Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing host dinner to mark 63rd Anniversary Independence Day

Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing greet diplomats during a reception and dinner to mark the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day. — MNA
**PERSPECTIVES**

Wednesday, 5 January, 2011

**Stride towards new democratic nation**

The Union of Myanmar has become an independent and sovereign nation again for 63 years. From time immemorial, Myanmar had stood tall with its own monarchs and sovereignty. It was very inhumane of colonialists that annexed Myanmar through three aggressive wars from 1824 to 1885. In consequence, Myanmar lost her independence and sovereignty. Brilliant, patriotic young men hand in hand with the people fought back British colonialists and Fascists at risk to life, thus enabling the motherland to regain independence and sovereignty.

In his message sent on the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day (2011), Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe says, “It cost greatly for the nation to regain independence and sovereignty. The value of independence and sovereignty is most noticeable only when they are lost. Naturally, the people take independence and sovereignty for granted. It is not strange, certain covetous, aggressive countries are anxious to gain political control over a geographically strategic country like Myanmar. Accordingly, all national races are to remain cohesive forever in order for perpetuation of independence and sovereignty.”

Myanmar has passed through many periods, good and bad. Now, multiparty democracy general elections have been held successfully. Soon, Hluttaws will be convened with representatives-elect. Then, the new government will have to take over duties for building a modern, developed nation.

In the process, the government has laid sound foundations. Over a couple of decades, it has improved all sectors. What is needed is to shape the future of the nation is that the new government carries out nation-building tasks in cooperation with the people.

Now, Myanmar is transforming itself from old to new system. The entire national brethren have remained united in working for democratization. They have to continue to safeguard the Union for its perpetuation, while taking giant strides towards the new democratic nation.

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**Education seminar on 15-16 Jan**

YANGON, 4 Jan—Education seminar, organized by Star Resources Hospitality Management Academy, will be held at Traders Hotel, Yangon on 15 January and Sedona Hotel in Mandalay on 16 January. Principal Mr Roderick Hardingham of London Hotel School College will give talks. Interested persons may register at Star Resources Hospitality Management Academy in advance (Ph: 523623, 523200, 4412256 and 09-5090816) and attend the seminar free of charge.

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**Minister meets road/bridge construction companies**

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan — Minister for Construction U Khin Maung Maung Myint together with Deputy Ministers U Tint Swe and U Myint Thein met officials of public works responsible persons of 115 companies which are engaged in road and bridge construction works at the meeting hall of the ministry here yesterday.

The minister called for timely completion of the works meeting set standards. Next, Deputy Minister U Tint Swe gave accounts of rules and regulations and technological standards. Then Deputy Minister U Myint Thein called for drawing of work plans for timely completion of construction works.

Afterwards, the managing director and deputy managing directors of Public Works discussed matters related to construction works.

Then the minister heard reports on work progress presented by responsible persons of the companies and made concluding remarks.—MNA

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**CPT celebrates Independence Day with sports events, funfair**

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan — Hailing 63rd Anniversary Independence Day, sports events and funfair were held at the Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs here this morning.

CPT Minister U Thein Zaw and wife Daw Mu Mu Win formally opened the events and funfair which was also participated by Deputy Minister U Thein Tun and wife Daw Mya Mya Win, departmental heads and staff families.

Minister U Thein Zaw presents first prize to a winning team in men’s futsal.

The minister and wife, the deputy minister and wife and departmental heads presented prizes to contestants.—MNA

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**Book “Contemporary Architecture” in circulation**


The book is about a wide variety of styles and designs of buildings in the international community including Myanmar’s architecture. It is also a collection of architectural articles featured in magazines.

The book No.3 is distributed nationwide by Zaw Htet Publishing House at 37 (A), Thiri Mingala Street, Ward (8), Kamayut Township (Ph: 09-5090816).—MNA

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**Resources** Hospitality Management Academy in

**Minister U Khin Maung Myint meets entrepreneurs of road and bridge construction companies.**—CONSTRUCTION

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* 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
Two US soldiers killed in Iraq

BAGHDAD, 4 Jan—Two US soldiers were killed in central Iraq, the first military service members killed in 2011 due to militants attack in the country, the US military said on Monday.

The two soldiers were killed on Sunday night as the result of one attack, a military statement said without giving further details about the incident.

The latest deaths are the first for US soldiers to be killed in Iraq in 2011, bringing the number of US soldiers killed in the country to about 4,430, since the breakout of the US-led war on Iraq in 2003, according to media account based on Pentagon figures.

In 2010, up to 60 US soldiers were killed in the country.

In mid 2010, US troops in Iraq had been reduced to below 50,000 soldiers.

Washington said that the remaining troops will remain in Iraq to conduct support and training missions.

US military forces are to pull out completely from Iraq by the end of 2011 according to the security pact signed late in 2008 between Baghdad and Washington.

At least three killed in suicide car bombing in Iraq’s Diyala

BAQUBA, 4 Jan—At least three people were killed and 20 others were wounded on Monday when a bomb and a suicide car bomb hit intelligence office in Baquba, the capital City of Iraq’s eastern Province of Diyala, a provincial police source said.

The twin attack took place before noon when a roadside bomb detonated outside the provincial intelligence office, in central Baquba, and was immediately followed by a suicide car bombing, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. All the victims were civilians, the unnamed source said, citing latest police reports. Earlier, the source put the toll at three killed and 15 wounded by the two blasts.

Diyala Province, which stretches from the eastern edges of Baghdad to the Iranian border east of the country, has long been a stronghold for al-Qaida militants and other militant groups since the US-led invasion of Iraq in 2003 despite repeated US and Iraqi military operations against them.—Xinhua

Bomb blast in Afghan Capital kills one police

KABUL, 4 Jan— An explosive device went off in the Afghan Capital Kabul on Tuesday, killing one police officer and injuring three others including two civilians, an official of the Interior Ministry said.

“The explosive device was planted in a bag when the shopkeepers discovered it and informed police. Bomb disposal team came to the site and began defusing but suddenly it exploded killing one police officer on the spot and injuring three others including one policeman and two passersby,” the unnamed official told Xinhua, adding the outcome of investigation would be released.

The incident occurred at 08:00 am local time (GMT 0430) in Muradkhani area close to the Presidential Palace and the Defence Ministry.

In a previous suicide bomb attack in Kabul on 19 December for which Taliban claimed responsibility, five Afghan army personnel were killed and 10 others sustained injuries.

At least five children were injured as school bus attacked in SW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, 4 Jan— At least five children were injured as a school bus was attacked by a remote-controlled bomb in southwest Pakistan’s Turbat city on Tuesday morning, local TV channels reported.

Bomb blast destroys NATO tanker in Pakistan’s tribal area

ISLAMABAD, 4 Jan—An oil tanker supplying fuel for NATO-led troops in Afghanistan was destroyed by a bomb blast Monday in the Khyber tribal region in northwest Pakistan.

According to local TV channel the DAWN News, no casualties had been reported.

Security authorities said that the oil tanker came under attack as it was heading towards Torkham, the main border crossing.

The Pakistan-Afghanistan border highway was subsequently blocked after a massive traffic pile-up which resulted in the suspension of supply.

Security forces started a search operation in the area.

Five children killed in Baghdad

BAGHDAD, 4 Jan—A policeman and a Christian woman were killed in two attacks in Baghdad on Monday, an Interior Ministry source said.

Unidentified gunmen opened fire from their silenced weapons on a policeman driving a police car in al-Waziriya District in Baghdad, killing him before they fled the scene, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The attack is part of a series of attacks by militants against government officials and security members. Such attacks are seen by observers as attempts by militants to reassert their control of the areas they’ve been limited in movement recently.

In a separate incident, armed men stormed a house of a Christian woman in the early hours of the day in Baghdad’s central District of Karrada, killing the woman and stealing some of her possessions, the source said.

The latest attack is seen as part of string of attacks recently carried out against Christians in Iraq.

The Iraqi Christian minority has already suffered the murder of hundreds of its members due to chaos and insecurity that engulfed Iraq after the US-led invasion in 2003.—Xinhua

Bomb blast in Afghanistan south of Kabul

AFGHAN traffic officers check the engine which is all that remained of the vehicle used in a car bomb explosion, beside a damaged vehicle, after an explosion in Kandahar south of Kabul, Afghanistan recently. A car bomb exploded outside a police headquarters in Kandahar, wounding at least six people and blowing out the windows of buildings up to a mile (1.6km) away, officials said.—INTERNET

Four Afghan soldiers were killed when insurgent gunmen burst into a mosque and opened fire on praying civilians recently. —INTERNET

An Afghan fier fighter sprays water on a burning tanker carrying NATO’s fuel.—INTERNET

A policeman inspects a damaged vehicle at the site of a bomb attack in Ramadi, 100 km (60 miles) west of Baghdad recently. Twin suicide bombings rocked a government compound in Iraq’s western City Ramadi on Monday, with a police source saying more than 17 people had been killed.—INTERNET

A French soldier and Afghan police officers stand near the site of an explosion in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 4 Jan, 2011. The bomb exploded in central Kabul early Tuesday, killing one police officer and wounding three other people, a official said.—INTERNET

An Afghan fier fighter sprays water on a burning tanker carrying NATO’s fuel.—INTERNET

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NB astronomer, 10, youngest to discover supernova

TORONTO, 4 Jan—Kathryn Aurora Gray isn’t interested in making a career out of astronomy when she grows up. She might want to rethink that after becoming the youngest person to discover a supernova, or exploding star.

The 10-year-old Fredericton girl identified on the weekend a previously unseen burst of light in an expanse of stars 240 light-years away to better the previous record by four years.

“I was really excited. I had so much fun finding it,” Gray said in an interview from her home Monday night. “I was so excited I didn’t sleep that night waiting to find out.”

The Royal Astronomical Society of Canada confirmed the discovery Monday, saying the magnitude-17 supernova was found in galaxy UGC 3378 in the constellation of Camelopardalis.

The society also said Gray is the youngest person to ever make such a discovery.

Supernovas are stellar explosions that signal the violent deaths of stars several times more massive than our sun. They are rare events but are relatively easy to spot with modest telescopes because they outshine other stars.

The last supernova in our galaxy occurred several hundred years ago.—Internet

Indian Rocket launch failure caused by faulty cable

BANGALORE, 4 Jan—A team that analyzed data from the failed launch of India’s Geostationary Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) has found the primary cause of the 25 Dec mishap was the “untimely and inadvertent snapping” of a group of 10 connectors located at the bottom of the rocket’s Russian supplied upper stage.

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) said in a 31 Dec statement that the vehicle’s performance was normal up to 47.5 seconds after liftoff. It then began to stray from its planned orientation angle, which resulted in higher structural loads than the vehicle was designed to handle.

The rocket, which was carrying a telecommunications satellite, began to break apart about 58 seconds into the flight and was destroyed by command at 64 seconds.

ISRO said some of the connectors that snapped carried command signals from the onboard computer near the top of the vehicle to the control systems for the four L40 strap-on boosters that augmented the rocket’s first stage.—Internet

Researchers find “alarming” decline in bumblebees

WASHINGTON, 4 Jan—Four previously abundant species of bumblebee are close to disappearing in the United States, researchers reported Monday in a study that the agriculture department important bees are being affected worldwide.

They documented a 96 percent decline in the numbers of the four species, and said their range had shrunk by as much as 87 percent. As with honeybees, a pathogen is partly involved, but the researchers also found evidence of inbreeding caused by habitat loss.

“We provide incontrovertible evidence that multiple Bombus species have experienced sharp population declines at the national level,” the researchers reported in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, calling the findings “alarming.”

“These are one of the most important pollinators of native plants,” Sydney Cameron of the University of Illinois, Urbana, who led the study, said in a telephone interview.

In recent years, experts have documented a disappearance of bees in what is widely called colony collapse disorder, blamed on many factors including parasites, fungi, stress, pesticides and viruses. But most studies have focused on honeybees.

Bumblebees are also important pollinators, Cameron said, but are far less studied. Bumblebees pollinate tomatoes, blueberries and cranberries, she noted.

Asus adapts kinect motion technology to PC

NEW YORK, 4 Jan—Asus is collaborating with the inventors of Kinect’s motion-sensing depth technology to bring a similar, PC-based 3D experience to your living room.

The WAVI Xion multi-media system will debut at CES this week, but won’t be commercially available until Q2 2011, Asus said in a Press release.

According to Asus’ statement, users will be able to browse multimedia content, access the Internet and social networks, and enjoy full body interaction “in a more user-friendly and natural living room experience.”

Wavi Xion uses technology from Tel Aviv-based PrimeSense, inventor of the Immersive Natural Interaction technology used to create the Microsoft Kinect’s controller-free interaction experience. In June, PrimeSense said that the technology may move to PCs.

“Asus combines its wireless cross-room solution with PrimeSense’s simple, intuitive, gesture-based control technology to allow users to enjoy and share PC content on TV with gestures,” said Kent Chien, general manager of Asus, in a statement.—Internet

Military technology helps wheelchair use

TALLAHASSEE, 4 Jan—US researchers say new technology can enable electric-powered wheelchairs to detect hazardous terrain and adjust control settings to maneuver more safely.

Scientists at Florida State University say a device called a laser line stripe, first developed for military use, has been adapted to identify terrain conditions so the wheelchair control system can self-adjust, a university release said Monday.

Automatic terrain-sensing controls for military robotic vehicles, when adapted to wheelchairs, can implement safe driving strategies while avoiding wheel slip, sinkage or vehicle tipping, Emmanuel Collins, FSU professor of mechanical engineering, says.

“I’m inspired by the idea of applying technology originally meant for the battlefield to improve the quality of everyday life for injured soldiers and others,” Collins said.

Army Maj Kevin Fitzpatrick, director of Walter Reed Hospital’s wheelchair clinic, said the technology “will provide electric-powered wheelchair users with an increased degree of independence that may significantly increase their ability to participate in recreational and functional activities.”

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Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to Senior General Than Shwe

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of State to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, on the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

From His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of the Kingdom of Thailand

Excellency,

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I wish to extend to Your Excellency my cordial felicitations and best wishes for your health and happiness as well as for the progress and prosperity of the Union of Myanmar and her people.

From Mr Hu Jintao, President of the People’s Republic of China

Excellency,

Upon the auspicious occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to, on behalf of the Chinese people and in my own name, extend to Your Excellency and through you to the people of Myanmar the warmest congratulations and best wishes.

China and Myanmar are traditional neighbours. During the long-term friendly exchanges, the two peoples established profound Pauk-Phaw friendship. Through our joint efforts, China-Myanmar friendly relationship has been getting progress continuously, and all areas exchanges and cooperations had been deepening increasingly, which have brought tangible benefits to the two peoples. China is willing to work with Myanmar to promote traditional friendship, deepen mutual beneficial cooperation, push China-Myanmar good neighbourly and friendly cooperative relations to a new high.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my best wishes for the prosperity to Myanmar and well-being to the Myanmar people as well as for Your Excellency’s good health and personal well-being.

From Choummaly Sayasone, President of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the people of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and on my own behalf, I wish to convey my warmest congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and through Your Excellency to the entire people of the Union of Myanmar on the auspicious occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

I am very pleased to note that the friendly relations and close cooperation between our two countries and peoples have continued to be further enhanced and strengthened. In 2010, our two countries exchanged the visit of the high ranking delegations, particularly the State Visit of Your Excellency and madam to the Lao People’s Democratic Republic in the last October, thus contributing to deepening the trust among us as the neighbouring countries.

May I wish Your Excellency good health and happiness in order to lead the people of the Union of Myanmar towards the progress and constant prosperity.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Asif Al Zardari, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Excellency,

It gives me great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency our warmest felicitations and best wishes on the happy occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

Pakistan and Myanmar enjoy close friendly relations. I am confident that the mutually beneficial ties existing between our two countries will be further strengthened in the years ahead.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Dr Bashar Al-Assad, President of Syrian Arab Republic

Your Excellency,

On the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of the Independence of the Union of Myanmar, I have great pleasure in conveying, on behalf of the Syrian Arab people and on my own behalf, our sincere congratulations to Your Excellency and to your friendly people.

I also express my best wishes for your good health and happiness and for the progress and prosperity of your people. With my highest consideration.

From Mr Saad Hariri, Chairman of Ministerial Council of Lebanon

Excellency,

On the occasion of the Independence Day of Myanmar, allow me to express to you and to the people of Myanmar my sincere congratulations and my wishes for progress and stability.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Col Muammar Al-Qathafi, Leader of Al-Fateh Revolution of Libya

Excellency,

I wish Your Excellency, a continued good health and happiness as well as the people of the Union of Myanmar progress and prosperity.

Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

From Mr Anibal Cavaco Silva, President of Portuguese Republic

On the occasion of the National Day of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to convey to Your Excellency my congratulations and sincere wishes for the progress and prosperity of the Myanmar People.

Foreign Vice-Presidents send felicitations to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—The following are the messages sent by Foreign Vice-Presidents to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, on the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

From Mr Bounnhang Vorachith, Vice-President of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic

Your Excellency,

I have a great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and the people of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

I highly appreciate the traditional friendly relations and close cooperation between Laos and Myanmar which have been continuously enhanced and strengthened.

May I wish Your Excellency good health and greater success in your noble tasks.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Dr. Boediono, M.Ec, Vice President of the Republic of Indonesia,

Your Excellency,

It is with special pleasure that I wish to convey to you my sincerest felicitations and best wishes on the significant occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

Indonesia and Myanmar share longstanding relationship and both countries have been contributing positively to the development of ASEAN Community. It is my firm belief that the future will bear witness to the further strengthening of the existing ties of friendship between our two countries.

I also welcome Myanmar’s recent development and reiterate our commitment to support your government in implementing Roadmap to Democracy.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.
Foreign Heads of Government send felicitations to Prime Minister U Thein Sein

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of Government sent to U Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

From Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore
Dear Prime Minister,


Singapore wishes Myanmar every success in its political transition and its efforts to achieve national reconciliation, following the November 2010 General Elections. This will bring Myanmar long-term political stability and economic development. I am confident that our two countries can continue to cooperate closely, both bilaterally and within ASEAN, for the mutual benefit of our countries and the region as a whole.

From Thongsing Thammavong, Prime Minister of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic
Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Government of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic and on my own behalf, I wish to convey my warmest congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and the Government of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

May I wish Your Excellency good health and happiness to lead the Union of Myanmar for continued progress and prosperity.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From D.M. Jayaratne, Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
Your Excellency,

I wish to convey to Your Excellency my felicitations and best wishes on this auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

I wish all the success on Myanmar’s multidimensional development goals based on political, economic and social reforms.

I look forward to further consolidating the friendly bilateral relations between our two countries in the years to come.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Sheikh Hasina, Prime Minister of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh
Excellency,

On the joyous occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, it gives me great pleasure to convey to you and to the people of Myanmar, our heartiest felicitations and warmest greetings from the government and people of Bangladesh.

I sincerely believe that the existing close bond of friendship between our two countries is a matter of great satisfaction for us. It is my firm conviction that there exist tremendous potential to further expand and deepen our relations in the areas of mutual interest including trade, investment, infrastructure development, culture and tourism. We are committed to making all out efforts for forging stronger partnership for the mutual benefit of our citizens.

I take this opportunity to extend my very best wishes for Your Excellency’s good health, happiness and long life as well as continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of the Union of Myanmar.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

MSF President’s Cup Swimming Competition concludes

YANGON, 4 Jan—The final match of MSF President’s Cup Swimming Competition was held in conjunction with the presentation ceremony of the competition at National Swimming Pool here this morning.

Director U Tin Win of Sports and Physical Education Department, Principal of Institute of Sports and Physical Education (Yangon), Vice-President of MSF U Cho Maung and officials presented prizes to outstanding contestants and prize-winning teams. Championships Cup went to United Club.—MNA

Mandalay Football Stadium to be built

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—Chairman of Mandalay Region Peace and Development Council Commander of Central Command Brig-Gen Ye Aung and Minister for Sports Thura U Aye Myint on 2 January attended the ceremony to drive stakes to build Mandalay Football Stadium.

The president of the Myanmar Football Federation reported to the commander and the minister on the project.

The commander, the minister, Chairman of Mandalay City Development Committee Mayor U Phone Zaw Han and the MFF president drove stakes.

Next, they attended the awarding ceremony for Industry-1 Ministry Maung Myanmar Bicycle Cycling Contest organized by Mandalay Region at City Hall of Mandalay City Development Committee in Chanayethazan Township.

The commander delivered a speech and presented first prize; the minister, second prize; the mayor, third prize; and officials, prizes and consolation prizes to the winners.—MNA

Mayor attends opening ceremonies of new roads in S Okkalapa Tsp

YANGON, 4 Jan—Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor U Aung Thein Lin formally opened new concrete roads constructed by YCDC Engineering Department (Road and Bridge) in South Okkalapa Township here at the opening ceremonies held in commemoration of 63rd Anniversary Independence Day this morning.

The mayor enjoyed the Independence Day commemorative funfairs and presented prizes to winners in sports events.—MNA

Transport Ministry wins title of Women Football Tournament (Senior) 2010

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—The final match of the 10th Women Football Tournament (Senior) 2010 was held at Aung San Stadium in Yangon yesterday. The Ministry of Transport team won the title of the tournament after beating the Ministry of Home Affairs team 3–0.

Officials awarded outstanding players and teams and presented cash award and the trophy to the first prize-winning Transport Ministry team.

Traditional dance (Thungetaw) presented during School Family Day for 2010-2011 academic year taking place at No. 1 Basic Education High School in Dagon Township on 3 January.
Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Than Shwe and wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing greet diplomats during a reception and a dinner to mark the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe, wife Daw Kyaing Kyaing...

(from page 1)

Board, the chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee Nay Pyi Taw mayor, deputy ministers and their wives, heads of department, diplomats led by Dean of Diplomatic Corps Singaporean Ambassador Mr Robert Chua Hian Kong and their wives, resident representatives of UN agencies and their wives, members of the Central Committee for Observance of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day, chairman of subcommittees, and distinguished guests.

Before and during the reception and dinner, vocalists presented entertainment programmes to the accompaniment of the music band of Myanmar Radio and Television.—MNA

Independence Day commemorative sports, games and funfairs held nationwide

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan — In commemoration of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day, sports and games and funfairs were held nationwide today.

Chairman of Myanmar Olympic Committee Minister for Sports Thura U Aye Myint watched the mini-marathon and marathon held in front of Nay Pyi Taw Myoma Market, inter-ministry Sepak Takraw contests and other sports and games. At the prize-presentation ceremonies, the minister and Deputy Minister for Finance and Revenue U Hla Thein Swe awarded the winners and winning teams.

In the evening, the minister watched the final match of Myanmar Weightlifting Federation President’s trophy interclub and prize presentation ceremony. Similarly, Independence Day commemorative sports and games and funfairs including Aungnyins were held in Yangon Region with the participation of the people. Funfairs and sports and games of the families of Yangon City Development Committee were held this morning in the sports ground of YCDC in Insein Township. As today was a public holiday, Kandawgyi, Zoological Gardens, Aquarium and Kandaw Mingalar Park were crowded.

Likewise, sports, games and funfairs were held in other States and Regions nationwide.

MNA

School children run on tracks in sports activities in commemoration of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day held at schools in Nay Pyi Taw.

MNA

Sports Minister Thura U Aye Myint formally opens a marathon in commemoration of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day.—MNA
The Guard of Honour of Tatmadaw (Army, Navy and Air) took its position at the designated place. Chairman of the Central Committee for Organizing the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day Secretary-1 of SPDC Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo took his position on the dais. After taking the salute of the Guard of Honour, the Secretary-1 together with the people saluted the State Flag. Meanwhile, the Band of the Guard of Honour played the national anthem.

The Guard of Honour paid tribute to the fallen soldiers and took the four oaths. Then, the Secretary-1 read out the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day.

After the Secretary-1 had taken the salute of the Guard of Honour, and the Guard of Honour and the people left the place where the ceremony was held, the ceremony came to a close.

On the eve of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day, it could be seen that the ministries, Nay Pyi Taw City Hall, roundabouts, Myanmar Gems Museum, Jade Garden, markets, staff housings and government buildings were all illuminated with colourful lights.

Images of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day celebrations in Nay Pyi Taw

63rd Anniversary Independence Day...

(from page 16)

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Images of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day in Nay Pyi Taw

Dignitaries at State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony held at Nay Pyi Taw City Hall square.—MNA

Attendees at State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony held at Nay Pyi Taw City Hall square.—MNA

Colourful lights shining bright at ministries; Nay Pyi Taw City Hall; Thabyegon, Kyapan, Yaza Thingaha, Ingyinpan and Gantgawpan roundabouts; Myanna Gems Museum; Jade Garden; Nay Pyi Taw Myoma and Thabyegon markets; Shopeik Dam; housings and staff quarters in Nay Pyi Taw as the city hails 63rd Anniversary Independence Day.

MNA
Over 8,000 displaced by floods in southern Philippines

COTABATO CITY, 4 Jan—Over 8,000 people have been displaced by flash floods and landslides brought by heavy rain in southern Philippines, officials said Tuesday.

Two low lying towns, Talayan and Datu Anggal Midtimbang, in Maguindanao Province were submerged by floodwaters Monday, prompting residents to evacuate, said Zorahayda Taha, regional director of Department of Social Welfare and Development, adding evacuees were provided with relief assistance.

More than 2,000 people have fled their homes as rivers overflowed, inundating farmland and houses in Agusan and Surigao Provinces.

The death toll from flooding rose to four, officials said.—Xinhua

Freezing rain puts chill on traffic

BEIJING, 4 Jan—Thousands of vehicles and people stranded in and around Southwest China’s Guizhou Province by freezing rains since Saturday finally got their wheels moving on Monday as traffic slowly resumed on almost all highways in the province.

However, passenger transport service in Guizhou and neighbouring Hunan Province along with Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region still face challenges as the National Meteorological Centre on Monday issued its first freezing warning this year, predicting the icy weather would continue in the region for another three days.

Almost all expressways in Guizhou had been closed from Saturday to Monday morning after rain quickly turned into ice on the ground, leaving about 7,000 people stranded, according to the Guizhou Provincial department of transport.

Starting Monday morning, traffic began to slowly return to normal in Guizhou with most highways reopened, said He Fei, an officer with the provincial department of transport.

“Road conditions today have become less problematic. Only in certain sections is the traffic still extremely slow,” he said.

Thanks to the restoration of road service in Guizhou, 1,500 vehicles and 8,000 people waiting since Saturday to enter the province from Nandan county of Guangxi Zhuang autonomous region had all rolled forward by Monday morning, reported China Central Television.

But traffic authorities in Hunan province told China Daily that the traffic flow into Guizhou has been continuously falling in recent years, she said.

Meanwhile, Sanberg said more traffic accidents could be avoided with greater caution while driving.

She also called on drivers to keep the speed limits and passengers to use safety belts.

Speeding, driving under the influence of alcohol and not using safety belts are the three usual fatal factors in road accidents, according to the director.—Xinhua

40 Australian and Int’l scientists to reveal Antarctic secrets

CANBERRA, 4 Jan—Nearly 40 Australian and international scientists set sail to Antarctica on Tuesday to study a 2,500-square-kilometre iceberg.

The team led by the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization’s (CSIRO) Steve Rintoul departed Hobart for Antarctica’s Mertz Glacier, which was hit by a 97-kilometre-long glacier last year, breaking off a 78-kilometre piece.

Dr Rintoul said the collision, known as a “calving”, gave scientists a rare insight to study changes in the Southern Ocean’s temperature and salinity.

“The calving of the iceberg has exposed parts of the seabed which haven’t been available for study in our lifetimes,” he told ABC News.

“It’s a geological hotspot supporting everything from microscopic photo plankton, right up to seals and whales.

The voyage will return to Hobart in February.

Displaced residents rest in a makeshift tent in Yingjiang County, southwest China’s Yunnan Province, on 3 Jan, 2011. Several minor and moderate earthquakes jolted Yunnan Province last weekend, among which the biggest measured 4.8 on the Richter scale. More than 23,600 houses were damaged, although no casualties were registered. Quake relief efforts went under way with 2,000 tents and 2,000 quilts handed out to the homeless.—Xinhua

Search begins for missing small aircraft in western Japan

OSAKA, 4 Jan—Japanese police, firefighters and Self-Defence Forces helicopters on Tuesday morning began searching for a small aircraft that went missing Monday with two people aboard in Kumamoto Prefecture in western Japan, Kyodo News reported Tuesday.

The aircraft, piloted by Hiroshi Koda, a 53-year-old doctor from Shunan, Yamaguchi Prefecture, with his wife on board, lost radar contact about two minutes after leaving Kumamoto Airport at 5:12 pm Monday for Kitakyushu Airport, according to the report.

Some 100 people taking part in the search began climbing the 942-metre-high Mt. Yago in the town of Ozu about 15 kilometres northeast of Kumamoto Airport, the area where the plane went missing, with three Air Self-Defence Force choppers covering the search site from the air, the report said.

Koda had landed the aircraft at Kumamoto Airport at around 5 pm after taking a family trip to an island with his wife and their two children. The two children got off at the airport before the plane took off for Kitakyushu, the report said, quoting the police.

Traffic moves slowly on a highway in Guizhou, southwest China, on 3 Jan, 2011.—Xinhua
New research reveals unexpected biological pathway in glaucoma

WASHINGTON, 4 Jan—A team of researchers from the Kennedy Krieger Institute and four collaborating institutions, identified a new and unexpected biological pathway that appears to contribute to the development of glaucoma and its resulting vision loss, according to a study published Monday in the online edition of Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Prior research has suggested that the optic nerve head, the point where the cables that carry information from the eye to the brain first exit the eye, plays a role in glaucoma. In this study, researchers report a series of findings that offer novel insights into cellular and molecular mechanisms operating at the optic nerve head in two mouse models of glaucoma. Most notably, they discovered that at a specific location within the optic nerve head, there is a unique class of cells called astrocytes that demonstrate properties that appear to make them a critical factor in the visual blinding that occurs in glaucoma.

Further, at this same site, researchers found abnormal forms of a protein called gamma synuclein, that is similar to abnormal forms of alpha synuclein, a related protein known for its key role in cell loss in Parkinson’s disease. The findings suggest that a biological process similar to Parkinson’s disease unfolds in glaucoma at the specific anatomical location pinpointed in this study for the first time.

Finally, researchers discovered that at this anatomical location, there is a surprising process whereby astrocytes remove the debris of neurons, the cells that die in neurodegenerative disorders such as glaucoma. It is likely that this newly discovered process involving removal of the debris of one cell by a neighbouring cell is important not only in glaucoma and Parkinson’s disease, but also for many neurodegenerative diseases. “These findings are very exciting because they give us several novel targets for future interventions,” said Nicholas Marsh Armstrong, senior study author and a research scientist at Maryland-based Kennedy Krieger Institute. “I believe these findings put us on the cusp of discovering a treatment for glaucoma that may also have relevance for a number of other neurodegenerative diseases.”—Xinhua

Chinese shares open higher on year’s first trading day

BEIJING, 4 Jan—The yuan strengthened to a record high against the US dollar on the first trading day of the year, to reach 6.6215 per dollar.

The central parity rate of the currency, also known as the renminbi (RMB), was set 12 basis points lower than Friday’s 6.6227, according to the China Foreign Exchange Trading system Tuesday.

China’s central bank announced on 19 June, 2010, it would further reform the yuan exchange rate formation mechanism to improve its flexibility.

On China’s foreign exchange spot market, the yuan can rise or fall 0.5 percent from the central parity rate each trading day.—Xinhua

Snow causes traffic nightmare in Southern California

LOS ANGELES, 4 Jan—Heavy snow and strong winds hit Southern California overnight, blocking numerous roads across the region, authorities said on Monday.

The snow closed many mountain roads and some highways, including Interstate 5, the state’s vital north-south corridor, according to California Highway Patrol (CHP). Hundreds, if not thousands, of motorists were stranded for hours along Interstate 5 and mountain and pass roads, the CHP said.

People traveling into the mountains, Antelope Valley and Santa Clarita Valley should closely monitor the latest weather forecasts and be prepared for dangerous winter weather conditions, the NWS advised.—Xinhua

Lufthansa to create 4,000 jobs in Germany in 2011

BERLIN, 4 Jan—German national air carrier Lufthansa will create 4,000 jobs in the country in 2011, its new boss Christoph Franz told the newspaper Bild in an interview to be published Monday.

“Lufthansa is growing. We are hiring 4,000 new employees just at our locations in Germany,” he said, according to a statement released by the newspaper ahead of publication.

The company is looking to hire 2,200 flight attendants in Frankfurt and Munich. Bild reported, as well as 900 ground personnel, 270 student pilots, 300 apprentices and other technical staff.

“With the increase of our capacity in terms of seats and with bigger aircraft carrying out regional and intercontinental flights with the Airbus A380, our need for personnel is increasing, both in the cockpit and the cabin. With an increasing number of passengers, we also need more ground crew.” Franz said.—Internet

A couple poses for wedding photo with snow scenery in Wuhan, capital of central China’s Hubei Province, on 2 Jan, 2011. —Xinhua

A train is seen on a test run on the to-be-opened highspeed railway connecting Hainan’s Capital Haikou and the famous tourist destination Sanya in south China’s Hainan Province, on 29 Dec, 2010. The 308-kilometre highspeed railway that opened on Thursday allowed a maximum train speed of 250 kilometers per hour, or less than one and a half hours to travel from Haikou to Sanya. —Xinhua

A man is seen in a swimming pool filled with spring water in Jinan, east China’s Shandong Province, on 2 Jan, 2011. A spring water swimming pool opened to the public free of charge during the New Year’s holidays. Xinhua

Red taillights of slow and stopped traffic glow on northbound Interstate 5 near Castaic, Calif, after heavy snow closed the major north-south several miles north of this point on 2 Jan, 2011. Internet

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Kiss your 100-watt light bulb goodbye

SAN FRANCISCO, 4 Jan — Californians can start saying goodbye to traditional 100-watt incandescent light bulbs now that the state has become the first in the country to require a new standard for the screw-base bulbs. Experts say the new rules, which took effect New Year’s Day, will save residents money and energy. California is already the nation’s leader in energy-efficiency standards.

As of Saturday, what used to be a 100-watt light bulb manufactured and sold in California will have to use 72 watts or less. The 72-watt replacement bulb, also called an energy-saving halogen light, will provide the same amount of light, called lumens, for lower energy cost. Similar new standards for traditional 75-watt, 60-watt and 40-watt incandescent bulbs will go into effect in California over the next few years, with wattages reduced to 53, 43 and 29 respectively.
The new rule does not ban incandescent light bulbs; it just requires those bulbs to be 25 to 30 percent more efficient. And it only affects incandescent light bulbs manufactured in 2011 or later, not those already in use or on store shelves. The new lights are comparably priced to the regular incandescent lights. A two-bulb package of 100-watt incandescent bulbs is about $4.32 at Lowe’s, while a four-bulb package of new 72-watt halogen bulbs is $8.66, or $4.33 for two. By contrast, a two-bulb package of energy-saving compact.

Internet

Motorist in stuck car had no pants

OCALA, 4 Jan — Police in Florida said a 42-year-old man whose car became stuck while he was driving along some railroad tracks was wearing nothing but an inside-out shirt. Ocala police said the man, whose name was not released because he was not arrested, was driving his 2005 Mitsubishi Gallant along some railroad tracks when the vehicle became stuck in gravel and bushes about 1:30 am on Thursday, The (Ocala) Star-Banner reported on Friday.

Investigators said the man tried to call for help by honking his horn but the noise was not heard and police were not called until about 7:49 am. Police said they arrived to find the man was wearing nothing but an inside-out knit shirt.
The man said he has driven by the railroad tracks before without incident. When asked why he was made from the waist down, he said: “No reason.” — Internet

Alexander Schey and Toby Schulz, of the British eco-adventure Racing Green Endurance (RGE) team, gesture from the SRZero electric sports car upon arrival to Ushuaia, Argentina, on 16 Nov, 2010. The SRZero became the first electric car to place them. The Japanese boast among the highest life expectancies in the world but have extremely low birth rates.

Japan logged 1.19 million deaths in 2010 — the biggest number since 1947, when the health ministry’s annual records began. The number of births was nearly flat at 1.07 million. As a result, Japan continues to shrink. The government projects that Japan’s population will be 4,531, a year-on-year decrease of 586 more trains each day for this year’s Spring Festival 40-day travel peak compared to the corresponding period last year.

China will run nearly 600 more trains for Spring Festival this year

BEIJING, 4 Jan—China’s Ministry of Railways (MOR) announced Tuesday it will put into operation 586 more trains each day for this year’s Spring Festival 40-day travel period last year.

Daily train departures during the travel rush, which starts on Jan. 19, will be 4,531, a year-on-year increase of 15 percent.

The MOR estimates that 6.2 million passengers will be transported by train each day, up 11 percent year on year.

Photo taken on 31 Dec, 2010 shows a rained tree in Jilin, northeast China’s Jilin Province.

In this photo released by Disney, comedian Howie Mandel, host of NBC’s game show ‘Deal or No Deal’ and a judge on the NBC series ‘America’s Got Talent,’ fist-bumps Goofy, on 1 Jan, 2011, at Disney’s Hollywood Studios in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.— Internet

Internet

Tumour cell cancer test called promising

BOSTON, 4 Jan—Johnson & Johnson and Massachusetts General Hospital say they are developing and marketing a blood test that could find a single cancer cell in blood.

Dr Mehmet Toner, director of the BioMicroElectroMechanical Systems Resource Centre in Massachusetts General’s Centre for Engineering in Medicine, says it could be five years before the test is on the market but its implications for patients are significant, CNN reported Monday.

“It is very big,” Toner says in a statement. “It has the potential to turn cancer into a chronic disease, because we can monitor patients individually and respond with treatment to the genetic makeup of their cancer.”

Toner says the test would be an easy-to-administer, non-invasive blood test that would analyze the genetic makeup of the cancer cells.

Japanese population shrinks by record in 2010

TOKYO, 4 Jan — Japan’s population fell by a record amount last year as the number of deaths climbed to an all-time high in the quickly aging country, the government said on Saturday. Japan faces a looming demographic squeeze. Baby boomers are moving towards retirement, while the number of deaths climbed to an all-time high at 1.07 million. As a result, Japan has become the first nation in the world to have a declining population.

About a quarter of Japan’s current population of 127.57 million is 65 or older, according to government data. In 2050, it is projected to fall to 101.11 million, or 20 percent of the current population.

China’s Jilin province was hit by a tornado on Friday night.— Internet

In this photo released by Disney, comedian Howie Mandel, host of NBC’s game show ‘Deal or No Deal’ and a judge on the NBC series ‘America’s Got Talent,’ fist-bumps Goofy, on 1 Jan, 2011, at Disney’s Hollywood Studios in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.— Internet

Internet

Mexican cartel announces one-month truce

MORELIA, 4 Jan — A letter purportedly signed by La Familia drug cartel announcing a one-month truce circulated on Sunday in the western state of Michoacan.

In the one-page message, distributed by e-mail and in some cities by door, the gang claims it will halt all crime activity during January to demonstrate that the cartel “is not responsible for the criminal acts federal authorities are reporting to the media.”

Prosecutors have not verified the letter’s authenticity, according to an employee of the Michoacan state’s Attorney General’s Office, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he is not authorized to discuss the matter publicly.

The government says La Familia has been weakened by a recent string of arrests and deaths of top leaders. In another letter that circulated in November, a cartel leader purportedly offered to disband.
**Ice bath for 120 minutes**

**Beehive hairdo is 50; its creator honoured**

A 92-year-old Illinois woman credited with creating the beehive hairdo is being honoured on the 50th anniversary of the style. Margaret Vinci Heldt of Elmhurst is being honoured by Smith & Bucklin Services, manager of trade association Cosmetologists Chicago, for her 1961 creation, which she said was inspired by a hat she owned at the time, the Chicago Tribune reported Monday. Paul Dykstra, vice president of Smith & Bucklin Services, said the beehive “revolutionized styling and created a decade-long fashion trend.” Dykstra said the trade association has created a scholarship in Heldt’s name to commemorate her contribution to the world of hairstyles.

**Prisoners train dogs for new homes**

Officials at a Michigan women’s prison said 20 prisoners spent 10 weeks training dogs from the local Humane Society. The Huron Valley Correctional Facility in Ypsilanti and the Humane Society of Huron Valley said the dogs are the first to graduate from the Michigan Inmates Providing Assistance Work & Service programme, the Detroit Free Press reported Monday. Helen DePinto, director of behaviour programmes for the Humane Society, said the dogs emerged from the programme as certified Canine Good Citizens. “These were dogs that were kenneling well, but needed some help to get them ready to go into homes,” DePinto said. James Ward, a Catholic deacon and prison chaplain, said the programme also benefits the prisoners who train the dogs. “It seems that a lot of the trainers are lifers and they don’t have a lot to look forward to,” he said. “This gives them something positive to do. It’s really throwing them a lifetime.”

**Actor David Arquette in rehab**

LOS ANGELES, 4 Jan—Actor David Arquette, the estranged husband of former “Friends” star Courtney Cox, has checked into rehab to deal with alcohol and depression issues, according to news reports on Sunday. Arquette, 39, and Cox, 46, announced in October that they were undergoing a trial separation after 11 years and one daughter together, but still loved each other “deeply.”

Since then, both have been linked to other people, while Arquette has been unusually open about his marital woes and his subsequent sexual and drinking activities.

People magazine said Cox was supportive of her husband’s decision to get help. “Trevor [Arquette’s partner] and his choice to take charge and better his life,” it quoted Cox as saying. “I love and support him.”

The couple met on the set of the 1996 horror film “Scream,” and married three years later.

But while Cox enjoyed a red-hot decade-long run on “Friends” as the fussy downtown diva Monica, Arquette failed to capitalize on the commercial success of the “Scream” series and on the critical acclaim for his 2001 Holocaust drama “The Grey Zone.”

**Man says he was beaten with frozen meat**

A Canadian woman faces charges of allegedly beating up a man with a package of frozen ground beef in Newfoundland, police said. Officers were called to a domestic dispute in Paradise, east of the provincial capital of St John’s, Saturday night. The Telegram reported. Inside the house, an unidentified man alleged Chantille Rodway had beaten him with a package of frozen meat during a quarrel. The extent of his injuries wasn’t reported. Rodway was arrested and held overnight before appearing in court Sunday to face charges of assault and assault with a weapon, the report said. She was released and is scheduled to return to court 27 Jan. It wasn’t clear what penalty she would face if convicted.

**Chinese “Iceman” Jin Songhao stands in a plastic box during a cold endurance competition in Zhangjiaji, central China’s Hunan Province, on 3 Jan, 2010. Jin Songhao and the other challenger Chen Kecai took part in an ice endurance competition held here Monday, in which the two stayed in ice wearing nothing but a swimsuit. Jin Songhao dwarfed Wim Hof’s world record for the longest ice bath by 115 minutes, which was made by Dutch “Iceman” Wim Hof.**

**A model presents a creation during a wedding dress decoration show in southeast China’s Taipei, on 3 Jan, 2011. The theme of the show was on low carbon and eco-friendly decorations for wedding dresses.—Xinhua**

**Zsa Zsa Gabor back in LA hospital for leg surgery**

Zsa Zsa Gabor. INTERNET

LOS ANGELES, 4 Jan—A representative for Zsa Zsa Gabor says she is back in a Los Angeles hospital to have part of her leg amputated. Publicist John Blanchette says doctors examined a growing lesion on Gabor’s leg Sunday and decided she needed to return to Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Centre for surgery.

The 93-year-old Hungarian-born actress broke her hip in July and has been hospitalized several times since. She asked for a priest to read her last rites in August.—Internet

**Disney, Israeli cinema chain to develop amusement park, movie complex**

JERUSALEM, 4 Jan—The Walt Disney Company and a leading Israeli cinema chain have announced plans to build a 600 million shekels (168 million US dollars) amusement park and a 25-screen multiplex movie centre in Israel’s largest port City Haifa.

“The project, which is still in its development stages, reflects our goal of providing quality entertainment for the people of Israel,” Avi Edery, Deputy CEO of New Lineo Cinema said on Monday.

The centre will focus on the movie complex, and is not a Disney theme park, Edery added. However, he could not say when the plans were expected to come to fruition. New Lineo Cinema officials said the 30,000 square metres amusement park and 50,000 square metres of theatres and shops would be built on land owned by a local family, according to the Globes business newspaper. “This plan expresses our confidence in turning Haifa Bay into a thriving business area,” Haifa Mayor Yona Yahav said.—Xinhua

**Men perform during a camel beauty contest in a desert in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), on 30 Dec, 2010.**

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Beckham waiting for Galaxy to OK offseason loan

LONDON, 4 Jan — David Beckham is still waiting for the Los Angeles Galaxy to approve a loan to a European club, with Tottenham among the clubs eager to sign the former England captain.

Beckham announced two weeks ago that he needed to keep playing during the winter to stay in contention for an England recall. But the Major League Soccer club said Beckham wouldn’t be allowed to go to Europe during the offseason and it expected him and the rest of the team back at the end of January for the season-opener on 15 March.

The Galaxy’s reluctance comes after Beckham injured an Achilles’ tendon last March while playing in the Premier League Soccer club said Beckham for an England recall. But the Major League Soccer club said Beckham for an England recall.

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Frank De Boer signs Ajax deal through to 2014

THE HAGUE, 4 Jan — Former Holland international Frank De Boer has signed a deal with Ajax keeping him as the former European champions’ coach through to June 2014, the club said on its website on Monday.

De Boer, 40 and in his first management post, had been in temporary charge since Martin Jol stepped down on 6 December.

He had previously coached the Ajax youth team before being Bert van Marwijk’s assistant to the Dutch national side for the past two seasons.—Internet

Villarreal continue home run with Almeria triumph

MADRID, 4 Jan — Villarreal made it eight league wins from nine at home defeating lowly Almeria 2-0 at El Madrigal on Monday to move five points clear of fourth-placed Valencia.

Centre-back Jose Catala finished off a Borja Valero set-piece on 22 minutes and Valero curled in a 58th free-kick to get the goals on the scoresheet to seal a win that keeps them nestled in third, five points behind second-placed Real Madrid.

Almeria, who have scored just five goals on the road, fall to second from bottom, two points from safety.—Internet

Bulgarian football’s ‘mafia links’ exposed in cables

SOFIA, 4 Jan — Some of Bulgaria’s most popular football clubs have ties with mafia bosses, who use them to launder money, according to a US diplomatic document revealed by whistle-blowing website WikiLeaks.

“Bulgarian soccer clubs are widely believed to be directly or indirectly controlled by organised crime figures who use their teams as a way to legitimise themselves, launder money, or make a fast buck,” a January 2010 cable from the US embassy in Sofia to Washington noted.
### WEATHER

**Tuesday, 4th January, 2011**

**Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T.**

During the past 24 hours, weather has been partly cloudy in Kachin, Chin and Rakhine States, Upper Sagrai, Yangon and Tanninby Region and generally fair in the remaining States and Regions. Night temperatures were (3°C) below January average temperatures in Chin State, (5°C) below January average temperatures in Upper Sagrai Region, (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Eastern Shan and Rakhine States, Lower Sagrai and Magway Regions and about January average temperatures in the remaining States and Regions. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (0°C), Pinaung (2°C), Namhsan, Heho and Lashio (4°C) each.

**Nay Pyi Taw**

- Maximum temperature on 3-1-2011 was 91°F
- Minimum temperature on 4-1-2011 was 58°F

**Yangon (Kaba-Aye)**

- Maximum temperature on 3-1-2011 was 92°F
- Minimum temperature on 4-1-2011 was 64°F

Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 4-1-2011 was (73%)

Rainfall on 4-1-2011 was (Nil).

**Outlook for subsequent two days:**

- Likelihood of isolated light rain in the Southern Myanmar areas.

**Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 5-1-2011:**

- Generally fair weather.

**Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 5-1-2011:**

- Partly cloudy.

**Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 5-1-2011:**

- Generally fair weather.

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### 2nd earthquake rattles northern England

**London, 4 Jan—**Northern England, a region where earthquakes are rare, was rattled by a minor one Monday, the second in two weeks.

The British Geological Survey said the 3.6-magnitude quake was centered around Ripon in the Yorkshire Dales, Sky News reported. On 21 Dec, a 3.5-magnitude quake centered in Coniston in the Lake District puzzled and unnerved residents for miles.

Dr Brian Baptie, the head of the geological survey said Monday’s earthquake was probably felt as much as 60 miles from the center. But he said the shaking was unlikely to have caused any damage.

Worldwide there are an average of more than 100 earthquakes between 3.0 and 3.9 every day. But England gets an earthquake of that size about once a year.

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### Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas

Tourists visit the Huacheng Square decorated with flowers, in Guangzhou, capital of south China’s Guangdong Province, on 1 Jan, 2011. The Huacheng Square, dubbed as the “city reception hall” in downtown Guangzhou, attracted large amount of tourists in the new year holiday. —Xinhua

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### Programme Schedule (5-1-2011) (Wednesday)

**Transmissions**

- Local: (09:00am ~ 11:00am MST)
- Oversea Transmission: (5-1-11 09:30 am ~ 6-11-11 09:30 am MST)

**Local Transmission**

- Opening
- News
- The Beauty of Zwegabin and Livelihood of Kayin National
- Bagan Archaeological Museum
- More Income Through Value Added Wood Products
- News
- Daw Sein Poe D and Her Journey of Arts
- News
- Mazali Salad & Vermicelli Soup
- News
- From The Union Highway Forever Friendship Oversea Transmission

- Opening
- News
- The Beauty of Zwegabin and Livelihood of Kayin National
- Bagan Archaeological Museum
- More Income Through Value Added Wood Products
- News
- Daw Sein Poe D and Her Journey of Arts
- News
- Mazali Salad & Vermicelli Soup
- News
- From The Union Highway Forever Friendship
- News
- Youth and Music
- News
- Lacquerware in Bagan
- One Day Trip to Sanka Village
- Music Gallery
- News
- Pyin Oo Lwin Sweater
- Pleasurable Myanmar Marionette Show
- News
- A wonderful trip to Chaung Tha Beach
- A Souvenir of Pathein
- More Income Through Value Added Wood Products
- News
- Bagan Archaeological Museum
- Opening
Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

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

People’s Desire
- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence

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

63rd Anniversary Independence Day State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony takes place

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan — In accordance with the five national objectives of the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day, the State Flag Hoisting and Saluting Ceremony was held at the square of the City Hall here this morning. More than 3000 people attended the ceremony.

First, the staff of the State Peace and Development Council Office, the Government Office, the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General’s Office, the Auditor-General’s Office, the Civil Service Selection and Training Board, the ministries, Red Cross Society and the fire brigade members and local national people took their positions at designated places.

At the same time, Chairman of the Subcommittee for organizing the 63rd Anniversary Independence Day State Flag hoisting and saluting ceremony Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Maung Maung Aye, ministers, the Chief Justice, the Attorney-General, deputy ministers, senior military officers, departmental heads from various ministries, members of subcommittee and work committee, members of Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, rectors, principals, local authorities, representatives from social organizations and national race representatives took their positions at designated places.

The ceremony commenced at 4.20 am and the State Flag hoisting group hoisted the State Flag. As the State Flag saluting ceremony started at 7 am.

(See page 8)

Secretary-1 Thiha Thura U Tin Aung Myint Oo reads message sent by Chairman of the SPDC Senior General Than Shwe.—MNA