



Essaying to interfere

Nowadays, brazen annexation of a nation with the use of force is not as popular as before. However, it is found that some big nations are essaying to interfere in the domestic affairs of others and influence their political, economic, social and cultural tradition fields.

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

(From message sent on the occasion of the 58th Anniversary Independence Day)

Unprecedented progress made in storm-hit regions thanks to concerted efforts of government, entrepreneurs, well-wishers

Senior General Than Shwe inspects rehabilitation of Hainggyigyun, Kyaukkalatt, Pyinsalu regions



Senior General Than Shwe inspects construction of cyclone shelter in Pyinsalu. — MNA

Photo shows the Communication Office of Pyinsalu.— MNA



NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec— Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior

General Than Shwe, accompanied by member of the SPDC General Thura Shwe Mann, Chairman of National Disaster Preparedness Central Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein, member of the SPDC Lt-Gen Tin Aye, the Commander-in-Chief (Navy), the Commander-in-Chief (Air), senior military officers of the Ministry of Defence, Chairman of Ayeyawady Division Peace and Development Council Commander of South-West Command Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe, the ministers, the deputy ministers and officials, left Patheingyi

helicopter yesterday morning and arrived in Hainggyigyun at 10.50 a.m.

Along the route, Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected the development of Kyonku and Zeegyaing villages.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party looked into rehabilitation and construction tasks in Hainggyigyun region, progress in reconstruction of residential structures, basic education schools, hospital, dispensary, departmental buildings and religious edifices in a motorcade.

(See page 6)

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 31 December, 2008

Storm-affected areas enjoy better living conditions

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe during his tour of storm-hit areas of Mawlaminegyun and Labutta of Ayeyawady Division on 28 December inspected rehabilitation and reconstruction tasks, model villages, thriving plantations of summer paddy and cold season crops, mangrove forests and rows of wind-breaking trees.

In meeting with local authorities and people, the Head of State gave guidance on steps for economic growth of the division with the use of rich natural resources, development of towns and villages, and better transport.

Ayeyawady Division has potential for economic development thanks to its vast area of arable lands, fisheries, and salt farms. Despite a large number of watercourses in it, the region is easily accessible by car with a swift commodity flow thanks to new bridges spanning rivers and creeks and roads.

Now, the natural disaster-devastated areas have returned to normal, resulting from generous contributions made by well-wishers and national entrepreneurs under the aegis of the government. Agricultural farms and fisheries have been restored. Departmental offices, religious edifices, hospitals, dispensaries, schools, rural housing estates, gravel and laterite roads are being repaired and new ones are being constructed.

Maubin-Yaylegalay-Shwetaunghmaw-Kyaukpi-Mawlamyinegyun Road, Mawlamyinegyun-Hlinebone-Thitpok-Kwinpauk-Pyinsalu Road, Labutta-Thingangyun-Pyinsalu Road, Bogale-Kyeinchaung-Kadonkani Road, Labutta-Thongwa-Oaktwin-Hteiksun Road are under construction to help form a transport network of the delta.

The loss of the cyclone-torn areas in Ayeyawady Division was huge, but reconstruction and economic tasks are now in full swing. It is believed the catastrophe-ravaged areas of the region will be able to enjoy better living conditions than it was previously due to harmonious cooperation of local organizations and people in the ongoing tasks and measures for better transport.

Fire drill demonstrated

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—Talks on fire preventive measures were given along with a fire drill demonstration for prevention of fires at the daily newspapers under the News and Periodicals Enterprise of the Ministry of Information at Myanma Alin Daily in Bahan Township this afternoon.

Head of Tamway Township Fire Services Department Ye Bala Myo Win gave talks on preventive measures against fire, and presented a demonstration of fire drill participated by service personnel of the dailies, also members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade.

Also present on the occasion were officials, Deputy Director (Admin) of NPE U Tin Sein, managers and service personnel of the Myanma Alin, the Kyemon, the New Light of Myanmar, and Myanma Alin Press.

MNA

People's Desire

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

Industry-2 Ministry holds technical seminar

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec— Ministry of Industry-2 held its technical seminar in the assembly hall here today. It was attended by Minister for Industry-2 Vice-Admiral Soe Thein, Deputy Ministers, departmental heads and staff.

Director U San Lin submitted the paper on Promotion on Energy Efficiency and Conservation for Industries, deputy assistant director Daw Me Me Win Nyi on Cost Management & Low-cost



Technical Seminar of Ministry of Industry-2 in progress.

MNA

approach to Management, deputy assistant director Daw Kyi Kyi Aung on Financial Management

and deputy assistant director Daw Thida Oo on Post Harvest Technology for Small & Medium

Enterprises.

Afterwards, the minister delivered a speech.—MNA

MHRB meets

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec— Working coordination meeting (6/2008) of Myanmar Human Rights Body took place at the Ministry of Home Affairs here today.

Present on the occasion were Chairman of

MHRB Maj-Gen Maung Oo and members.

Secretary of MHRB reported on condition of drafting responsibility and rights of ASEAN Human Rights Body.—MNA



Chairman of National Development Co Ltd U Soe Tun Shein extends greetings at ceremony to introduce new product. —MNA

New Natawzar folio fertilizer introduced

YANGON, 30 Dec—Natawzar folio fertilizer Distribution of National Development Co Ltd organized a ceremony to introduce new product at Traders Hotel here today.

Chairman of the company U Soe Tun Shein extended greetings and agriculturalists explained facts about the new product.

Next, documentary video on production process of Natawzar fertilizer was shown. Responsible persons

of the company gave accounts on sale policy of the company and arrangements for purchasing of crops and answered the queries raised by sales representatives.

Those interested may contact National Development Co Ltd at No (224), U Wisara Road, Bahan Township, Yangon (Ph: 01-374567, 09-8553498 and 01-686331), (Fax: 01-375413) and [Email: nppc@myanmar.com.mm](mailto:nppc@myanmar.com.mm).

MNA

Environmental conservation disseminated

YANGON, 30 Dec— Environment Working Group of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation organized educative talks on environmental conservation as part of December Environmental Conservation Activity at Thingangyun Education College here yesterday with an address by leader of the working group Daw Nilar Thaw.

Daw Li Li Tin of Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation) of Yangon City Development Committee gave talks on Water Quality and Water

Supply System of YCDC.

Next, deputy leader of the working group Daw Yin Yin Lay presented educative journals for the library of the college to Head of Department (Admin) Daw Mya Mya Aye.

It was also attended by the chairperson of Yangon East District Women's Affairs Organization and members, the chairperson of Thingangyun Township WAO and members, Principal Daw Khin Swe Tint of the college and teachers and students.—MNA

Civilian deaths in Iraq 98,000 since 2003

BAGHDAD, 30 Dec—Sectarian bloodshed has dropped sharply in Iraq from the high levels of 2006-07, but attacks against US and government forces continue, claiming the lives of Iraqi civilians in step, a new study found on Saturday. Between at least 8,300 and 9,000 civilians were killed in Iraq in 2008, bringing the total of civilian deaths since the US-led invasion in 2003 to at least 98,400, human rights group Iraq Body Count said in a new report.

Twenty-five civilians died a day in 2008, the study found. While far below 2006-2007, when at least 48,000 civilians were killed, it is comparable to violence

during 2003-2004. The group, which collates deaths reported by media and from other sources, acknowledges the true toll of more than five years of violence in Iraq may be far higher. The grim estimates come as the United States prepares to draw down its troops in Iraq from around 143,000 today and restrict operations ahead of a 2012 deadline for withdrawal. US President-elect Barack Obama has planned to remove troops within 16 months. Since 2003, more than 4,200 US soldiers and more than 175 British soldiers have died in Iraq. The study found that Iraqi civilian deaths involving foreign forces reached 584 in 2008, compared to 1,359 in 2007.—Internet



Residents wounded in a bomb attack in Shi'ite district of Kadhimiya lie in a hospital in Baghdad on 27 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

US soldiers and Iraqi security forces inspect the scene of a bomb attack in Falluja on 28 Dec, 2008. A car bomb exploded near a police patrol, killing two people, one of them a policeman, and wounding 5, near the eastern entrance to the city of Falluja, 50 km (30 miles) west of Baghdad, police said.

INTERNET



Roadside bomb kills Afghan child, injures 21 in S Afghanistan

KABUL, 30 Dec — A remote-controlled roadside bomb went off in Taliban former stronghold Kandahar of southern Afghanistan Monday morning, killing one child and wounding 21 others, an official said. “The bloody incident occurred in the Spinboldak border town at 11:00 am local time

(0630 GMT), leaving a two-year old child dead and 21 others injured, including mother of the child and one police,” a police officer in the town Saifullah told *Xinhua*.

Saifullah, who, like many Afghans, uses only one name, added that the condition of five injured is critical.

It is the second bombing in the war-torn Afghanistan in a single day on Monday. The first bombing which rattled Parwan’s provincial capital Charikar early morning left at least two civilians dead and 17 others injured, including two American soldiers.

More than 5,000 people, with some 2,000 civilians, have been killed in violent incidents since January this year in Afghanistan.

Internet

Scenic Pakistani valley falls to Taliban militants

ISLAMABAD, 30 Dec — Taliban militants are beheading and burning their way through Pakistan’s picturesque Swat Valley, and residents say the insurgents now control most of the mountainous region outside the lawless tribal areas where jihadists thrive.

The deteriorating situation in the former tourist haven comes despite an army offensive that began in 2007 and an attempted peace deal. It is especially worrisome to Pakistani officials because the valley lies away from the areas where al-Qaeda and Taliban militants have traditionally operated

and where the military is staging a separate offensive.

“You can’t imagine how bad it is,” said Muzaffar ul-Mulk, a federal lawmaker whose home in Swat was attacked by bomb-toting assailants in mid-December, weeks after he left. “It’s worse day by day.”

The Taliban activity in northwest Pakistan also comes as the country shifts forces east to the Indian border because of tensions over last month’s terrorist attacks in Mumbai, potentially giving in-surgents more space to maneuver along the Afghan frontier.—Internet



Local residents gather at the site of a suicide bombing in Buner, a district bordering Swat valley, Pakistan on 28 Dec, 2008. —INTERNET



A man wounded in a bomb attack cries while awaiting treatment in a hospital in Baquba, 65 km (40 miles) northeast of Baghdad, on 29 Dec, 2008. Six residents were wounded after a bomb exploded in a market in Baquba on Monday, police said.—INTERNET

Pakistan army say we must ‘avoid conflict’ with India

ISLAMABAD, 30 Dec—Pakistan’s army chief stressed Monday the need to avoid conflict with India, days after he ordered troops toward the rivals’ shared border amid tensions following last month’s terror attacks on Mumbai.

Gen Ashfaq Parvez Kayani made the remarks to a top Chinese diplomat who was visiting Islamabad to try and ease the situation between nuclear-armed Pakistan and India.

Kayani’s remarks were believed to be his first about the tensions with Pakistan’s traditional rival and could

help reassure a jittery region that the country does not intend to escalate the crisis further.

On Friday, Pakistani intelligence officials said thousands of troops were being shifted toward the Indian border, though there has been no sign yet of a major build up at the frontier.

Without referring specifically to the situation, Kayani told Chinese Vice Foreign Minister He Yafei of the “need to de-escalate and avoid conflict in the interest of peace and security,” a brief army statement said.

Internet



Volunteers with the Fernie Search and Rescue team prepare to head out to search for eight missing snowmobilers on 29 Dec, 2008 in Fernie, Canada. Eight snowmobilers buried in avalanches were missing Monday in a western Canada's backcountry, and rescuers feared some of the men were killed by the falling snow. Three other men from the group pulled themselves free Sunday, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said.—INTERNET

Russian FM urges Hamas to reiterate power of Abbas

Moscow, 30 Dec—Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Monday urged the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) to realize responsibility before the Palestinian people, restore reconciliation and reiterate Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas' powers.

"Mahmoud Abbas is a legal leader of the Palestinian people and head of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). We insist Hamas to unconditionally share the position of the PLO," Lavrov said

during an interview with the Moscow-based Vesti TV channel. Russia is jointly working with other members of the United Nations Security Council and Arab League states on measures to stop violence in the Middle East, he said.

"We are convinced that direct talks between Palestinians and Israelis have no alternative," he said, noting that Syria and Lebanon should be involved in the process.

Israel kicked off massive air raids against the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip

on Saturday, while Hamas shelled Israeli territory after a six-month ceasefire between Israel and Gaza militants ended on 19 Dec and Hamas refused to renew it. The death toll has risen to 345 and more than 1,600 were wounded in the ongoing airstrikes, according to Palestinian security sources.

Hamas and the Islamic Jihad (Holy War) movements have rejected Abbas' call for holding dialogue to study the deteriorating situation in the Gaza Strip. —Internet

Mild quake jolts S Philippines

MANILA, 30 Dec—A 4.7-magnitude earthquake rocked parts of Mindanao in southern Philippines before noon Tuesday, the Philippine seismology authorities said. The quake, tectonic in origin, occurred

around 11:20 am with its epicenter at 158 kilometers southeast of General Santos City, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said. No casualties have been reported so far.

Internet

Pakistan suspends NATO supplies to tackle militants

JAMRUD, 30 Dec—Pakistan suspended supplies going to foreign forces in Afghanistan on Tuesday as security forces launched an operation against militants in the Khyber Pass region, a government official said.

Militants have launched a string of attacks in recent months aimed at choking off sup-

plies trucked to foreign forces in landlocked Afghanistan through northwest Pakistan from the port city of Karachi.

Khyber's top administrator, Tariq Hayat, told reporters that a curfew had been imposed and the main road leading to the Afghan border had been sealed.

Internet



Photo taken on 28 Dec, 2008 shows traditional Oroqen houses in Oroqen ethnic autonomous county in north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region. —XINHUA

Suicide attack kills two police officers in Iran

TEHERAN, 30 Dec—A suicide attack has killed two police officers in southeastern Iran, Iran's satellite Press TV reported on Monday.

The incident happened in the city of Saravan, located in Iran's southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchistan, the report said without referring to the date of the attack.

"The bomber carrying explosives tried to enter the Saravan police department with his car but failed and was killed in the explosion", Press TV said, adding that "Two police officers were killed and nearly 20 others were wounded."

Reportedly, the Jundullah (Soldiers of God) Sunni rebel group, headed by Abdolmalek Rigi, has been responsible for the deadly operation.

The Deputy Commander of Iran's Police Forces, Brigadier General Ahmad-Reza Radan said last week that the Iranian forces had killed the chief agents of the rebel group in southeastern Iran.

The Jundullah group, the target of the operation, killed 16 policemen they kidnapped in southeast Iran in June.

The group captured the 16 policemen at a checkpoint in Saravan, and then took them across the border into Pakistan. The group has constantly been blamed for offense and kidnappings in southeastern Iran at the bordering zone with Pakistan. —Internet

Flooding the latest weather threat in Midwest

DETROIT, 30 Dec—Utilities in Michigan scrambled Monday to restore power knocked out by a gusty weekend storm as rain and melting snow caused flooding there and in other parts of the Midwest.

Power was restored to about 80 percent of the 413,000 Michigan homes and businesses that lost service, according to the state's utilities. Some could remain without power until Wednesday

because of Sunday's storm, which carried winds gusting more than 60 mph.

Nearly 60,000 customers from central New York to Buffalo also lost power Sunday as wind gusts as high as 75 mph brought down trees and utility poles there.

About 4,400 New York utility customers remained without power on Monday.

Flood warnings were posted throughout the

Midwest as temperatures rose after a week of heavy snowfall.

Forecasters said flooding was possible in areas of Iowa, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and northwest Ohio.

In Michigan, roads in some Ottawa County subdivisions were under 2 to 3 feet of water, while the first floors of some homes were flooded, National Weather Service hydrologist Mark Walton said.

Internet



Traffic queues on the South Africa-Zimbabwe border. South Africa has reversed a block on aid to Zimbabwe because of the worsening humanitarian crisis in the neighbouring country, a presidential spokesman said Monday.—INTERNET



Earth-moving excavators, bulldozers and trucks are busy with the backout project of scraping down the new Lugou Bridge, which is parallel to the adjacent historical Lugou Bridge (Marco Polo Bridge), at the suburb of Beijing, on 28 Dec, 2008.—XINHUA

China, Russia to further promote strategic partnership

BEIJING, 30 Dec—China is ready to continue cooperation with Russia in 2009, said Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi on Monday during a telephone conversation with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov. Yang said the Sino-Russia strategic partnership has reaped fruitful achievements in 2008, the growth of Sino-Russia ties has benefited the two peoples,

and contributed significantly to maintaining world peace and stability.

In 2009 when the two countries mark the 60th anniversary of their diplomatic ties and the Year of the Russian Language is held in China, China is ready to avail itself of the opportunity to further enhance high-level visits with Russia and bilateral exchange and coordination on major issues, Yang said.

Yang pledged further efforts to enhance friendship and mutual trust

between the two countries, strengthen cooperation and promote the Sino-Russia strategic partnership. On his part, Lavrov praised the development of Sino-Russia relations, adding that Russia is willing to work closely with China and make a success the important activities scheduled by the two countries for 2009, and make continued efforts to push forward the strategic and practical cooperation with China.

Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

Chinese escort fleet to enter Indian Ocean

ABOARD THE DESTROYER WUHAN, 30 Dec—The Chinese naval task force en route to the Gulf of Aden and waters off Somalia for an escort mission against pirates will enter the Indian Ocean on Tuesday.

The fleet, two destroyers and one supply ship, on Monday passed through the Malacca Strait after a three-day voyage, which started from China's Hainan Province.

During the voyage, members of a special force unit aboard the warships carried out anti-piracy training with a ship-borne helicopter, from which they dropped by rope onto the deck to simulate landing on hijacked or pirate vessels. According to the *Xinhua* reporter aboard the Navy's flagship destroyer DDG-169 Wuhan, the helicopter crews also finished a lifting and landing exercise in the dark.

When passing through the Malacca Strait, an international waterway between the Pacific and Indian oceans, the reporter observed an increasing number of vessels including oil tankers, container ships and some Chinese merchant ships.—*Xinhua*



A helicopter of the Chinese naval fleet attends a landing exercise at night on 28 Dec, 2008, while the Chinese naval fleet heads for the Gulf of Aden. The Chinese naval fleet including two destroyers and a supply ship set off on 26 Dec for waters off Somalia for an escort mission against piracy.—XINHUA

Injured Palestinians arrive in Egypt for treatments

CAIRO, 30 Dec—A group of Palestinians who were wounded in the Israeli airstrikes on the Palestinian territory of Gaza Strip arrived in Egypt on Monday for medical treatments, a Palestinian official in Egypt said. The first batch of the wounded Palestinians crossed into the Egyptian territory via the Rafah crossing at the Egyptian-Gaza border, Palestinian representative at the border town Mohamed Arafat told *Xinhua*.

Some 170 wounded Palestinians are also on the way from Gaza to Egypt to receive treatments in Egyptian hospitals, Arafat added.

Meanwhile, contacts are under way to send more medicine, medical equipment and power generators offered by Libya, Qatar and Egypt into the coastal strip, which has been under intensive Israeli attacks in the past three days, said Arafat.

On Saturday, Israel launched massive air raids which were targeted at Hamas militants in the Gaza Strip.

According to Palestinian security sources, the death toll has risen to 345 and more than 1,600 were wounded in the ongoing Israeli airstrikes.—*Xinhua*



Israeli medics evacuate an injured man from the scene of a rocket attack in the southern city of Ashkelon 29 Dec, 2008. Israeli aircraft attacked Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip for a third day on Monday and militants launched a fatal rocket attack on Israel in defiance of an offensive that has killed more than 300 Palestinians. In Ashkelon, a rocket launched from the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip killed one person, the second such fatality in Israel since Saturday, when it began its strongest assault against Palestinian militants in decades.—XINHUA

Two Israelis killed in attacks from Gaza

JERUSALEM, 30 Dec—Two Israelis were killed Monday evening as Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip pelted southern Israel with rockets and mortar shells, a police spokesman told *Xinhua*.

According to the spokesman Micky Rosenfeld, an Israeli man was killed in a mortar shell attack in the western Negev, adding that another person was critically injured in the strike.

The Salah al-Din Brigades, the armed wing of the Popular Resistance Committees, said they were behind the strike, local news service Ynet reported. Meanwhile, a woman was killed in a rocket attack in the city of Ashdod, said Rosenfeld, adding that three others were injured in the attack, one critically and two moderately.

Local daily Ha'aretz said that the woman died from wounds she sustained when the rocket pounded a bus stop in Ashdod.—*Xinhua*

Bulgaria to increase forces in Afghanistan next year

SOFIA, 30 Dec—Bulgaria is going to increase its contingent in the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan next year, local *Sofia News Agency* reported on Monday, citing the chief of staff of the Bulgarian Army, General Zlatan Stoykov.

According to the general, NATO had asked Bulgaria to increase its troops in Afghanistan. The scope of the surge in Bulgarian forces in the central Asian country, however, remained unclear as Stoykov's General Staff was first going to craft an expert opinion, which was then going to be presented to relevant national institutions. Bulgaria currently has 460 troops in Afghanistan.

Xinhua

Unprecedented progress made in storm-hit ...

(from page 1)

At the meeting hall of Hainggyigyun, Brig-Gen Myo Myint Than of local station reported on rehabilitation of the storm-hit Hainggyigyun and work carried out for regional development to the Head of State and party. Details of his reports include salient points of Hainggyigyun, reconstruction of hospital, schools, monasteries and religious buildings in storm-hit Hainggyigyun by Shwe Than Lwin, AryonOo,



Head of State Senior General Than Shwe greets residents in Pyinsalu. — MNA

After hearing the reports, Senior General Than Shwe stressed the need for officials concerned to rehabilitate and construct

construction of Labutta-Thongwa-Ottwin-Hteiksun road and development of Chaungwa, Pyinkhayaing, Hteiksun and Phondawpyi villages.

on tasks carried out in rehabilitation of Ngapudaw Township such as construction of rural houses, rehabilitation of hospitals, dispensaries, schools

monsoon paddy in Ngapudaw Township, distribution of paddy seeds, power tillers, cattle and arrangements for cultivation of summer paddy, distribution of fishing boats and nets, reconstruction of schools, dispensaries and religious edifices by Shwe Than Lwin, Tet Lan, Thein, AryonOo, AMC and Moe Kye Sin Companies, construction of two-storey school building, disbursing of loans for full regeneration of salt industry, emergence of motorcycles, private bus line, boat line, shops, video lounges, arrangement for construction of cyclone shelters, construction of Labutta-Thongwa-Ottwin-Hteiksun road and cultivation of crops on a manageable scale to Senior General Than Shwe and party.

Than Shwe spoke of the need to make arrangement for ensuring drinking water, electricity and roads in rehabilitation of Hteiksun, Kyaukkalal and Konthaya villages, for timely completion of Labutta-Thongwa-Ottwin-Hteiksun road as it plays a leading role in regional development and to strive for ensuring electricity with the use of bio-gas and solar energy.

Senior General Than Shwe continued to say that the strong cyclone hit some villages and left heavy loss and casualty. However, as the government, construction entrepreneurs and well-wishers were able to engage in rehabilitation and construction of the storm-hit regions, unprecedented progress has been made in those regions.

(See page 7)



Aerial view of housing in Kyaukkalal Village in Ngapudaw Township, Ayeyawady Division. — MNA

FMI, Moe Kye Sin, Thein, AMC and Tet Lan Companies, distribution of relief items, reconstruction of roads in wards and village-to-village roads and bridges, distribution of paddy seeds, tractors and cattle for timely cultivation of monsoon paddy, progress in cultivation of monsoon paddy, supply of fishing boats and nets, restoration of import of fish, prawn and crabs, distribution of water pumps, power tillers and fuel. Next, Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe reported on other salient points.

Hainggyigyun phase by phase so that it can possess the characteristics of a town and to regenerate local business until it returns to normal, while striving for ensuing better transport.

Next, Senior General Than Shwe and party viewed the rehabilitation and development of Hainggyigyun from the meeting hall's view point.

Afterwards, Senior General Than Shwe and entourage left Hainggyigyun by helicopter and arrived in Kyaukkalal village at 12.30 pm. Along the route, they looked into

The Head of State and entourage were welcomed there by Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint who is supervising the rehabilitation and construction of Ngapudaw Township, departmental officials and local people.

Later, Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected progress in reconstruction of houses, schools, dispensaries and offices in Kyaukkalal, Phonsoegy and Konthaya villages and construction of gravel roads.

At the briefing hall in Kyaukkalal village, Minister for Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint reported

by AryonOo, FMI, Tet Lan, Myint Myat Ahlin and Mitta Foundation Companies, cultivation of

After hearing the report, Senior General



Residents in Phonesogyi Village welcome Senior General Than Shwe and party. — MNA

Unprecedented progress made in...

(from page 6)

He said that those who observe the situation of the regions are now witnessing the fruitful results of development enjoyed by local people, and spoke of the need for officials concerned to make continued efforts for improvement of socio-economic status of local people including development of education, health and business of villages.

At the same time, cyclone shelters are to be built in case of a disaster and cyclone preparedness drills are to be launched for local people to be able to face natural disasters, he noted.

Next, the Head of State and entourage observed the beach from the briefing hall's view point and greeted local people of Kyaukkalap village. Senior General Than Shwe and party left Kyaukkalap Village in Ngapudaw Township by helicopter. They inspected reconstruction of Thingangon, Thetkalthaug, Thingangyi,

people, members of social organization and officials.

The Head of State inspected reconstruction of Pyinsalu, construction of houses, offices, hospitals, dispensaries and schools and growing of shade trees and windbreak plants.

Senior General Than Shwe and party went to the Max Myanmar office of rehabilitation and construction of Pyinsalu. Minister for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs Col Thein Nyunt reported on massive losses and measures taken for rehabilitation and reconstruction,

Senior General Than Shwe observed a map showing Pyinsalu and its environs and gave guidance to officials.

Next, Commander Maj-Gen Kyaw Swe reported on production of monsoon paddy, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun on construction of Labutta-Thingangyi-Pyinsalu Road, Minister for Livestock and Fisher-



An aerial view of land allotment for building of houses at Saluseik village in Pyinsalu Township.— MNA



An aerial view of land allotment for building of houses at Oaktwin village.— MNA



sooner in case of emergency.

On his way to Patheingyi, Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected construction of Labutta-Thingangyi-Pyinsalu road from the helicopter. They arrived in Patheingyi at 4 p.m.

MNA

An aerial view of land allotment for building of houses at Taungalay village.

MNA

Zinywe and Saluseik villages and villages where cyclone shelters are to be built.

At 2.30 p.m., they arrived in Pyinsalu where they were welcomed by departmental officials and entrepreneurs.

Senior General Than Shwe and party inspected construction of heights and cyclone shelters and cordially greeted local

ies Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein on regeneration of fisheries, the chairman of Max Myanmar on provision of tractors, fertilizers, paddy seeds and fuel, construction of religious, education and health structures, offices, houses and staff quarters. Prime Minister General Thein Sein gave a supplementary report.

In his guidance, Sen-

ior General Than Shwe said Pyinsalu region was severely hit by the storm. Now Pyinsalu and villages nearby have developed. Efforts are to be made to become Pyinsalu and other villages model ones. He spoke of the need to return schools, hospitals and dispensaries to normal and to complete cyclone shelters in the regions close to the sea

Old Law students get-together

YANGON, 30 Dec—Old students of B.A (Law), LLB who joined in 1975 and graduated in 1980 at Law Department of Yangon University held the third respect paying and get-together at Kandawgyi Karaweik Palace on 28 December. At the ceremony, old students presented cash and gifts to 22 old teachers.

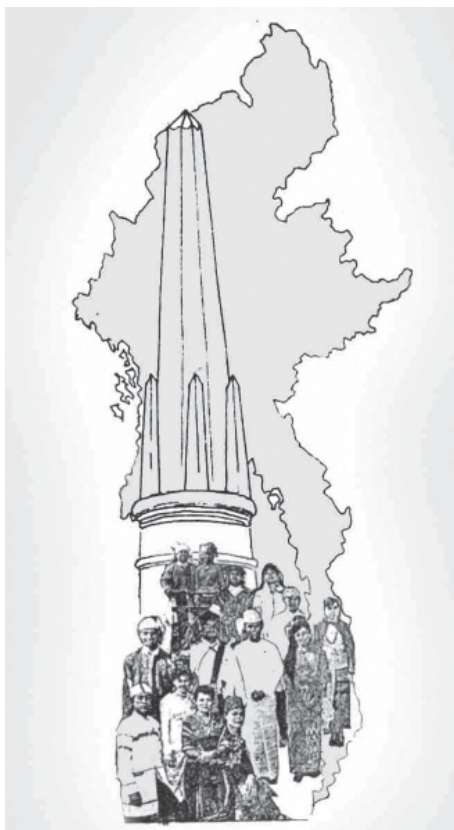
Afterwards, on behalf of teachers, Supreme Court Judge Dr Tin Aung Aye and member of Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science Professor (Retd) Daw Than

Nwe of Law Department of Yangon University gave words of advice. Chairman of the organizing committee Daw Myint Myint Yi spoke words of thanks and Secretary U Thein Tun explained matters related to work carried out.

Afterwards, dinner was served and law-graduate artists entertained the audience with songs. Starting from this year, social fund will be set up in order to provide health care services to law-graduates (1975-80). —MNA

HAILING THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY:

The youth of today to realize the value of independence

*Hlaing Aung***Safeguard independence and sovereignty through might of patriotism**

“The young generation born as independent citizens who are well convinced of the value of and taste of independence, are duty-bound to safeguard the independence and sovereignty of the motherland through the might of unity and harmony.”

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

The guidance to the youth, who will shoulder State's duties as the saying, “The youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow”, stated in the message of the Head of State inspired me to clarify what the value and taste of independence is for the youth of the nation.

First and foremost, I would like to explain some points about the value of independence. Now, the world has seen 192 independent and sovereign countries. However, about 100 years ago, two-thirds of those countries were under the rule of one colonial empire or another.

The majority of the countries that had stood with own monarchs and sovereign for thousands of years were trampled underfoot by colonialists who had transformed themselves from pirates with the opinion that those who conquered the sea could conquer the world.

One of the victimized countries was Myanmar that

had stood tall continuously with own monarchs since the time of King Abhiraja of Tagaung Period. Myanmar people smouldered for many years with the incident in which King Thibaw was taken away abroad in 1247 Myanmar Era (AD 1885). As the saying that goes, “Great events are relayed from one generation to the next”, senior citizens shared painful experiences with young ones at green tea parties in villages at moonlit nights that the Myanmar king had to yield to the oppressions of alien invaders due to the great arm superiority; that he was conveyed to Gawwein port only by bullock cart instead of being sent on an elephant, on a horseback, or by coach flanked by troops; and that the Myanmar monarch had to get onboard the ship through a small gangplank.

On contrast, today it is not much possible for younger generations to learn such events from their forefathers due to the fact that parents do not have much time to have a long conversation with their children in consequence of pressure on them to catch up with rapid technological advancements and hustle and bustle social life along with a variety of entertainment equipment such as TV, video, Internet games, Internet chatting, and karaoke. To make things worse, books are completely under the domination of the media that produce pictures and sound simultaneously. Decreasing popularity of reading among the youth may be described that they are following the trends of modern times. However, it is feared that due to decreasing popularity of reading, later the people may not be equipped themselves as much as they should with nationalistic spirit and fervour based on fine traditions of their ancestors and historic events, and the youth of Myanmar do not know well about their motherland.

Accordingly, I feel obliged to write this article in order that those without knowledge of independence struggles would come to realize the value of independence, and those with knowledge recall them in the run-up to Independence Day.

Myanmar's sacrifices for independence were very costly if compared with that of other colonies. Many countries fell victim to colonialism. Some of them yielded to the attacks of the colonialists, concealing

their loss without showing much tenacity. In some regions, natives were uprooted by huge floods of aliens, and later they became the minority under a variety of oppression in the new country established by the foreign immigrants.

Some countries are too large to be colonized by a colonial country alone. So, each of their commercial port cities and islets at the mouth of the sea was manipulated by a first-comer colonial country under the agreement of many colonial countries that none of them would have to manipulate the whole colony. Eventually, such a country became a common colony. A certain country was colonized by two colonial powers at the same time but it did not lose its ruler and sovereignty. However, the country was reduced to a land in a way that a woman who got married to two men at the same time.

Myanmar stood as a country that its citizens showed unwavering spirit in the fights to repulse the attacks of the colonialists. Only after the three wars that took place in 1824, 1852 and 1885, for about 60 years, could the colonialists occupy the whole country.

Even though the entire country had fallen under alien subjugation, the people did not take things lying down. They rose against the colonialist government for many decades through guerilla warfare, arming themselves with whatever arms they got. Their independence struggles came to a halt due to a great gap of arm power, and so they started to exert independence struggles based on mental prowess.

Only few of the colonies under the British Empire, which was said to be the one where the Sun never set, persisted in opposing the colonial governments.

Myanmar became a battlefield two times in the World War II, and its people went through the hell of the war. Nevertheless, Myanmar patriots launched anti-colonialist battles and Anti-Fascist Resistance to regain independence, sacrificing many of their lives.

From the First Anglo-Myanmar War that occurred in 1824 to the pre-independence time in 1948, Myanmar saw sacrificing a lot of lives, limbs, blood and sweat, and tears of Myanmar revolutionaries and people. So, the

(See page 9)

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HAILING THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY:

The youth of today to realize the value of independence

Hlaing Aung

(from page 8)

drive to regain independence was very costly for Myanmar.

In some way, it was worth it because Myanmar is a gifted country. It is blessed with impressive geographical features, natural resources in abundance, and rivers with fertile deltas, that ensure security of the basic needs of the people, mountain ranges that serve as natural walls in protecting it against alien intrusion, favourable climate pattern, gems such as ruby, jade and pearl, oil, teak, crops, and marine resources. So, unlike some other countries, Myanmar has never suffered chronic consequences of any crises up to now.

Moreover, it was also very costly to maintain independence. In the post-independence period, the nation saw disintegration of national unity and sectarian and racial instigations, so it was said that the nation was newly-independent but political conflicts were violent. And many revolutionaries of independence struggles turned their backs on their comrades, followed by a struggle for power within political elite. Therefore, the people did not get any opportunities to test the taste of independence. To make matters worse, the nation faced an alien intrusion of its border areas. The nation thus had to sacrifice a large number of lives to restore the costly independence.

It would be impossible for the youth of today to realize how hard it is to restore independence if they do not have knowledge of historic battles and military operations such as Insein battle in which bullets of small arms and shells of heavy weapons were like drops of rainfall in the time when Myanmar was ironically branded Yangon government as its administrative machinery stretched just to Thamaing Junction; the Operations “Yanggyi Aung” and “Mekong” in which servicemen, risking their lives at a high degree, had to occupy strong fortresses built of huge teak logs to drive out alien intruders; and anti-insurgent battles launched with tenacity such as the 40-day Kunlon battle, Chushwepankok, Ciciwan Tarpan, Mongyang and Methawaw.

Making a study of the conditions of the global community, it can be noted that some developed countries were split into many pieces, resulting in armed conflicts between same nationals; some countries were invaded by other countries, following disunity of the people and they have not been able to put out the blazing infernos of armed revolts that caused casualties of many innocent people every day and hundreds of thousands of people had to flee their homes. Moreover, famine and hunger stemming from climate changes in some countries and crises due to sky-high prices of food in some countries receive coverage of international media daily.

Comparing prevailing conditions of Myanmar with that of such countries, a citizen can know well the taste of independence and peace, and the value of sovereignty

and independence. While internal armed insurgency was raging in the nation, local people of many regions had to stay hiding just it got dark, local people had to sleep hidden under their houses or in paddy barns in fear of attacks of insurgents. The youth of today are very fortunate because the nation no longer sees such hard times. Now, even border areas that used to be reverberated often with fires of arms and weapons in the past have got schools. Battlefields and minefields have been changed into paddy fields. The whole nation including rural areas has seen dam clusters, river water pumping stations, underground water tapping stations, agricultural farms. Sufficient irrigation supply has led to boosting production of crops. And State-owned and private-owned factories can boost production of goods several times.

Many new railroads, roads and bridges, each of which is more than 1000 feet long, throughout the nation and remarkable development in the trade, communication and transport sectors are, indeed, fruitful results of independence and peace.

In the colonial days, the colonialists were very active in doing things from which they could gain maximum benefits and make profits, but they did not spend even a penny on any matters that were not beneficial to them, culminating in a great development gap between hilly regions and plains and between rural and urban areas. Theirs was a political scheme cleverly designed to drive a wedge among national races. As a result, the nation lacked peace and stability owing to internal armed strife following disintegration of unity among national races and people in the post-independence period.

So, it can be deduced from the above-mentioned points that the nation cannot develop without independence and peace. And without development, independence and peace cannot be maintained in the long-run. It is because independence and peace are interrelated with development. Unity is essential for independence and peace and development.

The youth of today are mainly responsible for safeguarding of independence for which many of their forefathers had to sacrifice their lives, and generating freedom, peace and development of their motherland. In that case, I would like them to study the nation’s history, broaden their horizons, and continue to work hard with nationalistic fervour to be able to realize the duties. Instead if they do not take anything serious, put ostentation to the fore, and indulging themselves in festivities, the people are likely to become again slaves who have to rely a lot on aliens for their living because today every sector is very challenging. And without patriotic spirit and national cohesion, the nation-building tasks will not work. In conclusion, I would, therefore, like to exhort the youth of today who will have to shoulder State’s duties to work hard with a sense of national unity for ensuring perpetual existence of very costly independence and the mother country.

Translation: MS

Four objectives of the 61st Anniversary Independence Day

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

POEM

Safeguard our heritage

- * O, people of Myanmar
Aware of the guidance that
If taken for granted
Independence can be lost
All of a sudden subjugation
Of the alien aggression
- * To get back our lost land of heritage
Many people had to sacrifice
Lots of blood, sweet, lives
For considerable length of time
We have noted
The guidance given often
By Head of State
- * Entire Myanmar people
With unity and strength
Vitalize national spirit
Have independence awareness ever
For perpetuity of sovereignty
With never waning glory
Let’s safeguard our heritage

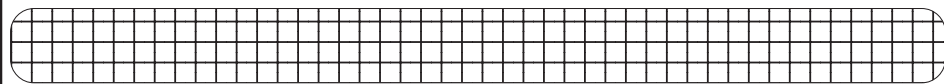
Po Yan Naing (Kyaukkyi) (Trs)
Hailing the 61st Anniversary Independence Day

ACHIEVEMENT OF THE HEALTH
SECTOR IN 2008

HAILING THE 61st
ANNIVERSARY
INDEPENDENCE DAY:



Photo shows newly-constructed 100-bed People’s Hospital in Homalin, Sagaing Division, on 11 March, 2008.



The archway and the main building of University of Traditional Medicine (Mandalay).

No	Name	Location	Inauguration Date
1.	Ingapu Township People’s Hospital, two-storey building,	Ingapu Township, Ayeyawady Division	14-1-2008
2.	Minbu 200-bed People’s Hospital, two-storey extended building	Minbu, Magway Division	10-2-2008
3.	Zegon Village Rural Health Department (Branch)	Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana	9-3-2008
4.	Homalin 100-bed People’s Hospital	Homalin, Sagaing Division	11-3-2008
5.	Paunglaung Station Hospital	Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana	18-9-2008
6.	Kyinichaung Village Station Hospital	Kayan Township, Yangon Division	20-9-2008
7.	Special care units of Nay Pyi Taw People’s Hospital (1000-bed)	Nay Pyi Taw	27-9-2008
8.	Paediatric unit of Theyethamein Station Hospital	Waw, Bago Division	4-10-2008



Photo shows 200-bed special hospital in Myeik, Taninthayi Division.



Photo shows newly-opened special care units in Nay Pyi Taw People’s Hospital (1000-bed) on 27 September, 2008.

Malaysia seeks Indonesia's help against military-style pirates

KUALA LUMPUR, 30 Dec — Malaysia has sought Indonesia's help to crack down on pirates in military-style uniforms who have been menacing fishing boats in the southern Malacca Strait, a senior police official said on Tuesday. The action came after a fisherman was wounded earlier this month when sea raiders dressed in camouflage gear fired at his vessel, said Isa Munir, commander of Malaysia's maritime police department.

"We are investigating it. We are trying to coordinate the operation (to

provide security for fishing boats) with Indonesian authorities. We are intensifying our patrols," he told *AFP*.

Isa said the attack took place in the waters off southern Johor state facing neighbouring Indonesia, part of the waterway which is a crucial lifeline to global trade and which just a few years ago was a piracy hotspot.

In the last few years, coordinated patrols from the countries bordering the strait — Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore — have virtually eradicated attacks.—*Internet*



File photo shows members of the Indonesian Special Navy Force on patrol in Jakarta. Malaysia has sought Indonesia's help to crack down on pirates in military-style uniforms who have been menacing fishing boats in the southern Malacca Strait, a senior police official said Tuesday.—INTERNET

Vietnamese PM calls for self-improvement in agricultural sector

HANOI, 30 Dec — Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen TanDung asked the country's agriculture sector to improve forecasts and use of statistics to boost production and exports next year, the local newspaper Vietnam News reported on Tuesday.

Dung made the requirement at a conference in Hanoi on Monday, which discussed the sector's plans for 2009. The conference was crucial as next year is predicted to be a harsh year for the country's agriculture and farmers.

Dung praised the development of the agriculture sector for its remarkable growth of production in 2008 compared with that of 2007 despite difficulties such as world price fluctuations, rising input prices and severe cold spells earlier this year.

The food security was ensured and export revenue of six major products exceeded the one-billion-US dollar mark including coffee, rice, wooden furniture, rubber, shrimp and tra fish.—*Internet*

Crude prices rise on Middle East tension

NEW YORK, 30 Dec — Crude prices rose above 40 US dollars a barrel Monday on the Middle East tension.

Israel launched massive air raids against the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip as Hamas shelled Israeli territory after a six-month cease-fire between Israel and Gaza militants. The death toll has risen to 345 and more than 1,600 were wounded in the ongoing airstrikes. The tension in the Middle East raised concern that supply maybe disrupted.

Oil prices were also supported as the US dollar lost more than 2 percent against the euro.

Light, sweet crude for February delivery rose 2.31 dollars to settle at 40.02 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange. —*Internet*

Foreign employees in Shanghai multiply 13 times in 13 years

BEIJING, 30 Dec — The number of foreigners who registered for the city's employment permits has increased by 13 times in 13 years.

According to the newest figures from Shanghai Municipal Human Resources and Social Security Bureau, a total of 68,648 foreign nationals

had registered for employment permits by the end of November.

Japan, the United States, South Korea, Singapore, Germany and France lead the list of nationality, and the top 10 countries represent 80 percent of all registered.

Of all the expats registered for employment,

32.1 percent are senior managers, 7 percent are senior technicians and 45.9 percent are in management roles.

Shanghai reported a two-digit increase in the number of foreign workers in 2008 — the 30th anniversary of China's reform and opening-up.

Internet



An Asian sauce called "Black Widow" is presented at the Eat'n Style fair in Cologne, Germany. Its hotness is measured at 229,000 scoville units. To compare, standard jalapeno peppers weigh in at only 2,500 to 8,000 scoville units. Do you dare?

Hot gold puts mich postal worker in hot water

A Detroit-area postal worker has been charged with stealing gold from the mail after he tried to pawn his treasure to the shop that had shipped it.

The postal worker sold the gold on 7 Nov to G&S Brokers pawn shop for \$320. Authorities told The Detroit News that jeweler James Zelinske recognized the gold because he had melted and mailed it to a business in Ann Arbor. Zelinske had insured the parcel of gold for \$1,000.

The postal worker has been charged with embezzling mail from the Mount Clemens post office. He appeared Thursday in federal court in Detroit. Court records did not identify his lawyer.

Cocaine suspect describes himself to Texas police

Galveston police knew who to look for — exactly — when they arrested an alleged delivery man in a call-for-cocaine investigation.

A 29-year-old Galveston man was jailed Friday on a charge of manufacturing or delivering a controlled substance. Sgt T Barr, at the Galveston County Jail, told The Associated Press that John Patrick Lacour Jr was held on \$250,000 bond.

Barr had no information on an attorney for Lacour.

Lacour is accused of taking delivery orders for crack over the phone.

Officers, acting on a tip, called the number and pretended to want to buy cocaine. They requested a delivery to a certain address, plus asked the person to describe himself so they would know who to expect.

Lt DJ Alvarez told the Galveston County Daily News that Lacour was arrested early Thursday when he arrived. Police confiscated a small amount of cocaine.

69 Rabbits discovered in 1-bedroom apartment

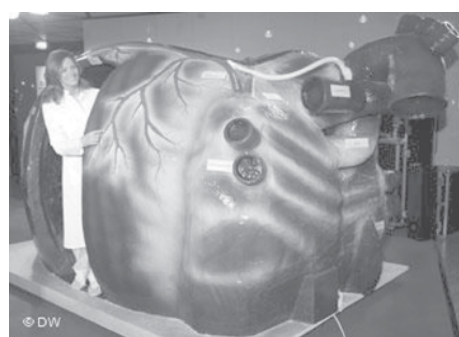
The DuPage County Animal Care and Control Center in Wheaton has some rabbits available for adoption — 69 of them, to be exact. All of them were found recently in a one-bedroom apartment.

Officials said the domesticated Dutch rabbits that were discovered during a recent eviction, and the female tenant told animal control workers her financial situation had overwhelmed her.

Authorities would not identify the woman nor the location of her apartment.

Center executive director Kerry Vinkler called it a typical pet-hoarding situation, but she said all the rabbits but one were in good shape when they were found.

Vinkler estimates the oldest rabbits to be about 18 months old and said Dutch rabbits have a life span of eight to 12 years.



Ice carver Mikhail Fedotov from Russia works on his masterpiece "Bremen's Town Musicians" in the northern Germany city of Bremen. Some 40 artists turned out to carve 28 figures inspired by the Brothers' Grimm fairy tales. The city's ice skulpture festival opens its doors to the public on 22 Nov and runs through on 25 Jan, 2009.

A model presents a Walk-In-Heart, which is aimed at showing patients functions specific to the heart and possible heart diseases, in Dusseldorf. The model heart is a preview of what awaits visitors to the Medica medical technology fair.

NEWS ALBUM

TRADE MARK
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Ph:723043
(For. Domnern Somgiat & Boonma,Attorneys at Law, Thailand.)
Dated:31 December,2008

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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. 31 December 2008

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV ADMIRE-CORAL VOY NO (16)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV ADMIRE-CORAL VOY NO (16) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.1.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: EASTERN CAR LINER LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

Researchers discover new use for human hair

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec—Studies by US researchers have shown that human hair, a readily available waste generated from barbershops and hair salons, is an additional nutrient source for crops if combined with additional compost.

Researchers from Mississippi State University recently published their study results in the current issue of journal Hort Technology.

Agricultural crop production usually relies on composted waste materials and byproducts, such as animal manure, municipal solid waste com- posts, and sewage sludge, as a necessary nutrient source.

Although human hair has become commercially available to crop producers in the past couple years, it has not been proven to be an exclusive source of nutrients in greenhouse container production.

Internet

MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO SEALED TENDER

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

Tender No.	Description	Quantity
12(T)11/MR(ML)	Wheel Monobloc Rolled for	120-Nos
2008-2009	YDM-4 Locomotive	

2. Closing Date/Time -30.1.2009 (Friday) (12:00) Hours
Tender documents are available at our office starting from 29.12.2008 during office hours and for further details please call/01-291994, 291985 ,
Deputy General Manager, Supply Department,Myanma Railways, Corner of Theinbyu Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon .

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV SUPA BHUM VOY NO (122)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV SUPA BHUM VOY NO (122) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.12.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV FRATERNITY WISDOM VOY NO (48)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRATER- NITY WISDOM VOY NO (48) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.12.2008 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 up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: EASTERN CAR LINER LTD
Phone No: 256924/256914

Air New Zealand successfully conducted first biofuel test flight

AUCKLAND, 30 Dec— Air New Zealand's two-hour test flight of a second generation new biofuel was successfully conducted above Auckland on Tues- day. A Boeing 747-400 took off at 11:30 am local time (2230 GMT Monday) and flied over the wider Hauraki Gulf area, pow- ered by a 50:50 blend of jatropa and Jet A1 fuel.

Jatropa plants produce seeds that contain ined- ible lipid oil, which is used to produce fuel.

During the flight the crew conducted a number of fuel tests confirming and measuring the per- formance of the engine and fuel systems at vari- ous altitudes and under a variety of operating con- ditions. The flight was part of a series of trials taking place at airlines around the world, testing different types of biofuel as a sus- tainable alternative to the fossil fuel-based Jet-A1 fuel. —Internet

Food phosphates might spur lung cancer

SEOUL, 30 Dec— A diet rich in the inorganic phos- phates found in many natural and processed foods accelerated the growth of lung cancers in rats, South Korean re- searchers report.

“Our study suggests that dietary regulation of inorganic phosphates may be critical for lung cancer treatment as well as pre- vention,” Myung-Haing Cho, lead author of a re- port in the first January issue of American Jour- nal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine, said in a statement.

But, “an individual shouldn't act on these re- sults as yet, other than to encourage funding organi- zations such as the National Institutes of Health to sup- port research to see whether dietary phos- phates encourage cancer,” said Dr John Heffner, a professor of medicine at the Oregon Health & Sci- ence University in Port- land and past president of the American Thoracic So- ciety, which publishes the journal. Natural sources of dietary phosphates include leafy vegetables, fruits, meats and poultry prod- ucts. Phosphates also are added to a number of foods, including baking powder, carbonated cola drinks, ice cream, bread, rolls, maca- roni, fruit jellies and pre- serves. Food phosphates are listed by the US Food and Drug Administration as GRAS—generally recog- nized as safe—with no lim- its on their use.—Internet

File photo shows people crossing the junction at Singapore's prime Orchard Road shopping belt. More than five million US dollars' worth of watches have been stolen from a Singapore shop, the dealer said, in a rare crime of such magnitude in one of Asia's safest cities.—INTERNET



China's Foton says clean energy car factory opened in Beijing

BEIJING, 30 Dec — China's Beiqi Foton Motor Co has launched a five-billion-yuan (730-million-dollar) design and production base for clean energy vehicles in Beijing, the company said on Tuesday.

The facility will produce up to 5,000 clean-energy buses and 400,000 fuel-efficient engines a year, the company said in

a statement.

The design and production base, backed by the city government, is part of the capital's efforts to fight pollution by reducing car emissions, the company said. The most prominent investor in

green car technology in China is American investor Warren Buffet, who owns a 10 percent stake in another company, BYD Auto, which unveiled China's first mass-produced hybrid electric car in December.—*Internet*

China's Beiqi Foton Motor Co has launched a five-billion-yuan (US\$730 million) design and production base for clean energy vehicles in Beijing, the company has said.—INTERNET



US-Japanese study finds genes for 1918 'Spanish flu' pandemic



Researchers at a flu research laboratory. A US-Japanese research team announced on Monday it had isolated three genes that explain why the 1918 Spanish flu, believed to be the deadliest infectious disease in history, was so lethal.—INTERNET

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec — A US-Japanese research team announced it had isolated three genes that explain why the 1918 Spanish flu, believed to be the deadliest infectious disease in history, was so lethal. The pandemic killed between 20 and 50 million people — more than in

all of World War I, which ended in November 1918 — and spread around the world.

The genes allowed the virus to reproduce in lung tissue, according to research published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"Conventional flu viruses replicate mainly in the upper respiratory tract: the mouth, nose and throat," said University of Wisconsin-Madison virologist Yoshihiro Kawaoka, who co-authored the study along with Masato Hatta, also of UW-Madison. "The 1918 virus replicates in the upper respiratory tract, but also in the lungs, causing primary pneumonia among its victims," Kawaoka said.

"We wanted to know why the 1918 flu caused severe pneumonia," he added.

Autopsies of Spanish flu victims often revealed fluid-filled lungs severely damaged by massive hemorrhaging. Virologists linked the virus' ability to invade the lungs with its high level of virulence, but the genes that conferred that ability were unknown, the researchers wrote.—*Internet*

Key gene linked to high blood pressure identified

WASHINGTON, 30 Dec — A gene that affects how the kidneys process salt may help determine a person's risk of high blood pressure, a discovery that could lead to better ways to treat the condition, researchers said on Monday.

People with a common variant of the gene STK39 tend to have higher blood pressure levels and are more likely to develop full-blown high blood pressure, also called hypertension, University of Maryland School of Medicine researchers found.

They identified the gene's role in high blood pressure susceptibility by analyzing the genes of 542 people in the insular

Old Order Amish community in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania.

The researchers confirmed the findings by looking at the genes of another group of Amish people as well as four other groups of white people in the United States and Europe.

About 20 percent of the people studied had either one or two copies of this particular variant, the researchers said.

The gene produces a protein involved in regulating the way the kidneys process salt in the body — a key factor in determining blood pressure, the researchers said.

Yen-Pei Christy Chang, who led the study appearing in the journal

Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, said the findings could lead to the development of new high blood pressure drugs targeting the activity of STK39.

"What we hope is that by understanding STK39 we can use that information for personalized medicine, so we can actually predict which hypertensive patients should be on what class of medication and know that they will respond well and have minimal risk for side effects," Chang said in a telephone interview.

People with high blood pressure are more likely to develop heart attacks, heart failure, strokes and kidney disease.

Internet

Chile says Chaiten volcano still poses danger

SANTIAGO, 30 Dec — Chile's government said on Friday the area surrounding the Chaiten Volcano, which erupted in May for the first time in thousands of years, was still not safe and that a decision regarding the future of the town of Chaiten would be made in coming days.

The Volcano, only six miles from the town, started spewing ash, gas and molten rock on 2 May, forcing the evacuation of about 7,000 residents.

A cloud of debris that soared as high as 20 miles into the air was kept aloft by the pressure of constant eruptions for weeks, and even covered towns in neighboring Argentina

with volcanic ash.

"We received the latest report from the Universidad Catolica ... and the only thing I can tell you is that the volcano is exactly as dangerous as it

was before," Interior Minister Edmundo Perez-Yoma told reporters.

"We were hoping we might have better news, but unfortunately we don't."—*Internet*



Liver transplants from elderly donors are safe

NEW YORK, 30 Dec — Advanced donor age, per se, does not adversely affect the transplant recipient or the survival of the organ after liver transplantation, according to a re-

port in the Journal of the American College of Surgeons. Previous reports have indicated that the age of the donor — older than 60 years — contributes to decreased organ and patient survival, as well as a poorer quality of life for the recipient, the authors explain. They hypothesized, however, "that proper selection of donors older than age 60 and even over age 70" can produce outcomes comparable to

those obtained with younger donors.

Dr William C. Chapman and colleagues from Washington University School of Medicine, St Louis, Missouri, analyzed their experience with 741 adult-to-adult whole organ transplants — 91 donors were 60 years or older and 650 were younger than 60 years.

There was no significant difference in the number of second transplants performed or signs that another transplant was going to be needed between patients who received organs from younger and older donors, the authors report.

Internet

Workers take part in the refurbishment of an airplane at the EADS plant in the eastern German city of Dresden, August 2008.—INTERNET

SPORTS

Iniesta set to return for Barca

MADRID, 30 Dec—Barcelona midfielder Andres Iniesta, sidelined since the beginning of November with a muscle injury, has received the green light from doctors to return to action, the club said on Monday.

The 24-year-old Spanish international will join the squad to face Real Mallorca on Saturday.

Iniesta strained his right thigh muscle during the second half of Barcelona's 1-1 Champions League draw against Swiss side Basel at the Nou Camp on 4 November.

Despite that his absence has not prevented the club from maintaining its place at the top of the Primera Liga where they lead Sevilla by 10 points after 16 matches.

Internet



Barcelona midfielder Andres Iniesta, seen here in November 2008 when sidelined with a muscle injury, has received the green light from doctors to return to action, the club said on Monday.—INTERNET

Rooney's agent loses ban appeal

LONDON, 30 Dec—Wayne Rooney's agent Paul Stretford on Monday lost an appeal against an 18-month ban imposed by the Football Association in July for breaking regulations when signing up the England striker.

Stretford was also fined 300,000 pounds (then 377,000 euros) in July after being charged by the FA following his troubled appointment as Rooney's agent in 2002.

Seven of the nine charges brought by the FA against Stretford for breaches of world football governing body FIFA's players' agent regulations were proved.

The charges included failing to protect Rooney's interests and failing to respect the rights of third parties.

Stretford was also hit with an improper conduct charge in relation to the "making of false and/or misleading witness statements to police and giving false and/or misleading testimony to Warrington Crown Court" in a case about the circumstances of how he came to represent the England striker.

Stretford made it clear he would lodge an appeal but an independent appeal board here Monday upheld the original punishment.

Internet

Liverpool captain Gerrard charged over bar brawl

LONDON, 30 Dec—Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard was charged Tuesday with assault and affray over an alleged bar brawl, police told AFP.



Steven Gerrard, seen here, the captain of English Premier League leaders Liverpool, was charged Tuesday with assault and affray over an alleged bar brawl, police told AFP.—INTERNET

The football star, 28, was charged along with two other men who were also arrested early Monday after an incident at a late-night bar in Southport, north of Liverpool.

The venue's disc jockey, a 34-year-old local man, required hospital treatment after suffering facial injuries.

"He was charged in the early hours of this morning with assault and affray," a spokesman for Merseyside Police told AFP. The England midfielder was released on bail from Southport police station early Tuesday.

The disturbance occurred hours after Liverpool won 5-1 at Newcastle United on Sunday, with Gerrard scoring two goals.—Internet

Real must choose between Huntelaar and Diarra

MADRID, 30 Dec—Real Madrid must choose between new signings Klaas-Jan Huntelaar and Lassana Diarra to play in the knock-out stages of the Champions League, UEFA spokesman William Gaillard said on Spanish radio.

"I am very sorry, but the rules are what they are and they cannot be changed in the middle of a season," he said on Onda Cero radio. "That means that only one of the two players can play in the Champions League..."

"They can include either Huntelaar or Diarra."

The Spanish champions, plagued by injuries and poor form this season, signed Dutch striker Huntelaar and French midfielder Diarra this month from Ajax and English side Portsmouth respectively.

But under UEFA rules only one of them can play in the Champions League



Real Madrid must choose between new signings Klaas-Jan Huntelaar, seen here, and Lassana Diarra to play in the knock-out stages of the Champions League, UEFA spokesman William Gaillard said on Spanish radio.—INTERNET

as both have already represented their former clubs in Europe this season. Real had hoped to convince European football's governing body to agree to a different interpretation of the rule so that both players could take part.—Internet

Adebayor tops in Togo again



Arsenal's striker Emmanuel Adebayor has been voted Togo Footballer of the Year for the fourth consecutive year by local sports journalists it was announced on Monday.—INTERNET

LOME, 30 Dec—Emmanuel Adebayor has been voted Togo Footballer of the Year for the fourth consecutive year by local sports journalists it was announced on Monday.

The Arsenal striker returned to the national team during October after a row with officials over travelling conditions and scored four goals against Swaziland to keep Togo in contention for a place at the 2010 World Cup.

Adebayor is a finalist for the 2008 African Footballer of the Year award with Chelsea's Didier Drogba of Ivory Coast and the latter's club mate Michael Essien of Ghana and Egyptians Mohamed Aboutraika and Amr Zaki, who has scored 10 goals for his on loan Premier League club Wigan this season.

Internet

Brazil's striker Ronaldo trains at his new soccer club, Corinthians, in Sao Paulo, on 26 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

There are three in for the title, says Man U's Fergie

MANCHESTER, 30 Dec—Sir Alex Ferguson insisted that the Premier League title race will be a three-way fight between Manchester United, Liverpool and Chelsea after Dimitar Berbatov's second-half strike sealed a narrow 1-0 win against Middlesbrough at Old Trafford on Monday.

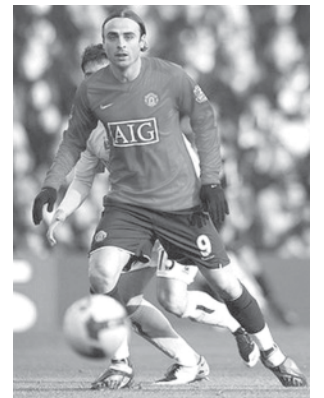
Berbatov's third league goal in a United shirt - allied to the club's seventh successive Premier League clean-sheet - secured the victory that takes the reigning champions to within seven points of leaders Liverpool with two games in hand.

United struggled to overcome Gareth Southgate's team for lengthy periods, but with the points in the bag, Ferguson predicted a tense run-in to the title in 2009.

"It's going to be a great run-in, really exciting, but

I wouldn't say that Liverpool are a greater threat than Chelsea now," said Ferguson.

"Chelsea are a great side too, but the important thing is to do our own job and we have always done that.—Internet



Dimitar Berbatov, seen here in November 2008, still to hit it off at Manchester United since arriving from Spurs in September, settled this tense clash with a 69th minute volley to give the Champions League holders a 1-0 victory here on Monday.—INTERNET

Jewell quits Derby

DERBY, 30 Dec—Derby manager Paul Jewell has resigned after only 13 months in charge of the Championship outfit, the club said on Monday. Former Wigan boss Jewell threw in the towel after Sunday's 1-0 home defeat by Ipswich, his 50th game in charge of the Rams.

Jewell, 44, went ahead of an upcoming League Cup semi-final against Manchester United after a loss which left the side 18th in the table.

A statement said Jewell "feels he is no longer in a position to take the club forward" and assistant boss Chris Hutchings will take temporary charge to try to lift a side with only seven wins in 26 league matches.

Jewell took over a Derby side in freefall last season rooted to the foot of the Premiership. Chairman Adam Pearson told BBC Radio Derby that the club had not put pressure on Jewell to go. But Pearson said: "It was probably one result too far for Paul. He came to see me after the (Ipswich) game and said that he felt it just wasn't working out and didn't want to club to suffer as a result. He just feels that the club needs a fresh impetus and a new direction."

Hutchings takes charge for Saturday's FA Cup third round tie at non-league Forest Green Rovers and then Derby host Manchester United in the first leg of their League Cup semi at Pride Park on 7 January.—Internet





The headquarters of GMAC, the troubled financial arm of General Motors, in Horsham, Pennsylvania. The US Treasury has unveiled a \$6bln package aimed at boosting the foundering firm.—INTERNET

Home prices post 18 percent annual drop in October

NEW YORK, 30 Dec—A closely watched index shows home prices dropped by the sharpest annual rate on record in October.

The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller 20-city housing index released Tuesday fell by a record 18 percent from October last year, the largest drop since its inception in 2000. The 10-city index tumbled 19.1 percent, its biggest decline in its 21-year history.

Both indices have recorded year-over-year declines for 22 straight months. Prices are at levels not seen since March 2004.

Prices in the 20-city index have plummeted more than 23.4 percent from their peak in July 2006. The 10-city index has fallen 25 percent since its peak in June 2006. None of the 20 cities saw annual price gains in October-for the seventh consecutive month.

Internet

An encapsulated rose officially named after the Tournament of Roses, which flew on NASA's space shuttle Atlantis in Feb 2008, is displayed at the Bayer, Garden of Oz Float in Pasadena, Calif. on Monday, 29 Dec, 2008. The theme of this year's parade will be 'Hats off to Entertainment' held on New Years day.—INTERNET

Tech companies push stylish, personal design

SAN FRANCISCO, 30 Dec —With consumers showing an appetite for stylish personal devices, PC and gadget makers will need more than just vibrant colors, rounded edges or an elegant metallic finish to stand out in a crowded market.

PC users are increasingly interested in what's on the outside as much as what's on the inside. And as the market shifts to laptops from desktops, computers are

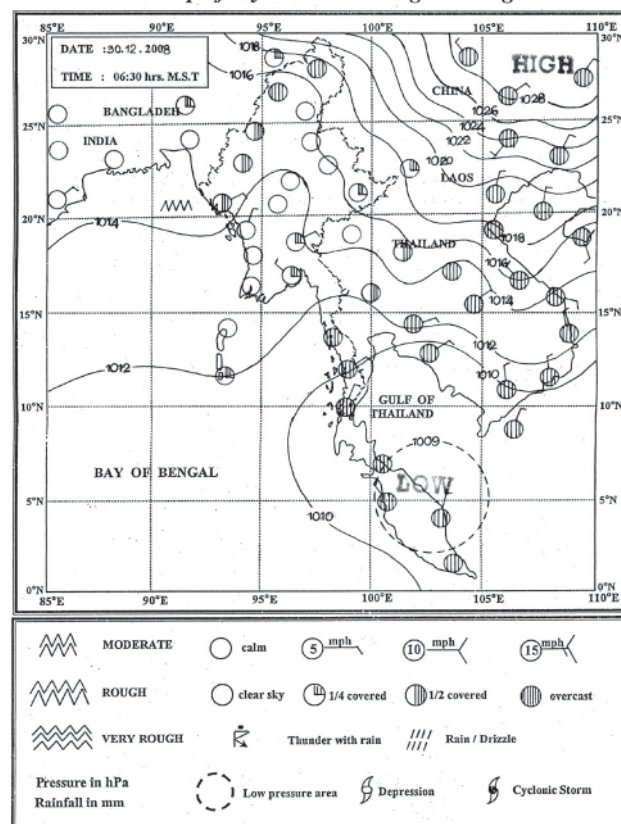
more portable and hence more visible, making them as much of a design statement as a purse or a pair of shoes.

Richard Shim, a PC analyst with IDC, said it's all part of a larger trend of "hyper-specialization" in notebooks.

"Personalization is becoming a big differentiator. It's just a question of how far you can take it and how much money you can get for it," he said.—Internet



Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Tuesday, 30 December, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr

MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin and Shan States, upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Mon Sate, upper Sagaing and Bago Divisions, (6°C) below December average temperatures in Chin State, (3°C) above December average temperatures in Kachin State and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (-2°C), Loilem (-1°C), Namsam (2°C) and Pinlaung (3°C).

Maximum temperature on 29-12-2008 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 30-12-2008 was 60°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 30-12-2008 was 64%. Total sunshine hours on 29-12-2008 was (9.3) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 30-12-2008 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2008 was (110.31) inches at Mingaladon, (120.95) inches at Kaba-Aye and (140.94) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from Southwest at (11:30) hours MST on 29-12-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 31st December 2008: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State, upper Sagaing 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: Generally fair in the whole country.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 31-12-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 31-12-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 31-12-2008: Generally fair weather.



Wednesday, 31 December
View on today

7:00 am

1. တောင်တန်းသာသနာပြုဆရာတော် ဘုရားကြီး၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am

2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning news

7:40 am

4. မြူးမြူးကြွကြွယဉ်ကျေးမှုအက

7:50 am

5. Nice and sweet song

8:00 am

6. အတီးဖြိုင်ပွဲ

8:15 am

7. Musical programme

8:30 am

8. International news

8:45 am

9. Dance of national races

2:50 pm

1. ၂၀၀၈ခုနှစ်(၄၇)ကြိမ်မြောက် တပ်မတော်ကာကွယ်ရေး ဦးစီးချုပ်ဖလား တပ်မတော် (ကြည်း၊ ရေ၊ လေ)ဘောလုံးဖြိုင်ပွဲ တိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ် (ဗိုလ်လုပွဲ) (မြောက်ပိုင်းတိုင်း စစ်ဌာနချုပ်အသင်းနှင့်ရှန်ကုန်တိုင်း စစ်ဌာနချုပ်အသင်း)

4:45 pm

2. Classical songs

4:55 pm

3. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ဒုတိယနှစ် (ရက္ခဗေဒအထူးပြု) (ရက္ခဗေဒ)

5:10 pm

4. Songs to uphold national spirit

5:20 pm

5. Musical programme

5:35 pm

6. ရှုဖွယ်စုံလင်အာဆီယံအစီအစဉ်

5:45 pm

7. (၆၁)နှစ်မြောက်လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

6:00 pm

8. Evening news

6:30 pm

9. Weather report

6:35 pm

10. မြန်မာ့ဓလေ့ရိုးရာလက်ထွေ

6:50 pm

11. ထက်မြက်ပျော်ရွှင်အိမ်ထောင်ရှင်

7:20 pm

12. ရာဇဝတ်လွှဲသရုပ်ဆောင်လွှဲပြင်

8:00 pm

13. News

14. International news

15. Weather report

16. လပတ်စိုးလေဝသနှင့်ဓလေဗေဒ ခန့်မှန်းချက်

17. အချုပ်အခြာအာဏာခွန်ရှည် ကြာခိုင်မာစေမှုအတွက် ရှေးရှု

“နှစ်ဆယ်လေးဒေသတစ်ခွင် အလှဆင်းရောင်စုံပွင့်လန်း အလှပန်း” (အပိုင်း-၁)

18. မြန်မာရုပ်ရှင် “တိုက်ပွဲခေါ်သံ”

(သီဟတင်စိုးညွန့်ဝင်း၊ မင်းဦး၊ ဇော်လင်း၊ ဇင်မာဦး)

(ဒါရိုက်တာ-မောင်တင်ဦး)

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 Pyinsalu.
(News on page 1) — MNA*

**Take Fire
Preventive
Measures**

Independence Day special sales

YANGON, 30 Dec—Hailing the 61st Anniversary Independence Day 2009, the special sale festivals of the Ministry of Industry-1 will be held at Chanayethazan Township from 27 December to 2 January, Kyaukme of Shan State (North) from 27 December to 2 January, Toungoo of Bago Division from 31 December to 7 January and Thayawady of Bago Division from 3 January to 9 January.—MNA

**SPECIAL FEATURES TO
HAIL 61st ANNIVERSARY
INDEPENDENCE DAY**

**Why locusts abandon solitary
life for swarm**



SYDNEY, 30 Dec — By applying an old theory that has been used to explain water flow through soil and the spread of forest fires, researchers may have an answer to a perplexing ecological and evolutionary problem: why locusts switch from an innocuous, solitary life-style to form massive swarms that can devastate crops and strip fields bare.

Their report, published online on December 18th in Current Biology, a Cell Press publication, concludes that once the insects' ranks grow to a certain threshold size, banding together prevents predators from moving from one patch of insects to the next and easily picking the bugs off one by one.

"A predator can only move continually across a landscape, consuming locusts as it goes, if there is a landscape-spanning pathway of connected, high-yielding patches containing locusts in abundance," said Andy Reynolds of Rothamsted Research.—Internet



*Photo shows newly-opened special care units in
Nay Pyi Taw People's Hospital (1000-bed)
on 27, September 2008.*

Article

**The youth of today to realize
the value of independence**

The youth of today are mainly responsible for restoration of independence for which many of their forefathers had to sacrifice their lives, and generating freedom, peace and development of their motherland.

Poem

Safeguard our heritage

- * O, people of Myanmar
Aware of the guidance that
If taken for granted
Independence can be lost
All of a sudden subjugation
Of the alien aggression

No Real offer for Valencia yet

MADRID, 30 Dec — Antonio Valencia's agent claims he has not had any contact with Real Madrid but admits the Wigan winger would jump at the chance to secure a move to the Bernabeu.

Speculation has been rife that the Spanish champions are set to table a 17million euro (£16.6 million) bid for Valencia, with reports suggesting they have already opened discussions with Wigan.

Diego Herrera remained coy about his client's future but hinted the Ecuador international could be off as early as next week.—Internet

