

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Friday, 31 December, 2010

Make sustained efforts for perpetuity of motherland

It is required of the entire national people to remain vigilant at all times against dangers posed by neo-colonialists, and to make sustained efforts, putting the national policy in the fore and exerting patriotism for ensuring perpetuity of the motherland. Now, many projects are ongoing simultaneously for ensuring equitable development of all parts of the Union, and improving the living conditions of the people. Pursuing the national goal of building a peaceful, modern and developed nation with might and main is, in fact, laying substantial foundations for prosperous future of the nation.

**Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council
Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe**
(From message sent on the occasion of the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day)



SPDC Chairman Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of newly-accredited Ambassador Mr. Talal Mohammad Sabri Abdul Salam of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec— H.E. Mr. Talal Mohammad Sabri Abdul Salam, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the Union of Myanmar presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Zeyathiri Beikman, here, at 10 am today.

Present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department.—MNA

Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador of People's Republic of China

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec— H.E. Mr. Li Junhua, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Union of Myanmar presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Zeyathiri Beikman, here, at 10.30 am today.

Present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department.—MNA

*Chairman of the State
Peace and
Development Council
Senior General Than
Shwe receives
Ambassador of the
People's Republic of
China to the Union of
Myanmar Mr. Li
Junhua at Zeyathiri
Beikman in Nay Pyi
Taw.— MNA*



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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 31 December, 2010

Yangon-Mandalay Union Expressway

Secure and smooth transport plays an important role in striving for equitable development of all parts of the Union. Better transport will contribute a great deal to development of economic, education, health and social sectors.

Looking forwards to the fruitful results, motor roads, railroads and small and large bridges have been built as networks among Regions and States. As a result, friendly relations among national brethren will be further strengthened.

At present, roads have been constructed from Kachin State in the north to Taninthayi Region in the south as well as from Rakhine State in the west to Shan State in the east crossing mountain ranges and ravines. The people from the west bank of Ayeyawady River and those from Chin State have easy access to Shan State (South) and Kayah State in a short time.

The Yangon-Mandalay Expressway Construction Project from Nay Pyi Taw at the centre to States and Regions commenced in 2005. Over 200 miles long Yangon-Nay Pyi Taw road section was inaugurated in March 2009. As a result, people travelling between Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon take about four hours.

Yangon-Mandalay Expressway (Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay section) was commissioned into service on 29 December. Over 150 miles long Nay Pyi Taw-Mandalay section becomes a three-hour drive. Arrangements have been made for enabling the towns along Yangon-Mandalay road to have access to the expressway through 26 link roads including the roads crossing Bago Yoma mountain range from the east to the west.

Yangon-Mandalay Expressway was constructed within five-year period through the collaborative efforts of Myanmar engineers and technicians. People can make a trip from Yangon to Mandalay taking seven hours. Emergence of an international standard expressway helps promote trade and businesses and uplift socio-economic life of the national people.

KMD to mount New Year programme

YANGON, 30 Dec—KMD Sales & Service Centre plans to mount New Year Sales Road Show programme at its every centre in Yangon and Mandalay on 4 and 5 January, with up to 50% off like previous special sales.

For more information, contact KMD Sales & Service Centre at Pansodan branch (Ph: 385177 and 245180), Maha Bandoola park street branch (Ph: 09-8303778), Myaeynigon branch (Ph: 503522 and 503511) in Yangon, and (Ph: 02-60360 and 60239) in Mandalay.

MNA

People's Destiny

- * 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

Southern Command Commander in December Mass Walk

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—Chairman of Bago Region Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Brig-Gen Soe Htut, together with senior military officers, commanding officers, officers and other ranks and their families, took part in December Mass Walk in Taungoo on 18 December morning.

On 20 December, the commander inspected progress in construction of Myochaung Bridge and road works after hearing reports by officials concerned on construction of Minhla-Seinkanlant-Myochaung-Painzalo (Penwegan) road at the briefing hall of Myochaung of Public Works.

Together with Vice-Chairman of Bago Region PDC Brig-Gen Sein Myint and officials, the commander inspected the local battalion of Seinkanlant station, where he cordially greeted officers and other ranks and their families.

Afterwards, the commander inspected the construction of Taikkyi-Phaunggyi-Phukyi-Bago road and Koeseyoe bridge at mile post No.38.—MNA

Mines Minister receives Chinese Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—Minister for Mines

U Ohn Myint received Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the Union of Myanmar Mr Li Junhua and party at the ministry here today. Their discussion covered development of mineral investments sector between the two countries.

MNA

One wounded in Kyaukkyyi mine blast

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—Ko Maung Win living in Kyaukkyyipauk village in Kyaukkyyi Township, Bago Region stepped on a mine planted by KNU insurgents on 26 December. The victim, who lost his left and right ankles, and his five companions were on their way to pick orchids. He is now receiving treatment at Htantabin Township People's Hospital, and officials concerned are providing necessary assistance to him.

MNA

MYANMARGAZETTE

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—The State Peace and Development Council has confirmed the appointment of the following heads of service organizations shown against each on expiry of one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Myint Zaw	Director-General Hydropower Implementation Department Ministry of Electric Power No.1
(b) U Aung Than Oo	Managing Director Myanma Electric Power Enterprise Ministry of Electric Power No.2
(c) U Khin Maung Thet	Director-General Directorate of Telecommunications Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs
(d) Dr Win Myint	Director-General Department of Health Ministry of Health
(e) Prof Dr Naing Win	Rector University of Medical Technology (Yangon) Medical Science Department Ministry of Health
(f) Prof Dr Tint Swe Latt	Rector University of Medicine (2) Yangon Medical Science Department Ministry of Health
(g) Prof Dr Daw Malar Win	Rector Nursing University (Mandalay) Medical Science Department Ministry of Health

The State Peace and Development Council has appointed Deputy Director-General Dr Ye Myint Swe of Higher Education Department (Upper Myanmar) under the Ministry of Education as Director-General of Geology Survey and Minerals Exploration Department under the Ministry of Mines on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.—MNA



Minister for Mines U Ohn Myint receives Mr Li Junhua, Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar, and party.

MNA

NATO trucks attacked in Pakistan, driver killed

PESHAWAR, 30 Dec—Taleban militants in northwest Pakistan attacked two NATO supply trucks early Wednesday, killing a driver and wounding two other people, officials said.

Half a dozen militants armed with assault rifles launched the attack in Landikotal, a town in Pakistan's tribal District of Khyber on the border with Afghanistan, the officials said.

Pakistani officials this month reported US drone strikes in Khyber, an apparent expansion of the covert drone programme previously confined to targeted Al-Qaeda and Taleban commanders elsewhere



Pakistani onlookers watch a burning NATO oil tanker in Katakasht Village near the town of Jamrud in Khyber tribal district recently.

INTERNET

in the tribal belt.

"The militants started firing from the hilltop. A driver of one truck was killed on the spot, while his helper and another driver of another truck were injured," local administrative official

Iqbal Khatak told AFP.

Intelligence officials said the militants fled after the attack, and confirmed that the trucks were carrying goods for NATO troops in Afghanistan.

Pakistan shut its main northwestern

border crossing to NATO supply vehicles on 30 September for 11 days after a cross-border NATO helicopter assault killed two Pakistani soldiers.

The bulk of supplies and equipment required by foreign troops in Afghanistan is shipped through Pakistan, although US troops increasingly use alternative routes through central Asia.

Scores of NATO supply vehicles were destroyed in gun and arson attacks while the border crossing was shut, with Taleban militants determined to disrupt the route and avenge US drone strikes in Pakistan's tribal belt.

Internet

Suicide bomber kills two soldiers, injures seven in eastern Afghan town

SHARAN, 30 Dec—A suicide bomber blew himself up near a group of Afghan army soldiers, killing two and injuring seven others including five civilians on Wednesday, the provincial police chief said.

"A suicide bomber blew himself up in Barmal District's bazaar at 12:15 pm local time near a group of Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers. As a result two soldiers were killed and seven others including two soldiers and five civilians sustained injuries," Dault Khan Zadran told Xinhua.

The soldiers were in the bazaar to buy something when the bomber targeted them, the police officer said.

He added that the bomber who strapped explosive on his body was also killed in the blast.

However, he said most of the injured persons were in stable condition.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack. Taleban militants who often carry out such bombings have yet to make comment.

Paktika and the neighbouring Khost and Paktia Provinces have been experiencing escalating Taleban-led militancy over the past couple of years.—Xinhua

Blast kills at least 14 civilians in Afghanistan

KABUL (Afghanistan), 30 Dec—A roadside bomb blew up next to a minibus at a crowded intersection on a major highway in southern Afghanistan on Thursday, killing at least 14 civilians, officials said.

The blast struck the minibus in the Lashkar Gah-Sangin district in Helmand province on the main road running from the city of Kandahar to Herat, said Daoud Ahmadi, a spokesman for the Helmand governor's office.

He said four others were

wounded in the blast and that the dead included women and children.

The bus was transporting people to a local bazaar, said Ghulam Haidar, who arrived at the scene after learning that two of his brothers had been killed.

"There was a huge blast ... body parts were scattered far away" from the bus, he said.

Haidar said he took his cousin and a child who was on the bus to a local hospital. He learned that the child later died.

Internet

Body of a roadside bomb blast victim lies in a vehicle as Afghan men mourn next to it at a hospital in Lashkar Gah, Helmand province southern Afghanistan, Thursday, Dec. 30, 2010.

INTERNET



The building which houses the Jyllands-Posten newspaper in Copenhagen. Scandinavian intelligence agencies said they had foiled a plot Wednesday to kill staff at a Danish newspaper which published caricatures of the Prophet Mohammed and had arrested five suspects.—XINHUA

Denmark, Sweden jointly arrest five terror suspects

COPENHAGEN, 30 Dec—The Danish Security and Intelligence Service (PET) said Wednesday that the PET and the Swedish Security Service (SAPO) have jointly arrested five individuals suspected of plotting a terror attack in Copenhagen.

The arrests were made at two flats in Herlev and Greve, both municipalities of Copenhagen. The PET believed that the suspects were preparing a terror attack on the Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten in Copenhagen. Three of the suspects are living in Sweden and have entered Denmark during the night of 28-29 Dec, including a 44-year-old Tunisian, a 29-year-old Swede, born in Lebanon, and a 30-year-old Swede, whose country of origin is so far unknown.

Simultaneously, the Swedish authorities in Stockholm have arrested a 37-year old Swedish national of Tunisian origin.

The last one is a 26-year old Iraqi asylum seeker, who is living in Denmark.

In Denmark, the PET have seized several objects, including some plastic strips that can be used as handcuffs as well as a machine gun with matching silencer and live ammunition.

Xinhua

Two Taleban local commanders killed in E Afghanistan

KABUL, 30 Dec—Two Taleban local commanders were killed in Nangarhar Province of eastern Afghanistan Wednesday as part of the Afghan and NATO forces intensified campaign against militants' mid-level command structure and its supply lines, the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) said in a press release issued here on Thursday.

Xinhua



A policeman looks at a damaged police vehicle following a car bomb in Ramadi on 27 Dec. Civilian deaths from violence in Iraq are on track to be the lowest number this year since the 2003 US-led invasion, according to a preliminary report released on Thursday by a monitoring group.—INTERNET



Science



US, UK scientists draw up list of world's plants



In this 8 Oct, 2010 file photo, people walk amongst trees shedding their leaves and changing to seasonal autumnal colors at the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, in London.
INTERNET

LONDON, 30 Dec—British and US scientists say they've compiled the most comprehensive list of land plant species ever published — a 300,000-species strong compendium that they hope will boost conservation, trade and medicine.

The list, drawn up by researchers at Kew Gardens in London and the Missouri Botanical Garden in St Louis, is intended to help resolve one of botany's most basic problems: Figuring out which plants go by what name.

Some plants have been labeled differently by researchers operating in different countries over the past century, while in other cases the

different variants of the same plant have been erroneously identified as belonging to different species. There are also cases in which plants names' have been applied mistakenly, or just misspelled.

Although a rose by any other name may still smell as sweet, scientists say that attaching different labels to the same plant can rob researchers of the chance to get the information they need.

"If you only know it by one of its many names you only get part of the story," said Eimear Nic Lughadha, the senior scientist at Kew responsible for the list.

Internet

Manatees paddle to warm water to escape Fla. chill

APOLLO BEACH, 30 Dec—People aren't the only ones in Florida who don't like cold weather.

Manatees — those giant aquatic mammals with the flat, paddle-shaped tails — are swimming out of the chilly Gulf of Mexico waters and into warmer springs and power plant discharge canals. On Tuesday, more than 300 manatees floated in the outflow of Tampa Electric's Big Bend Power Station.

"It's like a warm bathtub for them," said Wendy Anastasiou, an environmental specialist at the power station's manatee viewing centre. "They come in here and hang out and loll around."

Cold weather can weaken manatees' immune systems and



Manatees congregate in a canal where discharge from a nearby Florida Power & Light plant warms the water in Fort Lauderdale, Fla on 28 Dec, 2010. Overnight temperatures in South Florida were in the 30s.—INTERNET

eventually kill them. State officials said 2010 has been a deadly year for the beloved animals: between 1 Jan and 17 Dec, 246 manatees died from so-called "cold stress." During the same time period in 2009, only 55 manatees died from the cold. In 2008, only 22 manatees

succumbed to chilly temperatures.

Manatee deaths documented from 1 Jan through 5 Dec are nearly double the five-year average for that time period, according to Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission statistics.

Internet



Technology



Skype adding Wi-Fi, 3G video calling to iPhone app

SAN FRANCISCO, 30 Dec—A new version of the free iPhone app for Skype SA will let users make and receive video calls.

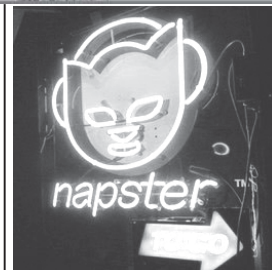
Users of the Internet calling and messaging service will be able to use both Wi-Fi and AT&T Inc's 3G cellular network. FaceTime software, which comes with iPhones, works only with Wi-Fi.

The app, which is being released Thursday through Apple Inc.'s iTunes Store, will let iPhone 4 and iPhone 3GS users make free video calls to other Skype users who are using the app or have access to the feature using Skype on their computer or other video phone.

Those with the latest iPod Touch will be able to make video calls over Wi-Fi. The app allows the iPad and previous-generation iPod Touch to receive video calls, too, Skype said.

Skype's software offers free services such as voice or video calls to other Skype users.

Users pay to do things such as make calls from a PC to a landline or cell phone.—Internet



File photo of a "Napster To Go Cafe" sign in Union Square, in 2005 in New York City. Napster, the file-sharing renegade, upended the music industry and copyright in ways still being felt a decade later while WikiLeaks, for better or worse, is likely to have a similar impact on government secrecy and transparency.—INTERNET

Canada is most web-addicted nation

TORONTO, 30 Dec—Maybe it's all those Justin Bieber fans: Canadians log more time on the web and social media, including Facebook and YouTube, than any other nation.

The measurement company comScore reported Canada has the highest penetration of Internet access, with around 68% of Canadians routinely surfing online, against 62% in France and Britain. Close behind is 60% of Germans going online and, south of the border, 59% of Americans. The laggards are Italians, where only 36% of the population goes online, according to comScore.

Web-addicted Canadians now spend an average 42 hours a month surfing the web, up from 40 hours in 2009, and view

an average 147 videos a month on YouTube and other online video websites. And around 17 million Canadians, or 51% of the population, have Facebook accounts.

Canada has a vibrant Twitterverse, with an estimated 5% of the traffic routinely following the world domination of homegrown pop idol Justin Bieber.

Internet



A picture released by Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities in May showing a wall image from the 3,000 year old tomb of a Pharaonic army commander. Reporters without borders has issued a joint call with rights groups for Egypt's president to intervene after an Internet user was sentenced to jail for starting a Facebook group for army recruits.

INTERNET

Pew study hints at what Web users will pay for

NEW YORK, 30 Dec—The Web may seem like the land of something for nothing. Free video. Free news. Even free tools such as word processing and spreadsheets.

But almost two-thirds of adult Internet users in the US have paid for access to at least one of these intangible items online, according to a new survey from the Pew Internet and American Life Project.

Whether people will pay for different types of material on the Web is among the most pressing questions facing media companies in the 21st century. As people shift their attention to the Internet from more traditional ways of enjoying media, the companies that provide everything from movies to mystery novels want to make sure they can still get paid for what they do.—Internet

Health

Health Tip: Help your halitosis

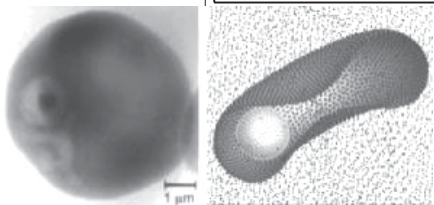
Bad breath—medically called halitosis — is frequently caused by rotting food particles that collect between the teeth, on the tongue and near the gumline.

The American Dental Association says common causes of halitosis include:

- * Eating potent foods, such as onions or garlic.
- * Not eating frequently enough.
- * Not brushing and flossing your teeth each day.
- * Having a dry mouth from lack of saliva.
- * Using tobacco products.
- * Having a medical disorder such as sinusitis, postnasal drip, respiratory infection, or liver or kidney problem.—*Internet*

The malaria parasite inside a red blood cell, left, and in a computer-generated model. Malarial infection inhibits the smooth flow of blood through capillaries.

INTERNET



Some soy supplements OK for long-term use

NEW YORK, 30 Dec—Menopausal women who take a certain type of soy supplement long-term aren't at increased risk for breast cancer or any other ill effects, a new two-year study suggests.

But the researchers point out that the findings may not apply to all soy supplements. The ones used in the study contained a different combination of the estrogen-like compounds called isoflavones than preparations typically available over the counter.

Given their estrogen-like properties, soy isoflavones have been suggested as an alternative to hormone therapy for women experiencing menopausal



Soy beans are displayed by a worker at a deposit in Montevideo city, Uruguay on 28 July, 2010.

INTERNET

symptoms, Dr Francine M Steinberg of the University of California, Davis, and her colleagues note in the American Journal of *Clinical Nutrition*. While there is little evidence from current research that the supplements can cause harm, the researchers add, they allow women to consume up to four times the amount of isoflavones contained in a typical Asian diet.

Very few studies have looked at the long-term safety of consuming so much soy, however.

To investigate, the researchers analyzed data from the Osteoporosis Prevention Using Soy (OPUS) Study. A previous analysis of the results found no effect of soy supplements on the density of breast tissue, one indicator of breast cancer risk. In the current study, the researchers looked at blood tests, health exams and adverse events to further examine the risks of soy.

A total of 403 women completed the study, including 134 women taking placebo, 135 women taking 80-milligram soy tablets, and 134 taking 120-milligram tablets. While the researchers identified a few differences in blood tests between the women on placebo and those taking soy supplements, all but one were not statistically significant, meaning they could have been due to chance. —*Reuters*

More signs lung cancer screening could save lives

NEW YORK, 30 Dec—More research is suggesting that heavy smokers may benefit from screening for lung cancer, to detect tumours in their earliest stages. A new study finds that regular smokers who received three dimensional X-rays

to look for the presence of early tumours had a significantly lower risk of dying over a 10-year period.

The results are in keeping with those of a much larger study published last month, which showed that these 3-D X-rays, or CT scans, reduced the death rate among 53,000 current and former heavy smokers by 20 percent compared with screening using regular chest X-rays.

That previous finding was "very good news in

the field," said Dr Bruce Johnson of the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, who treats lung cancer patients and reviewed the results for *Reuters Health*.

This latest study, published in the journal *Lung Cancer*, looked at death rates in a different, smaller population of heavy smokers, and estimated that those who received up to two CT scans would have between a 36 and 64 percent lower risk of dying, compared to those who went unscreened.—*Internet*

Business

Consumer confidence slips as home prices decline

NEW YORK, 30 Dec—Consumer confidence unexpectedly deteriorated in December, while prices of single-family homes fell almost double the expected pace in October, tempering growing optimism on the economy's recovery.

The latest data was at odds with other signs suggesting the economic recovery is accelerating and a separate report last week showing consumer sentiment in December at its highest level since June.

Concern about the jobs market pushed an index

of consumer attitudes to 52.5 in December from 54.3 in November, the Conference Board said on Tuesday. That was below the median of forecasts from analysts polled by *Reuters* for a reading of 56.0.

"US consumers are still worried about high unemployment, housing market stagnation and the generally meager growth they've seen so far," said Kathy Lien, director of currency research at GFT in New York.

Reuters

The central business District of Sydney. Life insurer Tower Australia on Wednesday unanimously recommended shareholders accept a takeover offer from Japan's Dai-ichi Life Insurance Co.—INTERNET



President of the New York Yankees Randy Levine, New Era CEO Chris Koch, and university players participating in the New Era Pinstripe Bowl visit the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) trading floor.

INTERNET



German inflation remains moderate in 2010

BERLIN, 30 Dec—Germany's average inflation rate stood at 1.1 percent for the whole year, while it unexpectedly accelerated in December, the Federal Statistics Office said Wednesday.

The Office said German consumer price index (CPI) jumped 1.7 percent in December year on year, from 1.5 percent last month, pushing the overall inflation for 2010 to a modest 1.1 percent. The figure last year was only 0.4 percent, mostly because of the global economic crisis and gloomy domestic market.

Economists had forecast the rate would stay unchanged in December, according to survey of Dow Jones Newswires.

In December, consumer price climbed 1 percent on a monthly basis, much higher than that in November, which was only up to 0.1 percent.—*Xinhua*

Oil falls in light year-end trade

NEW YORK, 30 Dec—Crude prices fell on Wednesday in light trade as investors took profit from earlier gains before year-end.

There were no crucial economic data scheduled to release on Wednesday and the trade volume on the crude market was very thin. Investors played out because of the New Year holiday.

But weak dollar and supply drop were still supportive to crude oil price.

The US dollar index, which tracks the dollar performance against a basket of currencies, dipped about 0.6 percent.

On Thursday, the Energy Information Administration will provide weekly information on petroleum inventories in the United States, which is forecasted to fall.

Light, sweet crude for February delivery declined 37 cents to 91.12 US dollars a barrel on the New York Mercantile.—*Xinhua*

Somali pirates set free German ship

MOGADISHU, 30 Dec—Somali pirates have freed a German ship with a crew of 22 people, media reports quoted maritime officials as saying on Tuesday.

The chemical tanker was seized by pirates in May, reports said.

Piracy has been rife in the war-torn Somalia since the collapse of the Somali government in 1991. Pirate attacks have continued in Somalia's Indian Ocean coast,

despite the presence of escorting warships to protect cargo and cruise ships against piracy.

The Horn of Africa nation has been without an effective government for nearly two decades, fuelling the lawlessness which has allowed the pirates to thrive. More than 130 pirate attacks were reported in the waters off Somalia from the beginning of last year.

Xinhua

Somali pirates seize Antigua and Barbuda-flagged ship

MOGADISHU, 30 Dec—Somali pirates have on Monday seized an Antigua and Barbuda-flagged ship in the Gulf of Aden, media reports said on Tuesday.

According to the reports, there were eight crew onboard, yet it was not yet clear about ownership of the vessel.—Xinhua



A vehicle runs on the 3rd ring road in Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 28 Dec, 2010. The north and west parts of Kunming 3rd ring road operated for a trial successfully on Tuesday, marking the fully completion of the ring road.—XINHUA

Ski lift stuck in northeast US, injuries reported



WASHINGTON, 30 Dec—Several people were injured Tuesday when a gust of wind sent skiers tumbling off a chairlift at a ski resort on Sugarloaf Mountain in Northeast US state of Maine, media reports said Tuesday, noting that over 100 were trapped in the lift.—Xinhua

Australia's flood-hit Queensland facing "toughest hour"

BRISBANE, 30 Dec—Australia's Queensland suffered huge flood damage with the state facing its toughest hour, said Queensland Premier Anna Bligh as she toured the flood-stricken town of Emerald in central Queensland on Thursday.

The premier said the estimated flood damage to roads alone would reach at

least 1.5 billion AU dollars (1.53 billion US dollars).

"As we look across Queensland and see the communities affected by the scale of the disaster, it's fair to say that Queensland is facing its toughest hour," she told reporters.

Bligh said looting

had been a problem during Emerald's 2008 floods, and police were taking no chances this time. She said 20 extra police had been deployed to Emerald to prevent any looting, amid predictions that 80 percent of the town would be swamped.

Internet

Girls play on the snow in New York's Central Park, on 27 Dec, 2010. New York bore the brunt as heavy snow began falling late Sunday morning and is expected to last into Monday morning, possibly piling up 38 to 50 cm of snow amid 64 to 96 kph gale. More than 1,000 flights have been canceled in major area airports of LaGuardia, Newark and JFK airports.

XINHUA



Two explosions hit Nigeria's southern city

LAGOS, 30 Dec—Two explosions hit a Nigeria's southern city on Wednesday, injuring several people, media report said.

The report quoted police source as saying that two bombs exploded during a political rally in Yenegoa, State capital of Nigeria's Bayelsa state.

The police said nobody was killed in the bomb explosions but

several people were injured.

Nigeria has witnessed a series of bomb attacks in the past few days.

Three bomb explosions rocked Nigeria's central north Plateau State on the Christmas Eve, killing at least 80 people and injuring dozens of others. The bomb blasts which hit Anguwan Rukuba, the Kabong Satellite Market

and the flyover at Gada Biyu, came one week after a Nigerian court sentenced 15 persons to 10 years each in prison for involvement of the violent crisis in Jos in March.

Jos was plunged in a pool of blood on 7 March this year, when members of local Muslim and Christian communities fought each other in revenge for previous killings.—Internet

China's steel trading firm listed in ASX

SYDNEY, 30 Dec—A leading Chinese steel trading firm managed to get listed in Australian Securities Exchange (ASX) on Thursday, as the market opened the trading day at 11 am of Sydney local time.

Rongtai International Group Holdings Limited aimed to issue 15 million ordinary shares at an offer price of 0.20 Australian dollars (0.203 US dollars), to raise a total of 3 million Australian dollars (3.04 million US dollars), with the ability to raise an additional 7 million Australian dollars (7.13 million US dollars) in oversubscription.

As a leading steel trading company in China, Rongtai International works to source and purchase raw materials and steel

products from within China and overseas, offer solutions of transportation, warehouse and processing facilities and manage logistics and delivery of the final product to the customers.

According to Lin Jie, executive chairman and Managing Director of Rongtai, the entire process is achieved via the e-commerce trading platform, namely China United Steel (CUSTEEL).

The trading platform is one of the largest business-to-business (B2B) steel trading platforms in China, which boosts 230,000 members and provides customers an efficient, easy and convenient method of purchasing commodities whilst creating greater global exposure.—Xinhua



Passengers rest at Kennedy International Airport in New York, the United States, on 28 Dec, 2010. A large number of passengers were still stranded at the airport on Tuesday morning though it had reopened since 4 pm local time on 27 Dec.—XINHUA



Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe receives Ambassador of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Mr. Talal Mohammad Sabri Abdul Salam at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw. (News on page 1) —MNA

Myanmar Ambassador presents Credentials to Queen of the Netherlands

NAY PYI TAW, 31 Dec—U Thant Kyaw, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of the Netherlands, presented his Credentials to Her Majesty Queen Beatrix, Queen of the Netherlands, on 15 December 2010 in The Hague.—MNA

Mingala Taungnyunt Tsp gets more five upgraded roads

YANGON, 30 Dec — Five upgraded roads in Mingala Taungnyunt Township were inaugurated today as a gesture of hailing the 63rd Independence Day.

Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor U Aung Thein Lin and

officials concerned formally opened the concrete roads at the ceremonies to inaugurate the roads.

The mayor and officials also formally inaugurated the two 2-inch-diameter tube wells in Mahlwagon Miyahta Ward in the township

yesterday. About 3000 gallons of water can be pumped out of each tube-well per hour, supplying drinking water to over 100 house holds sufficiently.

The mayor and officials also inspected the completion of other upgraded roads in the township.—MNA

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Ambassador of the People's Republic of China Mr. Li Junhua at Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw. (News on page 1) —MNA



Dy Construction Minister inspects upgrading of Gangaw-Kalay Road

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec — Deputy Minister for Construction U Tint Swe assisted in upgrading of Gangaw-Kalay Road on 27 December.

The deputy minister went to the base camp of the road construction group-11 near the mile post No.32/0 and inspected the road works.

Afterwards, Deputy Minister U Tint Swe proceeded to the work site of SapaO Bridge on the road and assisted in the bridge construction. He also inspected the bridge works between the mile post No. 93/7 and 94/0 of Monywa-Pale-Gangaw Road.

MNA

UMFCCI officials meet ROK guests

YANGON, 30 Dec—Vice-Presidents of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry U Win Aung, U Zaw Min Win, U Aung Lwin and U Tun Aung, joint General secretary Dr Myo Thet and CEC members held talks with a nine-member delegation

led by Executive Vice-President Mr Dong-Woon Kwak of Korea Trade Investment Promotion Agency of the Republic of Korea and Commercial Attaché Mr Park Chulho of Commercial Section (KOTRA) from the Korean Embassy, at UMFCCI Office here on 23 December.

At the meeting, they mainly discussed opportunities for cooperation in basic infrastructures such as trade and investment, electric power and construction of roads and bridges, foreign investment procedures and exchange of technology.

MNA

SSA shooting spree kills two innocent civilians

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec—SSA terrorist insurgents went on a

shooting spree and killed two innocent civilians in Mongton Township, Shan State (East), on 27 December.

While hunting on 27 December afternoon, five men from Bawathit Village, Monghan Village-tract, Mongton Township: Lu Kar, Yaw Han, Darwi, Eli and Kyati came across a 15 insurgents of the SSA group in the forest, about two miles east of Narkaungmu Village.

The insurgents then took the five homemade barrel guns from the five villagers forcibly, and forced them to run away. Thereafter, the insurgents open automatic fire at the running men with M. 16s. Lu Kar and Yaw Han were shot dead, and the other three survived the shooting.

The military column is now in pursuit of the insurgents.

MNA



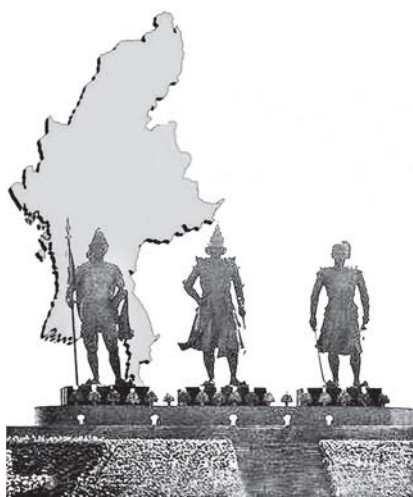
Officials of UMFCCI meet Executive Vice-President Mr Dong-Woon Kwak and party of Korea Trade Investment Promotion Agency of ROK.—MNA

HAILING THE 63RD ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY:

Ensure perpetuation of inherited Union

Ko Myanmar

Ward off colonialist tricks with patriotism



It is the 4th of January 1948 when the Union of Myanmar regained her independence from British colonialists and became an independent nation. In 2011, Independence Day will be in its 63rd anniversary. Its independence is not as old as Myanmar. How long has Myanmar stood so far?

Does Myanmar's birth date back to the Bangan Period in the 11th Century, or to the times of city states such as Tagaung, Beikthanoe and Srikestra that came into being in the period between the early BC and centuries before Christ, or to

From the geographical point of view, Myanmar lies between two neighbouring countries, whose populations and areas are extremely huge. Myanmar had been able to stand between such mega giants and maintain friendly relations with the two neighbours and safeguard its sovereignty for thousands of years. That implies the diplomatic skills of our forefathers. Whenever necessary, our ancestors protected our land with lion heart and a sense of being hypersensitive to any forms of threats to the territory of the motherland. That is the reason why the Union of Myanmar has still existed up to now.

Hanlin Bronze Age about 5000 years ago, or to Pyadalin Stone Age about 20,000 years ago?

So, it can be deduced from above mentioned points that even if it does not take into account anthropoid primates aged about 45 million years excavated in central Myanmar, Myanmar has stood for tens of thousands of years, which is undeniable.

In such a very long existence, Myanmar used to be city states, then a feudal state, and then powerful empires. However, all national races such as Kachin,

Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Bamar, Rakhine and Shan have been living through thick and thin in amity and sticking together since the birth of the Union.

Throughout past successive periods, Myanmar could stand tall with own monarchs and sovereignty in the international community. Occasionally, Myanmar faced alien threats. As the saying that goes "Blood is thicker than water", the entire national brethren repulsed alien attacks in concert. Therefore, Myanmar had still been on the map of the world for aeons.

From the geographical point of view, Myanmar lies between two neighbouring countries, whose populations and areas are extremely huge. Myanmar had been able to stand between such mega giants and maintain friendly relations with the two neighbours and safeguard its sovereignty for thousands of years. That implies the diplomatic skills of our forefathers. Whenever necessary, our ancestors protected our land with lion heart and a sense of being hypersensitive to any forms of threats to the territory of the motherland. That is the reason why the Union of Myanmar has still existed up to now.

Today, some peoples are stranded in other countries as refugees because they have lost their countries due to adverse effects caused by other countries. Some unions have split into pieces stemming from civil war triggered by disintegration of national unity. And some countries have not

(See page 9)

Golden era not far-off



We need to cherish and safeguard our independence as well as to build a new democratic state aspired by the entire people.

Yes, we are not far-off to reach the new democratic state. You see, the Constitution has already been approved by a great majority and the elections, successfully held.

Ye Htet

In such a very long existence, Myanmar used to be city states, then a feudal state, and then powerful empires. However, all national races such as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Mon, Bamar, Rakhine and Shan have been living through thick and thin in amity and sticking together since the birth of the Union.

(from page 8)

collapsed yet, but they are deteriorating with disunity of nationals, groups in rivalry for power, and without rulers. Invaluable lessons can be taken from terrible incidents of those countries. Whenever I learn evil consequences being faced by those countries, I feel so encouraged because our country has been able

to rise from the nightmare of untold miseries and the people of us remain united, leading a peaceful life with food security and freedom of business, and there is no need to be concerned about any adversities.

With State stability and community peace, the nation's transport is getting smooth and the nation is enjoying economic growth with consolidated national unity. As a result, the development gap between rural and urban areas and between the mainland and highlands is being narrowed. Ere long, all states and regions of the nation will be in a position to enjoy equitable development. In the post-

With State stability and community peace, the nation's transport is getting smooth and the nation is enjoying economic growth with consolidated national unity. As a result, the development gap between rural and urban areas and between the mainland and highlands is being narrowed. Ere long, all states and regions of the nation will be in a position to enjoy equitable development. In the post-independence period, the nation encountered instability and lacked community peace due to armed insurgency.

Objectives of 63rd Anniversary Independence Day

- (a) All the national people to constantly join hands for ensuring the perpetuity of independence and sovereignty of the State
- (b) All the national people to collectively strive for non-disintegration of the Union and non-disintegration of national solidarity
- (c) All the national people to work in concert for building a modern, developed and discipline-flourishing democratic new nation as the multiparty democracy general elections have been held successfully
- (d) All the national people to make collaborative efforts with the Union Spirit and the patriotic spirit for further strengthening the already achieved stability and peace, security, prevalence of law and order, unity, development and democratization process with momentum
- (e) All the national people to have greater awareness in warding off all destructive acts to disintegrate the Union and the national unity as the perpetuity of the Union plays a crucial role in building the Union of Myanmar

independence period, the nation encountered instability and lacked community peace due to armed insurgency. So, the nation's transport remained poor. In consequence, the nation lagged behind other countries in development. And national people were not much experienced and knowledgeable about affairs. And there emerged misunderstanding among national races, which culminated in armed insurrection and then in instability and least development. Such untold miseries will soon dwindle away in the new nation that will come into existence with the new constitution.

Having a look back to the past history of the nation that has stood for tens of thousands of years, our forefathers were found dutiful, as evidenced by the fact that they inherited their posterities the Union which is blessed with rich natural resources and impressive geographical features.

In recognition of the dutifulness of our forefathers, younger generations of us, who have been inherited the Union of Myanmar, are to work together with renewed vigour in pursuing the goal of building a new nation in order that the Union of Myanmar, our motherland, perpetuates forever and stands tall with promising future, blaze glory and significant development.

Translation: MS

POEM:

If you cherish independence

- * **Never let independence be lost
Nationalistic fervour we foster
Courageous and blood red-hot
Fighting back colonialists and fascists
On hills, plains and in valleys
Everywhere in country
Braving dangers in unity
However much they are hazardous
Joining hands in harmony
Fine traditions we hand down
To coming new generations
Our cherished independence
Be protected with glory
Shining in whole world**
- * **No to give away any part
From our land, our heritage
With this conviction in mind
Safeguarding our Union
All in harmony and unison
Dutiful the whole country
Independence we cherish
Will be in safe hands
And be glorious in world forever**
- * **If cherish independence
Brethren and kin
Hands joining firmly
Ever strong like rock
Patriotism so high
All destructive acts in vain
Prevailing is peace
In misty mild winter
Independence we value much
Will be in safe hands
And be glorious in world forever**

(Hailing the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day)

Hinthada Myint Ngwe (Trs)

Progress of 24-special development regions in the time of the State Peace and Development Council

Entire Myanmar have developed in all corners with progress of 24-special development regions project

The government has been striving for realization of development plans for the State and the people since it took the State's responsibilities. While overcoming the challenges of present internal and external destructive acts and natural barriers in addition to evil legacies of the history through the strength of national unity in line with the motto "Strength of the nation lies within the nation", the government is making earnest efforts for rapid improvement of the nation that had lagged behind in development in the past.

The 24-special development regions project is part of endeavours of

Projects completed, under way and follow-up projects of 24-special development regions

Sr.	Special Development Regions	Projects	Progress	Remarks
1.	Myitkyina region	Myitkyina University Technological University (Myitkyina) University of Computer Studies (Myitkyina) Myitkyina People's Hospital Bala Min Htin Bridge Sub-printing House (Myitkyina) Myithson Hydropower Project Myitkyina-Ledo new road Myitkyina-Momeik-Hsipaw-Laikha railroad	1 1 1 300-bed 2688 feet 1 4100 MW 228 miles 474 miles	Completed Completed Completed Completed Completed Completed under way under way to be built
2.	Bhamo region	Bhamo University Technological University (Bhamo) University of Computer Studies (Bhamo) Bhamo People's Hospital Bhamo-Myitkyina road Katha-Bhamo railroad Bhamo Hydropower Project	1 1 1 200-bed 115 miles 98 miles 300 MW	Completed Completed Completed upgraded Completed under way to be built
3.	Loikaw region	Loikaw University Technological University (Loikaw) University of Computer Studies (Loikaw)	1 1 1	Completed Completed Completed

*Loikaw University
nurtures national
youths of
Kandayawady.*

**Hailing the 63rd
Anniversary
Independence Day**

the State. With the aim of rapidly developing all parts in 14 States and Regions of the Union, main areas were designated as special development regions, and emphasis is being placed on providing these regions with transport, education, health and technology facilities. At present, development tasks are being undertaken in 24 special development regions namely Myitkyina, Bhamo, Loikaw, Hpa-an, Kalay, Monywa, Sagaing, Dawei, Myeik, Bago, Pyay, Magway, Pakokku, Mandalay, Meiktila, Myingyan, Sittway, Kengtung, Taunggyi, Panglong, Lashio, Patheingyi, Hinthada and Maubin and other populous and main regions such as Mohnyin, Kyaukse and Shwebo.

In carrying out development tasks in 24-special development regions on a wider scale, each special development region is equipped with necessary development facilities such as university, technological university, university of computer studies and specialist hospital (200-bed). Progress of 24-special development regions project and improvement of the nation in all corners are the sound foundations for the future democratic new nation.

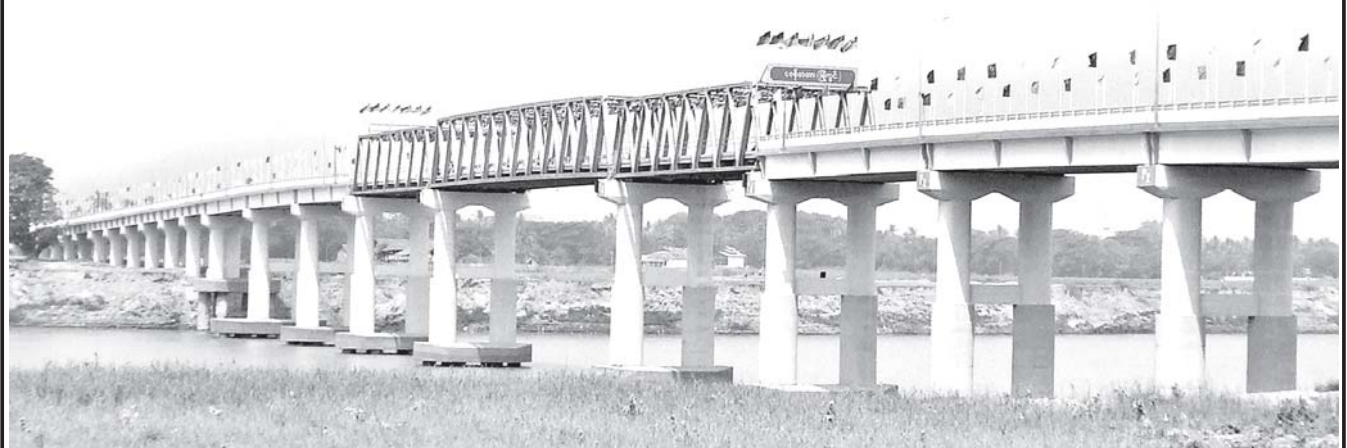
4.	Hpa-an region	Loikaw People's Hospital Htisekha Bridge Baluchaung-1 Loikaw-Shadaw road Aungban-Loikaw railroad Baluchaung-3 Toungoo-Loikaw railroad Hpa-an University Institute of Education Technological University (Hpa-an) University of Computer Studies (Hpa-an) Hpa-an People's Hospital Thanlwin Bridge (Hpa-an) Gyaing Bridge (Zathabyin) TV Re-transmission Station Hpa-an Industrial Zone Thaton-Myaingdale-Hpa-an road	200-bed 240 feet 28 MW 62 miles 101.92 miles 48 MW 150 miles 1 1 1 1 200-bed 2252 feet 2900 feet 1 1 114 miles	Completed Completed Completed Completed Completed under way to be built Completed Completed Completed Completed Completed Completed Completed upgraded
5.	Sittway region	Sittway University Technological University (Sittway) University of Computer Studies (Sittway) Phaungdawgyi Jetty Sittway Airport Yangon-Sittway Union Highway Sub-printing House (Sittway) Technological University (Lashio) University of Computer Studies (Lashio) Lashio People's Hospital Kaukkwe Dam Sub-printing House (Lashio) Kengkham Dam	1 1 1 1 10,000 feet 202 miles 1 1 1 200-bed 650 acres 1 500 acres	Completed Completed Completed Completed Completed Completed Completed Completed Completed Completed Completed Completed Completed under way
6.	Lashio region			





Local national youths in Shan State (North) now have an opportunity to pursue higher education at Technological University (Lashio).

Sr.	Special Development Regions	Projects	Progress	Remarks
7.	Kengtung region	Wampon Dam	250 acres	under way
		Namkyan Dam	179 acres	to be built
		Lashio-Muse railroad	145 miles	to be built
		Technological University (Kengtung)	1	Completed
		University of Computer Studies (Kengtung)	1	Completed
		Kengtung People's Hospital	200-bed	Completed
		Sub-printing House (Kengtung)	1	Completed
		Mongnai-Kengtung railroad	26 miles	under way
		Monghsat-Kengtung railroad	87 miles	under way
		Pintauk Dam	200 acres	under way
8.	Taunggyi region	Taunggyi University	1	upgraded
		Technological University (Taunggyi)	1	Completed
		University of Computer Studies (Taunggyi)	1	Completed
		Women's and Children's Hospital	1	Completed
		Sub-printing House (Taunggyi)	1	Completed
		Taunggyi (Ayethaya) Industrial Zone	1	Completed
9.	Panglong region	Htibwa Dam	700 acres	under way
		Panglong University	1	Completed
		Technological University	1	Completed
		University of Computer Studies	1	Completed
10.	Monywa region	Monywa University	1	Completed
		Technological University (Monywa)	1	Completed
		University of Computer Studies (Monywa)	1	Completed
		Monywa Institute of Economics	1	Completed
		Monywa People's Hospital	200-bed	Completed
		Chindwin Bridge (Monywa)	4730 feet	Completed
		Sagaing-Monywa railroad	96 miles	Completed
		Monywa Industrial Zone	1	Completed
		Monywa-Kalay railroad	135 miles	under way
11.	Sagaing region	Institute of Education	1	Completed
		Education College	1	Completed
		Government Technological College	1	Completed
		Government Computer College	1	Completed
		People's Hospital (Sagaing)	200-bed	Completed
12.	Kalay region	Kalay University	1	Completed
		Technological University (Kalay)	1	Completed
13.	Myeik region	University of Computer Studies (Kalay)	1	Completed
		Myintha Bridge	1320 feet	Completed
		ChaungU-Kalay railroad	277 miles	Completed
		Sub-printing House (Kalay)	1	Completed
		Kalay Industrial Zone	1	Completed
		Manipur Dam	380 MW	under way
		Monywa-Kalay railroad	135 miles	to be built
		Kalay-Tamu railroad	84 miles	to be built
		Myeik University	1	Completed
		Technological University (Myeik)	1	Completed
		University of Computer Studies (Myeik)	1	Completed
		Myeik District People's Hospital	200-bed	Completed
		Kyweku-Kyaukpya Bridge	3612 feet	Completed
		Pathaung Bridge	810 feet	Completed
		Sub-printing House (Myeik)	1	Completed
		Myeik Industrial Zone	1	Completed
		Myeik-Dawei railroad	132 miles	under way
14.	Dawei region	Dawei University	1	Completed
		Technological University (Dawei)	1	Completed
		University of Computer Studies (Dawei)	1	Completed
		Dawei People's Hospital	200-bed	Completed
		Anyapya Dam	3200 acres	Completed
		Dawei-Kawthoung road	360 miles	Completed
		Ye-Dawei railroad	102 miles	Completed
		Dawei Deep Sea Port	multi-purpose	to be built
15.	Bago region	Bago Degree College	1	Completed
		People's Hospital (Bago)	200-bed	Completed
		Zalattaw Dam	2000 acres	Completed
		Mazin Dam	6500 acres	Completed
		Shwepyithar (3) Dam	1250 acres	Completed
		Zaungthu Diversion Weir	36250 acres	Completed
		Pathi Dam	4000 acres	Completed
		Alaingan Dam	10,000 acres	Completed
		Bago (local) Bridge	350 feet	under way
		Bago-Thanlyin railroad	67 miles	to be built
16.	Pyay region	Pyay University	1	Completed
		Technological University (Pyay)	1	Completed



Ngawun Bridge (Myokwin) built in Hinthada Region for better transport of local people.



*General and
Teaching
Hospital in
Magway Region
providing health
care services to
local people.*

Sr.	Special Development Regions	Projects	Progress	Remarks					
17.	Magway region	University of Computer Studies (Pyay)	1	Completed	20.	Meiktila region	Mandalay International Airport	14000 feet	Completed
		People's Hospital (Pyay)	200-bed	Completed			Yeywa Hydropower Project	790 MW	Completed
		Mataungta Dam	10520 acres	Completed			Mandalay Industrial Zone	1	Completed
		Kangyigon Dam	1400 acres	Completed			Sub-printing House (Mandalay)	1	Completed
		Ayeyawady Bridge (Nawade)	4183 feet	Completed			Meiktila University	1	Completed
		Pyay Oil and Natural Gas Field	1	Completed			Technological University (Meiktila)	1	Completed
		Pyay Industrial Zone	190 works	Completed			University of Computer Studies (Meiktila)	1	Completed
		Pyay-Nay Pyi Taw railroad	120 miles	under way			Meiktila Institute of Economics	1	Completed
		Magway University	1	Completed			Myanmar Aerospace Engineering University	1	Completed
		Technological University (Magway)	1	Completed	21.	Myingyan region	People's Hospital	200-bed	Completed
		University of Computer Studies (Magway)	1	Completed			Mandalay-Meiktila road	97 miles	upgraded
		Community Health University	1	Completed			Meiktila Industrial Zone	1	Completed
		Magway Teaching Hospital	200-bed	Completed			Government Technological College	1	Completed
		General Hospital	200-bed	Completed			Sunlun Dam	300 acres	Completed
		Magway Airport	10000 feet	Completed			Myingyan Industrial Zone	1	Completed
		Ayeyawady Bridge (Magway)	5192 feet	Completed	22.	Patheingyi region	No. 4 Steel Mill	1	Completed
		Sub-printing House (Magway)	1	Completed			Patheingyi University	1	Completed
		Magway-Natogyi-Pyawbwe road	62 miles	upgraded			Technological University (Patheingyi)	1	Completed
18.	Pakokku region	Pakokku University	1	Completed			University of Computer Studies (Patheingyi)	1	Completed
		Technological University (Pakokku)	1	Completed			People's Hospital (Patheingyi)	200-bed	Completed
		University of Computer Studies (Pakokku)	1	Completed			Patheingyi Bridge	4500 feet	Completed
		People's Hospital (Pakokku)	200-bed	Completed			Patheingyi-Ngathay road	21 miles	Completed
		Pakokku-Mindat road	97 miles	Completed			Industrial Zone (Patheingyi)	1	Completed
		Pakokku-Gangaw road	140 miles	Completed			Patheingyi-Yangon railroad	89 miles	under way
		Pakokku Airport	new	Completed	23.	Hinthada region	Hinthada University	1	Completed
		Pakokku Industrial Zone	1	Completed			Technological University (Hinthada)	1	Completed
		Ayeyawady Bridge (Pakokku)	2.16 miles	under way			University of Computer Studies (Hinthada)	1	Completed
		Kyangin-Pakokku railroad	320 miles	under way			Hinthada People's Hospital	200-bed	Completed
19.	Mandalay region	Mandalay University	1	Completed			Ngathay Bridge (Myokwin)	2280 feet	Completed
		Technological University (Mandalay)	1	Completed			Hinthada Industrial Zone	1	Completed
		University of Computer Studies (Mandalay)	1	Completed			Hinthada-Nyaungdon railroad	48 miles	under way
		University of Foreign Languages	1	Completed	24.	Maubin region	Maubin University	1	Completed
		People's Hospital	200-bed	Completed			Technological University (Maubin)	1	Completed
		Teaching Hospital	1	Completed			University of Computer Studies (Maubin)	1	Completed
		University of Medical Technology	1	Completed			Maubin People's Hospital	200-bed	Completed
		University of Dental Medicine	1	Completed			Maubin Bridge	2362 feet	Completed
		University of Nursing	1	Completed			Khathiya Bridge	1243 feet	Completed
		Nationalities Youth Resource Development Degree College	1	Completed			Maubin natural gas field	1	Completed
		Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon)	5614 feet	Completed			Maubin-Mawlamyinegyun road	43 miles	Completed
							Wadaw sluice gate	15000 acres	Completed
							Htani sluice gate	15000 acres	Completed

*Photo shows a train
on Kengtung-
Wamkaung railroad
section of Mongnai-
Kengtung railroad
construction project.*





actionaid
End poverty. Together

Malteser International
Order of St. John of Jerusalem

Call for Abstracts

Documenting Good Disaster Risk Reduction Practices in Myanmar

ActionAid Myanmar, Malteser International and UNDP, have been awarded funding from the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection Department (ECHO) through its DIPECHO programme for the year 2010 – 2011. This project provides the opportunity for the agencies to identify, document and share the good practices in disaster risk reduction. With DIPECHO funding, UNDP, Malteser International and ActionAid Myanmar are looking for submissions from local organizations, international organizations, UN agencies, academic institutions and Government agencies for papers on **Good Disaster Risk Reduction Practices in Myanmar**.

Good Practice themes / areas

Mainstreaming DRR into Livelihoods, Mainstreaming DRR into Education, Mainstreaming DRR in Health and Nutrition, Community mobilization for DRR, Partnerships and Capacity Development for DRR, Gender and DRR, CBDRM, Environment, DRR and Climate Change

Submission procedure

- Abstracts should be submitted by **10th January 2011**
- Abstracts should follow approved template available with ActionAid, UNDP and Malteser International
- Language: Myanmar or English
- No. of words/pages (max): 1000 words/4 pages (A4 size paper, 1 inch all borders, Times New Roman, Font Size 11, Myanmar Font Win innwa 14)

No. of entries: Organizations can submit one abstract per thematic area and can send abstracts covering other themes.

For copies of selection criteria and template, please contact any of the

following persons: For further contact;

- UNDP: Noel Puno, Tayzar Moe Myint (noel.puno@undp.org, tayzar.moe.myint@undp.org)
- ActionAid Myanmar: Tauhid Ibne Farid & Swe Set (tauhid.farid@actionaid.org, swe.set@actionaid.org)
- Malteser International: Colin Fernandes (colin.fernandes@malteser-international.org)

Armoured car sales jump as drug war batters Mexico

MEXICO CITY, 30 Dec — Armoured cars and body armour in Mexico are no longer exclusively for government officials, foreign executives and the super rich, as a raging drug war spreads across the country, leading to a spike in orders. Sales of armored vehicles rose 20 percent this year, the bloodiest in the government's four-year fight against the cartels, to 1,900 units, according to the Mexican Armoured Car Association.

In a garage in Mexico City, technicians this month were busy fitting bulletproof glass and armor plating to vehicles ranging from luxury cars to humble family sedans. "A couple of years ago (armoured cars) were for wealthy businessmen or the powerful families of Mexico. Today the range of clients has grown because ordinary people now feel the same risks," said Fernando Echeverri, the head of specialist firm Ballistic, who runs the garage.—*Internet*

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharve warehouse and chel an Office of Yangon Port will be closed on the 4th January 2011 (Independence Day) and on the 5th January 2011 (Kayin New Year Day) shipped or delivered on payment will be received as Holiday Fees.

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV FRIENDLY SEA VOY NO (45)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRIENDLY SEA VOY NO (45) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.12.2010 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 S'PORE
PTELTD**

Phone No: 256924/256914

Bank Holidays

All Banks will be closed on 4th January (Tuesday) 2011, Independence Day & 5th January (Wednesday) 2011 Kayin New Year Day, being public holidays under the Negotiable Instruments Act. Central Bank of Myanmar

US says having ambassador in Venezuela important

CARACAS, 30 Dec — The US government on Wednesday said it is important to have an ambassador in Venezuela, and is considering the possible consequences after President Hugo Chavez rejected Washington's chosen envoy.

Chavez on Tuesday dared the US government to expel his ambassador, saying he will not allow the US diplomat Larry Palmer to be ambassador because he made what Chavez described as blatantly disrespectful remarks about Venezuela.—*Internet*

Brazil's housing programme fulfilled

RIO DE JANEIRO, 30 Dec—Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said on Wednesday that the government's mega housing programme, Minha Casa Minha Vida (My house my life), has covered 1 million households.

Lula attributed the success to the change of the government's efforts to address the housing problem and criticized those who did not believe the government's promise to deliver one million housing units.

"Some comrades from the media said we would not manage to fulfill the 1 million-house programme. Some people were used to the bure-aucracy of government officials who kept their lazy butts glued to the chair and did not trouble calling their comrades and demand what had to be

Putin praises START treaty, warns on WTO

Moscow, 30 Dec — Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin praised the New START nuclear arms treaty with the United States on Wednesday, but made protectionist remarks that may complicate talks on joining the World Trade Organization (WTO).

In his first comments on New START since the US Senate approved it last week, Putin lauded President Dmitry Medvedev for forging the treaty with President Barack Obama — a signal of approval for the agreement from Russia's paramount leader.

Putin told reporters the pact was an "unconditional success for President Medvedev in foreign policy." The Russian par-



Russia's Prime Minister Vladimir Putin chairs a meeting of the Government Presidium in Moscow, December.

INTERNET

liament, which is dominated by Putin's United Russia party, is now set to ratify the treaty.

Putin, described in secret US diplomatic cables released early this month by WikiLeaks as an "alpha-dog" ruler who presides over a corrupt elite, added that his trust in US partners was now strengthening but "was not fully there yet."—*Internet*



A NASA's Solar and Heliospheric Observatory (SOHO) image of the Sun. Many people may be surprised to learn that the Sun, rather than burn with faultless consistency, goes through moments of calm and tempest.

INTERNET

Uptick in Haiti cholera deaths

PORT-AU-PRINCE, 30 DEC—Haiti's cholera death toll has risen to 2,761 and the water-borne epidemic appears to be strengthening its grip on the quake-hit Caribbean nation, official figures showed Wednesday.

At least 60 people were shown to have died on four of the previous five days recorded by the health ministry, between 14 December and 17 Decem-

ber. This level has not been seen since deaths peaked in mid-November.

The number of infections has soared above 130,000 as Haiti's first cholera outbreak in more than a century pours further misery on a poor and politically dysfunctional country trying to recover from a devastating January earthquake.

The cholera outbreak led to deadly anti-UN riots last month as some turned their anger on peacekeepers from Nepal accused of bringing the disease into the country.

Internet



A welder works on a car to be fitted with armor plating at a garage in Mexico City on 15 Dec, 2010.—INTERNET

Ten-man Wigan rally to stun Arsenal

WIGAN, 30 Dec — Ten-man Wigan come from behind to secure a 2-2 draw against Arsenal after Sebastien Squillaci's own-goal turned the spotlight on Gunners boss Arsene Wenger's controversial selection policy.

Both sides went into Wednesday's match here at the DW Stadium on the back of thrilling victories last week that did wonders for their respective ambitions this



Arsenal's defender Bacary Sagna (L) is challenged by Wigan Athletic's midfielder Tom Cleverley.—INTERNET

season. Wigan managed to defeat Wolverhampton Wanderers to breathe new life into their struggle against relegation while Arsenal underlined their title credentials with a superb win over Chelsea at the Emirates.

However, if Arsenal's players from that 3-1 victory over the champions felt they had done enough for a spot in the starting XI for this fixture, they were mistaken as manager Wenger made eight changes.

But things did not go to plan for the French boss, whose side missed the chance to go second in the table.

They went a goal down to a Ben Watson penalty, before going 2-1 ahead courtesy of Andrey Arshavin and Nicklas Bendtner only for Squillaci to gift the hosts a draw late on and just minutes after Wigan's Charles N'Zogbia had been dismissed for a headbutt.—Internet

Liverpool fans round on Hodgson after Wolves loss

LIVERPOOL, 30 Dec — Home supporters turned on manager Roy Hodgson as Liverpool's season hit rock-bottom



Wolverhampton Wanderers' defender Richard Stearman (L) clashes with Liverpool's forward Fernando Torres during their English Premier League football match at Anfield in Liverpool. Wolves moved off the bottom of the table with a 1-0 win away to Liverpool that piled the pressure on Reds manager Roy Hodgson.—INTERNET

with a 1-0 defeat to relegation-threatened Wolverhampton Wanderers at Anfield here on Wednesday.

Stephen Ward's 56th minute goal earned Wolves, who climbed off the bottom of the table, their first win at the famous venue for 26 years as Liverpool ended a miserable 2010 on the back of three defeats in four games.

Angry fans taunted Hodgson, who only took over from Rafa Benitez in pre-season, with mocking taunts of "Hodgson for England" after the former Fulham boss replaced David Ngog with Ryan Babel as the game slipped away.

A home match against the league's basement club was supposed to present Liverpool with an ideal opportunity to sign off the calendar year with a victory that would offer their followers a glimmer of hope to take into 2011.

Internet

Ten-man Celtic go top in Scotland

GLASGOW, 30 Dec — Ten-man Celtic moved top of the Scottish Premier League after grinding out a 1-0 win over Motherwell at Parkhead on Wednesday.

With Rangers' game away to St Johnstone having been postponed for a frozen pitch it means Celtic will go into Sunday's Old Firm derby one point clear of their fierce rivals, albeit having played two games more.

Olivier Kapo had already had a strike ruled offside before a stunning shot from Paddy McCourt put the Hoops ahead midway through a first-half the home side dominated.

However, as has often

been the case for Celtic when playing at home in recent weeks they failed to turn their dominance into goals and in a scrappy second-half Scott Brown saw red for his second bookable offence in injury time, meaning the Celtic captain will miss the Rangers game.—Internet



Celtic FC's player Scott Brown controls the ball during a match.

INTERNET

Malouda ends Chelsea's winless streak

LONDON, 30 Dec — Florent Malouda's controversial 61st minute goal sealed Chelsea's 1-0 victory over Bolton to give Carlo Ancelotti's side a first win in seven league games and move the Blues back into the top four of the English Premier League at Stamford Bridge here on Wednesday.

Bolton were furious Malouda's goal was allowed to stand, insisting Chelsea forward Didier Drogba was offside in the build-up to the strike.

But referee Michael Jones waved away their complaints and the reign-



Chelsea's Florent Malouda (L) and Bolton's Paul Robinson (R) fight for the ball during their Premier League match.—INTERNET

ing champions held on to ease the pressure that has built-up around Ancelotti during a run that delivered just six points in eight games — Chelsea's worst sequence in eleven years.—Internet

Stoke seal permanent Pennant deal

LONDON, 30 Dec — Stoke City have signed winger Jermaine Pennant on a permanent deal for Spanish side Real Zaragoza following a loan spell, the English Premier League club announced on Wednesday.



Stoke City have signed winger Jermaine Pennant.—INTERNET

Pennant, who made his name at Arsenal, joined the Potters on a temporary basis in pre-season after failing to cement a spot at Zaragoza.

But now Stoke have given him a two-year contract, subject to international clearance and registration with English football authorities in a deal that has already cost the Midlands club 1.725 million pounds (2.668 million dollars) and could rise to 2.8 million pounds (4.3 million dollars). "I think everyone knows how I feel about being at this football club," Pennant told stokecityfc.com.

Internet

Henin not expecting miracles after elbow injury

PERTH, 30 Dec — Former world No.1 Justine Henin admits she is probably six months away from recapturing her best form, as she prepares for her second Antipodean comeback in as



Former world No.1 Justine Henin admits she is probably six months away from recapturing her best form, as she prepares for her second Antipodean comeback in as many years.—INTERNET

many years.

The seven-times Grand Slam winner took almost two years off from tennis to grapple with her personal life before coming back at this year's Australian Open in January, amazingly reaching the final, where she was beaten by Serena Williams in three sets.

Just under 12 months on and this time Henin is preparing to return from a serious elbow injury that threatened to end her career for good.

Internet

'offer 35 mln euros for Dzeko'



Manchester City have reportedly offered 35 million euros (29.8 million pounds) for Wolfsburg's Bosnian striker Edin Dzeko.

INTERNET

BERLIN, 30 Dec — Manchester City have offered 35 million euros (29.8 million pounds, 45.9 million dollars) for Wolfsburg's Bosnian striker Edin Dzeko, Ger-

many's Bild daily reported on Wednesday.

In what Bild said would be a record price for a Bundesliga player, the English club would pay the Germans 30 million euros for the 24-year-old plus five million euros more if City reach the Champions League.

The transfer could be finalised in time for City's crunch away clash at Arsenal on 5 January, Bild added, without identifying a source.

The paper cited Wolfsburg's general manager Dieter Hoeness as declining to comment on what he called "speculation".

Internet

Blackhawks F Toews out for two weeks

CHICAGO, 30 Dec — Chicago Blackhawks forward Jonathan Toews will be out two weeks with a shoulder injury.

Coach Joel Quenneville disclosed the severity of the injury after practice Wednesday.

Toews was injured Tuesday night in a loss at St. Louis. He was checked hard into the boards by Matt D'Agostini in the first period and got up holding his right shoulder.

Toews is Chicago's second-leading scorer with 33 points, including 15 goals. Chicago has struggled with injuries this

season and only recently welcomed back Marian Hossa and Patrick Kane.

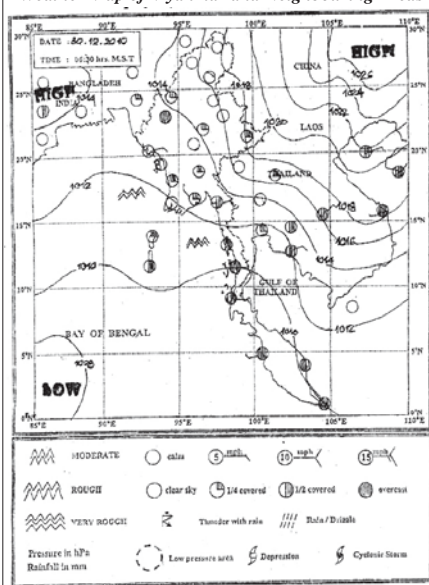
The Blackhawks host San Jose on Thursday night.—Internet



Chicago Blackhawks' Jonathan Toews right, tries to score against Columbus Blue Jackets goalie Mathieu Garon in the third period of an NHL hockey game in Chicago, on 26 Dec, 2010. Chicago won 4-1.—INTERNET

S P O R T S

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Thursday, 30th December, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Mon State, Upper Sagaing, Yangon and Taninthayi Regions and generally fair in the remaining States and Regions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below December average temperatures in Kachin and Shan States, Mandalay, Magway and Bago Regions, (6°C) below December average temperatures in Upper Sagaing Region and about December average temperatures in the remaining States and Regions. The significant night temperatures were Pinlaung (-2°C), Namsan, Heho and Loilem (1°C) each Haka (2°C).

Nay Pyi Taw

Maximum temperature on 29-12-2010 was 85°F. Minimum temperature on 30-12-2010 was 54°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 30-12-2010 was (72%). Rainfall on 30-12-2010 was (Nil).

Yangon (Kaba-Aye)

Maximum temperature on 29-12-2010 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 30-12-2010 was 59°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 30-12-2010 was (65%). Total sunshine hours on 29-12-2010 was (9.8) hours.

Rainfall on 30-12-2010 was at (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2010 was (83.19) inches at Mingaladon, (97.64) inches at Kaba-Aye and (109.29) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Northeast at (10:30) hours MST on 29-12-2010.

Bay Inference: Weather is partly cloudy to cloudy in the Andaman Sea and Southwest Bay and generally fair elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

Forecast valid until evening of the 31st December 2010: Light rain are possible to be isolated in Taninthayi Region, weather will be partly cloudy in Kayin and Mon States, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions and generally fair in the remaining States and Regions. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 31-12-2010: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 31-12-2010: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 31-12-2010: Partly cloudy.

Australian Navy ship leaves for Middle East on anti-piracy mission

SYDNEY, 30 Dec — The Australian Navy ship HMAS Stuart with 190 Australian sailors on board left Sydney on Thursday for the Middle East on a six-month anti-piracy mission, according to the *Australian Associated Press (AAP)* report.

Hundreds of family members and friends, along with Australian Defence Personnel Minister Warren Snowdon, were at the wharf in Sydney to wave the ship goodbye.

Navy chiefs paid tribute to family members for their sacrifice in letting their loved ones go during the festive period.

In its fourth deployment to the Gulf, HMAS Stuart will relieve HMAS Melbourne on Operation Slipper.

While deployed, Stuart will conduct maritime interdiction and counter-piracy missions, providing a deterrent presence and an escort for merchant ships in the Gulf of Aden in the Arabian Sea.

Xinhua



Paul the octopus swims through his aquarium decorated with a football at the Sea Life aquarium in Oberhausen, western Germany. Paul shot to fame during 2010's football World Cup in South Africa for correctly predicting the outcome of games. He died on 26 Oct, 2010.

INTERNET

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL
Programme Schedule
(31-12-2010)(Friday)

Transmissions	Times
Local	(09:00am ~ 11:00am MST)
Oversea Transmission	(31-12-10 09:30 am ~ 1-1-11 09:30 am MST)

Local Transmission

- * Opening
- * News
- * 63rd Anniversary Independence Day (Sound Foundations for the New Government) "Nation-wide Special Projects"
- * News
- * Myanmar's Traditions and Culture "Novicehood in Myanmar"
- * News
- * Today's Efficient Youth (Debate)
- * Gift From Sagaing Hill In Returning Home
- * News
- * Seven Special Stops around Inlay Lake

Oversea Transmission

- * Opening
- * News
- * 63rd Anniversary Independence Day (Sound Foundations for the New Government) "Nation-wide Special Projects"
- * News
- * Myanmar's Traditions and Culture "Novicehood in Myanmar"
- * News
- * Today's Efficient Youth (Debate)
- * Gift From Sagaing Hill In Returning Home
- * News
- * Seven Special Stops around Inlay Lake
- * News
- * Culture Stage
- * News
- * Significant Chinlon Competition in Shwebo
- * Music Gallery
- * News
- * Current Affairs "Surprising Myanmar(Thanakha)"
- * News
- * The Reh Lake (The Greatest Attraction in Chin State)
- * Beautiful Myanmar Silver Bowl
- * Myanmar Movies "Life As Parents"



Friday,
31 December
View on today

7:00 am

1. Paritta By Venerable Min Gun Sayadaw

7:25 am

2. To Be Healthy Exercise

7:30 am

3. Morning News

7:40 am

4. Dhamma Puja Song

7:50 am

5. Nice & Sweet Song

8:00 am

6. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competition

8:15 am

7. The Mirror Image Of The Musical Oldies

8:25 am

8. One village and one Product

8:40 am

9. International News

8:45 am

10. Musical Programme

4:00 pm

1. Martial Song

4:10 pm

2. Musical Programme

4:20 pm

3. Dance Of National Races

4:30 pm

4. Songs Of Yester Years

4:40 pm

5. University Of Distance Education (TV Lectures) -Second Year (Public Policy)

4:55 pm

6. Songs For Upholding National Spirit

5:00 pm

7. Myanmar Language

5:15 pm

8. 63rd Anniversary Independence Day

5:30 pm

9. Yoetha Phyu Sin Kalaydoeathwin

6:00 pm

10. Evening News

6:15 pm

11. Weather Report

6:20 pm

12. Documentary

6:35 pm

13. TV Drama Series

7:25 pm

14. Documentary

8:00 pm

15. News

8:00 pm

16. International News
17. Weather Report
18. Monthly Weather Report

19. Just For Laughs (Gags Asia)

20. TV Drama Series

21. Song Lover

- ★ Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
- ★ Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

- ★ Anarchy begets anarchy, not democracy
- ★ Riots beget riots, not democracy
- ★ Democracy can be introduced only through constitution

People's Desire

- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

- ★ VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
- ★ RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
- ★ Do not allow ourselves to be swayed by killer broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Mahlaing Township boosts paddy per acre yield

MAHLAING, 30 Dec—The 4.50-acre model paddy plot of farmer U Nyo of Legyi Village of Mahlaing Township was harvested on 19 November and the per acre yield of the Hsinnweyin paddy was 93.26 baskets.

Myanma Alin



Namtu TV retransmitting station launched

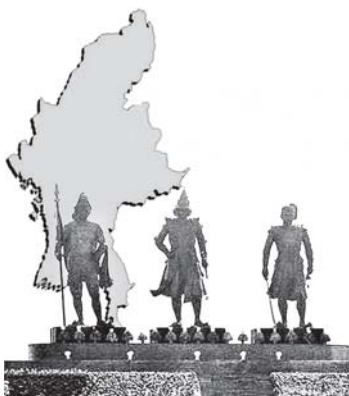
NAY PYI TAW, 29 Dec—As part of the extensive TV retransmission programme, the building of Namtu TV retransmitting station in Shan State (North) was carried out and completed on 25 December.

The facility was put into service the following day. With 50-watt capacity, the station airs MRTV programmes with sharp pictures and clear sound through UMF Channel -j 13.

MNA

SPECIAL FEATURES TO HAIL 63rd ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Ward off colonialist tricks with patriotism



Article

Throughout past successive periods, Myanmar could stand tall with own monarchs and sovereignty in the international community. Occasionally, Myanmar faced alien threats. As the saying that goes "Blood is thicker than water", the entire national brethren repulsed alien attacks in concert.

KO MYANMAR

PAGES 8+9

Poem

* Never let independence be lost
Nationalistic fervour we foster
Courageous and blood red-hot
Fighting back colonialists and fascists
On hills, plains and in valleys

HINTHADA MYINT NGWE (Trs)

PAGE 9

Cartoon



YE HTET

PAGE 8