Established 1914

The New Light of Myanmar

Volume XVI, Number 261 | 9th Waxing of Pyatho 1370 ME | Sunday, 4 January, 2009

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

Senior General Than Shwe sends Independence Day Message

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) All the national people to constantly join hands for ensuring the perpetuity of independence and sovereignty of the State;

(2) All the national people to collectively strive for non-disintegration of the Union and non-disintegration of national solidarity;

(3) All the national people to harmoniously make all-out efforts for building up a modern, developed discipline-flourishing democratic nation in accord with the new State Constitution that has been approved by the votes of the great majority of national people;

(4) All the national people to cooperate in realizing the State's seven-step Road Map with Union Spirit and patriotic spirit

with the firm resolution to build up a peaceful, modern and developed democratic nation with flourishing discipline.—*MNA*

Notifications on conferring titles and medals of commendation issued

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan—The State Peace and Development Council issued Notification Nos 1/2009, 2/2009, 3/2009, 4/2009, 5/2009, 6/2009, 7/2009 and 8/2009 on conferring titles and medals today, the 61st Anniversary Independence Day.

Under the Notification No. 1/2009, religious titles were conferred on Sayadaws, nuns and laity. Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Titles have been conferred on three Sayadaws, Agga Maha Pandita Titles on 23 Sayadaws, Dhammakahtika Bahujanahitadhara Titles on four Sayadaws, Agga Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Titles on 27 Sayadaws and five nuns, Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita Titles on 12 Sayadaws and one nun, Ganthavacaka Pandita Titles on 48 Sayadaws and seven nuns, Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Titles on three Sayadaws, Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Dhaja Titles on 23 Sayadaws, Maha Saddhammajotika Dhaja Titles on 26 Sayadaws, two nuns and one laity, Saddhammajotika Dhaja Titles on 26 Sayadaws, three nuns and one laity, Agga Maha Kammathanacariya Titles on five Sayadaws, Maha Kammathanacariya Titles on three Sayadaws, Kammathanacariya Titles on seven Sayadaws, Thudhamma Manijotadhara Titles on nine laity and Thudhamma Theingi Titles on 12 laity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

PERSPECTIVES

Sunday, 4 January, 2009

Safeguard independence and sovereignty, incomparable asset

The 61st Anniversary Independence Day falls on the 4th of January 2009 (today).

Now, Myanmar, an independent and sovereign nation, stands tall with her own national races and cultures in the world. National people enjoy a wide range of benefits from independence and freedom due to friendly relations, consolidated unity and discussions among them.

Myanmar regained independence and sovereignty, but not in an easy way: it had to sacrifice innumerable lives of its people including monks in driving the invaders out of its soil.

The nation had stood as an independent one throughout successive periods. However, it lost independence and sovereignty, following the colonialists' aggression in late 19th century. Only with patriotic fervour and unwavering spirit national patriots demonstrated firmly in waging many battles on the colonialists and Fascists, could the nation regain independence and sovereignty.

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

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

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**

Merits shared for construction of two-storey building

YANGON, 3 Jan— Lt-Gen Myint Swe of the Ministry of Defence attended a ceremony to share merits gained for construction of Maha Bawdiwantha two-storey building at Ywama Pariyatti Monastery in West Ywama Ward of Insein Township at 9 a.m. on 1 January.

The two-storey building was constructed with the collective donations of Myanmar Correctional Department, Yangon All Bus-line Control Committee and wellwishers.— *MNA*

School Family Day of Institute of Education Practising High School

School girls of Yangon Institute of Education Practising High School perform singing and dancing at the school family day for 2008-2009 academic year.

MNA

YANGON, 3 Jan — The School Family Day of Yangon Institute of Education Practising High School was held at the school on Pyay Road this morning.

Present were Pro-rectors of the Institute of Education Dr Lwin Lwin Soe and Dr Myo Tint, Principal of Yangon Institute of Education Practising High School Dr Nanda Tun, teachers, members of Parent-Teacher Association and students.

The Pro-rectors and the principal formally opened the School Family Day.

The audience saluted the State Flag. The students sang songs and performed singing, dancing and play instrument skills.

Books of various kinds, publications on teaching and teaching aids were displayed at the booths and foods were also sold.—*MNA*

IBTC Open Golf Championships 11-14 January

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

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

Those wishing to participate in the competition may enlist at Myanmar Golf Training Range at 9th mile, Tel: 01-651374, 09-2037671 and 09-5017049 and Yedaguntaung Golf Resort, not later than 2 p.m. on 9 January.—*MNA*

Yangon Travels Journal, Volume 2, No. 1 comes out

YANGON, 3 Jan—The All Bus-line Control Committee (Yangon Division) published Yangon Travels Journal, Volume 2, No. 1, recently.

The journal carries features on various topics written by Soe Lwin Oo, Dr. Nu Nu Yin, Aung Chein Bwar, Maung Nyein Thu (Gyobingauk), Taik Kyi (Singaing), Dr. Aung Khin Hsint, Nay Soe Oo, Kaung Thant, Aung Si Hein, Maung Thet Kyu and Khin Maung Toe (Moemeik).

Moreover, there are the stories written by Shin Soe Moe, Khin Myanmar and Maung Khit Tun and poems by Dr. Htilar Sitthu and Myinmu Maung Naing Moe.

Reader may buy K 700 per copy at book shops, ABLCC branches, Mandalay Tun Oo and Naga Literary Houses. Anyone may contact the journal for manuscripts and advertisement at No. 474, Theinbyu Street, in front of Kandawgale Post Office, Phomye Ward, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Tel: 381858.

MNA

Australia rejects US request on Guantanamo detainees

SYDNEY, 3 Jan — The Australian government on Saturday formally rejected a US request to help resettle former detainees of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

"About 30 of them have been captured or killed, or are known to be back on the battlefield," Major General John Altenburg told *The Weekend Australian* newspaper.—*Internet*

***A detainee in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The Australian government on Saturday formally rejected a US request to help resettle former detainees of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility.—*INTERNET**

Canadian soldier charged in death of Afghan civilian

OTTAWA, 3 Jan — A Canadian soldier in Afghanistan has been charged with second-degree murder for intentionally killing an Afghan civilian, Canadian military said on Friday.

Capt Robert Semrau is accused of shooting "with intent to kill" an unarmed male civilian during an October battle in Helmand Province, Canadian Forces said in a press release on Friday.

He was charged on 31 Dec and is now being held in military custody in Afghanistan. He will be transported back to Canada for a court hearing. If convicted, he faces 25 years in prison.—*Internet*

***A view of a house destroyed by security forces during a crack down operation against militants is seen in Pakistani tribal area of Khyber near Peshawar, Pakistan, on 2 Jan, 2009. —*INTERNET**

Pakistan reopens supply route to Afghanistan

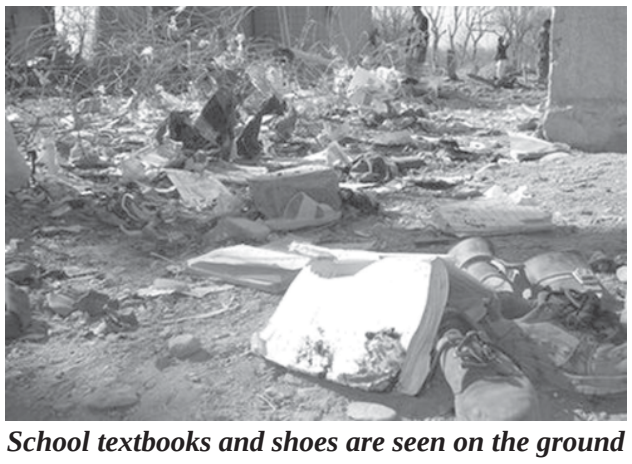
ISLAMABAD, 3 Jan — Pakistan reopened the main supply route for US and NATO troops in Afghanistan on Friday after blocking it for three days during an operation against militants blamed for repeated attacks on convoys in the Khyber Pass, an official said.

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

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

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

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



***School textbooks and shoes are seen on the ground after a suicide attack in Khost Province, east of Kabul, Afghanistan. A suicide bomber tried to attack a meeting of tribal elders and blew himself up near an Afghan primary school on Sunday, killing 14 children and wounding 58 people, the US military said.—*INTERNET**

Bombing at Iraq tribal lunch kills at least 23

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

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

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

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

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

Internet

***A US marine and Iraqi police investigate a scene of car bombing just outside Fallujah, Iraq.—*INTERNET**

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

Union of Myanmar
State Peace and Development Council
Notification No. 1/2009
9th Waxing of Pyatho, 1370 M.E.
(4th January 2009)

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

Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Title

1. Bhaddanta Kundalajoti, Zawtikayon Pali Tekkatho Monastery, Hsandaw Ward, Pyay, Bago Division (West)
2. Bhaddanta Suçittabhivamsa, Shwehintha Taikthit Monastery, Ward 13, Yankin Township, Yangon Division
3. Bhaddanta Vilasabhivamsa, Sasana Wipula Shwegu Monastery, Nandawun Ward, Nyaungshwe, Shan State

Agga Maha Pandita Title

1. Bhaddanta Çandima, Zeyathukha Waso Monastery, Nakha Ward, Mohnyin, Kachin State
2. Bhaddanta Kodañña, Kantha Monastery, Myitnge Ward, Myeik, Taninthayi Division
3. Bhaddanta Vayama, Kanhtoo Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery, Ward 13, Ottha Myothit, Bago, Bago Division
4. Bhaddanta Javana, Aungmyin Zeyon Monastery, Ward 13, Toungoo, Bago Division
5. Bhaddanta Dhammapala, Dhammamyintzu Ordination Monastery, Aungmyethaya Monastery, Yezagyo, Magway Division
6. Bhaddanta Nandasiri, Nanda Aye Monastery, Maha Withuddhayon Taikthit, Daewun East Ward, Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay Division
7. Bhaddanta Indaka, Dhamma Sariya Aye Monastery, Nyaunggan Taik, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Division
8. Bhaddanta Paññavamsa, Kyarbyan Pittakataik Monastery, Taungbyin Htilin Taik, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Division
9. Bhaddanta Aggavamsabhivamsa, Maha Gandayon Monastery, Amarapura Township, Mandalay Division
10. Bhaddanta Kheminda, Khemarthiwun Monastery, Sanpya Ward, Kyaukpadaung, Mandalay Division
11. Bhaddanta Ñeyabhivamsa, Argama Nayu Padetha Monastery, Masoeyeik Taik, Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay Division
12. Bhaddanta Sumana, Nathmaw Monastery, Maungngan Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State
13. Bhaddanta Nemindabhisiri, Yadana Theinga Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 10, Hline Township, Yangon Division
14. Bhaddanta Gunikabhivamsa, Kanthonhsint Pariyatti Monastery, Mingaladon Township, Yangon Division
15. Bhaddanta Kovidabhivamsa, Mahazeya Minkyaung Pariyatti Monastery, Yeiktha Ward, Hlegu, Yangon Division
16. Dr. Bhaddanta Ardiççavamsa, International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Ward 5, Mayangon Township, Yangon Division
17. Bhaddanta Paññasiribhivamsa, TatU Uttarayon Monastery, Sao San Tun Ward, Taunggyi, Shan State
18. Bhaddanta Gunalankarabhivamsa, Seintamuni Monastery, Ward 1, Kyaukme, Shan State (North)
19. Bhaddanta Wannitabhivamsa, Myaungmyakyaung Pariyatti Monastery, Pathein, Ayeyawady Division

Title recipient Sayadaws from abroad

20. Ven. Theripehe Somananda Thero, Sumingalayama Monastery, Thalawathugada, Sri Lanka
21. Ven. Wilapitiye Ghanawansa Thero, Nigrodhakettha Maha Monastery, Thelanbugala, Gelioya, Sri Lanka
22. Dr. Ven. Satyapala Thero, Pali and Buddhism Studies Department, New Delhi University, New Delhi, India
23. Dr. Ven. Henepola Gunaratana Thero, West Virginia School, Shenandoah Valley, Washington D.C., the United States of America

Dhammakahtika Bahujanahitadhara Title

1. Bhaddanta Varasiri, Shwetheintaw Monastery, Myoma Ward, ChaungU, Sagaing Division
2. Bhaddanta Javana, Thitnyinaung Dhamma Yeiktha Monastery, Kyaukbyutaung Village, Myeik Township, Taninthayi Division
3. Bhaddanta Rajinda, Mahamyaing Pariyatti Monastery, Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay Division
4. Bhaddanta Tejaçara, Yadanalinkara Monastery, Abhaya Mingalayama Okshitkon Taik, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Division

Agga Maha Ganthavaçaka Pandita Title

1. Bhaddanta Paññindalankara, Maha Theindawgyi Pariyatti Monastery, Mingon Ward, Bhamo, Kachin State
2. Bhaddanta Tejinda, Moekei Monastery, Ward 7, Hpa-an, Kayin State
3. Bhaddanta Nandobhasa, Okkan Tawya Monastery, Myawady Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Division
4. Bhaddanta Esaka, Athawkayon Monastery, Yankin Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Division
5. Bhaddanta Paññajota, Pitakat Monastery, Ward 4, Shwebo, Sagaing Division
6. Bhaddanta Vepullaçara, Mingalayama Pariyatti Monastery, Aungmingala Ward, YeU, Sagaing Division
7. Bhaddanta Kumarasiri, Zaunggyanbin Pariyatti Monastery, Ayethaya Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Division
8. Bhaddanta Kosalla, Zeyawady Monastery, Peinnetaw Ward, Dawei, Taninthayi Division
9. Bhaddanta Sobhanabhivamsa, Bawana Pariyatti Monastery, Bogon 18 Ward, Bago, Bago Division
10. Bhaddanta Tejosara, Shwehsandaw Mayan Monastery, Ward 13, Toungoo, Bago Division
11. Bhaddanta Narasabhabhivamsa, Wezayantar Pariyatti Monastery, ShweUdaung Ward, Monyo, Bago Division (West)
12. Bhaddanta Setthila, Maha Thuddhathanayama Monastery, Hsandaw Ward, Pyay, Bago Division (West)
13. Bhaddanta Paññaçakka, Pyinnya Sakkayama Monastery, Aungchantha Ward, Magway, Magway Division
14. Bhaddanta Vimalabuddhi, Pali Tekkatho Mingala Zayyon Pariyatti Monastery, Ywagauk Ward, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana
15. Bhaddanta Neminda, Taungsalin Taikthit, Pyigyimyetshin Ward, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Division
16. Bhaddanta Ñaninda, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Dawnabwa Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Division
17. Bhaddanta Khemaçara, Hsinbyu Monastery, Daingwunkwin, Shansu Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State
18. Bhaddanta Kumara, Mingalathayadipa Monastery, Tayana Village, Kyaikmaraw Township, Mon State
19. Bhaddanta Ñanavamsa, TatU Hsutaungpyae Pariyatti Monastery, Pyidawtha Ward, Sittway, Rakhine State
20. Bhaddanta Jotika, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Mayangon Township, Yangon Division
21. Bhaddanta Panditabhivamsa, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Mayangon Township, Yangon Division
22. Bhaddanta Naginda, Saddhamma Zawtikayon Monastery, Ward 20, Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Division
23. Bhaddanta Garuvamsabhivamsa, Dhamma Wihaya Pahtamagyaw Monastery, (E/A) Ward, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Division
24. Bhaddanta Nagita, Shwepyitha Pariyatti Monastery, Shwepyitha Township, Yangon Division
25. Bhaddanta Aggivamsa, Weluwun Monastery, Ward 3, Panglong, Shan State
26. Bhaddanta Indobhasa, Sandayon Pariyatti Monastery, Settawya Ward, Pathein, Ayeyawady Division
27. Bhaddanta Pandita, Maha Dhammikayon Monastery, Kanaungsu Ward, Hinthada, Ayeyawady Division

Nuns

28. Nun Daw Nimala, Zeyatheingi Corner, Thawtapan Ward, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
29. Nun Daw Theri, Ethuwati Nunnery, Leti Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Division
30. Nun Daw Sujanamani, Kyondaunt Vipassana Nunnery, Myodwingyi Ward, Bago, Bago Division
31. Nun Daw Khemaçari, Maha Bawdi Phayagyi Nunnery, Kyaukka Village, Taungtha Township, Mandalay Division
32. Nun Daw Rupasingi, Myawady Nunnery, Chanmyathaya Ward, Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay Division

Maha Gathavaçaka Pandita Title

1. Bhaddanta Dhammapiya, Weluwun Taikma Monastery, Ward 1, Shwebo, Sagaing Division
2. Bhaddanta Kheminda, Pinlon TatU Pariyatti Monastery, Panglong Ward, Kalay, Sagaing Division
3. Bhaddanta Sujana, Taungzin Ahtet Monastery, Thaukkyarbyin Village, Launglon Township, Taninthayi Division
4. Bhaddanta Aloka, MyoU Pariyatti Monastery, Chanmyathazi Ward, Waw, Bago Division
5. Bhaddanta Jotika, Maha Waiyanbontha Monastery, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Division
6. Bhaddanta Janinda, Sein Yadana Monastery, Dhammikayama Taik, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Division
7. Bhaddanta Paññasami, Shwedah Pariyatti Monastery, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Division
8. Bhaddanta Ñanavarasami, Taungsun Pariyatti Monastery, Asin Sanpya Village, Ye Township, Mon State
9. Bhaddanta Pandava, Phetpin-aing Monastery, Za/North Ward, Thingangyun Township, Yangon Division
10. Bhaddanta Sujana, Kaingkon Pali Tekkatho Monastery, Ward 5, Kayan Township, Yangon Division
11. Bhaddanta Labhabhivamsa, Inpawkhon Monastery, Inpawkhon Village, Nyaungshwe Township, Shan State
12. Bhaddanta Samvara, Minkyaung Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 3, Labutta, Ayeyawady Division

Nuns

13. Nun Daw Kumari, Kulawithethi Pariyatti Nunnery, Ward 3, Pathein, Ayeyawady Division

Ganthavaçaka Pandita Title

1. Bhaddanta Nandobhasa, Medikayama Pariyatti Monastery, Lonkhin Village, Phakant Township, Kachin State
2. Bhaddanta Pindolavamsa, Thawuthti Pariyatti Monastery, Mingala Ward, Loikaw, Kayah State
3. Bhaddanta Sopaka, Khemayama Monastery, Ward 9, Hpa-an, Kayin State
4. Bhaddanta Nandiya, Sasana Rakkhita Pariyatti Monastery, Talanlo Ward, Falam, Chin State
5. Bhaddanta Manita, Okkan Tawya Monastery, Myawady Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Division
6. Bhaddanta Sasanasiri, Yedanazeyon Monastery, Zayyon Bote Ward, Kawlin, Sagaing Division
7. Bhaddanta Vijjodaya, Maha Zawtikayama Pali Tekkatho Monastery, Phonesoe Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Division

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8. Bhaddanta Tejaniya, Yankin Pariyatti Monastery, Yankin Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Division
9. Bhaddanta Vijjodaya, Gawthitayama Pali Tekkatho Monastery, Kanyon Ward, Dawei, Taninthayi Division
10. Bhaddanta Kesara, Win Neimmitayon Monastery, Kalyani Ward, Bago, Bago Division
11. Bhaddanta Tissa, MyoU Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 3, DaikU, Bago Division
12. Bhaddanta Indaçaralankarabhivamsa, Thamanaygyaw Monastery, Ottha Myothit, Bago, Bago Division
13. Bhaddanta Kesara, Taikkyaung Pali Tekkatho Monastery, Zaygyotaung Ward, Gyobingauk, Bago Division (West)
14. Bhaddanta Paññajota, Shwelayaung Pariyatti Monastery, Shwedaung, Bago Division (West)
15. Bhaddanta Paññasiha, Maha Withutayama Aletaik, Ward 10, Pakokku, Magway Division
16. Bhaddanta Paññavara, Kantha Monastery, Athawkayama Monastery, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Division
17. Bhaddanta Viçakkhana, Aungsitha Pariyatti Monastery, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana
18. Bhaddanta Paññindabhivamsa, May Thet Brother Monastery, Gwegyo Taik, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Division
19. Bhaddanta Çandobhasa, Maha Withutayama Zaygon Monastery, Ywagauk Ward, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana
20. Bhaddanta Kundala, Mahaaungmye Yadana Monastery, Thayaaye Ward, Kyaukpadaung, Mandalay Division
21. Bhaddanta Viriyasara, Sasana Waiponla Monastery, Yanmyoaung Ward, Meiktila, Mandalay Division
22. Dr. Bhaddanta Ñanobhasa, TatU Mahagandayon Monastery, Ward 3, PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Division
23. Bhaddanta Ñanalokalankara, Mahamyaing Pariyatti Monastery, Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay Division
24. Bhaddanta Paññasami, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Dawnabwa Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Division
25. Bhaddanta Kusala, Pahtamagyaw Dhammasariya Taikthit Monastery, Wunzin Ward, Meiktila, Mandalay Division
26. Bhaddanta Paññasami, Meizeibin Pyinnyalinkara Monastery, Yesu Ward, Kyaukse, Mandalay Division
27. Bhaddanta Manava, Aungzabu Monastery, Hsaydantaung Kyaungtaik, Upoktaw Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Division
28. Bhaddanta Nandavamsalankarabhivamsa, Mya Bayet Thamanaygyaw Monastery, Tagundaing Ward, Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay Division
29. Bhaddanta Pandavamsa, Kokkotawya Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 17, Myingyan, Mandalay Division
30. Bhaddanta Nandasara, Alekyaung Monastery, Myomazay Ward, Kyaikkhami, Thanbyuzayat Township, Mon State

31 Bhaddanta Çandasiri, Phayakyaung Monastery, Naingpyaing Village, Mudon Township, Mon State

32. Bhaddanta Varajoti, Abbot Training School, Mingan Ward, Sittway, Rakhine State
33. Bhaddanta Paññavara, Shwegyin (Gyar) Monastery, Kangyi/Magyi Ward, Kungyangon Township, Yangon Division
34. Bhaddanta Arççinna, Aungmawsan Pariyatti Monastery, Shukhintha Ward, Thakayta Township, Yangon Division
35. Bhaddanta Indaçara, State Pariyatti Sasana University, Mayangon Township, Yangon Division
36. Bhaddanta Sutadhara, Dhammayaunggyi Monastery, Kyaukyedwin Ward, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Division
37. Bhaddanta Paññasami, Five Nikaya Sasana Beikman Monastery, Ward 11, Yankin Township, Yangon Division
38. Bhaddanta Nandaka, Maha Bawdi Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 14, Yankin Township, Yangon Division
39. Bhaddanta Amatobhasa, Masoeyein Shwegyin Taikthit, Ward 6, Mayangon Township, Yangon Division
40. Dr. Bhaddanta Indaka, International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Ward 5, Mayangon Township, Yangon Division
41. Bhaddanta Ghosita, International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Ward 5, Mayangon Township, Yangon Division
42. Bhaddanta Indobhasalankara, Maha Khemikayama Shwegyin Monastery, Aungmingala Ward, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Division
43. Bhaddanta Tikkhinda, Ketumati Monastery, Namkhok Village, Hopong Township, Shan State
44. Bhaddanta Nayaka, Minkyaung Pariyatti Monastery, Kan-auk Ward, Taunggyi, Shan State
45. Bhaddanta Sunanda, Myole Monastery, Ward 2, Lashio, Shan State (North)
46. Bhaddanta Ñaninda, Panditayon Monastery, Ward 8, Pathein, Ayeyawady Division
47. Bhaddanta Kavidhaja, Taikthit Monastery, Dhamma Vinaya Pahtamabyan Monastery, Ward 9, Pyapon, Ayeyawady Division
48. Bhaddanta Sundara, Shwehintha Tawya Monastery, Ward 7, Nyaungdon, Ayeyawady Division

Nuns

49. Nun Daw Kittimala, Maggingyaung Nunnery, Thawtapan Ward, Sagaing, Sagaing Division
50. Nun Daw Nandatheri, Sasana Myinzu Yinmamyaing Nunnery, Chanmyathazi Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Division
51. Nun Daw Çandasiri, Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Nunnery, Ywama Ward, Nattalin, Bago Division (West)
52. Nun Daw Vilasi, Myawady Nunnery-2, Sa Ward, Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay Division
53. Nun Daw Dhammavati, Khemayama Nunnery, Aungthukha Ward, Mawlamyine, Mon State
54. Nun Daw Nimala, International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Ward 5, Mayangon Township, Yangon Division
55. Nun Daw Vupasanda, International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Ward 5, Mayangon Township, Yangon Division

Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotika Title

1. Bhaddanta Janakabhivamsa, Chanmyeyeiktha Monastery, Ward 10, Mayangon Township, Yangon Division
2. Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa, International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Ward 5, Mayangon Township, Yangon Division

Title recipient Sayadaws from abroad

3. Ven. Acharya Buddharakkhita Maha Bodhi Society, 14, Kalidasa Road, Gandhinagar, Bangalore, 560009, India

Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Title

1. Bhaddanta Jagarabuddhi, Taunglaylon Monastery, Nyaungbin Ward, Bhamo, Kachin State
2. Bhaddanta Çandima, Thiri Mingala Ponhawgyi Pariyatti Monastery, Mingala Ward, Loikaw, Kayah State
3. Bhaddanta Janeya, Abbot Training School, No. 9 Yadanadi Ward, Hpa-an, Kayin State
4. Bhaddanta Ñanobhasa, Dhammahewun Parahita Monastery, Ward 3, Phayathonhsu Township, Kayin State
5. Bhaddanta Uttarabuddhi, Thiri Mingala Monastery, Phwasw Village, Myaung Township, Sagaing Division
6. Bhaddanta Malabhivamsa, Gawthitayama (Pali Tekkatho) Monastery, Kanyon Ward, Dawei, Taninthayi Division
7. Bhaddanta Pandita, Intha East Monastery, Thawutti, Nay Pyi Taw Lewe
8. Bhaddanta Pandavamsa, Myasikhon Monastery, Ward 14, Toungoo, Bago Division
9. Bhaddanta Tejobhasa, Aungmyebon Monastery, Taungbyin 1 Ward, Taungdwingyi, Magway Division
10. Bhaddanta Sobhana, Tawya Monastery, Pauktaw Village, Bilin Township, Mon State
11. Bhaddanta Kosiya, Mandalazayyon Monastery, Peinnegon Village, Kyaikmaraw Township, Mon State
12. Bhaddanta Ukkansa, Maha Withutayama Pariyatti Monastery, Ward 4, NyaungU, Mandalay Division
13. Bhaddanta Tejobhasa, Kyaungthit Pariyatti Monastery, No. 3 Tanmyintkyaung Ward, Taungtha, Mandalay Division
14. Bhaddanta Nandisara, Theikdi-aung Monastery, Shansu, Hsibanni Taik, Chan/South Ward, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Division
15. Bhaddanta Suriyadhaja, Setayayama Monastery, Kaungshay Ward, Taungup, Rakhine State
16. Bhaddanta Visuddha, Theravada Buddha Missionary Centre, Khemamandaing Monastic Education School, Ywagyi North Ward, Sittway, Rakhine State
17. Bhaddanta Uggamsa, Dhammazeya Pariyatti Monastery, Pathein Nyunt Ward, Mingala Taungnyunt Township, Yangon Division
18. Bhaddanta Uttara, Bantbwe Monastery, Bantbwe Village, Nawnghkio Township, Shan State (North)
19. Bhaddanta Ñanika, Dekkhinayama TatU Monastery, Tarley Sub-Township, Tachilek District, Shan State (East)
20. Bhaddanta Silananda, Yadanasi Monastery, Loilem, Shan State
21. Bhaddanta Paññananda, Sasana Wiponla Dattaw Monastery, Ward 4, Loilem, Shan State

Title recipient Sayadaws from abroad

22. Bhaddanta Shi Yi Cheng, 25, Fuchengmennei Dajie, Beijing, China
23. Most Ven. Soulodh Danpañna Sirimongkul, Temple, Salavane District, Salavane Province, Lao PDR

Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Title

1. Bhaddanta Sundara, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Monastery, Matar 9th Mile Missionary Centre, Waingmaw Township, Kachin State
2. Bhaddanta Theravamsa, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Pyathard Monastery, Border Region Youth Development Parahita School, Ywathit Sub-Township, Bawlake Township, Kayah State
3. Bhaddanta Pandita, Mingala Yankin Monastery, Thandaung, Kayin State
4. Bhaddanta Paññalankara, Winkyan Monastery, Zathabyin Village, Hpa-an, Kayin State
5. Bhaddanta Nandasara, Kyar-in Pawdawmu (Waboedaw) Missionary Centre, Kyar-in Pawdawmu Village, Hpa-an Township, Kayin State
6. Bhaddanta Uttama (Salin) Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre, Myoma Ward, Kanpetlet, Chin State
7. Bhaddanta Issariya, Okhlekha Monastery, Pareinma Model Village, Myaung Township, Sagaing Division
8. Bhaddanta Magindalankara, Zeyar Thukha Monastery, Inywa Model Village, Katha Township, Sagaing Division
9. Bhaddanta Ñaninda, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre, Koetitphonesoe Village, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana
10. Bhaddanta Paññavamsa, Shwehintha Monastery, Ywathagon Village, Kyungongyi Village-tract, Gyobingauk Township, Bago Division (West)
11. Bhaddanta Visuddhananda, Thukhayama Monastery, Ywabe Ward, Pyay, Bago Division (West)
12. Bhaddanta Suçinnalankara, Sukkhaya (Model) Post Primary Monastic Education School, Hmokshay Village-tract, Shwedaga Kwetthit, Pyay, Bago Division (West)
13. Bhaddanta Çandobhasa, Kanthittaung Monastery, Kanthit Village, Sagu Township, Minbu, Magway Division
14. Bhaddanta Visuddha, Kanyar Tawya Monastery, Post Primary Monastic Education School, Sale, Chauk Township, Magway Division
15. Bhaddanta Maghinda, Parahita Monastic Education School, No. 1 Margindayama Uyinlay Monastery,

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Myaunghsonnge Village-tract, Uyinnge Village, Singaing Township, Mandalay Division

16. Bhaddanta Paññaboga, Aungmingala Monastic Education School, Ward 4, Tangyan, Shan State (North)
17. Bhaddanta Pandita, Aungmingala Tawya Monastic Education and Youth Development Parahita School, Hweye Village, Tachilek Township, Shan State (East)
18. Bhaddanta Tejaniya, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre, Kengtung, Shan State (East)
19. Bhaddanta Pandavamsa, No. 1 Theravada Buddhist Missionary Centre, Hlyanpyae Monastic Education School, Mongshu hilly region, Wamkan Ward, Mongshu, Shan State
20. Bhaddanta Ñeya, Zabuhteinlin Monastery, Ward 8, Pyapon Township, Ayeyawady Division
21. Bhaddanta Vimalasara, Eikdizeya Chanmye Yeiktha Monastery, Monastic Education School, Thinchaung Village, Bogale Township, Ayeyawady Division
22. Bhaddanta Sobhana, Shwekyaung Monastery, Magyibin Village, Ngapudaw Township, Ayeyawady Division

Title recipient Sayadaws from abroad

23. Bhaddanta Paññalankara, Nalanda, Chinese Buddhist Monastery, Bihar State, India
24. Venerable Phra Anil Sakya (Ph.D.) (Bhikkhu Sugandha). 248 Wat Bovoranives Vihara, Bangkok, 10200, Thailand
25. Bhaddanta Manijoti, Dhammodaya Myanmar Vihara Monastery, Petermarizburg, South Africa
26. Dr. Dhammsami, Oxford Buddha Vihara Monastery, Oxford, England

Nuns

27. Nun Daw Panditamañjari, Theravada Buddhist Missionary Parami Nunnery, No. 3 Aungchantha Ward, Waingmaw, Kachin State
28. Nun Daw Varañani, Mingala Theikdi Nunnery, Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Yangon Division

Lay persons from abroad

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

Saddhamma Jotikadhaja Title

1. Bhaddanta Sundara, Manaung Monastery, Chatcho Village, Waingmaw Township, Kachin State
2. Bhaddanta Ukkatha, Thiridaza Monastery, Nampha Village, Bhamo Township, Kachin State
3. Bhaddanta Tejasara, Hsinswe Monastery, Hsinswe Village, Yinmabin Township, Saganig Division
4. Bhaddanta Paññinda, PhaungdawU Monastery, Panhtoo Village, Panhtoo Village-tract, Salingyi Township, Sagaing Division
5. Bhaddanta Sundara, Masoeyein Monastic Education School, Aungzeyar Ward, Htigyaing, Sagaing Division
6. Bhaddanta Nandiya, No. 5 Monastic Education School, Yadana Sanpya Monastery, Thekyun Village, Mingon Village-tract, Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana
7. Bhaddanta Visuddhaçara, Phayagon Monastery, Kwinseik Village, Shwegyin Township, Bago Division
8. Bhaddanta Arsabha, Dekkhinayon Monastery, Thakkala Model Village, Kawa Township, Bago Division
9. Bhaddanta Ñanissara, Ywale Monastic Education Middle School, Nyaungbin Village, Kawa Township, Bago Division
10. Bhaddanta Uttara, Thabyesan Monastery, Thabyesan Village, Nyaungthonbin Village-tract, Minhla Township, Bago Division (West)
11. Bhaddanta Rajinda, Ayeyawady Monastery, Yeohzin Ward, Chauk Township, Magway Division
12. Bhaddanta Vilasa, Letha Monastic Education School, Kanthit Village, Magway Township, Magway Division
13. Bhaddanta Uttarasara, Thiri Mingala Thawkamyaung Monastery, Thawkamyaung New Generation Youth Parahita House and Monastic Education Post Primary School, Aungkhema Ward, Taungsun, Mon State
14. Bhaddanta Kundala, No. 1 Monastic Education School, (Nantha Monastery, Hsinde Kyaungtaik), Pyigyi Myethman Ward, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Division
15. Bhaddanta Kañçana, Shitmyethna Pariyatti Monastery, Mahlaing, Mandalay Division
16. Bhaddanta Nandobhasa, Yenar Monastery, Kyauktada Village, Lamaing Village-tract, Madaya, PyinOoLwin District, Mandalay Division
17. Bhaddanta Ñanavamsa, Yadanamoe Parahita Monastic Education Middle School, Yekamoe Village, TadaU Township, Mandalay Division
18. Bhaddanta Vayama, Monastic Education School, Shwekyaung Monastery, Taungpyone Village, TadaU Township, Mandalay Division
19. Bhaddanta Jotika, Sale Monastery, Maha Wizayayanthi Sale Monastery, Chanmyathazi (South) Ward, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Division
20. Bhaddanta Obhasa, Mawgyun Pariyatti Monastery and Monastic Education School, Skwepaukkan Myothit, Ward 21, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Division
21. Bhaddanta Dr. Ashin Kovida, Myitzimagonyi Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha, Ward 10 South, Ward 11, Thakayta Township, Yangon Division
22. Bhaddanta Puññananda, Thiri Mingala Manhsu Shan Monastery, Ward 12, Lashio, Shan State (North)
23. Bhaddanta Tejosara, Theravada Buddhist Missionary School, Pankyu Missionary Centre, Pankyu Village, Pankyu Village-tract, Kengtung Township, Shan State (East)
24. Bhaddanta Obhasa, Htihsangon Monastery, Yantwin Ngakyaung Village-tract, Yaksawk, Shan State
25. Bhaddanta Gunavamsalankara, Sulamuni Monastery, Kyaunggyisu Ward, Taunggyi, Shan State
26. Bhaddanta Kheminda, Dhamma Pitzawtayon Monastic Education School, Patle Village, Mabay Village-tract, Mawlamyinegyun Township, Ayeyawady Division

Nuns

27. Nun Daw Malari, Maha Ponnyakari Nunnery, Mingala Ward, Loikaw, Kayah State
28. Nun Daw Obhasi, Ayeyeikmon 2 Parahita School for the Girls, ChaungU, Sagaing Division
29. Nun Daw Çandamala, Khemayama Nunnery, Nunnery for the Women, Aungchantha Ward, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Division

Lay Persons

30. U Ar Hsoh, Mingala Lane, Nwenaw Akha Village, Mongyang Road, Ward 4, Kengtung, Shan State (East)

Agga Maha Kammathanaçariya Title

1. Bhaddanta Suriya, Mogok Vipassana Aye Yeiktha Meditation Centre, Tamway Township, Yangon Division
2. Bhaddanta Saddhammakittisara, Tawya TatU Monastery, Insein Township, Yangon Division
3. Bhaddanta Çandima, Baganpyan Monastery, Ywathit Ward, Kyangin, Ayeyawady Division
4. Bhaddanta Kundala, Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Monastery, Tangahse North Ward, Hinthada, Ayeyawady Division
5. Bhaddanta Sudhammisara, Thidayon Monastery, Yekyi, Ayeyawady Division

Maha Kammathanaçariya Title

1. Bhaddanta Indaçariya, Atulakari Monastery, Pheinkar Village, YeU Township, Sagaing Division
2. Bhaddanta Obhasa, Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Monastery, Kyarnikan Ward, Shwedaung Township, Bago Division (West)
3. Bhaddanta Indiya, Dipa Ayemya Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Monastery, Paukku Village, Yezagyo Township, Pakokku District, Magway Division

Kammathanaçariya Title

1. Bhaddanta Sumana, MyoU Zedi Monastery, Hmawwam Ward, Phakant, Kachin State
2. Bhaddanta Kosalañana, Sudhammasari Sasana Beikman Monastery, Yongyi Ward, Mongwa, Sagaing Division
3. Bhaddanta Issariya, Mahasi Sasana Yeiktha Monastery, Ywabe Region, Shwehintha Ward, Pyay, Bago Division (West)
4. Bhaddanta Kesava, Thiri Yeikway (Mogok Yeiktha) Monastery, Ward 15, Chauk, Magway Division
5. Bhaddanta Çandima, Shwekyaung Yeiktha Meditation Centre, Paukchaung Ward, Meiktila, Mandalay Division
6. Bhaddanta Rajnida, Mingun Tawya Monastery, Shwetaunggyar-2 Ward, Bahan Township, Yangon Division
7. Bhaddanta Sunanda, Myinzu Monastery, Yanaung Kyaungtaik, Thanda 17th Street, Ward E, North Okkalapa Township, Yangon Division

Thudhamma Manijotadhara Title

1. U Hla Han, Bogyoke Road, Aungmingala Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Division
2. U Than Tun, Magyigon Road, Chanmyethazi Ward, Monywa, Sagaing Division
3. U Soe Naing, Daungma Village, Sagaing Township, Sagaing Division
4. U Po Tha, Myoma Ward, Salin, Magway Division
5. U Nanda, No. 1, Anawrahta Road, Myoma Ward, Mogok, PyinOoLwin District, Mandalay Division
6. U Aung Naing Swe, No. 346-B, 84th Street, 39th x 40th Streets, Mahaaungmye Township, Mandalay Division
7. U Bogyoke, Ward 1, Singu Township, Mandalay Division
8. U Tin Aung Win, No. 17, Aungnilar Street, Thanlyin Township, Yangon Division
9. U Hla Win Aung, No. 69, Room 507, Yuzana Condo Tower, Bahan Township, Yangon Division

Thudhamma Theingi Title

1. Daw Nan Ngwe Yi, No. 24, Shansu Ward, Lawpita Road, Loikaw, Kayah State
2. Daw Tin Nu, Yangyiaung Road, Ward 3, Shwebo, Sagaing Division
3. Daw Hla Khin, Block 353, Seinban Thabyu Ward, Mahaaungmye Township, No. 334, 84th x 39th Streets, Mandalay, Mandalay Division
4. Daw Khin Shein, Ma/235, Wadan Street, Zay Ward, Meiktila, Mandalay Division
5. Daw Khin Hla Thin, Block B/36, 83rd-20th Streets, Pale Ngweyaung Ward, Aungmyethazan Township, Mandalay Division
6. Daw Htay Htay Khaing, Block 706, 275th Street, 32ndx33rd Streets, Mawragiwa Ward, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay, Mandalay Division
7. Daw Nyein Nyein (a) Daw Nyein Nyein Naing, No. 45/46, Khaing Shwe Wah Road and Manawhari Road, 68th Street, Hsa-12 Ward, Chanmyathazi Township, Mandalay Division
8. Daw Than Than, No. 6/8, Zeyarthiri Housing Complex, 88th/89th Streets, 35th Street, Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay Division
9. Daw Tin Mya, No. 82, Dagon Thiri Road, Upper Kyaukmyaung Ward, Tamway Township, Yangon Division
10. Daw San San Maw, No. 27, Uyin Road, Kyimyindine Township, Yangon Division
11. Daw Chaw Su Myat, No. 7/A, Myenigon Plaza, Sangyoung Township, Yangon Division
12. Daw Ohnmar Myint, No. 142, Ground Floor, 38th Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon Division

By order,
***Sd*/ Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo**
Lieutenant-General
Secretary-1
State Peace and Development Council

Messages of felicitations sent to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan – *The following are messages of felicitations sent to Vice-Senior General Maung Aye, Vice-Chairman of the State Peace and Development Council of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 61st Anniversary of Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.*

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

Your Excellency,

I have a great pleasure to extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to Your Excellency on the occasion of the 61st Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

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

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

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

From H.E.Muhammad Jusuf Kalla
Vice-President of the Republic of Indonesia

Your Excellency,

I am greatly pleased to extend to you my cordial greetings and sincere felicitations on the happy occasion of the anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

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

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

MNA

Foreign Heads of Governments send felicitations to Myanmar Prime Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 4 Jan – *The following are messages of felicitations from foreign Heads of Governments sent to General Thein Sein, Prime Minister of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 61st Anniversary of Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.*

From Mr Wen Jiabao
the People's Republic of China

Excellency,

Upon this auspicious occasion of the 61st anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, I would like to, on behalf of the Government of the People's Republic of China and in my own name, extend to Your Excellency and through you to the Government of the Union of Myanmar the warmest congratulations and best wishes.

The Sino-Myanmar relations are developing well while exchanges and cooperation in fields of politics, economy, culture and others are being continuously deepened. The Chinese Government treasures the Pauk-Phaw friendship between China and Myanmar, and is willing to work with the Myanmar side for the promotion of the traditional friendship and enhancement of mutually beneficial cooperation so as to lift the relations between China and Myanmar to a new height.

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

From Mr Taro Aso, Prime Minister of Japan

Excellency,

On this auspicious occasion of the 61st anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union Myanmar, I wish to extend to Your Excellency, on behalf of the Government and people of Japan, my warm congratulations and best wishes for the peace and prosperity of your country.

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

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

Your Excellency,

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

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

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

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

From Nguyen Tan Dzung, Prime Minister of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Government and people of Vietnam, I have the honour to convey to Your Excellency and the Government and people of Myanmar the warmest congratulations on the occasion of the 61st anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

I am pleased to see the traditional relations of friendship and the fine multi-faceted cooperation between Vietnam and Myanmar have been more and more broadened and effective in the past years.

I am firmly confident that with the joint efforts of our two Governments and peoples, these fine cooperative relationship between the two countries would be strongly developed on bilateral basis as well as within the frameworks of ASEAN and other regional and international fora, in the interests of our two peoples and for the sake of peace, stability, cooperation and prosperity in Southeast Asia and the world over.

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

From Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia

Excellency,

On the auspicious occasion of the 61st Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar, on behalf of the Royal Government and people of Cambodia, I have the great pleasure to extend my warmest congratulations to Your Excellency and best wishes of happiness and prosperity to the people of Myanmar.

I have no doubt that the relations of close friendship and good cooperation between our two countries will be further strengthened and developed day by day for the mutual interests of our two peoples as well as for a stronger ASEAN community.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration and best wishes for your personal good health and success.

From Mr Vladimir V. Putin, Chairman of the Government of the Russian Federation

Your Excellency,

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

I am confident that cooperation between Russia and the Union of Myanmar will be further developing in the sake of the peoples of our countries, in the interests of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region.

I wish you, Mr Prime Minister, health and success, and happiness, and prosperity to the people of the friendly Myanmar.

From Mr Kostas Karamanlis, Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic

Your Excellency,

On the occasion of the National Day of your country, I would like to convey to you my warmest congratulations and my best wishes for the prosperity, progress and welfare of the friendly people of the Union of Myanmar.

MNA

Latha BEHS No-2 holds School Family Day

YANGON, 3 Jan— The School Family Day of Latha Township Basic Education High School No-2 was held in conjunction with prize presentation ceremony and variety show at Mya Nyilar Hall of the school this morning with an address by Headmistress Dr Daw Theingi Kyaw.

Deputy Director-General U Myo Myint of No. (3) Basic Education Department, the headmistress and officials presented prizes to outstanding students and teachers.

Next, those present were entertained with variety show.

MNA

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

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 61st Anniversary of Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.*

From Emperor Akihito of Japan

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

From His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand

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

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

Excellency,

Upon this auspicious occasion of the 61st 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. The two sides share highly mutual trust in political affairs with each other and witness the deepening cooperation in the fields of economy, trade and others. Continuous development of good-neighbourly and friendly relations of cooperation serves the fundamental interest of two peoples and is conducive to peace, stability and development of Asia.

I am ready to work with Your Excellency to further promote the Sino-Myanmar relations which benefit the two peoples.

May the Union of Myanmar enjoy prosperity and her people well-beings, and wish Your Excellency good health and every success!

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

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the people of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and on my own behalf, I have a great pleasure to extend to Your Excellency and convey through Your Excellency to the people of the Union of Myanmar my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes on the occasion of the 61st Anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

I am truly gratified with the continued flourishing friendly relations between our two neighbouring countries both within bilateral and ASEAN frameworks. I am confident that the friendly ties and good cooperation will be further enhanced and strengthened in the years to come for the interests of the peoples of our two nations as well as for promoting peace, stability and development cooperation in the region and in the world at large.

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

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

From Nguyen Minh Triet, President of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the State and people of Vietnam and in my own name, I have the great honour to extend to Your Excellency and the people of Myanmar the warmest congratulations on the occasion of the 61st anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

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

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

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

From President Dr. H. Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia

Your Excellency,

On behalf of the Government and people of the Republic of Indonesia, I am greatly pleased to extend to you and the people of Myanmar, our heartfelt congratulations on the anniversary of the Independence Day of the Union of Myanmar.

Relations between our two countries have been flourishing both on a bilateral basis and within the framework of ASEAN and other multilateral forums. I am confident that these cordial and cooperative relations will continue to strengthen in the years ahead as we strive for national development and contribute to the security and prosperity of our region and of the world at large.

Please accept, Your Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration and best wishes for your good health and personal well being.

From Pratibha Devisingh Patil, President of the Republic of India

Excellency,

On behalf of the people of India and on my own behalf, I have the pleasure to extend warm greetings and best wishes to Your Excellency and to the people of Myanmar on the Independence of your country.

India and Myanmar share a tradition of friendship and cooperation spanning centuries. In recent years, our friendship has deepened and diversified to include newer areas of cooperation. I am confident that the existing friendly relations and cooperation between our two countries and peoples will be further enhanced in the years to come.

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 Mr Horst Kohler, President of the Federal Republic of Germany

Your Excellency,

On the occasion of Independence Day in the Union of Myanmar I send you and the people of Myanmar my best wishes, also on behalf of my fellow Germans. May your country find its way towards national reconciliation and democratic system.

I hope that those of your compatriots affected by Cyclone Nargis will receive further assistance in coping with the aftermath of this terrible disaster. Germany, together with its partners in the European Union, will continue to provide your country with significant support in these endeavours.

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

Your Excellency,

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

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

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

MNA

Officials urged to strive for industrial development

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

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

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

Responsible persons of the industrial zone management committees and departmental officials presented the reports on accomplishments for the minutes of the previous meeting.

MNA

***Lt-Gen Myint Swe addresses industrial zone committees meeting.*—MNA**

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo poses for a documentary photo together with outstanding students of the 2008-09 academic year. —MNA

International level high school syllabuses, teacher manuals …

(from page 16)

colleges and basic education schools across the nation are celebrating school family day with wholehearted participation of education staff, teachers, parents local people, students and well-wishers.

He said he was delighted to note that prize-winning students for their outstanding performances in all-round education development and subjects, students who have access to education under programmes of school enrolment campaigns and prize-winning schools for greening school compounds and environs were honoured in accordance with the fine tradition for 2008-2009 academic year on the occasion.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Next, Minister for Education Dr Chan Nyein reported to the Secretary-1 on educational tasks carried out in the 2008-09 academic year.

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

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presented prizes to 15 outstanding students for the 2008-09 academic year and posed for a documentary photo together with them.

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

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

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

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

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

MNA

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo views works displayed at practical education promotion booth.

MNA

ACHIEVEMENT IN TRANSPORT (RAILROAD) SECTOR IN 2008

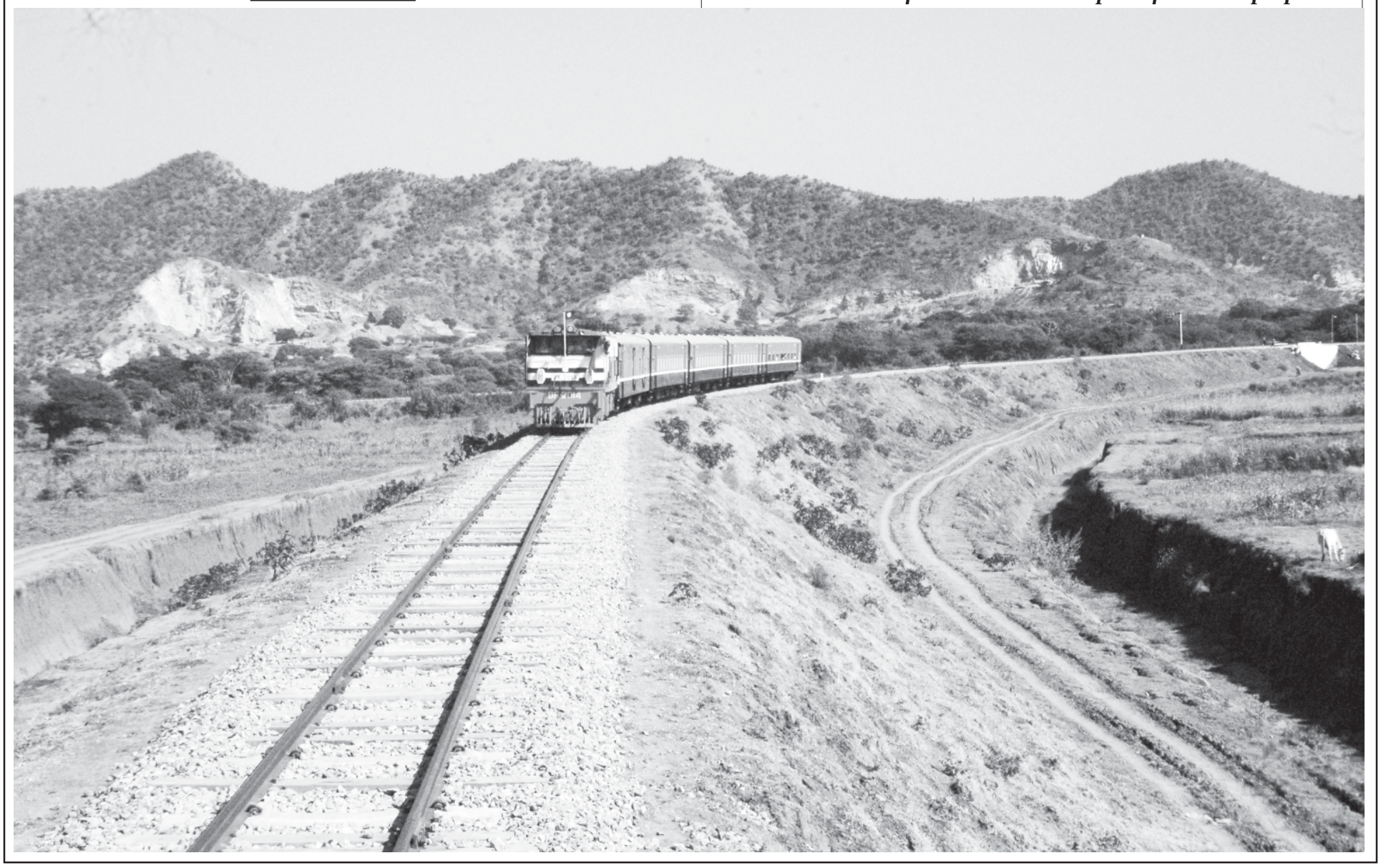
No.	Name	Location	Mile	Inauguration Day
1	Kyangin-Okshitpin	Padaung, Bago Division and Kyangin, Ayeyawady Division	38 miles	1-3-2008
2	Pyawbwe-Phayangasu	Pyawbwe, Mandalay Division	16.19 miles	30-11-2008

HONOURING THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY:

An express train on Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana-Myohaung dual road heading to Mandalay.

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

A train running along Pyawbwe-Phayangasu railroad section, which was opened on 30 November, 2008. The 16.19-mile long railroad section was built for the smooth transport of the local people.



A Palestinian protestor hurls a stone at Israeli soldiers during a demonstration at the Qalandia Israeli checkpoint on the outskirts of the West Bank city of Ramallah. —INTERNET

UN chief wants monitors for Gaza cease-fire

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

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and several Arab foreign ministers are flying to New York over the weekend to urge the UN Security Council to adopt an Arab draft resolution that would condemn Israel and demand a halt to its bombing campaign in Gaza. But the United States said the draft is "unacceptable" and "unbalanced" because it makes no mention of halting the Hamas rocketing of southern Israel which led to the Israeli offensive.

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

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

Raul Castro says hopes too high for Obama

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

Castro repeated previous assertions that he is open to talks at any time with Obama, who takes office on 20 January, but said he is not desperate to do so.Obama has said he wants to ease the 46-year-old US trade embargo against Cuba and meet with Cuban leaders as first steps toward normalizing relations with the Communist-run island 90 miles off US shores.

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

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

"I hope I'm mistaken in my assessment. I hope Mr Obama has success," he said.

"He can do much, he can take positive steps, he can put forth more just ideas, he can put a stop to the tendency of almost all US presidents to have their war, or wars," he said.The interview was taped on 31 December, a day before Castro led celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the revolution that put his brother in power and turned Cuba to Communism at the height of the Cold War.

Internet

The number 50 is seen on the Cuban Transport Ministry building in Havana on 2 January, 2009. Cuba celebrated on Thursday the 50th anniversary of a 1959 revolution whose leader Fidel Castro transformed the island into a communist state that has survived despite decades of opposition from the United States and the collapse of its Cold War benefactors.—INTERNET

Japan, South Africa diplomats in running for IAEA top job

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

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

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

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

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

Internet

An Israeli police officer and reporters take cover during a rocket attack in the southern town of Sderot on 30 Dec, 2008.—INTERNET

Venezuela's oil income soars in early 2008

CARACAS, 3 Jan — Record prices boosted Venezuela's oil income by 225 percent in the first nine months of 2008, allowing the state-run oil company to stash $10.8 billion in government reserves now that oil prices have dropped dramatically. Petroleos de Venezuela, SA, or PDVSA, said on Thursday that net income reached $12.14 billion — up from $3.73 billion during the same period in 2007.Venezuela's heavy oil basket sold for record highs averaging $129 a barrel in July. But prices for Venezuelan crude have since dropped steadily — closing in September at an average $93.53 per barrel.

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

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

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

TRADE MARK CAUTION

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Win Mu Tin
M.A., H.G.P., D.B.L
for **LACOSTE**
P. O. Box 60, Yangon
Dated: 4 January 2009

Bomb found on street in Dagestan capital

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

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

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

Internet

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV VASCO DA GAMA VOY NO (139)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VASCO DA GAMA VOY NO (139) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.1.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV XIANG DA VOY NO (9001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XIANG DA VOY NO (9001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.1.2009 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING (MALAYSIA) AGENCY SDN BHD
Phone No: 256908/378316/376797

Passengers queue to buy train tickets at a temporary ticket office in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province, on 2 Jan, 2009. Railway stations across China expect to handle a record of 188 million passengers, up 8 percent year on year, the Ministry of Railways said earlier this month, Xinhua News Agency reported.—INTERNET

Participants ride their motorcycles over the podium during the symbolic start of the South American edition of the Dakar 2009 in Buenos Aires on 2 Jan, 2009.—INTERNET

Head found in shopping bag on path

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

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

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

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

Suicide blast in Sri Lanka as rebel stronghold falls

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

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

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

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

Internet

Woman gives birth on Tube

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

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

Internet

African faces death for drug trafficking in S'pore

SINGAPORE, 3 Jan —A Ghanaian who came to Singapore to try out for a football club has been found guilty of drug trafficking and will face the death penalty, a newspaper reported on Saturday.

Chijioke Stephen Obioha, 29, came to Singapore in November 2005 to try out for the football club Sporting Afrique, the paper said. He did not make the cut and instead made a living selling electronics.Obioha was found guilty on Tuesday of trafficking 2.6 kg (5.7 lb) of cannabis or marijuana.

Internet

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

US research Genetic variation may lead to early cardiovascular disease

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

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

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

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

Internet

WHO confirms three Ebola deaths in Congo

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

Earlier this week, WHO officials said diseases other than Ebola were likely making people sick in the region as well as Ebola, a frightening and often fatal virus.WHO said laboratories had only confirmed Ebola infection in three of the cases."WHO is aware of 36 additional suspected cases including 12 deaths associated with this outbreak. A further 184 contacts have been identified and are being followed up," WHO said in a statement.

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

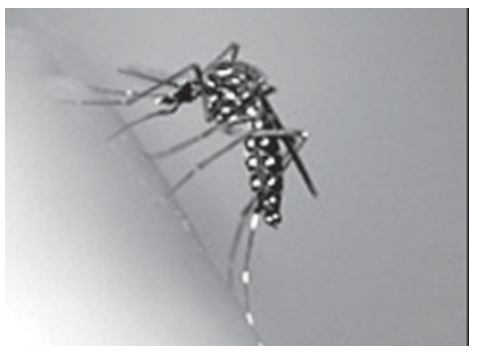
Internet

Bug' could combat dengue fever

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

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

The virus is passed to humans when mosquitoes carrying it feed on their blood, and while there have been efforts to eradicate them using insecticides, these have been fraught with problems, including the ability of the mosquito to become resistant to the chemicals used.



***Female Aedes aegypti mosquito, which spreads dengue and yellow fever.*—INTERNET**

The potential of Wolbachia as a way of controlling mosquito populations has been suggested for some time, but the latest study offers hope — albeit under laboratory conditions — that it might work.—*Internet*

SA woman, two sons kidnapped

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

Internet

Four tons dope seized on yacht

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

The officers boarded and searched the vessel off the southeastern port of Alicante, said the economy ministry, which oversees the customs service.Spain is one of the main points of entry of drugs into Europe, from hashish that has been grown in north Africa, to Latin American cocaine, which is often smuggled in via Africa.

Spanish authorities seized more than 100 tons of hashish last year.The largest amount seized was in 1996, when police found 36 tonnes of hashish on a Panamanian-registered cargo ship off the northwest coast of the country. —*Internet*

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

Diamonds suggest comets caused killer cold spell

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

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

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

SPORTS

Ferguson challenges misfiring United to run riot at Southampton

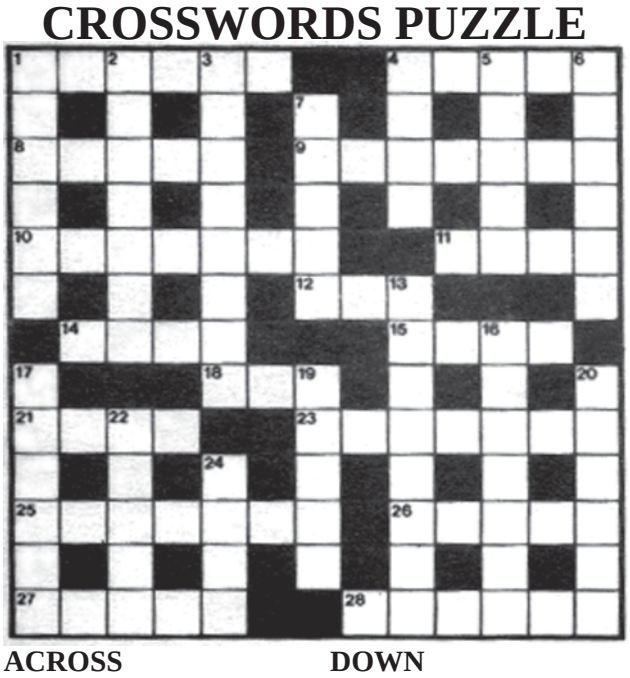
*Manchester United's South Korean midfielder Park Ji-Sung. Manager Sir Alex Ferguson has challenged his misfiring players to use this weekend's FA Cup third round trip to Southampton as an opportunity to rediscover their scoring touch.—*INTERNET

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

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

No team has ever won the Premier League, Champions League, FA Cup and League Cup in the same season and Ferguson has already played down United's chances of a historic quadruple.—*Internet*

CROSSWORDS PUZZLE



ACROSS

1 Lord
4 Tranquility
8 Way of travel
9 Echo
10 Those who make salt
11 Thin
12 Undermine
14 Prepare for publication
15 Irritable
18 Resort
21 Unctuous
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26 Shouts
27 Girl's name
28 Floor

DOWN

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

Murray downs Federer again

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

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

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

Everton manager Moyes lauded ahead of Macclesfield tie

LIVERPOOL, 3 Jan—David Moyes has been hailed as "one of football's "great managers" for propelling injury-hit Everton into the Premier League's top six this season against the odds.Moyes has overcome the loss of four strikers to injury to keep the club on course to qualify for Europe for the third successive season after winning four of their last six league games.

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

He will again be without first-choice forwards Louis Saha and Yakubu when Everton begin their FA Cup campaign at League Two Macclesfield on Saturday.Moyes has already led Everton to three top-six finishes in the last four seasons, including qualification for the Champions League in 2005.—*Internet*

Chelsea defender Bridge to join City

LONDON, 3 Jan—Chelsea defender Wayne Bridge is set to join Manchester City after boss Mark Hughes confirmed on Friday that the two clubs have agreed an undisclosed fee for the England international.Bridge only recently extended his Chelsea contract until 2012, but he has struggled to hold down a first-team spot at Stamford Bridge when Ashley Cole is fit and the Blues are willing to let the left-back leave. Hughes has been given a substantial transfer warchest by City's Abu Dhabi-based owners and he hopes to tie up Bridge within the next 24 hours in what promises to be the first of several big-money signings arriving at Eastlands in January.—*Internet*

*Chelsea's English defender Wayne Bridge has been given permission to speak to Manchester City about a move to Eastlands, the west London club confirmed.—*INTERNET

Up offers way out of Wenger's woes

Arsenal's French manager Arsene Wenger

LONDON, 3 Jan—Arsene Wenger may still talk up his Arsenal side's title prospects but the manager knows the FA Cup third round tie with Plymouth Argyle is almost as important for the Gunners as the Premier League.Wenger brought the curtain down on a miserable year by confidently declaring his current side to be on the verge of greatness.

That may look wildly optimistic after a year that began badly with the horrific leg-break suffered by Eduardo da Silva and was later marred by the extraordinary in-fighting that led to William Gallas being stripped of the captaincy and further long-term injuries to Theo Walcott and Cesc Fabregas.With Matthieu Flamini, Alexander Hleb and Gilberto Silva all having left in the pre-season without being adequately replaced, it seems as if Arsenal are even further away from ending a three-season long trophy drought than they were this time last year.—*Internet*

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

PARIS, 3 Jan—French league top scorer Andre-Pierre Gignac has hit 12 goals this season but not the headlines.Now he hopes that his hot form will continue when he leads the Toulouse attack into action against fellow first division outfit Valenciennes in the last 64 of the French Cup on Saturday.

Toulouse's forward Andre-Pierre Gignac

Gignac, a bit-part player from the bench last season, is also hopeful that the new year will bring him international recognition from Les Bleus coach Raymond Domenech with a host of crucial World Cup qualifiers on the horizon."I have been putting in a lot of work," said the man bought from Lorient to replace giant Swede Johan Elmander, twice the club's top scorer with 11 goals, who was transferred to English side Bolton.

Internet

Romance of the Cup takes on harder edge

LONDON, 3 Jan—he third round of the FA Cup is a time in the knockout competition renowned for shocks and 'giantkilling' exploits.

But the advent of the January transfer window and the pressing financial need for Premier League clubs to avoid relegation have dulled some of the lustre from the world's oldest senior knockout football competition.This time last year then Reading striker Dave Kitson summed up a growing, if not so bluntly voiced, mood by saying: "We are not going to win the FA Cup and I do not give two shits about it, to be honest."—*Internet*

Skiers and snowboarders gather on top of Whistler mountain in Whistler, Canada on Friday, on 2 Jan , 2009. A skier and a snowboarder were killed in separate avalanches at Canada's Whistler resort, police said Thursday, just days after eight snowmobilers died elsewhere in British Columbia.— INTERNET

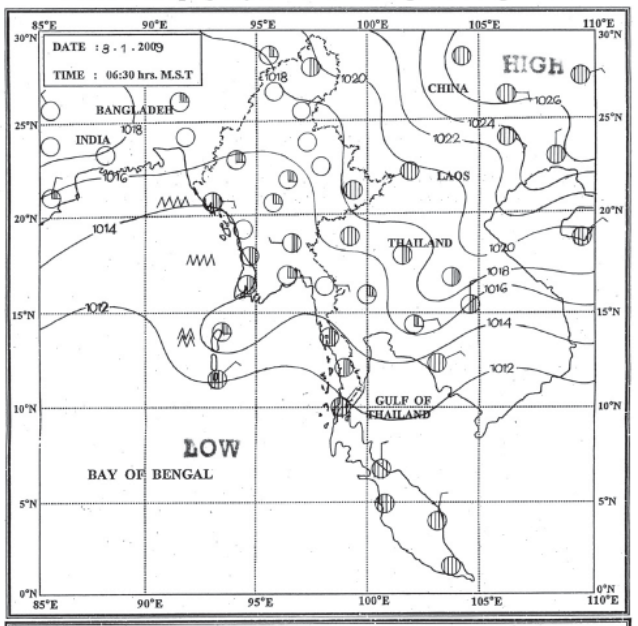
Sri Lanka captures rebel HQs; three killed in Colombo

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

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

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

Weather Map of Myanmar and Neighbouring Areas



Three children, man found dead in E Canadian home

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

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

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

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

MNA/Xinhua

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

TV Myanmar

Sunday, 4 January
View on today

6:45 am
1. ၂၀၀၉ခုနှစ်(၆၁)နှစ်မြောက် လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့နိုင်ငံတော် အလံတင်အခမ်းအနားကျင်းပပုံ တိုက်ရိုက်ထုတ်လွှင့်မှုအစီအစဉ်

8:10 am
2. (၆၁)နှစ်မြောက်လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

8:25 am
3. ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားဇာတ်လမ်း "ရအောင်ယူမြဲအောင်ထိန်း" (ထွန်းထွန်းဝင်းညီညီနေနိုင်၊ ဆုမြတ်ရွှေစင်၊သူသူဟံသာ) (ဒါရိုက်တာ–သက်တင်)

8:45 am
4. International news

11:00 am
1. Martial song

11:10 am
2. (၆၁)နှစ်မြောက်လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

11:20 am
3. အကပြိုင်ပွဲ

11:40 am
4. Round up of the week's international news

11:50 am
5. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အားကိုးချစ်သူကျေးတောသူ" (အပိုင်း–၁၁)

12:40 pm
6. Golf Magazine (TV)

1:00 am
7. မြန်မာ့ရုပ်ရှင် "ဒူးမထောက် လက်မမြောက်" (ညွန့်ဝင်း၊ အောင်အောင်၊ နဲ့.နဲ့.မူ၊ ဆွေဇင်ထိုက်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ–ထူးကျော်)

2:35 pm
8. Musical programme

2:45 pm
9. International news

4:00 pm
1. Martial song

4:10 pm
2. Dance of national races

4:20 pm
3. "မီးမီးရဲ့ဆုံးဖြတ်ချက်" (နေအောင်၊ ထွန်းထွန်းဝင်း၊ မေသဏ္ဌာဉီး၊ ပြည့်ဖူးခိုင်၊ ဇာဇာမင်းထက်) [ဒါရိုက်တာ–အောင်မိုး(ပဲရစ်)]

4:30 pm
4. အဆိုပြိုင်ပွဲ

4:40 pm
5. အဝေးသင်တက္ကသိုလ်ပညာရေး ရုပ်မြင်သံကြားသင်ခန်းစာ ပထမနှစ် (သင်္ချာ၊ ဓာတုဗေဒ၊ ရူပဗေဒ၊ စီးပွားရေးပညာ၊ စီးပွားစီမံ၊ ပြည့်သူ့ရေးရာ အထူးပြုများ) (သင်္ချာ)

4:45 pm
6. Song to uphold national spirit

5:00 pm
7. Musical programme

5:15 pm
8. (၆၁)နှစ်မြောက်လွတ်လပ်ရေးနေ့ ဂုဏ်ပြုအစီအစဉ်

5:30 pm
9. Sing and enjoy

6:00 pm
10. Evening news

6:30 pm
11. Weather report

6:35 pm
12. ကာတွန်းအစီအစဉ် "Pocket Dragon Adventure"

6:55 pm
13. တစ်မျက်နှာတစ်ကွက်စာ "ကွာရှင်းပြတ်စဲပြီးစီးခြင်း" (ထွန်းထွန်းဝင်း၊ အောင်ပြည့်၊ မို့မို့မြင့်အောင်) (ဒါရိုက်တာ–သုမောင်) နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "သစ္စာနှင့်ယှဉ်သောမေတ္တာ" (အပိုင်း–၈)

8:00 pm
14. News
15. International news
16. Weather report
17. အချုပ်အခြာအာဏာ ခွန်.ရှည်ကြာခိုင်မာစေမှုဒို့.ရှေးရှု (သမိုင်းမော်ကွန်းထွန်းသစ် ဝေဖြာပြည်မြန်မာ)
18. နိုင်ငံခြားဇာတ်လမ်းတွဲ "အချစ်စစ်ရှာဖွေခြင်း" (အပိုင်း–၂၂) (ဇာတ်သိမ်း)

WEATHER

Saturday, 3 January, 2009

Summary of observations recorded at 09:30 hr MST: During the past 24 hours, light rain have been isolated in Kachin and Shan States, weather has been partly cloudy in Mon State, Yangon, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and generally fair in the remaining States and Divisons. Night temperatures were (5˚C) below January average temperatures in Chin State, (3˚C) below January average temperatures in upper Sagaing Division, (3˚C) to (4˚C) above January average temperatures in Shan, Rakhine, Kayah and Mon States, Bago, Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Divisions and about January average termperature in the remaining areas.The significant night temperatures were Hakha (-2˚C), Loilem (2˚C) and Namsam (4˚C). The noteworthy amount of rainfall recorded was Kengtung (0.47) inch.

Maximum temperature on 2-1-2009 was 93˚F. Minimum temperature on 3-1-2009 was 63˚F. Relative humidity at (09:30) hours MST on 3-1-2009 was 66%. Total sunshine hours on 2-1-2009 was (8.6) hrs approx.

Rainfall on 3-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Total rainfall since 1-1-2009 was (Nil) at Mingaladon, Kaba-Aye and Central Yangon. Maximum wind speed at Yangon (Kaba-Aye) was (5) mph from Southeast at (14:30) hours MST on 2-1-2009.

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

Forecast valid until evening of 4th January 2009: Lihgt rain are possible in Kachin and Shan States, Taninthayi Division, weather will be partly cloudy in Mon State, upper Sagaing, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Divisions and generally fair in the remaining areas. Degree of certainty is (40%).

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

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

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

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

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

R 489 Published by the News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Union of Myanmar. Edited and printed at The New Light of Myanmar Press, No 22/30 Strand Road at 43rd Street, Yangon. Cable Newlight, PO Box No. 43, Telephones: Editors 392308, Manager 392226, Circulation 392304, Advertisement 392223, Accounts 392224, Administration 392225, Production/Press 392369

Four political objectives

* Stability of the State, community peace and tranquillity, prevalence of law and order
* National reconsolidation
* Emergence of a new enduring State Constitution
* Building of a new modern developed nation in accord with the new State Constitution

Four economic objectives

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

Four social objectives

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

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

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

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo addresses awarding ceremony at School Family Day for 2008-2009 academic year.—MNA

NAY PYI TAW, 3 Jan— The Ministry of Education held School Family Day for 2008-2009 academic year at No. (1) Basic Education High School here this afternoon, with an address by Chairman of the Myanmar Education Committee Secretary-1 of the State Peace and Development Council Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo.

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

The Secretary-1 inspected academic development booth, practical education promotion booth, IT booth, booth on academic performances, literacy campaigns (2008), establishment of community learning centres, measures for practical science and development, generation of solar energy and wind power staged by universities, lab apparatus related to Physics, general equipment for Science subjects.

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

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

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

(See page 9)

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

HONOURING THE 61ST ANNIVERSARY INDEPENDENCE DAY:

PAGE 10

Secretary-1 Lt-Gen Thiha Thura Tin Aung Myint Oo presents prizes to the outstanding students.—MNA