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Senior General Than Shwe sends message of condolence to King of Thailand

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan — Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, has sent a message of condolence to His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej, on the demise of Her Royal Highness Princess Galyani Vadhana, elder sister of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej on 2 January 2008.

MNA

Pathi Hydropower Plant in Toungoo Tsp inaugurated to hail 60th Anniversary Independence Day

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan — As a gesture of hailing the 60th Anniversary Independence Day, the Pathi Hydropower Plant implemented by Hydropower Generation Enterprise under the Ministry of Electric Power No 1 was held at the plant in Toungoo Township this morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman of Bago Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Southern Command Maj-Gen Ko Ko said that Pathi Hydropower Plant was built on Pathi Creek near Ngwetaunglay Village, 10 miles from Toungoo, with the use of water from Pathi Dam. It was completed on 15 February 1997 and opened on 28 February, attended by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe. The Ministry of Electric Power No 1 fulfilled the demand of electricity for the region by implementing the second phase of the project. In accord with the guidance given by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, the Ministry of Electric Power No 1 supplied power to Thandaunggyi (See page 6)

SPECIAL FEATURES TO HAIL 60TH ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY

- If you owe gratitude to those who have sacrificed lives for independence...

Myanmar had been able to stand tall in the world only when national brethren worked hard in harmony for national progress after the nation regained independence.

- Achievements of the transport sector throughout the nation in 2007

Historic nationalistic fervour

* We all know
Eras of Kyansittha,
Bayintnaung
And U Aungzeya
Saw the building of nation

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

Thursday, 3 January, 2008

Strive for development of rural areas

The government has been providing agricultural requirements including supply of safe drinking water and irrigation as agriculture is the basic occupation of rural areas. It is also building infrastructures in order to improve economy, education and health care services of rural people.

Village-to-village roads, rural-to-urban ones and district-to-district ones are being built for ensuring smooth transport, the key for development. Gravel and tarred roads are also being upgraded in the nation.

Hailing the 60th Anniversary Independence Day, Aung San Pyithaya Road in Pyay Township, Bago Division (West), Napha-in-Kyakhat rural road, new building of Kantha Village Post-Primary School in Budalin Township, Sagaing Division, rural health care centre of Kyauktalon Kyaungu Village in Nay Pi Taw Lewe Township and a ceremony to launch supply of water from Phugyi in Insein Township were held.

There has been sufficiency of drinking water in over 7,000 villages in Sagaing, Magway and Mandalay Divisions and over 9,000 villages in other states and divisions due to the efforts of the government and wellwishers.

Development of rural areas is related to the development of urban areas. Economic, education and health sectors have improved day by day owing to the efforts of the government and cooperation of local people and wellwishers. We believe that socio-economic life of rural people will surely be raised through already-achieved progress.

CPT Minister inspects communication services

YANGON, 1 Jan—Minister for Communications Posts and Telegraphs Brig-Gen Thein Zaw inspected Bahan auto exchange of Myanma Posts and Telecommunications here this afternoon.

At the meeting hall, chief engineer of auto telephone department explained the project for installation of more auto exchange phones in Hlaingthaya Industrial Zone. The chief engineers of IT department and mobile communication department also explained voice mail and prepaid software systems. The minister fulfilled the requirements.

Next, the minister looked into the installation of voice mail and extension of auto telephone lines.

Minister looks into Myanmar Economic Bank (District Branch) in Toungoo

NAY PYI TAW, 1 Jan—Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun looked into Myanmar Economic Bank (District Branch) in Toungoo, Toungoo Township, Bago Division this afternoon. Managing Director U Myat Maw and the Manager of the Bank reported on financial matters and banking services to the minister who spoke of the need for officials concerned to effectively carry out banking services that would give rise to economic development.

On arrival at the Myanmar Insurance (Toungoo District) Office, the minister heard a report on functions of the insurance presented by the District Manager and departmental officials and urged them to make innovative efforts for further development of insurance services and to widen the scope of knowledge of the people on insurance.

UMFCCI to give talks on context of development theory and globalization

YANGON, 1 Jan—Organized by Work Committee for Enhancement of Information Technology under the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and sponsored by Promised Land Trading Co., Emeritus Professor of Kobe University of Japan retired Professor Dr Tin Soe of Yangon Institute of Economics will give talks on an economics interpretation of some Myanmar traditional concepts in the context of development theory and globalization at No 29 on the first floor of Mingalar Hall of UMFCCI office tower on Minye Kyawswa Road in Lannadaw Township at 2 pm on Saturday.

Executives from UMFCCI and its brother associations, members and interested persons may attend the talks.

Majjhimagonyi Sayadaw to deliver sermons


Minister for Finance and Revenue Maj-Gen Hla Tun inspects Myanmar Insurance (Branch) of Toungoo District. — i&b

Significant Night Temperatures

Haka (-2°C)
Loilem (4°C)
Pinlaung and Heho (5°C)
Pakistan’s elections postponed till 11 Feb

ISLAMABAD, 2 Jan— The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) will postpone the general elections, scheduled to be held on 8 January, till at least 11 February, local TV channel DAWN NEWS reported on Monday.

The meeting of ECP has concluded here on Tuesday and an official announcement is expected to be made on the timing of polls, said the report. Some local media reported earlier that the date for the general elections would be delayed until the end of February.

The slain former prime minister Benazir Bhutto’s People’s Party (PPP) has said that any delay of the general elections would be “unacceptable” and they urged the ECP to hold elections as scheduled.

Former prime minister Nawaz Sharif also called for the government to hold elections in time.

The pro-Musharraf party Pakistan Muslim League-Quaid said that it was prepared for the 8 February. The meeting of ECP has concluded here on Tuesday and an official announcement is expected to be held on 8 January, till at least 11 February, local TV channel DAWN NEWS reported on Monday.

The new light of myanmar Thursday, 3 January, 2008

US anti-war activists plan protest near Rose Parade

LOS ANGELES, 1 Jan— US anti-war activists said Sunday they plan to protest on the sidelines of the Rose Parade in Pasadena on New Year’s Day, calling for an end to the Iraq war and the impeachment of President George W Bush and Vice-President Dick Cheney.

A group call itself the White Rose Coalition said its members would demonstrate in front of the TV camera platforms from 6 am on New Year’s Day, two hours before the famous annual holiday event begins. Organizers plan to start demonstrating during preparade telecasts, according to Peter Thottam, the coalition’s spokesman. “Everything we are doing is strictly within our First Amendment rights, and we do not want to disrupt anyone’s enjoyment of the parade,” he said. “We have made it clear to everyone that we want to be respectful.”

We are a decentralized group simply trying to get our message out through the mainstream media blockade, especially about the impeachment of the president of the United States, said Thottam, a lawyer and former political candidate for the Green Party.—MNA/Xinhua

Bangkok, 2 Jan— The widely-respected King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand on Monday called for unity among Thai people, urging them to put national stability above personal and vested interest and not to support the country to achieve normalcy and stability, with the nation being the ultimate goal,” the King said. “Each party should put aside personal interest, extend compassion and goodwill to each other without creating any condition that will cause a division in our society. —MNA/Xinhua

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Thai monarch pleads for national stability

BANGKOK, 2 Jan— The widely-respected King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand on Monday called for unity among Thai people, urging them to put national stability above personal and vested interest and not to support the country to achieve normalcy and stability, with the nation being the ultimate goal,” the King said. “Each party should put aside personal interest, extend compassion and goodwill to each other without creating any condition that will cause a division in our society. —MNA/Xinhua

Volcano erupts in Chile, 150 evacuated

SANTIAGO, 1 Jan— About 150 people were evacuated as the Llaima volcano in southern Chile erupted on Tuesday, but no casualties or damage were reported.

Eyewitnesses saw thick smoke and lava emerging from Llaima, one of the most active of the dozens of volcanos in Chile. The 3,125-metre volcano, located inside the Conguillio National Park in the Araucania region, began spurring lava and ash in the afternoon, the National Emergency Office told journalists.

Those evacuated were tourists and National Forest Service employees, officials said. More people from the nearby villages and towns would be evacuated if necessary, officials said.

An “early alert” was declared around the volcano, which is located some 650 kilometres south of Santiago.

The volcano, which last erupted in May, has frequent moderate eruptions.—INTERNET

Nicaraguan police seize 672 kilos of cocaine

MANAGUA, 2 Jan— The Nicaraguan authorities seized 672 kilos of cocaine transported in a tank truck, said the National Police on Monday.

In a Sunday night operation code named “Sin Tregua” (No Truce), the police found the drug in 30 sacks in a secret compartment in the truck from Costa Rica.

The truck, transporting soja resin in disguise, was licensed in Guatemala. Gerberh Cifuentes, the driver, was a Guatemalan native. He was handed over to the prosecutors of the Public Ministry for further investigation and trial.

The drug’s final destination was allegedly the United States, said Carlos Palacios, a sub-director of the National Police.

MNA/Xinhua

INTERNET

Tourists visit the Giza pyramids in Cairo, capital of Egypt, on 1 Jan, 2008. Egyptian Ministry of Tourism has said that over 10 million tourists of various nationalities visited Egypt in 2007, 10 percent more than in 2006.—Xinhua

Song Qiangyi (C), poses for photographers after being named China’s Miss Tourism of the Globe 2007, with first runner-up Ma Dan (L) and second runner-up Xu Ying, in Haikou, South China’s Hainan Province, on 1 Jan, 2008. —Xinhua

Volcano erupts in Chile, 150 evacuated
Turkmenistan stops gas exports to Iran

TEHERAN, 1 Jan — Turkmenistan has stopped its natural gas exports to Iran, blaming technical and operational problems, causing shortages in some parts of its neighbour, Iranian officials and media said on Monday.

Turkmenistan supplies 5 per cent of Iran's gas consumption with 20-23 million cubic metres per day, said Ebadollah Ghanbari, who heads the public relations unit of the National Iranian Gas Company.

Another official from the gas company, speaking to news agency ISNA on Sunday, suggested Turkmenistan had cut back exports because it wanted to raise the price, but Ghanbari made no reference to this.

Turkmen officials were unavailable for comment on Monday. Turkmen media have said an Iranian delegation visited Ashgabat on 26-27 December to discuss gas prices for next year.

"Two days ago Turkmenistan cut in half its gas exports (to Iran) and it reached 1 million cubic metres," Ghanbari said. "And in an official letter they said it was due to technical problems."

"Since yesterday evening Turkmenistan has completely cut its gas exports to Iran," he was quoted as saying by the state broadcaster IRIB.

Despite its massive gas reserves, Iran has been a net importer of gas since 2002.

MNA/Reuters

Violence in west Kenya town kills 21

KISumu (Kenya), 1 Jan — Twenty-one bodies lay at a hospital mortuary on Monday in the west Kenyan town of Kisumu, convulsed by rioting over a disputed election, witnesses said.

A Reuters reporter saw 10 blood-spattered corpses outside, while staff said there were 11 more inside. Almost all the victims died from gunshot wounds, either on Monday morning or overnight, they said.

MNA/Reuters

Floods, landslides claim 102 lives in Indonesia

JAKARTA, 2 Jan — Indonesia’s Health Ministry’s Crisis Mitigation Centre disclosed that the recent floods and landslides in Central Java and East Java have left 102 people dead and 21 others missing.

The victims consisted of 78 dead and 12 missing in Central Java, and 24 dead and nine missing in East Java, the centre’s head, Rustam S Pakaya, was quoted Wednesday by Antara news agency as saying.

In a written statement, Rustam said that the centre has sent relief aid to the flood and landslide victims.

Meanwhile, it was reported that at least 23 people in Ngawi district, East Java, were killed in floods as Bengawan Solo river overflowed in the past several days. Most of the victims were elderly people.

— Internet

Female suicide bomber wounds six in N-E Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 1 Jan — A female suicide bomber struck a police checkpoint in Baqubah, the capital city of Diyala Province, on Monday, wounding six people, a provincial police source said.

The woman wearing an explosive vest blew herself up at the checkpoint in the al-Mustafa neighbourhood in central Baqubah, 65 kilometres northeast of Baghdad, wounding a policeman and five civilians, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

Separately, the death toll from an earlier suicide truck bomb attack in the town of Tarmiyah rose to 12, a police source said.

Eight members of anti-al-Qaeda Awakening Council group and four school children were killed in the attack targeting a checkpoint in Tarmiyah, 30 kilometres north of Baghdad, the source added.

Earlier, the police put the toll at seven people killed and six others injured.

MNA/Xinhua

US Marine faces lesser charges in Haditha killings

SAN FRANCISCO, 1 Jan — The US Marine accused of leading his unit in killing 24 unarmed Iraqi civilians in Haditha, Iraq, in 2005 will face voluntary manslaughter and other charges but not more serious murder charges, officials said on Monday.

In a pretrial hearing in September, Staff Sergeant Frank Wuterich said he regretted the deaths that followed the explosion of a roadside bomb that killed a popular Marine, but insisted he had done nothing to keep his men alive.

The incident, one in a series in which US forces were accused of violent crimes against Iraqis, caused international outrage.

Many of the Haditha victims were women and children.

In a statement, Camp Pendleton, California, said the commander of US Marine Corps Forces Central, Lieutenant General Samuel Helland, said Wuterich would not face charges of unpunished murder of 17 Iraqis.

MNA/Reuters

Vietnam faces shortage of qualified eco graduates

HANOI, 1 Jan — Vietnam’s demand for economics graduates has skyrocketed in recent years, but universities produce few highly-qualified graduates, local newspaper Vietnam News reported Monday.

Most economics courses in Vietnam fall well below international standard, the newspaper quoted Dinh The Hien, director of the Institute for Applied Informatics and Economic Studies in southern Ho Chi Minh City, as saying.

The few graduates and post-graduates who study overseas often end up working for foreign banks and investment funds where the pay and opportunities for promotion are better, he said. Chief financial officers and financial analysts usually earn thousands of US dollars a month.

There are 152 registered finance and banking organizations in Vietnam. Following the country’s entry into the World Trade Organizations last January, there has been a feverish growth in demand for finance managers, analysts and brokers, said Tieu Yen Trinh, personnel manager of professional services firm PricewaterhouseCoopers.

According to the Vietnamese Ministry of Education and Training, roughly 46,000/000 local students of banking and finance graduate from the country’s 33 universities and colleges each year.

— MNA/Xinhua

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— Internet

Chinese President Hu Jintao delivers the New Year address in Beijing, capital of China, on 31 Dec, 2007. President Hu Jintao called for world peace and development in the address broadcast on Monday to domestic and overseas audience via state TV and radio channels.

XINHUA

Nurses attend to newly born babies at a hospital in southwestern China’s Chongqing municipality on 2 Jan, 2008. China’s one child policy limits most urban couples to one child and rural families to two in an attempt to control population growth and conserve natural resources in the world’s most populous country. —XINHUA

A villager waves at a search and rescue helicopter in flood-affected Bojonegoro, East Java province, on 31-Dec. 2007. INTERNET
Singapore’s economy to grow 4.5-6.5% in 2008

SINGAPORE, 1 Jan—Singapore’s economy has enjoyed another year of robust expansion with a growth of 7.5 per cent for the whole of 2007, and it is expected to grow by 4.5-6.5 per cent in 2008, said Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on Monday in his 2008 New Year Message.

Lee said that high growth has benefited all Singaporeans. A record 172,000 jobs were created in the first three quarters of the year, while unemployment is down to a decade-lowest 1.7 per cent. In 2007, Singapore drew in a record 16 billion Singapore dollars (about 11 billion US dollars) of fixed asset investments (FAI) in manufacturing, and projects generating three billion Singapore dollars (about 2.1 billion US dollars) of total business spending in services. On the outlook for 2008, Lee said he is cautiously optimistic.

The United States may go into a recession because of the financial market problems, and a US downturn would affect Asia too, he said. But the Prime Minister said he believed that the impact on Singapore would be offset somewhat by the strong momentum in the dynamic Asian economies.

“All things considered, we expect to grow by 4.5-6.5 per cent in 2008,” he said. He reminded Singaporeans of the need to continue to focus on long term strategies and he highlighted several significant policy decisions in 2008.

Oil steady near $96, eyes biggest gain this decade

LONDON, 1 Jan—Oil steadied near 96 US dollars a barrel on Monday, heading for its lowest 1.7 per cent. It hit an all-time low of 61 dollars, US dollars.

Oil is set to average $63.23 US dollars at the start of 2002. If prices hold, they will register their best performance since 1999, when oil prices more than doubled from a 10-US dollar low.

Oil is set to average 72.30 US dollars this year, up about 9 per cent from 2006. In January, as futures prices tumbled, analysts had expected prices to fall to an average 63.23 US dollars a barrel this year, according to a Reuters poll.

The latest poll showed a consensus forecast for a rise in prices to 77.62 US dollars a barrel next year.

Viola Jingyu, chief economist of the National Bureau of Statistics Friday. Bi said that the price supervision by market regulatory authorities will be a major effort to stabilize market price, which should be underscored next year to curb the rising momentum of the inflation rate.

China’s NDRC to contain mounting inflation pressure

GUANGZHOU, 1 Jan—China’s top economic planning body the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC) has urged local authorities to stay vigilant against chain reactions in price hike.

“When the price of a certain product increases sharply, measures should be made immediately to curb its spreading effects. The rising margin of the price should be strictly controlled, when it surpasses the increasing range of its cost,” said Bi Jingquan, deputy minister of NDRC at a national meeting on the price supervision held Friday in this capital of south China’s Guangdong Province.

“The combined effects of the price hike on the global market and the overstock and exorbitant money supply on the domestic market has made the work arduous to prevent inflation next year,” said Bi.

The consumer price index, a major gauge of inflation, is likely to climb by 4.5 per cent in 2007, said Yao Jingyuan, chief economist of the National Bureau of Statistics Friday.

Canadian PM reiterates economic worries for 2008

OTTAWA, 1 Jan—Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper reiterated his concern on Monday for Canada’s economy in 2008, saying his priority in the new year would be to shelter Canadians from uncertain global economy.

“We know there is considerable uncertainty in the world economy, in the American economy and we’ve seen very strong performance from our economy so far,” he told reporters in Mississauga, Ontario.

“So obviously, our wish for the year is we’re able to sustain that momentum and shelter as best we can Canadians from any fallout of global economic problems,” he said. — MNA/Xinhua
Pathi Hydropower Plant in Toungoo Tsp ...

(from page 1) and Thandaungthit of Kayin State through special 33 KV power line. The supply of electricity to Kayin State with the use of the water from Pathi Creek that originated in Kayin State reflected the friendship and amity of the national races.

Pathi Dam is supplying irrigation water to 3,000 acres of farmland, and the dam is equipped with the 2-megawatt generator to produce hydropower. Therefore, the dam will become a multi-purpose dam.

As Bago Division has prospects of producing hydropower, Ministry of Electric Power No 1 is implementing hydropower projects in Sittaung Valley in accordance with the guidance of the Head of State.

The 25-megawatt capacity Zaungtu Hydro Power Project in Bago Township, the 25-megawatt capacity Yenwe Hydropower Project in Kyautka Township and the 2-megawatt capacity Pathi Hydropower Project in Toungoo Township have been completed in Bago Division.

Those hydropower projects which are now under construction in Bago Division are the 30-megawatt capacity Khapanu Hydropower Project in Thayawaddy Township, the 140-megawatt capacity Thaikyeikhat-2 Project in Toungoo Township, the 40-megawatt capacity Pyuchaung Hydropower Project in Pyu Township, the 60-megawatt capacity Shwekyin Hydropower Project in Nyuangbin Township. Khabaung Hydropower Project is expected to be inaugurated in the near future.

Kunchaung Thaukyekhat-2 hydropower projects are designed to supply irrigation water to farmland. The government has spent a huge amount of local currency and foreign currency on the economic and social development of the country.

In his address, Minister for Electric Power No 1 Col Zaw Min said that Pathi Hydropower Plant was one of the 13 power plants of Hydropower Generation Enterprise. It was installed with two one-megawatt generators. Hydropower Generation Enterprise has started the construction tasks since December 2006. After conducting test-running of the plant in December 2007, the supply of power launched to meet the electricity demand of the region within a year. It will generate 8 million kw annually. In accord with the guidance given by Head of State Senior General Than Shwe, electricity generated by the plant is being supplied to Thandaunggyi and Thandaukheith in Kayin State through the special power line. Pathi Hydropower Plant was the 46th facility of its kind in the entire country, and it was the fourth hydropower project in Bago Division and Sittaung valley. On completion, a total of 15 hydropower projects including Pathi Hydropower Plant will generate 10,400 megawatts.

Among these 15 projects, efforts are being made for completion of seven projects — 54-megawatt capacity Kengtawng project, 600-megawatt capacity Shweli-1,790-megawatt capacity Yeywa project, 30-megawatt capacity Khabaung project, 40-megawatt capacity Pyuchaung project and 75-megawatt capacity Shwekyin year by year during the period between 2007 to 2010. On behalf of the local people, a local spoke words of thanks. Next, Managing Director U Kyi Tha of Hydropower Generation Enterprise presented commemorative pennants to Commander Maj-Gen Ko Ko, Minister for Rail Transportation Maj-Gen Aung Min, Deputy Minister for Electric Power No 1 U Myo Myint, Deputy Minister for Electric Power No 2 Brig-Gen Win Myint, departmental heads, officials of Pathi Hydropower Project, local authorities and local people.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation built Pathi dam in 1997. Under the arrangement of extensive generation of hydropower, the Ministry of Electric Power No 1 built the power plant at Pathi dam.

The dam supplies water to 1,500 acres of summer paddy in Toungoo region. Two-turbine installed at Pathi hydropower plant will generate 8 million kilowatt hours every year and distribute the power to Thandaung Township of Kayin State and the surplus to Toungoo region.

MNA
Hailing the 60th Anniversary Independence Day

Achievements of the transport sector throughout the nation in 2007

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sr.</th>
<th>Transport facility</th>
<th>Length</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Opening Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Railroad</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>-</td>
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<td>7 miles</td>
<td>Gangaw Township, Magway Division</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td>Nay Pyi Taw Pyinnama-Myohtaung (dual railroad)</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Airport</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>New Yangon International Airport</td>
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<td>Mingaladon Township, Yangon Division</td>
<td>25-5-07</td>
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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Jetty</td>
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<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Phaungdawgyi Jetty</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sittway Township, Rakhine State</td>
<td>18-2-07</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DaikU-Sittoung Railroad
Myanmar Railways constructed DaikU-Sittoung railroad section stretching 24 miles. The photo shows departure of an express train at the railway station.

The photo shows a distance view of the new building of Yangon International Airport meeting international set standards.

Phaungdawgyi Jetty
Phaungdawgyi Jetty was built at Sittway Wharf in Sittway Township, Rakhine State for ensuring smooth transportation of passengers and commodities.
The 60th anniversary of independence of the Union of Myanmar falls on 4 January 2008.

Myanmar had been able to stand tall in the world only when national brethren worked hard in harmony for national progress after the nation regained independence. Nevertheless, disintegration of national people brought about internal armed conflicts and broke up stability and peace of the State. The situations had a strong negative impact on production of goods, trade and job opportunities.

In consequence, the people lost opportunities to show their hard work even though they were willing to do so. After that, peace could be restored to an extent. However, nationalization of private enterprises posed a barrier to the opportunities of hardworking Myanmar people in the time of the Revolutionary Council Government. Again in the time of the Myanmar Socialist Programme Party, restrictions on private enterprises according to the socialist economy hindered Myanmar people's opportunities to make efforts in their work. In those times, Myanmar people had to work hard several times more than others did. Nonetheless, they were not in a position to achieve targets.

Forty years after independence, Myanmar became one of the least developed countries, resulting from lack of national cohesion from 1948 to 1988, and defects in the economic system it exercised.

The nation’s situations went from bad to worse, and the nation was on the verge of losing sovereignty. On 18 September 1988, the Tatmadaw (armed forces) had to take up State duties unavoidably. The Tatmadaw government took all possible measures to reconstruct the nation. It held peace talks with national race armed groups for national reconsolidation and could make peace with 17 major armed groups and many small ones. As a result, peace could be restored in the regions that had not enjoyed peace, and the people had been able to spread their wings in their businesses.

In Mon and Kayin states where peace could not be restored in the past, the government managed to make peace with national race armed groups to foster national solidarity. The people in the states were able to cultivate crops in the vacant and fallow lands extensively. They put thousands of acres under rubber. In Taninthayi Division, rubber and oil palm were grown on hundreds of thousands of acres of arable land. I witnessed that the regions in Mon State where battles broke out before 1988 became green with crop plantations. Similarly, Kachin and Shan states came to enjoy national unity and peace. So, they were able to reclaim vacant and virgin lands and cultivated crops on them.

Therefore, the least developed regions were able to enjoy development due to national solidarity built at the unprecedented level in the time of the Tatmadaw government.

The Tatmadaw government introduced the market economy and encouraged private economy. So, national entrepreneurs have become increasingly competitive in business. Industrial zones were established in states and divisions and a large number of factories there launched their production lines. At the same time, private hotels, travel agencies, export and import enterprises and private hospitals have emerged across the nation. So, the private sector is booming now. I find Myanmar people more hardworking owing to a wide range of unprecedented opportunities created in the time of the Tatmadaw government. And they have been inspired to take four to ten steps when other...
If you owe gratitude to those who have sacrificed lives for independence...

Ngar Min Swe

Many heroes and many of our forefathers sacrificed their lives to help the Union of Myanmar regain independence. However, it is disheartening to witness that due to lack of unity among national brethren, Myanmar has not developed yet for 60 years, and the people still have to make efforts with tenacity to ensure national development.

Historic nationalistic fervour

* We all know
  Eras of Kyansitha, Bayintnaung
  And U Aung Zeya
  Saw the building of nation
  With patriotic fervour
  Our glory in history
  Documented with
  Ever victorious battles
  No words to describe
  Ever shining power
  Let all know
  We Myanmar are masters

* Common knowledge
  Is the chronicle of noble heroes
  Fighting back colonialist intruders
  With valour and undaunted spirit
  Recorded in history
  With fighting spirit
  We waged many battles
  Sacrificing lives
  In anti-colonialist struggles
  Blood formed a sea
  Uprisings generated by
  Galon Saya San
  And Thakin Po Hla Gyi
  So dutiful in history

* Glorious and shining
  Myanmar Tatmadaw
  Was formed and it grew
  Sacrificing lives, blood, sweat
  Saving nation from enslavement
  Regaining independence
  With patriotism
  And nationalistic fervour
  Independence safeguarded
  With blood, sweat, lives
  Throughout history
  With pride, we firmly vow
  To safeguard Independence
  For its perpetuation.

(Hailing the 60th Anniversary Independence Day)

Daung Nwe Soe (Trs)
Minister Maj-Gen Saw Tun and Col Phone Maw Shwe pose for a documentary photo together with local people after the opening ceremony of Mezali Bridge in Pwintbyu Township. — MNA

Mezali Bridge in Pwintbyu Tsp, …

(from page 16)

Power, Myanmar Railways and the Tatmadaw.

In Magway Division, there are 16 bridges which are over 180 ft long, five bridges between 100 ft and 180 ft and 100 bridges between 20 ft and 100 ft. Those bridges which are under construction in the division are Yenantha Bridge in Kanma Township, Bwatgyi Bridge in Aunglan Township and Watkot Bridge in Pakokku Township and Bwatgyi Bridge is expected to be commissioned into service in the near future.

Mass activities on prevention against DHF launched in townships

YANGON, 2 Jan — The Health Department of the Ministry of Health and Health Department of Yangon City Development Committee, local authorities, members of social organizations and the public are constantly taking preventive measures against dengue haemorrhagic fever as mass activities in the townships.

Chairman of YCDC Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin inspected preventive measures against DHF being launched in North Okkalapa, Mingala Taungnyunt, Kyimyindaing and Yankin Townships of Yangon East District this morning.

Service personnel, members of social organizations and townswelders actively took part in the DHF preventive measures and educative talks were also held in the townships.

MNA

Sarpay Beikman Book Association distributes prize winning book

YANGON, 2 Jan — Sarpay Beikman Book Association had distributed the book entitled Hninn Khar Yai written by Nay Soe Thaw, first prize winner in the novel genre, to the members in Yangon and other towns.

Those members in Yangon may draw it at No 529/531, Merchant Street, here, and those from other towns may receive it through postal service.

Those wishing to join the association may contact the sales centre of the association, No 529/531, Merchant Street, here, (Ph: 381448 and 249031).

MNA

Thiri Zeya Bumi Bagan Golden…

(from page 16)

It was attended by Chairman of Mandalay Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Tin Ngwe, Minister for Culture Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint, Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung, the directors-general of the Ministry of Culture, the chairman of NyaungU District and Township PDCs, members of social organizations, local people and students.

First, Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint gave accounts on rebuilding the palace. Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint and the commander formally opened the palace. Director-General U Sann Win of the National Museum and Library Department explained the matters related to construction of the palace and preservation of cultural heritage in the region.

Responsibile persons of Hoho Trading Co Ltd presented gifts to the commander, the ministers and guests and Minister Maj-Gen Khin Aung Myint presented certificates of honour to Architects Tampawadi U Win Maung and U Thaw.

After assuming the State’s duties, the Tatmadaw rebuilt Kambawza-thadi Palace in Bago, Shwebon Yadana Mingalar Palace in Shwebo and Mya Nann San Kyaw Golden Palace in Mandalay according to their original styles. Thiri Zeya Bumi Bagan Golden Palace was rebuilt based on architecture of Bagan Era.

Among the newly-rebuilt palaces in the country, Bagan Golden Palace is the most glorious one. — MNA

MNA
A competitor competes in the World Beard and Moustache Championships, held at the Brighton Centre in Brighton, southern England, on 1 Sept, 2007. The Bi-Annual event is being held in Britain for the first time.—INTERNET

People walk past an ice bar in Harbin, capital of northeast China’s Heilongjiang Province, on 2 Jan, 2008. Customers could enjoy roast meat, hot coffee and vodka in the bar built with ice within the next 50 days.—INTERNET

Sand artist Sudarsan Patnaik creates a sand sculpture of the Taj Mahal on New Year’s eve at a beach in Puri, close to the eastern Indian city of Bhubaneshwar December 31, 2007. INTERNET

Honda’s humanoid robot Asimo in Tokyo. Russian railways want tiny robots to replace humans in difficult maintenance work, and they want Russian-made androids that can dance and talk.—INTERNET

Circus acrobat Henry Ayala of Columbia stands on a chair on a high wire above a circus tent during an attempt to set a Guinness World record by balancing on a chair on a high wire out of doors, York, northern England, on 7 Aug, 2007. INTERNET
NATIONAL

MYANMAR IVANHOE COPPER COMPANY LIMITED (TENDER NOTICE)

TENDER: IFB No. 07/Overseas/2008

Supply of Caterpillar Spares, (61 lots) are invited from Overseas Suppliers by CIF Yangon Basis, US$, Singapore $ or Euro Currency by LC Term.

CLOSING DATE will be on 16th January 2008 4pm. RFQ 034288 will be closed on 7 January 2008 4pm.

Tender documents are available at the following addresses:

70 (I) Bo Chein Street, Pyay Road, Hlaing Township, Yangon, Myanmar
Tel: (95) 1 514194 to 7; Fax: (95) 1 514208; Email: miccl@miccl.com.mm

Site: Tel: (95) 71 22225/6; Fax: (95) 71 22522; Email: supply@miccl.com.mm

Bids are to be reached the above offices on or before the closing date.

Queries can be done between 10am to 4pm at Supply Department; Tel: (95) 71 22225/6;
Email: supply@miccl.com.mm before the Tender Closing Date.

5.54m Chinese born on New Year's Day

BEIJING, 1 Jan—About 5.54 million Chinese share the same birthday on New Year's Day and 5,659 were named after it, according to China's Ministry of Public Security. And 1,735 citizens were not only named after Yuan Dan, or New Year's Day in Chinese, but also born on the day, Monday's Beijing Evening News quoted the ministry's department in charge of citizen identity.

Meanwhile, 618 Chinese share the family name "Yuan" and were named "Dan," the ministry said. The word "Yuan Dan" has been used by Chinese for more than 4,000 years but it used to refer to the first day of Chinese lunar year. In 1949, the Chinese government first officially announced that 1 January, the first day on the Gregorian calendar, is Yuan Dan.—MNA/Xinhua
electric space heaters, electric blankets other than for medical purposes, electric radiant heaters, hot-water space heating apparatus, hot-water floor heating apparatus, electrical hand warmers (including glove types and others), electric heating equipment, electric foot warmers, electrical floor heater, toilets with washing functions, water purifying and mineralizing apparatus for household use, electric hand dryers, electric dishwashing machines, electric clothes drying machines, electric hair dryers, brushes for hair dryer, panel heaters, whirlpool baths, electrical automatic waterer for home gardening and parts and accessories thereof, spotlights, emergency lights, mercury vapor lamps, high-pressure mercury vapor lamp, sodium lamps, safety lamps, light diffusers, electric hygiene cleaners, searchlights, ventilator, household humidifiers, household deodorizing equipment, electrical body brushes, household electrical dehumidifier, electrical hair curlers, electrical make-up removing appliances, electrical dead skin cell removers, electrical face brushes, electrical facial equipment using ultrasonic wave, electrical facial equipment, electrical esthetic massages for household use, steam generators for facial treatment, electric pore cleaners, water taps made of metal, wash basins for lavatory, bath-tub units integral with wash place and dressers, shower fixtures, water softening apparatus, ionic water generators, water purifying apparatus, electric heaters for bathrooms, electric heaters for dressing rooms, electric stoves for bathrooms. Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use of the said Trademark shall be dealt with according to law.

U Myint Lin, Advocate, LLLB, DBL, Diploma in Legal Aspects of Marine Affairs (U) MYINTAdvocate@gmail.com.mm; Ph: 371 990

MYANMAR IVANHOE COPPER COMPANY LIMITED (TENDER NOTICE)
TENDER. IFB No. 08/ Oversea/2008
Supply of General Items, Tyre, Pipe & Fittings, Spares for Daewoo, Toyota, Isuzu, Tamrock Drill, Omega 60T Crane, Western Star Truck (37 lots) are invited from Overseas Suppliers by CIF Yangon Basis, Singapore $ or Euro Currency by LC Term.
CLOSING DATE will be on 16 January 2008 4pm.
Tender documents are available at the following addresses:
70 (1) Bo Chein Street, Pyay Road, Hlaing Township, Yangon, Myanmar
Tel: (95) 1 514194 to 7; Fax: (95) 1 514208; Email: miccl@miccl.com.mm
Site Tel: (95) 71 22226/6; Fax: (95) 71 22252;
Email: supply@miccl.com.mm
Bids are to be reached the above offices on or before the closing date.
Queries can be done between 10am to 4pm at Supply Department; Tel: (95) 71 22225/6;
Email: supply@miccl.com.mm before the Tender Closing Date.

Harry Potter star Radcliffe lands slain photographer role
BEIJING, 2 Jan—Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe has fought off competition from Heath Ledger and Orlando Bloom to land the lead role in a new movie about a slain photo-journalist.
The 22-year-old will appear as the 22-year-old will appear as the 22-year-old will appear as
Daniel Radcliffe (Harry Potter)
Daniel Radcliffe (Harry Potter)
Daniel Radcliffe (Harry Potter)

China coal mine death toll rises to 19
BEIJING, 1 Jan—The toll from a coal mine blast in northeast China has risen to 19 after two days of rescue operations, state media said on Monday. The explosion happened on Saturday at a small, privately owned mine in Mudanjiang when 21 workers were working, Interior Minister Luis Alva said on Sunday. The year 2007 has been the successful one in the government’s efforts to crack down on drug-related crimes, said Alva at a drug-burning factory in eastern Lima, where 2.41 tons of drugs was burnt on Sunday MNA/Xinhua

Peru confiscates 20 tons of drugs in 2007
LIMA, 1 Jan—The Peruvian police have confiscated over 20 tons of drugs in the South American country in 2007, worth some two billion US dollars in the international drug marketplace, Peru’s Interior Minister Luis Alva said on Sunday. The year 2007 has been the successful one in the government’s efforts to crack down on drug-related crimes, said Alva at a drug-burning factory in eastern Lima, where 2.41 tons of drugs was burnt on Sunday MNA/Xinhua

Vietnam consumes more mobile phones this year
HANOI, 1 Jan—Vietnam consumed some 5.5 million mobile phones or 910 million US dollars worth in 2007, up from four million mobile phones in 2006, local newspaper Pioneer on Monday quoted a survey of market research firm GIKVietnam as reporting. The survey shows Nokia holds a local market share of nearly 60 per cent, Samsung around 20 per cent, and other mobile phone makers some 20 per cent. According to statistics from mobile phone retailers in Vietnam, half of local consumers like to purchase mobile phones at prices of 0.7-2.5 million Vietnamese dong (nearly 43.8-156.3 US dollars). Directors of some Vietnamese phone trading companies predicted Vietnam would consume 9.2 million mobile phones in 2008. MNA/Xinhua

S Korea’s consumer prices rise 3.6% in December
SEOUL, 1 Jan—South Korea’s consumer prices rose 3.6 per cent in December from a year earlier, South Korea’s National Statistical Office (NSO) said in a report on Monday. According to the report, the country’s annual inflation for 2007 rose 2.5 percent from the previous year, mostly on a sharp increase in prices of industrial products and agricultural goods. MNA/Xinhua

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE
As the wharves, warehouses and Chellhan offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 4th January 2008 (Independence Day) and 8th January 2008 (Kavyn new year Day) being the public Holidays. Goods will be received, shipped or delivered on payment of Holiday fees.

DONATE BLOOD

"It is about the future of humanity that we speak. If we are not independent and free, we are lost. If we are not independent and free, we are lost. If we are not independent and free, we are lost." 

"It is about the future of humanity that we speak. If we are not independent and free, we are lost. If we are not independent and free, we are lost. If we are not independent and free, we are lost."
Jankovic injured ahead of Australian Open

PERTH, 2 Jan — World number three Jelena Jankovic was forced to retire from her singles match at the Hopman Cup on Wednesday with a thigh injury and placed her Australian Open campaign in doubt.

The Serbian, who was playing just the first game of her match with Tatiana Golovin of France, clutched the top of her right hamstring before she received treatment from the physiotherapist and though she tried to play on, was forced to withdraw midway through the second game.

"The injury is at the top of her hamstring," tournament director Paul McNamee told reporters. "We suspect it's torn, but we won't know the full extent of it until after the scan.

"She hasn't pulled out of the mixed (doubles) yet but we'll know more after the scan." —MNA/Reuters

Chelsea come back strongly to beat Fulham 2-1

LONDON, 2 Jan — Chelsea overcame the absence of a host of big names to come from behind and beat local rivals Fulham 2-1 away in Tuesday's Premier League lunchtime kickoff.

Fulham, under new manager Roy Hodgson for the first time, led with a 10th-minute Danny Murphy penalty but Chelsea levelled with a 54th-minute Salomon Kalou header and won the match with a Michael Ballack penalty eight minutes later.

Chelsea remain third on 44 points, one behind Manchester United, who play Birmingham City at Old Trafford later on Tuesday, and three behind Arsenal, who host West Ham United.

A year ago Chelsea drew with Aston Villa and Fulham over the Christmas period to lose touch at the top. After their December 26 4-4 home draw with Villa it looked like the situation might repeat itself. Fulham, who had won only two league games previously and began the day second-last, went ahead from the spot after Moritz Volz was tripped by Joe Cole and had little trouble keeping their local rivals at bay.

All season Fulham have performed well in the first half and of the 37 goals they have conceded, 30 have come in the second half. —MNA/Reuters

Arsenal stay top as leading trio all win

LONDON, 2 Jan — Arsenal strode into the New Year with their lead at the top of the Premier League intact after a comfortable 2-0 victory over London rivals West Ham United on Tuesday.

Early goals from strikers Eduardo and Emmanuel Adebayor did the damage at the Emirates as Arsenal completed the double over a side that beat them home and away last season.

Manchester United, who lost top spot on Saturday after a surprise 2-1 loss at West Ham, kept close on the tail of the Gunners thanks to a Carlos Tevez goal in an nervy 1-0 defeat of Birmingham City at Old Trafford.

Arsenal have 50 points from 21 games, two points more than champions United, while Chelsea have 44 after coming from behind to beat Fulham 2-1 in a lunchtime kickoff with

goals from Salomon Kalou and Michael Ballack. Everton moved up to fifth after a 2-0 victory at middlesbrough while Aston Villa are sixth following a 2-1 home defeat of Tottenham Hotspur thanks to a late headed winner from Martin Laursen. Portsmouth won 2-0 at Reading where the home side played virtually the entire match with 10 men after Ibrahim Sonko was sent off in the fourth minute.

Fourth-placed Liverpool are not in action until Wednesday when they welcome struggling Wigan Athletic at Anfield.

West Ham have a knack of springing surprise results against title chasing sides and are still the only visiting team to win a Premier League match at the Emirates but on Tuesday they were left with an impossible task. —MNA/Reuters

Kenyan wins women’s Sao Silvestre Marathon

BRASILIA, 2 Jan — Considered to be the favourite to win Monday’s 83rd edition of the Sao Silvestre Marathon in the city of Sao Paulo, Kenya’s female runner Alice Timbilili proved the critics right.

The 24-year-old runner participated for the first time in the streets of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and finished only seconds behind the men’s winner, Robert Cheruiyot, also from Kenya.

The women’s second finisher was Marizete Rezende, from Goiana, and third place went to Maria Zeferina Baldia, winner of the race in 2001. Alice Timbilili dominated the first half of the race with ease. However, in the 11th kilometre, Marizete Rezende gained ground and came within strides of the Kenyan.

Rezende’s effort was not enough and all she could do was watch as Timbilili picked up the pace. In the last kilometre of the race, the Kenyan increased her pace and distance from Rezende, guaranteeing herself a first place finish.

There was a 15 minute interval between the start of the women, followed by the men. Timbilili watched as her fellow countrymen, Robert Cheruiyot, surpass her on the streets of Sao Paulo to win the first place in the men’s division.

Due to Alice Timbilili’s first place finish, she obstructed a podium full of Brazilian women. Apart from Rezende in second place, and Baldia in third, Edielza Santos finished in fourth place and Marilly dos Santos finished in fifth place in this year’s race. —MNA/Xinhua

Official says S Korean boxer champ likely brain dead

SEOUL, 2 Jan— South Korean boxer Choi Yo-sam, who lapsed into a coma last week defending his World Boxing Organization intercontinental flyweight title, appears to be brain dead, a boxing official said on Wednesday.

Choi, who won a 25 December fight on points, was sent to the canvass just seconds before the end of the 12th and final round by a hard right from Indonesian challenger Heri Amol. Choi, 33, staggered to his feet but collapsed shortly after the bout.

"Doctors examining him have made a preliminary determination of brain death. We are waiting for another round of examinations before a formal decision is made," said Han Bo-young, vice-president and secretary-general of Korea Boxing Commission. —MNA/Reuters

Arsenal’s Cesc Fabregas challenges West Ham United’s Mark Noble during their English Premier League soccer match at the Emirates Stadium in London on 1 Jan 2008. —INTERNET

Sanfrecce Hiroshima’s Stoyanov (L) tuckles Kashima Antlers’ Mitsuo Ogasawara at the 87th Emperor’s Cup soccer match final in Tokyo on 1 Jan 2008. —INTERNET

Birmingham City’s Liam Ridgewell (L) to score as Manchester United’s Carlos Tevez (C) shoots past Roy Hodgson for the first time, led with a 10th-minute Danny Murphy penalty but Chelsea levelled with a 54th-minute Salomon Kalou header and won the match with a Michael Ballack penalty eight minutes later.

Chelsea remain third on 44 points, one behind Manchester United, who play Birmingham City at Old Trafford later on Tuesday, and three behind Arsenal, who host West Ham United.
Donald Rumsfeld handled criticism the way former McCain, who for years has in-the-nation presidential party’s unpopular president Romney said on Tuesday undermanaged.” and, in some respects, for what occurred, following the collapse of 1.

4. Nice and sweet song 7:30 am
2. To be healthy exercise 7:30 am
3. Morning news 7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song

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4. Nice and sweet song 7:30 am
2. To be healthy exercise 7:30 am
3. Morning news 7:40 am
4. Nice and sweet song
People’s Desire

⭐ We favour stability.
⭐ We favour peace.
⭐ We oppose unrest and violence.

Mezali Bridge in Pwintbyu Tsp, Magway Div, inaugurated

Mezali Bridge in Pwintbyu Township, Minbu District. — MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 2 Jan — Mezali Bridge across Mone Creek, built by Road Construction Project Special Group-3 of Public Works on Pathein-Monywa Road, was commissioned at the bridge in Pwintbyu Township this morning.

Speaking on the occasion, Minister for Construction Maj-Gen Saw Tun said that seven bridges including Bala Min Him Bridge, Magway Bridge and Bo Myat Tun Bridge were constructed across Ayeyawady River. Ayeyawady Bridge (Yadanabon), the 8th one across Ayeyawady River, is expected to be inaugurated in the near future. A total of 210 bridges that are 180-foot and above long including Mezali Bridge have been constructed in the country. The number of bridges across the country reaches 230, counting the bridges constructed by the Ministry of Electric (See page 10)

Thiri Zeya Bumi Bagan Golden Palace of King Anawrahta opens

Nay Pyi Taw, 2 Jan — Hailing the 60th Anniversary Independence Day, the opening ceremony of Thiri Zeya Bumi Bagan Golden Palace of King Anawrahta, who founded the First Myanmar Empire, was held at the Palace in Bagan Archaeological Region, NyaungU, Mandalay Division, this morning.

(See page 10)

State Flag hoisting and saluting ceremony to be broadcast live

Nay Pyi Taw, 2 Jan—Myanma Radio and Television today announced that it will broadcast live radio and TV programmes about Independence Day State Flag hoisting and saluting ceremony to be held at Nay Pyi Taw City Hall Square at 6.45 am on 4 January 2008.—MNA