Government in pursuance of lofty goal of building peaceful, modern, developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline

Senior General Than Shwe sends Independence Day Message

I would like to extend my warmest and cordial greetings to all national people residing in the Union on the 61st Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, President of the Union.

Myanmar has stood tall as a sovereign nation with own monarchs in the global community since time immemorial.

In late 19th century, Myanmar lost sovereignty, following the colonialists’ aggression. However, national brethren of the Union who hated being under the yoke of colonialism equipping themselves firmly with Union Spirit and patriotic spirit and exerting bravery, tenacity and vigour launched anti-colonialist struggles sacrificing lives, blood and sweat. So, the Union of Myanmar regained independence and sovereignty. Independence is in its 61st anniversary today.

Historic events bore witness that throughout the period of independence struggles, national brethren have been rising in unity against the colonialists, demonstrating strong fervour to make sacrifices in the interest of the nation and the people and cherish and value sovereignty, as well as high sensitivity to any forms of attempts to harm own literature, culture and national prestige and integrity. The entire people have to bear in mind the historical background of independence struggles for ever and will have to continue to safeguard the motherland for ensuring perpetuity of the nation and sovereignty.

Today, neo-colonialists are practising various forms of neocolonialism such as interfering in the internal affairs of other nationalities, putting pressure on and coercing other countries to serve as their minions, and resorting to all possible ways of forcing a government to serve as a puppet one that will dance to their tune with the intention of harming the sovereignty of their targeted countries. Moreover, they are using some international organizations to gain support for their schemes, and driving a wedge among national people and inciting riots to undermine national unity, peace and stability of a nation. Under the circumstances, the entire people are duty-bound to safeguard the motherland through the might of national unity for ensuring non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity and perpetuation of sovereignty, while keeping a watchful eye on attempts of neo-colonialists to harm the sovereignty of the country.

Today, the government, in pursuance of the lofty goal of building a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline, is implementing the 24-special region development project and the rural development project it has laid down for community peace and the rule of law, constructing more and more economic infrastructures, development of human resources and ensuring equitable development of all parts of the nation. At the same time, it is implementing the State's seven-step Road Map step by step. In the process, the State Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has been approved with the votes of the great majority of the people since May 2008.

In conclusion, on such an auspicious occasion of Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to urge the entire national people to materialize with a sense of duty the four objectives of the 61st Independence Day:

1. All the national people to constantly join hands for ensuring the perpetuity of independence and sovereignty of the State;
2. All the national people to collectively strive for non-disintegration of the Union and non-disintegration of national solidarity;
3. All the national people to harmoniously make all-out efforts for building up a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accord with the new State Constitution that has been approved by the votes of the great majority of national people;
4. All the national people to cooperate in realizing the State's seven-step Road Map with Union Spirit and patriotic spirit with the firm resolution to build up a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline.—MNA

Notifications on conferring titles and medals of commendation issued

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—The following is a translation of the message sent on the 61st Anniversary Independence Day by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe.

Under the Notification No. 1/2009, religious titles were conferred on seven Sayadaws, Maha Kammathanacariya Titles on three Sayadaws, Maha Kathinaacariya Titles on seven Sayadaws, Thudhamma Manojotadhara Titles on nine laity and Thudhamma Theingi Titles on 12 laity.

Under the Notification No. 2/2009, medal for excellent performance in arts field (Second Class) was presented to one person, medals for excellent performance in technology field (Second Class) to three persons, medals for excellent performance in technology field (Third Class) to 13 persons, medal for excellent performance in industrial field (Third Class) to 14 persons, medals for excellent performance in administrative field (First Class) to 26 persons, medals for excellent performance in administrative field (Second Class) to 25 persons, medals for excellent performance in administrative field (Third Class) to 52 persons, medals for excellent performance in social field (First Class) to 61 persons, medals for excellent performance in social field (Second Class) to 46 persons, medals for excellent performance in social field (Third Class) to 98 persons, medals for Ye Thuath title to one person, medals for Ye Bala title to six persons, medal for Ye Thurein title to one person, medals for Ye Kyawtaw title to three persons and medal for Ye Kyawtaw title to one person numerbing 352 persons.

Under the Notification No. 3/2009, Military Good Service Thingaha Medals were presented to 1666 persons.

Under the Notification No. 4/2009, Military Good Service Medals were presented to 3084 persons.

Under the Notification No. 5/2009, Good Public Service Medals were presented to 4685 persons.

Under the Notification No. 6/2009, Good Police Service Medals were presented to 23 persons.

Under the Notification No. 7/2009, State Police Service Medals were presented to 314 persons.

Under the Notification No. 8/2009, Public Service Medals were presented to 14763 in-service personnel and three retired personnel, and Law and Order Restoration Medals to 29132 personnel and five retired personnel.—MNA
Safeguard independence and sovereignty, incomparable asset

The 61st Anniversary Independence Day falls on the 4th of January 2009 (today). Now, Myanmar, an independent and sovereign nation, stands tall with her own national races and cultures in the world. National people enjoy a wide range of benefits from independence and freedom due to friendly relations, consolidated unity and discussions among them.

Myanmar regained independence and sovereignty, but not in an easy way: it had to sacrifice innumerable lives of its people including monks in driving the invaders out of its soil. The nation had stood as an independent one throughout successive periods. However, it lost independence and sovereignty, following the colonialists’ aggression in late 19th century. Only with patriotic fervour and unwavering spirit national patriots demonstrated firmly in waging many battles on the colonialists and Fascists, could the nation regain independence and sovereignty.

Independence by nature can be lost easily in a short time, but it takes very long to accomplish independence struggles. And the process may cost countless number of lives plus blood and sweat. Our forefathers had to show great resilience to various types of the intruders’ oppression and exploitation and got bitter experiences for several periods or so many years in the historical trend. Now, the people enjoy fruitful results of peace, stability and independence in independent Myanmar.

Therefore, the entire people including the younger generation are duty-bound to safeguard the motherland in collaboration, equipping themselves with nationalistic spirit, patriotic fervour and renewed vigour in order that the mother country will be able to continue to stand tall with independence and sovereignty in the global community.

IBTC Open Golf Championships 11-14 January

YANGON, 3 Jan—With the main sponsorship of International Beverages Trading Co Ltd, the Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA will jointly organize the Myanmar Golf Tour 2008-2009 as the title of the second leg of IBTC Open Golf Championships at Yadagunaung Golf Resort in Mandalay from 11 to 14 January.

Professional golfers and amateur golfers between handicaps 0 and 12 may take part in the championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules. The hole-in-one championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules. The hole-in-one championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules.

Professional golfers and amateur golfers between handicaps 0 and 12 may take part in the championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules. The hole-in-one championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules. The hole-in-one championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules.

Professional golfers and amateur golfers between handicaps 0 and 12 may take part in the championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules. The hole-in-one championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules. The hole-in-one championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules. The hole-in-one championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules.

Professional golfers and amateur golfers between handicaps 0 and 12 may take part in the championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules. The hole-in-one championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules. The hole-in-one championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules. The hole-in-one championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules.

Professional golfers and amateur golfers between handicaps 0 and 12 may take part in the championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules. The hole-in-one championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules. The hole-in-one championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules. The hole-in-one championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules.

Professional golfers and amateur golfers between handicaps 0 and 12 may take part in the championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules. The hole-in-one championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules. The hole-in-one championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules. The hole-in-one championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules.

Professional golfers and amateur golfers between handicaps 0 and 12 may take part in the championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules. The hole-in-one championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules. The hole-in-one championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules. The hole-in-one championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules.

Professional golfers and amateur golfers between handicaps 0 and 12 may take part in the championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules. The hole-in-one championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules. The hole-in-one championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules. The hole-in-one championships that will be held in line with the Saint Andrew rules and regional rules.
Australia rejects US request on Guantanamo detainees
SYDNEY, 3 Jan—The Australian government on Saturday formally rejected a US request to help resettle former detainees of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility.

“The request received in December 2008 has been denied,” Acting Prime Minister Julia Gillard told reporters, citing national security considerations.

Gillard said the government on Saturday advised President George W. Bush’s administration that it could not agree to a request — the second such from Washington — to help relocate inmates from the Cuban prison.

“We assess on a case by case basis, we assess against our national security criteria and our immigration criteria,” she said.

—Against that very stringent set of circumstances these case by case assessments failed the test and we have advised the US administration of that.”

Gillard, however, emphasised that Australia remained open to future US requests, and would assess resettlement cases on their merits.

“We will consider any future requests on a case by case basis against these stringent criteria for both national security and immigration,” she said.

With president-elect Barack Obama vowing to shut the Cuban facility once in office, the issue is likely to be revisited.

Australia’s rejection followed warnings from a top US general about the risks of taking in freed “war on terror” detainees.

“What about 30 of them have been captured or killed, or are known to be back on the battlefield.” Major General John Abulations told The Weekend Australian newspaper.—Internet

Pakistan reopens supply route to Afghanistan
ISLAMABAD, 3 Jan — Pakistan reopened the main supply route for US and NATO troops in Afghanistan on Friday after blocking it for three days during an operation against militants blamed for repeated attacks on convoys in the Khyber Pass, an official said.

Authorities say the operation was a success, but a similar offensive in June failed to curtail attacks and was followed by a controversial peace deal with tribal elders in the northwest Khyber region that US officials say allowed militants to regroup.

The US plans to deploy up to 30,000 additional troops to landlocked Afghanistan next year, further increasing the importance of secure supply routes through Pakistan, which deliver up to 75 percent of the fuel, food and other goods used by Western forces.

Militants have stepped up attacks against convoys passing through Khyber in recent months and have also ramscaked terminals in the nearby city of Peshawar holding supplies including Humvees intended for the Afghan army.

American officials say the attacks have not affected their ability to operate in Afghanistan but have acknowledged they are looking for ways to improve security along the route and are investigating alternative ways to deliver supplies. They have praised the Pakistani operation, which started on Tues- day and used artillery and helicopter gunships to destroy suspected militant hide-outs.—Internet

Bombing at Iraq tribal lunch kills at least 23
BAGHDAD, 3 Jan — An explosives-strapped man slipped into a luncheon gathering at a tribal leader’s home and blew himself up Friday, killing at least 23 people and wounding dozens.

The attack in Youssifiyah, in the area once known as the Triangle of Death because of its extreme violence, came a day after the United States relinquished the lead on security to Iraqi forces throughout the country.

The bloodshed highlighted the challenge that Iraqi police and soldiers face in trying to bring order to a nation gripped by religious, ethnic and political enmity.

Police officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to give information to news media placed the casualty toll at 30 dead and 110 wounded.

But Iraqi Army Col Aman Mansour Ibrahim, who was on the scene, said 24 were killed and 38 wounded. The US military said Iraqis were reporting 23 dead and 32 wounded.

The attack in Youssifiyah, in the area once known as the Triangle of Death because of its extreme violence, came a day after the United States relinquished the lead on security to Iraqi forces throughout the country.

The bloodshed highlighted the challenge that Iraqi police and soldiers face in trying to bringing order to a nation gripped by religious, ethnic and political enmity.

Police officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to give information to news media placed the casualty toll at 30 dead and 110 wounded.

But Iraqi Army Col Aman Mansour Ibrahim, who was on the scene, said 24 were killed and 38 wounded. The US military said Iraqis were reporting 23 dead and 32 wounded.

The attack in Youssifiyah, in the area once known as the Triangle of Death because of its extreme violence, came a day after the United States relinquished the lead on security to Iraqi forces throughout the country.

The bloodshed highlighted the challenge that Iraqi police and soldiers face in trying to bringing order to a nation gripped by religious, ethnic and political enmity.

Police officials who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to give information to news media placed the casualty toll at 30 dead and 110 wounded.

But Iraqi Army Col Aman Mansour Ibrahim, who was on the scene, said 24 were killed and 38 wounded. The US military said Iraqis were reporting 23 dead and 32 wounded.
Religious titles conferred on Most Venerable Sayadaws, nuns, lay persons

Union of Myanmar
State Peace and Development Council
Notification No. I/2009
9th Waxing of Pyatho, 1370 M.E.
(4th January 2009)

The State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has conferred religious titles on the following Most Venerable Sayadaws, Ganthadura Sayadaw Lay Sayadaw, Kammathara Preachers, national and foreign missionary figures and outstanding figures of the Four Essentials to the Buddha Sasana.

Religious titles conferred on Most Venerable Sayadaws, nuns, lay persons

1. Bhaddanta Çandima, Zeyathukha Waso Monastery, Ward 1, Shwebo, Sagaing Division
2. Bhaddanta Kodañña, Kantha Monastery, Myitnge Division
3. Bhaddanta Vilasabhivamsa, Sasana Wipula Monastery, Ward 1, Toungoo, Bago Division
5. Bhaddanta Jotika, Maha Waiyanbontha Monastery, Mandalay Division
6. Bhaddanta Janinda, Sein Yadana Monastery, Mandalay Division
7. Bhaddanta Sadan, Taungzin Ahtet Monastery, Pyinnetaw Ward, Dawei, Taninthayi Division
8. Bhaddanta Paññindalankara, Maha Theindawgyi Monastery, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Division
9. Bhaddanta Sobhanabhivamsa, Bawana Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 13, Yankin Township, Yangon Division
10. Bhaddanta Sujana, Taungzin Ahtet Monastery, Pyinnetaw Ward, Dawei, Taninthayi Division
11. Bhaddanta Narasabhabhivamsa, Wezayantar Monastery, Ward 13, Ottha Myothit, Bago, Bago Division
12. Bhaddanta Rajinda, Mahamyaing Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 10, Hline Township, Sagaing Division
13. Bhaddanta Rajinda, Mahamyaing Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 10, Hline Township, Sagaing Division
14. Bhaddanta Vimalabuddhi, Pali Tekkatho Mingala Pariyatti Monastery, Mandalay Division
15. Bhaddanta Neminda, Taungsalin Taikthit, Mandalay Division
16. Dr. Bhaddanta Ardiççavamsa, International Studies Department, New Delhi University, New Delhi, India
17. Bhaddanta Nagita, Shwepyitha Pariyatti Monastery, Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Division
18. Bhaddanta Kumara, Mingalathayadipa Monastery, Mandalay Division
20. Bhaddanta Jotika, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Magway, Magway Division
21. Bhaddanta Pandita, Dhamma Wihaya Monastery, Ward 13, Toungoo, Bago Division
22. Bhaddanta Naginda, Saddhamma Zawtikayon Monastery, Ward 20, Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Division
23. Bhaddanta Kantinayabhivamsa, Dhamma Wihaya Pahtamagyaw Monastery, (E/A) Ward, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Division
24. Bhaddanta Puñavama, Dhamma Wihaya Pahtamagyaw Monastery, (E/A) Ward, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Division
25. Bhaddanta Aggivamsa, Weluwun Monastery, Mandalay Division
26. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Kanuansu Ward, Hinthada, Yangon Division
27. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Kanuansu Ward, Hinthada, Yangon Division
28. Bhaddanta Jotika, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
29. Nun Daw Sujana, Kammathara Monastery, Mandalay Division
30. Nun Daw Sujana, Kammathara Monastery, Mandalay Division
31. Bhaddanta Pandita, ShweUdaung Ward, Monyo, Mandalay Division
32. Nun Daw Rupasingi, Myawady Nunnery, Chammyathwa Ward, Pyay, Bago Division
33. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
34. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
35. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
36. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
37. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
38. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
39. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
40. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division

Nuns

1. Nun Daw Dinma, Zeyathenigyi Corner, Thawtawp Ward, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
2. Nun Daw Theri, Ethisu Nunnery, Leti Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Division
3. Nun Daw Suju, Thyudayaw Nunnery, Kyaukka Village, Taungtha Township, Mandalay Division
4. Nun Daw Rupasingi, Myawady Nunnery, Chammyathwa Ward, Pyay, Bago Division
5. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
6. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
7. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
8. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
9. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
10. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
11. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
12. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
13. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
14. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
15. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
16. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
17. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
18. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
19. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
20. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
21. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
22. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
23. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
24. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
25. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
26. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
27. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
28. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
29. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
30. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
31. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
32. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
33. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
34. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
35. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
36. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
37. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
38. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
39. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
40. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division

Ganthavacaka Panda Title

1. Bhaddanta Dhammupiya, Weluwun Taikma Monastery, Ward 1, Swote, Sagaing Division
2. Bhaddanta Kheminda, Phloin Ta@Paryatti Monastery, Panglong Ward, Kalay, Sagaing Division
3. Bhaddanta Sujana, Taungzin Abtet Monastery, Taungkkyarbyin Village, Laungton Township, Thaninthayi Division
4. Bhaddanta Aloka, MyoU Pariyatti Monastery, Chammyathaz Ward, Wow, Bago Division
5. Bhaddanta Jotika, Maha Waiyanbontha Monastery, Chamayathaz Ward, Mandalay Division
6. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
7. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
8. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
9. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
10. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
11. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
12. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
13. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
14. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
15. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
16. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
17. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
18. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
19. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division
20. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammakayon Monastery, Mandalay Division

(See page 5)
## Title recipient Sayadaws from abroad

1. **Bhaddanta Sundara**, Manaung Monastery, Chatcho Township, Thayet Township, Bago Division (West)

2. **Bhaddanta Vayama**, Monastic Education School, Pakokku District, Magway Division

3. **Bhaddanta Indiya**, Dipa Ayemya Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Monastery, Ward 10, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Division

4. **Bhaddanta Kesava**, Thiri Yeikway (Mogok Yeiktha) Monastery, Ward 15, Chauk, Magway Division

5. **Bhaddanta Rajnida**, Sale Monastery, Maha Wizayayanthi Sale Monastery, Chanmyathazi (South) Ward, Chanmyathazi Monastery, Mandalay Division

6. **Bhaddanta Paññinda**, PhaungdawU Monastery, Thirikya Township, Sagaing Division

7. **Bhaddanta Visuddhaçara**, Phayagon Monastery, Ywa Rebe Region, Shweeththa Ward, Pyay, Bago Division (West)

8. **Bhaddanta Arsabha**, Dekkhinayon Monastery, Mandalay Division


10. **Bhaddanta Nandiya**, No. 5 Monastic Education School, Magyibin Village, Ngapudaw Township, Myanmar State (East)

11. **Bhaddanta Tejaniya**, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre, Htigyaing, Sagaing Division

12. **Bhaddanta Jotika**, Sale Monastery, Maha Wizayayanthi Sale Monastery, Chanmyathazi (South) Ward, Chanmyathazi Monastery, Mandalay Division

13. **Bhaddanta Arapanna**, PhaungdawU Monastery, Thirikya Township, Sagaing Division

14. **Bhaddanta Kundala**, No. 1 Monastic Education School, (Nantha Monastery, Hisinde Kyautgaik), Pyay, Mandalay Division

15. **Bhaddanta Kañçana**, Shitmyethna Pariyatti Monastery, Mahlaing, Mandalay Division

16. **Bhaddanta Paññaboga**, Aungmingala Monastic Education Middle School, Yeakemo Village, TadaU Township, Mandalay Division

17. **Bhaddanta Nandobhsa**, Yama Monastery, Lanmadaw Village, Insein Township, Yangon Division

18. **Bhaddanta Rajnida**, Sale Monastery, Maha Wizayayanthi Sale Monastery, Chanmyathazi (South) Ward, Chanmyathazi Monastery, Mandalay Division


20. **Bhaddanta Ñeya**, Zabuhteinlin Monastery, Ward 8, Pyapon Township, Ayeyawady Division


22. **Bhaddanta Kheminda**, Dhamma Pitzawtayon Monastery, Ward 1, Singu Township, Mandalay Division

23. **Bhaddanta Tejosara**, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre, Pankyu Missionary Centre, Pankyu Village, Pankyu Village-tract, Kentung Township, Shan State

24. **Venerable Phra Anil Sakya (Ph.D.) (Bhikkhu Maha Thera)**, No. 1, Agyauna Road, Myama Ward, Mogok, PyinOoLwin District, Mandalay Division

25. **Bhaddanta U Tha Phyo**, Ward 12, Lashio, Shan State (North)

26. **Bhaddanta Karo**, Insein Township, Yangon Division

27. **Nun Daw Malari**, Maha Ponnyakari Nunnery, Pyigyi Myethman Ward, Chanayethazan Township, Yangon Division

28. **Bhaddanta Kundala**, Yeiktha Monastery, Ward 10, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Division

29. **Ton Gariodjo Jl Kapten Pattimura**, No. 437, Medan 20153, North Sumatera, Indonesia

30. **Daw Nwe Nwe**, No. 1, Anawrahta Road, Myoma Ward, Pyay, Bago Division

31. **Bhaddanta U Myint Kyaw**, No. 7, Myimaungvyi Ward, Pyay, Bago Division

32. **Bhaddanta Khin Hla Thin**, No. 24, Room 507, Yuzana Condo Tower, Bahan Township, Yangon Division

33. **Bhaddanta Sundara**, Masoyein Monastic Education Middle School, Aungzeyar Ward, Htigyaing, Sagaing Division

34. **Bhaddanta Paññinda**, PhaungdawU Monastery, Thirikya Township, Sagaing Division

35. **Bhaddanta Nyein Nyein (a) Daw Nyein Nyein Naing**, No. 7, Khaing Shwe Wah Road and Manawhari Tower, Bahan Township, Yangon Division

36. **Bhaddanta Khin Aung Myint**, No. 20, Shansu Ward, Lawpita Tower, Bahan Township, Yangon Division

37. **Daw San San Maw**, No. 27, Uyin Road, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Division

38. **U Hla Hla Win**, No. 35, 86th x 39th Streets, Mandalay Division

39. **Daw U Min Hla Hla Win**, No. 24, Room 507, Yuzana Condo Tower, Bahan Township, Yangon Division

40. **U Hla Hla Win**, No. 35, 86th x 39th Streets, Mandalay Division

41. **Bhaddanta U Myint**, No. 1, Aungyithar Road, Myoma Ward, Pyay, Bago Division

42. **Bhaddanta Tejaniya**, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre, Pankyu Missionary Centre, Pankyu Village, Pankyu Village-tract, Kentung Township, Shan State

43. **Bhaddanta Nandobhsa**, Yama Monastery, Lanmadaw Village, Insein Township, Yangon Division

44. **Bhaddanta Vandana**, Mawgyeyungyi Township, Ayeyawady Division

45. **Bhaddanta Suwarthi**, Sakti Myethmar Nunnery, Pyay, Bago Division

46. **Bhaddanta Paññinda**, PhaungdawU Monastery, Pyangyi Village, Pangpyi Village-tract, Kentung Township, Shan State (East)

47. **Bhaddanta Khin Aung Myint**, No. 24, Room 507, Yuzana Condo Tower, Bahan Township, Yangon Division

48. **Bhaddanta Khin Aung Myint**, No. 24, Room 507, Yuzana Condo Tower, Bahan Township, Yangon Division

49. **Bhaddanta Khin Aung Myint**, No. 24, Room 507, Yuzana Condo Tower, Bahan Township, Yangon Division

50. **Bhaddanta Khin Aung Myint**, No. 24, Room 507, Yuzana Condo Tower, Bahan Township, Yangon Division

51. **Bhaddanta Khin Aung Myint**, No. 24, Room 507, Yuzana Condo Tower, Bahan Township, Yangon Division

52. **Bhaddanta Khin Aung Myint**, No. 24, Room 507, Yuzana Condo Tower, Bahan Township, Yangon Division

53. **Bhaddanta Khin Aung Myint**, No. 24, Room 507, Yuzana Condo Tower, Bahan Township, Yangon Division

54. **U Hla Hla Win**, No. 49, No. 69 Room, 507, Yuzana Condo Tower, Bahan Township, Yangon Division

55. **Bhaddanta Khin Aung Myint**, No. 24, Room 507, Yuzana Condo Tower, Bahan Township, Yangon Division
Messages of felicitations sent to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye

From Mr Bounnhang Vorachith, Vice-President of the Lao People’s Democratic Republic
Your Excellency,
I have a great pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency on the occasion of the 61st Anniversary of Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

I firmly hope that the traditional friendly relations and cooperation between our two neighbouring countries will be further strengthened and enhanced.

May I take this opportunity to wish Your Excellency good health, happiness and greater success in your noble task.

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

From H.E. Muhammad Jusuf Kalla
Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia
Your Excellency,
I am greatly pleased to extend to you my cordial greetings and sincere felicitations on the happy occasion of the anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

It is my firm belief that while working together on a bilateral basis as well as in international forums, Indonesia and Myanmar will be able to contribute significantly to the cause of regional as well as international peace and prosperity.

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

MNA

Foreign Heads of Governments send felicitations to Myanmar Prime Minister

From Mr Taro Aso, Prime Minister of Japan
From Mr Wen Jiabao
Mr Bounnhang Vorachith, Vice-President of the Lao People’s Republic of China

May Your Excellency ever stay in the best of health and happiness and brilliant successes in your noble duty.

From Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Tcho Hun SEn, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia

May I take this opportunity to wish Your Excellency good health, happiness and greater success in your noble task.

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

From Mr Vladimir V. Putin, Chairman of the Council of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 61st Anniversary of Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

I have the honour to convey to Your Excellency and the Government and people of Myanmar my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the 61st Anniversary of Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

I strongly believe that the close cooperation existing between our two countries forms a solid fundament for further enhancing and strengthening our friendly and neighbourly relations for the interests of the peoples of our two nations, Laos and Myanmar and for dynamism of the ASEAN family as well as for promoting peace, stability and development cooperation in the region and in the world at large.

May I take this opportunity to wish Your Excellency good health, happiness and greater success in your noble task.

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

From Mr Vladimir V. Putin, Chairman of the Council of the Union of Myanmar.

May I take this opportunity to wish Your Excellency good health, happiness and greater success in your noble task.

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

From Mr Kostas Karamanlis, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic

May I take this opportunity to wish Your Excellency good health, happiness and greater success in your noble task.

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

MNA

Latha BEHS No-2 holds School Family Day

Yangon, 3 Jan—The School Family Day of Latha Township Basic Education High School No-2 was held in conjunction with prize presentation ceremony and variety show at Mya Nyilar Hall of the school this morning with an address by Headmistress Dr Daw Thein Kyaw. Deputy Director-General U Myo Myint of No. (3) Basic Education Department, the headmistress and officials presented prizes to outstanding students and teachers.

Next, those present were entertained with variety show.

Deputy Director-General U Myo Myint presents gift to an outstanding student.

MNA
NAV PHTAW, 4 Jan—The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of State sent to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, on the occasion of the 61st Anniversary of Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

From Emperor Akihito of Japan

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I have great pleasure in sending Your Excellency my heartfelt congratulations and sincere good wishes for your happiness and for the prosperity of the people of your country.

From His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I wish to extend to Your Excellency my sincere congratulations 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 President Mr. Hu Jintao of the People’s Republic of China

On the occasion of the 61st anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar—May the Union of Myanmar enjoy prosperity and happiness as well as for the progress and prosperity of the people of the Union of Myanmar.

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

I am ready to work with Your Excellency to further strengthen the relations and cooperation between our two countries and peoples.

From Mr. Dmitry A. Medvedev, President of the Russian Federation

I am confident that relations of friendship and cooperation, which have been established between Russia and Myanmar, will be further developed in the sake of the peoples of our countries, in the interests of strengthening peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

From Mr. Horst Kohler, President of the Federal Republic of Germany

I wish You, Mr Chairman, all success in your activities, and well-being and prosperity to the Myanmar people.

Please accept, Excellency, my best wishes for your personal well-being and for the continued prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

From Mr. Dmitry A. Medvedev, President of the Russian Federation

I am confident that the existing friendship has deepened and diversified to include newer areas of cooperation. I am convinced that these cordial and cooperative relations will continue to strengthen in the years ahead as we strive for national development and contribute to the security and prosperity of our region and of the world at large.

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

From Mr. Horst Kohler, President of the Federal Republic of Germany

I am ready to work with Your Excellency to further develop the relations and cooperation between our two countries and peoples.

I wish You, Mr Chairman, all success in your activities, and well-being and prosperity to the Myanmar people.

MNA

Officials urged to strive for industrial development

YANGON, 3 Jan—At the meeting of industrial zone committees in Yangon Division held at the hall of Yangon City Development Headquarters on Kommyinttha, here, this afternoon, Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence gave instructions on tasks of the industrial zones to make efforts for development of the respective industrial zones.

Chairman of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council Commander of Yangon Command Brig-Gen Win Myint reported on disputes between employees and employers, security measures and removal of factories with foul smell.

Next, Chairman of Yangon City Development Committee Mayor Brig-Gen Aung Thein Lin also presented a report.

MNA
International level high school syllabuses, teacher manuals ... 

(from page 16)

[colleges and basic education schools across the nation are celebrating school family day with wholehearted participation of education staff, teachers, parents local people, students and well-wishers. He said he was delighted to note that prize-winning students for their outstanding performances in all-rounder education development and subjects, students who have access to education under programmes of school enrolment campaigns and prize-winning schools for greening school compounds and environments were honoured in accordance with the fine tradition for 2008-2009 academic year on the occasion. 

The National Education Promotion Plan launched in 2001-2002 is in its third year of the second five-year plan in 2008-2009, and work programmes are being implemented at speed basic and higher education sectorwise. 

During the first five-year plan, necessary requirements were fulfilled to ensure all school-age children had access to basic education in the second five-year plan, education promotion programmes are being implemented at all basic education levels. 

Up to the current academic year, over 260,000 teachers are teaching over eight million students in over 40,000 educational institutions. Necessary programmes have been materialized for opening of more and more pre-primary schools in basic education schools to nurture under school-age children, extensive opening of post-primary schools for children to pursue education in their own regions, and ensuring enrolment of all school-age children. Besides, adult literacy and post-literacy programmes are ongoing, and inclusive education programme is being implemented extensively. 

A remarkable achievement in the basic education sector this academic year is that in compliance with the guidance of the Head of State, international level high school syllabuses, teacher manuals and refresher courses on high school subjects were launched, and they are in force this academic year. 

Furthermore, school management courses for township education officers were conducted for improving learning skills of students and greasing school buildings with the aim of supervising the tasks of basic education schools. English and mathematics skill contests at primary and middle school levels are being held for promotion of the high and middle school education standards. 

Today, ITC about economic, social and education fields are necessary, so e-Education Learning Centres were established with electronic information broadcasting systems in 741 universities, colleges and high schools. Now, all universities and colleges and some basic education high schools have access to Internet. As a result, education staff and teachers have seized opportunities to stay in touch with global advancements in the education sector. 

Only citizens equipped with health, fitness and higher education standards will be able to build a modern and developed nation. Therefore, the new generation youths are being nurtured and trained to be outstanding in literature, arts and sports to become those on whom the State can rely. 

In the today’s world, science and technology as well as information and communications are experiencing rapid development. At such time, there has been a change in economic, social, education, health sectors of global nations. Under the circumstances, the developed nations are practicing Knowledge Based Economy while striving for reform of their educational system to be able to face new economic challenges. 

The government has laid down and is implementing the border areas development project, the five rural development tasks and the 24 special zones development project to bring about uplifting development across the nation. Meanwhile, it is making relentless efforts for turning the nation into an agro-based industrialized nation. For industrial development, it has opened one high school each in 22 special regions and arrangements have been made to introduce technical studies to those schools along with original science and arts subjects. 

Myanmar has paid emphasis on development of the education sector in successive eras. As Myanmar people valued education they actively took part in the development of education sector. With fine traditions of carrying out community welfare services, the government has been able to create better education environment, thereby resulting in the emergence of good citizens on whom the State can rely. 

The success and achievement in the education sector can be attributed to the concerted and well-coordinated efforts of local authorities, social organizations and well-wishers. 

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 stressed the need for officials concerned to nurture and train the younger generation for the benefit of national prestige and integrity and keeping Union Spirit alive and dynamic, to strive together with the people for successful realization of national education promotion programmes in order to be able to face and overcome the challenges of Knowledge Age and to try their best through the educational sector for the Union to stand tall among the international community. 

Next, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein reported to the Secretary-1 on educational tasks carried out in the 2008-2009 academic year. 

Then students of Nay Pi Taw Pymnmana Township Basic Education High School No. (2) sang a song. 

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thitha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presented prizes to 15 outstanding students for the 2008-2009 academic year and posed for a documentary photo together with them. 

Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation Maj-Gen Htay Oo presented prizes to 17 ninth graders for 2008-09 academic year. 

Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein presented prizes to students who won in English and Mathematics skill contests for primary and middle school students and Minister for Science and Technology U Thaung, to students who won prizes in Myanmar Mathematica l Olympiad. 

Students of Nay Pi Taw No. (3) Basic Education High School sang a song. 

Minister for Religious Affairs Brig-Gen Thura Myint Maung presented awards to students for their outstanding performance in Myanmar and International Social Relations and Customs Contest, Minister for Foreign Affairs U Nyan Win, to students who won gold medals in International Painting Contest, Contest Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, to students who won gold medals in international sports events, Minister for Forestry Brig-Gen Thein Aung, to 17 BEHSs from States and Divisions for performance in the tasks of greening the schools and their environs and Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyun, to outstanding students according to the programme for enrolment of school-age children. 

The ceremony ended with a song by students of Nay Pi Taw Pymnmana Township BEHS No. (3). 

MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thitha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo poses for a documentary photo together with outstanding students of the 2008-09 academic year. —MNA
ACHIEVEMENT IN TRANSPORT (RAILROAD) SECTOR IN 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Mile</th>
<th>Inauguration Day</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Kyangin-Okshitpin</td>
<td>Padaung, Bago Division and Kyangin, Ayeyawady Division</td>
<td>38 miles</td>
<td>1-3-2008</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Pyawbwe-Phayangasu</td>
<td>Pyawbwe, Mandalay Division</td>
<td>16.19 miles</td>
<td>30-11-2008</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HONOURING THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY:

An express train on Kyangin-Okshitpin railroad section, which was commissioned into service on 1 March, 2008. The 38-mile long railroad section links Bago Division (West) with Ayeyawady Division.

A train running along Pyawbwe-Phayangasu railroad section, which was opened on 30 November, 2008. The 16.19-mile long railroad section was built for the smooth transport of the local people.
**Raul Castro says hopes too high for Obama**

HAVANA, 3 Jan—US President-elect Barack Obama appears to be an honest and sincere man, but his election has awakened “excessive hopes” that the United States will change, Cuban President Raul Castro said in a television interview broadcast on Friday.

Castro repeated previous assertions that he is open to talks at any time with Obama, who takes office on 20 January, but said he is not desperate to do so. Obama has said he wants to ease the 46-year-old US trade embargo against Cuba and meet with Cuban leaders as first steps toward normalizing relations with the Communist-run island.

“Now there is a president who has raised hopes in many parts of the world — I think excessive hopes,” Castro said in an interview on state-run television.

“Because even if he’s an honest man — and I believe he is — a sincere man — and I believe he is — one man alone cannot change the destiny of a country and much less the United States,” said Castro, who replaced his ailing older brother Fidel Castro as president in February.

“I hope I’m mistaken in my assessment. I hope Mr Obama has success,” he said.

“He can do much, he can take positive steps, he can put forth more just ideas, he can put a stop to the tendency of almost all US presidents to have their war, or wars,” he said.

The interview was taped on 31 December, a day before Castro led celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the revolution that put his brother in power and turned Cuba to Communism at the height of the Cold War.

**Japan, South Africa diplomats in running for IAEA top job**

VIENNA, 3 Jan—Japan and South Africa’s ambassadors to the UN nuclear watchdog IAEA are the two candidates to replace Director-General Mohamed ElBaradei when his term expires in November, the agency announced on Friday.

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) confirmed the nominations of Japan’s Yukiya Amano and South Africa’s Abdul Samad Minty, who are both on the agency’s 35-member board of governors, in a statement on Friday.

The board will hold a vote for the new director-general in June.

Following approval by the agency’s member states at a conference in September, ElBaradei’s successor will then take over when his mandate expires on 30 November.

The Egyptian, who has been the IAEA chief since 1997, said he would not stand for a fourth four-year term.

**Venezuela’s oil income soars in early 2008**

CARACAS, 3 Jan — Record prices boosted Venezuela’s oil income by 225 percent in the first nine months of 2008, allowing the state-run oil company to stash $10.8 billion in government reserves now that oil prices have dropped dramatically.

Preliminary figures from Venezuela’s Energy Ministry suggest December prices will average $32.66 — nearly half the $60 average used in Venezuela’s 2009 budget plan.

President Hugo Chavez’s socialist government relies on Venezuela’s vast oil reserves for roughly half its federal budget and 94 percent of exports.

PDVSA payments to Chavez’s numerous social programmes dropped 52 percent to $2.1 billion in the first nine months, the report said.

**UN chief wants monitors for Gaza cease-fire**

UNITED NATIONS, 3 Jan — Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is urging key world leaders to intensify efforts to achieve an immediate Israeli-Hamas cease-fire that includes international monitors to enforce a truce and possibly to protect Palestinian civilians, a UN official said on Friday.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and several Arab foreign ministers are flying to New York over the weekend to urge the UN Security Council to adopt an Arab draft resolution that would condemn Israel and demand a halt to its bombing campaign in Gaza.

But the United States said the draft is “unacceptable” and “unbalanced” because it makes no mention of halting the Hamas rocketing of southern Israel which led to the Israeli offensive.

Experts from the 15 Security Council nations discussed the Arab draft on Friday, and it is expected to be at the heart of UN discussions starting Monday.

Robert Serry, the UN special coordinator for the Middle East peace process, told reporters via video link from Jerusalem that a comprehensive solution requires commitments from the parties that they will respect a cease-fire “in full,” the monitoring of a truce, the permanent opening of all border crossings into Gaza, the return of Hamas-ruled Gaza to the fold of the Palestinian Authority, renewed efforts to reunite Gaza and the West Bank — and ultimately the achievement of Israeli-Palestinian peace.

**A Palestinian protestor hurls a stone at Israeli soldiers during a demonstration at the Qalandia Israeli checkpoint on the outskirts of the West Bank city of Ramallah.** — Internets
**Claim Day Notice MV Vasco da Gama VOY NO (139)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VASCO DA GAMA VOY NO (139) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.1.2009 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.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**shipping agency department**

**Myanmar Port Authority**

**Agent for: MS Interasia Lines**

Phone No: 256908/3783165/376797

**Claim Day Notice MV Xiang Da VOY NO (9001)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIONG DA VOY NO (9001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.1.2009 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.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm up to Claims Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**Shipping Agency Department**

**Myanmar Port Authority**

**Agent for: MS China Shipping (Malaysia) Agency SDN BHD**

Phone No: 256908/3783165/376797

---

**Bomb found on street in Dagestan capital of Makhachkala, 3 Jan** — An improvised explosive device with the equivalent of more than 16 pounds of TNT was found in the Russian Dagestan Republic and defused on Friday. The bomb was on a street in Makhachkala, the Dagestan capital. Interfax news agency reported.

Police said the device included a detonator, one pound of explosive packed into a jar, and a metal bucket filled with ammonium nitrate and aluminum powder mixed together. A bomb disposal team used a water cannon to neutralize the device.

The conflict in Chechnya has leached across the border into Dagestan, which is on Russia’s southern border in the Caucasus Mountains. Maj Gen Valery Lipinsky of the Russian Interior Department was fatally wounded Monday in an attack on his car near the capital, while his wife and driver were injured.

---

**Head found in shopping bag on path**

**Edinburgh, 3 Jan** — A human head found in an Ikea shopping bag on a Scottish footpath was that of a woman who probably died about six months ago, police said on Friday. Tests show that bones found with the head came from the same person. The Scotsman reported.

A woman walking her dog along the Haworthvale path in Edinburgh found the head on New Year’s Eve. Investigators at first thought the remains were a decade or more old and had been mummified.

But they now say the remains appear to be more recent, although they are so decomposed that the woman’s hair and eye color have not been determined.

The Ikea bag was fresh, suggesting that the head was dumped not long before it was found. The woman has not yet been identified. A spokeswoman for police said the death was being treated as suspicious. “We don’t even know how the head came to be off the body — whether it was due to natural decomposition or whether it was decapitated,” she said. “We are keeping a very open mind.”

---

**Suicide blast in Sri Lanka as rebel stronghold falls**

**Colombo, 3 Jan** — A suicide bomber on a motorcycle blew himself up outside air force headquarters on Friday in Colombo, killing two air force police officers and a member of the bomb-disposal unit, authorities said.

The bombing occurred about one hour after President Mahinda Rajapaksa urged the Tamil Tigers to lay down their arms and end a quarter-century of civil war. Before he made that request, government troops retook the guerrillas’ former capital, Kilinochchi.

The bombing wounded 30 people, three of them critically, authorities said. Initial reports indicate the bomber triggered explosives strapped to his chest when air force personnel tried to stop him for a search. In a televised statement on Friday evening, Rajapaksa called the re-capture of Kilinochchi “a victory against separatism.” The time is not far off when people of the north can breathe freedom again,” Rajapaksa said.

There was no immediate response from the group to Friday’s news. Sri Lankan troops have been on the outskirts of Kilinochchi, about 580 km (360 miles) north of Colombo, for more than a month. They took a key highway junction and a town outside the city on Thursday.

---

**Woman gives birth on Tube**

**London, 3 Jan** — A Polish woman has become only the second person to give birth on London’s Underground rail network since it opened 146 years ago, the capital’s transport authority confirmed on Friday. Julia Kowalska was travelling with her sister on the network’s Jubilee line on 19 December when her contractions started. She got off at Kingsbury, in north-west London, and gave birth to a healthy baby girl in the station supervisor’s office, assisted by an ambulance crew.

She was taken to the nearby Northwick Park Hospital and was discharged after four days, a hospital spokesperson said. Brent Council, the local authority, said social workers were in contact with the woman, who was reported to be homeless.

---

**African faces death for drug trafficking in S’pore**

**Singapore, 3 Jan** — A Ghanaian who came to Singapore to try out for a football club has been found guilty of drug trafficking and will face the death penalty, a newspaper reported on Saturday. Chiwiko Stephen Obioha, 29, came to Singapore in November 2005 to try out for the football club Sporting Afrique, the paper said. He did not make the cut and instead made a living selling electronics. Obioha was found guilty on Tuesday of trafficking 2.6 kg (5.7 lbs) of cannabis or marijuana.
Latin American cocaine, grown in north Africa, to entry of drugs into Europe, is one of the main points of ministry, which oversees the southeastern port of Friday.

British yacht and arrested tons of hashish from a have seized almost four held by police, a security woman and her two sons in

confirmed Ebola infection in three of making people sick in the region as well more deaths were being investigated. Democratic Republic of Congo and said three people in the south of the Health Organization on Friday net offshore but was too heavy to be rescued by the fishermen, Bernama news

Villagers gather around a dead whale shark at Teluk Bahang fishing village, 400 km (250 miles) north of Kuala Lumpur, in Malaysian state of Penang on 2 Jan, 2009. The 6.8-metre (22-foot) whale shark got entangled in a fishing net offshore but was too heavy to be rescued by the fishermen, Bernama news agency reported. — Intern

WHO confirms three Ebola deaths in Congo

WASHINGTON, 3 Jan — The World Health Organization on Friday confirmed the Ebola virus had killed three people in the south of the Democratic Republic of Congo and said more deaths were being investigated.

Earlier this week, WHO officials said diseases other than Ebola were likely making people sick in the region as well as Ebola, a frightening and often fatal virus. WHO said laboratories had only confirmed Ebola infection in three of the cases, “WHO is aware of three additional suspected cases including 12 deaths associated with this outbreak. A further 184 contacts have been identified and are being followed up,” WHO said in a statement.

Auguste Mopipi Mukulumanya, health minister of the Democratic Republic of Congo, said on 25 December that analysis of blood and stool samples taken in the village of Kalwamba at the heart of the apparent outbreak had shown that an Ebola epidemic was under way.

SA woman, two sons kidnapped

SANA, 3 Jan — Yemeni tribesmen on Friday kidnapped a South African woman and her two sons in southern Yemen, demanding the release of a relative held by police, a security official told. “They were taken hostage on Friday afternoon in the area of Shaqra,” 150km east of Aden, in the province of Abyan, the official said requesting anonymity. He said that the kidnappers, who belong to the tribe of Al Fadl, have demanded the release of a relative who is a public sector employee and had been in custody in Sanaa for a “work related fault”. The three hostages were part of a tourist convoy travelling from the eastern region of Hadramaut to the port city of Aden, but were seized when their vehicle lagged behind, he said. “This allowed the tribesmen to stop the car. They got rid of the [local] driver and the accompanying guard and drove away” in the vehicle which belonged to a tour company, the official added.

Four tons dope seized on yacht

MADRID, 3 Jan — Spanish customs officers have seized almost four tons of hashish from a British yacht and arrested a Frenchman and a Spaniard on board, the government said on Friday.

The officers boarded and searched the vessel off the southeastern port of Alicante, said the economy ministry, which oversees the customs service. Spain is one of the main points of entry of drugs into Europe, from hashish that has been grown in north Africa, to Latin American cocaine, which is often smuggled in via Africa. Spanish authorities seized more than 100 tons of hashish last year. The largest amount seized was in 1990, when police found 36 tonnes of hashish on a Panamanian-registered cargo ship off the northwest coast of the country. — Internet

Al Fadl, have demanded the release of a relative who is a public sector employee and had been in custody in Sanaa for a “work related fault”. The three hostages were part of a tourist convoy travelling from the eastern region of Hadramaut to the port city of Aden, but were seized when their vehicle lagged behind, he said. “This allowed the tribesmen to stop the car. They got rid of the [local] driver and the accompanying guard and drove away” in the vehicle which belonged to a tour company, the official added.

US research Genetic variation may lead to early cardiovascular disease

WASHINGTON, 2 Jan — Researchers from Duke University Medical Centre have identified a variation in a particular gene that increases susceptibility to early coronary artery disease, the open-access journal PLoS Genetics reported on Friday.

In a previous study, a region on Chromosome 7 was linked to coronary artery disease (CAD). More recently, the researchers focused on identifying the gene in this region that confers risk of early-onset CAD and identified it as the neuropeptide Y (NPY) gene. The NPY is one of the most plentiful and important proteins in the body and is a neurotransmitter related to the control of appetite and feeding behavior, among other functions.

The current research, led by Sviati Shah and Elizabeth Hauser, found evidence for six related variations in the NPY gene that show evidence of transmission from generation to generation and association across a population of early-onset CAD patients.

The researchers evaluated 1,000 families for CAD or evidence of a true heart attack, as part of the GENECARD study put together by the Duke University Cardiology Consortium. An independent, nonfamilial study used a collection of samples of nearly everyone who had an angiogram at Duke since 2001.

Bug’ could combat dengue fever

BRISBANE, 3 Jan — Humans could be protected from dengue fever by infecting the mosquitoes carrying it with a parasite which halves their lifespan, say researchers. Australian scientists, writing in the journal Science, found that Wolbachia bacteria spread well through laboratory-bred mosquitoes.

Only older mosquitoes pass on dengue — so killing them could cut disease. Experts said it remained to be seen how well the bacteria would spread outside the laboratory. The virus might also adapt to survive, they added. Many thousands of cases of dengue fever occur worldwide each year, mainly in warmer tropical countries.

The virus is passed to humans when mosquitoes carrying it feed on their blood, and while there have been efforts to eradicate them using insecticides, some have become resistant to the chemicals used. The potential of Wolbachia as a way of controlling mosquito populations has been suggested for some time, but the latest study offers hope — albeit under laboratory conditions — that it might work. — Internet

Diamonds suggest comets caused killer cold spell

WASHINGTON, 3 Jan — Tiny diamonds sprinkled across North America suggest a “swarm” of comets hit the Earth around 13,000 years ago, kicking up enough disruption to send the planet into a cold spell and drive mammals and other creatures into extinction, scientists reported on Friday.

They suggest an event that would transcend anything Biblical — a series of blinding explosions in the atmosphere equivalent to thousands of atomic bombs, the researchers said. The so-called nano-diamonds are made under high-temperature, high-pressure conditions created by cosmic impacts, similar to an explosion over Tunguska in Siberia that flattened trees for miles in 1908.

Doug Kennett of the University of Oregon and colleagues found the little diamonds at sites from Arizona to South Carolina and into Alberta and Manitoba in Canada. They are buried at a level that corresponds to the beginning 12,900 years ago of the Younger Deyas, a 1,300-year-long cold spell during which North American mammoths, saber-toothed cats, camels and giant sloths became extinct. The Clovis culture of American Indians also appears to have fallen apart during this time. Bones of these animals, and Clovis artifacts, are abundant before this time. Excavations show a dark “matt” of carbon-rich material separates the bones and artifacts from emptier and younger layers. — Internet

A flooded paddy field is seen in Vietnam’s central province of Quang Ngai on 2 Jan, 2009. Unseasonal floods brought by rains this week have killed at least five people in central Vietnam while 10 others remained missing, the government and state-run media said on Saturday. — Internet

Scientists found that Wolbachia bacteria spread well through laboratory-bred mosquitoes.
**SPORTS**

*Ferguson challenges misfiring United to run riot at Southampton*

Manchester United’s South Korean midfielder Park Ji-Sung.

Manager Sir Alex Ferguson has challenged his misfiring players to use this weekend’s FA Cup third round trip to Southampton as an opportunity to rediscover their scoring touch. — Internet

United have not scored more than one goal in a Premier League game since beating Stoke 5-3 at Old Trafford in November. Ferguson is anxious to put that statistic right at the St Mary’s Stadium on Sunday ahead of a potentially crucial league meeting with Chelsea next weekend. “Every game is an opportunity to score goals,” Ferguson said. “We made 25 chances against Middlesbrough on Monday and scored once. It is not what we expect but with the players we have, you have to think someone is going to suffer.”

The goalscoring will correct expect but with the players we have, you have to think someone is going to suffer.” — The New Light of Myanmar

**CROSWORDS PUZZLE**

**ACROSS**
1 Lord
4 Tranquility
8 Way of travel
9 Echo
10 Those who make salt
11 Thin
12 Undermine
14 Prepare for publication
15 Irritable
18 Resort
21 Uncouth
23 Toffee
25 Ostracise
26 Shouts
27 Girl’s name
28 Floor

**DOWN**
1 Gloomy
2 Sordid and dingy
3 Powers of nature
4 Mail
5 Revile
6 Termination
7 Garb
13 Ibsen verse play (4,4)
16 Wild speculator
17 Limp
19 Sharp
20 Shuny
22 Faithful
24 Unite

**SOUTHAMPTON, 3 Jan—Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson has challenged his misfiring players to use this weekend’s FA Cup third round trip to Southampton as an opportunity to rediscover their scoring touch.—Internet**

Andy Murray returns to Swiss Roger Federer during their match on day two of the three-day Capitalia World Tennis Championship in Abu Dhabi. Murray won the match 4-6, 6-2, 7-6. — Internet

United have not scored more than one goal in a Premier League game since beating Stoke 5-3 at Old Trafford in November. Ferguson is anxious to put that statistic right at the St Mary’s Stadium on Sunday ahead of a potentially crucial league meeting with Chelsea next weekend. “Every game is an opportunity to score goals,” Ferguson said. “We made 25 chances against Middlesbrough on Monday and scored once. It is not what we expect but with the players we have, you have to think someone is going to suffer.” The goalscoring will correct expect but with the players we have, you have to think someone is going to suffer.” — The New Light of Myanmar

**CROSWORDS PUZZLE**

**ACROSS**
1 Lord
4 Tranquility
8 Way of travel
9 Echo
10 Those who make salt
11 Thin
12 Undermine
14 Prepare for publication
15 Irritable
18 Resort
21 Uncouth
23 Toffee
25 Ostracise
26 Shouts
27 Girl’s name
28 Floor

**DOWN**
1 Gloomy
2 Sordid and dingy
3 Powers of nature
4 Mail
5 Revile
6 Termination
7 Garb
13 Ibsen verse play (4,4)
16 Wild speculator
17 Limp
19 Sharp
20 Shuny
22 Faithful
24 Unite

**EVERTON manager Moyes lauded ahead of Macclesfield tie**

Everton’s Scottish manager David Moyes, has been hailed as “one of football’s great managers” for propelling injury-hit Everton into the Premier League’s top six this season against the odds. — Internet

**CHICAGO, 3 Jan—Former world number one Roger Federer produced some magical moments, but that wasn’t enough to prevent a fourth loss in his last five matches to the fast-improving Andy Murray here on Friday. In the semi-finals of the Capitalia World Tennis Championship, an exhibition shootout being played at the Zayed Sports City tennis stadium, Scotsman Murray prevailed in three sets 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (8-6).

The world number four next takes on the top-ranked player in the world, Rafael Nadal in the final after the Spaniard’s explosive powerplay proved to hot for Russian world number five Nikolay Davydenko to handle. Nadal won 6-2, 6-3. The winner of the Nadal-Murray final takes home the entire purse of $250,000 in the shootout tournament. — Internet

**EVERTON manager Moyes lauded ahead of Macclesfield tie**

Everton’s Scottish manager David Moyes, has been hailed as “one of football’s great managers” for propelling injury-hit Everton into the Premier League’s top six this season against the odds. — Internet

**CHICAGO, 3 Jan—Former world number one Roger Federer produced some magical moments, but that wasn’t enough to prevent a fourth loss in his last five matches to the fast-improving Andy Murray here on Friday. In the semi-finals of the Capitalia World Tennis Championship, an exhibition shootout being played at the Zayed Sports City tennis stadium, Scotsman Murray prevailed in three sets 4-6, 6-2, 7-6 (8-6).

The world number four next takes on the top-ranked player in the world, Rafael Nadal in the final after the Spaniard’s explosive powerplay proved to hot for Russian world number five Nikolay Davydenko to handle. Nadal won 6-2, 6-3. The winner of the Nadal-Murray final takes home the entire purse of $250,000 in the shootout tournament. — Internet

**Up offers way out of Wenger’s woes**

**LONDON, 3 Jan—Arsene Wenger may still talk up his Arsenal side’s title prospects but the manager knows the FA Cup third round tie with Plymouth Argyle is almost as important for the Gunners as the Premier League. Wenger brought the curtain down on a miserable year by confidently declaring his current side to be on the verge of greatness. That may look wildly optimistic after a year that began badly with the horrific leg-break suffered by Eduardo da Silva and was later marred by the extraordinary in-fighting that led to William Gallas being stripped of the captaincy and further long-term injuries to Theo Walcott and Cesc Fabregas, with Matthieu Flamini, Alexander Hleb and Gilberto Silva all having left in the pre-season without being adequately replaced, it seems as if Arsenal are even further away from ending a three-season long trophy drought than they were this time last year. — Internet**

**Low-key top-gun Gignac looks for French Cup boost**

**PARIS, 3 Jan—French league top scorer Andre-Pierre Gignac has hit 12 goals this season but not the headlines. Now he hopes that his hot form will continue when he leads the TouFFE attack into action against fellow first division outfit Valenciennes in the last 64 of the French Cup on Saturday. Gignac, a bit-part player from the bench last season, is also hopeful that the new year will bring him international recognition from Les Bleus coach Raymond Domenech with a host of crucial World Cup qualifiers on the horizon. “I have been putting in a lot of work,” said the man bought from Lorient to replace giant Swede Johan Elmander, twice the club’s top scorer with 11 goals, who was transferred to English side Bolton. — Internet**

**Romance of the Cup takes on harder edge**

**LONDON, 3 Jan—the third round of the FA Cup is a time in the knockout competition renowned for shocks and ‘giantkilling’ exploits. But the advent of the January transfer window and the pressing financial need for Premier League clubs to avoid relegation have dulled some of the lustre from the world’s oldest senior knockout football competition. This time last year then Reading striker Dave Kitson summed up a growing, if not so bluntly voiced, mood by saying: “We are not going to win the FA Cup and I do not give two shits about it, to be honest.” — Internet**
Sri Lanka captures rebel HQs;
three killed in Colombo

COLOMBO, 3 Jan—Sri Lankan troops captured the Tamil Tigers’ headquarters town on Friday morn of the biggest setbacks for the rebels in years, but in an apparent riposte a suspected suicide bomber killed three airmen in the capital Colombo.

Troops fought their way into the separatist stronghold of Kilinochchi deep in the north, dealing a heavy blow to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). Details of casualties from the fighting were not immediately available.

“It was the constant dream of all Sri Lankans, whether Sinhala, Tamil or Muslim, who are opposed to separatism, racism, and terrorism, and have always, sought peace, freedom and democracy,” President Mahinda Rajapaksa said in a nationally televised address. “Today our heroic troops have made that dream a reality. A short while ago, our brave and heroic troops have fully captured Kilinochchi that was considered the main bastion of the LTTE.”—MNA/Reuters

A convoy of buses loaded with Russians evacuated from Gaza Strip are seen after crossing Allenby Bridge into Jordan on 2 Jan, 2009. Five buses carrying around 200 foreigners, mostly Russians, who were stuck in Gaza, crossed the Allenby Bridge into Jordan and headed to Ivan Elenko, International Airport to board two planes that were in standby to fly them to Moscow.—INTERNET

Three children, man found dead in E Canadian home

OTTAWA, 3 Jan—Three children and a man were found dead in a residence in eastern Canada, but the reason of the deaths remains unknown, reports reaching here said on Friday.

The bodies and an injured woman were found late Thursday night in a home north of Quebec City, capital of Quebec Province, police said.

The woman is in stable condition in hospital in Saguenay, about 250 kilometers north of Quebec City. The feature of her injuries is not clear.

Police received a call from the woman late Thursday night and found the bodies. Quebec provincial police are investigating the case. Other details are not immediately available. MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring areas

Saturday, 3 January, 2009

WEATHER

Summary observations recorded at 09:30 hr

MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain have been isolated in Kachin and Shan States, weather has been partly cloudy in Mon State, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (5°C) below January average temperatures in Chin State, (3°C) below January average temperatures in upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Shan, Rakhine, Kayah and Mon States, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and about January average temperature in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (-2°C), Lodd (2°C) and Namsa (4°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kengtung (0.47 inch).

Maximum temperature on 3-1-2009 was 193°F. Minimum temperature on 3-1-2009 was 63°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 3-1-2009 was 66%. Total sunshine hours on 2-1-2009 was (8.61)hrs approx. Rainfall on 3-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mandalay, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mandalay, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5)mph from Southeast at (14:30) hours MST on 2-1-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 4th January 2009:

Light rain are possible in Kachin and Shan States, Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Mon State, upper Sagiag, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the Upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 4-1-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-1-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 4-1-2009: Generally fair weather.

Three children and a man were found dead in a residence in eastern Canada, but the reason of the deaths remains unknown, reports reaching here said on Friday.

The bodies and an injured woman were found late Thursday night in a home north of Quebec City, capital of Quebec Province, police said.

The woman is in stable condition in hospital in Saguenay, about 250 kilometers north of Quebec City. The feature of her injuries is not clear.

Police received a call from the woman late Thursday night and found the bodies. Quebec provincial police are investigating the case. Other details are not immediately available. MNA/Xinhua

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring areas

Saturday, 3 January, 2009

WEATHER

Summary observations recorded at 09:30 hr

MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain have been isolated in Kachin and Shan States, weather has been partly cloudy in Mon State, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (5°C) below January average temperatures in Chin State, (3°C) below January average temperatures in upper Sagaing Division, (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Shan, Rakhine, Kayah and Mon States, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and about January average temperature in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Hakha (-2°C), Lodd (2°C) and Namsa (4°C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kengtung (0.47 inch).

Maximum temperature on 3-1-2009 was 193°F. Minimum temperature on 3-1-2009 was 63°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 3-1-2009 was 66%. Total sunshine hours on 2-1-2009 was (8.61)hrs approx. Rainfall on 3-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mandalay, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mandalay, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5)mph from Southeast at (14:30) hours MST on 2-1-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 4th January 2009:

Light rain are possible in Kachin and Shan States, Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Mon State, upper Sagiag, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of slight increase of night temperatures in the Upper Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 4-1-2009: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-1-2009: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 4-1-2009: Generally fair weather.
Four political objectives
* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives
* Development of agriculture as the base and all-round development of other sectors of the economy as well
* Proper evolution of the market-oriented economic system
* Development of the economy inviting participation in terms of technical know-how and investments from sources inside the country and abroad
* The initiative to shape the national economy must be kept in the hands of the State and the national peoples

Four social objectives
* Uplift of the morale and morality of the entire nation
* Uplift of national prestige and integrity and preservation and safeguarding of cultural heritage and national character
* Uplift of dynamism of patriotic spirit
* Uplift of health, fitness and education standards of the entire nation

---

**International level high school syllabuses, teacher manuals and refresher courses in force this academic year**

**Secretary-1 attends School Family Day for 2008-2009 academic year**

The Ministry of Education held School Family Day for 2008-2009 academic year at No. (1) Basic Education High School here this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo.

Also present on the occasion were ministers, deputy ministers, MEC members, senior military officers, departmental heads, service personnel, district and township education officers of Nay Pyi Taw, principals, teachers and students.

The Secretary-1 inspected academic development booth, practical education promotion booth, IT booth, booth on academic performances, literacy campaigns (2008), establishment of community learning centres, measures for practical science and development, generation of solar energy and wind power staged by universities and some basic education high schools have access to Internet.

Since 1998-1999 academic years, school family day has been held in every academic year to honour students who have showed brilliant performances in all-round education development plans. Like in Nay Pyi Taw, universities, education (See page 9)

---

**HONOURING THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY:**

Nav Pyi Taw, 3 Jan—

The Ministry of Education held School Family Day for 2008-2009 academic year at No. (1) Basic Education High School here this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo.

In his address at the awarding ceremony, the Secretary-1 said that the Union of Myanmar is being transformed into a peaceful, modern and developed nation with flourishing discipline to achieve the national goal of the entire people.

In the process, human resources capable of coping with a variety of international level challenges with national outlook are being produced under the plans concerned in the basic education and higher education sectors.

All universities and colleges and some basic education high schools have access to Internet.