalists of international competitions.

Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein presented gift to Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin.

The school family day will continue till 3 January.—MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo attends opening ceremony of School Family Day for 2007-08 academic year. — MNA



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo enjoys musical performance at School Family Day for 2007-08 academic year. — MNA

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects...

(from page 16)

Hanthawady Tax-free Market in Sangyoung Township.

Shops at the markets are opened by Ministry of Industry-1, Ministry

of Energy, YCDC, regiments and battalions under Yangon Command, district/township PDCs farmers of vegetables and meat production special zones in Yangon Division,

Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries, Central Fish Market in Kyimyindine Township and Bayintnaung Brokerage and private dealers.

MNA



Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing inspects Royal Ruby Jade Hotel. —H&T



Minister for Hotels and Tourism inspects training school, hotels in Yangon

YANGON, 1 Jan — Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing, together with Director-General of Directorate of Hotels and Tourism U Htay Aung and Managing Director U Hla Htay of Myanma Hotel and Tourism Services, met

trainees of basic course No 9 on tourism management at the tourism training school on Bo Sun Pat Street on 28 December. A total of 104 trainees are attending the eight-week course.

On 29 December, the Minister inspected deco-

ration of rooms, water and power supply, sanitation of hotel and its surrounding areas and services at Royal Ruby Jade Hotel. The minister also inspected construction sites of Emerald Rose Garden Hotel and Center Point Towers.—MNA

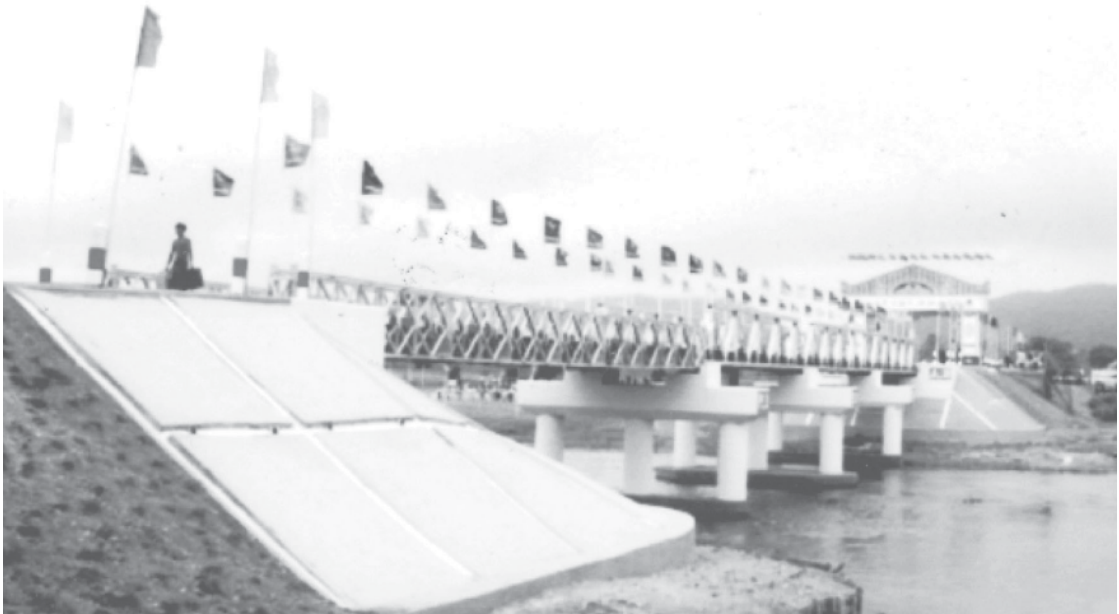


Pyapon Bridge was built in Pyapon Township of Pyapon District, Ayeyawady Division.

*The photo shows
Salin Creek Bridge
constructed in Salin
Township of Minbu
District, Magway
Division.*

**Hailing the 60th
Anniversary
Independence Day**

*The opening ceremony of Dunban Bridge was held in
Phakant Township of Kachin State.*



**Achievements
of the road
transport
(bridge)
sector
throughout
the nation in
2007**

State No.	Bridge	Location	Length (Feet)	Opening Date
201.	Var Bridge	Falam Township, Chin State	340	12-2-07
202.	Meza Creek (Doebin Village)	Htigyaing Township, Sagaing Division	260	10-3-07
203.	Pyapon Bridge	Pyapon Township, Ayeyawady Division	3993	20-3-07
204.	Phatashin Bridge	Myanaung Township, Ayeyawady Division	469	25-3-07
205.	Ngamoeyeik Bridge (Kamakyi)	Thingangyun Township, Yangon Division	970	28-4-07
206.	Paingkyon Bridge	Hlaingbwe Township, Kayin State	1170	1-6-07
207.	Hangan Bridge	Ye Township, Mon State	200	6-6-07
208.	Salin Creek Bridge	Salin Township, Magway Division	230	6-6-07
209.	Dunban Bridge	Phakant Township, Kachin State	216	18-7-07
210.	Dagon Bridge	Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Township, Yangon Division	4540	27-10-07
211.	Mongpun Bridge	Loilem Township, Shan State (South)	208	21-11-07

The opening ceremony of Mongpun Bridge in progress in Loilem Township linking Shan State (South) and Shan State (East).



HAILING THE 60th ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY

People should not be complacent about independence

Hlaing Aung

Cherish the Independence, safeguard it at the risk of lives



Myanmar's independence has nearly passed its 60th anniversary. As for a nation, a period of 60 years is not long much. However, the period can be deemed long to a great extent, if it is compared with the life-span of human beings. A person who was born just after the independence has turned 60 or at his old age. It is worth thinking of what he has done in the interests of the nation and the people in the 60-year period.

Building a new nation after regaining independence is like building a house in a plot of land of one's own after living in a small room annexed to other's house.

For the first stage, he has to clear all the wild plants in the area, level the ground and build a fence. In like manner, if it is desired to establish a nation, regions are to be brought together, territory is to be delineated, and national races, who will live together sharing joys and sorrows, are to be consolidated. This stage is territorial integration and national consolidation. In this stage, an independent nation has to deal with a variety of challenges and difficulties. For

instance, India, just after it had regained independence, had to engage in the border incident with Pakistan, resulting from Kashmir issue. Some nations split into two parts and each remained separate for a long time, stemming from the aftershocks of the Cold War. Vietnam, for instance, split into southern part and northern part divided at the 17th parallel line after Geneva Agreement was signed in 1957. Only after the Vietnam War did the two parts of the nation reunite in 1975.

Reunification of the two regions is not enough to establish a nation. Like the process that the construction of the house is launched by laying a foundation and setting up pillars, after erecting a fence and clearing wild plants, the establishment of a nation calls for carrying out State-building and nation-building tasks with efforts. In the process, it is needed to brave a wide range of difficulties. If a house has been built, all family members need to be united with enough income. Some countries are dealing with internal armed conflicts owing to disunity among the people and in sequence, the people concerned are not in a position to rebuild their mother country. Only in the early 1970s, could Malaysia, which regained independence from the British in 1957, start its nation-building tasks with might and main. Some

nations unavoidably tried to regain independence, but faced difficulties, resulting from lack of funds and natural resources. The first-ever prime minister of Singapore Lee Kuan Yue in his memoirs said that in 1965 when Singapore regained independence, it had no funds or soldiers, and the status of the majority of the people was just like ship porters. So, he was deeply concerned over the future of the nation and was in tears, he said.

Actually, it is no bed of roses for every country trying hard from national reconstruction till it has been able to keep abreast of international level. Some countries lost their way on their path towards development. Some countries collapsed while their development tasks were in full swing. When I learnt about the miseries of some countries like Somalia and Sudan that are not in a position to seek ways to tackle the issues they are facing due to foreign interference in their civil wars following disunity among the people, I recalled the incidents that had taken place after Myanmar had just regained independence. At that time, the administrative machinery of Yangon government covered only as far as Thamaing junction.

Iraq and Afghanistan are now uneasy due to the fact that they have been invaded by foreign

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HAILING THE 60th ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY

People should not be complacent about independence

Hlaing Aung

(from page 8)

troops, and cannot restore security and carry out nation-building undertakings with sham independence and puppet governments. Many civilians are losing their lives under the attacks alien troops are launching indiscriminately. Nonetheless, they daren't criticize harshly, let alone taking action. Their conditions evoked my memories of the sham independence Fascist Japan granted Myanmar and the puppet government with chancellor Dr Ba Maw in the time of Japanese Fascists.

The saying "United we stand, divided we fall" has become more meaningful because now the world's strongest military power and political influence are in the hands of some countries that are desperate to establish a modern empire. In the present period, such countries are trying to drive a wedge among the people. And if their attempts do not work, the power-maniac would not hesitate to use force and threat with atomic bombs. In other words, now is the period in which certain countries use the expression "World War III" irresponsibly. And they do not respect international law and sovereignty of other countries at all and place much reliance on armed power as truth.

Therefore, only with a strong army will a

nation be able to protect and safeguard its independence on its own during the period of power politics. Nationalistic fervour, patriotism and national unity are basic requirements for enhancing its strength. In addition, these requirements serve as the main driving force for building a nation capable of catching up with other countries.

I have never heard of a country that has become a developed one through shirking duties among the people, rivalry for power, protests, riots and confrontation. However, I have heard about the countries that have made dramatic progress through national solidarity, patriotism, sacrifices, thrifty, hard work, discipline, and abiding by law.

Myanmar has regained independence for 60 years. Our ancestors had been dutiful, sacrificing their lives, blood and sweat in the movements starting from the First Anglo-Myanmar War (1824) to the Anti-Fascist Resistance and national independence struggles. Have younger generations after the independence been dutiful in the tasks for perpetuation of independence, and peace and development of the independent nation? I would like them to answer this question only after making a self-criticism.

Translation: MS

POEM:

Safeguard Independence

* Land Myanmar
Lived under enslavement
For years over hundred
So deprived was she
Having only few bridges
Transport so poor

* Prospering were occupiers
With teak, rice, oil and gems
They took away
While Myanmar born natives
Living on insufficient food, clothing
And huts as only homes

* So much worried colonialists
Reawakening of Myanmar races
Intellectual knowledge resurgence
Through transport and trade
Building very few wide roads
For even neighbours to think
They were far apart

* Freedom regained Myanmar
Tatmadaw today with high vision
Building infrastructures
Facilitating transport
Bridging wide rivers
Enhancing amity ever
Border areas it develops
With schools, dispensaries
Also high-rise buildings
Progress so amazing

* Oh... beware of neocolonialists
And their evil plots
Attacking Myanmar
External, internal demands and plots
If not met
And if met
More demands and plots they make
Always see their intentions
Safeguarding independence
That's the people's duty.

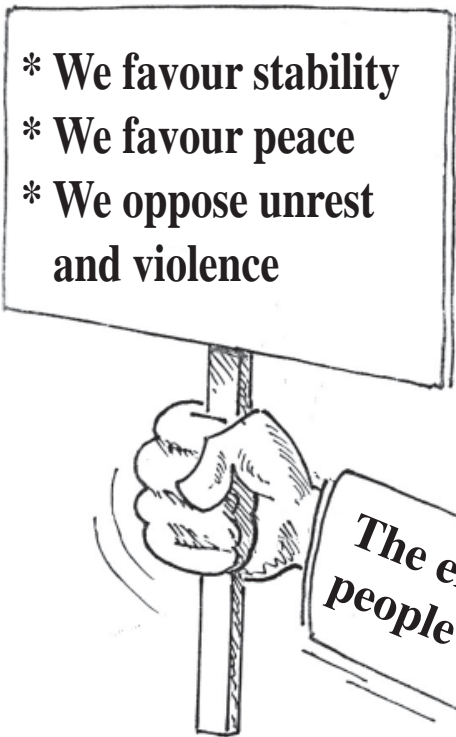
(Hailing the 60th Anniversary Independence Day)

Khun Ye Thwe (Ayethaya) (Trs)

Only with a strong army will a nation be able to protect and safeguard its independence on its own during the period of power politics. Nationalistic fervour, patriotism and national unity are basic requirements for enhancing its strength. In addition, these requirements serve as the main driving force for building a nation capable of catching up with other countries.



Neo-colonialist and Internal/External destructionists



Ye Min Htet

Vietnam inaugurates S-E Asia’s biggest 4D cinema

HANOI, 31 Dec—A Vietnamese company is to inaugurate a four-dimension (4D) cinema in Vietnam’s southern Ho Chi Minh City on 31 December, the biggest of this kind in Southeast Asia, local newspaper *Young People* reported Monday.

The city-based Suoi Tien Tourism and Culture Company and its partner has poured nearly 1.3 million US dollars into building the 120-seat cinema in the Suoi Tien Theme Park, which will offer viewers most thrilling feelings due to the adoption of 4D films and equipment supplied by US firm SimEx-Iwerks

SimEx-Iwerks, the leader in 3D and 4D films, special effects experiences, and motion simulator ride theaters, has supplied and installed over 300 3D and 4D cinemas in 42 countries, the newspaper said.—MNA/Xinhua



A lighted display in the shape of an hour glass glows on the Sydney Harbour Bridge during a New Year’s Eve fireworks celebrations show on 31 Dec, 2007. Known for its choreographed and themed fireworks displays, this year’s display is titled “The Time of Our Lives.”—XINHUA



A pyrotechnic is set off around the International Finance Centre, Hong Kong’s tallest building at Hong Kong’s Victoria Harbour to celebrate the New Year, on 1 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Lack of deep sleep may increase risk of type 2 diabetes

WASHINGTON, 31 Dec—Suppression of deep sleep in healthy young adults significantly decreases their ability to regulate blood-sugar levels and increases the risk of type 2 diabetes, researchers at the University of Chicago Medical Center reported on Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.

Deep sleep, also called “slow-wave sleep,” is thought to be the most restorative sleep stage. This study found that after only three nights of selective deep sleep suppression, young healthy subjects became less sensitive to insulin.

Although they needed more insulin to dispose of the same amount of glucose, their insulin secretion did not increase to compensate for the reduced sensitivity, resulting in reduced tolerance to glucose and increased risk for type 2 diabetes. The decrease in insulin sensitivity was comparable to that caused by gaining 20 to 30 pounds, said the researchers.

Previous studies have demonstrated that reduced sleep quantity can impair glucose metabolism and appetite regulation resulting in increased risk of obesity and diabetes. However, this current study provides the first evidence linking poor sleep quality to increased diabetes risk.—Internet

Leading newspapers in DPRK issue joint New Year editorial

PYONGYANG, 1 Jan — *Rodung Sinmun*, *Joseon Inmingun* and *Chongnyon Jonwi* today released the joint New Year editorial “Glorify This Year of the 60th Anniversary of the Founding of the DPRK as a Year of Historical Turn Which Will Go Down in the History of the Country” on the occasion of the New Year, Junhe 97 (2008).

The following are excerpts from the editorial:

“Today we are greeting the New Year Junhe 97 (2008) with a great ambition and optimism in the hope-filled future of socialist Korea. Our cause of building a great, prosperous and powerful country which made a vigorous advance under the leadership of the great Workers’ Party of Korea has entered a new historical stage. At present, when a bright morning is breaking in this land dignified for Songun to promise prosperity, our soldiers and people are full of pride in being victors and of militant mettle, and the whole country is seething with an unprecedented spirit of creation and advance.

Korean-style socialism that has tided over the storm and stress of history under the WPK’s Songun leadership is vibrant with great vigour winning victory after victory, and the day is coming towards us when the building of a great, prosperous powerful country will emerge victorious. In the 60-year annals of the DPRK, never has there been such a time as today when its dignity and power have reached the highest stage and the soldiers and people are full of confidence in the future and are burning with the enthusiasm for bringing about an upswing.

As there are the experienced and seasoned leadership of the WPK, the strong political and military might and the fervent patriotic zeal of all the soldiers and people, a great prosperous and powerful socialist country of Junhe will surely be built on this land and shine in the world.

Let us all work harder for the prosperity of the country and the completion of the revolutionary cause of Junhe rallied closely around the headquarters of the revolution headed by Kim Jong Il.” — MNA

4.5m minors to get polio drops in Nepal

KATHMANDU, 31 Dec—As many as 4.5 million minors under the age of five years are getting polio drops on Saturday in 68 districts of Nepal except the seven Himalayan districts under the National Polio Drops Programme.

A total of 40,000 drop centres and 50,000 health volunteers have been mobilized under the programme. Nearly 13,000 health workers have been mobilized for monitoring and inspection, said Child Health Division under the Ministry of Health and Population.

According to the division, a house-to-house campaign will be held on Sunday to ensure no child

is left without the polio drops. In a bid to immunize all children under the age of five against polio and to eliminate polio from the country under its global commitment, such campaigns are being organized twice a year in the country since the last 11 years in the Terai-Hilly region and the Himalayan region separately. The polio administering campaign was started in Nepal in 1996.—MNA/Xinhua

A fishing boat is tied up at Jimbaran beach on resort island of Bali, during high seas and wild weather. A cargo ship sank in rough seas in eastern Indonesia killing three people and leaving five missing, while the turbulent waters also killed two swimmers, officials and witnesses said Monday.—INTERNET



Images of the Day



A member of “Kampfmittelbeseitigungsdienst” (weapon disposal unit) stands next to a World War II bomb in Hanover on 30 Dec, 2007. German media reported that some 14,000 citizens of Hanover were evacuated while explosives experts defused a World War II bomb found in the city.

XINHUA



An employee sets a gold dragon figurine at the new exhibition hall of the Shaanxi History Museum in Xi'an, North-west China's Shaanxi Province, on 27 Dec, 2007. More than 100 gold or silver articles of Tang Dynasty (618 - 907AD) were relocated to the museum.

XINHUA



A goat with six horn stands in the herd of goats at a farm in Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region on 28 Aug, 2007. The owner said the goat began to grow six horns shortly after its birth. Experts said it is fairly rare to see six-horned goats.

XINHUA



This photo taken on 28 Dec, 2007, shows an odd-shaped egg, which was found at a chicken farm in Yingkou, a city in northeastern China's Liaoning Province. The egg looks like a type of gold ingot that was used in ancient China. —XINHUA



A strange-looking fish with crocodile jaws was caught in a lake in Anshan, Northeast China's Liaoning Province, on 21 Aug, 2007. Lakeside residents said they had never seen such kind of fish, even though they had fished in the lake for years. According to experts, the catch, 90 centimeters long and three kilograms in weight, is a spotted gar, a ferocious predator which originates in the Americas and is raised by many as a pet. —XINHUA

ADVERTISEMENT

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KABUSHIKI KAISHA
(also trading as CITIZEN
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Japanese corporation of 1-12,
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in respect of "Watches and
clocks".



ADEC

Reg. No. 1193/1985
Reg. No. 2020/2000

in respect of "Watches and
parts and fittings therefor".

CITIZEN

Reg. No. 2319/1995

in respect of "Int'l Class 9:
Electronic calculators, com-
puters and peripheral equip-
ments thereof (such as,
video for data communica-
tion terminal, printers, floppy
disc, magnetic head, floppy
disc drive); applied electro-
nic display apparatus, (such
as, liquid crystal display
panel, electrochromix dis-
play, electroluminescent
display); electric commu-
nication machines and appa-
ratus, (such as, television
apparatus, radios, VTR
camera, VTR tapes, tele-
phone, facsimile, CD player);
electronic clinical thermo-
meter, scale (weighing
instruments or device human
use); battery, spectacles and
parts thereof, contact lenses".

Reg. No. 4300/1998
in respect of "Watches, clocks
and other horological instru-
ments and parts and fittings
thereof".

Eco-Drive

Reg. No. 3917/1998
in respect of "Watches".

MIYOTA

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watches".

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clocks and other horological
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fittings thereof".

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Trade Marks will be dealt
with according to law.

Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for CITIZEN HOLDINGS
KABUSHIKI KAISHA
P. O. Box 60, Yangon.
Dated: 2 January 2008

INVITATION FOR TENDER
(TENDER NO. 11 (T) MPE/MOGAS(2)/2007-2008)

1. Sealed Tenders are invited for the Myanma Petro-
chemical Enterprise, the Ministry of Energy for the
Supply of Mogas (92-RON) (3,000±10%) Metric
Tons.
2. Tender Closing Date:(15-1-2008) at (12:00) noon
3. Tender Opening Date: (15-1-2008) at (13:00)hrs
4. Delivery Time:Last Week of February 2008
5. Tender Documents and details information are
available at the Department of Finance, Myanma
Petrochemical Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during of-
fice hours commencing (3-1-2008) on payment of
the One Hundred (100) FEC per set.
6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender
document officially from Myanma Petrochemical
Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise

သစ်တောသစ်ပင် ချစ်ခင်တဲ့လူမျိုး၊
သစ်ပင်ကို နှစ်စဉ်စိုက် ရွှေတိုက်ကိုစိုး။

MYANMAR IVANHOE COPPER COMPANY LIMITED

(TENDER NOTICE)

TENDER IFB No. TRA-D-08

Supply of Diesel Transport Services

CLOSING DATE & TIME

17th January 2008 at 4:00 p.m.

Tender documents are available at the following address and queries can be done between 10 am to 4pm at
MICCL Yangon office before the tender closing date.

Myanmar Ivanhoe Copper Company Limited

70(I) Bo Chein Street, Pyay Road, Hlaing Township

Yangon, Myanmar (Tel: (95) 1 514194 to 7/ Fax: (95) 1 514208/ Email: miccl@miccl.com.mm)

MYANMAR IVANHOE COPPER COMPANY LIMITED

(TENDER NOTICE)

TENDER. IFB No. CUCL-08

Supply of Custom Clearance & Related Services

CLOSING DATE & TIME

17th January 2008 at 4:00 p.m.

Tender documents are available at the following address and queries can be done between 10 am to 4pm at
MICCL Yangon office before the tender closing date.

Myanmar Ivanhoe Copper Company Limited

70(I) Bo Chein Street, Pyay Road, Hlaing Township

Yangon, Myanmar (Tel: (95) 1 514194 to 7/ Fax: (95) 1 514208/ Email: miccl@miccl.com.mm)

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (201)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH
VOY NO (201) are hereby notified that the vessel will
be arriving on 2.1.2008 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 up to Claims Day now
declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo
from the vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES PTE LTD

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV VASCO DA GAMA VOY NO (VDG-079)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VASCO DA
GAMA VOY NO (079) are hereby notified that the
vessel will be arriving on 2.1.2008 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 up to Claims Day now
declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo
from the vessel.

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Ancient Chinese boat arrives at
purpose-built museum

YANGJIANG, 31 Dec—
An 800-year-old Chinese
merchant ship loaded with
precious trading goods
was moved to its purpose-
built museum on Friday
in Guangdong Province,
five days after being raised
from the sea.

The intricate salvage
process, which involved
constructing a special
container around the
5,000-ton *Nanhai* (South
China Sea) No 1, finished
with the delivery of the 30
metres wooden vessel to
its "Crystal Palace" at the
Marine Silk Road
Museum in Yangjiang.

The glass pool featured
a water temperature,
pressure and other
environmental conditions
that were the same as
where the ship had rested
on the sea floor for
centuries. Workers
planned to fill the pool

with 12 metres of
seawater. They would also
spray water on the vessel
sporadically to ensure its
safety, said Shan Jixiang,
State Administration of
Cultural Heritage director.
The pool was to be sealed
after the ship and silt taken
from the sea were put in.

Shan said archaeologists
would start collecting the
estimated 60,000-80,000
pieces of cultural relics from
the boat after a minimum of
at least six months. The
excavation of its contents
could last between three to
five years, Shan said. He
expected it to take longer to
conduct the archaeological
research of the boat and its
relics.

The ship was raised
from about 30 metres of
water in the South China
Sea by crane on Saturday.
Guangdong had
earmarked 150 million

yuan (20.3 million US
dollars) to build the
Marine Silk Road
Museum.

MNA/Xinhua

Bank Holidays

All Banks will be closed
on 4th January (Friday)
Independence Day and 8th
January (Tuesday) Karen
New Year Day 2008, being
Public Holidays under the
Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of
Myanmar



Dancers from the Russian State Ballet Troupe
perform "Swan Lake" in Guiyang, capital of
southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 30 Dec,
2007.—XINHUA



A New Year's Eve fireworks show called 'The Grand Finale' is set off on the edge of the Ottawa River bellow Parliament Hill in Ottawa on 31 Dec, 2007, to mark the end of the 150th anniversary of Queen Victoria announcing Ottawa as Canada's capital.—INTERNET

Chinese famous actor Sun Daolin dies

SHANGHAI, 31 Dec— Well-known Chinese actor, vocal artist and director Sun Daolin died of an unspecified illness at age 86 at the Huadong Hospital in Shanghai on Friday.

The hospital declined to provide further details.

Sun, born in Beijing in December 1921, began his career as a stage and film actor in the 1940s and appeared in 100 movies and plays. He was most popular among people who are now in their 50s and 60s. He also did Chinese voiceovers for a dozen foreign films, including Hamlet.

He was given an award for his contribution to China's film industry in 1995, the 90th anniversary of domestic cinema. Starting in 1984, Sun directed films, such as Architect Zhan Tianyou, which won him a top award for fiction film in China in 2001.

MNA/Xinhua



Performers celebrate the arrival of the new year during a show in Beijing on 31 Dec, 2007. The show celebrated the arrival of the new year and Beijing's hosting of the 2008 Olympic Games.—INTERNET

Asteroid's odds of hitting Mars increase



Gully channels in a crater in the southern highlands of Mars, taken by the High Resolution Imaging Science Experiment (HiRISE) camera on the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, are shown in this image released by NASA. — INTERNET

BEIJING, 1 Jan — The chance of a asteroid crashing into Mars next month has been raised to 4 percent, scientists said after analyzing archival data. Estimated to be about 150 feet across, the small asteroid designated will pass very close to Mars — and might hit it — when the two cross paths (upper left) on January 30th,

□□□ The asteroid, known as 2007 WD5, was discovered in late November by the NASA-financed Catalina Sky Survey in Arizona. Based on the latest information available, scientists said last week that there was a 1-in-75 chance the asteroid could hit Mars on Jan. 30.

□□□ Most likely, 2007 WD5 will miss Mars by about 15,000 miles. But if it should strike, it will do so at about 8 miles per second on January 30th, within a few minutes of 5:56 am Eastern Standard Time.—Internet

945 buildings heavily damaged in Ankara earthquake

ANKARA, 1 Jan — A total of 945 buildings were heavily damaged in the earthquake that struck the Turkish capital of Ankara and its towns on 27 December, said the Turkish Public Works and Housing Ministry on Monday.

“Following our works, we determined that 945 buildings were heavily damaged, seven were moderately damaged and 1,262 were slightly damaged,” said Sadik Yamac, undersecretary of the ministry.

An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.5 on the Richter Scale jolted Ankara on 27

December. Istanbul-based Kan-dilli Observatory and Seismology Institute said the quake was centered on Bala Town of Ankara.

On 20 December, an earthquake with a magnitude of 5.7 also shook Bala Town, but

caused no casualties.

Earthquakes are frequent in Turkey which lies on active fault lines. Two devastating earthquakes in the country in 1999 killed more than 18,000 people.

MNA/Xinhua

Japan to back targets for new climate deal

TOKYO, 31 Dec — Japan will accept numerical targets to cut global warming emissions in a new climate change pact, reversing its stance which came under fire at this month's UN-led talks over the deal, a newspaper reported on Sunday.

The *Mainichi Shimbun* said Japan plans to present a proposal to divide nations into not only developed and developing countries, but also into a third group, that would include China and India, and set targets for each group. Japan will also set up a five-year, 10 US dollars billion “finance

mechanism” to back up developing nations' efforts to tackle global warming with low-interest loans, the paper said.

At talks in Bali this month, nations agreed on a two-year “roadmap” to adopt a new treaty to succeed the Kyoto Protocol, the main existing plan for combating global warming, beyond 2012.

But it did not include a European Union-backed emissions cut target, which Japan, along with the United States, had rejected to the criticism of environmentalists.

MNA/Reuters

At least 19 die as Egypt bus crashes into canal

CAIRO, 1 Jan — At least 19 people were killed and 40 injured when a public inter-city bus collided with a truck and flipped into an irrigation canal in southern Egypt, security sources said on Monday.

The bus was travelling on a highway between the cities of Minya and Assiut in the Nile Valley, the sources said.

A series of transport accidents in recent years triggered a public outcry over the government's handling of transport safety. Many of those accidents have occurred on public holidays when Egypt's transport system becomes overloaded.

MNA/Reuters

Century City and downtown Los Angeles are seen through the smog on 31 Dec 2007.

INTERNET



SPORTS

Celtic, Rangers game called off after death of O'Donnell

LONDON, 1 Jan — Wednesday's Scottish Premier League game between Celtic and Rangers has been postponed as a mark of respect for late Motherwell and former Celtic midfielder Phil O'Donnell, league officials said on Monday.

O'Donnell, 35, died soon after collapsing on the pitch during Saturday's game between Motherwell and Dundee United. He spent five years at Celtic in the 1990s.

Motherwell have already postponed their next two games against Hibernian and Celtic while the Gretna v St. Mirren game scheduled for Wednesday at Motherwell's Fir Park was also called off. The 2 January holiday Old Firm clash is traditionally one of the biggest occasions in the Scottish soccer calendar, but players and staff at Celtic requested the postponement of the match at Celtic Park, and Rangers and league officials were happy to agree to it. — MNA/Reuters



Houston Rockets center Yao Ming (11), of China, tries to pass the ball as Golden State Warriors' Al Harrington (3) and Kelenna Azubuike, right, defend during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game on 31 Dec, 2007 in Houston.—INTERNET

Berbatov could leave Spurs in transfer window

LONDON, 1 Jan — Dimitar Berbatov would be prepared to leave Tottenham in January's transfer window if a big enough club made an offer, the Bulgarian striker's agent told British media on Monday.

"I have already spoken to the Tottenham chairman, Daniel Levy, and told him that if a club that corresponds to Dimitar's class and ambition comes in with an offer that suits his current club in January he would like to be allowed to go," Emil Dantchev told the Sun.

"Fans must understand that Dimitar is 27 next month and time is running out for him to play for a club that can match his ambition.

"I would like to stress this is not about money. This is about sporting ambition," Dantchev

added. The 26-year-old forward has been linked with a move to Premier League clubs including Manchester United and Arsenal since signing for Spurs in July 2006.

Spurs chairman Levy had on Sunday announced that no major moves were anticipated in the New

Year transfer window.

"(Manager) Juande (Ramos), (sporting director) Damien (Comolli) and I have reviewed the squad and Juande feels that we are not looking at any major changes," Levy told the Spurs website (www.tottenhamhotspur.com).

MNA/Reuters

Adriano escapes unscathed from car crash in Rio

RIO DE JANEIRO, 1 Jan — Troubled Brazilian striker Adriano, who joined Sao Paulo on loan from Inter Milan earlier this month, was involved in a car crash in the early hours of Monday morning, Brazilian media reported.

The 25-year-old, already courting controversy after being photographed holding a beer can at a pop concert 10 days ago, escaped unscathed from the incident in Rio de Janeiro, where he is on holiday.

Adriano's car was in collision with three other vehicles but nobody was hurt or arrested, reports said. Police could

not immediately be reached for comment.

Adriano, once one of Serie A's most feared strikers, moved to Sao Paulo after barely featuring for Inter in the last two seasons, which have seen him battling fitness and reported alcohol problems.

His international career has also taken a turn for the worse and he has played only once for Brazil since the 2006 World Cup. On arriving at Sao Paulo, he promised to turn over a new leaf but only two days later was photographed at a pop concert in Rio with a beer can in his hand.— MNA/Reuters

Grant urges Ballack to take extra responsibility

LONDON, 1 Jan — Chelsea manager Avram Grant urged Michael Ballack on Monday to take added responsibility in the absence of England internationals John Terry and Frank Lampard.

The Germany international has yet to shine at Stamford Bridge after struggling to acclimatise last season and this season he has been hampered by the effects of an ankle injury.

"If one sportsman or coach thinks he has nothing to prove then he is on his way down. He needs to take the responsibility if Lampard is there and also when he's not," Grant told a news conference.

Ballack gave an encouraging cameo performance against Liverpool in the League Cup quartersfinal a fortnight ago and has built on that with further uplifting displays against Aston Villa, where he scored his first goal of the season, and in the narrow victory over Newcastle United.

He was rewarded with the captain's armband following Joe Cole's substitution against Sam Allardyce's side and, with Lampard and Terry set to miss the Premier League match against Fulham on Tuesday (1245 GMT), Grant would have no hesitation in asking Ballack to lead his side against their west London neighbours.

"I gave the armband to him, firstly because all the other options were out and could not play. He is a good captain anyway and has experience with the German national team. He was the best to take it and it is best to give it to the most experienced one," Grant said.

"It's not easy for him. He didn't play for eight months. He played 70 minutes against Villa when the plan was for 30, which we didn't expect because Lampard got injured." — MNA/Reuters



Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber returns the ball to Oscar Hernandez of Spain during their Qatar Open ATP tennis tournament in Doha on 31 Dec, 2007.

INTERNET

Flamengo say they have talked to Ronaldo about move

MILAN, 1 Jan — Flamengo have held talks with Ronaldo and hope the striker can come to an agreement with AC Milan to allow him to move, the Brazilian club have said.

Milan denied last week that they had allowed Ronaldo to speak to Flamengo but the Brazilian side have now said discussions with the European champions are not necessary. "The interest is reciprocal. I have already spoken to Ronaldo, he wants to play with

Flamengo," Flamengo's vice-president Keber Leite was quoted as saying in Monday's Gazzetta Dello Sport.

"In two weeks we will present him with a final offer. We have nothing to say to Milan. We will not deal with them. It is up to Ronaldo to...resolve his contract."

The 31-year-old Ronaldo, whose Milan contract runs out at the

end of the season, has played just one game in this campaign because of nagging leg injuries.

He returned to Brazil earlier this month in a bid to recover and Milan hope he will be fit for the resumption of Serie A on 13 January. Rivals Inter Milan recently loaned their troubled Brazilian striker Adriano to Sao Paulo for six months.

MNA/Reuters



Sania Mirza of India plays a shot during her match against Alicia Molik of Australia at the Hopman Cup in Perth, Australia on 1 Jan, 2008. Mirza won the match 6-2 2-6 6-4.—INTERNET



Manchester City's Dietmar Hamann (R) challenges Liverpool's Steven Gerrard (R) for the ball during their English Premier League soccer match in Manchester, northern England, on 30 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

Man found shot dead on London estate

LONDON, 1 Jan— A 20-year-old man has been found fatally shot in the head on a housing estate in south London, police said on Sunday.

Police believe the man, who has yet to be formally identified, had been dead for more than 24 hours before his body was discovered on Thursday evening.

It was found in a communal garden on the Aylesbury estate in Southwark.

The man, who was

wearing a grey hooded top and black trousers, is thought to have been shot at around 4 p.m. on Boxing Day.

Police said a man wearing a hooded top had fired at the victim and a friend after they entered a stairwell on the estate.

The pair fled but became

separated. The dead man's friend reported him missing in the early hours of Thursday.

The incident is being investigated by the Metropolitan Police's Trident unit, which deals with crime within the capital's black community.

MNA/Reuters



Dancers from the Russia State Ballet Troupe perform "Swan Lake" in Guiyang capital of southwest China's Guizhou Province, 30 Dec, 2007.

XINHUA

US Soldier dies of non-combat injuries in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 1 Jan — An American soldier died of non-combat related injuries in Iraq, the US military said on Monday.

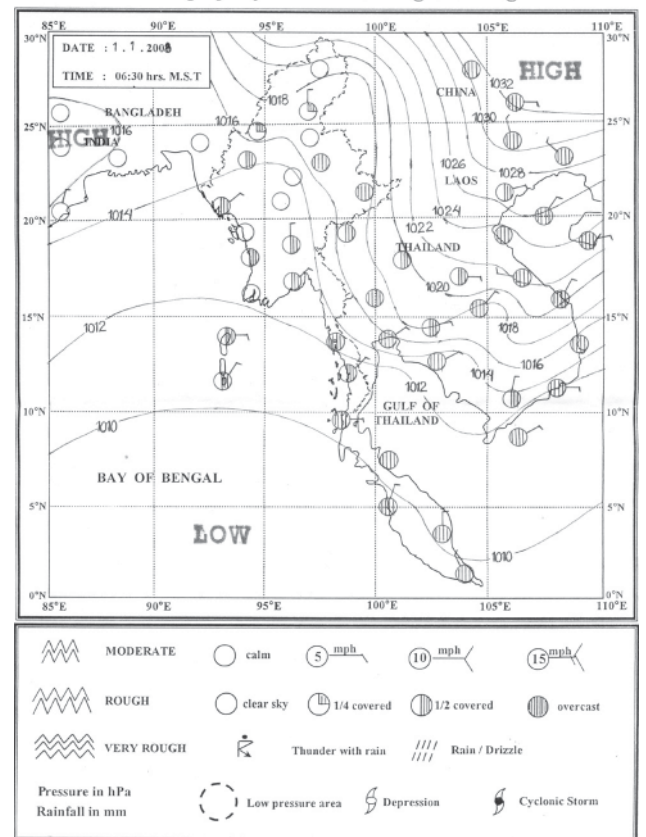
The Multi-National Division — Baghdad soldier died on Sunday, a military statement said without providing further details.

"The incident is under investigation, and the name of the deceased is being withheld pending notification of next of kin," the statement said.

The soldier's death brings the number of US soldiers who have been killed in Iraq to more than 3,900 since the US-led invasion in 2003, according to media count based on Pentagon figures.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Tuesday, 1 January, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hour

MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (5°C) below January average temperatures in Chin State, (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division and about January average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (-2°C), Loilim (2°C), Pinlaung, Heho and Mogoke (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 31-12-2007 was 94°F. Minimum temperature on 1-1-2008 was 63°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 1-1-2008 was 80%. Total sunshine hours on 31-12-2007 was (8.0) hours approx.

Rainfall on 1-1-2008 was nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from North at (16:30) hours MST on 31-12-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 2-1-2008: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State and Taninthayi Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

State of the sea: Strong easterly wind with moderate to rough seas are likely at time Gulf of mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (35) mph. Seas will be slight elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperature in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 2-1-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 2-1-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 2-1-2008: Fair weather.

Radio
Myanmar

Wednesday, 2 January
Tune in today

- 8:30 am Brief news
- 8:35 am Music: -Music
- 8:40 am Perspectives
- 8:45 am Music -Thank you for the music
- 8:50 am National news/Slogan
- 9:00 am Music: -Let the music heal your soul
- 9:05 am International news
- 9:10 am Music -Music
- 1:30 pm News/ Slogan
- 1:40 pm Lunch time music -Girl you shine -One in love
- 9:00pm Independence Day Song Feature (I)
- 9:10 pm Article
- 9:30 pm Music at your request -Stuck on you -Snow flake
- 9:45 pm News/Slogan
- 10:00 pm PEL

TV
Myanmar

Wednesday, 2 January

View on today

7:00 am

1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်း ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃမဟာနာယက အဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်၊ အဘိဓမ္မဟာရဋ္ဌာရ၊ အဘိဓမ္မ အဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မ စောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရီက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာ ဘိဝံသ၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am

5. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:10 am

6. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

8:20 am

7. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. Let's Go

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:15 pm

2. Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm

3. Practice in reading

4:45 pm

4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-ပထမနှစ် (ဓာတုဗေဒ၊ ရူပဗေဒ၊ သတ္တဗေဒ၊ ရုက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြုများ) (ဓာတုဗေဒ)

5:00 pm

5. Song of national races

5:15 pm

6. မြန်မာစာ၊ မြန်မာစကား

5:25 pm

7. Classical song

5:35 pm

8. ရသပေါ်လွင် သရုပ်ဆောင်

6:00 pm

9. Evening news

6:30 pm

10. Weather report

6:35 pm

11. မြန်မာ့ဓလေ့ရိုးရာလက်ရာ

6:50 pm

12. "ဒီအိုတီအက်စ်"(မိုးဖြူ၊ ကျော်ထူး၊ နိုင်သင်းကြည်၊ ကြူကြူသင်း) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-သိန်းဟန်)

7:00 pm

13. ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင် အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်

7:20 pm

14. The mirror images of musical oldies

7:35 pm

15. နှစ်(၆၀)ပြည့်လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့

7:45 pm

16. အချုပ်အခြာအာဏာခွန်ရှည်ကြာ နိုင်မာစေမှုဖို့ရှေ့ရှု "ရွှေအားကစား ၂၀၀၇"

8:00 pm

17. News

18. International news

19. Weather report

20. Franz Hararay's Magic Planet

21. "ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားဇာတ်လမ်း" "ရေပြင်ညီ"

- (ရန်အောင်၊ နိုင်သင်းကြည်၊ သစ္စာဝင့်ထယ်၊ သုသူဟံသာ)

- (ဒါရိုက်တာ-သက်တင်)

22. The next day's programme

People's Desire

- ★ **We favour stability.**
- ★ **We favour peace.**
- ★ **We oppose unrest and violence.**

Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspects tax-free markets in Yangon

YANGON, 1 Jan — Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence inspected tax-free markets here this morning and gave necessary instructions to officials concerned.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Hla Htay Win and Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and officials, went to the tax-free markets in Dagon Myothit (North), Shwepyitha, Hlinethaya and Sangyoung Townships and inspected sales of fish, meat, eggs, kitchen crops foodstuff, vegetables, rice and edible palm oil at reasonable prices.

After hearing reports of officials concerned, Lt-Gen Myint Swe attended to the needs of the markets. During his tour of inspection, Lt-Gen Myint Swe urged respon-



Lt-Gen Myint Swe visits Hanthawady Tax-free Market in Sangyoung Township. — MNA

sible officials of the markets to supervise the shops so that people can purchase goods, meat and provisions at reasonable prices, to maintain the progress in market situation at the tax-free markets, to make arrangements for selling variety of consumer goods at the markets and to sell fresh meat and fish to people.

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe inspected construction tasks at
(See page 6)

New stamps issued to mark 60th Anniversary Independence Day

YANGON, 1 Jan — To mark the 60th anniversary Independence Day, Myanma Posts and Telecommunications of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs will issue new stamps valued at K 50 and K 100 starting from 4 January.

Sale of new stamps will be launched at 9.30 pm on 4 January at post offices in states, divisions and townships. The new stamps purchased on that day will be stamped with special marks at Nay Pyi Taw General Post Office, Yangon Post Office and Mandalay Post Office. — MNA

Four political objectives

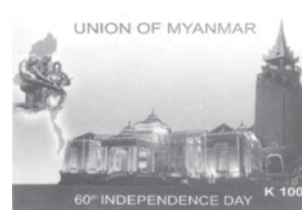
- * Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
- * National reconsolidation
- * Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
- * Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

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



- ★ **Skyful liars attempting to destroy nation**
- ★ **BBC lying**
- ★ **VOA deceiving**
- ★ **RFA setting up hostilities**
- ★ **Beware! Don't be bought by those ill-wishers**