Established 1914

The New Light of Myanmar

Volume XVI, Number 258 | 6th Waxing of Pyatho 1370 ME | Thursday, 1 January, 2009

Fundamental factors

The consolidated unity of the Myanmar society, peace and stability and strong national force are the fundamental factors for the accomplishment of building a new nation.

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 felicitates President of Cuba

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Jan —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 Excellency Mr. Raul Castro Ruz, President of the Council of State and of the Government of the Republic of Cuba, on the anniversary of the Liberation of the Republic of Cuba which falls on 1 January 2009.—*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 Marn Aungmyin Pyidawbyan Buddha Image in Zalun, inspects Pathein, Ngawun Bridge (Myokwin)

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Dec—Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe yesterday afternoon paid homage to Marn Aungmyin Pyidawbyan Buddha Image in Zalun after inspecting development of Pathein in Ayeyawady Division and progress in construction of Ngawun Bridge (Myokwin).

Senior General Than Shwe inspects construction of Ngawun Bridge (Myokwin).
MNA

Accompanied by member of the State Peace and Development Council General Thura Shwe Mann of the Ministry of Defence, Prime Minister General Thein Sein, SPDC member Lt-Gen Tin Aye, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, the commander, the ministers and officials, Senior General Than Shwe viewed development tasks of Pathein, sanitation and beautifying of the town and environs of Pathein Bridge across Ngawun River in a motorcade.

At 2.30 p.m., the Senior General and party arrived at the construction site of Ngawun Bridge (Myokwin) on Hinthada-Myokwin-Kwinkauk Road in Hinthada Township by helicopter. They were welcomed by Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun and departmental officials.

(See page 6)

PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 1 January, 2009

Consolidate unity through the might of literature

Today is the auspicious New Year Day of 2009. On this occasion, all the people are to march towards a new peaceful, modern developed nation in unison.

In the course of long history, the Union of Myanmar has been standing tall as a nation of own culture, traditions and customs. Myanmar came into being with own national characters in history.

It is literati who are the national forces striving for Myanmar to be able to stand tall among the international community by preserving the national literature that is the soul of the country and its people.

There have been correct thoughts, good morale and morality among the national people due to the efforts of the patriotic literati.

During the period of independence struggles, the literati organized the people with the application of the strength of the literature and the entire people regained the independence and sovereignty after driving out the imperialists with unity.

Nowadays, some powerful nations are planning to influence the nations of the world in various ways and means taking advantage of their advancing information technology. They are attempting to export their thoughts, culture and life styles which are not conducive to other sovereign nations.

It is a need for the literati, national forces, who are in the forefront of literature and social sectors, to make efforts for perpetuation of sovereignty and forging genuine patriotism and Union spirit among the national people with the use of might of literature.

All this needs to be known

* **Do not be frightened whenever intimidated**
* **Do not be bolstered whenever flattered**
* **Do not be softened whenever appeased**

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**

FM sends message of felicitations to Cuban counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Jan—U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Mr. Felipe Perez Roque, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cuba, on the anniversary of the Liberation of the Republic of Cuba which falls on 1 January 2009.—*MNA*

Chief Editor U Ko Ko Htwe of Sarpay Beikman and Secretary of National Literary Award Scrutinizing Committee U Maung Hlaing present award to U Kyi Aye (Hsinbyukyun Aung Thein). — MNA

Winner receives award at home

YANGON, 31 Dec—Life-time Achievement National Literary Award winner for 2007 U Kyi Aye (Hsinbyukyun Aung Thein) could not attend the prize presentation for the Life-time Achievement National Literary Award, the National Literary Award and the Sarpay Beikman Manuscripts Award held at the hall of the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw on 28 December due to health reasons.

Chief Editor U Ko Ko Htwe of Sarpay Beikman of Printing and Publishing Enterprise and Secretary of National Literary Award Scrutinizing Committee U Maung Hlaing this morning handed over the cash award to the writer at his home in Ward 7 of Thakayta Township.

MNA

POEM

"New Year Thoughts"

* **A new calendar and a new beginning**
  The year's gone and time to start new things
  Less drinking and quit smoking
  Lifestyle changes and wait to see what 2009 brings!
* **Keep a special room in the heart**
  So very dear and so precious
  Store up your real treasures
  None of envy, greed and censure
* **Make a room for those who need us**
  Caring and helpful, you all must
  Leave no space for lingering grudge
  Door tightly shut for sense of hurt
* **Fond memories and small incidents**
  Sweet and worthy to have a look-back
  To be held in heart room forever
  To get lost and forgotten, never!
* **Everyone of us, a dot in human history**
  With a separate life and different light
  You try to light lamps as many
  Add value to yourself and live a meaningful life.

Aye Phyu

Ambassador U Saw Hla Min presents credentials to King of Spain

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Jan—U Saw Hla Min, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Spain, presented his Credentials to His Majesty King Juan Carlos I of Spain, on 16 December 2008, in Madrid.—*MNA*

NDCG holds AGM

YANGON, 30 Dec—The 10th Annual General Meeting of National Development Company Group Ltd (NDCG) was held at the meeting hall of NDCG at the corner of Wayzayandar and Thanthuma Roads here this morning.

Chairman of NDCG Dr Khin Shwe presided over the meeting and NDCG General Manager U Kyi Maung acted as MC.

Meeting Chairman Dr Khin Shwe delivered an address. NDCG General Secretary U Ye Soe read out the report of Board of Directors.

Next, audit report was presented and annual accounts and audit report were approved.

Afterwards, NDCG Vice-Chairman U Than Myint (Aye Yeik Mon) presented a report on formation of new Board of Directors and sought the approval of those present. NDCG chairman Dr Khin Shwe answered the queries raised by share holders.

Next, the meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the meeting chairman. — *MNA*

Chairman Dr Khin Shwe delivers address at 10th AGM of NDCG.

MNA

Roadside bombings double in Afghanistan

KABUL, 31 Dec—The US Ambassador to Afghanistan said roadside bombs have doubled and kidnapping have increased over the last year in the war-torn country, but said the cultivation of opium poppies that is used to produce heroin has declined. William Wood, speaking to journalists at the US Embassy in Kabul, gave an assessment of trends over the last year in the country and expectations for the upcoming year.

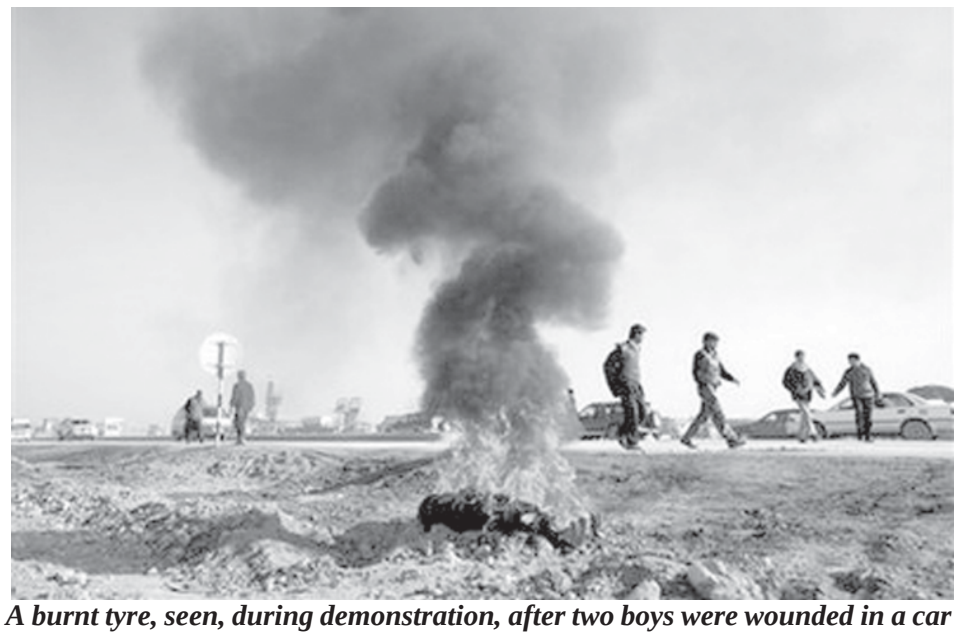
"2008 was a good year but it was also a hard year," he said. He said there were 1,000 improvised explosive device blasts in 2007 and 2,000 this year.

"IEDs don't advance the terrorist cause at all. They don't win them any territory, they don't win them any friends," he said, "all they do is prove the presence and brutality of the terrorists."

Also, he said there were 130 reported kidnappings in 2007 and 250 in 2008, but it is thought that there have been many unreported abductions.

Internet

Pakistani tribesmen carry a man, injured from a blast in Afghanistan's southern town of Spin Boldak, to the local hospital in the Pakistan-Afghan border town of Chaman, on 29 Dec, 2008. Two Afghan civilians were killed and 17 more, including a policeman, were wounded in two blasts which shook simultaneously the southern town of Spin Boldak which lies on the border with Pakistan, the interior ministry said. —INTERNET



A burnt tyre, seen, during demonstration, after two boys were wounded in a car accident with soldiers, in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 30 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

Canada's deadly December in Afghanistan just bad luck

KANDAHAR, 31 Dec—Blame bad luck for the deaths of nine Canadian soldiers in southern Afghanistan this month, say military officials at Kandahar Airfield.

Officials insist the recent uptick in violence across Kandahar province and beyond owes more to misfortune than an emboldened Taleban insurgency.

Although violence typically ebbs in Afghanistan over the winter, this December—which saw Canada surpass the psychological milestone of 100 deaths since the Afghan mission began in 2002—has been deadly for Canadian troops.

So far this month, nine Canadian soldiers have died—the same number killed in April 2007, which had been the mission's deadliest month to date.

It's a change from past years, when snow clogs the mountain passes and bitter cold sends insurgents back to their hideouts to regroup in anticipation of the coming spring fighting season.

Prior to 2008, only five soldiers died in the period between December and March since Canada took over security in Kandahar province in mid-2006.

Internet

US-led coalition kills 11 militants in Afghanistan

KABUL, 31 Dec—US-led coalition forces killed 11 militants during an operation just outside the Afghan capital, the coalition said on Wednesday.

The operation took place on Tuesday about 40 miles (60 kilometers) northeast of Kabul in Surobi district, it said.

The coalition said its forces targeted a commander wanted for trafficking weapons and fighters throughout the region. They killed two militants with gunfire and nine others with airstrikes during the operation, it said.

The coalition does not identify the units involved in its operations. French soldiers are known to operate in the Surobi region, as are US Special Forces on occasion.

Internet

An Afghan girl survives a suicide attack in Khost Province that killed 14 other children, on 28 Dec, 2008. Five people were killed and nearly 40 wounded in two bomb blasts in Afghanistan on Monday, as a town mourned the children killed.

INTERNET

Wounded Afghan men receive treatment at a hospital in Charikar, on 29 Dec. Five people were killed and nearly 40 wounded in two bomb blasts in Afghanistan on Monday, as a town mourned 14 children killed at the weekend in a Taleban suicide attack.

INTERNET

Iraq signs military accords with Britain, Australia

BAGHDAD, 31 Dec—Baghdad signed on Tuesday military accords with Britain and Australia that give their troops a legal basis to stay in Iraq after the expiry of the UN mandate on 31 December, the Iraqi government said.

"With the authority of the government of Iraq given to the defence minister, an agreement was signed with Britain today which will be implemented from the start of the new year until 30 June," defence ministry spokesman Major General Mohammed al-Askari told *AFP*.

"A little while ago an agreement was also signed regarding the withdrawal of the Australian forces in Iraq. It was signed between the Iraqi defence minister and the Australian ambassador," Askari said.

The long-awaited agreements come just a day ahead of the expiry of the UN mandate, effectively legalising the presence of non-US foreign troops in the country at the eleventh hour and moving Iraq closer to full sovereignty. Under the agreement, Britain, which has about 4,100 troops based at Basra airport in southern Iraq, will play only a supportive role in their area.

"British troops will only support, consolidate and develop the Iraqi security forces without having any combat mission. 31 July will be the last day for the withdrawal of the British forces from Iraq," Askari said.

Internet

China calls for immediate cease-fire in Gaza

BEIJING, 31 Dec— China is deeply concerned at the current situation in Gaza,and hopes parties involved could immediately halt the armed conflict, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Qin Gang said here on Tuesday.

China is deeply concerned over the ongoing armed conflict in Gaza, Qin said at a regular press conference.

China hopes parties involved could respond to appeals of the international community and cease fire at once, so as to prevent an even higher death toll, Qin said when responding to journalists.

Over 300 Palestinians have been killed since Israel launched airstrikes on the Gaza Strip last Saturday in retaliation for increased rocket and mortar fire from Gaza on southern Israel, reports said.

Xinhua

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister He Yafei (2nd L), as a special envoy of the Chinese government, accompanied by Pakistan Interior Secretary Syed Kamal Shah (1st L), visits a Chinese engineering personnel who was injured during an attack in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 29 Dec, 2008.—XINHUA

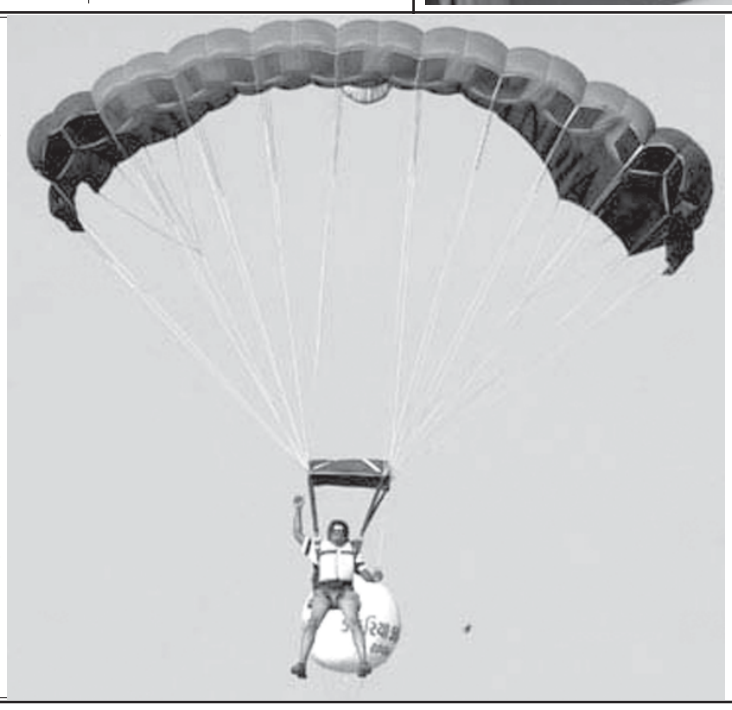
PetroVietnam earns over $16 bln in 2008

HANOI, 31 Dec— The Vietnam National Oil and Gas Group,PetroVietnam, earned a total revenue of about 16.5 billion US dollars in 2008, an increase of 31.2 percent over that of 2007, the local newspaper *New Hanoi* reported on Wednesday.

Of its revenue, Petro Vietnam fetched about 0.66 million US dollars from crude oil export turnover, an increase of 26.7 percent over the year 2007, making up over 18 percent of the country's total export turnover.

PetroVietnam has contributed about 7.1 billion US dollars to the state budget, a 41.7 percent increase over the 2007's figure, accounting for over 31 percent of the total state budget revenue. In 2008, PetroVietnam has discovered five more new oil wells and successfully put them into operation, said the newspaper.

Xinhua



A member of Indian Air Force's "Akash Ganga" skydiving team performs during the seven-day-long Kankaria Carnival in the western Indian city of Ahmedabad, on 28 Dec, 2008. The festival celebrates the reopening of Kankaria lake for the public following a gap of two years.—XINHUA

US embassy in Brasilia receives envelope with suspicious powder

BRASILIA, 31 Dec— The Embassy of the United States in Brasilia received on Tuesday an envelope containing white powder, Brazil's Federal Police Department confirmed.

Police have ruled out the substance is an explosive, yet tests have not completed, according to state-owned Agencia Brasil.

The suspected mail was identified by employees of the security service responsible for analyzing all correspondence in the US Embassy.—*Xinhua*

Shanghai reports on care for its 2.8 m older residents

SHANGHAI, 31 Dec — Shanghai spent about 659.32 million yuan (about 96.96 million US dollars) to care for the aged this year, said a local government official on Tuesday.

Municipal government spokesman Chen Qiwei said homes for the aged added 10,030 beds at a cost of 524.8 million yuan, bringing total beds to 80,000.

The city also built 100 new day-care centers for the aged at a cost of 134.52 million yuan. There are now 228 such centers serving more than 8,000 senior citizens.

Also, 214 canteens for the aged were opened in the city's communities, most of which were in downtown areas. About 18,800 senior citizens eat at these facilities.

The government also subsidized services for 103,000 low-income senior citizens who have difficulties living on their own, said Chen.

There are 2.8 million people above the age of 60 in Shanghai.

Xinhua

Number of unemployed in France jumps over two million

PARIS, 31 Dec— The number of France's jobless people jumped by 64,000 to 2.07 million in November as companies cut jobs in response to the global economic slowdown, the finance and labour ministry said on Tuesday. The French unemployment rate rose 3.2 percent in November compared to the previous month, and 8.5 percent year on year, according to the ministry.

The French economy grew 0.1 percent in the third quarter after a 0.3-percent drop in the second quarter, narrowly avoiding a recession.

The National Institute for Statistics and Economic Studies forecast that France's gross domestic product would fall 0.8 percent in the last quarter of 2008 and contract 0.4 percent in the first quarter of the new year.

Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

The carcass of a minke whale is lifted up by members of the Philippine coast guard in the waters of the Manila Bay, on 30 Dec, 2008.—XINHUA

Two earthquakes hit W Indonesia

JAKARTA, 31 Dec— A 5.9-magnitude earthquake and a 5.1-magnitude earthquake hit western Indonesia's Bengkulu Province on Sumatra Island successively in the early morning of Wednesday, the national Antara News Agency quoted Indonesian meteorology and geophysics agency (BMG) as saying.

The first quake measuring 5.9 on the Richter scale struck at 2:49 am local time (1949 GMT on Tuesday) with its epicenter at 156km southwest of Lais region at a depth of 10 km below the sea bed, or between 4.42 degrees southern latitude and 100.96 degrees eastern longitude.

The second one measuring 5.1 degree occurred at 3:32 am local time (2032 GMT on Tuesday), between 4.43 degrees southern latitude and 1001.06 degrees eastern longitude, or some 141 km southwest of Lais region.

There were no reports of damage or casualty in the disaster.

Indonesia sits on the Pacific "Ring of Fire" where continental plates meet, causing frequent seismic and volcanic activity.

The archipelagic nation was hardest hit by the earthquake-triggered Asian tsunami in December 2004 which killed more than 200,000 people in Aceh Province and Nias Island in North Sumatra.

Xinhua

Israel weighs 48-hour halt to Gaza air campaign

GAZA CITY, 31 Dec—Israel, under international pressure, is considering a 48-hour halt to its punishing four-day air campaign on Hamas targets in Gaza to see if Palestinian militants will stop their rocket attacks on southern Israel, Israeli officials said on Tuesday. Any offer would be coupled with a threat to send in ground troops if the rocket fire continues.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert discussed the proposal—floated by France's foreign minister — and other possible next steps with his foreign and defense ministers, Israeli officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not supposed to make the information public.

President George W Bush and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice called leaders in the Middle East to press for a durable solution beyond any immediate truce.

And members of the Quartet of world powers trying to promote Mideast peace concluded a conference call with an appeal for an immediate ceasefire. The Quartet powers are the United States, the United Nations, the European Union and Russia.

Internet

A rocket is fired from the northern Gaza Strip into Israel as seen from the Israeli-Gaza border. Israel on Wednesday mulled a proposed 48-hour truce as world leaders stepped up calls for an end to the violence and warplanes pummelled Hamas targets in the battered Gaza Strip.—INTERNET

Tiger Airways crew members await passengers at Singapore airport's budget terminal. The airline has said a plan to establish a budget travel firm with South Korea's Incheon City has been scrapped due to the worsening global economic situation.—INTERNET

Bolivian President defends expulsion of US Ambassador

LA PAZ, 31 Dec—Bolivian President Evo Morales said on Tuesday that the September expulsion of US Ambassador Philip Goldberg was "a success and not a mistake because it "thwarted " an opposition coup plot.

At an evaluation meeting of his third year as president, Morales said that he did not make a mistake in deciding the "ambassador had to go," after his party "had endured the assault of the (Bolivian) right-wing."

Five of Bolivia's nine provinces are controlled by the opposition, whose objections to Morales' new constitution, the centerpiece of his program to distribute more of the nation's wealth to the impoverished majority, created political unrest in September.

On 10 September, Morales declared the US ambassador "persona non grata" and ordered him to "immediately" leave the country, accusing him of encouraging, together with the opposition, protests against his government. Washington called Morales's decision "a grave error."

On 13 September, US President George W Bush responded by expelling Gustavo Guzman, Bolivian ambassador to the United States.

Internet

Malaysia may spend more to boost economy

KUALA LUMPUR, 31 Dec—Malaysia's central bank chief indicated the government may need to spend more to prevent the country from slipping into recession if the global economic crisis worsens next year, a report said on Wednesday.

Malaysia has cut its 2009 growth target to 3.5 percent from 5.4 percent, but some economists have warned growth could fall below 2 percent.

The government has said it would inject 7 billion ringgit ($2 billion) into the economy next year to boost spending, with funds coming largely from savings on fuel subsidies.—*Internet*

An oil platform (pictured in 2007) off the coast of Angola. Oil futures dropped back below 40 dollars a barrel on Tuesday as the market focused once more on weak energy demand after hefty price gains a day earlier amid the Israeli-Hamas conflict.—INTERNET

Iranians raid British diplomatic compound in Gaza protest

TEHERAN, 31 Dec— A group of Iranian demonstrators stormed the British diplomatic compound in Tehran to protest London's stance towards the Israeli onslaught on Gaza, state news agency *IRNA* reported.

"A large group of people and students entered the Gholhak gardens, which are occupied by the British embassy to protest at Britain's policies in supporting the Zionist regime and put up the Palestinian flag there," *IRNA* said on Tuesday.

A media officer at the British embassy in Tehran confirmed the report adding that diplomatic police had driven the demonstrators out.

"We do confirm the raid on our premises. We are in contact with Islamic republic authorities to resolve the matter," Mitra Behnam told *AFP*.

Gholhak gardens, a sprawling compound in north Tehran, provides accommodation for British diplomats and their families.

Britain has called for an urgent ceasefire by both sides in Gaza , where Israeli warplanes have launched waves of airstrikes against the Islamist Hamas movement since Saturday, killing at least 368 Palestinians, and Hamas militants have been firing volleys of rockets into Israel.

Several kilometres (miles) from the British embassy complex in central Teheran, the Gholhak gardens complex also houses the British Council and a school.

Islamist students have frequently protested in front of the British embassy, throwing stones and petrol bombs at the building.—*Internet*

Turkish planes bomb northern Iraq-guards

SULAIMANIYA, 31 Dec—Turkish warplanes bombed targets in northern Iraq on Tuesday, destroying a remote bridge but causing no casualties, an Iraqi border guard said, in an apparent attack on Kurdish separatist PKK fighters.

The Turkish military has been stepping up attacks in recent months on Kurdish PKK rebels, who it says use north Iraq's sparsely populated terrain as a base from which to launch attacks in southeastern Turkey.

The bombing in the mountainous area around the town of Amadiyah, near the Turkish border, started at 1am (1000 GMT) and carried on until daylight, Lieutenant-Colonel Ihsan Kamal, commander of the border guards' operation room in Iraq's largely autonomous Kurdistan region, told *Reuters*.—*Internet*

Iranian protestors break into the British diplomatic residence known as 'Golhak Garden' in north Teheran.—INTERNET

Senior General Than Shwe…

(from page 1)

At the briefing hall, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun reported to the Senior General on the purpose of building the Ngawun Bridge (Myokwin), the type and length of bridge, progress of work and future tasks.

After hearing the reports, the Senior General gave necessary guidance.

Ngawun Bridge (Myokwin) is located on Hinthada-Myokwin-Kwinkauk Road in Hinthada Township. The main structure will be of iron frames and RC type. The approach bridge will be of RC type.

The main structure of the bridge will be 1,035 feet long and two approach bridges will be 1,800 feet long. The bridge will have a 28-foot-wide motor road and three feet wide pedestrian ways on both sides. The bridge will withstand 60-ton loads.

On arrival at Zalun of Hinthada District, the Senior General and party were welcomed by Col Myint Maung of the local station and departmental officials.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe went to Marn Aungmyin Pyidawbyan Buddha Image in Zalun where he was welcomed by the Chairman of Pagoda Board of Trustees and members.

The Senior General and party offered flowers, water and oil lights and paid homage to the Buddha Image.

Afterwards, the Head of State presented cash donation to the funds of the pagoda and signed in the visitors' book. Next, the Senior General and party left Zalun by helicopter and arrived at Yangon at 4.40 p.m.

MNA

***Senior General Than Shwe pays homage to Marn Aungmyin Pyidawbyan Buddha Image in Zalun.*—MNA**

Stakes driven to establish village in Kungyangon

YANGON, 31 Dec — A ceremony to lay corner stones to establish Myitta Village in Kungyangon Township was held yesterday.

Sri Lanka Theravada Thamadi Education Association will donate cash to build village in Nyaungngu and Kamapa villages in the township.

The ceremony was attended by Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, Rev Dr Bodagama Chandima, Adviser to the President of Sri Lanka on religious and culture affairs, Minister Mr Chamal Rajapaksa of Sri Lanka, Mr Indika Premadasa, Charge d'Affaires ai of Sri Lankan Embassy in Myanmar, donors, departmental officials and members of NGOs.

Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Minister Mr Chamal Rajapaksa extended greetings and Rev Dr Bodagama Chandima briefed on purpose of donation.

Afterwards, Rev Dr Bodagama Chandima, the ministers and donors drove the stakes at the site chosen to build the village and donated rice, clothes, stationery and foodstuff to residents of Nyaungngu and Kamapa villages. They also viewed the models of houses for the villages. Tawwin Company will implement the project funded by Sri Lanka Theravada Thamadi Education Association. The first phase, includes 384 houses, two primary schools, one-pre primary school, one office, one clinic, one library and 20 tube-wells, and the second phase, 640 houses, one high school, one sports ground and four religious buildings. The project will be completed by 2009.

MNA

Beach folk dance contest on 4 Jan

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Dec— A don dance contest will be organized at Ngwehsaung Beach on 4 January (Independence Day) to entertain foreign and local drowellers as part of the drive for promotion of the Myanmar tourism industry.

First prize (K 150,000), second prize (K 100,000), third prize (K 50,000) and consolation prizes will be awarded in the contest. The programme also covers elephant dance, tiger dance, Zawgyi (alchemist) dance and dance variety. The hotels of the beach will open food shops for convenience of the fans.

MNA

***Ministers Brig-Gen Lun Thi and Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung and people of Sri Lanka lay corner stones to establish Myitta Village.*—MNA**

Mingala Taungnyunt Township WJA holds AGM

YANGON, 31 Dec—Writers and Journalists Association of Mingala Taungnyunt Township held annual general meeting for 2008/2009 at No. 7 on U Aung Myat road in Mingala Taungnyunt Township here on 28 December.

At the ceremony, Secretary U Ye Zaw (Ko Ye Zaw) acted as the master of ceremonies. Chairman U Soe Win (Tekkatho Soe Yin) and CEC member of MWJA U Maung Maung Myint Aye (Maung Maung Myint Aye) delivered speeches on the occasion and executive member Daw Aye Aye Thein (Tekkatho Aye Mya Sandar) submitted the annual report.

Afterwards, cash assistance and gifts were donated to 23 doyen literati above 70 years in the township.—*MNA*

Four objectives of the 61st Anniversary Independence Day

* **All the national people to constantly join hands for ensuring the perpetuity of independence and sovereignty of the State;**
* **All the national people to collectively strive for non-disintegration of the Union and non-disintegration of national solidarity;**
* **All the national people to harmoniously make all-out efforts for building up a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accord with the new State Constitution that has been approved by the votes of the great majority of national people;**
* **All the national people to cooperate in realizing the State's seven-step Road Map with Union Spirit and patriotic spirit**

Yangon Command clinches title in 47th Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air)…

(from page 16)

Cmdr Min Naing of Ayeyawady Naval Region Command awarded individual prizes to the players of Yangon Command that stood first in the tournament.

Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint presented best player award winners for respective places and fairplay award to Yangon Command team.

On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung awarded championship trophy and duplicate trophy to Yangon Command team.

Among the spectators were senior military officers, Military Attachés of foreign missions in Myanmar, officials of the Ministry of Sports, servicemen and their family members, members of social organizations and guests.—*MNA*

Deputy FM signs Book of Condolences

YANGON, 31 Dec—Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu signed Book of Condolences at the Malaysia Embassy, No.82 on Pyidaungsu Yeiktha Road, Dagon Township, here this morning opened for the demise of the former King of Malaysia Tuanku Jaafar Ibni Almarhum Tuanku Abdul Rahman on 27 December —*MNA*

Deputy Minister U Kyaw Thu signs Book of Condolences at the Malaysian Embassy. **MNA**

Take Fire Preventive Measures

UMFCCI to hold Forum on Implications of Global Economic Crisis

YANGON, 31 Dec —The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry will organize Forum on Implications of the Global Economic Crisis under the sponsorship of Fortune International Co Ltd on the first floor of UMFCCI Office Tower on Min Ye Kyaw Swa Street in Lanmadaw Township here at 2 p.m on 3 January, 2009 (Saturday).

Professor Dr Aung Tun Thet, Principal Officer (Retd), UN System Staff College, Turin, Italy, will preside over the forum which will be held in the style of roundtable talks. Economist Professor Dr Tin Soe (Emeritus Professor, Kobe University), U Hla Maung Shwe (Senior Vice-President (1), Myanmar Fisheries Federation), U Myat Thin Aung (Patron, Myanmar Industries Association), U Aung Than Oo (Chairman, Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association) and U Maung Maung Swe (Chairman, Union of Myanmar Travels Association) will take part in the roundtable talks.

Those from UMFCCI and Affiliated Associations and enthusiasts may attend the roundtable talks. *MNA*

Civil Engineering alumni hold respect-paying ceremony, get-together

YANGON, 31 Dec —Old Civil Engineering graduates held the third ceremony to pay respects to old faculty members from home and abroad who served part-time and full-time at Yangon Institute of Technology and Yangon Technological University at Myanmar Convention Center on Mindhamma Road in Mayangon Township here on 27 December.

Chairman of Organizing Committee U Ohn Kyaw made opening address.

Next, old students paid respects to old teachers and presented gifts to them.

Afterwards, Sayagyi U Tin Oo, Dr Win Thein, U Thein Tan and U Nyi Hla Nge spoke words of advice.

In the evening, get-together was held on the lawns of Mya Yeik Nyo Hotel. — *MNA*

Earthquake report

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Dec— A moderate earthquake of intensity 5.9 on the Richter Scale with its epicenter about 1500 miles south of Kaba Aye Seismoogical observatory outside of Myanmar (Indonesia) was recorded at 02 hrs, 23 min, 35 sec MST today, announced the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—*MNA*

***Old civil engineering graduates pay respects to old faculty members.*—MNA**

***Bags sales promotion of Hlwan Moe Thu Co Ltd in progress.* —MNA**

Hlwan Moe Thu Co Ltd launches sales promotion

YANGON, 31 Dec —Hlwan Moe Thu Co Ltd is launching its sales promotion for bags at Hlwan Moe Thu Co Ltd and Promise bag shops here as a programme of New Year Eve. The sales promotion lasts from 11 December 2008 to 7 January 2009.

The sales promotion includes getting a bag as a present spending K 20000 programme, get one buy one programme and 5 to 30 percent discount programme.

Those wishing to purchase Promise brand bags may contact bag shops – A(14/15), A 11 and G 12 in fist floor and A 2 second floor of Yuzana Plaza, No 147 on Bargayar Street in Sangyoung Township, No 288-307, room-7 at the corner of 27th Street and Anawrahta Street in Pabedan Township, No 11 Co-operatives store at the corner of 38th Street and Maha Bandoola Street in Kyauktada Township, first floor of Junction Zawana in Thingangyun Township, Junction-8 in Mayangon Township, No. 23 A ground floor near Hledan Market in Kamayut Township, third-storey of China Town Center Point in Lanmadaw Township, No1/6 at the corner of Sabei Street and 6th Street in Mingala Taungnyunt Township and shops of Asia Light Supermarket (2033512, 203149, 710718).—*MNA*

HAILING THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY:

Everyone loyal to motherland safeguards independence

Ngar Min Swe

Invasion of the nation's territory, air space and waters; attempts to install a puppet government formed with lackeys through interference of internal affairs of the nation; trying to break up the Union by abetting anyone to do so, and sowing discord between the government and the people, between the people and the Tatmadaw and among the people; cruelly killing compatriots due to narrow racism; and inciting incidents to undermine national solidarity are the acts that can have adverse effects on sovereignty and independence of the State.

Ward off colonialist tricks with patriotism

Independence that cost many lives

According to the anthropoid primates excavated, Myanmar people have lived in the land since time immemorial. After the nation had seen the dawn of civilization, King Anawrahta unified the First Myanmar Empire in 1044 AD.

About 800 years after the establishment of the nation in 1824, British colonialists occupied Yangon entering the nation through Myanmar's waters. Having waged three aggressive wars, the colonialists annexed independent Myanmar to their Empire and enslaved its people. Myanmar people managed to regain independence on 4 January 1948 that cost a large number of lives.

However, the independence was followed by internal armed struggle line stemming from political tension and narrow racism. Countless Myanmar people fell victim to the armed insurgency, and the nation was on the edge of losing independence and disappearing from the world map. So, the Myanmar Tatmadaw formed with people of diverse national races engaged in combats at risk to life in order to avert disintegration of the Union and loss of independence. So many Tatmadaw members and people made supreme sacrifices to safeguard independence.

Myanmar people and neo-colonialists in despair

Today, neo-colonialists are resorting to various means to colonize the nation and enslave the people through conspiracies to install a puppet government that will dance to their tune. Now, they are applying media as a tool to meet their goal. Certain radio stations that they formed or they have been abetting are airing well-organized programmes designed to sow discord and stir violence between the government and the people, between the people and the Tatmadaw, and between a citizen and another. Only when the government's administrative machinery is no longer in force, following anarchic riots will it be possible for them to install a puppet government with their lackeys. If so, the puppet government will comply with the wishes of the neo-colonialists, and the nation will lose its sovereignty or independence subsequently.

Taking full advantage of the government's raising fuel prices in proportion to the soaring world oil prices in 2007, the foreign radio stations under the domination of neo-colonialists and minions attempted to incite a mass demonstration. Being fed up with anarchic riots, Myanmar people did not join the lackeys. Instead, Myanmar people continued to contribute towards the State's seven-step Road Map, upholding Our Three Main National Causes because they had been well convinced that only with Our Three Main National Causes and the State's seven-step Road Map, will the nation and the people be free from enslavement threats by neo-colonialists; will the nation be able to transform itself into a modern, developed democratic one with flourishing discipline.

The people put to the fore Our Three Main National Causes namely Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity, and Perpetuation of sovereignty. So, the clandestine schemes of their media and renegades to neo-colonize the nation and the people were abortive. They were anxious to witness Myanmar people fighting each other that would finally lead to collapse of the nation. However, when they witnessed cumulative development of the nation enjoying stability and peace, they were in despair like vultures on a dry tree.

Dawn in the east

Learning that Myanmar was hit hard by the cyclone "Nargis" on 2 and 3 May 2008, the disappointed vultures reared their ugly heads again. Pretending to give assistance to storm victims, the lackeys came to drive a wedge between the government and the people. Foolish enough, they took advantage of the strike of Nargis to provoke a mass protest.

In that case, those radio stations and the lackeys barefacedly spread rumours that the stored paddy in Ayeyawady and Yangon divisions were ravaged; that farmlands were in floods of seawater; and Myanmar would soon face hunger, riots and crises. They overlooked the dams the Tatmadaw government had constructed in its time including Thaphanseik Dam, which is the largest of its kind in the region, along with the achievement of Sagaing Division that has become the second granary of Myanmar due to Thaphanseik Dam and other irrigation facilities. They also showed total disregard for the collaborative efforts and unity of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw.

As a fruit of the dams, Myanmar's paddy output has now surged to 1500 million baskets from only 630 million baskets in 1988. Some paddy was destroyed in the catastrophe, but the paddy is still surplus to domestic requirements. Paddy is now in season, however stored rice is not running out. Before long, it was apparently clear that the rumours were cleverly designed to push the nation into the abyss.

The government showed great kindness and compassion in taking care of storm victims. Head of State Senior General Than Shwe and Deputy Head of State Vice-Senior General Maung Aye made inspection tours of the storm-ravaged areas and fulfilled the necessary requirements promptly, and gave guidance on measures for restoration of the three main businesses of the region: agriculture, fishing and salt farming, establishment of new housing areas, and long-term national disaster-preparedness

(See page 9)

HAILING THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY:

Everyone loyal to motherland safeguards independence

Ngar Min Swe

(from page 8)

measures for security of local people in case of a natural disaster in future.

The government provided paddy farmers with agricultural loans, paddy seeds, tractors, draught cattle, fuel and fertilizer, and fishermen with 9620 fishing boats alongside engines, fishing nets and small loans. It provided loans for salt farmers at the rate of K 300,000 per head. I know well that the cash assistance was cent per cent enough to restore the salt farms that were destroyed in the natural disaster because I run own salt farms in Mon State.

Owing to the efforts the government, the people and the Tatmadaw have made in concert, the storm victims in Ayeyawady and Yangon divisions have risen from the nightmare of the cyclone "Nargis". To mention it another way, there has been a dawn of new life in the cyclone-devastated areas. And the hearsays and rumours spread by certain radio stations and the outlaws to deal a grievous blow to the nation through disunity resulting from evil consequences of Nargis dwindled away when there was a sign of storm-hit areas' returning to normal. And due to the might of unity of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw, their impertinent plots and acts to harm the sovereignty and independence of the nation were fruitless.

Loving-kindness and democracy

Myanmar is a land where four cardinal virtues: loving-kindness, compassion, equanimity and sympathetic joy flourish. The majority of the people are virtuous with loving-kindness. So, Myanmar coexists peacefully and works for mutual interests with other members of the global community.

Visionary national politicians, in their discussions and articles, often dissuaded the lackeys from getting involved in riots that can lead to clashes between their compatriots and inciting such incidents; persuaded them to work together in the interests of the nation and the people. However much they have made positive suggestions and given advice, the unscrupulous persons stick to their plots to cause anarchic riots and sow hatred among national brethren.

In fact, loving-kindness is nobler and brings about greater peace than democracy. Democracy cannot flourish in a country if there is discord but no loving-kindness in the political groups and among the citizens. They should have realized that democratic transition would come to fruition in the Union of Myanmar only if the government, the people and the Tatmadaw show loving-kindness to one another. And they have yet to realize that the sapling of democracy will grow fast only if it gets the water of loving-kindness. They wrongly believe that the democracy sapling will thrive only if they splash acid of hatred and animosity on it. In practice, they are engaged in various campaigns under the pretext of democratic transition to create violent incidents and conflicts among the people. They totally ignore the fact that recurrence of violence and fights between national people can lead to collapse of the Union following loss of independence.

Gratitude owed to the motherland

We national brethren were all born in the Union of Myanmar. And we have grown up, consuming the food produced in the nation. The State educates and gives health care to us. We are earning our living, utilizing the land and aquatic resources of the nation. The State protects us and our property from dangers. In times of natural disasters, the State rescues the victims. Surely, after our demises, our posterity will be in the nation. So, we are grateful to the mother country.

We safeguard independence

Invasion of the nation's territory, air space and waters; attempts to install a puppet government formed with lackeys through interference of internal affairs of the nation; trying to break up the Union by abetting anyone to do so, and sowing discord between the government and the people, between the people and the Tatmadaw and among the people; cruelly killing compatriots due to narrow racism; and inciting incidents to undermine national solidarity are the acts that can have adverse effects on sovereignty and independence of the State.

Now, all national people who are loyal to the motherland safeguard independence wiping out all attempts to harm independence. On behalf of all people who are loyal to the State, I would like to pledge that we are, if necessary, ready to make supreme sacrifices to safeguard independence.

*****

Translation: MS

As a fruit of the dams, Myanmar's paddy output has now surged to 1500 million baskets from only 630 million baskets in 1988. Some paddy was destroyed in the catastrophe, but the paddy is still surplus to domestic requirements. Paddy is now in season, however stored rice is not running out. Before long, it was apparently clear that the rumours were cleverly designed to push the nation into the abyss.

POEM

Myanmar of the Thaki race

* **Myanmar our homeland**
Sacrificed our forefathers
Blood, sweat and lives
For lasting existence of country
Documented the Thaki noble race
Race, language, religion
And traditions and culture
Our true heritage
Renowned in world
Our courage and perseverance
That wins global admiration
Taking pride we of superior race
For being the people of
Glorious sovereign nation
Where justice prevails
And strength exists

* **Our land Myanmar**
With dams, watercourses, beaches
Forest so thick
Mountains, plains and clean water
Religion flourishing everywhere
And pagoda bells jingling
Abundant supply of food in nation
Rich in gems, teak, oil
And other resources
Born and brought up
In this dear land we are
Living in this golden land
We grow up
With glory and joy
In embrace of motherland
We love and cherish
Our land more and more

* **Our land is our destination**
Brethren showing force in unity
Matchless love for Union
And with patriotism
Perpetuity of Independence ensured
Always strive for
Glory of land and history
And economic development
Always care for
Ever flourishing of religion, culture
We will safeguard and stand for nation
With courage and sacrifices
Dare sacrifice lives
For nation and race
We of the superior race

Zaw Min Min Oo (Trs)
Hailing the 61st Anniversary Independence Day

ACHIEVEMENT OF THE AGRICULTURAL (DAM) SECTOR IN 2008

HAILING THE 61st ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY:

Photo shows Wagadok Supporting Dam opened on 26, January 2008 near Taungsatinn Village, Bago Township.

Photo shows Takaw Sluice Gate opened on 27, February 2008 in Thongwa Township.

State No	Local No	Dam/reservoir	Location	Benefited Acre	Inaugura-tion Date
207	44	Wagadok Supporting Dam	Bago, Bago Division	1200	26-1-2008
208	18	Takaw Sluice Gate	Thongwa, Yangon Division	15,000	27-2-2008
209	45	Kapaung Dam	Ottwin, Bago Division	360,000	23-3-2008
210	27	Taukpyo Dam	Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana	300	27-4-2008
211	3	Moneyin Dam	Namtu, Shan State (North)	2,600	31-5-2008
212	46	Kapaung Diversion Dam	Ottwin, Bago Division	100,000	28-6-2008
213	39	Minkan Dam	Myaing, Pakokku District, Magway Division	200	30-7-2008
214	51	Kyauksauk Dam	Myaing, Magway Division	150	29-8-2008
215	41	Tagun Dam	Seikpyu Township, Pakokku District, Magway Division	150	30-9-2008
216	42	Sabay Dam	Pakokku Township, Magway Division	400	23-10-2008
217	43	Ngachin Dam	Seikphyu Township, Pakokku District, Magway Division	150	24-12-2008

Photo shows Moneyin Dam opened on 31, May 2008, near Moneyin Village in Namtu Township, Kyaukme District in Shan State (North).

Three Chinese steel companies agreed on Tuesday to merge, creating the country's biggest listed steel maker, in a bid to cushion the impact of the global financial crisis, state media reported.—INTERNET

Toronto-bound jet diverted by agitated passenger

SANTO DOMINGO, 31 Dec —A passenger jet bound for Toronto made an unscheduled landing in the Dominican Republic on Tuesday after an agitated passenger tried to tamper with an emergency door, an airline official said.

The Boeing B757 landed safely and nobody was hurt, said Sabah Mirza, spokeswoman for Canadian carrier Skyservice.

She said flight crew and passengers restrained the man until the plane landed at the Punta Cana international airport in the late afternoon.

"At no time was the safety of the aircraft in jeopardy," Mirza said. "While the door was never at risk of opening in flight, the flight crew reacted quickly and appropriately."

The man, whose name and nationality were not immediately available, was detained by Dominican authorities for questioning.

Mirza said the other 201 passengers were being put up in hotels overnight and would travel to Toronto on Wednesday.

Internet

UN chief condemns killings of civilians by Ugandan rebels

UNITED NATIONS, 31 Dec — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned on Tuesday the recent killings of civilians reportedly committed by Uganda's notorious rebel group Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

The secretary-general condemned "in the strongest possible terms the appalling atrocities" in recent days in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) and southern Sudan, as well as all other attacks committed by the LRA, Ban's press office said in a statement. "The secretary-general demands that the LRA respect all rules of international humanitarian law," the statement said.

Ban recalled an earlier statement adopted by the Security Council, in which the 15-member body welcomed the joint measures taken by Uganda, DRC and southern Sudan to address the security threat posed by the LRA. "He urges the forces of Uganda, DRC and southern Sudan on the ground to coordinate with the humanitarian community and the United Nations Missions in the region to ensure the effective delivery of assistance to those affected by the LRA attacks," it added.—*Internet*

Plane disappears over Panama lake

PANAMA CITY, 31 Dec— A Cessna 152 aircraft with two crew members on board disappeared on Tuesday over a mountainous area of Madden Lake.

The plane, HP-1518TC, traveling from Panama City to Colon Province, lost contact with the ground at 13:30 local time (1830 GMT) when it was over the lake, Manuel de la Hoz, a spokesman for the Authority of Civil Aeronautics, told *Xinhua.*

A search for the aircraft is under way.

Internet

Traffic accidents kill 875 people in Peru in 2008

LIMA, 31 Dec— A total of 875 people were killed and 5,397 others injured in traffic accidents from 1 January to 25 December, 2008 in Peru, the National Police's Highway Protection Unit said on Tuesday.

A total of 1,788 traffic accidents happened during this period, down from 1,917 last year, when 859 people were killed and 5,466 others injured.

Most of the accidents this year took place on the Pan American North highway, Pan American South, Penetration-south, Penetration-Center, Penetration-north and Central Highway, said the unit.

Crashes, sliding-off and running-over were among the most common accidents.

Internet

Berlin's Nazi-era Tempelhof airport officially closed at the end of October, but the last three airplanes didn't take off until . Bad weather was to blame for the airplanes being stranded past the closing date.

A reproduction of the 16th-century glass painting "Esau Trades His Birthright for a Bowl of Soup." The work, believed to be by Germany's Everhard Rensig, is on display at the Schntgen Museum in Cologne, Germany. The exhibition "Rhenish Glass Painting - Masterpieces of the Renaissance" (April 30 thru July 29) shows 120 high-class paintings from England and Germany.

30-year experienced pilot unqualified to land in fog

An airlines confirmed that a pilot with more than 30 years of experience was forced to turn back minutes before landing in Paris because he was not qualified to land in fog, according to media reports on Friday.

The passenger plane pilot of British Flybe Airline balked at landing at the foggy Paris' Charles de Gaulle airport and turned back to Cardiff after announcing "I am not qualified to land the plane" over the address system.

A spokeswoman for Flybe said the pilot was "an experienced aviator with more than 30 years commercial aviation experience flying a number of different passenger aircraft types." "He has relatively recently transferred his 'type-rating' from a Bombardier Q300 to a Bombardier Q400 and has not yet completed the requisite low-visibility training to complete a landing in conditions such as the dense fog experienced in Paris Charles de Gaulle," she said.

Soccer kick kills pigeon during Argentina game

Argentine soccer player Gaston Aguirre killed a pigeon with a single shot _ right off his foot. "I kicked the ball and, poor pigeon," the San Lorenzo defender said. "Now I will be remembered as the pigeon killer."

Aguirre hit the bird in the 2-1 victory against Tigre in a three-team round-robin for the Argentine league title. Surrounded by opponents, he kicked the ball toward the goal and in the direction of a group of pigeons on the grass near the corner.

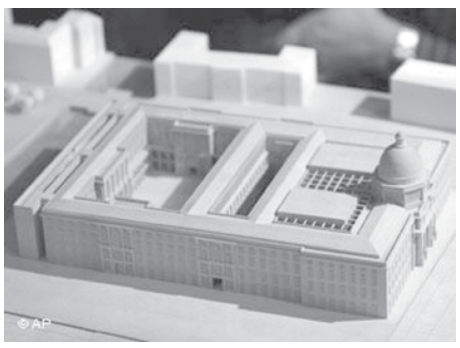
A burst of feathers followed and the pigeons flew away —except one.

Several players surrounded the wounded bird as it tried to fly away but it collapsed. Referee Saul Laverni then scooped up the dead pigeon and placed it off the field.

Man finds cash in same store twice and returns it

A Maine man found a wallet stuffed with cash on the floor in a home improvement store. Two days later, it found a loaded money bag in the same store. Gil Steward was shopping on Tuesday at The Home Depot in Auburn when he spied the wallet, which was stuffed with nearly $1,000 in $100 bills. He returned it to The Home Depot store's service counter, and it was returned to a very grateful owner. On Thursday, same hour and same store, Steward saw a green money bag on the floor. Again, it was returned to its rightful owner.

His wife, Dee, said her husband thinks he's being tested. As for Steward, he said he plans to play the lottery this weekend.



While this model of Berlin's imperial palace might not look like it's just won an architectural competition, that's exactly what happened. The design for the reconstruction of the German capital's former center of power comes from Italian architect Francesco Stella. He can be hardly blamed for his lack of imagination, though: The German parliament stipulated that three sides of the building will have to be exact replicas of the old palace, which was bombed during World War II and completely demolished by the communists thereafter. The reconstructed palace will sit on the site of the former communist Palace of the Republic, which has — in turn — now almost completely been torn down.

NEWS ALBUM

Seawater and high salinity water are now being treated for drinking purpose using latest technology with very compatible prices.

Donation of water is one of the noble donation and also more beneficial as water not only has good effect on the health but it also saves lives.

We, **WATER DOCTOR GROUP, SUPREME GROUP OF COMPANIES** have been providing **exclusively Free of Charge** expertise and services for the installed and yet to be installed water purifying equipment, hassle-free and in perfection to meet the required quality of the original design, complying to customers requirements.

Very special prices and prompt installation services are offered for all types of **Reverse Osmosis (R.O) Equipment** which are the sole solution to the saline and arsenic traced water.

Some Questions for Those Who Wish to Install Water Treatment System and Water Purifying Equipment

- Does the design of equipment to be installed match with the type of water to be utilized?
- Do you have any skilled engineer teams who can perfectly install the equipment at site according to the design ?
- Who is going to run, maintain and service your equipment after installation?
- Are spare parts and consumable parts readily available in time of need?

Various Responsive Expertise and Services by Supreme Group of Companies

- **A company endowed with 14 years of experiences and expertise** in the field of water treatment and waste water treatment systems and **an authorized agent of 12 world's leading companies** of water treatment related parts, equipment, machines and technologies. Designs are specially innovated by Master degree engineers with installations and test runs personally supervised by them at sites.
- **Machine installations and aftersales services** have been executed by the expert engineers who have experienced the installations of numerous Reverse Osmosis (R.O) machines, water treatment and waste water treatment systems for foreign missions, international hotels, foreign owned industries and INGOs. More than 900 **special water treatment projects** were individually designed, installed, serviced and maintained by the veteran engineers of the Engineering Department.
- **Operators of machines** are closely trained by expert engineers.
- **For those relief centre in Nargis hit towns and villages,** service and maintenance have been performed by routine and on call engineers of the Engineering Department.
- We have **abundant stocks of spare parts and consumable parts.**
- **Wishing the best of luck and good wishes to our valued customers.**

Head Office (Yangon)
No. 87/88, Bahosi Complex, Bogyoke Aung San Road, Lanmadaw Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
Tel: +95(1) 229791~2, 229794~7 Fax: +95(1) 229753 Mobile: +95 (0)9 5067442, +95 (0)9 80 30 821

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (423)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TEGAP VOY NO (423) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.1.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

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

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

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

***A man jogs past the world's largest observation wheel the Singapore Flyer on 29 Dec. International experts have flown to Singapore to investigate an incident that trapped 173 people on the world's biggest observation wheel last week, the attraction's chairman said.—*INTERNET**

Sri Lanka says 12 Tigers killed as troops close in on rebel town

COLOMBO, 31 Dec—At least 12 Tamil Tiger rebels were killed by government forces closing in on a key rebel-held town in northern Sri Lanka, the defence ministry said on Wednesday.

Government troops recovered the bodies of six rebels while snipers killed another six as the military moved to the outskirts of the town of Paranthan on Tuesday evening, the ministry said.

Troops had taken control of two villages adjacent to the town, it added.

Paranthan is about six kilometres (3.75 miles) north of the military's main objective—the town of Kilinochchi, which is the political capital of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The ministry did not say if security forces suffered casualties in the heavy confrontations on Tuesday. The latest fighting came as a government ultimatum to the Tigers—designed to allow some 300,000 civilians in areas under their control to leave and seek shelter in government-held areas —drew to a close on Wednesday

President Mahinda Rajapakse announced last week that he would reimpose a formal ban on the Tamil Tigers if civilians were not allowed freedom to leave by on Wednesday.—*Internet*

TRADE MARK CAUTION

LACOSTE, a Company incorporated in France of 8, rue de Castiglione, 75001 Paris, France, is the Owner of the following Trade Mark:-

LACOSTE

Reg. No. 1160/1983
Reg. No. 484/1986
Reg. No. 819/1989
Reg. No. 970/1992
Reg. No. 291/1998
Reg. No. 1242/2001
Reg. No. 1612/2003
Reg. No. 10012/2005
Reg. No. 7277/2008

in respect of "Soaps, perfumery, essential oils, cosmetics, hair lotions, toothpastes; optical apparatus, namely, optical glasses, sunglasses, sport glasses, spectacles, frames, cases, chains and chains for the aforesaid, contact lenses, binoculars; jewellery, chronometric and horological apparatuses and instruments; paper, cardboard and goods made from these materials, stationery, paper, bag and plastic materials for packaging, printed matter; leather and imitations of leather and goods made from these materials trunks; travelling and sport bags, umbrellas, parasols and walking sticks; textile goods, bed, table and household linen; clothing, footwear, headgear; embroideries, buttons, press-buttons, slide fasteners, hooks and eyes; sporting articles; retail store services, delivery of samples and prospectus, advertising, hordings and shop-signs for boutiques and corners; organisation of sporting competitions, entertainment services, education services for the practice of sports, publication services; retail stores services".

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorised use of the said Trade Mark will be dealt with according to law.

Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for **LACOSTE**
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 1 January 2009

Sri Lankan rebels open to peace talks

COLOMBO, 31 Dec—Sri Lanka's Tamil Tiger separatists are open to restarting peace talks with the government, despite the continuing military offensive aimed at crushing the group, a senior rebel official said.

The two sides have been fighting for more than 25 years over the rebels' demands for an independent state for minority Tamils in the north and east of this Indian Ocean island nation.

A new military push deep into the rebel heartland in recent months has forced the Tamil Tigers to retreat from vast swaths of land they once controlled, and the government has said it expects to finish off the group in the coming months. Rebel political chief Balasingham Nadesan told *The Associated Press* the rebels did not believe they were facing imminent defeat. "We have made several strategic withdrawals in order to save the lives of our people and maintain the strength of our forces. When the time and place is conducive, we will regain the land we have lost," he said in an e-mail sent to the *AP* late Tuesday. The two sides agreed to a truce in 2002 and held internationally brokered peace talks aimed at resolving the bloody conflict. The talks stalled, however, and violence erupted again three years ago. The government officially pulled out of the ceasefire in January.

Internet

Ethanol sales top gasoline sales in a first in Brazil

SAO PAULO, 31 Dec—Ethanol sales for 2008 for the first time are outpacing those of gasoline in Brazil, a top ethanol producer, the National Petroleum Agency reported on Tuesday.

The figures only take into account sales of hydrated ethanol that can be used in its pure form in most cars in Brazil, and not anhydrous ethanol that is used just to blend with gasoline, the agency said.

Sales of hydrated ethanol, through October, hit 15.8 billion liters (4.2 billion gallons), up 44.9 percent from a year earlier, it added.

Brazil is a leading producer of ethanol from sugar cane, the world number two after the United States, which uses corn as its base plant.

But about 90 percent of cars sold in Brazil's market can be run on either ethanol, gasoline or a mix of both in any proportion. Ethanol costs about .63 cents USD per liter compared to 1.07 USD locally for a liter of gasoline.—*Internet*

Many studies needed to tie genes to cancer

LONDON, 31 Dec — Many genes linked to various cancers do not appear to raise the risk of getting cancer after all, according to an analysis of hundreds of studies published on Tuesday.

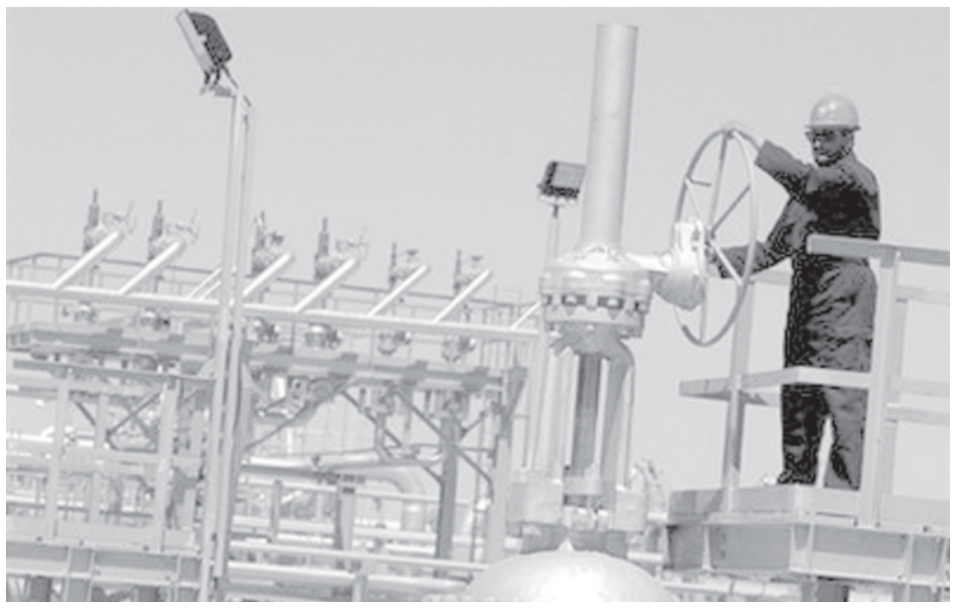
The findings highlight the need to exercise caution over the increasing number of studies associating common genetic variations with a range of diseases, said John Ioannidis of the University of Ioannina School of Medicine in Greece.

"The whole thing about genetic variations and links to diseases like cancer are very exciting, but the general public should be quite cautious about jumping to the conclusion that if they have a change in one gene or another they are doomed," Ioannidis, who led the study, said in a telephone interview.

"Genetic effects are very complex and very subtle and we need to know a lot more before we can make strong recommendations based on genetic profiles."

Ioannidis said his team had looked only at common genetic changes or polymorphisms, not at rare mutations, which in genes such as BRCA1 and BRCA2 significantly raise breast cancer risk. The rare form of these variants, for example, accounts for an estimated 5 to 10 percent of breast cancers.

Since early 2007, variations at more than 100 places on the genome have been linked to diabetes, heart disease and certain cancers.—*Internet*



***An oil worker at a facility near Kuwait City, Kuwait. The government has said it is canceling an agreement, signed last month, for the state-owned company Petrochemicals Industries to pay US$7.5 billion for a stake in a 50-50 joint venture with Dow Chemical.*—INTERNET**

Trying to prevent lymphedema after breast cancer

WASHINGTON, 31 Dec — Hospitals in about a dozen states are testing whether some simple steps, such as arm-strengthening exercises, could reduce the risk of one of breast cancer's troubling legacies — the painful and sometimes severe arm swelling called lymphedema. Lymphedema has long been a neglected side effect of cancer surgery and radiation: Many women say they never were warned, even though spotting this problem early improves outcomes.

And while less invasive surgical techniques mean fewer breast cancer patients today than just a few years ago should face lymphedema, it's a lingering threat for tens of thousands of survivors because it can strike two decades after their tumor was treated.

"I have ladies tell me the lymphedema is much worse than their cancer because the cancer's cured," says Dr Electra Paskett, an epidemiologist at Ohio State University who is leading the first-of-its-kind research into possible protective steps.

Internet

***A ship being built at a shipyard in Ulsan, South Korea. South Korea's state-run Korea Development Bank has said it will delay finalising a deal to sell the world's third largest shipyard, Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering*.— INTERNET**

High insulin may boost odds of breast cancer

NEW YORK, 31 Dec— Women with high levels of insulin in their blood appear to be more likely to develop breast cancer than those with lower insulin levels.

And that might be the link between obesity and breast cancer, say researchers from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City. High insulin levels have already been associated with obesity.

The researchers compared insulin levels in 835 women who developed breast cancer and 816 women who did not. All women were participating in the Women's Health Initiative study. Those whose fasting insulin levels were the highest had a 1.5 times greater risk of breast cancer than did women with the lowest fasting insulin levels, the study found.

The risk was even greater among women who were not taking hormone therapy. The study found that those women were 2.4 times more likely to have developed breast cancer if their insulin levels were high than if they were low.

The findings were published in the 30 December issue of the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.—*Internet*

High vitamin C linked to lower BP in young women

NEW YORK, 31 Dec — A study in young adult women links high blood levels of vitamin C with lower blood pressure.

This "strongly suggests that vitamin C is specifically important in maintaining a healthy blood pressure," lead author Dr Gladys Block, of the University of California, Berkeley, told Reuters Health.

Previous research linked high plasma levels of vitamin C with lower blood pressure among middle-age and older adults, typically those with higher than optimal blood pressure readings, Block and colleagues report in the Nutrition Journal.The current study involved 242 black and white women, between 18 and 21 years old, with normal blood pressures, who were participants in the National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute Growth and Health Study.

Internet

No cancer risk reductions seen with antioxidants

NEW YORK,31 Dec —In the large Women's Antioxidant Cardiovascular Study, participants who took beta carotene, vitamin C, vitamin E, or a combination of supplements had no significant reductions in their risk of cancer.

The clinical trial, which involved 7,627 women who were followed for an average of 9.4 years, was conducted by Dr. Jennifer Lin and colleagues at Harvard Medical School in Boston, and is published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute.

The patients were randomly assigned to a placebo group, or to 500 mg ascorbic acid daily, 600 IU alpha-tocopherol every other day or 50 mg beta-carotene every other day. Overall, 624 women developed invasive cancers and 176 died from their disease.Compared with women who took placebo, the relative risk of developing cancer was almost identical in the vitamin C group, the vitamin E group and the beta carotene group.—*Internet*

***A worker assembles vehicles on a car production line in Karita, Fukuoka prefecture. Japan's two biggest steelmakers are set to downgrade earnings for the year to March 2009 and announce a 12 percent drop in profits, a leading Japanese business newspaper has said.*—INTERNET**

SPORTS

Stoke chairman backs Fuller to stay

Stoke City want to keep controversial striker Ricardo Fuller, seen here, on 2 Dec, 2008, despite the Jamaica international getting sent-off for slapping club captain Andy Griffin.—INTERNET

STOKE, 31 Dec—Stoke City want to keep controversial striker Ricardo Fuller despite the Jamaica international getting sent-off for slapping club captain Andy Griffin.

Fuller was red-carded during Sunday's 2-1 loss at home to West Ham - a result that left Stoke in the Premier League's relegation zone.

And with the January transfer window imminent, some fans have said City should sell Fuller.

But Stoke chairman Peter Coates told the club's official website on Tuesday: "It hasn't entered our heads to sell him. We're absolutely sure we want to keep him. Ric's a good player and you don't sell your good players.—*Internet*

Sharapova hopes to be fit for Australian title defence

LOS ANGELES, 31 Dec—Maria Sharapova says she hopes to be fit to defend her title at the Australian Open in January, despite pulling out of an exhibition event in Hong Kong next month.

In a statement posted on her website, Sharapova said she regretted pulling out of the JB Group Classic team tennis tournament, scheduled for January 7-10 in Hong Kong.

"It's with much disappointment that I have to withdraw from Hong Kong. I've been using this event for the last five years to get match fit and ready for the new season, in fact Hong Kong has been successful in preparing me for the Australian Open," she said.

Maria Sharapova, pictured here in November 2008, says she hopes to be fit to defend her title at the Australian Open in January, despite pulling out of an exhibition event in Hong Kong next month.—INTERNET

Sharapova launched her 2008 season in style with a triumph at the Australian Open.—*Internet*

Fred frustrates Brazilian teams by staying with Lyon

RIO DE JANEIRO, 31 Dec—Brazilian forward Fred frustrated some Brazilian soccer clubs which wanted to bring him back home by saying on Tuesday that he intended to stay with his French club Lyon.

It was reported that Brazilian clubs Cruzeiro, Fluminense and Flamengo were all interested in signing Fred in 2009. "At the moment, I plan to stay with Lyon until June. However, Iam sure that I will discuss my future with other teams when that day comes," Fred said.

Fred came back to Brazil to celebrate Christmas with his family. Upon his return to Belo Horizonte, he showed interest in returning to Brazil to play.—*Internet*

Top 10 athletes of 2008

BEIJING, 31 Dec—Following are the top 10 athletes of the year 2008 selected by Xinhua News Agency:

1. Michael Phelps (male, United States)

The 23-year-old swimmer won eight gold medals at the Beijing Olympic Games, not only refreshing his compatriot Mark Spitz's record of taking seven golds in one Olympic Games (Munich 1972), but also setting the total record of gold taking by a single person (14) in the Olympic history.

2. Usain Bolt (male, Jamaica)

The 22-year-old sprinter collected three Olympic gold medals in Beijing from 100 meters, 200 meters and 4x100 meters relay races, and simultaneously broke the world records of the three events. He was elected by IAAF as the best male athlete of the year 2008.

3. Cristiano Ronaldo (male, Portugal)

The 23-year-old football talent scored 42 goals for Manchester United, playing the key role in helping the club grab the titles of the English Premier League and the European Champions League. On 2 December, he was elected the best European footballer of 2008.

4. Yelena Isinbayeva (female, Russia)

The 26-year-old athlete set the world record of 5.04 meters in the women's pole vault at the IAAF Grand Prix Monaco leg. Then, she retained her Olympic title in Beijing with a new high of 5.05 meters. In November, she was elected by IAAF as the best female athlete of the year 2008.

5. Guo Jingjing (female, China)

The 26-year-old diver successfully defended her Olympic three-meter springboard sychronized title with her compatriot Wu Minxia, and retained her Olympic three-meter springboard single gold in Beijing. She has become the only athlete to sweep both three-meter springboard sychronized and single titles in two consecutive Olympic Games.

6. Rafael Nadal (male, Spain)

The 22-year-old tennis star claimed the men's singles titles in the French Open, Wimbledon and the Beijing Olympics this year. He also overtook Roger Federer from Switzerland to top the ATP ranking.

7. Kobe Bryant (male, United States)

The 30-year-old basketball star led the Los Angeles Lakers to the NBA Western Conference champions last season, receiving the NBA MVP award for the first time in his career. At the Beijing Olympics, he led the US team to the top podium which they missed for eight years.

8. Lewis Hamilton (male, Britain)

The 23-year-old Formula One driver became the youngest-ever F1 world champion this year with a total of 98 points.

9. Iker Casillas Fernandez (male, Spain)

The 27-year-old goalkeeper and the captain of Spain led his team to the top podium in the European soccer championship this year. It was the first time for Spain to take the crown in 44 years.

10. Dayron Robles (male, Cuba)

The 22-year-old sprinter ran in 12.87 seconds in the men's 110 meters hurdles at the IAAF Grand Prix in the Czech Republic in June, breaking the world record of 12.88 seconds set by Chinese talent Liu Xiang. Then Robles was crowned at the Beijing Olympics. In November, he received the IAAF high performance award of the year.—*Internet*

Aston Villa's midfielder Steve Sidwell (L) challenges Hull City's midfielder Ian Ashbee during their English Premier League football match at The Kingston Communications Stadium in Hull. Aston Villa leapfrogged Arsenal into the last Champions League placing here on Tuesday as an own-goal by Kamil Zayatte gifted them a 1-0 victory over Hull City in the last Premier League match of the year.—INTERNET

Villa leapfrog Arsenal into Champions League position

HULL, 31 Dec—Aston Villa leapfrogged Arsenal into the last Champions League placing here on Tuesday as an own-goal by Kamil Zayatte gifted them a 1-0 victory over Hull City in the last Premier League match of the year.

Zayatte turned his attempted clearance from Ashley Young's cross past goalkeeper Boaz Myhill to extend Villa's unbeaten sequence to eight while Hull must be staring anxiously at the bottom three as they have only won once in their last 11 games.

They looked to be on course to salvage a point in time added on when referee Steve Bennett awarded them a penalty for handball but after consulting with a linesman he correctly rescinded his decision as former Real Madrid target Young had not handled the ball, though he did raise his arm as the ball went over the bar.

Aston Villa skipper Gareth Barry praised Bennett after the match.—*Internet*

Portsmouth sign Belhadj on permanent deal

PORTSMOUTH, 31 Dec—Nadir Belhadj has joined Portsmouth on a four-and-a-half-year contract from French side Lens for 4.5 million euros (4.4 million pounds), the Premier League club announced on Tuesday. The 26-year-old Algeria left-back, born in France, has impressed during a loan spell at Fratton Park, scoring two goals in 23 appearances, and will officially become a Pompey player when the transfer window opens on January 1.

"I'm delighted to have secured Nadir as a permanent signing," Portsmouth manager Tony Adams told the club's official website.

Former Arsenal captain Adams saw Pompey lose to his old club 1-0 on Sunday but said Gunners boss Arsene Wenger had been impressed by Belhadj.

Internet

Nadir Belhadj(L), seen here, on 14 Dec, 2008, has joined Portsmouth on a four-and-a-half-year contract from French side Lens for 4.5 million euros (4.4 million pounds), the Premier League club announced on Tuesday.—INTERNET

New Belgian government inaugurated

BRUSSELS, 31 Dec—A new Belgian Government was sworn in on Tuesday with Flemish Christian Democrat Herman van Rompuy as the Prime Minister.

Members of the new government, including 14 ministers and seven state secretaries, took their oath before Belgium's King Albert II on Tuesday afternoon, Belgian media reported. The Belgian Parliament is scheduled to hold a vote of confidence on the new government on Friday. The new government comprises the same five parties of the outgoing government, namely the Flemish Christian Democrats, the Flemish Liberals, the Francophone Christian Democrats, the Francophone Liberals, and the Francophone Socialists. Van Rompuy, 61, was the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament before taking up the new job.

He succeeded fellow Flemish Christian Democrat Yves Leterme, who submitted his government's resignation on 19 December over alleg-ations of political interference in judicial affairs. Van Rompuy said on Monday that his government will continue the main policies of the previous government, including the plans to revive the economy which was hard hit by the financial crisis and has been forecast to slide into recession in the fourth quarter.—*MNA/Xinhua*

Children play soccer during sunset at a beach in Lima, on 26 December, 2008.

INTERNET

Singapore to provide some 7,500 teaching jobs in 2009

SINGAPORE, 31 Dec—An estimated 7,500 teaching and teaching-support jobs will be available next year in Singapore, the country's Ministry of Education (MOE) announced on Tuesday.

The MOE and its schools will recruit more than 3,500 jobs, while institutes of higher learning and kindergarten sector project will have another 4,000 jobs in 2009, said Ng Eng Hen, the country's Minister for Education and Second Minister for Defence, at the 11th Appointment Ceremony for Principals.

The MOE will also invest in new infrastructure and centralized facilities in areas such as the arts, music and sports development, and provide more help to needy students during the current economic downturn, said Ng.

"We must provide help to overcome short-term difficulties, we must not allow this crisis, even a global one, to distract us from preparing for the future," the minister said.

The education sector in Singapore currently employs some 29,400 teachers.—*MNA/Xinhua*

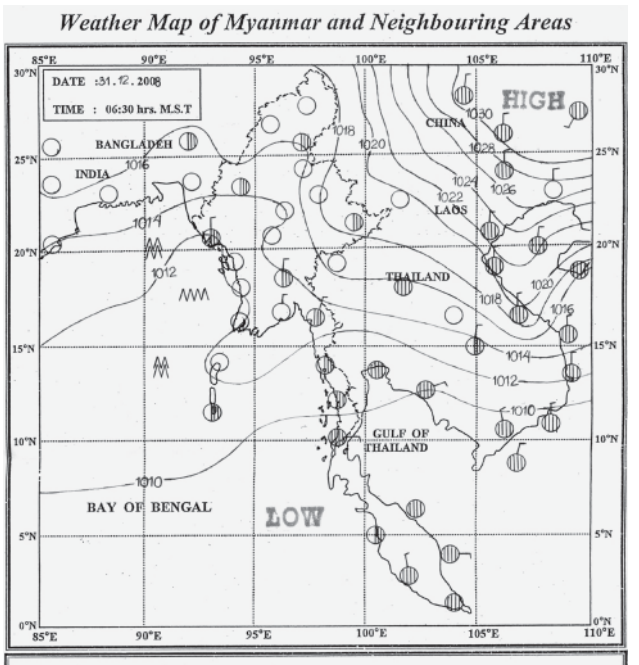
Baby dies, nine seriously ill with Cyprus virus

NICOSIA, 31 Dec—A baby died and nine other newborns were seriously ill on Tuesday after a suspected outbreak of the rare Legionnaires' disease at a hospital in Cyprus, medics said.

The newborn died on Tuesday and a second was in a critical condition while eight more were being treated for exposure to the same bacteria, doctors said. All ten were born at the same private clinic in December and were less than two weeks' old.

"Initial tests suggest it is the legionella bacteria," said Health Minister Christos Patsalides. The private hospital has shut down its maternity ward.

Legionnaires is a potentially fatal form of pneumonia, caused by an airborne bacteria normally generated in moist environments.—*MNA/Reuters*



WEATHER

Wednesday, 31 December, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Chin State and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (4˚C) below December average temperatures in upper Sagaing Division, (5˚C) to (6˚C) below December average temperatures in Chin State and Magway Division, (3˚C) above December average temperatures in Mon State and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas.The significant night temperatures were Hakha (-2˚C), Loilem (-1˚C), Pinlaung (2˚C), Namsam (3˚C) and Moekok (4˚C).

Maximum temperature on 30-12-2008 was 91˚F. Minimum temperature on 31-12-2008 was 59˚F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 31-12-2008 was 65%. Total sunshine hours on 30-12-2008 was (9.8) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 31-12-2008 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 (6) mph from North at (09:30) hours MST on 31-12-2008.

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 1st January 2009: Possibilitly of isolated light rain in Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State, upper Sagaing 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: Generally fair in the whole country.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 1-1-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 1-1-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 1-1-2009: Generally fair weather.

TV Myanmar

Thursday, 1 January
View on today

7:00 am
1. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning news

7:50 am
4. Nice and sweet song

8:00 am
5. Dance Variety

8:15 am
6. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:25 am
7. "ကောင်းခြင်းဝေဖြာ" (ထွန်းထွန်းနိုင်၊ရန်ပိုင်စိုး၊ ပိုင်ဇေရဲထွန်း၊မင်းသူ၊မြင့်မြင့်ခိုင်၊ ခင်မို့မို့အေး၊ချစ်စနိုးဦး) [ဒါရိုက်တာ–အောင်မိုး(ပဲရစ်)]

8:40 am
8. International news

8:50 am
9. ရုပ်မြင်ရသတေးစုကဏ္ဍ

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:10 pm
2. Songs of national races

4:25 pm
3. နားဝင်ဝီယံသူ့လက်သံ

4:40 pm
4. Cute little dancers

4:55 pm
5. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ပထမနှစ် (ရုက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရုက္ခဗေဒ)

5:10 pm
6. Songs to uphold national spirit

5:15 pm
7. မြန်မာ့ရိုးရာဓလေ့ကျေးလက်တေးသံများ "စာကလေး" (ဆင်တပ်မင်္ဂလာဗျောဥ္ဇန်)

5:30 pm
8. (၆၁)နှစ်မြောက်လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

5:40 pm
9. ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ

6:00 pm
10. Evening news

6:30 pm
11. Weather report

6:35 pm
12. ထူးဆန်းထွေလာများကိုသိပ္ပံဖြင့် ချဉ်းကပ်ခြင်း

6:55 pm
13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ကုန်သွယ်မှုန်တိုင်း" (အပိုင်း–၃၉)

8:00 pm
14. News
15. International news
16. Weather report
17. အချုပ်အခြာအာဏာ ခွန်အားရှည်ကြာခိုင်မာစေမှုဒို့ရေးရှု
18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ပင်လယ်ပျော်မင်းသား" (အပိုင်း–၅၉)

R 489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 22/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newlight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 392308, Manager 392226, Circulation 392304, Advertisement 392223, Accounts 392224, Administration 392225, Production/Press 392369

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

SPECIAL FEATURES TO HAIL 61st ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Article

Everyone loyal to motherland safeguards independence

Now, all national people who are loyal to the motherland safeguard independence wiping out all attempts to harm independence. On behalf of all people who are loyal to the State, I would like to pledge that we are, if necessary, ready to make supreme sacrifices to safeguard independence.

Poem

Myanmar of the Thaki race

*** Myanmar our homeland**
Sacrificed our forefathers
Blood, sweat and lives
For lasting existence of country
Documented the Thaki noble race
Race, language, religion
And traditions and culture
Our true heritage
Renowned in world
Our courage and perseverance
That wins global admiration

Yangon Command clinches title in 47th Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament

On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung awards championship trophy and duplicate trophy to Yangon Command team.

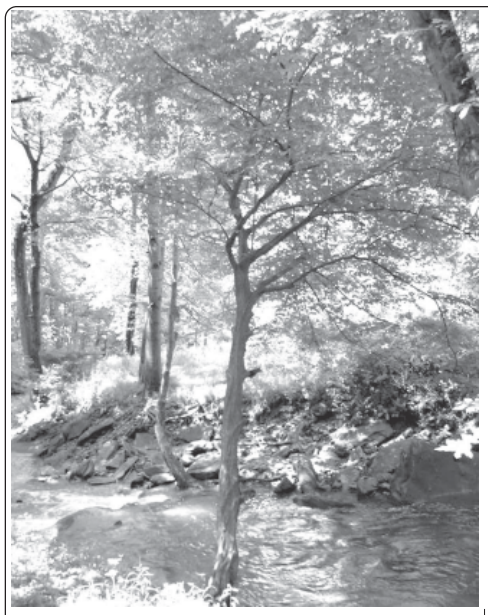
MNA

YANGON, 31 Dec—The final match of the 47th Defence Services Commander-in-Chief's Trophy Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) Football Tournament 2008 was held at Youth Training Centre (Thuwunna), here, at 3 p.m., today.

On behalf of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Adjutant-General Lt-Gen Thura Myint Aung watched the match and presented championship trophy to the winning team.

In the final match, Yangon Command team secured the champion with a 3-2 win.

After the final match, Commander of Mingaladon Airbase Col Thein Naing presented the third prize to Defence Services (Air) team and individual prizes to the players of Northern Command that stood second in the tournament. *(See page 7)*



Forests use more water than shorter types of vegetation because of their higher evaporation rates.

Challenge to water policies and forest management

JOENSUU, 31 Dec — Incorporating results from forest hydrology studies in water policies can help avoid uncertainty and confusion caused by the current difficulties in transferring research findings to different countries and regions, varying forest types and species and diverse forest management regimes. In addition, institutional mechanisms to enhance synergies in forests and water administrations are needed at national and regional levels.

These key messages to the decision makers were formed during the international conference "Water and Forests: a convenient truth?" held in October 2008. The conference gathered together renowned scientists to addressed the topic not only at a global level, but also highlighting the situation in the Mediterranean area.

The conference agreed that it is clear that forests are linked to water yield. Forests use more water than shorter types of vegetation because of their higher evaporation rates. Water use efficiency differs between forest species; and soil water availability fluctuates at each stand of trees. Canopies protect the ground from runoff which also means higher interception. Root systems influence the groundwater recharge.—*Internet*

Hlegu hails Independence Day

YANGON, 31 Dec—As a gesture of hailing the 61st Anniversary Independence Day 2009, a ceremony to inaugurate the repaved Yankin 4th street undertaken by Hlegu Township Development Affairs Committee was held in Yeiktha Ward of Hlegu Township this morning.

Senior Engineer U Ba Thein reported on matters related to the repaved street. Townselder U Tin Myint spoke words of thanks.

Station Commander Col Hsan Myint Oo, Director of Yangon Division DAC U Aung Kyaw Nyein and Secretary of Township Peace and Development Council Daw Amy Zaw formally opened the street.—*MNA*