

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

Senior General Than Shwe sends Independence Day message

All national brethren urged to firmly uphold five objectives of 60th Anniversary Independence Day 2008

Realize objectives with Union Spirit and patriotism while making firm resolve to build a new, peaceful, modern and developed discipline flourishing democratic nation

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—*The following is a translation of the message sent by Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council Senior General Than Shwe on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary Independence Day.*

On this auspicious 60th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I with love and respect would like to greet all the national people residing in the nation.

It has been 60 years since Union-born national races have regained independence and sovereignty of the Union of Myanmar from the colonialists

after sacrificing lots of blood, sweat and lives.

Throughout history, national brethren including Kachin, Kayah, Kayin, Chin, Bamar, Mon, Rakhine and Shan had the fine tradition of living in amity, unity, mutual compassion and understanding and through thick and thin based on Union Spirit. And with that fine tradition and noble spirit, the national brethren were vigorously and daringly safeguarding the State for the perpetuation of the nation and sovereignty. Hence, the nation stood tall in the world with dignity as a sovereign and independent state under the rule of her monarchs throughout the past successive eras.

In the late 19th Century, Myanmar monarchy met its end and the nation lost independence and sovereignty due to colonialist aggression. Naturally, Myanmar are gifted with the spirit to make sacrifices for the nation and race, the spirit to cherish and value own nation, race, sovereignty, literature and traditions and culture and the spirit to never tolerate any acts that will harm national dignity. Hence, they fought back the intruders sacrificing lots of blood, sweat and lives and regained independence and sovereignty.

(See page 8)

Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Nepalese Ambassador

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—Ms Guma Laxmi Sharma (Bishowkarama), newly accredited Ambassador of Nepal to the Union of Myanmar, presented her credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, here, at 10 am today.

Also present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and U Maung Myint and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department.

MNA

Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Nepalese Ambassador Ms Guma Laxmi Sharma (Bishowkarama).

MNA



WITH INDEPENDENCE DAY SUPPLEMENT

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

PERSPECTIVES

Friday, 4 January, 2008

Safeguard independence and sovereignty of the nation

The 60th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar falls on the 4th of January 2008 (today).

Myanmar has stood as an independent and sovereign nation with own monarchs since time immemorial.

In the late 19th Century, Myanmar lost sovereignty, following the three aggressive wars waged by the colonialists. Feeling very bitter about alien subjugation, the entire people bravely fought back the colonialists with nationalistic fervour and unity. So, the nation regained independence.

The entire national people have to bear in mind the history of independence struggles that cost a lot of lives, blood and sweat of forefathers.

Now, the seven-step Road Map is well under way for building a peaceful and modern nation with flourishing discipline. And the drafting of the State constitution is in progress.

Today's young generations should be constantly aware of the colonialists' exploitation in the economic, education, social and cultural sectors in the colonial days.

The entire people are therefore duty-bound to work together for emergence of a new modern and developed nation, while valuing and safeguarding the independence, for which successive generations of ancestors had to sacrifice their lives.



Managing Director of Healthy Shop (Paris) U Myo Thwin presents certificate of honour to an outstanding director. — 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

“Shwe Myanmar” Troupe hails 60th Anniversary Independence Day



An artiste of “Shwe Myanmar” Troupe entertains the audience with song in Nay Pyi Taw. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan — As a gesture of hailing the 60th Anniversary of Independence Day, “Shwe Myanmar” Troupe of Fine Arts Department under Ministry of Culture entertained local people at Volleyball Sports Ground in Nay Pyi Taw today.

The troupe of the Production Branch (Yangon) of Fine Arts Department entertained the audience with songs and dances accompanied by Myanmar tradi-

tional orchestra troupe of Kyaw Hsan Win.

Three dancers of the troupe sang songs and danced and four comedians of the troupe also entertained the people with jokes.

“Tint Hla Payhan” Troupe will entertain the people tomorrow and Shwe Myanmar Troupe on 5 January at the same venue.

MNA

No wish to continue to cooperate with NLD
46 members resign from Thakayta Township NLD

YANGON, 3 Jan — A ceremony to present resignation letters of 46 members from Thakayta Township National League for Democracy was held at the Dhammayon at the junction of No 2 Khine Shwe Wah Street and Thalawati Street, 10/South- 13 Ward in Thakayta Township yesterday.

Ward NLD Secretary Daw Khin Than Htay said that they disagreed with NLD party and they did not want to cooperate with NLD any longer. That was why they resigned from NLD of their own volition and presented letters of resignation to Chairman U Mya Kyaing of Thakayta Township Multi-party Democracy General Election Sub-commission.

The 46 members are Daw Khin Than Htay, Daw Than Than Aye, Daw Pyone Yi, Daw Zin Mar Tun, U Ye Lwin Oo, U Kyaw Zin, Ma Htay Htay Mar,

U Tun Tun Oo, U Myo Thu, Daw Win Yin, Ma Khin Mar Htay, Daw Myint, Ma Mu Mu Kyaw, Daw San Myint, U Min Min, U Min Lwin, Daw Mya Thit Nwe, Daw Than Than Htay, U Nyunt Win, U Tun Oo, Daw Than Win, Daw Nwe Nwe San, U Hla Kyaing, Daw Hla Hla Htwe, Daw Hla Ohn Mai, U Tin Soe, U Nyi Nyi Naing, Ma Moe Thida, Ma Zin Zin, U Baw Baw, Ma Khin Moe Moe, Ma Thin Thin Maw, U Kyaw Nyunt, Daw Aye Than, Ma Su, Daw Pyone Kyi, U Min Aung, Daw San, Daw Aye Cho, Daw Nu Nu Khine, Daw Mar Oo, Daw Tin Tin Nwe, Daw Tin Tin Win, U Min Min Tun, U Aung Kyaw Thet and Ma Zin Nwe Oo.

Resignation letters were sent to NLD (Headquarters) on Shwegondine Road in Bahan Township and local authorities concerned. — MNA

Members of Healthy Shop (Paris) honoured

YANGON, 3 Jan — Healthy Shop (Paris) honoured its members today at a ceremony to mark the anniversary of the cosmetic company's penetration of Myanmar market.

At the ceremony held at Sedona Hotel here,

Chairman of Healthy Shop (Paris) U Kyaw Min extended greetings and presented membership certificates to new members.

Managing Director U Myo Thwin of Healthy Shop (Paris) presented certificates of hon-

our to outstanding directors of the Healthy Shop (Paris).

Managing Director U Myo Thwin spoke words of thanks and picked up lucky draws for guests at the ceremony.

MNA

Significant Night Temperatures

Hakha	
Loilin	(0°C)
Namhsam	
Heho	(4°C)



A 3 kilometre long, 33 metre wide bridge in Rui'an City, in eastern China's Zhejiang Province, is completed on 2 Jan, 2008, after the two sections of the bridge met in the middle. The Rui'an Bridge, a two-way road with six lanes, has a weight capacity of 3,000 tons.—XINHUA

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

US chopper kills suspected insurgent in Iskandriyah

BAGHDAD, 2 Jan—A US helicopter bombed areas near the town of Iskandriyah south of Baghdad after two US patrols attacked by roadside bombs, killing a suspected insurgent and wounding another, local police said on Tuesday.

Two roadside bombs detonated on Monday night near US patrols outside the village of Lagash near the town of Iskandriyah, 50 kilometres south of Baghdad, the source told *Xinhua* on condition of anonymity.

A US helicopter flew over the area and bombed several positions around

the sites of the two attacks, killing a man and wounding another, the source said. The US troops transported the two suspected insurgents to the police station in the town of Iskandriyah, he added.

Separately, a joint US

and Iraqi security force searched several areas north of the city of Hilla, some 100 kilometres south of Baghdad, detaining 46 suspected insurgents, including a Saudi national, the source said.

MNA/Xinhua

American wounded in attack on US embassy car in Sudan

DUBAI, 2 Jan—An American was wounded in the chest in a shooting at a vehicle that belongs to the US embassy in Sudan, Al Arabiya television reported on Tuesday.

The driver, probably a Sudanese, was killed in the shooting at the sports utility vehicle in a main street in the capital Khartoum in the early hours of the morning, it said.—MNA/Reuters



A slash in Japan's fishing quotas due to the shrinking tuna population is driving seafood producers to look at alternative ways to increase supply.—INTERNET

Cyprus, Malta embrace euro

BRUSSELS, 2 Jan—Cyprus and Malta are embracing the euro on Monday as the two island countries count down to the new year.

Six years after the euro coins and banknotes came into circulation on 1 January, 2002, Cyprus and Malta will become the latest European Union (EU) countries to join the

euro zone, the single currency club within the EU.

The adoption by Cyprus and Malta of the euro marks the second enlargement of the euro zone, bringing the total number of the eurozone members from currently 13 to 15.

Slovenia adopted the single currency on 1

January, 2007 in the first enlargement, making itself the 13th member.

To welcome this historic moment, a large poster of new euro coins to be issued in Cyprus and Malta has been on display at the side wall of the European Commission headquarters building since half a month ago.

MNA/Xinhua

Pakistan issues Bhutto killing photos, offers reward

ISLAMABAD, 3 Jan—Pakistani authorities published on Wednesday photographs of a severed human head and two men standing in a crowd moments before Benazir Bhutto was killed and offered a reward for their identification.

Opposition leader and former prime minister Bhutto was killed in a gun

and suicide-bomb attack as she left a rally in the city of Rawalpindi last Thursday.

One of the pictures, published in a notice in Pakistan's biggest Urdu-language newspaper, shows two men standing in the crowd outside the Bhutto rally moments before she came out and was killed. The picture,

already published by a television station, shows a clean-shaven young man wearing sunglasses, a white shirt and dark waist coat.

Behind him stands a man with a white shawl over his head, who a television station said was believed to be the bomber.

Later pictures and video footage have shown the young man firing a pistol at Bhutto as she left the rally standing up through the sunroof of her land cruiser to wave to supporters. A second photograph published in the notice on Wednesday shows a severed human head, apparently that of the suicide bomber.

MNA/Reuters

Saudi Crown Prince hopes to boost ties with China

RIYADH, 3 Jan—Saudi Crown Prince Sultan Bin Abdul-Aziz said on Tuesday that he wishes to strengthen ties with China to push for a deeper and faster development of the strategic and friendly bilateral cooperation.

Sultan, also Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, Aviation and Inspector General, made the remarks during his meeting with the new Chinese Ambassador Yang Honglin. Calling China a "sincere friend", Sultan said his country places great importance on its friendly cooperation with China.

Saudi Arabia and China are both peace-loving countries and have a long history of cooperation, he said. The Crown Prince envisions a broad perspective in bilateral cooperation, citing similar political positions and the mutually complementary economies of the two

countries.

Yang appreciated and thanked Sultan's contribution to the improvement of bilateral ties.

MNA/Xinhua



Jin Yu, a nail beautician, embellishes a painting formed by fake nail tablets in Nanjing, capital of east China's Jiangsu Province, on 2 Jan, 2007.—XINHUA

Shanghai port continues to rank first in the world

SHANGHAI, 2 Jan — The cargo throughput of Shanghai port reached 560 million tons in 2007, ranking the first in the world for the third straight year, the Shanghai Port and Shipping Bureau said Monday.

The cargo volume grew by 4.2 per cent from 2006.

The throughput of TEUs (twenty-foot container equivalent units) at Shanghai port increased by 20.4 per cent to reach 26.15 million, the bureau said.

The cargo throughput of Shanghai port reached 443 million tons in 2005, surpassing the Port of Singapore to become the

largest in terms of cargo throughput.

The Shanghai port now has 42 TEU piers and routes to more than 300 ports worldwide.

The municipal government authorities have been striving to build the Shanghai port into an international shipping centre. — MNA/Xinhua



Snow-covered 3,776-metre-high (4,129-yard-high) Mount Fuji is seen clearly behind the landmark Tokyo Tower, left, beyond a distance of about 100 kilometres (60 miles) northeast from Tokyo's Shiodome waterfront area on 3 Jan, 2007. —INTERNET



Photo taken on 2 Jan, 2008 shows the lovely penguin baby at the Harbin Polarland in Harbin, capital of northeast China's Heilongjiang Province. —XINHUA

Georgia to secede from ex-Soviet group

Moscow, 2 Jan — Georgia has planned to eventually secede from the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), a loose grouping of ex-Soviet republics, but not in a hurry, *ITAR-TASS* news agency reported on Monday, citing a senior Cabinet member.

“Georgia will eventually secede from the CIS, but this decision will be made at the most advantageous moment so that it does not harm Georgia,” State Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration Georgy Baramidze was quoted as saying.

CIS, formed after the Soviet collapse in 1991,

groups 12 of the former 15 republics of the Soviet Union with Moscow in a dominating position.

MNA/Xinhua

Pub smoking ban belatedly reaches Germany, France

BERLIN/PARIS, 2 Jan— For years, anyone needing a nicotine fix in a German pub or French cafe did not even have to light up — the air was already so full of smoke that they only had to open their mouth and inhale.

But that all changes on Tuesday when strict new bans take effect in two of Western Europe's final bastions for smokers, Germany and France. There was long and fierce resistance to the prohibitions on tobacco that other countries imposed.

“When I have a beer I want to smoke, and if I can't smoke here anymore, I won't come anymore,” said Hans Dorsmann, 60, a Berlin salesman summing up a gloom-filled view that has made countless small pub operators fear for their businesses.

MNA/Reuters

Israeli Embassy evacuated in Canberra

CANBERRA, 3 Jan — The Israel Embassy in Australia's capital Canberra was evacuated on Wednesday after the discovery of a suspicious package, a spokesman told *Reuters*.

“The embassy was evacuated this morning after we discovered white powder in an envelope sent through the mail,” Dor Shapira said. A police spokesman said the heavily-guarded embassy had been evacuated as a precaution.—MNA/Reuters



In this undated photo released by the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary on 3 Jan 2008, a keeper holds a carpet python snake that swallowed four golf balls after mistaking them for chicken eggs at Currumbin on Australia's Gold Coast. —INTERNET

Two US sailors found dead in hotel room in Ghana

DAKAR, 2 Jan — Two US Navy sailors were found dead on Tuesday in their hotel room while on shore leave in the West African country of Ghana, the US Navy said in a statement.

The cause of death was unknown and was being investigated by Ghanaian authorities in cooperation with US Navy officials, the statement said.

Both sailors were stationed aboard the Fort McHenry, a dock landing ship conducting a port visit to Ghana as part of a US naval partnership programme in West Africa. —MNA/Reuters

Three die in New Year crash in London

LONDON, 2 Jan — Three people have died and two others been seriously injured after their car collided with a bus in south east London, Scotland Yard said.

All five were travelling in a Peugeot 106 which hit the single decker bus near the junction of Little Heath and Cemetery Lane in Charlton at around 6:30 am.

The three victims — two females and one male — were pronounced dead at the scene.

The others, a male and a female, were cut free by fire officers and taken to hospital. There were not believed to be any injuries among those travelling on the bus.

The families of the victims were being informed, police said. — MNA/Reuters

Strong quakes jolt Papua New Guinea

WASHINGTON, 2 Jan — Two strong quakes, a magnitude 6.2 quickly followed by a magnitude 6.1 aftershock, struck Papua New Guinea on Tuesday, on the eastern shore of the main island of New Guinea, the US Geological Survey reported.

The first quake, initially reported as a magnitude 6.7 but later verified at 6.2, was centred 55 miles (88.5 kilometres) north of the town of Lae. It was only 29.8 miles (50 kilometres) deep.

The aftershock, deeper at 38.5 miles (62 kilometres), struck at 1913 GMT, very nearby, 46 miles (74 kilometres) north of Lae. The quakes struck on land, near the eastern coast. No reports of damage or casualties were immediately available.

MNA/Reuters

Iran, Vietnam ink MoU on commercial cooperation

TEHERAN, 2 Jan—Iran and Vietnam on Tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on cooperation in the trade and economic sectors, the official *IRNA* news agency reported.

Iranian Commerce Minister Masoud Mir-Kazemi and visiting Vietnamese Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development Cao Duc

Phat inked the MoU on the second day of the Fifth Iran-Vietnam Economic and Commercial Co-operation Commission Meeting in Teheran.

The MoU underlines the need for expanding cooperation in the field of customs, support for joint investments, preferential tariffs as well as engineering and technical services, *IRNA* said.

Implementing joint ventures in dam-building, bridge construction, and cement and car-manufacturing plants are also among the provisions of the MoU, it said.

The document further stresses the need to upgrade cooperation in the fields of oil and gas, agriculture, tourism, education, exchange of delegations, holding exhibitions, resolving problems hindering expansion of activities by companies and private sectors of the two nations.

By signing the MoU, the two nations can prepare grounds for making use of their capabilities to develop mutual relations for long-term trade and economic cooperation, the report said.

MNA/Xinhua



A construction worker carries materials in front of a large chimney next to newly constructed apartment blocks at the site of the National Stadium, also known as the Bird's Nest, in Beijing on 3 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

Vietnam to build first 6-star hotel

HANOI, 2 Jan—Vietnam will build its first sixstar hotel in Nha Trang city of central Khanh Hoa Province next year, as part of a scheme to boost tourism in the country, local newspaper *Vietnam News* reported Wednesday. The French-designed Vinpearl Hotel will include 150 rooms, covering 25 hectares on Hon Tre island in the coastal city. Vinpearl Tourism and Trading Joint Stock Company, the major tourism and infrastructure company in Vietnam, will carry out the project, but the project's investment capital and ground-breaking date have not yet

been released.

Vietnam now is regarded as one of the most attractive destinations for foreign visitors, the construction of high-standard hotels and restaurants will contribute to creating positive images of Vietnam's tourism for foreign visitors, said

Nguyen Trong Hien, chairman of the company's management board, noting that the company is also planning other projects in Nha Trang in order to promote its trademark to international visitors.

Internet

New car sales in France up 3.2% in 2007

PARIS, 3 Jan—Sales of new cars in France hit 2,064,633 units in 2007, an increase of 3.2 percent compared with 2006, according to a statement from the Committee of French Car Makers (CCFA).

In the statement published on Wednesday, the CCFA said car registration "jumped" by 21.2 percent to 182,638 units in December 2007.

According to the committee, after the uncertainty during the first half of the year, the situation reversed in July and the increase became more marked in the last month of 2007. —Internet



A Chinese girl shows irregular-shaped poker cards featuring Fuwa, the mascots of Beijing 2008 Olympic Games, at a franchiser in Wuhan in central China's Hubei Province, on 2 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET

SAR chief says Macao's eco prosperity to benefit all

MACAO, 2 Jan—Macao's Government will make efforts to ensure that the whole community will benefit from the

booming economy by enhancing public services and curbing inflation, said Macao Special Administrative Region (SAR)

Chief Executive Ho Hau Wah in his New Year speech on Monday.

Extending his New Year greetings to the Macao people, Ho promised that, in the coming years, the government will work on translating Macao's economic prosperity into various high quality public services, and adopting resilient and comprehensive policies to curb inflation that affects people's daily lives.

He said Macao's economy, centring on the tourism and leisure industries, has taken shape as it was designed and brought prosperity to the SAR in the past year.

MNA/Xinhua

ECONOMIC NEWS

Israeli economy booms at 5.3% GDP in 2007

JERUSALEM, 2 Jan—The Israeli economy grew by 5.3 per cent in 2007, up from 5.2 per cent in 2006, the Central Bureau of Statistics said on Monday.

2007 is the fifth consecutive year of rapid growth, and the fourth in which the economy grew in excess of 5 per cent, it said. Growth during the

year was mainly supported by a stronger private sector and higher exports. Consumer spending in the private sector grew 7.2 per cent over 2007, from 4.5 per cent a year earlier, while exports rose 8.6 per cent compared with 5.9 per cent in 2006, the bureau said. Investments in fixed assets rose by 13.6 per cent following a rise of 10.1 per cent in 2006.

Israel's growth rate in 2007 was double that of members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and nearly three times the rate in the United States. Per capita gross domestic product was at 92,700 shekels (22,600 US dollars), a 3.5-per-cent rise over 2006, the highest rise of all Western countries.—MNA/Xinhua



A young fisherman in US captured a weird fish on Wednesday, whose white belly looks like a big balloon. Its body is studded with hairy flesh thorns, fins are translucent in the colour of cod-liver oil pill and gray back is speckled with white dots.—INTERNET

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 60th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.*

From Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia Mr Chairman,

The auspicious celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar gives me the opportunity to extend to Your Excellency, on behalf of the Cambodian people and on my own behalf, my warmest congratulations and best wishes for Your personal well-being, as well as for a happy future of the Union of Myanmar.

The multiform cooperation between our two Countries is exemplary both within the framework of our bilateral relations as well as that of ASEAN. Cambodia and Myanmar are Countries whose friendship is based on mutual respect and support for each other. Cambodia has always supported the aspirations of the people of Myanmar for independence, peace and development.

I am confident that the bonds of friendship and cooperation between our two Nations will continue to flourish.

Please accept, Mr Chairman, the assurances of my highest consideration.

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

On the auspicious occasion of the 60th 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 have a pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency and through Your Excellency to the entire brotherly people of the Union of Myanmar.

I am gratified to note that the friendly relations and good cooperation between our two countries have been continuously developed in bilaterally as well as within the framework of ASEAN. I am confident that the friendly ties and good cooperation will be further enhanced and strengthened in the years to come for the interest of the peoples of our two nations as well as for peace, stability and cooperation for the development in the region and in the world.

May I take this opportunity to wish Your Excellency good health and well-being and continued progress and prosperity for the people of the Union of Myanmar.

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

From King Akihito of Japan

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

From Mr Yasuaki Nogawa, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan
Excellency,

On the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Independence of the Union of Myanmar, I have the honour to extend to Your Excellency sincere felicitations and best wishes for the progress, the success in the efforts of new nation building and prosperity of your country.

On this happy occasion, I would like to express my sincere wish that the friendly relations, which exist between our two countries will be maintained and further strengthened for the mutual benefit of our two people.

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

From Mrs Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of India

On behalf of the people of India and on my own behalf, I extend sincere felicitations and best wishes to the people of Myanmar on the day commemorating the independence of your country.

India and Myanmar share a tradition of friendship and cooperation spanning centuries. In recent years, our relationship has deepened and diversified to include newer areas of cooperation. It is a matter of satisfaction that our bilateral, political and economic ties are in the process of being further strengthened for mutual benefit.

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

With the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Prof Dr Iajuddin Ahmed, President of the People’s Republic of Bangladesh

Excellency,

On the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, it is my immense pleasure in conveying to Your Excellency and through you to the people of Myanmar our heartiest greetings and felicitations.

Bangladesh and Myanmar enjoy warm and cordial relations which have grown in depth and dimension over the years. I am confident that the long-standing bonds of friendship and cooperation that so happily exist between our two friendly countries will further be widened and deepened in the days ahead.

I wish Your Excellency’s good health, happiness and long life, and continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Myanmar.

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

From President Pervez Musharraf, President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Excellency,

It gives me great pleasure to extend our warmest felicitations on the happy occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, falling on January 04, 2008.

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

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

From Mr Mahinda Rajapaksa, President of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Your Excellency,

I have great pleasure in conveying to Your Excellency, the Government and the people of the Union of Myanmar my warmest congratulations and best wishes and those of the Government and the people of Sri Lanka on the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

I am confident that the close and cordial relations that exist between our two countries will be further consolidated for the mutual benefit of our two peoples in the years to come.

Please accept, Your Excellency, my sincere wishes for your personal health and happiness and for the continued progress and prosperity of the people of the Union of Myanmar.

From Mr Roh Moo-Hyun, President of the Republic of Korea

Excellency,

On the occasion of the Independence Day of the

Union of Myanmar, I have the great pleasure to convey to Your Excellency on behalf of the Korean People, my heartfelt congratulations.

The past years have witnessed significant growth in mutual understanding and friendship between our two countries. I am confident that our friendly relations will be further advanced to the mutual benefit of our two peoples.

Please accept, Your Excellency, my best wishes for Your continued good health, happiness and the prosperity of Your great country.

Mr Raul Castro Ruz, First Vice-President of the Council of State and of Ministers of the Republic of Cuba

Your Excellency,

The commemoration of the 60th Anniversary of the Independence gives me the welcome opportunity of extending to you and to the people and government of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the Cuban people and government, most cordial congratulations and to renew our resolve to continue enhancing the relations of friendship and cooperation between our countries.

Upon expressing sincere wishes for the prosperity of that friendly nation and for your personal happiness, I renew to you the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Mr Abdullah Gul, President of the Republic of Turkey

Mr Chairman,

On behalf of the Turkish people and my own behalf, I would like to express my congratulations on the occasion of the National Day of the Union of Myanmar and reiterate my best wishes for the well-being and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

From King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, King of Saudi Arabia

I am grateful to send cordial and best regards to Your Excellency on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar. On behalf of the People and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and my own behalf, I would like to send my best wishes and my heartiest congratulations on the auspicious occasion of your 60th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

Wishing Your Excellency, long lasting life, happiness and to the people of Myanmar development and prosperity.

Accept Your Excellency my compliments and considerations.

From His Royal Highness Sultan Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, Crown Prince, Deputy Premier, Minister of Defense and Aviation and Inspector General, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

I am pleased to send the congratulatory message on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar. On behalf of the People and the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and my own behalf, I wish to convey to Your Excellency my best regards and congratulations on the occasion of Your 60th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

Wishing Your Excellency, long lasting life, happiness and to the people of Myanmar, development and prosperity.

Accept Your Excellency my compliments and considerations.

From Mr Thabo Mvuyelwa Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa

Your Excellency,

On the auspicious occasion of the celebration of the Union of Myanmar’s Independence Day on 4 January 2008, the Government and people of the Republic of South Africa join me in conveying to Your Excellency,

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Foreign Heads of State send felicitations...

(from page 6)
the Government and people of the Union of Myanmar our warmest greetings and sincere congratulations.
May I take this opportunity to express the wish for Your Excellency's good health and also reaffirm our desire to further enhance and consolidate the excellent bonds of friendship that exist between our countries.

Please accept Your Excellency, my best wishes for your personal good health and prosperity for the Government and people of the Union of Myanmar.
From Mr Hu Jintao, President of the People's Republic of China
Excellency,

Upon this auspicious occasion of the 60th 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 while the two peoples enjoy profound Pauk-Phaw friendship. Continuous consolidation and development of good-neighbourly and friendly relations of cooperation serve the fundamental interest of two peoples and are conducive to peace, stability and development of

Asia.
I am willing to make joint efforts with Your Excellency to further promote the relations between China and Myanmar.
May the Union of Myanmar enjoy prosperity and her people well-beings, and wish Your Excellency good health and every success.

From Mr Kim Yong Nam, President, Presidium, Supreme People's Assembly, Democratic People's Republic of Korea
I extend warm congratulations to you and through you, to your people on 60th Independence Year of the Union of Myanmar.

Convinced that friendly relations between our two countries will further expand and strengthen as required by a new century. I take this opportunity to sincerely wish you good health and happiness as well as greater successes in your work for country's stability and prosperity.
From Mr S R Nathan, President of Singapore
Excellency,
On behalf of the people of the Republic of Singapore, I wish to convey our warmest wishes to Your Excellency and the people of the Union of Myanmar on the auspicious 60th anniversary of the Independence of Myanmar.

Singapore and Myanmar have a long history of friendly and cooperative relations. I am confident that our two countries would continue to work together for the benefit of our people and the ASEAN community.
Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.
From Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Philippines
Excellency,

I wish to extend, on behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of the Philippines, best wishes and warm greetings to the Government and people of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.
The friendly and cordial relations between our two countries continue to flourish. Our two Governments' commitment to maintain and strengthen our bilateral and regional ASEAN ties heighten my confidence that our friendship and the friendship of our peoples will ultimately bring about deeper and closer ties between the Philippines and Myanmar.
I wish to assure Your Excellency that my Government will support the Government of Myanmar in all its endeavours to secure for the Myanmar people the goals of unity, peace, democracy and national development. Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration. —MNA

Laotian Vice-President sends felicitations to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—*The following is the message sent by Mr Bounnhang Vorachith, Vice-President of the Lao People's Democratic Republic, to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council, on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.*

Your Excellency,
On the auspicious occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I have a pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency.
I have a full hope that the traditional relations of friendship and good neighbourly cooperation between

our two countries and the peoples of our two nations Laos and Myanmar will be further strengthened and developed.
May I take this opportunity to wish Your Excellency good health, well-being and success in your noble task.
Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration. —MNA

Foreign Heads of Government send felicitations to Prime Minister General Thein Sein

NAY PYI 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 60th Anniversary Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.*

From Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore
On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Singapore, I would like to congratulate Your Excellency and the Government of the Union of Myanmar on the auspicious occasion of Myanmar's 60th Independence Day.

Singapore-Myanmar relations are longstanding and friendly. Our two nations should continue to work together to strengthen cooperation and ties, both bilaterally and within ASEAN.
Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.

From Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia
Excellency,
On behalf of the Royal Government and people of Cambodia, I have the great pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Your Excellency on the happy occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, and best wishes of happiness and prosperity to the people of Myanmar.
I note with satisfaction that the relations of close

friendship and good cooperation between our two countries have been strengthened and developed day by day for the mutual interests of our two peoples as well as for a stronger ASEAN family.
Please accept, Your Excellency, the 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 60th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the Government and People of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and on my own behalf, I have a great pleasure to convey to Your Excellency my warmest congratulations and best wishes and through Your Excellency to the Government and the entire brotherly people of Myanmar.
I am confident that with your joint efforts the friendly ties and good cooperation existing between our two countries will be further strengthened and developed for the interest of the peoples of our two nations Laos and Myanmar as well as for dynamism of the ASEAN family and also in contributing for peace, stability and cooperation in the region and in the world.
May I take this opportunity to wish Your Excellency good health, well-being and greater success in your noble tasks.
Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances

of my highest consideration.
From General Surayud Chulanont (Retd), Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Thailand
Excellency,
On behalf of the Royal Thai Government and the Thai peoples, I have the honour to extend to Your Excellency our sincere congratulations and warmest wishes for the prosperity of the Union of Myanmar and her people on the occasion of the Independence Day.
As we commemorate the 60th Anniversary of the establishment of our diplomat relations, I wish to reaffirm to Your Excellency that Thailand will continue its constructive cooperation with the Union of Myanmar in both bilateral and multilateral fora. I also firmly believe that our close consultation and collaboration particularly in ASEAN and ACMECS frameworks will lay a solid foundation for our sustainable development in the years ahead.
Accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.
From Mr Yasuo Fukuda, Prime Minister of Japan
Excellency,
On the 60th anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I wish to extend to Your Excellency my warm congratulations and sincere wishes for the development of your country.
Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration.
(See page 9)



Senior General Than Shwe receives Nepalese Ambassador Ms Guma Laxmi Sharma (Bishowkarama). (News on page 1)— MNA

Senior General Than Shwe ...
(from page 1)

Nowadays, the entire people have unanimously adopted the emergence of a peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic state as the national goal and are striving to realize it. The government has been giving priority to ensuring stability of the State and the rule of law, building economic infrastructures and developing human resources which are essential for building a new nation. It has been working overtime to ensure equitable progress in all parts of the nation. It has laid down 24 special development zones project, border areas development project and rural development project and is implementing them for harmonious development of the entire nation. The government has been making all-out efforts in every aspect to lay a durable foundation for the new nation.

The government has already proclaimed the

seven-step Road Map to build a new, peaceful, modern and developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation. The government has been realizing the Road Map phase by phase and it successfully concluded the National Convention on 3 September 2007, which is the most important step. The National Convention successfully and unanimously adopted fundamental principles and detailed basic principles to write a constitution.

The Commission for Drafting the State Constitution has been formed and assigned duties to it. The commission is now implementing its task of drafting the constitution in accord with the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles adopted by the National Convention.

On this glorious Independence Day, I with love and respect urge all the national brethren born in the Union to firmly uphold the following five objectives of the 60th Anniversary Independence Day 2008 and vigorously realize them with Union Spirit and patriotism while

making a firm resolve to build a new, peaceful, modern and developed discipline flourishing democratic nation:

- (1) All the national people to constantly join hands for safeguarding the perpetuation 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) To ensure emergence of an enduring constitution in line with the fundamental principles and detailed basic principles adopted by the National Convention that has been completed successfully;
- (4) All the national people to harmoniously make all-out efforts for building of a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation;
- (5) All the national people to cooperate in realizing the State's seven-step Road Map with Union Spirit, patriotic spirit and the spirit of sacrifice.—MNA



Secretary-1 awards...
(from page 16)

Later, Education Minister Dr Chan Nyein reported on taking measures for raising the qualifications of the teachers in accord with the guidance of the Head of State, drawing of the school curricula and syllabuses of international level, extensive use of teaching aids, ensuring

that the students are to follow and respect the school discipline, training the students to be armed themselves with patriotism and Union Spirit, use of cutting-edge teaching equipment in basic education schools and colleges and universities and other education programme.

Next, Secretary-1

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo delivers an address at School Family Day for 2007-2008 Academic Year. — MNA

Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presented prizes to 17 outstanding students for the 2007-2008 academic year and posed for a documentary photo together with them.

Then, Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin presented certificates of honour to the students who won gold medals in international and South-East Asian sports events and posed for a documentary photo together with them. (See page 9)



Foreign Heads of Government send...

(from page 7)

From Dr Fakhruddin Ahmed, Chief Adviser to the Non-Party Caretaker Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Excellency,

On behalf of the people of Bangladesh and on my own behalf, I have great pleasure in conveying to Your Excellency and through you to the friendly people of the Union of Myanmar, our warmest greetings and heartiest felicitations on the joyous occasion of the Independence Day of Myanmar.

On this happy occasion, I express my firm conviction that the existing friendly relations between Bangladesh and Myanmar would continue to grow in large magnitude for the best benefit of our two peoples.

I avail of this opportunity to express my earnest wishes to Your Excellency for your good health, happiness and long life and for the continued peace, progress and prosperity of the friendly people of Myanmar.

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

From Mr Mohammedmian Soomro, Prime Minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan

Excellency,

It gives me great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency, on behalf of the Government and people of Pakistan and on my own behalf our sincere greetings and warm felicitations on the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, falling on January 04, 2008.

Pakistan and Myanmar enjoy cordial and cooperative relations. I am confident that the friendly ties between our two countries would be further strengthened in the years to come.

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

From Ratnasiri Wickramanayaka, Prime Minister of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka

Your Excellency,

I have great pleasure to congratulate Your Excellency on the auspicious occasion of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

It's with honour that I refer to Your Excellency's visit to Sri Lanka in August this year which contributed for furtherance of the longstanding bilateral relations and goodwill between the two countries. I take this opportunity to express once again the sincere appreciation of the Government and the people of Sri Lanka for the continued generosity of the Government and the people of the Union of Myanmar of gifting of two elephants during this visit. I firmly believe that the bonds of friendship cooperation that so happily exist between our two countries will be further strengthened for the well-being of our two peoples in the future.

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

From Mr Recep Tayyip Erdogan, Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey

Excellency,

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Turkey and on my own behalf, I would like to express my sincere congratulations on the occasion of the National Day of the Union of Myanmar.

I avail myself of this opportunity to convey my best wishes for the happiness and prosperity of the people of Myanmar.

From Mr Wen Jiabao, Premier of the People's Republic of China

Excellency,

Upon this auspicious occasion of the 60th 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 our warmest congratulations and best wishes.

The Chinese Government treasures the Pauk-Phaw friendship between China and Myanmar, and is willing to make joint efforts with the Myanmar side for the consolidation of the traditional friendship, the enhancement of mutual beneficial cooperation, and the continuous promotion of the relations between China and Myanmar.

May the Union of Myanmar enjoy prosperity and her people well-beings, and wish Your Excellency good health and smooth work.

From Mr Kim Yong Il, Premier of the Cabinet of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

I extend warm congratulations and greetings to you, your government and people on 60th Independence Year of the Union of Myanmar.

I take this opportunity to express my sincere wish to you for your good health and happiness and same kind of wish to your people for continued progress and prosperity.

From Madame Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, President of the Philippines

Excellency,

On behalf of the government and people of the Republic of the Philippines, I wish to extend best wishes and warm felicitations to the government and people of the Union of Myanmar on the occasion of the 60th Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

The friendly relations between our two Governments and our peoples continue to strengthen and thrive as we aim to nurture excellent ties as neighbouring countries and brothers in ASEAN.

Accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration. — MNA



Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Malaysian Ambassador Dato Mazlan bin Muhammad in Nay Pyi Taw.

(News on page 16)— MNA

Secretary-1 awards...

(from page 8)

Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein awarded prizes to 17 Basic Education High Schools for performance in the tasks of greening the schools and their environs for the 2007-08 academic year and had a photo taken along with them.

Then the first session of the prize presentation ceremony concluded with a song by students of BEHS No 2, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana.

The second session of the ceremony started at 9 am with a song by BEHS No 3 Nay Pyi Taw.

Minister for Hotels and Tourism Maj-Gen Soe Naing presented prizes to 16 outstanding



Minister Brig-Gen Ohn Myint presents prize to an outstanding student. — MNA

ninth graders for 2007-08 academic year from states and divisions, Minister for

Mines Brig-Gen Ohn Myint to 18 students for their outstanding performances in Myanmar and International Social Relations and Customs, Deputy Minister for Education U Myo Nyunt to a student who won gold medal in International Painting Contest and Deputy Minister for Education Brig-Gen Aung Myo Min to five other outstanding students according to the program for enrollment of school-aged children. Later, they all posed for a documentary photo.

The ceremony ended with a song by students of No 3 BEHS Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana.—MNA



Minister Dr Chan Nyein presents report on educational tasks carried out in the 2007-2008 academic year. — MNA

Notifications on conferring titles and medals of commendation issued

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan — The State Peace and Development Council issued Notification Nos 1/2008, 2/2008, 3/2008, 4/2008, 5/2008, 6/2008, 7/2008 and 8/2008 on conferring titles and medals today, the 60th Anniversary Independence Day.

Under the Notification No 1/2008, religious titles have been conferred on Sayadaws and nuns and laity. Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Titles have been conferred on three Sayadaws; Agga Maha Pandita Titles on 28 Sayadaws; Maha Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Title on one Sayadaw, Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Titles on seven Sayadaws; Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Titles on 45 Sayadaws and four nuns; Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Titles on 52 Sayadaws and three nuns; Ganthavacaka Pandita Titles on 59 Sayadaws and seven nuns; Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamajotika Titles on six Sayadaws; Agga Maha Saddhamajotikadhaja Titles on 34 Sayadaws, Maha Saddhamajotikadhaja Titles on 30 Sayadaws, four nuns and two laity; Saddhamajotikadhaja Titles on 39 Sayadaws, two nuns and one laity; Agga Maha Kammathanacariya Titles on nine Sayadaws; Maha Kammathanacariya Titles on 14 Sayadaws; Kammathanacariya Titles on eight Sayadaws; Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Manijotadhara Titles on six laity; Agga Maha Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Titles on six laity; Thiri

Thudhamma Manijotadhara Titles on three laity; Thiri Thudhamma Theingi Titles on five laity; Thiha Thudhamma Manijotadhara Titles on three laity; Thiha Thudhamma Theingi Titles on two laity, Thudhamma Manijotadhara Titles on 24 laity and Thudhamma Theingi Titles on 31 laity.

Under the Notification No 2/2008, medals for excellent performance in science (Third Class) were presented to nine persons; medals for excellent performance in arts (Second Class) were presented to 12 persons; medal for excellent performance in arts (Third Class) to one person; medals for excellent performance in medical field (Second Class) to two persons; medals for excellent performance in medical field (Third Class) to seven persons; medal for excellent performance in industrial field (First Class) to one person; medals for excellent performance in industrial field (Second Class) to six persons; medals for excellent performance in industrial field (Third Class) to two persons; medals for excellent performance in agricultural field (Second Class) to one person; medals for excellent performance in agricultural field (Third Class) to thirty persons; medals for excellent performance in mechanical field (Second Class) to three persons; medals for excellent performance in mechanical field (Third Class) to 43 persons; medals for excellent performance in administrative field (First

Class) to 33 persons; medals for excellent performance in administrative field (Second Class) to 44 persons; medals for excellent performance in administrative field (Third Class) to 153 persons; medals for excellent performance in social field (First Class) to 102 persons; medals for excellent performance in social field (Second Class) to 87 persons; medals for excellent performance in social field (Third Class) to 166 persons; medals for Ye Thiha to four persons, medals for Ye Thura to four persons, medals for Ye Bala to two persons and medals for Ye Kyawswa to four persons.

Under the Notification No 3/2008, Military Good Service Thingaha Medals were presented to 1337 persons.

Under the Notification No 4/2008, Military Good Service Medals were presented to 2947 persons.

Under the Notification No 5/2008, Good Public Service Medals were presented to 5250 persons.

Under the Notification No 6/2008, Good Myanmar Police Force Medals were presented to 24 persons.

Under the Notification No 7/2008, MPF Service Medals were presented to 173 persons.

Under the Notification No 8/2008, Public Service Medals were presented to two retired personnel and 14, 801 personnel and Law and Order Restoration Medals to one retired personnel and 25,122 personnel.

MNA

Union of Myanmar
State Peace and Development Council
Notification No 1/2008
11th Waning of Nadaw, 1369 ME
(4 January 2008)

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 Kammathana Instructor Sayadaws, Mobile Dhamma Preachers, national foreign missionary figures and outstanding donors of the Four Essentials to the Buddha Sasana.

Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Title

1. Bhaddanta Kundalabhivamsa, Saddhammaranthi Yeiktha Monastery, 8th Mile, Mayangon Township, Yangon Division
2. Bhaddanta Obhasa, Kawhla Pariyatti Monastery, Daingwunkwin, Shansu Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State
3. Bhaddanta Kavisara, Maha Withutarama Zaygon Monastery, Ywagauk Ward, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, Mandalay Division

Agga Maha Pandita Title

1. Bhaddanta Indaṇara MyoU Monastery, Myitkyina, Kachin State
2. Bhaddanta Paññasiri, Zeyathein Pali Tekkatho Monastery, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
3. Bhaddanta Uttamañānabhivamsa, Mogaung Monastery, Bo Aung Zeya Ward, YeU, Sagaing Division
4. Bhaddanta Mahosadhapandita, Sitagu International Buddhist Academy, Thawtapan Ward, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
5. Bhaddanta Nimala, Kyaukhtongyi Monastery, Kyaukhtongyi Village, Katha Township, Sagaing Division
6. Bhaddanta Nagavamsa, Withuddhayon Baranasi Monastery, Nawin Ward, Pyay, Bago Division (West)

7. Bhaddanta Vayama, KandawU Monastery, Yadanabon Taik, Nattalin, Bago Division (West)
8. Bhaddanta Nandavamsa, Maha Dhammikayama Monastery, Ohbo Ward, Magway, Magway Division
9. Bhaddanta Sasana, Dhammika Tawya Monastery, Ahtet Minhla, Magway Division
10. Bhaddanta Paññasami, Mingala Thazi Monastery, Chauk, Magway Division
11. Bhaddanta Sagarabhivamsa, Masoeyein Monastery, Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay Division
12. Bhaddanta Issarabhivamsa, Withuddhayon YeU Pariyatti Monastery, Yintaw Ward, Amarapura Township, Mandalay Division
13. Bhaddanta Ḍakkinda, Dazaunggyi Monastery, Myingyan, Mandalay Division
14. Bhaddanta Paññasami, Mula Kannar Monastery, Lamaing Township, Ye Township, Mon State
15. Bhaddanta Nandobhivamsa, Ponnataung Monastery, Yanbye, Rakhine State
16. Bhaddanta Visuddha, Bagara Tawya Monastery, Sangyoung Township, Yangon Division
17. Bhaddanta Kavidhaja, 9th Mile Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha, Mayangon Township, Yangon Division
18. Bhaddanta Paññasami, Magadhi-Thazi Monastic Education School, Ward 13, Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Yangon Division
19. Dr Bhaddanta Neminda, Sasana Jotika Pariyatti Monastery, Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon Division
20. Bhaddanta Khemaṇara, Pazundaung Shwegyin Monastery, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Division
21. Bhaddanta Ñanavamsa, Aungmingala Monastery, Nyaungbyu Sakhan Ward, Taunggyi, Shan State
22. Bhaddanta Nagasenabhivamsa, Shwekyauing Pariyatti Monastery, Momeik, Shan State (North)
23. Bhaddanta Revata, Sankin Mingala Hman Monastery, Danubyu, Ayeyawady Division
24. Bhaddanta Kumara, Saddhammavedagu Monastery, Kanyinchaung Village, Hainggyigyun, Ngaputaw Township, Ayeyawady

- Division
- Title recipient Sayadaws from abroad**
25. Ven Weligama Gnanaratane Nayakethero, Dhammarakkhi Monastery, Tarmala City, Sri Lanka
 26. Ven Napana Pemasirithero, Vijjananda Monastery, Nitambuwa of Sri Lanka
 27. Ven Phra Khru Thamma Thon Sumon Nandiko, Watjeidaung Monastery, Patchaung Street, Bangkok, Thailand
 28. Ven Bouakham Saribouth, Mahantasehukaram (Chaunglaung) Monastery, Chantanaburi District, Vientiane, Lao PDR
- Maha Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Title**
1. Bhaddanta Sasana, Mahamyaing Monastery, Mahamyaing Ward, Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay Division
- Dhammakathika Bahujanahitadhara Title**
1. Bhaddanta Visuta, Maha Bawditawya Monastery, Khinmon Village, ChaungU Township, Sagaing Division
 2. Bhaddanta Kunsala, MinteU Monastery, DaikU, Bago Division
 3. Bhaddanta Vimala, Kanphya Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha, Wethtikan, Pyay Township, Bago Division (West)
 4. Bhaddanta Pañnavamsa, Mogok Yeiktha Monastery, Maha Minhtin Monastery, Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay Division
 5. Bhaddanta Vimala, Shwedaung Monastery, Hlaing Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State
 6. Bhaddanta Silaṇara, Yadana Hlaing Mahasi Monastery, Dagon Myothit (East) Township, Yangon Division
 7. Bhaddanta Paññaṇara, Pantapwinttaung Missionary Tawya Monastery, Taikkyi Township, Yangon Division
- Agga Maha Ganthavaṇaka Pandita Title**
1. Bhaddanta Naginda, Myoma Monastery, Ward 4, Shwegu, Kachin State
 2. Bhaddanta Ardicṇavamsa, Siri Mandaing Monastery, Ward 5, Hpa-an, Kayin State
- (To be continued)

Union of Myanmar
State Peace and Development Council
Notification No 2/ 2008
11th Waning of Nadaw 1369 ME
(4 January, 2008)

The State Peace and Development Council has conferred titles of commendation on the following persons.

Excellent Performance in Science (Third Class)

1. Daw Khin Myat Lwin, Lecturer, Technical and Vocational Education Department, Ministry of Science and Technology
2. Dr Thazin Han, Assistant Lecturer, Technical and Vocational Education Department, Ministry of Science and Technology
3. Dr Khin Mar Soe, Lecturer, University of Computer Studies (Yangon), Ministry of Science and Technology
4. Dr Tin Myat Htwe, Lecturer, University of Computer Studies (Yangon), Ministry of Science and Technology
5. Dr Soe Soe Khine, Assistant Lecturer, University of Computer Studies (Yangon), Ministry of Science and Technology
6. Dr Nwe Nwe Khine, Assistant Lecturer, University of Computer Studies (Yangon), Ministry of Science and Technology
7. Dr Thandar Phyu, Assistant Lecturer, University of Computer Studies (Yangon), Ministry of Science and Technology
8. Dr Ei Ei Han, Assistant Lecturer, University of Computer Studies (Yangon), Ministry of Science and Technology
9. Dr Myat Thuzar Tun, Assistant Lecturer, University of Computer Studies (Yangon), Ministry of Science and Technology

Excellent Performance in Arts (Second Class)

1. U Tin Yu, Film Producer, Director, Myanmar Motion Picture Asiayon, Ministry of Information.
2. U Zinyaw Maung Maung (a) U Lin Aung, Director, Ministry of Information
3. Dr Thein Nyunt (Nyunt Wai-Katha), Advisor, Yangon General Hospital, Ministry of Health
4. Daw Khin Kywe Oo, Professor (Retd), Myanmar Department, University of Culture (Yangon), Ministry of Culture
5. Daw Po, Professor (Retd), Myanmar Department, Yangon University, Ministry of Education
6. U Myint Kywe (Maung Myint Kywe), Chief Editor (Retd), Myawady Press, Ministry of Defence
7. Dr Myo Thant Tin, Director (Retd), Administration Department, Myanmar Foodstuff Industries, Ministry of Industry-1
8. Daw Cho Cho Tin (Ma Sandar), Writer, Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, Ministry of Information
9. Daw Khin Than Win (Kyu Kyu Thin), Writer, Myanmar Writers and Journalists Association, Ministry of Information
10. U Soe Myint (Soe Lwin Myint), Deputy Chief Editor (Sarpay Beikman) (Retd), Printing and Publishing Enterprise, Ministry of Information
11. U Ba Than (MA), Director-General (Retd), Civil Service Affairs Department, Civil Service Selection and Training Board
12. U Tin Hlaing (Ledwinthar Saw Chit) Director (Retd), General Administration Department, Ministry of Home Affairs

Excellent Performance in Arts (Third Class)

1. Lt-Col Ohn Maung (Retd) (Myinmu Maung Naing Moe), Chief Editor, Naing-Ngan Gonyi Magazine, Ministry of Information

Excellent Performance in Medical Field
(Second Class)

1. Dr Than Tun Sein, Director (Advisor) (Research), Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar), Ministry of Health
2. Dr Khin Pyone Kyi, Deputy Director-General, Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar), Ministry of Health

Excellent Performance in Medical Field
(Third Class)

1. Dr Cho Cho Su Mon, Deputy Director, Livestock, Feedstuff and Dairy Enterprise, Ministry of Livestock and Fisheries
2. Dr Khin May Oo, Deputy Director (Research), Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar), Ministry of Health
3. Dr Win Aung, Deputy Director (Research), Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar), Ministry of Health
4. Dr Moh Moh Tun, Deputy Director (Research), Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar), Ministry of Health
5. Dr Zaw Myint, Deputy Director (Research), Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar), Ministry of Health
6. Dr Win Maw Tun, Deputy Director (Research), Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar), Ministry of Health
7. Daw Khin Khin Aye, Research Officer, Medical Research Department (Lower Myanmar), Ministry of Health

Excellent Performance in Industrial Field
(First Class)

1. Dr Thein Kywe, Director, Dry Zones Greening Department (Mandalay), Ministry of Forestry

Excellent Performance in Industrial Field
(Second Class)

1. Air/1837 Lt-Col Min Aung, Commandant (Air Mechanical Depot), Ground Training Base, Ministry of Defence
2. Navy/ 3554 Lt-Commander Aung Thu Soe, Officiating Head of Department, Naval Dockyard Command. Ministry of Defence
3. Navy/ 3559 Lt-Commander Htain Lin Aung, Officiating Deputy Head of Department, Naval Dockyard Command. Ministry of Defence
4. Navy/ 3638 Lt-Commander Than Oo, Head of Branch, Naval Dockyard Command. Ministry of Defence.
5. U Clement Sadarna, Associate Professor, Mandalay Technological University, Ministry of Science and Technology
6. Dr Phyu Phyu Win, Deputy Director (Metallurgy Research and Development), Technical Development and Cooperation Department, Ministry of Science and Technology

Excellent Performance in Industrial Field
(Third Class)

1. BC/22746 Major Ye Aung, Officiating Head of Department, No (22) Defence Industry, Ministry of Defence
2. No Air/ 13709 WO1 Tin Aung, In-charge, Airplane Assembling and Maintenance Base, Ministry of Defence

Excellent Performance in Agricultural Field
(Second Class)

1. U Kyaw Win, Deputy General Manager, Myanmar Agriculture Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

Excellent Performance in Agricultural Field
(Third Class)

1. Daw Nyo Nyo, Professor, University of Agriculture (Yezin), Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
2. Dr Theel Bahadur, Associate Professor, University

of Agriculture (Yezin), Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

3. Daw Dolly Kyaw, Associate Professor, University of Agriculture (Yezin), Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
4. Dr Khin Oo, Lecturer, University of Agriculture (Yezin), Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
5. Dr Myo Kywe, Lecturer, University of Agriculture (Yezin), Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
6. Dr Myint Lwin, Lecturer, University of Agriculture (Yezin), Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
7. Dr Thandar Kyi, Lecturer, University of Agriculture (Yezin), Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
8. Dr Khin Thida Myint, Lecturer, University of Agriculture (Yezin), Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
9. U Zaw Khin, Deputy Director, Agriculture Mechanization Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
10. U Aung Zaw Oo, Staff Officer, Agriculture Mechanization Department, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
11. U Kyaw Yi, General Manager, Myanmar Agriculture Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
12. U Myo Myint, Deputy General Manager, Myanmar Agriculture Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
13. U Kyi Han, Deputy General Manager, Myanmar Agriculture Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
14. U Aung Kyin, Deputy General Manager, Myanmar Agriculture Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
15. U Khin Maung Latt, Deputy General Manager, Myanmar Agriculture Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
16. U Win Maung, Deputy General Manager, Myanmar Agriculture Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
17. U Myo Wai, Deputy General Manager, Myanmar Agriculture Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
18. U Ohn Shwe, Deputy General Manager, Myanmar Agriculture Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
19. U Kyaw Than, Manager, Myanmar Agriculture Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
20. U Aye Thein, Manager, Myanmar Agriculture Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.
21. U Thein Soe, Manager, Myanmar Agriculture Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
22. U Aung Khin, Manager, Myanmar Agriculture Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
23. U Tin Maung Myint, Manager, Myanmar Agriculture Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
24. U Win Myint, Manager, Myanmar Agriculture Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
25. Dr Tun Win, Manager, Myanmar Agriculture Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
26. U Aye Ko Ko, Manager, Myanmar Agriculture Service, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation
27. U Sai Hsan Aung, Farmer, Ward 12, Lashio, Shan State (North)
28. U Tun Lu, Farmer, Ward 12, Lashio, Shan State (North)
29. Dr Than Htut, Wetland Agriculture Farm, No 197, first floor, 40th Street, Kyaukdata Township, Yangon
30. U Aye Than, Agriculture Farm, Kanyinkhe village, Hleseik village-tract, Kyaiklat Township, Ayeyawady Division

(To be continued)

ADVERTISEMENT

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA TERAJU VOYNO (TRJ-277)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA TERAJU VOY NO (TRJ-277) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.1.2008 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
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21,233 arrested for drug trafficking in Costa Rica in '07

SAN JOSE, 2 Jan—A total of 21,233 people were arrested for involvement in drug trafficking in 2007, a report by the drug control authorities in the country said Tuesday.

An average of 63 people were arrested daily from 1 January to 5 December in 2007 for violating the Narcotics Law, said the report.

However, 95 per cent of the arrestees were seized with very small amounts of drugs and it was hard to determine if they were for personal use or for sale.

Only 374 people, 280 Costa Ricans and 94 foreigners, were found guilty of distributing and selling drugs.

The police received 176 phone calls with information on the activities of drug dealers, said a chief of the Police Drug Control agency, who withheld his name for security reasons.

"I believe the best intelligence work is done by the common citizen," he said.—MNA/Xinhua

Kung fu actor Jet Li tops 2007 star income list

BEIJING, 3 Jan—Chinese kung fu actor Jet Li made the most money in 2007 among China's entertainment elite, totalling some 465 million yuan, or around 62 million US dollars, as listed by Shanghai-based *Oriental Morning Post* on Wednesday.

It was the third year that the newspaper made a



Movie star Jet Li

through calculation of stars' annual income based on their media coverage.

The 44-year-old actor starred in three films in 2007, "The Warlords", "The Forbidden Kingdom" and "The Mummy 3." His salary from "The Warlords" alone was 100 million yuan. A sharp rise as he got only one yuan for his debut film "The Shaolin

ပြည်ထောင်စုမြန်မာနိုင်ငံတော်
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ပစ္စည်းဝယ်ယူရောင်းချရေးအဖွဲ့

ရက်စွဲ၊ ၂၀၀၈ ခုနှစ်၊ ဇန်နဝါရီလ ၂ ရက်
ချုပ်ပိတ်ဈေးနှုန်းလွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

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Mogadishu violence kills 6,500 in '07

MOGADISHU, 2 Jan—Conflict in Somalia killed 6,501 civilians in the capital Mogadishu in 2007 and wounded 8,516 more, a local human rights group said on Monday.

The Elman Peace and Human Rights Organization said it had recorded 1.5 million people uprooted from homes in the city during a year that began with the toppling of an Islamist movement that was followed by an insurgency.

The group's chairman, Sudan Ali Ahmed, blamed Ethiopian forces supporting the interim Somali Government for many of the civilian deaths. Residents are often caught in the crossfire as Ethiopian soldiers battle Islamist-led guerillas.

"The international community must intervene in Somali affairs to force the Ethiopians to get out. At the same time they must bring a joint international peace-keeping force to secure the country," Ahmed told a news conference.

He said he believed the United States was funding Ethiopia to keep its troops in Somalia, and must take some of the blame.

MNA/Reuters

Police dogs start patrolling Beijing subway stations

BEIJING, 3 Jan—Police dogs began regular patrols in Beijing's crowded subway stations on New Year's Day, sniffing for incendiary substances carried by passengers.

"The police dogs have been trained to be comfortable with the crowded environments and slippery surfaces of subway stations," said Wang Ning, a deputy head of the detection detachment of the Beijing Traffic Police Division of the Beijing Public Security Administration.

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P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 4 January 2008

Hundreds hurt in Philippines New Year revelry

MANILA, 2 Jan—About 450 people were injured by stray bullets and firecrackers as the Philippines held its traditionally raucous New Year festivities, but the number was far less than in previous years, authorities said on Tuesday. Health Secretary Francisco Duque said hospitals from all over the country had reported 450 cases of injuries from New Year's Eve celebrations. There were no deaths.

"Most of the injuries were superficial and there were no deaths. This is most gratifying," Duque said in a statement.

Last New Year's Eve, more than 600 people were wounded, and at least seven were killed in celebrations that began at Christmas.

"It was generally peaceful" national police chief General Avelino Razon told *Reuters*. "If we compare it with previous years, there is a big difference. There were less firecrackers available because of the campaign of the police and the department of health to confiscate firecrackers." — MNA/Reuters

Police dogs start patrolling Beijing subway stations

He said eight dogs are on patrol at five downtown subway stations, including those that serve the central landmark, Tian'anmen Square.

"More dogs will join the patrols later. We only use small species, such as Labrador retrievers and spaniels, for their communications and people skills," said Wang.

The administration has stepped up attempts to detect any incendiary devices or explosives that might be carried in public places.

Firecrackers and oil-based paints are the flammable products most often seized by the police on public transport. Fireworks are considered a must by many Chinese for festival celebrations, especially for the coming Spring Festival, or Lunar New Year, which will fall on 6 February.

The security patrol ahead of the festival will be good practice for the police dogs ahead of the Beijing Olympic Games later this year, said Wang.

MNA/Xinhua

Bolivia seizes 431 tons of drugs in 2007

LIMA, 2 Jan— The Bolivian anti-drug task forces seized some 431 tons of drugs in 10,400 operations throughout 2007, arresting 4,178 suspects, according to news from La Paz.

The drugs included 17 tons of cocaine and 413 tons of marijuana, said an announcement released Tuesday by the Bolivian Government.

Last year, the forces destroyed 3,925 drug factories and 6,296 drug pools, confiscating some 1,651 tons of coca leaves used to produce drugs, the announcement said.

MNA/Xinhua

Lack of deep sleep may increase risk of type 2 diabetes

WASHINGTON, 2 Jan — Suppression of deep sleep in healthy young adults significantly decreases their ability to regulate blood-sugar levels and increases the risk of type 2 diabetes, researchers at the University of Chicago Medical Centre reported on Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.

Deep sleep, also called “slow-wave sleep”, is thought to be the most restorative sleep stage.

This study found that after only three nights of selective deep sleep suppression, young healthy subjects became less sensitive to insulin.

Although they needed more insulin to dispose of the same amount of

glucose, their insulin secretion did not increase to compensate for the reduced sensitivity, resulting in reduced tolerance to glucose and increased risk for type 2 diabetes. The decrease in insulin sensitivity was comparable to that caused by gaining 20 to 30 pounds, said the researchers.—Internet

Morning gargle may be used for cancer tests

BEIJING, 3 Jan. — Morning gargle could be used some day as one way for people to find whether they have head and neck cancer, US researchers said as quoted by media reports Thursday.

Scientists at the Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Centre in Baltimore tried to use mouth rinses that capture genetic signatures linked to cancer as a screening tools for heavy smokers and alcohol

drinkers — those at high risk for head and neck cancers.

Patients were asked to brush the inside of their mouths, then rinse and gargle with a salt solution.

The scientists filtered out cells in the rinsed saliva that might contain one or more of 21 bits of chemically altered genes associated with head and neck cancers.

“The challenge is to predict which hyper-

methyated genes are most specific to cancer,” lead investigator Dr Joseph Califano of Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions said in a statement.

Internet

China auto maker to develop hydrous ethanol engines

BEIJING, 2 Jan — Dongfeng Motor Corporation, one of China’s largest auto makers, has completed its initial research of using hydrous ethanol in automobiles.

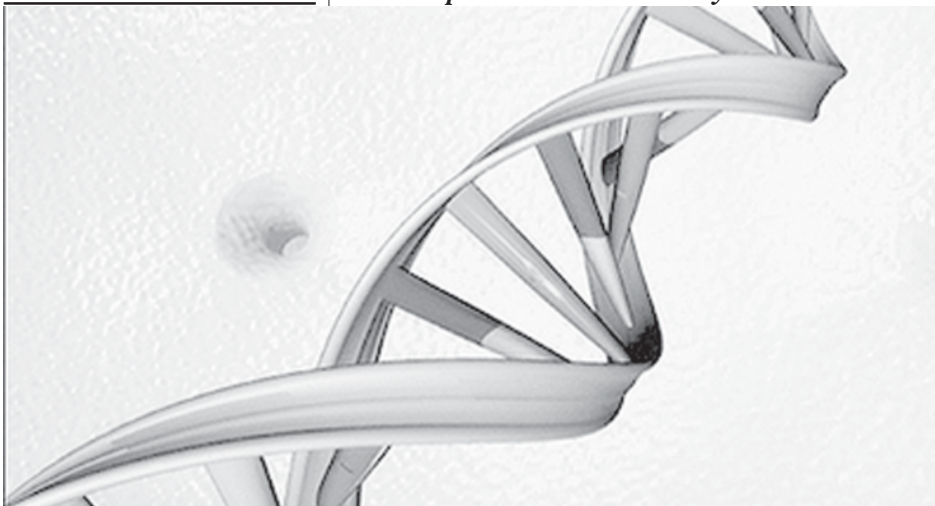
The new technology could produce combustible gas, mainly hydrogen, from hydrous ethanol that contained 65 per cent ethanol.

The present ethanol-fuelled vehicles needed pure ethanol blended with gas, the China Association of Automobile Manu-

facturers said. Experts said producing 65 per cent ethanol could save up to 60 per cent of energy compared with producing the same amount of pure ethanol, as dehydration was energy-consuming.

MNA/Xinhua

This undated handout illustration shows the DNA double helix. Scientists have identified a gene that helps protect mice against intestinal tumours, although it may also play a role in spreading breast cancer, according to a study to be published on Thursday.—INTERNET



Villagers use a bamboo raft in the floodwater in Gresik, East Java Province, on 2 Jan, 2008. At least 112 people have been killed and nine are still missing after landslides and floods hit Indonesia’s Java island over the past week, officials said on Wednesday.—INTERNET

A girl shows the nails with patterns of Peking Opera facial masks in a nail cosmetology shop in Jinan, capital of east China’s Shandong Province, on 2 Jan, 2008.—INTERNET



Two Egyptian women die of bird flu

CAIRO, 2 Jan — Two Egyptian women died of bird flu on Monday, bringing to four the number of fatalities from the virus in the most populous Arab country in less than a week.

All four cases involved women and are believed to have resulted from exposure to sick or dead back-yard birds.

Firdaus Mohamed Hadad of Menoufia Province in the Nile Delta was taken to hospital on Saturday and died early on Monday, the Health Ministry said in a statement.

“She suffered from a high fever and difficulty breathing and had a pulmonary infection after coming into contact with birds suspected of being infected with avian flu,” the statement said.

“She was placed on a respirator but died at dawn on Monday.”

Later, John Jabbour, an Egypt-based official with the WHO, said a second, unnamed, woman died of the H5N1 strain of bird flu in northern Egypt.

The deaths were the 18th and 19th bird flu fatalities in Egypt since the virus arrived in early 2006.

It is the third winter that the virus has struck after lying low during Egypt’s hot summers, when it is much less likely to spread from one carrier to another. —MNA/Reuters

SanDisk unveils USB flash drive with web backup

BEIJING, 3 Jan — SanDisk Corp Wednesday introduced a USB flash drive with automatic online backup, the first of its kind linking up with the Internet to offer new features.

The Cruiser Titanium Plus is SanDisk’s first USB drive with backup capabilities.

The 4Gbyte device will be featured at the International Consumer Electronics Show 7-10 Jan in Las Vegas, Nev.

When consumers store documents, photos and



SanDisk’s Cruiser Titanium Plus USB flash

music onto SanDisk’s new Cruiser Titanium Plus USB flash drive, it will back up that digital information to a Web service offered by a start-up company called BeInSync, which stores data onto Amazon.com

Inc’s computers.

The Cruiser Plus comes with a six-month subscription to the BeInSync backup service at no additional charge.

After opening a personal, password-protected account, any files copied to the drive from a computer are automatically backed up online.

If the computer is offline, then the files will be backed up the next time the drive is plugged into an Internet-connected machine.

Internet

SPORTS

Ramos determined to keep Berbatov at Tottenham

LONDON, 3 Jan — Tottenham Hotspur coach Juande Ramos has dismissed suggestions that striker Dimitar Berbatov would be sold in the January transfer window.

"Obviously Berbatov's agent is looking to do his business and has been making comments," Ramos was quoted as saying on the BBC website (www.bbc.co.uk) on Wednesday. "But we are happy because we have the player on a contract and we plan to keep him."

The Bulgarian's agent had said earlier in the week that Berbatov would be prepared to leave Tottenham if a big enough club made an offer.

The 26-year-old forward has been linked with a move to Premier League clubs including Manchester United and Arsenal since signing for Spurs in July 2006. Chelsea coach Avram Grant could also be targeting the player after saying he admired Berbatov's skills.

But Tottenham assistant coach Gus Poyet said no offer had been received for Berbatov.

"There is nothing on the table and there is nothing happening. It is not a problem for us. He is here and it is no drama," Poyet said.

"We want to improve and we want to go to a better level — he has to

stay."

Berbatov, who scored four goals in Tottenham's 6-4 Premier League win over Reading on Saturday, joined the north London club from Bayer Leverkusen in a 10.9-million-pound (21.86-million-US-dollar) deal.

MNA/Reuters



Liverpool's Fernando Torres shoots to score during their English Premier League soccer match against Wigan Athletic in Liverpool, northern England, on 2 Jan, 2008. —INTERNET

Dundee United beat depleted Hearts 4-1

GLASGOW, 3 Jan — Barry Robson scored a hat-trick to help Dundee United to a 4-1 Scottish Premier League win over Hearts, who finished the game with eight players on Wednesday. United took the lead after 23 minutes when Robson moved on to a short free kick from Lee Wilkie and crashed a rising shot from 20 metres into the net. Hearts equalized when Christophe Berra steered home a back post shot eight minutes from the interval. Robson made it 2-1 with a 70th minute-penalty after Lithuanian Marius Zaliukas was sent off for the foul. Noel Hunt hit their third.

Robson was brought down by Lee Wallace for another spot kick on 88 minutes. Wallace was dismissed for denying a goal scoring opportunity and Robson rammed in the penalty for 4-1. Referee Alan Freeland also sent off Michael Stewart in the final minute. —MNA/Reuters

Bayern coach Hitzfeld to step down in June

BERLIN, 3 Jan — Bayern Munich coach Ottmar Hitzfeld is to leave the Bundesliga club at the end of the season when his contract expires, he told local media on Wednesday.

"I already told the club three weeks ago of my decision to finish in the summer," Hitzfeld told German sports news agency SID.

"I will try again over the next half year to be successful and win as many titles as

possible." Hitzfeld added that his options included coaching the Swiss national side or going back to working as a television analyst.

He said he had yet to begin negotiations with the Swiss soccer federation and that a meeting was planned for the next few months.

Hitzfeld began his second stint as Bayern coach on February 1 last year, taking over from Felix Magath, and his contract runs through to the end of June this year. —MNA/Reuters



Monterrey's Carlos Ochoa (L) fights for the ball with Pumas' Carlos H Gonzalez during their InterLiga 2008 Group B soccer match in Frisco, Texas on 2 Jan, 2008. —INTERNET

Chelsea, Arsenal braced for African exodus

LONDON, 3 Jan — The African Nations Cup is taking place in tropical Ghana but the impact of the tournament will be felt in the cooler climes of Britain as a host of big name Premier League players head off to the sun.

Two of the three main title contenders, leaders Arsenal and chasing Chelsea will suffer and the end of the tournament, which

runs from 20 January to 10 February, cannot come quick enough for their respective managers.

Arsenal's defensive rock Kolo Toure and full-back Emmanuel Eboue played their final league game on Tuesday before joining Ivory Coast while Alexandre Song is in the Cameroon squad.

Chelsea, already nursing a long injury list, will

have to do without Ivorian duo Salomon Kalou and Didier Drogba and Nigerian midfielder John Obi Mikel, while the loss of midfielder Michael Essien to Ghana will hit them hardest.

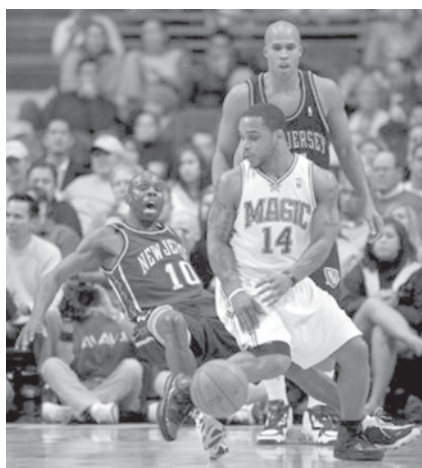
Avram Grant is likely to make some moves in the January transfer window with Bolton Wanderers striker Nicolas Anelka reported to be a target for the London club. "We are following players, but we don't want to bring in players ... just for two months, we are looking for more than that," Grant said on Chelsea's website (www.chelseafc.com).

"The media will link us to 2000 players."

Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said he is confident of coping with the loss of his African contingent, although he is probably relieved that striker Emmanuel Adebayor's Togo failed to qualify. —MNA/Reuters



Serena Williams of the United States lunges for the ball during her women's singles match against Alicia Molik of Australia at the Hopman Cup in Perth, Australia on 3 Jan, 2008. Williams won the match 6-2, 7-6. —INTERNET



New Jersey Nets guard Darrell Armstrong (L) tries to draw a foul as Orlando Magic guard Jameer Nelson (R) drives down court during second-half NBA basketball action in Orlando, Florida on 2 Jan, 2008. —INTERNET

Sprinter Gatlin handed four-year ban

SALVO (North Carolina), 3 Jan — Olympic 100 metres champion Justin Gatlin has been banned for four years pending a possible appeal for a 2006 positive test for testosterone, a source close to the case told Reuters on Tuesday.

The decision by a three-member US arbitration panel, which has not been announced publicly, could end the career of the 25-year-old Gatlin if he does not successfully appeal to the International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) or the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS). The Washington Post reported on its website (www.washingtonpost.com) that two out of the three American Ar-

bitration Association arbitrators had said they could not give less than a four-year ban because of a previous positive test.

A third dissented, the Post reported. Gatlin could not be reached for comment. His lawyer, John Collins, declined to comment.

Gatlin failed a drugs test in 2001 for a prescribed medication for Attention Deficit Disorder. He was reinstated by the International Association of Athletics Federations the following year.

The American won the 2004 Athens Olympic 100 metres title and completed a 100-200 double at the Helsinki world championships in 2005. —MNA/Reuters

Iran appoints Portugal's Jorge as national coach

TEHERAN, 3 Jan — Iran appointed Portugal's Artur Jorge as their coach on Wednesday ahead of 2010 World Cup qualifiers starting in February, Iran's official IRNA news agency said.

Iran have been without a coach since the departure of Amir Ghalenoei after they were knocked out of the Asian Cup quarterfinals by South Korea in July last year.

Jorge, 61, has previously been in charge of the Swiss and Portuguese teams and quit as Cameroon coach after their quarterfinal exit at the 2006 African Nations Cup.

Earning his credentials by taking FC Porto to victory in the 1987 European Cup, Jorge has also worked in France, Switzerland, Spain, the Netherlands, Russia and Saudi Arabia.

MNA/Reuters

Russians flood into China to mark New Year

BEIJING, 3 Jan — While Chinese were counting down the hours to the start of 2008, many Russian tourists crossed the border to join them.

Manzhouli, a city in the northeastern area of Inner Mongolia and China's largest land point of entry on the China-Russia border, embraced more than 5,000 Russian tourists on New Year's Eve, who came to listen to the bells ringing for the New Year.

In the city's biggest Western-food restaurants, more than 90 per cent of the seats had been booked by Russians. The Russians showed up in Chinese eateries, too.

"Almost every Russian knows Chinese food, like hot pot and Beijing roasted duck," said a 34-year-old tourist from Chitinskaya, Russia.

Heilongjiang is expecting about 5,000 Russian tourists from across the Suifen River during the New Year's holiday, according to sources with the Suifen Tourism Bureau.

"The New Year's rush started several days before the holiday with an increasing number of tourist coaches passing by," said Ma Gaocheng with the Dongning Border Inspection Station. "Most tourists are traveling with their families, who wish to go shopping in border cities."

If Inner Mongolia and Heilongjiang attracted Russians with proximity, the southernmost province of Hainan won others over with its sunshine and tropical seacoast.

Last week saw nearly 10,000 Russian tourists flowing into Sanya city, 30 per cent up from same period last year, said an official with the Sanya Tourism Bureau.

The official noted that most of the tourists were from Moscow, St Petersburg and some Far Eastern cities.

"Our tourism market is far from saturated and we are expecting more Russian tourists," he added.

MNA/Xinhua

China puts quota on grain powder exports

BEIJING, 3 Jan — China started a temporary quota policy on the export of wheat, corn and rice powder on Tuesday, in order to guarantee an adequate domestic supply.

The adjustment aims to curb grain exports boosted by climbing international prices, and stabilize domestic food prices, said an announcement on the Ministry of Commerce website. The details of the quota are unspecified, but it will be implemented through a permit policy.

The period of the policy will be decided by the demand and supply situation of related domestic markets, the announcement said. The step added to a string of government measures to rein in food price inflation driven by shortages of items such as pork, edible oil and grain.

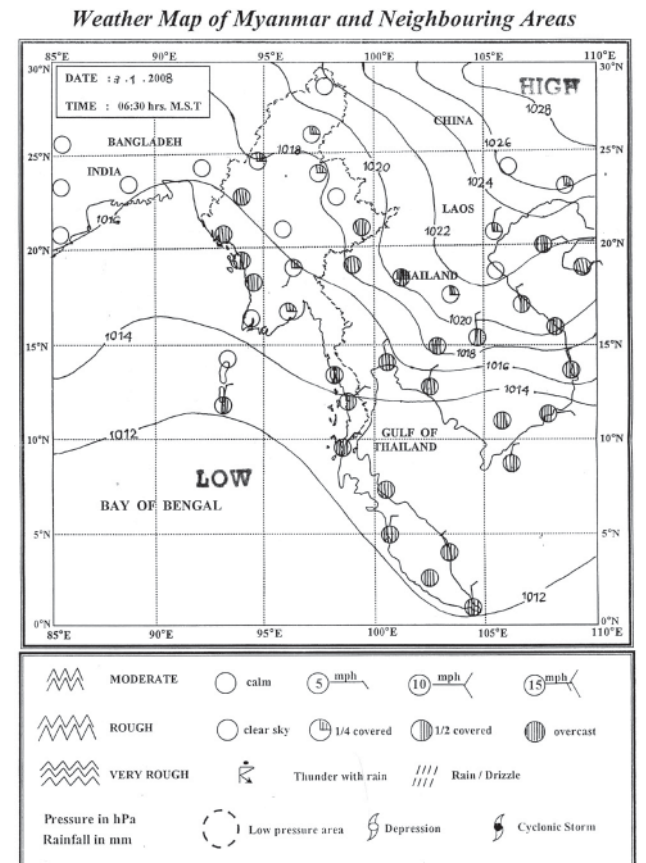
China's Ministry of Finance announced on Sunday that it would levy export taxes on wheat, corn, rice, soybeans and various processed grains in 2008, just a week after China scrapped tax rebates for grain exports.

The export tax rates will range from 5-25 per cent and affect 57 types of grain and grain products.

Several factors have driven up global grain prices this year: rising demand, adverse weather in key growing nations and increased use of grains for fuel.

Wheat prices hit a record high in Chicago on strong global demand and shrunken output after bad weather hit the world's major producers such as Australia and Canada.

MNA/Xinhua



WEATHER

Thursday, 3 January, 2008

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hours MST: During the past 24 hours, weather has been generally fair in the whole country. Night temperatures were (3°C) below January average temperatures in Chin and Kayin States, (3°C) to (4°C) above January average temperatures in Rakhine State, Bago and Taninthayi Divisions and about January average temperatures in the remaining States and Divisions. The significant night temperatures were Hakha and Loilin (0°C) each, Namsam and Heho (4°C) each.

Maximum temperature on 2-1-2008 was 89°F. Minimum temperature on 3-1-2008 was 59°F. Relative humidity at 09:30 hours MST on 3-1-2008 was 73%. Total sunshine hours on 2-1-2008 was (8.2) hours approx.

Rainfall on 3-1-2008 was nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2007 was nil at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (10) mph from East at (15:30) hours MST on 2-1-2008.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 4-1-2008: Weather will be partly cloudy in Rakhine State, Upper Sagaing, and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas.

State of the sea: Strong easterly wind moderate to rough seas are likely at times Deltaic. Gulf of mottama off and along Mon-Taninthayi Coasts. Surface wind speed in strong wind may reach (35) mph. Seas will be slight in Myanmar waters.

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

Forecast for Nay Pyi Taw and neighbouring area for 4-1-2008: Fair weather.

Forecast for Yangon and neighbouring area for 4-1-2008: Generally fair weather.

Forecast for Mandalay and neighbouring area for 4-1-2008: Fair weather.

 <p>Friday, 4 January View on today</p> <p>6:45 am 1. ၂၀၀၈ခုနှစ်၊ နှစ်(၆၀)ပြည့် လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့ နိုင်ငံတော်အလံတင် အခမ်းအနားကျင်းပပုံ တိုက်ရိုက် ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ်</p> <p>8:30 am 2. နှစ်(၆၀)ပြည့် လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့ ရုတ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်</p> <p>8:45 am 3. International news</p> <p>4:00 pm 1. Martial song</p>	<p>4:15 pm 2. Song to uphold National Spirit</p> <p>4:30 pm 3. Demonstration exercises for correct pronunciation</p> <p>4:40 pm 4. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ် ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြား သင်ခန်းစာ-တတိယနှစ် (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာအထူးပြု) (အင်္ဂလိပ်စာ)</p> <p>5:05 pm 5. Song of national races</p> <p>5:20 pm 6. မြန်မာစာ မြန်မာစကား</p> <p>5:30 pm 7. "နောက်မကျရအောင်" (မင်းသူ၊ ကျော်ထူး၊ မိုးပြည့်ပြည့်မောင်၊ ဒေါ်အေးအေးမြင့်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ-ကြည်စိုး)</p> <p>5:40 pm 8. Song of yesteryears</p>	<p>5:50 pm 9. နှစ်(၆၀)ပြည့် လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့ ရုတ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်</p> <p>6:00 pm 10. Evening news</p> <p>6:30 pm 11. Weather report</p> <p>6:35 pm 12. သုတစုံလင်ရွှေညောင်ရှင်</p> <p>7:15 pm 13. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ရေသူမလေးတတိယချစ်ဖုံပြင်" (အပိုင်း-၃၃)</p> <p>7:45 pm 14. အချုပ်အခြာအာဏာ ရွန်ရှည်ကြာခိုင်မာစေမှုခိုဒီဂျစ် "သမိုင်းမော်ကွန်းထွန်းသစ် ဝေဖြာပြည့်မြန်မာ"</p> <p>8:00 pm 15. News</p> <p>8:15 pm 16. International news</p> <p>8:30 pm 17. Weather report</p> <p>8:45 pm 18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "ချစ်သူများ" (အပိုင်း-၁၆)</p> <p>9:00 pm 19. The next day's programme</p>
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Senior General Than Shwe accepts credentials of Malaysian Ambassador



Senior General Than Shwe receives Malaysian Ambassador Dato Mazlan bin Muhammad. — MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan—Dato Mazlan bin Muhammad, newly accredited Ambassador of Malaysia to the Union of Myanmar, presented his credentials to Senior General Than Shwe, Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar at Bayintnaung Yeiktha, here, at 10.30 am today.

Present on the occasion were Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo, Deputy Ministers for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Thu and U Maung Myint and Director-General U Kyaw Kyaw of the Protocol Department. —MNA

Secretary-1 awards outstanding students at ceremony to mark School Family Day

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan — Chairman of Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo attended the awarding ceremony of School Family Day for 2007-2008 academic year held at No 1 Basic Education High School, here this morning, made a speech on the occasion and presented prizes to outstanding students.

Also present on the occasion were Commander of Nay Pyi Taw Command Maj-Gen Wai Lwin, ministers, deputy ministers, members of MEC, senior military officers, directors-general of SPDC Office and Government Office, heads of department, members of social organizations, education officers of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw Lewe and Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon, schoolheads, teachers and students. At the ceremony, eighth standard student Ma U Shwe Zin of Nya Pyi Taw Pyinmana No 1 BEHS and seventh standard student Ma Tin Htet Htet Lwin acted as MCs.

The students from No 1 BEHS opened the School Family Day ceremony by presenting the song titled “National Anthem” and “Myanma School”.

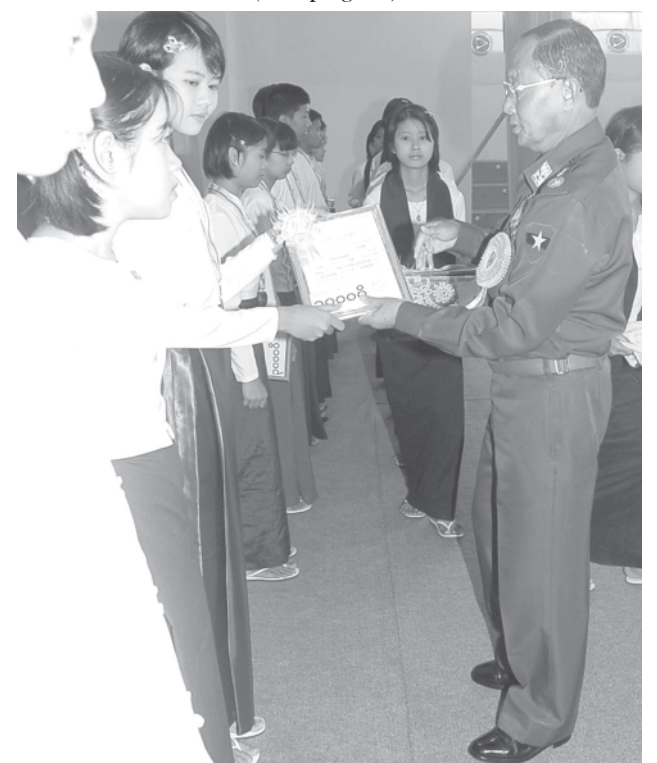
The Secretary-1 made a speech on the occasion, saying that in the drive for beefing up education standards, the 3rd January is designated as School Family Day. It has been held since 1998-1999 and this is the tenth time. Over 260,000 teachers from over 40,500 basic education schools in cooperation with over 310,000 education staff as well as over 8

million students are holding the School Family Day ceremonies at the same time across the nation. The people, families and wellwishers are also participating in the ceremonies. The ceremonies include students’ skills demonstrations, competitions, festivities and prize-presentation. The nation-wide School Family Day celebrations are indeed a tangible improvement of national education. There have been signs of progress in Myanmar education arena in such celebrations of School Family Day. All-round outstanding students have been brought up in the education sector. Universities, colleges and basic education schools have also developed. And these are the success of the national education promotion programme. This success is due to correct policies of the government and pragmatic work programme as well as the harmonious efforts of students and their parents, members of social organizations and school boards of trustees and public wellwishers. The Government has laid down and is implementing national education promotion plans with the concept that it is nurturing the younger generation to become outstanding and qualified human resources in the interests of the State and the people.

The students are being trained and nurtured to develop both physically and mentally in various areas such as knowledge, profession, health and morale and morality. This is why all the young people including the outstanding students who are awarded today are to continue to try to become intellectuals and intelligentsia

in the best interests of the State and the people while upholding the concept that they are a valuable asset for the future of the nation.

(See page 8)



Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presents prize to an outstanding student of the 2007-2008 Academic Year. — MNA