



Established 1914

The NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Volume XVII, Number 263

5th Waning of Pyatho 1371 ME

Monday, 4 January, 2010

Entire national people to remain vigilant at all times against dangers posed by neo-colonialists

Pursuing national goal is, in fact, laying substantial foundations for a prosperous future of the nation

The following is a translation of the message sent on the occasion of the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe.

It is an honour for me to extend my warmest greetings to all national people of the Union on the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, an auspicious day.

Myanmar, where various national races make their home in unity and amity, has stood tall as a sovereign nation with own monarchs in the international community since time immemorial.

In late 19th century, Myanmar fell under the yoke of colonial rule and lost sovereignty and independence. Inspired by a strong sense of patriotism, Union Spirit and the fervour of making sacrifices in the interest of the nation and the people, national brethren bravely fought back the colonialists. As a result, the Union of Myanmar regained independence and sovereignty. Today, Independence Day enters 62nd anniversary.

The people of various national races always uphold the bounden duty or historic lessons such as non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of sovereignty. Therefore, Myanmar again stands tall as a sovereign nation.

It is required of the entire national people to remain vigilant at all times against dangers

posed by neo-colonialists, and to make sustained efforts, putting the national policy in the fore and exerting patriotism for ensuring perpetuity of the motherland. Now, many projects are ongoing simultaneously for ensuring equitable development of all parts of the Union, and improving the living conditions of the people. Pursuing the national goal of building a peaceful, modern and developed nation with might and main is, in fact, laying substantial foundations for a prosperous future of the nation. While nation-building tasks were in full swing, the nation was hit hard by Cyclone "Nargis". However, rescue, rehabilitation, reconstruction and regional development tasks could be launched promptly and effectively in the storm-hit areas. Now, the living standard of the survivors is far better than that previously, thus reflecting the consolidated unity and brilliant performances of the government, the people and the Tatmadaw.

The State's seven-step Road Map designed for emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed nation is the sole process for transition to democracy. The programme is in the process of being implemented step by step. Now, the new State constitution has been approved with massive support of the people. Plans are

under way to hold elections in a systematic way this year. In that regard, the entire people have to make correct choices, then.

On the occasion of the Independence Day, I would like to exhort the entire people of various national races, with firm determination that the ultimate goal of the public—to build a peaceful, modern and developed nation—must come to fruition, to harmoniously see to the four objectives of the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day (2010):

- (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 to build up a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accordance with the new State Constitution that has been approved by the votes of the great majority of the people,
- (4) All the national people to cooperate in realizing the State's seven-step Road Map with Union Spirit and patriotic spirit.

State Peace and Development Council issues notifications to confer titles, medals

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—The State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar on the 62nd Anniversary Independence Day (4 January 2010) (today) issued Notification No (1/2010) to confer religious titles on prominent Sayadaws (abbots), Ganthadhura Pariyatti lecturer Sayadaws, Vipassana

Dhura Patipatti Kammathanacariya Instructor Sayadaws, Roving Dhamma Preachers and national and foreign missionary figures; Notification No (2/2010) to confer titles and medals; Notification No (3/2010) to present Myanmar War Veterans Thingaha Medal; Notification No (4/2010) to present good mili-

tary service medal; Notification No (5/2010) to present good civil service medal; Notification No (6/2010) to present good police service medal; Notification No (7/2010) to present police service medal; and Notification No (8/2010) to present civil service medal and community peace and order restoration medal.—MNA

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

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

Union of Myanmar State Peace and Development Council Notification No. 1/2010 5th Waning of Pyatho, 1371 M.E. (4th January 2010)

The State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar has conferred religious titles on the following Most Venerable Sayadaws, Ganthadhura Pariyatti Lecturer Sayadaws, Vipassanadhura Patipatti Kammathanaçariya Instructor Sayadaws, Roving Dhamma Preachers, national and foreign missionary figures and outstanding donors of the Four Essentials to the Buddha Sasana.

Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Title

1. Bhaddanta Vimalabhivamsa, Pakhan Monastery, Ward 2, Shwebo, Sagaing Division
2. Bhaddanta Neminda, Maha Wizayayama (East) Monastery, Ward 1, Pakokku, Magway Division
3. Bhaddanta Paññasiri, Ngwetaung Tawya Monastery, Bo Min Yaung Ward, Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon

Tipitakadhara Dhammabhandagarika Title

1. Bhaddanta Indapala, Tipitaka Nikaya Monastery, Momeik Hill, Sagaing Mountain Range, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
2. Bhaddanta Sundara, Sunlungu Vipassana Monastery, Ward 16/2, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Division

Agga Maha Pandita Title

1. Bhaddanta Supakatabhivamsa, Shwebogyi Monastery, Ward 6, Tougoo, Bago Division
2. Bhaddanta Nandobhasabhivamsa, Withokdayon Baranasi Monastery, Nawin Ward, Pyay, Bago Division (West)
3. Bhaddanta Sobhanabhivamsa, U Zagaragyi Monastery, Dekkhinayama Phayagyi Monastery, Kyunlon Okshaung Ward, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Division
4. Bhaddanta Supannalankara, Dhammapala Yehla Monastery, Chanthagyi South Monastery, Thirimalar West Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Division
5. Bhaddanta Sujana, Bagan Monastery, Maha Wizayarama Khinmagan Monastery, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Division
6. Bhaddanta Nanosuriya, Dhammamedani Monastery, Aungkyin Ward, Thaton, Mon State
7. Bhaddanta Indasiri, Phala Zaytawunkyaung Pariyatti Monastery, Thirimarlar Ward, Ye, Mon State
8. Bhaddanta Janita, Maha Santi Sukha Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Natchaung Ward, Tamway Township, Yangon Division
9. Bhaddanta Visuddhaçara, Phayagyi Monastery, Phayagyi Ward, Hinthada, Ayeyawady Division

Title recipient Sayadaws from abroad

10. Bhaddanta Dhammananda, (Ven. Mahopadaya Aluthgama Dhammananda Thero), Malwatta Monastery, Kandy, Sri Lanka

11. Bhaddanta Nanavimala, (Ven. Bellana Gnanavimala Thero, Sri Samagrdharma Mahasanghasabha Monastery), Kotte, Sri Lanka

Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Title

1. Bhaddanta Tejananda, Yadana Gonyi Yeiktha, Myeik, Taninthayi Division
2. Dr Bhaddanta Paññissara, Dhammaduta Tawya Sasana Yeiktha, Bule-in Village, Bago Township,

Bago Division

Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Title

1. Bhaddanta Paññanandabhivamsa, Maha Thandayon Monastery, Thalla Myothit, Monywa, Sagaing Division
2. Bhaddanta Khemaçara, Kangale Tawya Shwegyinkyaung Monastery, Megon Ward, Ottwin, Bago Division
3. Bhaddanta Çintitabhivamsa, Shwegyin South Pariyatti Monastery, Buta South Ward, Pyu, Bago Division
4. Bhaddanta Kusala, Minphu Monastery, Hsandaw Ward, Pyay, Bago Division (West)
5. Bhaddanta Neminda, Yadanamanaung Tawya Pariyatti Monastery, Ywabe Ward, Pyay, Bago Division (West)
6. Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa, Maha Wizayayama Pali Tekkatho Monastery, North Shadaw Village, Hsinbyukyun, Salin Township, Magway Division
7. Bhaddanta Adiççavamsa, Wegyi Pariyatti Monastery, Wegyi Village, Pobbithiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw
8. Bhaddanta Uttara, Eindayama Monastery, Hsinwepu Ward, Amarapura Township, Mandalay Division
9. Bhaddanta Paduma, Pakokku Monastery, Koehsaung Taik, Ward 10, Myingyan, Mandalay Division
10. Bhaddanta Sudassanabhivamsa, Shwetheindaw Taungkyauing Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 5, Madaya, Mandalay Division
11. Bhaddanta Ankura, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Dawnabwa Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Division
12. Bhaddanta Viççitta, Dhammamedani Monastery, Aukkyin Ward, Thaton, Mon State
13. Bhaddanta Çandobhasa, Myazedi Monastery, Maunggan Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State
14. Bhaddanta Nanavamsa, Ledi Taungpawkyauing Pariyatti Monastery, Kyeintali, Gwa Township, Rakhine State
15. Bhaddanta Paññananda, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Ward 7, Mayangon Township, Yangon Division
16. Bhaddanta Viveka, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Ward 7, Mayangon Township, Yangon Division
17. Bhaddanta Medhavi, Sasana Waiponlla Myole Monastery, Heho, Kalaw Township, Shan State
18. Bhaddanta Manitalankara, Maunghtaung Kyaung Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 2, Pathein, Ayeyawady Division

Nuns

19. Nun Daw Paññasiri, Myo Yin Yin Nunnery, Kaba Aye Corner, Thawtapan Ward, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
20. Nun Daw Nanobhasi, Aletawya Thameikdawdaya Mawlamyine Nunnery, Shwetaunggyar Ward 2, Bahan Township, Yangon Division

Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Title

1. Bhaddanta Sobhita, NanU Pariyatti Monastery, Nandawya Ward, Bago, Bago Division
2. Bhaddanta Javanatikka, Mingala Zeyon Pali Tekkatho Monastery, Ywagauk Ward, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana
3. Bhaddanta Indakasaraabhivamsa, Alekyaung Pariyatti Monastery, Kamakahsit Ward, Dalla Township, Yangon Division

Ganthavaçaka Pandita Title

1. Bhaddanta Kevala, Athawkyon Monastery, Yankin Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Division
2. Bhaddanta Nandobhasa, Dhamma Paragu Pali Tekkatho Monastery, Sulegon Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Division
3. Bhaddanta Kosalla, Gawthitayama Pali Tekkatho Monastery, Kanyon Ward, Dawei, Taninthayi Di-

vision

4. Bhaddanta Paññajota, MyoU Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 1, Yedashe, Bago Division
5. Bhaddanta Çanda, Maha Withutayama (Middle) Monastery, Ward 10, Pakokku, Magway Division
6. Bhaddanta Nandobhasa, Sasana Mamaka Pariyatti Monastery, Nyaungbin Village, Natogyi Township, Mandalay Division
7. Bhaddanta Paññadipa, Maniyadana Aletakkyi Monastery, Tumaung Monastery, Shwegwanhtoke Ward, Amarapura Township, Mandalay Division
8. Bhaddanta Pannava, Manaung Pariyatti Monastery, Yanaung (2) Ward, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana
9. Bhaddanta Pandiçça, Sasanahita Neinmita Aye Kyaung Monastery, Thingaza Taik, Yadanasa Ward, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Division
10. Bhaddanta Aggavamsa, Kyaungtaw Monastery, Megawady Taungthaman Monastery, Thiriheima West Ward, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Division
11. Bhaddanta Janeya, Yadanabon Monastery, West Htilin Monastery, Thiriheima East Ward, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Division
12. Bhaddanta Kovida, Pyinnyadikayon Monastery, Ohnbinchan Village, Singaing Township, Mandalay Division
13. Bhaddanta Sumana, Maha Thutathawma Shwebontha Monastery, Pyigyipyawbwe West Ward, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Division
14. Bhaddanta Aggadhamma, Khamawin Monastery, Myataung Monastery, Yadanabonmi West Ward, Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay Division
15. Bhaddanta Kovida, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Dawnabwa Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Division
16. Bhaddanta Kossala, Atulayanaung Monastery, Hline Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State
17. Bhaddanta Paññajota, Bawdayaryama Pariyatti Monastery, Guta Ward, Taungup, Rakhine State
18. Bhaddanta Khemissara, Khemathawun Monastery, Awataung Village, Yanbye Township, Rakhine State
19. Bhaddanta Nandabhivamsa, Dhammaçariya Monastery, Phayaphyu Monastery, Ward 10, Pazundaung Township, Yangon Division
20. Bhaddanta Revatananda, Hsutaungpyae Monastery, Taunglonbyan Ward, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Division
21. Bhaddanta Uttamaçara, Linlunbin Pariyatti Monastery, Linlun South Ward, Sangyoung Township, Yangon Division
22. Bhaddanta Çandobhasa, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Ward 7, Mayangon Township, Yangon Division
23. Bhaddanta Vepulla, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Ward 7, Mayangon Township, Yangon Division
24. Bhaddanta Çakkinda, Sankyaung Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 2, Ingapu, Ayeyawady Division
25. Bhaddanta Punna, Aungmyethasi Monastery, Ward 9, Maubin, Ayeyawady Division
26. Bhaddanta Jagara, Nandayon Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 12, Maubin, Ayeyawady Division
27. Bhaddanta Revata, Ohnbin Pariyatti Monastery, Ohnbin Village, Kyonmange, Wakema Township, Ayeyawady Division
28. Bhaddanta Paññatikka, Masoeeyin Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 3, Kyaiklat, Ayeyawady Division
29. Bhaddanta Nandiya, Mingala Aungmye Monastery, Ward 7, Pathein, Ayeyawady Division

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Nuns

30. Nun Daw Kulavati, Saddhammayanthi Nunnery, Nandawun Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Division
31. Nun Daw Tinnavati, Yadana Manaung Nunnery, Kayatpyin Ward, Dawei, Taninthayi Division
32. Nun Daw Nanavati, Dhammikayon Nunnery, Ywabe Ward, Pyay, Bago Division (West)

33. Nun Daw Kulaçari, Zeyamedani Myoma Pariyatti Nunnery, Ward 4, Yesago, Magway Division

Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Title

1. Bhaddanta Kovida, Htongyi Taung Monastery, Htongyi Village, Kyungale Village-tract, Kanma Township, Magway Division
2. Bhaddanta Tiloka, Thandawsint Monastery, Maha Withokdayon Taikthit, Daewun East Ward, Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay Division
3. Bhaddanta Indaka, Dewathagara Theingon Monastery, Dhammikayon Pali Tekkatho Monastery, Theinbyu Railway Ward, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Division

Title recipient Sayadaws from abroad

4. Bhaddanta Kheminda, Kaba Aye Zedi Monastery, Mekari Park, Moji Ward, Kitakyushu, Fukuoka Prefecture, Japan

Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Title

1. Bhaddanta Kalyana, Nyaungbintha Monastery, Nyaungbintha Village, Bhamo Township, Kachin State
2. Bhaddanta Sumangalasami, Abhayathukha Monastery, Kyaikphane Block, Wadan Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State
3. Bhaddanta Vayaminda, Shwemyaya Pariyatti Monastery and Shwemaya Monastic Education Middle School, Shwemyaya Village, Hmawby Township, Yangon Division
4. Bhaddanta Kelasa, Gangaw Tahtaung Monastery, Pechaunggyi Village, Malawt Village-tract, Bogale Township, Ayeyawady Division

Title recipient Sayadaws from abroad

5. Bhaddanta Kobanna, Wat Sripravat Plaibang Bangkruai, Northaburi, Bangkok, Thailand
6. Ven. Bounma SIMMAPHOM Ban Fai Temple, Xaysetha District, Vientiane Capital City, Laos
7. Ven. Samdech Preah Maha Somedhadhipatey, Nount Nget, Cambodia
8. Ven. Shi Fa Zhao, Buddha Tooth Relic Monastery, Buddhist Gold Temple, Singapore

Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Title

1. Bhaddanta Nanissara, Parahita Nyaungzin

Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre, Pruhsa, Kayah State

2. Bhaddanta Viçara, Shwegun Ahtet Monastery and Kanni Pariyatti + Patipatti Monastery, Shwegun Model Village, Hlaingbwe, Kayin State
3. Bhaddanta Ariyavamsa, Therava Buddhist Missionary Center, Balai Ward, Falam, Chin State
4. Bhaddanta Tikkhindariya, Yayle Parahita Monastery, Dulabo Village, Myingyan Township, Mandalay Division
5. Bhaddanta Nana, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Kayein Village, Maungdaw Township, Rakhine State
6. Bhaddanta Varitta, Phapyaw Central Missionary Monastery, Phapyaw Village, Minbya Township, Rakhine State
7. Bhaddanta Sobhita, NanU Monastery, NanU Monastic Education School, Ward 107, Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Division
8. Bhaddanta Ketumala, Aungzabu Pariyatti Monastery, Monastic Education School and Youth Development Parahita House, Peinnegon Village-tract, Hsinschan Village, Kawhmu Township, Yangon Division
9. Bhaddanta Paññobhassa, Myatheindan Missionary Pariyatti Monastery and Parahita Monastic Education School, Hopang Township, Shan State (North)
10. Bhaddanta Dhammapala, Therava Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Namhkat Monastic Education School, Nahkat Village, Taungpaw (5) Village-tract, Kengtung, Shan State (East)

Title recipient Sayadaws from abroad

11. Bhikkhu Nandisena, Dhamma Vihara Monastery, Mexico
12. Bhaddanta Lokanatha, Dhammadipa Vihara Monastery, Kingston, Jamaica
13. Ven. Shi Chang Zang, Ling Guang Monastery, Beijing, People's Republic of China
14. Bhaddanta Ven. Dr. Jinabodhi Bhikkhu, Chittagong Buddhist Monastery, Buddhist Pagoda Road, Chittagong, Bangladesh
15. Bhaddanta Obhassa, Myanmar Monastery, Thawuhti, Uttara Pradesh (UP) State, India
16. Bhaddanta Bodhisena, Bawdisariya Monastery, Kabare Township, Bhagmati State, Nepal
17. Bhaddanta Uttama, Dhammapala Monastery, Kandersteg, Switzerland

Nuns

18. Nun Daw Khemaçari, Sasana Gonyi Nunnery and Nunnery School, Nanwington Ward, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Division
19. Mae Chee San Samee Sthirasuta Sathira

Dhammasathan Foundation, 24/5 Watcharaphol, Ramindar 55Rd, Bangkok, Bangkok, 10230, Thailand

Lay person

20. U Bogale (a) U Bo Thaug, Nyaungbintha (6) Ward, Kalay, Sagaing Division

Title recipient lay person from abroad

21. Mr. Richardo Vieira Sasaki, Riodejaneiro RJ, Brazil

Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Title

1. Bhaddanta Pandita, Panyeindayama Seiktathukha Monastery, Kondangyi Laythagon Village, Mogaung Township, Kachin State
2. Bhaddanta Silaçara, Theravada Buddhist Missionary School, Wamgon Village, Loikaw Township, Kayah State
3. Bhaddanta Jatila, Myoma Missionary Monastery, Pyidawtha Ward, Haka, Chin State
4. Bhaddanta Sundara, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Phamaung Village, Hkamti Township, Sagaing Division
5. Bhaddanta Indavamsa, Letpanchaung Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastic Education School, Letpanchaung Village, Kalay Township, Sagaing Division
6. Bhaddanta Nandalankara, Myoma Yayle Monastery, Ward 11, Thongwa, Yangon Division
7. Bhaddanta Kodanña, Border Region Pariyatti Missionary Kainggon Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 10, Tangyan, Shan State (North)
8. Bhaddanta Çandasiri, Matkhan Missionary Centre, Matkhan Village, Kathaik Village-tract, Kengtung Township, Shan State (East)
9. Bhaddanta Çintasiddhi, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Kanhla Village, Thabyegon Village-tract, Pinlaung Township, Shan State
10. Bhaddanta Tejavamsa, Pyinnyayanthi Hnakeyik Shithsu Monastery, Maletto Village, Taputta Naunggyi Village-tract, Maubin Township, Ayeyawady Division

Nuns

11. Nun Daw Nandi, Chanmye Myinzuri Nunnery, 3rd-Mile Shwepyitha Monastery, Bhamo, Kachin State
12. Nun Daw Wunnasingi, Kanbawza Theingi, No. 1 Post-Primary Nunnery Education School, Mongyu 105-mile Village, Muse Township, Shan State (North)

Agga Maha Kammathanaçariya Title

1. Bhaddanta Obhassa, Mahasi Nyaungan Aye Kanle Monastery, Sasana Yeiktha, Ward 2, Thegon Township, Bago Division (West)
2. Bhaddanta Aloka, Peinkan Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery, Peinkan Model Village, Kayan Township, Yangon Division
3. Bhaddanta Nanasami, Dhammasekkyia Patipat Yeiktha Monastery, No. 20-A, Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Yankin Township, Yangon Division

Maha Kammathanaçariya Title

1. Bhaddanta Jotika, Mahasi Buddhist Sasana Yeiktha, Kanphya Ward, Myeik, Taninthayi Division
2. Bhaddanta Kusala, (Ashin Sin Tauk), Linju South Buddhist Missionary Centre, Hong Kong, China

Kammathanaçariya Title

1. Bhaddanta Uttaravamsa, Mula Sayagon Mogok Dhamma Yeiktha, Ward 6, Myanaung, Ayeyawady Division

By Order,

Sd/ Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo
General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

Dagon No. 1 BEHS holds school family day

YANGON, 3 Jan—The school family day celebration of No. 1 Basic Education High School of Dagon Township for 2009-2010 academic year was held at the school this morning.

Present on the occasion were Township Education Officer Daw San San Myint, Chairman of School Board of Trustees U Soe Nyunt, Vice-Chairman of Parent-Teacher Association UKhin Maung Lay, Headmaster Dr Aung Ko Ko, teachers, parents and students.

Having opened the school family day cutting a ribbon at the entrance to the school, the headmaster and guests viewed round market festivals and playgrounds. Next, the headmaster and officials presented prizes to outstanding students in literature, arts and sports.

NLM

Headmaster Dr Aung Ko Ko presents prize to an outstanding student at the school family day ceremony of Dagon No. 1 BEHS.—NLM





An elderly man sells tissues in central Athens. The eurozone's new year heralds a debt crisis that has alarm bells ringing and markets tracking government plans to tame the growing shortfall.—INTERNET

Eurozone faces 2010 debt crisis

FRANKFURT, 3 Jan.—The eurozone's new year heralds a debt crisis that has alarm bells ringing and markets tracking government plans to tame the growing shortfall.

Officials have borrowed heavily to pull the 16-nation zone out of its first recession, and debt levels are set to smash a huge hole in the ceiling set by the European Union in its Stability and Growth Pact. Soaring budget deficits, low growth and banking sector support "are feeding into significantly

higher public debt levels," the European Commission has warned.

Average eurozone "public debt could reach 84 percent of GDP (gross domestic product) by 2010, an increase of 18 percentage points from 2007," it said, far above the pact's limit of 60 percent. Government debt ratings have been downgraded in Greece by all three major international agencies, and by some of them in Ireland and Spain as well.

The Fitch agency has

urged all governments with top ratings to tame debt, mentioning in particular Britain, which is not a eurozone member, along with France and Spain, which are.

Germany, long considered the cornerstone of eurozone fiscal discipline, forecasts public debt at around 78 percent of GDP this year, while in France, the second biggest eurozone economy, public debt jumped to a record 75.8 percent in the third quarter of 2009.

Internet

New Zealand crude oil production rises 17%

WELLINGTON, 3 Jan.—New Zealand crude oil production increased 17 percent in the third quarter of 2009.

The increase, reported in the New Zealand Energy Quarterly, was largely due to the Maari field in the Taranaki Basin reaching full production, Energy and Resources Minister Gerry Brownlee said on Sunday.

"Increased production of crude oil is a step in the right direction, given the massive economic benefits of a buoyant petroleum industry. On the

back of this, production exports of crude and condensate were up 17 percent on the previous quarter," he said in a statement.

It was "heartening" to see production levels lifting with an intensive summer drilling season beginning, he added.

"New Zealand's petroleum resources are largely untapped - increasing ex-

ploration activities here is the first step in realizing the government's goal of a thriving industry."

The quarterly also found wind power was at a new high, accounting for more than 3 percent of total generation in the quarter, which was largely due to windy spring conditions and Meridian Energy's Wellington wind farm.—Xinhua

A male cardinal sits on a squirrel feeder hanging from the side of a tree in Moreland Hills, Ohio on 2 Jan, 2010. INTERNET



China expected to grow 9.5% in 2010

BEIJING, 3 Jan.—China is expected to grow by about 9.5 percent in 2010, state media has quoted a government think tank as saying, exceeding forecasts made by outside experts for the new year.

The world's third-largest economy will be boosted by double-digit growth in real estate investment and mild inflation, the State Council's Development Research Centre said on Friday in a report published in the *China Economic Times*.

"In 2010, the external environment will remain rather grim but it will not deteriorate further," Zhang Liqun, a macroeconomist at the centre, said in the report.

Zhang added that exports — a key driver of economic growth — would start to grow again in the coming year.

The think tank's 2010 economic growth forecast is well above Beijing's oft-stated target of eight percent — seen as crucial for job creation and ensuring social stability — and is higher than estimates for 2009.

For 2010, the Asian Development Bank has put its economic growth forecast for China at 8.9 percent, while the International Monetary Fund predicted growth of nine percent.—Internet



French industry fears revised carbon tax

PARIS, 3 Jan.—The French government's first job for 2010 is to revise its planned carbon emissions tax, raising fears among businesses they will be hurt by changes to the environmental measure. President Nicolas Sarkozy made the tax a pillar of his 2010 budget, aiming to reduce emissions by taxing them and redistributing the revenue to reward households that cut carbon fuel consumption. But while pursuing environmental reforms on the one hand, Sarkozy

risks jeopardising another of his major priorities: making French businesses more competitive.

The tax, which the government has been forced to revise after a court ruling on Wednesday, "will be a new blow for our exports and jobs," said Yvon Jacob, president of the Group of Industry Federations.

The constitutional court struck down the proposed tax just days before it was to kick in, ruling that it created inequalities by placing the burden of cuts on a minority.

The plan offered too many exemptions and would have allowed major polluters to dodge the tax, it ruled. This raised concerns among business leaders that efforts to even out the tax will harm their competitiveness.

Internet

Two hunters wait as they attend a wolf hunt near Kristinehamn, Sweden, on 2 Jan, 2009. Sweden launches its first wolf cull in 45 years following a decision by the country's parliament to control the species' numbers.—XINHUA

FAA watching American Airlines after 3 mishaps

FORT WORTH, 3 Jan.—The Federal Aviation Administration is increasing oversight of American Airlines after three mishaps during landings last month.

Jetliners' wingtips touched the ground during two landings, one in Charlotte, NC, on 13 Dec, the other in Austin, Texas, on 24 Dec. And in Jamaica, a plane overshot the runway during heavy rain on 22 Dec.

FAA officials said in a statement on Friday they will conduct a review of the mishaps to see if there might be a larger issue.

Internet



A staff member tests the pesticide residue of vegetables in an export company in Chengmai, a county in south China Hainan Province, on 29 Dec, 2009. The total export of Hainan's melons and vegetables amounted to 4.86 million tons, valuing 15.4 billion yuan. Some of them were exported to countries and regions like Central Asia, Japan, and Hong Kong. —XINHUA

Abbas to visit Cairo over peace talks resumption with Israel

RAMALLAH, 3 Jan—Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas will visit Cairo on Monday to talk with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on the Middle East peace, the Palestinian official news agency Wafa reported on Saturday. The two leaders will focus on the Egyptian efforts to resume peace talks between Israel and the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), according to Wafa.

Barakat al-Farra, the Palestinian ambassador in Cairo, said Abbas's visit is "important" since Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Abul Gheit would visit Washington on 8 Jan to hand over proposals aimed to help revive the

Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

Mubarak will also brief Abbas about his talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who visited Cairo on Tuesday.

The peace negotiations

between Israel and the PNA stopped in December 2008 and efforts to restart them failed due to the continuation of Jewish settlement in the West Bank and East Jerusalem. —Xinhua



Newlyweds go to the wedding site by black-roof boat in the ancient waterside town of Anchang in Shaoxing City, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 2 Jan, 2010. —XINHUA

Studies show boozing becoming too heavy a burden for Britain

LONDON, 3 Jan—Heavy drinking is causing Britain as many health problems as it is costing the country too much money that could have been spent on genuine health care, according to studies by medical expert groups.

One in six Britons drinks above sensible limits while one in 60 has a level of alcohol addiction and the so-called boozing culture costs Britain over 4 billion US dollars a year.

But these might be just the tip of an iceberg.

"With only one in 18

people dependent on alcohol receiving treatment ... we know that more needs to be done to help identify and treat patients," said Steve Barnett, chief executive of the National Health Service (NHS) Confederation which unveiled the figures in collaboration with the Royal College of Physicians.

This is because the bulk of the 4 billion spent on boozers goes to hospitals and ambulance services which are forced to deal with people who get into difficulties after drinking

too much, said the report compiled by the confederation and the college.

Half of all assaults are related to alcohol, along with more than a fifth of accidental deaths and almost a third of all suicides. —Xinhua

Swimmers hold onto a lifeguard's boat in the waters of English Bay in the pouring rain during the 90th annual Polar Bear Swim in Vancouver, British Columbia on 1 Jan, 2010. —XINHUA

Vietnam to chair ASEAN for 2010 period

JAKARTA, 3 Jan—Vietnam will officially chair the Association of the South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in period in 2010, replacing Thailand, the detikcom online news quoted a statement as saying on Saturday.

Vietnam will lead the organization to 31 Dec with the theme of "Toward ASEAN Community: from Vision to Mission." In the Press release, the organization's Secretary-General Surin Pitsuwan said that he was

impressed with Vietnam's preparation in taking over the leadership.

"The new leader has a priority set and useful agenda as an implementation guidance and a support for member countries, the ASEAN Secretariat, the ASEAN's dialog partners and other external parties," said Surin.

In its next one-year leadership, Vietnam will focus on cooperation with other member countries in accelerating the realiza-

tion of various agreements, plans and programmes.

Surin also stated his highest appreciation to Thailand for its very good leadership in 2009.

Surin welcomed Vietnam as the new leader and was hoping tighter coordination between the ASEAN Secretariat and Vietnam.

The ASEAN was established in 8 Aug, 1967 while Vietnam joined the association in 28 July, 1995. —Xinhua

All items from Xinhua News Agency

British-flagged ship hijacked by Somali pirates

SOFIA, 3 Jan—A British-flagged cargo ship was hijacked off the coast of Somalia late Friday, the Bulgarian Foreign Ministry said on Saturday.

The Asian Glory, en route from Singapore to

Saudi Arabia, was seized about 620 miles (about 1,000 kilometres) east of Somalia, said Dragovest Goranov, a foreign ministry spokesman.

"Eight men among the 25 crew members of the British-flagged car carrier Asian Glory are Bulgarians," Capt Prodan Radanov, head of the Bulgarian office of the London-based ship owner, Zodiac Maritime Agencies, told reporters.

The Asian Glory was hijacked at 1912 GMT on Friday, Radanov said, adding that the ship's captain was a Bulgarian, and there were Romanians, Ukrainians and Indians among the crew as well.

Radanov said one of the sailors managed to contact the ship owner, and said that everybody onboard was in good health. Bulgarian Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Marin Raykov confirmed the news, saying that there has been no contact with the ship since the hijacking.

Goranov pointed out that the case was atypical, as the ship was hijacked far off the Somali coast.

Xinhua

Road deaths fell below 2,000 in Spain during 2009

MADRID, 3 Jan—Road deaths in Spain last year fell below 2,000 for the first time since records began being kept in 1969, the government said on Saturday.

A total of 1,857 people died in traffic accidents in Spain as of 27 Dec, 2009,

the sixth consecutive year of decline, the Interior Ministry said.

The number of fatalities in 1969 was 3,951 and had been on a rise due to increased traffic volume. About 7,000 people lost their lives in traffic accidents in 1989. —Xinhua



Foreign Heads of State send felicitations to Senior General Than Shwe

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—*The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of State sent to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, on the occasion of the 62nd Anniversary of Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.*

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 cordial congratulations and best wishes for your happiness and well-being as well as for the progress and prosperity of the Union of Myanmar and her people.

From Emperor Akihito of Japan

His Excellency, the Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar 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 Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam

I have much pleasure in sending my warmest congratulations to you and to the government and people of the Union of Myanmar on your 62nd Independence Day.

I am pleased with the warm and friendly relations shared by our countries and our close partnership in ASEAN. I am confident that this will continue in the coming years.

I wish Your Excellency success and continued good health in this New Year.

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

Upon the auspicious occasion of the 62nd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to, on behalf of the Chinese people and in my own name, extend to Your Excellency and through you to the people of Myanmar the warmest congratulations and best wishes.

China and Myanmar are linked by common mountains and rivers, and the two peoples enjoy profound Pauk-Phaw friendship. Through our joint efforts, China-Myanmar relations have gained all-round development and the China-Myanmar friendship has been deeply rooted among the two peoples. Continuous enhancement of food-neighbourly and friendly relations of cooperation serves the fundamental interest of the two peoples and is conducive to peace, stability and development of the region. China is ready to work with Myanmar to take the opportunity of the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between China and Myanmar for the further promotion of extensive, in-depth and all-round development of bilateral relations which benefits our two peoples.

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

From President Mr. Dmitry A. Medvedev of Russian Federation

Esteemed Mr. Chairman,

Please accept my sincere greetings on the occasion of the national holiday of the Union of Myanmar the Independence Day.

I am confident that relations of friendship and cooperation between Russia and Myanmar will be further dynamically developing for the benefit of our peoples, peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

I wish You, esteemed Mr. Chairman, strong health and success in Your responsible activities, and well-being and prosperity to the friendly Myanmar people.

From President Mr. Nguyen Minh Triet of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

On behalf of the State and people of Vietnam and in my own name, I have the great honour to extend to Your Excellency and the people of Myanmar the warmest congratulations on the occasion of the 62nd anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

May the people of Myanmar continue to record greater achievements in their cause of building a Myanmar of prosperity and happiness.

We are much delighted to see the fine development of the traditional relations of friendship and close multi-faceted cooperation between Vietnam and Myanmar in the recent years and strongly believe that these fine relationship will be further strengthened and broadened, in the interests of the peoples of our two countries and for the sake of peace, stability, cooperation and development in the region and all over the world.

May Your Excellency every stay in the best of health and happiness and outstanding successes in your noble position.

From President Mr. Choummaly Sayasone of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

Your Excellency,

On the auspicious occasion of the 62nd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and on my own behalf, I wish to convey my warmest congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and through Your Excellency to the entire people of the Union of Myanmar.

I strongly believe that the traditional friendly relations and good cooperation between our two countries and peoples will be enhanced and strengthened thus contributing to the cause of peace, stability and cooperation for development

in the region and in the world at large.

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

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

From President Mr. S R Nathan of the Republic of Singapore

Excellency,

On behalf of the people of the Republic of Singapore, I extend my warmest wishes to Your Excellency and the people of the Union of Myanmar on the 62nd anniversary of the Independence of Myanmar.

We wish Myanmar well as it prepares for the 2010 general elections. As a friend, Singapore will continue to support the ongoing post-Cyclone Nargis recovery activities in Myanmar, and continue to cooperate closely with Myanmar both bilaterally and within ASEAN, for the mutual benefit of both countries and the goal of ASEAN integration.

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

From Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of the Republic of India

Excellency,

On behalf of the people of India and on my own behalf, I have the pleasure to extend my warm felicitations and best wishes to Your Excellency and to the people of Myanmar on the occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

The friendship between India and Myanmar is rooted in shared history and culture. Over the years, our relations have blossomed and are now multi-faceted encompassing a range of areas. I am confident that in the years to come our close cooperation would be further strengthened and diversified to include new areas of cooperation.

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

With the assurance of my highest consideration.

From President Mr. Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine
Your Excellency,

On behalf of the people of Ukraine and myself please accept my congratulations on the occasion of the National Day of the Union of Myanmar the Independence Day.

Availing myself of this opportunity I wish to express my hope that the bilateral relations between Ukraine and the Union of Myanmar will further develop for the benefit of peoples of our states.

Please accept, Excellency, sincere wishes of good health and happiness, as well as peace and prosperity to the friendly people of Myanmar.

(To be continued)

Message of felicitations sent to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—*The following is message of felicitations from the Vice President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic sent to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, on the occasion of the 62nd Anniversary of Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.*

From Mr. Bounnhang Vorachith, Vice President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

Your Excellency,

On the occasion of the 62nd Anniversary of

the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I have a great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and people of the Union of Myanmar.

I am firmly confident that the traditional friendly relations and good cooperation between our two countries, Laos and Myanmar will be further strengthening and enhancing.

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

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

Foreign Heads of Government send messages of felicitations to Myanmar Prime Minister

NAYPYI TAW, 4 Jan—*The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of Government sent to General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 62nd Anniversary of Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.*

From Mr. Wen Jiabao, Premier of the State Council People's Republic of China
Excellency,

Upon the auspicious occasion of the 62nd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to, on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China and in my own name, extend to Your Excellency and through you to the Government of the Union of Myanmar the warmest congratulations and best wishes.

I am very glad to see that the China-Myanmar relations based on the Five Principles of Peaceful Coexistence have made continuous new progress, with deepening exchanges and cooperation in politics, economy and culture that brings tangible benefits to the two peoples. China stands ready to work with Myanmar for the consolidation of the traditional friendship, enhancement of mutually beneficial cooperation and further promotion of continuous development of China-Myanmar relations.

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

From Mr. Yukio Hatoyama, Prime Minister of Japan
Excellency,

On the 62nd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I wish to extend to Your Excellency, on behalf of the Government and people of Japan, my warm congratulations and best wishes for the prosperity of your country.

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

From Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah of Brunei Darussalam

Your Excellency,

I am pleased to convey my warmest congratulations to you and to the Government and people of the Union of Myanmar on your country's 62nd Independence Day.

I am happy with our countries' warm and friendly relations and close cooperation in ASEAN and I hope that we will continue to develop these ties further in the coming year.

I wish Your Excellency much success and best wishes for this new year.

From Mr. Nguyen Tan Dung, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

On behalf of the Government and people of Vietnam, I have the honour to convey to Your Excellency and the Government and people of Myanmar the warmest congratulations on the occasion of the 62nd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

I am pleased to see the traditional relations of friendship and the fine multi-faceted cooperation between Vietnam and Myanmar have been more and more broadened and effective in the past years, particularly in trade and investment. I am confident that with the joint efforts of our two Governments and peoples, the cooperation between the two countries will be unceasingly strengthened and developed in the coming time for the interests of the two peoples and for peace, stability, cooperation and prosperous development in Southeast Asia and the world over.

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

From Mr. Abhisit Vejjajiva, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand

Excellency,

On behalf of the Royal Thai Government and the Thai people, I have the honour to extend my felicitations

and warmest wishes for the prosperity of the Union of Myanmar and her people on the occasion of the Independence Day.

The cordial relations between Thailand and the Union of Myanmar are a showcase of a six-decade old of true friendship fabricated by goodwill and mutual understanding. I believe that our close cooperation and keen determination to further enhance our good neighborliness relations will make our friendship even stronger and more sustainable. I, therefore, look forward to working closely with Your Excellency at bilateral, regional, and multilateral levels for the benefit of our two countries. As Myanmar assumes a Chairmanship of BIMSTEC, I wish to reaffirm Thailand's commitment to work closely with Myanmar to promote regional integration and accelerate our collaborative efforts towards the expansion of BIMSTEC cooperation for our socio-economic development in the years ahead.

Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

From Mr. Bouasone Bouphavanh, Prime Minister of the Lao People's Democratic Republic

Your Excellency,

On the occasion of the 62nd Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the Government of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and on my own behalf, I wish to convey my warmest congratulations to Your Excellency and the Government of the Union of Myanmar.

I strongly believe that the existing close cooperation between our two countries will be further enhancing and strengthening for mutually benefit of the two countries, Laos and Myanmar as well as for the dynamism of the ASEAN family, the region and the world at large.

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

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration. *(To be continued)*

Labour Ministry marks 62nd founding anniversary



Minister U Aung Kyi delivers an address at 62nd founding anniversary of Ministry of Labour. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—The Ministry of Labour celebrated its 62nd founding anniversary along with commemorative sports events at its assembly hall here on 1 January.

Minister for Labour U Aung Kyi delivered a speech to open the ceremony.

The minister, Deputy Minister Brig-Gen Tin Tun Aung and directors-general under the ministry presented gifts to those who had

won State level medals, as well as to outstanding staff members for 2009. Officials concerned presented prizes to the winners in the sports events.—MNA

Minister for Sports Brig-Gen Thura Aye Myint, Director-General U Thaung Htaik of Sports and Physical Education Department, Chairman of Alpha Group International Professor Mr Gao Yi Huai and Advisory Group Chairman Dr Khin Shwe (Zekabar) and CEO Mr Gao Wei formally opened the new office of Alpha Health & Care Co Ltd of AGI at No 97-B, KabaAye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township on 27 December.

MNA



People's Desire

- * Oppose those relying on external elements, acting as stooges, holding negative views
- * Oppose those trying to jeopardize stability of the State and progress of the nation
- * Oppose foreign nations interfering in internal affairs of the State
- * Crush all internal and external destructive elements as the common enemy

True patriotism

- * It is very important for everyone of the nation regardless of the place he lives to have strong Union Spirit.
- * Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism all the nationalities will have to safeguard.

Myanmar education promotion plans designed to bring about all-round students

Secretary-1 attends School Family Day for 2009-2010 Academic Year



NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—School Family Day for 2009-2010 Academic Year took place at No (1) Basic Education High School in Nay Pyi Taw Zeyathiri this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo.

Also present on the occasion were Commander of Nay Pyi

Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, ministers, deputy ministers, heads of department, members of social organizations, township education officers from Nay Pyi Taw Lewe Township, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township and Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Township, principals and members of school boards of trustees from basic education school in Nay Pyi Taw District, guests and prizewinning students.

The MEC chairman, the commander,

ministers and officials inspected documentary photos on education promotion plans in the higher and basic education sectors, booth on education research done university-wise, and handicrafts on education development created by students.

Students from Nay Pyi Taw BEHS No (1) played the National Anthem and sang the song "Myanmar School" to open the awarding ceremony.

In his address, the Secretary-1 said that the socio-economic life of world nations is improving dramatically due to advancements in the science and technology and information technology. In the meantime, the government is making education reforms to cope with a series of challenges in the political, economic, social sectors.

With the concept that national education plans play a prominent role in shaping the nation into a peaceful, modern and developed one, the government has been implementing education promotion programmes to

Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo addresses opening of School Family Day for 2009-2010 Academic Year.—MNA



Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo awards outstanding students for 2009-2010 Academic Year.—MNA

Minister U Nyan Win presenting award to an outstanding student. MNA



Minister Maj-Gen Htay Oo presents awards to the outstanding students.—MNA

face multifarious challenges of the 21st century with nationalistic fervour since 1998-99 academic year.

In compliance with the guidance of the Head of State, the government has been pursuing the 30-year national education promotion plan since 2001-2002 for development of human resources and bringing about growing educated population in regions concerned. Now, the second five-year plan is in its fourth year.

(see page 9)



PERSPECTIVES

Monday, 4 January, 2010

Our country, our land, enjoying fruits of peace, stability and development

Myanmar is an independent, sovereign nation. It is a State with the characteristics of an independent nation. And Myanmar is a country which is standing tall among the global community.

Today (4 January, 2010) is the 62nd Anniversary

of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

The Myanmar people cherish their own country. They have had the innate duty to value their own race. They also have the fine tradition of preserving their literature, culture and customs. With the strong patriotic spirit, the Myanmar people cannot bear having their national integrity harmed.

Despite having fine traditions and good spirits, Myanmar lost her independence in the late 19th Century after being invaded by the imperialists. Without independence and freedom, the entire national people had bitter experiences under the colonial rule subject to various suppressions.

Myanmar regained independence and

sovereignty when Myanmar patriots fought fierce battles with the colonialists and Fascists, risking their lives. In free and independent nationhood, the people have enjoyed the tastes of peace and stability and prosperity.

Now the country is striving for emergence of a peaceful, modern, developed democratic nation desired by the entire people. So it is shaping a democracy by adopting and implementing the seven-step Road Map.

With peace and stability prevailing nationwide, Myanmar is enjoying fruits of development. All the national people are to actively take part in nation-building tasks with full patriotic spirit.

Myanmar education...



Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo views booths displayed at School Family Day for 2009-2010 Academic Year.—MNA

(from page 8)

Simultaneously, the government pays careful attention to adult literacy campaigns, post-literacy campaigns and Three R's courses to boost adult literate rate.

Moreover, to sharpen the abilities of in-service basic education teachers, it is opening preliminary teachership courses extensively and directly appointing them permanent teachers, and opening refresher courses on related subjects for teachers.

In the higher education sector, the government has so far set up 159 universities, degree colleges and colleges across the nation. It is also ensuring easy access to education and supervising education promotion plans through various ways such as opening master degrees' courses, master research degrees' courses, and PhD courses extensively, running applied courses after forming centers for human resources in



Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo has photo taken together with outstanding students.—MNA

universities, and degree colleges, expediting research work, establishing electronic information system, and founding e-Education Learning Centres at 71 offices, universities and colleges and 656 basic education schools.

In order to improve the higher education sector, it creates more opportunities for faculty members to attend PhD courses and carry out research on related subjects in the national interest, and attend seminars at home and abroad.

Higher education

level curriculum compilation groups are upgrading present curricula to international level ones in the basic education sector, and students have been trained since 2008-2009 academic year. And in the higher education sector, syllabuses are being upgraded to international level. Students have been trained and nurtured with upgraded syllabuses since 2007. English is prescribed as a compulsory subject in the under-graduate and post-graduate courses. Principles have been prescribed for candidates to

submit theses and papers. Curriculum development teams are formed in universities concerned to make reviews.

Myanmar education promotion plans are designed to bring about versatile students.

Since 2006-2007 academic year, school inspection boards have been formed basic education-wise to ensure effective use of pedagogical aids, teaching all chapters, and improvement of students' learning skills. The boards make inspection tours quarterly, and officials concerned regularly make trips to universities and colleges to provide close

parents are urged to work together for reducing drop-out rates, improving students' learning skills, and renovating old school buildings.

Outstanding students and schools are urged with all seriousness to continue to work hard under the patronage of the Myanmar Education Committee to bring dignity to the motherland.

In conclusion, the Secretary-1 urged the students to try to become reliable human resources for building a modern, developed nation; education staff and teachers, to train and

Lwin accepted the commemorative pennant from Minister Dr Chan Nyein.

The Secretary-1 presented awards for all-round development at the matriculation level for 2009-2010 academic year to the winners.

The commander presented awards at the middle school level to the winners.

Ministers and the Deputy Minister for Education presented prizes for primary and middle school level English proficiency contests, primary and middle school level Mathematics contest, eighth Mathematics Olympic contest,

supervision.

In the basic education sector, refresher courses on basic education school management for township education officers and principals are being conducted. So, greater success has been achieved in respective sectors.

In order to realize national education promotion plans, the Ministry of Education is supervising the tasks, adhering to the guidance of the Head of State. So, local authorities, departments, social organizations, well-wishers and students'

nurture students to be excellent human resources in line with national education promotion plans; and students' parents, and well-wishers, to further cooperate with local authorities, education staff, and teachers to achieve the goal.

Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein reported on education promotion tasks realized in the 2009-2010 academic year.

Secretary-1 General Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo and Commander Maj-Gen Wai

Myanmar and International diplomacy contest, international level painting contests, international level sports events, schools awards for outstanding performances in greening school compounds and environs, and outstanding students under the project for ensuring all school-age children go to school.

Students from Nay Pyi Taw No (3) BEHS and Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township BEHS No (3) entertained the visitors with songs to conclude the ceremony.—MNA

Provision on honorary titles and honorary...

(from page 16)

In 1978, the Myanmar Socialist Programme Party issued new provision on honorary titles and honorary medals in conformity with the Socialist System to amend the honorary titles and honorary medals awarded in the Parliamentary Democracy Period. According to new provision, the titles and medals were conferred on those who forged the Socialism, on those who made utmost efforts for improvement of the Socialist economic system and on those who made sacrifice of lives in safeguarding the nation. The honorary titles and medals awarded from 1978 to 1988 were as follows:-

1. Independence Mawgunwin Medal

(First, Second and Third Classes)

2. Honorary Title

(a) Tagun Group

- (1) Aung San Tagun Title
- (2) Pyidaungsu Tagun Title
- (3) Tagun Title

(b) Zarni Group

- (1) Lanzin Zarni Title
- (2) Pyidaungsu Zarni Title
- (3) Zarni Title

(c) **Naingngan Gonyi Title** (First and Second Classes) (no permission to use it as prefix or suffix to the name of the winner)

3. Honorary Titles for Gallantry

- (a) Aung San Thuriya Title
- (b) Thiha Thura Title
- (c) Thura Title

4. Honorary Titles for Outstanding Performance

(It had not been awarded)

5. Medals for Gallantry

- (a) Aung San Medal
- (b) Thiha Bala Medal
- (c) Gallantry Medal
- (d) Ye Thiha Medal
- (e) Ye Thura Medal
- (f) Ye Bala Medal

6. Medals for Outstanding Performance

- (a) All-round Excellent Performance in Socialist

Economy

- (b) Excellent Performance in Agricultural Field (First, Second and Third Classes)
- (c) Excellent Performance in Industrial Field (First, Second and Third Classes)
- (d) All-round Excellent Performance in Socialist Democracy
- (e) Excellent Performance in Administrative Field (First, Second and Third Classes)
- (f) Excellent Performance in Social Field (First, Second and Third Classes)
- (g) Ayaydawpon Medal
- (h) Independence Organizing Medal
- (i) Medal of Freedom
- (j) Good Military Service Medal
- (k) Good Public Medal
- (l) Medal for those who made sacrifices
- (m) State Military Service Medal
- (n) Medal for Combating Foreign Enemy
- (o) People's Militia Combat Medal
- (p) Ye Thurein Medal
- (q) Ye Kyawswa Medal
- (r) Ye Kyawthu Medal
- (s) Good Police Service Medal
- (t) State Police Service Medal
- (u) Police Joint Combat Medal
- (v) Public Good Service Medal
- (w) Public Service Medal
- (x) Rule of Law and Order Medal

When the Union was about to collapse in 1988, the Tatmadaw had to take over the State duties. Up to 2008, there were no changes in honorary titles and medals and most were awarded in accord with the system practised in the period of Myanmar Socialist Programme Party. After the order No.33/2001 of the State Peace and Development Council was issued on 13 September 2001, 30 kinds of medals have been presented instead of 24 kinds in the past. Present honorary titles and medals are found to be the same as the ones conferred on those who practised and promoted socialism. So, with the aim of keeping abreast of the changing era and systems, the State has prescribed new honorary titles and medals.

The State is in democratic transition in line with the seven-step Road Map and multi-party general elections, the fifth step, will be held in 2010. After the

elections, a democratic nation will come into shape. So, those who serve the best interest of the State and the people in changing into a democratic nation and building a future State will have to be awarded in accord with the democratic system.

To catch up with the era and systems in awarding and honouring people, measures were taken to continue using some of the prescribed medals, to cancel some, to prescribe some again and to improve some based on the original essence.

It is learnt that the provisions on honorary titles and medals that have been issued now are not new and they are the ones used in the parliamentary democracy period to be used in line with the present era. The following are the honorary titles and medals and classes issued today:

1. Thingaha Title

- (a) Thudama Thingaha
 - (1) Agga Maha Thiri Thudama Title
 - (2) Thadoe Thiri Thudama Title
 - (3) Maha Thiri Thudama Title
- (b) Pyidaungsu Sithu Thingaha
 - (4) Agga Maha Tharay Sithu Title
 - (5) Thadoe Maha Tharay Sithu Title
 - (6) Maha Tharay Sithu Title
 - (7) Tharay Sithu Title
 - (8) Sithu Title

2. Gallantry Title

- (a) Aung San Thuriya Title
- (b) Thiha Thura Title
- (c) Thura Title

3. Title for Outstanding Performance

- (a) Thiri Pyanchi Title
- (b) Zeya Kyawhtin Title
- (c) Wunna Kyawhtin Title
- (d) Alinka Kyawswa Title
- (e) Theikpa Kyawswa Title

4. Gallantry Medal

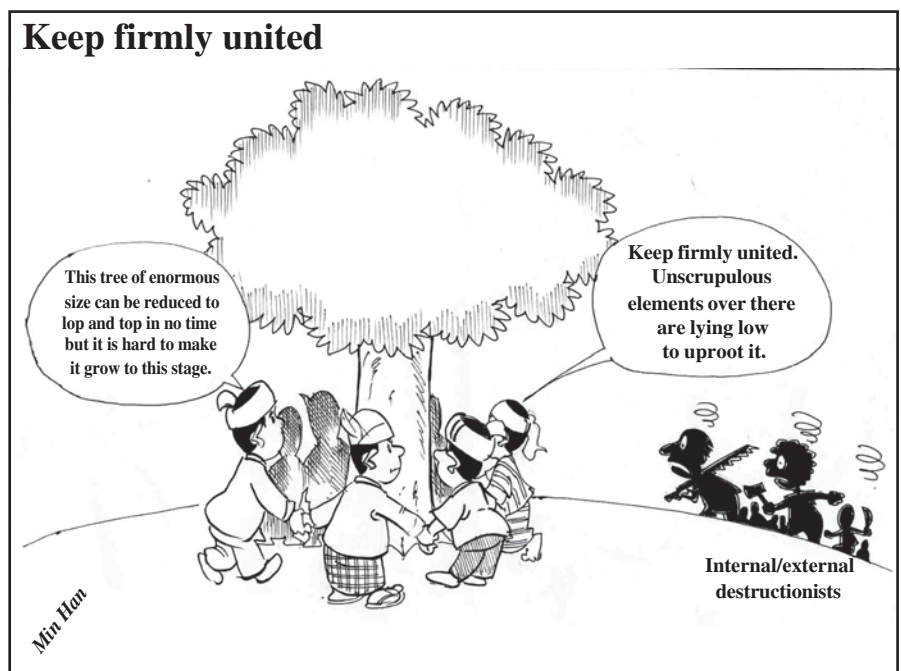
- (a) Aung San Medal
- (b) Thiha Bala Medal
- (c) Gallantry Medal
- (d) Ye Thiha Medal
- (e) Ye Thura Medal
- (f) Ye Bala Medal

5. Medal for Outstanding Performance

- (a) Myanmar Military Service Thingaha Medal
- (b) Good Military Service Medal
- (c) Good Public Medal
- (d) State Military Service Medal
- (e) Medal for Thwarting Foreign Enemy
- (f) People's Militia Combat Medal
- (g) Ye Thurein Medal
- (h) Ye Kyawswa Medal
- (i) Ye Kyaw Thu Medal
- (j) Good Police Service Medal
- (k) State Police Service Medal
- (l) Myanmar Joint Police Combat Medal
- (m) Good Public Service Medal
- (n) Public Service Medal
- (o) Rule of Law and Order Medal
- (p) State Peace Medal

According to the above list, there are 16 honorary titles and 22 honorary medals. For honorary titles, honorary medals, small replicas of medals, certificates and cash awards will be presented. For honorary medals, honorary medals, small replicas of medals, certificates and deserving cash awards will be presented.

Moreover, those who are awarded honorary titles and medals will be entitled to attain them up to their posterity. Those who had already been awarded honorary titles and medals before the issuance of this order will also be entitled to continue to receive cash awards and benefits. — MNA



Massive clean-up as Philippine volcano calms down

MANILA, 3 Jan—Disaster relief officials in the Philippines launched a massive clean-up on Sunday as tens of thousands of villagers began returning home after the restive Mayon volcano showed signs of calming down.

Joey Salceda, governor of the province of Albay southeast of Manila where Mayon is located, said he expected all 29 public schools converted into temporary shelters would reopen for classes on Monday.

"What we are doing now is conducting damage assessment. We are on an early recovery stage," Salceda told reporters. "We are cleaning up schools and classrooms so that classes can resume tomorrow."

Internet

Evacuees affected by the Mayon volcano eruption return home with their belongings in the outskirts of Legazpi City in Philippines' Albay Province, on 2 January. Tens of thousands of Filipinos evacuated from the shadow of the volcano after it began spewing ash and lava prepared to head home on Saturday after the alert level was lowered.—INTERNET



A girl sleeps as her father shops for bargains at the Glendale Galleria shopping mall in Glendale, California in November 2009. It seems parents have long been right. Going to bed early is key to getting enough sleep and helping adolescents feel on top of the world, a new study reported.—INTERNET

Beat the blues by going to bed early: study

NEW YORK, 3 Jan—It seems parents have long been right. Going to bed early is key to getting enough sleep and helping adolescents feel on top of the world, a new study reported. A lack of sleep among youngsters may trigger depression and suicidal thoughts, according to the study by the Columbia University Medical Centre.

"Our results are consistent with the theory that inadequate sleep is a risk

factor for depression, working with other risk and protective factors through multiple possible causal pathways to the development of this mood disorder," said lead author James Gangwisch.

"Adequate quality sleep could therefore be a preventative measure against depression and a treatment for depression," he added in the study published in the Friday issue of *Sleep* magazine.

The study followed the

nightly habits of some 15,659 college and high-school students, and found those who consistently went to bed after midnight had a 24 percent higher risk of depression than those who turned in before 10:00 pm.

Night owls also ran a 20 percent higher risk of battling suicidal thoughts, the study added.

Internet

North China oil spill threatens Yellow River

BEIJING, 3 Jan—A burst oil pipeline in north China has spewed thousands of gallons (litres) of diesel into a major tributary of the Yellow River, state media said on Sunday.

The spill occurred on Wednesday last week on the Chishui River in Shaanxi Province when a pipeline operated by the China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) ruptured, a statement on the Weinan city government website said.

Emergency measures have been taken to stop the leak, with 23 containment belts set up downstream from the spill and up to 700 people scrambling to clean up the mess, the statement said.

Local government officials refused to reveal how much diesel had spilled into the river or

comment on the spill when contacted by AFP.

The official Xinhua news agency reported that up to 150,000 litres (40,000 US gallons) had leaked into the river about 70 kilometres (42 miles) from the Yellow River, one of China's longest watercourses.

Oil has already been detected 33 kilometres downstream from the spill, the report said.

"We must take thor-

ough measures to handle the spill and the pollution and strictly prevent it from entering the Yellow River, while ensuring the safety of drinking water," the *Chongqing Evening News* quoted Vice Premier Li Keqiang as saying.

Local environmental departments have warned residents not to use the river water as it may be polluted, the report said.

Internet

Mexico announces capture of alleged drug lord

MEXICO CITY, 3 Jan—Mexican police have captured alleged drug lord Carlos Beltran Leyva, just two weeks after his even more powerful brother was killed in a shootout with troops — back-to-back victories in President Felipe

Calderon's drug war.

The Public Safety Department said in a statement on Saturday night that Carlos Beltran Leyva was arrested in Culiacan, the capital of the Pacific coast state of Sinaloa, where he and several of his brothers were born and allegedly started their gang.

Two weeks ago, his brother Arturo, reputed chief of the Beltran Leyva cartel, was killed in a shootout with Mexican marines in the central city of Cuernavaca. He was the highest-ranking cartel suspect taken down since Calderon sent tens of thousands of soldiers and federal police across the country three years ago to fight brutal drug gangs.

Mexican officials in the past have described Carlos Beltran Leyva, 40, as a key member of the gang, but it was unclear if he took over as chief of the cartel after his brother.

Internet

Drug traffickers kill 11 policemen in Iran

TEHERAN, 3 Jan—Drug traffickers have killed 11 policemen in eastern Iran, local police were quoted as saying by the official IRNA news agency on Saturday.

The confrontation occurred on Friday in a desert area of eastern Iran, which lies on a major narcotics route from neighbouring Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"In clashes between police and a narcotics convoy headed from south to north, seven policemen were killed and four others were injured who died later of their severe injuries," Colonel Kazem Hashemabadi said.—Internet



A little girl sits on the sled while her father pulls it in snow in Berlin of Germany, on 2 Jan, 2009.—XINHUA



Soldiers of Heilongjiang Military Zone of the Chinese People's Liberation Army patrol the border from "North Pole" village of Mohe, northeast China's Heilongjiang Province, on 2 Jan, 2010.—XINHUA

Some 65 suffer monoxide intoxication near Paris

PARIS, 3 Jan — About 65 people suffered from carbon monoxide intoxication on New Year's Day in Seine-Saint-Denis department to the northeast of Paris, police said on Friday.

The city prefect of Pantin, the site of the incident, told local media that the intoxication occurred around 2:00 am. when over 200 people were enjoying New Year feast in a dining hall.

All victims, including two in grave situation, have been sent to nearby hospitals.

Preliminary investigation attributed the collective poisoning to the flawed extra heating appliance and the unventilated dining room, local official Philippe Bon said.

As winter fell, more carbon monoxide intoxication cases have been reported across France. More than 200 people reportedly suffered from intoxication.—Xinhua

People walk on the Huashan Road decorated with lights in Shanghai, east China, on 3 Jan, 2010. The colorful night scene of Shanghai has been a scenery spot for tourists.

XINHUA

Uruguay floods cause 600 homeless on New Year's eve

MONTEVIDEO, 3 Jan — At least 626 Uruguayans had to celebrate the arrival of the New Year in temporary shelters due to the long-lasting floods that, in the worst cases, had begun since last November.

The National Emergency System (NES) of Uruguay said on Friday that these people had to be evacuated from several regions where rivers overflowed their banks.

The NES said the overflow of the Negro River, in the Northwest of Uruguay, which is now 6.55 metres higher than its normal level, forced 293 residents in the nearby Mercedes City to abandon their homes on New Year's eve.—Xinhua

Fire kills five, injures 13 in South France

PARIS, 3 Jan — A New Year Day fire in southern French city of Nimes killed five people and injured another 13, local authorities said on Friday.

The cause of the fire, which broke out around 5:00 a.m. local time (0400 GMT), was still under investigation, local media reported.

The five deaths, including three children, occurred in the same family. The injured have been hospitalized for monoxide poisoning, with three of them in grave condition.

The fire-stricken building has been evacuated, local officials said.—Xinhua

Death toll from Pakistan suicide attack reaches 90

ISLAMABAD, 3 Jan — Death toll from a suicide attack in a remote village in Pakistan's northwest has reached 90, a police officer in the region said on Saturday.

A group of three suicide bombers rammed their explosive-laden car into the wall of the volleyball ground in Lakki Marwat District in North West Frontier Province, on Friday, District Police Officer Ayub Khan said.

Up to 400 people were present in the volleyball ground to watch a local match when the bombers carried out the attack in small village Shah Hassan Khel.

Officials said the bombers wanted to attack members of a local peace com-

mittee who were holding meeting in a nearby mosque.

The peace committee had helped the security forces to expel the militants from the village.

Head of peace committee, Mushtaq Marwat, said that members of the committee had received threats from several Taliban commanders in the nearby North Waziristan tribal region. He said that the Taliban militants had warned the people to end contacts with the government.

Ayub Khan said that more injured died of wounds in several hospitals. He said that several serious injured were shifted to Peshawar, the provincial capital.

Xinhua

11 killed, seven injured in road mishap in western India

NEW DELHI, 3 Jan — At least 11 people were killed and seven others sustained injuries when the vehicle in which they were travelling hit a stationary truck in the western Indian state of Maharashtra on Friday, a senior police official said.

"The mishap happened at Borisawargaon village in the state's Beed District. The vehicle was travelling at a high speed and the driver lost control of it, leading to the accident. The travellers in the vehicle were coming back after attending a family function in a neighbouring district. The injured have been admitted to a local hospital," the official said.

Xinhua



Children prepare to play with snow in a community of Shijingshan district, Beijing, China, on 3 Jan, 2010.—XINHUA

Colombia troops bomb rebel camp, killing 18

BOGOTA, 3 Jan — At least 18 members of Colombia's biggest rebel army FARC were killed on Friday during a bombing of their camp, Colombian Ministry of Defence said.

The joint Colombian Air Forces and Army on Friday bombed a camp of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) in Llanos Orientales region (Central-East), Defence Minister Gabriel Silva said in a communique. Besides the 18 deaths, 13 rebels were captured alive and many others were injured during the action, according to Silva.

The attack target was a camp of the FARC's Front 43, located in the rural area of Vista Hermosa municipality, in the Meta department.

The bombing came after months of tracking of the rebels, and obviously caught the FARC front unprepared, in middle of their New Year celebration. Twenty-five rifles, explosives and other war materials and information were found in the camp, said the communique.

Xinhua



Engineered tobacco plants have more potential as biofuel, US study shows

LOS ANGELES, 3 Jan—Increasing the oil in tobacco plant leaves may be a step towards using the plants for biofuel, a new study suggests.

Researchers from the Biotechnology Foundation Laboratories (BFL) at Thomas Jefferson University said they have identified a way to increase the oil in tobacco plant leaves, thus paving the way for turning the

plants into biofuel.

Their findings were published in the January issue of *Plant Biotechnology Journal*.

Tobacco can generate biofuel more efficiently than other agricultural crops. However, most of the oil is typically found in the seeds — tobacco seeds are composed of about 40 percent oil per dry weight.

Although the seed oil

has been tested for use as fuel for diesel engines, tobacco plants yield a modest amount of seeds, at only about 600 kg of seeds per acre.

But researchers at BFL sought to find ways to engineer tobacco plants, so that their leaves expressed the oil.

Typical tobacco plant leaves contain 1.7 percent to 4 percent of oil per dry weight.—Xinhua



A worker walks among tobacco plants at a farm in Cuba's western province of Pinar del Rio on 26 Feb, 2008.—XINHUA

Convenience stores linked to child obesity

MONTREAL, 3 Jan—A Canadian researcher suggests fighting child obesity by making school zones convenience-store free.

Tracie Ann Barnett, at the Universite de Montreal and the Sainte Justine University Hospital Research Centre, and colleagues from six Quebec institutions are examining the cardiovascular and type 2 diabetes risk factors for 632 children recruited from various Montreal neighbourhoods with incomes ranging from \$31,000 to \$141,000.

The preliminary findings for the Quebec Adipose and Lifestyle Investigation in Youth study were presented at Canadian and French symposiums in Lyon, France.

"Access to convenience stores seems more relevant in obesity than access to fast food restaurants," Barnett says in a statement.—Internet

Vitamin E may not extend life

TEL AVIV, 3 Jan—Israeli researchers say giving everyone the anti-oxidant vitamin E may not be a good thing.

The researchers at the Tel Aviv University Sackler School of Medicine in Israel say their study finds average quality-adjusted longevity was 0.30 of a year shorter in treated people than in untreated people.

"This, of course, does not mean that everybody consuming vitamin E shortens their life by almost four months. But on

average, the quality-adjusted longevity is lower for vitamin-treated people. This says something significant," study co-researcher Ilya Pinchuk said in a statement. "We've now concluded that going to the grocery or to a health food store to buy vitamin E supplements, for the most part, won't do you good. In some cases it can do harm."

Pinchuk and colleagues examined data for more than 300,000 subjects in the United States, Europe and Israel to determine quality-adjusted life years. For instance, a person healthy during the first 10 out of the 20 years of the study scored 10 for the first 10 years but after being struck by a stroke and becoming dependent on others scored 5 for the next 10 years for a total of quality-adjusted life years.—Internet

Drugs during pregnancy being studied

WASHINGTON, 3 Jan—A new public/private research programme will study the effects of prescription medications used during pregnancy, US researchers say.

The researchers from the US Food and Drug Administration, the HMO Research Network Centre for Education and Research in Therapeutics, Kaiser Permanente's multiple research centres and Vanderbilt University say very few clinical trials test the safety of medications in pregnancy although one study finds two-thirds of women delivering a baby have taken at least one prescription medication during pregnancy. The Medication Exposure in Pregnancy Risk Evaluation Programme will address that research

gap, they say.

"This programme is a great example of FDA and the private sector working together to improve the health of pregnant women and their children," Dr Margaret Hamburg, commissioner of the Food & Drug Administration, said in a statement. "These data will guide regulatory policy and influence medical practice."

To overcome the challenges presented by the lack of clinical trial data about the use of medications during pregnancy, the research programme will link healthcare information for mothers and their babies from 11 participating research sites — a total of about 1 million births during the past seven years since 2001.

Internet



All glass, concrete and steel, rising from the desert sands, Dubai has in the space of decades become a symbol of architectural innovation, proving a boon for architects seeking to display their prowess.—INTERNET

Stressed depressed workers less productive

BOSTON, 3 Jan—Psychological stress where people earn their paychecks can make it more difficult for depressed workers to be productive, US researchers found.

Lead author Debra Lerner, director of the Programme on Health, Work and Productivity at Tufts Medical Centre's Institute for Clinical Research and Health Policy Studies, said the researchers screened 14,268 adults employed at doctor's offices. They compared 286 depressed workers with 193 who were not depressed.

The study, to be published in the January/February issue of the *American Journal of Health Promotion*, found that in many cases, the depressed employees had problems at work — often having difficulty handling the pacing of work, managing a routine, performing physical job tasks and managing their usual workload.—Internet

Eye doctors: Quit smoking, save sight

LOS ANGELES, 3 Jan—US eye doctors say they have found another reason to decide to quit smoking for the New Year — saving vision.

The ophthalmologists at the University of California-Los Angeles find even in women age 80 and older, smoking continues to increase the risk of age-related macular degeneration — a disease damaging the centre of the retina that can prevent reading, driving and recognizing faces, and the leading cause of blindness in the elderly.

The researchers found smokers had 11 percent higher rates of the disease than other women their same age. Smokers over age 80 were 5.5 times more likely to develop the disease than women their age who did not smoke.

"The take-home message is that it's never too late to quit smoking," Dr Anne Coleman, the study's lead author, said in a statement. "We found that even older people's eyes will benefit from kicking the habit."

Coleman and col-

leagues followed a group of 1,958 women who underwent retinal photographs at five-year intervals. Seventy-five of the women — 4 percent — smoked and the researchers compared retinal images at ages 78 and 83 to evaluate whether smoking affected the women's likelihood of developing the disease compared with non-smokers.

The findings are to be published in the January issue of the *American Journal of Ophthalmology*.

Internet

SPORTS

Steven Gerrard's goal rescues Liverpool in FA Cup

LONDON, 3 Jan—Steven Gerrard scored in the 36th minute, rallying Liverpool to a 1-1 draw with second-tier Reading on Saturday to keep its FA Cup hopes alive.

Simon Church opened the scoring for Reading with a goal from close range in the 24th minute. But Gerrard tied it with a long shot as teammate Dirk Kuyt let the ball go past him in front of goal, watching it sail inside the far post. The result means that the two teams will meet again at Anfield in a replay.

Portsmouth was held to a 1-1 draw at home by second-tier Coventry. Birmingham managed only a scoreless draw with Coventry while Aston Villa and Wigan outplayed Premier League rivals to reach the fourth round. There were comfortable victories for Tottenham, Bolton, Everton, Sunderland, Stoke and Burnley against opponents from lower divisions.—Internet



Liverpool's captain Steven Gerrard (2nd L) jumps for the ball against Reading's midfielder Kalifa Cisse (2nd R) during their FA Cup third round football match at The Madejski Stadium in Reading.—INTERNET

Barcelona drop home record against Villarreal



Barcelona's Xavi Hernandez, Lionel Messi and Andres Iniesta (L-R) pose with the 6 trophies the team won during the 2009 season, before their Spanish first division soccer league match against Villarreal at Camp Nou stadium in Barcelona, on 2 Jan, 2010.—XINHUA

MADRID, 3 Jan—FC Barcelona could only draw 1-1 at home to Villarreal in the biggest game played this Saturday in Spain's Primera Liga.

The pre-match ceremonies saw the Barca players receive the applause of the supporters in the Camp Nou stadium for the six trophies the team had won in 2009. Everything looked to be going to plan when Pedro Rodriguez opened the scoring after seven minutes. The winger collected a rebound after Thierry Henry's shot had hit the crossbar.

Villarreal responded with some flowing football and David Fuster was unfortunate to see his header bounce over the crossbar. It was the first Primera Liga game Barcelona has failed to win in its stadium this season.

Internet

Kaka out of Madrid squad for Osasuna clash

MADRID, 3 Jan—Real Madrid coach Manuel Pellegrini decided not to risk Brazilian midfielder Kaka for his side's away game to Osasuna on Sunday. Kaka was expected to be included in the Real Madrid squad after training with the rest of his team mates on Friday and Saturday. However, after having been without the player for the past month, Pellegrini opted to give him another week to recover match fitness.—Internet

Answers to yesterday's Crosswords Puzzle



Heart problem forces Sevilla defender Sanchez to temporarily abandon football

MADRID, 3 Jan—Sevilla football club has announced that its 23-year-old defender Sergio Sanchez has been forced to temporarily abandon the game because of a heart complaint. Sanchez joined Sevilla from Espanyol last summer, but recent tests have discovered an abnormality in his heart.

"Sevilla FC communicates that through the study of medical tests carried out recently, the defender has been discovered to suffer from a heart pathology which leads us to stop all physical activity for the moment," announced the club on its official website. "We will be carrying out further tests with the aim of certifying the initial diagnosis," said the club.—Internet

Ethiopian teenager wins Xiamen Int'l Marathon in record time

XIAMEN, 3 Jan—The 19-year-old Feyisa Lilesa of Ethiopia set an event record to clinch the second marathon title of his career at the Xiamen International Marathon here on Saturday.

Lilesa, who won the 2009 Dublin Marathon in October on his debut in the 42.195-kilometre run, notched a personal best of two hours, eight minutes and 47 seconds, curtailing four seconds off the previous mark set by defending champion Mugo Samuel Muturi of Kenya.

Negari Getachew Terfa, also from Ethiopia, had to settle for second place for the second consecutive year in 2:09:40. Muturi was third in 2:10:11. In the women's race, Baysa Atsede of Ethiopia surged to an undisputable lead at 25 km before crossing home in 2:28:53, six minutes adrift of the course record set by Zhang Yingying of China in 2008. Lilesa was in the leading group from the start and overtook Muturi with about six kilometres to go.—Xinhua



Baysa Atsede of Ethiopia reaches the finish line at the Xiamen International Marathon in Xiamen, Southeast China, on 2 Jan, 2010.—XINHUA

Cahill's landmark goal helps Everton reach fourth round

LIVERPOOL, 3 Jan—Australia midfielder Tim Cahill fired Everton into the FA Cup fourth round as his 50th goal for the club inspired a 3-1 win against Carlisle on Saturday. David Moyes' side had struggled to see off their feisty League One opponents at Goodison Park after Kevan Hurst cancelled out James

Vaughan's early opener for the hosts.

It needed a typically predatory finish from Cahill, who reached his half century of goals in his 192nd appearance for the Toffees, eight minutes from full-time to shatter Carlisle's resistance before Leighton Baines put a flattering gloss on the score with a late penalty. Carlisle were never overawed by their more illustrious opponents and, backed by 6,000 fans who had braved blizzards to get to Merseyside, they were unfortunate not to earn a money-spinning replay.—Internet



Australia's Tim Cahill, fired Everton into the FA Cup fourth round as his 50th goal for the club inspired a 3-1 win against Carlisle on Saturday.—INTERNET

Murray pulls out of British Davis Cup tie

LONDON, 3 Jan—Andy Murray has withdrawn from Britain's Davis Cup tie against Lithuania in March and will in future discuss his participation with the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) before every match, the BBC reported.

"We have a talented young players who need Davis Cup experience to help with their career development," Murray was quoted as saying on the BBC website on Saturday. "I'm happy to step aside for this match and will take decisions on future ties with the LTA. It's important we get back up the groups in the Davis Cup over the next few years."—Xinhua

Clijsters opens New Year in style in tennis

BRISBANE, 3 Jan—Belgium's Kim Clijsters opened the New Year in the best possible style when she overpowered Italian Tathiana Garbin 6-2, 6-1 in the first round of the Brisbane International on Sunday. Despite a nervous start to the match when she lost her serve in the opening game, the reigning US Open champion quickly found her form to overcome Garbin in just 53 minutes.

Internet



Kim Clijsters of Belgium (R) shakes hands with Tathiana Garbin of Italy (L) after defeating her in the first round of the Brisbane International tennis tournament being played in Brisbane.—INTERNET



A pair of parrots enjoy their meal in Suzhou Zoo of Suzhou City, east China's Jiangsu Province, on 3 Jan, 2010. The lovely and happy animal "stars" in Suzhou Zoo have attracted a lot of visitors during the New Year holidays.

INTERNET

Two trains collide in western Turkey, one dead

ANKARA, 3 Jan— A Turkish official said on Sunday that one person was killed and seven others including two train staff members injured in a train collision in western Turkey.

One train from Istanbul to Eskisehir on Sunday collided with another from Eskisehir to Istanbul between the towns of Bayirkoy and Vezirhan of Bilecik province in western Turkey due to signalization failure, Bilecik governor Musa Colak was quoted as saying by the semi-official Anatolia news agency.

"Engine driver Ismet Kocay, who was seriously injured in the accident, lost his life," said Colak.

Rescue teams rushed to the spot and helped passengers trapped in the railway cars, said Anatolia.

Xinhua

MRTV-3 Programme Schedule (4-1-2010) (Monday)

Transmissions	Times
Local	- (09:00am ~ 10:00am) MST
Europe	- (19:30pm ~ 21:30pm) MST
North America	- (23:30pm ~ 07:30am) MST

Local Transmission

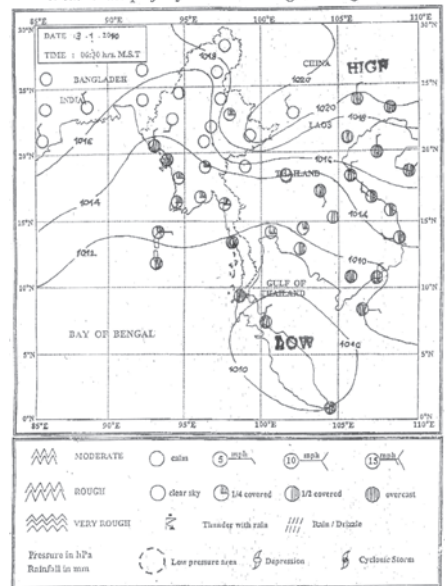
- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights
- * Myanmar As Told By History
- * Production of A Delicious Seafood
- * National Solidarity For National Development
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * Let's Go and Enjoy Nature's Beauty
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights

Europe/ North America Transmission

- * Signature Tune
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights
- * Myanmar As Told By History
- * Production of A Delicious Seafood
- * National Solidarity For National Development
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * Let's Go and Enjoy Nature's Beauty
- * Songs on Screen
- * Myanmar Handiwork, Painting Art
- * Myanmar's Steamed Rice Cake
- * Naga Traditional Costumes and Dances
- * Culture Stage
- * Myaing Hay Wun Elephant Camp
- * Myanmar Modern Song
- * Thameehla Island, Home to Fascinating Turtles
- * Song of Myanma Beauty & Scenic Sights

Website: www.mrtv3.net.mm

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



WEATHER

Sunday, 3rd January, 2010

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr. M.S.T. During the past 24 hours, light rain has been isolated in Taninthayi Division, weather has been partly cloudy in Rakhine State and Yalong Division and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisions. Night temperatures were (3°C) to (4°C) below January average temperatures in Kachin State, lower Saigang, Mandalay, Magway, Bago and Ayeyawady Divisions, (5°C) to (6°C) below January average temperatures in Northern Shan and Chin States, upper Sagaing and Yalong Divisions, (3°C) above January average temperatures in Taninthayi Division and about January average temperatures in the remaining areas. The significant night temperatures were Haka and Loilem (-2°C), Namhsan (-1°C), Lashio and Heho (0°C) each, Pinlaung (1°C), An and Mogoke (2°C) each, Shwebo (3°C), Putao, Machanbaw and Pyin Oo Lwin (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 2-1-2010 was 91°F. Minimum temperature on 3-1-2010 was 52°F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 3-1-2010 was 65%. Total sun shine hours on 2-1-2010 was (9.2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 3-1-2010 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2010 was (111.69) inches at Mingaladon, (122.09) inches at Kaba-Aye and (129.41) inches at Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (4) mph from South at (10:30) hours MST on 3-1-2010.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 4th January 2010: Expect for the likelihood of isolated light rain in Taninthayi Division and weather will be generally fair in the whole country. Degree of certainty is (60%).

State of the sea: Strong Easterly winds with moderate to rough seas are likely at times Delatic, Gulf of Mottama, off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coast. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (35) mph. Seas will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

Outlook for subsequent two days: Likelihood of light rain in the Southern Myanmar areas.

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 4-1-2010: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-1-2010: Partly cloudy.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 4-1-2010: Fair weather.

Myanmar



Monday, 4
January
View on today

6:45 am

- ၂၀၁၀ ခုနှစ်(၆၂)နှစ်မြောက် လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့ နိုင်ငံတော် အလံတင် အခမ်းအနားကျင်းပ ပုံ တိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှု အစီအစဉ်

8:00 am

- (၆၂)နှစ်မြောက် လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့ကျော်ပြု အစီအစဉ်

8:30 am

- လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့ကျော်ပြု အစီအစဉ် (ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန နိုင်ငံတော်ဆိုင်းအဖွဲ့ ဖျော်ဖြေခန်း)

8:45 am

- International News

4:00 pm

- Myanmar National League MNL (2009) ဘောလုံးပြိုင်ပွဲ ထုတ်လွှင့်မှု အစီအစဉ် (ရတနာပုံအသင်း နှင့်ဇေယျာရွှေမြေအသင်း)

4:50 pm

- Dance Of National Races

5:00 pm

- Musical Programme

5:15 pm

- အေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေးရပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ ပထမနှစ် (သင်္ချာ၊ဓာတု၊ ဓူပ၊ဗိဇ္ဇာရေးပညာ၊ စီးပွားစီမံပြည်သူ့ရေးရာ အထူးပြုများ)(သင်္ချာ)

5:30 pm

- Songs For Uphold National Spirit

5:35 pm

- (၆၂)နှစ်မြောက် လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့ကျော်ပြု အစီအစဉ်

5:45 pm

- စုပေါင်းသံချင်ရွေးချယ်ပွဲ

6:00 pm

- Evening News

6:15 pm

- Weather Report

6:20 pm

- Sing & Enjoy

7:00 pm

- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အဆိပ်သင့်တဲ့အချစ်" (အပိုင်း-၂၂)

7:45 pm

- အချုပ်အခြာအာဏာ ဇွန်ရှည်ကြာခိုင်မာစေမှု ဦးရှေ့ရှု

8:00 pm

- News
- International News
- Weather Report
- နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ဆူးလွမ်းသောချစ်နှင်းဆီ" (အပိုင်း-၁၃)

- ★ Only with stability and peace will the nation develop
- ★ Only with stability and peace will democratization process be successful

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

People's Desire

- We favour peace and stability
- We favour development
- We oppose unrest and violence
- Wipe out those inciting unrest and violence
- VOA, BBC-sowing hatred among the people
- RFA, DVB-generating public outrage
- Do not allow ourselves to be swayed
- By broadcasts designed to cause troubles

Provision on honorary titles and honorary medals issued

It is no new provision, and honorary titles and honorary medals in Parliamentary Democracy Period reused in conformity with current period

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan.—The provision on honorary titles and honorary medals as Notification No. 48/2009 of the State Peace and Development Council was issued on 17 December 2009.

The State Peace and Development Council issued the provision to confer the deserving honorary titles and honorary medals on those who strove for building the peaceful, modern and developed nation with excellent performances, on those who made sacrifice of lives in safeguarding Our Three Main National Causes, on those who made outstanding performances in the economic, social and public affairs management sectors of the State, on the military and civilian personnel who served the interest of the State with excellent performances, on those who successfully took an innovative measure on the science, arts or any other subject meeting the world standard for the nation and the people, on the outstanding persons in the literary and fine arts spheres, on those who discharged the duties of security of the State, peace and tranquillity and prevalence of law and order with diligence and perseverance, on the leaders of the foreign countries, diplomats and responsible persons of foreign countries who cordially cooperated with Myanmar, and religious titles on members of the Sangha and nuns and titles of missionary and Sasana Nuggaha on the lay persons.

The State Peace and Development Council

is shaping the nation in all aspects to become a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation. In so doing, the State constitution was approved with the overwhelming support of the national people at the national referendum in May 2008. In accord with the new State constitution, the honorary titles and the honorary medals will be conferred on the outstanding persons who contributed to building a peaceful, modern and developed nation.

In the Parliamentary Democracy Period after regaining Independence in 1948, the honorary titles and honorary medals in conformity with the independent and sovereign country were created to confer them on the outstanding persons. From 1948 to 1978, the honorary titles and honorary medals conferred on the outstanding persons were as follows:-

1. **Independence Mawgunwin Title**
(First, Second and Third Classes)
2. **Thingaha Honorary Title**
 - a. **Thudhamma Thingaha**
 - (1) Agga Maha Thirithudhamma Title
 - (2) Thadoe Thirithudhamma Title
 - (3) Maha Thirithudhamma Title
 - b. **Pyidaungsu Sithu Thingaha**
 - (4) Agga Maha Tharaysithu Title
 - (5) Thadoe Maha Tharaysithu Title

- (6) Maha Tharaysithu Title
- (7) Tharaysithu Title
- (8) Sithu Title
3. **Honorary Title for Gallantry**
(It had not been awarded)
4. **Honorary Titles for Outstanding Performance**
 - (a) Thiri Pyanchi Title
 - (b) Wunna Kyawhtin Title
 - (c) Alinka Kyawswa Title
 - (d) Theikpa Kyawswa Title
 - (e) Zeya Kyawhtin Title
5. **Medals for Gallantry**
 - (a) Aung San Thuriya
 - (b) Thiha Thura
 - (c) Thura
 - (d) Aung San Medal
 - (e) Thiha Bala Medal
 - (f) Gallantry Medal
 - (g) Pyidaungsu Gold Medal
 - (h) Pyidaungsu Silver Medal
 - (i) Good Military Service Medal
 - (j) State Good Military Service Medal
 - (k) Good Police Service Medal (first and second classes)
6. **Medals for Outstanding Performances**
(It had not been awarded)
(See page 10)