



Stand tall as citizens of independent nation

Myanmar nationals are well imbued with nationalistic fervour. In addition, the national people as citizens of an independent nation have stood tall and well realized the value and taste of independence throughout different periods.

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

(From message sent on the occasion of the 59th Anniversary Independence Day)

Senior General Than Shwe inspects rehabilitation and construction tasks in Mawlamyinegyun, Labutta

Plentiful natural resources of Ayeyawady Division to be explored and fully exploited for economic growth

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec — Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe together with member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Natural Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein, member of the SPDC Lt-Gen Tin Aye, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Com-

National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt, who is closely supervising the rehabilitation and construction tasks there, and officials concerned.

Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected rehabilitation tasks and development in the township in a motorcade.

Minister Col Thein Nyunt reported on storm-hit areas, relief and resettlement, areas of the township,

summer paddy, provisions for storm victims by local and foreign wellwishers, distribution of power tillers by Agricultural Mechanization Department, IDE (M), UNDP and ICDP and provision of cattle and poultry, fishing boats and nets.

Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe also reported on participation of local people in regional development tasks under the leadership of the government.



Senior General Than Shwe views new school building of BEHS in Hlaingphone model village. —MNA

mander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe, the ministers, the deputy ministers and officials, left Patheingyi by helicopter and arrived in Mawlamyinegyun at 10.30 a.m. yesterday.

Senior General Than Shwe and party were welcomed by Minister for Progress of Border Areas and

land utilization, reconstruction of departmental buildings, religious structures, hospitals and schools, construction of houses by A 1 Co, TZTM Co and Original Group, construction of rural houses in model villages namely, Hlaingphone, Ngwezinyaw, Danichaung, Kyetshar, Hlaingphonelay and Kyarhone with the contribution of wellwishers including Myanma Economic Holdings Ltd, water supply, harvesting of monsoon paddy, targets for

Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun reported on road network project in Ayeyawady Delta including 43-mile-5-furlong Maubin-Yelegalay-Shwetaunghmaw-Kyaikpi-Mawlamyinegyun road, 52-mile Mawlamyinegyun-Hlaingphone-Thitpok-Kwinpauk-Pyinsalu road, 35-mile-2-furlong Labutta-Thingangyi-Pyinsalu road, 39-mile Bogale-Kyeingyaung-Kadonkani road, 37-mile-5-furlong (See page 6)

PERSPECTIVES

Tuesday, 30 December, 2008

Endeavour for development of Myanmar literary world

Literature is the cultural pillar of a race. There has been a fine tradition that literature plays an important role in preserving traditions, culture, customs and national characters.

Patriots including learned monks and learned laity have served the interest of the State and the nation in successive eras. The literati organized the national people with the might of literature during the period of independence struggles, and that led the entire nation to regain independence after the people drove out the colonialists. And they have been able to safeguard the independence and sovereignty.

At present also, some powerful nations are making an attempt to dominate the global nations in various ways making better use of modern information technology. They are trying to export their idea, culture and life styles which are not fit for other sovereign nations economically and socially.

At such a time, all the literati are to be vigilant and guard against their instigation and ill attempts with national awareness. At the same time, they are to strive for producing literature capable of serving the interest of the State and the people.

The literati are the national forces who are to preserve the national culture. The government is making all-out efforts for enhancing the standard of national literature and development of Myanmar literary world. In that regard, it holds the national literary award presentation ceremony yearly.

Therefore, it is incumbent upon all the journalists, writers, cartoonists, artists, designers and publishers to make constant efforts with national outlooks for the emergence of literature capable of serving the national interest and development of Myanmar literary world.

MHA talk 1 Jan

YANGON, 29 Dec—Myanmar Hotelier’s Association will organize a talk on business strategy with the assistance of Silver View Resort (Ngwe Saung Beach). Professor Dr Aung Tun Thet will give a talk under the topic of Blue Ocean Strategy in Yuzana Hotel (Shwegondaing) in Bahan township here at 4 pm on 1st January 2009. Those interested are invited to participate in the talk which will be held on first Thursday of the every month.—MNA

People’s Desire

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

Hmawby, Taikkyi hail Independence Day



Commander Brig-Gen Win Myint views cultivation of summer paddy of peasant U Aung Zaw of Hlegu Township.—MNA

YANGON, 29 Dec— As a gesture of hailing the 61st Anniversary Independence Day, the opening ceremonies of newly tarred roads in Hmawby and Taikkyi Townships were held at designated places this morning, attended by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint.

The opening ceremony of Konmyinthta tarred road in Hmawby Township was held and the executive officer of Hmawby Township Development Affairs Committee explained facts about the construction of the road.

Afterwards, the commander, the director of Yangon Division Development Affairs Committee and personnel concerned opened the road by cutting

the ribbon. And then, the commander and officials opened the Hnatpyawta tarred road in Taikkyi Township.

The commander and party inspected the summer paddy field of farmer U Than Oo in Yintaik Village in Taikkyi Township and cordially met with local people.

The commander and party also looked into the supply of water to canal of Tabuhla Dam and Deputy Director U Win Aung of Yangon Division Irrigation Department and officials explained facts about of the dam.

Next, the commander and party inspected construction site of University of Technology (Hmawby).— MNA

MWAF conducts educative talks at MOI

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec —Information Department of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation conducted educative talks at Ministry of Information here yesterday.

It was attended by Head of the Information Department Daw Kyi Kyi Win, chairpersons and members of Nay Pyi Taw district, township Women’s Affairs Or-

ganizations and members of MWAF from Ministry of Information.

First, Head of the Information Department Daw Kyi Kyi Win briefed on MWAF.

Before the talks, Daw Nwe Nwe, wife of Director-General of MRTV U Khin Maung Htay, Daw San San Lwin, wife of Managing Director of the Printing and Publishing Enterprise U

Aung Nyein, presented applications for membership of MWAF to Daw Kyi Kyi Win and chairpersons of Nay Pyi Taw district, township WAOs.

Daw Than Than Aye, wife of Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise U Soe Win, and Daw Malar Win, wife of Managing Director of Myanmar Motion Picture

Enterprise U Aung Myo Myint handed over cash donated by Ministry of Information to MWAF.

Daw Sandar Khin, a literary award winner for 2007, gave talks on “Take a pride in preserving the culture”. Daw Nwe Nwe, wife of Director-General of Myanma Radio and Television U Khin Maung Htay, presented gifts to Daw Sandar Khin.—MNA



Daw Kyi Kyi Win, head of Information Department of MWAF briefs on MWAF.

MNA

Suicide bomber kills two north of Afghan capital

KABUL, 29 Dec —A suicide car bomber struck a governor’s compound north of the Afghan capital on Monday while US troops were inside, officials said. The blast killed two Afghan civilians and wounded two American soldiers.

A unit of US troops from the nearby American base at Bagram were meeting with the governor, and their Humvees were parked

outside the gate when the bomber detonated his explosives, said Parwan Province’s police chief, Khalil Ziae.

The blast killed two Afghans and wounded 15, said Ziae. US Sgt 1st Class Joel Peavy said two American troops outside the compound were among the wounded. American forces inside the complex were not harmed.

Violence has spiked across Afghanistan the last

two years, and the US plans to send between 20,000 and 30,000 additional troops to Afghanistan over the next six months to reinforce the 32,000 US forces already in the country.

More than 6,100 people have died in insurgency-related violence this year, according to an *Associated Press* count of figures from Western and Afghan officials.

Internet



Afghan police officers inspect the site of a blast in Khost Province, on 28 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET



The US military released this photo of the blast near a voter registration site.—INTERNET

Afghan car bomb kills 14 children

KABUL, 29 Dec—A suicide car bomb blast near a voter registration site killed 16 people, 14 of them children, and wounded 58 in southeastern Afghanistan on Sunday morning, according to a senior police official and the US military.

A Taliban spokesman said one of his group’s fighters carried out the attack. When security guards stopped the car at the entrance to the

Mandozai district headquarters, the driver detonated the explosives inside the car, Khost provincial security chief Mohammad Yaqoub said.

A security guard and an Afghan National Army soldier were among the dead. There were no military casualties, said US Col Gregory Julian. Coalition and Afghan forces worked together to evacuate the wounded to military and civilian

hospitals, he said.

The military released photos of the incident, saying they “provide further proof the Afghan militants are not interested in the welfare nor benefit of the Afghan people.”

Dozens of tribal elders were meeting nearby in the district administrative office at the time of the bombing, the police official said. The Mandozai district is in the Khost Province.—Internet

Bomb kills 37 in North West Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 29 Dec—A suicide car bomb apparently targeting voters killed at least 37 people and wounded 16 others in the Bunair district of Pakistan’s North West Frontier Province on Sunday, a police official said.

A police officer was among the dead, a doctor said.

Pakistani Taliban spokesman Muslim Khan said his group claims responsibility.

He said residents of the area had fought against the Taliban earlier this year, killing six Taliban members and driving them out of the area.

The blast happened outside a polling station where voters were casting ballots in an election to fill an empty seat in Pakistan’s national assembly.

Internet



Security officials remove debris from a destroyed school after a suspected suicide car bomb attack in the town of Bunair on the edge of the restive Swat valley, northwest Pakistan on 28 December.—INTERNET

Iraq allows British, other foreign troops to stay

BAGHDAD, 29 Dec—The Iraqi Presidency Council approved a resolution Sunday that will allow non-US foreign troops to remain in Iraq after a UN mandate expires at year’s end.

It was the last step for final adoption of the resolution, which won parliamentary approval on Tuesday.

Iraq’s main political parties hammered out the resolution a week ago, after an impasse among parliamentary factions threatened to continue beyond the 31 December deadline. A separate, previously approved agreement authorizes US troops to remain.

Britain has about 4,100 troops in Iraq, the second-largest contingent after the United States, which has about 142,500. Other countries covered under the resolution—El Salvador, Australia, Romania and Estonia—have a total of several hundred troops in the country.

The resolution authorizes Iraq to negotiate bilateral agreements with the countries, Kurdish lawmaker Mahmoud Othman said. If it had not been approved by year’s end, their troops would have been in Iraq illegally.

In November, the United States concluded a separate agreement with the Iraqi government authorizing the continued presence of its troops.

US combat forces plan to pull back from population centers in Iraq by July and to withdraw from Iraq by the end of 2011.

The British government says its forces will complete their mission of training Iraqi troops by 31 May and withdraw from the country by 31 July.—Internet



A wounded Afghan boy receives treatment at a hospital after a suicide attack in Khost Province, on 28 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

US military deaths in Iraq war at 4,219

WASHINGTON, 29 Dec—As of 28 Dec, 2008, at least 4,219 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 3,398 military personnel died as a result of hostile action, according to the military’s numbers.

The British military has reported 178 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

Child maid trafficking spreads from Africa to US

IRVINE, 29 Dec—Late at night, the neighbours saw a little girl at the kitchen sink of the house next door. They watched through their window as the child rinsed plates under the open faucet. She wasn't much taller than the counter and the soapy water swallowed her slender arms. To put the dishes away, she climbed on a chair.

But she was not the daughter of the couple next door doing chores. She was their maid.

Shyima was 10 when a wealthy Egyptian couple brought her from a poor village in northern Egypt to work in their California home. She awoke before dawn and often worked past midnight to iron their clothes,



Shyima Hall, 19, discusses her domestic enslavement on 16 Sept, 2008, in Beaumont, Calif. Shyima was 10 when a wealthy Egyptian couple brought her from a poor village in Northern Egypt to work in their California home.—INTERNET

mop the marble floors and dust the family's crystal. She earned \$45 a month working up to 20 hours a day. She had no breaks during the day and no

days off.

The trafficking of children for domestic labor in the US is an extension of an illegal but common practice in Africa. Families in remote villages send their daughters to work in cities for extra money and the opportunity to escape a dead-end life. Some girls work for free on the understanding that they will at least be better fed in the home of their employer.

Internet



Women push wheel barrows loaded with gravel for building their new homes in Anxian County, Sichuan Province .Quake reconstruction is a central plank of the government's stimulus plan.—INTERNET

Two NATO soldiers killed in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 29 Dec— The NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in a statement issued here on Sunday confirmed two ISAF soldiers were killed Saturday in southern Afghanistan.

It did not specify the nationality of victims in the light of ISAF policy.

However, Canadian troops stationed in southern Afghan province of Kandahar, according to media reports, said two soldiers of them were killed by roadside bombing during a patrol in Panjwayi district as three more soldiers and two Afghan nationals wounded.

Spiraling conflicts and Taleban-linked insurgency have claimed more than 5,000 people with over 290 foreign soldiers so far this year, despite over 70,000-strong international troops stationed in strife-torn Afghanistan. —*Internet*



An Egyptian policeman checks a truck of medical aid waiting on the Egyptian side of the closed Rafah crossing point between Egypt and the Gaza Strip. Egyptian police fired in the air near the Gaza border town of Rafah on Sunday to prevent Palestinians entering Egypt.—INTERNET

Turkish jets hit PKK targets in N Iraq

ANKARA, 29 Dec—The Turkish army said on Sunday that Turkish warplanes struck several targets of the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) in northern Iraq over the weekend.

Army sources told

Xinhua the army have carried out several operations during Saturday and Sunday, targeting the PKK along the Turkish-Iraqi border.

Turkish jets hit PKK targets in Hakurke region in northern Iraq on Satur-

day night and struck several targets in the Iraqi side near the border on Sunday. They also revealed that operations against the PKK were also carried out inside Turkey, in the border area with Iraq.—*Internet*

Mexico sentences migrant smuggler to 60 years

MEXICO CITY, 30 Dec —Mexican prosecutors say they won a 60-year prison term for a human smuggler who helped about 200 people sneak into the US, including Hezbollah supporters.

Salim Boughader Mucharrafile was arrested in 2002 and convicted on organized-crime and immigrant-smuggling charges.

Boughader, a Mexican of Lebanese descent, ran a cafe in the city of Tijuana, across the border from San Diego, California. Among those he smuggled were sympathizers of Hezbollah, a Lebanon-based group that US authorities have labeled a terror organization.—*Internet*



Sri Lankan police officers investigate the site of the suicide bombing in the Colombo suburb of Wattala. Seven security personnel and a civilian were killed in the attack at a base just outside Sri Lanka's capital as troops mounted pressure on the rebels in the north.—INTERNET

Blast hits Sri Lankan capital

COLOMBO, 29 Dec— A suicide blast in Colombo, the Sri Lankan capital, has killed at least six security personnel and injured 15 other people.

The bomber detonated explosives at a checkpoint in the residential Wattala area on Sunday, police said.

“It was a suicide bombing ... We have sent about 15 people to hospital and recovered five bodies,” a police officer said.

Security in Colombo

has been stepped up recently due to concerns over an attack from the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The blast came after the navy claimed that they had killed four LTTE fighters in a boat, about 20km off the Jaffna peninsula, in the northern sea.

Supplies headed for rebel personnel were onboard the 16-metre vessel which exploded and sank, D K P Dassanayke, a navy spokesman said.

The navy suffered no

casualties in the attack, Dassanayke said.

The attack came amid intensified attempts by the military to destroy the LTTE's de facto state in the north of the country in recent months.

The government pulled out of a 2002 Norwegian-brokered ceasefire with the LTTE in January.

The LTTE has been fighting since 1972 for a separate homeland for ethnic minority Tamils in Sri Lanka.—*Internet*

China's Daya Bay nuclear power station records 15 years of safe operation

SHENZHEN, 29 Dec—The Daya Bay nuclear power station in south China's Guangdong Province, which is the first large-scale commercial nuclear power station on the Chinese mainland, has recorded 15 consecutive years of safe and stable operation.

Construction of the station started in 1987. It went into commercial operation in 1994. By Sunday, the station had provided 200 billion kilowatt-hours to the power grid, including 137.3 billion kilowatt-hours to Hong Kong, according to a seminar held in Shenzhen to mark the 30 years development of the station.

In written instructions, Wu Bangguo, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, urged summarizing experience of the Daya Bay nuclear power station and making further great strides in China's development of nuclear power.—Xinhua



The Daya Bay nuclear power station in south China's Guangdong Province is seen in this file photo.—INTERNET

Bangladesh to import 1.5 m tons refined petroleum from Malaysia

DHAKA, 29 Dec—The Bangladeshi government Sunday approved a proposal for import of some 1.5 million tons of refined petroleum from Malaysia, private news agency UNB reported.

Under the proposal of the country's Energy Ministry, the state-owned Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) will

make the bulk import of petroleum from Petco, a sister concern of the Malaysian state-owned Petronus Corporation, under a state-to-state deal.

Of the total fuels, 1.2 million tons are diesel while 150,000 tons jet fuel and another amount of 150,000 tons kerosene, the report said.

The premium was

fixed at 5.98 US dollars for a barrel of diesel and 6.60 US dollars for each barrel of jet fuel and kerosene.

It will cost about 48.97 billion taka (about 699.6 million US dollars).

The total petroleum fuels will be imported between March and December next year.

Xinhua



Swans feed on a piece of bread on lake Zbilje near Medvod on 27 Dec, 2008. —XINHUA

Moderate quake rocks Afghanistan

KABUL, 29 Dec—A moderate earthquake measured 5.8-magnitude Monday morning shocked parts of Afghanistan including the capital city Kabul.

The quake struck at around 8:08 am local time (0338 GMT) and the center was in Badakhshan Province, 276 kilometres northeast of Kabul with a magnitude of 5.8 on Richter scale, according to the United States Geological Survey.

However, officials in Faizabad, the provincial capital of Badakhshan, said no report has been received on loss of life so far from districts.—Xinhua

China builds 2nd railway to Central Asia

URUMQI, 29 Dec—A railway tunnel running across northern Tianshan Mount Range was completed Sunday after four years' efforts.

This 13.6-km-long tunnel, which links up Jinghe, Yining and Korgas, all in western Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, constitutes a vital part of a railway that is designed as a second railway to connect China and Central Asia. China's first railway to Central Asia runs from Urumqi to Alataw Pass on China-Kazakhstan border.

The railway with the tunnel just completed has a length of 285 km. Rail-laying work in the tunnel will start next March, according to the No. 2 company of China Railway First Group Co., Ltd, the builder.—Xinhua

Israeli killed by rocket from Gaza

JERUSALEM, 29 Dec — An Israeli was killed and ten others wounded by a Palestinian Grad missile which exploded near a construction site in the coastal town of Ashkelon in southern Israel, a police spokesman told Xinhua.

According to Micky Rosenfeld, the spokesman, four of the wounded were in moderate condi-

tion while six suffered light injuries.

Magen David Adom medical crews immediately evacuated the wounded to a nearby hospital, Israel Radio reported.

At least five rockets have been fired into Israel since Monday morning — one hit Ashkelon and four others struck various towns in the western Negev, according to local daily Ha'aretz.

No injuries or damage have been reported in the other attacks, it added.

Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Israeli President says no plan to re-enter Gaza

JERUSALEM, 29 Dec—Israel has no plan to invade the Gaza Strip in its efforts to end the continuing rocket attacks from the Hamas-ruled enclave, President Shimon Peres said in an interview published Saturday.

"Israel will take all steps demanded of it in order to stop the rocket fire," he told the London-based newspaper *Asharq al-*

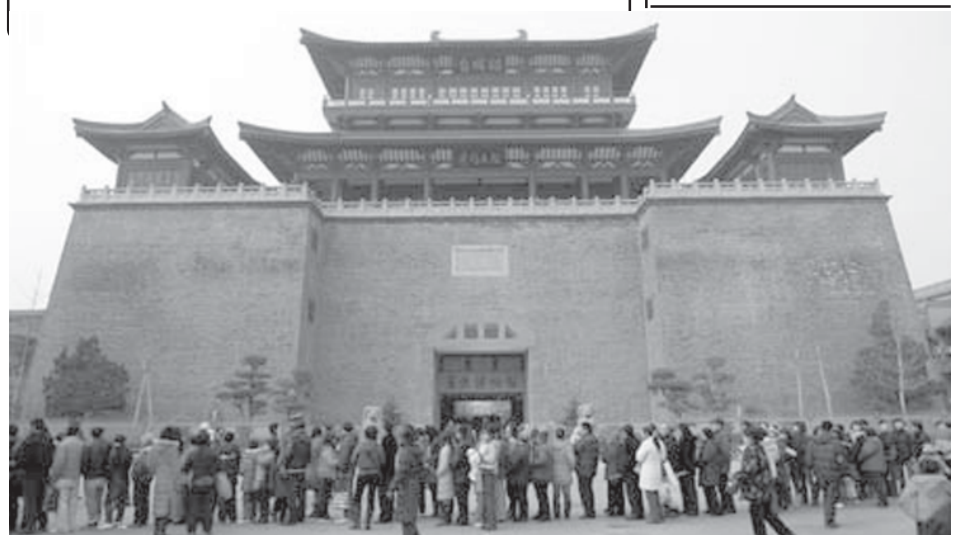
Awsat, adding that "We will not go into Gaza. There are other ways. We didn't leave Gaza in order to go back." The remarks came as Israeli airplanes launched simultaneous raids at tens of targets in Gaza, including police and security centers run by Hamas, and reportedly caused casualties. Israeli officials have recently been warning that as Gazan

militants continue to rain rockets and mortar shells upon southern Israel, the Jewish state is running out of patience with Hamas, and is ready to take military actions in the strip.

During the interview, Peres also accused Hamas, which Israel blacklists as a terrorist organization, of preventing the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Xinhua

Citizens visit the in Xiangfan City, central China's Hubei Province, on 28 Dec, 2008. The museum, opened on Sunday covering an area of 3,200 square meters, displays more than 970 pieces of cultural relics of high values.—XINHUA





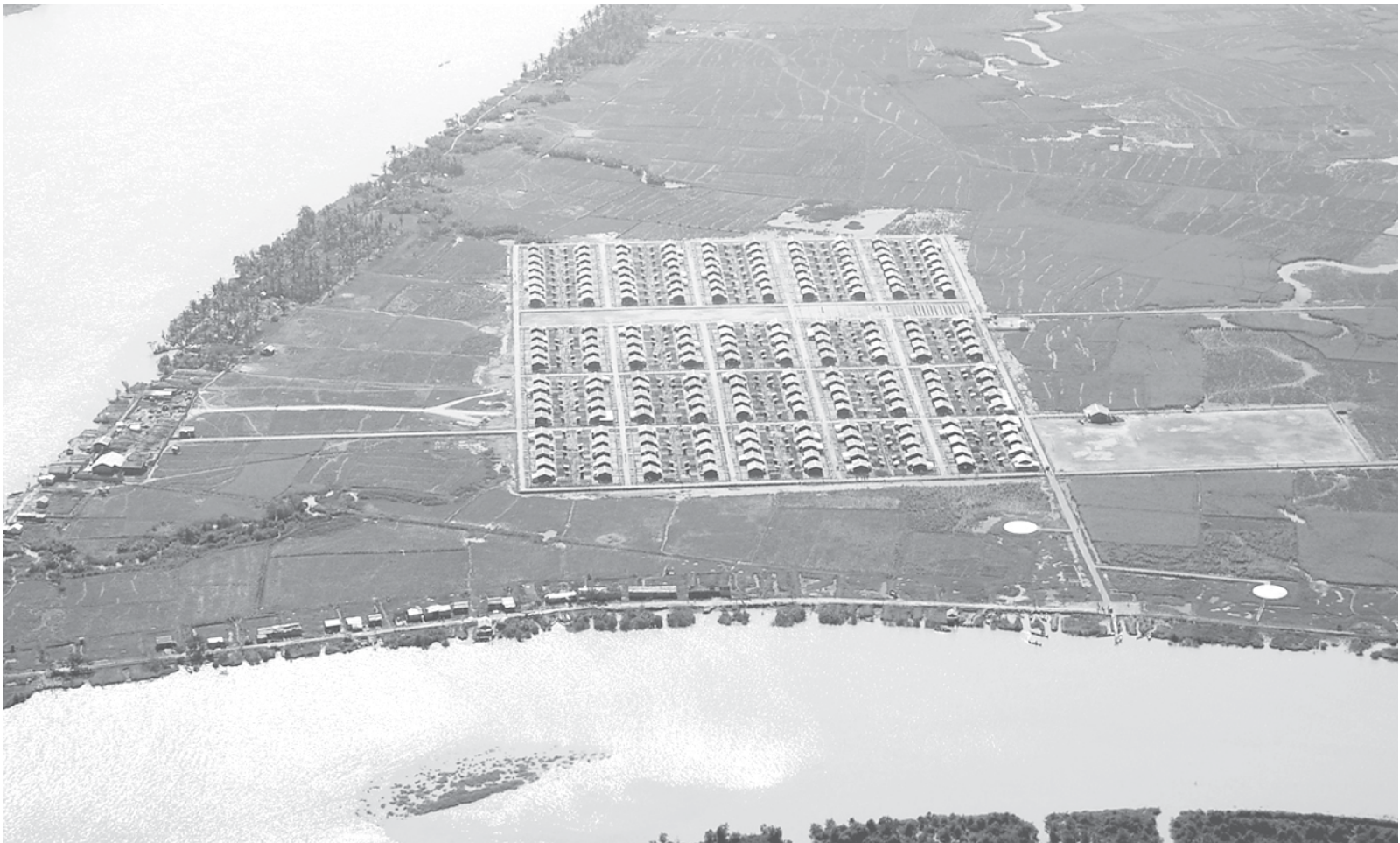
Senior General Than Shwe views thriving kitchen crops of households in Hlaingphone model village.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe inspects...

(from page 1)
Labutta-Thongwa-Oktwin-Htaiksoon road, arrangements for completion of the project before next monsoon and bridges to be built.

Chief-Engineer of Public Works U Sein Maung reported on model of Yazudaing Bridge and Myinkakon Bridge leading to Mawlamyinegyun and their clearance.

Senior General Than Shwe gave guidance on construction of bridges. He said plentiful natural resources of Ayeyawady Division are to be explored and fully exploited for economic growth. Construction of roads and bridges in the division was impossible in the past because of lots of rivers and creeks. It was



Land allotted in Ngwezinyaw village of Mawlamyinegyun Township for building of houses.—MNA

thought that it can be done only in imagination. Due to efforts of the people, bridges crossing rivers and creeks and roads have emerged nowadays and

transport, trade, education and health sectors have also developed, he said.

He spoke of the need to exploit land resources fully after seeking ways

and means, to establish businesses and ensure better transport. The government on its part will provide necessary assistance for development of agriculture and

fisheries important for the region, he added.

He urged the local people to make efforts for development of towns and villages in accord with their characteristics of

towns and villages. He called for conducting short-term courses on how to live long, eat and cook nutritious food, environmental (See page 7)



Self-reliant library of Hlaingphone model village in Mawlamyinegyun Township.—MNA



Temporary clinic of Hlaingphone model village.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe inspects...

(from page 6)

and personal hygiene, first aids, cultivation methods of kitchen crops and domestic science after formation of mobile teams so that they contribute towards regional development.

Senior General Than Shwe and party went



Land allotted for building of houses in Kyatshar village of Mawlamyinegyun Township.—MNA



Land allotted for building of houses in Kwinkaut village of Mawlamyinegyun Township.—MNA

to Hlaingphone model village in Mawlamyinegyun Township. They inspected construction of Kyarhone, Ngwezinyaw, Danichaung, Kyetshar, Hlaingphonelay model villages, construction of Mawlamyinegyun-Hlaingphone-Thitpok-Kwinpauk-Pyinsaluroad, cultivation of summer paddy and other cold season crops, mangrove and windbreak plants. On arrival at Hlaingphone model village, Senior General Than Shwe was welcomed by local people. He toured the village and greeted the people living in the new houses, members of social organizations and service personnel.

Senior General Than Shwe and party left Hlaingphone model village by helicopter at 1 p.m. and inspected the development of Polaung, Thitpok and Theikpantgon villages along the route and condition of roads, vegetable plantations and salt businesses.

On arrival at Labutta, they were welcomed by departmental officials and

entrepreneurs, who were participating in the reconstruction tasks in Labutta Township. Next, the Senior General and party went round Labutta by car viewing the development of the township, repairs of houses and offices, progress in construction of Ayeyawady Jetty and repairing and construction of roads.

At Ywaynadi hall of Labutta, the Senior General heard reports presented by Minister Col Thein Nyunt on the area of Labutta and land utilization, loss and damage due to the storm, relief and rehabilitation

work, development tasks, progress in construction of rural houses by 14 construction companies including Max Myanmar, Wah Wah Win, Mya Nandar, Trust and Gain, Myanma Ahla, Myat Noe Thu and Ayeya Shwe Wah, plans for building cyclone shelters, participation of national entrepreneurs in the reconstruction of Pyinsalu and nearby villages, arrangements for beautifying Labutta, land allotments in the 3-mile camp for extension of the town, distribution of power tillers donated by organizations such as the Agricultural Mechanization

Department, UNDP, Max Myanmar, Ayeya Shwe Wah, IDE, Marlin and public well-wishers, supply of

livestock, distribution of fishing boats and fishing equipment for restoring fishery, providing of loans for salt business and

repairs of schools and hospitals.

In response to the reports, the Senior General gave guidance that as Labutta is progressing with the increasing population, plans have to be carried out for extending the town. Efforts are to be made to ensure more development of agricultural, fishery and salt businesses. Moreover, the region is to strive for the growth of its economy for ever.

Later, Senior General Than Shwe and party left Labutta by helicopter and arrived in Patheingyi at 3.50 p.m.—MNA



Solar-powered tube well in Hlaingphone model village.—MNA



Houses in Hlaingphone model village of Mawlamyinegyun Township.—MNA

HAILING THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY:

It's our country, our land where justice and independence prevail

Kyaw Zin Nyunt (Supreme Court Attorney)

Ward off colonialist tricks with patriotism



Myanmar fell under the yoke of British colonialists for more than 100 years, following the loss of sovereignty. The intruders annexed to their empire Rakhine and Taninthayi in 1825, lower Myanmar from Toungoo down in 1852, and upper Myanmar including Yadanabon Palace in Mandalay in 1885.

I am now 78, and I grew up in the time of the colonialists till I was 17. My parents and ancestors went through the hell of colonialism throughout their whole lives. It goes without saying that colonizing other countries is nothing more than to generate their economic strength by unjustly exploiting terrestrial and aquatic resources including oil and precious stones, agricultural produce and timber of their colonies.

Therefore, Myanmar people were not in a position at all to prevent some companies of the Whites such as Bombay Burma Company from extracting the nation's valuable timber especially teak and ironwood at will. The people had no choice but to look over colonialists' mining enterprises such as Burma Corporation to mine Myanmar's minerals at will such as gold, silver, copper, zinc, iron, tungsten, tin and lead. And it was BOC that tapped Myanmar oil continuously.

Myanmar patriots were constantly lodging protests against the colonialists' exploiting the people variously. Since my youth, I had been equipped with a sense of duty to shoulder the campaigns YMBA, GCBA and Doh Bamar

Asiayon were organizing to help the motherland to regain independence from the colonialists. The literary works by patriotic writers inspired the people to cultivate nationalistic spirit, patriotic spirit and aspiration to regain independence.

Talks given by eminent patriots from Doh Bamar Asiayon and musical works on independence struggles really aroused the anti-colonialist sentiment of the people especially the youth like me. Listening to the talks and reading anti-colonialism books helped us realize the colonialists' oppression of Myanmar people and unjustly taking away natural resources.

We learnt by heart songs on anti-colonialist sentiment such as the song "Shwepyigy" that was about the arrest and exile of the Myanmar king to a prison in Radana Giri, west of India composed by Yaphyat Minthagyi U Maung Lay and sung by U Phu Nyo pulling the strings of the princess marionette (Madi), and the song "Pardawmu" composed by Shwe Daing Nyunt and sung by Daw Sein Party. Singing those songs added to our anti-colonialist sentiment.

To the accompaniment of Gwegyiyat music association (GMA), Saya Tin together with members of Thakin group from Myingyan sang in chorus the song "Doh Bamar" composed by YMBA Thakin Tin of Mandalay, Thakin Ba Thaung of Doh Bamar

Asiayon, Thakin Nyi and Thakin Thein Maung Gyi at Koehsaung Prayer Hall in Myingyan. Then, Thakin Ba Thaung, Thakin Lay Maung, Thakin Nyi and Daw Sein Party sang that song at Rahu Corner Prayer Hall of the Shwedagon Pagoda in July 1930.

While at school, we used to sing in chorus, being up in arms, the introductory part of that musical work "Hey... let's try our best for national liberation... that is Bamars we are... like the sun rising in the east... surely time of our home rule will be ripe soon... that is Bamars we are... regard entire Myanmar as our home and land.. that is Bamars we are...", and National Anthem. After the nation regained independence, several new songs were composed to replace the current National Anthem, but they could not dominate at all the National Anthem composed by YMBA Saya Tin. Therefore, Member of AFPFL Government Minister Bo Khin Maung Galay, Saya Zawgyi, Dagon Saya Tin, Dagon Pa Saya Tin and Saya Yan Naing Sein added some new lyrics to the National Anthem for the new National Anthem that represents independence to approve the new National Anthem.

The introductory part of the song was replaced with a new one by Saya Yan Naing Sein as follows:—

(See page 9)

Despite a variety of disruptions and sanctions, peace and stability have been restored in the Union. The whole Union has seen numerous infrastructures such as roads, bridges, dams, schools, universities, hospitals, factories and electric power plants that are necessary for economic growth. Their emergence is largely due to the fact that the nation is an independent one with sovereignty.

HAILING THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY:

It's our country, our land where justice and independence prevail

Kyaw Zin Nyunt (Supreme Court Attorney)

(from page 8)

"Where prevail justice and independence
It's our country... our land
Where prevail equal rights and correct policies
For people to lead a peaceful life
It's our country... our land
We solemnly pledge to preserve
Union, the heritage, for perpetuity

Saya Yan Naing Sein also created some lyrics to the chorus part of the National Anthem. YMBA Saya Tin composed "regard entire Myanmar as our home and land" because Myanmar (at that time Myanmar was still under the rule of the colonialists) indeed belonged to national people. To make some changes in essence, Saya Yan Naing Sein created some lyrics that mean Myanmar has regained independence and has become a sovereign one, and so the people have to guard against threats at risk to life.

was approved through a referendum. It was known as the Constitution of the Socialist Republic of the Union of Myanmar. At that time, many new national anthems were composed to represent Socialism, and were presented to the people, but they did not win the public satisfaction. Their tunes could not influence the predominant National Anthem composed in 1930. So, it was promulgated that the current National Anthem was in force till there was a new better one.

In the same way, in adopting fundamental principles for the State Constitution (2008) at the National Convention, it was decided with a voice to continue to use the current national song (National Anthem). That was adopted as a principle in the new constitution. The tune of the National Anthem by YMBA has won the hearts of Myanmar people for 78 years.

The expression "where prevail justice and

**It is mandatory for the entire people to
strengthen national economy, while
generating already-achieved peace and
development momentum. The standard of
living of the people will get higher and
higher if the nation's economy goes upward
as they are interrelated with each other.**

"Till the end of the world, Myanmar!,
Since she is the true inheritance from our
forefathers, we love and value her.
We will fight and give our lives for the Union
This is the country and land of our own
For her prosperity, we will responsibly
shoulder the task,
Standing as one in duty to our precious land."

The National Anthem means that the Union of Myanmar is blessed with expressive geographical features, temperate climate and natural resources; that it is home to more than 100 national races that have been living in harmony; that it produces various gems in abundance such as ruby, jade, sapphire, feather, pearl, gold and silver and so on; and that so the people are duty-bound to protect and safeguard the nation in order that the sovereignty and the territory of the Union will last as long as the world exists.

The 1974 constitution that represented Socialism

independence... it's our country... our land... where prevail equal rights and correct policies... for people to lead a peaceful life... it's our country... our land" by Saya Yan Naing Sein represents the noblest and worthiest of worldly values such as justice, liberty, and equality. It is identical to the expression "Further burgeoning of the noblest and worthiest of worldly values such as justice, liberty and equality" manifested in sub-para (C) of Section (6) of Chapter (I) "State Fundamental Principles" of State Constitution (2008) adopted by the National Convention. So, the present national song (National Anthem) was decided to continue to be in force. The lyrics of the National Anthem represent a solemn pledge of the entire people to protect the Union, as the heritage of ancestors, for its perpetuity. So, it really suits the new constitution.

I was one of the slaves of the British colonialists for 17 years. I had a 17-year firsthand experience of being a slave or evil consequences of losing

POEM

With glory and dignity

- * So significant is the Day
Reverberating the whole world
With nationalistic fervour we are
Flying high is our Flag
With glory and dignity
- * Celebrating Independence
As nation's glorious day
Descending from same race
Powerful we are
Having awareness of
Union perpetuity
Having will to consolidate
National unity and amity
For existence of sovereignty
Till end of world
Our Three Main National
Causes
As life and blood
With solemn pledge
Our land our territory
Our nation and race
For their peace and prosperity
Make all-out efforts
With correct thought
And nationalistic fervour
Serve we national interest

Yenatha Maung Kyaw Nyunt (Trs)

Hailing the 61st Anniversary
Independence Day

sovereignty. And I learnt theoretically a wide range of untold stories of the people due to the loss of independence. The grievances of the people will be in record till the doomsday. Thus, I do not want to be a slave of colonialists, and I do not want the entire national brethren including my family members and relatives to place reliance on and trust in colonialists.

Despite a variety of disruptions and sanctions, peace and stability have been restored in the Union. The whole Union has seen numerous infrastructures such as roads, bridges, dams, schools, universities, hospitals, factories and electric power plants that are necessary for economic growth. Their emergence is largely due to the fact that the nation is an independent one with sovereignty.

It is, therefore, mandatory for the entire people to strengthen national economy, while generating already-achieved peace and development momentum. The standard of living of the people will get higher and higher if the nation's economy goes upward as they are interrelated with each other. In fact, the people's improving living conditions some way reflect independence.

Translation: MS



Technological University (Kale) got a new three-storey building on 4 February 2008.

No.	Name	Location	Inauguration Date
1.	Building for BEHS	Yathedaung, Rakhine State	2-1-2008
2.	Building for BEMS	Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), Yangon Division	16-1-2008
3.	Three-storey building for Kale University of Technology	Kale, Sagaing Division	4-2-2008
4.	Main Building of Myeik University	Myeik, Taninthayi Division	3-3-2008
5.	Two-storey building for BEHS	Chanayethazan, Mandalay Div	29-3-2008
6.	Building for BEPS	South Okkalapa, Yangon Division	27-6-2008
7.	Building for BEMS	South Okkalapa, Yangon Division	27-6-2008
8.	Building for Post Primary School	Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), Yangon Division	1-8-2008
9.	Building for BEHS	Pyu, Bago Division	8-8-2008
10.	Building for BEPS	Dagon Myothit (South) Yangon Division	3-9-2008
11.	Building for BEPS	Hlinethaya, Yangon Division	6-9-2008
12.	Building for BEPS	Thakayta, Yangon Division	11-9-2008
13.	Building for BEPS	Kyauktan, Yangon Division	16-9-2008
14.	Building for BEMS	Thanlyin, Yangon Division	16-9-2008
15.	Building for BEPS	Sittway, Rakhine State	28-9-2008
16.	Thayethamain BEMS	Waw, Bago Division	4-10-2008
17.	Building for BEPS	Bogale, Ayeyawady Division	23-11-08
18.	Two-storey building for post primary school	Thingangyun, Yangon Division	12-12-2008

Toungoo in Bago Division also has its own Technological University.

HAILING THE 61st ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY:

ACHIEVEMENT OF THE EDUCATION SECTOR IN 2008



Inauguration of the main building of Myeik University
The photo shows the four-storey main building, opened on 3-3-2008, of Myeik University.





Men dressed as the Three Kings pose with a child in front of the Monument to the Revolution as part of holidays celebrations in Mexico City on 28 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

Obesity surgery reverses diabetes in teens

NEW YORK, 29 Dec — Obesity surgery can reverse diabetes in teens, just as it does in adults, according to a small study.

All but one of the 11 extremely obese teens studied saw their diabetes disappear within a year after weight-loss surgery, the researchers reported. The 11th patient still had diabetes, but needed much less insulin and stopped taking diabetes pills. Previous studies have shown the diabetes benefits of obesity surgery for

adults. Dr Thomas Inge, a pediatric surgeon at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, and his colleagues wanted to find out if the same was true for adolescents. Although more research is needed, Inge said the study "opens the door" to weight-loss surgery as a treatment option for severely obese teens with Type 2 diabetes. The results are in the January issue of Pediatrics and are being released on Monday.

About a third of US

youngsters are either overweight or obese. Increasing numbers of obese children are being diagnosed with Type 2 diabetes, the most common form of the disease and the one linked to obesity. It was seldom seen before in kids. Teen candidates for weight-loss surgery need to be carefully selected, he said, since the long-term consequences of the operation for children aren't yet known.

Internet

Human fat fueling cars! What a plastic surgeon

BEIJING, 29 Dec—A US plastic surgeon recently lost his license due to a scandal that he used the body fat taken from his patients to fuel his and his girlfriend's cars, according to media reports Monday.

Doctor Craig Alan Bittner who lived in Beverly Hills, California, claims that his intentions were good and he was attempting to help save the Earth despite having no proof to the claim.

Three specific patients have filed lawsuits claiming that Bittner took more fat from them than necessary, leaving them disfigured and deformed. But Bittner claimed that a high majority of his patients specifically requested that he use their fat to make fuel.

Public health officials from California made an official statement claiming

that the practice was illegal, and that California law apparently forbids the use of human medical waste to power any types of vehicles. Bittner's practice, Beverly Hills Liposculpture, was closed in November, and California public health department has opened investigation on the doctor.

Internet

FDA approves first eyelash-lengthening drug

BEIJING, 29 Dec—The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved the first drug that will help with producing longer eyelashes, according to media reports on Monday.

Latisse, produced by the company of Allergan, is supposed to treat those who have hypotrichosis, a condition in which a person does not have enough eyelashes. It will be

available by prescription starting in the first quarter of 2009.

The active ingredient in the once-daily prescription treatment is bimatoprost, the same ingredient that is in Allergan's glaucoma treatment Lumigan.

Allergan states that "Latisse users can expect to experience longer, fuller, and darker eyelashes in as little as eight weeks, with full results in 16 weeks." If

Latisse is stopped, eyelashes will gradually return to their previous appearance as new eyelashes grow in.

The company also stated, "Latisse is the first and only science-based treatment approved by the FDA to enhance eyelash prominence as measured by increases in length, thickness and darkness of eyelashes."

Allergan noted that Latisse may cause darkening of the eyelid skin, which may be reversible, and it "may also cause increased brown pigmentation of the colored part of the eye, which is likely to be permanent."—Internet

An Israeli boy stands in the doorway of a bomb shelter in the southern town of Netivot on 28 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET



Susilo calls for national unity against global crisis

JAKARTA, 29 Dec— Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono called on the nation to remain united in dealing with the global economic crisis and promote harmony among followers of different religions, the *Jakarta Post* reported on Sunday.

"We have to be positive that our country

will not plunge into crisis if we build togetherness and solidarity," he told thousands of Christians during the national celebration of Christmas in Jakarta on Saturday.

He added that as well as the economic crisis, the global community has to deal with various problems, such as

terrorism, natural disasters and poverty, and take concerted action to address these issues.

Christmas celebrations across Indonesia were held in a smooth and peaceful manner on Thursday with tight security measures in place ensuring no major incidents.

MNA/Xinhua



Passengers in Chinese Taipei get off a train carriage painted with pandas to commemorate the arrival of a pair of giant pandas gifted by China.

INTERNET

Sculptor Robert Graham dies in California at 70

LOS ANGELES, 29 Dec— Robert Graham, a California sculptor whose works were incorporated into civic monuments including the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial in Washington, DC, has died at the age of 70.

Graham, who also created monuments to boxer Joe Louis and jazz legends Charlie Parker and Duke Ellington, died on Saturday at Santa Monica UCLA Medical Centre and Orthopaedic Hospital.

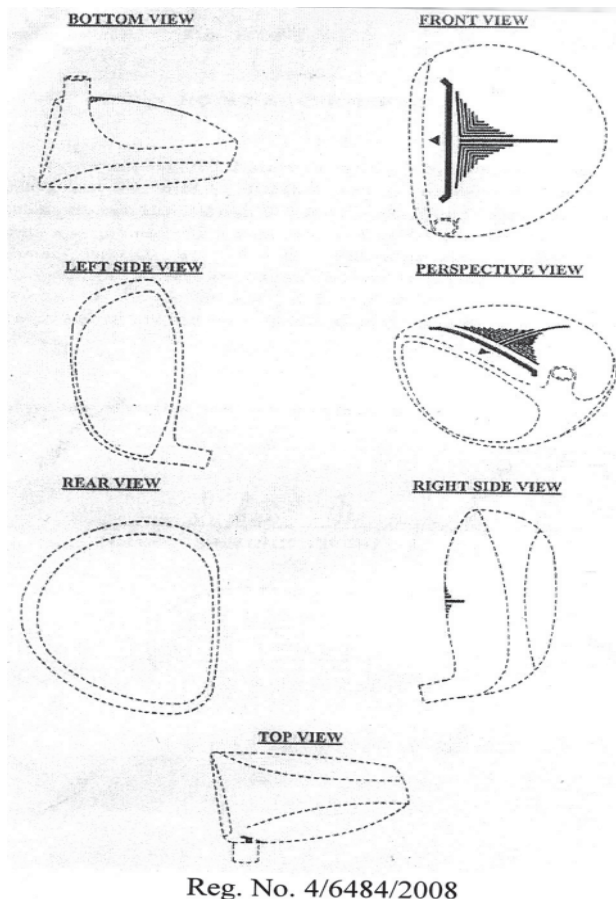
At his side were his wife, Oscar-winning actress Anjelica Huston, and other members of his family.

"Robert was an amazing sculptor who forever shaped the presence of sculpture art throughout California and the world," California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger said in a statement. "His work was truly influential and he will forever remain an icon in this state."

MNA/Reuters

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Tin Ohnmar Tun

B.A (LAW) LL.B, LL.M (U.K)

P.O.Box. 109, Ph: 723043

(For. Domnern Somgiat & Boonma Attorneys at Law,
Thailand)

Dated. 30 December, 2008.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE**MV HELMUTH RAMBOW VOY NO (030N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HELMUTH RAMBOW VOY NO (030N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.12.2008 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING
LINES**

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Red Cross says Gaza hospitals are overwhelmed

GENEVA, 29 Dec—Hospitals in the Gaza Strip are overwhelmed and unable to cope with the casualties from Israeli air strikes, the international Red Cross said on Sunday.

Gaza's hospitals urgently need medical equipment and people are afraid to go into the streets, the International Committee of the Red Cross said. Nearly 290 people have been killed in two days of strikes Israel says were a response to rocket fire. "The hospitals are overwhelmed and unable to cope with the scale and type of injuries that keep coming in," Marianne Robyn Whittington, an ICRC health delegate in Gaza, said in a statement from the organization.

Pierre Wettach, head of the ICRC's delegation in Israel and the Palestinian territories, said it was essential to allow emergency supplies to enter Gaza.

MNA/Reuters

**MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER**

1. Sealed Tender is invited for supply of the following in Euro-

Tender No.	Description	Quantity
12(T)11/MR(ML) 2008-2009	Wheel Monobloc Rolled for YDM-4 Locomotive	120-Nos
2. Closing Date/Time -30.1.2009 (Friday) (12:00) Hours
 Tender documents are available at our office starting from 29.12.2008 during office hours and for further details please call/01-291994, 291985 ,
 Deputy General Manager, Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon .

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV QUANG MINH 126 VOY NO (1)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV QUANG MINH 126 VOY NO (1) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.12.2008 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 TRANS AGRO**

Phone No: 256919/256916/256912

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV MAORI MAIDAN VOY NO (-)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAORI MAIDAN VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.12.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 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 KINGS WAY SHPNG CO.,
LTD**

Phone No: 256919/256916/256912

**Don't
Smoke**

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U Myint Lwin, Advocate,
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Dip in Marine Affairs(UK)
MYINTAdvocate@mpmailnetmm
Ph : 371990 30.12.2008

**Abbas blames Hamas for
Israeli raids on Gaza**

CAIRO, 29 Dec—Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas blamed the rival Hamas group on Sunday for triggering Israel's deadly raids on Gaza by not extending a six-month truce with the Jewish state. Abbas, whose Fatah movement has been at loggerheads with the Islamist group, said maintaining the truce could have helped the Palestinians avoid the Israeli raids, which have killed more than 270 people in Gaza in the past two days. "We talked to them (Hamas) and we told them 'please, we ask you, do not end the truce. Let the truce continue and not stop' so that we could have avoided what happened," he said in Cairo. The two groups have been at odds since Hamas won parliamentary elections in 2006 and then drove Fatah forces out of Gaza in June 2007. —MNA/Reuters



A man stands next to a sausage looped around a rack in Bucharest during a Guinness World Record event for the world's longest sausage on 27 Dec, 2008.—XINHUA

**Mexico reports
seven dead in
Tijuana weekend
shootings**

MEXICO CITY, 29 Dec—Seven people have died in a series of shootings in the Mexican border city of Tijuana over the weekend.

Prosecutors in Baja California state say the deaths happened late Saturday and early Sunday in various parts of the city, located across the border from San Diego, California.

Two of the dead were found shot to death in a home, two others in the trunk of a car, two in the street and one at a taco stand. In the southern state of Guerrero, the bound bodies of two men were found near the capital, Chilpancingo, and a policeman was shot to death in the resort city of Acapulco.

Brutal slayings by drug cartels are on the rise. Officials estimate that more than 5,300 people have died in organized crime-related slayings this year.

Internet



A crane drive piles as the construction of the No 4 Cross Yangtze River Bridge started in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, on 28 Dec, 2008. The 28.996-km-long bridge has a span of 5.448 km, the longest in China and the third longest in the world. The No 4 bridge is scheduled to be completed in 2010 and put into operation in 2013. —XINHUA

Murders among black youths on rise

WASHINGTON, 29 Dec —The number of young black men and teenagers who either killed or were killed in shootings has risen at an alarming rate since 2000, a new study shows.

The study, to be released on Monday by criminologists at Northeastern University in Boston, comes as FBI data is showing that murders

have leveled off nationwide.

Not so for black teens, the youngest of whom saw dramatic increases in shooting deaths, the Northeastern report concluded.

Last year, for example, 426 black males between the ages of 14 and 17 were killed in gun crimes, the study shows. That marked a 40 percent increase from

2000. Similarly, an estimated 964 in the same age group committed fatal shootings in 2007 — a 38 percent increase from seven years earlier.

The number of offenders is estimated because not all crimes are reported, said Northeastern criminologist James Alan Fox, who co-authored the study.

Internet

High wind knocks out power to 413,000 in Mich

DETROIT, 29 Dec — Wind gusting more than 60 mph knocked out power to about 413,000 Michigan homes and businesses on Sunday as temperatures dipped back into the 20s and 30s.

Meanwhile, flood

warnings were posted throughout the Midwest as temperatures rose after a week of heavy snowfall. Forecasters said flooding was possible in areas of Wisconsin, Ohio, Iowa, Michigan and Indiana. In Michigan, high wind knocked down tree limbs and power lines. Parts of the state also got about 4 inches of snow. Detroit-based DTE Energy Co said about 230,000 lost power Sunday, mostly in Wayne and Oakland counties. Crews were working, but spokesman Scott Simons said 10 percent of the 155,000 customers blacked

out Sunday night would have to remain without power into Thursday. "We're still assessing," Singer said.

CMS Energy Corp subsidiary Consumers Energy said about 183,000 of its customers lost power because of the winds and 91,000 remained blacked out Sunday night. Consumers said it couldn't predict when power might be restored because the winds continued. Crews from Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana and Ohio aided Michigan's power restoration efforts.

Internet



Silvis firefighters go door-to-door to homes on River Road in Silvis, Ill, recommending evacuations on 28 Dec 2008, as water and ice from the Rock River threatens the neighborhood. —INTERNET

Hawaii Chevrolet dealer crushes auto competition

A Hilo Chevrolet dealer who tried to crush his Asian auto competition found the stunt a little harder to pull off than expected.

Island Chevrolet general sales manager James Severtson arranged for a Chevrolet Suburban SUV outfitted with massive tires costing \$5,000 apiece to drive over a Honda Accord.

On the first attempt Friday, the monster truck blew a hydraulic hose and leaked vital fluid while the Honda remained intact and ready for more.

After several hours, the truck was repaired and driver Ryan Kepiki tried again, this time with a Hyundai Excel

sedan parked next to the Honda.

Kepiki drove over the cars' hoods, destroying the windshields to the seeming delight of the rush-hour crowd.

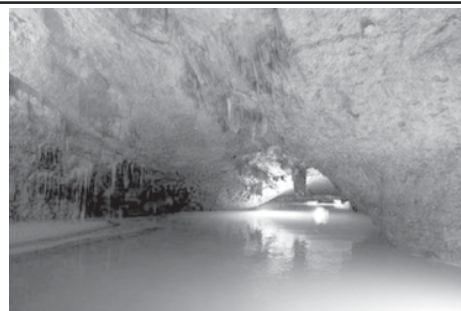
Severtson said the dealership had been planning the crush-fest for a while. But he said it was a happy coincidence President Bush approved a bailout for US automakers as the weekend arrived.



Angel Falls is seen at Canaima National Park in the state of Bolivar, southeastern Venezuela. Located at Canaima National Park, Angel Falls is the world's highest waterfall at 979 meters. Established on June 12, 1962 and covering an area of 3,500,000 hectares, Canaima National Park is the second largest park in Venezuela and was listed a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1994 because of tepuis (table-top mountains) that are characteristic of this area. Rainforest, grassland, rivers and a cluster of waterfalls map out a magnificent scroll painting here attracting visitors from across the world.



The pigs, tattooed with Disney designs, legendary stories, cartoons, and the Louis Vuitton logo, are work of Belgian artist Wim Delvoye in a suburb farm of Beijing. The maximum price of these tattooed pigs can hit one million yuan (about 150,000 US dollars).



File photo of the underground river of the lower cave at Jeita Grotto cave complex, north of the Lebanese capital Beirut. Lebanese are lobbying for the majestic cave complex to be named one of the new Seven Wonders of the World in an online competition that has drawn natural attractions from across the globe.

Cats keep lost boy warm

Argentine police say a destitute 1-year-old boy was kept alive by a colony of stray cats who shared food scraps and kept him warm in the city of Misiones. The boy, who had been missing for several days, was found by Police Officer Lorean Lindqvist, *The Daily Telegraph* reported on Saturday.

"The boy was lying at the bottom of a gutter. There were all these cats on top of him licking him because he was really dirty," Lindqvist said. "When I walked over they became really protective and spat at me. They were keeping the boy warm while he slept."

Dead man receives calls in grave

New York defence lawyer John Jacobs continues to receive voice-mail messages three years after he was buried with his beloved cell phone.

Jacobs' family buried him with his fully charged Motorola T720 phone after he died of pancreatic cancer, the New York Post reported on Sunday.

His wife, Marian Seltzer, also a defense lawyer, continues to pay his monthly \$55 phone bill and his cell number is etched into his gravestone under the words "Rest in Peace."

The first call after death came during the funeral from Jacobs' son, Simon. "The poor grave diggers. I thought they'd have a heart attack," Seltzer said.

Seltzer and her two sons, who regularly leave messages, hear this when they dial his number: "Hi. You've reached the voice mail of John Jacobs. After you hear the beep, leave a voice mail and I will return your call."

Seltzer said she keeps her husband up to date on sports news and how their sons are doing.

"Some people talk to God," Seltzer said. "I talk to my deceased husband."

NEWS ALBUM

SPORTS

Chelsea can catch Liverpool in 2009, says defiant Scolari



Fulham goalkeeper Mark Schwarzer and Chelsea striker Didier Drogba in action. Chelsea were held to a dramatic 2-2 draw by Fulham in the west London derby.—INTERNET

LONDON, 29 Dec—Luiz Felipe Scolari insisted the English Premier League title race was still open as his Chelsea side went into 2009 three points behind leaders Liverpool.

The Blues topped the table at the end of November but have faltered since, with Liverpool taking full advantage. Only once in the last four seasons has a team

that led the Premier League at Christmas failed to win the title, but Scolari is adamant the battle is far from over.—Internet

Neville happy with Man Utd position

MANCHESTER, 29 Dec—Gary Neville believes the clash with Middlesbrough on Monday could put Manchester United on the home straight in the Premier League title run-in.

Manager Sir Alex Ferguson has always maintained his side will be favourites for the championship if they reach the new year in touch with the leading group.

And after ending the Boxing Day round of matches seven points behind leaders Liverpool

with two games in hand, the confidence is growing at Old Trafford that the title can once again be theirs.—Internet



Manchester United's manager Sir Alex Ferguson

Albion late show stuns 10-man Spurs

BIRMINGHAM, 29 Dec—West Bromwich Albion staged a dramatic late show to boost their Premier League survival hopes with a 2-0 win against 10-man Tottenham on Sunday.



West Bromwich Albion's defender Gianni Zuiverloon (L) challenges Tottenham Hotspur's midfielder David Bentley during their English Premier League football match at The Hawthorns, in West Bromwich.—INTERNET

Tony Mowbray's team scored twice in the final seven minutes through Roman Bedner and Craig Beattie to shatter Tottenham's resistance after Benoit Assou-Ekotto was sent off in the first half at the Hawthorns.

It was Albion's second successive home victory and lifted them off the foot of the table, although Blackburn could send them back to bottom with a point against Manchester City in Sunday's late game.

Internet

Defoe going nowhere, says Pompey boss Adams



Portsmouth's Peter Crouch (left) and Arsenal's William Gallas (centre) in action. Gallas's goal nine minutes from time enabled Arsenal to reclaim fourth place in the Premier League with a 1-0 win at the Emirates Stadium here Sunday.—INTERNET

LONDON, 29 Dec—Portsmouth manager Tony Adams has denied England striker Jermain Defoe is about to leave the club.

Speaking following his side's 1-0 defeat away to Arsenal on Sunday, former Gunners captain Adams insisted reports that a "massive offer" for the 26-year-old had been made were inaccurate.

"Speculate all you want but we have had no offers from

Jermain Defoe — not one," he said.

The claim had been made by Tottenham manager Harry Redknapp, who had signed Defoe from Spurs 11 months ago when he was in charge of Portsmouth.

Internet

Tennis player Gasquet looks to new coach for 2009 revival

BRISBANE, 29 Dec—Frenchman Richard Gasquet has turned to a new coach to help him launch a successful Australian campaign and a return to the world's top 10 rankings next year.

Gasquet was ranked seventh last February before a knee injury and a subsequent loss in form sent him tumbling to 25th, his ranking heading into this weekend's Brisbane International tournament. The 22-year-old Frenchman is seeded seventh in the inaugural Brisbane International, with Serb Novak Djokovic and Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga the top seeds.—Internet



Frenchman Richard Gasquet

Federer and Nadal primed for early start

PARIS, 29 Dec—Roger Federer faces an early start to the 2009 season as he begins his campaign to reclaim the world number one spot from Rafael Nadal.

The Swiss star was deposed from the top ranking by Nadal in 2008 with



Rafael Nadal of Spain (R) and Roger Federer of Switzerland.—INTERNET

the Spaniard also taking his Wimbledon crown after a five-year reign.

Federer will begin his new year in the unlikely surroundings of the Zayed Sports City at the Abu Dhabi International Tennis Complex where Nadal, as well as four other top 10 players, will battle for the 250,000-dollar top prize.

"Never before have I started a tennis year as early as the one ahead. I will be back in action on January 1st," said Federer ahead of the January 1-3 exhibition tournament in Abu Dhabi.—Internet



Manchester City's forward Robinho (L) gets past Blackburn Rovers' defender Andre Ooijer (R) during their English Premier League football match at Ewood Park in Blackburn.—INTERNET

Robinho seals City comeback

BLACKBURN, 29 Dec—Brazilian star Robinho ensured Blackburn Rovers suffered last-gasp despair for the second straight game as Manchester City came from two goals behind to draw 2-2 here on Sunday.

Goals from South Africa's Benni McCarthy and Jason Roberts, two strikers signed by Mark Hughes when he was in charge at Rovers, looked to have ensured an unsatisfactory return to Ewood Park for the Manchester City manager.

But City, seemingly out of the game after Roberts's 84th minute goal, saw Daniel Sturridge pull one back before the substitute's powerful run and precise cross set up Robinho in the fourth minute of stoppage-time as he rattled home his third goal in two games.

"When it got to the latter stages we were struggling but the lads showed fantastic effort and great character to get something out of it," Hughes said.

"We lacked a bit of spark but we kept going and I think we deserved that." It was another heartbreaking finale for relegation-threatened Rovers, who'd seen Roberts miss an open goal during the dying minutes of Friday's 0-0 draw against Sunderland.—Internet

Gerrard talks up 'best ever' Liverpool's title chances

NEWCASTLE, 29 Dec—Steven Gerrard branded the current Liverpool side "the best" he'd played in after the Merseysiders ended 2008 as Premier League leaders after thrashing Newcastle 5-1 here at St James' Park.

Liverpool haven't been crowned champions of England since 1990 - an interminable wait for a club that has won the domestic title a record 18 times. Reds captain Gerrard knows better than most people at Anfield the dangers of raising hopes which end in painful failure.

However, such was his self-belief following Sunday's away win, where he scored twice himself, the England midfielder felt able to joyfully talk up his side's prospects.

"This is the best team I have played with," said Gerrard, a one-club man.

"You look around the dressing room and from the keeper to the forwards we have some fantastic players and there is a confidence there," added the 28-year-old, who made his Liverpool debut in 1998.

Internet



Steven Gerrard (right) celebrates scoring with Yossi Benayoun. Gerrard scored twice as the Merseysiders ended 2008 on top of the Premier League with a 5-1 win away to Newcastle at St James' Park in Sunday's early kick-off match.—INTERNET

Knife fatalities rise in Britain

LONDON, 29 Dec—Britain has witnessed an increase in knife crimes in 2008 which killed five people each week on average, local media reported on Monday.

The overall figure of fatal stabbings in England and Wales this year amounted to 277, about a weekly average of five deaths, police statistics showed.

In London alone the number of knife fatalities this year has jumped to 86, one quarter more than that of last year.

“Knife crime is a scourge which claims too many lives and ruins countless others,” said James Brokenshire, a Conservative home affairs spokesman.

Still, as a proportion of all homicides, deaths caused by a knife or other sharp instrument have remained broadly stable for the past 30 years, police said.

Thirtythree percent of homicides in 1977 were a result of stabbing compared with 35 percent this year, falling from the peak 39 percent in 1986.

Internet



Two hikers enjoy the sun above the sea of fog at Pilatus Mountain at 2,135 metres above sea level in central Switzerland, on 27 Dec, 2008.

INTERNET

Maserati recalls 659 sedans in China over suspension flaws

BEIJING, 29 Dec—Italian luxury carmaker Maserati began to recall 659 sedans sold in China starting on Monday due to flaws in the car suspension system, according to the country's top-quality regulator.

The affected models, the Quattroporte, GranTurismo and GranTurismo S, were produced between 1 Sept, 2003 and 23 July, 2008, said the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine. Press

nuts in the upper and lower suspension arms in the front and rear suspension systems were not properly screwed tight, which could damage or even break the suspension arms in extreme cases, said the anno-uncement.

No accidents have been reported as a result of this fault. Ferrari Maserati Cars International Trading (Shanghai) Co, Ltd. has presented a report on the problem to the agency. The Shanghai-based joint venture, in which Ferrari is the major

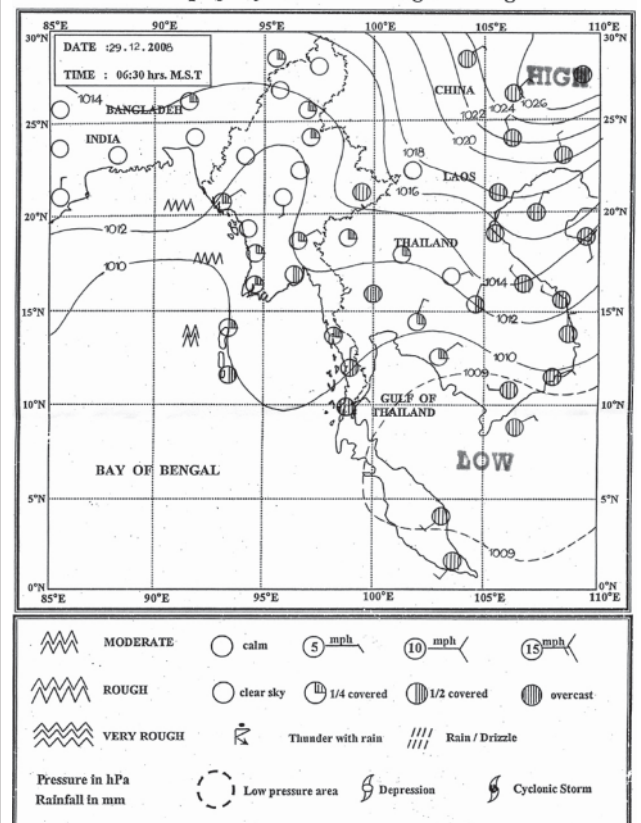
shareholder, will notify customers about safety tests and free maintenance or replacement.—Internet

Indonesian President urges UN to interfere in Gaza conflict

JAKARTA, 29 Dec—Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Monday demanded the United Nations (UN) to hold a formal meeting for a resolution urging Israel to stop attacking Palestine's Gaza border, the Jakarta Post reported.

He said that he had sent letters to the UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon and the UN Security Council and requested them to take firmer actions to stop the attacks, adding that the council's move to hold an informal meeting and produce a written statement against the attacks was not enough to bring the violence to an end.—Internet

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Monday, 29 December, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) above December average temperatures in Kachin and Mon States, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions, (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Chin and Rakhine States, upper Sagaing and Ayeyawady Divisions, (5°C) below December average temperatures in Magway Division and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Loilem and Hakha (0°C) each, Namsam, Pinlaung and Ann (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 28-12-2008 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 29-12-2008 was 60°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 29-12-2008 was 74%. Total sunshine hours on 28-12-2008 was (9.6) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 29-12-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (110.31) inches at Mingaladon, (120.95) inches at Kaba-Aye and (140.94) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (15:30) hours MST on 28-12-2008.

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 30th December 2008: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin and Shan States, Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine and Mon States, upper Sagaing, Mandalay and Yangon Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of isolated rain in Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 30-12-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 30-12-2008: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 30-12-2008: Partly cloudy.



Tuesday, 30 December
View on today

7:00 am

1. တောင်တန်းသာသာရာရာတော်
ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

5. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:00 am

6. Song of yesteryear

8:10 am

7. Dance of national races

8:20 am

8. “ဟွန်းသံ” (ဧရာနုနှင့်အဖွဲ့)

8:30 am

9. International news

8:40 am

10. Musical programme

8:50 am

11. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:00 pm

1. Martial song

4:10 pm

2. Musical programme

4:20 pm

3. အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:35 pm

4. “နီကံပါ၊ ဖျိုးပါ၊ မြန်မာ့မြေလွှာ
ဝင်ငွေလည်းရဝမ်းလည်းဝ”

4:45 pm

5. Songs to uphold
national spirit

4:55 pm

6. အဆေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး
ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ

ပထမနှစ် (ရက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု)
(ရက္ခဗေဒ)

5:10 pm

7. The mirror images of
the musical oldies

5:20 pm

8. “စီးဆင်းပါစေမေတ္တာရည်”
(မေကဗျာ၊ ဖူးဖူး)
[ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်ဇော်(ကုမ္ပဏီ)]

5:35 pm

9. (ဖိ)နှစ်မြောက်လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့
ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

6:00 pm

10. Evening news

6:30 pm

11. Weather report

6:35 pm

12. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ

6:55 pm

13. ဆိုလိုက်ကြစို့

7:10 pm

14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

“စူပါမင်းနှင့်မာနရှင်”
(အပိုင်း-၂၀)

8:00 pm

15. News

16. International news

17. Weather report

18. အချုပ်အခြာအာဏာခွန်ရှည်

ကြာနိုင်မာစေမှုနဲ့ရှေးရှု
“ပြည်သူ့အားမာန်ဆည်တာတစ်”

19. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

“မြင့်မြတ်နုလုံးသားပိုင်ရှင်”
(အပိုင်း-၁၄)

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

Kyaikhto enjoys fruitful results of development drives

NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec—Lt-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence accompanied by Chairman of Mon State Peace and Development Council Commander of South-East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win and departmental officials looked into arrangements for convenience of travellers in Thuwunnabumi Taungdantha Hotel and resort in Kyaikhto on 25 December and flowering plants and trees grown for beautifying the hotel.

Next, Lt-Gen Tha Aye looked into cultivation and livestock breeding works of the local battalion, samples of bunch of oil palm of research and reproduction farm of Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise (Phayalan), and construction of Kadak bridge in Zigon-Sindwin road section of No 2 inter-district road.

He also inspected construction of Saung-naing-gyi bridge at mile-post No. 85 on Kyapan-Winkan road section and building of Sindwin creek bridge (Khawacreek) at mile-post No. 91 on Mottama-Theein-Kyapan-Winkan road section.

Lt-Gen Tha Aye proceeded to No.1 paper factory of Ministry of Industry-1 in Theinzayat model village in which he inspected production process and binding of books.—MNA



Lt-Gen Tha Aye looks into No. 1 paper factory of Ministry of Industry-1 in Theinzayat model village.—MNA

SPECIAL FEATURES TO HAIL 61st ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Article

It's our country, our land where justice and independence prevail

The National Anthem means that the Union of Myanmar is blessed with expressive geographical features, temperate climate and natural resources; that it is home to more than 100 national races that have been living in harmony; that it produces various gems in abundance such as ruby, jade, sapphire, feather, pearl, gold and silver and so on; and that so the people are duty-bound to protect and safeguard the nation in order that the sovereignty and the territory of the Union will last as long as the world exists.

Achievement of the education Sector in 2008



Poem

With glory and dignity

* So significant is the Day
Reverberating the whole world
With nationalistic fervor we are
Flying high is our Flag
With glory and dignity

Honeybees as plant 'bodyguards'



Honeybees are important to plants for reasons that go beyond pollination. The insects' buzz defends plants against the caterpillars that would otherwise munch on them undisturbed.

BERLIN, 29 Dec — Honeybees are important to plants for reasons that go beyond pollination, according to a new study published in the December 23rd issue of Current Biology. The insects' buzz also defends plants against the caterpillars that would otherwise munch on them undisturbed.

The researchers, led by jurgen Tautz of Biozentrum University Wurzburg, Germany, earlier found that many caterpillars possess fine sensory hairs on the front portions of their bodies that enable them to detect air vibrations, such as the sound of an approaching predatory wasp or honeybee.—Internet

Moratti backing for Adriano

MILAN, 29 Dec—Inter Milan president Massimo Moratti insists the club have not shut the door on troubled striker Adriano.

The 26-year-old has endured a difficult season with the Nerazzurri and has been linked with a move to Chelsea or a possible return to Brazil.

Adriano, who is currently recovering from a thigh injury in Brazil, was left out of Inter's team for five games earlier this season after a disagreement with coach Jose Mourinho.

Moreover, earlier this month Inter were forced to deny media speculation that the player had turned



Adriano - backed by Moratti.

up to training under the influence of alcohol.

Internet