

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XVI, Number 249

11th Waning of Nadaw 1370 ME

Tuesday, 23 December, 2008

Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec— On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan, which falls on 23 December 2008, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan.— MNA

True patriotism

- * It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
- * Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Senior General Than Shwe pays homage to famous pagodas in Mandalay



NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec —Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe, accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann, Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and party, paid homage to famous pagodas in Mandalay this

morning and inspected measures taken for making Mandalay pleasant and beautiful.

At 10 a.m, Senior General Than Shwe and party arrived at the Mandalay Hill and offered flowers, water and lights to Kakuthan Buddha Image of the Hsutaungpyi Pagoda.

Senior General Than Shwe paid obeisance to the pagodas at the pagoda platform on Mandalay Hill and cordially greeted the

pilgrims.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party viewed measures being taken for greening of environs of Mandalay Hill and enjoyed the scenic beauty of Mandalay from the pagoda platform on Mandalay Hill and gave necessary guidance to officials concerned.

Senior General Than Shwe signed in the visitors' book and made cash (See page 8)

Senior General Than Shwe views greening tasks for Mandalay Hill and its environs and beautiful scenes from viewing deck of Mandalay Hill.—MNA

INSIDE

The entire national people are to actively participate in the drive for environmental conservation launched by the government in order to see to it that there is no environmental degradation caused by air pollution, water pollution, land pollution and deforestation.

PERSPECTIVES

PAGE 2



PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 23 December, 2008

Actively participate in the drive for environmental conservation

Today, with global warming, there has been a change in the weather.

Globally, there occurred natural disasters such as storms, flood, drought, heat-wave and heavy fogs that trigger environmental degradation.

Experts assessed that 90 per cent of global warming is attributable to man-made causes. According to the world meteorology and temperature records, it is learnt that the global temperature has risen since 1990, and the year 2008 was the hottest ever.

Meanwhile, the improper exploitation of natural resources and the disposal of litter and rubbish and sewage are the main causes of environmental damage. Smoke coming out of factories and mills, automobiles and machinery as well as out of smoking and other foul smell are also a contributing factor for air pollution. This could harm man, plants and animals.

This being the case, every nation is placing emphasis on environmental conservation in order to ensure that there is no environmental degradation.

Trees and forests contribute not only to wellbeing of human beings but also can generate weather. Trees and forests including teak and Pyinkadoe are a reliable source for economic development of the State, and play a vital role in greening the region, maintenance of flora and fauna and conservation of endangered species of trees and flowery plants.

Therefore, the entire national people are to actively participate in the drive for environmental conservation launched by the government in order to see to it that there is no environmental degradation caused by air pollution, water pollution, land pollution and deforestation.



U Tin Aung, auditor of Parent-Teacher Association of No. 1 BEHS Dagon, presents prize to five-distinctions winner Ma Yamin Naing Way at a ceremony on 21.12.2008 to honour those who passed the matriculation exam with flying colours.—NLM

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

PRC donates Mobile X-Ray to Thilawa Port Terminal



Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun looks into inspection of freight containers with Mobile X-Ray machine. — MNA

YANGON, 22 Dec — A ceremony to hand over Mobile X-Ray donated by the People's Republic of China to be used at Thilawa Port Terminal in Kyauktan Township was held today.

Director-General of the Customs Department of the Ministry of Finance and Revenue U San Thaung, Counsellor of the People's Republic of China Mr Tang Hai signed documents related to the mobile x-ray to hand over the machine to Myanmar.

Ambassador of the People's Republic of China

to the Myanmar Mr Guan Mu explained matters related to the donation and Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun spoke words of thanks.

Afterwards, the minister and the ambassador inspected the use of the machine. Such kind of machine has been used in many countries to ensure smooth flow of goods.

After the ceremony, Minister Maj-Gen Hla Tun visited Bo Aung Kyaw Jetty in Botahtaung Township and Asia World Jetty in Ahlon Township and viewed inspection of containers there.

MNA

Opening ceremony of Third Inter-School Cricket Challenge Shield 2008 held

YANGON, 22 Dec— The opening ceremony of Third Inter-School Cricket Challenge Shield 2008 (Men's and Women's) jointly organized by Myanmar Cricket Federation and No 3 Basic Education Department was held at Cricket Pitch here yesterday.

It was attended by President of Myanmar Cricket Federation U Nyunt Win and executives, personnel concerned of No 3 Basic Education Department and guests.

Afterwards, Deputy Director-General U Myo Myint of No 3 Basic Education Department delivered an opening address.

In the men's events, No 1 BEHS Latha won over No. 1 BEHS Kyauktada and No. 4

BEHS Minglataungnyunt beat No. 2 BEHS Bahan. In the women's event, No 1 BEHS Bahan won over No. 3 BEHS Minglataungnyunt.

The matches are to be held at Bahan Cricket Pitch and No 1 BEHS Lanmadaw Township Cricket Play Ground tomorrow morning.

MNA

Disaster management course opens

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec—The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement opened disaster management course (No. 13/2008) at the General Administration Department in Myaungmya Township this morning with an opening address by Director-General U Than Oo of the Relief and Resettlement Department.

The course continues till 26 December and being attended by 50 trainees from Myaungmya Township.—MNA

The opening ceremony of Third Inter-School Cricket Challenge Shield 2008 in progress.

MNA



US missile strike in Pakistan kills eight



Map locating South Waziristan in Pakistan where a suspected US missile strike killed at least eight militants Monday, according to officials.—INTERNET

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, 22 Dec—US missile strikes killed at least eight people Monday in volatile north-west Pakistan, officials and witnesses said. Bakht Janan, a local security official at a check post, said an unmanned drone aircraft began circling over the village of Kari Khel around 3 am, then fired missiles at two vehicles several hours later. Witnesses told The Associated Press that one of the vehicles had been blasting away with an anti-aircraft gun at the drone.

Four people were killed as missiles hit the vehicle and an adjacent, fortlike house, while four others died and one was injured in the second vehicle five miles (eight kilometres) away by dirt track. Janan said an unexploded missile was found on the ground near the first vehicle. Yar Mohammad, a villager, said local Taliban pulled out bodies from the rubble while cordoning off the scene about 10 miles (15 kilometres) south of Wana, the main town in the South

Waziristan tribal area near the Afghan border.

The US has carried out a series of more than 30 missile strikes since August in Pakistan's lawless, semiautonomous tribal areas, targeting al-Qaeda and Taliban militants blamed for attacks in Afghanistan. While the missile strikes have killed scores of militants, Pakistani officials have criticized them as an infringement of its sovereignty and say they undermine their own war on terror.—Internet



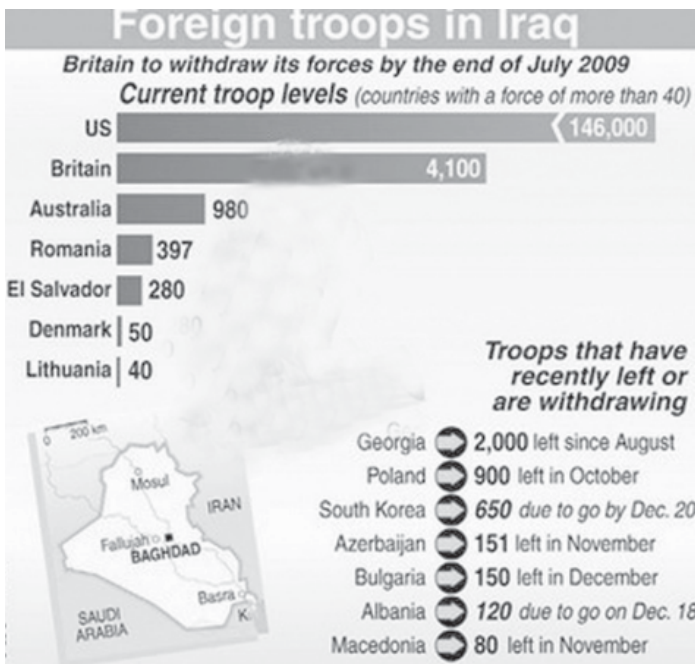
Iraqis are seen at the site of a twin bombing that killed 18 people and wounded 52 others in Baghdad, Iraq.—INTERNET

Baghdad vendors seek shelter in neighbourhoods

BAGHDAD, 22 Nov—When life endangered and business hardly survived, Hassan left his shop in a battlefield in western Baghdad and built a small shop inside the garden of his own house in the Khadraa residential neighbourhood.

“Few months ago, security forces built in front of my shop a three-meter high wall that separated my business from the main streets, and I could hardly sell anything thereafter,” says Hussam Hassan, a 53-year-old vendor of the Ameriya neighborhood.

Despite both US and Iraqi forces have claimed a relative security gain in general since last year, small vendors in the war-torn country are facing an ever-harder time since violence and sectarian strife are still prevalent after more than five years since the US-led invasion.—Internet



Number of soldiers still in Iraq by country. Iraqi lawmakers are set to vote Monday on a resolution that will determine the fate of non-US foreign troops in the country, mainly British forces, when a UN mandate expires in 10 days. INTERNET

The site of a car bomb attack in the Munstansariyah district in Baghdad. At least eight people were killed and dozens more wounded in the attack as British Prime Minister Gordon Brown was visiting. INTERNET



Iran warns US over sending more troops to Afghanistan

TEHERAN, 22 Dec—Iran Sunday warned the US over the dispatch of a further 3,000 troops to Afghanistan early next year in support of some 30,000 troops already involved in the conflict with the Taliban. Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki said in a press briefing in Teheran

that the US should be careful of the consequences of its new policies in Afghanistan and not make the same mistakes as in Iraq.

US media Saturday reported that Defence Secretary Robert Gates ordered the deployment of an additional combat aviation brigade, equipped

with attack and transport helicopters.

Three or four combat brigades would follow in late spring or early summer in response to the request by General David McKiernan, commander of NATO-led troops in Afghan for at least 20,000 extra troops.

Internet



People sift through debris at the scene of a car bomb attack in central Baghdad, Iraq. A suicide car bomber turned the venerable book market into a deadly inferno Monday, killing at least 38 people. —INTERNET

Britain may boost troops in Afghanistan

KABUL, 22 Dec—Britain may increase its troop strength in Afghanistan to augment a similar increase by the United States, Defence Secretary John Hutton said Sunday. Hutton said Britain would consider any request from the United States for more of its troops. The United States plans to add up to 30,000 soldiers to its existing strength in Afghanistan by next summer, the Scotsman reported.

“When we receive such a request, obviously we would look at it very, very carefully. We need more security in Afghanistan, that’s quite clear,” Hutton was quoted as saying. NATO has asked its members to commit more of their forces in Afghanistan to support the US effort.

“We want to ensure that as the US increases we have a proper balance between what the Americans are doing and what the other allies are doing—both for military and political reasons,” NATO spokesman James Appathurai was quoted as saying.

Britain’s opposition Foreign Secretary William Hague, while noting that sending more British troops to Afghanistan should not be ruled out, told the BBC, “We have got to bear in mind that the British troops have borne a disproportionate share of the burden so far and many other NATO nations have not engaged in the serious fighting British troops have had to do.”—Internet



Workers clean a portion of the Taj Mahal hotel in Mumbai on 22 Dec, 2008. The Taj Mahal hotel, which was attacked by armed militants last month, reopened its tower section on Sunday.—INTERNET

UK Marine killed in Afghanistan

LONDON, 22 Dec—A Royal Marine has been killed in an explosion in southern Afghanistan, the Ministry of Defence has announced.

The serviceman, from the Commando Logistics Regiment Royal Marines, died on a routine mission north-west of Lashkar Gah, Helmand province.

Next of kin have been informed of the death on Sunday, the 135th suffered by UK troops in Afghanistan since 2001.

Cdr Paula Rowe said: “The loss of this Royal Marine will be keenly felt by the whole of Task Force Helmand.”

“Our sincere and deepest sympathies go out to his family, friends and comrades at this terrible time”.

“This serviceman’s life was taken while helping bring peace and security to Afghanistan,” said Capt Mark Windsor.

“We have lost a valuable member of our team.

We will continue to fight for the cause for which he made the ultimate sacrifice.”

Last week, Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced a 300-strong increase in troop numbers planned for March, to take the total Afghan deployment to 8,300.

Earlier today, Defence Secretary John Hutton said further increases in UK troop numbers could not be ruled out.

Internet

‘Kiss of death’ kills Iraqi army officer

MOSUL, 22 Dec—A suicide bomber used a “kiss of death” to kill an Iraqi army officer who was guarding a roadblock in the northern city of Mosul yesterday, security officials said.

The bomber approached the officer with a big smile and gave him a hug as if he was a friend, then blew himself up, police officer Hamid al-Juburi said.

Another two soldiers and two civilians were wounded in the blast, army colonel Ahmad Saeed said.

The US military considers Mosul, Iraq’s third largest city, to be the last urban stronghold of al-Qaeda in Iraq, which has been behind hundreds of bombings since the 2003 US-led invasion to topple Saddam Hussein. —Internet

Magnitude-4.1 quake shakes central California

HOLLISTER, 22 Dec—Geologists say central California has been shaken by an earthquake measuring magnitude-4.1, strong enough to be noticed but without producing any reports of damage or injuries.

The US Geological Survey said the Sunday morning temblor was centered eight miles south of the unincorporated town of Tres Pinos, about 97 miles south of San Francisco.

It was focused at about four miles beneath the surface.

A dispatcher for the San Benito County sheriff’s office said the quake was felt, but no one complained of any damage or injuries.

Internet



Bringing the dogs : Indonesian anti-terror army special forces K-9 unit take part in a counter-terrorism drill at Borobudur five-star hotel in Jakarta.

INTERNET

South Korea’s first Aegis destroyer “King Sejong the Great” is seen during a commission ceremony at a naval port in Busan, about 420 km (262 miles) southeast of Seoul, on 22 Dec, 2008.

INTERNET

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,211

WASHINGTON, 22 Dec—As of Sunday, 21 Dec, 2008, at least 4,211 members of the US military had died in the Iraq war since it began in March 2003.

The figure includes eight military civilians killed in action. At least 3,397 military personnel died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

The British military has reported 176 deaths; Italy, 33; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 21; Bulgaria, 13; Spain, 11; Denmark, seven; El Salvador, five; Slovakia, four; Latvia and Georgia, three each; Estonia, Netherlands, Thailand and Romania, two each; and Australia, Hungary, Kazakhstan and South Korea, one death each.

Internet

One al-Qaeda slain, 25 arrested in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 22 Dec— US-led coalition forces say their troops killed an alleged al-Qaeda member and detained 25 others in separate Iraq military operations this weekend.

US forces said in a statement they conducted a raid Sunday against a militant position in Mosul, and after a bloody confrontation, the alleged al-Qaeda operative was killed, KUNA, the Kuwait news agency, reported.

Elsewhere in Iraq, 25 people were reported arrested during raids in Tikrit, Mosul, Abu Ghraib, Samarra, Tarmiyah and al-Huwaijah, officials said.

They said most of the detainees were involved in financing terrorists attacks while others allegedly had ties with al-Qaeda leaders.

Internet

Oil edges above \$43 on US auto bailout, rate cut

SINGAPORE, 22 Dec — Oil prices rose above \$43 a barrel Monday in Asia as investors looked for signs that US interest rate cuts and a government bailout of two key automakers could help cushion what may be the worst recession in decades.

Light, sweet crude for February delivery gained 72 cents to \$43.08 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Singapore. The contract fell Friday 69 cents to settle at \$42.36.

Investors were somewhat encouraged by Friday’s announcement of Washington’s \$17.4 billion bailout of ailing car giants General Motors Corp and Chrysler LLC and by the Federal Reserve’s move Tuesday to cut its federal funds rate target to a range of zero to 0.25 percent.

“The rate cut shows the concern around demand in the US,” said Gerard Burg, minerals and energy economist with National Australia Bank in Melbourne.

“We’re in a period of demand weakness that we haven’t seen in at least a decade, and economic conditions don’t look particularly encouraging.”

Internet





Bangkok news photographers gather on 22 Dec, 2008, at a rooftop lounge to photograph 'King Kong' as he hangs from the 55th floor of the Centara Hotel.—INTERNET

Cuban Govt calls for increased food production

HAVANA, 22 Dec—Cuba's first Vice President Jose Ramon Machado Ventura on Sunday called for an increase in food production in 2009 to recover from three recent Hurricanes.

Describing 2009 as a "decisive" year for Cuba, Machado said it will demonstrate whether Cuba is capable of recovering from three devastating hurricanes that struck in

less than one month and will show what can be done in the future.

"The current crisis in the world affects Cuba, and we must make sure that the country is endeavoring to minimize the impacts of this crisis," Machado said during a meeting with representatives of the agricultural sector.

If Cuba can import 80 percent of its food or ag-

riculture equipment, and that cost be reduced to 50 percent of the total expense, it would be an economic relief, Machado said.

According to official numbers, food purchases represent 20 percent of Cuba's imports, at a cost of about 2 billion US dollars.

Xinhua

Japan's traded deficit expands to 223.4 b yen in November

TOKYO, 22 Dec—Japan's traded balance was in the red for the second straight month in November amid the global financial meltdown, with the trade deficit expanding to 223.4 billion yen (2.51 US billion dollars), said the finance ministry on Monday.

In a preliminary report, the ministry said that imports were down 14.4 percent to 5,550.0 billion yen (63.07 billion dollars) while exports plummeted 26.7 percent to 5,326.6 billion yen (60.53 billion dollars).

In terms of regions, Japan's trade surplus with the United States, the European Union and the rest of Asia suffered a decrease of 49.2 percent, 49.8 percent and 78.2 percent, respectively.

The trade data, measured on a customs-cleared basis, have yet to be adjusted for seasonal factors. —*Xinhua*

Syria, Turkey to enhance trade, economic and investment co-op

DAMASCUS, 22 Dec— Syria and Turkey signed on Sunday a minute of their joint economic committee meetings to enhance bilateral cooperation in economy, trade and investment, the official SANA news agency reported.

The minute, signed by Syrian Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Abdullah al-Dardari and his Turkish counterpart Nazim Ekren, stipulates to expand cooperation in the field of transportation and establish an industrial zone for Turkish investors in Syria's industrial city of Hassya.

Both parties agreed to establish a logistic center in Syria to meet the regional demands of Syria, Turkey and other countries, in addition to following implementation of the joint agreements.

They also agreed to establish joint banks, coordinate financial policies and securities in both countries, as well as encouraging investments and remove any obstacles that could face them. Trade volume between Syria and Turkey reached at 2 billion US dollars in 2008 and the two countries are aspiring for reaching 5 billion dollars annually. —*Xinhua*

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Colombia's FARC to release 6 hostages

BOGOTA, 22 Dec — Colombian rebels announced Sunday that they will soon release two politicians and four soldiers as proof of goodwill towards negotiations with Colombian Senator Piedad Cordoba.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) did not mention the place and date of the release.

Through a statement released by the news agency Anncol, the FARC said it will release former governor Alan Jara and deputy Sigifredo Lopez to Cordoba along with four unidentified soldiers.

Cordoba is part of a negotiating group in communication with the FARC in an attempt to achieve a peaceful, political solution to the armed conflict.

Some of the hostages have been held by FARC for as many as 11 years and are waiting to be exchanged for imprisoned rebels.

In the communique the FARC also asked the Colombian Congress to approve a law enabling the possibility of humanitarian exchanges. —*Xinhua*



Containers are unloaded from a ship at a port in Tokyo. Japan's economic woes have deepened with data showing it has suffered a record drop in exports amid a global crisis while sentiment drastically weakened even among heads of major companies.—INTERNET

Colombia thanks Venezuela for humanitarian aid to rain victims

BOGOTA, 22 Dec— Colombia thanked Venezuela on Sunday for its humanitarian aid for the victims of the heavy rains in Colombia.

Colombian President Alvaro Uribe said it was a "gesture of a lot of humanity" that the Venezuelan government sent a military plane of aid.

The plane took off Saturday in Caracas, Ven-

ezuela and transported 14 tons of food and drinking water to the 1.1. million people affected by the rain season in Colombia, which has left 67 dead and hundreds injured.

"Let's thank President

(Hugo) Chavez and his government of the Republic of Venezuela, because they gave us a gesture of great solidarity, a plane with a lot of aid," Uribe said in Pinillios town.

Xinhua

A tourist takes photographs in a ferry ride from Tsim Sha Tsui to Central in Hong Kong on 19 Dec, 2008.

INTERNET



Headless bodies found in Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 22 Dec — Police in Mexico have found nine decapitated bodies close to a highway in the southern state of Guerrero.

A local official said some of the victims were soldiers. Thousands of troops have been deployed across Mexico in anti-drug smuggling operations. Nine heads were found earlier in plastic bags close to a supermar-

ket, reportedly with a note warning of more decapitations to follow.

Nearly 5,400 people have been murdered in drugs-related violence this year. Local media have reported that nine soldiers were abducted on Saturday as they left a nearby military base, close to the city of Chilpancingo.

President Felipe Calderon has deployed about 40,000 troops and

police since December 2006 against the drugs cartels. But Mexico's top prosecutor has said that the violence is likely to worsen in 2009 as drug gangs split and fight for turf.

Officials say the increasingly gruesome nature of the violence shows that the drugs gangs are being squeezed, intensifying their internal squabbles.—*Internet*



Members of the Mexican Federal Police patrol the city of Culiacan as part of an operation against drug trafficking in Mexico. Nine human heads were found in plastic bags in the southern Mexican state of Guerrero, apparent victims of the country's brutal drug war, officials have said.—INTERNET

Jamaican bus topples into river, 14 dead

MEXICO CITY, 22 Dec — A bus carrying 25 passengers fell into a river on its way to Kingston, Jamaica, killing 14 people and injuring seven others, Jamaican police said Sunday.

Eight women and a child were among those killed in the accident Saturday, police said. Five others were reported to be in critical condition after being sent to local hospitals, police said.

The cause of the accident was not immediately clear.

Local media, citing witnesses, reported that the bus was on a highway between Portland Point and Kingston when it suddenly swerved and toppled into the Grande river.

Prime Minister Bruce Golding, who rushed to the scene, described the accident as "a severe tragedy claiming significant casualties." He promised to compensate the families involved. —*Internet*

Holden to build new small car

PERTH, 22 Dec — The company said production of the, as yet unnamed, four cylinder model would begin in the third quarter of 2010. Holden will produce diesel and petrol versions but is also considering options to run it on alternative fuels such as ethanol and LPG.

Holden chairman and managing director Mark Reuss said the new car would help ensure the long term viability of the Elizabeth manufacturing operations and came at a pivotal time in the company's 60-year manufacturing industry in Australia.

Prime minister Kevin Rudd was on hand for today's announcement and promised to do everything possible to support both Holden and the car industry into the future.—*Internet*

Tiny tribe claim Ethiopian allegiance in border row with Eritrea

DOHAN, 22 Dec— Groups of children giggling as they walk home from school in the shadow of Mount Asimba and the timeless stillness of Ethiopia's north-eastern highland convey a deceptive sense of peace.

After living in this region for more than 700 years, the tiny Irob ethnic group is torn, in its heart, by the border with Eritrea and engaged in a futile struggle for recognition dwarfed by the regional conflict pitting the two rival nations.

A few miles from the front line, where tens of thousands of Ethiopian and Eritrean troops have been facing off for years, on the brink of war, children return from school on a dusty trail.

The mountainous region in northeastern Ethiopia was ravaged by the border conflict that left some 80,000 dead between 1998 and 2000.

The border subsequently drawn by an international UN-backed commission in a bid to end the war left the bulk of the Irob territory on Eritrea's side.—*Internet*

Zoo life is killing elephants, study finds

The average African female elephant lived to be just under 17 in a zoo but female elephants living natural lives in Amboseli National Park in Kenya lived an average of 56 years, they found.

Stress and obesity are the likely killers, Ros Clubb of Britain's Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and colleagues found.

"In zoos, the welfare of African elephants (Loxodonta africana) and Asian elephants (Elephas maximus) has long caused concern," they wrote in Friday's issue of the journal Science.



Zoo life can be deadly for elephants, re-researchers concluded in a study that found wild elephants live longer than their captive sisters.

"Infanticide, Herpes, tuberculosis, lameness, infertility, and stereotypic behavior are prevalent, and zoo elephant populations are not self-sustaining without importation."

More than 1,000 species discovered in Mekong: WWF

Scientists have discovered more than 1,000 species in Southeast Asia's Greater Mekong region in the past decade, including a spider as big as a dinner plate, the World Wildlife Fund said Monday.

A rat thought to have become extinct 11 million years ago and a cyanide-laced, shocking pink millipede were among creatures found in what the

group called a "biological treasure trove".

The species were all found in the rainforests and wetlands along the Mekong River, which flows through Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam

and the southern Chinese province of Yunnan.

"It doesn't get any better than this," Stuart Chapman, director of WWF's Greater Mekong Programme, was quoted as saying in a statement by the group.



This picture by WWF Greater Mekong Programme shows a Gumprechts green pit viper found in Thailand. Scientists have discovered more than 1,000 species in Southeast Asia's Greater Mekong region in the past decade, including a spider as big as a dinner plate, the World Wildlife Fund said.

Woman accused of biting man at NY basketball game

A woman has been charged with biting a security officer who was trying to break up a crowd at a Long Island high school basketball game.

Nassau County police say the 20-year-old Roslyn Heights resident bit the man on his arm and leg at the Roslyn High School game on Thursday night. They say another person punched the man in the head.

The man's beating caused bruising

and swelling. But the man refused medical attention at the scene.

The woman accused of biting him was arrested and arraigned Saturday. She's charged with assault. The person who punched him in the head is being sought.

NEWS ALBUM

Scientist says ancient technique cuts greenhouse gas

An ancient technique of ploughing charred plants into the ground to revive soil may also trap greenhouse gases for thousands of years and forestall global warming, scientists said.

Heating plants such as farm waste or wood in airtight conditions produces a high-carbon substance called biochar, which can store the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide and enhance nutrients in the soil.

Plants absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as they grow.

Subsequently storing that carbon in the soil removes the gas from the atmosphere.

"I feel confident that the (carbon storage) time of stable biochar is from high hundreds to a few thousand years," said Cornell University's Johannes Lehmann, at an event on the sidelines of UN climate talks in the Polish city of Poznan.



An ancient technique of ploughing charred plants into the ground to revive soil may also trap greenhouse gases for thousands of years, scientists said.

Pyawbwe-Pyayangasu Railroad reflects victory of local people

Article: *Tin Htwe (MNA)*; Photos: *Thar Nyan (MNA)*

(from page 16)
the Kyemon Daily, "Pyawbwe-Pyayangasu Railroad branches off from Pynmana-Thazi Railroad at Pyawbwe Station. And it links with Thazi-Shwenyaung Railroad at Phayangasu Station without passing through Thazi.

"Due to that railroad, people can travel directly by train between Nay Pyi Taw Pynmana and



U Myint Oo of Lintsingon Village.

Shwenyaung. It is 16.19 miles long. Pyawbwe-Thazi-Phayangasu Railroad is 31.75 miles long. That reduces the distance by 16.56 miles. Trains can run directly from Pyawbwe to their destination. So, passengers can save time."

U Myint Oo of Lintsingon Village, said, "Here we produce rice, beans and pulses, chilli, onion, sesame and cotton and so on. In the past, we transported our agricultural produce by bullock cart, then by car to Pyawbwe.

But now, we can transport our produce directly from Lintsingon Station to Pyawbwe. So, we can make a save of time and money. Bus fare for the distance between Lintsingon and Pyawbwe is 300 kyats, but train fare is only 40 kyats."

Junior Assistant

Teacher U Tun Wai of the same village said, "Here, we are all happy with the new railroad. I am sure our region will enjoy greater development than ever. And the youth of our region will get an opportunity to broaden their horizons and enjoy better conditions in various sectors especially in the education and health sectors. Previously, it took us



U Tun Wai, Junior Assistant Teacher of Lintsingon Village.



U Lwan Thu, Chief Engineer (Civil), Project Engineer.

about an hour to travel one mile, but now it takes us only 10 minutes to travel the same distance. So, our region has changed a lot since it was in our youth. I never hoped such a great change, so it is like a dream. Our village has a population of over 500, and their relatives did not have much dealing with them. Now, transport has become smooth and they

can meet their parents and relatives in the village easily. And it is convenient for their children to go to school in Pyawbwe. We all thank the Myanma Railways for the new railroad."

U Aung Htay, Station Master of Pyawbwe Station said, "We have two up-trains: Nay Pyi Taw-Shwenyaung and Nay Pyi Taw-Loikaw and two down-trains: Shwenyaung-Nay Pyi Taw and Loikaw-Nay Pyi Taw daily. The trains go through the new railroad, so it does not have affect to current train schedules.

"Now, people of Pyawbwe are happy because they can go to Shwenyaung and Loikaw directly. To go to Phayangasu from Pyawbwe, train fare is only 90 kyats, but bus fare is 500 kyats. In the past, we had to make a transit at



U Aung Htay, Station Master (In-Charge) of Pyawbwe Station.

Thazi when we travelled by train between Nay Pyi Taw and Shwenyaung and between Nay Pyi Taw and Loikaw, and it took us a long time. But, now we can make same journeys directly. Previously, products from Shan State had to be to transported Pyawbwe via Thazi. But now a direct train transport can be made between the same places, and so people can save time and money."

Pyawbwe-Phayangasu Railroad Project was launched on 15 January 2007. The 16.19 miles long facility has 34 railroad bridges, three of which are above 100 feet long, 14 railroad bends, and three stations and a level crossing.

Thanks to Pyawbwe-Phayangasu Railroad, local people of Shwenyaung and Namhsan, Mongnai of Shan State (South) and Loikaw of Kayah State enjoy smooth transport with a swift commodity flow. Moreover, local people along the railroad will enjoy social and economic development. Therefore, the opening of Pyawbwe-Phayangasu Railroad reflects the victory of the Myanma Railways and local people.

Translation: MS
Kyemon: 22-12-2008



Pyawbwe-Phayangasu train approaching Phayangasu Station.



Senior General Than Shwe pays homage to Kakuthan Buddha Image of Mandalay Hill Hsutaung Pyae Pagoda.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe pays homage...

(from page 1)

donation through the pagoda board of trustees. Senior General Than Shwe and party observed the documentary photos on the pagoda platform and paid homage to the pagoda clockwise.

They inspected measures taken for greening

environs along Thingaza Creek and upgrading of the ring road by Mandalay City Development Committee.

They next went to Maha Myatmuni Pagoda and offered flowers, water and lights to Maha Muni Buddha Image.

Senior General Than Shwe signed in the

visitors' book of Maha Muni Buddha Image and donated cash through the pagoda board of trustees.

The Senior General and party viewed documentary photos, paid homage to the Image clockwise and left the Maha Muni Buddha Image.

The Senior General and party inspected upgrading of roads in Mandalay and expansion of Aungpinle road in a motorcade. — MNA

Development tasks bearing fruits in Taninthayi Division



Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence looks into supply of electricity with 120-kilowatt paddy-husk-powered generator.

MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec—Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence met with Tatmadawmen and families of local battalion in Mali island of Palaw Township, Myeik District in Taninthayi Division on District 19 December.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye looked into physici nut plantations of the local battalion, BEHS (branch) of Mali island and Myanma Posts and Telecommunications.

On arrival at Mali pearl culture station of Myanma

Pearl Culture Enterprise, Lt-Gen Tha Aye heard reports on the culture of mothers of pearl. Lt-Gen Tha Aye then inspected breeding condition of pearl oyster.

Later, Lt-Gen Tha Aye proceeded to station hospital in Kyauk-ka village where he consoled the patients and donated medicines and medical equipments.

In the evening, Lt-Gen Tha Aye met with Tatmadawmen and families of local battalion in

Kyunsu and presented foodstuff to them.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye looked into supply of electricity by means of 120-kilowatt husk-powered generator at the township Electrical Engineer's Office. He also inspected the township hospital where he encouraged the patients and presented medical equipments and medicines.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye visited Kyunsu township police station and provided cash assistance with families of police force.—MNA

Myanmar-China Border Trade Expo organized in Muse

YANGON, 22 Dec — The 8th Myanmar-China Border Trade Expo 2008 was opened at 105th-mile trade zone in Muse, Shan State (North) on 17 December.

Deputy Minister for Commerce Brig-Gen Aung Tun and the official of

Yunnan Province Commerce Department made opening speeches.

Next, the deputy minister and officials formally opened the Expo and viewed the booths. They later visited the 105th-mile trade zone.

Boosting of bilateral

trade was also discussed. Afterwards, Joint Border Trade Cooperation and Coordination Committee met.

Altogether 216 booths: 108 from Myanmar and 108 from the PRC were staged at the Expo that ran until 19 December.—MNA

MBF President U Win Myint becomes SEA Boxing Fed V-P

YANGON, 22 Dec— President of Myanmar Boxing Federation Chairman of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Myint attended South-East Asia Boxing Federation General As-

sembly-2008 held in Bangkok, Thailand on 19 December.

It was attended by the presidents, the secretaries and the executives from 11 member countries of SEABF.

At the assembly, the

South-East Asia Boxing Federation formed the new executive committee. President of Myanmar Boxing Federation U Win Myint was appointed as Vice-President of South-East Asia Boxing Federation.— MNA



President of Myanmar Boxing Federation U Win Myint participating in South-East Asia Boxing Federation General Assembly-2008.—MNA

Over 30,000 participate in mass walks in Mawlamyine

YANGON, 22 Dec —Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win and wife participated in mass walks in Mawlamyine on 13 and 20 December.

Over 30,000 local people including governmental employees, students and members of social organizations, took part in the mass walks and did physical exercises.

MNA

47th Defence Services C-in-C's shield football tournament goes on

YANGON, 22 Dec—The second round of the 47th Defence Services (Army, Navy, Air) Commander-in-Chief's shield football tournament continued in

the Central Command (Mandalay) today.

Eastern Command team and Central Command team ended in a goalless draw in the group-BB in Bahtoo

Stadium. South-West Command team beat North East Command team 3-1 in the group-BB in Aung Myay Mandala sport ground in Mandalay.—MNA

Industries in Yangon Div inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec—Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein visited No. 1 Automobile Industry (Yangon) on 20 December morning. There he met with the general manager and the staff and gave necessary instructions.

Next, the minister inspected the workshops and production process. He then proceeded to the light emitted diode factory and discussed matters related to production tasks. Afterwards, the minister visited the electrical and electronics



factory (South Dagon) and gave necessary instructions to the staff.

MNA

Minister Vice-Admiral Soe Thein inspects production of electric meters at electric and electronics factory (South Dagon). —MNA

FM felicitates Japanese counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec—On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan, which falls on 23 December, U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Hirofumi Nakasone, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan.—MNA

Hlawga Park to open from 8 am to 5 pm on public holidays

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec—The Hlawga Park of the Forest Department is open daily from 8 am to 4 pm. However, with a view to enabling the public to take more recreation and relaxation, it will be open from 8 am to 5 pm on 25 and 27 December.

MNA

Stipends for University of Medicine presented

YANGON, 22 Dec—A total of nine students who are eligible to attend Universities of Medicine have won Yazalin's stipends of university of medicine for 2008-2009 academic year.

Stipend winners are Maung Soe Lin Htet (Second Year) from University of Medicine-2 (Yangon), Maung Kyaw Zaw Hein (First Year) from University of Medicine (Mandalay), Maung Aung Zaw Htet (First Year) from University of Medicine-2 (Yangon), Maung Aung Myo Thwe (First Year) from University of Medicine (Magway), Ma Khine Ei Mon (First Year) from University of Medicine (Magway), Ma Yu Wai Wai Lwin (First Year) from University of Medicine-2 (Yangon), Ma Eitzali Ko Ko (First Year) from University of Medicine (Magway), Ma Saw Eidra (First Year) from University of Medicine (Magway) and Ma Khin Myat Noe Khine (First Year) from University of Medicine (Magway).

The winners will get K 50,000 per month as stipend for 2008-2009 academic year. If the winners follow rules of Yazalin family, they will continue enjoying stipends until they have graduated. The students who are studying at Universities of Medicine across the nation may apply for the stipends being provided by Yazalin family at No 50, Kanyeiktha No 3 Street, Finger Lake, FMI City, Hlinethaya Township, Yangon. (Tel-682632, 687617, 095131260).—MNA

Donate Blood



Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min inspects building of Katha-Bhamo railroad. — MNA



Construction of Katha-Bhamo railroad inspected

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Dec— Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min on 20 December morning inspected the stockpiling of sleepers, and guest lounge in the compound of Katha Station and gave necessary instructions.

Accompanied by Deputy Minister U Pe Than and officials, the minister looked into the site chosen for establishment of Myothit Station compound and earth work.

At the briefing hall of Katha-Bhamo railroad construction site, Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min heard a report presented by Project Director U Myat Lin on construction of the railroad and progress of work, and fulfilled the requirements.

Next, the minister and party viewed earth work, progress in construction of bridges Nos 4, 5 and 9, the sites chosen for construction of Minle station and Minle bridge and embankment and land preparation

being carried out by heavy machinery.

After that, the minister and party inspected earth work being carried out for construction of Chaungmagyi bridge and the Nabha Station compound.

MNA

Golf tourney for disabled persons

YANGON, 22 Dec—A golf tournament (New Year Snapshot) for disabled persons will be held at South Okkalapa golf club here at 12 noon on 25 December.

Those wishing to compete may contact Maj Thein Swe Myint (Retd) (Ph: 01 542941), Captain Aung Myint Tun (Retd) (0980 24070 and U Peter (SPED) (01 382455) and are to get registered at South Okkalapa golf club by 11 a.m. 25 December.

MNA

Ngapali sees a boom in tourism industry

Article: *Ei Wah*; Photos: *Soe Nyunt (Kyemon)*

Ngapali Beach in Thandwe, Rakhine State, is a household name at home and abroad thanks to its natural scenic beauty and a long history. The beach has silvery sand. Sea waves moving

ashore are clear and gentle. So, the beach sees a constant flow of local and foreign tourists all-year round. Its surrounding areas are really eye-catching. So, visitors recognize it as a

pleasant and attractive beach.

Indeed, Ngapali Beach is full of breathtaking views. In front of the beach is the large sea that stretches out as far as one can see. Green and lush woodlands really add to its beauty. The beach is surrounded by mountain ranges, archipelagos and islets. Fishing boats are seen in the sea, netting fish.

Ngapali Beach is also a really awe-inspiring view from an aircraft, according to the firsthand knowledge of our media team from the Mirror Daily. Gazing awestruck at the beach from the plane, I lost myself in a thought about Ngapali.

Long ago, Ngapali was behind other regions in development. Owing to the daunting plans the government has been putting into action for ensuring equitable development of all parts of the nation, Ngapali has now developed considerably with smooth transport, advanced communication, and education and economic infrastructures. It has daily flights. The regional development has led to an increase in the number of visitors to Ngapali Beach alongside development of its tourism services. Its surrounding regions are



Aureum Palace Resort designed to attract attention of tourists.

also enjoying development with a boom in fishing and agricultural farming. Ngapali being a seaside region, fishing is the main source of business of local people.

Myanmar has many interesting places including beach resorts which tourists, local and foreign, can visit for relaxation. There are a huge number of beach resorts around the world. The beach resorts in Myanmar are lovely and fascinating in a different way as they are decorated without harming their natural beauty. Now, it has international level hotels with first-class service, and it magnetizes visitors.

The decoration of Aureum Palace Resort in Ngapali Beach Resort is

somewhat different from other hotels. It is built of logs and timber. The buildings and bungalows in the resort compound are decorated with Myanmar traditional artistic works. The resort is made up of 42 rooms of three types: sea view, garden view, and executive sweet. There, seafood is recommended. It provides good service for the comfort and convenience of its customers. The resort has a wonderful view over the beach and sea. And visitors can enjoy the beauty of sunset from the resort. As a result, it gains customer satisfaction. The tourism season of Ngapali Beach is from November to March. Tourists to Ngapali Beach are mostly foreigners, especially

Europeans. Along the beach are 11 hotels. The resort has seen hotel service since 1960. On a trip to Ngapali Beach, tourists can visit the elephant station, weaving workshop, Phayathonzu, Thandwe Market, fishing village, and nearby islets. Thandwe is in the shape of a flying bird if it is viewed from Nandaw Mountain.

Now, Myanmar's leisure season has set in since November. With a large number of interesting places, Myanmar has become an alluring magic for foreign tourists. Tourists are welcome to Ngapali Beach for rest and recreation.

Translation: MS Kyemon: 19-12-2008



A dried fish farm in Ngapali.



A view of Aureum Palace Resort on Ngapali Beach.

DPRK official newspaper calls for building deterrent to US dominance

PYONGYANG, 22 Dec—The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) should build a powerful deterrent to US dominance of world affairs, the official Rodong Sinmun daily said Monday.

The United States, while talking about “nuclear disarmament” on the Korean Peninsula, is still seeking modernization of its nuclear weapons, the newspaper said in a commentary.

“The US imperialists’ moves for the modernization of nuclear weapons compel the Korean people to heighten their revolutionary vigilance and the DPRK to build a powerful deterrent to cope with them,” it said.

Without a strong military deterrent, no country can safeguard its national security and strategic interests, it added. The latest round of the six-party talks, aimed at dismantling nuclear programs on the Korean Peninsula, ended earlier this month without a deal on nuclear verification, as the DPRK and the United States differed over related issues.—*Internet*

US embassy in Cyprus receives suspicious package

NICOSIA, 22 Dec—The US embassy in Cyprus called in local emergency authorities on Monday morning to clear a suspicious package it received, officials said.

Specialists wearing protective suits were sent to the embassy to collect the package, which will be opened and examined at a state laboratory.

The US embassy in Cyprus, located in the west of Nicosia, is fortified with concrete bumpers.

Since 8 Dec, US embassies in 18 countries have received envelopes with white powder, but most of them have been found to be harmless while a few envelopes are still being tested.—*Internet*

Two camel riders pass the excavations at the Saqqara burial site of the rulers of ancient Memphis, about 12 miles, 19 kilometers south of Cairo, Egypt on 22 Dec, 2008. Egypt's top archaeologist says two pharaonic tombs discovered this year at Saqqara indicate the sprawling necropolis south of Cairo is even larger than previously thought.—INTERNET



A boy eats an apple at Fata Buno, an internally displaced people's (IDP) camp, 18km (11 miles) outside the northern Darfur town of Kutum recently.—INTERNET

Turkey plans to purchase 32 strike helicopters from Russia

ANKARA, 22 Dec—Turkey plans to buy 32 Mi-28 strike helicopters from Russia with a cost of some one billion US dollars, Turkish daily Vatan reported on Monday.

The deal was reached with Russia after the US Department of State declined the Turkish Armed Forces' request to buy 10 second-hand Cobras from the US before receiving the first T129 helicopters, co-produced with Italy's Agusta Westland.

The US side declined the Turkish request citing the absence of available helicopters of this type, according to the report.

The Turkish authorities finally negotiated with Rosoboron export, a Russian state agency in charge of military exports, on the urgent purchase of Mi-28 helicopters which is an all-weather day-night attack helicopter manu-

factured by the Rostvertol plant in southern Russia.

Turkey's Tusas Aerospace Industries (TAI) and Italy's Agusta Westland signed a deal in 2007 for co-producing 50 and optional 40 units of T129 combat helicopters.

Internet

India discovers new oil, gas field in Rajasthan

NEW DELHI, 22 Dec—Indian oil explorer Cairn India has discovered a new oil and gas field in west India state Rajasthan's Barmer district, the Indo Asia News Agency reported Monday.

The newly found oil and gas field is over 480 km from Jaipur, the capital city of Rajasthan. Cairn India is yet to ascertain the total reserves, but said the wildcat well had a daily flow of 500 barrels of oil and 0.4 million standard cubic feet of gas.

The discovery is expected to ease India's oil needs. India now imports approximately two million barrels of oil per day (bopd). It produces approximately 700,000 bopd, of which approximately 50,000 bopd comes from the Cairn-operated Ravva oilfield on the eastern coast of India. Cairn is a major oil and gas explorer and producer in India. It made a major oil discovery at Mangala in Rajasthan in 2004.—*Internet*

A Malaysian customs official holds a number of frozen pangolins which were discovered en route to Vietnam, near Kuala Lumpur. Customs officials in Vietnam have said they had seized about five tons of frozen pangolin meat, a protected species whose trade is illegal.—INTERNET



Visitors are seen at the exhibition commemorating the 30th anniversary of China's reform and opening up, held in Beijing, capital of China, on 22 Dec, 2008. The exhibition that began on 18 Dec, attracted many visitors.—INTERNET

Pakistan PM says nation united to defend country

ISLAMABAD, 22 Dec—Pakistani Prime Minister Yousaf Raza Gilani said Monday that the whole Pakistani nation is fully united and ready to defend the country.

Gilani's remarks

came as Pakistan-India tensions were heightened as the Indian side accused Pakistan-based militant groups of involvement in last month's Mumbai terror attacks, which killed more than 170.

“The country is in safe hands. We have a highly professional and pro-democracy army. The army and the civil government are united and we are ready to defend the country,” Gilani told reporters in southern port city of Karachi.

The tensions between

the two nuclear-armed countries has put the four-year peace process on hold.

Indian External Affairs Minister Pranab Mukherjee said Monday in New Dehli that India has kept all options open and urged Pakistan to do whatever it has committed.

Pakistan Air Force (PAF) said in a statement Monday that it has enhanced its vigilance “in view of current environment.”

Internet



**Centre for Human Resource Development
(Yangon University of Foreign Languages)
Invitation for Application to
Attend Foreign Language Courses**

The Centre for Human Resource Development (Yangon University of Foreign Languages) will open evening courses on Chinese, English, French, French (Translation and Interpretation), Japanese, Korean, Russian and Thai.

Commencing date for course : 5-1-2009
Commencing date for submission of applications : 29-12-2008
Closing date for applications : 2-1-2009
(For English language the day on which the targeted number of applicants is reached)

Application to be submitted to : Yangon University of Foreign Languages
Days : Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays
Time : 5:20-7:00 p.m.
Education qualification : Matriculation Passed
Enquiry : Student's Affairs Section YUFL
{Phone:514371(Ext-202)}

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV HUA SHAN VOY NO (94)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HUA SHAN VOY NO (94) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.12.2008 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 COSCO SHIPPING CO., LTD**
Phone No: 256919/256916/256912

Customers look at Japanese auto giant Honda motorcycles at the company's headquarters in Tokyo on 17 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET



TRADEMARK CAUTION
NIPPON KAYAKU KABUSHIKI KAISHA, a company incorporated in Japan, and having its registered office at 11-2, Fujimi 1-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan is the owner and proprietor of the following Trademarks:

Dexaltin
Reg. No. 4/6942/2008
(16 October 2008)

Lastet
Reg. No. 4/6943/2008
(13 October 2008)

All in respect of "Pharmaceuticals and other preparations for medical purposes" in Class 5.

Fraudulent or unauthorised use, or actual or colourable imitation of the marks shall be dealt with according to law.

U Than Maung, Advocate
For NIPPON KAYAKU KABUSHIKI KAISHA
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd
Unit 701-702, Traders Hotel,
Yangon, Union of Myanmar
utm.kcy@mptmail.com.mm
Dated **23 December 2008**

Dollar retreats vs euro in thin market after jump

TOKYO, 22 Dec—The dollar fell against the euro on Monday, giving up some of its gains made after the US government offered a lifeline to Detroit carmakers, as investors remained concerned over the deepening economic recession.

The dollar had posted its biggest daily gain against the euro in almost two months on Friday, with traders saying the US currency's slump after the Federal Reserve's interest rate cut to near zero earlier in the week was probably overdone.

"Last week's dollar slump was too much too fast, but the market is

pointing that the next trend is in that direction," Suzuki said. The euro rose 0.5 percent from late New York trade on Friday to \$1.3972 after falling to as low as \$1.3824, according to EBS. It soared as high as \$1.4720 on EBS on Thursday.

The dollar rose versus the yen, holding gains made late last week after the Bank of Japan lowered its policy rate down close to zero, mirroring the Fed move.

The US currency rose 0.8 percent to 90.04 yen, off a 13-year low of 87.13 yen touched last week.

Data on Monday showed Japan's exports fell by a record in November from a year earlier as a rapid deterioration in global economic conditions deals a heavy blow to the world's second-largest economy.

The euro climbed 1.3 percent to 125.81 yen, helping the single euro zone currency's gains against the dollar.

Internet

China to spend \$730.6b on railways to 2020

BEIJING, 22 Dec — China will spend five trillion yuan (730.6 billion US dollars) until 2020 to add 41,000 kilometres (25,480 miles) to its already big rail network, state media said, as the government tries to boost domestic demand and ease strains on a jammed system.

The latest edition of *Outlook Weekly*, published by *Xinhua* news agency, cited Deputy Railway Minister Lu Dongfu as saying the new railways would help promote economic growth, ease transport bottlenecks and provide at least six million jobs.

"Over the next two years these projects will satisfy urgent transport needs, ease bottlenecks on the railways, promote regional economic development and economic growth," *Outlook Weekly* paraphrased Lu as saying.

MNA/Reuters

Repairs begin on undersea cable

PARIS, 22 Dec—A French crew has begun to repair two undersea cables in the Mediterranean that were severed on Friday, disrupting internet and phone communications.

A robot submarine will locate the ends of the cables on the sea bed and bring them to the surface to be re-connected. They were cut somewhere between Sicily and Tunisia, probably by an anchor.

Egypt says it has been able to restore most of its communications by re-routing services, but other parts of the Middle East remain badly affected. Experts have warned that it may be days before the fault is fixed and that the knock-on effect could have serious repercussions on regional economies.

Experts from France Telecom Marine arrived at the site of the damage to the SEA-ME-WE4 and SEA-ME-WE3 lines on board the cable ship, Raymond Croze, at 1330 GMT on Sunday, spokesman Louis-Michel Aymard said.



Injured French solo yachtsman, Yann Elies, is wheeled on a stretcher after HMAS Arunta arrived at Victoria Quay in Fremantle, Perth, Western Australia, on 22 Dec, 2008. HMAS Arunta sailed about 850 nautical miles to rescue Elies after he broke several bones including his left thigh bone while sailing in the Southern Ocean off the coast of western Australia on 20 Dec, 2008 during the Vendee Globe solo round the world yacht race.—INTERNET

Israel releases two "kidnapped" Lebanese civilians

BEIRUT, 22 Dec—Israel released two "kidnapped" Lebanese civilians and turned them over to the United Nations Interim Forces in Lebanon (UNIFIL) on Saturday morning, local Al-Manar TV reported.

The release took place after intensive contacts were carried out between the Lebanese side and the UNIFIL command on the one hand, and the UNIFIL command and the Israelis on the other hand.

According to Lebanese *As-Safir* daily, two Lebanese civilians were "kidnapped" by Israeli troops from the fields near the border village of Blida, raising fears among the Lebanese that such a step could have drastic consequences.

MNA/Xinhua

NASA celebrates Apollo 8's moon mission 40 years on

HOUSTON, 22 Dec — The US space agency on Sunday marked the 40th anniversary of the historic Apollo 8 mission that brought three astronauts to orbit the moon for the first time.

On 21 Dec, 1968, Apollo 8 blasted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida and three days later, Frank Borman, James Lovell and William Anders became the first humans to enter lunar orbit.

The mission ultimately led to the first footsteps on

the moon when Neil Armstrong took his "one small step" in 1969. Apollo 8 also marked a rare moment of unity in the United States in a tumultuous year marred by the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr and Robert Kennedy, violence peaking during the Vietnam War and riots across American cities.

Shortly after entering the moon's orbit, astronauts aboard the Apollo 8 witnessed Earth rising above the moon.

"Earthrise," a photograph of the event taken by Anders, became one of the most famous images of the 20th century.

The International Space Station (ISS) crew paid homage to Apollo 8 in a video message broadcast from space this week.

"Forty years ago, a trio of astronauts ... set out on what was at that time humanity's boldest journey," said Commander Michael Fyncke, who heads Expedition 18, the current ISS mission.

Internet



Crew members line the deck on HMCS Ville de Quebec, as they return to Halifax on 21 Dec, 2008. The vessel was on an anti-piracy escort mission in the Indian Ocean with the World Food Programme off the coast of Somalia.—INTERNET

Britain sees worst flu outbreak since 2000

LONDON, 22 Dec — Britain's medical system is overwhelmed by the worst flu outbreak since 2000, say doctors being swamped with emergency calls.

"The system simply does not have enough capacity to cope with the pressure it is under, and we expect this to keep getting worse over Christmas," said John Heyworth, president of the College of Emergency Medicine. Ambulance services are in short supply with patients facing long waits in emergency rooms because of a shortage of available beds, The Daily Telegraph reported on Saturday.

The latest figures report 40 cases per 100,000 people — the highest level since 2000, when flu illnesses reached epidemic proportions and crematoriums worked 24 hours a day to handle the 22,000 people who died, the Times reported. In a statement last week, Health Secretary Alan Johnson assured the public the increase in flu cases was "pressure we can cope with."—Internet



A man jogs among snow covered trees on 19 December in New York. A massive winter storm blanketed the US West Coast with snow, sleet and ice early Monday while blizzards and snow squalls struck the Northeast and Midwest, killing at least three people and making travel dangerous.—INTERNET

Study finds pesticides in fruit drinks

LONDON, 22 Dec — Britain had the highest level of pesticides among 15 countries whose fruit juice drinks were tested, say researchers at the University of Jaen in Spain. University researchers tested a total of 102 drinks bought in, among other countries, the United States, Russia, Italy, Germany, France, Switzerland and Britain, The Sunday Times of London reported.

The drinks purchased in Britain, on average, had pesticide levels 34 times higher than the levels permitted in drinking water in the European Union. Even with those pesticide levels, however, the drinks were not considered a safety risk, said the European Food Standards Agency.

The study showed the average pesticide level was 17.4 micrograms per liter in the British drinks, 12.3 micrograms in the Spanish drinks and 4.9 micrograms in the French drink, with the lowest pesticide levels found in the drinks purchased in the United States, Russia and Morocco, said the report in the journal Analytical Chemistry.

Internet

Cough medication may treat prostate cancer

SAN DIEGO, 22 Dec — An ingredient used in a common cough suppressant may be useful in treating advanced prostate cancer, US researchers said.

The study, published in the journal Anticancer Research, found that noscapine — used in cough medication for nearly 50 years — reduced tumor growth in mice by 60 percent and limited the spread of tumors by 65 percent without harmful side effects.

Dr Israel Barken of the Prostate Cancer Research and Educational Foundation in San Diego, Moshe Rogosnitzky of MedInsight Research Institute and Dr Jack Geller of The University of California, San Diego, said noscapine, a

naturally-occurring, non-addictive derivative of opium, cannot be patented, which has limited the potential for clinical trials.

Rogosnitzky explained that drug companies are generally unwilling to underwrite expensive clinical trials without being able to recoup their investment. A synthetic derivative of noscapine

has been patented but has not yet reached the clinical testing phase.

Since noscapine is approved for use in many countries as a cough suppressant, it is available to doctors to prescribe for other uses as well. This "off-label" use of noscapine is increasingly being used to treat a variety of cancers, Barken said.

Internet

Extra vitamins have no effect on cancer

LOS ANGELES, 22 Dec — Taking supplemental vitamins and minerals won't prevent cancer, strokes or heart disease results of long-term trials suggest. The trials counter a widespread belief held since the 1990s that taking vitamins and minerals could play a key role in preventing ailments,

especially in older people, the Los Angeles Times reported Sunday.

In some cases, taking supplements can be unsafe, said doctors, noting a healthy diet provides all that most people need.

"These things are ineffective, and in high doses they can cause harm," said Dr Edgar R Miller of Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore. "People are unhappy with their diets, they're stressed out and they think it will help. It's just wishful thinking."

Internet



Indian villagers walk towards a railway station on a foggy morning in Kunda, about 60 kilometres (37 miles) from Allahabad, India, on 21 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Japan ready to bid for both World Cup, Olympics



An Italian supporter team carries a giant cutout of the World Cup trophy. Japan's football chief has vowed to bid for the World Cup finals in 2018 or 2022, despite Tokyo's candidacy to host the 2016 Summer Olympics, press reports said.—INTERNET

TOKYO, 22 Dec—Japan's football chief has vowed to bid for the World Cup finals in 2018 or 2022, despite Tokyo's candidacy to host the 2016 Summer Olympics, press reports said on Monday.

"We want to challenge it," Football Association president Motoaki Inukai was quoted as saying on FIFA's weekend decision to hold simultaneous bidding for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups.

Japan co-hosted the 2002 finals with neighbouring South Korea.

FIFA, the world's football governing body, last year abolished a system under which the host nation of the four-yearly premier football event was rotated among six continents.—Internet

Milan dazzle in front of watching Beckham

ROME, 22 Dec—AC Milan seemed inspired by the presence of new loan signing David Beckham watching on from the stands as they blew away hapless Udinese 5-1 at the San Siro on Sunday night.

That ensured they moved into the three-week winter break, after which they will be able to call on the services of the former England captain, in third place in Serie A, nine points off leaders Inter Milan. In between the bitter city rivals stand Juventus who cut Inter's lead to six points earlier in the day as they won 3-1 at Atalanta.

Pato and Kaka both bagged a brace for Milan and Dutch veteran Clarence Seedorf rounded things off while Antonio Di Natale replied for Udinese. Kaka said he hoped this would help Milan kick on in the title race in the New Year." Coach Carlo Ancelotti felt the return of Kaka from injury had been a big boost to the team.—Internet



Wayne Rooney, seen here leaping for the ball, came to the rescue as Manchester United beat South American champions Liga de Quito 1-0 to win the Club World Cup and lift one of the few trophies to have eluded them.—INTERNET

Triumphant United face Premier League reality

YOKOHAMA, 22 Dec—Manchester United began the long trip back to England on Monday in a triumphant but sober mood, with a Boxing Day fixture against Stoke City looming and jetlag to deal with.

Winning the Club World Cup on Sunday gave the team one of the few pieces of silverware to elude them and the players were clearly delighted at being crowned world champions to go with their European and English titles.

Wayne Rooney scored the only goal as they beat Ecuador's Liga de Quito 1-0.

But they suffered a blow when Nemanja Vidic was sent off, meaning he will miss their Champions League first leg against Inter Milan in February. Now they face the reality — a gruelling flight back to London with a connection to Manchester and then Stoke, knowing that a defeat on Friday would be disastrous.—Internet



Nancy's forward Youssef Hadjis (R) is congratulated by his teammate Pascal Berenguer (L) after scoring a goal next to Marseille's goalkeeper Steve Mandanda (C) during the French L1 football match Marseille vs Nancy at the Velodrome stadium in Marseille. Nancy won 3-0.—INTERNET

Barcelona beat Villarreal to go ten points clear

BARCELONA, 22 Dec—Ten-man Barcelona came from behind to beat Villarreal 2-1 on Sunday and go into the Christmas break with a commanding lead at the top of the table.

After a tight first half, the game came to life following a fine goal for Villarreal set-up by a delightful through ball from Giuseppe Rossi and despatched coolly by Ruben Cani from a tight angle.

Barca were forced to raise their game and showed their championship credentials with first Seydou Keita equalising from a near post header and then Thierry Henry slotting home a cross from Xavi Hernandez.

Internet

Mourinho says Ibrahimovic is better than Ronaldo

ROME, 22 Dec—Cristiano Ronaldo may have been crowned champion of England, Europe and the world as well as picking up the Ballon d'Or this year but Inter Milan coach Jose Mourinho still doesn't think he's the best.

Mourinho believes that his own Inter forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic of Sweden is one of those that are better than his countryman.

Speaking to Italian TV hostess Simona Ventura, Mourinho said there were several players better than the Manchester United winger.

"When I think about how a player should be what comes to mind is players like Kaka, Ibrahimovic and (Lionel) Messi, who is a phenomenon and in two or three years will win the Ballon d'Or," he said.—Internet



Inter Milan's Swedish forward Zlatan Ibrahimovic

Arsenal can still win the title insists defiant Wenger

LONDON, 22 Dec—Arsene Wenger insists Arsenal can still win the Premier League title despite his side's failure to close the gap on leaders Liverpool.

The Gunners remain eight points behind Liverpool after Sunday's 1-1 draw against Rafa Benitez's team at the Emirates Stadium.

It is a substantial deficit, especially considering Arsenal still have daunting trips to Anfield, Old Trafford and Villa Park to come, but Wenger is adamant Liverpool will slip up and he expects his team to take advantage. "We are not out of the race because the title is won in May and we are in December," Wenger said. "Mathematically we will fight until the end. I believe Liverpool will drop many points. I am convinced of that."

"They had four draws at home. That means they dropped eight points, why shouldn't they drop eight more in the second half of the season?"—Internet



Liverpool's Robbie Keane celebrates his goal against Arsenal during a Premiership match at the Emirates Stadium, London. The match ended in a 1-1 draw.—INTERNET

Singh wins with a final birdie at Sherwood

THOUSAND OAKS, 22 Dec—Age is starting to creep up on Vijay Singh, who turns 46 in February and spent the last three months taking the longest break of his life to let nagging injuries heal.

But against a world-class field Sunday at the Chevron World Challenge, Singh looked as good as new.

With three straight birdies early on the back nine to get into contention and a 10-foot birdie putt on the final hole, Singh closed with a 5-under 67 for a one-shot victory over Steve Stricker to finish off the most lucrative season of his career.

Internet

Vijay Singh, of Fiji, watches his second shot on the second hole fall in a greenside bunker during the final round of the Chevron World Challenge golf tournament at Sherwood Country Club in Thousand Oaks, Calif, on 21 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET



Sevilla's Brazilian Renato tries to control the ball during the Spanish league football match vs Mallorca at the Ono stadium in Palma de Mallorca. The match ended in a 0-0 draw.—INTERNET

China protests latest US trade case at WTO

BEIJING, 22 Dec—China said on Sunday it had consistently respected the rules of the World Trade Organization and would work with the WTO on a suit lodged against it by the United States aimed at halting export subsidy programmes. The United States began legal action at the WTO on Friday to halt Chinese government

subsidy programmes to boost the sale of Chinese-branded goods around the world.

The subsidies benefit a wide range of Chinese industrial sectors, including household electronic appliances, textiles and apparel, a range of light manufacturing industries, agricultural and food products, metal and

chemical products, medicines and health products, the US Trade Representative's Office said.

The subsidies include cash grant rewards for exporting, preferential loans for exporters and payments to lower the cost of export credit insurance, the USTR said. However, China's Commerce Ministry,

in a short statement on its website (www.mofcom.gov.cn), said China respected the rules. "China has all along respected the rules of the WTO, and opposes trade protectionism," it paraphrased an unnamed official as saying. "China will deal with (the suit) in accordance with WTO rules."

MNA/Reuters

Switzerland may send soldiers to protect ships off Somalia coast

GENEVA, 22 Dec — Switzerland may place soldiers aboard Swiss merchant ships sailing in waters near Somalia to fend off the threat of pirates, local media reported on Sunday.

"There is no other solution than to send soldiers if our ships are threatened," Swiss President Pascal Couchepin was quoted as saying by the Sonntags Zeitung newspaper.

Couchepin, who is also the country's interior minister, said the Swiss Cabinet had not made a final decision, but its position was clear on this issue.

He said the Swiss Government was now reviewing "what legal,

financial and practical consequences" such an action would have.

Somali pirates have recently made frequent attacks on merchant ships sailing in the Gulf of Aden and the Indian

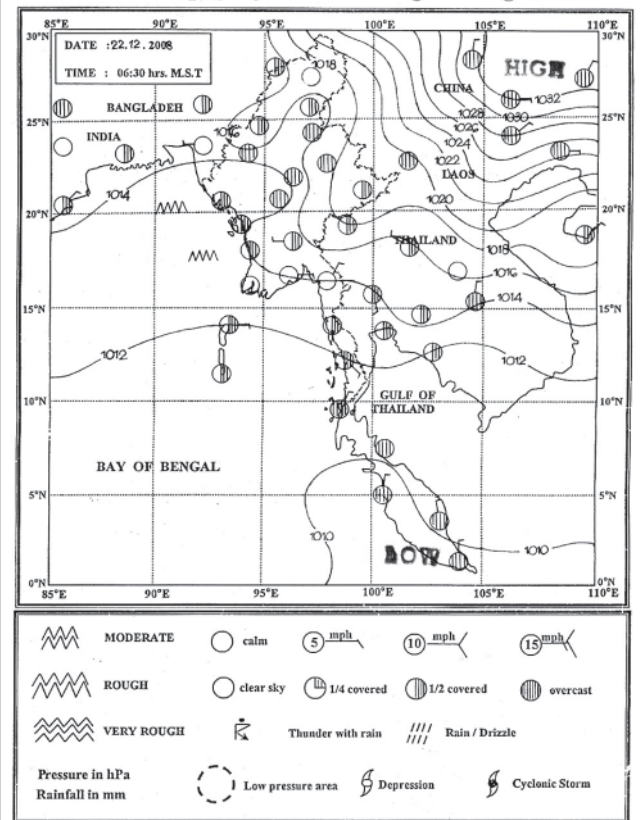
Ocean.

Given the seriousness of the threat, the UN Security Council has authorized states to take actions to fight piracy in nearby waters of Somalia.—MNA/Xinhua

Vehicles covered with snow drive on the road after heavy snow hit northeast region overnight in Sokcho, South Korea, on 22 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET



Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Monday, 22 December, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain have been isolated in Kachin State, weather has been partly cloudy in Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Mon States, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) below December average temperatures in Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Shan and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Magway Divisions, (7°C) to (8°C) above December average temperatures in Kachin State and Mandalay Division and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Loilem (2°C) and Hakha (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 21-12-2008 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 22-12-2008 was 58°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 22-12-2008 was 70%. Total sunshine hours on 21-12-2008 was (8.5) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 22-12-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (110.31) inches at Mingaladon, (120.95) inches at Kaba-Aye and (140.94) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from South at (14:30) hours MST on 21-12-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 23rd December 2008: Isolated slight rain are possible in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division and weather will be partly cloudy in Chin, Shan and Rakhine States, lower Sagaing, Magway, Mandalay and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 23-12-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 23-12-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 23-12-2008: Partly cloudy.



Tuesday, 23 December
View on today

7:00 am

1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်တရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

7:50 am

5. ကြိုတင်ပြင်ဆင်ဆောင်ရွက်လျှင်

အန္တရာယ်ကင်းစင်မွေးမိခင်”
(ထွန်းထွန်းဝင်း၊ ဖိုးသောကြာ၊
မေသန်းနု၊ ပပဝင်းခင်၊ ဝဋ်နန္ဒာဖြူ)
[ဒါရိုက်တာ-အောင်မိုး(ပဲရစ်)]

8:00 am

6. နှောင်းခေတ်တေးပဒေသာ

8:15 am

7. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:20 am

8. Musical programme

8:30 am

9. International news

8:40 am

10. Local Talent

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. Dance of national races

4:15 pm

3. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:25 pm

4. Musical programme

4:35 pm

5. “ဝန်းကျင်တစ်ခွင်ကောင်းကျိုးပေး
တိစ္ဆာန်ပစ်မြေဆွေး”(အပိုင်း-၁)

4:50 pm

6. အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ
ပထမနှစ် (ဓာတုဗေဒ၊ ရူပဗေဒ၊
သတ္တဗေဒ၊ ရက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြုများ)
(ဓာတုဗေဒ)

5:05 pm

7. Songs to uphold
national spirit

5:10 pm

8. The mirror images of
the musical oldies

5:20 pm

9. “ရေမြင့်ကြာတင့်”
(ခန့်စည်သူ၊ ဧရာဝတီ၊ ပျော့ပျော်၊
မိုးမြည့်ပြည့်မောင်၊ ထင်ပေါ်၊
ဝမ်းပုံ၊ မျိုးမျိုးခိုင်)
(ဒါရိုက်တာ-ဖုန်းမြင့်အောင်)

5:40 pm

10. ရုပ်မြင်ရသတေးစုကဏ္ဍ

6:00 pm

11. Evening news

6:30 pm

12. Weather report

6:35 pm

13. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ

6:55 pm

14. ဆိုလိုက်ကြစို့

7:20 pm

15. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

“စူပါမင်းနှင့်မာနရှင်”
(အပိုင်း-၁၈)

8:00 pm

16. News

17. International news

18. Weather report

19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

“မြင့်မြတ်နုလုံးသားပိုင်ရှင်”
(အပိုင်း-၁၂)

Prime Minister General Thein Sein felicitates Prime Minister of Japan

NAY PYI TAW, 23 Dec— On the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty Akihito, Emperor of Japan, which falls on 23 December 2008, General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr Taro Aso, Prime Minister of Japan.— MNA

Pyawbwe-Phayangasu Railroad reflects victory of local people

Article: Tin Htwe (MNA) ; Photos: Thar Nyan (MNA)

Just as the train left Pyawbwe Station to make the first run to launch Pyawbwe-Phayangasu Railroad, a large number of local people standing on both sides of the railroad waved their hands out of joy to officials on the train.

The train stopped for a while at Lintsingon Station between Pyawbwe and Phayangasu Stations and again at Phayangasu Station in response to the rousing welcome offered by local people waving com-

memorative pennants to the accompaniment of an entertainment programme of dances and songs, the officials on the train greeted them.

The opening of Pyawbwe-Phayangasu Railroad constructed by the Myanma Railways under the Ministry of Rail Transportation took place on 30 November morning. When asked about the new transport facility, Project Engineer U Lwan Thu told

(See page 7)



Local people waving to the train on Pyawbwe-Phayangasu Railroad at Lintsingon Station.

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

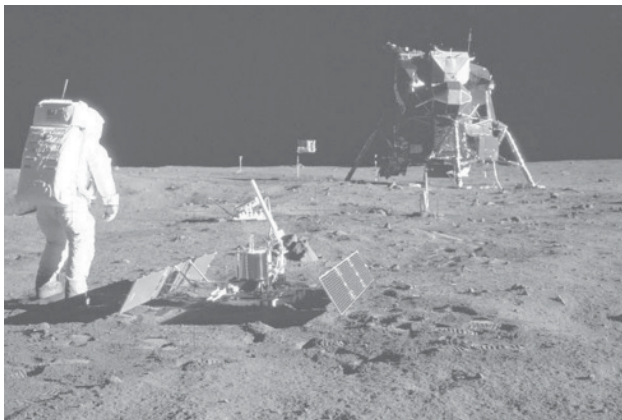
- * Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
- * Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
- * Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country 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

Take Fire Preventive Measures

New model explains movements of the Moon



Installation of CCRs on the moon during the Apollo 11 mission.

MADRID, 22 Dec — Two researchers from the universities of Valladolid and Alicante are developing a mathematical formula to study the rotation of the moon, taking into account its structure,

which comprises a solid external layer and a fluid internal core.

Their work is part of an international study, which has come up with an improved theoretical model about the orbital and

rotational dynamics of the Earth and its satellite, and which the scientific community will be able to use to obtain more precise measurements in order to aid future NASA missions to the moon.

Juan J. A. Getino, from the Applied Mathematics Department of the University of Valladolid, and Alberto Escapa, from the Applied Mathematics Department of the Higher Polytechnic School of the University of Alicante, suggest in their work that the Earth and the moon should be considered as “multi-layered” systems.

Internet

Geoscientists drill for secrets of Earth's ancient climate

COLOGNE, 22 Dec —

In the next few days, a convoy of bulldozers and trucks will set out from a remote airport in Siberia, heading for a frozen lake 62 miles north of the Arctic Circle, but the trip isn't a holiday visit to the North Pole.

Instead, the trucks will deliver core-drilling equipment for a study of sediment and meteorite-impact rocks that should provide the longest time-continuous climate record ever collected in the Arctic.

Internet



A bulldozer with payload bound for Lake El'gygytyn on a previous research foray. For this logistically difficult study, scientists spent 10 years taking test core drill samples, measuring lake ice movement and other key factors in order to maximize the chance for scientific success and personnel safety.—INTERNET