

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Established 1914

Volume XV, Number 259

7th Waning of Nadaw 1369 ME

Monday, 31 December, 2007



Safeguard Independence and Sovereignty at risk of live

Today, all the national races must keep in mind that it is our inborn duty to discharge what we are entrusted with enhancing the spirit of national solidarity, nationalist spirit and the love for the Union and with the spirit of sacrificing lives in safeguarding independence and sovereignty of the motherland in order that independence that was regained would not be lost again.

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 52nd Anniversary Independence Day)

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

Prime Minister inspects progress of Thagara Industrial Region Project

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec — Chairman of Industrial Development Committee Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspected progress of Thagara Industrial Region Project of the Ministry of Industry-2 in Yedashe Township, Bago Division, yesterday afternoon.

Accompanied by Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Deputy Minister for Industry-2 Lt-Col Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for En-

ergy Brig-Gen Than Htay, Deputy Minister for Construction Brig-Gen Myint Thein, Deputy Minister for Electric Power No 1 U Myo Myint, Deputy Minister for Electric Power No 2 Brig-Gen Win Myint, Director-General of the Prime Minister's Office Col Thant Shin and departmental officials, Prime Minister General Thein Sein left here by car in the afternoon.

(See page 6)



Prime Minister General Thein Sein inspects multipurpose diesel engine factory project of Thagara Industrial Region Project. — MNA

SPECIAL FEATURES TO HAIL 60th ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Article

Ushering in New Year with vigour of independence

2007 has passed leaving various hardships and difficulties to the year 2008. The New Year is a blessing for the Christians, and the whole world will get exhilarated on the occasion as it is also the New Year, according to the international calendar.



Achievements of the health sector



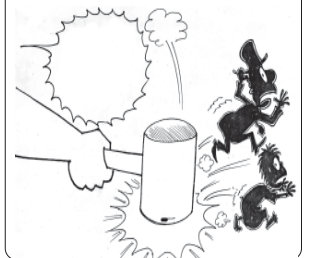
POEM

Myanmar the Thaki race

From Bagan, Pinya, Inwa,
Toungoo

To Nyaungyan till Konboug
Prospered under royal mon-
archs

CARTOON



Emergence of the State Constitution is the duty of all citizens of Myanmar Naing-Ngan.

PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 31 December, 2007

Combating bird flu

Avian influenza is a communicable disease and local and regional health organizations in the world have laid down control programmes and are combating the disease with greater momentum.

In Myanmar, preventive measures are being undertaken and control programmes are being carried out. Hibernated birds carrying the virus, H5N1, transmitted the disease to domestic animals such as fowls, ducks and birds and then to human beings.

It is necessary for those who are engaged in livestock breeding to have knowledge about the bird flu. The egg production of the infected fowls and ducks falls considerably and may die suddenly.

In the infected areas, special care must be taken as it tends to transmit the disease to human beings. The symptoms of the disease are the rise of temperature up to 38°C, muscle pain and respiratory problems.

The bird flu can be transmitted from animals to humans. Therefore, necessary measures including systematic raising of domestic animals, consuming chicken and duck only after being properly cooked, avoiding the consumption of infected poultry and burying the dead poultry are to be taken. Moreover, the public have to inform the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department if there occurs the case of suspected fowl deaths.

The people are to continue to carry out the control programmes to be free from occurrence of the bird flu in the country mindful of the warning of the LBVD.

ပညာရေးစုံညီပွဲတော်

နိုင်ငံတစ်ဝန်းလုံးရှိအခြေခံပညာကျောင်းအားလုံး ပါဝင်ဆင်နွှဲစဉ်။



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SCHOOL FAMILY DAY
 1-3 January, 2008

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

Regional development tasks in Yanbye, Kyaukpyu Townships supervised

YANGON, 29 Dec — Chairman of Rakhine State Peace and Development Council Commander of Western Command Maj-Gen Maung Shein and CEC member of the Union Solidarity and Development Association Rakhine State In-Charge Minister for Transport Maj-Gen Thein Swe met with the secretaries, organizers and members of district/township USDAs at the office of Yanbye Township USDA on 24 December.

On 25 December, the commander and the minister made addresses in meeting with departmental personnel, members of social organizations at Yanbye Township hall and the CEC member accepted membership applications.

The CEC member presented cash and kind for the organizations in the township and Township People's Hospital to officials.

Next, Head of Discipline Enforcement Department of Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation Daw Mya Theingi also presented cash and kind for the township WAO and MCWA through responsible persons.

The commander and the minister offered cash and provisions to the members of the Sangha of the monasteries in the township. They also donated cash for the renovation of Atulayanthi Pagoda to the board of the pagoda trustees.

They comforted patients, presented cash assistance and inspected operation theater at the township



USDA CEC member Minister Maj-Gen Thein Swe and wife present K 1 million for Yanbye Township People's Hospital to an official.

TRANSPORT

People's Hospital.

Next, they attended the opening ceremony of newly-built Rural Health Centre for Konbaung model village in the township and presented publications to the village library.

They looked into Minpyin village Rural Health Centre and paid homage to Gankawtaw Pagoda in Kyaukpyu Township. —MNA

12th Inter-State/Division Judo Tournament concludes



MOC General Secretary Director-General U Thaung Htaik presents a championship shield to Yangon Division Judo Team.—SPED

YANGON, 30 Dec — The final events of the 12th Inter-State/Division Judo Tournament for 2007 in conjunction with the awarding ceremony were held in Aung San Stadium this afternoon.

The prizes for different classes were awarded by officials concerned of the Sports and Physical Education Department and Myanmar Judo Federation.

Secretary of Central Work Committee for Myanmar Women's Sports Federation Daw Al Khun Yi presented a gold medal and five silver medals to third-placed Kayin State, and two gold medals, two silver medals and three bronze medals to second-

placed Mon State in the women's team event; Patron of MWSF Daw Shwe Thet, a gold medal and a silver medal to third-placed Shan State (South) and two gold medals, two silver medals and three bronze medals to second-placed Kachin State in the men's team event.

President of MJF U Tun Tun handed best player awards to Sellwe (Ayeyawady Division) in the women's under 48-kilo class and Nay Lin Tun (Kachin State) in the men's under 45-kilo class.

Director-General U Thaung Htaik of SPED gave away six gold medals and a bronze medal to champion Yangon Division in the women's event and four gold medals and five silver medals to champion Yangon Division in the men's event. MJF provided participants with K 642,000. —MNA

306 films eligible for Oscar competition this year

LOS ANGELES, 30 Dec — A total of 306 feature films are eligible for consideration for the 80th annual Academy Awards' top honour for best picture, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences announced on Thursday.

To be eligible for Oscar consideration, films have until midnight, on 31 December, to open in a commercial movie theater in Los Angeles County and begin a minimum run of seven consecutive days, the Beverly Hills-based academy said.

Under Oscar rules, a feature-length motion picture must have a running time of more than 40 minutes and must have been exhibited theatrically on 35 millimetres or 70 millimetres film, or in a qualifying digital format. —MNA/Xinhua

Al-Qaeda ally denies role in Bhutto slaying

PESHAWAR (Pakistan) 30 Dec — Al-Qaeda-linked Pakistani militant Baitullah Mehsud was not involved in the assassination of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto, his spokesman said on Saturday, and blamed the government

for killing her.

“I strongly deny it. Tribal people have their own customs. We don’t strike women,” Mehsud’s spokesman Maulvi Omar said by telephone from an undisclosed location.

The government said on Friday that Mehsud was

responsible for Bhutto’s killing as she left an election rally in the garrison city of Rawalpindi, close to Islamabad, on Thursday.

Al-Qaeda is actively trying to destabilize Pakistan, and there have been several assassination attempts on President Pervez Musharraf, his former prime minister Shaukat Aziz and former interior minister Aftab Ahmed Khan Sherpao.

But the militant’s spokesman said Bhutto was a victim of President Pervez Musharraf’s security apparatus, repeating a conspiracy theory many Pakistanis are willing to believe.

MNA/Reuters

Dancers perform before the visitors during their visit to the former residence of Confucius in Qufu, China on 30 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET



Thai PPP closer to form coalition govt

BANGKOK, 30 Dec — The pro-Thaksin People Power Party (PPP), which won Thailand’s post-coup general election on December 23, has moved closer to form a more stable coalition government as another major party was said to have accepted the offer to join the PPP-led ranks.

The Chart Thai (Thai Nation) Party has already accepted an invitation to join the PPP-led coalition, a son of Chart Thai Party leader Banharn Silapacharua said on Saturday, according to news network.

Warawut Silapacharua, son of 75-year-old veteran politician, former prime minister Banharn, said the Chart Thai decided to join the coalition in line with its agreement with the Puea Pandin (For the Motherland) Party to stay together.

Warawut said the

Chart Thai and Puea Pandin will hold a joint Press conference on Wednesday to announce their decision to join the coalition.

The rest seats were shared among smaller parties: Chart Thai Party with 37 seats, Puea Pandin

Party with 24 seats, Ruam Jai Thai Chart Pattana (Thais United National Development) Party with nine, Matchima Thipataya (Neutral Democratic Party) with seven and Pracharaj (Royal People) Party with five seats.

MNA/Xinhua



Vietnamese drummers perform on the stage of the World Drums Festival 2007 in Kuala Lumpur, capital of Malaysia, on 29 Dec, 2007. As the last of 50 events of Visit Malaysia Year 2007 programme, the 3-day World Drums Festival 2007 kicked off on Saturday. Drummers from Japan, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Vietnam, Venezuela, Sri Lanka and Malaysia attended the festival.—INTERNET



South Korean officials attend an opening ceremony of an inter-Korea cargo center in Paju, near the Demilitarized Zone dividing the two Koreas, on 10 Dec. Officials from the two Koreas will next month inspect a North Korean port seen as a key element of plans to expand economic ties, according to a joint statement released on Sunday.—INTERNET

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Chinese President meets Japanese PM

BEIJING, 29 Dec — Chinese President Hu Jintao met here on Friday with visiting Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, calling for more efforts to build bilateral strategic and mutually

beneficial ties.

“The development of long-term, stable and good neighbourly relations between China and Japan are the common anticipations of the two peoples, as well as the duty

of the two nations’ political leaders,” Hu said.

China is ready to work with Japan to take high-level visits and the 30th anniversary of the peace and friendship treaty as opportunities to advance bilateral relations, Hu said.

Hu stressed the need to abide by the three political documents on bilateral ties, including the Sino-Japanese Joint Statement, the Peace and Friendship Treaty and the Sino-Japanese Joint Declaration, and follow the spirit of “taking history as a mirror and looking forward to the future”. —MNA/Xinhua

Sharif visits Bhutto’s grave

ISLAMABAD, 30 Dec — The chief of Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz (PML-N), Mian Nawaz Sharif, visited the home town of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto to condole her death on Saturday, the *Associated Press of Pakistan* reported.

Leading a 40-member delegation, Sharif visited Bhutto’s grave at Garhi Khuda Bakhsh in the southern Sindh Province, said the report. Bhutto was killed in a suicide attack on Thursday after addressing an election rally in the garrison city of Rawalpindi. The suicide bomber launched the attack when Bhutto was leaving the venue of the public meeting. —MNA/Xinhua

Indonesian Air Force to modernize fleets

JAKARTA, 30 Dec — Newly sworn Indonesian Air Force Chief Marshall Subandrio said on Saturday his priority was to modernize the fleets to increase preparedness in spite of very tight budget.

“The short-term target is to boost our preparedness according to the available budget,” Subandrio said at the Halim Perdana Kusumah Air Force base here.

The immediate need was to replace the ground support light aircraft *OV-10 Broncos* which all have been grounded for safety concern.

Subandrio said he expected to terminate service of the aging US-made aircraft as soon as next year but the Air Force had not found their replacement.

The Air Force also has signed the purchase deal of six Russian *Sukhoi* jetfighters in addition to four *Sukhois* already in service to build a squadron.

MNA/Xinhua

China's top legislator, Fukuda promote coop for better

BEIJING, 29 Dec — China views the Sino-Japanese relations from a global perspective, said Wu Bangguo, chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC) Standing Committee, in a meeting with visiting Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda on Friday.

During their talks, Wu said the development of the good-neighbourly and cooperative relations between the two countries was a common aspiration and conformed with the fundamental interests of the two countries and two

peoples, adding that it was also the common expectation of Asian people and people in the world at large.

Although China and Japan differed in opinion on some issues, their common interests were the mainstream, he said. The two sides should view bilateral relations from a strategic and long-term perspective.

Wu said China was willing to develop friendly and cooperative relations with Japan on the basis of the principles prescribed in the three political

documents and to elevate bilateral ties to a new stage.

China-Japan friendship was, in essence, the friendship between the two peoples. It was thus of great importance to building mutual trust between the two peoples, he said.

The top legislator said the NPC had established regular exchange mechanisms with the two chambers of the Japanese Diet, respectively, and maintained close communication with them.— *MNA/Xinhua*



Ballons fly as they are released as a part of the year end celebrations in Sao Paulo on 28 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

Britain's indiscipline forcing teachers out

LONDON, 29 Dec — Bad behaviour in classrooms and too much government red tape is prompting a growing number of school teachers to quit, the Conservatives said on Thursday. They said over a quarter of a million qualified teachers under 60 are not teaching.

Nearly 100,000 left the profession between 2000 and 2005, more than double the number that left in the preceding five years,

according to Tory figures.

Shadow Children's Secretary Michael Gove added in a statement: "Not only are our children not achieving as they should, talented teachers are not where they should be -- in the classroom, opening young minds to new horizons.

"With more than a quarter of a million gifted professionals no longer in teaching we have to ask why they've given up on

education under Labour.

"I fear that a combination of classroom bureaucracy, government micromanagement and poor discipline in too many schools has encouraged a drift away from teaching."

The Conservatives also said more teachers are retiring early, the number rising to 16,850 in the past year from 8,500 in 1999.

More full-time teachers, too, are going part-time, they added.

Schools Minister Jim Knight dismissed the claims.

"Recruitment into the profession has never been more buoyant, and teaching is now the career of choice for many highly qualified, talented individuals," he said.

MNA/Reuters



Workers clean an oil spill spread over approximately four kilometers on the coast of Caleta Cordoba in Argentina's Patagonian province of Chubut on 29 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

Former Texas home of Bushes burned by arsonist

HOUSTON, 29 Dec — A home where President George W Bush lived as a young boy with his parents in Odessa, Texas, and that is now part of a presidential museum there was damaged on Thursday by a fire that investigators blamed on arson.

"I can tell you it has been determined that it was intentionally set, but I cannot discuss anything about evidence or possible suspects because this is an ongoing criminal investigation," said city of Odessa spokeswoman Andrea Goodson.

Museum administrator Lettie England said no motive for the blaze had been determined and there was no reason at this point to believe it was a political act. She said there were no notes or messages left at the scene.

England said in a telephone interview from the west Texas city that the arsonist spread some kind of flammable liquid on the door and front windows and set the fire.— *MNA/Reuters*

Musharraf directs firm action against miscreants

ISLAMBAD, 30 Dec — Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf said Saturday while the entire nation was in mourning over the tragic death of Mohtarma Benazir Bhutto, miscreants and anti-social elements could not be allowed to damage lives and property of the common people in the guise of protest.

Speaking at a meeting at the President's Camp Office in Rawalpindi, Musharraf said elements who wish to exploit the situation by looting and plundering must be dealt with firmly and all measures be taken to ensure safety and security of the people.

Musharraf mentioned the problems being faced

by people as the chemists, bakeries, grocery stores and petrol and CNG pumps had been closed due to the fear of the hooligans and looters.

Some cities across

Pakistan have been gripped by escalating violence following the death of former prime minister and Chairperson of People's Party (PPP) Bhutto on Thursday.— *MNA/Xinhua*



A woman waits for customers at a shop selling musical instruments made from paper, ahead of New Year celebrations in Jakarta on 30 Dec, 2007.—XINHUA

Russia produces record amount of caviar

Moscow, 29 Dec — Russia produced a record amount of salmon caviar, over 20,000 tons, in 2007, the State Fishery Committee said on Friday.

“We caught a record amount of salmon, 325,000 tons, and

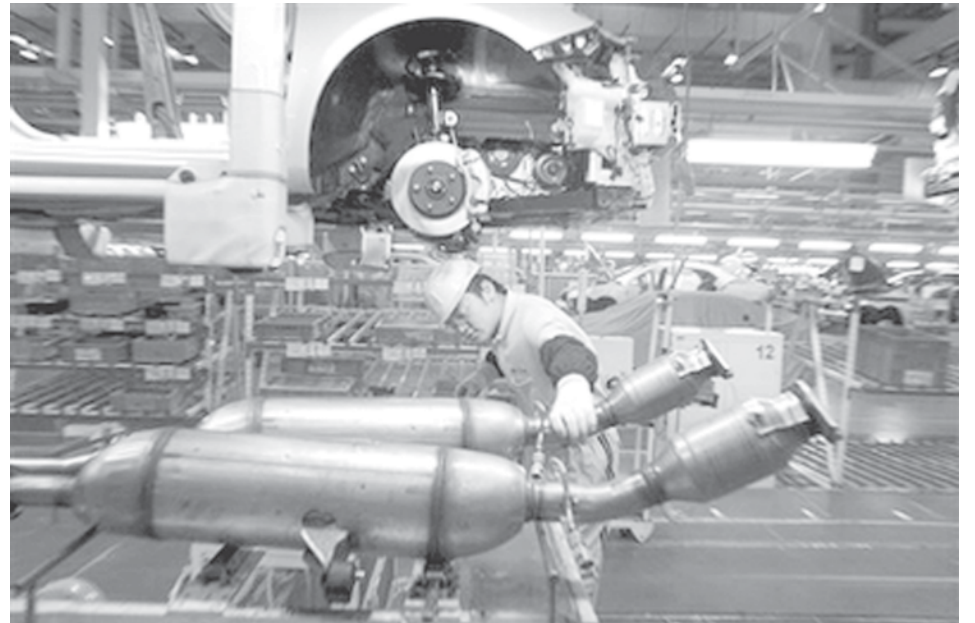
produced over 20,000 tons of salmon caviar,” committee spokesman Alexander Savelyev was quoted by the *ITAR-TASS* news agency as saying.

“Although the consumption of salmon caviar in Russia doubles

each year, there will be no deficit on the domestic market. If there is not enough caviar, Russia will buy it from Alaska. Anyone wishing can treat the family to salmon caviar during New Year holidays,” he said.

There will be no deficit of herring either, as “this year’s catch amounts to 338,000 tons,” Savelyev said.

At the same time, there is no legal sturgeon caviar on the domestic market because of the sturgeon fishing moratorium, he said. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Workers at the Toyota factory assemble cars during a visit by Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda, unseen, in Tianjin, China, on 29 Dec, 2007. Fukuda urged China to partner with Japan in tackling global issues such as climate change, saying improving relations gave the Asian giants a unique opportunity to take leading roles. —INTERNET



Korea Stock Exchange Market employees take souvenir pictures as the stock market wraps up the year with the closing event in Seoul, South Korea, on 28 Dec, 2007. The Korea Composite Stock Price Index closed the year’s last trading at 1,897.13. The Korean reads ‘Adieu 2007.’
INTERNET

India strengthen cooperation in air services with HK

HONG KONG, 29 Dec — An air services consultation between Hong Kong and India had successfully concluded, with substantial liberalization of the bilateral air services arrangements, said the government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Thursday.

Under the new arrangements, the airlines

of the two sides will be able to increase services to Delhi and Mumbai by more than double the existing level, which is at present about 20 frequencies per week. New services to Bangalore, the IT base in India, and Chennai will also be possible. The two sides have also exchanged new fifth freedom rights. For example, Indian airlines

will be able to operate services to points in North America via Hong Kong under the new arrangements. Hong Kong airlines will be able to operate services to points in Europe beyond India.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Argentine province sues companies over oil spill

BUENOS AIRES, 29 Dec — The southern Argentine province of Chubut on Friday filed a lawsuit in a federal court against two oil companies for an oil spill off the southern Patagonian coast.

The lawsuit states the companies responsible for the spill failed to fulfill the minimum security requirements, and inform the government of the spill, nor have a contingency plan for the clean-up.

The nearly four-kilometre spill has killed at least 500 birds, while ecologists have rescued 200 seabirds covered in crude oil. Cormorants have been the worst affected, but ducks and Magellan penguins were also badly affected. — *MNA/Xinhua*

ECONOMIC NEWS

US company suspends distribution of tainted milk

LOS ANGELES, 29 Dec — Whittier Farms, a US company, has stopped operations and distribution of tainted milk it produced after two people died of listeriosis, officials said on Friday.

An investigation said the milk produced by the Massachusetts dairy was likely the source of the bacterial illness that killed two men and sickened two others.

Most of its customers live in Worcester County, Massachusetts, said Alfred DeMaria, the state director of communicable disease control. The Department of Public

Health has issued a warning after identifying four cases of listeriosis. Two of the victims, a 78-year-old man and a 75-year-old man, died in June and October.

Investigators have not identified the exact source of the contamination in the production process,

DeMaria said. But milk samples gathered last week at one of the dairy's two retail stores tested positive for listeriosis.

Testing showed that the bacteria causing the infections in the four victims likely came from the same source.

— *MNA/Xinhua*

Rio expecting 600,000 tourists for New Year revelry

RIO DE JANEIRO, 29 Dec — Rio de Janeiro is expected to host an average of 600,000 tourists for the city's New Year parties, the city government said on Friday. All the hotels

on the city's seafont are now fully booked, Rio de Janeiro's Secretary of Tourism Rubem Medina said.

“Many people are not coming just because there is a lack of sufficient flights from Europe and the United States to Rio; otherwise, they would come,” Medina added.

Ten public parties will be held in different parts of the city, including the world famous Copacabana and Ipanema beaches in the city's southern sector.

Around 5.7 million reais (about 3.2 million US dollars) have been invested in the events, which are expected to attract four million locals, local media reported. The government has devised a special traffic plan for events taking place on the beach. — *MNA/Xinhua*



Indonesian workers look on as a police helicopter flies low near a construction site in Jakarta, Indonesia on 30 Dec, 2007. Indonesia is enjoying its fastest economic growth rate after a decade marred by terrorist attacks, political turmoil and conflicts. —INTERNET



Prime Minister General Thein Sein looks into progress of construction of earth road and paving concrete along Yangon-Mandalay Highway.—MNA

Prime Minister inspects progress of...

(from page 1)

At Thagara Industrial Region Project site, they were welcomed by Minister for Industry-2 Maj-Gen Saw Lwin, Deputy Minister for Rail Transportation Thura U Thaung Lwin and officials.

At the briefing hall, Minister Maj-Gen Saw Lwin reported on implementation of the project including the tasks for production of better diesel engines, turbines and generators based on the current productivity in accord with the guidance given by the Head of State on his inspection of Thagara Industrial Region.

With regard to four projects being implemented in the industrial region, the minister reported that the first project is to implement the multi-purpose diesel engines factory project for manufacturing 700 engines annually with three kinds of capacities such as 250-400 hp, 330-540 hp and 500-800 hp. These diesel engines will be installed at heavy trucks, passenger buses, dampers, small and medium-sized water craft, coastal and ocean liners,

locomotive engines, generators, compressors, stone grinding machine and drilling machines.

The second project is to build the bulldozer and excavator factory project to produce 100 bulldozers and 200 excavators yearly and these heavy machinery will be installed the engines to be manufactured from the diesel engine factory.

The third one is to implement the hydropower turbine and generator factory project and the factory will produce 50 turbines between 100 and 500 kilowatts including 2,000 kilowatt and 5,000 kilowatt turbines annually.

Arrangements are being made for establishment of the Myanmar-Korea Technical Training School Project as the fourth project. The school will turn out skillful technicians for industries and computer-controlled factories.

After attending to the needs, Prime Minister General Thein Sein gave instructions. He said that at present, the economic growth of the State depends on natural resources and agricultural sector.

Development of industrial sector and establishment of the industrialized nation will reflect the booming of the State economy and the improvement of living standard of the people.

As such, the government has laid down the national economic plans for development of the State economy and is implementing the fourth five-year short-term plan.

On completion, the target was set to increase average 12 per cent development in the economic sector and average 25 per cent in the industrial sector. Therefore, efforts are being made to implement the target for involving of 22.4 per cent of industrial sector in the national economy.

The government is giving encouragement for development of industries in the State-run and private-owned sectors. As a result, a number of State-owned and private-owned factories and workshops emerged, while 18 industrial zones could be set up in the entire nation.

In addition, priority is being given to availability of energy and electric

power that plays an important role in establishment of the industrialized nation. Despite generating over 770 megawatts, the power plants cannot supply the power consumption of the nation. Therefore, a total of 15 hydropower projects are being implemented simultaneously. On completion, these projects will generate 10,000 more megawatts. In the energy sector, efforts are being made for production of more oil and natural gas offshore and inland.

As the country is rich in natural resources to produce hydropower, the hydropower turbines and generators to be manufactured by Thagara Industrial Region will contribute much to development of the electric power sector of the State.

Likewise, the Thagara Factories Project will manufacture various kinds of machinery including bulldozers, excavators, locomotives, engines for water craft and vehicle engines for construction, transport and industrial sectors of the nation. Ministry of Industry-2 has

gained technological experiences and skills because it has involved in State's industrial sector for many years.

Head of State Senior General Than Shwe has given guidance that the ministry is responsible for playing a leading role in the drive for industrial development and national industrialization processes.

The Prime Minister called for constant innovations not only for the development of the industrial sector and building an industrialized nation but also for making progress of the factories and industries upholding the guidance given by the Head of State in his inspection tour of Thagara Industrial Region on 24-2-2007.

He also stressed the need to improve the models, designs and qualities of the products through innovations in order to win the customer satisfaction.

The manufacturing processes of industries in Thagara Industrial Region are very important for the development of the industrial sector, establishment of an industrialized nation and for improving the living conditions of the people,

he added.

Next, the Prime Minister presented fruit baskets to the experts of the People's Republic of China and viewed the scale models of the buildings of Thagara Industrial Region Project. He looked into progress of construction of Warehouse and Machine Shop No 1 at the construction site of the multipurpose diesel engine factory project.

The Prime Minister inspected Machine Process Workshop and Welding Workshop at the construction site of bulldozer and excavator factory project. At the construction site of hydroelectric turbines and generators factory, the Prime Minister and party viewed the chosen site for construction of the factory and buildings from the viewing deck.

They also inspected the site chosen for building Myanmar-Korea Technical Training School.

Next, Prime Minister General Thein Sein in a motorcade looked into progress of building earth road and paving concrete road along Yangon-Mandalay Highway.

MNA



Construction tasks of Thagara Industrial Region Project in progress.—MNA

Hailing the 60th Anniversary Independence Day



The main building of University of Pharmacy (Yangon) was inaugurated in Webagi Myothit of North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Division, on 25 December 2007 for creating opportunities for the student youths to pursue medical education.

The 200-bed Teaching Hospital (Magway) was opened in Magway of Magway Division on 18 November 2007. As a result, students of central Myanmar have the opportunities to learn medical education while the local people enjoy health care services at the hospital at the same time.



Achievements of the health sector throughout the nation in 2007

Sr.	Hospital	Location	Opening Date
1.	X-ray room of Aphyauk Station Hospital	Taikkyi Township, Yangon Division	8-2-07
2.	Mogok Hospital	Mogok, Mandalay Division	7-3-07
3.	People's Hospital (Ngwehsaung)	Ngwehsaung of Pathein District, Ayeyawady Division	15-3-07
4.	Thayetkon Station Hospital	Thayetkon of Kawa Township, Bago Division	23-3-07
5.	Extension of patient ward and two-storey surgical and maternity ward of People's Hospital	Ye, Mon State	3-4-07
6.	Public Health University (Yangon)	Yangon, Yangon Division	16-7-07
7.	New three-storey building of Women's and Children's Specialist Hospital	Taunggyi, Shan State (South)	22-7-07
8.	Teaching Hospital (Magway)	Magway, Magway Division	18-11-07
9.	Main lecture hall of University of Pharmacy (Yangon)	Webagi Myothit, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Division	25-11-07
10.	Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Ward of Toungoo General Hospital	Toungoo, Bago Division	7-12-07
11.	New six-storey Jivitadana Sangha Hospital	Bahan Township, Yangon Division	25-12-07

The 200-bed New General Hospital (Kengtung) was inaugurated in Kengtung of Shan State (East). At present, people of Shan State (East) enjoy fruits of health care services.



The photo shows a front view of University of Traditional Medicine (Mandalay) opened in Mandalay, Mandalay Division. Thanks to establishment of the university, students can learn traditional medical education conveniently.



HAILING THE 60th ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Ushering in New Year with vigour of independence

Than Eint Hmu

Cherish the Independence, safeguard it at the risk of lives



The year 2007 passes leaving various hardships and difficulties to the year 2008. The New Year is a blessing for the Christians, and the whole world will get exhilarated on the occasion as it is also the New Year according to the international calendar. I heard that in some countries people died in traffic accidents on account of their overindulgence and excessive joys. The certain happy-go-lucky Myanmar people, non-Christians, for whom the occasion is not for their Myanmar New Year, will also hail the year 2008 with great joys.

In reality, 1st January is a day of heart-rending for the people of Myanmar. On 1 January 1886 Governor-General of India Lord Dufferin declared that “Myanmar was annexed into the British Emperor”. Some said Dufferin gave the British Queen Myanmar as a New Year gift at 2400 hours on 31 December 1885. Looking back, the global New Year Day was a day when Myanmar fell under subjugation.

The British imperialists made the first attempt to annex Myanmar in Hainggyi Island

crisis in the time of King Alaung Mintaya. But the Myanmar people were able to fight back. At that time, Myanmar was a strong nation. In the time of King Hsinphyushin, son of King Alaung Mintaya, the area of Myanmar used to be the largest in Southeast Asia. The imperialists made one attempt after another to invade Myanmar during Konbaung dynasty.

India’s Assam, Manipur and Akkapat were once the regions that had to offer tributes to the Myanmar kings. However, they were not ruled by Myanmar and they were autonomous regions. As Assam rose against Myanmar in 1816 and in 1818, troops were sent to it to ensure stability. The root cause of the risings was none other than the British. At the time, the British imperialists had already annexed the whole India.

In the fights against Assam and Manipur, the Myanmar troops had to face the British troops. The imperialists entered the areas of Myanmar and stirred up various problems. They not only sold arms to those who rose against the Myanmar kings but also sent their sepoy to fight the battles. General Maha Bandoola, who led 5,000 Myanmar soldiers including 1,000 Kachins, marched to Jurahat 1,000 miles away from Myanmar and defeated 30,000 enemies including Indian sepoy who were under British command.

The British persuaded Rakhine as they were defeated in the battles of Assam and Manipur. They aided and abetted Rakhine rebels led by Chinbyan. The rebels were given refuge in Bengal. The British blatantly declared that Shinmaphyu Island was put under their rule by hoisting the British Flag. Being intolerable, the Myanmar people crossed the Naff River, entered Bengal and fought against the Rakhine rebels in January 1824. But they fell into the trap of the cunning British and Myanmar was dubbed a war monger or invader. On 5 March 1824 the British declared war on Myanmar.

The First Anglo-Myanmar War was a historic war. Some Britons who knew the true situation that it was an unjust war opposed it through the British Parliament and newspapers. Myanmar’s fight against the British troops at risk of their lives led to 15,000 deaths of the British soldiers. Myanmar’s side also lost lots of lives including General Maha Bandoola and General Maha Nay Myo. The war lasted two years and Myanmar was defeated losing Rakhine, Taninthayi, Assam, Manipur and Akkapat.

According to their plan, the British war-ships arrived at the mouth of the Yangon River on 1 April 1852, and another war started.

(See page 9)



HAILING THE 60th ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY

Ushering in New Year with vigour of independence

Than Eint Hmu

(from page 8)

The Second Anglo-Myanmar War lasted over one year. Myanmar was defeated again due to internal disunity. In June 1853 after the war, the Lower Myanmar fell under the British rule. In the Third Anglo-Myanmar War Myanmar lost in a month as it was suddenly attacked. But patriotic national people fought back for 10 years. Only in 1895, the British felt relaxed.

It can be deduced from a review that the British took more than 100 years beginning from the Hainggyi Island crisis to occupy Myanmar. It took 70 years if we counted from the Assam and Manipur unrest. The British colonialists, the biggest imperialist in the world, could not occupy Myanmar easily. They had to experience the bravery of Myanmar. They knew that it was rather difficult to defeat Myanmar.

Employing various wicked ways, the British practised the divide-and-rule policy and tried to oppress the Myanmar people. There was also racial discrimination. They tried to revitalize feudalism in hilly regions with intent to sow discord among the Myanmar, Shan and Kayah nationals. But the plains were directly ruled and Rakhine and Taninthayi were separately ruled. In consequence, the country got divided into parts. The British encouraged the wealthy Myanmar nationals and foreigners to make the farmers and workers impoverished. There emerged class differences and the national brethren were at loggerheads with each other over the class differences. The British regarded Myanmar as uncivilized people and cracked down the peasants' uprising led by Saya San.

Thorough analysis reveals that Myanmar had to take over 120 years to regain independence

since the British occupation of Rakhine and Taninthayi. But since then Myanmar rose against the British government. It took over 60 years if we calculate from 1886 when the whole nation fell under subjugation. Myanmar people fought for independence since 1826. A lot of lives were sacrificed for independence.

It was not that ancient Myanmar people were enslaved easily.

Independence was not regained in an easy way.

What about today's Myanmar? Will they be enslaved by neo-colonialists?

Anyhow, we should try to welcome and hail the New Year that might bring some hardships and difficulties due to the instigation of neo-colonialists and internal and external destructive elements and overcome them with the strength of national consolidation, Union Spirit and nationalistic fervour.

(Translation: ST)

POEM:

Myanmar the Thaki race

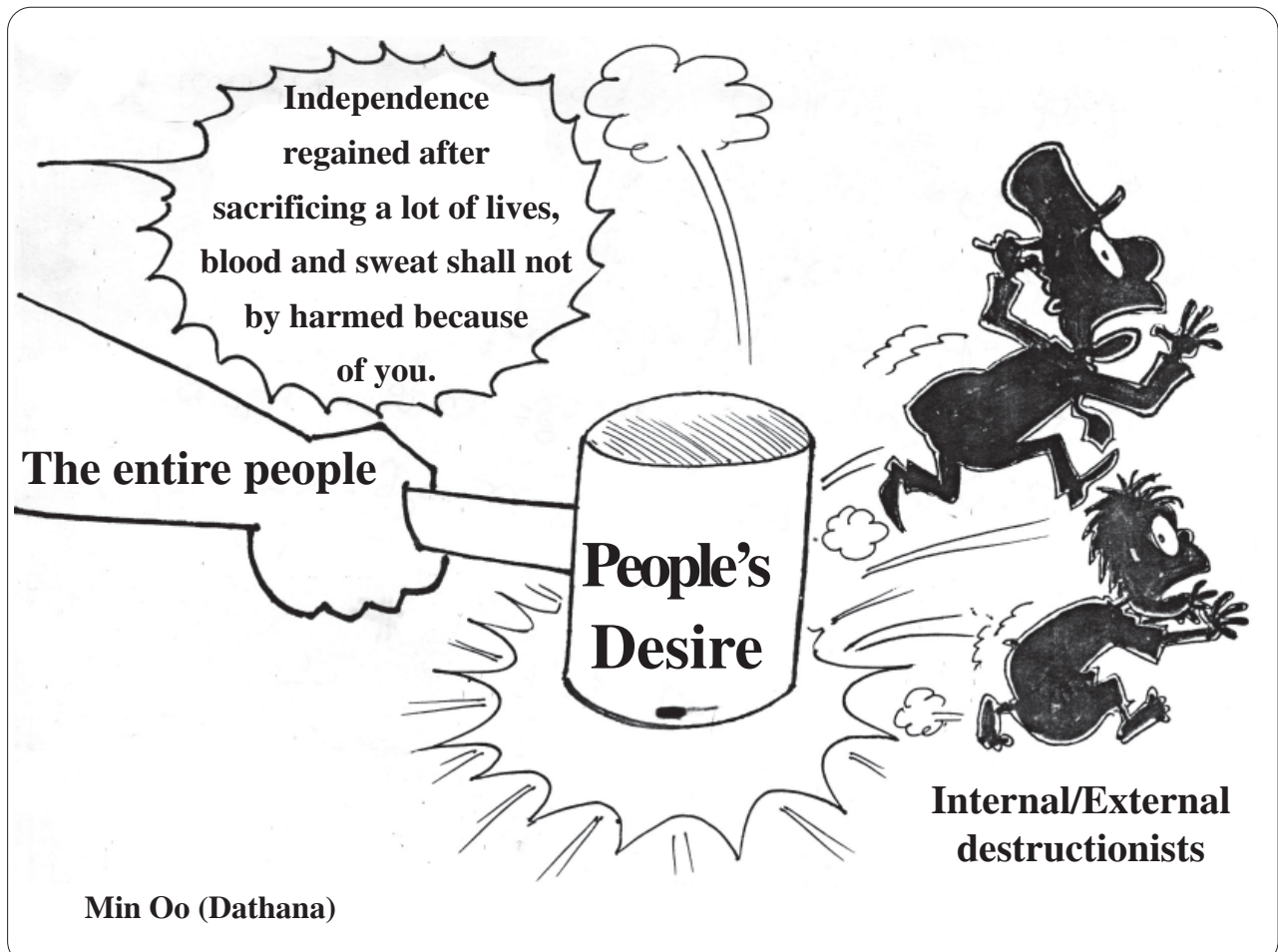
* From Bagan, Pinya, Inwa, Toungoo
To Nyaungyan till Konboun
Prospered under royal monarchs
Flourishing religion
Abundant water supply and good soil
With dams and canals
Victorious Tatmadaw so famous
And food abound

* The proud land of Thaki race
With prestige and dignity
Dynamically and unitedly
Burgeoning the esteem
Powerful for years in thousands
Lived Thaki race in solidarity

* Even waned for once under
enslavement
Gallant Thaki race
Gave not an inch
Fought back with undaunted spirit
Nationalistic fervour they showed
Inheriting fine traditions and religion
of race
Thaki glory perpetuated
Global administration for Myanmar
astounding
Dedicating themselves to
Serving people's interest
And promoting dignity and religion
Heroes and good sons
Numbers in millions
Nation and community
They safeguarded risking lives
With blood we wrote
Our praiseworthy history
Glory shines on earth
Upholding dignity and tradition
Myanmar the Thaki race
Will live forever

Zaw Min Min Oo (Translation)

(Hailing the 60th Anniversary Independence Day)



Annual Meeting of 9th Myanmar...

(from page 16)

Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Chairman of MFF U Htay Myint made speeches on the occasion.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe, Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin and Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa accepted K 15.2 million for the federation donated by wellwishers and presented certificates of honour to them.

The minister presented certificates of honour to U Ye Myat Thu for the experts who participated in the subject-wise talks and medals to outstanding students

of the members of federation.

Afterwards, Minister Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and the Chairman of MFF formally opened Myanmar Aquatic Products Sale Festival for 2007-2008 and then viewed booths on display. In the afternoon, the annual meeting followed. The festival is kept open to the public displaying 97 booths in total and it will be held on a grand scale up to 4 January from 9 am to 10 pm daily.

MNA



Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin, Vice-Mayor Col Maung Pa and MFF President U Htay Myint open Myanmar Aquatic Products Sale Festival 2007-08. — MNA



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of Ministry of Defence views booths and shops displayed at Myanmar Aquatic Products Sale Festival 2007-08 of MFF.—MNA

Susilo urges people to take care of forests

JAKARTA, 30 Dec — Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono on Saturday called on the whole society to take good care of forests in avoidance of floods and landslides that had happened lately in some regions of the country.

“Thereby, we will be taking care of the Earth in a smart way,” the president was quoted by national *Antara* news agency as saying in a dialog with local community of Wonogiri District, Central Java Province.

The floods were a consequence of hundreds of years of mismanagement and exploitation of forests, said Susilo, therefore urging people to take care of forests and arid areas.

“We don’t need to blame the past. We now must take care and improve the conditions of our forests,” he said.

According to Teguh Purnomosidi, top official of Wonogiri, several people were killed, nine still missing and four others injured in the recent flooding in this region.

MNA/Xinhua

Maj-Gen Tha Aye meets departmental officials in Mon and Kayin States

NAY PYI TAW, 30 Dec— Maj-Gen Tha Aye of the Ministry of Defence met officials of departments of Mon and Kayin States at Mon State Peace and Development Council Office in Mawlamyine on 26 December.

Present at the meeting were Chairman of Mon State PDC Commander of South East Command Maj-Gen Thet Naing Win, Chairman of Kayin State PDC Brig-Gen Zaw Min, officials of departments and chairmen of the district/township PDCs.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye said that the government has been implementing five rural development tasks and 24-development region project after formation of the Ministry for Progress of Border Areas and National Races and Development Affairs for progress of border areas that lagged behind in development.

He said local authorities are to fulfill the three basic needs of the people—food, clothing and shelter. Necessary resources are to be explored for emergence of an industrialized country.

He spoke of the need for officials concerned to encourage industries, to enhance thoughts of the people based on four social objectives and to be loyal to the nation.

Officials of social organizations reported on regional development tasks.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye gave necessary instructions and fulfilled the requirements.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye and party inspected pre-stressed concrete sleeper factory (Mottama) in Paung Township.

Maj-Gen Tha Aye discussed prevalence of law and order, reduction of crimes, success of State-run economic enterprises, sufficiency of rice and edible oil and cultivation of oil crops in meeting with officials of Thaton District.—MNA

Maj-Gen Tha Aye inspects construction works at pre-stressed concrete sleeper factory (Mottama) in Paung Township. — MNA



Living in Myanmar is worth it

A Pensioner

I am a pensioner. When I was in service, I was worried, thinking how I would have to deal with commodity prices with my pension. However, in practice, I find my pension enough for my meals. So, my worries about that are no more now.

To my surprise, recently, some persons including the UN resident representative made accusations that on average, a Myanmar citizen could hardly spend one US dollar a day, as though Myanmar people were starving. That also gave me a laugh.

At the rate of one US dollar a day is right, but the accusation is totally wrong. In reality, the accusation was part of the plot designed to cause regime change through mass demonstrations by misleading the people into misunderstanding the government that the majority of the people were getting into troubles due to high commodity prices, and harming the people's admiration for the government. It was also intended to fuel the September protest marches. Apparently, the accusation was just a political trickery because it meant to say that Myanmar was the poorest country in the world and that the ruling government was not in a position to deal with the economic crisis. And it urged the international community to help the certain political party come to power.

Well, let's weigh the accusation to find out whether the fact that Myanmar people rely on hta-min-yay (surplus water drained off while rice is cooked) for meals is correct. Myanmar people mainly consume rice, edible oil, salt and shrimp paste for their meals. On average, a citizen consumes a day 1.6 condensed milk tins of rice, three to five ticals of meat, 1.67 ticals of edible oil, 0.80 tical of onion, 0.12 tical of garlic, 0.23 tical of dry chilli and six ticals of vegetables. According to these rates, a day's meal of an urban folk costs only K 880.36. Other costs amount to only 102.49 kyats. So, a day's living cost of an urban dweller is only K 1260.7, equivalent to 97 cents. A day's living cost of a rural folk is 682.9 kyats or 53 US cents. The less cost is because of cheaper commodity prices, not because of no access to nutritious foods. In short, commodity prices are lower in rural areas due to regional stability, security and preservation of natural resources. Bamboo shoot, tamarind leaves and other vegetables are abundant in rural areas. In anyar (arid) regions, tomatoes are exposed to the sun and stored for all-year round

consumption. Young tamarind leaves, red silk cotton buds and groundnut are seasoned for long-term consumption. There is a lovely tradition in rural areas that voluntary services are provided to those in need, for instance contribution towards building and rebuilding houses with the use of forest products such as timber, bamboo and thatches.

In Singapore, the price of a bag of rice is about 27.15 US dollars or K 36,245. So, a small basket of rice is worth K 1510 there. A small basket of rice of similar quality is worth only K 700 in Myanmar, and K 1500 in Vietnam. A bag of Thai Emahta 25% rice (FOB) is worth K 21,694 in the international rice market, and K 16,800 in Myanmar, accounting for a gap of K 4894 or 23 per cent.

On 26-11-2007, the petrol price (one gallon) is K 7932 in Singapore, K 12,739 in England, K 12,086 in Hong Kong, K 11,325 in the Republic of Korea, K 4025 in the US, and K 2500 (government fixed price) and K 4000 to 5000 (open market rate) in Myanmar. And the diesel price (one gallon) is K 5552 in Singapore, K 13,112 in England, K 5648 in Hong Kong, K 9990 in the Republic of Korea, K 4005 in the US, and K 3000 (newly-fixed price) and K 4600 to 5500 in Myanmar.

The prices of crude oil and diesel (barrel) increased to 99.04 US dollars and 110.19 US dollars on 26 November, up from 71.95 US dollars and 80.14 US dollars in the world market on 14 August when the fuel oil prices were hiked in the country. However, the government is still selling fuel at a loss.

How can a citizen stand his living with one US dollar in those foreign countries? The following table shows different rates of one day's living cost for a middle-class man in some countries.

Vietnam	5.97 US\$ (K 7708.69)
Malaysia	29.46 US\$ (K 38,002.00)
Hong Kong	33.32 US\$ (K 42981.67)
Japan (Tokyo)	53.28 US\$ (K 68,731.00)
Japan (Osaka)	35.52 US\$ (K 45,820.80)
France	107.99 US\$ (K 139,307.10)
ROK	50.56 US\$ (K 65,222.40)
Myanmar (urban)	0.97 US\$ (K 1260.70)
(rural)	0.53 US\$ (K 682.90)

Therefore, very clear is why Myanmar people can lead their lives at low living costs.

I would like to present the issue of the national statistics office regarding the higher living costs in

Britain. It said that if compared with the previous month, the price of milk (one pint) had increased to 33.5 pennies by 12 per cent and that of butter by 18 per cent; that the price of a loaf of bread had risen to record rate of £ 1.2 from 9 pennies, and it was likely to increase by 4 pennies; that the price of long bean (one kilo) had grown from £ 1.9 to 1.97, a dozen of eggs, from £ 1.62 to 2.35, and orange juice (one litre) from 73 to 88 pennies; that the people in England were suffering high consumer prices; that a citizen had to spend over £ 971 more if compared with previous living costs; and that the people were facing high prices in making payments for purchase of houses, cars and things in installment, and use of credit cards.

It said that in addition to the said difficulties, the people of England were also facing higher government taxation rates, and continuously high interests. Food observer Andrew Saunders of Panmure Gordon in Britain said that he had never witnessed such inflation rates of foodstuff; and that then higher production costs directly affected retail sellers and they then hit the consumers. Vicky Redwood of the Capital Economics said that consumers were surprisingly experiencing higher commodity prices. It was viewed that higher consumer prices in England had affirmed the economists' warning that the period in which foods were available at reasonable prices had already eclipsed.

The people have to take notice regarding commodity prices in Myanmar that economic sanctions imposed wrongly by some western powers against Myanmar, bans of financial assistance of the banks such as the World Bank, flow of foreign currency and foreign investments and the dissuading of tourists from visiting the nation have resulted from instigation of internal anti-government political parties. And they are taking advantage of consumer price hikes to persuade the people to take part in protests. The majority of the people did not take part in the September protests and that has indicated that they favour stability, safety, peace and prevalence of law and order.

I would say that Myanmar people lead their lives at reasonable rates of consumer prices, and living in Myanmar is worth it.

Translation: MS

ADVERTISEMENT

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
 MINISTRY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION
 MYANMA RAILWAYS

INVITATION TO SEALED TENDERS

1. Sealed Tenders are invited by Myanma Railways, for supply of the following Stores which will be purchased in FE (Euro) and Myanmar Kyat;

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Quantity
i.	12(T)26/MR(ML) 2007-2008	Spare Parts for Rail Bus (RBE)	1-Lot (197-Items)
ii.	15(T)13/MR(E) 2007-2008	Bore Pile Machine	3-Units

Closing Date/Time-14.2.2008 (Thursday) (12:00) Hours

2. Tender documents are available at the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon starting from 1.1.2008 during the office hours.

3. For further details please call: 01-291982, 291985 (201555 Ext 601,605)

Deputy General Manager
 Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Botahtaung, Yangon

INVITATION FOR QUOTATION

1. For and on behalf of the Ministry of Construction of the Government of the Union of Myanmar sealed Quotations with deferred payment for three years as well as L/C at sight proposals are invited by the Managing Director, Public Works, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar for the detailed design (including the erection procedure), fabrication, supply of materials, erection equipment, and supervision of steel truss erection for LEINLI Suspension Bridge across Paung Laung Chaung, Pinyinana-Pinlong Road, Southern Shan State.

2. The particulars of LEINLI Suspension Bridge may be obtained for USD 5000 by request in writing or in person at the specified price following address.

Managing Director
 Public Works
 No. 11, Ministry of Construction
 Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

3. The Quotation should be submitted to the above address not later than 16:30 hours on 31st January 2008.

4. When this Quotation is accepted, the Contract will be made in the name of Public Works, Ministry of Construction, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Managing Director
 Public Works

Russia says no plans to sell missile system to Iran

Moscow, 29 Dec — Russia has no plans to sell its advanced S-300 anti-aircraft missile system to Iran, a Russian Government agency said on Friday.

“The issue of supplying Iran with S-300 anti-aircraft missile systems, raised by mass media, is not on the agenda, is not being considered and is not being discussed with the Iranian side at the moment,” Russia’s Federal Military and Technical Cooperation Service said on its website.

Iranian Defence Minister Mostafa Mohammad Najjar said on

Wednesday Russia had agreed to sell the system to Iran.

“The S-300 system, under a contract signed in the past with Russia, will be delivered to Iran,” Najjar told *Fars* news agency, without giving details. “The timing of the delivery ... will be announced later,” he added.

S-300 missiles are longer-ranging than the TOR-M1 surface-to-air missiles which Russia, in a deal criticized by the West, earlier this year said it had delivered to the Islamic Republic under a one billion-US-dollar contract.

The United States and Israel — Teheran’s arch foes — have said Iran could use the TOR-

MI system to attack its neighbours. Russia says the short-range system is purely defensive.

Iran is under UN sanctions over its refusal to halt sensitive atomic work that Western powers suspect it wants to master so that it can build nuclear bombs, but they do not ban conventional weapons sales to the Islamic Republic.

“Russia and Iran continue their civilized relationship in the sphere of military and technical cooperation, respecting in full regulations of international export legislation and (their) international obligations,” the Russian federal agency said.

It gave no further detail.

MNA/Reuters

Fukuda brings new warmth to China-Japan ties

BEIJING, 29 Dec — China and Japan made no major breakthroughs in resolving a row over natural resources in the East China Sea on Friday, but a visit by Japanese Prime Minister Yasuo Fukuda signalled a new warmth in bilateral relations.

Eleven rounds of talks have failed to settle a long-running dispute between the two Asian giants over how to exploit natural gas in the East China Sea and where the dividing line

between their exclusive economic zones in the area should lie.

Japan is concerned that China, which is piping gas from an area close to what Tokyo sees as its own economic zone, could be siphoning resources from geological structures that stretch into the Japanese zone.

“Talks will continue and we want to resolve the issue as soon as possible,” Fukuda told a joint news conference after a two-and-a-half-

hour meeting with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao.

Both Fukuda and Wen said talks on the gas field dispute made “certain progress” but did not elaborate. Wen said the two countries had the will to develop and turn the East China Sea into an “ocean of peace and friendship”, and he agreed with Fukuda that spring had come to bilateral ties.—MNA/Reuters

US issues alert for stolen beef due to possible E coli

WASHINGTON, 29 Dec — US regulators have issued a public health alert for about 14,800 pounds (671 kilos) of missing ground beef products that may be contaminated with the potentially deadly E coli bacteria, the US Department of Agriculture said on Thursday.

The alert came after a trailer containing the ground beef was reported stolen by Texas American Food Service Corporation, the USDA said in a statement.

The firm, based in Fort Worth, Texas, does business as American Fresh Foods. A company spokesman could not be immediately reached for comment.

Symptoms of E coli 0157:H7 illness, the strain associated with the alert, include potentially severe stomach cramps, diarrhoea and dehydration. Children, the elderly and people with poor immune systems are most vulnerable.

The USDA’s public health alert covers ground beef products packaged for consumer use carrying the establishment number “EST 13116” on the package labels. Bulk products carry labels bearing the establishment number “EST 13116.”

The ground beef was produced on 19 December.

MNA/Reuters

More young diabetics being hospitalized in US

NEW YORK, 29 Dec — There has been a significant increase in the number of young adults hospitalized with diabetes-related conditions in the United States over the last decade or so, according to a new study.

“Studies indicate that the burden of diabetes, type 1 and type 2, is substantial and rising among US children,” Dr Joyce Lee, of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and colleagues write in the medical journal *Diabetes Care*. “We wished to evaluate national trends in hospitalizations associated with diabetes for children and young adults.”

The researchers found a 38-per-cent increase from 1993 to 2004 in the number of hospital stays for people between the ages of 0 and 29 years with a diabetes diagnosis.

MNA/Reuters



Russia’s tennis player Maria Sharapova waits for a press conference while fans take photographs of her, on 29 Dec, 2007, in Singapore where she plays against compatriot Anna Chakvetadze at an exhibition match on Sunday.

INTERNET

British scientists find clue to stopping cancer spread

LONDON, 29 Dec — British scientists have uncovered a vital clue to stopping cancers spreading around the body, the BBC reported on Friday.

Researchers from the London Research Institute discovered that a protein called Tes is able to block a second protein, Mena, from helping cancer cells

“crawl” away from the initial tumor. Unlike the Mena protein, Tes is absent in many tumors and has not been well studied.

Equipped with instruments including X-ray crystallography, which can be used to determine the three-dimensional structure of a molecule, the researchers found that Tes attached

itself to Mena in such a way it could no longer bind with other proteins.

Study leader Michael Way was quoted as saying that if researchers could design a drug to block Mena in the same way as Tes, it would potentially be a way to stop the spread of cancer once a tumor had formed.

MNA/Xinhua



An apartment building partly heated by solar energy collected from pipes under the asphalt of a 200 metre (219 yard) road and a nearby parking lot, is seen in Avenhorn, northern Netherlands, on 14 Dec, 2007. —INTERNET

Yoga has multiple benefits

BEIJING, 30 Dec — Yoga induces a feeling of well-being in healthy people, and can reverse the clinical and biochemical changes associated with metabolic syndrome, according to results of studies from Sweden and India. Metabolic syndrome is a cluster of heart disease risk factors such as high blood pressure, obesity and high blood sugar.

Dr RP Agrawal, of the SP Medical College, Bikaner, India, and colleagues evaluated the beneficial effects of yoga and meditation in 101 adults with features of metabolic syndrome. In the study, 55 adults received three months of regular yoga including standard postures and Raja Yoga, a form of transcendental meditation daily, while the remaining received standard care.

Waist circumference, blood pressure, blood sugar, and triglycerides were significantly lower,

and “good” HDL cholesterol levels were higher in the yoga group as compared to controls, Agrawal’s team reports in the journal Diabetes Research and Clinical Practice.

In the second study, published online 19 December in BioMed Central Complementary and Alternative Medicine, Dr Anette Kjellgren from the University of Karlstad, Sweden and colleagues evaluated the beneficial effects of yoga-like breathing exercises on healthy volunteers.

Fifty-five adults were advised to practice “Sudarshan Kriya,” which involves cycles of slow normal and rapid breathing exercises. The exercises were practiced for an hour daily, six days a week for six weeks, while 48 controls were advised to relax in an armchair for 15 minutes daily.

At the end of the study period, feelings of anxiety,

stress and depression were significantly lower and levels of optimism significantly higher in the yoga group compared to the control group, Kjellgren and colleagues report. —Internet



An employee of Japan’s Sanrio Co shows Hello Kitty products targeted for young men at the company’s headquarters in Tokyo on 28 Dec, 2007. INTERNET

People take part in a free yoga class at the Paque del Oeste in Madrid.—INTERNET



Indonesia may limit licences for cellular operators

JAKARTA, 30 Dec —The Indonesian Government may limit the number of licences issued to incoming cellular operators, citing fierce competition in the industry that has led

to “panic and excessive marketing efforts”, local Press said on Saturday.

The government said the country had “enough” cellular operators and that it needed to issue some regulations to control the competition among them.

“We’ve seen exceedingly fierce competition (in the telecommunications industry). This has caused a kind of panic among operators, which has led to excessive marketing efforts, price wars and so on,” director

general of post and telecommunications Basuki Yusuf Iskandar was quoted by English daily The Jakarta Post as saying.

“If the cellular operators spend most of their money to beat competitors in such a way, what will be left for the customers then?” He added that with the excessive marketing efforts, the telecommunications industry had surpassed the cigarette industry as the country’s top advertising spender.—MNA/Xinhua

HarperCollins rushing Bhutto-written book

NEW YORK, 29 Dec — HarperCollins is rushing into print a manuscript it recently received from slain former Pakistani prime minister Benazir Bhutto, the *New York Post* reported on Friday.

The publisher, a unit of News Corp hopes to have Bhutto’s “Reconciliation: Islam, Democracy and the West” in bookstores by February, *Post* business columnist Keith J Kelly reported. *The Post* is also owned by Rupert Murdoch’s News Corp.

Bhutto, the two-time prime minister and leading opposition figure, was assassinated during a campaign rally in Pakistan on Thursday. —MNA/Reuters

China, Belgium develop software on pulsed magnetic fields

BEIJING, 29 Dec—The Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) said here on Thursday that Chinese and Belgian scientists are cooperating in developing computer software for designing a high-pulsed magnetic field facility in China.

The Huazhong University of Science and Technology in Wuhan, capital of central China’s Hubei Province, and Belgium’s University of Leuven are working on the software. The patent is shared by both Chinese and Belgian scientists. The software has been used for designing a big European-funded high-pulsed magnetic field experimental facility, or DeNUF, the ministry said on its website(www.most.gov.cn).—MNA/Xinhua

SPORTS

Nikopolidis spot-kick save sends Olympiakos top

ATHENS, 30 Dec — Olympiakos Piraeus returned to the top of the Greek Super League after goalkeeper Antonis Nikopolidis saved a late penalty in a 2-1 win over Xanthi on Saturday. Democratic Republic of Congo striker Lomana LuaLua put the champions ahead after 20 minutes when he capitalized on a defensive error to slot the ball in from close range.

The lead only lasted six minutes, Tomasz Radzinski beating Nikopolidis at the second attempt to equalize.

Olympiakos went ahead just before the hour when Darko Kovacevic evaded his marker and steered a free header into the left-hand corner of the net for his eleventh goal of the season. —MNA/Reuters



Tottenham Hotspur's Jermaine Jenas, right, is challenged for the ball by Reading's Kalifa Cisse during their English Premier League soccer match at White Hart Lane in London, on 29 Dec, 2007. Tottenham won the match 6-4.—INTERNET

Celtic brush aside Gretna to oust Rangers

GLASGOW, 30 Dec — Celtic leapfrogged arch rivals Rangers to regain top spot in the Scottish Premier League after a 3-0 win at home to bottom side Gretna on Saturday.

Rangers briefly held the lead after a 2-1 win at Hibernian in a lunchtime kickoff but Celtic moved two points clear again with goals from Australian striker Scott McDonald, Scott Brown and Aiden McGeady.

McDonald fired Celtic ahead after 35 minutes with a low shot which clipped the right post on its way into the net and Brown cracked a 49th-minute effort into the bottom left for 2-0 before McGeady wrapped it up with a late third.

Celtic have 43 points from 20 games but Rangers, on 41, have two games in hand.

MNA/Reuters

Top players unimpressed by Australian Open surface

PERTH, 30 Dec — World number three Novak Djokovic and other top players have said that the new Plexicushion surface that will be used at next month's Australian Open is slower than they had expected.

After 20 years of using Rebound Ace, Australian Open organizers made the change, they said, in an effort to make all the courts at the grand-slam event more consistent in terms of speed and bounce.

Australian number one Lleyton Hewitt, runner-up at the Australian Open in 2005 and still the home nation's best hope for a men's champion since Mark Edmondson in 1976, has endorsed the surface.

MNA/Reuters

Man Utd lose at West Ham, Chelsea beat Newcastle

LONDON, 30 Dec — Manchester United lost 2-1 at West Ham United on Saturday and allowed Chelsea to gain ground by beating Newcastle United by the same score with a controversial late goal from Salomon Kalou at Stamford Bridge.

Until last season, Manchester United had never lost in the Premier League at Upton Park but the Londoners, who also triumphed at Old Trafford in May, made it two in two seasons with late goals by defenders Anton Ferdinand and Matthew Upson.

United still lead the way on 45 points but Arsenal, on 44, can go above them if they win at Everton in Saturday's late game. Chelsea are third on 41.

Liverpool, fourth on 36 and fifth-placed Manchester City (35) meet at Eastlands on Sunday.

The game of the day was at White Hart Lane where Bulgarian striker Dimitar Berbatov scored four as Tottenham Hotspur beat Reading 6-4 with seven goals coming in a crazy 20-minute second-half spell. It was the second time this season that Reading had scored four away from home and lost following their 7-4 defeat at Portsmouth in September. —MNA/Reuters



Chelsea's Michael Ballack, right, and Newcastle United's Steven Taylor battle for the ball during the English Premier League soccer match at Stamford Bridge, London, on 29 Dec, 2007. Chelsea won the match 2-1.—INTERNET



Fulham's Carlos Bocanegra, second left, scores past Birmingham City goalkeeper Maik Taylor during the English Premier League soccer match at St Andrews, Birmingham, England, on 29 Dec, 2007. The match ended in a 1-1 draw.—INTERNET

Arsenal beat Everton 4-1 to regain top spot

LONDON, 30 Dec — Arsenal overcame the dismissal of striker Nicklas Bendtner to beat Everton 4-1 away on Saturday and regain top spot in the Premier League after Manchester United had earlier lost 2-1 at West Ham United. Everton were the better side in the first half and led through a Tim Cahill goal in the 19th minute as Arsenal, showing several changes, struggled to find their rhythm.

However, two goals for striker Eduardo da Silva, his first in the league, after 47 and 58 minutes turned things around.

After Bendtner had been sent off in the 74th minute, Emmanuel Adebayor got the third after a defensive mix-up and fellow substitute Tomas Rosicky banged in

an injury-time fourth.

Arsenal, who had been knocked off their perch on Wednesday after drawing 0-0 at Portsmouth, returned to the top on 47 points, two ahead of United and six clear of third-placed Chelsea, who beat Newcastle United 2-1.

MNA/Reuters

Shaughnessy, Fish lift US past India in Perth

PERTH, 30 Dec — The United States made light of the temporary absence of Serena Williams as they beat India 2-1 in their opening Group A match at the Hopman Cup on Saturday.

Meghann Shaughnessy, standing in for the world number seven, gave the US a perfect start to the warm-

up event for next month's Australian Open by beating Sania Mirza 6-3, 4-6, 6-3. Mardy Fish sealed the win with a 6-2, 6-4 victory over Rohan Bopanna before the Indian pair took the doubles 6-4, 6-4.

Williams is due to arrive in Perth in time for her nation's second group match in the eight-nation mixed-team tournament against the Czech Republic on Monday.

World number 52 Shaughnessy won the first four games against an erratic Mirza and looked on course for a quick win when she led by a set and 2-0. However, Mirza hit back to level and then took command at 3-1 in the decider only to falter when it mattered, losing the last five games to hand Shaughnessy the win.—MNA/Reuters



Everton's Mikel Arteta (L) is sent off by referee Martin Atkinson during their English Premier League soccer match against Arsenal at Goodison Park in Liverpool, northern England on 29 Dec, 2007.—INTERNET

Answers to yesterday's Crosswords Puzzle

1	S	T	A	T	E	D		4	I	N	N	E	R		
	A	B	N		7	H			N	E		E			
8	M	U	S	E	D		9	A	N	C	I	E	N	T	
	P	T	A	N					H	D		O			
10	L	E	A	R	N	E	D		11	U	S	E	R		
	E	I	G			12	Y	E	13	S		T			
		14	A	N	T	E			15	E	X	A	M		
17	D					18	R	I	19	P		C	U	20	Z
21	E	D	22	A	M		23	A	B	R	I	D	G	E	
	C	D		24	P							E	I		B
25	A	R	D	U	O	U	S		26	T	U	T	O	R	
	D	E	S												A
27	E	A	R	L	Y			28	C	Y	P	R	U	S	



Wellwishers offer 'soon', meals and traditional medicines to members of the Sangha, in Singu Township.—H

Seinbudaw hoisted at Seintamuni Pagoda in Singu

YANGON, 29 Dec — The Seinbudaw (diamond bud) was hoisted at the Seintamuni Pagoda in Singu, Nyaung U Township on 24 December.

The Seinbudaw worth K 11.7 million was donated by U Kyaw Sein (Mogok)

of Phusinmyitta Medical Hall and Daw Nan Kham Sa (Phusinmyitta Gold Shop) in Bogyoke Aung San Market.

On 22 December, 9,900 lights were offered to Seintamuni Pagoda, Wagyo Pagoda and

Myodwin Shwegu Pagodas in Singu.

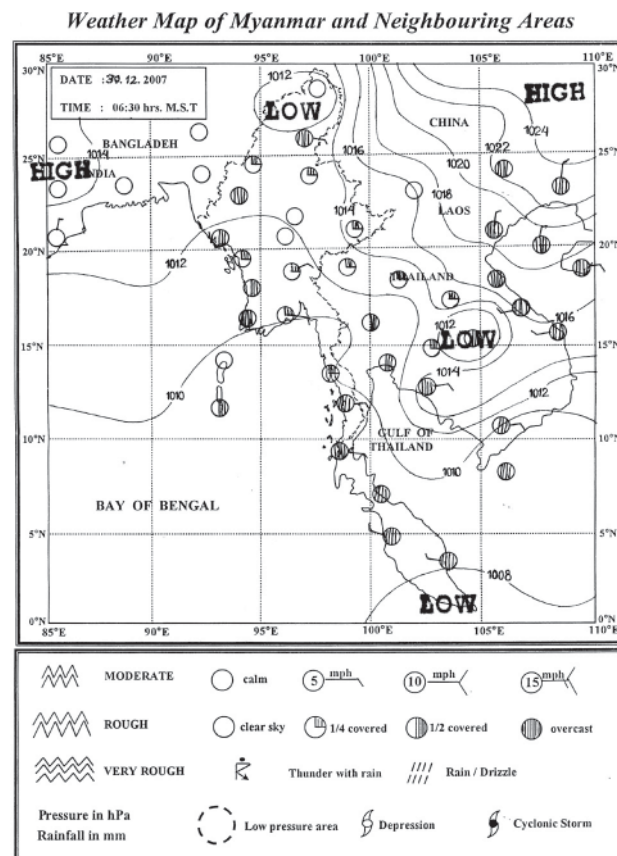
On 25 December, soon and 9,900 lights were offered to Shwezigon Pagoda. The ceremony was organized by Buddha Pujaniya 9,900 lights Group (Insein).—MNA

Russia's population keeps shrinking

Moscow, 30 Dec — Russia's population has decreased by 207,600 to 142 million as of November 1 this year, official statistics issued on Saturday showed.

The annual decrease, 0.15 per cent, was contributed to natural wastage and compared to 2006 is slightly less, RIA news agency reported.

There are some 75.1 million people capable of working in Russia, or 53 per cent of the country's entire population and unemployment stood at 1.5 million in late November, official figures showed. —MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Sunday, 30 December, 2007

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST:

During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (7°C) below December average temperatures in Chin State, (4°C) below December average temperatures in Magway Division, (3°C) above December average temperatures in Kachin State and upper Sagaing Division and about December average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka (3°C), Loilin (0°C) and Namhsam (4°C).

Maximum temperature on 29-12-2007 was 90°F. Minimum temperature on 30-12-2007 was 61°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 30-12-2007 was 82%. Total sunshine hours on 29-12-2007 was (8.0) hours approx.

Rainfall on 30-12-2007 was (nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was (136.57) inches at Mingaladon, (141.38) inches at Kaba-Aye and (144.29) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (6) mph from Southeast at (10:50) hours MST on 29-12-2007.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 31-12-2007: Weather will be partly cloudy in Kachin State, upper Sagaing, Ayeyawady 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: Likelihood of continuation of decrease of night temperature in the Eastern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 31-12-2007: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 31-12-2007: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 31-12-2007: Fair weather.

Radio Myanmar

Monday, 31 December
Tune in today

8:30 am Brief news
8:35 am Music:
-Aint done loving you
8:40 am Perspectives
8:45 am Music
-Dear diary
8:50 am National news/
Slogan
9:00 am Music:
-I need you
9:05 am International news
9:10 am Music
-Fly with me
1:30 pm News/ Slogan
1:40 pm Lunch time music
-Love is a wonderful thing
-If you asked me to
9:00pm Spotlight on the stars (Cartoons)
9:10 pm Article
9:20 pm Drug/Women affairs
9:35 pm Golden Land Melody/Vocal Gems
-Two hearts
-Call it love
9:45 pm News/Slogan
10:00 pm PEL

Monday, 31 December
View on today

7:00 am
1. ကျေးဇူးရှင်မင်းကွန်း ဆရာတော်ဘုရားကြီး၊ နိုင်ငံတော်သံဃာ့မဟာနာယက အဖွဲ့အကျိုးတော်ဆောင်ရွက်ပုံ၊ အဘိဓမ္မမဟာရဋ္ဌဂုဏ်၊ အဘိဓမ္မ အဂ္ဂမဟာသဒ္ဓမ္မဇောတိက၊ တိပိဋကဓရ၊ ဓမ္မဘဏ္ဍာဂါရိက၊ ဆရာတော်ဘဒ္ဒန္တဝိစိတ္တသာရာ ဘိဝံသ၏ ပရိတ်တရားတော်

7:25 am
2. To be healthy exercise

7:30 am
3. Morning news

7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song

7:55 am
5. Song of national races

8:15 am
6. Cute little dancers

8:25 am
7. ပေါက်တံတား(ရေပြာ) နှင့် ပေါက်တံတား (အုန်းတော)

8:30 am
8. International news

8:45 am
9. Grammar made easy

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:15 pm
2. Song to uphold National Spirit

4:30 pm
3. Practice in reading

4:45 pm
4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-ဒုတိယနှစ် (အထူးပြုအားလုံး)(အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ)

5:00 pm
5. Dance variety

5:10 pm
6. မြန်မာစာ မြန်မာစကား

5:25 pm
7. “လုံလုံ” (မိုးညွှန်၊ မေကဗျာ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-မလိခစိုးထိုက်အောင်)

5:30 pm
8. Song and dance of national races

5:35 pm
9. နှစ်(၆၀)ပြည့်လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

5:45 pm
10. Musical programme (The Radio Myanmar Modern Music Troupe)

6:00 pm
11. Evening news

6:30 pm
12. Weather report

6:35 pm
13. အလှူရှာမယ်၊ လှူကမ္ဘာဝယ်

7:00 pm
14. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “မြူးနိုးဝေချစ်သက်တည်” (အပိုင်း-၁၀)

7:40 pm
15. အချုပ်အခြာအာဏာ ခွန်ရှည်ကြာနိုင်မာစေမှုခို၊ ရှေ့မှ “နှစ်ဆယ့်လေးမည်ရောင်စုံ ပွင့်လန်းအလှပန်း” (အပိုင်း-၂)

8:00 pm
16. News

8:00 pm
17. International news

8:00 pm
18. Weather report

8:00 pm
19. လပတ် မိုးလေဝသနှင့် ဇလဗေဒခန့်မှန်းချက်

8:00 pm
20. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ “အချစ်တေမန်” (အပိုင်း-၁၂)

8:00 pm
21. The next day's programme

R 489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 22/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newlight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 392308, Manager 392226, Circulation 392304, Advertisement 392223, Accounts 392224, Administration 392225, Production/Press 392369

31-12-07 NL

15

8/3/18, 10:34 PM

People's Desire

- ★ We favour stability.
- ★ We favour peace.
- ★ We oppose unrest and violence.

Annual Meeting of 9th Myanmar Fisheries Federation held, Myanma Aquatic Products Sale Festival opens

YANGON, 30 Dec — Myanmar Fisheries Federation held its 9th annual general meeting in conjunction with the opening of Myanma Aquatic Products Sale Festival for 2007-2008 at the federation in Insein Township this morning.

Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence made an opening speech on the occasion, saying that

the Government has encouraged and beefed up private economic sector since practising market-oriented system. In addition, it has allowed entrepreneurs to freely run fisheries sector. The Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries has assigned duties to associations concerned and entrepreneurs under the leadership of MFF to earn foreign exchange US\$ 600

million. The ministry has expected to meet the target due to concerted efforts of fisheries sector. In building an all-round developed nation, the geographical conditions of the country and rich natural resources enable the fisheries sector to possess favourable conditions. Using rich natural resources, associations at different levels are to strive for realizing the ob-

jectives of 5-year plan of meat and fish sector. With the sound foundations and good practice, MFF is to make efforts in the interests of the State and the people.

Next, Patron of MFF Minister for Livestock and Fisheries Brig-Gen Maung Maung Thein, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee

(See page 10)

Objectives of the 60th Anniversary Independence Day

- (a) All the national people to constantly join hands for safeguarding the perpetuation 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) To ensure emergence of an enduring constitution in line with the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles adopted by the National Convention that has been completed successfully;
- (d) All the national people to harmoniously make all-out efforts for building of a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation;
- (e) All the national people to cooperate in realizing the State's seven-step Road Map with Union Spirit, patriotic spirit and the spirit of sacrifice.



Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence delivers an address at opening ceremony of 9th Annual Meeting and Myanma Aquatic Products Sale Festival of MFF. — MNA

Significant night temperatures

Haka (-3°C)

Loilem (0°C)

Namhsam (4°C).

- ★ Skyful liars attempting to destroy nation
- ★ BBC lying
- ★ VOA deceiving
- ★ RFA setting up hostilities
- ★ Beware! Don't be bought by those ill-wishers