Established 1914

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Thanlwin Suspension Bridge (Takaw-et) built for ensuring smooth transport in border region.

MNA

Priority being given to development of border areas

The government has designated the 24-region special development project and is now implementing it for equitable development of all parts of the nation. At the same time, it is putting into action the border areas development projects and rural development tasks.

In the process, it has given priority to the development of border areas that lagged behind in development due to lack of security. It managed to make a significant progress in the sectors of economic infrastructures, transport, agriculture, livestock farming, education and health.

Senior General Than Shwe
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services
From the message sent on the occasion of the 59th Anniversary Independence Day

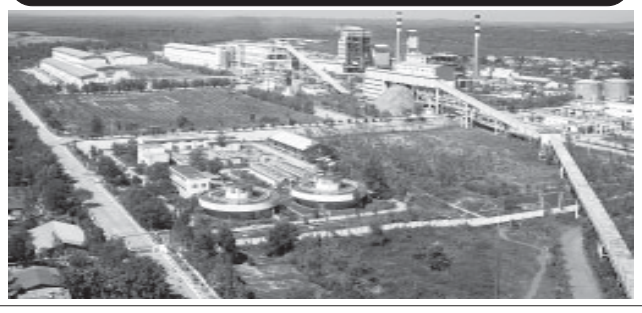
SPECIAL FEATURES TO HAIL 61st ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Poem

Independence Day resolution

* **Thundered our ancestors**
With nationalistic fervour
"First priority, Independence
"Second, Independence
"Third, Independence"
Sacrificed lives in thousands
Blood, sweat flowed

Achievement of the Industrial Sector in 2008



Article

Inscribe future records with own concepts

KYEI SIN NAING

PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 3 January, 2009

Strive for perpetuation of national solidarity and development

Myanmar has stood tall among the international community as an independent and sovereign nation for years countable by the thousand. The national brethren have been living in the Union through thick and thin. Based on unity and amity, they have been able to forge friendship and consolidation among them.

In the late 19th century, the colonialists launched three aggressive wars on Myanmar and occupied her. However, the entire national people put up much of a fight against the colonialists with patriotism and nationalistic fervour. As a result, they were finally free from the yoke of the colonialists and the nation became independent and sovereign again.

Nowadays, the government is making all-out efforts for the emergence of a modern and developed nation in accord with Our Three Main National Causes, namely, Non-disintegration of the Union, Non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty. In the process, it has laid down and is implementing the seven-step Road Map in line with the wishes of the entire people.

The national policies that are being implemented by the government are the national duties to be carried out by the people at present and in future as well.

At present, peace and tranquility prevails the length and breadth of the nation thanks to concerted efforts of the government and the people. Progress has been made in the agricultural and production sectors. With better transport, trade and commerce are booming. Meanwhile, marked progress has been made in the culture, education and health sectors as the country is in the process of transition to democracy.

Therefore, the entire national people are to make sustained efforts with Union Spirit for perpetuation of independence and sovereignty making better use of the already-achieved peace and stability, national solidarity and development.

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**

Ministry of Labour marks 61st anniversary

Minister U Aung Kyi delivers an address at the ceremony to mark 61st Anniversary of Ministry of Labour. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—The 61st Anniversary of Ministry of Labour was held at the ministry here today.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung, directors-general, guests and personnel and staff of the ministry.

Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi delivered an address and the minister, the deputy minister and directors-general presented gifts to those who performed their duties brilliantly. Altogether 39 prizes such as literary award, performance award, long service award, language proficiency award were presented to excellent performers.

MNA

K 10 million lucky draw winner honoured

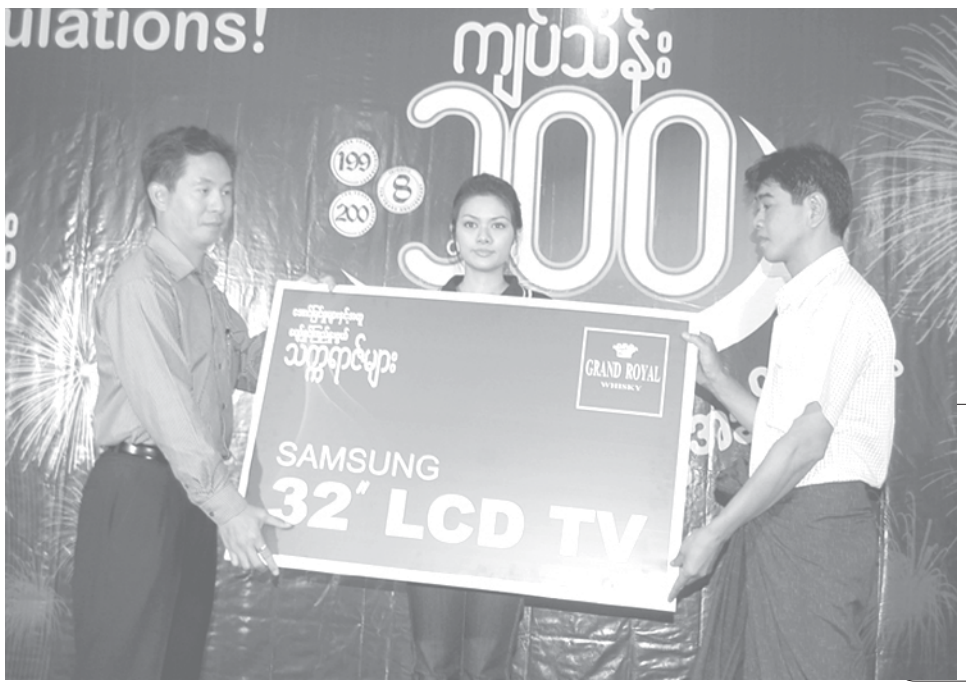
YANGON, 2 Jan—A ceremony to present a K 10 million award to the winner in the lucky draw programme for Grand Royal of International Beverages Trading Co Ltd was held at Chatrium Hotel, here, this afternoon.

Executive Director U Tint Oo of IBTC extended greetings and awarded K 10 million to lucky draw winner U San Thwin of Thakayta Township.

The Executive Director also presented one Samsung brand 32-inch LCD TV to the owner of Shweyamin-2 Shop of Thakayta Township.

The lucky draws from K 200 to K 10 million were included and the lucky draw duration lasted from 8 October to 8 December. The winners may take out the prizes from the company till 31 January 2009.

MNA



IBTC Executive Director U Tint Oo presents prize to a shop owner.

MNA

School Family Day of Institute of Education Practising High School on 3 Jan

YANGON, 2 Jan—The Institute of Education Practising High School of Higher Education Department (Lower Myanmar) will hold the School Family Day for 2008-09 academic year at the school on Pyay Road in Kamayut Township at 8.30 a.m. tomorrow.

In the compound of the school, parents, teachers and students will display books on general knowledge and aesthetic genres, teaching aid books, teaching aid materials and food stalls at the festivities.

MNA

Yangon/Mandalay market boat to be launched

YANGON, 2 Jan—Mya Ayeya (Yangon/Mandalay) market boat owned by Transportation Department of Inland Water Transport will leave from Yangon for Mandalay within this month.

Those wishing to sell their products in the market boat may contact Transportation Department on Bahtataungzay Street in person or dial 292199, 292319.

Vendors from townships of States and Divisions may contact township manager's office of Inland Water Transport in Maubin, Dhanyubyu, Myanaung, Kyangin, Pyay, Thayet, Aunglan and Magway.

MNA

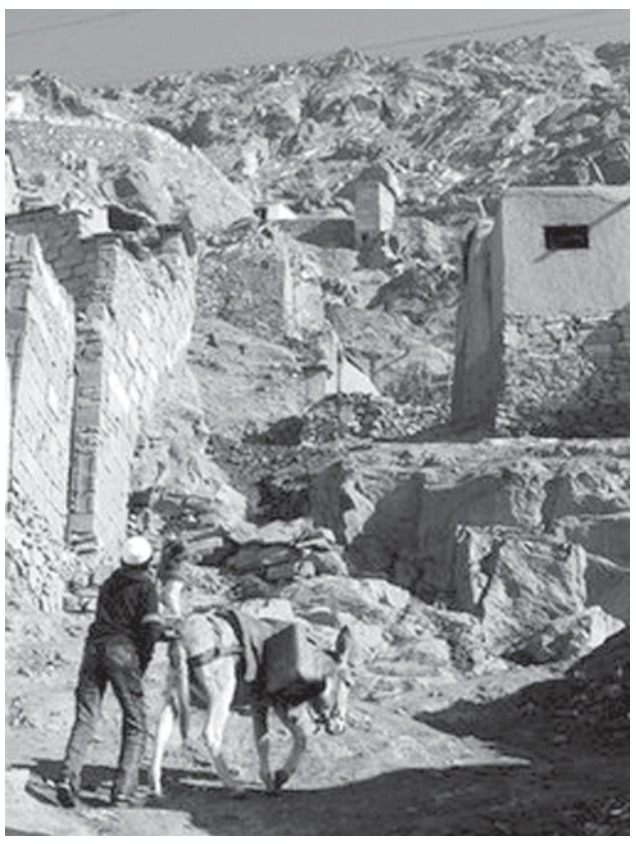
Pakistan urges US to stop drone attacks

ISLAMABAD, 2 Jan — Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi Thursday urged the United States to stop cross-border drone attacks inside Pakistan's territory.

Speaking at private TV channel GEO's programme, Qureshi said that Pakistan had asked the United States to put a halt to drone attacks.

He said that such attacks were not in the interest of the two countries and also urged the United States to review its policy.

A suspected US drone fired three missiles in Pakistan's South Waziristan tribal region bordering Afghanistan on Thursday, killing five people, according to private DAWN NEWS TV channel.—*Internet*



An Afghan youth pushes a donkey laden with containers filled with drinking water in Kabul on 30 December. About only 28 percent of homes in urbanised Afghanistan have piped water, according to the government. Far fewer homes would have such a service in the country's destitute rural areas. The water supply is also not always safe, sometimes being contaminated with domestic waste.— **INTERNET**

An Afghan soldier searches a truck driver during a route security mission in Kunar Province in eastern Afghanistan on 28 December, 2008.— **INTERNET**

US troops under Iraq's authority for first time

BAGHDAD, 2 Jan —US forces came under an Iraqi mandate on Thursday for the first time since the 2003 invasion of Iraq, and handed control of the Green Zone in central Baghdad to Iraqi troops in a symbol of the dramatic change.

The US force in Iraq, now more than 140,000 strong, had operated since 2003 under a UN Security Council resolution.

But at midnight on New Year's Eve, the UN mandate expired and the troops were placed under a new mandate granted by the Iraqi government in a bilateral deal reached with Washington.

The pact gives US troops three years to leave Iraq, revokes their power to detain Iraqis without a warrant, and subjects contractors and US troops in some cases to Iraqi law.

An Iraqi band played bagpipes at a small ceremony on a street surrounded by concrete blast walls and razor wire in the Green Zone, a fortified swathe of central Baghdad off limits to most Iraqis, who widely view it as a symbol of occupation.

"I convey the armed forces' vow — that they are able to take full responsibility, so that Iraq again will be secured by the hands of its own citizens," Defence Minister Abdel Qader Jassim told dignitaries assembled under a marquee festooned with tinsel and balloons.

Col Steven Ferrari, 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team commander responsible for US troops in the area, called it "a new day for sovereign Iraq.

"As a sovereign nation, Iraq assumes the full range of security responsibilities for this historically ancient land."—*Internet*

Iraq to expel Iran rebels as it takes over camp from US

BAGHDAD, 2 Jan — Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki said on Thursday that he would expel an Iranian armed opposition group from the country after taking over their base from US forces.

"Based on taking over everything and in accordance with our constitution and our policies of opening up to our neighbours... our forces are going to take full control of the camp where the People's Mujahedeen Organization of Iran (PMOI) live," Maliki said.

Maliki was speaking to reporters on the sideline of a ceremony during which the United States handed over to Iraqi forces security control of the Green Zone, symbol of the American occupation of the country.

The PMOI "is a terrorist organization and thus cannot operate in Iraq because it will create a political crisis in contradiction with the constitution," Maliki said.

Internet

An Afghan police officer wounded in a blast, is seen as he walks at the site of a suicide attack in Khost Province, east of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 28 Dec, 2008. A suicide bomber tried to attack a meeting of tribal elders and blew himself up near an Afghan primary school on Sunday. **INTERNET**

A wounded Afghan boy receives treatment at a hospital after a suicide attack in Khost Province on 28 Dec, 2008. A suicide bomber killed at least six people, four of them children, and wounded 36 more in an attack on a government building in southeastern Khost Province on Sunday, officials said. **INTERNET**

Taleban ambush district chief, killing 20 in S Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, 2 Jan— A group of Taleban insurgents Wednesday ambushed the convoy of Musa Qala district chief Mullah Abdulsallah in southern Afghan province of Helmand, killing at least 20 security guards, an official said on Thursday.

Dawud Ahmadi, the spokesman for provincial governor told *Xinhua* that Taleban militants launched attack on the convoy of Mullah Abdulsallah on his way from Kajaki district to Musa Qala. Ahmadi said militants clashed with security guards of the district chief, killing 20 of them, but Mullah Abudulsallah escaped the life threat. "Those militants disguised themselves in police uniforms and drove police vehicles while carrying out assaults," he added. "The investigation is going on at the battlefield."—*Internet*

Pakistan, India exchange list of nuclear installations, facilities

ISLAMABAD, 2 Jan— Pakistan and India Thursday exchanged lists of their nuclear installations and facilities to safeguard them from each other's attack during war.

The lists are exchanged on the first day of January every year under an agreement that prohibits the two countries attacking each other's nuclear installations, the News Network International (NNI)news agency reported.

The exchange of lists was carried out through diplomatic channels simultaneously in Islamabad and New Delhi.

The exchange took place at a time when tension over Mumbai attacks led to the suspension of the composite dialogue between the two countries.

Both countries exchanged information on the nuclear installations and demonstrated their commitment against attacks on each other's nuclear installations.

They were poised for a military showdown following the attack on the Parliament in India in December of 2001 and even then they exchanged the lists.

The lists usually include civilian nuclear power plants and give the exact locations.

The first such exchange of lists took place on 1 Jan, 1992.

Internet

A woman embraces her detained son after his release in a police station in Baghdad's Amiriya District on 31 Dec, 2008. About five detainees were released from the US detention facility at Camp Bucca on Wednesday, US military said.— **INTERNET**

Israelis take cover in a stairwell as a warning siren for incoming rockets is sounded in the port city of Ashdod on 1 Jan, 2009. Israel's Prime Minister Ehud Olmert on Thursday said Israel was fighting Hamas with an "iron fist", his words backed by a series of air strikes in the Gaza Strip but challenged by rockets that have killed four people in southern Israel.
INTERNET

Hamas must stop rockets in any truce

CAIRO, 2 Jan—Egypt's foreign minister said Thursday that Hamas must ensure rocket fire stops in any truce deal to halt Israel's assault on the Gaza Strip, criticizing the Palestinian militants for giving Israel an excuse to launch the bombardment.

Ahmed Aboul Gheit's comments came as Turkey's Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan met with Egypt's president, part of a tour by the Turkish leader to work out an Egyptian-Turkish initiative to end the violence.

The initiative calls for a halt to Israel's assault, a return to a Hamas-Israel truce and an international mechanism to ensure the opening of Gaza's border crossings.

The Turkish leader, speaking in a news conference in the Egyptian resort town of Sharm el-Sheik after meeting with Hosni Mubarak, called on Israel to halt its attacks and on Hamas to stop firing rockets on Israel. Erdogan said there must be a cease-fire now before it is too late.

The Turkish leader met a day earlier with Syrian President Bashar Assad and was expected to be in Saudi Arabia on Saturday. Erdogan also said he sent a representative to meet Hamas leaders, but did not elaborate.—*Internet*

Palestinian rocket-fire into Israel goes on despite raids

GAZA, 2 Jan— Palestinian militants on Thursday continued firing rockets into Israel despite constant Israeli bombing of the Gaza Strip.

Ezz el-Deen al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Islamic Hamas movement, claimed responsibility for launching tens of rockets into Israel since Thursday morning, including Soviet-made Grad missiles.

The armed wing of the less influential Islamic Jihad movement also claimed responsibility for several attacks.

Meanwhile, Israeli sources said the latest Palestinian attacks apparently caused casualties after a Grad rocket hit an eight-story building in Western Negev town of Ashdod, more than 30 km to the north of Gaza Strip. The sources added that more than 40 rockets have been fired from Gaza Strip since the morning.

Internet

Israelis living with rocket threat support Gaza military operation

SDEROT, 2 Jan— All major gatherings have been canceled, and the streets remain empty, while families hide away in their bomb shelters.

However, for people of the Qassam-battered town of Sderot, this is not a new reality. Over the past eight years, more than 10,000 rockets have landed in this town alone. "This is the situation we have lived with for eight years," Zohar Levi, 45, said Thursday while watching the news in a pizza bar.

It is news about Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni's trip to France, where Livni said that Israel could not accept France's cease-fire initiative in Gaza Strip as it would "enable Hamas to gain legitimacy."

"Hamas's agenda of hatred cannot be legitimized by the international community," Livni told reporters at a Paris Press conference, following the meeting with French President Nicolas Sarkozi. She said Israel had right to defend itself and its citizens, and for this reason had embarked on the military operation in Gaza. Any other country would do the same, she added.—*Internet*

A pressure-gauge and valve are seen in front of a gas pipe at the gas-compressor station in the small Ukrainian city of Boyarka, near Kiev.
INTERNET

Russia cuts off gas to Ukraine

MOSCOW/KIEV, 2 Jan— Russia cut off the gas to its neighbour Ukraine on Thursday after a contract dispute but increased supplies to other European states to try to reassure customers worried about possible disruption.

The European Union, which receives a fifth of its gas from pipelines crossing Ukraine, and the United States urged further negotiations to resolve the dispute and said all supply commitments must be met.

Energy firms in Germany, France, Poland, Romania, Austria and Italy said they had not yet seen any drop in supply. Europe has enough gas stockpiled to manage without Russian gas for several days, though not weeks, analysts said.

The row could raise new doubts about Moscow's reliability as an energy supplier and fuel suspicions in the West — already running high since Russia's war with Georgia last August — that the Kremlin bullies its pro-Western neighbors.

Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko, the target of fierce criticism from Moscow over his drive to take Ukraine into the NATO alliance, said he wanted to resume talks with Moscow to settle a row over payment arrears and gas prices for 2009.

Yushchenko said in a statement he believed a compromise deal with Russian gas export monopoly Gazprom was achievable by Orthodox Christmas on 7 January.

Internet

The 7th Ice Sculpture Festival opens in Changji City, Northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region on 1 Jan, 2009. About 60 ice sculptures were exhibited Thursday, attracting lots of visitors.—XINHUA

Shanghai sees growing foreign investment in office buildings

SHANGHAI, 2 Jan—The Shanghai Municipal Commission of Commerce on Friday reported a "jump" of foreign investment in the city's office buildings in 2008 against a backdrop of slump real estate market across China.

The city approved 58 foreign-invested real estate projects in the first 11 months of 2008, involving a total investment of 3.94 billion US dollars, which was 66 percent more than that a year earlier, the commission said in a statistical report.

Nearly half of the investment was aimed at high-class office buildings, the report said.

A senior economic official attributed the boom of foreign real estate investment to the rising demand for luxury office building as the continuing arrivals of regional headquarters of international companies.

"The increase of foreign investment in Shanghai's real estate market shows foreign companies are still confident in China's economy," said Liu Jinping, deputy head of a municipal leading group of foreign investment.

According to statistics provided by the commission, foreign investors established 77 regional headquarters, investment companies and research and development centers in the municipality during the 11 months of 2008, bringing the total number of regional headquarters of international companies to 223.—*Xinhua*

Singapore lowers economic growth forecast

SINGAPORE, 2 Jan—Singapore economy is expected to grow between minus 2.0 percent and plus 1.0 percent in 2009, the country's Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) said on Friday.

The forecast is lower than the minus 1.0 percent to plus 2.0 percent range it forecasted in November 2008.

The ministry said the global economic crisis has worsened since November, 2008, with sharp declines in global demand, trade and investments.

"These developments will affect the sectors in the Singapore economy that rely on the movement of goods and services in the region, such as the wholesale and retail sector, and the transport and storage sector," the ministry said.—*Xinhua*

A ship leaves a port in Georgetown in northern Malaysia. The south east Asian state is unlikely to slip into recession despite slowing exports, but the economy may require another round of stimulus measures, the central bank chief has said.

XINHUA

Abnormal floods in Vietnam cause at least seven dead or missing

HANOI, 2 Jan—At least seven Vietnamese people were dead or missing in the abnormal rains and floods in the central Quang Nam and Quang Ngai provinces of Vietnam in the past three days, the local newspaper Young People reported Friday.

In Quang Nam Province, with the estimated rainfalls from 200 to300 millimeters, three people were reported dead or missing. More than 5,000 hectares of spring-winter crops have been flooded, said the newspaper.

Meanwhile, the unseasonal floods hitting Quang Ngai caused four dead or missing, more than 10,000 hectares of newly-cultivated rice paddy inundated, the newspaper said. Some streets in Quang Ngai were a meter deep under water, causing difficulties in transportation.

The Central Hydro-meteorology Forecasting Centre warned of more heavy downpours on Friday in central provinces. Waters are expected to exceed level three, the very dangerous grade used by Vietnam Central Committee for Flood Control and Prevention.—*Xinhua*

Bolivia to export duty-free textile to Venezuela

LA PAZ, 2 Jan—Bolivia will export with zero duty the first batch of textile to Venezuela before 15 Jan, President Evo Morales said Thursday.

Venezuela granted a zero-duty treatment to Bolivia after the United States suspended the Andean Trade Promotion and Drug Eradication Act (ATPDEA) with the west South American country.

"On the Atpdea issues, I talked with some officials from Venezuelan government and before 15 Jan, the first ton of textile will leave Bolivia for Venezuela," Morales said.

The US congress approved the Atpdea that was to last for one year for Peru, Colombia and Ecuador and six months for Bolivia on 2 Oct.

Xinhua

13 killed in clash between security forces and militants in SW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 2 Jan—Up to 13 persons were killed in a clash between security forces and militants in southwestern Pakistan on Thursday evening, official *Associated Press* of Pakistan reported.

Three Balochistan Frontier Corps (FC) personnel were killed and five others sustained injuries as a group of militants holed up in mountains surrounding Zain Koh area in Sui tehsil of Dera Bugti in Balochistan opened fire at their vehicle. The FC personnel were on routine patrol in the area as militants opened fire at their vehicle. As many as 10 militants were also killed when security forces retaliated. A heavy cache of arms and ammunition was seized.—*Xinhua*

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Employees of Hyundai Motor walk past its car I30 CW displayed on a lobby at the company headquarters in Seoul on 2 Jan, 2009.

XINHUA

S Korea's Hyundai, Kia Motor to increase overseas car sales in 2009

SEOUL, 2 Jan—South Korea's leading car makers Hyundai Motor Co and Kia Motors Corp announced on Friday that it will put top priority on boosting revenue by increasing overseas sales this year to survive in the global economic recession.

"To increase overseas sales is the only practical option as the global economic crisis is expected to worsen this year," Hyundai Motor Group Chairman Chung Mong-koo said in a New Year's message.

Xinhua

*Smoke billows following an Israeli air strike in the northern Gaza Strip, as seen from the Israeli-Gaza border. —*INTERNET

Israeli airstrike kills a top Hamas leader

GAZA CITY, 2 Jan— An Israeli warplane dropped a 2,000-pound bomb on the home of one of Hamas' top five decision-makers Thursday, instantly killing him and 18 others, while the Israeli army said troops massed on the Gaza border were ready for any order to invade.

The airstrike on Nizar Rayan was the first that succeeded in killing a member of Hamas' highest echelon since Israel began its offensive Saturday. The 49-year-old professor of Islamic law was known for personally participating in clashes with Israeli forces and for sending one of his sons on a 2001 suicide mission that killed two Israelis.

The attacks continued Friday. Before dawn, Israeli aircraft hit 15 houses belonging to Hamas militants, Palestinians said. —*Internet*

Sri Lankan troops enter rebel headquarters

COLOMBO, 2 Jan — Sri Lankan soldiers fought their way into the Tamil Tiger rebel capital Friday for the first time in a decade, military officials said, following months of fierce battles on the outskirts that left scores dead.

Troops entered the northern town of Kilinochchi from two sides, senior military officials told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity in line with government rules. The level of fighting inside the town remained unclear. The military had predicted Thursday that soldiers would seize the town within two days.

The fall of Kilinochchi would be devastating to the separatist Tigers, who have has used the town as their political and military headquarters for the past 10 years and have created structures for an independent state, such as a police, courts, and tax offices.—*Internet*

Toll in serial blasts in northeast India rises to six

GUWAHATI, 2 Jan—The toll from a series of bomb blasts in India's restive northeastern region has climbed to six, a local minister said Friday.

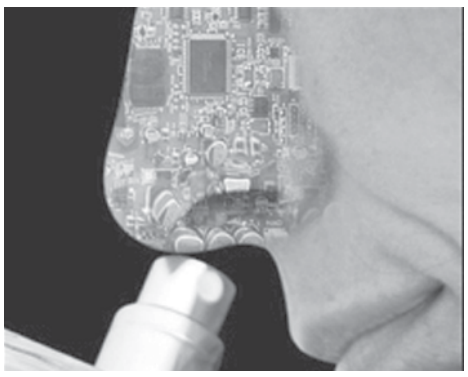
"One person succumbed to injuries at a hospital," local health minister Himant Biswa Sarma told *AFP* in Assam state, compounding a toll of five deaths announced previously. At least 50 people were injured after three explosions rocked Guwahati, the state's largest city.

Four people were still in a critical state, the minister said.

In October, 71 people were killed and scores hurt when a series of bombs exploded in towns and cities across Assam.—*Internet*

***An injured bomb blast victim being taken to a hospital in Guwahati on 1 Jan. The toll from a series of bomb blasts in India's restive northeastern region has climbed to six, a local minister said Friday.—*INTERNET**

Smells good! Electronic nose not to be sniffed at



An electronic nose which can sniff out a range of diseases and check the quality of food has been put to use in a central Russian city, following its success in the US and Europe.

The so-called electronic nose works by taking microbes from the human tongue and then special sensors can sniff out whether there is abnormal activity in the stomach. So, rather than performing an endoscopy, which involves sticking a tube down the throat to the intestines, the new device can be used.

Results are 74 per cent reliable, and while that is not perfect, doctors say the process has many advantages.

"It's simple to use and we get the results quite fast," said Sergey Doubrovsky, Doctor of Gastroenterology at the children's hospital of Voronezh.

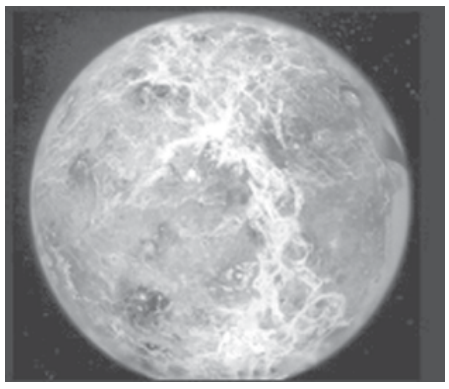
"This method doesn't require any specialised skills or training. It is also non-invasive, so patients get little discomfort," the doctor added.

The "nose" is already in use in Europe and the US but in Russia it can only be found in Voronezh, and not just in the city's hospitals. The device is also used to sniff out additives in food and to see just how fresh a product is.

NEWS ALBUM

Satellite to explore Sun's secrets

A Russian newcomer is to join other Sun-observing satellites in the orbit soon. The latest technology should show scientists the Sun they've never known.



A new Russian satellite will soon be launched into orbit to monitor the Sun. Russia already has two Sun-observing satellites in space, but unlike its predecessors the Koronas-Photon was constructed specifically to observe the Sun's x-ray and gamma radiation.

Scientists hope to find out how increases in solar activity influence radiation levels and how these changes affect the Earthís climate. And that this information will shed some light on whether global warming is a man-made or Sun-made phenomenon.

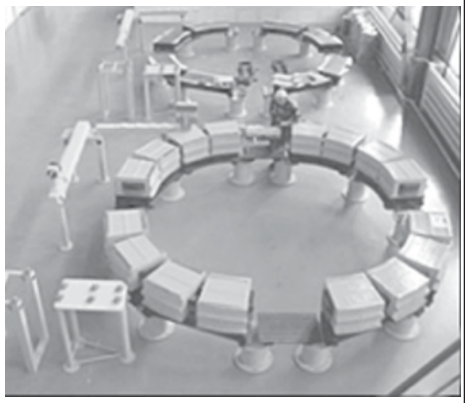
The new satellite is the third in the KORONAS series (Space Orbital Circumterrestrial Supervision of the Sun's Activity) — a long-term Russian space programme studying the Sun and its relationship with the Earth. All three are Sun-focused observatories monitoring the Sunís full radiation band.

Together, they provide information on the Sunís physical characteristics, its atmosphere, and the nature and mechanisms of various types of solar activity, including the acceleration of solar winds which directly influence our planet.

Affordable cure for cancer on its way

A laboratory in Russia says it has built a proton accelerator for treating cancer victims that is 10 times cheaper then any similar device. It may provide salvation for millions of oncology patients around the world.

Treating cancer with proton beams is one of the most promising methods to date. The particles are accelerated in a device similar to the famous Large Hadron Collider scaled down to "just" a dozen meters and then fired at a tumour. The beam slices cancerous cells' DNA and kills them.



Protons are much more efficient in treating the disease than the more common X-rays or electron beams. They have greater energy and can be focused on the tumour thanks to the so-called Bragg Peak — an effect that causes most of the protons to land on their target in the last few millimetres of their path — thus avoiding damage to healthy tissue. Proton therapy has a 90 percent success rate compared to about 40 to 60 percent for other forms of radiotherapy.

The biggest problem with the equipment is its price. For example, University of Texas MD. Anderson Cancer Center spent $125 million on their new proton therapy facilities in 2006. Proton accelerators also consume a lot of energy and are quite bulky.

Tatmadawmen get agricultural…

(from page 16)

The 14 week-course is being attended by 96 trainees from the Tatmadaw (Army).

Afterwards, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party proceeded to Barlar-2 model water pumping project implemented by the Water Resources Utilization Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Hlegu Township.

At the briefing hall, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party heard a report presented by Director-General of WRUD U Kyi Htut Win on supply of water from Ngamoyeik Dam to farmland and pumping of water with the use of paddy husk-fired diesel engines.

After hearing the report, Lt-Gen Myint Swe and party looked into the supply of water and fulfilled the requirements.

MNA

Minister meets local people of Sanpya Ward, Kungyangon

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan— Minster for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi on 28 December met with local people at Sanpya Ward, Kungyangon, Yangon Division, and clarified programmes for reconstruction of houses in Kungyangon Township and regional development.

Altogether 524 houses, one school, dispensary, library and the administration office will be built in the ward with the contributions of Chiji Buddhist Foundation, and the project will be completed in 2009.

On 30 December, the minister attended the ceremony to present provisions including rice, edible oil and gram to 1218 households of Mankaleik and Tawkyaung village-tracts held at Mankaleik village-tract and explained matters on rehabilitation and reconstruction of the storm-hit regions.

MNA

Camp Commandant Maj-Gen Hla Aung Thein presents championship shield to Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) team.

MNA

Camp Commendent's trophy volleyball competition held

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan— The final match of the Camp Commandant trophy of the Ministry of Defence's (Army, Navy and Air) and presentation ceremony were held the Volleyball Ground of the ministry here this evening.

Present on the occasion were Camp Commandant of the ministry Maj-Gen Hla Aung Thein and senior military officers.

Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Navy) team won the first prize and shield. The Camp Commandant presented the trophy and shield.

MNA

Horse racing kicks off to mark Independence Day

YANGON, 2 Jan— To mark the 61st Anniversary Independence Day, a horse racing opened in the sport ground of Yangon Equestrian Association near the office of Myanmar Equestrian Federation in Dagon Myothit (North) Township this morning. Among the spectators were General Secretary of Myanmar Olympic Committee Director-General of Sports and Physical Education Department U Thaung Htike.

At the opening ceremony, the participating teams took position and President of MEF U Pyone Maung Maung spoke on the occasion.

Eight teams are participating in the racing which continues up to 4 January.— *MNA*

***Energy Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi attends ceremony to present provisions to 1218 households of Mankaleik and Tawkyaung village-tracts in Kungyangon Township.* —MNA**

Books distributed to Sarpay Beikman Book Association members

YANGON, 2 Jan— Sarpay Beikman Book Association distributes its 43rd book entitled Yay-mokhsoe short stories" by Maung Cheint who secured the first prize in the selected short stories genre of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscripts Award Contest.

The members of the association in Yangon may take out the book from the association at 529/531 on Merchant Street, here, and the books will be sent to the members across the nation through postal service.

Those wishing to join the association may contact the association, Tel: 381448 and 249031.— *MNA*

Cetana Phyo blood donors honoured

YANGON, 2 Jan — Hailing the 61st Anniversary Independence Day, the 4th ceremony to honour Cetana Phyo blood donors was held at Aung Myay Shwe Wah hall in Aunglan Township on 31 December.

Officials accepted K 1195000 donated by 39 wellwishers and presented gifts to 82-time blood donor Police WO I Myo Nyunt of Aunglan Township Police Station, 66-time blood donor U Tin Win, 12-time five blood donors, three-time 40 blood donors, Organizer U San Tint who made concerted efforts in seeking needed blood and five volunteers who helped blood donors. —*MNA*

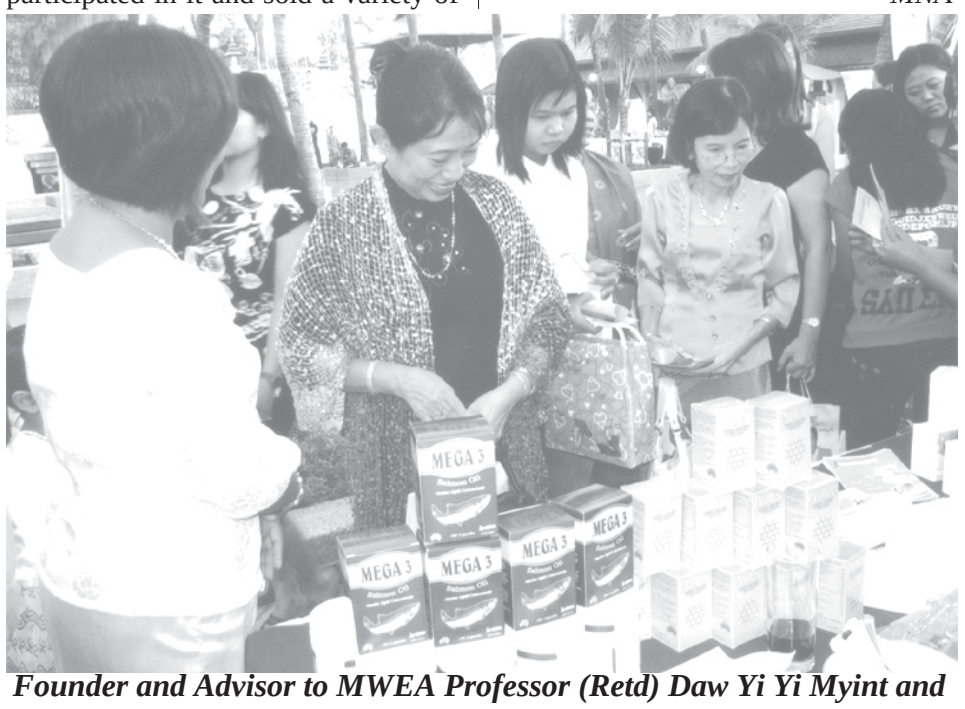
MWEA holds New Year Market Festival

YANGON, 2 Jan— A New Year Market Festival of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association took place at Chatrium Hotel on Natmauk Street in Bahan Township yesterday.

Members of the association participated in it and sold a variety of items— clothing, cosmetics, medicines, construction materials at a discount.

Founder and Advisor to the association Professor (Retd) Daw Yi Yi Myint and the executives viewed the booths and bought the items.

MNA



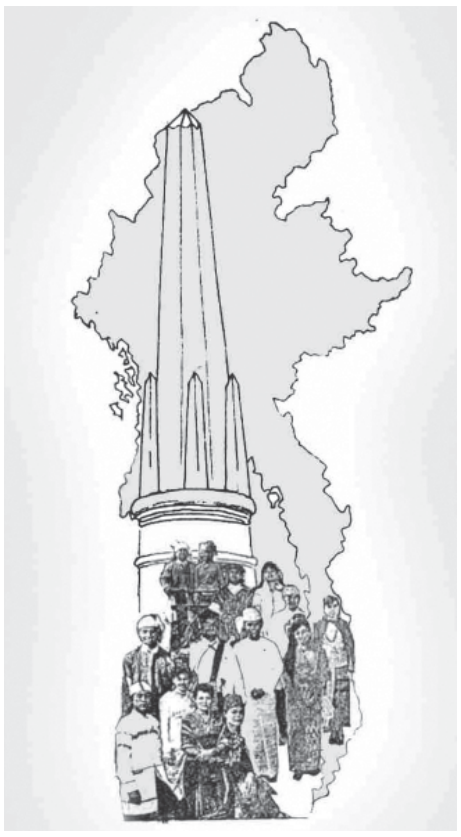
***Founder and Advisor to MWEA Professor (Retd) Daw Yi Yi Myint and the executives view a booth.*—MWEA**

HAILING THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY:

Inscribe future records with own concepts

Kyei Sin Naing

Safeguard independence and sovereignty through might of patriotism



Today, technological advancements have put the youth under the pressure of modern life in various sectors, of which media play the most dominant role. Media are thus used to launch dogmatic instigation and cultural domination over other countries at a high speed. Invasion of other countries' territories and economic hegemony, for example, are tangible. Territorial invasion can be resisted through military power; and economic hegemony, through strong national economy. Psychological invasion and cultural invasion are delicate and distinct. Invisible enemy is the most dangerous. So, the people need to remain constantly vigilant against such forms of invasion.

Independence is something that each and every citizen has to cherish and put to the fore. Independence is the most fundamental factor for development of a country and high living conditions of its people. Myanmar is now on its path with the might of patriotic spirit of the people to a prosperous society, taking advantage of independence. According to the norms designated by world's eminent legal experts and political scientists, an independent nation must have (1) territory, (2) population, (3) government, and (4) sovereignty.

Sovereignty, freedom, practice of public democracy and human rights are the values of an independent nation. Only with sovereignty, will it be possible for a citizen to help generate opportunities and serve the interests of his nation and people.

Myanmar has (1) territory, and (2) a population of over 56 million of over 100 national races. (3) It is under the rule of successive Myanmar governments after independence. And (4) it is an independent and sovereign nation. So, it stands tall with all characteristics of a nation in the world.

In retrospect, King Anawrahta unified the First Myanmar Empire, demarcating the boundary of its territory; King Bayint Naung, the Second Myanmar Empire; and King Alaungphaya, the Third Myanmar Empire. During those periods, the nation saw its people leading a peaceful life, and the Sasana flourishing with own monarchs.

Colonialists kept their eyes glued to a variety of natural resources of Myanmar. Out of their covetousness on the basis of abundant natural resources and strategic location, colonialists became desperate to occupy the nation. Therefore, they annexed the nation to their empire by waging the three aggressive wars: the First Anglo-Myanmar War in 1824, the Second Anglo-Myanmar War in 1852 and the Third Anglo-Myanmar War in 1885. As Myanmar is not a people that surrenders to its enemies, national people, arming themselves with whatever weapons they got, launched anti-colonialist battles throughout the nation. The people had to give up the territory of their motherland due to the fact that the nation lacked modern weapons and the Myanmar Tatmadaw was not a well-organized one then. However, they kept their anti-colonialist fervour flying high. The British colonialists conquered the territory of the nation, but they could never suppress Myanmar people's unyielding spirit.

Since the time the Myanmar king and queen were taken away abroad, people of all national races including Buddhist monks got involved in independence struggles. The First Students Boycott that took place in 1920, Peasants' Uprising led by Saya San that took place in 1930, and Oilfield Workers' Uprising led by Thakin Po Hla Gyi that took place in 1300 ME really gave frights to the colonialists.

Then, there emerged associations of patriots such as Young Men's Buddhist Association (YMBA), General Council of Burmese Associations (GCBA) and Doh Bamar Asiayon (Our Burma Association). Doh Bamar Asiayon launched independence struggles, chanting the motto "Burma is ours, Myanmar language is ours, Myanmar speech is ours, love your country, cherish your language, respect your speech".

With the concept that mental prowess alone was not enough and it also needed to build physical prowess in a bid to regain independence by driving out British colonialists, Thirty Comrades temporarily cooperated with Japanese to achieve the goal. Then, they formed the Anti-Fascist People's Freedom League to wipe out inhumanity of Fascists in disguise of supporters. More than that, they engaged in the fight against British colonialists who re-entered Myanmar. So, independence cost a countless number of lives.

National brethren reaped the reward "independence" of sacrificing a large number of lives and a great deal of blood and sweat at 25 minutes, 4 a.m. on 4 January 1948, hoisting the National Flag of the Union of Myanmar.

(See page 9)

HAILING THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY:

Inscribe future records with own concepts

Kyei Sin Naing

(from page 8)

This year, Myanmar's independence is in its 61st anniversary. The youth of today were born citizens of independent Myanmar. Due to the fruits of independence, they are no longer behind their counterparts of other countries in the Age of Knowledge enjoying opportunities to study latest developments of international affairs in the education, political, social and economic affairs. And due to the access to advanced technologies, they can stay in touch with what is going on around the world. Now, the world has been like a global village, and the global nations see their cultures flowing to one another.

Today, technological advancements have put the youth under the pressure of modern life in various sectors, of which media play the most dominant role. Media are thus used to launch dogmatic instigation and cultural domination over other countries at a high speed. Invasion of other countries' territories and economic hegemony, for example, are tangible. Territorial invasion can be resisted through military power; and economic hegemony, through strong national economy. Psychological invasion and cultural invasion are delicate and distinct. Invisible enemy is the most dangerous. So, the people need to remain constantly vigilant against such forms of invasion.

Every country and people have their own cultures and own policies. Without own concepts, policies and culture, a country is likely to come under domination of other countries' policies and cultures and can lose own symbols. In such a situation, a nation is enslaved with psychological warfare.

The youth of today inherit independence, for which their forefathers had to sacrifice a lot of lives, blood and sweat. Now, Myanmar has risen from the nightmare of losing independence and sacrificing life and limb to regain independence. And tasks for reconstruction of the independent nation have been carried out for many years. The youth were born in the transitional period to a peaceful, modern and developed nation. So, they learn painful experiences of falling under alien subjugation, evil consequence of world wars, and atrocities of the colonialists through books or speeches of elder persons. They have to value to the core the formidable efforts of forefathers to regain independence and bring about national development.

Moreover, they have to safeguard their motherland in order that neo-colonialists cannot invade the nation, any parts of the nation will not secede from the Union, and the nation will not fall under the yoke of aliens following loss of sovereignty. They also have to firmly resist instigation and propagandas designed to attack the nation in the political, economic and cultural fields.

Our forefathers withstood all trials and tribulations for more than 100 years in the time of British colonialists and Fascists. Having gone through the hell of colonialism, senior citizens are well convinced of the essence of independence and safeguard it. Independence by nature can be lost easily all of a sudden, but it costs a large number of lives plus a great deal of blood and sweat to regain it.

Every youth is under a national duty to realize the value and essence of independence, and ensure perpetuity of independence, the Union and national solidarity, on which numerous lives of forefathers went.

The youth of today, therefore, have to safeguard independence applying own culture, policies and concepts. Their performances will go in the annals of the history of the nation as a generation capable of accomplishing the bounden duty only if they continue to safeguard independence achieved by forefathers exerting great tenacity braving a variety of hardships and hand down prospering nation to future generations.

Translation: MS

The youth of today inherit independence, for which their forefathers had to sacrifice a lot of lives, blood and sweat. Now, Myanmar has risen from the nightmare of losing independence and sacrificing life and limb to regain independence. And tasks for reconstruction of the independent nation have been carried out for many years. The youth were born in the transitional period to a peaceful, modern and developed nation. So, they learn painful experiences of falling under alien subjugation, evil consequence of world wars, and atrocities of the colonialists through books or speeches of elder persons. They have to value to the core the formidable efforts of forefathers to regain independence and bring about national development.

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**

POEM

Independence Day resolution

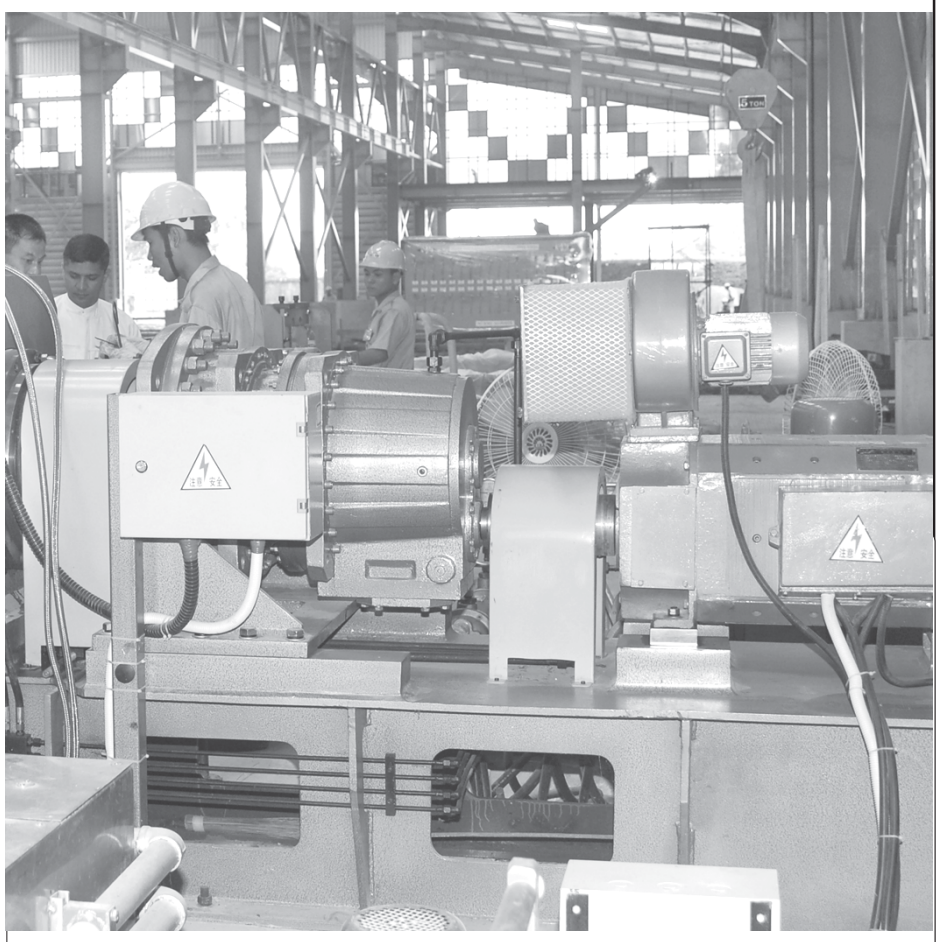
*** Thundered our ancestors**
With nationalistic fervour
"First priority, Independence
"Second, Independence
"Third, Independence"
Sacrificed lives in thousands
Blood, sweat flowed
Independence our blood
Delicate and valuable
We are always true to it
*** Evil colonialist exploiters**
We drove out and won victory
As we always have patriotism
And love Independence
With consolidated force
Safeguard Independence we
For the glory of our race
Let's march to our goal
Till reaching it with triumph

Padaung Than Kywe (Trs)

Hailing the 61st Anniversary Independence Day

ACHIEVEMENT IN INDUSTRIAL SECTOR IN 2008

No.	Name of factory	Location	Inauguration Day
1.	Foodstuff Factory	Pyinmapin, Mingaladon, Yangon Division	15-1-2008
2.	Kyaukse Pharmaceutical Factory (Inyaung)	Kyaukse, Mandalay Division	20-1-2008
3.	Technical Training School (Mandalay)	Mandalay, Mandalay Division	29-8-2008
4.	Heavy Machinery Factory (Thagara)	Yedashe, Toungoo District, Bago Division	30-9-2008
5.	50-ton Paper Factory (Thabaung)	Thabaung Township, Ayeyawady Division	16-11-2008



Production process of transformers at Industrial Zone No. 1 in Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

HAILING THE 61st ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY:

Photo shows Heavy Machinery Factory (Thagara) of Myanma Automobile and Diesel Engine Industries, Ministry of Industry-2 at Thagara Industrial Region in Yedashe Township of Toungoo District, Bago Division seen on 30 September, 2008.

Aerial view of 200-ton paper and pulp factory (Thabaung) and 50-ton paper factory (Thabaung) seen on 16, November 2008.

DPRK paper blasts US for using double standard over nuclear issues

PYONGYANG, 2 Jan—An official newspaper of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Friday accused the United States of using double standard over nuclear issues and fostering proliferation. The United States alleged that the DPRK and Iran, which it viewed as countries with "nuclear ambition," proliferated nuclear weapons to terrorist groups, while it provided some other counties with nuclear fuel and technology, said a commentary carried by theMinju Joson daily newspaper.

It proved that the United States had no clear gauge on nuclear issues and makes up its nuclear policy at will, the paper said. All the current nuclear issues were related, directly or indirectly, to the United States, which took the proliferation issue as a bargain, it said. The latest round of the six-party talks ended in early December in Beijing without a deal on nuclear verification, as the DPRK and the United States failed to close their gaps over related issues.

Internet

The tetrad of protagonists Master Tang, Pig Guy, Monkey King and Mong Sha (L to R) strike the pose on the stage, as the screening of new version of TV series "Journey to the West", scenarized from the cognominal classical Chinese literary myth masterpiece, is in full swing at the Chedun Movie & TV Screening Base of east China's Shanghai Municipality, on 30 Dec, 2008. Its premiere is slated for the forthcoming summer season.—INTERNET

Suspected US missile attack kills four in Pakistan's tribal region

ISLAMABAD, 2 Jan—A suspected US drone fired missiles at a village in Pakistan's tribal region on Friday, killing at least four people, local television said.

The US drones fired two missiles at a building in tehsil Laddah in the South Waziristan tribal agency, leaving four people dead and several others injured, private Geo TV channel quoted sources as saying.

This is the second missile attack in the South Waziristan Agency within two days.

Five people were killed on Thursday when three missiles were fired from a drone at Lamman village in the South Waziristan Agency bordering Afghanistan.

Pakistan's tribal areas have witnessed a string of cross-border missile attacks by the US drones. The Pakistani government has called for a halt to such attacks, terming them counter-productive in the fight against militancy.—*Internet*

Car sales plunge in Spain

MADRID (Spain), 2 Jan—Car sales in Spain plummeted by 28 percent last year, the worst slump on record, manufacturers said Monday. Automobile trade association ANFAC said 1.16 million vehicles were sold in 2008, down from 1.61 million the previous year. Looking at monthly figures, the association also said sales flopped by 49.9 percent to 72,377 in December, compared to 144,441 sold in the same month of 2007. Spain, one of Europe's best-performing economies over the last decade, is in a sharp downturn because of the international financial crisis, which has exacerbated a collapse in its key construction industry.

Automakers such as Ford, General Motors and Volkswagen have all announced job and production cuts in Spain in recent months.—*Internet*

A man holding a bull takes part in the opening ceremony of the stock exchange market for the new year at the Korea Exchange in Seoul on 2 Jan, 2009. Seoul shares gained on their first trading day of 2009 on Friday after a string of losses in the last week of December, with LG Display and shipbuilders boosting the index, but a weaker won sent banks lower. The Chinese letters on the back of the bull reads, "Stock market! Be active!"—INTERNET

Survey shows Britain faces worst economic outlook since 1980s

LONDON, 2 Jan—Leading economists believe Britain is facing the worst economic outlook since the early 1980s.

This was revealed by an annual survey of the Financial Times published on Friday, which describes the Treasury's forecast of a recovery in the second half of 2009 as "too optimistic".

Howard Davies, director of the London School of Economics, told the newspaper: "I do not expect to see any significant economic recovery in 2009. I expect the British economy to bump along the bottom, at best."

The survey also indicated concerns about the financing sector as two-thirds of economists thought the government lacked a credible policy for restoring health to the public finances, while similar proportion deemed the modest tax cuts and public spending increases to be desirable.

A large majority of the 67 economists surveyed believed unemployment was likely to rise close to three million and that house prices would continue to fall throughout 2009, said the report.

Internet

Hong Kong's retail sales volume falls 2.8% in November

HONG KONG, 2 Jan—The global economic downturn had cooled off the retail sales in Hong Kong, a free port known for its convenience for shopping. The value of total retail sales in the cosmopolis moved up only1.1 percent over a year earlier to provisionally estimated 20.5 billion HK dollars (2.65 billion US dollars) in November, revealed the Census and Statistics Department's latest readings here Friday. After netting out the effect of price changes over the same period, however, the volume of total retail sales fell 2.8 percent over a year earlier in November.

The Census and Statistics Department said the global economic slowdown had put drag on consumer spending and inbound tourism in Hong Kong, with the volume of retail sales posting another month of year-on-year decline in November. —*Internet*

A transparent disc that can store 500 gigabyte of memory is shown at Pioneer Corp. booth during the latest environmentally friendly technologies and products fair 'Eco-Products Exhibition 2008' in Tokyo recently. The prototype ultra multi-layered disc is equivalent to 714 of 0.7GB CDs, 106 of 4.7GB DVDs or 20 of 25GB Blu-ray discs.—INTERNET

Crew fight off pirates with water jets off Somalia

ATHENS, 2 Jan—Crewmen fired high pressure water jets to fight off heavily armed Somali pirates trying to board a Greek oil tanker in the dangerous Gulf of Aden on Friday in the fourth such attack since the start of the year, authorities said.

The pirates in three speedboats and armed with guns and rocket-propelled grenades twice tried to board the Greek-flagged Kriti Episkopi but were scared off when the crew turned fire hoses on them and EU aircraft scrambled from a nearby EU naval flotilla to help, company and Greek government officials said.

The attack came a day after Somali pirates seized an Egyptian cargo ship and its 28 crew in the vast waterway, one of the world's most important sea routes, where incidents have continued after 111 attacks in 2008. A Malaysian military helicopter on Thursday saved an Indian tanker from being hijacked and a French warship thwarted an attack on a Panamanian cargo ship.—*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:-

Reg. No. 7586/2002
Reg. No. 8390/2005
Reg. No. 7275/2008

in respect of "Leather and imitations of leather; articles made from these materials (not included in other classes), namely luggages, travelling bags, sport bags, leather goods, vanity-cases, toilet sets, handbags, beach bags, rucksacks, attache-cases, satchels, suitcases, briefcases, school bags, purses, card cases, key cases, pocket wallets, belts' pockets, hand pockets; animal skins; trunks and valises; umbrellas, parasols and walking sticks; whips, harness and saddlery; textile fabrics; household linen and bed linen, namely flat sheets, fitted sheets, pillows, pillow cases, bolster cases, bed blankets, bed covers, duvets, duvets covers, eiderdowns, eiderdowns covers and coordinated bed accessories and any sheet sets; curtains made from textile, covers for cushions; table linen, namely table covers of textile, table napkins of textile, table mats of textile; bath linen, namely wash gloves, face towels of textile, bath towels of textile, beach towels of textile".

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: 3 January 2009

Drive with care

The remains of a house fire are seen, on 1 Jan, 2009, in Washington. A fire department spokesman says three people died at the scene, while two others died at a hospital.
INTERNET

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV OCEAN LOHAS VOY NO (15)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OCEAN LOHAS VOY NO (15) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.1.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W 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: EASTERN CAR LINER LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV AG JOS GERASSIMOS 1 VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AG JOS GERASSIMOS 1 VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.1.2009 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 SHIPPING CO.,LTD
Phone No: 256919/256916/256912

Three gunned down in Calgary restaurant

CALGARY, 2 Jan—Three people were killed on Thursday afternoon when two gunmen entered a Vietnamese restaurant in western Canada and opened fire.

Investigators were trying to determine the motive for the massacre at Bolsa, a restaurant in a strip mall in southwestern Calgary, Alberta, the Calgary Herald reported. Witnesses said the two men entered the restaurant, fired at people sitting at a table in the middle of the restaurant and then left in a silver car.

Two of the victims were killed inside and a third body was outside.The killings came about 12 hours after the city's first homicide of 2009, a man who was fatally injured in a bar fight.—*Internet*

Suez Canal delays announcing new tolls for 2009

CAIRO, 2 Jan—The Suez Canal will not announce its tolls for 2009 until next week because of the uncertainty in the shipping industry caused by piracy and the global financial crisis, a canal authority official said on Thursday.

The new tolls will be announced at a press conference on Monday, the state MENA news agency said. Any changes are normally announced in December but a canal official told *AFP* that this year's announcement had been delayed because of "big fluctuations in the shipping market and world commerce."

But he predicted that they would be kept the same or even cut because of the impact on traffic of the economic slowdown and the threat of piracy in the Gulf of Aden.

Arms manufacturers in particular have rerouted their shipping round the Cape of Good Hope in recent months to avoid the pirates preying on vessels en route between the Suez Canal and the Indian Ocean.—*Internet*

A China Shipping Line cargo ship transits the Suez Canal at the port city of Ismailia, 120 kms north of Cairo, in November 2008. The Suez Canal will not announce its tolls for 2009 until next week because of the uncertainty in the shipping industry caused by piracy and the global financial crisis, a canal authority official said on Thursday.— **INTERNET**

Panama Canal protected by detection tech

COLON, 2 Jan—New nuclear threat detection technologies are currently operating in Panama after a recent agreement with the US National Nuclear Security Administration.

The United States and Panama recently reached an agreement that paved the way for the NNSA, in partnership with the Manzanillo International Terminal and others, to install advanced radiation detection systems at the Panama Canal's Atlantic and Pacific Ocean mega-ports, the NNSA reported.

The ports, located at Colon and Panama City, are currently operating the scanning technologies to prevent the smuggling of illicit nuclear materials in cargo containers, as part of the Container Security Initiative.

"We are working closely with the Panamanian National Customs Authority and with the private terminal operators in Panama to prevent nuclear terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction," William Tobey, NNSA deputy administrator for defense nuclear non-proliferation, said in a statement."The success of this project reflects a strong commitment and desire on behalf of the government of Panama to secure its ports from illicit trafficking in nuclear and other radioactive materials."

Internet

DC house fire kills girl, her parents, 2 others

WASHINGTON, 2 Jan—A fire broke out at a Washington home Thursday morning, killing a 5-year-old girl, her parents and two others, fire officials said.

A critically injured 11-year-old boy was among four others hurt at the house, where Christmas lights hung from the front porch and crews removed charred debris in the afternoon, including a pink scooter and a toy truck.

An electrical failure between the basement and the first floor of the two-story home in the northeast part of the city is believed to have sparked the blaze, which broke out around 7 am, officials said. Fire officials believe the house was built in the 1940s or 1950s, and the style of its construction was meant to allow heat to pass easily from room to room, Fire Chief Dennis Rubin said. The design also allowed the fire to travel rapidly through the structure, he said.

"This type (of) home would not be allowed by code today," Rubin said. Officials hadn't determined whether smoke detectors were working.

Internet

Bicycle makes a comeback in China, for fashion and health

HANGZHOU, 2 Jan— To celebrate the New Year, Shen Kailun, a white-collar in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, rode a bicycle onto a hill top in the "First Ride in 2009"— theme activity. The motorist used to commute by car developed the hobby of cycling for health from last year.

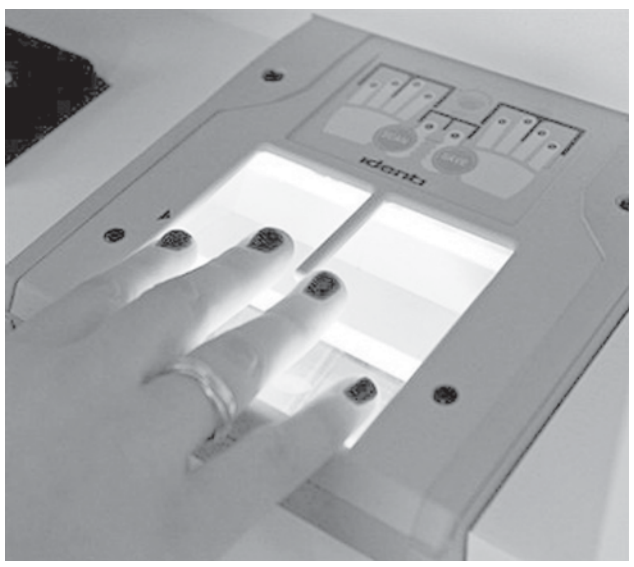
Born in 1978, Shen, like many of his peers, has a reminisces about his experience of bicycles.

A "Phoenix" brand bicycle was his parents' wedding gift, a luxury at that time, which cost his father four months of salary. At the age of 12, he got his first bike. He rode it to school like most of his classmates did until finishing high school education.

In 1980s and 1990s, to the majority in China, pedaling was a means for everyday transportation and thus made China "kingdom of bicycles". Throughout Shen's undergraduate and postgraduate study, he witnessed soaring car ownership in China, which is no longer a symbol of wealth and achievement in this country, until he can afford one after a few years of work.

With the number of vehicles on roads nearly twenty-fold since 1978 (from 3 million to 60 million), China has become one of the largest auto markets in the world.—*Internet*

A handout photo taken by the Royal Malaysian Navy and released by the Kuala Lumpur-based International Maritime Bureau on 1 Jan, 2009, shows the Indian vessel MT Abul Kalam Azad. A Malaysian military helicopter, taking off from a warship sailing nearby, scared away Somali pirates trying to hijack the Indian vessel in the Gulf of Aden on Thursday, the International Maritime Bureau said.—INTERENT



A woman uses a biometric scanner at an airport. A South Korean woman barred from entering Japan last year passed through its immigration screening system by using tape on her fingers to fool a fingerprint reading machine, reports said on Thursday.—INTERNET

Herbal chemical helps combat HIV

LOS ANGELES, 2 Jan — Scientists at a Los Angeles multidisciplinary think tank say the herb Astragalus root may help fight HIV.

University of California, Los Angeles, AIDS Institute researchers say a chemical from the Chinese medicinal herb may help immune cells stave off the progressive loss of disease fighting ability caused by HIV, infections associated with chronic diseases or aging.Immune cells are compromised as they age and their chromosomes — known as a telomere — become progressively shorter with cell division.

The Astragalus root chemical prevents or at least slows down telomere shortening, the study said.

"This has the potential to be either added to or possibly even replace the HAART — highly active anti-retroviral therapy — which is not tolerated well by some patients and is also costly," study co-author Rita Effros said in a statement.In a study published in the *Journal of Immunology*, Effros and colleagues show how the herbal plant chemical — called TAT2 — helped inhibit HIV replication.

"The ability to enhance telomerase activity and anti-viral functions of CD8 T-lymphocytes suggests that this strategy could be useful in treating HIV disease, as well as immunodeficiency and increased susceptibility to other viral infections associated with chronic diseases or aging," the researchers said in a statement.—*Internet*

Cancer drug treats transplant rejections

CINCINNATI, 2 Jan — US researchers have discovered a new therapy for transplant patients, targeting the antibody-producing plasma cells that can cause organ rejection.

Dr Steve Woodle and colleagues at the University of Cincinnati found that the cancer drug — bortezomib — used to treat multiple myeloma, or cancer of the plasma cells, is effective in treating rejection episodes caused by antibodies that target transplanted kidneys.B-lymphocytes, or B cells, play a large role in the humoral immune response by making immune proteins that attack transplanted organs, Woodle said.

"We found a body of literature demonstrating that bortezomib works well in suppressing transplant rejection in the laboratory," Woodle said in a statement.

Internet

Cholera sickens 30,000 in Zimbabwe

A boy rests on his bed in a cholera ward of Budiriro Polyclinic in Harare in this December 1, 2008 file photo.—INTERNET

GENEVA, 2 Jan — More than 30,000 people in Zimbabwe have been diagnosed with cholera, the World Health Organization said Thursday, as the number of those contracting the deadly disease continues to mount.

As many as 31,656 suspected cases were diagnosed to date with one third of them in the capital of Harare, the WHO said.The organisation last reported some 29,131 suspected cases on Monday and 1,564 deaths from the water-borne disease.

Cholera also continues to plague neighbouring South Africa, where it has killed 13 people, mainly in the Limpopo border region where nine people have died from a total of 1,334 suspected cases, the WHO said citing South African sources.United Nations aid agencies fear Zimbabwe may be hit with up to 60,000 cases, with the upcoming rainy season likely to spread the disease more easily.—*Internet*

Scientists say comet triggered extinctions

LOS ANGELES, 2 Jan — A comet struck North America 13,000 years ago, triggering massive flooding and fires followed by a short ice age, researchers said on Friday.The team led by Douglas Kennett, an archaeologist, said its discovery of nanodiamonds — diamonds visible only under a microscope — associated with a layer of black soil containing burned debris shows that a comet was the cause, the *Los Angeles Times* reported."There's no other way we can interpret the presence of these diamonds other than an extraterres—trial impact," said James Kennett, a paleo-oceanographer and Douglas Kennett's fathe. At least 35 species of large animals — including mammoths and mastodons, the short-faced bear and the American camel—became extinct during the 1,300-year cold spell known as the Younger Dryas. The research team said at least 15 of the extinctions were within a century of the comet impact.

In a paper published in the journal *Science*, the researchers said the series of cataclysms also caused a sharp drop in the human population of North America.Some other scientists have questioned the findings, suggesting that the team has not yet proved its discovery of nanodiamonds. —*Internet*

Medical personnel treat firecracker-burn victims at a Manila hospital on 1 January . Twenty-two people were wounded by a grenade lobbed into a crowd in the Philippines, the latest in a spate of blasts in the restive south, the army said on Thursday.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Portsmouth admitted on Thursday that England striker Jermain Defoe, is set to leave the club during the January transfer window.—INTERNET

Pompey set to see Defoe leave

LONDON , 2 Jan— Portsmouth admitted on Thursday that England striker Jermain Defoe is set to leave the club during the January transfer window. Defoe has been linked with moves to Manchester City, Aston Villa as well as a return to former club Spurs who he left 12 months ago.

Pompey chairman Peter Storrie conceded for the first time the 26-year-old is set to be on his way while also rubbishing reports that the FA Cup holders are about to lose Glen Johnson and Peter Crouch.Storrie told the Portsmouth News: "We don't speak about transfers as a rule but this talk about there being a bid from Spurs for Glen and Peter is complete and utter rubbish.—*Internet*

Football coach killed in car accident

SUITLAND, 2 Jan — Nick Lynch, the football coach and athletic director at Suitland (Md.) High School, was killed in a New Year's Eve car accident, police said.Lynch, 43, won 117 games and Maryland state football titles in 2004 and 2006.

The Washington Post reported on Thursday that Lynch was killed early Wednesday morning in a two-car collision about a mile from his Brandywine (Md.) home.Maryland state trooper Wesley Brown told the newspaper Lynch's 2008 Dodge Magnum was struck by a 2000 GMC Sierra.Brown added that Lynch was taken to Southern Maryland Hospital in Clinton, where he was pronounced dead and the driver of the Sierra suffered a broken leg.—*Internet*

Hull face Real Madrid for Pennant

HULL , 2 Jan — Unfashionable Hull City on Thursday muscled in on Real Madrid territory by revealing their interest in Liverpool winger Jermaine Pennant.The 25-year-old, former Arsenal and Birmingham player, had been linked with a 3.5 million pound move to the Spanish champions, but that deal has stalled.

"I would be very interested in Jermaine Pennant if he was available at the right price. We will be making enquiries," said Hull boss Phil Brown.— *Internet*

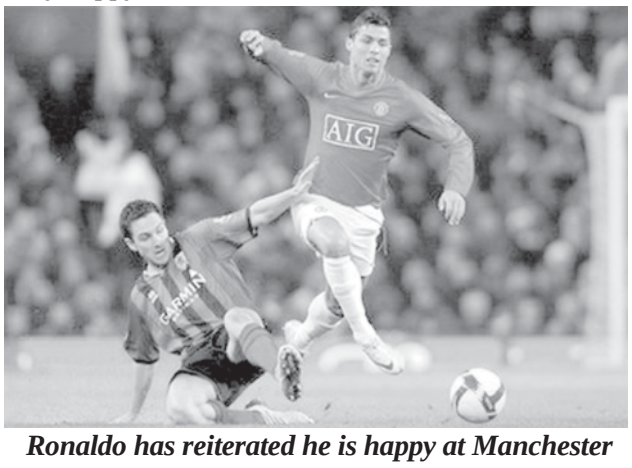
Unfashionable Hull City on Thursday muscled in on Real Madrid territory by revealing their interest in Liverpool winger Jermaine Pennant.
INTERNET

Ronaldo reiterates he is happy at Man Utd

LONDON, 2 Jan — Cristiano Ronaldo has reiterated he is happy at Manchester United, moving again to quash ongoing speculation about an eventual move to Real Madrid.The Portugal international told club television channel MUTV he was happy and settled in Manchester.

"There's always speculation, not just about me, but about the future of players all around the world," the 23-year-old said."People were speaking about me this summer but that was normal because of what I did during the season."What people are saying now is not true.

"Who says that is a liar because I am happy at the club, I want to stay here. I feel at home here. I feel very happy here."—*Internet*



Ronaldo has reiterated he is happy at Manchester United, moving again to quash ongoing speculation about an eventual move to Real Madrid.—INTERNET

Women to earn more than men at Sydney International tennis

Women tennis players will earn more prize money than their male counterparts at next week's Sydney International tournament, which is headlined by US player Serena Williams.—INTERNET

SYDNEY, 2 Jan — Women tennis players will earn more prize money than their male counterparts at next week's Sydney International tournament, competition organisers said on Friday.Of the near 1.1 million US dollars up for grabs, the women will be vying for 600,000 US dollars, while the men will be playing for 484,750 dollars.

Tournament director Craig Watson said the discrepancy was due to the category of the event on the respective ATP and WTA tours.

"The women's (WTA) event is a Premier 600, which refers to the prize money figure and the men's is an ATP 250 Series, which refers to the ranking points the new champion will receive," Watson said.The January 11-17 Sydney International is a key warm up tournament ahead of this month's Australian Open in Melbourne.The 2009 Sydney women's champion will earn 98,500 US dollars, while the men's winner will pick up 78,500 US dollars.—*Internet*

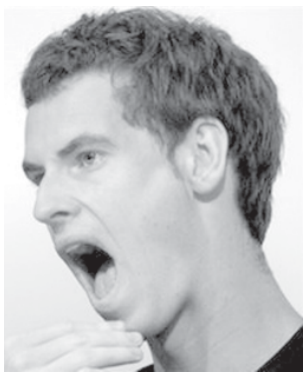
Murray on hot form at Abu Dhabi tennis

ABU DHABI, 2 Jan — Andy Murray and Nikolay Davydenko lived up to their world rankings and advanced to the semi-finals of the Capitala World Tennis Championship, an exhibition shootout, here on Thursday.

Scotland's world number four Andy Murray and Russian world number five Nikolay Davydenko made a perfect start to the 2009 season with fluent wins at the Zayed Sports City tennis stadium over their respective American rivals, number 10 James Blake and number eight Andy Roddick.

Displaying a stunning array of groundstrokes from the baseline, Murray dominated Blake in his 6-2, 6-2 win, while Davydenko looked much sharper than Roddick in a 6-4, 6-4 result.The Russian next meets world number one Rafael Nadal, while Murray will take on the second-ranked Roger Federer.

Internet



British tennis player Andy Murray is pictured during a press conference prior to the start of the 250,000 dollar Capitala World Tennis Championship in Abu Dhabi on 1 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

Hull demand investigation into penalty

Aston Villa midfielder Ashley Young (2nd right, jumping) puts his hand towards the ball in injury time against Hull during their English Premier League match in Hull, northeast England, on 30 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

LONDON, 2 Jan— English Premier League newcomers Hull want an investigation into claims a third party prompted referee Steve Bennett to overturn a late penalty he had awarded in Tuesday night's 1-0 defeat to Aston Villa.Bennett initially awarded Hull the injury-time spot-kick in the belief Ashley Young had handled the ball on the line, but changed his mind after talking to his assistant Andy Halliday, who correctly told him the ball had struck the bar.—*Internet*

Cup or league is dilemma for Harry

Redknapp says he is on the horns of a dilemma as the FA Cup third round match against Wigan approaches at a time when his thoughts are on Premier League survival.
INTERNET

LONDON , 2 Jan — Tottenham boss Harry Redknapp says he is on the horns of a dilemma as the FA Cup third round match against Wigan approaches at a time when his thoughts are on Premier League survival.

Spurs face Wigan on Friday night but Spurs have to think of climbing the table and also are still in the Carling Cup.

In addition, wheeler-dealer Redknapp, who lifted the FA Cup with Portsmouth last season, is trying to sign new players in the transfer window after showing interest in the likes of Pompey's former Spurs man Jermain Defoe, Stewart Downing and Craig Bellamy."

There are lots of games, too many in all honesty," Redknapp said. "They are coming thick and fast and there is not time to get your breath.

Redknapp has had a love affair with the FA Cup since his former club Bournemouth knocked out Manchester United in 1984 as well as lifting the old pot at Wembley last May."—*Internet*

Bolivia urges US to stop imposing aggressive M-E policies

LAPAZ, 2 Jan— Bolivian President Evo Morales on Thursday condemned Israel's attacks on Gaza, and said the US Government should stop imposing aggressive policies in the Middle East.

"Something US imperialism does, through Israel, is this criminal invasion of Palestinian cities," Morales told reporters.

"Israel must change its policies and the US Government should not continue using a country like Israel to invade countries that are seeking liberation," he said.

Morales also praised the opposition from many countries to Israel's air-strikes against Gaza. He said the United Nations and the whole world should make joint efforts to stop the Israeli raids.

"The killings are not a solution in this new millennium, so Israel should stop being a tool of US imperialism to humiliate the Palestinian people," he said.

According to Palestinian sources, more than 400 people have been killed and some 2,000 others wounded in Gaza since Saturday when Israel launched attacks on the territory.—*MNA/Xinhua*

725 Mexicans die trying to cross US border in 2008

MEXICO CITY, 2 Jan— At least 725 Mexicans died in 2008 trying to cross border into the US territory, according to a Thursday report of the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

Some 700,000 Mexicans, mostly women and children, emigrated to the United States in 2008 to look for work there, said the report released by a PRI migratory committee of the Chamber of Deputies.

About 100,000 of the Mexican children were deported by the US Government in 2008, said the report.

Two Mexicans perished each day on average trying to enter the United States, said Edmundo Ramirez, a coordinator of the committee. The number has made the Mexico-US border "the biggest cemetery of migrants", he said.—*MNA/Xinhua*

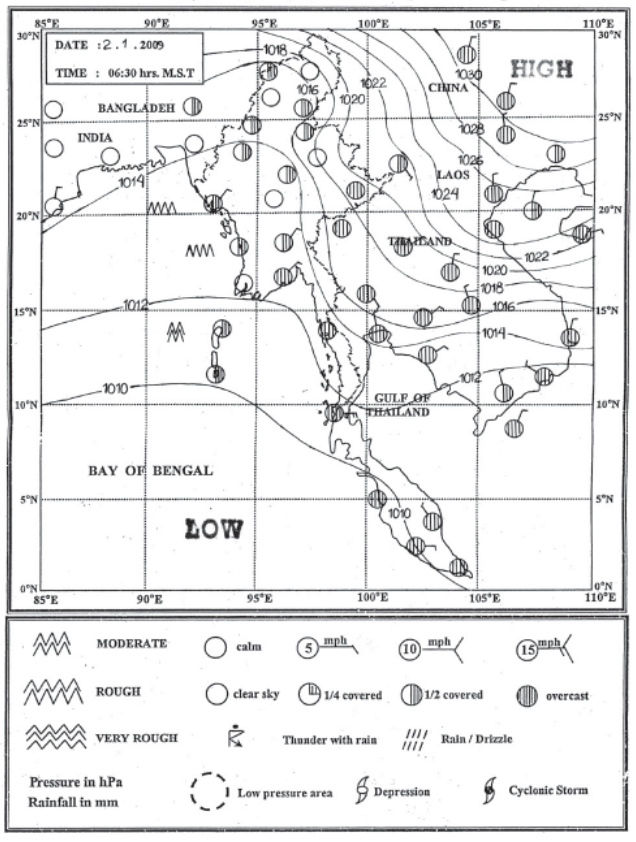
***A layer of snow covers gondolas moored at the Orseolo basin, in Venice, Italy, on Thursday, 1 Jan , 2009, after a light snowfall blanketed the city.*—INTERNET**

Yunnan becomes China's vanguard to eliminate plastic bags

KUNMING, 2 Jan— Southwest China's Yunnan Province set a model for the country to definitely ban the production, sales and use of plastic bags from the first day of 2009. Shoppers were prepared for the ban, as the provincial government announced the ban in all supermarkets, department stores, shopping outlets, hotels and restaurants as early as June, 2008. The ban is much stricter than the national requirement on restricting the production and use of plastic bags thinner than the 0.025 millimetre. Elsewhere in the country, shops are allowed to offer environment-friendly shopping bags, either free or charged. The confidence of Yunnan to go ahead with the thorough ban is largely associated with its pilot practices on the ban in Shangri-La and Lijiang, two scenery areas in the province, which had fully banned the use of plastic bags for years.

MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Friday, 2 January, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Kayah States, Yangon Division and generally fair in the remaining Staes and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3˚C) to (4˚C) above January average temperatures in Shan, Kayah and Mon States,(3˚C) below January average temperatures in upper Sagaing Division, (5˚C) below January average temperatures in Chin State and about January average temperatures in the remaining areas.The significant night temperatures were Hakha (-2˚C), Loilem (0˚C) and Namsam (3˚C).

Maximum temperature on 1-1-2009 was 93˚F. Minimum temperature on 2-1-2009 was 63˚F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 2-1-2009 was 68%. Total sunshine hours on 1-1-2009 was (9.2) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 2-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Northeast at (12:30) hours MST on 1-1-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 3rd January 2009: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Shan, Rakhine and Kayah States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions.

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 3-1-2009: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 3-1-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 3-1-2009: Fair weather.

Weather outlook for first weekend of January 2009: During the coming weekend, weather will be partly cloudy in Yangon Division, generally fair in Nay Pyi Taw and Mandalay Division.

TV Myanmar

Saturday, 3 January
View on today

7:00 am
1. ဗောင်တန်းသာသနာပြုဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်
7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise
7:30 am
3. Morning news
7:40 am
4. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ
7:50 am
5. ကဗျာပန်းဥယျာဉ်
8:05 am
6. "အနိုင်အရှုံး" (ဝိစိ၊ ကောင်းမြတ်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ–ခင်နွဲ့.နွဲ့.မူ)
8:15 am
7. မူဟန်သွယ်သွယ်ဆိုကြမယ်
8:30 am
8. International news
8:45 am
9. လက်ဆင့်ကမ်းဝေဂီတအမွေ
11:00 am
1. Martial song
11:10 am
2. (၆၁)နှစ်မြောက်လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့. ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
11:25 am
3. Yan can cook
11:45 am
4. Round up of the week's TV local news
12:45 pm
5. Games for children
1:10 pm
6. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အားကိုးချစ်သူကျေးဇူး" (အပိုင်း–၁၀)
2:00 pm
7. ဆန်းကြယ်ထူးခြားပြိုင်ပွဲများ (Telematch)
2:45 pm
8. International news
4:00 pm
1. Martial song
4:10 pm
2. Songs of national races
4:20 pm
3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ တတိယနှစ် (ရသစာပေအရေးအသားအထူးပြု) (ရသစာပေအရေးအသား)
4:35 pm
4. Songs to uphold national spirit
4:45 pm
5. Musical programme
5:00 pm
6. မြန်မာ့ဓလေ့ရိုးရာလက်ဝှေ့.
5:15 pm
7. Games for children
5:45 pm
8. (၆၁)နှစ်မြောက်လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့. ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်
6:00 pm
9. Evening news
6:30 pm
10. Weather report
6:35 pm
11. အလှရှာမယ်လှကမ္ဘာဝယ်
6:55 pm
12. ပဉ္စလက်ကျောင်းတော်
7:15 pm
13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "သစ္စာနှင့်ယှဉ်သောမေတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း–၇)
8:00 pm
14. News
15. International news
16. Weather report
17. အချုပ်အခြာအာဏာဓွန်.ရှည်ကြာခိုင်မာစေမှုဒို့.ရှေးရှု (ကျေးရွာဖွံ့.ဖြိုးပြည်အကျိုး)
18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အချစ်စစ်ရှာဖွေခြင်း" (အပိုင်း–၂၀)
19. မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး ဦးဝိစိတ္တသာရာဘိဝံသ၏ အရပ်ဆယ်မျက်နှာမေတ္တာဘာဝနာ ပွားများခြင်းတရားတော်

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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

Tatmadawmen get agricultural skills

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence inspects Barlar-2 model water pumping project in Hlegu Township.

MNA

YANGON, 2 Jan—Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence this morning inspected the demonstration on gauging of the humidity of paddy seeds, sample ingredients in making organic fertilizer, humus and cast at Myanmar Paddy Research Division of Myanma Agriculture Service under the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Hmawby Township, Yangon Division.

Accompanied by Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and departmental officials, Lt-Gen Myint Swe attended the ceremony to open the Tatmadaw Agriculture Course No. 63 jointly conducted by the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation at the training hall of the Myanmar Paddy Research Division and made a speech on the occasion.

(See page 7)

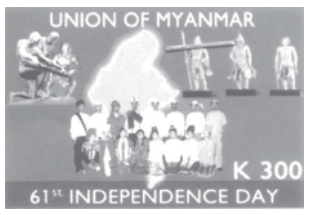
Nothing to sneeze at: real-time pollen forecasts

BERLIN, 2 Jan — Researchers in Germany are reporting an advance toward development of technology that could make life easier for millions of people allergic to plant pollen. It could underpin the first automated, real-time systems for identifying specific kinds of allergy-inducing plant pollen circulating in the air.

In the study, Janina Kneipp and colleagues explain that current pollen counts and allergy warnings are based on visual identification of the specific kind of pollen by examining pollen grains under a microscope. That procedure takes time, making it impossible for allergy-sufferers to know the kinds of pollen that are airborne on an hour-by-hour basis.—*Internet*

***Scientists have identified chemical structures in pollen -- shown above covering the face and legs of a Marmelade fly-- that could help provide a real-time pollen detection and warning system to help allergy sufferers.—*INTERNET**

New stamps to be issued



YANGON, 2 Jan — In commemoration of the 61st Anniversary Independence Day, Myanmar Post and Telecommunications of the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs will issue two new kinds of stamps—200-kyat stamps and 300-kyat stamps at state/division/district/township post offices as of 4 January.

As a special programme, those who buy stamps at Nay Pyi Taw General Post Office, Yangon Post Office and Mandalay Post Office on 4 January will have their stamps cancelled. — *MNA*

Stank has no fear of Devils

MILAN, 2 Jan — Inter midfielder Dejan Stankovic insists he is happier facing Manchester United in the Champions League than Liverpool.

The Italian champions must negotiate the European champions if they are to succeed in their main mission this season.

While the draw looks daunting, Serbian star Stankovic is just glad the Beneamata aren't taking on the side that knocked them out last year.

"I am not worried about Manchester United," Stankovic maintained in Il Giornale. "I was scared of facing Liverpool. "Liverpool are a side of the highest level and they have something extra in Steven Gerrard.

"When you play against Liverpool you see how Gerrard drags the team forward. He is a great leader.

"We are amongst the favourites for the Champions League but it's a long season and everyone is talking about Barcelona."—*Internet*

Flag Hoisting and Flag Saluting Ceremony live on TV

YANGON, 2 Jan —The 61st Anniversary Independence Day Flag Hoisting and Flag Saluting Ceremony will be broadcast live through Radio Myanmar and the TV Myanmar from the square of Nay Pyi Taw City Hall starting from 6.45 a.m. on 4 January 2009.—*MNA*

Beware of Fire