

## Senior General Than Shwe sends message of felicitations to Emir of the State of Qatar

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—On the occasion of the Independence Day of the State of Qatar which falls on 18 December 2008, Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar.—MNA

## Prime Minister General Thein Sein felicitates Prime Minister of Qatar

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec — General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabir Al-Thani, Prime Minister of the State of Qatar, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the State of Qatar, which falls on 18 December 2008. — MNA

## Dams in Magway Division under construction with momentum

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—Chairman of Sagaing Division Peace and Development Council Commander of North-West Command Maj-Gen Myint Soe, Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Minister for Electric Power No. 1 Col Zaw Min, accompanied by Chairman of Magway Division Peace and Development Council Col Phone Maw Shwe, on 15 December, arrived at Myittha Dam project being built near Pyntha Village of Gangaw Township by Construction-8 of Irrigation Department.

At the briefing hall, Assistant Director U Tin

Win reported on facts about the project and Director-General U Khin Zaw of ID gave a supplementary report.

The Chairman of Magway Division PDC briefed the commander and the ministers on regional development tasks in the project area.

Next, the commander and the ministers viewed earth work for the main embankment, filling of gravel at the embankment and the site for construction of spillway.

(See page 8)

### 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

### A bird's eye view of Manipura Multi-purpose Dam Project.

MNA

### INSIDE

The government has taken necessary measures in that regard in accordance with the advice of economists. Without any doubt, every government works hard to serve the interests of its own country. Myanmar has got and overcome such experiences.

PAGES 6+7

KYAW YE MIN





PERSPECTIVES

Thursday, 18 December, 2008

Strive for success of modern farming

Agriculture sector plays extensive role in the economic growth of the country. The government has been implementing plans to develop agriculture including reclamation of new land, availability of water for agricultural purpose, boosting per acre yield and production of high quality products.

Local farmers in cooperation with entrepreneurs are making endeavours to introduce modern farming after establishing agricultural zones in Dagon Myothit region, Yangon Division, which has a lot of fallow and vacant lands. Reclamation of lands, digging of canals and land preparations are being carried out with the use of heavy machinery.

If we study each region we will see agriculture contributes towards not only sufficiency of food but improvement of socio-economic life of the local farmers.

The farmers will surely enjoy benefits through reclamation of fallow and virgin lands, cultivation of quality high-yield paddy strains and application of modern cultivation methods.

The government on its part is providing requirements for agricultural development including supply of adequate irrigation water, minimizing loss and wastage of crops, wide utilization of farm implements.

Considering the population and consumption, the country has rice surplus. However, continued efforts are to be made for boosting production of paddy like other rice-exporting countries.

It is needed to focus not only on paddy but also on other marketable crops such as beans and pulses, corn and sesamum. Making use of the government's assistance for agriculture, local farmers are to cultivate quality high-yield strains with the application of modern cultivation methods in order to develop national economy.

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

Tasks for rural developments and perpetual existence of self-reliant libraries supervised in Pale Tsp



Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan inspects rural health centre in Mintaingbin village.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—Minister for Information Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan met with over 2600 local people from seven villages namely Inmahti, Kaingtwin, Inkan, Loattha, Ohnhnaut, Thayagon and Talaingkan upon his arrival at Inmahti village of Pale Township, Sagaing Division, on 15 December and held discussions about rural development undertakings.

Responsible persons presented reports to the minister on conditions of implementing rural development tasks.

After hearing the reports, the minister made clarification on repairing classrooms in order to be more convenient for the students in pursuing educations, medical treatment to be provided for the patients at their ease at the dispensaries, making coordination for building village to village roads and storage and supplying sufficient drinking water to the local people

Minister Brig-Gen Kyaw Hsan cordially greets local people of seven villages at Inmahti Village in Pale Township.—MNA

and then fulfilled the needs. The minister urged local people to participate in the drive for establishment of self-reliant libraries as their perpetual existence and developments are the prime task thereby inculcating rural people with reading habits. The minister also urged local people to live a healthy lifestyle improving health knowledge and to accelerate the practice of integrated farming system. Power made from bio fuel was to be widely used among families and village, he said. All the people were to do their bit in the course of rural development tasks the government is implementing urged the minister.

The minister presented K 200,000 to repair Inmahti village Basic Education Primary School, K 100,000 each to Inkan village new BEPS, Loattha village library and Thayagon village library and clothing and kitchenware for the local people through those in-charge, and Head of Information Department of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Kyi Kyi Win, books and publications for Inmahti, Inkan and Kaingtwin libraries. The minister then cordially greeted the local people.

Upon arrival at Mintaingbin village rural health centre, the minister viewed medical treatment being provided to the patients, encouraged health staff and attended to the needs.—MNA



Manuscripts for Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award Contest up to 31 Jan

YANGON, 17 Dec—The manuscripts for the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Contest for 2008 may be submitted up to 31 January 2009 instead of 31 December 2008.

Those from countryside wishing to take the applications and disciplines for the contest may send K 200 to Sarpay Beikman through money order. The manuscript in line with the disciplines may be sent to the Secretary of the Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Scrutiny Committee to Sarpay Beikman at No. 529/ 531 on Merchant Street, Yangon.—MNA



# Three Iraqis killed, dozens injured in Baghdad bombings

BAGHDAD, 17 Dec— Three Iraqis were killed and 23 others injured in three attacks in Baghdad on Tuesday, an Interior Ministry source said. A roadside bomb detonated in the afternoon near the convoy of Raid Fahmi, Iraqi Minister of Sciences and Technology, while traveling near the rear gate of Babel Hotel in the Jadriya neighborhood in central Baghdad, the source told *Xinhua* on

condition of anonymity. It was unknown whether Fahmi was in the convoy during the attack which wounded one of the minister’s bodyguards and two bystanders, the source said. In separate incident, a roadside bomb struck a police commando patrol near the University of Technology in the al-Sina’a street in eastern Baghdad, killing two policemen and a civilian and injuring 17 people, including two policemen,

he said. Also in the day, a roadside bomb went off near a police patrol close to the al-Andalus Square, injuring three policemen and two bystanders, he said, adding one of the patrol’s vehicles was damaged by the blast. Despite security gains in recent months in Iraq, there are still sporadic bombings, which shape setback to the Iraqi government.

Internet



The wreckage of a vehicle used in a bomb attack lies on a road in Baghdad, on 16 Dec, 2008. A car bomb exploded in central Baghdad on Tuesday targeting a convoy of Iraq’s Minister of Science and Technology, police sources said.—INTERNET

# Afghan police say three die in checkpoint clash

KANDAHAR, 17 Dec— Taliban fighters killed two Afghan police officers in a checkpoint attack in southern Afghanistan, police said on Tuesday. One of the attackers also died. Monday night’s attack occurred about 2 miles (3 kilometers) south of Helmand Province’s capital of Lashkar Gah, Police Chief Asadullah Shirzad said.

A British soldier was killed “as a result of enemy fire” in a separate incident in Helmand, according to a statement from Britain’s Defence Ministry. The ministry did not provide further details. Also Monday, coalition and Afghan troops captured two local Taliban chiefs who had organized attacks in eastern Kunar Province, along with another militant the US military said in a statement. They were caught during a strike in the city of Jalalabad.

In central Oruzgan Province, three insurgents planting a bomb along a road were killed when the device exploded, the US military said in another statement.

Residents reported the blast to Afghan security forces, who discovered two bodies and a third man who later died after being taken to a US-led coalition medical facility for treatment, the statement said.

Internet

Residents walk past a damaged police vehicle after a roadside bomb attack in Baghdad, on 16 Dec, 2008. The attack wounded five people including three policemen, police said.—INTERNET



In this 17 April, 2008 file photo, Habiba, who has completed three years of a 10-year prison sentence for murder, holds her daughter Nazanin who was born in jail three years ago but still cannot walk, as they rest in their bunk bed inside Pul-e Charkhi prison in Kabul, Afghanistan. There are 226 young children in Afghanistan’s prisons, including many who were born there. They have committed no crime, but they live among the country’s 304 incarcerated women.—INTERNET

# Canadian soldiers likely to face escalation of violence in Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, 17 Dec— ‘There will be violence.’ That, in a nutshell, was the blunt assessment today of what Canadian troops both in Afghanistan and at home can expect in 2009 as Canada’s seven-year-old Afghan mission enters another uncertain new

year. The warning came from Lieutenant-General Michel Gauthier, the head of the Canadian Expeditionary Force Command, or CEFCom, after several days of meetings with military and political leaders in Afghanistan. With an expected influx of US troops, the year ahead promises to be a rough one, Gauthier—the commanding officer for all Canadian soldiers deployed overseas—acknowledged in a frank discussion with reporters at Kandahar Airfield. However, with the expected surge in troops and an anticipated uptick in violence will also come clear signs that the situation in Afghanistan is getting better, he predicted.—Internet

# Afghan supply line fine, but drivers cite risk

BAGRAM AIR BASE, 17 Dec— Traveling in a convoy of 30 supply trucks escorted by security guards, the young Afghan driver hauled bottled water through Afghanistan’s dangerous south to a US outpost in Helmand Province. Stanekzai then headed back to the main American base at Bagram—without an armed escort. Halfway home on the country’s main highway on Monday, he heard gunfire tear into his rig. He stepped on the gas and prayed.

“I was afraid. I was bracing for a rocket-propelled grenade, because they usually fire those, too, but fortunately they didn’t,” the 22-year-old said on Tuesday, standing beside his pockmarked truck. Attacks are trying to put the squeeze on supplies reaching US and NATO troops, with attacks on trucks in both Afghanistan and the Khyber Pass of neighboring Pakistan. American commanders insist attacks have had a minimal impact, but they also say they are exploring new routes.—Internet



A man wounded in a bomb attack waits for a blood transfusion in a hospital in Baghdad, on 17 December, 2008. Twin bomb blasts killed 18 people and wounded 53 in central Baghdad on Wednesday as British Prime Minister Gordon Brown made an unannounced visit to Iraq, police said.—INTERNET



# UN gives OK to land, air attacks on Somali pirates

UNITED NATIONS, 17 Dec— On the same day Somali gunmen seized two more ships, the UN Security Council voted unanimously on Tuesday to authorize nations to conduct land and air attacks on pirate bases on the coast of the Horn of Africa country.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice was on hand to push through the resolution, one of President George W Bush’s last major foreign policy initiatives.

Rice said the resolution will have a significant impact, especially since “pirates are adapting to

the naval presence in the Gulf of Aden by traveling further” into sea lanes not guarded by warships sent by the US and other countries.

The council authorized nations to use “all necessary measures that are appropriate in Somalia” to stop anyone using Somali territory to plan or carry out piracy in the nearby waters traversed each year by thousands of cargo ships sailing between Asia and the Suez Canal.

That includes the use of Somali airspace, even though the US appeased Indonesia, a council

member, by removing direct mention of it, US officials said.

Somalia Foreign Minister Ali Ahmed Jama, whose government asked for the help, said he was “heartened” by the council action. “These acts of piracy are categorically unacceptable and should be put to an end,” he said.

Internet



*In this photograph released by the Indian Navy, Indian Marine Commandos board a suspected pirate ship in the Gulf of Aden on 13 Dec. The UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution for the first time authorizing international land operations against audacious, armed pirates sheltering in Somalia.—INTERNET*

## Abbas says he’ll call Palestinian vote ‘very soon’

RAMALLAH, 17 Dec— Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said on Tuesday he’ll call general elections “very soon,” signaling that he’s ready for a new showdown with the Islamic militant Hamas.

Hamas, which wrested control of Gaza from Abbas 18 months ago, contends that his term as president ends on 8 January. Abbas initially said he has another year, but polls indicate most Palestinians disagree with him.

A call for elections appears to be the only way for Abbas to retain legitimacy. However, it remains unclear whether he actually intends to hold them, or just plans to call for a vote as a tactical move, with the expectation that Hamas would refuse to go along.

Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum said on Tuesday that Hamas opposes holding elections before the rivals have worked out their differences. Hamas could block elections in Gaza, and it’s not clear whether Abbas would agree to hold elections only in the West Bank since that would deepen the split between the territories.

Abbas aide Saeb Erekat it would be a bad idea to hold elections only in the West Bank, adding that he is expressing his personal view.—Internet



*This CCTV image made available in London, on 16 Dec, 2008, by the Metropolitan Police, shows the scene when a Jeep Cherokee burst into flames during in a terrorist attack on Glasgow Airport, Scotland, in June 2007. —INTERNET*

## Russia claims US plans new bases for Central Asia

Moscow, 17 Dec— Russia’s top military officer warned that Moscow felt threatened by US policy in ex-Soviet Central Asia and claimed that Washington was attempting to establish new military bases there, news agencies reported on Tuesday. Gen Nikolai Makarov, the chief of the

Russian military’s general staff, said Washington planned to establish a foothold in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, Interfax and ITAR-Tass reported. US officials denied there were plans.

Makarov also said US support for bids by Georgia and Ukraine to join NATO made Russia feel

threatened. He cast doubt that relations between the countries would improve under Barack Obama.

“According to our information, it (the US) is planning to establish military bases in Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan,” Makarov was quoted as saying. He did not elaborate.

Internet

## Oil prices rise to above \$44 before OPEC meeting

SINGAPORE, 17 Dec— Oil prices rose above \$44 a barrel on Wednesday in Asia as investors waited to see how big a production cut OPEC will announce at a meeting later today in Algeria.

Light, sweet crude for January delivery was up 82 cents to \$44.42 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange by midday in Singapore.

The contract fell overnight 91 cents to settle at \$43.60 despite signs the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries planned to announce a significant reduction of output quotas.

Saudi oil minister Ali Naimi said on Tuesday that OPEC, which accounts for about 40 percent of global supply, would likely cut production by about 2 million barrels per day.—Internet



*A tourist injured in a bus crash is rushed to a hospital in the southern Israeli city of Beersheba on 16 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET*

## At least 26 die as Israeli bus tumbles into ravine

EILAT, 17 Dec—A bus filled with Russian tour guides crashed through a roadside barrier on Tuesday and tumbled down a steep ravine in southern Israel, killing at least 26 people in Israel’s worst traffic accident.

The blue bus lay on its side at the bottom of the slope, its windows smashed and a path of debris strewn along its path down from the road. Soldiers and other rescue workers lined up bodies in white bags. Nearby, lug-

gage was tossed into a pile.

Officials said the 60 passengers on the bus had just arrived from St Petersburg, Russia, to visit potential spots for tours and were heading for Eilat, a popular Red Sea resort.

The vehicle sped by in a no-passing zone, broke through a guard rail and rolled down the slope, said Rami Vazana, the driver of the bus that was passed.

“Dozens of wounded and dead were strewn

along the slope. Most of them were thrown from the bus as it rolled,” medic Gabi Baribo said.

Israel’s rescue service said 24 people were declared dead at the scene, and Eilat’s hospital said two more died later of injuries. Hospital officials said several more people were in critical condition.

The Russian ambassador to Israel, Pyotr Stegnii, told Russia’s Vesti-TV that 30 people were killed.

Internet



# HK signs tax pact with Vietnam

HONG KONG, 17 Dec— Hong Kong and Vietnam on Tuesday signed an agree-ment for the avoidance of double taxation and the prevention of fiscal evasion on tax and income, says a press statement issued here by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government. The agree-ment was signed by HKSAR government Financial Secretary John Tsang and Vietnam Vice Minister of Finance Do Hoang Anh Tuan in Hanoi, capital of Vietnam,

says the statement. At the signing ceremony on Tuesday, Tsang was quoted as saying that the agreement will boost bilateral relations between Hong Kong and Vietnam. “The agreement represents tax savings and a higher degree of certainty on taxation rights for investors from both Vietnam and Hong Kong. It also fosters economic co-operation and protects both our governments’ revenue base,” said Tsang. Any Hong Kong tax paid by Vietnam residents or companies will be

allowed as credit against any tax payable in respect of the same income in Vietnam. Royalties withholding tax will be capped at 7 percent where payment is made for the use of patents, designs or models, plans, secret formulas or processes. The interest withholding tax will be reduced from the current rate of 10 percent to nil if the recipient is the HKSAR Government, the Hong Kong Monetary Authority or other recognized institutions as mutually agreed.—Xinhua

## All items from Xinhua News Agency

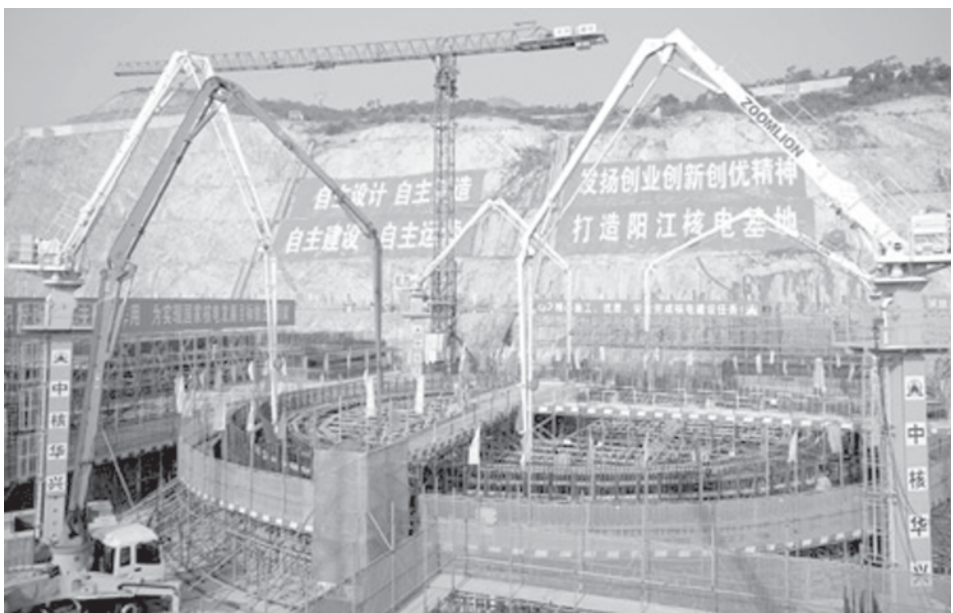


Photo taken, on 16 Dec, 2008 shows an overall view of the construction site of Yangjiang nuclear power plant in Dongping Town, Yangjiang City, south China’s Guangdong Province.—XINHUA



Photo taken, on 11 Dec shows the exterior of a multi-functional road detector car. China’s first multi-functional road detector car with its own intellectual property rights comes out recently, which cost Chinese scientists eight years to tackle technological difficulties.—XINHUA

# Canada to lose 600,000 jobs if Big Three automakers collapse

OTTAWA, 17 Dec— The collapse of the Big Three automakers would be catastrophic to Canada’s economy, with nearly 600,000 jobs expected to disappear in the country within five years, according to a report released on Tuesday. The report was prepared for the Ontario Manufacturing Council, an advisory panel of industry and labor representatives. It predicts that effects on employment would be felt right away, with

Canada losing 323,000 jobs if production ceased immediately, 281,800 in Ontario Province alone. Those figures would climb in five years to 582,000 jobs nationally in 2014, 517,000 of those in Ontario. A cut in production by 50 percent would eliminate 157,400 jobs nationally immediately, 141,000 in Ontario. By 2014, 296,000 jobs would be lost, 269,000 in Ontario. The depreciation of the Canadian dollar, lower

interest rates and lower production costs will eventually help the economy to partially recover but the loss of the Detroit Three will leave a permanent dent in Canada’s economy in terms of jobs and output, the document says. The collapse of the Big Three would have far reaching effects, including a reduction in production by the Canadian automotive parts industry of 80 percent, the report predicts.—Xinhua

# European new car sales down by 25.8% in November

BRUSSELS, 17 Dec.—New car sales in Europe fell by 25.8 percent in November compared to the same month of last year, declining for the seventh month in a row, the European automakers association ACEA said on Tuesday. It was the largest monthly drop since 1999, which ACEA said should be blamed on the financial and economic crises. Markets in Western Europe and the new European Union (EU) member states contracted at a similar pace, down by 26 percent and 22.6 percent respectively. All national markets in Europe decreased except Finland, Poland and the Czech Republic. In Western Europe, a total of 854,698 new passenger cars were registered in November. The downturn hit all countries except Finland, ranging from 3.5 percent in Portugal to 55.9 percent in Ireland. Markets in the new EU member states echoed the November drop recorded in Western Europe. The central and eastern European markets had long showed more resilience, in relative terms, because of the greater number of first-time buyers as opposed to the replacement market of Western Europe.

Xinhua

# Pirates seize two ships off Somali coast in one day

NAIROBI, 17 Dec—A tugboat, most of on board are believed to be Indonesians, and a Turkish cargo ship have been hijacked off the coast of the war-racked Somalia on Tuesday, according to agencies’ reports. The tugboat operated by the French oil giant Total was on its way to Malaysia when it was hijacked, the reports said. Pirates have hijacked some 40 ships this year in the waters off Somalia and currently hold about 15 vessels and their crew, despite a growing number of international patrols to stop the attacks.

Xinhua

# Mexico’s U17 World Cup medal stolen by thieves

MEXICO CITY, 17 Dec—The gold medal that the Mexican U-17 soccer team won at the World Cup 2005 was stolen on Tuesday, coach of the team Jesus Ramirez said on Tuesday. Four thieves robbed Ramirez’s house in Mexico City early Tuesday morning, Ramirez told a TV station. “They stole cell phones, money, and the medal of the World Cup,” said Ramirez, who was not in the city when the robbery happened.—Xinhua



Officers from the health ministry, soldiers and police wearing protective suits take part in a joint bird flu prevention drill in Jakarta, on 16 Dec, 2008. Bird flu in Indonesia has killed 113 people since 2003, according to the United Nations health agency.—XINHUA



# We remain unperturbed-2

*Kyaw Ye Min*

The developing countries do not suffer much impact of the global financial crisis directly, but they are facing indirect losses in trade, foreign investments, foreign loans and assistance, domestic banking system, finances, government budgets and some sectors. The countries that do not have much link with the global financial system suffer less, however no countries escape from the consequences of the global financial crisis.

**Half the total exports of Latin American countries go to the US. So, the US financial crisis has led to those countries suffering economic deficits, following decrease in demand of their exports. Moreover, African countries have come under economic decline due to a fall in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), Official Development Assistance (ODA) and remittance. Some countries on the edge of industrial development such as China, India, Brazil and South Africa**

announced its plan to spend 26 billion Euros for its economic recovery. In like manner, China has announced its plan to spend four trillion yuan (nearly US\$ 600 billion) for boosting its economy. It is a global knowledge that oil price went up to 147 US dollars a barrel in July, but it fell steeply to 43.6 US dollars on 16 December. World countries and regional organizations are struggling for grappling with the global issue.

Heads of developing countries are dissatisfied with the point that they were invited to the conference but were not vested with the rights to express their views. The conference did not reach any agreements, and arguments were running high between one group and another till it ended. Overall, prospects for unanimous remedies to address the issue effectively are still dim despite the fact that countries and regional organizations are trying individually and in group to leave behind the global financial crisis. The crisis is still highly debatable at the international

Meanwhile, two points smile on Myanmar. The first point is that oil prices are going down, and the second point is that India and China, **Myanmar's main trading partners, suffer economic downturn less. Myanmar is in a position to stand on its own feet regarding basic needs of the people. In addition, it is an agro-based nation which relies on foreign countries just for small size of import. So, it does not have much shortage in foreign exchange. Therefore, it can be deduced from those points that Myanmar will not face adverse effects of the crisis on a large scale.**

**The government has taken necessary measures in that regard in accordance with the advice of economists. Without any doubt, every government works hard to serve the interests of their mother countries. Myanmar has got and overcome such experiences.**

I think the monetary crisis that took place in 1997 is still fresh in the mind of all. The whole ASEAN region suffered economic meltdown and the financial markets of the region were in disorder due to George Soros of the US who speculated in foreign exchange. The property market of Thailand collapsed first. Then, its currency rate fell sharply, and the financial crisis spread to other parts of ASEAN like forest fire. All the regional countries suffered great losses, following high unemployment rates, economic deficit, and instability of currencies. Some countries suffered adverse political effects triggered by the financial issue. Then, the financial crisis spread to Russia and Brazil. The whole ASEAN region suffered a lot, but Myanmar did not face great problems in that case. The nation soon managed to take control over the issue and overcome it without any great difficulties. Myanmar is a nation that can stand on its own feet with sufficient number of infrastructures. So, it could stand more firmly than other countries that were relying on alien countries.

Similarly, the financial crisis of local private banks that occurred in the early 2003 is still fresh in my mind. The issue was that the financial issue of general services enterprises spread to some private banks. In the incident, there was liquidity shortage when the people were desperate to withdraw their savings from the private banks due to the rumours based on the problems of the general services enterprises. Other two causes were that some private banks were weak in following the orders and directives promulgated by the Central Bank of Myanmar, and depositors did not place enough trust in banking services.

The government formed the Banks Supervisory Committee and supervised banking services in time to be able to escape a financial crisis. Furthermore, the Central Bank of Myanmar  
(See page 7)

## I dare say that our country does not need to worry about the global financial crisis.

**encounter less effect of the global financial crisis in the financial markets, but the crisis does not spare them, dealing a severe blow to their productivity, trade, tourism industry and transport sectors.**

Regional organizations such as EU, Mercosur commercial group of Latin America, OPEC, African Union, and ASEM are now holding emergency meetings to work out the issue. G-7 and G-20 have held summits many times to seek solutions to the international challenge.

Most of G-7 countries take interest in extensive trade between regional countries or with other developing or nearly industrialized countries in order to remedy the decline in trade with the West Bloc, setting up region-wise funds to address the financial crisis, and for the developing countries reduction in financial and economic reliance on the US and West Bloc. That plans are designed to regenerate the global financial market and the world economy. The G-20 summit focused on programmes for economic recovery and dealing with loan problems. It is learnt that reforms in IMF and rules and regulations on the international financial market are put off till the new US President takes office. The meeting of APEC are in support of the majority of the ways G-20 will implement. ASEAN+3 including Myanmar will establish a fund of about 150 billion US dollars.

According to the latest developments, France has

level. The World Bank forecast that the global economic growth rate will drop to 2.5 per cent in 2008, and 0.9 per cent in 2009 compared with 5 per cent in 2007. According to some economists, one per cent decline in the world economic development means 20 million more poor people.

I would like to touch upon to what extent Myanmar would suffer the effect of the global financial crisis. **Myanmar is a developing country that hardly has economic dealings with the US and West Bloc. So, it can be deduced that the nation will suffer just a little effect of the crisis. However, it deals a lot with regional countries like Singapore in foreign exchange and export and import. So, Myanmar would suffer indirect effects when those countries face financial losses.**

As to the trade sector, Myanmar's largest trade partners are India, China and ASEAN countries, so the nation is forecast not to experience strong negative impact. There may be a decrease in remittance of Myanmar workers in foreign countries, and it is required to create job opportunities for the Myanmar workers who will fall victim to job cuts there. The hotel and tourism industry may be the sector that comes under the adverse effects of the crisis first. And there will be a fall in unnecessary imports such as luxuries and fashionable textiles and garments along with domestic garments that are exported in transit to developed countries, and export of marine products such as fish and prawn.



# We remain unperturbed-2

*Kyaw Ye Min*

(from page 6)

provided securities of 59.90 billion kyats to help some private banks out of financial problems address their issues. The amount was not sufficient, so 50.68 billion kyats more from the Central Bank of Myanmar and the Myanmar Economic Bank was disbursed as credit line to 13 private banks in line with Lender of Last Resort, totaling 110.58 billion kyats. The banking crisis came into existence in February 2003, but all the private banks returned to normal in January 2004 winning again public trust thanks to the intervention of the government. Why I am presenting these points is to make it clear that **our country is capable of addressing and has experienced such issues, and stands firmly by the people in times of emergency.**

I would like to present another profound evidence about a devastating blow that was worse than financial crisis. In early May 2008, the cyclone "Nargis" hit hard Myanmar. All have known the size of death and destruction of the catastrophe. The natural disaster is the most violent of its kind in Myanmar. So, the nation was in a position to be shocked to the core and yield to the natural disaster.

Alien media with negative attitude to Myanmar forecast that Myanmar would never return to normal; that the Myanmar government was incapable of addressing such a great issue; that the victims would suffer hunger and epidemics would follow due to the mismanagement of the government and hundreds of thousands of victims more would lose their lives; and that Myanmar economy would go to bust very quickly.

**Nonetheless, the victims have managed to make full recovery from the strong wind owing to the measures the government, the people and the Tatmadaw have taken in harmony. Generous donations by the people, cooperation of local companies and relief supplies of international donors led to smooth operation of relief and rehabilitation tasks. When the tasks were reinforced by long-term preparedness plans in compliance with the guidance of the Head of State, the people in the storm-hit areas have enjoyed higher living conditions than before the natural disaster in accordance with the expression that goes earthen bricks must be replaced with stone ones.**

The amount of funds on rescue and rehabilitation

tasks, regeneration programmes, and long-term preparedness measures against natural disasters were very formidable. The government provided an initial capital of 88.44 billion kyats, and local well-wishers contributed 42.32 billion kyats, totaling 130.76 billion kyats. Besides, bank loans and eight billion kyats were disbursed for regeneration of salt farming. So, the total amount of the cash assistance was 138.76 billion kyats. That is not all. The government will have to provide more funds in that regard. Myanmar deserves praise and recognition for its brilliant performances and assistance in times of emergency, despite not being a rich country.

**Therefore, there has been tangible evidence that the nation has been able to overcome a demanding task for dealing with dire straits caused by Nargis through the collaborative efforts of the people. I believe that the nation will be able to cope with any forms of difficulty if the government, the people and the Tatmadaw remain united. That is why I dare say that our country does not need to worry about the global financial crisis.**

Translation: MS



*An Iraqi woman walks at the spot where a twin bombing killed 18 and wounded 52 in Baghdad, Iraq, Wednesday, 17 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET*

## Walt Disney, Media-One form JV to Launch Disney-Branded Free-to-Air TV Channel in Russia

Moscow, 17 Dec—The Walt Disney Company (NYSE:DIS - News), through one of its subsidiaries, and Media-One Holdings Limited, a broadcaster operating assets in the regions of Russia, are forming a joint venture to launch a Disney-branded television channel in Russia.

The joint venture plans to launch the new family-oriented enter-

tainment channel on 30 stations throughout Russia currently owned and operated by Media-One. Anchored by Disney programming for kids and family, the channel also plans to air original Russian programming. In addition to programming the TV channel with acquired content, the joint venture also has plans to produce its own programs which will occupy more

of the schedule as the company matures.

The launch of the predominately free-to-air national network is slated for 2009.

In return for a 49% stake in the joint venture company, Disney will invest cash and provide programming and marketing expertise and content acquisition support.

Internet

## China may send ships to tackle Somali piracy

BEIJING, 17 Dec—China may send naval ships to the seas off Somalia to help the fight against piracy there, state media on Wednesday quoted a Vice Foreign Minister as saying at the United Nations.

"China is seriously considering sending naval ships to the Gulf of Aden and waters off the Somali coast for escorting operations in the near future," the official Xinhua news agency

quoted He Yafei as saying.

He, speaking at a Security Council ministerial meeting, said that China welcomed global cooperation in the fight against Somali piracy, and supported efforts by other countries to send ships to the region, Xinhua reported.

Earlier this month a prominent Chinese military strategist, Major-General Jin Yinan, urged the government to send ships, in comments

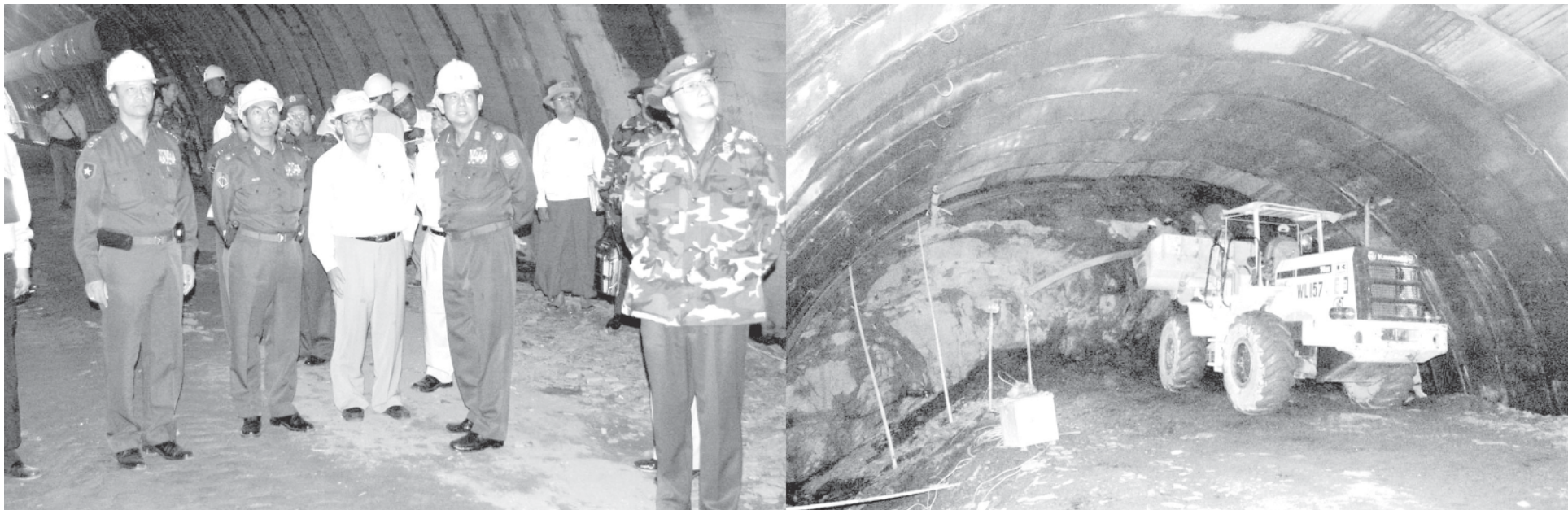
reflecting debate about combating piracy in a country which has generally confined its navy to waters near home.

Jin told a Chinese radio interviewer that "nobody should be shocked" if his government one day decided to send Navy ships to deal with the pirates, whose recent victims have included ships from Mainland China and Hong Kong.

MNA/Reuters







Commander Maj-Gen Myint Soe, Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo and Minister Col Zaw Min inspect Manipura multi-purpose dam project.—MNA

## Dams in Magway Division under...

(from page 1)

Myittha Dam is under construction on Myittha River. The earth embankment with the height of 205 feet and the length of 29,750 feet will be the longest in the country. The dam can store 377,600 acre-feet of water. A total of 170 million kilowatt hours can be generated yearly from the dam with the use of two 20-megawatt generators. The dam will irrigate 12,000 acres of farmlands.

In the afternoon, they proceeded to Manipura

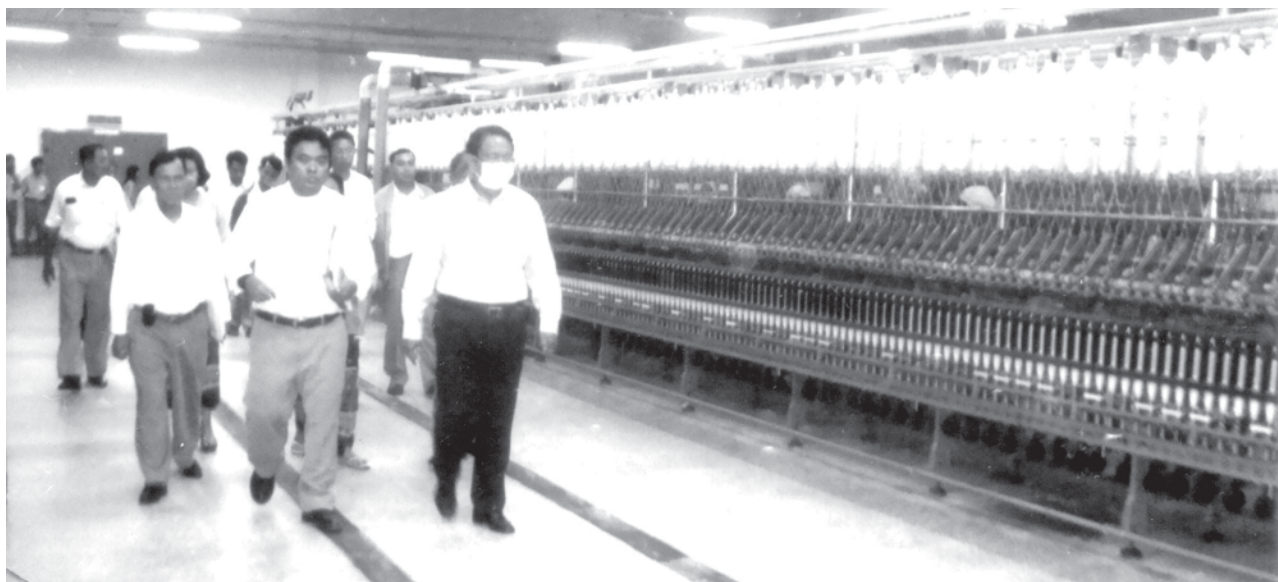
Multi-purpose Dam Project being built on Manipura River by Construction-4 of Irrigation Department. After inspecting construction of water intake tunnels, they attended to the needs. In implementing the project, the embankment that measures 2,444 feet by 527 feet with a storage capacity of 1.26 million acre-feet of water will be filled with gravel. It will be the highest embankment in Myanmar.

The dam of the project will generate 1,903 million kilowatt hours yearly through four 95-mega-

watt generators. On completion, the dam will prevent flooding Myittha Plain and overflow of Chindwin River downstream Kalewa and it will irrigate about 50,000 acres of farmlands.

In Gangaw, the commander and the ministers viewed construction of a two-storey RC ward and a new operation theatre at Gangaw Hospital (100-bed) and presented cash assistance to the patients.

At the office of Gangaw District PDC, the commander, the ministers and party met local authorities, social organizations and townsenders and gave instructions on regional development.—MNA



Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung inspects Textile Factory (Pakokku).

INDUSTRY-1

### Production of factories under Ministry of Industry-1 inspected in Pakokku

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—Minister for Industry-1 U Aung Thaung on 14 December inspected Textile Factory (Pakokku) of Myanmar Textile Industries and flow of water into the lake dredged by the ministry in the compound of the factory and

sales of goods at Win Thuza Shop in Pakokku.

In the same compound, the Minister viewed thriving 192 acres of Ngwechi-6 long staple cotton plantation and functions of Dyeing and Printing Factory.

MNA

**Take Fire Preventive Measures**

### Military code of conduct contest held

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—Commandant of the Camp Commandant's Office of the Ministry of Defence Maj-Gen Hla Aung Thein and officials viewed Military Code of Conduct contest of the Ministry of Defence at Kyansitha Yeiktha here this morning.

Commandant Maj-Gen Hla Aung Thein views code of conduct contest of the Ministry of Defence.

MNA

Altogether 199 officers and other ranks took part in the contest.

MNA



### Literary award winners to arrive at Nay Pyi Taw on 26 Dec

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—The prize presentation ceremony for Life-time Achievement Literary Award, National Literary Award and Sarpay Beikman Manuscript Award for 2007 will be held at the meeting hall of the Ministry of Information, here, without fail, at 9 am on 28 December.

All the prize winners are to attend the rehearsal at 1 pm on 27 December.

The winners who will go to Nay Pyi Taw directly are to contact the welcoming teams at Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Station, Airport and Bus Terminal. For further information, dial 067-412205, 412374 and 412375. The literati and winners from Yangon may contact the Chief Editor, Tel: 01-240048, the Deputy Chief Editor, Tel: 01-249230 and the Head of Branch (Admin in-charge), Tel: 01-381449, as quickly as possible.

All the winners are to arrived at No. 7 Transit Centre in Ywadow, Nay Pyi Taw, not later than 26 December evening.—MNA



## Myanmar delegation arrives back from Indonesia after participating in Special ASEAN FMs' Meeting



**Foreign Minister U Nyan Win together with Indonesian President Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, foreign ministers and deputy FMs pose for documentary photo.—MOFA**

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—A Myanmar delegation led by U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs, arrived back here today after attending the Special ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting which was held at the ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta, the Republic of Indonesia, on 14 and 15 December.

Minister U Nyan Win attended the working dinner of the ASEAN Foreign Ministers on 14 December. At the dinner, the ministers discussed matters related to fixing the date to hold the 14th ASEAN Summit and related Summits, and other related matters. The ministers agreed to hold the summits from 23 to 26 February in Thailand.

A ceremony to mark the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter was held at the ASEAN Secretariat on 15 December. Dr Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono,

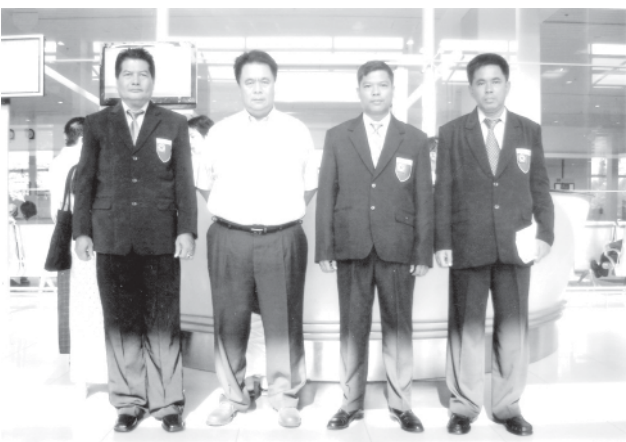
President of the Republic of Indonesia, delegations led by foreign ministers and deputy foreign ministers of ASEAN nations, Dr Surin Pitsuwan, Secretary-General of ASEAN and other distinguished guests attended the ceremony. After the ceremony, the Special ASEAN Ministers' Meeting was held and the Ministers continued their discussions about the matter of holding the 14th ASEAN Summit and related Summits in Thailand from 24 to 26 February 2009. Furthermore, matters relating to the formation of ASEAN Political and Security Community Council, ASEAN Economic Community Council, ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Council, strengthening of the ASEAN Secretariat and budget were also discussed. — MNA

## Hockey delegation leaves for Malaysia

YANGON, 17 Dec—A Myanmar delegation led by Secretary of Tatmadaw Hockey Committee Executive of Myanmar Hockey Federation Major Nyo Min Lwin today left here for Malaysia to participate in Asia Hockey Development Workshop to be held in Kuala Lumpur of Malaysia from 18 to 21 December.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Vice President of the federation U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing and officials concerned.

The delegation members—Coach of Myanmar Hockey Federation WOII Min Thu Chit and Referee Police Inspector Kun Soe—will take part in the workshop.—MNA



**Myanmar Delegation seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for Malaysia to participate in Asia Hockey Development Workshop.—MNA**

## December Special Sales commences on 12 Dec

YANGON, 17 Dec—The December Special Sales jointly organized by Concordia International Co Ltd and Fortune International Ltd was opened at Central Hotel, here, on 12 December.

Multi-purpose photo copiers, laser printers, scanners, projectors, electronic copy boards, electrical and medical equipment, medicines, pesticides and communication accessories are put on sales.

Branches and service centres of the companies are opened in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw.

Those wishing to contact Concordia

**December Special Sales organized by Concordia International Co Ltd and Fortune International Ltd, in progress at Central Hotel.—MNA**

International Co Ltd may dial 544199, 544824 and 556076 in Yangon, 02-26478, 09506717 and 095062597 in Mandalay and 067-420819 and 067-421362 and to contact Fortune International Ltd may dial 211352, 211353 and 211354 in Yangon, 02-39631 and 39632 in Mandalay and 067-421183, 421185 and 421186 in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA



## FM felicitates Qatar counterpart

NAY PYI TAW, 18 Dec—U Nyan Win, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of felicitations to His Excellency Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabir Al-Thani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar, on the occasion of the Independence Day of the State of Qatar, which falls on 18 December 2008.

MNA

## CB Bank holds AGM

YANGON, 17 Dec—Cooperative Bank Ltd (CB Bank) held the annual general meeting at Traders Hotel on Sule Pagoda Road this morning.

Patron of the Bank Ltd Minister for Cooperatives Maj-Gen Tin Htut delivered an address.

Chairman of the Bank Ltd U Khin Maung Aye made a speech. Officials read the financial statement, the auditing report and the sharing of profits for 2007-2008 and sought the approval from the meeting. The share holders elected the new board of directors chaired by U Khin Maung Aye.

The meeting ended with the concluding remarks by the new chairman.

MNA

## MFA to hold fun fairs, contests and market festivals

YANGON, 17 Dec—Myanmar Floriculturists Association will hold fun fairs, contests and market festivals on a grand scale at People's Square and People's Park from 30 January to 3 February 2009 to mark its 15th anniversary.

Horticulture shows, floriculture contests, photo and painting contests, pageant shows, fun fairs of different ages, performance and beauty shows and magic shows will be held free of charge.

Golden Lion Co-Op Ltd will arrange to open shops to sell saplings, plants, pesticides and food to the visitors.

A shop at a rate of K 50,000 is available at Golden Lion General Trading Co Ltd Co-Op Ltd (Tel-01-371800, 01-636509) (Extension- 394,408, 0950 31660, 0951-73076). In addition, those wishing to sponsor, participate in the contests and shows and open shops may contact MFA (Tel-01-379361) E-mail: orchid @ mptmail.net.mm.

MNA



# Two large bridges on Monywa-Yagyi-Myoma-Kalewa Road contributing to regional development

Article & Photos: Kalay Win Thu

(from page 16)

In few years, I had made trips by express bus three times along new Monywa-Yagyi-Myoma-Kalewa Road that crosses Taungdwinchaung region of Mingin Township.

Taungdwinchaung region that measures nine miles from the west to the east and 30 miles from the south to the north is situated in the area between 1,200 feet high Shwethamin mountain range in the east and Ponnya mountain range in the west.

In the past, people faced poor transport in the region. For development of Taungdwinchaung region, the government constructed Monywa-Yagyi-Myoma-Kalewa Road.

The road stretches 115 miles from Monywa to Kalewa. An old road namely Kalewa-Thetkeikyin-Taze-YeU-Monywa Road is 170 miles long. The 45 miles shorter new road can save time

and money of the travelers. A total of 174 small and large bridges were built on Monywa-Yagyi Road.

Moreover, the government built two bridges on Monywa-Yagyi-Myoma-Kalewa Road. The first one is Chindwin Bridge (Monywa) across Chindwin River and the next one is Myittha Bridge (Kalewa).

Chindwin Bridge (Monywa) is located at Mindaunt freight handling jetty near mile post 89/6 of Monywa-YeU Road. The bridge is 4,730.18 feet long and it has one 28-foot-wide motor road.

The bridge can withstand 60-ton loads. After carrying out con-

struction tasks during two years and four months period, the bridge was inaugurated on 7 April 2003.

The second bridge on Monywa-Yagyi-Myoma Road is Myittha Bridge (Kalewa) spanning Myittha River. The 1,320 feet long bridge is of steel frame suspension bridge.

The bridge was built with two-lane motor road, and the bridge can bear up 60-ton loads of single vehicle.

On 11 April 2005, I was heading home from Mandalay to Kalay through Monywa-Yagyi-Myoma-Kalewa Road crossing Myittha Bridge (Kalewa) that was opened 10 months ago. Along the route, I passed



Chindwin Bridge (Monywa) seen on Monywa-Yagyi-Myoma-Kalewa Road.

through the two bridges for the first time. The express bus Chindwin River under the lights from the bridge.

Myittha Bridge (Kalewa) was grand. Indeed, Myittha Bridge and Monywa Bridge on Monywa-Yagyi-Myoma Road have provided Taungdwinchaung Region of Mingin Township with better transport.

The road and two bridges link Sagaing Division and Chin State and contribute towards the border trade activity between Myanmar and India in the region.

Nowadays, the local people of Kalay, Kalewa, Tamu and villages in Taungdwinchaung region of Mingin Township are enjoying the fruits of development thanks to construction of the road and two bridges.

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Translation: TTA  
Kyemon: 11-12-2008

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## Myittha Bridge and Monywa Bridge on Monywa-Yagyi-Myoma Road have provided Taungdwinchaung Region of Mingin Township with better transport.



Monywa-Yagyi-Myoma-Kalewa Road in Taungdwinchaung Region of Mingin Township.

carrying passengers including me left Thiri Mandalar Highway Bus Terminal in Mandalay at 4 p.m. on that day and passed Sagaing Bridge at 5 p.m. At night, the bus passed the Chindwin Bridge (Monywa).

However, the whole bridge was illuminated at night time. During the 20 minutes period when the bus was passing the bridge, I saw the water surface of

About 30 minutes later, the bus was on the Monywa-Yagyi-Myoma-Kalewa Road. After one-hour drive, the bus was passing the road sections in the mountains.

At mid-night, the express bus was supplied with oil and water at Yagyi Village. At 3 a.m., the bus stopped over at Myoma Village and arrived at Myittha Bridge (Kalewa) at 6.30 a.m.

The newly-opened



## Indian parliament debates tougher anti-terror laws

NEW DELHI, 17 Dec— India's parliament on Wednesday opened debate on tougher anti-terrorism laws and a plan to set up an FBI-style agency designed to plug gaping security holes exposed by last month's Mumbai attacks.

The legislation includes provisions allowing police to hold suspects for up to 180 days, rather than the current 90 days, and allows for a financial

clampdown on suspects.

The setting up of a National Investigations Agency, styled on the US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), also comes after decades of opposition from India's 29 states who had argued such a body would decrease their local law enforcement powers. Home Minister Pala-niappan Chidambaram argued the new legislation will enable the "speedy investigation,

prosecution and trail of cases related to terrorism."

Indian security agencies, long criticised for lacking a cohesive counter-terrorism strategy and poor intelligence gathering and analysis, came under renewed fire after the Mumbai attacks.

Faced with seething public anger, the federal government had apologised for the government's inability to detect the Mumbai plot.—*Internet*

## Gondola tower collapses at Canada resort

WHISTLER, 17 Dec— More than 50 people were evacuated from about 30 gondola cars after a tower supporting the cables partially collapsed on Tuesday at Canada's Whistler ski resort.

Police said there were no serious injuries at the resort, which is to host the alpine events of the 2010 winter Olympic games. Thirteen people were sent to the Whistler Health Care Centre but all had been released by late Tuesday night, said Anna

Marie D'Angelo, a spokeswoman for Vancouver Coastal Health, a regional health services agency.

Graeme Bell said he was in a car that hit the ground.

"It was pretty freaky. We heard the noise of the tower collapsing and then

the cabin started shaking and down it went," Bell told CTV television. "It hit the ground. It busted one of the windows and we jumped out."

Bell said passengers were complaining of sore backs and one man had a bloody head.

*Internet*

## Aborigines win court fight against Swiss miner

SYDNEY, 17 Dec— Australian Aborigines won a court fight on Wednesday against Anglo-Swiss mining giant Xstrata's plans to divert a river and expand one of the world's biggest zinc mines.

The Federal Court ruled the government did not follow the proper process when it approved the 110 million Australian dollar (74 million US dollar) project to expand the McArthur River Mine in northern Australia in late 2006.

Several kilometres (miles) of the McArthur River have already been diverted and the local Aboriginal group is now demanding that it be restored to its original course, the Australian Broadcasting Corporation reported.

Aboriginal leaders, some crying with happiness, were applauded after the ruling, the broadcaster said.

"We just need the river back. We don't know how. They put it there, they can put it back," said Archie Harvey, a representative of the traditional owners of the land.

"We've got to live on that river for a long time, our kids got to live on it."—*Internet*

## Spain arrests 34 in crackdown on child pornography

MADRID, 17 Dec— Spanish police said on Monday they had arrested 34 people in countrywide raids for suspicions of owning, distributing and buying child pornography images on the Internet.

Police conducted searches in more than 20 provinces, seizing 88 hard discs, and more than four million files of child pornography, including

pictures and videos of the abused victims.

German and British police also participated in the raids. More than 400 people have been arrested in Spain on charges of child pornography this year.

Investigations have centred on people who use credit cards to buy and distribute child pornography images.

*MNA/Reuters*

## UK Teenager found guilty of Rhys Jones murder

LONDON, 17 Dec— A teenager was found guilty on Tuesday of murdering schoolboy Rhys Jones, the 11-year-old boy shot dead as he walked home from football practice in a crime that stunned the country.

Rhys was hit in the neck by one of three bullets fired across a Liverpool pub car park by 18-year-old Sean Mercer who had been aiming at members of a rival gang.

The shooting of the

keen Everton supporter at the back of the Fir Tree Pub in Croxeth in August last year shocked the local community and the nation, and increased concern about gang crime.

Prosecutor Neil Flewitt said the shooting was the result of a violent rivalry between Croxeth's Crocky Crew, which counted Mercer among its members, and nearby Norris Green's Strand Gang.

*Internet*



A herd of stag deer are seen in heavy snow at the Raby Castle estate in Staindrop, northern England after severe weather hit the north of England.

## Emer the errant Emu found safe after a month trip

Emer the errant emu is home after roaming free across northern Rhode Island for a month. The fugitive was profiled on television broad-casts. Authorities, area

residents and owner Pamela Hood had tried to capture him. Yet he managed to outlast tranquilizer darts, traffic, freezing temperatures and hunger.

Finally on Saturday a Burrillville woman spotted Emer sauntering up her driveway. She walked the 6-foot-tall, 130-pound bird into a horse stall. Four-year-old Emer was 16 miles away from home.



Circus Oz performers jump together during a photocall on Calton Hill in Edinburgh for their Edinburgh Fringe Festival shows.

## Arkansas woman says dog saved her life

An Arkansas woman said her dog Miley saved her life when she persisted in waking her from a carbon monoxide stupor. Stacie Pitts, 30, said her 1-year-old

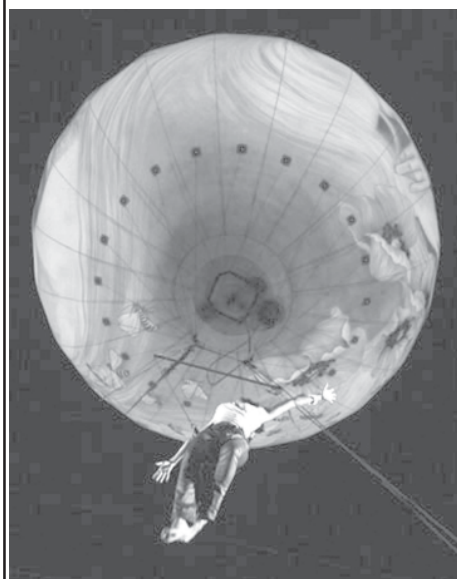
pet was sleeping next to her and woke her up in the early morning hours of on 7 December. Pitts said she had a headache and went back to sleep, but Miley persisted and woke her up again. Pitts said she was overcome with nausea and realized then that something was wrong.

"I couldn't hold anything down. I

ran to the bathroom throwing up," Pitts said. "And I wasn't throwing anything up but chemicals. It tasted like medicine in the back of my throat."

Her fiancé, Richard Childers, woke up with a headache and woke up Pitts' 6-year-old step-daughter.

"It took a while (for Richard) to wake her up.



A woman suspended from a gas-filled sphere takes part in a media preview of the show "Like the Moon" by the Italian troupe Studio Festi in Singapore. The show will be part of the Singapore Night Festival.

## Late-night Calif Mayor must leave City Hall by 11

Fed up with the nocturnal work habits of its mayor, a California city council has approved a curfew limiting how late she can work at City Hall.

South El Monte council members say they have safety and liability concerns for Mayor Blanca Figueroa, who frequently works until the wee hours of the morning. She must now leave the building by 11 pm.

The mayor — a self-described night owl — calls the restriction petty. She says she needs to stay late because her daytime schedule is filled with meetings and her inbox is overflowing with letters from residents affected by the worsening economy. South El Monte is a city of 21,000 about 14 miles east of downtown Los Angeles. Council members approved the curfew on Wednesday.



Austrian carmaker Magna Steyr presents a concept car at the Essen Motor Show. Some 550 exhibitors from 19 countries show their vehicles at the fair.

# NEWS ALBUM



TRADE MARK CAUTION

Societe de Conseils de Recherches et d'Applications Scientifiques (S. C. R. A. S.), a company incorporated in France of 42, rue du Docteur Blanche, 75016 PARIS (France), is the Owner of the following Trade Marks:-

AUTOGEL

Reg. No. 3909/1998 in respect of "Class 3: Perfumery, essential oils, cosmetics, hair lotions; dentifrices. Class 5: Pharmaceutical, veterinary and sanitary preparations."

EGB 761

Reg. No. 5416/1997 in respect of "Class 5: Pharmaceutical, veterinary and hygienic products".

FORLAX

Reg. No. 1710/1996

FORTTRANS

Reg. No. 4919/1995

GELOX

Reg. No. 4918/1995

INTETRIX

Reg. No. 4486/1996

PAXELADINE

Reg. No. 4487/1996

SMECTA

Reg. No. 4916/1995

SOMATULINE

Reg. No. 4488/1996

TANAKAN

Reg. No. 4915/1995

in respect of "Class 5: Pharmaceutical and veterinary products".

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

Win Mu Tin  
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L  
for S. C. R. A. S.

P. O. Box 60, Yangon

Dated: 18 December 2008

Donate  
Blood

Nissan to cut domestic output by 78,000 from January

TOKYO, 17 Dec— Nissan Motor Co Ltd said on Wednesday it will cut its domestic output for the business year to March by an additional 78,000 units, starting in January, in response to a continued decline in global car sales. The firm also said it would reduce the number of its short-term employees by 500 in the first three months of the next year.—Internet

TRADEMARK CAUTION

SmithKline Beecham (Cork) Limited of Currabinny, Carrigaline, County Cork, Ireland is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademarks-

AVANDIA

(Reg. No. IV/3094/2000)

used in respect of -  
"Pharmaceutical and medicinal preparations and substances"

AVANDAMET

(Reg. No. IV/6167/2003)

used in respect of -  
"Pharmaceuticals and medicinal preparations for the treatment and/or prevention of endocrinoses, including diabetes and their complications"

AVANDACHOL

(Reg. No. IV/207/2007)

AVANDASTAT

(Reg. No. IV/208/2007)

AVANDASTATIN

(Reg. No. IV/209/2007)

used in respect of -  
"Pharmaceutical preparations and substances"

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Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use or any other infringement whatsoever of these trademarks will be dealt with according to law.

Thein Aung B.Sc,R.L,D.B.L Advocate  
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM  
E-mail: mtpip@mptmail.net.mm  
Tel:254037 G.P.O Box:666  
Yangon. 18 December 2008

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
MV BOHAI CHALLENGE VOY NO (14)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BOHAICHALLENGE VOY NO (14) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.12.08 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W (6) 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 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 TONG SHAN HAI VOY NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TONG SHAN HAI VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.12.08 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 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: BRIGHT SHIPPING KOREA PTE LTD  
Phone No: 256924/256914

TRADEMARK CAUTIONARY NOTICE  
Notice is hereby given that Eveready Battery Company, Inc. a Company organized and existing under the laws of State of Delaware at 533 Maryville University Drive, St. Louis, Missouri 63141, USA, is the proprietor of the following Trademark in several countries of the world including Myanmar:

EVEREADY

(Myanmar Registration No.4/7534/2004)

The aforesaid trademark is being used by the above party in respect of "Flashlights" in International class 11.

Any fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use or any other infringement whatsoever of the said Trademarks will be dealt with according to the laws prevailing in Myanmar.  
U Myint Lwin, Advocate, LL.B, DBL  
Dip in Marine Affairs(UK)  
myintadvocate@mptmail.net.mm  
Ph : 371 990 18.Dec.2008

TRADE MARK CAUTION NOTICE  
American-Cigarette Company (Overseas) Limited , a company organized under the laws of Switzerland carrying on business, through its licensees and affiliates, as Tobacco Manufacturers and merchants, having its principal office at Zaehlerweg 4, Zug, 6300, Switzerland is the owner and sole proprietor of the following Trade mark:-

Jardin sous la neige

Reg. No. 4/3470/2008

Used in respect of:-  
Cigarettes, tobacco, tobacco products, smokers' articles, lighters, matches.  
Any unauthorized use, imitation, infringements or fraudulent intentions of the above mark will be dealt with according to law.

Tin Ohnmar Tun  
B.A(LAW) LL.B, LL.M(U.K)  
P.O. Box. 109, Ph:723043  
(For. British American Tobacco Ltd)  
Dated: 18 December,2008.

90 arrested in raids to thwart Mafia regrouping

ROME, 17 Dec—Italian police staged sweeping raids on Tuesday to arrest about 90 suspected mobsters and prevent the hobbled Sicilian Mafia from forming a new command structure and strategy, authorities said.

The blitz ordered by Palermo prosecutors was one of the largest in recent years and was billed as striking at the heart of the nascent hierarchy. It prevented possible bloodshed among bosses competing for control in a new ruling commission, police said.

"The operation has thrown the Mafia into a very serious crisis," said Francesco Messineo, the chief prosecutor in Palermo who ordered the arrests.

The Sicilian Mafia has been trying to overcome disarray in its ranks ever since top mobster Bernardo Provenzano was arrested in April 2006. Many of his encrypted notes were cracked, shedding light on Cosa Nostra's organization and leading to the arrests of some of his closest aides.

"If that operation ... brought Cosa Nostra down to its knees, this prevented it from getting up again," said the national anti-Mafia prosecutor, Pietro Grasso.

Tuesday's operation—called Perseus, after the Greek mythological hero who beheaded Medusa—"severed all the strategically important heads of a new ruling structure that had to deliberate, as it once did, on all serious acts," Grasso said.

Internet

Algeria's gas fields seek to set eco-example

IN SALAH, 17 Dec—A gas field in the Sahara Desert is seeking to set a global environmental example with a project to bury carbon dioxide instead of spewing it into the atmosphere.

A joint venture of Algerian and international oil firms in In Salah, one of Algeria's largest natural gas fields, has invested \$100 million to capture the green house gas as it's emitted and inject it deep underground.

The virtues and risks of the technique, called carbon capture and storage, were hotly debated at UN climate talks in Poznan, Poland, earlier this month.

"A hundred million dollars is a large sum for anybody, but we had to start somewhere," said Michael Mossman of the British oil firm BP PLC, who heads the venture with Norway's Statoil and Algeria's national oil company, Sonatrach.

"The Algerians were very receptive to the project," he said on Sunday, as journalists toured the site ahead of a conference by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, OPEC, in the northwestern town of Oran this week.—Internet



Italian Carabinieri paramilitary police officers escort a man identified as Giuseppe Scaduto, centre, on 16 Dec, 2008, one of the 100 suspected mobsters arrested in Palermo and in other Sicilian cities, Italy.—INTERNET





*A worker at a Nissan plant in Japan's Zama City. Business confidence among major Japanese manufacturers has suffered its steepest drop in more than three decades, the country's central bank has said, adding to the gloom engulfing Asia's biggest economy.—INTERNET*

## Austrian scientists make progress in anti-skin cancer vaccine

VIENNA, 17 Dec — Austrian scientists have made important progress in the research of new anti-skin cancer vaccine, Austrian Press Agency reported on Tuesday.

The new vaccine's basic composition, named as "Mimotop", includes nine kinds of amino acid and part of the structure of antigens of melanoma, the report said.

Mimotop can stimulate protective immune effects in the body like a vac-

cine, it said. Preliminary test results on animals have been published on the latest international professional journal "Clinical Cancer Research".

Heimo Breiteneder, expert of the Division of Medical Biotechnology of the University of Vienna, pointed out that practice has proved that the immune system plays an important role in suppressing melanoma.

Experiment results also showed that the tumor vac-

cine they have developed containing the substance "Mimotop" can significantly slow the growth of melanoma.

Christine Hafner, dermatological expert of the Institute of Medicine of the University of Vienna, further explained that experiments proved that "this vaccine can stimulate the body to produce self-resistance, which means producing a special antibody that can actively combat melanoma."—Internet

## EU customs seize millions of illegal medicines

BRUSSELS, 17 Dec — The European Commission announced here on Tuesday the results of the "Medi-Fake" action, which targeted customs control on illegal medicines entering the EU.

On the basis of a risk profile disseminated by the commission, customs from the 27 member states of the European Union put special focus over a two-month period on coordinated action to stop illegal medicines

from entering the bloc.

Among the products which were intercepted were antibiotics, anti-cancer, anti-malaria and anti-cholesterol medicines, as well as painkillers, Viagra and drug precursors.

This first EU coordinated action had "tremendous results," with more than 34 million illegal medicines seized.

It also highlighted a number of ways of improving the fight against trafficking in illegal, dan-

gerous or counterfeit goods, paving the way for future similar actions.

"It (the action) multiplies the effectiveness of customs controls, thereby better protecting citizens and legitimate business from new and increasing security and safety threats. Cooperation between customs and legitimate business proved vital," said Laszlo Kovacs, commissioner for Taxation and Customs.

Internet



*This January 2004 photo released by the National Park Service shows a Bighorn Sheep ram sitting on a ridge above Soda Butte Creek in Yellowstone National Park.—INTERNET*

## Low dose of caffeine when pregnant may damage offspring's heart for lifetime

WASHINGTON, 17 Dec — Drinking just two cups of coffee during pregnancy may affect fetal heart development and then reduce heart function over the entire lifespan of the child, showed a new study by US researchers.

The study was conducted by a group of researchers from Yale University and published on Tuesday online in the

journal of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology. In addition, the researchers also found that this relatively minimal amount of exposure may lead to higher body fat among males, when compared to those who were not exposed to caffeine.

Although the study was in mice, the biological cause and effect described

in the research paper is plausible in humans, said the authors.

"Our studies raise potential concerns about caffeine exposure during very early pregnancy, but further studies are necessary to evaluate caffeine's safety during pregnancy," said Scott Rivkees, a senior researcher on the study.

Internet

## Scientists find hole in Earth's magnetic field

LOS ANGELES, 17 Dec — Recent satellite observations have revealed the largest breach yet seen in the magnetic field that protects Earth from most of the sun's violent blasts, researchers reported on Tuesday. The discovery was made last summer by Themis, a fleet of five small NASA satellites.

Scientists have long known that the Earth's

magnetic field, which guards against severe space weather, is similar to a drafty old house that sometimes lets in violent eruptions of charged particles from the sun. Such a breach can cause brilliant auroras or disrupt satellite and ground communications.

Observations from Themis show the Earth's magnetic field occasionally develops two cracks,

allowing solar wind—a stream of charged particles spewing from the sun at 1 million mph—to penetrate the Earth's upper atmosphere.

Last summer, Themis calculated a layer of solar particles to be at least 4,000 miles thick in the outermost part of the Earth's magnetosphere, the largest tear of the protective shield found so far.—Internet

## Turkish jets hit PKK targets in N Iraq

ANKARA, 17 Dec — The Turkish military said Tuesday that its warplanes bombed several targets of the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) in mountainous region of Qandil in northern Iraq earlier in the noon. The General Staff said in a statement posted on its website that the raid hit the PKK targets in the Qandil region and all planes returned to their bases safely after completing their mission.

The Turkish armed forces have taken tougher actions against the PKK since the country's legislature extended on 8 October . 8 the government's mandate to launch cross-border operations against the rebels in northern Iraq.—Internet



*A pupil cleans the ground around a temporary school building in earthquake-hit Daba, Sichuan Province, on 15 Dec, 2008. China's earthquake zone of Sichuan can expect US\$510 million of World Bank (WB) loan in January next year, said visiting WB Group President Robert B. Zoellick here on Sunday, Xinhua News Agency reported.—INTERNET*



# SPORTS

## Defiant Gamba eye Man Utd upset at football Club World Cup

YOKOHAMA, 17 Dec—A defiant Gamba Osaka insist they are not afraid of Manchester United but the Japanese team face a daunting task against the European champions in their Club World Cup semi-final on Thursday.

It will be one of the biggest games in Gamba's history, but they are handicapped by injuries to attacking midfielders Takahiro Futagawa and Hayato Sasaki, who were stretchered off during their win over Adelaide on Sunday. Nevertheless, captain Satoshi Yamaguchi believes they have what it takes to tame the likes of Cristiano Ronaldo and Wayne Rooney.

"We have nothing to lose and we'll go all out, leave everything out there on the pitch," he said.

"We don't want to be thinking after the match that we should have done this and that, and as long as we're playing them, we'll play to win. But we need to make sure we don't play like we did against Adelaide."

Internet

## Eduardo makes successful return to action

LONDON, 17 Dec—Arsenal's Croatian international striker Eduardo made a successful return to action after being out for 10 months after suffering a broken left leg and dislocating his left ankle.

The 25-year-old Brazilian-born striker came through the first 45 minutes of a reserve game against Portsmouth and professed himself to be mightily relieved even to be playing after the horror tackle by Martin Taylor of Birmingham at the end of February had many fearing it had ended his career. "I am feeling very happy to have started my first game in 10 months," he said.

"I hope I can do more and that next time will be better. I just felt something in my hamstring but in two weeks I will be all right."

The injury cost both Arsenal and the player dear as they ended up trophyless and Eduardo also missed the Euro 2008 championships where Croatia sparked before bowing out to Turkey in the quarter-finals.

He underwent an intensive rehabilitation programme that included spells in his native Brazil.—Internet



Arsenal's Eduardo (left) in action with Portsmouth's Richard Duffy during the Premier Reserve League South match.—INTERNET

## Wimbledon roof trial set for May

LONDON, 17 Dec—The first match to be played under the new retractable roof of Wimbledon's Centre Court will take place in May - just over a month before the 2009 edition of the leading tennis tournament starts.

Ground owners the All England Club, in a statement here on Tuesday, said they "confirmed its intention to hold a ticketed event open to the public in the Centre Court ahead of The Championships 2009, in order to test the new roof and air conditioning system. The event is scheduled for, on 17 May, 2009."

It added that match details, timings and ticket sales would be announced at a later date.—Internet

## Berbatov sick, Rooney injured ahead of Gamba football match

YOKOHAMA, 17 Dec—Dimitar Berbatov is sick and will not play in Manchester United's Club World Cup match against Gamba Osaka on Thursday, while Wayne Rooney is a doubt after picking up an injury in training.

Coach Sir Alex Ferguson said record-signing Berbatov picked up a virus on the plane journey from London and has been in bed since they arrived on Monday, providing more ammunition for critics who think the trip is a waste of time.

"Berbatov won't play on Thursday. He has been ill since we arrived after picking up a virus. He is not well at the moment," he said.

"Rooney was injured in training on Tuesday but we hope he will be fit. Other than that everyone else is fit."

While Berbatov will be missing, Ferguson said the veteran trio of Ryan Giggs, Paul Scholes and Gary Neville would all play, as will Cristiano Ronaldo.

Internet



Dimitar Berbatov (seen here in November) is sick and will not play in Manchester United's Club World Cup match against Gamba Osaka, on Thursday, while Wayne Rooney is a doubt after picking up an injury in training. INTERNET

## New 60 million-dollar indoor facility opens at US Open site

NEW YORK, 17 Dec—It's not a dome over Arthur Ashe Stadium, but the US Tennis Association announced on Tuesday that it is about to open a new 60 million-dollar indoor facility on the grounds of the US Open tournament.

Completion of the 12-court facility after three years of construction will allow the organization to expand existing tennis development programs and is a major upgrade of prior indoor facilities.

The area features modern locker rooms, a fitness centre, pro shop, classrooms, retail sales and warehouse areas, hospital-

ity areas and a food commissary to support the US Open.

The facility could one day become a regional training centre such as one located in Los Angeles and a national centre located in Boca Raton, Florida.

"This dynamic new building will help fill a void in player development," USTA player development general manager Patrick McEnroe said.—Internet

## Galatasaray's Kewell comfortable after hernia surgery

SYDNEY, 17 Dec —Star Australian footballer Harry Kewell expects to return to training within a month following a hernia operation in Sydney, according to national team coach Pim Verbeek.

The former Liverpool player injured himself last month playing for Turkish club Galatasaray and returned home for the minor surgery.

Dutchman Verbeek said the Socceroo was now resting in Sydney after the operation earlier this week.

"Harry is fine and is aiming to start training again in three to four weeks' time," Verbeek said in a statement.

Kewell could have delayed the surgery but decided to treat the problem because Galatasaray are already through to the latter stages of the UEFA Cup and the Turkish league is about to take a winter break.

"Harry's a tough customer and is used to playing with, and through, injury over most of his career," Verbeek said.—Internet

## Lights go out as FA Cup saga goes on



The FA Cup trophy. Non-league Droylsden were still in the FA Cup on Tuesday as their second round tie with League Two Chesterfield failed to produce a winner for the third time.—INTERNET

LONDON, 17 Dec—Non-league Droylsden were still in the FA Cup on Tuesday as their second round tie with League Two Chesterfield failed to produce a winner for the third time.

Chesterfield, who play in English football's fourth tier, were leading 2-0 thanks to goals from Jack Lester and Darren Currie when the floodlights at Manchester side Droylsden's ground went out with under 20 minutes left to play.

It was the latest twist in a tie extraordinary even by the standards of the FA Cup.

The original encounter was abandoned at half-time due to fog with Droylsden, two divisions below their opponents, leading 1-0.

But that match was overshadowed by the bizarre events 12 minutes from time last week at Midlands club Chesterfield's Saltergate ground.

The game was all square at 1-1 in the 78th minute when Droylsden put the ball into touch deliberately following an injury to Chesterfield's Carl Lamb.

Internet

## Harrington voted PGA Tour player of the year

THOUSAND OAKS, 17 Dec—Winning back-to-back majors was the highlight of Padraig Harrington's career. He felt winning the PGA Tour player of the year award on Tuesday was just as significant.

Harrington, only the fourth player to win the British Open and PGA Championship in the same season, became the first European player to win the PGA Tour award since it began in 1990.

"It has been a fantastic season individually out there, winning a couple of majors," Harrington said in a conference call from Ireland. "At the time you win them, you certainly feel that nothing could compare to it. But to be honest, there is no greater accolade than to receive an award from your peers."

"Because it's the players, because it's my peers, because they're people that I care and am concerned about their opinions deeply, for them to choose me as their player of the year is very special," he said. "It compares equally to winning a major championship."

Internet



## Russian 2008 arms exports to exceed \$8B

MOSCOW, 17 Dec—Russia's arms exports will exceed eight billion US dollars this year despite the global financial crisis, an increase of one billion US dollars from 2007, Russian media quoted Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Ivanov as saying on Tuesday.

Russia's portfolio of military orders from foreign states will reach 33 billion US dollars by the end of this year, local news agencies quoted Ivanov as telling a prize-giving ceremony for Russia's military-industrial enterprises.

Ivanov had said earlier that Russia's arms sales abroad totalled more than seven billion US dollars in 2007. "I want to put a special stress on the fact that even in conditions of the global financial crisis this market has so far seen no decline," he said.

"Despite the complicated economic situation in the world, none of our partners has expressed willingness to revise or cancel any contracts."

Arms exports is one of a few sectors where Russian products are competitive worldwide.—MNA/Reuters

## Poll shows UK Conservatives' lead over Labour narrows

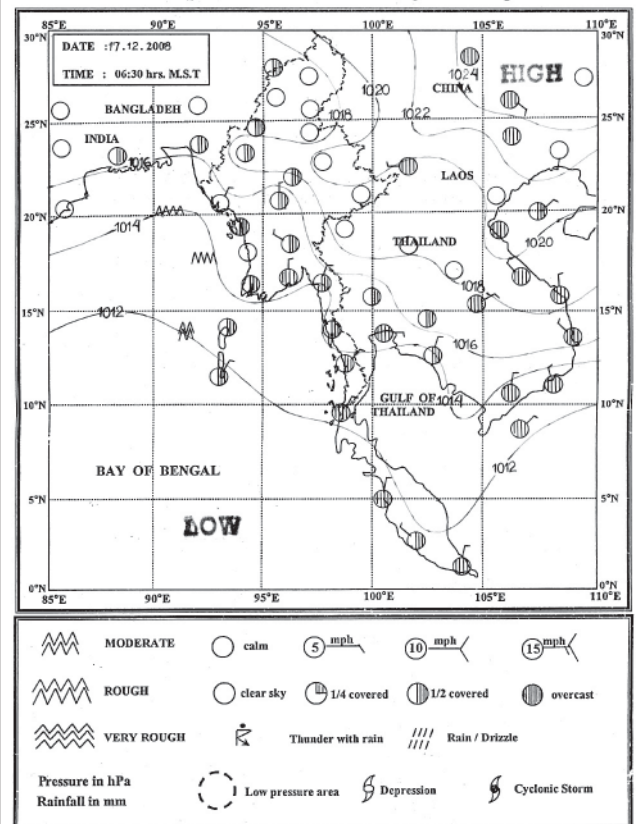
LONDON, 17 Dec—Britain's opposition Conservatives' poll lead over the ruling Labour Party narrowed to 5 percentage points from 15 over the past month, an ICM opinion poll showed on Tuesday. The poll, published on the *Guardian* newspaper website, showed that Conservative support had fallen to 38 per cent from 45 per cent in the same poll last month, while Labour support had risen to 33 per cent from 30 per cent.

Prime Minister Gordon Brown must call an election in the next 18

months. The *Guardian* said if the poll results were repeated in an election, both parties would most probably get similar numbers of seats, leaving neither with a majority to form a government.

The opinion poll, which was based on a telephone survey of 1,003 adults between December 12-14, showed support for the centre-left Liberal Democrats at 19 per cent, up a point. Support for other parties—such as Scottish, Welsh and Northern Irish regional parties—rose 2 percentage points to 10 per cent. Polls by other organizations have shown a similar narrowing in the Conservative lead over Labour in recent weeks, as voters increasingly doubt the Conservatives would handle Britain's economic difficulties better than Labour.—MNA/Reuters

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



## WEATHER

Wednesday, 17 December, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr

**MST:** During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Shan States, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (6°C) below December average temperatures in Chin State, (4°C) below December average temperatures in upper Sagaing Division, (5°C) above December average temperatures in Kachin State and about December average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (-2°C) and Loilem (2°C).

Maximum temperature on 16-12-2008 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 17-12-2008 was 62°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 17-12-2008 was 75%. Total sunshine hours on 16-12-2008 was (8.0) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 17-12-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (110.31) inches at Mingaladon, (120.95) inches at Kaba-Aye and (140.94) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Northeast at (14:30) hours MST on 16-12-2008.

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

**Forecast valid until evening of 18<sup>th</sup> December 2008:** Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin and Shan States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

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

**Outlook for subsequent two days:** Fair weather in the whole country.

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 18-12-2008:** Fair weather.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 18-12-2008:** Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 18-12-2008:** Fair weather.

## Four workers killed in Spain's Mallorca hotel collapse

MADRID, 17 Dec—At least four workers were killed on Tuesday when the upper floors of a hotel on the Spanish island of Mallorca collapsed after torrential rain, local officials said.

Rescue teams searched the wreckage after the top four floors of Hotel Son Moll—a nine-storey beachside tower in Cala Rajada, a resort on the eastern tip of the island popular with German tourists—fell apart.

Rescuers pulled two bodies from the rubble, and later found the bodies of two other workers in the debris, a spokesman for the

local authorities in the Balearic Islands said.

"The hotel was being refitted and was closed to the public," an emergency services spokesman said.

A local government official, who asked not to

be named, said preliminary investigations suggested the building's foundations had weakened during two days of heavy rain, leading to the collapse of four of the building's nine storeys.

MNA/Reuters



*A female customer's foot is seen inside a fish pool containing tiny carp, or Garra Rufa fish, which feed off the dead skin from feet to soften them before a pedicure at Yvonne's Hair and Nail Salon in Alexandria in Virginia.—INTERNET*



Thursday, 18 December  
View on today

7:00 am

- မင်းကုန်းဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ပရိတ်တရားတော် ယောဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၏ ဥပ္ပါတသန္တိပါဠိတော်

7:30 am

- Morning news

7:40 am

- Nice and sweet song

7:50 am

- Dance of national races

8:00 am

- Musical programme

8:10 am

- အကပဒေသာ

8:20 am

- အတီးပြိုင်ပွဲ

8:30 am

- International news

8:40 am

- “ချောင်းကမ်းဘေးကရွာကလေး” (ကြို့ကိုထင်ပေါ်၊ နွဲ့နွဲ့စနိုး၊ မြင့်မြင့်ခိုင်း၊ သဇင်) [ဒါရိုက်တာ-မြင့်စိုး(ဝ/သ)]

4:00 pm

- Martial song

4:10 pm

- Cute little Dancers

4:20 pm

- Musical programme

4:35 pm

- နိုင်ငံစီးပွားအလေးထားကျေးလက် ထုတ်ကုန်များ

4:45 pm

- အစေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ဒုတိယနှစ် (ရက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရက္ခဗေဒ)

5:00 pm

- Songs to uphold national spirit

5:10 pm

- “ကျော်သွားမှာလားဖော်စားမှာလား” (ခန့်စည်သူ၊ သက်မွန်မြင့်၊ ပုလဲဝင်း၊ ဟောမန်အောင်အောင် မယ်လိုဒီ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-အကယ်ဒမီမလိခရိုးထိုက်အောင်)

5:25 pm

- Musical programme

5:40 pm

- ကြယ်ပွင့်များရဲ့ရင်ခုန်သံ

6:00 pm

- Evening news

6:30 pm

- Weather report

6:35 pm

- “ထူးဆန်းထွေလာများကိုသိပ္ပံဖြင့် ချဉ်းကပ်ခြင်း”

7:0 pm

- Musical programme

7:05 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ကုန်သွယ်မုန်တိုင်း” (အပိုင်း-၃၅)

8:00 pm

- News
- International news
- Weather report
- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “ပင်လယ်ပျော်မင်းသား” (အပိုင်း-၅၅)



## Railroad under construction to link Okshitpin and Kanma

NAY PYI TAW, 17 Dec—Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Hla Min, together with Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min and Deputy Minister U Pe Than, viewed construction of Phayapaw Railway Station and its yard, the passenger lounge, warehouses on Okshitpin-Kanma railroad on 15 December.

Project Engineer in-charge U Myo Win reported on progress of the construction task.

They inspected laying of rail tracks and construction of railroad with the use of machinery.

After viewing the construction of the railroad, the commander presented cash award to the workers of Myanmar Railways.

The commander and the minister looked into placing of gravel at the Kyankpwint (2) level crossing.

At the briefing hall, the project engineer reported on construction of the railroad and progress of works. After attending to the needs, the commander and the minister inspected construction of 715-foot-long Maday Creek Bridge.

Later, they viewed construction of Kanma Station and the station yard, completion of earth work for the railroad and the railway station.

MNA



**Commander Brig-Gen Hla Min and Minister Maj-Gen Aung Min inspect construction of Okshitpin-Kanma railroad.—MR**

### BEWARE OF FIRE

## Two large bridges on Monywa-Yagyi-Myoma-Kalewa Road contributing to regional development

*Article & Photos: Kalay Win Thu*



**Myittha Bridge (Kalewa) built of steel frame suspension type lies on Monywa-Yagyi-Myoma-Kalewa Road. (Byline on page 10)**

## Arshavin sets sights on Manchester United, Chelsea, Barcelona

ST PETERSBURG, 17 Dec—Russian international Andrei Arshavin is targeting a move to Premiership stalwarts Manchester United or Chelsea after being given the green light to leave his current club Zenit St Petersburg.

Tottenham Hotspur were close to signing the Euro 2008 star during the summer. However the clubs failed to agree upon a fee for the Russian playmaker.

Arshavin claimed that he wanted a move to Spain or England with Barcelona his favourite destination in Spain

and Manchester United and Chelsea in England.

"I still have a desire to play abroad and I'd like to play either in Spain or England," he said in The Sun.

"Barcelona are my favourite team and in England there is Manchester United and Chelsea."—Internet



## Tel Aviv tourism sees all-time high

TEL AVIV, 17 Dec—The Israel Hotel Association (IHA) reported Monday that the year of 2008 saw an all-time high in incoming tourism to the city of Tel Aviv.

So far, the number of tourist stays in 2008 has totaled 2.15 million nights. A significant rise of more than 10% in tourist stays in Tel Aviv was recorded in the month of November as well, despite the global financial crisis.

The rise in the number of tourist entries derives from a significant increase in the amount of tourists coming from Russia after Israel eliminated their visa requirements, and from a 60% rise in the number of tourists from

Germany compared to last year.

Eti Gargir, CEO of the Tel Aviv Tourist Association, noted that in order to reach these results the association invested more than NIS 25 million (about \$6.53 million) in efforts to market the city.

According to Gargir, the multiple tourist entries create an income in the city's recreation, culture, food and shopping industries.—Internet

