President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Ambassador of Federal Republic of Germany

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—Mr Christian-Ludwig Weber-Lortsch, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to President U Thein Sein of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at President Residence here this morning.

Present on the occasion together with President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung and Director-General U Aye Thaw of Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

Maintain better foundations

“Hence, I pledge that we will give top priority to the policies on internal affairs to achieve sustainable development with maintenance of better foundations, to build consolidated unity of the Myanmar society, and to guarantee fundamental rights of citizens.”

(Excerpts from the inaugural address delivered by President U Thein Sein at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30-3-2011)

President grants amnesty

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—The President Office of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar issued Order No. 1/2012 today.

The translation of the order is as follows:-

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President Office
Order No. 1/2012
9th Waxing of Pyatho 1373 ME
(2nd January, 2012)

Amnesty granted

As a gesture of hailing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day and for the sake of State peace and stability, the rule of law, national consolidation and on grounds of humanitarian, the President has granted an amnesty for the prisoners who have served their prison terms for the crimes they committed before 9th Waxing of Pyatho 1373 ME (2nd January, 2012) in accord with Section 204(b) of the Constitution as follows:-

(a) Death sentences shall be commuted to life imprisonment (Unlimited jail terms).
(b) Those sentenced to over 30 years (Those sentenced to unlimited prison terms and life imprisonment excluded) shall get reduction to 30 years in prison.
(c) Those serving prison terms between 20 and 30 years shall get reduction to 20 years in prison.
(d) Those sentenced to less than 20 years shall get reduction by a quarter of their prison terms.

Sd/
Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Flag-hoisting ceremony to be broadcast live

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—State flag-hoisting of the 64th Anniversary Independence Day to be held on 4 January will be broadcast live on Myanmar Radio and Television from Nay Pyi Taw City Hall Square, starting from 6:45 am on that day.

MNA
Independence means freedom from being ruled by others. It is synonymous with standing in equality and justice under national leadership. Depending on others is standing on their feet.

In retrospect, Myanmar was annexed in a series of wars in 1824, 1852 and 1885. The difference between national leaders and imperialists is the knowledge of all the people of that time.

We have lived in our independent country for 64 years, standing on our own initiative. The country was once under colonialist rule and hegemony. The entire citizens have learnt how independent they are under the national administration. In paddling our own canoe, we are to work harmoniously and try hard to keep abreast of other countries.

Independence in the shade of other countries is not independence. We just need to do work, rather than hoping the outside help. The concerted effort of all the national people is the very essence of the independent country.

Here comes nationalist fervour. Prosperity of the nation is to be shaped up in harmony. Given the history, the nation was once under the yoke of imperialism following the widening split. With no unity, the country was not safeguarded against the alien foes. Plus, it will never be developed due to instability. Taking lessons of the past, we need to safeguard and develop the country in perfect harmony.

Two from nine pledges inscribed on Independence Monument say, “We as of today not only enjoy noble opportunities of citizens of an independent country but also assume responsibilities of citizens of an independent country,” and, “We as of today accept every citizen of our country, though in any status, in equity”. By doing their bits, let’s show our respect for the Independence Day pledges.

Two new stamps to be sold to mark Independence Day

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—To mark the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, two new postage stamps—K 500 and K1200 postage stamps will be sold by Myanma Posts and Telecommunications of Ministry of Communications, Posts and Telegraphs, on 4 January.

The stamps are available at Communication Stations (post offices) across the country. As a special programme, date will be inked on the stamps for those who buy at Nay Pyi Taw Central Post Office, Yangon Post Office and Mandalay Post Office on that day.

Ambassador U Kyaw Zwar Minn concurrently appointed as Ambassador to Spain

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Kyaw Zwar Minn, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the French Republic, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Spain.—MNA

Six special appeal cases heard

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—Special Appellate Court comprising Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo and judges of the Supreme Court of the Union U Myint Aung and U Aung Zaw Than heard six special appeal cases at Room No.1 of the Supreme Court of the Union this morning.

LOCAL SPORTS

Winners awarded in inter-basic education sports competitions

YANGON, 2 Jan—A ceremony to donate cash and kind to the firefighters who were killed and injured in the warehouse explosion in Kusutek Street in Kusutek Ward in Mingala Taungnyunt Township was held at Fire Services Department (Headquarters) in Myagyo Township here this morning.

Head of Mobilization Department of Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation wife of the Deputy Minister for Socio Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Daw San San Wei and Head of National Races Department Daw Than Nwe donated sums worth K 0.3 million, U Nay Win Hlaing-Daw Khin Hwe Yi and family K 1.6 million and Delight Engineering Co Ltd K 1 million through Director-General of Fire Services Department U Tin Moe.

On 31 December, Daw San San Wai, presented K 0.5 million—K 0.1 million each for five deceased firefighters, social Daw Myo Mya and Daw Khin Mya Win cash and foodstuffs.

Cash and kind donated to deceased and injured firefighters of FSD

Assistance provided to TB patients

BAGO, 2 Jan—Bago Township Maternal and Child Welfare Association gave a talk on facts about TB disease and treatment of DOTS at Basic Education High School in Indawgaw Station of Bago Township on 7 December.

The chairperson of Bago Township RCWA, Chairman of Township School Health Committee Dr Khin Su, officials and Red Cross members donated nutritious aids to TB patients. They also provided assistance to Hongsyi Village.

Deputy Commander of Dalla Township Police Force Police Inspector U Aung Than Oo held a meeting with members of township anti-trafficking in persons campaign in the township in Yangon Region on 15 December. He also met village administrators on the next day.—KYEMON

DISTRIBUTION NEWS

Loans disbursed to vendors, pony-cart drivers

THAZI, 2 Jan—To be able to alleviate poverty in Thazi Township, Township Development Affairs Committee disbursed loans to vendors and pony-cart drivers at the office of Myoma Market in the township on 1 December. The executive officer of the committee presented K 7.5 million to 120 vendors and 12 pony-cart drivers.
ASEAN welcomes US re-engagement in the region

BEIJING, 2 Jan—After years of neglect, the United States has again made its presence felt in the region, even reaching out to and building bridges with Myanmar. And ASEAN has welcomed this re-engagement and renewed interest.

Dr. Surin Pitsuwan, ASEAN Secretary-General, said: “The re-engagement of the US in the region through ASEAN on many issues will be helpful to the region.”

“I think the US has also seen that that is beneficial to them because this is the market, this is the where the consumers are, (and) if they want to export, if they want to sell, this is where they have to focus on. So I think the absence of the US in the past has been an anomaly.”

Dr Surin noted that despite differences and disagreements, both China and ASEAN are identifying strengths that can be complementary to cooperation. “We have to develop a better integrated market. The more the West is going down in their economic difficulties, the more important it becomes for us to create our own regional market,” said Dr Surin. On the South China Sea issue, Dr Surin said both China and ASEAN are working on a more legally binding code of conduct.

It will serve as a framework to prevent accidental flare ups and incidents. However, there are concerns that America’s deepening military presence in the region might antagonise China.

The US had recently reached an agreement with Australia to deploy forces in the country. But Chinese analysts have openly said that there’s no need for China to worry about the re-engagement of the US in the region.

They’ve said that even though the US has the will to contain China, it does not have the economic means, given the sluggish American economy. They’ve also argued that perceptions of US strategic influence are greatly exaggerated.

Iran hails US withdrawal from Iraq

TEHERAN, 2 Jan—Iran has welcomed withdrawal of the US forces from Iraq, describing it as a “great success and political and security achievement” of Iraqis.

The exit of US forces from Iraq was a “great success and political and security achievement” for the Iraqi people, government, religious scholars, the lawmakers and political groups, Xinhua quoted the Iranian Foreign Ministry as saying in a statement. Iran also said that it would continue its “constructive role” in Iraq by offering its support to the country’s development. Nearly nine years after the US-led invasion, the US troops were withdrawn from Iraq in December 2011 as per schedule agreed upon in a security pact between the two countries.—Internet

Iran tests first sample of nuclear fuel bar “successfully”

TEHRAN, 2 Jan—The scientists and researchers of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) succeeded in producing and testing the first sample of nuclear fuel bar “successfully,” the state IRIB reported on Sunday.

The nuclear fuel bar is made of natural uranium, the report said.

After all the preliminary testing including the physical and temperature tests were conducted successfully, the nuclear fuel bar was fed into the core of the Tehran Research Reactor to further study the performance of the produced sample.

The performance of the sample in the long run will be tested in the core of the research reactor by exposing it to radiations, according to IRIB.

Iran said Tehran Research Reactor uses the nuclear fuel bar to produce medicines for cancer treatments.—Xinhua

380 militants lay down arms in Afghan’s Badghis province in 2011

KABUL, 2 Jan—About 380 anti-government militants have laid down arms and joined the government-backed peace process in Afghanistan’s Badghis Province, 555 km northwest of Capital Kabul, last year, local media reported Sunday. “Twenty anti-government armed opposition groups composed of 380 people have given up fighting and laid down their arms in Badghis Province over the past year,” Tolo television quoted spy agency spokesman Lutfullah Mashal as saying.

Several commanders were among those who handed over their weapons to the authorities in Badghis Province, Mashal added. According to Afghan and NATO-led forces, more than 3,000 anti-government militants have given up fighting and joined the government-initiated national reconciliation and peace process over the past year in the war-torn country. However, the Taliban outfit fighting Afghan and NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) has rejected the claim as baseless.—Xinhua

Gaza militants fire two rockets into Israel

JERUSALEM, 2 Jan—Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip fired two mortar rockets into the Israeli territory from the enclave early Sunday, according to the army.

The army said that the system will send short messages alerts in Arabic, English, Hebrew, and Russian to people in the centre of the country.

When the GPS-linked “Deer Horn” system was first unveiled in early 2011, an IDF operations officer told Xinhua that it was capable of accurately figuring out where a rocket fired at Israel would land, alert the population in the specific area via map- referenced mobile phone numbers, send them an alert via SMS (short message service), and override television and radio broadcasts to warn the public at large before the rocket hit targets.

THE NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR Tuesday, 3 January, 2012
Hyundai, Kia see slower sales growth in 2012

SEOUL, 2 Jan—Hyundai Motor <005380.KS> and affiliate Kia Motors aim to boost global vehicle sales by 6 percent this year to a combined 7 million vehicles, which would mark a slowdown for a duo that has enjoyed double-digit sales rises in recent years. The South Korean automakers, which together rank fifth in global car sales, are unable to keep up with demand because of stretched production capacity. But they have refrained from boosting capacity sharply, instead focusing on improving product quality and profits.

Bigger rival Toyota Motor <7203.T> last month forecast a 20 percent jump in 2012 sales to a record 8.48 million vehicles, as it is continuously pursuing,” quality management that we have continuously pursued,” Chung Mong-koo, chairman of Hyundai and Kia’s parent group, said on Monday in his annual speech to employees. The 73-year-old Chung has headed Hyundai Motor Group since 2000 when he led auto-related firms out of the parent Hyundai Group, then South Korea’s biggest auto-related firms out of the group since 2000 when he led Hyundai’s founder is credited in Japan and Thailand last year.

“We will strengthen quality management,” Chung said.

Shares of Hyundai Motor dropped 0.9 percent and Kia shares fell 0.3 percent in the wider market <.KS11> that was down 0.2 percent as of 0534 GMT on Monday. Shares of Hyundai Motor rose 23 percent and Kia shares rose 22 percent last year, far outperforming the wider market’s 11 percent fall.—Reuters

Indian gov’t allows foreigners to directly invest in stocks

NEW DELHI, 2 Jan—Indian government has allowed foreign nations, including overseas Indians, to invest directly in Indian stock markets, local media reported Monday. “As a next logical step, it has now been decided to allow qualified foreign investors (QFIs) to directly invest in the Indian stock markets.”

The class of investors, attract more foreign funds and reduce market volatility and deepen the Indian Capital market,” the Finance Ministry said in a statement on Sunday. Earlier, foreigners were allowed to invest only in mutual fund schemes.

By allowing QFIs, the government is opening a new avenue for investment, forerunners of QFIs are controlled by foreign institutional investors. Foreign nationals, who want to invest in Indian stock markets, earlier came through the sub-account route directly, the Times of India. “In this arrangement, a large number of Qualified Foreign Investors, in particular, a large set of diversified individual foreign nationals who are desirous of investing in Indian equity market do not have direct access to Indian equity market. In the absence of availability of direct route, many QFIs find difficulties in investing in the Indian equity market,” the Finance Ministry was quoted as saying.

The move came at a time when foreign institutional investors, who are withdrawing from Indian equity markets due to poor performance of domestic markets, the report said.
Stephen Hawking seeks help to make voice heard

London, 23 Jan—Can you help make Stephen Hawking’s voice heard? The famed British physicist is seeking an assistant to help develop and maintain the electronic speech system that allows him to communicate his vision of the universe. An informal job ad posted to the famed physicist’s website said the assistant should be computer literate, able to travel, and able to repair electronic devices “with no instruction manual or technical support.”

Hawking has long struggled against amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a disease which left him almost completely para-lyzed. He lost his real voice in a tracheotomy in 1985, but a wheel-chair-mounted computer helps synthesize speech by interpreting the twitches of his face. The synthesizer’s robotic monotonous tone has become nearly as famous as Hawking himself, but the computer — powered by batteries fastened to the back of Hawking’s wheelchair — isn’t just for speaking.

It can connect to the Internet over cell phone networks and a universal infrared remote enables the physicist to switch on the computer, light a computer, from open doors either at home or at the office. It’s a complicated, tailor-made system, as the ad makes clear. A photograph of the back of Hawking’s wheelchair, loaded with coiled wires and electronic equipment, is pictured under the words: “Could you maintain this?”

“If your answer is ‘yes,’ we’d like to hear from you!” the website says. Hawking’s website says that the job’s salary is expected to be about $25,000 ($38,500 a year) — Xinhua

Chinese icebreaker arrives at Antarctica’s Changcheng Station

ANGAARD XUELONG, 2 Jan—The icebreaker Xuelong, or “Snow-Dragon,” arrived Sunday at the roadstead off China’s Changcheng station during the country’s 28th scientific expedition to Antarctica. The A-class icebreaker, capable of breaking 1.2-metre-thick ice, has covered 4,330 nautical miles (8,019 km) since leaving another Chinese Antarctic research station, Zhongshan, 16 days ago — Xinhua

Sony Tablet S prices slashed by $100 to kick off the new

Tokyo, 2 Jan—Sony is knocking $100 off the price of its Tablet S, as you can see in the company’s online store, with prices now falling at $399 for the 16GB model and $499 for the 32GB. The Android-powered tablets launched in September, but the holidays are now behind us and Sony is probably looking to make its new tech a little more attractive to shoppers in the new year.

Note that the price drop is also in effect at Newegg.com. The online electronics retailer was one of the first to announce the 2012 New Year’s Day promotion that bundled a 16GB Tablet S with T-Mobile’s four-year contract for $49.99. The price for that same bundle now sits at $399.99.

The Tablet S sports a 9.4-inch screen and runs on Honeycomb. It’s packing a Tegra 2 CPU and 1GB of memory, plus a 5-MP rear camera and 1.3-MP in the front. Not a bad tablet to have according to reviews so far, but early adopters have got to be a little rankled over such a quick turnaround on the price. Then again, Sony dropped the price temporarily by $50 in mid-December. Maybe there aren’t enough early adopters out there to begin with.
Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh

NEW DELHI, 2 Jan—Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Saturday called on the Indians to be patient for the results of his initiatives to fight corruption, and promised to work for the livelihood of ordinary people as his priority in the coming year.

"These initiatives (to fight corruption) will take time to have their full effect and we must therefore be patient," the prime minister, who is 79-year-old, said in his New Year’s address to the nation.

"But I do believe they are transformational initiatives, which will be recognized as such a few years down the line," he added.

He said he personally will work to "provide an honest and more efficient government, a more productive, competitive and robust economy and a more equitable and just social and political order."

The government has introduced the anti-graft Lokpal (Ombudsman) bill to the Parliament this week. While the Lower House of the Parliament has endorsed it, the Upper House has yet to give its approval due to differences with the opposition over the bill.

India has seen an unprecedented movement of protests against corruption in the passing year.

Singh also said there were five challenges he would like to address in 2012 — livelihood security, covering education, food, health and employment, economic security, energy security, ecological security and national security.

"In addressing each of these five challenges we must work together as a nation, while working with like-minded nations around the world. I assure you that I will work with all the energy at my command to ensure that we meet each of these challenges and overcome them," he said.—Xinhua

Putin says Russia in stability, wishes all success in new year

MOSCOW, 2 Jan—Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin on Saturday said that Russia “is an island of stability” amid the global financial turmoil and wished all a successful new year.

"Indeed, the world economy has not been stable. In this sense, Russia is an island of stability to a certain extent," Putin told reporters on the new year’s eve.

He stressed that Russia has made a successful recovery from the global financial crisis and overcame its aftermaths, which, in Putin’s words, gave Russians confidence that “next year will also be successful.”

The prime minister also noted that the coming year is the “Year of the Dragon” according to the “oriental calendar.”

The year of the dragon has meant good luck for Russia in the past, Putin said.

“(I) Hope this time that Dragon will bring luck, well-being and prosperity to each Russian family and to all our citizens,” Putin said.

"Following the 4 Dec election, Russia has been marred by mass protests against alleged vote frauds, in which the ruling United Russia party, led by Putin, gained 238 out of 450 seats and kept an absolute majority in the new State Duma, or the lower house of parliament.—Xinhua

China launches 3D TV on New Year’s Day

BEIJING, 2 Jan—China has marked the New Year with the start of 3D TV service. After a trial run, the 3D TV will be officially put into operation during Spring Festival later in January.

The first stations for the 3D trial are China Central Television, Beijing Television, Tianjing Broadcasting TV, Jiangsu TV and Shenzhen TV. 3D programmes will be broadcast daily from 10:30 am to midnight. The programmes include animation, sports, documentaries, TV dramas, entertainment and live broadcasting of big events, such as CCTV New Year’s Gala and the London 2012 Olympic Games.—Xinhua

Chinese President delivers New Year address, stresses world peace, development

BEIJING, 2 Jan—Ina New Year’s address broadcast on Saturday, Chinese President Hu Jintao vowed that China will continue to develop friendly exchanges with other countries and positively participate in international cooperation on global issues. While addressing domestic and overseas audiences via state TV and radio broadcasters, Hu urged the acceleration of the transformation of the country’s economic development pattern and structural adjustments while making more efforts in ensuring people’s livelihood.

The country will continue to balance maintaining steady and relatively fast economic growth with adjusting its economic structures and managing inflation expectations, he said in the speech titled “Jointly Improve World Peace and Development,” which was broadcast by China Radio International, China National Radio and China Central Television.

China will stick to the guidelines of “one country, two systems,” “Hong Kong people governing Hong Kong,” “Macao people governing Macao,” and a high degree of autonomy in maintaining the long-term prosperity and stability of Hong Kong and Macao, Hu said. “We will adhere to the principles of ‘peaceful reunification’ and ‘one country, two systems,’” Chinese President Hu Jintao said Saturday in a New Year address, in which he stressed the peaceful development of cross-Strait relations, ensuring the basic benefits for all the Chinese nationality, and endlessly work for the common benefit of the compatriots on both sides of the Strait, he said.—Xinhua

Sarkozy says debt crisis not over

PARIS, 2 Jan—French President Nicolas Sarkozy said Saturday in his New Year greetings that the spiralling debt crisis is not finished, urging more work to boost growth and competitiveness.

This unprecedented crisis, probably the worst since the Second World War is not over yet but there are reasons for hope and we must, we can keep confidence in the future. 2012 will be the year of all the risks but also of hopes,” the French president said.

“Thanks to the way this country has managed to defend its interests, it is the French people who had to absorb the challenges of new package of spending cuts for the coming year. What should be done has been done by the government. Now we need to work primarily for growth, for competitiveness, for the re-industrialization which will enable us to create jobs and purchasing power,” he added.—Xinhua

Militants demand ransom for Australian hostage in S Philippines

COTABATO, 2 Jan—Militants demanded ransom in exchange for the freedom of their Australian hostage in the restive southern Philippines, police said on Monday.

Feliciano Khu, chief Director for Integrated Police Operations, said gunmen holding Warren Richard Rodwell demanded at least 1 million pesos (22.831 US dollars) ransom money. Khu said the demand was relayed to the victim’s Filipina wife. Rodwell was seized on 5 Dec from his house in Green Meadows Subdivision, Upper Pange Village in Ipi Town. He was last seen along with his captors in the province of Basilan. The Australian government has since warned their citizens from travelling to southern Philippines due to the abduction.

Basilan is a known bawil of the Abu Sayyaf, a militant group founded in the 1990s and has perpetrated a number of high-profile attacks, including kidnapping, bombing and beheading. The Philippine military estimates the group, which has links with external terrorist organizations such as al-Qaeda, at less than 400 members.—Xinhua

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Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium goes on

NAV PYI TAW, 2 Jan—Mid-year Myanmar Gems Emporium 2011 organized by Central committee for Organizing Myanmar Gems Emporium continued for 9th day today at Main Yadana Hall here, attended by Union Mines Minister U Thein Htun.

Local and foreign gems merchants purchased jade lots through competitive bidding system and items of jewellery from jewellery shops as well. Secretary of the central committee Managing Director of Myanmar Gems Enterprise U Thein Swe and personnel supervised the sale for the convenience of buyers. 29 jade lots were sold out today and $250 lots so far in the emporium which ends tomorrow.—MNA

Buddha Tooth Relic conveyed to China

NAV PYI TAW, 2 Jan—A ceremony to convey Buddha Tooth Relic which was purchased jade lots through competitive bidding system and items of jewellery from jewellery shops as well. Secretary of the central committee Managing Director of Myanmar Gems Enterprise U Thein Sve and personnel supervised the sale for the convenience of buyers. 29 jade lots were sold out today and $250 lots so far in the emporium which ends tomorrow.—MNA

Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung, Ambassador to PRC U Tha Aung, Deputy-General U Khang Aung of Department for Promotion and Propagation of Theravada Buddhism with Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference Mr Du Qing Lin, at CPPCC Head Office in Beijing.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister met Minister of Chinese Religious Affairs Bureau and party at Beijing Hall in Beijing Hotel, and Minister of Chinese Religious Affairs Bureau hosted a dinner to Myanmar delegation.

On 26 December, Myanmar delegation visited the World’s fourth highest building Oriental Pearl Building and Oriental Pearl Museum. They paid homage to Buddha Image at Jade Buddha Image Monastery and then visited 2010 Expo Botanical Garden.

On 27 December, they visited site for construction of the replica of Shwedagon Pagoda in Hunan Province and Longmen Buddhist Cave Temples. The next day, they processed to Xi’an in Shansi Province by train, visited Terra Cotta Museum and paid homage to Buddha images. They arrived here on 29 December.

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Shan State Minister calls for environmental conservation campaigns

NAV PYI TAW, 2 Jan—Shan State Minister for Forestry and Mines U Sai Aibao met responsible persons of committee for Organizing Myanma Gems Emporium 2011 organized by Central Department on 30 December, 2011. He called for environmental conservation committee and social and Mines U Sai Aibao met responsible persons of committee for Organizing Myanma Gems Emporium 2011 organized by Central

Minister awarded the outstanding trainees. The one-week course was attended by 43 trainees.—Township IPRD

Basic first-aid course concludes

YAUNGNWSE, 2 Jan—The basic first-aid course concluded at Basic Education High School branch in Yaungnswse on 30 December morning.

Township authorities presented prizes to the outstanding trainees. The one-week course was attended by 43 trainees.—Township IPRD

Rural health branch opened

KYAIKTI, 2 Jan—A rural health branch was opened in Taychaung Village of Kyonpyaw Township on 25 December.

Township level officials explained the purpose of opening the branch. Head of Township Health Department Dr Toe Maung, Chairperson of Township MCWA Daw Kyi Kyi Win and village administrator Mahn Kyi Win formally opened the rural health branch.—Township IPRD

UNTIMELY RAINFALL WARNING

NAV PYI TAW, 2 Jan—According to the observations at (12:30) hrs MST today, due to the convergence of warm air from Southwest and cold air from Northwest towards Myanmar, rain or thundershowers are likely to be isolated in Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Tainthayi regions and Kachin, Shan, Chin and Rakhine states within next (48) hours commencing noon today, announced the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

SHIBUN

KYAIKTI, 2 Jan—Myanmar Timber Enterprise under the Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry organized the fire drill as fire preventive measures at No. 81 House in Kyaiktio on 19 December.

Under supervision of the township level officials, staff and workers of the mill and member of fire brigade practised fire drill.

District News

BABY SHOW AND BEST MOTHER CONTESTS HELD

YANGON, 2 Jan—Yangon West District Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee organized the baby show and best mother contests to mark the 64th Anniversary Independence Day at Yangon West General Hospital in Kyimyindaing Township on 29 December.

The deputy commissioner accepted cash donations from well wishers. The Chairperson of District MCWSC and officials awarded the prize winners.—Myanmar Alin

Two killed in C Philippines grenade attack

MANILA, 2 Jan—Two people were killed in grenade attack on Sunday in the central Philippine Province of Capiz. State police said on Monday. The victims, Nerissa Lavado and eight month pregnant Richele Marquez, were sleeping inside their house when a grenade was lobbed by unknown men at their home in Libo-on village in Malabas Town, said local police investigator Edwin Javiera.—Xinhua

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Hailing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day
A new nation with new strength

“Prioritization of national reconciliation

The most popular and internationally recognized move the new government made in the nine-month period was national understandings and trust built during a meeting between President U Thein Sein and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

During the period from 25-7-2011 to 12-8-2011, Union Minister U Aung Kyi and Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met three times. The discussion held between the President and Development Council made to build up a new democratic nation by adopting the seven-point State road map.

The then government built not only political but also economic and social foundations for the emergence of a new democratic nation.

In comparison with tragedies, instability and bloodshed of imported democracies like Iraq and Afghanistan and of the nations of the Arab Spring such as Egypt, Libya, Syria..."
A new nation...

(from page 8)
socio-economic life of local people. Such measures are being taken practically, not on paper. But it is natural that everything cannot be perfect. Parts of Kachin State are still noisy with sounds of gunfire. The government on its part is offering peace talks with kind patience and Union Spirit. The President halted the Myitsone hydropower project on 30-9-2011 in accordance with the desire of the Myanmar people, including the mass of Kachin. On 10-12-2011, he directed the units and regiments of the Myanmar Tatmadaw not to launch offensive except for self-defence. Besides, the government, international organizations and social organizations provided food, medicine and other humanitarian aids for refugees who evacuated to the government-controlled areas as well as for local refugees who were in the other armed group-operated area. It is therefore hoped that sooner or later, the other side will understand and response to the peace offerings being made with goodwill and kind patience based on Union Spirit.

Towards clean government and good governance

“The important duty of the new government is to strive for emergence of clean government and good governance,” said the President to the members of the Union Government on 30-3-2011. In this context, the tasks must have transparency and accountability and be in conformity with the constitution and existing laws. In addition, they must be effective and efficient paying respect for public desires and ensuring all-inclusiveness, the President also noted. The government’s second work programme is the flourishing of democracy. Now, Myanmar has had a constitution and the three legislative, executive and judicial pillars emerging from the constitution have come into operation with check and balance.

As to the matter of transparency, open tender system is being practised in the departments dealing with trading while action is being taken against bribery and corruption for ensuring a clean government.

With regard to respecting the public desire, the most significant and popular issue is the halting of Myitsone hydro-power project.

As for democratic practices, the formation of National Human Rights Commission to protect the rights of the citizens enshrined in the constitution is indeed a noteworthy act of the government. Out of the 10 ASEAN member nations, there are only five countries which have human rights watch groups. Among them, National Human Rights Commission of Myanmar is an organization of international standard formed with the Paris fundamental principles.

As the three powers of the constitution are in force, legislative Hluttaws have been able to widen the scope of their knowledge and experience and work more actively in the Hluttaw sessions. In changing a new system and new era, a primary work plan is to make reforms in laws and procedures in parallel with the present time. Out of over 800 laws in Myanmar, about half was inherited from the colonial era and some were prescribed in the British-India colonial era before the entire country had been forced into enslavement. So, it is the tremendous duty of the legislative body to abolish or amend the old laws and to pass necessary new ones. It is difficult for a law to be amended after being promulgated. Amending of laws needs thorough decision and is time-consuming. Hence, 15 cases for abolishing, amending and passing laws could only be carried out at the two previous Hluttaw sessions. Nonetheless, new laws such as freedom of peaceful expression law and labour union law could have been successfully passed in a short time and we must recognize that these are the significant legislative tasks.

64th Anniversary Independence Day Objectives

* All the national people to live together in the Union forever in weal or woe
* All the national people to collectively strive for non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty
* All the national people to harmoniously make all-out efforts for development of socio-economic life of the people, reducing of poverty rate and ensuring the firm and clean executive pillar in building up a modern, developed democratic new nation
* All the national people to consciously cooperate in promoting genuine democratic practice and ensuring the rule of law, national reconsolidation and eternal peace.

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President U Thein Sein met Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on 19-8-2011.
Four killed, dozens injured as blast hits NE Kenya

The incident and suspension of two tax officers for
Asian News Service.
Poratanagar in Krishna district of coastal Andhra, said
of West Bengal two weeks ago.
The illicit liquor, also known as hooch, in the eastern state
Sunday.
local media reported on
weeks ago and had been elected in Rio Negro by a wide margin.
launched investigations to
Kenyan forces are hunting down the Al-
Shabaab militants inside Somalia to stop further
incursions into Kenya.
In the last few weeks,
Kenya suffered incursions by the Al-Shabaab militia from
neighbouring Somalia, with
heavy fightings reported near
border Town of Mandaar, as
well as in the northern
Districts of Wajir, Garissa and
Dadaab.

Overdue library book with 4,500 pounds fine
uncovered 123 years later

A library book that has been overdue for 123 years has been unearthed at a historic
Lake District home.
The Victorian miscellany 'Good Words for 1888'
was borrowed from the
Trovebick Institute library in
North West England shortly after it was first published,
but was never returned.
It sat on the fireside shelf at Townend House in
Troutbeck, home to the wealthy Browne family ever since.
It was discovered by chance by staff at the National
Trust, which owns the
building.
The library from which it was borrowed no longer exists,
and the book could be the longest-ever library loan in Britain.
Cumbria libraries now cap their book fines at 6 pounds.
Otherwise the total payable, at 10p a day, would be a hefty 4,489.50 pounds.
"It would have quite a fine on it by now. I think it's a huge amount of time for a library book to be overdue.
The institute still has a collection of books, I wonder if they know it is missing?"
the Daily Mail quoted Katrina Zannakh, custodian of Townend House, which has been a National Trust
property since 1948 as saying. —Internet

China, Afghanistan sign agreement on bilateral cooperation

KABUL, 2 Jan—Chinese Ambassador to Afghanistan
Xu Feihong and Afghan Foreign Minister
Zalmai Rassoul signed an agreement on bilateral economic and
technical cooperation on Saturday.

The deal is a part of the
grant assistance to China of the bilateral cooperation.

The latest grant will be
spent on the implementation of projects based on consultations between the
two countries, it said.

The main projects include the reconstruction and equipping of the
Jamhooryat Hospital in Kabul,
the reconstruction of the Parwan Irrigation Canal,
construction of the Conference Hall with the
Arg premises (Afghan Presidential Palace),
the reconstruction of the Ministry of Education’s Centre for
National Science and Technology,
the reconstruction of the Ministry of Higher Education’s guesthouse,
the construction of the department of the Chinese Language in Kabul
University and the provision of
100 ambulances to the
Ministry of Public Health.
Since 2001, the People’s
Republic of China has provided a total amount of
200 million US dollars to the
reconstruction projects in Afghanistan, the foreign
ministry said.

Vietnamese cargo ship sinks; 22 dead

HANOI, 2 Jan—A Vietnamese cargo ship that
disappeared near the Philippines on Christmas Day has sunk,
with the vessel not found yet, a Vinalines official
basing his estimates in Ha Noi's

'According to our initial
information, only one sailor
has been rescued and the
vessel has not been found
yet,' a Vinalines official
based in Hanoi told AFP.

The Vinalines Queen disappeared after passing
Luzon island and apparently
disappeared after passing
Luzon island and apparently
being hit by a strong
storm.

The Vinalines Queen was one of the largest
and most modern cargo ships in Vietnam,
but it was never returned.

A search was being carried out
by Phu Quoc, a small island in Vietnam.

The ship was carrying more than
54,000 tonnes of nickel ore
and was travelling from
Singapore to Dalian, China.

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"We are now focusing
our efforts on searching for
the Vinalines Queen," the
company official added.

Regrettably, South Vietnam has
had several severe tsunamis,
which has caused a great many
losses of life and properties.

The company official added:
"The search is in its initial
stages, and we hope to find
the ship soon."
Israel to build wall along Jordanian border

Jerusalem 2 Jan—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday announced that Israel plans to build a wall along its eastern border with Jordan, similar to the one currently under construction along its border with Egypt.

The government invests some $360 million US dollars in a five-meter-high steel fence along its 240-kilometre-long western border, which is scheduled for completion by September.

“The security barrier along the Egyptian border is finished, one will be built along the border with Jordan,” Netanyahu told ministers at the weekly cabinet session, Army radio said.

Both structures are intended to thwart infiltrations, whether refugees, smugglers or hostile cross-border attacks.

“Israel’s border with Egypt is a border of peace,” Netanyahu said during a visit in September.

But, he continued, “To continue the peace, there must be security and to this end a fence is necessary. Its rapid construction is important for both peace and security.”

Political and defence echelon officials are deeply concerned by the deteriorating situation along the Egyptian border.

“I’d define the border these days as one of tense peace... We’ve always known that radical Islamist elements are infiltrating into Sinai,” an Ariel-area counter-terrorism expert told Xinhua in December.

In a cross-border attack along a nearby road in August, militant killed eight Israeli motorists, and wounded some 30 others. The army has since then deployed some of its crack infantry units to patrol the region and upped the number of early-warning installations.

It is also considering calling up reserve units to beef-up manpower for patrols. “The fence is an important tool that will enable us and other forces to control occurrences on the border with greater effectiveness,” the official said, but warned that without boots on the ground, the barrier itself would be “worthless.”—Xinhua

Fireworks smoke cancels Manila flights

Manila (Philippines), 2 Jan—New Year’s fireworks displays in Manila created so much smoke aeronautics were forced to cancel flights, Philippine officials said.

GMA News reported the air pollution also presented a problem for people with asthma and other respiratory illnesses.

But the plus side, health officials said this year’s celebration produced significantly fewer firecracker-related injuries, the Philippines broadcaster said.

Health Secretary Enrique Ona said 476 firecracker-related injuries were recorded by 6 am Sunday. The department had in a news release in late November that there had been 1,022 injuries during the 2010 New Year’s revelry.

GMA News said visibility had been reduced to zero in Manila on New Year’s Eve, forcing airports to shut down their runways until 9 am Sunday. Some airlines cancelled and delayed flights even after the runways reopened.

Officials said while there were fewer fireworks set off this year, the smoke lingered because of dry weather and calm winds.—Internet

Southern Thailand under flood threat

Bangkok, 2 Jan—The National Disaster Warning Centre of Thailand issued a warning on Sunday for people in eastern provinces of the South to prepare for heavy rain and the danger of floods and mudslides.

Most of the southern provinces were greeted by incessant heavy downpours during the New Year holiday. 12 districts of Songkla were taken over by floodwaters, with one people reportedly killed by the flood.

8 districts in Narathiwat were declared disaster zones from flooding.

In Yala, heavy rain hit this southernmost province for four straight days inundating areas. Photos on the website of Thai News Agency show that the water level in some regions reaches half—metre high and submerged boats along the roads.

Meanwhile, strong winds and high waves in the Gulf of Thailand are expected and people living along the coast are warned of high waves pounding the shoreline.

Fishermen are advised to be cautious and small boats should stay tied ashore.—Xinhua

Blues guitarist DeGennaro killed

Bucks County Blues Society, described DeGennaro, who had toured with Kingfish and also was known as Danny Rico, as “an incredible musician.”

According to his Web site, DeGennaro had also performed with Bob Diddley and the late E Street Band saxophonist Clarence Clemons.—Internet
A vessel will be arriving on 2.1.2012 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Claims Day Notice

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Chile detains tourist suspected of causing park fire

Monkeys-nappers break into San Francisco Zoo and snatch Banana Sam

Man critical after contracting first case of rabies in Massachusetts

Seven die in Kenya boat collision

Fracking wastewater might have caused Ohio quake

Deadly disease: It is believed the victim, who is in his 60s and from Cape Cod, may have been bitten by a rabid bat in his home.
Michigan's longest-serving nurse retires

A woman believed to be Michigan’s longest-serving nurse has announced her retirement only one month prior to her 90th birthday. Dorothea Canty, who became a nurse near the start of World War II and was recognized by the state Legislature in 2007 as Michigan’s longest-serving nurse, said she completed her final shift Thursday at Dr Alan Bolton’s obstetrics/gynecology practice in Berkley, the Detroit Free Press reported Friday. “My husband always said, ‘Just say the word ‘go’ to Dorothea, and she’s already gone,’” Canty said. Canty said she retired once before, in 1984, but her retirement quickly ended when Bolton asked her to work for a few days, which turned into years. “Don’t tell them,” Canty said, “but I’m not giving back the office keys just yet.”

Injured man stole ambulance

Police in Florida said they arrested an injured man accused of stealing an ambulance while it was on a call to drive himself to the hospital. Tampa police said medical personnel from ambulance #41, which belongs to Transcare Ambulance Co, were in a call a short time before 10:30 pm Thursday when they heard a vehicle’s engine start and looked outside to see a man drive away in the ambulance, the Tampa Bay Tribune reported Friday. Police tracked the vehicle via its GPS system and stopped the ambulance at North Tampa Street and East 26th Avenue. The man, Hubert Lee Credit, 39, was arrested on charges of auto burglary and grand theft auto.

“I got beat up by four guys,” a police report quotes Credit as saying. “I saw the ambulance and I was going to drive myself to the hospital.” Credit was treated for a puncture wound to the head at Tampa General Hospital.

Robert Pattinson files for divorce from Katy Perry

LONDON, 2 Jan—Comedian Russell Brand has filed for divorce from his pop singer wife Katy Perry after just 14 months of marriage. Though the couple had earlier denied rumours of problems in their relationship, Brand cited “irreconcilable differences” in papers filed at a Los Angeles court on Friday. “Sadly, Katy and I have decided to end our marriage.” The couple’s split last month was reported by TMZ reported Friday. The couple’s marriage was struggling. The couple celebrated Christmas 7,000 miles apart as he visited family in Cornwall, she spent the holiday with friends in Hawaii.

‘Mission’ takes No 1 for second weekend

LOS ANGELES, 2 Jan—“Mission: Impossible - Ghost Protocol,” with Tom Cruise, was No 1 at the US box office for the second straight weekend with $31.25 million in receipts. “Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows,” with Robert Downey Jr and Jude Law, kept going strong and was No 2 with more than $22.09 million.

All studio estimates of gross US receipts are via Box Office Mojo. “Alvin and the Chipmunks: Chipwrecked” was third with $18.25 million; “The Adventures of Tintin” seventh with $12 million; “New Year’s Eve” eighth with more than $6.74 million; and “The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (2011)” fifth with $16.3 million; “War Horse” fourth with $16.94 million; “We Bought a Zoo” sixth with $14.3 million; “The Iron Man 2” third with $18.25 million; “Sherlock Holmes: A Game of Shadows,” with Robert Downey Jr and Jude Law, kept going strong and was No 2 with more than $22.09 million.

‘Idol’ singer Durbin gets married in Calif

SANTA CRUZ, 2 Jan—“American Idol” contestant James Durbin said he married longtime girlfriend Heidi Lowe on New Year’s Eve in rural California. The couple believe the ring fell into a sink back in 1995 and was lost in vegetable peelings that were turned into compost for fed to their sheep. “I had given up hope,” Mrs Paahlsson told the newspaper. The family searched everywhere and years later took the tiling on the floor during renovations, in the hope of finding the ring. It was not until after 16 years when Mrs Paahlsson was pulling up carrots in her garden that she noticed one with the gold band fastened tightly around it.

Jeff Bridges not concerned about aging

LOS ANGELES, 2 Jan—Actor Jeff Bridges says he no longer cares about his looks and isn’t worried about aging. The 62-year-old believes getting older helps him feel better about his looks and he has learned to “let go” and not be concerned about age. “As you get older, there’s maybe something like awe in your body, you just feel your age go and not be concerned about it,” contactmusic.com quoted Bridges as saying. A Swedish woman has discovered her wedding ring on a carrot growing in her garden, 16 years after she lost it, says a newspaper. Lena Paahlsson had long ago lost hope of finding the ring, which she designed herself, reports Dagens Nyheter. The white-gold band, set with seven small diamonds, went missing in her kitchen in 1995, she told the paper. Although the ring no longer fits, she hopes to have it enlarged so she can wear it again.

Mrs Paahlsson and her family live on a farm near Mora, in central Sweden. She took the ring off to do some Christmas baking with her daughters, but it disappeared from the work surface where it had been left, she explained to Dagens Nyheter. The family searched everywhere and years later took the tiling on the floor during renovations, in the hope of finding the ring. It was not until after 16 years when Mrs Paahlsson was pulling up carrots in her garden that she noticed one with the gold band fastened tightly around it.

Lost ring found growing around carrot

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**Japan’s Lee linked with Saints switch**

**Tokyo, 2 Jan — Japan striker Tadanari Lee could soon joining English club Southampton after agreeing terms with the Championship (second division) leaders, local media reported on Monday. The Saints have made a formal offer for the 26-year-old, Sanfrecce Hiroshima’s technical commit tee chief Hidekazu Orita has been informed, according to the Nikkan Sports newspaper. Lee famously scored a superb winning goal for Japan in last year’s Asian Cup final against Australia in Doha to give the Blue Samu-

**Serena Williams wins 1**st** match back after layoff**

**Brisbane, 2 Jan — Serena Williams won in her first match since losing the US Open final last September, beating Chanelle Scheepers of South Africa 6-2, 6-3 on Monday at the Brisbane Inte-

**Wenger says his Arsenal players are a positive unit**

**London, 2 Jan — Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger has put his side’s rise up the Barclays-Premier League table down to a great attitude and spirit in the camp. The Gunners had a poor start to the season, including an extraordinary 8-2 defeat at Manchester United in August. But they have improved and their 1-0 win over QPR on New Year’s Eve meant that they began 2012 in fourth place in the table. “When we were in a difficult situation I always said ‘look, we have to take the attitude and the spirit are really great.’”**

**Zaragoza need reinforcements, says new coach Jimenez**

**Madrid, 2 Jan — Real Zaragoza’s new coach Manolo Jimenez wants the cash-strapped club to find the money to buy players in the January transfer window as he begins the task of help-

**Brahimovic excited by prospect of Tevez arrival**

“For me, Tevez is a great player. I don’t know how the situation is and if he’s com-

**Japanese tennis player Anichebe nets late to sink Baggies**

**London, 2 Jan — West Brom 0-1 Everton. Victor Anichebe’s 89th-minute win-

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AC Milan striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic

Dubai, 2 Jan — AC Milan striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic would love to see Carlos Tevez join his side, saying on Saturday that the Manchester City player would provide the Italian giants “an extra weapon.”

Ibrahimovic said: “It would be an extra weapon. Everybody knows what kind of a player Tevez is. He’s a fantastic player and he will bring ex-

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Wave of pirated eBooks may hit Kindle profits

LONDON, 2 Jan—Pirated e-books, which can be downloaded for free, have sparked fears of adversely affecting profits of makers like Amazon, which produces Kindle.

Creating pirate copies of published books is simple and can be done using a computer and a scanner in a comparatively short duration of time. The pirates have developed software, which people can download to their home computers to convert these pages into images that can be read on a Kindle.

Publishers are in talks with the Government and Google to find ways to bring an end to this trade, which breaches their copyright.

They have asked Google to demote pirate websites to make certain they do not appear at the top of web searches for consumers looking to find free e-books. Even the internet service providers are being pressurized to shut down pirate websites. (ANI)

Meanwhile, the fire occurred in the stadium was put out at around 9:00 am local time (0800 GMT), said firefighters. A cleaner had discovered the fire, possibly caused by short circuit, early in the day.—Internet

British travel magazine names

Sri Lanka among top travel destinations for 2012

COLOMBO, 2 Jan—Sri Lanka has been recommended as a top destination by a popular British travel magazine boosting its post-war tourism boom, authorities said here on Monday.

Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority, the government regulator and facilitator of tourism, said that Britain’s Con Nad Traveller has nominated Sri Lanka as one of the top five destinations to watch in year 2012. The travel experts of the magazine have predicted that Sri Lanka will be among the hottest new holiday destinations for travellers in the coming year. It follows National Geographic nominating the country among its top six for this year.

Sri Lanka has been placed third in the list of destinations ahead of Britain and Australia. Sri Lanka’s tourism has seen strong growth after the end of a three decade war in 2009. It hopes to attract 950,000 tourists this year and is targeting 2.5 million by 2016.—Xinhua

Focus Myanmar TV Programme

MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL TV Programme

(3-14/12 09:30 am ~ 4-1/12 09:30 am) MST

Oversea Transmission

* News "The Republic of the Union of Myanmar"
  Hlahtaw (Parliament)
  News
  News
  "Adventurous Journey to Bonnart Waterfall"
  News
  "A Riverline Cruise with RV Ma Hay Thi"
  News
  Relax... At Pet Fishes Farm
  News
  "Village of Palung"
  News
  Myanmar Social and Charitable Association (Episode-1)
  News
  Myanmar Performing Arts (Puppet)
  News
  Myanmar Movies "Love On The Internet"

MYANMAR TV Programme

(3-1/12) (Tuesday)

7:00 am
1. Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw
7:25 am
2. To Be Healthy Exercise
7:40 am
3. Nice & Sweet Song
8:05 am
4. Songs of Yester Years
8:15 am
5. Myanmar Traditional Cultural Performing Arts Competitions
8:30 am
6. Dance Of National Races
5:10 pm
7. Songs For Upholding National Spirit
8:15 pm
8. The Mirror Images of The Musical Oldies
5:30 pm
9. (64)* Anniversary Independence Day
6:20 pm
10. Kyaw Pyai Myaye Yin Khone Than
7:00 pm
11. TV Drama Series
8:00 pm
12. News
13. Independence Day Programme
14. TV Drama Series
15. India Drama Series

Outlook for sub-States of the Sea Seas will be moderate in Myanmar waters.

Likelihood of isolated rain or thundershowers (60%)

4-1-12 09:30 am — Xinhua

Tachilek gets new asphalt lanes

TACHILEK, 1 Jan—As a gesture of hailing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day, the 89th and 10th Yadanar asphalt lanes were inaugurated in Wamkaung Ward of Tachilek on 27 December.

Local authorities formally opened the lanes. The new facilities are 800 feet long and 12 feet wide each, built at a cost of K 8 million each.

Tanyaing, 1 Jan—Part of efforts for alleviation of poverty, under the arrangements of Tanyang Township Development Affairs Committee, Development Affairs Department and Sbin Thayar Yay Bank Ltd disbursed K 2.3 million to 50 vendors on 19 December.

Chairman of the township microfinance service committee Executive Officer of Township DAC U Tin Maung Soe presented loans to the vendors.

Loans disbursed to vendors

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Tuesday, 3 January, 2012

President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Pahlawan Colonel (Rtd) Dato Paduka Awang Haji Abdu'r Rahmani bin Dato Paduka Haji Basir, DPMB, SMB, the newly-accredited Ambassador of Brunei Darussalam to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar presented his credentials to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at President Residence here this morning.

Present on the occasion were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at the President Office U Soe Maung and Director-General U Aye Thaw of Protocol Department.—MNA

President U Thein Sein accepts credentials of Ambassador of Kingdom of Sweden

NAY PYI TAW, 2 Jan—Mr Klas Molin, the newly-accredited Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar presented his credentials to U Thein Sein, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, at President Residence, here, at 11 am today.

Present on the occasion together with President U Thein Sein were Union Minister for Foreign Affairs U Wunna Maung Lwin, Union Minister at President Office U Soe Maung and Director-General U Aye Thaw of Protocol Department under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—MNA

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President U Thein Sein receives newly-accredited Ambassador of the Kingdom of Sweden to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Mr Klas Molin.—MNA

Hailing the 64th Anniversary Independence Day

A new nation with new strength

As the three powers of the constitution are in force, legislative Hluttaws have been able to widen the scope of their knowledge and experience and work more actively in the Hluttaw sessions. In changing a new system and new era, a primary work plan is to make reforms in laws and procedures in parallel with the present time.

YANGYI AUNG

Poem:

High in sky the national flag

- It was the 4th of January
- A day shrouded in mist
- And 1948 was the year
- A new era in sight
- All in a shining moment

- Celebrating independence heartily
- Nationalities of the Union
- Rising proudly was the national flag
- High above in sky it was fluttering

HNN MAUNG (ZIGON) (TRI)