

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

Waterfall, suspension bridge, tarred road opened in Nay Pyi Taw Fountain Garden



Commander Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Mayor Col Thein Nyunt and Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe formally open suspension bridge in Nay Pyi Taw Fountain Garden.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan —In commemoration of the 61st Anniversary Independence Day the waterfall, suspension bridge in Nay Pyi Taw Fountain Garden and Bo Tauk Htein tarred road in Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, constructed by Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, were opened yesterday morning.

Present on the occasion were Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Mayor Col Thein Nyunt, the ministers, the deputy ministers, officials of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee and guests.

The commander, the mayor and Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung formally opened the waterfall. Next, the commander, the mayor and Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe formally opened the suspension bridge. Later, they also formally opened the tarred road. —MNA

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Artificial Waterfall in Nay Pyi Taw Fountain Garden.—MNA

INSIDE

Today, efforts are being made for the new generation youths to be brilliant and morally upright under the education promotion programme while creating better education environment. At such a time, it is incumbent upon local organizations, social associations and well-wishers to make concerted efforts for the emergence of good citizens on whom the State can rely.

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PERSPECTIVES

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Tuesday, 6 January, 2009

Nurture and produce good citizens on whom the State can rely

Myanmar has placed emphasis on development of the education sector in successive eras. As Myanmar people valued education, they actively took part in the development of the education sector. With fine traditions of carrying out community welfare services, the government has been able to create better education environment.

The National Education Promotion Programme was launched in 2001-2002. Requirements were fulfilled to ensure all the school-age children had access to basic education and education promotion programmes are being implemented at all basic education levels.

Nowadays, over 260,000 teachers are teaching over eight million students in over 40,000 educational institutions. Meanwhile, e-Education Learning Centres have been established with electronic information broadcasting systems in over 700 universities, colleges and high schools. Now, all the universities, colleges and some high schools have access to the Internet.

With the emergence of better education environment, the new generation youths are being nurtured and trained to be outstanding in literature, arts and sports.

The School Family Day is held yearly at the respective schools along with the prize presentation ceremonies in which prizes are presented to students who are outstanding in all spheres. The School Family Day for 2008-2009 academic year of the Ministry of Education was held at Nay Pyi Taw No. 3 Basic Education High School on 3 January and prizes were presented to students who are outstanding in Myanmar and International Social Relations and Customs Contest, International Painting Contest and International Sports Event.

Today, efforts are being made for the new generation youths to be brilliant and morally upright under the education promotion programme while creating better education environment. At such a time, it is incumbent upon local organizations social associations and well-wishers to make concerted efforts for the emergence of good citizens on whom the State can rely.

Special Appellate Bench heard special criminal appeal cases, special civil appeal cases

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan – The Special Appellate Bench comprising Deputy Chief Justice of Supreme Court (Mandalay) U Khin Maung Latt, Supreme Court Judges of Supreme Court (Mandalay) U Myint Aung and U Kyaw Win sitting at court room No 3 of the Supreme Court (Nay Pyi Taw) delivered judgment of 4 special criminal appeal cases and 8 special civil appeal cases and heard 3 special appeal cases and 3 special civil cases under Section 7 of the Judiciary Law, 2000 and one special appeal case under Section 8 of the same law, today.—MNA

People's Desire

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

Religious Minister receives Israeli Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan —Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung received Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Yaron Mayer at the ministry here today.

Also present at the call were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aung Ko, Director-General Dr Myo Myint of Department for Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana, Deputy Director-General U Khaing Aung and Head of Office U Myint Oo.

MNA



Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung receives Ambassador of Israel Mr. Yaron Mayer.—MNA

MSF hails 61st Independence Day with Swimming Contest

YANGON, 5 Jan—As a gesture of hailing the 61st Anniversary Independence Day, Ministry of Sports and Sports and Physical Education Department organized the second Denk Pharma Cup Men's and Women's Novice Class Championship Swimming Contest-2009, jointly sponsored by Myanmar Swimming Federation and T.T.O Trading Co Ltd at National Swimming Pool on U Wisara Road yesterday.

The contest includes U-14, U-12, U-10 and U-8 events. Altogether 139 players took part in the

contest including 29 boys and 17 girls in U 14, 22 boys and 17 girls in U 12, 17 boys and 18 girls in U 10 and 8 men and 11 women in U 8.

After the final matches, ILBC team stood first with 344 points, Hard Body second with 238, Yangon (A) third with 205, Kokkai four with 204, Kandawgyi five with 152, Yangon (B) six with 32 and Mandalay seven with 31.

Deputy Director U Kyaw San of Sports and Physical Education Department, the associate secretaries and the executives of MSF and

personnel concerned of T.T.O Trading Co Ltd presented prizes to the winner in the matches.

Vice President of MSF U Cho Maung of MSF awarded Yazar Tun Tun (ILBC) who got the men's best swimmer prize with four gold medals, General-Secretary U Kyaw Oo (Deputy Director of SPED) of MSF awarded Nan Khin Win (Kandawgyi) who got the women's best swimmer prize with four gold medals.

Dr Myat Thura Soe of MSF presented K 20,000 to Mandalay team,

Director U Thein Lwin of T.T.O Trading Co Ltd K 30,000 to Yangon (B), Executive Dr Zaw Tun Aye of MSF K 50,000 to Kandawgyi team, Executive U Tun Tun Oo of MSF K 100,000 to Kokkai team, General Secretary U Kyaw Oo (Deputy Director of SPED) K 200,000 to Yangon (A) team, Vice President U Cho Maung of MSF K 300,000 to Hard Body team and Professor Dr Tint Swe Latt (Acting Rector of the University of Medicine-2 Yangon) Cup and K 400,000 to ILBC team.—NLM



First prize winner ILBC team seen with their trophy.—NLM

Iranian leader tells Iraq not to trust US

TEHERAN, 5 Jan — Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei called on the Iraqi premier not to trust the United States, *ISNA* news agency reported Sunday. “As long as the Americans are in Iraq, there will be no relaxation for the Iraqi people. The presence of US and British forces in Iraq is the main basis for all the numerous problems, including terrorism and internal disputes,” the Khamenei told visiting Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki.

According to press reports, al-Maliki elaborated on the security pact signed last month be-

tween Iraq and the US, towards which Iran has a negative approach.

“There have been some worries in Iran over the security pact as the Americans are not reliable and Iraq should not trust any of their promises as the main US aim is a permanent and long-term base in the region,” he said. Khamenei has the final say on all state affairs in line with the Iranian constitution.

Iran wants US forces to withdraw from Iraq even earlier than scheduled in the pact — withdrawal from Iraqi cities by the end of June 2009 and from the rest of the country by

the end of 2011 — and leave all state affairs to the Iraqi government.

The Ayatollah added that the Iraqi government should prove to its people that it would not be intimidated by US threats and not retreat from national interests.

He reiterated that Iran’s aim was to see tranquility and stability in Iraq and Teheran would therefore make all efforts to realize this aim.

Ending his two-day visit to Teheran on Sunday, al-Maliki said Iraq wanted Iran’s assistance in reconstructing the country.

Internet

British forces take four key Taliban positions’ in Afghanistan

LONDON, 5 Jan — British forces have taken four key Taliban positions during an 18-day offensive in southern Afghanistan’s Helmand province in which 100 Taliban fighters and five British soldiers were killed, the London Defence Ministry announced Sunday. The ministry said the action began already on 7 December and involved some 1,500 British troops plus Danish and Estonian soldiers of the NATO-led International Security and Assistance Force (ISAF) plus Afghan government forces.

Internet



An Iraqi police officer checks the luggage of a pilgrim at a checkpoint in front of the Imam Moussa al-Kadhim shrine, the site of a bomb attack in Baghdad on 4 January, 2009.—INTERNET



In this image made from television, an injured boy is seen at a hospital in the Kazimiyah neighbourhood of Baghdad on 4 Jan, 2009. INTERNET

Female suicide bomber kills 40 people in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 5 Jan — A woman suicide bomber blew herself up among a crowd of Shiite pilgrims, including Iranians, outside a shrine in northern Baghdad on Sunday, killing up to 40 people and wounding 72 others, an Interior Ministry source said.

A powerful explosion occurred before midday when a women detonated an explosive belt at a checkpoint at the entrance of the Bab al-Qebelah gate of Kadhim shrine in the Shiite neighbourhood of Kadhimiyah, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity. The woman apparently targeted the Iranian group of pilgrims and killed 16 of them and wounded 32 others, the source said.

Earlier, the source put the toll at 37 killed and 53 others injured.

Hundreds of Shiite pilgrims gather outside the shrine, three days ahead of the climax of Ashura, the 10th day of Muharram in the Islamic calendar, which is the day of mourning for the martyrdom of Hussein Ibn Ali, the grandson of Muslims’ prophet Muhammad at the Battle of Karbala.—Internet

Taleban kill three ‘US spies’ in Pakistan

MIRANSHAH (Pakistan), 5 Jan —Taliban militants executed three people in a restive Pakistani tribal region near the Afghan border after accusing them of spying for the United States, officials said Monday.

The body of a 25-year-old local tribesman was found Monday hung upside down in a tree in the town of Naurak in North Waziristan, residents and security officials said.

The man had been kidnapped from the region’s main town of Miranshah last week.

The bullet-riddled bodies of two Afghan refugees were dumped on a roadside in the same area, a security official said.

Notes found near the bodies said “they were found guilty of spying for the US forces in Afghanistan,” he added.

Militants have killed dozens of local tribesmen and Afghan refugees on charges of spying, mainly for the Pakistani government or US forces operating across the border in Afghanistan.

Pakistan’s lawless tribal areas have been wracked by violence since hundreds of Taliban and Al-Qaeda rebels sought refuge in the region after the US-led invasion of Afghanistan toppled the hardline Taliban regime in late 2001.—Internet



In Afghan official inspects the wreckage of a car used in a suicide car bomb attack targeting a convoy of NATO’s military forces in Herat Province west of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 26 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

Romanian soldier wounded in Afghanistan

BUCHEREST, 5 Jan—A Romanian soldier was injured in Afghanistan on Saturday when the Humvee armoured vehicle he was in went over an improvised explosive device, a spokesperson for the National Defence Ministry, Andreea Dumitru, said. The soldier, Nicolae Paraschiva, was on a quick intervention mission in a joint patrol with an American team on highway A1, approximately 50 kilometres from the Lagman base in Qalat.

The light armoured vehicle Paraschiva was in drove over an improvised explosive device. At the same time, the patrol was attacked by gunmen.

The Romanian soldier was immediately evacuated from the area and flown on board a helicopter to Kandahar, where he remains under medical supervision. The Defence Ministry announced later yesterday that the injured soldier underwent surgery and was in stable condition.

The circumstances surrounding the incident are being investigated by a commission of the Mountain Rangers 30 Battalion, to which the injured soldier belongs. The commission is led by the chief of staff of the unit, the Defence Ministry said.

The ministry is monitoring the health condition of the injured soldier and is in permanent contact with his family.—Internet

India gives Pakistan evidence over Mumbai attacks

NEW DELHI, 5 Jan—India handed evidence Monday to Pakistan that it says links the deadly Mumbai attacks to Pakistani “elements” and called on authorities across the border to investigate further and help bring the culprits to justice.

India has blamed the November attacks that killed 164 people on Pakistani-based militants, but Pakistan has denied the accusations saying In-

dia had yet to provide proof.

Foreign Secretary Shivshankar Menon gave evidence to the Pakistani High Commissioner in New Delhi on Monday linking the attacks to “elements in Pakistan,” said Foreign Minister Pranab Mukherjee.

The evidence included material from the interrogation of the lone surviving gunman, details of conversations between the gunmen and their al-

leged handlers in Pakistan, recovered weapons, and data from satellite phones.

“This material is linked to elements in Pakistan,” an official statement said. “It is our expectation that the government of Pakistan will promptly undertake further investigations in Pakistan and share the results with us so as to bring the perpetrators to justice.”—Internet



A wounded Palestinian is carried into a hospital in Gaza City. Tens of thousands of Israeli troops backed by tanks battled Hamas fighters in Gaza on Sunday as the death toll from the offensive to end militant rocket attacks passed 510.—INTERNET

Australian PM supports diplomatic solution to cease-fire to Gaza

CANBERRA, 5 Jan—Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd said on Monday his government recognized Israel’s right of self-defense but supported a diplomatic solution to bring an immediate cease-fire in the Gaza Strip. Tens of thousands of Israeli troops backed by tanks have battled Hamas fighters as the Palestinian death toll from the offensive had passed 510.

Rudd told reporters in Sydney that “Australia recognizes Israel’s right to self-defense,” but added that the ongoing violence highlighted the need for a solution to the conflict.

“The escalation in the conflict, following the insurgence by Israeli ground forces, underlines the absolute importance of bringing about an effective diplomatic solution,” he said.

“Any diplomatic solution must find a way of bringing a halt to rocket attacks against Israel by the terrorist organization Hamas. Any diplomatic solution must also bring about a halt to arms shipments into Gaza. Any diplomatic solution must also involve an immediate cease-fire. And in that connection, we the Australian government support the actions of the United Nations now in seeking to bring about an immediate cease-fire,” Australian Associated Press quoted him as saying.

Rudd also acknowledged that many Australians were concerned about the humanitarian impacts of the conflict and called on Israel to recognize basic human rights.—Internet



Residents inspect a collapsed hotel after an earthquake struck in Manokwari, Papua Province, Indonesia, on 4 Jan, 2009. A series of powerful earthquakes at dawn killed at least three people and injured dozens more in remote eastern Indonesia on Sunday, cutting power lines and badly damaging buildings.—INTERNET

Gunmen seize oil services vessel off Nigeria

LAGOS, 5 Jan—Gunmen hijacked a vessel belonging to French oil services group Bourbon off Nigeria’s Niger Delta on Sunday as it traveled toward a Royal Dutch Shell offshore oilfield, security sources said.

The vessel was carrying four expatriates from Cameroon, Ghana and Lebanon when it was attacked near the Bonny Fairway buoy, a major shipping route for the Nigerian oil services industry, one of the sources said.

“It was hijacked by gunmen in about five speedboats. The vessel lost contact with the control room around the Okwori oilfield area near Bonny,” the source, a private security contractor working in the oil industry, told Reuters.—Internet

Taleban militants destroy health centre in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 5 Jan—Taleban militants destroyed a clinic in southern Afghan province of Kandahar, a provincial official said on Monday.

“The Taleban insurgents Saturday night entered the health clinic of Arghandab district and exploded it after asking all clinic employees out,” Abdul Qayum Pakhla, director of Health Department of Kandahar, told Xinhua.

This clinic, he added, had provided service to around 20,000 families in Arghandab district.

Pakhla said there were no political activities in favor of the government in the clinic and it only provided medical services to the locals.

Internet



Emergency personnel work at boat launch in Gibson, La to coordinate recovery efforts for the bodies of eight people killed on 4 Jan, 2009 when a helicopter transporting oilfield workers went down in western Terrebonne Parish, about 100 miles southwest of New Orleans.—INTERNET

Helicopter crash kills eight, injures one in Louisiana

HOUMA, 5 Jan—Eight people were killed and a ninth was reported critically injured after a helicopter bound for the offshore oil fields crashed Sunday afternoon in marshlands about 100 miles southwest of New Orleans.

The helicopter, operated by PHI Inc, crashed about 3:30 pm shortly after taking off from PHI’s base in Amelia, said Richard Rovinelli, a spokesman for the company. The cause of the crash isn’t

clear. Rovinelli did not know the type of helicopter or its exact destination.

He said the helicopter was carrying two pilots and seven passengers. Identities of the victims have not yet been released.

The National Transportation Safety Board has been advised of the crash and investigators were expected to arrive Monday, Rovinelli said.

Petty Officer Jaclyn Young said the Coast Guard assisted Terrebon-

ne Parish sheriff’s deputies in searching for and recovering the bodies of the dead and rescuing the survivor from the marshy Bayou Penchant area. A spokesman for the sheriff’s office could not be reached for comment.

Young said that the survivor was being transported to Ochsner Medical Facility in suburban New Orleans. Young said the person, who has not been identified, was in critical condition.

Internet

Shenzhou-7's monitor satellite finishes mission after 100 days in space

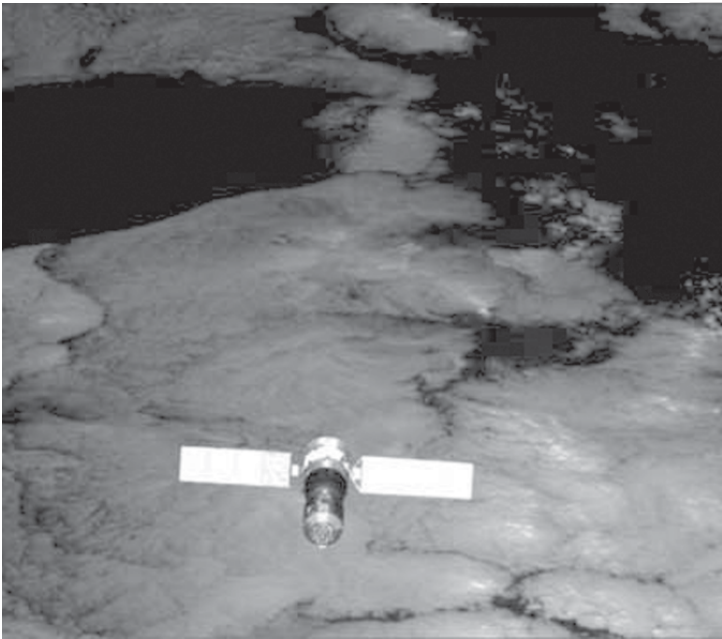
BEIJING, 5 Jan—The accompanying satellite of *Shenzhou-7* orbital module has accomplished its preset mission after 100 days in space, the Beijing Aerospace Control Center (BACC) said on Sunday.

This achievement marks China's "preliminary mastery of satellite monitor technology," the centre said. Since there are still some extra fuel left, the satellite will continue its flight for more scientific experiments.

After being released on 26 Sept, one day after China's third manned spacecraft was launched, the accompanying satellite was adjusted 13 times through engine ignitions so that it could focus on the orbital module of *Shenzhou-7*.

The centre said the accompanying satellite has being flying around the orbital module in an elliptical circle, with the farthest distance of 7.6 kilometres and the nearest of 3.8 kilometres.

The satellite has sent back thousands of high-quality pictures of the orbital module, which were captured by its two cameras.—*Xinhua*



Picture released by China's manned space project on 5 Oct, 2008 shows the image of China's *Shenzhou-7* spaceship, taken by a small monitoring satellite six minutes after it was released from the space-ship on 27 Sept, 2008.—XINHUA



A visitor views some scratchboards presented on the Fine Arts Exhibition of the Yangtze River Delta Region memorizing the 30th Anniversary of China's reforms and opening up campaign, in Hangzhou, capital of east China's Zhejiang Province, on 3 Jan, 2009.

XINHUA

Russia calls for immediate end to Gaza bloodshed

MOSCOW, 5 Jan—Russian Foreign Ministry on Sunday called for an immediate end to the armed conflicts in the Gaza Strip.

"A new dangerous stage of the armed confrontation after Israel started the ground operation in the Gaza Strip has aroused particular concerns," the Interfax news agency quoted Foreign Ministry spokesman Andrei Nesterenko as saying.

The sufferings of civilians from both sides must be put to an end and a ceasefire should be secured to stop the bloodshed, said Nesterenko.

He called for measures to prevent humanitarian catastrophe in the Gaza Strip.—*Xinhua*

Egyptian FM proposes to establish humanitarian corridors to Gaza

CAIRO, 5 Jan —Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit on Sunday called for the establishment of safe corridors to deliver humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip, which has been under intensive Israeli attacks in the past nine days.

Abul Gheit has sent messages to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon and foreign ministers of the UN Security Council's five permanent member countries on the deteriorating humanitarian conditions in Gaza, Foreign Ministry spokesman Hossam Zaki said in a statement. The Egyptian proposal is meant to help relieve the humanitarian sufferings of the Palestinian civilians in Gaza in face of the ongoing Israeli military attacks, said Zaki.

Meanwhile, an Egyptian senior official said Sunday that the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Palestinian enclave via Rafah crossing at the Egyptian-Gaza border were hindered by Israel's continued bombing.

"Egypt is ready to let in humanitarian assistance into Gaza but is unable to do so as a result of the continued Israeli attacks," the state MENA news agency quoted Egypt's North Sinai governor Mohammed Abdel-Fadil Shoushoua as saying.

Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Two European journalists released by Somali kidnappers

MOGADISHU, 5 Jan—Two European journalists have been released by Somali kidnappers, reports from agencies said on Sunday, citing a regional governor.

British correspondent Colin Freeman and Spanish photographer Jose Cendon were set free after weeks of captivity, according to Muse Gelle Yusuf, governor of Bari in the northern Puntland region. The same official said early last month that two local reporters working for the foreign journalists were behind the kidnapping.

The journalists were abducted in late November when they prepared to fly home after covering the rampant piracy off north-eastern Somalia.

The governor pledged a "hot pursuit" of the captors who were believed to be hiding in the hills around Bossaso, the commercial capital of the semiautonomous state of Puntland.

No group claimed responsibility for the abduction, nor were any specific demands made known from the captors.—*Xinhua*

Israeli soldier killed during Gaza ground incursion

JERUSALEM, 5 Jan—An Israeli soldier was killed Sunday afternoon during Israel Defence Forces (IDF) ground incursion in Gaza Strip, an IDF spokesman told *Xinhua*. The soldier was killed during a heavy exchange of fire with Palestinian militants in the Jabaliya area of northern Gaza, said the spokesman.

This was the first Israeli soldier who was killed since the ground incursion began Saturday evening, he said, adding that three others were seriously injured and 28 injured moderately or lightly.

According to an IDF statement sent to *Xinhua*, IDF forces, including infantry, tanks, combat engineers, artillery and intelligence, continued to operate on Sunday throughout Gaza Strip with the assistance of Israel Air Force (IAF) and Israeli Navy.—*Xinhua*

Journalists and civilians look into north Gaza Strip at the top of a hill near Gaza border, south Israel, Jan. 4, 2009. Hundreds of journalist and reporters from all over the world swarm into Israel and the west bank since Israel began the air strike to Gaza Strip on Dec. 27, 2008. — XINHUA



Death toll from Pakistan blasts reaches 10

ISLAMABAD, 5 Jan—At least 10 people were killed and 25 others were injured on Sunday in two blasts near a college in northwestern Pakistan, a local private TV channel reported.

The Geo TV quoted sources as saying that security personnel were included in the injured and some of them were in serious condition.

The first blast, which was low intensity, carried out with the help of explosives planted near the Polytechnic College of Dera Ismail Khan in the North West Frontier Province. The second blast of high intensity, caused by a suicide bomber, occurred at a police rescue vehicle, causing several casualties.—Internet



A doctor checks an man who is injured in a blast in northwestern Pakistan, Sunday. At least 10 people were killed and 25 others were injured on Sunday in two blasts near a college in northwestern Pakistan, a local private TV channel reported.—XINHUA



This handout photo released by the French Ministry of Defence on 1 Jan, 2009 shows French soldiers arresting presumed Somali pirates in the eastern part of the Gulf of Aden off the Somali coast. A French warship on Sunday foiled attempts by Somali pirates in the Gulf of Aden to seize two cargo vessels and “intercepted” 19 people, the French president’s office said.—INTERNET

Pakistan: 3 bodies found, Taliban suspected

MIRAN SHAH, 5 Jan— A police official says suspected Taliban militants in Pakistan’s northwest have executed a Pakistani construction contractor and two Afghan men they accused of spying for the United States.

Akhtar Salam says the three bullet-riddled bodies were found Monday along a road some 16 miles (25 kilometers) east of Miran Shah, the main town in the North Waziristan tribal region.

Salam says one victims was believed to be a construction contractor from the neighbouring Bannu area who was abducted five days ago. A note on the man’s body said the three victims had acted as American spies.

The US is suspected of launching several missile strikes at militant targets in North Waziristan in recent months, prompting Taliban threats of retaliation.

Internet

Fear, shortages for civilians caught in Gaza fight

GAZA CITY, 5 Jan—Anas Mansour sleeps in his street clothes in a south Gaza refugee camp, with his ID in his pocket so he can flee quickly if fighting gets worse. In Gaza City, the 10 members of the Karam family huddle in their hallway at night, kept awake by artillery fire booming outside.

And in the central Gaza refugee camp of Nusseirat, Munir Najjar said he only had another day’s worth of flour to feed his family of seven, but ventured out to find streets deserted and shops closed.

“There’s not a loaf of bread to be found,” said Najjar, 43.

As Israeli’s offensive moved from pinpointed airstrikes to artillery shelling and ground fighting, Gaza’s civilians are increasingly exposed to the violence. Since the ground assault began, 64 Palestinian civilians have been killed, said Dr Moaiya Hassanain, a Health Ministry official.—Internet



An Iraqi policeman guards the site of a blast in Abu Dshir in Baghdad, Iraq, on Monday, 5 Jan, 2009. Seven people were wounded when a parked car bomb exploded and a number of cars were destroyed, police said.—INTERNET

Rare 1937 Bugatti supercar found in English garage



In this undated image released by Bonhams, an extremely rare 1937 Bugatti Type 57S Atalante, is seen in a garage in Gosforth, England, where it was found by relatives after the death of the owner, an elderly doctor who last used it around 1960. The Bugatti, one of only 17 ever made, is expected to draw a record price when it is auctioned in Paris next month.

It was the equivalent of finding an old Picasso or an unknown Beatles tape hidden away in your uncle’s attic.

Relatives of Dr Harold Carr found an extremely rare 1937 Bugatti Type 57S Atalante — a Holy Grail for car collectors — as they were going through his belongings after his death.

The dusty two-seater, unused since 1960, didn’t look like much in the garage in Gosforth, near Newcastle in northern England.

But only 17 were ever made, and

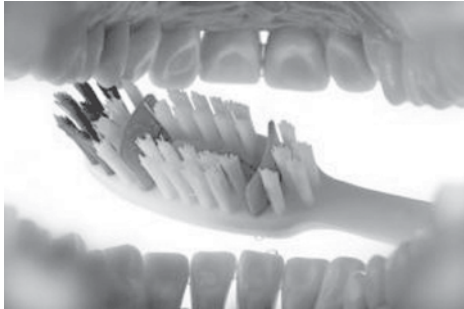
when it’s cleaned up and auctioned in Paris next month, experts believe it will fetch at least 3 million pounds (\$4.3 million) and possibly much more.

Bugatti once represented the height of motoring achievement. The supercar was so ahead of its time it could go up to 130 mph (209 kph) when most other cars topped out about 50 mph (80 kph).

This particular car is even more valuable because it was originally owned by Earl Howe, a prominent British race car driver, and because its original equipment is intact, so it can be restored without relying on replacement parts.

Toothbrushing prevents hospital pneumonia

Brushing the teeth of patients — even unconscious ones — three times a day can reduce the onset of pneumonia by 50 percent in hospitals, Israeli nurses found.



Ordinary tooth brushing could help prevent ventilator-associated pneumonia, new research shows.

British couple has ‘black-and-white twins’ twice

A mixed-race British couple has defied the odds — twice — by producing two sets of twins in which one sibling appears to be black and the other white. Dean Durrant’s newborn daughter Miya has dark skin like him. Twin sister Leah has fair skin like her blue-eyed, red-haired mother, Alison Spooner. Their older siblings Lauren and Hayleigh, born in 2001, also have strikingly different skin tones and eye colors.

“There’s no easy way to explain it all. I’m still in shock myself,” Durrant, 33, told Sky News on Wednesday.

Both sets of twins are fraternal rather than identical, meaning they are the product

of two separately fertilized eggs, so it is not unusual that they don’t look alike. Miya’s skin color was more influenced by her father’s genes, while Leah takes after her mother. But scientists say it’s rare for a couple to have two sets of twins, end even rarer for them to have such different appearances.

“Even non-identical twins aren’t that common,” Dr Sarah Jarvis of Britain’s Royal College of General Practitioners told Sky. “Non-identical twins from mixed parents, of different races, less common still. To have two eggs fertilized and come out different colors, less common still. So, to have it happen twice must be one in millions.”



Britain’s Dean Durrant pose with his wife Alison Spooner and their four daughters. The mixed-race couple produced another set of twins in which one sibling appears to be black and the other white.

NEWS ALBUM

Prosperous Kawthoung Township of Taninthayi Division

Article & photos: Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)



A panoramic view of Kawthoung from the sea.

(from page 16)

In an interview, Chairman of Kawthoung Township Peace and Development Council U Aung Thein Tun said, "Previously, Kawthoung port was close to the clock tower over there. Now, the port has been upgraded, and as you see, Kawthoung has got all the characters of a border town."

"Kawthoung has developed a lot. Its economic development has been followed by social development. It has many oil palm farms, rubber farms, offshore and deep

sea fisheries, and dockyards and that generate job opportunities for local people" said Deputy Head of Township General Administration Department U Min Lwin.

In Kawthoung, every house has one to three motorbikes made in the neighbouring country. All the dwellers including taxi drivers and betel quid vendors hold a mobile phone each that is useable in the township.

Kawthoung is surrounded by Hsalon, Thahtay, Zardetkyi and Khayu islands. It has de-

veloped considerably since it was in 1988. With regional development, local people are enjoying rapid development in the social, economic, education, health and transport sectors. So, it is fair to say that Kawthoung has promising future.

Translation: MS
Myanma Alin:
22-12-2008



**U Aung Thein Tun,
Chairman of
Kawthoung
Township Peace and
Development
Council.**



The park on Strand Road at the entrance to Kawthoung Township serves as a recreation centre for local people.

Yangon Division's Inter-BES Taekwondo Contest concluded

YANGON, 5 Jan — Final events of the Fourth Inter-Basic Education School Taekwondo Contest of Yangon Division for 2008-2009 were held in the gymnasium of Aung San Stadium on 27 December.

Among the spectators were President of Myanmar Taekwondo

Federation U Htay Myint and executive members, officials of No 3 Basic Education Department and fans.

After the final events, the executive members of the MTF and officials of No. 3 Basic Education Department presented prizes to winners. Best Taekwondo prizes to

Maung Thiha Kyaw of No. 4 BEHS of Thanlyin Township and Ma May Yu Zin of Yuzana BEHS.

Assistant Director of No. 3 BED Major Tun Aye presented the championship shield to No. 3 BEMS of Shwepyitha Township securing 8 gold, 6 silver and 5 bronze medals.

MNA

General Banking Services Course opens

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan— The opening ceremony of General Banking Services Course No.13 organized by Banks Supervisory Association at Myanmar Banks' Association this morning, with an address by Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue Col Hla Thein Swe.

Present on the occasion were directors-general and managing direc-

tors of departments and enterprises under the ministry, executives of Myanmar Banks' Association, guests, instructors and trainees.

Speaking on the occasion, the deputy minister said that the continuous conduct of banking services training courses is aimed at developing banking services and higher proficiency of bank

staff and that the trainees are to take advantage of knowledge and basic concepts acquired from the course, in the mean time to seek for more international experiences is essential, he added.

Altogether 45 trainees—two from Central Bank of Myanmar, 43 from state-owned and private banks are attending the 10-week course.—MNA



**Deputy Minister
for Finance and
Revenue Col
Hla Thein Swe
speaks at the
opening
ceremony of
General Banking
Services Course
No.13.—MNA**

Commemorative fun-fairs for Independence Day held



Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint presents prizes to winners in the commemorative fun-fairs of 61st Anniversary Independence Day.
MNA

YANGON, 5 Jan—To honour the 61st Anniversary Independence Day, Yangon Command organized fun-fairs together with the track and field prize presentation ceremony in the sports ground of the command yesterday.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and wife Daw Kyin Myaing enjoyed the fun-fairs and track and field competitions.

After the fun-fairs and track and field competitions, Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Kyaw Kyaw Tun and wife and officials presented first, second and third prizes to winners in the 5-mile race, uniform wearing contest, volleyball, Sepak Takraw, long jump, shot put, men's and

women's relay, 100-m, table tennis and fun-fairs.

Wife of the commander Daw Kyin Myaing handed prizes to winners in the women's tug-of-war contest while the commander awarded winners in the men's tug-of-war contest and the 5-mile race.

MNA

Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan receives outgoing Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Mr Guan Mu.

— MNA



YANGON, 5 Jan — Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan received Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar Mr Guan Mu, who has completed his tour of duty, at the ministry here at 2 p.m. today.

Also present at the call were Director -General U Khin Maung Htay of Myanmar Radio and Television, Acting Director -General U Ye Htut of the

Information and Public Relations Department, Managing Director of Printing and Publishing Enterprise U Aung Nyein, Managing Director of News and Periodicals Enterprise U Soe Win, Managing Director of Myanmar Motion Picture Enterprise U Aung Myo Myint and Head of Office of the ministry U Myint Htwe.

MNA

Central Banking Course for officials opens

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—Central Banking Course for official level No 1/2009 conducted by Central Bank of Myanmar under Ministry of Finance and Revenue was opened at the ministry here this morning, with an address by Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun.

Present on the occasion were Governor of Central

Bank of Myanmar U Than Nyein, directors-general, managing directors, deputy directors-general, directors, personnel of departments and enterprises under the ministry and trainees.

Altogether 31 trainees are attending the 4-week course to learn rules, regulations and procedures of banking services.—MNA



Correction Department marks 61st Anniversary Independence Day

YANGON, 5 Jan—Correction Department organized a ceremony to mark the 61st Anniversary of Independence Day at the parade ground of skill training school of Correction Department, attended by staff and families of the director-general office of Correction Department, Yangon Division Jail Group, the director-general office of Planning and Quarry Enterprise, Central Storage Office and Insein central jail.

U Zaw Win, director-general of Correction Department read out the 61st Anniversary Independence Day message sent by Chairman of State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe and presented prizes to those who won titles for their brave performance.—MNA

Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun speaks at the Central Banking Services Course No (1/2009).

F & R

First Inter-Ministry Bowling and Billiards Championships conclude

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—As a gesture hailing the 61st Anniversary Independence Day, the final event of the First Inter-Ministry Bowling and Billiards Championship in conjunction with the prize presentation of billiards, was held in Sport Complex of Nay Pyi Taw.

Present on the occasion were Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Mayor Col Thein Nyunt, Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Chairman of Subcommittee for holding fun fairs and sporting events U Thaung Htaik, officials of Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee, President of Myanmar Bowling Federation U Thein Zaw, athletes from the various ministries, guests and staff of the ministries.

In the men's singles event, Zaw Lin Tun of Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee secured the first prize, Than Zaw Oo of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, second prize and Kyaw Lin Htoo of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, third prize. In the women's singles events, Aye Aye Maw of the Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee picked up the first prize, May Yu Khine of the Ministry of Science and Technology, second prize and Tharaphi Hlaing of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs, third prize.

In the men's doubles events, duo Zaw Myo Aung and Myo Zaw Htoo of Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee won the first prize, duo Lin Kyaw Swa Kyu and

Zeyar Naing of Civil Service Selection and Training Board, second prize and duo La Min Soe and Tun Myo Oo of the Ministry of Mines, third prize.

In the women's doubles events, pair Tharaphi Hlaing and Hnin Yi Moe of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs grabbed the first prize, pair May Thu Zaw and Aye Aye Maw of Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee, second prize and pair Thuza Win Han and Hla Nu Sein of the Ministry of Construction, third prize. Man of the Match prize went to Than Zaw Oo of Civil Service Selection and Training Board and Woman of the Match prize to Aye Aye Maw of Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee.



Mayor Col Thein Nyunt presents prizes to the team of Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee which won men's and women's championship shields and the main championship shield.—MNA

Mayor Col Thein Nyunt presented the men's and women's championship shields, the main championship shield and duplicate shield to the team of Nay Pyi Taw City Development Committee while Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, prize money to winners.

Similarly, the mayor

and officials enjoyed the billiard events and Minister Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint handed prize money to first-placed Win Ko Ko of the Ministry of Industry-1, second-placed Kyaw Naing Oo of the Sports and Physical Education Department, third-placed Myint Swe of SPED in the singles event and first-placed duo Win

Ko Ko and Wai Hin Moe of the Ministry of Industry-1, second-placed duo Zaw Myo Tun and Aung Aung Oo of the Ministry of Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs and third-placed duo Thet Lwin Oo and Kyaw Naing Oo of SPED in the doubles events.—

MNA

Energy Minister receives Chinese Ambassador



Minister Brig-Gen Lun Thi receives Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Mr Guan Mu.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—Minister for Energy Brig-Gen Lun Thi received Ambassador of People's Republic of China Mr Guan Mu who had

completed his tour of duty in Myanmar at the ministry here today, and cordially discussed matters related to energy. Present on the occasion were Deputy

Minister Brig-Gen Than Htay, Director-General of Energy Planning Department, managing directors and officials concerned.—MNA

Immigration and Population Minister receives Saudi Arabian Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—Minister for Immigration and Population Maj-Gen Saw Lwin received

Ambassador of Saudi Arabia Mr Turki Bin Naji Abdul Kadir Al Ali at the ministry here on 4 January.

Also present were Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Win Sein and departmental heads.—MNA

Phyo Cetana free clinic and free education for matriculation examination open

YANGON, 5 Jan—Yangon City Development Committee and the social organization jointly opened Phyo Cetana free clinic and free education for matriculation examination and presented funds for medical treatment and free education at the training hall of free education in South

Okkalapa Township this morning. Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa, medical officer in-charge Dr Nay Lin and training in-charge Saya U Than Sein opened the free clinic and free education centre.

The mayor and party viewed the patients who were receiving medical

treatment. Next, the mayor made a speech at the cash donation ceremony. A total of 155 wellwishers donated K 3,885,600.

A total of 24 free clinics have been opened so far in Yangon Division and three free education centers have been kept open in the same division.—MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin receives Saudi Arabian Ambassador Mr. Turki Bin Naji Abdul Kadir Al Ali.—MNA

Education Minister inspects schools in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein met with the headmaster and teachers of No. 5 BEHS Nay Pyi

Taw this afternoon. The minister attended to the needs and looked into classrooms of the school. The minister also vis-

ited Nos. 6,7 and 8 BEHS Nay Pyi Taw and gave instructions on teaching and management matters.

MNA

UMFCCI and Chinese delegation meet

YANGON, 5 Jan—Vice-presidents of Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Zaw Min Win, U Aung Lwin, U Thaung Tin and U Mya Han, general secretary U Sein Win Hlaing, central executives, executives received a trade delegation led

by Mr Gao Zhengwu, Division Chief of Department of Commerce of Yunnan Province of People's Republic of China on 31 December 2008 at the headquarters of the federation.

They discussed matters related to promotion of bilateral trade.—MNA

Construction tasks of road and bridge inspected

YANGON, 5 Jan—Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun arrived at the mile post No 25/0 of Pyinmana-Paunglaung road section on 4 January. At the briefing hall of the road section, the engineer

in-charge briefed the minister on maintenance of the road.

Next, the minister inspected progress in extending the embankment of Pyinmana-Paunglaung road. Upon arrival at

Leinli suspension bridge, the minister oversaw project tasks and attended to the needs.

The 1000 feet long Leinli suspension bridge can withstand 75 tons of load.—MNA

Subaru recalls 1,135 SUVs in China for control system flaws

BEIJING, 5 Jan—Japanese auto maker Subaru will recall 1,135 Tribeca sport utility vehicles (SUVs) it sold in China over control system flaws, said China's quality supervisor here Monday.

A sensor defect in the dynamic control system

may cause the vehicle to run unsteadily and even break away from its driver's control, said the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (GAQSIQ).

It remained unclear whether the problem had resulted in any crashes or

injuries in China. Subaru is recalling a total of 5,130 Tribeca units worldwide for the same flaw.

The recall in China will start from Tuesday and involve vehicles produced between February and November in 2008, said the GAQSIQ.

Internet

Shark sightings spark alert in Oz

SYDNEY, 5 Jan — Shark alarms blared over four Sydney beaches after sharks were sighted on the weekend. Swimmers fled the water and warnings remain in place at the Maroubra, Coogee, Bronte and Tamarama beaches.

No-one was hurt but life-savers in helicopters reported seeing hammerhead sharks feeding on fish and squid near people swimming. Some experts believe cleaner water is providing more fish as bait to sharks, bringing more closer to shore.

A swimmer off the west coast of Australia, Brian Guest, was killed

by a shark after Christmas. Officials in Perth, capital of Western Australia, said increased alertness among swimmers was increasing the number of reported shark sightings.

Thousands of beachgoers were affected by the weekend shark alarms in Sydney. The Sydney Morning Herald newspaper quoted lifesaver Chris Dolman after his routine boat patrol at Coogee spotted a hammerhead shark, between three and four metres long.

The shark swam away but was spotted again by a helicopter at Maroubra

beach, where it was feeding on a large squid with another hammerhead shark of less than a metre just beyond the breaking waves. Another shark sighting in the afternoon forced swimmers from the water at Bronte and Tamarama beaches.

A New South Wales Department of Environment and Climate Change spokesman, John Dengate, told the newspaper that an improvement in water quality was attracting more sharks.

In the past 50 years, reports say there have been 60 deaths in Australian waters from shark attacks.

Internet

Hotels and Tourism Minister receives Israeli Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing received Ambassa-

dor of Israel Mr Yaron Mayer at the ministry here this morning.

Their discussion fo-

cused on promotion of tourism industry between the two countries.

MNA



Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing receives Ambassador of Israel Mr Yaron Mayer.—MNA

Minister inspects Soap Factory No. 1, Bicycle Tube Factory

NAY PYI TAW, 5 Jan—Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspected installation of toilet soap finishing line and production of various kinds of

soap at No. 1 Soap Factory in Hline Township this morning.

The minister also inspected warehouses of the factory. He visited Shoe

Factory No. 2 and Bicycle Tube Factory.

The Bicycle Tube Factory produces 3,000 tubes of high quality a day.—MNA

S Korea's Samsung says unveils world's slimmest TV

SEOUL, 5 Jan—South Korea's Samsung Electronics on Monday unveiled what it says is the world's slimmest LCD (liquid crystal display) TV.

The new product, measuring only 6.5 millimetres (0.26 inch) thick, is thinner than any other existing TV set, and even slimmer than most mobile handsets, Samsung said in a statement.

Its thickness is one seventh of Samsung's "Bordeaux 850" LCD TVs, which is currently the thinnest on the market, the company said.

The new product, which adopts an LED (light emitting diode) backlighting system, will be on display at the 2009 Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas from January 8 to 11, Samsung

Internet



The world's slimmest LCD TV, produced by Samsung Electronics. The South Korean company has unveiled what it says is the world's slimmest LCD (liquid crystal display) TV.—INTERNET

China IPOs to rise 45% in 2009: accountancy firm

BEIJING, 5 Jan—Initial public offerings (IPOs) in China are expected to rise 45 percent in value this year as a result of government stimulus policies, accountancy firm Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC) said Monday.

Companies will raise about 150 billion yuan (22 billion US dollars) through IPOs in China in 2009, the PwC said in a report.

Sectors such as infrastructure, finance, consumer goods manufacturing and retailing will benefit from a 4 trillion-

yuan economic stimulus package announced in November, hence IPOs in those areas will gradually come back to growth, it said.

“It’s hopeful that China’s capital market will see a steady development in the second half of 2009 as the economy’s fundamentals remain stable,” said PwC China Managing Partner Lin Yizhong. China will recover sooner than other countries afflicted by the global financial crisis because of its economic foundation and massive

fiscal stimulus plan, said the report. IPOs at China’s Shanghai and Shenzhen stock exchanges slumped by 78 percent in value last year as investor enthusiasm collapsed under the crush of the financial crisis.

Internet



Vietnamese residents look at displays of items found in rural homes during an exhibition to celebrate New Year at the Hoan Kiem Lake in Hanoi on 1 January, 2009.

INTERNET

Egypt maintains Suez Canal transit fees

CAIRO, 5 Jan—Egypt has decided to remain the transit fees of ships and tankers crossing the Suez Canal unchanged, the state MENA news agency reported on Monday.

Admiral Ahmed Ali Fadel, chief of the Suez Canal Authority (SCA), made the announcement during a press conference on Monday at the Suez Canal city of Ismailia, said the report, saying the transit fees will remain unchanged as imposed in 2008.

Egypt’s Suez Canal tolls for ships transiting the international waterway rose as of April 1, 2008, ranging between four and 14 percent according to

the type and size of different ships.

Egypt announced the nationalization of the Suez Canal in 1956, some 87 years after the Canal opened in 1869.

The Suez Canal, linking the Red Sea and the Mediterranean, is one of the world’s busiest waterways for

international trade and Egypt’s major sources of revenue along with tourism, remittances from expatriate workers and oil exports.

Fadel said the Suez Canal revenues reached 5.382 billion US dollars, a 16.7 percent increase compared to the previous year.—Internet

Singapore shares jump above 1,900 points

SINGAPORE, 5 Jan—The shares prices in Singapore rose 95.16 points or 5.2 percent on Monday with the benchmark Straits Times Index (STI) closed at 1,924.87 points.

Trade volumes and market value both increased dramatically on Monday. The overall volume stood at 1848.4 million shares, almost double the volumes of 955.5 million shares on Friday. Total market value is worth 1570.6 million Singapore dollars (about 1069 million US dollars), a hike from Friday’s 686.1 million Singapore dollars (about 473 million US dollars). Gainers led losers by 385 to 130 with another 745 unchanged.

Analysts said the rise was due to big gains in regional markets on hopes that US economy will stage a rebound after a dire 2008.—Internet



Wedgwood china is seen on display at the company’s factory shop in Stoke on Trent, England, 5 January, 2009. Ireland’s Waterford Wedgwood, whose luxury tableware was once a mainstay of wedding gift lists worldwide, said on Monday it had called in receivers after failing to buy more time from creditors.—INTERNET

Iran says OPEC to hold emergency meeting in February

TEHERAN, 5 Jan — Iran’s representative to the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Mohammad Ali Khatibi said here on Monday that the organization would hold an emergency meeting in Kuwait in February, Iran’s state TV (IRIB) website reported.

“In the last meeting in

Algeria, it was set to be held in March, however, the trend with the oil price has convinced the organization to hold the meeting one month earlier,” he said, adding that “The exact date has not been fixed yet and no invitation letter has been issued to the members either.” Earlier on Sunday, Khatibi said that Iran

welcomed OPEC emergency meeting in February.

“Iran welcomes an OPEC emergency meeting in February ahead of the next planned meeting in March,” the semi-official Fars news agency quoted him as saying.

“If we could have a meeting in February, we could evaluate OPEC’s January performance,” Khatibi said.

As a part of OPEC’s new plan, Iran will cut its crude oil output by 545,000 barrels a day in average in January.

Internet

A man clears snow at the entrance to the local office of Russia’s gas monopoly Gazprom in the southern Russian city of Stavropol on 5 January, 2009. The European Union on Monday scheduled talks with Russia to press for a speedy resolution of a dispute with Ukraine that has hit gas supplies to countries in eastern and southern Europe facing freezing temperatures.—INTERNET



People view a painting during the first art exhibition of China, South Korea, Japan and Russia, in Harbin, capital of northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, on 5 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

Mexico to build world’s 4th largest bamboo centre

MEXICO CITY, 5 Jan—The Mexican government and the United Nations have signed an agreement to boost bamboo planting in the country, its National Forest Commission (Conafor) said Sunday.

Some 715,000 US dollars will be used to establish the Centre of Bamboo Technology Development in the east state of Veracruz in part of the country’s productive reforestation strategy, Conafor said.

The Centre will be the fourth largest in the world, after China, India and Cuba, it said. Bamboo produced in Veracruz will be sent to the United States, Latin America, Europe and Asia through the Panama Canal.

The project will improve the livelihood of the peasants in the mountainous area of the Huatusco municipality in Veracruz and help them recover the lost forest land.—Internet



CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (TBH-265)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TABAH VOY NO (TBH-265) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.1.2009 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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV GATI PRESTIGE VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GATI PRESTIGE VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.1.2009 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 GATI COAST TO COAST

Phone No: 256908/378316/376797



Photo taken on 4 Jan, 2009 shows the scenery of Hemu village of Burqin County in north-western China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. In winter, heavy snow covers trees and hills at the scenic spot of Burqin County.—XINHUA

Air India
sacks 10 air
hostesses for
being
overweight

TRADE MARK CAUTION

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in respect of "Medicated skin cream; pharmaceutical, veterinary and sanitary substances; infants' and invalids' foods, plasters, material for bandaging".

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in respect of "Pharmaceutical, veterinary and sanitary substances; infants' and invalids' foods; plasters, material for bandaging".

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Win Mu Tin
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for Aventis Pharma S.A.
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 6 January 2009

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U Myint Lwin, Advocate, LL.B, DBL
Dip in Marine Affairs(UK)
myint.avocate@mptmail.net.mm
Ph: 371 990 6.January. 2009

Three dead, three detained
in English arson fire

SHEFFIELD, 5 Jan—A house fire in northern England that police say was deliberately set claimed a third life on Sunday.

Two men were killed in the fire Friday night in a row house in a quiet suburb of Sheffield, The Guardian reported. Neighbours said two people jumped through windows, including one who was on fire. Two survivors suffered critical injuries, and one of the two died Sunday. Three people have been detained for questioning, including one who was picked up Sunday, police said. Investigators had not released any information on Sunday about the residents of the house, saying they were trying to get in touch with relatives first.

The fire occurred on a block of 19th century row houses. "Nothing like this has ever happened before round here," said Joan Laidler, a resident of the area for more than half a century.—Internet

A visitor looks at a Dongfeng-1 Missile in the hall of weapons at the Chinese Military Museum, in Beijing on 4 Jan, 2009.

INTERNET



Son surprises mom from
12,000 miles away

ANAHEIM, 5 Jan—A California contractor working in Iraq stunned his mother on her 50th birthday by appearing live on a computer screen in a store window she was passing.

"That's my son!" Ginger Barnett of Anaheim, Calif, squealed on Saturday night when she saw 33-year-old Carl waving hello from the screen inside Ben Bridge Jewelers in the Brea Mall. Next to the computer screen was a Rolex watch with a card that read, "Happy 50th Birthday Mom," The Orange County (Calif) Register reported on Sunday.

Brown said he enlisted family and friends to set up the live Web cam and accompany his mother to the mall and past the store, where she had often admired the jewelry and watches. "I can't stop shaking," Barnett said. "I had no idea."—Internet

Lost dog was determined to find family

YORBA LINDA, 5 Jan — An 85-pound Labrador retriever named Timber endured cactus spines and a cut to hunt down his California family 2 miles away at a house he'd only visited by car. Timber had been staying with Justin Murrietta's parents because Murrietta's landlord in Yorba Linda does not allow dogs, the Orange County (Calif.) Register reported on Sunday.

On 30 Dec, Timber escaped through an open gate at Armando and Rose Murrietta's home about 2 miles from Justin's house, which the dog had visited occasionally by car. The family posted fliers, checked the local animal control Web site every hour and drove around Yorba Linda looking for Timber. About midnight on New Year's Eve, Justin Murrietta's wife April heard a thumping at the front door and found Timber covered in cactus spines and with a cut that required 20 stitches. Apparently, the thumping was Timber hitting his tail against the front door. —Internet

NEW DELHI, 5 Jan—Air India has handed 10 air hostesses the pink slip for being overweight. The hostesses, who were grounded some months earlier, were served the termination notices in the last week of December, a senior Air India official, who did not wish to be identified, said.

All terminated hostesses were serving on domestic routes. In June last year, five of the airhostesses had approached the Delhi High Court, challenging Air India's decision to ground them for being overweight. However, the court dismissed their petition.

Air India said the action taken against the employees was justified as it was mentioned in the contract. For an 18-year-old air hostess with a height of 152 cm, the maximum weight permissible is 50 kg, while for air hostesses in the age group of 26 to 30 and a height of 152 cm, the weight limit is 56 kg.

Internet

Computer programme analyzes brain activity

PITTSBURGH, 5 Jan — A computer programme developed at a Pittsburgh university can offer limited insights into one's thoughts by analyzing brain activation patterns, researchers say.

Carnegie Mellon University computer science Professor Tom Mitchell, who is working on the computer algorithm project, said by analyzing an individual's brain activity, the program can make very accurate guesses at which word of a selected pair a person is thinking about, the Pitts-

burgh Post-Gazette reported on Sunday. It can hit correctly up to 90 percent of the time compared with a simple 50-50 guess, the newspaper said.

"Even though we're obviously very different and have had different experiences, so that when you think of a Ford Edsel you probably think of something different than what I think of," the researcher said, "neverthe-

less, we're similar enough that these (computer) programs can tell us quite a bit about what we're thinking.

Psychologist Marcel Just, who is also working on the project, told the newspaper the programme's use of magnetic resonance imaging to make educated guesses would likely lead to additional thought-recognition efforts in the future.—Internet



Participants write traditional Japanese calligraphy at Budokan martial arts hall during calligraphy contest in Tokyo on 5 Jan, 2009. About 3,000 people attended the annual contest.—INTERNET

Titanium golf clubs may harm ears

NORWICH, 5 Jan — The new titanium clubs threaten golfers' hearing with a noise that some say is a loud as a gunshot, British doctors report.

One 55-year-old man appears to have suffered hearing loss after playing with a titanium driver three times a week for a year and a half, the Daily Mail reported on Sunday. Doctors tested the sound level generated by six titanium clubs and six of the older-style stainless steel ones. They found the noise generated by the titanium clubs hitting a golf ball is far louder than the "tink" of the steel club making a shot.

Internet



Thousands of tourists crowd the beach in Mar del Plata, some 400 kilometers south of Buenos Aires, on 4 Jan, 2009, as temperature rose up to 34 Celsius, some 93 Fahrenheit.—INTERNET

Rhinos found shot in reserves

JOHANNESBURG, 5 Jan — Two rhinos have been found shot dead in two private game reserves in the Eastern Cape since December, police said on Sunday.

In the most recent case rangers at the Kwantu Game Reserve found the carcass of a bull rhinoceros, with the horn still attached, on Saturday

morning, said Inspector Milanda Coetzer in a statement. The Port Elizabeth Organised Crime unit was investigating.

On 5 December last year a rhinoceros was shot dead in the Shamwari game reserve near Grahamstown. "At about 20:00 one of the field rangers... was on a game drive with tourists when

he heard 10 gunshots fired from an automatic rifle."

The carcass was found with the horn still intact. No arrests had been made in either case. Coetzer said police would patrol the borders of game reserves in the Grahamstown area and set up roadblocks to find automatic or hunting rifles.

Internet

Liposuction weight loss may not help heart

DALLAS, 5 Jan — Liposuction may provide a quick fix to reduce waist size but the loss of weight may not help the heart, US researchers advise.

Dr Amit Khera, who directs the University of Texas Southwestern program in preventive cardiology, says belly fat, or waist circumference, is more closely associated than other distributions of fat with heart disease or risk factors for heart disease. However, how one gets rid of the fat seems to matter in terms of reducing these risks.

"Diet and exercise certainly can reduce abdominal fat and reduce heart disease risk, as can surgical procedures like gastric bypass, which limits caloric intake," Khera said in a statement.

"Interestingly, studies looking at liposuction do not seem to show the same benefits. Fat reduction by liposuction does not seem to reduce a protein in the blood called C-reactive protein, which is a measure of inflammation and heart disease risk."—Internet

Premature baldness, gene link

PARIS, 5 Jan — Scientists say they have pinned down a DNA mechanism that gives rise to a rare, but distressing form of baldness that strikes before adulthood.

Flaws in a gene called U2HR are to blame for a condition called Maria Unna hereditary hypotrichosis, or MUHH, named after the German trichologist who identified the problem.

Children with MUHH have sparse or no hair at birth, followed by wiry or coarse hair in childhood, but progressively lose it at puberty. Researchers led by Xue Zhang of the Peking Union Medical College in Beijing found that U2HR, located on Chromosome 8, acts as a key switch in the process.

U2HR controls a small

peptide — a kind of mini-protein — that, in turn, affects a previously-identified protein called the human hairless monolog, or HR, which is crucial for the regeneration of hair follicles.

Sifting through the genome of 19 Chinese families with a history of MUHH, the team found mutations of U2HR led to increased levels of HR, the death of hair follicles and thus, greater likelihood of this kind of baldness. The study, published online on Sunday in the journal Nature Genetics, offers a potential target for drugs that would block this pathway, offering the hope that youngsters who inherit the mutations will one day keep their hair, say the authors.

Internet



Expatriates walk along a palm tree-lined street in one of Dubai's plush areas in the morning in 2008. Dubai's rapid expansion in recent years provided jobs for millions. But the global financial meltdown has abruptly ended the dream for many people as more and more firms sack staff to cut costs.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Robben thunderbolt fires Real third



Real Madrid's Arjen Robben celebrates a scoring during a Spanish league football match Villareal at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in Madrid.

INTERNET

MADRID, 5 Jan—A brilliant solo goal from Dutch winger Arjen Robben helped Real Madrid close their gap on runaway leaders Barcelona to 12 points as the champions defeated Villarreal 1-0 at the Santiago Bernabeu on Sunday.

Real coach Juande Ramos handed debuts to French midfielder Lassana

Diarra and Dutch international striker Klass-Jan Huntelaar — 40 million euros worth of talent — but it was Robben that proved the difference.

The former Chelsea man jinked his way past several opponents — leaving Spanish star Marcos Senna sprawling on the ground — before unleashing an unstoppable 31st minute winner. “We are getting some good results and that is the best way for us to move forward and gain confidence,” explained Ramos.

It was Ramos’s second league win in charge and Real climb to third but they need Barcelona, who came from behind to defeat Real Mallorca 3-1 on Saturday, to start slipping up. Barca are 11 points clear of Valencia who hold on to second spot after Sevilla drew 1-1 with bottom side Osasuna on Sunday.

Internet

Man United stay on course for quadruple



Manchester United's Danny Welbeck (right) watches as his header goes toward the net against Southampton.

INTERNET

SOUTHAMPTON, 5 Jan—Sir Alex Ferguson may have said it was “not realistic” for Manchester United to win a unique European and domestic quadruple but he still believes his squad can compete on four fronts.

United opened their FA Cup campaign with a comfortable 3-0 win away to Championship strugglers Southampton at St Mary’s here Sunday.

Goals from youngsters Danny Welbeck and Darron Gibson either side of a controversial Nani penalty maintained Ferguson’s proud record of having never lost a third round tie in his 22-year reign at Old Trafford.

United, well placed in their quest for a third successive Premier League title, are also through to the last 16 of the Champions League and face Derby in the first leg of their League Cup semi-final on Wednesday.

Internet

Le Guen takes Cup revenge, Marseille squeeze through



PARIS, 5 Jan—Paris Saint Germain coach Paul Le Guen finally took revenge on his French Cup jinx club in their 1-0 victory at Montlucon on Sunday.

Le Guen, who played for PSG during their golden days of the 1990s, was twice beaten at amateur club Montlucon, in 1997 with PSG as a player and then in 2005 with Lyon as coach.

Meanwhile, Marseille, a record 10-time French Cup champions, survived a major scare to go through at the expense of fourth division Besancon who had been just eight minutes from a famous victory. But Marseille, who lost to minnows Carquefou in the round of 16 last season, levelled from the penalty spot in the 82nd minute before squeezing into the next round on a penalty shootout and a possible clash with league leaders Lyon.

Le Guen savoured the moment of finally settling the scores. Stephane Sessegnon’s second-half goal propelled PSG into the last 32 to the satisfaction of coach Le Guen. “It was a good victory,” added the coach.—Internet

Azarenka, Bartoli cruise in Brisbane WTA first round

BRISBANE, 5 Jan—Second seeded Belarussian Victoria Azarenka and Marion Bartoli, the third seed from France, cruised into the second round of the Brisbane International with impressive straight-set wins.

Azarenka thrashed Ukraine’s Kateryna Bondarenko 6-0, 6-2 and Bartoli was too strong for 16-year-old Australian wildcard Monica Wejnert, winning 6-1, 6-2 in 54 minutes. Bartoli said later that playing a wildcard was a good way to start the tournament. “It was not an easy match, she was playing really well and she obviously had nothing to lose,” Bartoli, the world No 17, said.—Internet



Victoria Azarenka of Belarus reacts during her match against Kateryna Bondarenko of the Ukraine, at the Brisbane International tennis tournament, on 4 January. Azarenka won 6-0, 6-2.—INTERNET



Valencia's David Villa has said he wanted to stay with Valencia for “another six years” despite reports he will leave in the summer.—INTERNET

United and Villa into FA Cup fourth round

LONDON, 5 Jan —Premier League champions Manchester United and fellow top four side Aston Villa both made it through to the fourth round of the FA Cup on Sunday.

English, European and world champions United ensured there was no repeat of their shock defeat by Southampton in the 1976 FA Cup final with a 3-0 victory away to the struggling Championship side, reduced to 10 men for more than half the match.

“I think it was okay,” Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson said of his side’s display. “They (Southampton) are a very young team so you would expect us to win but we could have done it more comfortably,” he also told Setanta.

Earlier, Villa were made to work hard for a 2-1 away win against League Two



Manchester United's Portuguese player Luis Nani (L) is tackled by Southampton's Oscar Gobern (R) during the F.A Cup third round match at St. Mary's stadium in Southampton. Manchester United won the game 3-0.—INTERNET

team Gillingham. “We knew it would be tough,” Villa manager Martin O’Neill told ITV. “It was very hard. I’m delighted we got through, delighted for the supporters and we went as strong as we possibly could.

Internet



Cypriot Marcos Baghdatis's (left) comeback stalled in the first round of the Brisbane International as he bowed out 5-7, 6-1, 6-4 to Finland's Jarkko Nieminen (right).—INTERNET

Baghdatis tennis comeback stalls

BRISBANE, 5 Jan—Cypriot Marcos Baghdatis’s comeback stalled in the first round of the Brisbane International as he bowed out to Finland’s Jarkko Nieminen on Monday.

The former world number eight looked in control as he took the first set but could do nothing to stop Nieminen as the Finn took the next two sets and the match 5-7, 6-1, 6-4.

Baghdatis, who reached the Australian Open final in 2007, had a disrupted 2008 due to injury problems and was hoping to use the Brisbane International to launch his assault on the top 20.—Internet

Villa wants to stay put with Valencia

MADROD. 5 Jan—Spanish international forward David Villa said on Sunday he wanted to stay with Valencia for “another six years” despite reports he will leave in the summer.

Valencia had on Sunday denied any agreement on his leaving and in a statement through the club Villa said that media reports to the contrary were “erroneous.” He added that he was only interested in “fulfilling my six-year deal.” Villa, 27 and a star of Spain’s Euro 2008 win last summer, scored in Saturday’s 3-1 win over Atletico Madrid to take his campaign haul to 13 - two behind league top scorer Samuel Eto’o of Barcelona.—Internet

Dr Yacoob (alias) Dr Yacoob Mohamed Hassajes has expired on the 4th January 2009 leaving a widow, Khatija Bi Bi Yacoob Attia, and the children (1) Mariam Bi Bi Yacoob Hassanjee, (2) Mohamed Yacoob Hassanjee, and (3) Sara Bi Bi Yacoob Hassanjee. To be buried at Yayway Sunni Muslim Burial Grounds, Yangon.

Sony may announce drastic cost cuts: media

TOKYO, 5 Jan—Japan's Sony Corp is likely to announce closures of Japanese factories and major divisions early next month, the Times of London said on Monday, but the company denied any such plan existed.

The maker of Bravia flat TVs and PlayStation video game consoles faces halting sales and mounting piles of inventory in the wake of the financial crisis, even as a stronger yen bites into earnings.

Sony, whose empire encompasses semiconductors, movies and insurance, is braced for a series of measures that would abolish some of its domestic operations and transform the electronic giant's business, the Times said, citing company sources. "We do not plan to announce additional restructuring measures at this time," spokesman Atsuo Omagari said, in response to the report. "We don't have any such plan."—*Internet*

In this 10 Sept, 2006 file photo Maria de Jesus, is touched by Berenice, her eight month old great-granddaughter as she celebrated her one hundred and thirteen year birthday in Corujo, Portugal, 150km north of Lisbon. A woman who lived to see five of her great-great grandchildren born and was believed to have been the world's oldest person living, has died in northwest Portugal at the age of 115, officials said on Friday, 2 Jan, 2009. De Jesus, who lived to reach 115 years and 114 days and was listed by the Guinness Book of World Records and the Gerontology Research Group as the world's oldest person, died in an ambulance near the town of Tomar. INTERNET

US construction declines 0.6% in November

WASHINGTON, 5 Jan—US construction spending dropped by 0.6 percent in November, the Commerce Department reported Monday.

The November drop was less than half of the 1.3 percent decline economists expected. Construction spending in October had been revised to a 0.4 percent decline from the originally reported drop of 1.2 percent. In November, private builders cut their spending on residential construction by 4.2

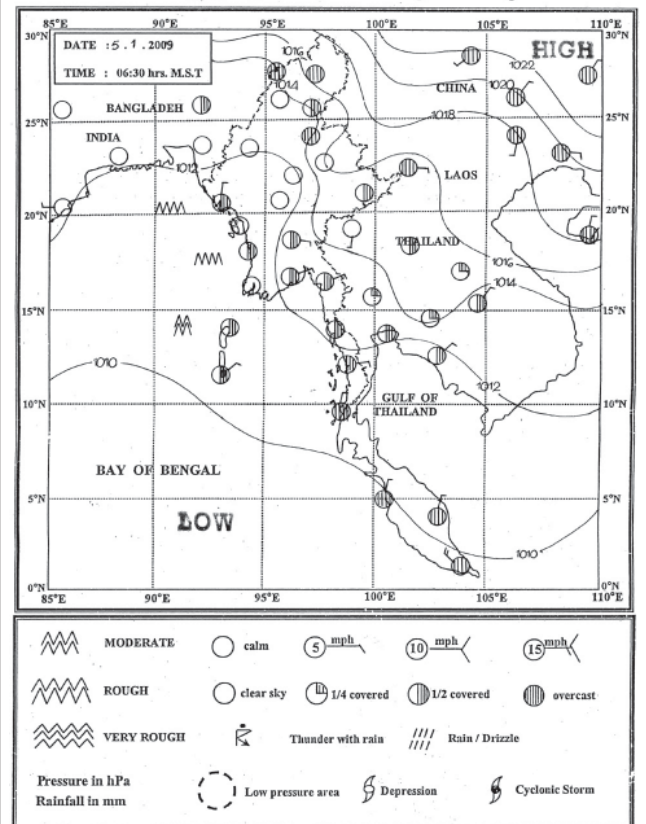
percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 328 billion dollars, the lowest since August 1999. Construction spending by the government, meanwhile, increased by 1.4 percent in November to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 322 billion dollars.

The once-sizzling US housing market has slid into the worst slump in over two decades. Analysts believe that housing will keep falling until a record glut of unsold homes is reduced.

Internet



Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Monday, 5 January, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below January average temperatures in Chin State and upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) above January average temperatures in Shan State and Taninthayi Division and about January average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (-1°C), Loilem (0°C), Namhsan (2°C), Pinlaung (3°C) and Heho (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 4-1-2009 was 92°F. Minimum temperature on 5-1-2009 was 63°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 5-1-2009 was 83%. Total sunshine hours on 4-1-2009 was (9.7) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 5-1-2009 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 (4) mph from Northeast at (06:30) hours MST on 5-1-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 6th January 2009: Possibility of isolated light rain in Kachin State, weather will be partly cloudy in Shan, Chin, Kayah States, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty (40%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 6-1-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 6-1-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 6-1-2009: Generally fair weather.



Tuesday, 6 January
View on today

7:00 am

- မင်းကွန်းဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

- To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- အတိုးပွင့်ပွဲ

7:50 am

- သံသာချိုအေးမင်္ဂလာတေး

8:00 am

- “ကျန်းမာသန်ထွားညွတ်မြင့်မား” (မင်းရာဇာ၊ မျိုးစနွှံ့ကျော်၊ တက္ကသိုလ်ဝမ်းပုံ) [ဒါရိုက်တာ-ခင်ဇော် (ကုမုဒြာ)]

8:15 am

- Song of yesteryear

8:30 am

- International news

8:40 am

- အဆိုပွင့်ပွဲ

8:50 am

- ပန်းလှိုင်တံတား

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:10 pm

- Dance of national races

4:20 pm

- Musical programme

4:30 pm

- “မနိုင်သောအရုံး”

(ဟက်ကက်၊ ဇင်ရဲထက်၊

ခိုင်သင်းကြည်၊ အရိုင်း၊ မိုးဖြူ၊ ကင်းကောင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-အေဝမ်းမောင်လှမျိုး)

4:45 pm

- The mirror images of the musical oldies

5:00 pm

- အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ တတိယနှစ် (ရူပဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရူပဗေဒ)

5:15 pm

- Songs to uphold national spirit

5:30 pm

- နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထားကျေးလက် ထုတ်ကုန်များ

5:45 pm

- Musical programme

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ

6:55 pm

- ဆိုလိုက်ကြစို့

7:15 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “နွဲ့ဆိုးဆိုးသူကိုယ့်ချစ်သူ” (အပိုင်း-၁)

8:00 pm

- News

15. News

16. International news

17. Weather report

18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ

- “မြင့်မြတ်နုလုံးသားပိုင်ရှင်” (အပိုင်း-၁၆)

Prosperous Kawthoung Township of Taninthayi Division

Article & photos: *Aung Than (Mingala Taungnyunt)*

Kawthoung in Kawthoung District, Taninthayi Division, a border town, is located in the southernmost part of Myanmar.

Thailand and Myanmar are divided by the Parchan River. On the other bank of the river is Ranong of Thailand. We made a trip to Kawthoung in mid-November to write an article about development of

Taninthayi Division.

Kawthoung is easily accessible by all modes of transport: by car, by boat or by air, which is key to development of the region. Now, people can travel from Kawthoung to Myeik, Dawei, Mawlamyine and Yangon by car, and to Yangon by ship.

And people can make a one-day trip by speed-

boat to Dawei, 300 nautical miles from Kawthoung. Taninthayi Division has seen Dawei Airport, Myeik Airport, and Kawthoung Airport. So, these regions are accessible by air within an hour, and smooth transport is a testament to development of Taninthayi Division.

(See page 7)



Magnificent Kawthoung Port Park and Win Thuzar Shop.

Outstanding athletes of Yangon Division honoured

YANGON, 5 Jan — Outstanding athletes who represented Yangon Division and participated in state/division tournaments were honoured here on 3 January.

At the ceremony, Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint and Patron of Yangon Division Women Sports Athletes Association Daw Kyin

Myaing accepted the shields won by the sports teams representing Yangon Division and presented awards in cash to athletes.

Men and women teams of Yangon Division took part in the sports events including billiard, snooker, Wushu, Myanmar traditional boxing, badminton, Sepak Takraw and swimming in 2008 and won 33 shields.

MNA

Talks on National Immunization Days

YANGON, 5 Jan — The educative talks on National Immunization Days -2009 were held at Kyaungon Township People's Hospital in Patheingyi District in Ayeyawady Division on 31 December 2008.

Chairman of the township Peace

and Development Council U Nyan Hlaing and township medical officer Dr Tin Win Maung elaborated on Immunization Days. Also present were departmental officials and members of social organizations.

MNA

Beware of Fire

Making digital maps more current and accurate



FeedMAP is taking a bottom-up approach to map updates.

BRUSSELS, 4 Jan — European researchers have designed an innovative new system to help keep motorists on the right track by constantly updating their digital maps and fixing anomalies and errors. Now the partners are mapping the best route to market.

The 'oddly enough' sections of newspapers

regularly feature amusing stories of GPS mayhem. For instance, one lorry driver in Poland had such confidence in his positioning device that he ignored several signs warning that a road had been closed to make way for an artificial reservoir and drove straight into the lake!

In addition to providing a cautionary tale about

investing too much faith in technology, this amusing anecdote highlights a more mundane and daily challenge: how to reflect the constantly shifting topography of Europe's road network.

A large number of digital maps used by onboard GPS navigation systems are stored on DVDs or hard disks, with periodic updates only available on replacement disks. In addition, advanced driver assistance systems (ADAS) — such as adaptive cruise control (ACC) and lane-keeping systems (LKS) — are beginning to make more extensive use of digital maps. Given the safety dimension of ADAS applications, it is crucial that digital maps are highly accurate.

Internet